

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE  
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 2015**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES  
OCTOBER, 2014*

## **SEVENTEENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE**

Beginning July 17, 2015, the Society held its 17<sup>th</sup> conference of Coptic Studies. This two-day event, held on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), continued our tradition of partnership with the UCLA's Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department (NELC) which began in 1999. The conference's theme returned back to general topics in Coptic Studies. There were 20 presenters representing scholars, students, and Society members from the US and Australia. Four were first-time presenters at our conferences. The majority of the participants were members of academia. They represented 15 different learning institutions and academic organizations. It has certainly developed over the years as the most prominent *annual* Coptology meeting in the world, with this being the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Society-sponsored event of this kind since 1997. In it academic careers were launched or promoted as well as both academia and the Coptic Community benefitted from their interactions. Despite the challenging efforts in organizing and executing such meetings, they have proved to be very fruitful in furthering the Society's goals. Though the overall attendance was down from previous years due to unusual stormy weather in Los Angeles, the average attendance per session was visibly the highest we have seen to date!

## **COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)**

The new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Middle Egypt* is in print, containing 28 chapters. They are related to the proceedings of the February 2013, Al-Muharraq Monastery Symposium, organized by SMF. Dr. Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla are the co-editors of this and the last three volumes of that series. SMF also successfully organized two symposia in Egypt on February 7-12, 2015 with the attendance and participation of the Society. The first was an all-Arabic one-day Symposium on St. Mark, held at the Coptic Cultural Center in Cairo. The second was the 4-day International Symposium on Christianity and Monasticism in Northern Egypt, held at Mar Mina Monastery in Maryut about 40 miles west of Alexandria. Dr. Gawdat Gabra will be editing the proceedings of the Arabic Symposium on St. Mark. He will also be editing the proceedings of the Mar Mina Monastery Symposium with Hany N. Takla, titled *Christianity and Monasticism in Northern Egypt*. The deadline for paper submission is September 30, 2015. H.H. Pope Tawadros II, is taking an active role in overseeing the operation of SMF in Egypt, its main theater of operation. This is a great tribute to the accomplishments of SMF in Egypt since its inception in the late 1990s.

He also recognized the founders of the organizations with a kind tribute during the Arabic Symposium, including its president, Dr. Fawzy Estafanous and its chief editor, Dr. Gawdat Gabra.

## COMPUTERS AND COPTIC

**a. Coptic Digital Resources (CDL/CML):** The Society continued its strides in expanding its digital library of Coptology. This included items from the Society's offprint collection, catalogs of Coptic and Christian Arabic manuscripts, and rare and essential volumes in the field. Over 630 titles have been added during this year. The CDL, in addition to its vast scanned resources, includes a nearly complete digitized collection of the manuscripts in the Society's possession. Several of these CDL titles will appear in our upcoming Coptic Heritage website (CH). This work can also be made available to scholars and students involved in Coptology and related fields for a nominal fee. Inquiries and requests for other titles not appearing in *CH* can be mailed or emailed to the Society. In our Coptic Manuscript Library we have digitized an additional 73 manuscripts using the newly acquired microform scanner. In addition the Society acquired copies of about 290 manuscripts from Egypt through a variety of sources. The subject matter is mostly biblical or liturgical.

**c. Global Access (Internet):** During the year we maintained and expanded our solid presence on the internet, which began in late 1995. Our web address was changed to <http://www.stshenouda.org>. The old address of <http://www.stshenouda.com> will be designed to include membership contribution information and testimonials about the value of the Society and its collections. We also continued to update our other sites for our manuscript collection, [copticmanuscripts.org](http://copticmanuscripts.org), and for our educational endeavor, [sseics.org](http://sseics.org). The latter site houses the material for the classes that we are conducting. In addition we continued our presence on Facebook to showcase and announce our activities as well as to establish a communication link with those interested in learning and studying the Coptic Heritage.

**d. Coptic Heritage Site (CH):** Subscribers can now have access to all the Society previous and current publications: *St. Shenouda Coptic Newsletter*, *Bulletin of the St. Shenouda Coptic Society*, *St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly*, and *Coptica*. Other available resources include a lectionary, Bohairic-English, of the Days Commemorations in the Coptic Church; contents of the Coptic New Testament CD in Bohairic, Sahidic, Lycopopolitan, Mesokemic, Greek, and English; and the first 48 items in our manuscript collection. More items will be added from the vast resources of our CDL collection. More details and subscription

information are currently available at the following address:  
<http://demo.stshenouda.info/tc.htm>.

### THE CENTER LIBRARIES

During the past year the print holdings of the multiple libraries, including books, periodicals, and offprints have grown to about 13,500 items of material in the different branches of Coptology as well as Egyptology, Semitic Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. Some of the notable additions, including several titles by our members, are as follows:

- a. **Coptic Apocrypha/Manichaeism:** Robinson, *The Manichaean Codices of Medinet Madi* (2013)
- b. **Coptic Art/Architecture:** Moussa, H. *Explore St. Mark's Coptic Museum, Ontario Canada* (2015).
- c. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Aland, K. & Metzger B. (eds). *The Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th Rev edition w/ English Dictionary (2012); Böhlig, A. *Der Achmimische Proverbientext nach MS.Orient.Oct.987. Text und Rekonstruktion der Sahidische Vorlage* (1958); Chamberlain, G. *The Greek of the Septuagint: A supplemental Lexicon* (2011); Eliger, K. & Rudolph, W. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: A Reader Edition* (2014); Leonard. J.M. *Codex Schøyen 2650: A Middle Egyptian Coptic Witness to the Early Greek Text of Matthew's Gospel* (2014); Muraoka, T. *A Greek-Hebrew/Aramaic Two-Way Index to the Septuagint* (2010); Yee, G. A. et al. *The Old Testament and Apocrypha - Fortress Commentary on the Bible* (2014) ; Various. *Evangile de Marc. Les Types de Texte dans les Langues Anciennes* (2005); Wells, J.W. *Sahidic Coptic New Testament* (2006).
- d. **Canon Law and Legal and Documentary Texts:** Blumell, L.H. & Wayment, T.A. *Christian Oxyrhynchus: Texts, Documents, and Sources* (2015); Clackson, S. & Delattre, A. *Papyrus Grecs et Coptes de Baouit, Conserves au Musee du Louvre* (2014); Litinas, N. (ed) *Greek Ostraca from Abu Mina (O.Abu Mina)* (2008); Various. *American Studies in Papyrology* v. 1,10,23-25,30-31,37-42; Wehrle, C. *Les Papyrus de Geneve*. Deux. Vol Nos. 82-117 (1986).
- e. **Coptic Festschrifts, Conference Proceedings, Encyclopedias:** Bielawski, M. & Hombergen, D. (eds) *Il Monachesimo tra Eredita e Aperture* (2004); Bernardino, A. Di (ed), *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity* 3v (2nd ed. 2014) ; \_\_\_\_\_. *Historical Atlas of Ancient Christianity* (2013); Camplani, A. & Filoramo, G. (eds) *Foundations of Power and Conflicts of Authority in Late-Antique Monasticism*

- (2007); Dorival G. David, *Jesus et la Reine Esther. Recherches sur le Psaume 21* (22 TM) (2002).
- f. **Coptic Hagiography:** Capron, L. *Codex Hagiographiques du Louvre sur Papyrus* (2013); Brock, S. & Fitzgerald, B. *Two Early Lives of Severos, Patriarch of Antioch* (2013).
- g. **Coptic History and Geography:** Elsasser, S. *The Coptic Question in the Mubarak Era* (2014); Mikhail, M.S.A. *From Christian Egypt to Islamic Egypt. Religion, Identity, and Politics after the Arab Conquest* (2014).
- h. **Coptic Language:** Westendorf, W. *Koptisches Handwörter* (2nd ed. 2008).
- i. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Banev, K. *Theophilus of Alexandria, and the First Origenist Controversy* (2015); Bray, G. (ed) *ACT: Commentaries on Galatians-Philemon. Ambrosiaster* (2009); \_\_\_\_\_. *ACT: Commentaries on Romans and 1-2 Corinthians. Ambrosiaster* (2009); Crawford, M.R. *Cyril of Alexandria's Trinitarian Theology of Scripture* (2014); Dechow, J.F. *Dogma and Mysticism in Early Christianity: Epiphanius of Cyprus and the Legacy of Origen* (1988); Elowsky, J.C. (ed) *ACT: Commentary on John. Cyril of Alexandria v.1* (2013); Oden, T. (ed) *ACT: Greek Commentaries on Revelation. Oecumenius and Andrew of Caesarea* (2011); Pearse, R. (ed) *Eusebius of Caesarea. Gospel Problems and Solutions* (2010); Sheridan, M. *Language of God in Patristic Tradition. Wrestling with Biblical Anthropomorphism* (2015); Tieszen, C. *A Textual History of Christian-Muslim Relations:7th-15th Centuries* (2015); Van den Broek, R. *Pseudo-Cyril of Jerusalem on the Life and the Passion of Christ. Coptic Apocryphon* (2013); Various. *The Fathers of the Church* v.104-110,112-114,121-129; \_\_\_\_\_. *Sources Chretiennes* Nos. 10bis,15,18bis,31,41,42bis,44bis,54bis,55,56,70,73,108,109,306, 317,320,322,329,336,373,387,392,418,434,474,477,493,495,498, 500,501,505,506,516,530,542; Youssef, Y. N. *The Life and Works of Severus of Antioch in the Coptic and Copto-Arabic Tradition* (2014).
- j. **Coptic Liturgy:** Tukhi, R. *Book of Prayers for the Seven Days and Seven Nights* (Reprint); \_\_\_\_\_. *Book of the Theotokia* (Reprint).
- k. **Coptic Magic:** Choat, M. & Gardiner, I. *The Macquarie Papyri: A Coptic Handbook of Ritual Power* (2013); Sanzo, J.E. *Scriptural Incipits on Amulets from Late Antique Egypt. Text, Typology, and Theory* (2014).
- l. **Coptic Monasticism:** Anderson, R. *St. Shenoute of the White Monastery* (2012); Farag, M. Lois. *Balance of the Heart. Desert Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century Christians* (2012); Layton,

- B. *The Canons of our Fathers: Monastic Rules of Shenoute* (2014); Rich A. *Discernment in the Desert Fathers* (2007).
- m. **Periodicals:** *Bulletin de Societe d'Archeologie Copte* v.44-51 (2005-2012); *Coptica* 13 (2014); *Eastern Churches Quarterly* v.9-11,14,16; *Irenikon* 87:1-2,3-4 (2014), 85:1 (2015); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.133.4 (2014), v.134.1,2 (2015); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.6 (2014); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v.16 (2014); *Orientalia Christiana Collectanea* v.45 (2015).
- n. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** Ms.200 *Unidentified Fragment* (Sah, undated); Ms.201 *Horologion* (Ar, undated, 139f); Ms.202 *Liturgical Offices* (Boh & Ar, undated, 150f); Ms.203 *Matrimony & Baptism*, Inc. (Boh & Ar, undated, 88f); Ms.204 *Liturgy of St. Basil*, Inc (Boh-Ar, undated, 105f); Ms.205 *Pascha Turuhahat*, Inc (Ar, undated, 30f); Ms.206 *Psalmodia*, Inc. (Boh, undated, 65f); Ms.207 *Book of Darg by Pope John XVIII* (Ar & Boh, AD 1795, 202f); Ms.208 *Liturgies of SS. Basil & Gregory*, Inc (Boh-Ar, undated, 202f); Ms.209 *Gosp of John* (Ar, undated, 131f); Ms.210 *Sermons of John Chrysostom*, Inc (Ar, undated, 339f); Ms.211 *Liturgy of St. Gregory* (Boh, undated, 34f); Ms.212 *Various Liturgical services*, (Ar, undated, 38f); Ms.213 *fragments of magical and literary texts* (Boh & Ar, undated, 9f).
- o. **Special Collections:** Anonymous, *Gutenberg Bible Facsimile Reprint* 3v. (1968); \_\_\_\_\_. *Vetus Testaentum ex versione Septuaginta Interpretum. secundum Exemplar Vaticanum Romae editum* v.2-4 (1725); Levi, S. *Vocabolario Geroglifico copto-ebraico* (1887); Wilkins, D. *Quinque libri Moysis prophetae in lingua Aegyptia*. Bo-L (1731).
- p. **John B. Callender Memorial Library:** This new Library continued to grow. It now holds more than 1,517 titles including periodicals. Several of them have come as gifts from our members. The most notable new additions are: Cooney, K. *The Woman who would be King. Hatshepsut's Rise to Power in Ancient Egypt* (2014); Leitz, C. *Lexicon der Ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen*, 7 vols (2002); Malek, J. *Egyptian Art* (1999); Obluski, A. *The Rise of Nobadia. Social Changes in Northern Nubia in Late Antiquity* (2014); Van Moorsel, P. (ed) *New Discoveries in Nubia. Proceedings of the Colloquium on Nubian Studies, the Hague 1979* (1982); Various. *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri* vols 13,14,68,71,72,73,75; \_\_\_\_\_. *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 49 (2013), 50 (2014); \_\_\_\_\_. *Journal of Juristic Papyrology* 20 (1990), 41 (2011), 42 (2012); Westendorf, W. *Handbuch der Altägyptischen Medizin* vols 1-2 (1999).

## ACADEMIC EFFORTS @ CGU

The Society has successfully achieved its fundraising goal of \$26,000 to fund the Clinical Professorship in Coptic Studies for the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. Gawdat Gabra, the designated Clinical Professor of Coptic Studies, has continued teaching multiple classes and advising numerous graduate students in the School of Arts and Humanities at CGU. For more details about the activities of the Coptic Council at CGU, visit its website <http://cgu.edu/pages/5446.asp>.

Through his guidance and inspiration Coptic Studies is continuing to prosper and move forward in CGU. The fruit of such labor is continually produced at an impressive rate. Recently Sarah Mehany-Morcos was recently awarded her PhD with a dissertation titled, *From Cairo to California: A Journey through the Lives and Roles of Coptic Women from Egypt to the Diaspora*. Five other students are currently at different stages of their dissertation work: Patricia Eshagh (Influence of Coptic Monasticism on its Western Counterpart), John Isaac (Coptic Diaspora), Mary Ghattas (Modern Alexandria From the French Expedition to 1952), Tamara Siuda (Coptic Hagiography), Lincoln Hale (Coptic New Testament). Three of them presented papers at the annual St. Shenouda-UCLA conference along with Prof. Gabra. Other students are either finished with their MA thesis or in the processing of finishing their MA program. The addition of the Coptic Studies Track at there has also represented a very positive step in promoting Coptology at CGU.

To increase awareness of and interest in Coptology, the Coptic Council along with CGU have sponsored two important lectures and book-signing by Prof. Gabra in January and Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail. Both were related to their recent publications, *Coptic Civilization* and *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt* respectively.

The Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE) has entered the second phase of adding more updated and colored digital images to the existing articles as well as new articles. This work is accessible worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>.

## THE SOCIETY MANUSCRIPT EXHIBIT

The Society held a debut of its *The Bible in Egypt* exhibit during the convening of our Annual St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference of Coptic Studies. There were 60 exhibit items on display, including manuscripts, photographs, early bible editions (Coptic & Arabic), and facsimile of the earliest papyri and the three important Greek Uncial Biblical Codices to originate from Egypt. It featured the Hebrew, Greek, Coptic, and Arabic

traditions that were found in Egypt. Several of the Biblical manuscripts in Arabic and Coptic from our collection were on display.

### **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER:**

a. *Classes (non-SSEICS)*: One Intermediate Bohairic Grammar is currently in session at the St. Shenouda Center.

b. *ACTS*: During this period as part of our collaboration with the new diocese theological school, an Introductory Bohairic Coptic course was offered and completed during the Summer term from June-August 2015. Two sessions, in-class and online, were given simultaneously. A total of eight students were enrolled in either of these sessions.

c. *Visits*: The Society conducted multiple individual and group private exhibits of its collections during the year. The list includes Coptic clergy, members of the community, professors and graduate students working on Coptology topics. Among the clergy, we were honored by a short visit from Fr. Athanasius al-Maqari, the renowned Coptic Liturgy scholar. His first comment was he could not have done his research if it wasn't for the manuscript sources that the Society has accumulated throughout its history. Also Prof. Lillian Larsen of University of Redlands has spent several days continuing her research at the Coptic Library on the subject of Coptic education at the monasteries..

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Coptica*: Volume 13 was published and distributed to members and subscribers. It included multiple papers from previous Society Conferences as well as by scholars in the field. The *Coptica* editor is Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail, an Associate Professor in the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton. His most recent book is listed in the Library acquisitions above. Mr. Nabil I. Guirguis of the Society is to be commended for his tireless efforts in coordinating our publication mailings throughout the year.

*St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society*  
1494 S. Robertson Blvd, Suite 104  
Los Angeles, CA 90035-3482