

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE  
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS  
OCTOBER 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2016**

**(By Hany N. Takla)**

*LOS ANGELES  
OCTOBER, 2016*

## 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES

After 46 long months of preparations, scholars, students, and Coptic Studies enthusiasts gathered under the hot July California sun from all four corners of the globe. They came for one purpose and that is to attend and participate in what is considered the Coptic Studies Olympics. Starting on July 25, 2016, over 270 attendees from over 24 countries descended on the city of Claremont in the eastern part of Los Angeles County to attend the 11th Congress of Coptic Studies. They came to share their work, network with their peers, and learn about the vast boundaries of the field. For five consecutive days the quiet Claremont schools were transformed into a scholarly Olympic village. Using facilities from four of these schools, the attendees were treated to what was described by several and agreed to by all as the most organized and best IACS Congress to date. For the Society to organize such a world-class event was the honor of a lifetime and a recognition of our achievements in promoting Coptic Studies especially in the United States. For the host, Claremont Graduate University (CGU), it was the most prestigious scholarly gathering that they ever had and a recognition for the over five decades of Coptic Scholarship at this School. Despite the hot sun and the long walking distances at times, the seamless coordination between the Society and CGU was the main reason for the wonderful reactions conveyed. Financially it was a costly event, but the generosity of the members of the Society afforded us to achieve the brilliant success we experienced.

There were over 160 presentations made at the Congress. They were organized as an open common session for the first day including welcoming speeches by dignitaries and plenary presentations in different aspects of Coptic Studies. The following four days started with a common session in the morning followed by regular paper presentations in four parallel sessions and lasting as late as 6:30 in the evening. For the duration of the Congress there was also a wonderful exhibit to celebrate the Christian Legacy of Egypt, organized by the renowned Museum of the Bible (MOTB) with the participation of University Honold Library and the Society. To add a modern flavor to ancient artifacts, CGU held an adjoining art exhibit of the works of a young Diaspora Copt, Ms. Christine Salama, who recently graduated from the University and whose work was honored during her attendance and also praised by the scholars that usually deal more with the ancient. There were three evening receptions associated with the exhibit to introduce the three different collections it showcased along with a hosted dinner by the Society on Thursday night at the nearby St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Covina, California at the invitation of Fr. Shenouda Ghattas of the church.

The proceedings of the Congress will be published by Peeters Publishers of Belgium and the editors were preliminarily announced as Mr. Hany N. Takla and Prof. Maged S. A. Mikhail.

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

The new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Northern Egypt* is currently in its proofing stage, containing 26 chapters. They are related to the proceedings of the February 2015, Mar Mena Monastery Symposium, organized by SMF. Dr. Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla are the co-editors of this publication which is the last of the four volumes for that series. Additionally, SMF generously financed and provided travel grants to three promising Coptic scholars to come from Egypt to attend and participate at the Congress.

### **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 158 titles have been added during this year. Moreover, we have digitized an additional seven manuscripts from our Microfilm Library (CML). Several of these CDL titles will appear in our 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.

**c. Global Access (Internet):** During the year we maintained and expanded our solid presence on the internet, which began in late 1995. Our web addresses include *stshenouda.org*, *stshenouda.com*, *copticmanuscripts.com*, *sseics.org*, and *stshenouda.info*. We will continue to maintain the site *copticcongress2016.org*. Inasmuch, we are actively expanding 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 different aspects of 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, Lycopolitan, 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 14,000 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:** Haelewyck, J.-C. *Clavis Apocryphorum Veteris Testamenti. Corpus Christianorum* (1998)
- b. **Coptic Art/Architecture:** Bolman, E. (ed). *The Red Monastery Church. Beauty and Asceticism in Upper Egypt* (2016); Calament, F., *La Revelation d'Antinoe par Albert Gayet. Histoire, Archeologie, Museographie*. 2 v (2012); Curto, S. et al. *Korosko - Kasr Ibrim. Incisioni Rupestri Nubiane* (1987); Diez, E. *Die Kunst der Islamischen Volker* (1915); Friedman, F., *Beyond the Pharaohs: Egypt and the Copts in the 2nd to 7th Centuries AD* (1989); Jefferson, L.M. & Jensen, R.M. (eds) *The Art of the Empire. Christian Art in its Imperial Context* (2015); Kaufmann, C.M. *La Decouverte des Sanctuaires de Menas dans le Desert de Mareotis* (1908 Books On Demand); Martin, M. *Monasteres et Sites Monastiques d'Egypte* (2015); Mckenzie, J. *The Architecture of Alexandria and Egypt, 300 BC - AD 700* (2007); Michalowski, K. *Faras. Wall paintings in the Collection of the National Museum in Warsaw* (1974); Miner, D. (ed) *Studies in Art and Literature for Belle Da Costa Greene* (1954) Moussa, H. *Explore St. Mark's Coptic Museum, Ontario Canada* (2nd print 2016); Thirard, C. *Survivance des Sites Monastiques Paleochretiens dans le Proche-Orient* (2012).
- c. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Ehrman, B.D. & Holmes, M.W. (Eds), *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research. Essays on the Status Quaestionis* (2013); Hjalm, M.L. *Christian Arabic Versions of Daniel* (2016); Holy Apostles Convent & Dormition Skete. *The Orthodox Psalter. The Psalterion According to the Seventy, with the Nine Odes, and Patristic Commentary* (2010); Keith, C. *The Pericope Adulterae, The Gospel of John, and the Literacy of Jesus* (2009); Porter, S.E. & Ong, H.T. (Eds) *The Origins of John's Gospel* (2016); Royster, Dmitri. *The Holy Gospel According to Saint John. A Pastoral Commentary* (2011); Schüssler, K., *Biblia Coptica-die Koptischen Bibeltexte 2.2. SA 185-260* (2015); Vollandt, R. *Arabic Versions of the Pentateuch. a*

- Comparative Study of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Sources* (2015).
- d. **Bibliographies, Manuscript Catalogs:** Deroche, F., et al. *Islamic Codicology. An Introduction to the Study of Manuscripts in Arabic Script* (2015); Heawood, E. *Watermarks, mainly of the 17th & 18th Centuries*, (1969); Witkam, J.J., *Catalogue Of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of the University of Leiden and Other Collections in the Netherlands*. 5v (1983-1989)
- e. **Canon Law and Legal and Documentary Texts:** Bacot, S., *Ostraca Grecs et Coptes [Des Fouilles Franco-Polonaises sur le Site] de Tell Edfou* (2009); Boud'hors, A. & Heurtel, C., *Ostraca et Papyrus Coptes du Topos de Saint-Marc a Thebes*. 2v (2015); Coln, F.J. *The Nomocanonical Literature of the Copto-Arabic Church of Alexandria* (2013); Dix, G. & Chadwick, H. (eds) *The Treatise on the Apostolic Tradition of St Hippolytus of Rome, Bishop and Martyr*, (1992 Reprint); Lopizzo, S. *Les Ostraca Grecs et Coptes du Monastere de Baouit* (2016); Nowak, M., *Wills in the Roman Empire. A Documentary Approach* (2015); Vandorpe, K. et al. *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum* (2015).
- f. **Coptic Festschrifts, Conference Proceedings, Encyclopedias:** Behlmer, H. & Tamcke, M. *Christen in Ägypten* (2015); Buzi, P. et al (eds). *Coptic Society, Literature and Religion from Late Antiquity to Modern Times*. 2v (Proceedings of the Rome Congress) (2016); Dijkstra, J.H.F. & Fisher, G. (eds) *Inside and Out. Interactions between Rome and the Peoples on the Arabian and Egyptian Frontiers in Late Antiquity* (2014); Gabra, G. & Takla, H.N. (eds) *Christianity and Monasticism in Middle Egypt. Al-Minya and Asyut* (2015); Lajtar, A. et al (eds). *Aegyptus et Nubia Christiana. The Włodzimirz Godlewski Jubilee Volume on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday* (2016); Moss, C. & Kiefer, K (eds) *Byzantine East, Latin West. Art-historical Studies in Honor of Kurt Weitzmann* (1995); O'Connell, E.R. (ed) *Egypt in the First Millennium Ad. Perspectives from New Fieldwork* (2014).
- g. **Coptic Hagiography:** Efthymiadis, S. (ed) *The Ashgate Research Companion to Byzantine Hagiography. V.I. Periods and Places*, (2011); Efthymiadis, S. (ed) *The Ashgate Research Companion to Byzantine Hagiography. V.II. Genres and Contexts* (2014).
- h. **Coptic History and Geography:** Attwater, D. *The Christian Churches of the East. V.I: Churches in Communion with Rome* (1947); \_\_\_\_\_. *The Christian Churches of the East. V.II: Churches not in Communion with Rome* (1948); Baer, G. *A History of Landownership in Modern Egypt, 1800-1950* (1962); \_\_\_\_\_. *Population and Society in the Arab East* (1964); \_\_\_\_\_. *Studies in the Social History of Modern Egypt* (1969); Cole, J. *Napoleon's Egypt*.

- Invading the Middle East* (2007); Habachi, L. & Riad, H. *Aswan, the Town with a Glorious Past and a Promising Future* (1959); Marcos, Heg. M. *The History of the Coptic Orthodox Church in North America. The First 50 Years (1964-2014)* (2014); Mikhail, M.S.A. *From Christian Egypt to Islamic Egypt. Religion, Identity, and Politics after the Arab Conquest* (Paper 2016); Mills, K. & Grafton, A. (eds) *Conversion in Late antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. Seeing and Believing* (2003); Meinardus, O. *The Copts in Jerusalem* (1960); \_\_\_\_\_. *Holy Land Pilgrimage* (1962); Moawad, S. *Abu Shaker ibn al-Rahib - Kitab al-Tawarikh*. Pt 1. Ch 1-47 (Ar, 2016); Wipszycka, E. *The Alexandrian Church, People and Institutions* (2015).
- i. **Coptic Language:** Grossman, E. et al. (eds) *Egyptian-Coptic Linguistics in Typological Perspective* (2015); Spiegelberg, W. *Koptische Etymologien. Beitrage zu einem Koptischen Wörterbuch* (1920); Tukhi, R., *Rudimenta Linguae Coptae sive Aegyptiacae ad Usus Collegii Urbani de Propaganda Fide* (Books on Demand of 1778 ed).
- j. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Albert, M. et al. *Christianismes Orientaux. Introduction a l'Etude des Langues et des Litteratures...* (1993); D'Alton, J. & Youssef, Y.N. (eds) *Severus of Antioch* (2016); Graf, G. *Geschichte der Christlichen Arabischen Literatur* v.1. (1944), v.3 (1949), v.4 (1951); Holmes, M.W. *The Apostolic Fathers. Greek Texts and English Translations*, 3rd ed. (2007); Maiberger, P. "Das buch der Kostbaren Perle" von Severus ibn al-Muqaffa'. *Einleitung und Arabischer Text (Kapitel 1-5)* (1972).
- k. **Coptic Liturgy:** Dix, Dom G. *The Shape of the Liturgy* (Reprint of 1945); Lietzmann, H. *Mass and Lord's Supper. A Study in the History of the Liturgy*, 11 parts (1953-1979); Rizkalla, E.I. *A Contemporary English-Bohairic Coptic Prayer Book of the Hours. The Seven Daily and Nightly Prayers of the Agpeya* (2015); Roca-Puig, R. *Anafora de Barcelona. I Altres Pregaries (Missa del Segle IV)* (1996); Youssef, Y. N. & Zanetti, U. *La Consecration du Myron par Gabriel IV 86e Patriarche d'Alexandrie en 1374 A.D.* (2014).
- l. **Coptic Monasticism:** Brakke, D. & Crislip, A. *Selected Discourses of Shenoute the Great. Community, Theology, and Social Conflict in Late Antique Egypt* (2015); Delouis, O. & Mossakowska-Gaubert, M. (eds) *La Vie Quotidienne des Moines en Orient et en Occident (Ive-Xe Siecle)*. Vol. I. *L'Etat des Sources* (2015); Festugiere, A.-J., *Historia Monachorum in Aegypto* (1971); Guy, J.-C. *Recherches sur la Tradition Grecque des Apophthegmata Patrum* (1962); Halkin, F. *Sancti Pachomii. Vitae Graecae. Ediderunt Hagiographi Bollandianai* (1932); McGuckin, J.A. (ed) *Orthodox Monasticism Past and Present* (2015); Toda, S. *Vie de S. Macaire l'Egyptien*.

- Edition et Traduction des Textes Copte et Syriaque* (2012); Van Cranenburgh, H. *La Vie Latine de Saint Pachome* (1969).
- m. **Periodicals:** *Bulletin de Societe d'Archeologie Copte* v.52-54 (2013-2015); *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* v.52 (2015); *Coptica* 14 (2015); *Irenikon* 87:,2,4 (2015), 89:1 (2016); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.134.3,4 (2015), v.135.1,2 (2016); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.7 (2015); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v.17 (2015); *Le Museon* v.128.3-4 (2015); *Journal of the School of Alexandria* nos 10-18 (2012-2015); *Mitteilungen Des Deutschen Archaologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo*, (1962).
- n. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** Ms.214 Book of Isaiah (Boh-Ar, 14th century, 1 folio); Ms.215 *Unidentified Parchment Fragment* (Sah, undated); Ms.216 *Liturgy of St. Basil* (Boh-Ar, AM 1578, 160f); Ms.217 *Office of Baptism* (Boh-Ar, AM 1470, 86f); Ms.218 *Hagiographic Collection*, Inc. (Ar, AM 1457, 110f); Ms.219 *Psalmody and Doxologies*, Inc (Boh, Boh-Ar, and Ar, undated, 425f).
- o. **Special Collections:** Anonymous, *Arabic Katameros for the Month of Hatur*. (1872); Gardthausen, V. *Griechische Palaeographie*. 2v. (1911); Tukhi, R. *Pijom ente nipsalterion ente Daouid* (1744).
- p. **John B. Callender Memorial Library:** This special Library Egyptology, Greco-Roman, and Nubiology library continued to grow. It now holds more than 1,530 titles including periodicals. We hope to post a list of the contents soon on library.stshenouda.org site.

### ACADEMIC EFFORTS @ CGU

The Society has once more successfully achieved its fundraising goal of \$26,000 to fund the Clinical Professorship in Coptic Studies for the 2015-2016 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>. The Coptic Council is the representative of the Society at CGU.

Through his guidance and inspiration, Coptic Studies is continuing to prosper and move forward at CGU. The fruit of such labor is continually produced at an impressive rate. Recently Patricia Ann Eshagh has been recently awarded her PhD with a dissertation titled, *Tracing the Jesus Prayer Westward: Reaffirming Egyptian Influence on Western Monasticism in Late Antiquity*. Other students are currently at different stages of their dissertation work: Mary Ghattas (*Towards a History of Eastern Christianity: the Oriental Orthodox Communion in Egypt, 1805-Present*), Tamara Siuda (*Coptic Hagiography*), Lincoln Hale (*Coptic*

New Testament). Other students are either finished with their MA thesis or are on course to complete their MA program. The introduction of the Coptic Studies Track at this prestigious School has also proved to be an invaluable leaping step in promoting Coptology in general and at CGU in particular.

The highlight of the cooperation between the Society and CGU was the joint effort in organizing and facilitating the successful 11th International Congress of Coptic Studies as was previously mentioned. Consequently, several of the former and/or present students of Prof. Gabra presented at the Congress.

The Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE) has entered its second phase of adding more updated and colored digital images to the existing articles as well as new articles. This work is accessible 24/7 worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>. An organizational meeting of the Area Editors was held on the evening of the first day of the Congress. Also a new Guide to the Authors has been posted. Furthermore a new Associate Managing Editor (Dr. Donald A. Westbrook) and two Assistant Managing Editors (Dr. Patricia A. Eshagh and Ms. Mary Ghattas) were appointed.

### **THE SOCIETY ELECTIONS**

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Society, an election of officers was conducted by mail-in ballots. The results came in as: Mr. Hany N. Takla, President; Mr. Emad S. Hanna, Treasurer; and Mrs. Amany Awad-Hanna, Secretary; serving from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2019. The four other members of the Governing Board selected by the elected officers are: Mr. Ramses Wassif, Vice President; Mr. Joseph Fahim; Mr. Emad Georgy; and Prof. Maged S. A. Mikhail. The Society would like to thank the outgoing members, Dr. Merit Shoucri and Mr. Ashraf W. Hanna, for their dedicated service.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Coptica*: Volume 14 was published and distributed to members and subscribers. It included multiple papers from previous Society Conferences relating to St. Shenouda the Archimandrite. The editor is Prof. Maged S. A. Mikhail, Professor at the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton. Volume 15 is in the preparation.

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