

***ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE
COPTIC SOCIETY
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**SOCIETY PROGRESS
OCTOBER 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 2017**

(By Hany N. Takla)

***LOS ANGELES
OCTOBER, 2017***

EIGHTEENTH ST. SHENOUDA-UCLA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Starting on July 14, 2017, the Society has resumed its annual Conferences of Coptic Studies with the 18th one. 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. Because of the success we had in organizing the 2016 International Congress of Coptic Studies at Claremont, this year's conference had a more international flavor among the presenters. There were 19 presenters representing scholars, students, and Society members from the US, Australia, Egypt and Italy. Among them, four were first-time presenters at our conferences. The majority of the participants were members of academia. They represented 14 different learning institutions and academic organizations. Even after a one-year absence, the conference continued to be the most prominent *annual* Coptology meeting in the world, with this being the 20th annual Society-sponsored event of this kind since 1997. Through it, academic careers have been launched or promoted as well as both academia and the Coptic Community benefitted from their mutual interactions. Organizing and executing such meetings continue to be a challenging though an enjoyable task. Over the years they have proved to be very fruitful in furthering the Society's goal. The overall attendance was about 100 over the two-day duration of the conference. However the average attendance per session was the highest it has been seen so far.

COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)

The new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Northern Egypt* has been published, containing 26 chapters. They are primarily 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. Proceeding on the same path, and during February 2017, SMF had also organized the eighth Symposium on Christianity and Monasticism in Egypt, covering Alexandria, the eastern desert monasteries and the western desert oases. This was held at the new world-class conference center that H.H. Pope Tawadros II has established adjacent to the monastery of St. Bishoy in Wadi al-Natrun. There, I presented a paper on the manuscripts that are dispersed worldwide from the Red Sea monasteries, which a number of them went through private hands over time and were eventually acquired by the Society. A digital copy of most of these manuscripts was donated by the Society to the St. Antony and St. Paul monasteries there. We were also entrusted with obtaining the images and the "permission of publication" for the upcoming book, "*St. Mark and the Coptic Heritage*", due to be published

by SMF in Arabic in 2018 commemorating the 50th anniversary for the return of St. Mark's relics to Egypt from Venice Italy.

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, in addition to rare and essential volumes in the field. Over 229 titles of published research material have been added during this year. This brings the total number of titles in the CDL collection to over 5,300 with about 914,000 pages. Moreover, we have digitized an additional two manuscripts from our Microfilm Library (CML). More information on the University of Hamburg collection will be forthcoming. Several of these CDL titles will appear in our Coptic Heritage website (CH) or the shared Library site that we are currently developing. 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.

b. Global Access (Internet): Throughout the year, we continued to maintain 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.

c. Coptic Heritage Site (CH): Subscribers can now have access to all the Society's 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 56 items from 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>.

d. Conversion of the Computerized Coptic Texts: Since the late 1980's the Society has been computerizing published and unpublished Coptic texts. The last version of these texts was kept in the old PC true type font format of a specific font that the Society owned the rights for. Now with

the advent of the Unicode age, where each letter of each language has its own unique character code, it was time to convert. Using an in-house conversion macro, 160 files of Biblical texts and 22 files of hagiographic, literary, and canon law texts were converted. This includes Biblical texts of multiple dialects in parallel. The next step will be to develop and implement a standard diacritical signs to facilitate the proper understanding of these original texts.

THE CENTER LIBRARIES

During the past year the print holdings of our multiple libraries, which include books, periodicals, and offprints, have expanded to about 14,700 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:** Ehrman, B.D. & Zlatko, P. *The Apocryphal Gospels. Texts and Translations* (2011); Harris, R. & Mingana, A. *The Odes and Psalms of Solomon. Vol. I: The Text with Facsimile Reproductions* (Reprint of 1916 ed.).
- b. **Coptic Art/Architecture:** Cipriano, G. El-Bagawat. *Un Cimitero Paleocristiano nell'Alto Egitto* (2008); Ghaly, E.M.A. *The Coptic Additions on the Ancient Egyptian Monuments in Qena Governorate from the 1st to the 7th Centuries* (2011, Ar.); Grossmann P. & Saad, Z. *Zwei Kirchliche Palastanlagen in Hulwan Aus Umayyadischer Zeit* (2017); Hunt, L-A. *Byzantium, Eastern Christendom and Islam. Art at the Cross Roads of the Medieval Mediteranean*. 2v. (1998); Nafroth, C. *Das Wort im Bild. Untersuchungen zu den Ikonographien von Mönchen und Märtyrern in Ägypten...* (2017); O'Kane, B. *The Iconography of Islamic Art: Studies in Honor of Robert Hillenbrand* (2005); Sadek, A.A. *Musique Copte D'Egypte. Le Choeur Moftah. Les Chiffoniers du Caire. Tournee en France 1-19 Septembre 2006* (2006); Stiebing, W.H. Jr. *Uncovering the Past: a History of Archaeology*. (1994); Vörös, G. *Taposiris Magna. A Temple, Fortress, and Monastery of Egypt* (2004).
- c. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Frank, R.M. *The Wisdom of Jesus ben Sirach (Sinai Ar. 155 ix-xth Century)*. CSCO 358. SA 31. Translation. (1974); Pentiuic, E.J. *The Old Testament in Eastern Orthodox Tradition* (2014); Staal, H. *Sinai Arabic Codex 151, II. Acts of the Apostles, Catholic Epistles*. CSCO 462, SA 42. Translation (1984)
- d. **Bibliographies, Manuscript Catalogs:** Mingarelli, G.L. *Aegyptiorum Codicum Reliquiae Venetiis in Bibliotheca Naniiani Asservate*, vol 1-2 (Reprint of 1785) ed.Sauget, J-M. *Bibliographie des Liturgies Orientales (1900-1960)* (1962); Uri, A. J. *Bibliothecae*

Bodleianae Codicum Manuscriptum Orientalium ... Catalogus (reprint of 1787 ed).

- e. **Coptic Festschrifts, Conference Proceedings, Encyclopedias:** Anonymous. *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo*. Band 37. *Festschrift für Labib Habachi* (1981); Ayad, M. (ed) *Studies in Coptic Culture. Transmission and Interaction* (2016); Doerfler, M.; Fiano, E.; Smith, K. (eds). *Syriac Encounters* (2015); Elsner, J. & Rutherford, I. (eds). *Pilgrimage in Greco-Roman & Early Christian Antiquity: Seeing the Gods* (2005); Fernandez Marcos, N. *La Septuaginta en la Investigacion Contemporanea (V Congreso de la Ioscs)* (1985); Gorman, A. & Kasbarian, S. (eds) *Diasporas of the Modern Middle East. Contextualising Community* (2015); Hanna, N. & Abbas, R. (eds) *Society and Economy in Egypt an the Eastern Mediterranean 1600-1900. Essays in Honor of Andre Raymond* (2005); Johnson, S.F. (ed). *The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity* (2012); Riggs, C. (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt* (2012).; Schmidtke, S. (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology* (2016); Van Lerberghe. K. & Schoors, A (eds) *Immigration and Emigration within the Ancient Near East. Festschrift E. Lipinski* (1995)
- f. **Gnosticism & Manichaeism:** Krause, M. & Labib, P. *Die Drei Versionen des Apokryphon des Johannes im Koptischen Museum zu Alt-Kairo* (1962); _____. *Gnostische und Hermetische Schriften aus Codex II und Codex VI* (1971).
- g. **Coptic Hagiography:** Cannellas, J.N. & Virgulin, S. (eds). *Enciclopedia dei Santi. le Chiese Orientali*. 2 Vol. (1998); Mikhail, M.S.A. *The Legacy of Demetrius of Alexandria 189-232 CE. Form and Function of Hagiography in Late Antique and Islamic Egypt* (2017); Moawad, S. *Die Arabische Version der Vita Dioscori PO 56.1 No. 246* (2016)
- h. **Coptic History and Geography:** Casale, G. *The Ottoman Age of Exploration* (2010); El-Daly, O. *Egyptology: The Missing Millennium. Ancient Egypt in Medieval Arabic Writings* (2016); Greatrex, G. *The Chronicle of Pseudo-Zachariah Rhetor. Church and War in Late Antiquity* (2011); Hanna, N. *Ottoman Egypt and the Emergence of the Modern World 1500-1800* (2014); Ihsanoglu, E. *The Turks in Egypt and their Cultural Legacy* (2012); Iskandar, A. *Egypt in Flux: Essays on an Unfinished Revolution* (2013); Jones, A.H.M. et al. *The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire*. Vol.I AD 260-395 (2 parts, 1971); Mak, L. *The British in Egypt. Community, Crime, and Crises 1882-1922* (2012); Martindale, J.R. *The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire*. Vol.II AD 395-527 (2 parts, 1980) & Vol.III AD 527-641 (2 parts, 1992); Power, T. *The Red Sea from Byzantium to the Caliphate AD 500-1000* (2012); Reid

- D. M. *Contesting Antiquity in Egypt. Archaeologies, Museums & the Struggle for Identities from World War I to Nasser* (2015); Robinson, A. *Cracking the Egyptian Code: The Revolutionary Life of Jean-Francois Champollion* (2012); Ruzicka, S. *Trouble in the West. Egypt and the Persian Empire 525-332 BCE* (2012); Sijpesteijn, P.M. *Shaping a Muslim State. The World of a Mid-Eighth-Century Egyptian Official* (2013); Simaika, S. & Henein, N. *Marcus Simaika. Father of Coptic Archaeology* (2017); Slabodsky, S. E. *Decolonial Judaism. Triumphal Failures of Barbaric Thinking* (2014); Staffa, S. J. *Conquest and Fusion: The Social Evolution of Cairo AD 642-1850* (1977); Tadros M. *Copts at the Crossroads: The Challenges of Building Inclusive Democracy in Egypt* (2013)
- i. **Coptic and Other Languages:** Blau, J. *A Grammar of Christian Arabic*. CSCO 267 & 279 (1966)
- j. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Various. *Ancient Christian Writers Series*, 70 vols; *Texts and Studies*. Reprint 19 vols.; Bayliss, G.D. *The Vision of Didymus the Blind. A Fourth Century Virtue-Origenism* (2015); Gwynn, D.M. *Athanasius of Alexandria. Bishop, Theologian, Ascetic, Father* (2012); Michelson, D.A. *The Practical Christology of Philoxenos of Mabbug* (2014); Muehlberger, E. *Angels in Late Ancient Christianity* (2013); Schneider, C. M. *The Text of a Coptic Monastic Discourse, on Love and Self-Control. Its History from the 4th Century to the Twenty-First* (2017); Schoemaker, S.J. *Ancient Traditions of the Virgin Mary's Dormition and Assumption* (2002).
- k. **Coptic Liturgy:** Andronikof, C. *Le Cycle Pascal. Le Sens des Fetes II* (1985); Boell, V. *Unsere Herrin Maria: Die Traditionelle Aethiopische Exegese der Marienanaphora des Cyriacus von Behnesa* (1998); Forget, I. *Synaxarium Alexandrinum pars Posterior*. CSCO 90. SA.13 (Latin, 1926); Mikhail, R. *The Presentation of the Lamb: A Historical & Theological Analysis of the Prothesis & Preparatory Rites of Coptic Liturgy* (Unpublished Dissertation, 2017).
- l. **Coptic Monasticism:** Cain, A. *The Greek Historia Monachorum in Aegyptio. Monastic Hagiography in the Late Fourth Century* (2016); Draguet, R. *La Vie Primitive de S. Antoine Conservee en Syriaque* CSCO 418, SS. 184 (1980); Outtier, D.B. et al. *Lettres des Peres du Desert. Ammonas, Macaire, Arsene Serapion de Thmuis* (1985).
- m. **Periodicals:** *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* v.53 (2016); *Coptica* 15 (2016); *Irenikon* 89:2-4 (2016), 90:1 (2017); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.135.3,4 (2016), v.136.1,2 (2017); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.8 (2016); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v.18 (2016); *Le Monde Copte* 23 (1993), 24 (1994), 27-28 (1997), 29-31 (2000).

- n. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** Ms.220 *Sermons of Bp. Yusab of Girga* (Ar, AM 1573, 200f); Ms.221 *Psalmody Kiahk*, (Boh&Ar, 18-19 cent, 244f); Ms. 222 *Office of Matrimony* (Boh-Ar, AM 1590, 72f), Ms.223 *Private Horologion* (Ar, AD 1928, 109f), Ms.224 *Priest Prayers and Notes* (Ar, AD 1930-1942, 216f), Ms.225 *Misc. Inc. Mss* (Ar, 48f); Ms.226 *Writings of Butrus al-Sadmanti & Misc texts* (Ar, 19th Cent, 241f); Ms.227 *Liturgy of St. Cyril* (Boh-Ar, 112f); Ms.228 *Office of Baptism* (Boh-Ar, 83f); Ms.229 *Legal Text* (Ar, 1f); Ms.230 *Office of Matrimony, Inc.* (Boh & Ar, 33f); Ms.231 *Psalmody Kiahk and Diaconal* (Boh-Ar, late 18th Cent., 324f); Ms.232 *Directory of the Synaxarium* (Ar, 55f).
- o. **Special Collections:** Anonymous, *Arabic Bible*. Jesuit Edition 3-vol (1877-80); Anonymous, *Arabic Katameros for the Month of Tut*. (1873); Kenyon, F.G. *British Museum. The Codex Alexandrinus (Royal Ms I D v-viii) in Reduced Photographic Facsimile. New Testament* (1909), *Old Testament* pt.I (1915), part.II (1930), part.III (1936); Schwartz, M. G. *Novum Testamentum Coptice. Quatuor Evangelia in Dialecto Linguae Copticae Memphitica v.1 pt. 1 Evan. Matt et Marc* (1846).
- 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 2016-2017 Academic 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. 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*), Elvéus Eden (*Genesis, Chap. 1-2*), and Botros Sidrak (*Patristics*). 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.

A more visible aspect of the cooperation between the Society and CGU this past year was the participation of former and current PhD students at the 18th Annual St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference last July.

The Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE) continues to add updated and new entries to this monumental work in Coptic Studies. Several of these entries include high-resolution color images for the first time.. This work is accessible 24/7 worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>. Furthermore a new Assistant Managing Editor, Mr. Botros Sidrak, was added to the existing staff of Dr. Patricia A. Eshagh and Ms. Mary Ghattas. Ms. Tamara Siuda is also helping in the review process of new entries. Finally we would like to thank Dr. Donald Westbrook for all his contributions to the work of the CCE since its inception, and wish him a successful academic career in Florida.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

a. *ACTS*: As part of the 2017 Summer Session of the St. Athanasius and St. Cyril Theological School, an online class was offered from the St. Shenouda Center. 20 students from across the US and Canada enrolled in the class for Bohairic Coptic. Hany N. Takla was the substitute instructor as the original lecturer was not available during the summer period. This intensive course was taught with an emphasis on comprehending the Coptic Bible, which is the main ingredient of all liturgical services and patristic writings in the Coptic Church.

b. *Visits*: The Society conducted multiple individual and group private showings of its collections during the year. The list includes members of the community, professors, and graduate students working on Coptology topics. Most notably was a special showing of the evolving “Bible in Egypt Exhibit” at our Cultural Museum for the attendees of the 18th St. Shenouda Conference, and special tour of the Center collections by Prof. Dr. Sherin el-Gindi from Cairo and a later visit by Prof. Patrick Mason, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities (SAH) at CGU with Ms. Aleta Wenger, the Director of Development for SAH. Also Prof. Lillian Larsen of the University of Redlands has spent numerous hours continuing her research at the Coptic Library on the subject of Coptic education in the monasteries.

PUBLICATIONS

Coptica: Volume 15 was published and distributed to members and subscribers. The editor is Prof. Maged S. A. Mikhail, Professor in the History Department at the California State University, Fullerton. Volume 16 is currently in the preparation stage.