

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE  
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2007**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES  
OCTOBER, 2007*

## NINTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 13, 2007, the Society held its ninth general conference of Coptic Studies. This two-day event was held on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), through the sponsorship of the UCLA's Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Dept. and the hard work of the Coptic Collegiate Club at UCLA. The theme continued in its original format of general Coptic Studies. There were 19 presentations delivered by and for scholars and members of the Society from the US and Australia. The participants included lay Copts, graduate students, and university professors with ages ranging from the early 20s to the late 70s and representing 12 different institutes of learning. They had one common denominator, the love for Coptic Studies. This was the eleventh annual Society-sponsored scholarly event in this field in Los Angeles since 1997. It helped to further the Society's efforts to promote scholarly research among the Coptic Community in this field as well as to attract wider participation by universities throughout Southern California. A full report about the Conference will be included in the upcoming issue of the St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly.

## ST. MARK COPTIC CULTURAL CENTER

St. Mark Foundation (SMF) has successfully secured the finances for the completion of the Coptic Cultural Center at the Patriarchal Compound in Cairo. This Center will provide for the first time excellent research resources and facilities for those interested in the study of the Coptic Church in Egypt and Abroad. SMF is currently working with the Patriarchate in the selection of the staff that will run the operation of the Center. In July 2007, H. H. Pope Shenouda III approved the organizational structure for the nine working groups of the project. Our Society, through its designated representative, will be assisting in the electronic resources acquisitions as well as the books collection for the Center's Library. It is scheduled to be opened by H. H. Pope Shenouda III during the convening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of Coptic Studies in Cairo, September 2008. This will be a truly proud moment in the history of the Coptic Church and a testimony to the great work that SMF has achieved in its short history.

## COMPUTERS AND COPTIC

**a. COEPA:** The Society is continuing its cooperation with COEPA to promote and distribute their excellent products in the US, which is

related to our work. Their newly released CD-Rom title, *The Holy Bible – MP3 Audio*, contained licensed high-quality audio recordings of the NKJV bible and the KJV Deutrocanonical books. This 4-CD set includes over 70 hours of recording in the English versions that are in the Coptic Church now. (<http://www.coeпа.org>)

**b Coptic Digital Library (CDL):** The Society continued its strides in expanding its digital library of Coptic Studies. This includes items from the Society's offprint collection, catalogs of Coptic and Christian Arabic manuscripts, and rare and essential volumes in the field. The CDL in addition to its vast scanned resources includes a complete digitized collection of the 36 manuscripts in the Society's possession. Several of these CDL titles have been announced so far. This work will be made available to scholars and students involved in Coptic Studies and related fields for nominal fees. It will be furnished in PDF format on CDs, and will be announced when ready. Inquiries about other titles not in the published list can be mailed or emailed to the Society.

**c. Computers at the Coptic Center:** This year, thanks to the continued efforts of Mr. Sameh Hanna, our network was streamlined and upgraded to include seven workstations, two notebooks, and two scanners. We currently have the entire set of digitized microfilms, Society manuscripts collection, and scanned images installed on two external drives connected to the main two workstations at the Center. We are also expanding the storage capacity to accommodate the new planned digital libraries of Coptic Music and Fr. Bishoy Memorial Multimedia Library.

**d. Global Access (Internet):** This year we continued our solid presence on the Internet. [HTTP://WWW.STSHENOUDA.COM](http://WWW.STSHENOUDA.COM) is still our current website address. The traffic is averaging about 35,000 hits a month with visitors over the last year from nearly every state in the US as well as over 120 different countries from six continents. We also developed a new site to showcase our growing manuscript collection: <http://www.copticmanuscripts.org>. A new internet database was developed for internal use to access the CDL resources.

## THE COPTIC LIBRARY

During the past year the Coptic library, including books and periodicals, grew to over 3,300 volumes of material in the different branches of Coptic Studies. We expanded the library in many of its 21 different sections. We are continuing the expansion and the development of the library to contain all the necessary references required by those who

want to learn and/or to research the Coptic Heritage. The notable additions were as follows:

- a. **Coptic Art/Architecture/Inscriptions:** Anonymous. *Treasures of Coptic Art in the Coptic Museum of Cairo: A Portfolio of 10 Masterpieces* (2007); Cabrol, F. & Leclercq, H. et al. *Dictionnaire D'Archéologie Chrétienne et de Liturge* 30 vol. (1924-1953); Getty Museum. *Holy Image, Hallowed Ground* (2006); Gabra, G. *The Treasures of Coptic Art and Architecture: in the Coptic Museum and Churches of Old Cairo* (2007); Urbaniak-Walczak, K. & Panneko, I. *Spätantike Textilien aus Ägypten* (2003).
- b. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Alter, F. C. *Novum Testamentum ad Codicem Vindobonensem Graece Expressum* V.2 (1786); Sitterly, C. F. et al. *Praxis in Manuscripts of the Greek Testament: The Mechanical and Literary Processes Involved in Their Writing and Preservation* (1999); Elliott, J. *A Bibliography of Greek New Testament Manuscripts* (2005); Kosack, W. *Vetus Testamentum Coptice I. Proverbia* (1973); Nicoll, W. R. *Expositor's Greek Testament* 5 vols (Reprint: 1960); Schüssler, K., *Biblica Coptica-Die Koptischen Bibletexte* Band 3-4 (2007); Swanson, R. *New Testament Greek Manuscripts: Acts* (1996); Tattam, H. *Duodecim Prophetarum Minorum libros: in lingua Ægyptica* (1836).
- c. **Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Boud'hors A. & Bosson, N. *Actes du Huitième Congrès International d'Études Coptes. Paris, 28 Juin – 3 Juillet 2004* 2 vols. (2007); Ehrman, B. D. (Editor), et al *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research* (1995); Ehrle, F. *Miscellanea Francesco Ehrle* 5 vol. (); Goehring, J. & Timbie J. (ed.) *World of Early Egyptian Christianity: Language, Literature, and Social Context: Essays in Honor of David W. Johnson* (2007); Painchaud, L. & Poirier P. H. (Eds) *Coptica - Gnostica - Manichaica: Mélanges Offerts Wolf-Peter Funk* (2006); Wimbush, V. L. & Valantasis, R. (Eds) *Asceticism* (2002).
- d. **Canon Law and Legal Texts:** Derda, T. *Deir Naqlun: The Greek Papyri: P. Naqlun I* (1995); Gagos, T. et al. *Oxyrhynchus Papyri Pt.LXI 4093-4300* (1995); Gelzer, H. *Patrum Nicaenorum Nomina Latine, Graece, Coptice, Syriace, Arabice, Armenice* (1898); Haslam, M. W. *Oxyrhynchus Papyri Pt.LVII 3876-3914* (1990); Marrou, H. *A History of Education in Antiquity* (1982); Rea, J. R. *Oxyrhynchus Papyri Pt.LXIII 4252-4400* (1996); Shelton, J. C. & Whitehorn J. E. G. *Oxyrhynchus Papyri Pt.LXII 4301-4351* (1995); Sirivianou, M. G. *Oxyrhynchus Papyri Pt.LVI 3822-3875* (1989);

- Swiderek, A. & Vandoni, M. *Papyrus Grecs du Musee Greco-Romain d'Alexandrie* (1964).
- e. **Catalogs of Manuscripts/Bibliographies:** The British Museum. *The British Museum: History & Treasures* (1911).
  - f. **Coptic Gnosticism & Apocrypha:** Kasser, R. & Wurst, G. *The Gospel of Judas, Critical Edition: Together with the Letter of Peter to Phillip, James, and a Book of Allogenes from Codex Tchacos* (2007); Meyer, M. & Robinson, J. M. *Nag Hammadi Scriptures: The International Edition* (2007).
  - g. **Coptic History and Geography:** Abudacnus, J. *Historia Jacobitarum seu Coptorum in Aegypto, Lybia, Nubia, Aethiopia ...* (1675). Al-Tabari. *The History of al-Tabari* v. 13 (1989), 19 (1990), 21 (1990), 27 (1985), 31 (1992), 32 (1987), 33 (1991), 39 (1998); Chamberlain, M. *Knowledge and Social Practice in Medieval Damascus 1190-1350* (2002); Findlen, P. (Ed) *Athanasius Kircher: The Last Man Who Knew Everything* (2004) Hamilton, A. *The Copts and the West, 1439-1822: The European Discovery of the Egyptian Church* (2006); Kamel, M. *The Copts before the Arab Conquest [Arabic]* (Reprint:2007); Jones, A. H. M. *The Later Roman Empire, 284-602: A Social, Economic, and Administrative Survey (Later Roman Empire, 284-602)* 2 vols (1986); Mernissi, F. *The Veil and the Moslem Elite* (1991); Pockocke, R. *Voyages de Richard Pockocke* v.2,3,4,7 (1772-73); Trumble, K. & Marshall, R. *The Library of Alexandria* (2003).
  - h. **Coptic and Other Languages:** Tovar, S. T. *Gramática De Copto Sahídico* (2001).
  - i. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Di Berardino, A. *Patrology: The Eastern Fathers from the Council of Chalcedon (451) to John of Damascus (750)* (2006); Elliott, M. W. *Isaiah 40-66: The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Old Testament 11* (2007); Elowsky, J. C. *John 1-10: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. New Testament 4a* (2007); Elowsky, J.C. *John 11-21: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. New Testament 4b* (2007); Kovacs, J. L. *1 Corinthians (The Church's Bible)* (2005); Martin, F. *Acts: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. New Testament 5* (2006); Norris, R. A. Jr. *The Song of Songs: Interpreted by Early Christian and Medieval Commentators (The Church's Bible)* (2003); Panagiotes, K. C. & Dragas, G. (Editors). *Greek Orthodox Patrology: An Introduction to the Study of the Church Fathers* (2005). Wilken, R. L. *Isaiah: Interpreted by Early Christian and Medieval Commentators (The Church's Bible)* (2007); Youssef,

- Y. N. *A Homily on Severus of Antioch by a Bishop of Assiut (15<sup>th</sup> Century)* (2006).
- j. **Coptic Monasticism:** Brakke, D. *Demons and the Making of the Monk: Spiritual Combat in Early Christianity* (2006); Goehring, J. *The Letter of Ammon and Pachomian Monasticism* (1986); Horn, C. B. *Asceticism and Christological Controversy in Fifth-Century Palestine* (2006); Schroeder, C. T. *Monastic Bodies: Discipline and Salvation in Shenoute of Atripe* (2007); Velasco, R. A. *Pacomio. Reglas Monásticas* (2004).
- k. **Periodicals:** *Coptic Church Review* v.27-4 (2006); *Irenikon* v.79:1,2-3,4 (2006); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v. 8 (2006); *Orientalia* 27-33, 7 bound volumes (1958-1964)
- l. **Coptic Theology:** Dragas, G. *Ecclesiasticus I: Introducing Eastern Orthodoxy* (2004); Quinn, J.R. *The Reform of the Papacy (Ut Unum Sint)* (1999); Seng Y. L. *Men in Black Dresses: A Quest for the Future Among Wisdom-Makers of the Middle East* (2003)
- m. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** *Ms. 18*, Hexmeros by Epiphanius of Salamis (Ar, 15<sup>th</sup> century); *Ms. 19* Coptic Office of Holy Matrimony, inc. (B&Ar, undated); *Ms. 20* Ecclesiastical Services of the Greek Orthodox Church (Ar, undated); *Ms.21* Hagiographic Collection (Ar, AD 1755); *Ms.22* Liturgy of St. Gregory, inc., (B, undated); *Ms. 23* Horologion (Ar, undated); *Ms. 24*, Horologion and misc. writings (Ar & B, AD 1900); *Ms. 25* Liturgy of St. Basil (B-Ar, undated); *Ms. 26* Liturgies of SS. Basil and Gregory (B-Ar, AD 1845); *Ms. 27* Liturgies of SS. Basil and Gregory (B-Ar, AD 1858); *Ms. 28* Hagiographic Collection (Ar, AD 1569); *Ms. 29* Canons of the Church Councils (Catholic) (Ar, 18<sup>th</sup> century); *Ms. 30* Kiahk Psalmodia (B, B&Ar, Ar, 18<sup>th</sup> century); *Ms. 31* The Four Gospels (Ar, AD 1801); *Ms. 32* Catena of the Four Gospels (Ar, 1793); *Ms. 33* Ordo for Pascha Week and Paschaltide (B&Ar, undated); *Ms. 34* Turuhath of the Pascha Week (B&Ar); *Ms. 35* Arabic Treatise (Ar, undated); *Ms. 36* Book of Coptic Psalis, Inc. (B, undated, from the collection of Rev. John Mosley Master, Manchester England).

#### ACADEMIC EFFORTS:

a. *Coptic Studies Lecture Series:* In cooperation with UCLA, the Society continued its participation in the *Coptic studies Lecture series*. The third lecture in this series was held on November 14, 2006, and given by Dr. Malcolm Choat of the Coptic Studies Program at Macquarie University,

Sydney, Australia. It was titled, *The Greek and Coptic Lives of Saint Antony*. The fourth lecture was held on February 23, 2007, and given by the French scholar Dr. Arietta Papaconstantinou, a Dumbarton Oaks scholar. It was titled, *They have forgotten their language and speak the language of the higrā: Reconsidering the fate of Coptic after the Arab conquest*. More lectures are being planned and will be announced later. The quality of the program and the interest generated at UCLA, generated a preliminary agreement between the University and the Society to share in the cost of appointing a lecturer for the two Coptic Language classes in 2008.

*b. Visiting Professorship in Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University (CGU):* This monumental project that the Society began in 2006 has expanded to a 2-year academic appointment for 2007 and 2008 years. Dr. Gawdat Gabra, the designated visiting professor of Coptic Studies, began his teaching in January 2007. In a short amount of time two students joined an MA program in Coptic Studies and one in a PhD program in the field. This is very impressive results for any program in its first year. It is a testimony to the cooperation between CGU and the Society as well as the able teaching of Dr. Gabra. In accordance with an agreement with CGU, the Society has a fundraising goal of \$72,000 by mid December 2007, to support this program plus an indeterminate amount for perspective thesis scholarships. As of the end of our 2006-7 fiscal years, \$48,200 was collected and sent to the CGU.

*c. MA in Coptic Studies at Macquarie University:* As announced in last year's annual membership letter, the Society sponsored a one-year scholarship for a Coptic Student from Egypt to finance her first year in this 2-year online program. This was made possible with a generous contribution of one of our members, Dr. Nabil al-Gabalawi. Four Coptic members of the Society are currently enrolled in this unique online program. The success of the program has encouraged the University to hire an associate lecturer and also offer a PhD program.

## **THE SOCIETY MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITS**

The Society held a one-day exhibit of the expanding Society's Manuscript collection on December 30, 2006. Twenty-four manuscripts were displayed in newly-designed Plexiglas showcases, designed by Mr. Nabil Gabriel. On 6/29/2007 a private exhibit was held at the Center for H. G. Bishop Serapion, the Coptic bishop of Los Angeles. Bishop Serapion has inaugurated a new Patristic Library in Los Angeles, which will greatly enhance the resources available to students in this important

branch of Coptic Studies. This exhibit included 33 manuscripts. The same number of manuscripts was put on another special exhibit on July 13, 2007 for the participants at the 9<sup>th</sup> St. Shenouda Conference.

### **EDUCATIONAL CLASSES:**

The Advanced Coptic Seminar continued its work primarily on selections from the Bohairic book of Genesis. Three Beginning and Intermediate Coptic classes are currently in session at the St. Shenouda Center.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*a. St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly (SSCQ):* One double issue of volume three of this quarterly journal was published and mailed to our members.

*b. Coptica:* The fifth volume of *Coptica* was published and distributed to members and subscribers. It included eight selected papers from those submitted during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> conferences. For the next few issues, beginning with volume 6, we are adopting a uniform theme for the papers included in each volume. The first theme is the Coptic Old Testament. The Society is also elated that its *Coptica* editor, Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail, has accepted an Assistant Professor position in the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton.

### **THE SOCIETY ELECTION**

The Society conducted its periodic 3-year election of officers. Out of a 140 ballots mailed to eligible members, 75 (54%) were returned by the due date of September 30, 2007. Each of the nominees in the three elected positions received 100% of the votes. The new officers are as follows: Mr. Hany N. Takla, President; Dr. Merit Shoucri, Secretary; Mr. Emad Hanna, Treasurer. Their terms run through September 30, 2010.

*St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society*  
1701 So. Wooster St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
USA