

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS
OCTOBER 2007 TO SEPTEMBER 2008**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES
OCTOBER, 2008*

TENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 18, 2008, the Society held its tenth general 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 since 1999. The theme continued in its original format of general Coptic Studies. There were 21 presentations delivered by and for scholars, students, 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 14 different institutes of learning. They had one common denominator, the love for Coptic Studies. This was the twelfth 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. The most remarkable aspect of this year conference was the large number of student participation. Five graduate and three undergraduate students from four major institutions of learning participated mostly for the first time. Such participation reveals the growing interest in this scholarly discipline, Coptic Studies. A full report about the Conference will be included in the upcoming issue of the St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly.

NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES

This elite event in Coptic Studies was held at the Coptic Patriarchate from September 14, 2008 through September 20, 2008. It was attended by the best and brightest in the field from over 20 countries. In this event, the Society role as a significant contributor to the well being of Coptic Studies was very evident in the citation of its publications as well as its members in public and private. The fruit of nearly three decades of efforts is showing its fruits. The most notable features of this gathering was the increasing number of younger participants from all over the world. Students from the MA program in Coptic Studies at Australia's Macquarie University, which began in 2005, were well represented in attendance as well as in scholarly contributions. They came from at least five different countries. There were many contributions from among younger Copts living abroad in the United States and Canada, as well as those in Egypt. It also provided an excellent exposure of those living in Egypt to a rare opportunity to interact with the top scholars in the field. The work that St. Mark Foundation did in organizing this gathering in

the midst of a very challenging geographical environment was laudable, appreciated, and historic. Dr. Fawzy Estafanous and his staff in coordination with Prof. Stephen Emmel and Dr. Ramez Boutros, provided the right mix of Egyptian hospitality and excellent scholarship. The next Congress will be convening in Rome in 2012.

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 9th 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. This includes their newly released 4-CD set, *The Holy Bible – MP3 Audio*, and their 2-CD set of the Coptic Orthodox electronic Reference Library. (<http://www.coepa.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 60+ 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> is still our current website address. We also continued to update the new site for our manuscript collection, <http://www.copticmanuscripts.org>. In addition the Society established a presence in the popular internet site, Facebook, to showcase its activities as well as to establish a communication link with the expanding and younger people interested in learning and studying the Coptic Heritage.

THE COPTIC LIBRARY

During the past year the Coptic library, including books and periodicals, grew to over 3,600 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:

16/1 Nachtrag und Corrigenda Ezekiel	1	\$ 20.00
4/3 Ruth	1	\$ 110.00
Septuaginta Supplementum I,1 Verzeichnis der Griechisch		\$ 181.00
Wevers: Studies in the Text Histories of Deutl		\$ 41.00
Green. The Coptic Share Pattern		
Layton, B. A Coptic Grammar. 2 nd edition ()		
Thomas, T. Textiles from Karanis		
Wilfong, T. Women and Gender in Ancient Egypt		

Cureton, W. The Festal Letters of Athanasius. (Reprint:???)

Cureton, W. The Festal Letters of Athanasius. (Reprint:???)

O'Leary, The Syriac Church and Fathers. (Reprint:???)

Wright. *Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles*. 2 vol. (Reprint)

Wright. The Chronicle of Joshua the Stylite. (Reprint: ???)

Farag, L. St. Cyril of Alexandria, A New Testament Exegete (????)

Bint al-Shati. *The Wives of Prophet Muhammad*. (Eng Trans ???)
 Benazeth, D. *Baouit, Une Eglise Copte au Louvre*
 Shisha-Halevy, A. *Topics in Coptic Syntax*
 Garrite, G. *Lettres de S. Antoine*. Version Georgie CSCO
 Adeney, W. *Religion Greek/Eastern Churches* (1932)
 Athanasius: *The Coherence of His Thought*
 Theophilus of Alexandria
Coptica, 5 volumes in 3
Bibliorum Graecorum Codex Vaticanus. Facsimile Vol. 3. (1909)
 Rahlfs, Hanhart. *Septuaginta*. 2nd ed. (????)
 Tattam, H. *Apostolic Constitutions* (Reprint: ????)
 Lesko. *Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. 2 vol. (????)

- a. **Coptic Art/Architecture/Inscriptions:** Benazeth, D. *Baouit. une eglise copte au louvre* (2002); Guirguis, M. *An Armenian Artist in Ottoman Cairo: Yuhanna Al-Armani and His Coptic Icons* (2008); Lyster, W. (Ed) *The Cave Church of Paul the Hermit: At the Monastery of St. Paul in Egypt* (2008)
- b. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Burton, E. D. *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek* (2003); Cremer, H. *Lexicon of New Testament Greek*. 2 vol. (2001); Crosby, A. *Greek Tables for the Use of Students*. (2006); Pietersma, A. and Wright, B. G. *A New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007); Thackeray. ???. *Some Aspects of the Greek Old Testament*. (Reprint: 2007)
- Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Beltz, W. & Tubach, J. *Expansion und Destruktion in lokalen und regionalen Systemen koexistierender Religionsgemeinschaften : Leucorea-Kolloquium 2004* (2006); Boud'hors, A. & Bosson, N. *Huitieme Congres International d'etudes coptes (Paris 2004): Tome 1, Bilans et Perspectives 2000-2004*. (2007); Boud'hors, A.; Gascou, J.; Vaillancourt, D. *Etudes coptes IX: onzieme journee d'etudes (Strasbourg, 12-14 juin 2003)* (2006); Coleson (Ed), et al. *"Go to the Land I Will Show You": Studies in Honor of Dwight W. Young*. (1996);
- c. **Canon Law and Legal Texts:** Delattre, A. *Papyrus coptes et grecs du monastere d'apa Apollo de Baouit conserves aux Musees royaux d'Art et d'Histoire de Bruxelles* (2007)
- d. **Catalogs of Manuscripts/Bibliographies:**
- e. **Coptic Gnosticism & Apocrypha:** Cowper, B. H. *The Apocryphal Gospels* (2006); Hedrick, C. W. *The Apocalypse of Adam – A Literary and Source Analysis*. (2005)

- f. **Coptic History and Geography:** Bingham, J. *The Antiquities of the Christian Church*. 2 vol (2006); Brune, K-H *Index zu Das christlich-koptische Ägypten in arabischer Zeit (Stefan Timm)* (2007)
- g. **Coptic and Other Languages:** Cervenka-Ehrenstrasser, I. *Lexikon der lateinischen Lehnwörter in den griechischsprachigen dokumentarischen Texten Ägyptens mit Berücksichtigung koptischer Quellen*. (1996); Champollion, J-F. *Précis du système hiéroglyphique des anciens Égyptiens* (Reprint 2001); Layton, B. *Coptic in 20 Lessons: Introduction to Sahidic Coptic with Exercises and Vocabularies* (2007); Plisch, U-K. *Einführung in die koptische Sprache : sahidischer Dialekt* (1999)
- h. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Aquinas, T. *Catena Aurea – Commentary on the Four Gospels collected out of the Works of the Fathers*. (2005); Pilara, G. et al *1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Old Testament ???* (2008); Stevenson, K. (Editor) et al *Ezekiel, Daniel. The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture ???* (2008); Young F. *The Use of Sacrificial Ideas in Greek Christian Writers from the New Testament to John Chrysostom*. (2004)
- i. **Coptic Liturgy:** Labib, E. *The Holy Baptism and Matrimony*. Copt-Ar (193?)
- j. **Coptic Magic:** Betz, H. D. (Ed) *The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation: Including the Demotic Spells: Texts* (1997)
- k. **Coptic Monasticism:** Crislip, A. T. *From Monastery to Hospital: Christian Monasticism and the Transformation of Health Care in Late Antiquity* (2005); Lubomierski, N. *Die Vita Sinuthii : Form- und Überlieferungsgeschichte der hagiographischen Texte über Schenute den Archimandriten* (2007); Merton, T. et al. *Pre-Benedictine Monasticism: Initiation into the Monastic Tradition v.2 Monastic Wisdom*. (2006); Rich, A.D. *Discernment in the Desert Fathers Diakrisis in the Life and Thought of Early Egyptian Monasticism* (Reprint:2007)
- l. **Periodicals:** BSAP 35, 1-2, 3-4 (1998), 36-1,2,3-4 (1999);37, 1-4 (2000); 38, 1-4 (2001); 40, 1-4 (2003); *Irenikon* v.79:1,2-3,4 (2006); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v. 9 (2007), v. 10 (2008); *Coptica* v. 6 (2007).
- m. **Coptic Theology:** Davis, S. J. *Coptic Christology in Practice: Incarnation and Divine Participation in Late* (2008)
- n. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** Ms 37, Euchologion, inc. (B-Ar 19th century); Ms. 38, Texts related to St. Theodore the General (Ar, AD 1757); Ms. 39 Multiple works from different manuscripts, inc.

(Ar, undated); *Ms. 40* Life of St. Takla Haymanout (Ar, undated); *Ms.41* Texts related to St. George (Ar, undated); *Ms.42* Severus of Ashmunain's Kitab al-Durr al-Thamin, (Ar, undated); *Ms. 43* Medical and Pharmacologist texts (Ar, 19th century); *Ms. 44*, Horologion, inc. (Ar & B, undated); *Ms. 45* Invocations for the Angels (Ar, undated); *Ms. 46* Sayings of Luqman the wise (Ar, undated); *Ms. 47* Mimar of Theodosius the Jew (Ar, undated); *Ms. 48* Horologion (Bohairic & Ar, 19th century); *Ms. 49* Hymn for the Cross, inc. (Ar, undated); *Ms. 50* Horologion, 1 f. (Ar, undated); *Ms. 51* Horologion & Questions of Theodore the priest, inc. (Ar, undated); *Ms. 52* Horologion, inc. (Ar, undated); *Ms. 53* Life of St. Shenouda, inc. (Ar, undated); *Ms. 54* Grammar and Vocabulary (B-Ar, late 19th century)); *Ms. 55* Paschaltide Lectionary, 1f. (B, 14th century); *Ms. 56* Liturgy manual (B & Ar., undated); *Ms 57* Liturgical Ethiopic text, inc. (E, undated); *Ms58*, Psalmidia, 2 f. (B, undated); *Ms59*, Horologion, (Ar, undated); *Ms 60*, Liturgical Ethiopic text, inc. (E, undated); *Ms. 61*

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 9th 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 7th and 8th 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.

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