

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE
COPTIC SOCIETY*

SOCIETY PROGRESS
OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES
NOVEMBER, 2009*

ELEVENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 17, 2009, the Society held its 11th conference of Coptic Studies, which also represented its 2nd conference on the *Life and Times of St. Shenouda the Archimandrite*. 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) since 1999. The specific theme for this year conference and the longer time allotted to some of the presentations reduced the number of presenters but definitely not the quality of the presentation nor their attraction. There were 14 presentations delivered by and for scholars, students, and members of the Society from the US, Australia, Austria, Canada, and France. The majority of the participants were members of academia in their own respective countries. Six of them were presenting for the first time at our conference. There was even one that presented in English for the first time in her academic career, as she usually presents in German. They represented 13 different institutions of learning. They had one common denominator, the love for Coptology. This was the 13th 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 one of the upcoming issues of the St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly (SSCQ).

COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)

On November 14, 2008 H.H. officiated at the grand opening of the St. Mark Coptic Cultural Center at the Patriarchal Compound in Cairo. From the news accounts, it was 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. 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. Our Society, through its designated representative, will be assisting in the electronic resources acquisitions as well as the books collection for the new Center's Library. The number of pages included in these electronic resources is about 700,000.

Dr. Gawdat and Hany N. Takla are in the final preparation stage for the new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Upper Egypt*, v. 2 *Nag Hammadi-Esna*. This volume will appear next year in the series that

AUC Press is publishing in cooperation with SMF. This volume will contain the proceedings of the last Symposium that SMF convened in Naggada in 2008. By agreement with SMS and our Society, AUC Press published also the proceedings of the 2002 Wadi al-Natrun Symposium, the first of this series of Symposia on the Christianity and Monasticism in Egypt. The publication appeared earlier in volumes 2 & 3 of our joint publication, *Coptica*. The volume coeditors are Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail and Mr. Mark Moussa of our Society.

COMPUTERS AND COPTIC

a. COEPA: The Society is continuing its cooperation with COEPA to promote and distribute their excellent products in the Western US, which is related to our work. This includes the 4-CD set, *The Holy Bible – MP3 Audio*, and their 2-CD set of the Coptic Orthodox electronic Reference Library. (<http://www.coeпа.org>)

b Coptic Digital Library (CDL): 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. The CDL in addition to its vast scanned resources includes a complete digitized collection of the 88+ manuscripts in the Society's possession. Several of these CDL titles will appear in our upcoming Coptic Heritage website (CH). This work also can be made available to scholars and students involved in Coptology and related fields for nominal fees. They will be made available within the *CH* website. Inquiries and requests for other titles not appearing in *CH* can be mailed or emailed to the Society.

c. Computers at the Coptic Center: This year we equipped the Center with a new Computer projector for use in the SSEICS classes, held at the Center. Thanks to Mr. Sameh Hanna, our IT manager, we successfully implemented an internal secure wireless network.

d. Global Access (Internet): During the year we continued our solid presence on the Internet. Our current website address is still <http://www.stshenouda.com>. We also continued to update the new site for our manuscript collection, <http://www.copticmanuscripts.org>. We further set up a new site, <http://www.sseics.org>, to introduce our latest educational endeavor. It houses the material for the classes we are conducting. In addition we continued our presence in the popular internet site, 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.

THE COPTIC LIBRARY

During the past year the Coptic library, including books and periodicals, grew to about 3,800 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:** Breval, R. et al. *Les Eglises Coptes du Caire* (1936); Falck, M. Fluck, C, Haustein, E. *Ikonen-Museum Recklinghausen* (1996); Grossman, P. *Abu Mina II. Das Baptisterium* (2004); Horowitz, D.E. *A Catalogue of Greek Manuscripts at the Walters Art Gallery* (2004); Leroy, J. *Les Types de Reglure des Manuscrits Grecs* (1976); Macdonald, A. & Nassief, A. *First Christmas* (2008); Seagroatt, M. *Coptic Weaves* (1965); Torok, L. *Transfigurations of Hellenism: Aspects of Late Antique Art in Egypt AD 250-700* (2005).
- b. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Aland, K. *Materialien Zur Neutestamentlichen Handschriftenkunde* (1969); Emmenegger, G. *Der Text des Koptischen Psalters aus al-Mudil: Ein Beitrag zur Textgeschichte der Septuaginta und zur Textkritik Koptischer Biblehandschriften...* (2007); Nelson, T. *The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World* (2008); Schussler, *Biblica Coptica 4.1 Sa 586-620* (2007).
- c. **Canon Law and Legal Texts:** Clackson, S. *It is our Father who Writes: Orders from the Monastery of Apollo at Bawit* (2008); Hasitzka, M. *Koptisches Sammelbuch v.2* (2004) & v.3 (2006); Riedel, W. & Crum, W.E., *The Canons of Athanasius of Alexandria. The Arabic and Coptic versions* (1904); Rodopoulos, P. & Dragas, G. *An Overview of Orthodox Canon Law* (2007); Tzadua, P & Strauss, P. L. *The Fetha Nagast: The Law of the Kings* (2009).
- d. **Catalogues of Manuscripts:** Briquet, C. M. *Les Filigranes: Dictionaire Histoire Des Marques Due Papier des Leur Appation Vers 1982 Jusquen 1600*. 4 volumes in 2 (1997); Hyvernats, H. *A Checklist of Coptic Manuscripts in the Pierpont Morgan Library* (Reprint: 2009); Mingana, A. *Catalogue of the Mingana Collection* 3 vols (Reprint 2008).
- e. **Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Froschauer, H & Romer, C. *Spatantike Bibliotheken: Leben und Lesen in den Fruhen Klostern Agyptens* (2008); Hahn, J; Emmel, S., Gotter, U.

- From Temple to Church: Destruction and Renewal of Local Cultic Topography in Late Antiquity* (2008); Henner, J. Hans Foerster & Horak, U. *Christliches mit Feder und Faden: Christliches in Texten, Textilien und Alltagsgegenständen aus Ägypten*. (1999); Monferrer-Sala, J. P. (ed) *Eastern Crossroads: Essays on Medieval Christian Legacy* (2007).
- f. **Coptic Hagiography:** Syrian Monastery. *St. Basil: His Life, Asceticism, Ecclesiastical Canons*, Ar (2003).
- g. **Coptic History and Geography:** Anonymous. *1911 Coptic Congresses Speeches Translated* (1911); Athanasius al-Maqari. *The Eastern Churches and their Countries. Part II. The Church of Egypt*, Ar (2006); Awwad, G. *The Shabushti's Book of Monasteries*; Charles, R. H. (ed) *The Chronicle of John, Bishop of Nikiu* (1916); De Rustafijaell, R. *The Light of Egypt from Recently Discovered Predynastic* (1909); Ebeid, A.M. *The Impact of the Copts on Civilization* (2009); _____. *Towards a Culture of Progress* (2007); Jansen, H. L. *The Coptic Story of Cambyses's Invasion of Egypt* (1950); Oden, T. *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity* (2008); Sharkey, H. J. *American Evangelicals in Egypt: Missionary Encounters in an Age of Empire* (2008); St. Antony Patristic Center. *Christianity in the Era of the Apostles*, Ar (2007); Winter, M. *Society and Religion in Early Ottoman Egypt: Studies in the Writings of `Abd al-Wahhab al Sha`rani* (2006).
- h. **Coptic and Other Languages:** Aslanov, C. *Evidence of Francophony in Mediaeval Levant: Decipherment and Interpretation* (2006); Houghton, H. P. *The Coptic Verb: Bohairic Dialect* (1959); Peyron, A. *Coptic-Latin Dictionary* (Reprint 2009).
- i. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Blaising, C. A. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture - Old Testament v.7 : Psalms 1-50* (2008); Boules, W. Q. *St. Athanasius the Apostolic Paschal Letters*, Ar (2006); Crum, W. E. *Theological Texts from Coptic Papyri* (Reprint); Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on the Gospel of John*, 2 parts (2006); Cyril of Alexandria: *Commentary on the Twelve Prophets*, v. 2 (2008); Dragas, G. D. (ed.) *Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on Isaiah: volume 1: Chapters 1-14* (2008); Khalil, S. *Yahya Ibn `Adi (893-974) Tahdib al-Akhlaq*, Ar. (1994); O'Keefe, J.J. (ed.) *St. Cyril of Alexandria: Festal Letters* (2009); Roggema, B. *The Legend of Sergius Bahira: Eastern Christian Apologetics and Apocalyptic in Response to Islam* (2009); Saweris of Ashmunain. *Sacrifice of Confession*, Ar (2002); St. John Chrysostom, *Sermons on*

- Matthews* v.1 (1685); Terian, A. Macarius of Jerusalem: Letter to the Armenian AD 335 (2008); Wenhe, D. O. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture - Old Testament* v.12: *Jeremiah, Lamentations* (2009).
- j. **Coptic Liturgy:** Meyendorff, P. *The Anointing of the Sick* (2009).
 - k. **Coptic Monasticism:** Chryssavgis, J. & Penkett, P. *Abba Isaiah of Scetis: Ascetic Discourses*, HB (2002); Vivian, T. *Witness to Holiness: Abba Daniel of Scetis* (2008).
 - l. **Periodicals:** *Alexandria School* v.1 issue 2; *Coptic Church Review* 29.2 (2008); *Coptica* 7 (2008); *Irenikon* v.81:1,2-3,4 (2008), 82:1 (2009); *Medieval Encounters* 2.1 (1996); *Collectanea Christiana Orientalia* - v.5 (2008).
 - m. **Coptic Theology:** van Breemen, *As Bread that is Broken*, Ar translated by Fr. W. Nasry.
 - n. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** *Ms.2:* Revelation, acquired 5 more folios (f.) (B-Ar, 15-16th Century); *Ms.64:* Lent Lectionary, 5 frag. f. (B, 14th C); *Ms.65:* Kihak Psalmody, inc, 17f. (B-A, undated); *Ms.66:* Targum, 1f. (Heb-Arm, 16th C); *Ms.67:* Psalms, complete (Ar, AD 1742); *Ms.68:* Horologion (Ar); *Ms.69:* Legal text, 2 papyrus frag. (S, 7th C); *Ms.70:* Legal text, 2 Papyrus frag. (Gk, undated); *Ms.71:* Coptic Offices (B-Ar, AD 1849); *Ms.72:* Psalmody, inc. 13 f. (B, undated); *Ms.73:* Horologion, inc. 18f. (Ar, undated); *Ms.74:* Apologetic Christian-Islamic polemics, parts from several manuscripts (Ar, undated); *Ms.75:* Unidentified Sermons, inc. 65f (Ar, undated); *Ms.76:* Lent Lectionary, New Testament readings only, inc. 12f. (B, undated); *Ms.77:* Liturgy of St. Basil, inc. 34 f. (B, undated); *Ms.78:* Liturgical hymns & monastic literature (Ar, undated); *Ms.79:* Liturgy of St. Basil (B & Ar, undated); *Ms.80:* Misc. Ascetic Literature (Ar, 19th Century); *Ms.81:* Unidentified Sermons, inc., 2f. (Ar, undated); *Ms.82:* Commentary on Genesis, inc. 2f. (Ar, undated); *Ms.83:* Misc. works possibly of Severus of Ashmunain (Ar, undated); *Ms.84:* Matrimony-Funerals, inc. 91f. (B & Ar, undated); *Ms.85:* Kihak Psalmody, (B-Ar, 19th Century); *Ms.86:* Miamer on Archangel Michael, inc. 65f. (Ar, undated); *Ms.87:* Horologion (Ar, undated); *Ms.88:* Unidentified Liturgical, parchment (Ge'ez, undated).

ACADEMIC EFFORTS AT CGU:

The Society has successfully completed its fundraising goal of \$26,000 to fund the 1st year of the 2nd 2-year visiting professorship in Coptic

Studies for the 2009-2010 calendar years. The reduction in funding was achieved through the investment return of a sizable contribution made toward establishing a permanent chair of Coptology at CGU. Dr. Gawdat Gabra, the designated visiting professor of Coptic Studies, has continued teaching multiple classes, advising graduate students, and being the scholar guide to a group of students and faculty from CGU on their annual tour of Coptic Egypt in January 2009. Now Coptic Studies at CGU is known throughout Egypt thanks to the exposure that this guided tour, in its 2nd year, has achieved. During this short time period multiple students are either preparing their MA theses or their PhD dissertations in Coptology or in a related field. In addition to the multiple students that are using Coptic Studies within their chosen graduate work, there were three students that have either completed their master theses (MA) in the field or already engaged in preparing their doctoral dissertation With Dr. Gabra. In the first category Ms. Sarah Mehany completed her MA on the Pachomian rules being utilized in contemporary convents in Cairo. Ms. Prinny Miller has started her PhD program under his direction. Ms. Patricia Eshagh is starting her doctoral dissertation about the dispersion of Coptic Monasticism in Western Europe. Ms. Eshagh became the first fellowship recipient of the Fr. Antonious Henein Scholarship Fund that we set up this year. She presented her dissertation proposal earlier at the 10th St. Shenouda Conference last year. This is very impressive results for any program in just three years. It is a testimony to the cooperation between CGU and the Society as well as the able teaching of Dr. Gabra.

There were also two public lectures sponsored during this reporting period. The first by Bishop Serapion of Los Angeles on Christian Unity from an Orthodox Perspective on Oct 29, 2008. The second was by Prof. Doorn-Harder of Valpraiso University on Mother Irini and her influence on current women monasticism in Egypt, given on March 22, 2009. Both lectures were well attended and very positively received.

THE SOCIETY MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITS

The Society held a one-day exhibit of the expanding Society's Manuscript collection on December 27, 2008. Twenty-eight manuscripts, which were acquired during the 2008 calendar year, were displayed. Another special exhibit was held on July 17, 2009 for the participants at the 11th St. Shenouda Conference. This one displayed several new manuscripts that were not previously displayed before.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER:

- a. *SSEICS*: We have inaugurated this year our ambitious educational endeavor, the *St. Shenouda Electronic Institute of Coptic Studies* (SSEICS), announce 5 years ago. A total of two classes in Bohairic and Sahidic Coptic were conducted as well as an independent Study class. A total of 15 students enrolled in these classes, which began in November 2008 for the Bohairic and March 2009 for the Sahidic. Even though the students were physically attending these classes, the preliminary steps to allow external students to participate were being implemented. This included making lecture notes and recordings available on our secure SSEICS site as well as student assignments and their graded work.
- b. *Classes (non-SSEICS)*: The two advanced Coptic Seminars continued their work on the Sahidic Gospel of John and the Bohairic Genesis.
- c. *Visits*: The Society conducted multiple individual and group private exhibits of its collections during the year. The list included distinguished Copts from Egypt and Australia as well as the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

- a. *St. Shenouda Coptic Quarterly (SSCQ)*: The first double issue of volume 4 of this quarterly journal was published and mailed to our members. The second and final double issue of volume 4 is being prepared for mailing in November 2009. Mr. Nabil I. Guirguis of the Society is to be commended for his tireless efforts in coordinating our publication mailing throughout the year.
- b. *Coptica*: Volume 7 was published and distributed to members and subscribers. It included a single work on the Arabic version of the Life of St. John the Little, edited and translated by Prof. Stephen Davis of Yale University with an extensive introduction. The *Coptica* editor is Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton.

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