

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS
OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES
NOVEMBER, 2012*

FOURTEENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 13, 2012, the Society held its 14th 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 (NELC) since 1999. The conference continued its regular theme of general Coptic Studies. There were 18 presenters from among scholars, students, and members of the Society from the US. The majority of the participants were members of academia. Six of them were presenting for the first time at our conference. They represented 13 different institutions of learning. They had one common denominator, the love for Coptology. This was the 16th 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.

TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES

This elite event in Coptic Studies was held in Rome from 9/17/2012 to through 9/22/2012. It was attended by the best and brightest in the field from 28 countries. In this event, the Society role as a significant contributor to Coptic Studies was repeatedly mentioned in public and private. The steady efforts of nearly 33 years are bringing more and more fruits. The most impressive of these fruits is the acceptance of the Board and members of the International Association of Coptic Studies (IACS) to the joint Claremont Graduate University (CGU) and our Society's invitation to hold the 11th Congress at Claremont. In addition, the IACS approved the appointment of the Society's president, Hany N. Takla, to be the Congress Secretary. This is the greatest tribute of the Academic community to our efforts especially those of the past six years in promoting Coptic Studies at CGU. The Society also contributed a modest sum of 3,000 Euros (approx. \$4,000) to facilitate some of the expenses of Coptic Scholars from Egypt to participate at the Congress. The participation in these conferences has grown dramatically thanks to the efforts of the IACS

COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)

SMF is also gathering a new archival catalog of all the important churches and monasteries in Egypt.

Dr. Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla completed the final review of the new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Aswan and Nubia*. It will include 25 papers related to the proceedings of the 2010 Aswan Symposium, organized by St. Mark Foundation.

COMPUTERS AND COPTIC

a. 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 153 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. 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 current website address is still <http://www.stshenouda.com> or <http://www.stshenouda.org>. We also continued to update our other sites for our manuscript collection, <http://www.copticmanuscripts.org>, and for our educational endeavor, <http://www.sseics.org>. The latter site 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.

d. Coptic Heritage Site (CH): As previously announced we have launched our new subscription site, *CH*, this past year. 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 resources available 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 is currently available at the following address: <http://demo.stshenouda.info/tc.htm>.

e. Computers at the Coptic Center: In the last period, we continued to modify and upgrade our network and workstations. Currently there are 4 workstations along with five laptops being used to conduct the work. Also one of our members donated a large Xerox WorkCentre Scanner-Printer-Copier connected to our common server in the computer room. We also acquired a large standalone network storage device to backup all the data and make it accessible to all computers on the network. This is accessible to all users in the two suites occupied by the Center as well as the new suite that serves as the administrative center for the Society. Most of this work has been done by our IT Manager, Mr. Sameh Hanna.

THE CENTER LIBRARIES

During the past year the holdings of the multiple libraries, including books and periodicals, dramatically grew to over 7,800 volumes of material in the different branches of Coptic Studies as well as Egyptology and Middle Eastern Studies. Society members and friends have donated most of the 2,200 new items added to our Library system. This included gifts from Mr. Richard Cook, Dr. Norma Gurba, Mr. Russell Stephens, Fr. Columba Stewart, Hany N. Takla, UCLA's NELC Department and Prof. Tim Vivian. Almost all these gifted volumes were included in the new John B. Callender and the President Library which include about 2,300 (the balance came from reassignment of books from the main Coptic Library). Some of the notable additions were as follows:

- a. **Coptic Art/Architecture/Inscriptions:** Eaton-Krauss, M. & Fluck, C. & Van Loon, G. *Egypt 1350 BC - AD 1800 – Art Historical and Archeological Studies for Gawdat Gabra* (2011); Hodak, S. *Die Koptischen Textilien im Museum Kunst Palast Düsseldorf*, 2 vol. (2010); ___ *Ornamentale Purpurwirkereien*, 3 vol. (2011).
- b. **Coptic Apocrypha:** Hubai, P. *Koptische Apokryphen aus Nubien der Kasr el-Wizz Kodex* (2009);
- c. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Lamsa, G. M. *Holy Bible: From the Ancient Eastern Text: George M. Lamsa's Translation From the Aramaic of the Peshitta* (Paperback 1985); Schüssler, K. *Die Katholischen Briefe in der Koptischen (Sahidischen) Version*, CSCO 529, S.C. 46 *Versio* (1991).
- d. **Coptic Catalogs and Bibliography:** Buzi, P. & Proverbio, D. V. *Coptic Treasures from the Vatican Library-A Selection of Coptic, Copto-Arabic and Ethiopic Manuscripts* (2012); Haile, G. & Macomber, W. F. *Catalogue of Ethiopian Manuscripts...* 10 vols. (1975-93)

- e. **Canon Law and Legal and Documentary Texts:** Bagnall, R. et al. *A Sixth Century Tax Register from the Hermopolite Nome* (2011); Price, R & Whitby, M. *Chalcedon in Context: Church Councils 400-700* (2011); Ruffini, G. R. *A Prosopography of Byzantine Aphrodito* (2011); Sijpesteijn, P. *A Transportation Archive from Fourth-Century Oxyrhynchus* (P. Mich. XX) (2011).
- f. **Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Buzi, P & Camplani, A. *Christianity in Egypt: Literary Production and Intellectual Trends* (2011); Debie, M., Kennedy, H., Papaconstantinou, A. *Writing 'True Stories': Historians and Hagiographers in the Late-Antique and Medieval Near East* (2010).
- g. **Coptic History and Geography:** Bensly, R. L. *Our Journey to Sinai* (1898); Bishay, M. *Qadaiah Qibtiya [=Coptic Issues]* (Ar, 2012); Brinkerhoff, J. *Digital Diasporas: Identity and Transnational Engagement* (2009); Farhadian, C. E. & Hefner, R. W. *Introducing World Christianity* (2012).
- h. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Azmy, *Papal Messages of Pope Shenouda III 1998-2011* (2011); Guidi, I. *Frammenti Copti I-V* (2010= facs. Reprint of 1923 ed.); Rossi, F. *I Papiri Copti Del Museo Egizio Di Torino: Trascritti E Tradotti, Volume 1 & 2* (2012=fasc. reprint of 1888 ed.).
- i. **Coptic Liturgy:** Kropp, C. *Glaube und Sakramente des Koptischen Kirche* (Reprint 1963); Kuhn, M. *Koptische Liturgische Melodien – Die Relation Zwischen Text und Musik in der Koptischen Psalmodia* (2011).
- j. **Coptic Monasticism:** Papadopoulos, L. & Lizardos, G. (trans.) *St. Paisios the Great by Saint John the Dwarf of Egypt* (1998); Vivian, T. *The Holy Workshop of Virtue, Life of John the Little by Zacharias of Sakha* (2010).
- k. **Periodicals:** *Coptic Church Review* 32 (2011); *Coptica* 10 (2011); *Irenikon* 83:4 (2010), 84:1,2-3,4 (2011); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.130.4 (2011), v.131.1-3 (2012); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.2 (2011) & v.3 (2012); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v.13 (2011); *Muséon* v.34 (1921); *Studia Orientalia Christiana Collectanea* v.42 (2009), v.43 (2010).
- l. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** *Ms. 136*, Legal document, AD 1873-4), 1f (A); *Ms. 137*, Legal document, AD 1872-3, 1f (A); *Ms. 138*, Legal document, AD 1853-4, 1f (A); *Ms. 139*, Legal document, AD 1912-3, 1f (A); *Ms. 140*, Legal document, AD 1873-4, 1f (A), 106f (B-A); *Ms. 141*, Legal document, AD 1872-3, 1f (A); *Ms., 142*, Legal document, AD 1894, 1f (A); *Ms. 143*, Misc. Medical Texts,

74f (A); *Ms. 144*, Baptism (inc.), 15f (B-A); *Ms. 145*, Gospel of St. Matthew, 17f (A); *Ms. 146*, Life of St. Demiana & Life of Joseph son of Jacob & Misc. Coptic hymns transliterated in Arabic, 163f (A); *Ms. 147*, Service of the Laqan, 80f (B); *Ms. 148*, Psalis for the Feasts, early 19th century, 255f (B); *Ms. 149*, Service of Matrimony, 16th Century, 76f (B & A); *Ms. 150*, Hymns and Magical texts, 100f (A); *Ms. 151*, Psalmody (B); *Ms. 152*, Psalms & Odes, AD 1806 (A); *Ms. 153*, Collection of Prayers for the Sick, AD 1979 (A)

- m. John B. Callender Memorial Library:** This new Library was inaugurated in April 28, 2012 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the passing of its namesake, the late Prof. John B. Callender, who assisted in the growth of the Society since its organizing. The library will include such subjects as Ancient Egypt, Greco-Roman Egypt, and Nubia. Thanks to the book contributions of Society members and the moving of applicable volumes from the holdings of the Coptic Library, this new library has about 1,400 volumes already, including periodicals. The most notable new additions are: Bennett, C. *Alexandria and the Moon: An Investigation into the Lunar Macedonian Calendar of Ptolemaic Egypt* (2011); Borghouts, J. F. *Egyptian. An Introduction to the Writing and Language of the Middle Kingdom I. Grammar, Syntax and Indexes/ II. Sign Lists, Exercises And Reading* (2010); Browne, G. M. *Griffith's Old Nubian Lectionary* (1982); Cauville, S. *Offerings to the Gods in Egyptian Temples* (2012); Faraji, S. *Roots of Nubian Christianity uncovered-The Triumph of the Last Pharaoh* (2012); Kousoulis, P. *Ancient Egyptian Demonology. Studies on the Boundaries between the Demonic and the Divine in Egyptian Magic* (2011); Lajitar, A. & Van Der Vliet, J. *Nubian Voices. Studies in Christian Nubian Culture*; Ochala, G. *Chronological Systems of Christian Nubia* (2011).

ACADEMIC EFFORTS @ CGU

The Society has successfully completed its fundraising goal of \$28,000 to fund the 2nd year of the 3rd 2-year Clinical Professorship in Coptic Studies for the 2011-2012 calendar years. Dr. Gawdat Gabra, the designated Clinical Professor of Coptic Studies, has continued teaching multiple classes and advising graduate students in the School of Religion at CGU.

During this relatively short time period of his tenure, many students have either completed their MA theses or are continuing their PhD

dissertations in Coptology or in a multi-disciplinary topic including Coptology. Several more students are now enrolled in either the MA or PhD program under Dr. Gabra's direction and/or guidance. Daniel Sharp has completed his PhD on the Coptic Version of St. John and is now an Assistant Professor in BYU-Hawaii. Patricia Eshagh, the first recipient of the Fr. Antonious Henein Scholarship is continuing her doctoral dissertation about the dispersion of Coptic Monasticism in Western Europe. She presented her work during the 14th St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference in July 2012. Sarah Mehany-Morcos is continuing her work toward PhD in the area of Coptic Monasticism. Other students include Mary Ghattas (Christianity in Nubia), Maggie Hernandez (Modern Coptic Iconography of Isaac Fanous), Donald Westbrook (Monasticism), and Fr. Daniel Habib (Philosophy of Religion and Theology). This is continuing the impressive results of this program, now in its 6th year. It is a testimony to the cooperation between CGU and the Society as well as the able scholarship and teaching of Dr. Gabra.

During this period also, all eight volumes of the published Coptic Encyclopedia were posted online as the first phase of developing Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE). It is accessible worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>. Recently, the number of views per month exceeded 60,000. The funding of this work which was in excess of \$55,000 was borne exclusively by members of the Coptic Community. Dr. Gawdat Gabra led a meeting of CCE Editorial Board during the convening of the International Coptic Congress in Rome, September 2012.

In addition, CGU School of Religion Council for Coptic Studies participated in CGU's 5th annual *Religions in Conversation Conference* with two presentations dealing with the conference theme of *Poetry and Religion: Navigating the Sacred and Profane in American Popular Culture*. The first was by Fr. Daniel Habib titled, *Celebrating Coptic New Year: Old Customs in Egypt and New Meaning in America*. The second by Dr. Fatin M. Guirguis titled, *Oral Traditions and Dynamics of Survival among US Copts*.

The CGU Coptic Council also held meetings at the St. Shenouda Center as well as at CGU throughout the year. Dr. Saad Michael Saad is the Council's chair as well as currently serving as the chair of the School's Board of Visitors, whose members also include Mr. Ramses Wassif, the Society's Vice President and Hany N. Takla, The Society's President.

THE SOCIETY MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITS

The Society held a one-day exhibit of the expanding Society's Manuscript collection on December 17, 2011. Manuscripts up to Ms. 140, which were acquired during the 2011 calendar year, were displayed. Another special exhibit was held on July 13, 2012 for the participants at the 14th St. Shenouda Conference. This one displayed several new manuscripts, which were not previously displayed.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER:

- a. *Classes (non-SSEICS)*: A session of Introductory Bohairic Grammar was completed while a second one is in session. One Intermediate Bohairic Grammar is also in session along with an Introductory Sahidic Coptic.
- b. *SSEICS*: During this period two new classes were offered in our Electronic Institute initiative. The first was Introductory Bohairic Coptic and the second was Introduction to the Coptic Old Testament. Seven students were enrolled in the first class and four in the second.
- 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. The collections were also consulted by multiple scholars throughout the year.

PUBLICATIONS

Coptica: Volume 10 was published and distributed to members and subscribers. It included multiple papers from previous Society Conferences as well as by scholars in the field. The *Coptica* editor is Dr. Maged S. A. Mikhail. He is currently an Associate Professor in the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton. Mr. Nabil I. Guirguis of the Society is to be commended for his tireless efforts in coordinating our publication mailings throughout the year.

St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society
1494 S. Robertson Blvd, Suite 104
Los Angeles, CA 90035-3482
USA