

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS
OCTOBER 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES
NOVEMBER, 2013*

FIFTEENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 19, 2013, the Society held its 15th 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) which began in 1999. The conference continued its regular theme of general Coptic Studies. There were 19 presenters from among scholars, students, and Society members from the US and France, including four graduate students from CGU. 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 learning institutions and academic organizations. They had one common denominator, the love for Coptology. This was the 17th annual Society-sponsored scholarly event in this field in Los Angeles since 1997. It helped to further the Society's continuous endeavor for promoting scholarly research among the Coptic Community in this field as well as attracting a wider participation by universities from all over North America in general and Southern California in particular.

COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)

SMF is continuing to gather a new archival catalog of all the important churches and monasteries in Egypt.

The new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Aswan and Nubia* is now in print with 25 papers related to the proceedings of the 2010 Aswan Symposium, organized by St. Mark Foundation. Dr. Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla, the co-editors of the last three volumes of that series are currently working on another volume of the proceedings of the latest symposium on the Christianity and Monasticism in Middle Egypt, which took place at the Monastery of St. Mary known as Al-Muharraq during the month of February 2014. Preparations are underway for the next symposium planned to be held at the Monastery of St. Mena in Maryut about 40 miles west of Alexandria in early 2015.

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. Over 200 volumes have been added during this year. The CDL, in addition to its vast scanned resources, includes a nearly complete digitized collection of

the 190 manuscripts in the Society's possession. Several of these CDL titles will appear in our upcoming Coptic Heritage website (CH). 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.

c. Global Access (Internet): During the year we maintained and expanded our solid presence on the internet, which began in late 1995. Our web address was changed to <http://www.stshenouda.org>. Currently the old address <http://www.stshenouda.com> is forwarded to the .org site until we establish a new function for the old address. We also continued to update our other sites for our manuscript collection, copticmanuscripts.org, and for our educational endeavor, sseics.org. The latter site houses the material for the classes that we are conducting. In addition we continued 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 the Coptic Heritage.

d. Coptic Heritage Site (CH): 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 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 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/Scanners at the Coptic Center: We continued to modify and upgrade our network and workstations. The most notable addition is a new powerful workstation connected to the ScanPro 3000, microform scanner that we purchased this year. Also, and as of last September, we have leased a newer model Xerox WorkCentre Scanner-Printer-Copier for 5 years. This is allowing us a better and faster scanning capability, including color scanning. This newer model allows us to scan-to-email, scan to Server, and scan to an external flash drive. Most of this work had 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 11,000 volumes of material in the different branches of Coptology as well as Egyptology,

Semitic Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. The bulk of this tremendous growth came in the form of the new memorial library of the late Prof. Boulos Ayad Ayad of Boulder, Colorado in October 2012, most kindly donated and delivered to our Center. It included over 3,200 volumes of books and periodicals ranging in date from 1769 to 2011 in the aforementioned fields. Other important volumes were also donated by members of the Society. Some of the notable additions are as follows:

- a. **Coptic Art/Architecture/Inscriptions:** Ludwig, C. (ed) Authors: Gabra, G, Van Loon, G.J.M. et al. *The History and Religious Heritage of Old Cairo: Its Fortress, Churches, Synagogues, and Mosque* (2013).
- b. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Askeland, C. *John's Gospel: The Coptic Translations of its Greek Original* (2012); Barnstone, W. *The Restored New Testament: A New Translation with Commentary, Including Gnostic Gospels Thomas, Mary, and Judas* (2009); Griffith, S. *The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the "People of the Book" in the Language of Islam* (2013); Schüssler, K. *Biblia Coptica: Die koptischen Biblertexte . 2.1. Das sahidische Alte und Neue Testament 1: sa 121-184* (2012).
- c. **Canon Law and Legal and Documentary Texts:** Bagnall, R.S. *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology* (2009); Luijendijk, A. *Greetings in the Lord: Early Christians and the Oxyrhynchus, Papyri* (2009).
- d. **Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Cotton, H. M. *From Hellenism to Islam: Culture and Linguistic Change in the Roman Near East* (2011); Gabra, G. & Takla, H.N. *Christianity and Monasticism in Aswan and Nubia* (2013).
- e. **Coptic History and Geography:** Mikhail, A. *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt: An Environmental History* (2012); Weessa, W. *Al-Kocheh: The Absent Truth* (Arabic, 3rd Print 2004).
- f. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Ford, D.C. *Women and Men in the Early Church: The Full Views of St. John Chrysostom* (1996); Hovorun, C. *Will, Action and Freedom: Christological Controversies in the 7th century* (2008); S. John Chrysostom. *The Love Chapter: The Meaning of First Corinthians 13* (2010).
- g. **Coptic Liturgy:** Labib, E. *Al-Absolmodia al-Kiahkia (The Kiahk Psalmodia)* (B-A 1911); McGuckin, J.A. *At the Lighting of the Lamps: Hymns of the Early Church* (1995); Mikhail, A.G. *Al Asass fi Khidmat al-Shamas (The Foundation in the Service of the Deacon)* (Coptic-Arabic 2007); Synod Committee for Rites. *Al-Sinaksar (the Synaxarium)* 2v. (Arabic: 2012).
- h. **Coptic Monasticism:** Bangley, B. *By the Way of the Desert: 365 Daily Readings* (2007); Carrigan, H.L, Jr. (Transl.) *The Wisdom of*

- the Desert Fathers and Mothers* (2010); Cassidy, A.M. (Transl.) *Saint John Cassian on Prayer* (2006); Chitty, D.J. *The Letters of Saint Antony the Great* (10th print 2005); Chryssavgis, J. *The Reflects of Abba Zosimas: A Monk of the Palestinian Desert* (Reprint 2006); Cowan, J. *Desert Father: A Journey in the Wilderness with Saint Anthony* (2006); Goehring, G. *Politics, Monasticism, and Miracles in 6th Century Egypt: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Coptic texts on Abraham of Farshut* (2012); Ramfos, S. *Like a Pelican in the Wilderness: Reflections on the Sayings of the Desert Fathers* (2000); Stewart, C. *The World of the Desert Fathers* (1986).
- i. **Periodicals:** *Coptica* 11 (2012); *Irenikon* 85:1,2-3,4 (2012); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.131.4 (2012), v.132.1-3 (2013); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.5 (2012); *Journal of Coptic Studies* v.14 (2012).
- j. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** *Ms.154*, Hymns for the Saints, Undated, 138f (A); *Ms.155*, Horoglogion, undated, 68f (A); *Ms.156*, Lectionary 1st 6 months, undated, 250f (B); *Ms.157*, Descolia (Canon Law), AD 1454, 158f (A); *Ms.158*, Kiahk Psalmodia, undated, 365f (B-A); *Ms.159*, Kiahk Psalmodia, undated, 310f (B with some A); *Ms.160*, Horologion & Hymns, undated, 157f (A with some B); *Ms.161*, Unction & Funerals, undated, 104f (A with some B); *Ms.162*, Apophthegmata Patrum, AD 1886 119f (A); *Ms.163*, Horologion, 114f (A); *Ms.164*, Lexical Arabic text, 67f (A); *Ms.165*, Canon Law, 92f (A); *Ms.166*, Literary and Hagiographic texts, undated, 356f (A); *Ms.167*, Liturgy of SS. Basil & Gregory, undated, 169f (B-A); *Ms.168*, Miamar for the Virgin Mary, undated, 130f (A); *Ms.169*, Miamar for Feasts and Saints, AD 1870s, 158f (A); *Ms.170*, Kiahk Psalmodia, AD 1852, 268f (B with some A); *Ms.171*, Liturgical (?), undated, 22f (Ge'ez); *Ms.172*, Liturgy of St. Basil/Vespers/Matins (inc.), 28f (B); *Ms.173*, Legal Document, AD 1847-8, 1f (A); *Ms.174*, Legal Document, AD 1866-7, 1f (A); *Ms.175*, Legal Document, AD 1876-7, 1f (A); *Ms.176*, Legal Document, AD 1876-7, 1f (A); *Ms.177*, Hymns from multiple mss bound together, 143f (A); *Ms.178*, Psalmodia (inc), 64f (B); *Ms.179*, Horologion, 42f (A & some B); *Ms.180*, Legal Document, AD 1857-8, 1f (A); *Ms.181*, Legal Document, AD 1837-8, 1f (A); *Ms.182*, Legal Document, AD 1868-9, 1f (A); *Ms.183*, Legal Document, AD 1876-7, 1f (A); *Ms.184*, Legal Document, AD 1863-4, 1f (A); *Ms.185*, Horologion, AD 1856-7, 99f (A); *Ms.186*, Unction, AD 1963, 12f (A from Ethiopia); *Ms.187*, Matins/Vespers/ Liturgy of St. Basil, AD 1881, 146f, (B-A); *Ms.188*, Liturgies of SS. Basil and

Gregory, 252f, (B-A); *Ms.189*, Lectionary Lent 5th-7th week, 95f (B); *Ms.190*, Legal Text 7th Century, 1f (S).

- k. **John B. Callender Memorial Library:** This new Library continued to grow. It now holds more than 1,400 volumes including periodicals. The most notable new additions are: Adams, B. & Cialowicz, K. M. *Protodynastic Egypt* (1997); Bagnall, R.S. & Rathbone, D. W. (eds) *Egypt, from Alexander to the Copts. An Archaeological and Historical Guide* (2004); Dieleman, J. *Priests, Tongues, and Rites. The London-Leiden Magical Manuscripts and Translation in Egyptian Ritual (100-300 CE)* (2005); Frankfort, H. *Ancient Egyptian Religion. An Interpretation* (Reprint 2000); Hornung, E. *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many* (Reprint 1996) Janssen R. M. & Janssen J. J. *Growing Up in Ancient Egypt* (Reprint 1996); Lewis, N. *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt. Case Studies in the Social History of the Hellenistic World* (Reprint 2001); Preys, R. *Acton deer ägyptologischen Tempeltagungen: 7. Ägyptologische Tempeltagung: Structuring Religion (Leuven, 28. September - 1. Oktober 2005)* (2009); Shaw, I. *Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction* (2004); Sauneron, S. *The Priests of Ancient Egypt* (2000).

ACADEMIC EFFORTS @ CGU

The Society has successfully achieved its fundraising goal of \$26,000 to fund the 1st year of the 4th 2-year Clinical Professorship in Coptic Studies for the 2013-2014 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.

A constant stream of graduate students has either completed their MA theses and is continuing their PhD dissertations in Coptology or in a multi-disciplinary topic including Coptology. Also new students are enrolling to study under Dr. Gabra. Magi Hernandez was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Fr. Antonious Henein Scholarship to complete her MA Thesis on the Iconography of Prof. Isaac Fanous in Southern California. Also Mary Ghattas was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Society Scholarship fund in recognition of her newly completed MA Thesis on Christianity in Nubia. Both along with two other students from the program, Amelia Wayne and Donald Westbrook, presented papers at the 15th St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference in July 2012. Sarah Mehany-Morcoc is Beginning her doctoral dissertation in the area of Modern Coptic Monasticism and Fr. Daniel Habib in Philosophy of Religion and Theology in addition to Patricia Eshagh in the area of the Influence of

Coptic Monasticism on its Western Counterpart. This significant progress and achievements in the field of Coptic Studies is a faithful testimony to the cooperation between CGU and the Society as well as to the proficient scholarship and teaching abilities of Dr. Gabra.

In recognition of this impressive progress the new School of Arts and Humanities (SAH) established a Coptic Studies Track with as many as 11 courses being listed. This is a wonderful achievement toward establishing a more permanent Coptology discipline at the School.

To increase awareness of and interest in Coptology, the Coptic Council along with CGU have sponsored four separate and well-attended lectures in the field by prominent scholars during this reporting period.

Also during this period, some of the missing entries from Volume 3 of the original printed edition of the Coptic Encyclopedia were posted online to complete the first phase of developing Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE). This work was done to add more index entries to enhance the search capabilities. It is accessible worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>. The number of views per month is about 56,000. The next tasks are to enhance the format of the bibliographic entries, the preparation and posting of new articles, and the addition of 500 new images to the existing articles.

The CGU Coptic Council is now represented in the new SAH's Board of Visitors by two members: Dr. Saad Michael Saad, the Council's Chair along with 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 29, 2012. Manuscripts up to Ms. 160, which were acquired during the 2012 calendar year, were displayed. Another special exhibit was held on July 19, 2013 for the participants at the 15th St. Shenouda Conference. This one displayed several new manuscripts, which were not shown before.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER:

- a. *Classes (non-SSEICS)*: two sessions of Introductory Bohairic Grammar were completed. One Intermediate Bohairic Grammar is also in session along with an intermittent Sahidic Coptic Reading class.
- b. *SSEICS*: During this period one new class is offered in our Electronic Institute initiative. It is called "The Manuscripts of Christian Egypt." Five students are enrolled in the class.

c. *Visits*: The Society conducted multiple individual and group private exhibits of its collections during the year. The list includes members of academia at CGU as well as five graduate students of Dr. Gawdat Gabra at CGU. In addition to the remote access by scholars of the collection throughout the year, there were two in particular that spent multiple days working on the collections: Books, Manuscripts, and Digital resources. The first was Dr. George Ghaly of Marborough Massachusetts, who spent a couple of days working on the manuscript collection and the new microform scanner in November 2012 and July 2013; and Ms. Elizabeth (Lisa) Agaiby of Sydney Australia, who spent three days working with the different resources available as well as discussing her upcoming dissertation topic in mid-September 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

Coptica: Volume 11 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