

*ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE  
COPTIC SOCIETY*

**SOCIETY PROGRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2013 TO SEPTEMBER 2014**

(By Hany N. Takla)

*LOS ANGELES  
NOVEMBER, 2014*

## SIXTEENTH ST. SHENOUDA COPTIC CONFERENCE

Beginning July 18, 2013, the Society held its 16<sup>th</sup> 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 was our third Conference concentrating on the Life and Time of St. Shenouda the Archimandrite, which we organize once every five years. There were 17 presenters from among scholars, students, and Society members from the US and Australia. The majority of the participants were members of academia. They represented 14 different learning institutions and academic organizations. It has certainly developed over the years as the most prominent annual Coptology meeting in the world, with this being the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Society-sponsored event of this kind since 1997. In it academic careers were launched or promoted as well as both academia and the Coptic Community benefitted from their interactions. Despite the challenging efforts in organizing and executing such meetings, they have proved to be very fruitful in furthering the Society's goals. This year especially, we had the highest average of attendees per session!

### COOPERATION WITH SAINT MARK FOUNDATION (SMF)

SMF is continuing to gather a new archival catalog of all the important churches and monasteries in Egypt, and steps are being taken to make such archive available online.

The preparation of the new volume of *Christianity and Monasticism in Middle Egypt* is progressing, as the Publisher has received the response to the first proof of the 28 papers included. They are related to the proceedings of the February 2013, Al-Muharraaq Monastery Symposium, organized by SMF. Dr. Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla are the co-editors of this and last three volumes of that series. Final preparations are underway for the next symposium scheduled for February 8-12, 2015 at the Monastery of St. Mena in Maryut about 40 miles west of Alexandria. This will directly follow a one-day public conference on St. Mark with multiple papers on the subject in Arabic, to be held at the Patriarchal compound in Cairo.

### COMPUTERS AND COPTIC

**a. Coptic Digital Resources (CDL/CML):** 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 430 volumes have been added during this year. The CDL, in addition to its vast scanned resources, includes a nearly complete digitized collection of the 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. In our Coptic Manuscript Library we have digitized 39 manuscripts using the newly acquired microform scanner along with the purchase of digital copies of five more manuscripts from France and Sweden. The Society was also privileged to receive 1200 images from the Coptic Collection of the Turin Egyptian Museum courtesy of Prof. Tito Orlandi, A digital copy of a liturgical manuscript from Portugal National Library courtesy of Prof. Adel Sidarous, Several images from Sahidic biblical manuscripts from the Berlin State Library collection courtesy of Prof. Paola Buzi, and digital images from over 60 Coptic fragments in the Van Kampen Collection courtesy of the Board of the Van Kampen Foundation.

**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](http://copticmanuscripts.org), and for our educational endeavor, [sseics.org](http://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>.

## THE CENTER LIBRARIES

During the past year the print holdings of the multiple libraries, including books, periodicals, and offprints have grown to about 12,000 items of material in the different branches of Coptology as well as Egyptology, Semitic Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. Some of the notable additions, including several titles by our members, are as follows:

- a. **Coptic Apocrypha/Manichaeism:** Gardiner, I. *Kellis Literary Texts*, v. 2 (2007); Schenke, G. *Der Koptische Kölner Papyruskodex 3221. Teil i: Das Testament des Iob* (2009)
- b. **Coptic Art/Architecture:** Brune, K-H. *Die Koptischen Textilien im Museum Kunst Palast Duesseldorf. Teil 1: Wirkereien mit Figuerlichen Motiven* (2004); Labib, P. *The Coptic Museum and the Fortress of Babylon at Old Cairo* (1962); Stierlin, H. *Masterworks of Islamic Architecture, from Damascus to Granada, from Cairo to Istanbul* (2005); Talgam, R. *The Stylistic Origins of Umayyad Sculpture and Architectural Decoration*. 2 Parts (2004); Weidmann, D. *Kellia: Kom Qoucour 'Isa 1. Fouilles de 1965 a 1978*. 2 parts (2013).
- c. **Coptic Bible, Old & New:** Kosack, W. *Novum Testamentum Bohairice* (2014); Pelikan, J. *Whose Bible Is It: A History of the Scriptures Through the Ages* (2005); Schüssler, K. *Biblia Coptica: Die koptischen Bibletexte . 4.4. Das sahidische Alte und Neue Testament 1: sa 721-780* (2011); \_\_\_\_\_. *Das Koptisch-Sahidische Johannesevangelium sa 506 Aus dem Jeremias-Kloster von Sakkara* (2013); Tov. E. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (2012)
- d. **Catalogs:** Brock, S. P. & Van Rompay (eds.) *Catalogue of the Syriac Manuscripts and Fragments in the Library of Deir Al-Surian, Wadi Al-Natrun (Egypt)* (2014); Buzi, P. *Coptic Manuscripts 7. The Manuscripts of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz, part 4* (2014); Hodak, S. et al. *Coptica: Koptische Ostraka und Papyri, Koptische und Griechische Grabstellen aus Ägypten und Nubien...* (2013); Pearson, J.D. *Bibliotheca Asiatica 7: Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America - A Survey* (1971); Sanchez, S et al. *Catalogo de los Manuscritos Siriacos, Arabes Karsuni y Copto-Arabes de Montserrat* (2012)
- e. **Canon Law and Legal and Documentary Texts:** Derda, T. *Deir El-Naqlun: The Greek Papyri V.2 (P.Naqlun II)* (2008); Lajtar, A. *Deir El-Bahri in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods* (2006); Richards, D.S. *Mamluk Administrative Documents from St*

*Catherine's Monastery* (2011); Worp, K.A. *Greek Ostraka from Kellis* (2004).

- f. **Coptic Festschrifts and Conference Proceedings:** Atanassova, D & Tinatin, C. *Synaxis Katholike. Beiträge zu Gottesdienst und Geschichte der Fünf Altkirchlichen Patriarchate...* 2v. (2014); Bumazhnov, D. *Christliches Ägypten in der Spätantiken Zeit. Akten der 2. Tübinger Tagung zum Christlichen Orient, 7.-8. Dezember 2007* (2013); Dijkstra, J. & VanDijk, M. (eds) *The Encroaching Desert: Egyptian Hagiography and the Medieval West* (2006); Farag, L. (ed) *Coptic Christian Heritage HB* (2014); Feder, F & Lohwasser, A. *Ägypten und sein Umfeld in der Spätantike: vom Regierungsantritt Diokletianus 284/285 bis zur Arabischen Eroberung 635* (2013); Gabra, G. (ed) *Coptic Civilization* (2014); Girgis, S.F. *Encyclopedia from the Heritage of the Copts*. 6 v (Ar) (2004); Krause, M. *Ägypten in Spätantik-Christlicher Zeit. Einführung in die Koptische Kultur* (1998); Youssef, Y.N. & Moawad, S. (eds) *From Old Cairo to the New World: Coptic Studies Presented to Gawdat Gabra on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday* (2013).
- g. **Coptic Hagiography:** Schenke, G. *Das Koptisch Hagiographische Dossier Des Heiligen Kolluthos Arzt, Martyrer und Wunderheiler (CSCO 650, SUBS. 132)* (2013)
- h. **Coptic History and Geography:** Clifford, W.W. *State Formation and the Structure of Politics in Mamluk Syro-Egypt, 648-741 AH/1250-1340 CE* (2013); Mikhaïl, M.S. A. *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt. Religion, Identity and Politics After the Arab Conquest* (2014); Wipszycka, E. *Moines et Communautés Monastiques en Egypte (IV-VIII Siecles)* (2009).
- i. **Coptic Literature/Patristics:** Ricks, T.W. *Early Arabic Christian Contributions to Trinitarian Theology ..* (2013); Song, H.K. *Anastasio Sinaita: Omelia Sul Salmo 6 (PO 52.3=N.233)* (2012)
- j. **Coptic Liturgy:** Alexopoulos, S. *The Presanctified Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite. A Comparative Analysis of its Origins, Evolution, Structural Components* (2009); Fr. Athanasius al-Ma'qary 40 volumes related to research on Coptic Liturgical services and Church traditions.
- k. **Coptic Monasticism:** Boud'hors, A. *Le Canon 8 de Chenoute: Introduction, Edition Critique*. 2v. (2013); Lopez, A.G. *Shenoute of Atripe and the Uses of Poverty* (2013).
- l. **Periodicals:** *Coptica* 12 (2013); *Irenikon* 86:1-2,3-4 (2013); *Journal of Biblical Literature* v.132.4 (2013), v.133.1,2,3 (2014); *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* v.6 (2013); *Journal of*

*Coptic Studies* v.15 (2013); *Orientalia Christiana Collectanea* v.44 (2011).

- m. **Coptic Manuscript Collection:** Ms.191 Legal Document (Ar, 1856-7); Ms.192 Legal Document (Ar, 1849-50); Ms.193 Legal Document (Ar, 1854-5); Ms.194 Legal Document (Ar, 1877); Ms.195 Legal Document (1875-6); Ms.196 Private Letter (Sah, 7<sup>th</sup> Century); Ms.197 Horologion, Inc. (Ar, undated, 62f); Ms.198 Psalmodia (Boh, undated, 80f); Ms.199 Unknown Papyrus (Gk).
- n. **Special Collections:** Bresciani. *The Life of Abulcher Bisciarah: The Little Angel of the Copts* 2 vol (1856); Philotheos. *Kitab Al-Iklik al-Galil (Book of the Holy Matrimony)* Bo-Ar (1888); Sanders, H. A. *Facsimile of the Washington Manuscript of the Minor Prophets in the Freer Collection* (1927); Tukhi, R. *πιζωμι η̅τε̅ πιζομη̅τ̅ η̅αναφορα (The Book of the Three Anaphora)* Bo-Ar (1736); Van Dyck, C. *Arabic Bible: Old and New Testament*. Beirut 4<sup>th</sup> Print (1875); Wilkins, D. *Novum Testamentum Aegyptium vulgo Copticum* Bo-L (1716)
- o. **John B. Callender Memorial Library:** This new Library continued to grow. It now holds more than 1,460 volumes including periodicals. Several of them have come as gifts from our members. The most notable new additions are: Journal of Egyptian Archaeology (1955, 1959, 1965, 1985, 1998, 2006); Friedman, R. *Egypt and Nubia. Gifts of the Desert* (2002); James D.D.M. *Stolen Greek Philosophy is Stolen Egyptian Philosophy* (1954); Lambelet, K. *How to Read Hieroglyphs* (1974); Malek, J. *Egypt 4000 Years of Art* (2003); Parsons, P. *City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish. Greek Papyri beneath the Egyptian Sand..* (2007); Shinnie, P.L. & Shinnie M. *Debeira West: a Mediaeval Nubian Town* (1978); Tait, W.J. *Papyri from Tebtunis in Egyptian and in Greek (P.Tebt.Tait)* (1977); Wells, E. *Nefertiti. A Biography of the World's Most Mysterious Queen* (1964); Wildung, D. et al *Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection, Berlin. 100 Masterpieces* (2010); Wilfong, T.G. *Women and Gender in Ancient Egypt, from Prehistory to Late Antiquity* (1997).

### ACADEMIC EFFORTS @ CGU

The Society has successfully achieved its fundraising goal of \$26,000 to fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 4<sup>th</sup> 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, a previous recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the Fr. Antonious Henein Scholarship has completed her MA Thesis on the Iconography of Prof. Isaac Fanous in Southern California. A copy of her thesis is at the Center's library. Also Mary Ghattas, a previous recipient a Society grant is enrolled in the PhD program with a projected Dissertation dealing with the ecumenical efforts of the Coptic Church in the past few decades. Donald Westbrook, presented a joint paper with Dr. Saad Michael Saad at the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference in July 2013. Sarah Mehany-Morcous is continuing her doctoral dissertation in the area of Modern Coptic Monasticism and Mena Moussa is working on his MA thesis, dealing with the current migration of Copts following the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. Tamara Siuda is working on her PhD in the field of Coptic Hagiography. Lincoln is working on his PhD in the Coptic New Testament Patricia Eshagh is in the advance stages of completing her doctoral dissertation 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. The addition of the Coptic Studies Track at the School of Arts and Humanities has been also a very positive step in promoting Coptology at CGU.

To increase awareness of and interest in Coptology, the Coptic Council along with CGU have sponsored one important lecture and book-signing by Mother Lois Farag of the Luther Seminary in Minnesota. It was titled: "Alexandrian Theology: On the Trinity and the Nature of Christ." The book signing was for here latest multi-author book: Coptic Christian Heritage.

The Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia (CCE) has entered the second phase of adding more updated and color digital images to the existing articles. Also work was done on enhancing the format of the bibliographic entries in the articles already posted. This work is accessible worldwide for free at: <http://www.cgu.edu/cce>. More added images and new entries are in preparation.

### **THE SOCIETY MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITS**

The Society held a one-day exhibit of the expanding Society's manuscript collection on December 21, 2013 at the usual venue of the Coptic Library

of the Center. Manuscripts Mss. 161-196, which were acquired during the 2013 calendar year, were displayed. Also on display was the full-size replica of the British Museum Rosetta Stone, which was generously gifted to us by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Another special exhibit was held on July 18, 2014 for the participants at the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Shenouda Conference, which depued the new Cultural Museum suite in the same building that house the other Society and Center collections.

### **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER:**

a. *Classes (non-SSEICS)*: One session of Introductory Bohairic Grammar was completed and the second will be completed this October. One Intermediate Bohairic Grammar is also in session.

b. *SSEICS*: During this period the new class *SSEICS-CL103: The Manuscripts of Christian Egypt*, was completed. Five students were 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 and students from Biola University. Also Prof. Lillian Larsen of University of Redlands has spend several days doing research at the Coptic Library. It was specially gratifying that she favorably compared the library resources at the Center to those of Columbia University in her specialty field of early Monastic education in Egypt.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Coptica*: Volume 12 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, an Associate Professor in the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton. His most recent book is listed in the Library acquisitions above. Mr. Nabil I. Guirguis of the Society is to be commended for his tireless efforts in coordinating our publication mailings throughout the year.

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