



St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society

1701 S. Wooster St.
Los Angeles, CA 90035-4332
USA

October 10, 2025

Dear friends and colleagues:

The peace and love of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all. This year marked the 46th Anniversary of our blessed journey to ***Preserve, Revive, and Promote the Christian Heritage of Egypt***. This past fiscal year was another year of growth in our quest to raise awareness of the literary aspects of the Coptic heritage. We have taken great stride in developing the framework for making available the entire corpus of Coptic literature that has survived so far. As the Coptic language is the cornerstone of our heritage, we are utilizing the two hand-held applications we developed to preserve the wealth of our literature: The Coptic Bible and the Coptic Literature. In the future we are hoping to create another application for the viewing of the original sources, the manuscripts. The existing applications are designed to enhance the knowledge of the language as well as the study of our heritage that is preserved in these texts. With regards to liturgical texts, we will restrict our efforts to textual material while encouraging others to work on preserving the musical heritage. We are hoping in the future to launch an application for the art and architecture of our heritage or encourage and support others to do this essential component of our culture.

Currently the Society is continuing to maintain two separate physical centers for research within close physical proximity. The first is the current physical Center that house all the libraries of the Society that represent the wealth of research material for the study of the Coptic Heritage in all its aspects, ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical. It also houses the microfilm and digital collections of the Society along with the scanning and viewing equipment. The second Center is our St. Shenouda Coptic Cultural Museum, which is primarily the home of the Bible in Egypt permanent Exhibit along with other authentic items of our heritage.

It is prudent to re-emphasize for this generation and those that follow us the basic principles of our Coptic Heritage. It stands on four distinct pillars: Language, Literature, Art, and History. Although multiple languages and cultures have shaped these pillars over the many centuries of our history, however, the revival of the Egyptian (Coptic) language will always be an essential and indispensable tool that we must promote and develop. For in it lies the essence of our identity and subsequently, not only our survival, but dare say, our hearts and souls! It is the genuine link that binds us Copts in the Diaspora together with our brethren in Egypt, not in just mere words and grammar! Though an essential tool, it is not all we thrive to preserve. Along this path, our activities focused on understanding and studying the past and rebuilding the future to re-establish our authentic identity that would accurately bridge our past with the present in shaping our future. Such activities included education, publishing, gathering of the resources needed to accomplish such work, and encouraging and guiding those that are pursuing the study of our heritage. As the pioneers in reviving the Coptic Heritage among the Diaspora Copts, we are continuing to inspire many throughout the lands of immigration to follow suit and become our collaborative partners. Now it is time to share with you the activities and accomplishments that you have generously supported this past fiscal year.

1. ***The Main St. Shenouda Center:*** The Center has been the main physical presence for the Society since 1992. Currently it houses multiple libraries that deal with all aspects of the Coptic Heritage from its ancient Egyptian roots to modern times. The libraries also include large off-prints and periodicals related to the field. The book libraries are both in print and digital, including 340 original manuscripts. A new Office Color Print/Copy/Scan machine was recently leased. It also served as a place for conducting online as well as physical classes related to different aspects of our Coptic heritage.
2. ***Coptic Texts App:*** The Coptic Literature App along with the Coptic Bible App are envisioned to be the focus of our heritage preservation efforts. Since their release, there were installed in over 8700 devices for the Coptic Bible and over 1,500 for the new Coptic Literature worldwide. The Coptic Literature App currently has 17 texts over the four categories it has: Hagiography, Patristics, Canon Law, Liturgical. The text of the life of St. Shenouda included correspondence of the Bohairic and the larger Arabic version. Only one Sahidic text was

added in the initial release, the Life of St. Antony. We will be continually adding texts over the years as you become ready. These Apps are excellent tools for researchers in Coptology who can search for any Coptic text string over a multitude of texts. Currently, we are keeping both Apps as free Apps on iOS and Android devices to make it more accessible for the maximum number of Copts and others.

3. **Coptology @UCLA:** The Society continued our annual celebration of Coptic Studies at UCLA with the 26th Conference. This year's conference included 24 participants associated with about 18 academic institutions. The two-day program included only three online presentations from different time zones with the rest being in-person presentations from the US, Germany, and Japan. It included scholars from 15 different cities from three different countries. Over 70 people physically attended parts or all of the sessions along with a number of online guests. The most significant aspect of the conference this year was a marriage proposal between two current and former conference presenters. In addition, a special presentation was made of an upcoming festschrift for the Society's President on the occasion of his 70th birthday. More information about the conference along with audio and video recordings of all the presentations is available at <http://www.stshenouda.org/26conference2025>.
4. **The Society Library System/Museum:** During this period, we added about 100 new volumes in the field of Coptology. During this period, we added 44 new manuscripts. Included was a gift of two Ethiopic crosses and a 17th century Ethiopic manuscript of Psalms. The gifted items were part of the Estate of the late Hollywood actor William Holden that was donated to the Palm Springs Art Museum back in 1982. Also, included was a gift of two manuscripts from Prof. Stephen Davis of Yale University, during the July Conference.
5. **Support of Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University (CGU):** The Society's collaboration with Claremont Graduate University continues to flourish across multiple dimensions. Notably, we have provided financial and/or academic support to three doctoral students. Ms. Tawadros continues her part-time appointment as a Research Assistant at the St. Shenouda Center, where she is cataloging the Society's digital manuscript collection and contributing to other scholarly and administrative. Our most significant and enduring partnership remains the advancement of the *Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia* (CCE), a landmark contribution initiated by Professor Gawdat Gabra during his tenure at CGU and sustained to the present day. In recent years, many new entries have been authored by distinguished Coptologists from around the world, further enriching the Encyclopedia's scope and scholarly value. The Coptic Studies Council at CGU, chaired by Dr. Saad Michael Saad, serves as the principal institutional body supporting these efforts. Dr. Saad also serves as Managing Editor of the CCE, overseeing its ongoing development in collaboration with Dr. Siuda and Mr. Basta. A major current initiative involves hyperlinking internal cross-references across the Encyclopedia's 2,100 entries—a project designed to enhance both navigability and research utility. Honoraria have been extended to several scholars for their contributions to new entries and editorial work. Since its launch in 2012, the CCE has received over 1.4 million views, underscoring its global impact and enduring value to the field of Coptic Studies. The CCE is publicly accessible at <https://ccd.claremont.edu/digital/collection/cce>.
6. **The Collaboration with St. Mark Foundation for Coptic History (SMF):** We have continued our collaboration with SMF during the year. Aside from our joint collaborating on the publication of the *Coptica* annual periodical, we assisted in part with Prof. Fr. Arsenius Mikhail in the organization of the 11th International Symposium: Coptic Liturgy, February 3-5, 2025. The Society has also supported the Manuscripts documentation project of SMF which are working on the 800+ manuscripts in Asyut upon Bishop Youannis' invitation as well as other churches collections.
7. **The Society on Web:** Society's website is continuing to expand with the addition of new pages and updating of existing ones, including the Society progress reports and annual conference information. The online Coptic Introductory course is continuing to be used for the Coptic Language curriculum at the St. Athanasius Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.
8. **The Coptic Bible/Liturgy Symposia:** The publication of the 2023/2025 Symposia proceedings are still in the editing stage.
9. **Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award:** Based on the recommendation of the review board, headed by Dr. Mary Farag of the Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS), this academic year's award was given to Mr. Aaron-Lucas Henry of PTS. His winning research paper was titled, "Boundaries and Biblical Texts: The Project of Ethnic Maintenance in the *Apocalypse of Samuel of Qalamun*." During the year we renewed our commitment

to continue with offering this Award until it is mutually agreed by both parties to discontinue it, at the annual amount of \$5,000 at PTS. The next installment is scheduled to be paid in October 2025. The award will continue to be competitively applied for by students of PTS in the form of a submitted research paper on an aspect of the Coptic Heritage and judged by the review board of PTS faculty and the Society as usual. We encourage all to contribute toward this endeavor on the special webpage set at <http://www.stshenouda.org/bishopepiphaniousaward>.

10. **The Society and Coptic Scriptorium:** As of April 2025, the funding of the Coptic Scriptorium project funding was cancelled. The Society, as project partner, made two grants from members and others for a total of \$10,200 to partially finance the continuation of the development and maintenance of this important tool for Coptic Studies. Our fellow member, Prof. Caroline Schroeder of the University of Oklahoma, is the head of the project.
11. **Education & Publications:** The Society, in collaboration with ACTS, we completed one Bohairic semester long Coptic Language graduate course for Bohairic. Also, the Society in collaboration with St. Athanasius College (SAC) of the University of Divinity has completed the second course of the Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts, attended by five clergy and lay students from three different countries. Volume 23, 2024 of *Coptica* was published and sent to the members and subscribers.
12. **The European Academy for Coptic Heritage (TEACH):** The Society continued to collaborate this year with online Coptic theological institution in the UK, TEACH. The cooperation was two-fold. First, we sponsored a class titled, *the Introduction to the Coptic Old Testament*, taught by Mr. Takla, which is offered annually. Second, some of our members are part of the editorial board of its new Journal of Christian Studies (JCS), including Dr. Gawdat Gabra, and Dr. Saad Michael Saad. For more information go to <https://teach.eu.com/>.
13. **Proceedings of the 11th Congress of Coptic Studies:** Publication date has been set by the publisher for July 2026 at the 13th Congress of Coptic Studies in Goettingen.

In this upcoming fiscal year, we have set the following main goals in addition to those mentioned above:

The St. Shenouda Center of Coptic Studies and New Regional Center: Our fixed expenses are primarily the rent and the maintenance of the now consolidated Los Angeles main Center and administrative office. This is the hub of our Society's activities and its physical presence that has gained Society in particular and Copts in general, worldwide respect over the decades in the academic circles. The plan this year is to further develop the collection and complete the cataloging of the enormous resources that have been moved to the current permanent location. The estimated cost in the budget is \$65,000.

Society Electronic Activities: Cloud storage and web-based programs are becoming indispensable tools in carrying out our efforts in the preservation and promotion of our Heritage, the secure display of our vast resources of primary and secondary resources, as well as our educational activities. Cataloging and scanning of the current inventory of books and microfilms will be part of the activities. Other activities include the word-processing of Coptic and Arabic texts to be included in the two Society-sponsored Apps, Coptic Bible & Coptic Literature as well as in support of our collaboration with the Coptic Scriptorium current 3-year project. Funding is included under the Academic programs and the scholarship budget items.

Funding the 2025-26 Coptic Studies at CGU and Other Academic Activities: Our projected support for CGU includes students' scholarships, compensation for CCE editing activities, Coptic Studies lectures, and perspective offered courses by visiting professors in support of the Coptic Studies Track. Also included is the annual allocation for the PTS' *Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award*. The Society also pledged a 3,000 Euro grant to the organizers of the 13th Congress of Coptic Studies in Göttingen, Germany in July 2026. The grant will be awarded to Egyptian scholars coming from Egypt whom their papers have been accepted for presentation. Included also grants to people working on texts related to the Coptic Literature App. Estimated net cost is \$20,000.

Coptology at UCLA: We have a tentative scheduled date for the 27th St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference of Coptic Studies for July 17-18, 2026. This conference will continue with the usual theme of general Coptic Studies. The estimated cost is \$7,000 for covering basic costs such as housing and honorarium. Monetary Honoraria are usually budgeted in the academic programs category.



Publications: Volumes 24 of *Coptica* is in the preparation stage. The estimated cost is \$3,000, covering printing cost, printing equipment lease, and mailing cost.

Expansion of the Coptic Book and Microfilm Libraries and St. Shenouda Coptic Cultural Museum: We are continuing to develop the collections at the Coptic Library and the Museum as prudent and wise as we can. Estimated cost is \$25,000.

Financially, our General Fund income was about \$143,682 with expenditure of about \$132,514. The surplus was primarily due to deferring Fixed office expenses including rent. This time, the Society is still working on setting up an endowment fund for the future maintenance of the Society activities. To continue maintaining and expanding our work as we pursue the avenues that the Lord sees fit to open for us, we would conservatively need about \$140,000 for the projected activities. The expenditure for last year as well as the projected ones for the upcoming one are as follows:

Category	24-25 Expenditure \$ (% Of 132,514 K)	25-26 Proj. Expenditure \$ (% Of 140,000K)
Fixed Office Expenses	\$54,855 (41.40%)	\$65,000 (46.43%)
Annual Conference	\$12,884 (9.72%)	\$7,000 (5.00%)
Scholarships/Financial Ass/Honoraria.	\$15,220 (11.48%)	\$16,000 (11.43%)
Computers /Software/Equipment/Internet	\$ 628 (0.47%)	\$ 1,500 (1.07%)
Printing & Mailing Costs	\$ 3,920 (2.96 %)	\$ 4,500 (3.21%)
Books/Manuscripts/Microfilms/Museum	\$26,881 (20.29%)	\$25,000 (17.86%)
SSEICS/Academic Programs	\$17,365 (13.10%)	\$20,000 (14.28%)
Office Furniture/Supplies/Misc.	\$ 471 (0.36%)	\$ 500 (0.36%)
Items for redistribution	\$ 290 (0.22%)	\$ 500 (0.36%)

In our nearly 46 years of stewardship of this work, we have taken steady and persistent strides toward our ultimate goal set above. However, maintaining the progress and continuing to expand our efforts is still needed. Through your continuing prayers and support, we will be able to continue with this sacred and vital mission. From our inception, this work was for the benefit of not just this generation but for the generations that will follow us. The fruit of our efforts was on full display in the growth of our UCLA conferences. We see this work as both Divinely inspired as well as mandated. **WE INVITE THE NEW GENERATION TO CONTINUE TO STEP UP AND WORK WITH US TO SUPPORT THE WORK THAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE FAITHFULLY PRESERVED FOR YOU.** May our Lord guide this work and multiply its workers for His glory and bless you all.

Sincerely on behalf of the Society,

Hany N. Takla, President

Membership Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPJ-y04pLlkbkHai7ecWHHUKUhmY2FpiACxtOLUTen0YABcQ/viewform>

Contribution: <http://www.stshenouda.org/society/donation>

Website: <http://www.stshenouda.org>

Charity Store: <https://ssacs.ecrater.com/>

ST. SHENOUDA THE ARCHIMANDRITE COPTIC SOCIETY
1701 S. Wooster Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035-4332

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date: _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
e-mail _____

New
Renewal

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP/Contribution (Mark all applicable choices)

☐ <i>Coptic Heritage Online Subscription</i>	☐ <i>Retired (over 60)</i>
☐ <i>Member (incl. Coptica)</i>	☐ <i>Coptica Subscription Only (US/Canada)</i>
☐ <i>Fellow Member (incl. Coptica)</i>	☐ <i>Coptica Subscription Only (Other countries)</i>
☐ <i>Student Member (Not Incl. Coptica)</i>	☐ <i>Coptic Studies @ CGU</i>

AMOUNT ENCLOSED / PLEDGED (Mark all applicable choices)

☐ <i>One Time Contribution (including membership contribution fees) or</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Bi-Monthly Contribution, (including membership contribution fees) or</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Quarterly Contribution (including membership contribution fees), or</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Coptica Subscription only</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Coptic Heritage Website</i>	Amount	
☐ <i>Bishop Epiphanius al-Maqari Memorial Award @ Princeton Theological Sem.</i>	Amount	
Total enclosed	Amount	

Credit Card (PayPal, account: giving@stshenouda.org or <https://www.paypal.me/StShenouda>):

Email Address: _____

Membership/ Subscription year from October 1 to September 30.

AREA OF INTEREST

☐ *Coptic Language*
☐ *Coptic Patristics*
☐ *Coptic History*
☐ *Coptic Lives of the Saints (Hagiography)*
☐ *Coptic Canon and Documentary Law*
☐ *Coptic Art / Architecture*
☐ *Others (Specify) _____*

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

☐ *Coptic*
☐ *French*
☐ *German*
☐ *Greek*
☐ *Italian*
☐ *Latin*
☐ *Others (Specify) _____*

GRADES AND RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

Student (ST): 18 years of age or older, enrolled in post-Secondary School. Proof is required.

Member (M): 18 years of age or older, has voting rights, and requires sponsorship of two existing members of the Society.

Fellow Member (FM): Previous membership as a Member for 5 years. He is eligible to hold office in the Society.

N.B. All membership classifications require good moral and spiritual characters, recommendation of the Membership Committee, approval of the Governing Board, and payment of membership contribution fees.

SUGGESTED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS / SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Student:\$20 (\$35 including Coptica)
Member (includes Coptica):\$50 (Retired \$30)
Fellow Member (includes Coptica):\$75
Coptica (Regular): (Subscription only)\$15 US, \$20 Canada, \$30 others
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: (Student)\$20 per 6-month or \$35 per year
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: (Member)\$25 per 6-month or \$40 per year
Coptic Heritage Online Subscription: (Non-Member)\$40 per 6-month or \$70 per year