

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Prof. Tito Orlandi - v. F. Civinini, 24 - 00197 Roma

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NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Two of the volumes of the papers read in the Cairo Congress (Dec. 1976) have appeared:

– R. McL. Wilson (ed.), *The Future of Coptic Studies* (= *Coptic Studies*, 1), Leiden, Brill, 1978.

– R. McL. Wilson (ed.), *Nag Hammadi and Gnosis* (= *Nag Hammadi Studies*, 14), Leiden, Brill, 1978.

The third and last volume is being printed as part of *Enchoria VIII* (1978), available from April, 1979.

2. Prof. Rodolphe Kasser reports:

Cours de langue et littérature coptes à l'Université de Genève, semestre d'été 1979: introduction à la langue copte (1 heure); traduction de textes littéraires et dialectes coptes (1 heure), bohaïrique, Livre de la consécration du sanctuaire de Benjamin, éd. R. Coquin, Caire 1975; recherches en philologie copte (1 heure), saïdique immigré, L'Évangile selon Thomas (édition photographique du Dept. Antiqu. Egypt et de l'Unesco, Leyde 1974).

3. From "Göttingische Miszellen" 30 (1978):

Egyptological Seminar: announcing the newly formed Egyptological Seminar which meets in New York, New York, seven times during the course of each academic year. The Seminar's purpose is "to promote the exchange of ideas about all aspects of Ancient Egypt from the Prehistoric Period to Coptic Times". For more information, please contact: Dr. Robert S. Bianchi, Associate Curator, Department of Egyptian and Classical Art, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY 11238, U.S.A.

4. From "ARCE Newsletter" 106 (1978): *New Appointments in the Antiquities Organization*. Following the reorganization of the Egyptian cabinet in October, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization is now under the new Ministry of Education, Higher Education, Scientific Research, Culture, and Information. The Minister is Hassan Ismail, and the First Under-Secretary of State for Culture is Fuad el-Orabi. As of the beginning of November, 1978, the following are the chief officials of the Antiquities Organization itself:

Dr. Shehata Adam, President; Dr. Victor Girgis, Director General; Dr. Abdel Qader Selim, Director for Egyptian Antiquities; Mr. Soliman Ahmed Soliman, Director for Coptic and Islamic Antiquities; Dr. Ahmed el-Sawy, Director of Excavations for Lower Egypt; Dr. Mahmoud Abdel Razzek, Director of Excavations for Cairo, Giza, and Saqqara; Mr. Metawe Balboush, Director of Excavations for Middle Egypt; Dr. Ali el-Khouly, Director of Excavations for Upper Egypt; Dr. Dia Abu Ghazi, Director General of Museums; Mr. Hassa el-Ashiry, Director, Cairo Museum (due to be replaced in December by Dr. Ibrahim el-Nawawy); Dr. Mounir Basta, Director, Coptic Museum; Dr. Youssef el-Gheryani, Director, Greco-Roman Museum; Mr. Abdel Raouf Ali Youssef, Director, Islamic Museum; Dr. Youssef Ahmed Youssef, Director, Centre de Documentation. Madame Farida's replacement as Public Relation Officer is Sitt Fawzia.

5. Prof. Gerald M. Browne reports: The University of Illinois, in cooperation with the American Society of Papyrologists, proposes to establish *The American Center of the International Photographic Archive of Papyri* in order to create a permanent record of the surviving papyri from ancient Egypt in all languages (Egyptian hieroglyphic, hieratic, Demotic, and Coptic; Greek, Latin, Aramaic and Arabic) which are in various collections of institutions in the United States and, so far as this is practicable (and in cooperation with international bodies), in those of institutions outside this country. At present, major collections are not included in the Photographic Archive: these collections are sufficiently well managed that they can and will perform the functions of the Archive. Our project concentrates principally on smaller collections and on those which do not currently have an active papyrologist.

The documentation will take two forms, each with its own purpose; each will foster research, whether at the center or elsewhere:

(a) The core of the Archive will be a center at the University of Illinois in Urbana, where a collections of prints will be housed with a papyrological working library. This center will make it possible for scholars to carry out extensive research in photographic documentation in one location. The center will also house a collection of negatives from which it can supply prints to scholars throughout the world.

(b) The center will also undertake to have photographs taken of all papyri, published and unpublished, in the collections in question. Where these collections are relatively difficult of access, the center will retain the negatives; where there is no difficulty in obtaining prints from the institution owning the collection, the institution will retain the negatives. This aspect of the center's activity aims principally at preserving papyrus collections from destruction and decay.

Beyond this mission of preservation, however, the Archive has also the purpose of fostering more immediately the same goal toward which the preservation is directed in the long run, namely the advancement of papyrological research. Much of the work of scholars in this discipline depends on checking and rechecking the documentation related to new texts under study or to assembling and using critically a mass of evidence for historical, literary, or cultural problems. Dispersal of papyri through the world's collections, both American and European, has both created heterogeneous, ever arbitrary, collections and scattered the elements of particular archives through many collections. Significant research thus depends to a large extent on cooperation among collections and on the scholar's ability to take a synoptic view of the evidence. To do this one must see either the original papyri or photographs. Travel to do the former is usually possible only in a limited degree, given the costs involved and the dispersal of papyri throughout innumerable collections, from California to Moscow, from Cairo to Gothenburg. Further, it is not always easy to get photographs from smaller collections and from those where no papyrologist is now active. Even where photographs are obtainable, few can obtain them in the bulk necessary for many projects, which may involve hundreds of texts from numerous collections. Creation of a Photographic archive will make it substantially easier for American scholars to use and acquire photographs of needed material, and it will, as outlined below, constitute a major American contribution to classical studies on the international level. Through it, Americans will both have access to necessary material in a more comprehensive form and contribute to providing such access to scholars abroad.

6. New addresses. Prof. Aelred Cody and William G. Rush, and M. Piotr Scholz have announced their new address (see the list of Charter Members, above).

7. Mr. Mirrit Boutros Ghali sent a short note on the subject of the letter (in Arabic) to Dr. Gamal Mouqtar, concerning the omission of Christian Egypt from the chapter-headings of Vol. II of the *African Encyclopaedia* (cp. Newsletter 4, pp. 11-14):

The second volume of the *African Encyclopaedia*, entitled "Ancient Civilizations of Africa", is to contain twenty-three chapters, with an introduction and a conclusion. In none of the titles of these chapters does the expression "Christian Egypt" or "Coptic Egypt" occur. This omission is made all the more obvious by the fact that Chapter 12 is entitled "Christian Nubia" and Chapter 16 "Christian Axum".

While the subject of Christian Egypt will no doubt be expounded in Chapter 7, entitled "Egypt under Roman Dominion", it is regrettable that the most characteristic feature of Egypt in this important period, i.e., the rise and spread of Christianity, is not noted in the title of the chapter. We hope that this rather glaring omission may be corrected in the final form of this volume.

(Abridged translation of the letter sent on 23 July 1978 to Dr. Gamal Moukhtar, editor of Volume II of the *African Encyclopaedia*).

CONGRESSES

1. Saint Basil Symposium. The Saint Basil Symposium aspires to assemble the best Basil scholars in order to present and discuss the life, teaching, and heritage, both humanistic and theological, of Basil of Caesarea. The occasion of the Symposium is the sixteenth centenary of the death of Saint Basil in 379. The Symposium will be held in Toronto from 10 June 1979 to 16 June 1979, at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (University of St. Michael's College). Participation in the Symposium will be by invitation only; such invitation will be extended to scholars who have a special interest in Saint Basil or in areas of study touching his life and teaching. The number of invitations will be limited to about two hundred. The theme and topics will be presented by about twelve major speakers. Each paper will be followed by a panel discussion. The major papers, together with significant interventions from the discussants, will be published in a volume of approximately 450 pages early in 1980 by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. It is hoped that this volume will represent the highest and most up-to-date scholarship in Basil studies and that it will provide a major contribution to learning.

2. The International Congress of Christian Archaeology will be held in Saloniki, 28 Sept.-4 Oct. 1980.

3. An extraordinary Congress of Nubian Studies is announced for 20-22 September 1979 at Den Haag (Netherlands), directly after the Egyptological Congress at Grenoble (see Newsletter 4, p. 10). In that same period the Exhibit "Africa in Antiquity" (see below) will be shown in Den Haag.

4. *Nubian exhibit and International Symposium at Brooklyn Museum.* "Africa in antiquity: the arts of ancient Nubia and the Sudan" is the first international exhibition devoted to the arts of ancient Nubia. Over two hundred and fifty objects have been loaned by twenty-five institutions and collectors. These objects belong to different Nubian cultures which span a period of over five millennia.

The exhibition was on view at Brooklyn from 30 September to 31 December 1978; it then travels to The Seattle Art Museum (15 February-15 April, 1979), to the New Orleans Museum of Art (19 May-12 August, 1979), and ends with the showing at the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, from 15 September to 11 November 1979.

The catalogue consists of two volumes, the first of which contains essays on specific topics by W.Y. Adams, Ahmed M. Ali Hakem, Fritz Hintze, Jean Leclant, David O'Connor, Karl-Heinz Priese, and B.G. Trigger. Volume II contains a history of Nubian art and the catalogue proper by St. Wenig. The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin/DDR and The Brooklyn Museum were co-organizers of the exhibition.

An International symposium was held in conjunction with this exhibition at The Brooklyn Museum from 28 September to 1 October 1978. The following papers were presented and will be printed in a forthcoming number of *Meroitica* by Professor and Mrs. Hintze of the Humboldt Universität, Berlin/DDR. Bernard V. Bothmer, Nubia and the Northern Sudan: A New Field of Art History; William Y. Adams, Kush and the Peoples of Northeast Africa; Kazimierz Michalowski, Faras: Seventeen Years after the Discovery; Reym el Din Sherif, The Future of Sudanese Archaeology; Esna R. Russmann, Egyptian Influence on Nubian Art: Dynasty XXV and the Arts of Greece and Rome; Richard Brilliant, Africa and the Arts of Greece and Rome; Robert S. Bianchi, Ptolemaic and Roman Influence in the Art of Meroe; László Török, The Art of the Ballana Culture and Its Relation to Late Antique Art; Fritz Hintze, Some Special Features in the Architecture at Musawwarat es-Sufra and Their Implications; Steffen Wenig, Meroitic Painted Ceramics; Ursula Hintze, "Graffiti" at Musawwarat es-Sufra; Ahmed M. Ali Hakem, Recent Excavations in the Neighborhood of Khartoum; Janice Yellin, A Suggested Interpretation of the Relief Scenes in the Type B Chapels at Begrawiyah North; Peter Shinnie, Domestic Architecture at Meroe; Steffen Jakobielski, The Architecture of Christian Nubia; Andreas Kroneberg, Survival of Nubian Traditions; Robert Fernea, Tradition and Change in Egyptian Nubia.

5. The III Symposium Syriacum is announced for September 7 to 11, 1980, in Göttingen. It will be followed by the I Congrès d'Arabe Chrétien, Setp. 11-13, 1980, also in Göttingen. Information may be required from Prof. Dr. G. Wiessner, Theologikum, Nikolausberger Weg 5b, 34 Göttingen (Germany).

NEWS ON PUBLICATIONS IN THE PRESS OR IN PREPARATION
communicated by the Members of the IACS

Gnosticism, Hermetica, Manichaeism

- S. Arai, *The Exegesis on the Soul*. Japanese translation with Introduction and Commentary (in "Symposion", vol. 6, Tokyo 1977, pp. 46-59).
- P. Ballet, *Recherches sur Harpocrate*, Thèse 3^o cycle, 1977 (J. Leclant).
- P. Borgen, *Philo of Alexandria. A Critical and Synthetical Survey of Research since World War II* (in: *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*).
- C. Onasch, *Der ägyptische und der biblische Seth*, (Archiv für Papyrusforschung, 1980).
- G. Quispel, *The Gospel of Thomas Revisited*.
- K. Rudolph, *Sophia und Gnosis* (in: Tröger (ed.) *Altes Testament, Frühjudentum und Gnosis*).
- *Gnosis - Weltreligion oder Häresie?* (Kairos 1979).
- G. Stroumsa, *Traduction et étude de Sarapion de Thmouis "Contre les Manichéens"*, Mém. EPHE 1977 (Tardieu).

Literature

- W. Beltz, *Die koptische Zauberostraka der Papyrussammlung der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin*.
- *Die Koptische Zaubervergamente der Papyrussammlung der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin*.
- G. Lafontaine, *Une homélie copte sur Saint Michel attribuée à Gregoire de Nazianze* ("Le Muséon" 1979).
- *Un Eloge de Saint Michel attribué à Macaire de Tkow* ("Le Muséon" 1979).

History

- D. Jones, *The Economy and Administration of Egyptian Monasteries in the 4th to 9th Centuries...* (Diss. Oxford).
- D. Khatib, *Diet in the Monastic Settlements* (Diss. London University).
- A.M.S. Osman, *The Economy of Christian Nubia, with Special Reference to Trade* (Diss. Cambridge).
- S. alR. al Rayah, *The Kingdom of Napata* (Diss. Liverpool).
- P. Scholz, *Acta 8, 26-40 im Lichte der Archäologie. Zur Frage der frühesten Quellen über die Christianisierung Nubiens*.

Linguistics

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