

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF THE I. A. C. S.

(Louvain-la-Neuve, 12 June 1986)

PRESENT: Kasser (Pres.), Emmel, Giversen, Orlandi, Rassart, Ries.

EXCUSED: Guillaumont, Nagel.

ABSENT: Grossmann.

1. PROJECTS RELATING TO THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE MANICHAEAN CODICES.

Having been informed of two projects whose intentions are to oversee the rapid publication of the Manichaean papyri (see Annex 1 and 2) the Board expressed its approval of both, and hoped that there will be collaboration between the two projects. The projects are printed below, following the minutes.

2. THE COPTIC CONGRESS OF 1988.

Professor Ries reported that arrangements for the Congress are progressing well and that the first announcement will be submitted to Prof. Orlandi for publication in the Newsletter this summer.

List of members of the Association who have agreed to prepare general reports on the 12 topics delimited at the last meeting of the Board: GROSSMANN, VEILLEUX, BRAKMANN, NAGEL, SCHENKE, GIVERSEN, FUNK, BAUMEISTER, KRAUSE, SAMIR, RASSART.

Mrs. Rassart Debergh reported that she will organize an exposition concerning Coptology at the Museum at Louvain-la-Neuve during the Congress. She will also explore the possibility of arranging a larger exposition in Brussels.

REQUEST BY THE SOCIÉTÉ FRANCOPHONE DE COPTOLOGIE.

A propos a request by the Société Francophone de Coptologie to become institutional member of the IACS it was discovered that there is a discrepancy between the English and the French versions of the Statutes:

Art. 3: "... Institutional memberships are permitted; a representative of such an institution would have one vote".
French version: "... Des sociétés et autres institutions peuvent également devenir membres de l'IACS; leur représentant aura, en cas de vote, droit à une voix".

At the Business Meeting during the congress in 1988 the question will be raised how to clarify the exact intention of the Statutes as regards whether or not scientific Societies can become institutional members.

The Société Francophone de Coptologie has also asked the Board if it will be possible for members of the Société also to become members of the IACS at reduced fee. The Board decided that such a question will also be discussed at the Business Meeting during the congress in 1988.

The Société also expressed its concern that at present its meetings and the meetings of the IACS coincide every four years. The Société is willing to change its schedule of meetings so that they will not coincide with the meetings of the IACS, if the IACS is willing to assure them that it will continue to hold its congresses at four years interval. The Board expressed its intention to continue to hold the congresses at intervals of four years.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Board approved the membership application of the following new members:

Mme Fawzia ASSAAD; Mme Nathalie BOSSON; Prof. Dr. Helmut BUSCHHAUSEN; Mme Elisabeth CARNOE; Carsten NIEBUHR INSTITUTET, Kobenhavn; Mme Marianne KHOUZAM; Mr. Antti MARJANEN; M. Jean-Luc MAURER; Prof. Dennis MACDONALD; St. SHENOUDA the Archimandrite COPTIC SOCIETY; Dr. Donald SPANEL.

DIRECTORY OF COPTIC COLLECTIONS.

Stephen Emmel presented a progress report on the International Association's Directory of institutions holding collections of Coptic antiquities. The work is progressing

satisfactorily if somehow more slowly than hoped but every effort will be made to publish the Directory as soon as possible.

PUBLICATION OF THE ACTS OF THE IIIrd CONGRESS.

The Board discussed the publication of the Acts from the 3rd Congress and expressed its desire to see the publications appear as soon as possible.

THE JOURNAL OF COPTIC STUDIES - REVUE D'ETUDES COPTES.

Plans for the 1st volume of the new Journal of Coptic Studies - Revue d'Etudes Coptes are progressing well. Articles for the 1st volume have been requested to be submitted for the end of 1986 and the editor G. M. BROWNE is optimistic that the volume can appear during 1987.

Specific scholars have been invited to submit articles for the 1st volume which will be in honor of Mrs. Elanskaya. It was approved that the 2nd volume will be in honor of Prof. Du Bourguet.

Annex 1:

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MANICHAICAN CODICES OF MEDINET MADI

The Committee is composed of three parts: an honorary membership consisting of senior scholars who have previously worked on these codices and have kindly consented to let us use their names in this capacity, to establish continuity with the distinguished work that has already taken place; an administrative membership, consisting of the relevant person at each of the repositories of Manichaica from Medinet Madi; and a working membership of those who actually carry out the preparation of the edition. A few advanced doctoral students will serve as adjuncts to the Committee, and may on the completion of their doctorates and the demonstration of their usefulness to the project become regular committee members.

Honorary Membership:

H.J. Polotsky, Hebrew University, Honorary President
Alexander BSHlg, University of Halle
Carsten Colpe, Free University Berlin

Administrative Membership:

William Brashear, Custos of the Papyrus Collections Egyptian

ches Museum, Berlin (West)
Wolfgang Müller, Director of the Ägyptisches Museum and Papyrus Collection, Berlin-Hauptstadt der DDR
Hermann Harrauer, Director of the Papyrus Collection, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna

Working Membership:

Karen King, Occidental College, Los Angeles
Gesine Robinson, Institute for Antiquity and Christianity, Claremont, Cal.
Wolf-Peter Funk, Berlin, Hauptstadt der DDR
Harold W. Attridge, Notre Dame University, Indiana
Maddalena Scopello, Sorbonne Paris
Helmut Satzinger, Wien, Austria

Student Adjuncts:

Steve Patterson, Claremont Graduate School
Steven Skiles, Harvard University
Richard Valantasis, Harvard University
Charles Robertz, Yale University

Both the working membership and the student adjunct membership are open-ended groups. Such membership is contingent upon actually helping in the work on an ongoing basis. Other qualified scholars are being actively enlisted to join this task force. And qualified scholars are welcome to offer their services. The only condition for membership other than competence and willingness to work is the understanding that work done on the project will be available to be used by the project and published in machine-readable form and ultimately book form. In view of the hardly-legible nature of the material and its dispersion among a series of repositories, the team work can hardly take the form of compartmentalized assignments of a given text to a single scholar. Rather all will be asked to work, as circumstances permit, with whatever particularized skills and opportunities each has, in ways that seem to advance the overall project. Draft transcriptions and translations will be circulated, in far from final form, in hopes that others can make suggestions useful in improving readings and understanding of the text. And it would be the hope that as results begin to emerge they can be made available to other scholars as well. For it is not the intention of the project to limit access to the material, but rather to facilitate access to it.

James M. Robinson

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING and FIRST WORK SESSION
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE MANICHAEAN CODICES OF MEDINET MADI

Plans have been made to convene the committee at the Ägyptisches Museum, Schlossstr. 70, Charlottenburg, West Berlin, at 11 A.M. on Sunday, 13 July 1986. Karen King will arrive in West Berlin already on 8 July, and others arriving before 13 July can already begin work with her help. The organizational meeting is put on the weekend in case some European members can only come during the weekend, though of course it is hoped they all can stay and work. Karen leaves Berlin 16 August, and by then any participants who can work longer will be familiar enough with the administrative representative Dr. William Brashear, Keeper of the Papyrus Collection of the Ägyptisches Museum in West Berlin, we will want during the organizational meeting to look at the papyri themselves, to learn the way they have been labelled and where they are kept, to get some initial impressions of the difficulties and various lightings, mirrors and magnifiers that are available, and to agree upon a division of labor and the setting up of priorities. Of course one of the main purposes of such a meeting is so that those who do not already know each other personally can become acquainted sufficiently for the team to function as a team. We will also need to standardize procedures so that work done by one person can be continued by another in a shared system of transcription.

Those who have already agreed to attend, in addition to myself, are administrative member William Brashear, honorary member Carsten Colpe, working members Karen King, Gesine Robinson and Maddalena Scopello, and adjunct members Steve Patterson, Steven Skiles and Charles Robertz. All other members are herewith also invited to attend, and several persons who are not yet members are being invited, in hopes that their participation in such a team meeting will lead to their becoming members of the committee.

James M. Robinson

Annex 2:

PROJET INTERNATIONAL
POUR LA PUBLICATION DES MANUSCRITS MANICHÉENS COPTES
DE MEDINET MADI APPARTENANT A LA CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY
(PREMIER COMMUNIQUÉ)

Découvertes depuis plus d'un demi-siècle à Medinet Madi (Fayoum, Egypte) et d'une importance exceptionnelle pour l'histoire de la pensée humaine, les manuscrits coptes manichéens susmentionnés sont aujourd'hui, en 1986, encore loin d'être tous publiés. Le motif principal de ce retard est l'état extrêmement dégradé d'un grand nombre de leurs folios, précisément ceux qui sont restés inédites à ce jour.

Les éditions critiques de ces textes actuellement réalisées sont: H.J. POLOTSKY, *Manichäische Homilien...*, Stuttgart 1934. C.R.C. ALLBERRY, *A Manichaean Psalmsbook...*, Stuttgart 1939. (C. SCHMIDT, H.J. POLOTSKY, A. BOHLIG), *Kephalaia, I. Hälfte* (Lieferung 1-10), Stuttgart 1940. A. BOHLIG, *Kephalaia, zweite Hälfte* (Lieferung 11-12), Stuttgart 1966.

Ces papyrus appartiennent présentement soit à la Chester Beatty Library (à Dublin, Irlande) (environ 3/7 du tout), soit à diverses institutions publiques à Berlin et à Vienne. Si leurs parties aujourd'hui éditées sont devenues d'un accès facile à tous les chercheurs (encore qu'on puisse regretter que ces éditions soient dépourvues d'une reproduction photographique complète des pages concernées), leurs parties encore inédites ne sauraient être considérées comme soustraites à la recherche scientifique moderne, puisque chacun peut en obtenir des photographies. Il en est résulté diverses transcriptions provisoires, actuellement en circulation dans les milieux intéressés (comme ce fut et c'est aujourd'hui encore le cas les textes gnostiques coptes de Nag Hammadi avant leur édition critique proprement dite).

Toutefois, il faut reconnaître que cette manière d'accéder aux textes manichéens coptes encore inédites rest malaisée et peu commode (et de plus, coûteuse). Conscient de ses responsabilités de possesseur de plus de la moitié des manuscrits manichéens coptes de Medinet Madi, la Chester Beatty Library a mis sur pied sous la responsabilité du professeur S. Giversen (assisté par un comité composé des professeurs R. Kasser et M. Krause) un projet international destiné à accélérer la diffusion de ces textes sous une forme plus commode et moins onéreuse pour les chercheurs.

Dans un premier temps (1986-1988) sera publiée la totalité des folios manichéens coptes de la Chester Beatty Library en édition photographique d'excellente qualité; cette édition photographique comprendra également les pages déjà publiées antérieurement en édition critique (cf. supra).

Aussitôt après paraîtront les éditions critiques des mêmes

textes, sous la responsabilité du Comité susmentionné, qui répartira cette tâche entre les divers copistes que leur formation, leur intérêt et leur disponibilité rendront susceptibles de participer efficacement à cette entreprise, dont il est souhaité que la qualité scientifique soit digne de l'importance des textes concernés.

Afin d'assurer au plus grand nombre de spécialistes disponibles la faculté de participer à l'édition critique "princeps" des papyrus manichéens coptes de Medinet Madi, le choix de ceux auxquels sera confié un secteur de l'édition des folios manichéens coptes de la Chester Beatty Library respectera autant que possible le principe suivant: seuls seront invités à participer aux éditions princeps manichéens coptes Chester Beatty ceux qui n'ont pas déjà obtenu cette faculté en ce qui concerne les éditions princeps manichéens coptes des fragments de Berlin ou de Vienne; cela pour empêcher la concentration d'un trop grand nombre de tâches entre les mains des mêmes savants, concentration probablement nuisible aux progrès rapides du projet susmentionné.

Cette règle, évidemment, ne concerne pas les éditions critiques elles-mêmes. Pour ce qui en est de la documentation de travail de leurs travaux préparatoires (transcriptions provisoires etc.), où la plus grande liberté règne dans le domaine de la coptologie du fait que chacun peut se procurer des photographies de tous les manuscrits manichéens coptes encore inédits, il est vivement encouragé, selon les principes de l'I.A.C.S., la diffusion la plus large de cette documentation, par un échange de ces transcriptions etc. entre les savants travaillant soit dans le secteur des manuscrits manichéens coptes Chester Beatty, soit dans celui des manuscrits manichéens coptes de Berlin et de Vienne, cela sur la base d'un principe de réciprocité.

Toute personne intéressée par le projet International Chester Beatty présenté ici est prié de s'adresser au Comité chargé de cette entreprise: Søren Giversen (président), Rodolphe Kasser et Martin Krause.

[English Translation:]

THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT
FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE MANICHAEAN COPTIC PAPYRI
FROM MEDINET MADI BELONGING TO THE CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY
(First Announcement)

The Manichaean Coptic manuscripts mentioned above were discovered for more than half a century ago at Medinet Madi (Fayoum, Egypt), and, although they are of an exceptional importance for the history of human thought, they remain today, 1986, far from being published altogether. The principal reason for this delay is the extremely severe damage to a great number of folios, precisely those which have remained

unpublished until today.

The critical editions of these texts already published are: H.J. POLOTSKY, *Manichäische Homilien...*, Stuttgart 1934. C.R.C. ALLBERRY, *A Manichaean Psalmsbook...*, Stuttgart 1938. (C. SCHMIDT, H.J. POLOTSKY, A. BOHLIG, Kephalaia, I. Hälfte (Lieferung 1-10), Stuttgart 1940. A. BOHLIG, Kephalaia, zweite Hälfte (Lief. 11-12), Stuttgart 1966.

These Manichaean papyri now partly belong to the Chester Beatty Library (Dublin, Ireland, approximately 3/7 of all the items), partly to different public institutions in Berlin and Vienna. Although it is regrettable that these editions are not provided with a complete photographic edition of the pages concerned, there is an easy access to the edited parts for all scholars, and modern scientific study cannot be regarded as deprived the inedited parts since it is possible for everybody to obtain photos of them. This has resulted in different provisional transcriptions at the moment in circulation among interested persons just as it was and still is the case for the Gnostic Coptic texts from Nag Hammadi before the proper critical edition.

It is, however, to be admitted that this way of access to the inedited Manichaean Coptic texts remains difficult, uncomfortable and expensive. Acknowledging the responsibility as possessor of more than the half of the Manichaean Coptic manuscripts from Medinet Madi the Chester Beatty Library has under the responsibility of Professor Søren Giversen, assisted by a committee consisting of Professors Rodolphe Kasser and Martin Krause, established an international project with the purpose of accelerating the diffusion of the texts in a more comfortable and less expensive form for the scholars.

In the first period (1986-1988) all the folios with Manichaean Coptic texts in the Chester Beatty Library will be published in a photographic edition of an excellent quality. This photographic edition will also include the pages already published before in a critical edition.

Soon after this the critical edition of the same texts will appear under the responsibility of the same committee, which will distribute this task between Coptologists whose scientific educational interests and free disposal make them acceptable as efficient participants in this enterprise for which it is a demand that the scientific quality must correspond with the importance of the texts concerned.

In order to assure so many available specialists as possible the possibility to participate in the critical edition of the Manichaean Coptic papyri from Medinet Madi, the choice of those who will be entrusted with a part of the edition of the Manichaean Coptic folios in the Chester Beatty Library as far as possible will respect following principle: only those persons will be invited to participate in the

edition of the Manichaean Coptic texts in the Chester Beatty Library who has not already obtained this possibility concerning the edition of the Manichaean Coptic papyri of Berlin or Vienna. This is partly for the reason of justice and also to avoid the concentration of too big a number of tasks in the hands of the same scholars, a concentration which would hinder the rapid progress of the project.

This rule, naturally, concerns only the critical editions. As to the documentations, the preparatory works, provisory transcriptions etc. where the greatest liberality reigns in the domain of Coptology so that everybody is able to provide himself with photos of all inedited Manichaean Coptic manuscripts, it is very much recommended, according to the principles of I.A.C.S., to create the widest possible diffusion of this documentation (exchange of transcriptions etc.) between scholars working either with a part of the Manichaean manuscripts of the Chester Beatty Library or with the Manichaean manuscripts in Berlin or Vienna, naturally on a basis of reciprocity.

All persons interested in this project are kindly requested to contact the committee mentioned above: Søren Giversen, Rodolphe Kasser, Martin Krause.