

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

**NEWSLETTER**  
**BULLETIN D'INFORMATION**

Nr. 28, November 1990

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

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**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES**

11-16 August 1992

**Catholic University of America**

Washington, D.C.

**First announcement**

The Fifth International Congress of Coptic Studies will be held 11-16 August 1992 (Tuesday-Sunday), at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Scholars are invited to submit **proposals for papers** to the congress secretary. A proposal should include the title and a brief abstract sufficient to enable the congress secretary to judge the subject matter of the paper. Papers should not be longer than 20 minutes. Please indicate if you will need to show slides (diapositives). For your convenience, a pre-registration form will be found at the back of this newsletter.

As in the Louvain Congress, some scholars have been invited to give reports at plenary session, on progress in various areas of Coptic studies during the four years 1988-1992. The selected areas are: archeology, art, literature (including the Bible), Coptic literature in Arabic, linguistics, codicology and paleography, papyrology, church history, monasticism, gnosticism, Manichaeism.

Correspondence concerning the congress should be addressed to the **congress secretary**:

Prof. David W. Johnson S.J.  
 Semitic Department  
 Catholic University of America  
 Washington DC 20064  
 U.S.A.

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### MINUTES OF THE IACS BOARD MEETING

Copenhagen, 29 September 1990

Present: Peter Nagel (President), Søren Giversen, Tito Orlandi, Stephen Emmel, Gawdat Gabra, Marguerite Rassart-Debergh.  
 Excused: Peter Grossmann, David Johnson, Paul-Hubert Poirier.

The President convened the meeting at 10.30.

1. *Fifth international congress, 1992* (the Congress Secretary had submitted a written report to the President and was represented also by Emmel).

a. The Board accepted a proposal by the Congress Secretary that the 1992 congress at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, be held during 11-16 August (Tuesday-Sunday).

b. The Board nominated scholars who would be invited to give reports, at plenary sessions, on progress in various areas of Coptic studies during the four years before the congress. Nominations were made respecting the following eleven areas: archeology; art; literature (including the Bible); Coptic literature in Arabic; linguistics; codicology and paleography; papyrology; church history; monasticism; gnosticism; Manicheism.

c. The Board discussed other aspects of the organization of the congress and put forward several recommendations for consideration by the Congress Secretary.

2. *Relations between the IACS and the Soci t  d'arch ologie copte (SAC)*. The Board authorized the President to respond to a request from the SAC concerning the status of past compliance with the agreement that was adopted in 1976 (IACS Statutes, item 8 and appendix) between the SAC and the IACS. The Board also discussed a proposal by the SAC to alter this agreement for the future. Because the Board requires the IACS members' approval of any such alteration, it was decided to hold the matter in suspense until it can be discussed at the Business Meeting after the 1992 congress.

3. *Directory of collections of Coptic antiquities*. The President announced the completion of the Board's project to prepare a comprehensive list of

institutions holding Coptic collections outside of Egypt, and the Board expressed its congratulations to Stephen Emmel for his arduous labor as editor of the directory. Despite the imminent unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Board decided that the directory should retain the distinction between these two countries, both because the distinction reflects accurately the conditions during the period when the data for the directory were assembled, and because the unification's consequences for the names, addresses, and contents of the relevant collections are not yet known. Emmel handed over the camera-ready copy of the directory to Orlandi, who will oversee its publication.

4. *Relations between the IACS and Enchoria.* The Board discussed an inquiry received from the editor of *Enchoria*, made on behalf of the publisher, about the status of the reduced subscription price that was offered to IACS members in 1976. The Board authorized the President to respond.

5. *Acts of previous congresses.*

a. Rassart-Debergh reported that the editor of the 1984 acts now expects them to appear by the end of 1990.

b. The Board asked Rassart-Debergh to inquire about the status of the publication of the 1988 acts and to report to the President.

6. *Payment of dues.*

a. In view of the major changes occurring in the economic relations between the countries of eastern and western Europe, and the dissolution of the division between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Board decided that the dues that have been collected by the Halle Branch from IACS members in the eastern European countries should now be transferred to the treasury in Rome. Henceforth, members in these countries should pay their dues directly to the Treasurer.

b. The Treasurer stressed how important it is for members to make certain that their payments to him arrive free of any surcharges. Otherwise the IACS needlessly loses some of its money to the bank as a result of fees charged by the bank for processing various types of transaction.

7. *Coptic studies in Egypt.*

a. Gabra asked the Board to endorse the project to prepare a "Catalogue général du Muséum copte," and the President expressed his willingness to write, upon request, a letter of support for any IACS member who is working on the cataloging project (cf. *Newsletter* 25, pp. 9-10, item 12.c).

b. Gabra inquired about the decision made at the IACS Business

Meeting in 1988 to send a telegram to the authorities of the American University in Cairo (see *Newsletter* 25, p. 8, item 12.a). The President reported that he had indeed sent the telegram proposed at that time.

8. *Sixth international congress, 1996*. The Board considered several possible sites for the 1996 congress and asked the President and President-Elect to explore these possibilities.

The President adjourned the meeting at 14.15.

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### **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF COLLECTIONS**

The Board of the IACS is pleased to announce the completion of the project that it began in 1977 to compile a comprehensive list of institutions holding collections of Coptic antiquities outside of Egypt. The result of this collaborative effort is *An International Directory of Institutions Holding Collections of Coptic Antiquities Outside of Egypt*, edited by Stephen Emmel, and published by Centro Italiano Microfiches, Rome. Each member of the IACS will receive a copy of the 128-page directory free of charge immediately after publication at the end of 1990.

The directory includes entries for more than 400 institutions from 27 countries. The scope of each collection is indicated briefly, based mostly on written responses to questionnaires. The main categories of objects distinguished are: manuscripts, bookbindings, ostraca, inscriptions, textiles, sculpture, relief, and minor arts (basket-work, bone, ceramic, glass, ivory, jewelry, leather, metals, wood). Often the number of objects held by a collection in a given category is indicated. The directory is edited in English, but the institutional names and addresses are mostly given in the appropriate languages. The directory also proposes a set of sigla for use in simplifying and standardizing references to these collections, and an appendix includes alphabetical lists of these sigla for easy reference.

Additional copies of the directory can be purchased from the publisher (price to be set by the publisher):

Centro Italiano Microfiches  
Piazzale di Ponte Milvio 28  
I - 00191 Roma  
Italia

## NEWS

Dr. Peter GROSSMANN reports:

1. Faw Qibli. Basilica of the Pachomian monastery - excavation of DAI in collaboration with the Institute for Antiquity and Christianity (10th January - 26th January 1989).

The main goal was excavation of the early periods of the church. It firmly established that the earliest monumental building at the site was, like the later churches, a five-aisled building. However, the apse found at its eastern end was added later. Thus the possibility that this church might have been originally orientated to the west must be kept in mind (suggestion of H. Quecke).

Although the study of the ceramics selected from the different layers has not been completed there is reason enough to identify this church with the foundation of Apa Pachomius, a few years before his death (+ 346 A.D.) as mentioned in his biography. Hence it can be dated to the 2nd quarter of the 4th cent., and it is thus the earliest church yet found in Egypt. Members of the crew were P. Grossmann, G. Lease, and Inspector M.A.Sh. Shazly.

2. Abu Mina, excavation of DAI (20th September - 10th December 1989)

Main activity was devoted to the continuation of the general survey of the town. The building remains at the north of the North-Bath and at the east of the main street (embolos) appeared to be an industrial area with several wine presses. In contrast the houses in the western part of the town along both sides of the western street were merely wealthy private villas.

Traces of earlier buildings were encountered in the northeastern neighbourhood of the Great Basilica. Rather deep layers with pottery of the 2nd and 3rd cent. indicate that the early settlements from where the cult of St. Menas might have started are not far away. In the post-Arabian settlement which covers large areas of the early Christian town some typical industrial buildings were unearthed for the first time.

Among the newly excavated individual buildings is a small memorial chapel decorated with a carefully painted imitation of rich marble incrustation, and a very long building with two larger and two smaller peristyles. Portions of the latter were earlier interpreted as a 'market building', but with recent evidence this complex has to be understood as a resthouse for penurious pilgrims. The two smaller peristyles with court-areas in the centre, which were probably roofed and lighted with clerestories could have served for the same purpose during the cold winter seasons. The still highly congested south-eastern annex of the great Basilica was probably

the residence of the oiconomos and also the centre of the administration of the town.

The work on the paintings of the church at Karm al-Akhariya gave further evidence that the producers of these paintings were highly influenced by the artistic tradition of Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Empire.

Members of the crew were P. Grossmann, J. Engemann, E. Grether, J. Kosciuk, Chr. Uricher, H. Witte-Orr, and Inspector M. Abd al-Aziz.

3. Fayran, excavation of DAI in collahoration with the monastery of St.Catherine (5th march - 28th march 1990)

The excavation of the so-called 'town church' is now complete: situated roughly in the centre of the ancient town, it is a three aisled basilica with a narthex and a large u-shaped pastophorium beyond the apse, accessible through a single door at the eastern end of the southern aisle. The church's bema is raised two steps above the aisle. There are no traces of the position of the altar, and there was no sign of a baptistry.

Excavations in the necropolis produced an unusual pre-christian tomb-building three storeys high. Each storey is composed of several parallel long, narrow burial chambers (0,6 - 0.7 x 8 m). The tombs of the early Christian period in this area have the traditional domed mausoleum with a lateral underground grave chamber. Aside of the excavation some surveys were carried out in the two churches at Gabal Takhuna and nearby the innacurately-named Dayr al-Banat. The latter is probably a late Roman military post.

Members of the crew were P. and R. Grossmann, A. Reichert, and Inspector A.M. Umran.

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#### ANNONCE D'UN COURS DONNÉ PAR WOLF-PETER FUNK

Sujet: L'apport de la dialectologie à l'étude des documents littéraires coptes

Lieu: Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes  
Section des Sciences Religieuses  
Sorbonne - 45, rue des Ecoles - F-75005 Paris.  
(dans la bibliothèque de la 5<sup>ème</sup> Section)

Date: du 27 février au 17 avril 1991, tous les mercredis, de 12 h à 14 h

Les huit séances du cours comprendront des discussions des thèmes suivants: 1. Introduction à la dialectologie copte (Phonologie et mor-

phophonoïgie structurelles interdialectales; syntaxe et lexicologie comparatives; classement des dialectes littéraires); 2. La dimension sociale des dialectes coptes littéraires (les variétés prestigieuses; variation sociale vs. variation régionale "patterns" de variation); 3. Le rapport entre dialectes et groupes producteurs littéraires (l'attestation des textes rédigés en dialectes mineurs et en sahidique non standard; groupes majoritaires et groupes minoritaires; classement de textes sahidiques non standard).

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L'ASSOCIATION FRANCOPHONE DE COPTOLOGIE informe:

Les 16 et 17 mai 1991 à Périgueux (France) se tiendra la 5. journée d'Études Coptes de l'AFC. Elle est placée sous le nom de Jean Clément, égyptologue français, de la première moitié du 20. siècle, connu pour ses fouilles à Baouit et dans la région du canal de Suez. Une exposition sera installée au Musée du Périgord, avec de nombreux objets inédits. Le 17 mai aura lieu le colloque habituel (12 communications environ) dont les Actes seront publiés dans le volume 7 des Cahiers de la Bibliothèque Copte. Ceux qui le désirent pourront le lendemain participer à une excursion au Musée Champollion de Figeac. Présidente de l'AFC: Anne Boud'hors, 107 rue Pelleport, F-75020 Secrétaire-trésorier: Jean-Marc Rosenstiehl, 15 rue Nobel, F-67640 Souffelweyersheim.

Les volumes 5 et 6 des Cahiers de la Bibliothèque Copte viennent de paraître: ils sont une réimpression de H. de Vis, *Hommes coptes de la Vaticane*.

Enseignements de copte à Paris en 1990-1991:

- Apprentissage de la langue copte, ELOA, Institut Catholique de Paris, 21 rue d'Assas, F-75006; professeur: Anne Boud'hors.
- Enseignement de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études 4. section (45, rue des Ecoles, F-75005), les mercredis de 14h à 16h; professeur: Gérard Roquet.
- Conférences de W.-P. Funk: "L'apport de la dialectologie dans l'étude de la littérature copte"; les mercredis de 12h à 14h, EPHE 5. section (cf. adresse ci-dessus), pendant les mois de février et mars.
- Initiation à l'art copte, École du Louvre, les vendredis de 9h à 10h (1er semestre); professeur: M.H. Rutschovskaya.

### NEW BOOKS ANNOUNCED BY THE MEMBERS

The new issue of the *Coptic Bibliography* has been published in September 1990. The Bibliography is now (starting from last year) in **printed form**, and no more in microfiche, and it is printed and distributed in four sections:

1) The first section contains the complete entries distributed according to their item numbers (i.e. the casual order of input in computer memory), and they include full bibliographical information, which is not included in the second section.

This section is arranged in LOOSE-SHEET form, to be kept in RING COVERS (standard A4 format, 4 rings). It is adjourned yearly with supplements and with replacements (where mistakes are corrected, etc.), which are sent together with the second section and the Supplement.

2) The second section contains the entries, distributed according to the subject, and (within the subjects) in alphabetical order of author name. Only the item number, the author's name, and the title are printed.

This section is distributed each year, and each issue completely replaces the previous one.

3) The third section contains the index in alphabetical order of the names of the authors, accompanied by two words from the titles.

This section is distributed each year, and each issue completely replaces the previous one.

4) A SUPPLEMENT contains the new entries of the current year. This enables the user to have immediate access to the new publications instead of finding them inside the entire material. Such entries are included also in the first and second sections of the next year.

The *Coptic Bibliography* is distributed by Harrassowitz (Wiesbaden), Herder (Roma), or directly by the publisher: C.I.M., Piazzale di Ponte Milvio 28, 00191 Roma. Price: Sect. 1, US\$ 35.- (IACS Members US\$ 25.-); Sect. 2-4, US\$ 35.- (IACS Members US\$ 25.-).

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Prof. Birger PEARSON announces the publication of the book: *Gnosticism, Judaism, and Egyptian Christianity*, Fortress Press, 1990, 280 pages, \$ 29.95. "In this important contribution to the scholarly study of Egyptian Gnosticism, the Author situates Gnosticism in its historical context and describes its manifold relationships to Judaism, early Christianity, and ancient Platonism. He gives special attention to the controversial issue of the



impact of Gnosticism on early Egyptian Christianity up to the Muslim conquest of the seventh century."

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M. Enzo Lucchesi writes (to the President): "Les *Cahiers d'Orientalisme* viennent de consacrer leur XXe numero aux *Mx\*elanges Antoine Guillaumont*. Prx\*ecx\*edx\*ees d'une Bibliographie du dx\*edicataire et suivies d'un Index des manuscrits citx\*es, tx\*emoignant d'une x\*erudition de premiy\*ere main, quelque trente contributions, dont quelques-unes font figure de vx\*eritables petites monographies, se succxy\*edent, qui ont toutes trait au domaine privily\*egix\*e de M. Guillaumont, l'Orient Chrx\*etien. Plusieurs d'entre elles sont notamment consacrxy\*ees au copte ou, plus gx\*enx\*eralement, y\*a l'x\*Egypte chrx\*etienne."

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Dorothee RENNER-VOLBACH, *Die koptischen Textilien im Museo Missionario Etnologico der vatikanischen Museen*, Wiesbaden (Harrassowitz) 1988, 61 pp., 10 pl.

In the year 1924 the Missione Franciscana dell'Alto Egitto in Assiut presented to the Vatican a small collection of late classical and Coptic textiles of unknown provenance, which reached the newly established pontificio Museo Missionario Emologico in 1926. These little known fabrics are now published for the first time. All 17 fragments are described in detail and commented upon in the catalogue, and are shown with their measurements on 10 plates. The very detailed introduction to the descriptive catalogue gives a survey and discussion of the results from the study of these textiles.

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At the last moment, the announcement was received that the COPTIC ENCYCLOPEDIA is due to be distributed by February 1992 (publisher: Macmillan, New York etc.). More of this in the next Newsletter.

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*Errata corrige* in Newsletter 27.

P. 1: The year in the date is not 1989, but 1990

P. 1: The abbreviation for our Journal is: JCoptS, (not JCS, which stands for Journal of Cuneiform Studies).

P. 3, line 7: Instead of "Only the" read: "Of leaf 1, only the".

**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES**

11-16 August 1992

**Catholic University of America**

Washington, D.C.

**Pre-Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Title of proposed paper (**attach a brief abstract**):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you want to show slides (diapositives).

Special comments:

Return this form to: Prof. David W. Johnson S.J.  
Semitic Department  
Catholic University of America  
Washington, DC 20064  
U.S.A.