

Editor's Note

On 19–22 June 2019, the 12th Annual Coptic Studies Symposium of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies was held in combination with the 19ème Journée d'études of the Association Francophone de Coptologie. It constituted a unique event, as it was the first time that the Journée d'études took place on Canadian soil and in combination with the Coptic Studies Symposium, thus bringing together a group of Coptic Studies scholars from both North America and Europe to exchange intellectually on aspects of Christian Egypt. It was the second time (after the 4th Symposium, in 2011) that the Annual Coptic Studies Symposium was organized in Canada's capital, this time on the campuses of the three universities of Ottawa.

The workshop was opened (on 19 June 2019) with a public key-note address at the Dominion-Chalmers Centre, Carleton University, by the distinguished political scientist of the Middle East, Mariz Tadros (University of Sussex), who spoke about the growing body of scholarship investigating the role, status and experiences of contemporary Copts. Two days of lectures followed (20–21 June), held at Saint Paul University, including a tour of the rare book collection of the Jean-Léon Allie Library and Archives, which possesses one of the largest collections of early Christian literature in North America. The last morning the group moved to the University of Ottawa (22 June), where the program was concluded with a key-note address by the eminent Coptologist Jacques van der Vliet (Leiden University/University of Nijmegen), who presented some of the results of his collaborative project with Florence Calament (Louvre) to edit and study the papyri from the early seventh-century dossier of Bishop Pesynthios of Coptos. The conference was wrapped up in the afternoon with a visit to St. Mark and St. Mary of Egypt Coptic Orthodox Church, which included a meeting over lunch with members of the Coptic community, a guided tour of the church and a performance of Church music.

The organizing committee, consisting of Carolyn Ramzy (Carleton University), Gregory Bloomquist (Saint Paul University), the present editor and graduate students Roxanne Bélanger Sarrazin and Lydia Schriemer (University of Ottawa), would like to thank the School for the Study of Art and Culture, Carleton Centre for Islamic Studies, Pauline Jewett Institute of Women and Gender and Institute of African Studies (Carleton University), Faculty of Theology and Allie Library (Saint Paul University), Faculty of Arts and Department of Classics and Religious Studies (University of Ottawa), St. Mark and St. Mary of Egypt Coptic Orthodox Church, the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies and Association Francophone de Coptologie for their kind support that made these stimulating days possible. In particular, we would like to thank Jérémie Leblanc, director of Allie Library, for inviting us to the library and hosting a reception, and Father Joseph Dawoud, for kindly welcoming us at St. Mark and St. Mary of Egypt.

The present volume of the *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* contains three of the English papers delivered during the workshop. A selection of the French papers will be published in the series of the Association Francophone de Coptologie under the title *Dix-neuvième journée d'études*. Unfortunately, the (English) key-note lecture, which traditionally stands at the beginning of the journal, could not be delivered for this volume. Instead, we commissioned the first article. In this opening paper, Ariel Shisha-Halevy gives us a preview of his important work on a planned encyclopedia of Shenoute's rhetorical syntax. He offers a sample

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of entries, with copious examples from Shenoute's works. The second paper, by Georgia Frank, discusses the statue-like appearance of monks in Egyptian ascetic literature, while also drawing comparisons with ascetic literature from elsewhere in the eastern Mediterranean. Ramez Boutros, in his paper, draws attention to aspects of Egypt's Byzantine architecture that have remained understudied, such as the relation between ancient authors' theories and their application to the buildings, the proportional ratio of churches and the potential symbolism behind it. In the final paper, Magdalena Kuhn reviews the influences of the Roman, Byzantine and Arab traditions on Coptic Church music.

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JITSE DIJKSTRA, Editor