

The Society also publishes art historical monographs—contributions to this series are particularly needed—MS. catalogues, especially of libraries of churches and monasteries within Egypt; exhibition catalogues, reference guides, and helps for students (most recently an English translation of Ignazio Guidi's classic Latin *Elementa Linguae Copticae*). An important *desideratum* is an updating with increased accuracy of the by-now classic 1954 *Map of Christian Egypt*, so that sees and sites can be made visible to the student and accessible to the traveler.

The Society participates with special strength in two current international projects, part of today's trend towards the systematization and *Corpus* planning of knowledge in all fields:

- the microfilming of all Coptic manuscripts (and eventually a photographic archive of all works of art as well; and
- the *Coptic Encyclopaedia*, under the editorship of Professor A. S. Atiya at Salt Lake City.

In developing our research library, we hope to reach about the 30,000 volume mark. An appeal to readers: we need to acquire complete sets of Migne's *Patrologia Graeca* and *Latina*, Mansi's *Concilia*, the *Acta Sanctorum*, and the *Bonner Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*. Interested institutions or individuals please get in touch with me at the Society, 222 Sharia Ramses, Cairo, Egypt.

Second, we are trying to find financial support for a fellowship program, to offer some six fellowships a year in classical (to 750), medieval and modern Coptic studies, in order to train future generations of scholars according to rigorous professional standards and to provide them with a rich and supportive place in which to carry out their research projects. We earnestly hope that funding for this program will be found.

And third, we plan most immediately a full series of 6 to 10 public lectures each academic year by staff and visiting scholars—possibly augmented, we hope, by small annual spring symposia organized around a topic or theme; and gladdened by small concerts of Renaissance, Baroque and Oriental music, such things as, in the words of the Dumbarton Oaks inscription, "have their place in the humanist order of life."

The Society for Coptic Archaeology welcomes readers of the *MESA Bulletin* on their visits to Cairo, and encourages them to apply for library readership and to use the library's facilities and those of the Cairo Center of the International Association for Coptic Studies (on the Society's premises, reference division) for any of their research work involving fields in which we operate. We encourage collaboration between Coptologists and Near East, Byzantine, Late Antique and Classical specialists of every stripe, in order to make this field that we love not only the continuation, but also the birthplace of a proud tradition. For information, contact: Leslie S.B. MacCoull, Librarian, Society for Coptic Archaeology, 222 Sharia Ramses, Abbassiya, Cairo, Egypt.

#### Society for Mediterranean Studies

The aim of this Society is to foster the consciousness of a unified Mediterranean civilization and to study all aspects of cross-cultural views of the underlying structure in the Mediterranean basin.

The interest of the Society is, first and foremost, scholarly and academic, with special interest in the interdisciplinary study of a diversity of fields in the Mediterranean world.

The Society includes scholars whose expertise covers the fields

of anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, philosophy, religion, sociology, etc. With this wealth of knowledge and experience available, it is hoped that, with a spirit of cooperation, individuals will be able to gain new insight and appreciation for this vast geographical area.

To communicate the activities of the Society and other lectures or conferences of other learned societies, a Newsletter will be printed three times a year. The bulletin, *Scripta Mediterranea*, will be published annually and will include scholarly articles, bibliographies, book reviews and brief communications. For further information or to submit manuscripts, write to: J.K. Hoffmeier, Centre for Religious Studies, University of Toronto, Robarts Library (14335), Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S-1A1.

**Fees:** A nominal membership fee will be assessed annually to meet the Society's expenses. The level of dues will be approved by a majority vote during the annual general meeting. Fees from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981 are: \$5.00 - Students; \$10.00 - Other Members. Fees include subscriptions to Newsletter and Bulletin. For membership information, contact: D.A. Agius, Society for Mediterranean Studies, University of Toronto, Robarts Library (14087), Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S-1A1.

#### Southeast Regional Extended Teacher Institute

Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and Emory University in Atlanta, GA will conduct Extended Teacher Institutes in Middle East Studies in 1981-1982 and 1982-1983, supported by a \$354,261 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$254,261 outright grant and \$50,000 matching challenge grant). The project, which is co-directed by Dr. Jerome B. Weiner of Old Dominion and Dr. Kenneth W. Stein of Emory, was conceived and planned by members of the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SER-MEISS). It also involves officials from the state education departments of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. It will be the largest such project ever undertaken in Middle East studies.

The purpose of the project is to begin a process of improving instruction about the Middle East in secondary schools in the Southeast by training 150 teachers in Middle East studies and helping them design curriculum units for use in their classes. This will be accomplished at five-week summer institutes at Old Dominion in June-July, 1981 and at Emory in June-July, 1982. In addition, there will be extensive follow-up activities during the school year following each summer program.

For further information about this Teacher Institute, contact either: Dr. Jerome B. Weiner, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23508; or Dr. Kenneth W. Stein, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

#### **RECENT CONFERENCES**

##### Religion and Politics in the Islamic Middle East Ohio State University, Columbus - April 24-25

- Soheyl Amini—Ohio State U: *The Contribution of Ali Shariati to the Formation of Revolutionary Ideology in Islamic Iran—An Overview.*  
Marcella Bedford—Ohio State U: *The Iconography of Romantic Paintings by the Pakistani Artist, Abdur Rahman Chughtai.*  
David C. Gordon—Wright State U: *Islam and Algeria's Self-Definition.*