

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

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

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**ELECTRONIC EDITION**

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TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES,  
ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC  
STUDIES, ROME, 17–22 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies was successfully held in Rome, Italy, 17–22 September 2012. It was organized by the IACS, as one of its statutory tasks, under the direction of the Congress Secretary, Alberto Camplani (Sapienza University of Rome), assisted by Paola Buzi (Sapienza University of Rome) and others.

The Congress was hosted by the Sapienza University of Rome (17 and 22 September), the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum (18–20 September) and the Pio X Conference Hall of the Apostolic Vatican Library (21 September). It attracted about 350 participants and was generously sponsored by some public and private institutions.

The inaugural session (Aula Magna of the Sapienza University of Rome) was opened by Alberto Camplani, who presented briefly the main features of the Congress, mentioning the supporting institutions, and also illustrated a reminiscence of the Second International Congress of Coptic Studies, held in Rome in 1980. The welcoming speeches of the Dean of the University (Luigi Frati), of the Head of the Department of History, Cultures and Religions (Mariano Pavanello), and of the Italian Ambassador to Egypt (Claudio Pacifico) followed. After this, Anne Boud'hors, in her capacity as President of the IACS, delivered the Presidential Address about the changing situation and context of Coptic studies. The remaining part of the inaugural session was dedicated to some of the planned plenary reports (five out of the eleven read during the whole Congress by invited scholars) and the illustration of some ongoing projects. A welcoming lunch was served on the terrace of the Aula Magna.

From Tuesday, 18 September, the Congress continued in five parallel sessions (which became four on Friday); about 230 papers, many of which were arranged in pre-organized panels, were delivered. The first day of meetings in the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum was introduced by a welcoming address of Robert Dodaro, the Director of the Institute. On Thursday evening a dinner was served in the Institute's garden, which has a marvelous view of St. Peter's dome.

On Friday the session was opened by a speech of S.E. Mons. Jean-Louis Bruguès, O.P., Archivista e bibliotecario di S.R.C. (Apostolic Vatican Library); the participants were invited to visit a little exhibition of a selection of Coptic, Copto-Arabic and Ethiopic manuscripts from the Vatican Library specially organized on the occasion of the Congress. A catalogue of the exhibition was also published.<sup>1</sup> Later in the afternoon a guided tour was organized to the "Villa Farnesina alla Lungara," belong-

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<sup>1</sup> Paola Buzi and Delio Vania Proverbio (eds.), *Coptic Treasures from the Vatican Library* (Studi e testi 472; Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 2012).

ing to the Accademia dei Lincei and including some frescos by Rafael. A little reception was served in the villa's garden.

On Saturday morning the quadrennial Business Meeting of the IACS was held at the Faculty of Humanities of the Sapienza University. Those who were not involved in the meeting had an opportunity to visit the Coptic textile collection of the "Museo dell'Alto Medioevo."

#### IACS AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The first International Association for Coptic Studies Awards for Academic Excellence were given at the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies, held in Rome in September 2012. The prize for the best submitted Ph.D. work was awarded to Christian ASKELAND for his dissertation at Cambridge University (United Kingdom), "John's Gospel: The Coptic Translations of Its Greek Text." The prize for the best submitted M.A. work was awarded to Sina Isabell BECKER for her thesis at the Universität Münster (Germany), "Auf den Spuren antiker Rhetorik in den Briefen Schenutes. 'Du, der Du auf deinem Thron sitzt' und 'Erinnert Euch, Brüder' aus Band sechs seiner Kanones."

Competition is now open for awards to be given at the Eleventh International Congress of Coptic Studies, to be held in Claremont, California (U.S.A.), in summer 2016. Again the IACS will award two prizes, one for the best M.A. thesis and a second one for the best Ph.D. dissertation, both written in the field of Coptic studies. Winners will receive a certificate and an amount of € 2,000 (Ph.D.) or an amount of € 1,000 (M.A.).

Eligible theses and dissertations should make a significant scholarly contribution in the field of Coptic studies in the widest possible acceptance, in accordance with the objectives of the IACS. Eligible for the current competition will be M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations accepted by any recognized academic institution in the four-year period 2012 through 2015. By "acceptance" is meant the date of the formal approval of the thesis/dissertation by the responsible faculty; it does *not* mean the date of submission or the date on which the resulting degree was ceremonially conferred (as at a graduation ceremony).

Competitors for the prizes are requested to submit a .pdf version of their thesis/dissertation on or before 1 January 2016 to the President-Elect of the IACS, Prof. David Brakke, at [brakke.2@osu.edu](mailto:brakke.2@osu.edu) (it is not necessary to submit also a printed copy). Submissions should mention clearly the full name and contact information of the author of the thesis/dissertation, and they should be accompanied by a copy of the diploma (or other proof that the thesis/dissertation has been formally accepted by a recognized academic institution) and a brief letter of recommendation from a thesis/dissertation supervisor. The thesis/dissertation may be written in any of the four "congress languages" recognized by the IACS (English, French, German, Italian).

Submissions will be judged for clarity and correctness of expression, conceptual and methodological adequacy, originality, as well as general quality and interest; for Ph.D. dissertations, also methodological innovation will be a criterion. The jury will consist of the Board of the IACS, which may call in specialist advice if necessary.

The jury will hold its deliberations immediately before the Eleventh International Congress of Coptic Studies, and the awards will be announced during the opening session of the Congress. (Note that this is a change in procedure over against that of 2012, when the awards were announced in the middle of the week of the Congress.) Winners do not need to be in attendance at the Congress in order to receive their award; a winner who is absent will be contacted by the IACS Secretary either during the Congress or immediately thereafter.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH IACS BOARD MEETING  
ROME, 16 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Anne BOUD'HORS (President), Jacques VAN DER VLIET, Stephen EMMEL, Tito ORLANDI, Alberto CAMPLANI, Elizabeth S. BOLMAN, Andrew CRISLIP.  
Excused: Heike BEHLMER, Peter GROSSMANN, Wolf B. OERTER.

The President convened the meeting at 15.30.

1. The proposed agenda for the Board Meeting was approved.
2. The Congress Secretary reported concerning the preparations for the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies, noting that 240 papers had been proposed and about 320 persons had registered to participate. He said also that Peeters Press (Leuven, Belgium) wants to publish the Congress Acts, and that procedures and guidelines for the publication have already been posted on the Congress web site. Various logistical matters concerning the meetings were discussed and settled.
3. The President reported on her most recent conversation with the previous Congress Secretary concerning the publication of *ICCOptS 9 (Cairo 2008)*. She also reported that the current Congress Secretary had offered to incorporate the plenary reports from 2008 into the Acts of the 2012 Congress. After thorough discussion, the Board decided that it should revise its previous strategy regarding the publication of the Cairo Acts and formulated a plan accordingly.
4. The Secretary reported on the IACS's continued financial health as well as the strength of its membership, currently approaching 340 in number. He informed the Board about three apparent attempts in summer 2011 to rob the IACS of small sums of money by means of internet fraud; by acting quickly, the Secretary had ensured that the money was recovered, and he also filed a fully documented complaint with the German police against "unknown persons" (for it proved impossible to determine just where the robbery attempts had originated) so as to have the matter on rec-

ord in case of further such attempts in the future. The Secretary also reiterated what he had communicated to the Board already in the spring, namely that while he is willing to serve as Secretary for another term, if duly nominated and elected, he would like to see an effort start now to find someone to succeed him four years hence, that is, starting in 2016.

5. Concerning the *Journal of Coptic Studies*, the Secretary noted the continued regular appearance of volumes under the editorship of Karlheinz SCHÜSSLER: vols. 11 (2009), 12 (2010), 13 (2011), and 14 (2012), the proofs of which were expected to be on display during the Congress at the book table of Peeters Publishers. The Secretary reported Prof. SCHÜSSLER's expressed willingness to continue as editor for another four years while at the same time wishing that someone else might take over the responsibility of the editorship. As the result of several Board members' having considered the option of finding a successor for Prof. SCHÜSSLER, Tito ORLANDI proposed that Anne BOUD'HORS might be that person, and to everyone's immediate satisfaction, she agreed. It was further agreed that henceforth the IACS Board should function as the Journal's Editorial Board, and that a process of peer review should be instituted, whereby the Editor and the Board should have the option of asking colleagues who are not on the Board to evaluate submissions if necessary. The Secretary was charged to draft a proposal to change the IACS Statutes in order to add the Editor of the Journal as a position on the IACS Board. The Secretary was further charged to ask Peeters Press about the number of subscribers to *JCoptS* [he has since been informed that the total number of subscriptions to the Journal is currently 168; of these subscribers, 122 are IACS members] and about the possibility of sending one free copy of each issue of the Journal to the members of the Editorial Board.

6. The President reported a request from Maher EISSA and Louay Mahmoud SAIED that a planned center in Egypt with a focus on Coptic studies, which is to be a non-governmental organization, might be a branch of the IACS, a regional center described as an "Arab Region Group" or an "Arabic Association for Coptic Studies." The Secretary was charged to reply to this request with the pertinent information about the IACS's institutional membership category, especially regarding the Association Francophone de Coptologie and the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies/Société canadienne pour les études coptes (cf. Minutes of the 26th Board Meeting, point 8).

7. The President-Elect introduced the IACS Awards for Academic Excellence competition and reported on the written evaluations and votes that he had received from several members of the Board in response to his having circulated the competing M.A. theses (three in number) and Ph.D. dissertations (three in number) several months previously. After thorough discussion, it was decided unanimously that the Ph.D. prize would be awarded to Christian ASKELAND for his dissertation at Cambridge University (United Kingdom), "John's Gospel: The Coptic Translations

of Its Greek Text,” and that the M.A. prize would be awarded to Sina Isabell BECKER for her thesis at the Universität Münster (Germany), “Auf den Spuren antiker Rhetorik in den Briefen Schenutes. ‘Du, der Du auf deinem Thron sitzt’ und ‘Erinnert Euch, Brüder’ aus Band sechs seiner Kanones.” Voting were: Heike BEHLMER, Anne BOUD’HORS, Alberto CAMPLANI (Ph.D. competition only), Andrew CRISLIP, Tito ORLANDI, and Jacques VAN DER VLIET (Ph.D. competition only). The Secretary was charged with preparing Award Certificates for presentation at a ceremony on Thursday evening, for informing Sina BECKER, who would not be in attendance at the Congress, and for arranging the transfer of the prize money to the winners. Several general aspects of the prize competition were discussed.

8. The Webmaster reported (as he had already done several months previously to the President and the Secretary) that both the IACS web site and the IACS’s electronic discussion list COPTIST must be placed on a new server. COPTIST was already deactivated in the middle of July, as members had been duly informed by the Secretary. The Webmaster inquired if there was really a desire to restart COPTIST, and the Board, especially the Secretary, charged the Webmaster to do so when it becomes possible. With regard to the IACS web site, the Webmaster promised a seamless transfer from the current server to the new one.

9. The problem of scoundrels “phishing” the IACS web site for members’ email addresses and then using them as targets for “spam” was discussed. The Webmaster stated his belief that the problem was not so grave as to warrant taking any action at this time, and the Board agreed with him.

10. The Eleventh International Congress of Coptic Studies, 2016. The Secretary reported that one invitation and one proposal had been received. The invitation had been circulated in advance of the Board Meeting via email. The proposal, having been received only very recently, was handed out in printed form.

a. The previously circulated invitation from Claremont Graduate University (CGU) to hold the Eleventh International Congress of Coptic Studies in Claremont, California, in 2016 was discussed and unanimously accepted. The Secretary was charged to reply to Dean Tammi J. SCHNEIDER, who had extended the invitation on behalf of the School of Arts, Humanities and Religion at CGU.

b. The recently received proposal from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was considered, and the Secretary was charged with replying that it could not be accepted, both because of invitation from Claremont, and also because the IACS had held its International Congress of Coptic Studies in Egypt only four years ago.

c. Also received only just recently was an email from Marc MALEVEZ expressing interest on the part of the Université Libre de Bruxelles to organize the IACS’s International Congress of Coptic Studies in 2020. The Board charged the President to speak with Dr. MALEVEZ and with Alain DELATTRE, also named in the email, in order to request clarification of certain points.

11. The Secretary proposed that the Board consider financing the creation of a Bohairic Unicode Coptic font to complement the now existing font “Antinoou.” The proposal was to have the new font be created by Michael EVERSON, creator of Antinoou, who has quoted a price of € 8,000. After discussion, the Board approved the proposal provisionally, pending approval by the members at the Business Meeting (in view of the sum involved). [Before the Business Meeting, the Secretary decided not to present the proposal as approved by the Board, but rather to raise it as a topic for discussion by the members; see Minutes of the 10th Business Meeting, point 11.]

12. The Nominations Committee was constituted: Anne BOUD’HORS (retiring President), Jacques VAN DER VLIET (President-Elect), Alberto CAMPLANI (retiring Congress Secretary), Stephen EMMEL (Secretary), Tito ORLANDI (Webmaster), and Heike BEHLMER and Andrew CRISLIP (Members-at-Large); excused: Peter GROSSMANN (Director, Cairo Center). The Committee agreed to meet on Thursday from 19.30 until 20.00 in the Aula minor at the Augustinianum.

13. The date, time, and place of the Business Meeting at the end of the Congress was clarified, as were several logistical details, and a provisional agenda was set.

MINUTES OF THE TENTH BUSINESS MEETING OF THE IACS  
ROME, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012 (at the end of the Tenth International  
Congress of Coptic Studies), ANNE BOUD’HORS presiding

The President convened the meeting at 9.20.

1. The President thanked all the individuals and institutions who made the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies in Rome both possible and successful, in particular Alberto CAMPLANI (Congress Secretary), Paola BUZI, Tito ORLANDI, Federico CONTARDI, Alessandro CONTI, and all their assistants, as well as the Università di Roma “Sapienza,” the Institutum Patristicum “Augustinianum,” and the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. The Members greeted the President’s statement with a long period of applause.

2. The members of the IACS deceased since the previous congress (2008) were silently commemorated: Samiha ABD EL-SHAHEED ABD EL-NOUR, Esther DE BOER, Carsten COLPE, Søren GIVERSEN, David W. JOHNSON, Gary LEASE, Marvin W. MEYER, and Robert McL. WILSON.

3. The President acknowledged with satisfaction the continued regular publication of the IACS’s *Journal of Coptic Studies* under the editorship of Karlheinz SCHÜSSLER: vols. 11 (2009), 12 (2010), 13 (2011), and 14 (2012), the proofs of which were on display during the Congress at the book table of Peeters Publishers. Second, she mentioned the IACS Board’s recent institution of the IACS Awards for Academic Excellence, which were presented for the first time during this Congress, and which



the Board intends to continue for the next Congress. And third, she reported on the completion of the Unicode-based Coptic font “Antinoou” (which was called “Keft” during the period of its development and beta-testing), financed mainly by the IACS and created by Michael EVERSON of Evertyp (in Ireland) with the collaboration of the IACS Secretary, Stephen EMMEL; the Secretary announced a significant enhancement in the performance of the font during the week before the Congress, displayed a short sample text showing the font’s appearance, and demonstrated briefly how the font works in practice.

4. The Secretary presented the financial report for the four-year period 2008–2012 (31.08.08–31.08.12): see the accompanying table. He noted that there has continued to be an increase in the number of IACS members, with the current total at about 340. Understanding that the Secretary’s financial report must still be audited by someone who is not a member of the IACS Board, in accordance with German law, the Members approved it.

5. The Members confirmed by acclamation all the new IACS members that had been elected by the Board since the 2008 Congress: María-Jesús ALBARRÁN, Mother ANTONIA ST DEMIANA, Piotr ASHWIN-SIEJKOWSKI, Julien AUBER DE LAPIERRE, Louise BLANKE, Richard BURCHFIELD, Giuseppina CIPRIANO, Elizabeth DAVIDSON, Renate DEKKER, Paul DILLEY, Korshi DOSOO, Marek DOSPĚL, Gaétan DU ROY, Andrea EBERLE, Ina EICHNER, Maher A. EISSA, Rafed EL-SAYED, Father EPIPHANIUS ALMAKARY, Mary FARAG, Frank FEDER, Emanuel FIANO, Esther GAREL, Mary GHATTAS, Naglaa HAMDİ, Thomas HOKLOTUBBE, Nikolaos KOUREMENOS, Agnès LE TIEC, Howard MIDDLETON-JONES, Nader MOHAMED, Matthias MÜLLER, Grzegorz OCHAŁA, Luigi PRADA, Gillian PYKE, Carolyn M. RAMZY, Claudia RAPP, Héléna ROCHARD, Saad Michael SAAD, Louay Mahmoud SAIED, Timothy B. SAILORS, Ibrahim SAWEROS, Daniel SCHRIEVER, Tamara L. SIUDA, Zbigniew SZAFRAŃSKI, Agnieszka E. SZYMAŃSKA, Pauliene TODARY ASSAD, Mariano TROIANO, Sami ULJAS, Matthew UNDERWOOD, Lorelei VANDERHEYDEN, Zuzana VÍTKOVÁ, Jennifer WESTERFELD, Stephan WITETSCHEK, Dobrochna ZIELIŃSKA, Edward ZYCHOWICZ-COGHILL; **institutional members**: Canadian Society for Coptic Studies, Center for Egyptological Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology; **Friends of the IACS**: Sameh ADLY, Father ANGELOS EL-NAKLONY, Randa BALIGH, Monique BOUTROS, Peter H. COSMAN, Wafik Adly GAYED, Christina Nagy Wadea GEORGES, David GRIFFITHS, Laure GUIRGUIS, Gabriele HÖBER-KAMEL, Nabil Sabry ISSHAK, Hiroto MIYOKAWA, Alberto J. QUEVEDO, Eveline SALIB, Azza SAMIR, Father TADDAUS AVA-MENA, Kari VOGT, Father YOUSUSTUS.

6. Publication of *ICCOptS 10 (Rome 2012)*. The Congress Secretary, Alberto CAMPANI, who will coordinate the editing of the Rome Congress Acts, announced that information about the planned publication by Peeters Press (Leuven, Belgium) has already been posted on the Congress web site, with guidelines for the preparation of

International Association for Coptic Studies – Münster Secretariat  
 Financial Report for 31.08.2008-31.08.2012

**BALANCE** as of 30.08.08 (9th Business Meeting):      € 15.904,28  
 \$ 3.210,77

<u>INCOME (€)</u>	<u>31.08-31.12.2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>01.01-31.08.2012</u>
Membership fees					
gross	€ 2.132,40	3.963,85	3.390,07	4.097,10	5.137,23
less bank charges	-10,00	-134,50	-116,50	-198,10	-127,00
Subtotals	€ 2.122,40	3.829,35	3.273,57	3.899,00	5.010,23
Congress fees	1.760,00	-100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	€ 3.882,40	3.729,35	3.273,57	3.899,00	5.010,23 = € +19.794,55
<u>INCOME (\$)</u>					
Membership fees	\$ 827,90	1.173,80	1.203,36	1.787,45	1.157,24
Congress fees	1.298,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	\$ 2.126,40	1.173,80	1.203,36	1.787,45	1.157,24 = \$ +7.448,25
<u>EXPENSES (€)</u>					
Payments to SAC	€ 0,00	749,37	467,35	417,98	526,87
Office supplies	20,82	28,64	36,03	25,45	24,12
Bank fees	156,30	305,05	302,41	362,81	252,37
JCopts	0,00	0,00	729,00	5.266,80	2.301,41
Printing (NL 51-56)	252,00	380,25	0,00	630,00	488,25
Postage	153,09	419,78	131,89	332,05	61,40
Evertype ("Antincoou")	0,00	0,00	3.000,00	0,00	0,00
Congress expenses	812,05	108,66	0,00	0,00	0,00
Congr. fees → Cairo	1.639,43	576,50	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	€ 3.033,69	2.568,25	4.666,68	7.035,09	3.654,42 = € -20.958,13

Balance €	€	+15.904,28	
+ Income		+19.794,55	
- Expenses		-20.958,13	
= Balance forward (31.08.2012)	€	+14.740,70	

Balance \$	\$	+3.210,77	
+ Income		+7.448,25	
- Expenses		-0,00	
= Balance forward (31.08.2012)	\$	+10.659,02	

Balance € (31.08.2012)	€	14.740,70	change of € -1.163,58 since 2008
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Balance \$ (31.08.2012)	\$	10.659,02	change of \$ +7.448,25 since 2008
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Total change of approximately € +4.701,18 (approximation due to fluctuating exchange rate from \$ to €)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Emmel, Secretary

Rome, 22 September 2012

papers for submission. The deadline for submission of papers is 31 March 2013. It is foreseen that the Acts will be published in two volumes, one volume to contain the plenary reports, the other to include a selection of the short papers that are submitted before the deadline. The selection will be made by means of anonymous peer review. Accepted papers from the panels will be grouped together, and the organizer of each panel is asked to provide an introduction to their panel (ca. 3+ pp.) explaining the research problems etc. that motivated and informed the panel's creation and organization.

7. Publication of *ICCOptS 9 (Cairo 2008)*. The President announced the decision of the Board to cancel the plans that were announced four years ago for the publication of the Acts of the Cairo Congress (2008). Instead, Alberto CAMPLANI has expressed his readiness to incorporate the plenary reports from 2008 into the Rome Congress Acts. The Board has asked the previous Congress Secretary to return to their authors the files that are relevant to the panels and short papers from the Cairo Congress. The Board encourages those authors to publish their papers however they may now choose.

8. Eleventh International Congress of Coptic Studies in 2016. The President announced that the Board has received an invitation from Claremont Graduate University (CGU) to hold the next International Congress of Coptic Studies in Claremont, California, and invited Hany N. TAKLA to address the Members on this topic. Mr. TAKLA reported that the organizing committee for the Congress will be built around a group comprising himself, Gawdat GABRA, and Saad Michael SAAD, who will work in cooperation with CGU's School of Religion and with other parts of the university (Mr. SAAD is the Chair of CGU's Board of Visitors [of which Mr. TAKLA is a member] and also Chair of the CGU School of Religion's Council for Coptic Studies), as well as with the St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society (of which Mr. TAKLA is President). Mr. TAKLA described the meeting and living facilities that are available on and near the CGU campus and said a few words about the status of Coptic studies at Claremont that recommends it as a site for an International Congress of Coptic Studies. He indicated that the Congress will be held in June or July 2016. The invitation to Claremont was greeted by the Members with acclamation.

9. The President expressed the IACS's appreciation for the Claremont initiative on the part Gawdat GABRA, who has made *The Coptic Encyclopedia* (prepared in large part with the collaboration of members of the IACS and published in printed form in 1991) available on line in completely searchable form.

10. The President announced that the Board very recently received a proposal from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, to organize the Twelfth International Congress of Coptic Studies in 2020; of course it is too early to make any decision about this, and so for the time being the Board will simply take it under consideration.

11. The President announced that the Board has considered with interest a proposal from Stephen EMMEL to finance the creation of a Bohairic Unicode font to complement the now existing font “Antinoou.” The Secretary initiated a discussion that brought out two points in particular: first, that it is necessary to consider carefully what model should be used for the Bohairic character set, so that the font’s appearance would be clearly distinct from the Coptic character set of “Antinoou” (in particular, this consideration means using late Bohairic manuscripts and perhaps also the liturgical Bohairic typographical tradition as the basis for designing a character set); and second, that it needs to be considered whether the potential usefulness of such a font warrants spending IACS funds up to the proposed cost of € 8,000.

12. The Members elected a new IACS Board (2012–2016) by unanimously approving the nominations made by the Nominations Committee, namely:

President-Elect:	David BRAKKE
Secretary:	Stephen EMMEL
Webmaster:	Tito ORLANDI
Director, Cairo Center:	Peter GROSSMANN
Congress Secretary:	Hany N. TAKLA
Members at Large (2 terms):	Paola BUZI Malcolm CHOAT

Jacques VAN DER VLIET succeeds as the new President, while Heike BEHLMER and Andrew CRISLIP, elected in 2008, continue as Board Members-at-Large for a second term.

13. The President expressed her thanks to all the members of the retiring Board for their collegial and effective collaboration, and especially to the Secretary, Stephen EMMEL, for all his work, congratulating him also on his recent election as a Foreign Member of the Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. The Members approved with acclamation. The President also expressed her best wishes to Jacques VAN DER VLIET as the new President of the IACS and to the new IACS Board. Tito ORLANDI expressed the thanks of the IACS Members to Anne BOUD’HORS for her fulfillment of the duties of the President, and especially also to Stephen EMMEL for his daily labor as Secretary of the IACS on behalf of all the Members.

14. Other business

a. Hany N. TAKLA made the following statement: “The paper that Prof. Karen King read on Tuesday, ‘A New Coptic Gospel Fragment,’ was grossly misrepresented in the Egyptian press. The press also reported that the paper was presented at the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies in Rome, and that Prof. King is an American. In the unstable political landscape of Egypt and of the Coptic Church nowadays, this issue has a real potential of causing a problem for any scholar in our field dealing with the Coptic Church and possibly with the Egyptian government. In the latter case, it would pose a safety issue for all the scholars, especially Americans,

working on projects in Egypt now as well as in the future. I would like to include this statement in the minutes of the Business Meeting to clarify the following points:

“1. The issue of this papyrus fragment is still disputed by several scholars in the field.

“2. The text in any case belongs to the genre of Gnostic texts, which the early Church of Alexandria has rejected decisively.

“3. The full interpretation of the text on the fragment in question is not yet clear.

“Including these remarks in the minutes will assist the Coptic Church in Egypt in responding to government criticism, if it becomes necessary. It will also keep members of the IACS in good standing with the Coptic Church, which many of us need in order to do our research not only in Coptic but also in Christian Arabic as well as in Syriac. Right now everyone who attended the Congress has his/her name on the internet!”

Elizabeth S. BOLMAN pointed out that Prof. KING has been very clear and careful in her statements posted on her internet web site, for example: “Does the *Gospel of Jesus’s Wife* prove that Jesus was married? *No*, this fragment does not provide evidence that Jesus was married.” Mr. TAKLA replied that presumably the people in Egypt who are distorting things are, unfortunately, not much interested in facts.

b. Jean-Daniel DUBOIS expressed the desirability that the “Nag Hammadi Bibliography” of the late David M. SCHOLER be continued, inquiring whether the IACS might play some role in achieving that goal. Wolf-Peter FUNK reported that at a meeting this week of the Editorial Board of the Brill series “Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies” this question was discussed, and that an initiative in the desired direction is underway. The Secretary stated that although the IACS Board surely agrees that the continuation of this bibliography is desirable, it is not something in which the IACS Board sees itself as having any immediate role to play.

c. Jos VAN LENT expressed the desirability of having Copto-Arabic studies be one of the subjects of a plenary report, which was not the case at the present Congress. The Secretary clarified that a plenary report on Copto-Arabic studies had in fact been planned for the Rome Congress, but the reporter had withdrawn too recently for it to be possible to arrange for a substitute. A report on Copto-Arabic studies 2008–2016 will be invited for the next Congress.

The President adjourned the meeting at 10.45.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH IACS BOARD MEETING  
ROME, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Jacques VAN DER VLIET (President), David BRAKKE (until 12.00), Stephen EMMEL, Tito ORLANDI, Hany N. TAKLA, Heike BEHMLER, Paola BUZI, Malcolm CHOAT, Andrew CRISLIP. Excused: Peter GROSSMANN.

The President convened the meeting at 11.40.

1. The agenda for the Board Meeting was set.
2. The President informed the new members of the Board about some of the decisions that were taken at the 27th Board Meeting, 16 September 2012, in particular concerning the editorship of the *Journal of Coptic Studies*.
3. The place and date of the next Board Meeting was set for Leiden on Saturday 21 or 28 June 2014.
4. The President described to the President-Elect how he had organized this year's competition for the IACS Awards for Academic Excellence. The Secretary will revise the text of the announcement as appropriate and send it to the President and President-Elect for approval before publication. This time only .pdf versions of the submissions will be required. The amount of the prizes will remain at € 2000 for the best Ph.D. dissertation, € 1000 for the best M.A. thesis. The Congress Secretary was asked to schedule a 15-minute period for the awards ceremony during the opening session of the Congress in 2016, to include brief *laudationes* for the two winners and their work. It was agreed that the Secretary should write letters to the competitors for this year's prizes who did not win, thanking them for their submissions and wishing them well.
5. The Board reviewed the events of the IACS's Tenth Congress, judging it to have been very successful. The Board confirmed its continuing belief that the plenary reports are of great benefit to the progress of Coptic studies and expressed satisfaction with the way that panels had been integrated into the program of the Congress. In order to reduce the very large number of papers in the future, it was agreed that no one should be allowed to read more than one paper (with the exception of the invited plenary reporters).
6. Before and after a break for lunch from 13.00 until 15.00, the Board prepared a list of scholars to be invited to deliver plenary reports on the following topics at the next Congress:

- Coptic archeology (2012–2016)
- Coptic linguistics (2012–2016)
- Coptic art, including museology (2012–2016)
- Coptic literature (2012–2016)

Copto-Arabic studies (2008–2016)  
 Gnosticism and Manichaeism in Egypt (2012–2016)  
 Coptic Bible (2008–2016)  
 Egyptian monasticism (2012–2016)  
 Coptic documentary papyrology (2012–2016)  
 Coptic epigraphy (2004–2016)  
 Coptic history and historiography (2008–2016)

Topics that might be treated at the Congress in 2020 thus include: liturgy (2012–2020), codicology and paleography (2012–2020), Shenoutean studies (2012–2020), and magic, and perhaps also Christian Nubia (2008–2020).

7. With regard to the preparations for the next Congress, the Congress Secretary reported his ideas on several technical aspects of the Congress organization, and these topics and others were discussed.

8. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary should continue his discussion with Michael EVERSON concerning the creation of a Bohairic Unicode font to complement the now existing font “Antinoou” and to make a more detailed and specific proposal to the Board and interested members of the IACS as to how the Bohairic font would look.

9. The President and the Secretary reported on their independent conversations with Paul PEETERS of Peeters Press, who expressed basic satisfaction with the business condition of the *Journal of Coptic Studies*. Means were discussed of trying to increase the number of subscriptions by IACS members, who may subscribe through the IACS at a 50% reduction on the retail price.

10. The Secretary promised to prepare and send to all members of the Board the new IACS letterhead for their use in conducting IACS business.

11. On behalf of Louay Mahmoud SAIED and Maher EISSA, the Secretary reported on a discussion that he had with them concerning their idea to hold an international conference on Coptic studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, probably in September 2014, in order to try to impress upon representatives of the Egyptian universities and government the international significance of Coptology as a scientific discipline and therefore the need for it to be treated as such in Egypt itself. The Board agreed in principle that it is ready to help this effort in so far as it is able. The Secretary will maintain contact with the Egyptian colleagues concerning this matter.

12. A further proposal communicated by the Secretary from Louay Mahmoud SAIED and Maher EISSA that the IACS should establish a rule that its International Congress should be held in Egypt at fixed intervals, imitating a similar rule said to be observed by the International Association of Egyptologists, was discussed but declined. The Board recognizes the desirability of holding its Congress in Egypt from time to time, but prefers not to be bound by any specific rule in this regard.



13. The Secretary also communicated that it was the wish of Louay Mahmoud SAIED that the Board now consider the proposal from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina [see Minutes of the 27th Board Meeting, point 10.b; Minutes of the 10th Business Meeting, point 10] to organize an International Congress of Coptic Studies in Alexandria, Egypt, to be a proposal for 2020, rather than for 2016 as originally submitted.

The President adjourned the meeting at 16.30.

#### NOTES FROM THE IACS SECRETARIAT

Your most recent paid-up dues year appears on the printed IACS mailing label. As used with this Newsletter, these labels reflect payments received up to the end of May 2013. It may be helpful for some members to find here the requisite information for making a direct transfer (German “Überweisung”) to the IACS bank account (as of 1 February 2013, IBAN and BIC are to be used even for Überweisungen inside of Germany, as part of the European-wide system of “SEPA-transactions”):

Account name:	INTL ASSOC COPTIC STUDIES
Bank name:	POSTBANK DORTMUND
International bank account number (IBAN):	DE22 4401 0046 0009 0404 67
BIC / S.W.I.F.T. code:	PBNKDEFF

(But for those whose banks have not yet switched over to the new system, the old numbers are: 9040467 [account number] and 44010046 [bank code].) The annual dues are as follows: Normal or Institutional Member € 25; Student Member € 15; Retired Member or Friend € 12. Be sure always to indicate your name and the year(s) for which you are paying. Also please keep us informed of address changes or changes in your membership status.

#### NEW EDITOR OF THE *JOURNAL OF COPTIC STUDIES*

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of a new editor for the *Journal of Coptic Studies* (*JCoptS*, published annually by Peeters in Leuven, Belgium): Dr. Anne Boud'hors succeeds Prof. Dr. Karlheinz Schüssler upon his retirement from the editorship at the end of 2012. Dr. Boud'hors has communicated the following message.

As editor of *JCoptS* from the next issue (vol. 15, 2013) onwards, I would like first to pay tribute to the work done since 2002 by Karlheinz Schüssler. Thanks to him, our journal has been published regularly, illustrating almost all areas of Coptic

studies. The transition was done in excellent conditions, which should allow me to have vol. 15 ready to appear at the expected time. This volume will include a set of papers presented at the Eighth International Congress of Coptic Studies (Cairo, 2008), a series of various articles, as well as book reviews. Dr. Hans Förster (Vienna) has agreed to continue to take care of the reviews, and I am grateful to him for this service.

The conditions for submitting articles for publication in *JCoptS* remain generally the same as before (see the Journal's inside back cover). Some new features are:

- a. If possible, use a Unicode font (or fonts), preferably Antinoou (which includes Coptic and Greek as well as Times, both roman and italic) or IfaoGrecUnicode (which also contains all the necessary Coptic characters and symbols). Do not use IfaoNCopte.
- b. Send both a Word version (.doc or .docx) and a PDF version of your article.
- c. Send 600dpi illustrations. If a file is too large for sending by e-mail, then use a service for sending big files, such as "WeTransfer" (which is free of charge) or something similar.
- d. For articles written in a language other than English, please provide an English summary 5–10 lines in length.

The articles will be reviewed by one or more members of the reading committee, whose members are those of the Board of IACS. To contact the editor (whether for sending articles or for correspondence):

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Finally, I would like to remind everyone that *JCoptS* is the main showcase of the IACS. It is therefore important to help maintain its good quality by representative and innovative articles. I expect your participation, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely, Anne Boud'hors, Editor of the *Journal of Coptic Studies*

IMPORTANT UPDATE OF THE IACS COPTIC UNICODE FONT  
“ANTINOOU” AVAILABLE

A very important update was made to Evertypes’ Unicode Coptic font “Antinoou” in September 2012. Users of Antinoou are urged to update to version 1.0.6, available at the Antinoou page of Evertypes’ web site: <http://www.evertypes.com/fonts/coptic/> This update goes a long way toward improving the performance of Antinoou with regard to “ligatures” (superlinear strokes etc.). Remaining problems in this regard continue to be inadequate support for OpenType font technology on the part of some software designers.

LIST OF IACS MEMBERS WITH ADDRESSES

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PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION, FORTHCOMING, OR RECENTLY  
PUBLISHED, AS ANNOUNCED BY IACS MEMBERS (AND OTHERS)

Because of the large amount of information that had to be published in this issue of the *Newsletter*, the list of publications in preparation etc. will be printed in the next issue, *Newsletter* no. 58, which we hope to be able to print and distribute very soon.

## OBITUARY NOTICES

We are saddened by the death on 16 August 2012 of Marvin W. Meyer. Marvin was a charter member of the IACS. We have learned only belatedly of the death in 2010 of Girgis Daoud Girgis, who was also a charter member of the IACS.