

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

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THE 4th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COPTIC STUDIES

The 4th International Congress of Coptic Studies was successfully held in Louvain-la-Neuve, 5-10 September 1988. It was promoted by our Association, as one of its statutory tasks.

The Congress Secretary, Julien Ries, wrote in the introduction of the brochure of the "Documents Préparatoires": "La décision d'organiser le Congrès de 1988 { Louvain-la-Neuve a été prise par l'Assemblée générale tenue { l'occasion du Congrès de Varsovie. Au cours de la réunion du Comité international de l'IACS, présidé par le professeur Rodolphe Kasser, furent prises des décisions traitant le schéma du Congrès de Louvain: nomination de Julien Ries au poste de Congress Secretary, chargé de l'organisation du Congrès; nomination de Mme. Marguerite Rassart-Debergh comme membre du Comité international; répartition des travaux en douze sections, chacune dirigée par un responsable chargé de faire un rapport sur le progrès des études durant les quatre années; limitation du Congrès fixé { 30 minutes; suppression d'excursions officielles au cours du Congrès; annonce du Congrès par le Bulletin d'Information en 1986, en 1987, en 1988. Le 21 septembre 1984 le Conseil de l'Institut Orientaliste de l'Université Catholique de L.-la-N. approuvait le projet du Congrès de l'IACS mais, { cause de son secrétariat réduit, demandait au professeur Ries, président du Centre Cerfaux-Lefort, de prendre en charge l'essentiel des travaux. Mme. Marguerite Rassart-Debergh a pris en charge l'organisation d'une exposition: Arts tardifs et chrétiens d'Égypte. Elle a dressé l'inventaire de toutes les pièces de la future exposition et s'est chargée des démarches et de la rédaction du catalogue. Le professeur Jean Marie Sevrin a identifié une série de documents importants du Fonds Louis-

Th]ophile Lefort de l'UCL. La revue Le Monde Copte a d]di] un fascicule au catalogue de l'exposition, pour laquelle l'UCL a pre ^t{ gracieusement les locaux du Mus]e. Les autorit]s de l'UCL ont mis { la disposition du Congr}s les auditoires, biblioth}ques et toute l'infrastructure universitaire de Louvain-la-Neuve."

The participants were 200, and the papers read 88. On Monday, 5 September, the congress was opened with a brief ceremony, followed by the Presidential Address of our President, Prof. Rodolphe KASSER. As to the official meetings of the Association (Board meetings, Business meeting), the reader will find all information in the minutes published below.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

Louvain-la-Neuve, September 5, 1988.

Present: Rodolphe KASSER, Peter NAGEL, Tito ORLANDI, Julien RIES, Peter GROSSMANN, Marguerite RASSART DEBERGH, Stephen EMMEL, Soren GIVERSEN.

Excused: Antoine GUILLAUMONT.

The meeting convened at 3.00 p.m. in a room of the Coll}ge Erasme.

1 a. The Nominating Committee will consist of the retiring members of the Board (viz. Kasser, Ries, Guillaumont (excused), Giversen, Nagel, Orlandi, Grossmann). The President-Elect, the Treasurer and the Director of the Cairo Center are recognized as retiring members (see Statutes 4.b, but cfr. Newsletter 16, p. 9, point 2). The Board will recommend emendation of the Statutes at the 1992 Business Meeting to make the constitution of the Nominating Committee explicit.

b. The Board unanimously approved that the changes in the Statutes as published in Newsletter 24 will be presented at the Business Meeting for adoption by the full membership of the IACS, together with the following French translation:

Par. 3, Membres de l'IACS: remplacer secr]taire du Congr}s par r]dacteur du Bulletin d'information.

Par. 4.b, Bureau: supprimer 3 ou.

Par 6, Congr}s: premi}re phrase, supprimer 3 ou.

Apr}s la phrase: L'assembl]e g]n]rale ordinaire de l'IACS se tient lors de chaque Congr}s ordinaire, ajouter: L'ordre du jour provisoire de cette assembl]e g]n]rale est publi] dans le Bulletin d'information. Tout point qu'un membre de

l'IACS souhaite voir figurer dans cet ordre du jour doit e*tre soumis au pr]sident, par]crit, au moins un mois avant ce Congr}s. L'ordre du jour d]finitif est fix] par le comit] lors de sa r]union pr]c]dant imm]diatement le Congr}s.

Par. 9, ajouter { la fin: Toute proposition de changement des statuts doit e*tre soumise par]crit au r]dacteur du Bulletin d'information; il la publiera dans le Bulletin paraissant imm]diatement avant l'assembl]e g]n]rale ou* cette proposition sera discut]e.

2. The Journal of Coptic Studies.

a. The Board voted (with 1 abstention) to create a Journal of Coptic Studies, to be owned by the IACS and to be an official scholarly organ of the IACS.

b. The journal's Board of Governors, responsible for general supervision of the journal, will be the IACS Board ex officio.

c. The scientific editing and day-to-day management of the journal will be the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief, who is appointed by the Board of Governors for a four year term, renewable for an unlimited number of terms.

d. The Editor-in-Chief will be assisted by the members of an Editorial Board, who will be appointed by the Editor-in-Chief and approved by the Board of Governors. The Editor-in-Chief and the members of the Editorial Board must be members of the IACS.

e. The Editor-in-Chief is Gerald M. Browne, with Stephen Emmel as Co-Editor. The Editorial Board consists of Peter Grossmann, Rodolphe Kasser, Bentley Layton, Tito Orlandi, and Paul van Moorsel.

f. The Board of Governors will enter into a contract with an established publisher (negotiations are underway with Peeters Press, Louvain), who will advertise, typeset, print, bind, and distribute the journal.

g. The Board decided not to ask for an increase in membership fees in order to finance the journal. Rather, the journal will be subsidized from membership fees at their present level, but only to some extent. The amount of subsidy affordable is not sufficient to entitle members to receive the journal automatically as a benefit of membership. However, members will be able to subscribe to the journal at a price lower than the standard price set by the publisher.

3. The Board authorized Nagel and Orlandi to resolve the question of retroactive payment by members of Eastern European countries. Nicole GOURDIER, Paul VAN LINDT, Alois VAN TONGERLOO, Pascale BALLETT, Laszlo TOROK, Joseph SKEFFINGTON, were accepted as new members of the Association.

4. After careful consideration, the Board decided (with 2 abstentions) to decline an invitation from the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York to host the 5th International Congress of Coptic Studies in 1992. After further inquiries, it was agreed that the next congress will be organized at

the Catholic University of America in Washington. (Deliberation on this point extended over several days.)

5. The publication of the Acts of the 4th Congress will be in two volumes, and the articles must be submitted before Dec. 25, 1988. The plenary reports may be 20 typed pages maximum; other communications may be 12 typed pages maximum. The volumes will be published by Peeters, in the series PIOL, and will be offered to the members of the IACS at a 25% reduction.

Julien Ries reported as follows:

PUBLICATION DES ACTES - INDICATIONS

1) Deux volumes comprenant l'ensemble des 12 sections. Titre provisoire: Actes du 4.me Congr}s d'Etudes Coptes.

2) Publication dans la Collection PIOL (Publications de l'Institut Orientaliste de Louvain-la-Neuve).

3) Date limite pour l'acceptation des manuscrits: 25 d]cembre 1988.

4) Adresse pour l'envoi: Institut Orientaliste, c/o Prof. J. Ries, Coll}ge Erasme, B-1348 LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE.

5) Pr]sentation des manuscrits dactylographi]s:

a. Pour les rapports des 12 sections: 20 pages de 28 lignes (notes et bibliographie comprises).

b. Autres manuscrits (communications): 12 pages maximum (notes comprises).

c. Art et arch]ologie: on peut pr]senter une illustration, pleine page.

6) Nous limitons la publication { un seul article par auteur.

7) Une r]duction sur les Actes sera accord]e aux souscripteurs.

With regard to a proposal by Prof. M. ROBERTSON-WILSON and Prof. W. GRIGGS, the Board decided that one of the volumes of the Acts of the 4th Congress will be dedicated to the honour of Prof. Aziz S. ATIYA.

6. 7. 8. The Board declined to recommend three resolutions that were proposed by Prof. Paul VAN MOORSEL for consideration at the up-coming Business Meeting. The reason for declining to recommend these proposed resolutions was not because they are without merit, but because the Board believes that the IACS should be cautious in how it uses whatever influence it has beyond the sphere of its own immediate concerns. It is doubtful that the adoption of a resolution by the IACS will have any significant effect unless the resolu-

tion is in support of some concrete actions of its own. Before it can make such a commitment, the Board must be fully informed both about the project that the IACS is being asked to support, and about the actions that the IACS might take in support of the project.

9. It was agreed that on Sept. 8, at 8.30 p.m., a meeting would be held to discuss standards for encoding Coptic texts in magnetic memories (computer) and the constitution of one or more centres of archives of Coptic texts in Machine Readable Form.

10. Some details in the programme of the congress were discussed.

11. It was agreed that Mr. Stephen Emmel would receive a reimbursement for expenses of his travel to Louvain-la-Neuve, owing to the necessity of his presence as the editor of the IACS's Directory of Coptic Collections and as spokesman for the Journal of Coptic Studies.

12. The final Agenda for the Business Meeting was defined.

13. The title of the Newsletter henceforward will be in English and in French (Bulletin d'information), because this is the name of the Newsletter in the French translation of the Statutes.

14. The institutional membership of the Association Francophone de Coptologie and of the Soci[et]e des Bollandistes was accepted.

The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.

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BUSINESS MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES

Louvain-la-Neuve, September 9, 1988

The meeting convened at 4.30 p.m. Only members of the IACS were admitted.

1. The members of the IACS deceased after the 3rd Congress were commemorated: Klaus BAER, Paulinus BELLET, Labib HABASHI, George MACRAE, MUNIR Basta.

2. The new members, approved by the Board after the last Business Meeting, as listed in Newsletter 23, were confirmed, together with those approved at the Board meeting of September 5, 1988.

3. THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

BALANCE FOR THE YEARS 1984-1987
(in Italian Lire)

	Expenditures	Income	Balance
1984.			
Quote associative		3.387.382	
Interessi bancari		88.551	
Spese NL 16	300.000		
Segreteria	390.000		
Cancelleria e posta	485.544		
	1.613.544	3.475.933	1.862.389
1985.			
Quote associative		4.504.704	
Interessi bancari e post.		131.049	
Spese NL 16	290.000		
Spese NL 17 + annex	1.000.000		
Segreteria e posta	1.230.650		
Indagini Musei e Board	525.500		
	3.046.150	4.636.753	1.590.603
1986.			
Quote associative		4.277.033	
Interessi postali e banc.		178.281	
Spese segreteria, cancell., posta e compos. NL 18,19,20	1.693.000		
Stampa NL 18	125.000		
Stampa NL 19	130.000		
Spediz. NL 18	230.000		
Spediz. NL 19	200.000		
Spediz. NL 20	220.000		
	3.774.726	4.455.314	680.588
1986.			
Quote associative		2.346.040	
Interessi bancari e post.		150.661	
Spese segreteria, cancell., posta e compos. NL 21,22	905.000		
Stampa NL 20	366.600		
Stampa NL 21	240.000		
Stampa NL 22	200.000		
Spediz. NL 20	200.000		
	1.911.600	2.496.701	585.101

BRANCH HALLE:

Balance as of Sept. 3, 1988: Income 1.211,76 M

The Report was unanimously approved.

4. The President invited Wlodzimierz GODLEWSKI to report on the publication of the Proceedings of the Warsaw Congress.

Two volumes are now in an advanced stage of preparation. They will contain 62 contributions and will be published by the Polish Academy of Sciences, presumably in 1989. The authors will receive 1 copy of the volume and 50 off-prints.

5. The President invited Julien Ries to report on the publication of the Proceedings of the Louvain-la-Neuve Congress (see above, Board Meeting, point 5).

The President proposed that one volume be dedicated to Prof. Aziz S. ATIYA. The proposal was approved unanimously.

6. PLACE AND DATE OF THE NEXT CONGRESS.

The meeting unanimously approved Washington as the place of the next congress, and early August as the suggested period for the date.

7. The members unanimously approved the changes in the Statutes, as published in Newsletter 24, together with a French version presented by Prof. Rodolphe KASSER.

8. REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS.

The meeting unanimously approved the proposals of the Nominating Committee for the New Board:

Peter NAGEL was elected President
Soren GIVERSEN was elected President-elect
Tito ORLANDI was confirmed as Editor-Treasurer
Peter GROSSMANN was confirmed as Director of Cairo Center
David W. JOHNSON was elected Congress Secretary
Paul-Hubert POIRIER was elected Board Member at Large
Gawdat GABRA ABDEL SAYED was elected Board Member at Large.

9. The President proposed that the Association create a Journal of Coptic Studies (see above, Board Meeting, point 2) and Stephen EMMEL reported on the details of the negotiations with Peeters Press to be the publisher. The members unanimously approved the project.

10. Tito ORLANDI reported on a meeting which discussed some questions about standards for the preparation of Coptic texts in Machine Readable Form. The meeting proposed the creation of a Committee to define such standards. The members of this Committee are Tito ORLANDI, Martin KRAUSE, Armand VEILLEUX, Stephen EMMEL.

11. Stephen EMMEL reported on the IACS's International Directory of Institutions Holding Collections of Coptic Antiquities Outside of Egypt. It is hoped that the volume will be published and distributed in 1989.

12. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. The members accepted a proposal by Martin KRAUSE that the President should send one telegram to the President of Egypt, Hosni MUBARAK, recommending that Cairo University establish a professorship of Coptic Language and Literature, and another telegram to the President of the American University in Cairo, urging the university to promote the study of Coptology alongside of Egyptology and Islamic Studies.

b. The members heard a recommendation by Munir SHOUCRI that universities outside of Egypt should be urged to provide grants to make it possible for Coptic students to attend their courses.

c. Paul VAN MOORSEL drew the attention of the members to the fact that there are important working papers of deceased scholars that need to be put at the disposal of interested scholars. He also recommended that the President be willing to write letters of recommendation upon request by those scholars who are collaborating on the Catalogue Général du Musée Copte.

d. Paul VAN MOORSEL expressed the thanks of the IACS to Julien RIES and the authorities of the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve and of the Institut Orientaliste for the admirable organization of the congress. Members applauded at length. Martin KRAUSE expressed the thanks of the members to the retiring members of the Board. Gawdat GABRA expressed his congratulations and thanks for a successful congress.

At 6.00 p.m. the President adjourned the meeting.

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BOARD MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COPTIC STUDIES Louvain-la-Neuve, September 10, 1988

The meeting convened at 9.00.

Present: Peter NAGEL, Soren GIVERSEN, Tito ORLANDI, Peter GROSSMANN, Stephen EMMEL, Marguerite RASSART-DEBERGH, Paul-Hubert POIRIER, GAWDAT Gabra.

Excused: David W. JOHNSON.

1. With the assistance of Prof. Michel VERWILGHEN, the contract with Peeters Press was given further consideration. A final draft will be circulated among the Board members as

soon as possible, to be submitted to Peeters Press, and finally to be signed by Peter Nagel, in his capacity as President of the IACS.

2. Free copies of the IACS's International Directory of Institutions Holding Collections of Coptic Antiquities Outside of Egypt will be distributed to members of IACS as soon as it is published. Tito ORLANDI will investigate possible means for arranging commercial distribution.

3. The President will send a telegram to the President of Egypt, Hosni MUBARAK and a letter to the President of the American University in Cairo according to Business Meeting, point 12.a.

4. The President will write a letter to the Congress Secretary, stating that the Board recommends the following considerations for the 5th Congress:

a. That 12 progress reports in specific fields of Coptic Studies be solicited as for the 4th Congress. The names of the scholars will be decided at a future meeting of the Board;

b. That the proposals for papers to be read at the 5th Congress be accompanied by abstracts sufficient to enable the Congress Secretary to decide which papers should be accepted;

c. That the 5th Congress should last for 5 days, taking into consideration any discounts available for transatlantic transportation, and the desirability of not conflicting with any other congresses in related fields.

5. Soren GIVERSEN suggested that members be urged to contact institutions about the possibilities of holding the 6th Congress, so that we may have several possibilities to consider before the beginning of the 5th Congress.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.00.

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THE JOURNAL OF COPTIC STUDIES

During the 4th International Congress of Coptic Studies, significant progress was made toward founding a Journal of Coptic Studies, which was first envisioned four years ago. The IACS Board decided to take direct responsibility for organizing the journal (see Board Meeting, Sept. 5, point 2) and the members of the IACS approved the Board's decisions (Business Meeting, point 9). At present, a contract is being negotiated with an established publishing firm that can guarantee the regular publication of a scientific journal of high material quality. After the contract is signed, more information about the journal will be printed in the Newsletter and also will be circulated to members of the

IACS in a special announcement.