

CUA STUDIES IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

GENERAL EDITOR

Philip Rousseau, *Andrew W. Mellon Professor
of Early Christian Studies*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Katherine L. Jansen, *Department of History*

William E. Klingshirn, *Department of Greek and Latin*

David J. McGonagle, *The Catholic University of America Press*

Francis Moloney, S.D.B., *School of Theology and Religious Studies*

Timothy Noone, *School of Philosophy*

Michael O'Connor, *Department of Semitic and
Egyptian Languages and Literatures*

INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL BOARD

Pauline Allen, *Australian Catholic University*

Lewis Ayres, *Emory University*

Daniel Boyarin, *University of California, Berkeley*

Gillian Clark, *University of Bristol*

Angelo di Berardino, O.S.A., *Istituto Patristico Augustinianum, Rome*

Hubertus R. Drobner, *Theologische Fakultät, Paderborn*

David W. Johnson, S.J., *Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley*

Judith Lieu, *King's College, London*

Robert A. Markus, *University of Nottingham*

Frederick W. Norris, *Emmanuel School of Religion*

Éric Rebillard, *Cornell University*

John Rist, *University of Toronto*

Linda Safran, *University of Toronto*

Susan T. Stevens, *Randolph-Macon Woman's College*

Rita Lizzi Testa, *Università degli Studi di Perugia*

Michael A. Williams, *University of Washington, Seattle*

AA-6.-712

THE WORLD OF
EARLY EGYPTIAN
CHRISTIANITY

LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND
SOCIAL CONTEXT

Essays in Honor of David W. Johnson



EDITED BY

James E. Goehring and Janet A. Timbie

The Catholic University of America Press
Washington, D.C.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Introduction | ix |
| Abbreviations | xiii |
| David W. Johnson: Publications | xix |

I. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. The Coptic Ecclesiastical History: A Survey <i>Tito Orlandi</i> | 3 |
| 2. Rhetorical Structure in Coptic Sermons <i>Mark Sheridan</i> | 25 |
| 3. <i>Sarabaitae</i> and <i>Remnuoth</i> : Coptic Considerations <i>Monica J. Blanchard</i> | 49 |
| 4. Reading and Rereading Shenoute's <i>I Am Amazed</i> : More Information on Nestorius and Others <i>Janet A. Timbie</i> | 61 |
| 5. Questions and Related Phenomena in Coptic and in General: Final Definitions Based on Boole's Laws <i>Leo Depuydt</i> | 72 |

II. SOCIAL CONTEXT

| | |
|--|-----|
| 6. Earliest Christianity in Egypt: Further Observations <i>Birger A. Pearson</i> | 97 |
| 7. Philo, Origen, and the Rabbis on Divine Speech and Interpretation <i>Daniel Boyarin</i> | 113 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 8. Cannibalism and Other Family Woes in Letter 55 of Evagrius of Pontus <i>Robin Darling Young</i> | 130 |
| 9. The Successors of Pachomius and the Nag Hammadi Codices: Exegetical Themes and Literary Structures <i>Philip Rousseau</i> | 140 |
| 10. Keeping the Monastery Clean: A Cleansing Episode from an Excerpt on Abraham of Farshut and Shenoute's Discourse on Purity <i>James E. Goehring</i> | 158 |
| 11. Illuminating the Cult of Kothos: The <i>Panegyric on Macarius</i> and Local Religion in Fifth-Century Egypt <i>David Frankfurter</i> | 176 |
| Bibliography | 189 |
| Contributors | 211 |
| General Index | 213 |
| Index to Scripture | 225 |

INTRODUCTION

David W. Johnson, S.J., who is being honored by this collection of essays, has a remarkable range of interests. Those who know him can attest to the breadth of his reading: from science fiction to mathematics to the complete works of Barry Gifford. In languages, ancient and modern, his studies have included Russian and Japanese, as well as several languages of the Near East. His teaching and research interests encompass both Coptic and Syriac, and the history of the Christian Near East. But Egypt has been the focal point of his work, so when it was time to ask for written contributions and assemble a collection of essays, it was fitting to make the "language, literature, and social context" of Christianity in Egypt the organizing principle.

The essays that were produced in response to the invitation fall into two broad groups: first, language and literature; and second, social context. Within these groups, a wide range of methods and approaches are used. The tools of modern social science are sometimes in use, as is the application of literary theory to Coptic literature. The same insights in information theory that produced computer design elucidate the structure of the question in Coptic. Traditional methods of manuscript study and translation are also brought to bear on familiar texts to produce surprising new information. It is hoped that the diversity represented in this collection of essays reflects in some small way the tremendous intellectual curiosity and deep knowledge of, and respect for, the achievements of past scholarship on the Christian Near East evidenced in the life and works of the honoree.

Part One, "Language and Literature," includes essays that highlight the strengths of earlier research while providing crucial new information. Tito Orlandi analyzes the Coptic *History of the Church*, isolating the author's par-