



Moftah Coptic Collections at The American University In Cairo

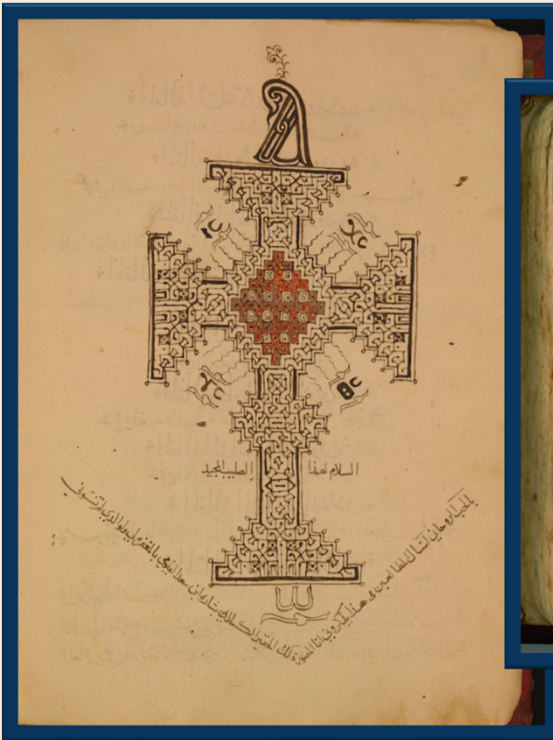
Philip Croom

Associate Dean, Rare Books & Special Collections Library.
The American University in Cairo

MELCOM International
MELCOM International 2019
June 18-20, 2019, Naples, Italy.

S. Abdel Rost.

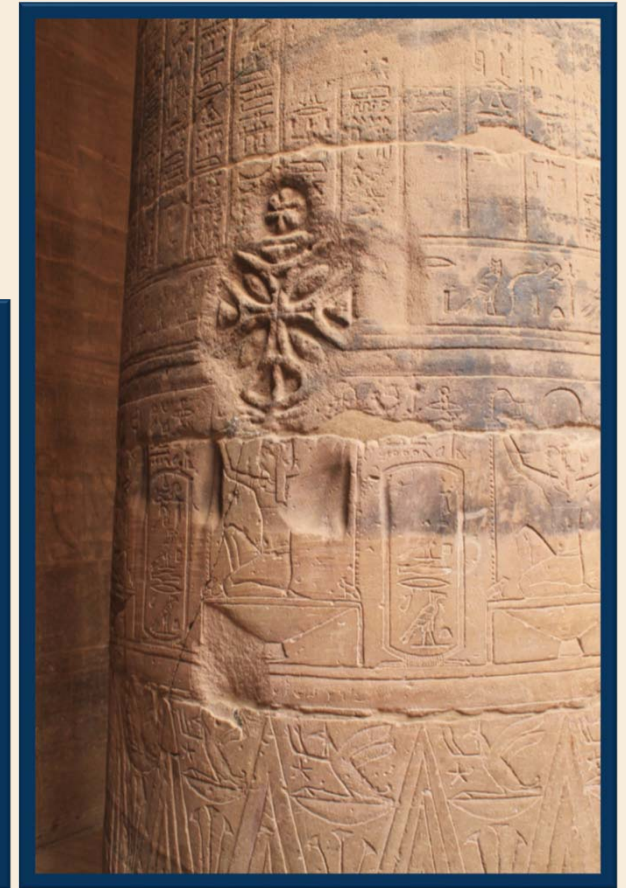
Coptic Language



Frontispiece of Al-Dor al-Muntakhab by Chrysostom, 1844.



13th century Coptic liturgy manuscript, Leiden University Museum



Coptic cross etched over hieroglyphs by early Copts around 500 AD, Isis temple, Philae

Missionary Schools in Egypt



Missionary school for girls, Asyut, 1898,
Underwood & Underwood stereographs, RBSCl

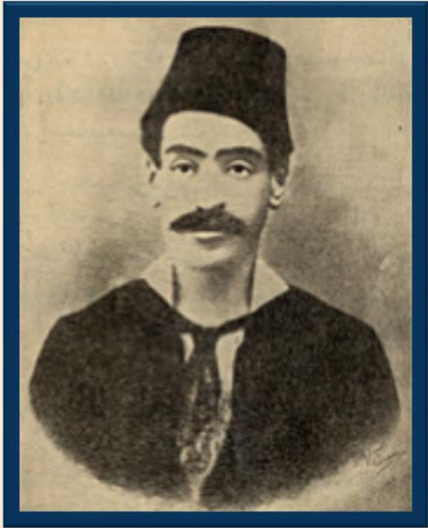


Italian Missionary school in Beni-Suef, Middle Egypt. No date



Missionary school for boys, Asyut, 1898,
Underwood & Underwood stereographs, RBSCl

Moftah Family



Morcos bek Moftah,

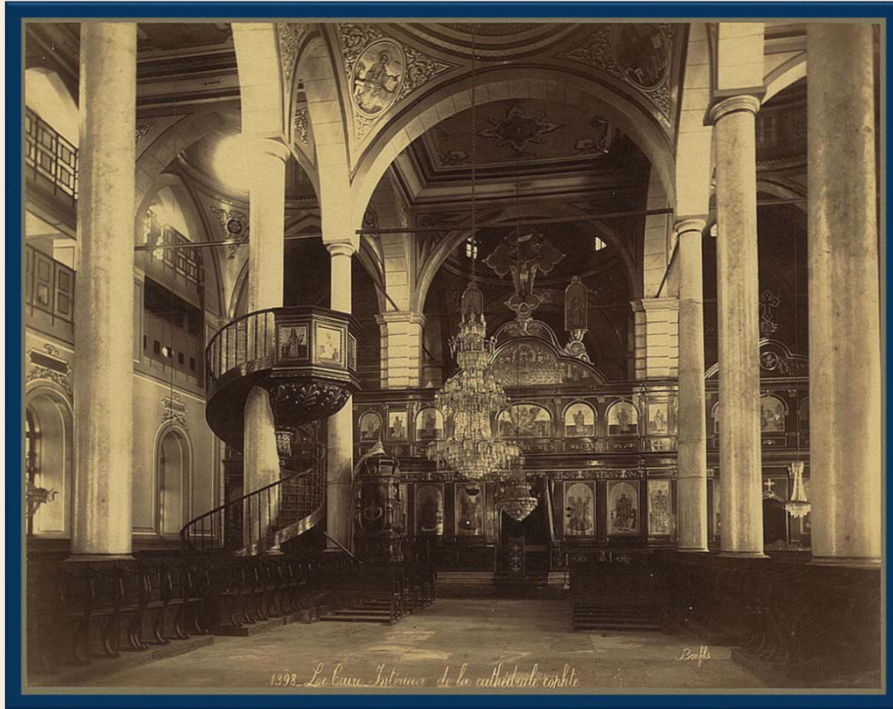


Habashi bek Moftah (1830-1935)



Ragheb Moftah, 1898-2001

Coptic Church Reform



Interior of the Coptic Cathedral in Azbakiyya, Cairo, 1867.



Pope Kyrillos IV, 1854-1861

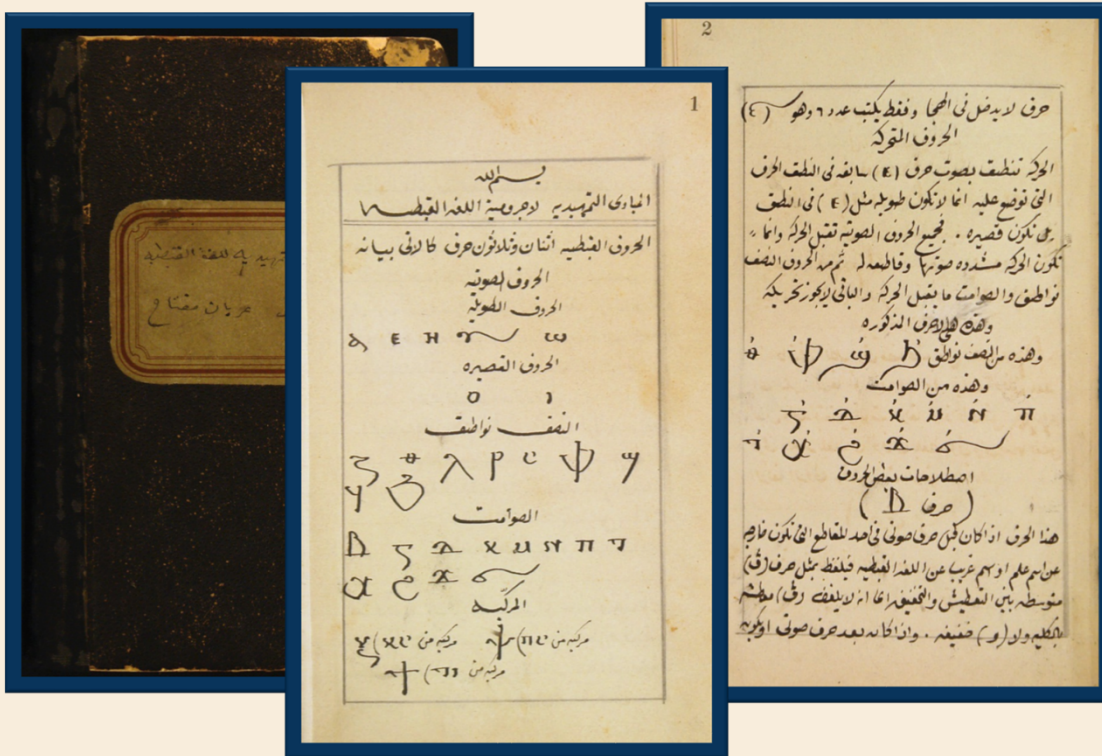
Iryan Moftah 1826-1886



Calculating Coptic Orthodox Easter , Iryan Moftah
Collection

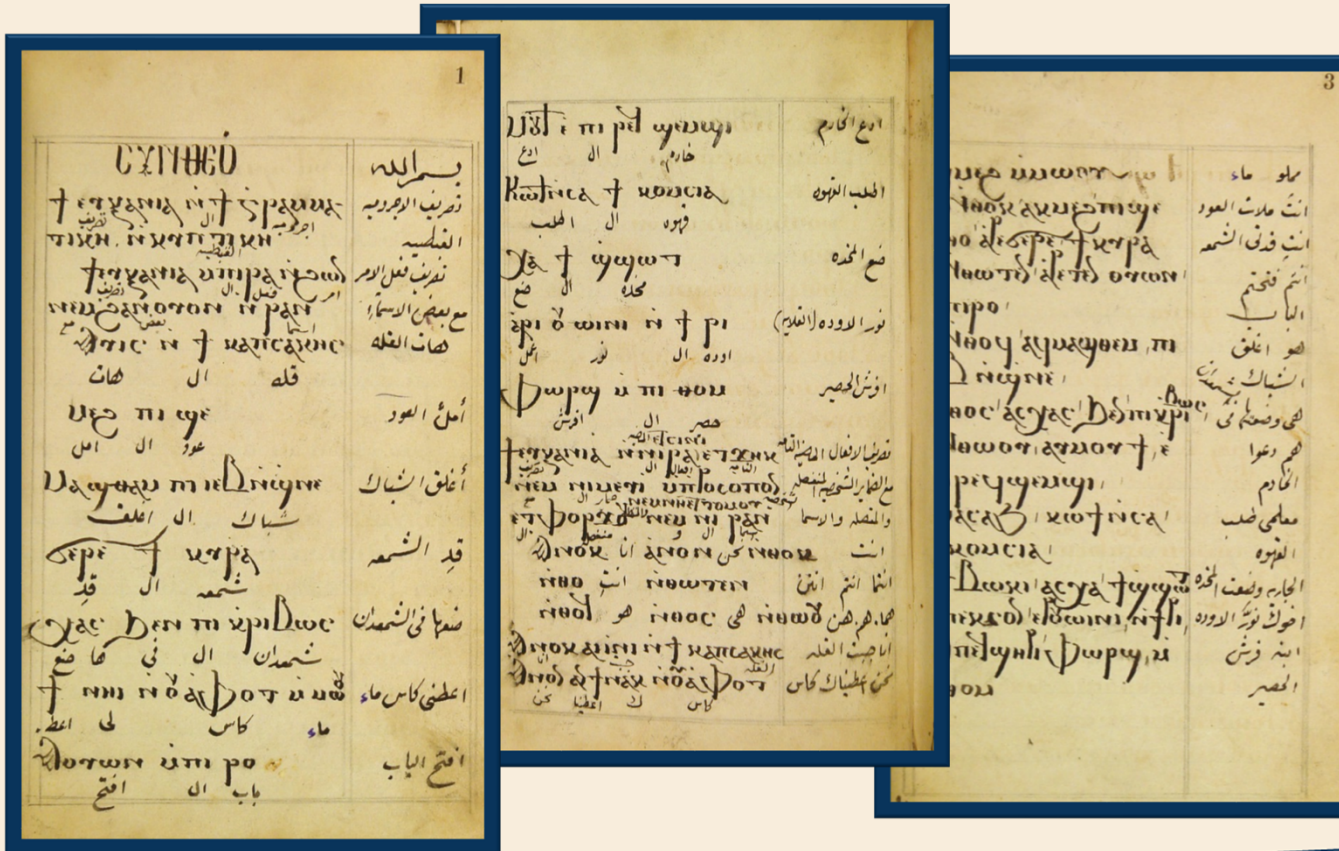
- Appointed instructor of Coptic language at the Coptic Clerical College, founded by Pope Kyrilos IV in 1862.
- Orchestrated replacing of old Bohairic dialect in Church offices and ritual with Greco-Bohairic, which rapidly spread in churches in Cairo, Alexandria and Delta.
- Authored several pedagogy textbooks and manuals of Coptic grammar, of which the AUC Library has three.

Iryan Moftah: Coptic Language Primer



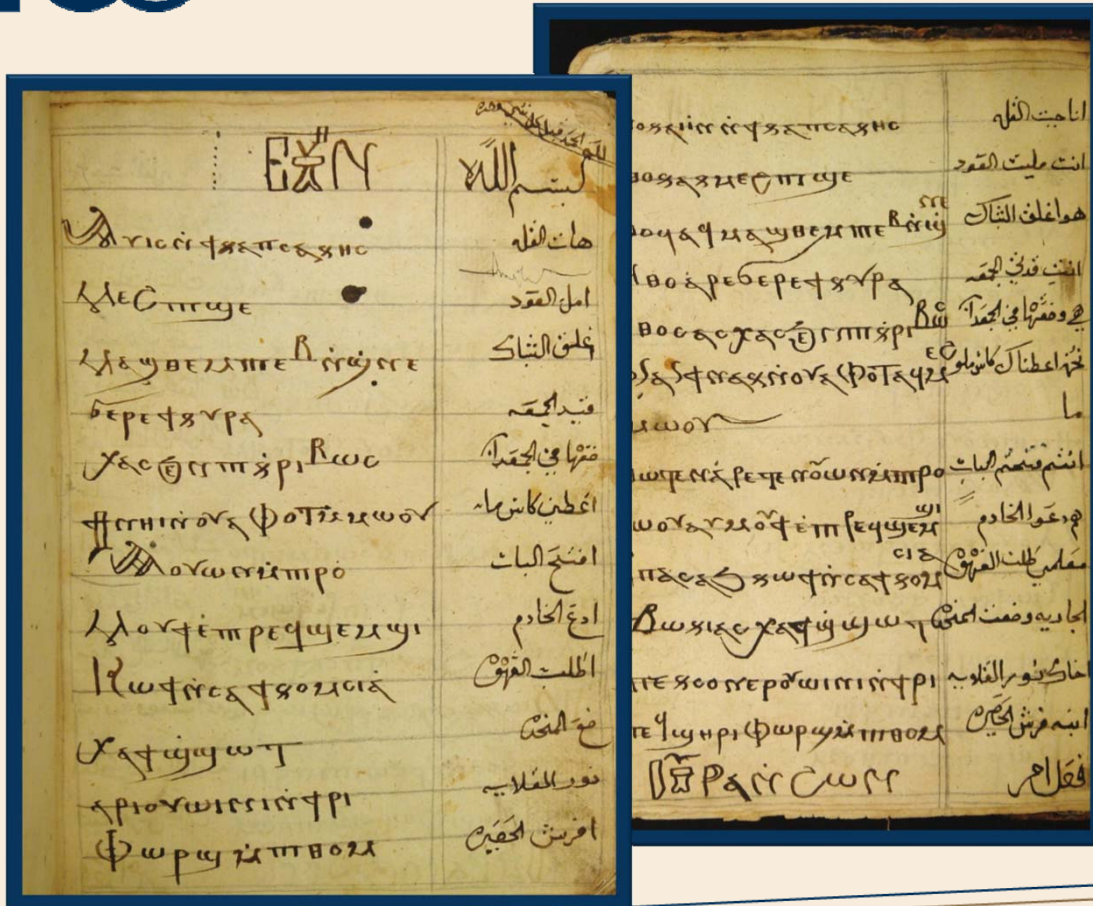
- Introduction to the alphabet, pronunciation and grammar.
- In addition to formation of nouns, adjectives, adverbs and telling time.
- Written for Arabic speakers, most likely for the church clergy and public.
- From the mid-19th century.

Iryan Moftah: Coptic Grammar.



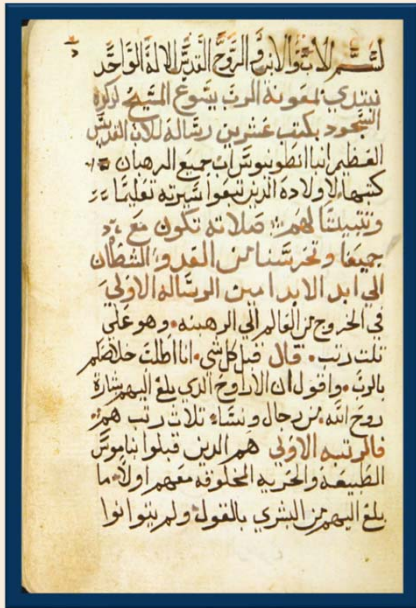
- Lists everyday useful phrases that the schoolchildren need to learn.
- Colloquial Arabic expressions very often used.
- The expressions are categorized under several groups such as 'at home', 'at bedtime', or 'at meals'.

Iryan Moftah: Language Lessons, 1870



- Manuscript contains Coptic grammar and word lists.
- Written by Father Girgis Murqus of Akhmim, showing adoption of Iryan Moftah's language reforms by other Coptic teachers.
- Contains several pages of English phrases with Arabic translation.

Iryan Moftah Manuscript Collection



Letters, Pedagogical Teachings, and Sayings of Saint Anthony of Egypt.



Pentateuch

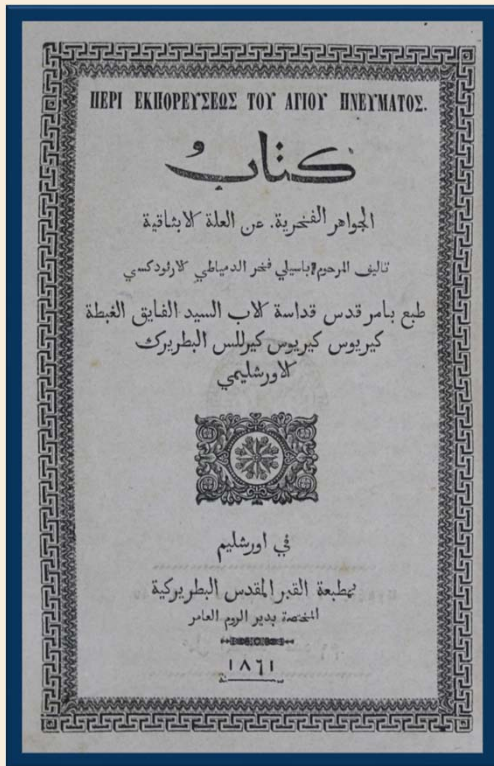


Towards Salvation through Fervent Prayer

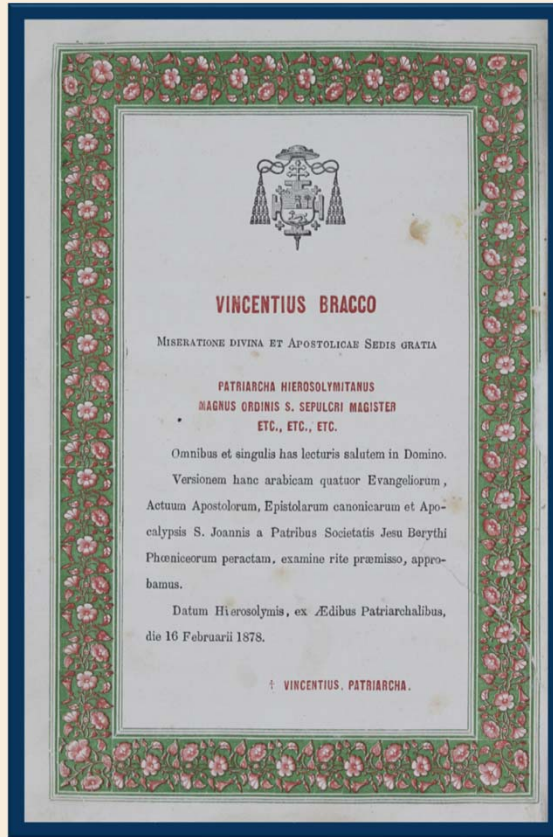


Gospel of Saint Mark

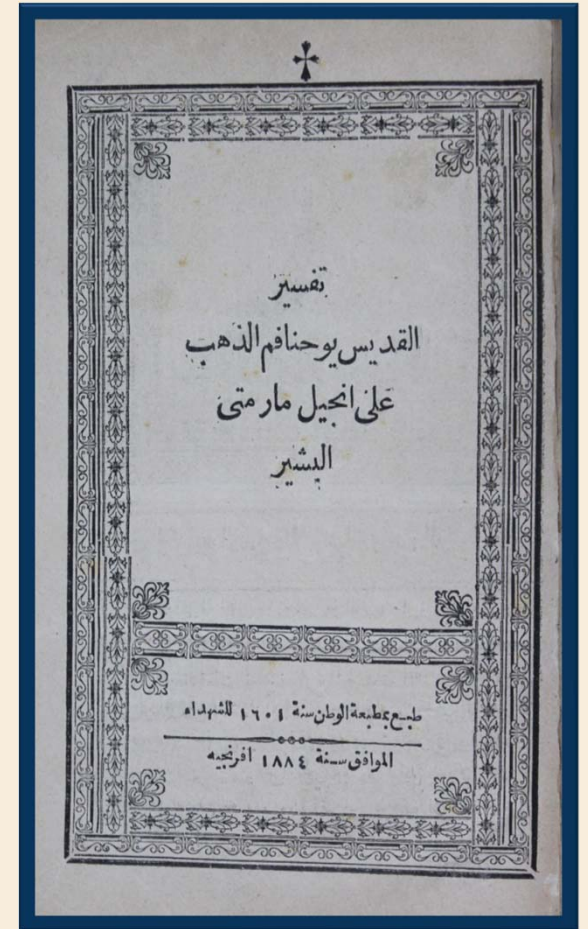
Print Books in Iryan Moftah Library



Kitab al-Jawahir al-Fakhriyah, Jerusalem, 1861

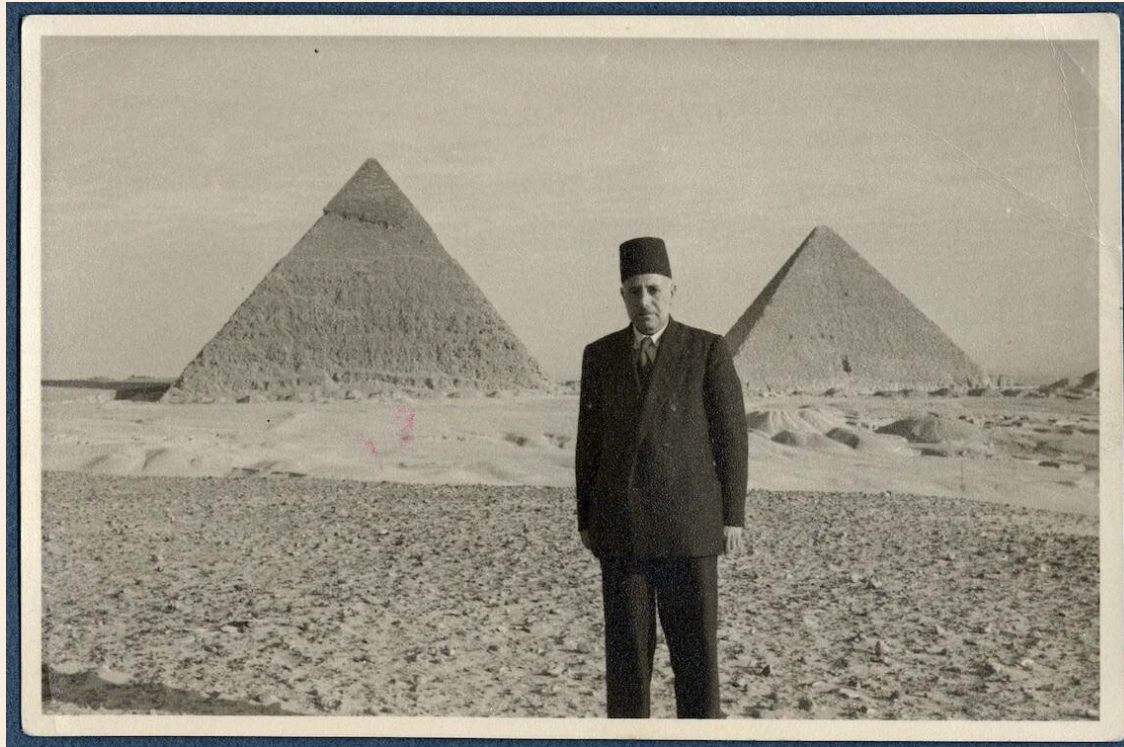


Holy Bible, 1878.



Tafsir al-Qiddis Yuhannah, Cairo, 1885.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



Ragheb Moftah standing in front of pyramids in Giza, ca. 1940s

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



Ragheb Moftah with sister Farida and her husband Dr. Ibrahim Fahmy in Europe, ca. 1930s

Rsgheb Moftah 1898-2001



Hathor holding her sacred sistrum, Temple of Seti I, Abydos



Bronze arched sistrum with three rods, decorated with cats and a Hathor-headed handle, the British Museum.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



The master cantor Muallim Mikhail al-Batanuni, who was sent as a child to visit churches in many towns of Egypt to learn and collect hymns. It was through him that many of the treasures of Coptic hymnology were eventually preserved.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001

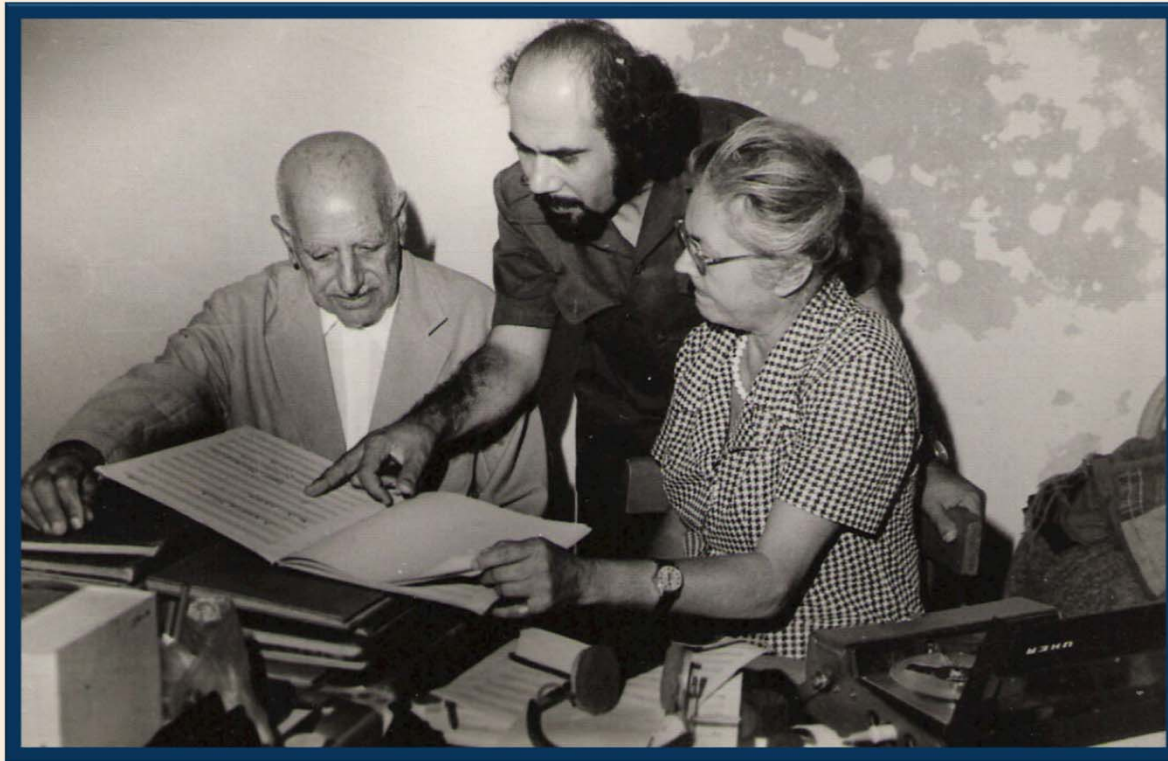


Ragheb Moftah with members of the Coptic choir, Alexandria, ca. 1940s.



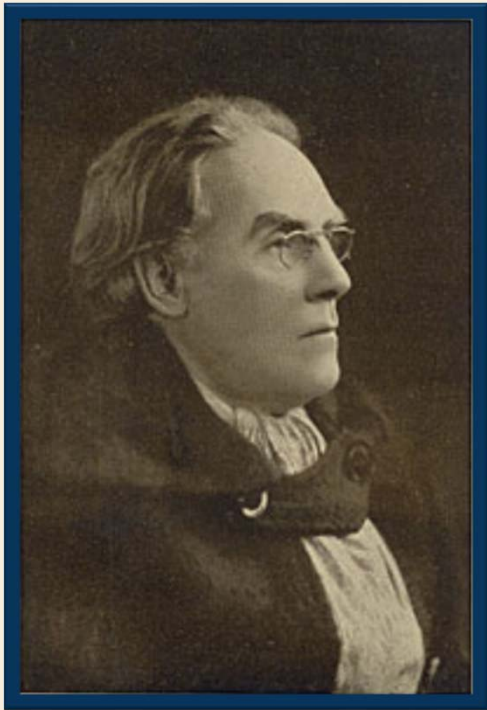
Dr. Ragheb Moftah and the Higher Institute of Coptic Studies Choir at the temple of Horus in Edfu, Upper Egypt.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



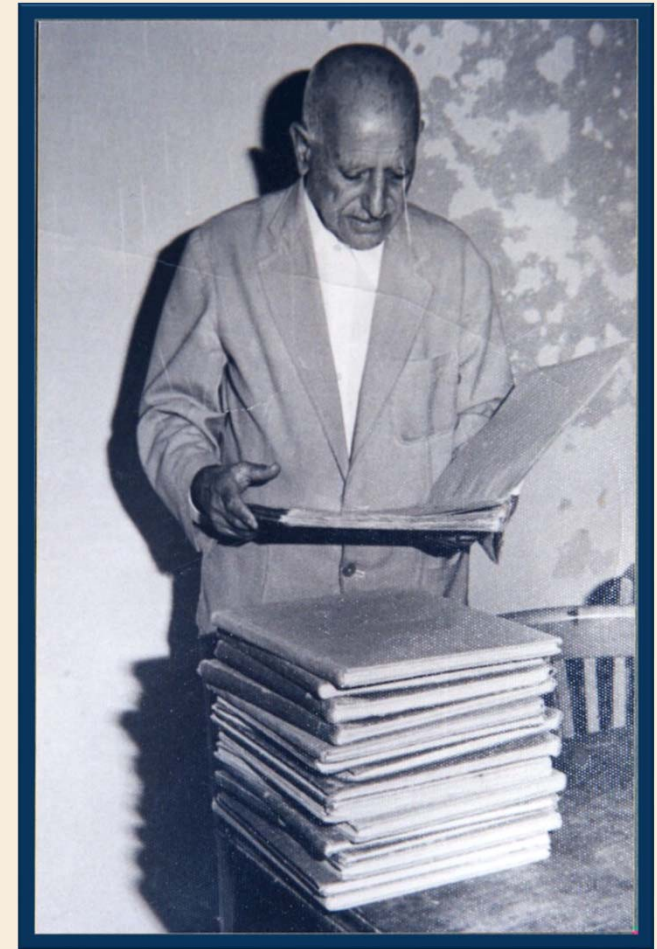
Ragheb Moftah discussing Ernest Newlandsmith's transcriptions with Egyptian musicologist Dr. Adel Kamel, and Hungarian ethnomusicologist Margit Tóth, ca. 1970s.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



Musical scholar Ernest Newlandsmith began notating the music of the Coptic Church in 1927.

Ragheb Moftah reviewing Newlandsmith notations of Coptic hymns, ca. 1970s.



Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001



ReVox quarter-inch reel-to-reel recording equipment.

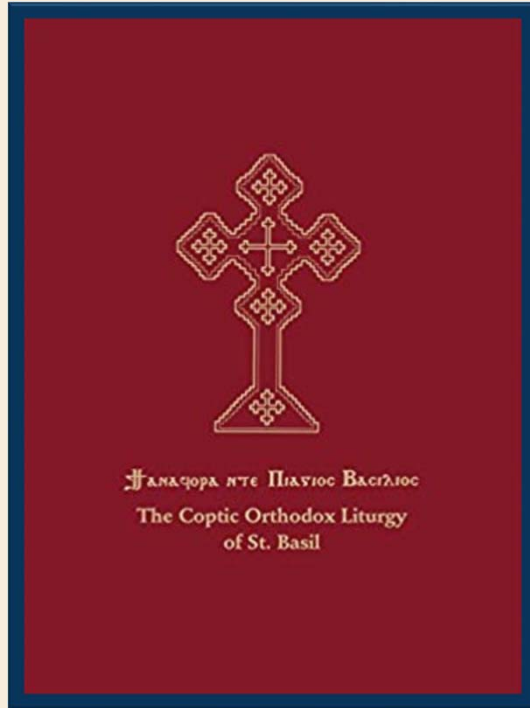


Ampex quarter-inch reel-to-reel recording equipment.



Ragheb Moftah reviews and discusses the Ernest Newlandsmith collection with Margit Tóth, ca. 1970s.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001

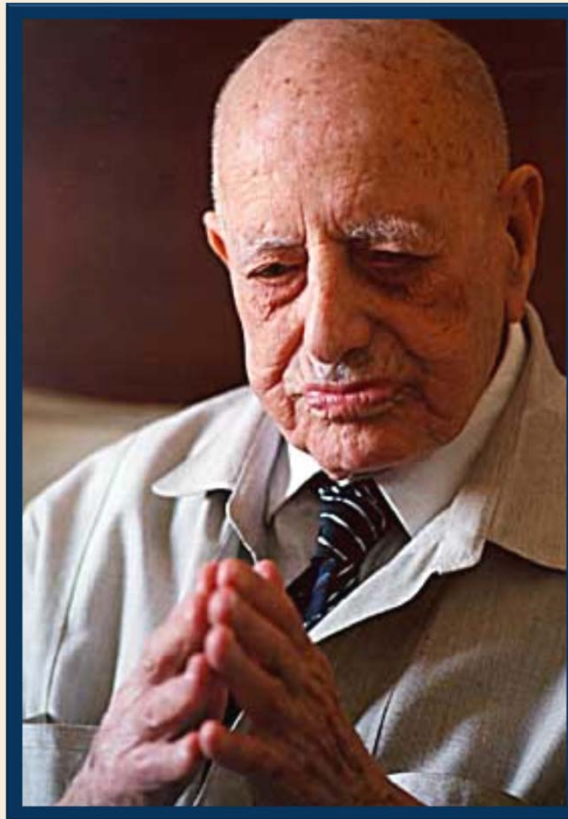


Ragheb Moftah, *The Coptic Orthodox Liturgy of St. Basil with Complete Musical Transcription*, Cairo: AUC Press, 1998.



Ragheb Moftah lectures about Coptic music to members of the Arab Music Conference in Cairo, 1932.

Ragheb Moftah 1898-2001





Additional Resources

- **Iryan Moftah Coptic Language and Religion Manuscripts**
<http://digitalcollections.aucegypt.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15795coll4>
- **World Digital Library.**
<https://www.wdl.org/en/search/?q=Iryan&qia=en>
- **Library of Congress**
<https://www.loc.gov>



Contact me.

Philip Croom

pcroom@aucegypt.edu

AUC Rare Books & Special Collections Library

<http://schools.aucegypt.edu/library/pages/rbscLibHours.aspx>

+202615-3655 (office)



Thank You