

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE TREASURES OF COPTIC ART IN THE COPTIC MUSEUM AND CHURCHES OF OLD CAIRO

## Chapter 1 : Marcus Simaika - Wikipedia

*The most important museum in the world for Coptic antiquities, Egypt's Coptic Museum founded in Old Cairo in houses icons, stone pillars, textiles, incense burners, Bible containers, wall paintings, papyri, wooden altar screens, crosses, and church chandeliers, among other objects.*

The Simaikas prospered in the service of state and church; many served as magistrates. Simaika started his education at St. As was custom at the time, he was chosen by his father to become a priest, as at least one son of the leading Coptic families was destined to priesthood. As a result, his father forbade him to learn English fearing it would detract him from his ecclesiastical studies. Simaika went on a hunger strike until his father gave in and allowed him to study English. In , he became Secretary to the Chairman of the Board. He reorganized the accounts system of the railways, telegraphs and port of Alexandria , rooting out deep-seated endemic corruption and inefficiency. He became the only Egyptian to reach such high rank. Simaika was asked to stay on for another two years to help his replacement, then allowed to retire on an exceptional pension with the addition of eight years to his period of service. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January Learn how and when to remove this template message Simaika was appointed a permanent Member of the Legislative Council of the Khedivate of Egypt from to and was the reporter of the Finance and Budget Committee. He was then re-appointed to the Council from to He became a Member of the Superior Educational Council from to He worked tirelessly on the until his death in He was proposed to be the Coptic minister of the cabinet of Muhammad Said Pasha in During his membership of the Legislative Council, Simaika succeeded in introducing religious instruction for non-Muslim pupils in all government schools. He also succeeded in obtaining grants to all private schools for boys and girls subject to inspection by the Ministry of Education. Coptic Church leadership[ edit ] Simaika was first elected to the General Congregation Council Maglis Milli in at the age of 25 and elected Vice-President of the Maglis from to During this time he had a difficult relationship with the Pope Cyril V. Simaika allied himself with the Maglis reformists in their demand that the Maglis should have more say in the administration of Coptic schools and awqafs religious endowments as well as the personal state laws on divorce and inheritance. It became a show of strength between the Maglis and the Coptic Church hierarchy. This caused a backlash within the Coptic community who thought this was an Anglican plot to take over the Coptic Church. The Pope was subsequently released from exile in and the Maglis dissolved. Simaika was one of only two Maglis hardliners who refused to sign the petition to recall the Patriarch from his desert exile. Soon another Maglis was elected and again Simaika, in spite of opposition from the Patriarch and clergy, was elected a member. This Maglis avoided confrontation and confined their duties to putting the Patriarchal affairs in order. By then, Simaika had matured considerably, and as the seed of an idea of building a Coptic museum had started to germinate, he knew he would need the permission of Pope Cyril V to start this project, and toned down his campaign for communal reform, made his peace with Cyril and as a result was given permission to build the museum on Church premises. Whilst engaged in the repair and restoration of ancient Coptic Churches, Simaika collected a large quantity of carved wood and stone fragments [3] and in thought of starting a small Coptic Museum. In Simaika, in his capacity of Vice-President of the Maglis, found Pope Cyril supervising while a silversmith weighed out old silver Gospel covers and church vessels to be melted for reworking. On closer inspection, he noted that these silver objects belonged to the 14th and 15th centuries and carried Coptic and Arabic inscriptions. He offered to pay the market value of these objects which would be stored in a room that would be the nucleus of the proposed museum. Cyril gave his approval and the Coptic Museum was born. Simaika paid the church a nominal price for objects he selected. A subscription list for the museum was started in January The Coptic Museum formally opened in In at the request of King Fuad I , the Coptic museum was made a State institution with Simaika director for life. Cyril donated the most valuable manuscripts in the

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Patriarchal library, including the four gospels in Arabic, beautifully illuminated. In , Simaika visited the libraries the monasteries and found manuscripts scattered about various cells, exposed to dust and destruction and used to light fires. The libraries of the churches were in not in much better state. Simaika was invited to lecture at Cambridge in , as well as in Berlin and Stockholm on Coptic art and archaeology. Simaika died on 2 October Markus Pasha Simaika founder of the Coptic museum. His life and times. Farid Atiya Press The treasures of Coptic art in the Coptic museum and churches of old Cairo. The American University in Cairo Press. Retrieved 16 January The history and religious heritage of old Cairo. Its fortress, churches, synagogue and Mosque. Coptic Egypt history and guide.

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## Chapter 2 : The Treasures of Coptic Art: In the Coptic Museum and Churches of Old Cairo by Gawdat Gabra

*The Treasures of Coptic Art In the Coptic Museum and Churches of Old Cairo Egypt s Coptic Church is one of the oldest in the world with a cultural tradition dating.*

Gaston Maspero, a French Egyptologist, brought together many pieces in dedicated rooms of the Egyptian museum. In 1893, Marcus Simaika Pasha, having obtained the approval of Patriarch Kyrillos V, succeeded in getting the Coptic Museum built on a plot intended for the construction of a church. The Museum was first inaugurated in 1898, then again in 1904 following restoration. It became a State museum in 1923 and its collections bequeathed by family legacies and donations have continued to grow. In 1954, the Service of Antiquities decided to transfer the totality of the Christian Antiquities exhibited in the Egyptian Museum to the Coptic Museum. Since then, all findings originating in Christian sites have automatically gone to the Coptic Museum. You will find funerary stelae 2nd-5th century from Kom Abou Billou whose style and iconography mark the transition between religious Pharaonic art (Horus falcon, Anubis jackal) and Coptic art (orant with arms raised, crosses, birds symbolising the hoped for resurrection). Thanks to his enthusiasm for Coptic antiquity, he succeeded in his project to create this Museum which links Pharaonic, Greco-Roman and Islamic antiquity. The Museum is located within the walls of the fortress of Babylon, part of the old city walls built by Emperor Trajan in 98 A.D. The Museum occupies an area of 8,000 m<sup>2</sup>, buildings and garden included. Ever since the founder initiated the project, the Coptic community has been active in filling it with precious and rare pieces. Members of the community have sent icons, cloths, manuscripts, priestly garments, frescoes, and wooden panels. Painted wooden ceilings and marble fountains were collected from old Coptic palaces. The sculptures of the 4th and 5th centuries show subjects borrowed from Greco-Roman mythology endowed with Christian symbolism, as in Aphrodite emerging from the waters on a sea-shell, implicitly suggesting re-birth through the baptism of water and the Holy Spirit. A sculpture from Ahnas shows the marriage of Leda, queen of Sparta, with god Zeus in the disguise of a swan, behind them an angel blessing the marriage. From the 6th century onwards, reliefs inspired by scripture multiply: George and other saints on horseback. The examples of woodwork confirm the particular mastery of the Copts in working this warm and vibrant medium: There is a wealth of cloths which highlight a wide diversity of techniques and materials. They cover Biblical subjects as well as scenes from daily life. Ahead of its centenary celebration, the Coptic Museum has been entirely renovated to show off the best of Coptic art and culture. President Hosni Mubarak has taken a strong interest in the Coptic Museum and came in person to inaugurate it on 26th June 1998, along with a hundred leading personalities. The Museum holds a collection of 16,000 works of art, of which 1,000 real treasures are exhibited to the public. It owns 6,000 papyrus manuscripts of which the most important are the Psalms of David and the manuscripts of Nag Hammadi.

## Chapter 3 : Unbelievable treasures - Review of The Coptic Museum, Cairo, Egypt - TripAdvisor

*Egypt's Coptic Church is one of the oldest in the world, with a cultural tradition dating back two millennia, during which time churches have been built and a variety of distinctive art forms have flourished.*

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## Chapter 5 : Coptic Museum - Wikipedia

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### Chapter 8 : The Coptic Museum in Cairo | Egypt

*The world's largest and most exquisite collection of Coptic artifacts is now housed in the Coptic Museum, founded in Old Cairo in Here for the first time, in this lavishly illustrated book, more than one hundred of the greatest treasures of the Coptic Museum have been beautifully photographed to present an overview of this rich artistic.*