



## CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR COPTIC STUDIES

In his opening remarks at the CSCS Annual General Meeting of members Dr. Ramez Boutros, CSCS President highlighted some of the accomplishments of the Society in the past year. Two activities broadened the exposure to Coptic studies. The first was the Fourth Annual Coptic Studies Symposium, Coptic Heritage — Dynamics and Diversity in Ottawa on 26 February 2011 co-sponsored by the University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts, and the Departments of Classics & Religious Studies, and Modern Languages & Literature. Sixty-eight participants, many from the Ottawa region attended a very dynamic and diverse programme of lectures. The second activity was a seminar held in Toronto on April 2, 2011 linking the archaeological work of Professor Michael Gervers titled "Rock-hewn Churches in Ethiopia" and Dr. Boutros' on the "The Re-use of Ancient Rock-Cut Monuments in Egypt." The seminar was well attended by members of the Ethiopian Toronto community. The publication of Volume 2 of the Journal in time for the Fifth Symposium and Volume 3-4 later this year are two more accomplishment. An International Advisory Committee with eight eminent Coptologists was established with the essential task of enhancing the visibility of the Journal vis-à-vis the international community of Coptologists, and to ensure and augment its high scholarly standard. In the same vein, CSCS's membership application was accepted by the International Association for Coptic Studies.

## THE FIFTH ANNUAL COPTIC STUDIES SYMPOSIUM Coptic Heritage: Literature and Continuity - 24 March, 2012

The Fifth Symposium was sponsored by the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies (CSCS), St. Mark's Coptic Museum and the U of T Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. Keynote speaker, Professor Mark Swanson, Harold Volgelar Professor of Christian Museum Studies and Interfaith Relations at the Lutheran School of Theology, opened the day with rather provocative paper titled "In which Language does

the Holy Spirit Speak? On Arabic Language and Coptic Heritage." Professor Swanson gave particular examples of the way that Arabic texts serve the study of specifically Coptic literature, preserve aspects of Coptic history and heritage including the memory of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and engage wider Christian and religious worlds. Thus convincingly making Copto-Arabic studies an indispensable sub-field within the wider Coptic Studies. The seven other speakers were Dr. Anne Moore, Department of Religious Studies, University of Calgary, Dr. Jitse Dijkstra, University of Ottawa Department of Classics & Religious Studies, Dr. Paul Sedra, Simon Fraser University Department of History; Dr. Terence Miosi, Yorkville University, New Brunswick. Three doctoral candidates were also among the speakers: Sabrina

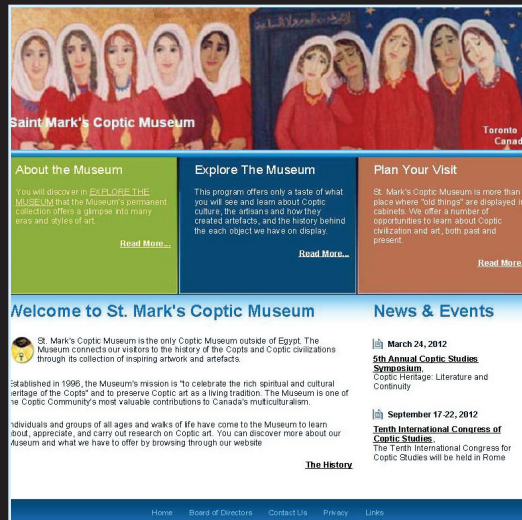
Higgins, University of Ottawa Department of Classics & Religious Studies, Rev. Pierson Shaw, St. Michael's College University (U of T), and Josef Youssef, Department of Anthropology (U of T). The wide scope of Coptic Studies was reflected both from the speakers' range of academic disciplines and the literary sources they investigated which included amongst other, writings of the Church Fathers and scholars, Nag Hamadi codices, papyri. Together their works spanned historical periods from Late Antiquity, to the Islamic period and modern Egypt — all the way to the 25 January 2011 Revolution.

For updates on Coptic Studies and the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies please visit the Museum's website: "Coptic Studies" and "Links," and the CSCS's Facebook.



*Professor Mark Swanson*

# MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



[www.copticmuseum-canada.com](http://www.copticmuseum-canada.com)

Ten grades 1-2 class at St. Mark's Church learned about the Geometric Cross painting by H.H. Pope Macarius III with Marina Saad, class teacher and Museum Volunteer. They were "tested" by filling out a crossword puzzle!



Two workshops in jewellery making were held on February 4 and 11. Stay tuned for follow up workshops!

On April 2, twenty-nine Fifth Grade students and three teachers from St. Ignatius of Loyola, Catholic Elementary School, Scarborough learned about Coptic culture and tradition in the Museum and Church. Children admire the St. Mark's Church dome painting.



## Cecile Barsoum Reference Library

In recognition of Mrs Cecile Barsoum's dedicated service, the Museum's Board of Directors decided to name the Museum's Reference Library: "Cecile Barsoum Reference Library" On the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the commemoration of Mrs Barsoum's passing away, an informal gathering of family members and Museum volunteers heard Father Marcos speak of her dedication and contribution in several areas of the Museum's activities and growth. Among her many contributions, Mrs Barsoum organized and systematised the Museum's Reference Library, she was among the first Volunteers in June 2000 to be trained as Interpreters, and she was on a committee of school teachers that assisted the Museum to reach out to the Public and Catholic School Boards.