

cussion was led by Manuel Sartori and Christian Boudignon (Aix-Marseille University).

The programme of the conference is available at <<http://cpaf.cnrs.fr/IMG/pdf/web-medieval-biblical-manuscripts.pdf>>.

Red.

**L’Africa nel mondo, il mondo in Africa
Africa in the World, the World in Africa
Accademia Ambrosiana, Classis Africana, V Dies Academicus
Milan, 24–25 January 2019**

On 24 and 25 January, Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan hosted a conference entitled ‘L’Africa nel mondo, il mondo in Africa / Africa in the World, the World in Africa’. Convened by Alessandro Gori and Fabio Viti, it took its title from the collection of papers by the Afro-American intellectual William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1965) and aimed at exploring connections between Africa and the Occident, including those witnessed by manuscript traditions.

Thus, the Ethiopian connection to Rome was explored on the basis of manuscripts in the paper ‘An Early Ethiopic Collection on Calendar and Chronology: Between Northern Ethiopia and Rome’ by Denis Nosnitsin (Hamburg). Paul M. Love (Ifrane) focused on the interaction between manuscripts and books at the boundary between the Orient and the Occident in his paper ‘The Charlatan and the Library: At the intersections of manuscripts, colonialism, and Ibadi Muslims in late-Ottoman Cairo’. The role of Timbuktu manuscripts in the transmission of knowledge was, among other things, explored by Shamil Jeppie (Cape Town) in his talk ‘Timbuktu, the world and Africa’.

Full conference programme is available at <<https://www.ambrosiana.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/V-DA-2019-Africana-Locandina.pdf>>.

Red.

**Coptic Literature in Context. The Contexts of Coptic Literature
Late Antique Egypt in a dialogue between literature, archaeology
and digital humanities**

Rome, 25–27 February 2019

From February 25 to 27, 2019, the conference *Coptic Literature in Context. The Contexts of Coptic Literature: Late Antique Egypt in a dialogue between literature, archaeology and digital humanities*, organized in the

framework of the ERC Advanced Grant 2015 ‘PATHs - Tracking Papyrus and Parchment Paths: An Archaeological Atlas of Coptic Literature’ (P.I. Paola Buzi; <paths.uniroma1.it>) was held at the Sapienza University of Rome. Several scholars from all over the world presented their ongoing research in various branches of Coptic studies, including codicology and palaeography, papyrology, literature, history, epigraphy, art, archaeology, and topography.

The conference was also the occasion for the official launch of the Archaeological Atlas of Coptic Literature, <<https://atlas.paths-erc.eu/>>, the main product of the PATHs project, which has reached its ‘mid-term’. Though still in progress, and daily improved and enriched by the project team, the Atlas is now available online for the scholarly community.

At the onset, the wintry climate of February was heated by a warm welcome addresses by Eugenio Gaudio, Rector of Sapienza University, and Gaetano Lettieri, Head of the Department SARAS (Storia Antropologia Religioni Arte Spettacolo).

The first day was entirely devoted to the official presentation of the PATHs project and the tasks of its team members. Paola Buzi gave an introductory speech on the real and imaginary landscapes of Coptic literature. Julian Bogdani illustrated the structure of the online Atlas, a relational database containing thematic sections devoted to Places, Manuscripts, Works, Authors, Titles, Colophons. Nathan Carlig and Francesco Valerio, both in charge of the Manuscript section, presented their researches on Coptic codicology and palaeography (Carlig on the Akhmim papyri, Valerio on the Phantouou Manuscripts). Francesco Berno, responsible of the Authors and Works sections, discussed the new periodization of the Coptic literature as elaborated in the framework of the PATHs project. Agostino Soldati, in charge of the Colophons section, presented an unpublished Sahidic colophon dated to the year 1070 CE, preserved on a parchment bifolium, recently discovered among the Coptic fragments of the Biblioteca Corsiniana (Rome). Angelo Colonna and Ilaria Rossetti, in charge of the Places section, focused on the Coptic archaeological evidence of the Nile Delta. Finally, Ira Rabin and Tea Ghigo illustrated one of the most innovative features of the PATHs project, namely the archaeometric analysis of Coptic inks.

The second day of the conference was devoted to manuscripts and texts, with a specific attention (in accordance with the goal of the conference itself) to their connection with the geographical and archaeological dimensions. Frank Feder, Alain Delattre, and Andrea Hasznos reviewed Coptic manuscripts belonging respectively to Hermopolis Magna, Antinopolis, and Elephantine. Hugo Lundhaug and Christian Bull investigated the monastic setting of the Coptic literary production (Lundhaug of apocryphal literature; Bull

of the Nag Hammadi Codices). Tito Orlandi spoke of the many references to the construction and dedication of churches he picked up in Coptic literary texts. Sofia Torallas Tovar commented on a recently identified papyrus roll containing the Akhmimic version of a Festal Letter delivered by Athanasius of Alexandria. Alin Suciu focused on papyrus or parchment rolls and scrolls, a very intriguing book format, due to its scarce attestation in the Coptic domain. Adam Łajtar and Artur Obluski provided an extremely rich and fascinating overview on the Christian kingdoms of Nubia, paying attention both to the archaeological settings and to the written sources (inscriptions and codices, in Coptic and Greek).

The third and last day of the conference was devoted more specifically to the physical (i.e. archaeological, geographical, and artistic) dimension of Late Antique Egypt. Caroline Schroeder analyzed some space and place names occurring in Coptic literary texts. Gertrude van Loon investigated the 'visual' counterpart of Coptic literature, i.e. the works of art (paintings, reliefs) and their relationship with the corresponding literary narratives. Darlene Brooks-Hedstrom introduced the audience to the everyday life of the Coptic monks, 'reconstructing' a monastic kitchen through a systematic review of documentary and archaeological evidence. Andreas Effland illustrated the transformation of the sacred space of Abydos from the third to the sixth century, at the crossroads of pagan and Christian cults (of course in conflict), using both literary and archaeological evidence. Vicente Barba Colmenero (*in absentia*) and (again) Sofia Torallas Tovar provided a detailed archaeological and epigraphical survey of the Coptic Monastery at Qubbet El-Hawa (Aswan). Finally, Eva Subias presented a new chapter of her ongoing architectural and archaeological research on the Byzantine fortress of Oxyrhynchus.

Three distinguished scholars in the field of Late Antique and Early Christian Studies, namely Gianfranco Agosti, Alberto Camplani, and Emanuela Prinziavalli, acted as chairmen of the conference sections. They animated the lengthy concluding debates, enriched by various competent and sharp discussants, including Lloyd Abercrombie (selected among the participants to the Summer School on Coptic Literature and Manuscript Tradition, held in Hamburg in September 2018), Alessandro Bausi, Heike Behlmer, Paola Moscati, and Ewa Wipszycka. Many undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students attended the conference, hopefully with no less pleasure than profit.

The full conference programme is available at <<http://paths.uniroma1.it/coptic-literature-in-context-the-contexts-of-coptic-literature>>.

Francesco Valerio