

ing. The third volume, and every second one thereafter, will be devoted to a particular theme (e.g., Mamluk architecture, iconography, ornaments, mosques, etc.). The annual will also include bibliographic surveys, field notes, regional news, exhibition reports, museum and university news, and other similar information; and the editors would be pleased to receive items in these categories as well.

For the initial two volumes the Editorial Board is particularly interested in attracting articles on Islamic architecture of the Eastern Muslim world (Indian subcontinent, Indonesia, Malaysia) and on contemporary design and urban problems in the developing Muslim countries.

Articles should be brief (around 30 typed, double-spaced pages) and limited to about 20 illustrations. English will be the primary language of the journal, but French is permitted; languages in other alphabets will be limited to essential use for inscriptions and the like. The deadline for receiving copy for any given volume is September 15.

Inquiries and manuscripts are to be directed to: Professor Oleg Grabar, Editor, *Muqarnas*, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Fogg Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.

#### National Committee to Honor Islam's Fourteenth Centennial

The American non-profit organization, formed to celebrate the 14th centennial of Islam ("Islam Centennial Fourteen"), is publishing a Newsletter in which it describes its activities; and also other organizations' activities, programs, conferences and exhibits on Islam and Islamic culture. To find out about this organization and its Newsletter, write: National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam, 1516 "P" St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

#### Society for Coptic Archaeology at Cairo

Founded in 1934, the Society for Coptic Archaeology is the world's only learned body dedicated exclusively to research and publication in all fields of Coptic studies from antiquity to the present day. The Society's premises in the Abbassiya district of Cairo house a research library of some 10,000 volumes in European languages and Arabic, over 125 past and current periodical titles, off-print and pamphlet collections, and microforms with readers. The physical plant includes administrative offices, library stack areas, and space for readers. Up to now the Society's main goals have been building up its library to serve as a center in which research works can be created and the highest professional standards passed on to students in the field; and publication of a periodical, monograph series, and archaeological reports. The 23rd volume of the Society's *Bulletin* is in press, and the 24th is in preparation—we welcome contributions from *MESA Bulletin* readers! This *Bulletin* now serves as the organ of the International Association for Coptic Studies. Articles cover every branch of research in the Coptic field. The Society's principal monograph series, *Textes et Documents*, concentrates, as its name implies, upon publication of source material and full-length historical studies.

The Society looks back with particular pride on its principal undertaking of fieldwork, the excavation of the Monastery of S. Phoebammon site near Hermonthis (Western Thebes). We earnestly hope to find the funding to undertake the field investigation of two more sites:

- Deir Abu Fana in Middle Egypt, a sizable monastic foundation;
- the systematically untouched mound of Aphrodito (modern Kom Ishqaw) near Assiut, which was the chance find-spot early in this century of our two main collections of Byzantine documentary papyri.

The Society also publishes art historical monographs—contributions to this series are particularly needed—MS. catalogues, especially of libraries of churches and monasteries within Egypt; exhibition catalogues, reference guides, and helps for students (most recently an English translation of Ignazio Guidi's classic Latin *Elementa Linguae Copticae*). An important *desideratum* is an updating with increased accuracy of the by-now classic 1954 *Map of Christian Egypt*, so that sees and sites can be made visible to the student and accessible to the traveler.

The Society participates with special strength in two current international projects, part of today's trend towards the systematization and *Corpus* planning of knowledge in all fields:

- the microfilming of all Coptic manuscripts (and eventually a photographic archive of all works of art as well; and
- the *Coptic Encyclopaedia*, under the editorship of Professor A. S. Atiya at Salt Lake City.

In developing our research library, we hope to reach about the 30,000 volume mark. An appeal to readers: we need to acquire complete sets of Migne's *Patrologia Graeca* and *Latina*, Mansi's *Concilia*, the *Acta Sanctorum*, and the *Bonner Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*. Interested institutions or individuals please get in touch with me at the Society, 222 Sharia Ramses, Cairo, Egypt.

Second, we are trying to find financial support for a fellowship program, to offer some six fellowships a year in classical (to 750), medieval and modern Coptic studies, in order to train future generations of scholars according to rigorous professional standards and to provide them with a rich and supportive place in which to carry out their research projects. We earnestly hope that funding for this program will be found.

And third, we plan most immediately a full series of 6 to 10 public lectures each academic year by staff and visiting scholars—possibly augmented, we hope, by small annual spring symposia organized around a topic or theme; and gladdened by small concerts of Renaissance, Baroque and Oriental music, such things as, in the words of the Dumbarton Oaks inscription, "have their place in the humanist order of life."

The Society for Coptic Archaeology welcomes readers of the *MESA Bulletin* on their visits to Cairo, and encourages them to apply for library readership and to use the library's facilities and those of the Cairo Center of the International Association for Coptic Studies (on the Society's premises, reference division) for any of their research work involving fields in which we operate. We encourage collaboration between Coptologists and Near East, Byzantine, Late Antique and Classical specialists of every stripe, in order to make this field that we love not only the continuation, but also the birthplace of a proud tradition. For information, contact: Leslie S.B. MacCoull, Librarian, Society for Coptic Archaeology, 222 Sharia Ramses, Abbassiya, Cairo, Egypt.

#### Society for Mediterranean Studies

The aim of this Society is to foster the consciousness of a unified Mediterranean civilization and to study all aspects of cross-cultural views of the underlying structure in the Mediterranean basin.

The interest of the Society is, first and foremost, scholarly and academic, with special interest in the interdisciplinary study of a diversity of fields in the Mediterranean world.

The Society includes scholars whose expertise covers the fields