

81. M. Chr. Arab. 61 (Coptic-Arabic 2; Cat. 22)

Contents: Ritual of Consecration of a new Church in Coptic and Arabic; Egypt, 1308 A.D. This manuscript is of importance for the development of the Coptic liturgy.²⁴

Folios: 259 fols. (257 of text); paper, 23.5 x 16.5 cm.

Ruling: Two columns; 20 lines per page.

Script: Clear script in black ink for both Coptic (in the left column) and Arabic (in the right column, occupying a smaller space) with red decoration and punctuation.

Quiring: Quinions: 35 x 5, 5(-1). Quires are marked at the beginning and end with interlace crosses at the top of the page and are numbered at the top right of the recto.

Illustration: In black, red and yellow. Fol. 3v: full-page cross frontispiece (plate 14). Fol. 4r: rectangular headpiece (plate 14). Fol. 44r: canopied headpiece precedes the Old and New Testament Biblical lessons. Fol. 203v: circular/triangular decorative full-page motif (plate 15). Fol. 204r: canopied frontispiece indicates the opening of the Ritual of the Consecration of the Altar (plate 15). There are marginal bird and foliage ornaments, also in black, red and yellow and capital letters are filled in with red and yellow.

²⁴ See bibliography below; on the wider question of the Coptic consecration rite see R.-G. Coquin, 'La consécration des églises dans le rite copte; ses relations avec les rites syrien et byzantin', *l'Orient Syrien* 9 (1964), 149-87.



Plate 15. No. 81
(M. Chr. Arab. 61).
 Ritual of Consecration
 of a new church in
 Coptic and Arabic.
 Fols. 203v-204r:
 geometric motif and
 headpiece, over the
 beginning of the
 bilingual text.
 Egypt, 1308.

Binding: 19th century, of pale brown leather stamped front and back.
 Provenance: According to the colophon (fols. 256v-257r), the manuscript was written in 1024 A.M./1308 A.D. at the time of John, Coptic Patriarch of Alexandria, by a priest-monk from the monastery of St. George of Tura. It was given to the Bishop of Salisbury, John Wordsworth, in 1899 by the Coptic Patriarch Kyrillos, in Cairo, according to the dedication in Arabic and English on fols. 202v-3r. (John Wordsworth was also the owner of MS Mingana Greek 3, no. 87 below).

Bibliography: Mingana, *Catalogue* II, 26-29; G. Horner, *Service of the Consecration of Church and Altar*, (London, 1902), uses this text. The Introduction opens with a 'Note by the Bishop of Salisbury' (pp. v-viii); this is John Wordsworth to whom the manuscript was given in Egypt, on condition that its text be published in English. This is followed by the description of the MS (pp. ix-xiv) and the 'Translation of the Coptic Prayers and Rubrics' (pp. 1ff). R.-G. Coquin, *Livre de la consécration du sanctuaire de Benjamin* (Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire, Bibliothèque d'Études Coptes, t. XIII, Cairo, 1975), 61 compares it with MS Abu Maqar b. 207 of A.D. 1348.