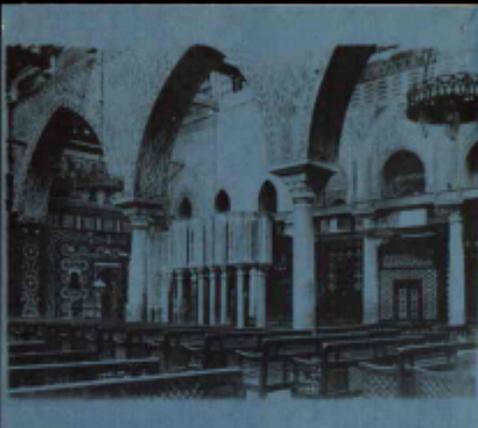




**CHRISTIANITY**

**in EGYPT**





*Interior view of the Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, known as 'the Suspended' (Al-Mu'allaqah) - Old Cairo.*

*High altar of the Church of Abû Sargah - Old Cairo.*



# Egypt

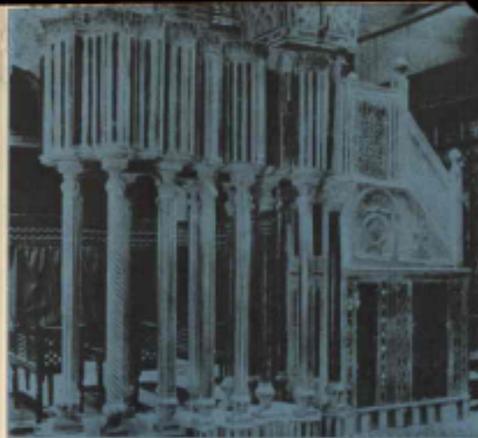
is justly famous for the great and wonderful remains of her ancient civilization. The life of Egypt did not end with the last of the Pharaohs; her spiritual and artistic evolution continued long after the old religion, which had inspired such splendid monuments, lost its appeal and its devotees.

Saint Mark is believed to have brought Christianity to Egypt. There it spread and flourished. Alexandria became, with Rome and Constantinople, one of the three centres of the Christian world. In modern times, beside the Coptic or Egyptian Church, other Christian denominations, Catholic and Protestant, Greek and Armenian, have settled in Egypt.

Monasticism was born in the deserts of Egypt. Saint Anthony was perhaps the first, certainly the greatest of the hermits; the monastery named after him still stands in the wild hills of the Red Sea coast. There and in other centres monastic institutions were developed; they spread from Egypt to Europe and later blossomed into the hundreds of Orders known all over the world.

You may see in Egypt many monuments of the Christian age; monasteries and churches founded fifteen centuries ago still open their doors to the devout or the curious.

*The domes of the Church of the Apostles in the Monastery of Saint Anthony, in the Arabian Desert, near the Red Sea.*



*Interior view of the Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, Al-Mu'allaqah - Old Cairo.*

*Ivory Cross inlaid in ebony (Abu Seifein).*





A general view of the Monastery of Saint Paul on the Red Sea.



Tower in the Monastery of Saint Paul



Al-Baramou Monastery in Wadi Natrun.



Dome of Dair Al-Baramou - Wadi Natrun.



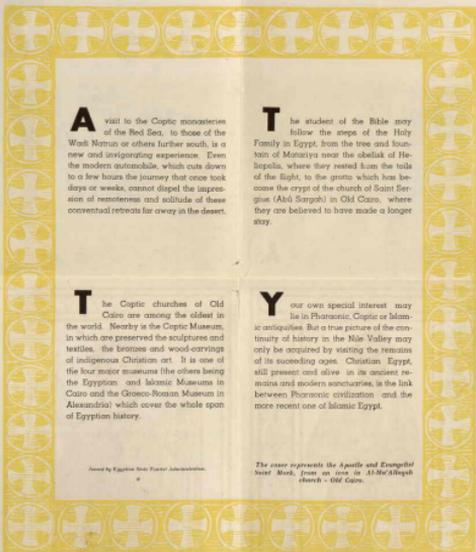
The Hall of Columns - Coptic Museum.



A view of the church of Abi Sargah - Old Cairo.



The Virgin's Tree of Materiya



**A** visit to the Coptic monasteries of the Red Sea, to those of the Wadi Natrun or others further south, is a new and invigorating experience. Even the modern automobile, which cuts down to a few hours the journey that once took days or weeks, cannot dispel the impression of remoteness and solitude of these converted retreats far away in the desert.

**T**he Coptic churches of Old Cairo are among the oldest in the world. Many in the Coptic Museums in which are preserved the sculptures and statuettes, the bronzes and wood carvings of indigenous Christian art. It is one of the four major museums (the others being the Egyptian and Islamic Museums in Cairo and the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria) which cover the whole span of Egyptian history.

Adapted by Egyptian State Tourist Administration.

**T**he student of the Bible may follow the steps of the Holy Family in Egypt, from the tree and fountain of Materiya near the obelisk of Heliopolis, where they rested from the trials of the flight, to the grove which has become the crypt of the church of Saint Sergius (Abi Sargah) in Old Cairo, where they are believed to have made a longer stay.

**Y**our own special interest may lie in Pharaonic, Coptic or Islamic antiquities. But a true picture of the continuity of history in the Nile Valley may only be acquired by visiting the remains of its succeeding ages. Christian Egypt, still present and alive in its ancient remains and modern architecture, is the link between Pharaonic civilization and the more recent one of Islamic Egypt.

The cover represents the Apostle and Evangelist's head Mark, from an icon in Al-Baramouh church - Old Cairo.

Printed by A. Abou

Old Cairo.



Antioch Bishop Monastery - Wadi Natrun.



A view of Al-Baramou Monastery Wadi Natrun.



Saint Paul's Monastery on the Red Sea.



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