

ΠΑΠΑΝΤΑΡΧΙΟΥ ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΡΟΛΟΓΟΣ
ΠΙΣΩΤΩΣ ΕΓΧΟΣΙ ΜΝΗΣΘΩΤΙ ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΡΩ

Institute of Coptic Studies

Anba Rueiss Deir, Ramses Avenue

Abbassiya Cairo, EGYPT (A. R. E.)

Tel. 822920

Cable : ANBRUEISS, Cairo

Date 2 / II / 1976
/ / 16

Dear Sir,

We have had formerly the occasion to get into connection with you through Prof. John Gillespie of Santa Barbara, U.S.A., about a very important subject, namely, that of the Coptic Church music which is a very ancient traditional music. It does not only go back to the first Christian era, but according to the researches of many scholars such as H. Hickmann, P. Ménard, H. Farmer, C. Sachs, J. Gillespie, etc. its roots certainly go back to the ancient Pharaonic music. Indeed, with regard to its great antiquity, we may consider that this music is the oldest music which still survives from the Ancient World up to the present day.

Signor Rodolfo Siviero of the Accademia della Arti del Disegno, Via Orsanmichele 4, Firenze, who had recently the opportunity to hear some of the recordings of this music, said at once that this music is a legacy for the whole world, and he added "I will write to the UNESCO to recommend it to take an interest in it".

This music consists of a large quantity of hymns and chants of which we are sending to you samples in transcription in musical notations and in sound recordings.

The history of the transcription of this music goes back to a hundred and fifty years ago, but many scholars, owing to different reasons, have failed to transcribe it correctly; and now after efforts which took more than forty years to complete this task, I am sure that the mentioned samples will greatly satisfy you.

This music is quite different from the present day oriental music, and it applies itself to westerns and occidentals. Nowadays, many scholars in Europe, America and Japan are studying it with great interest.

I hope that you will kindly recommend it to the UNESCO for publication. The first book will contain the chant of the Liturgy of Saint Basil with a Supplement for the hymns belonging to it.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

/Ragheb Moftah/
Director of the Dept. of Music

Philox the alexandrian philosopher ^{the middle of} of the 1st century
mentioned that the new ^{christian} community ⁱⁿ Alexandria ~~had~~
the ~~the~~ ^{an} ~~and~~ ^{use to} ~~application~~ ^{of the gospels} ~~to~~
their new worship. ^{the chanting}

belonging to it about 300 pages of music and 300 pages of
text. We propose that the music should be printed in
Budapest Hungary and the texts in Cairo.

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to the great antiquity, we may consider that this music is the oldest music
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Simon Hobollé director of the Académie de la Musique de Paris
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With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,
Armand Wolfson

Armand Wolfson
Director of the Dept. of Music