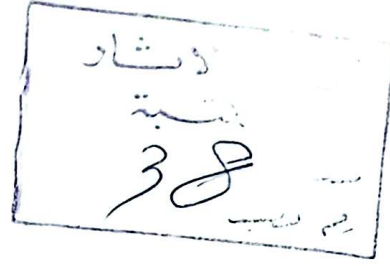


Cairo University
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“Study of Some Coptic Papyri in The Coptic Museum”

Thesis submitted for M.A. Degree in Egyptology
Faculty of Archaeology
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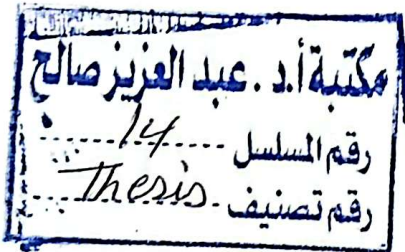
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Abstract:

This thesis was divided to an introduction and four chapters.

An Introduction: *The Coptic language*

This is a general introduction about Coptic language, which is used to refer to the last stage of the ancient Egyptian language. Then the characters of the ancient Egyptian language are explained. the kinds of the scripts and the times of the ancient Egyptian language are briefly mentioned.

After that I mentioned the importance of the Coptic language, the reasons of the disappearance of the Coptic language from public use and the time and how the Egyptian people invented the Coptic script and how the early Christian proselytizers in Alexandria employed the Coptic in the end of the second century A.D. as a way of presenting the Bible to the Egyptian masses.

Chapter I: *The Coptic Manuscripts*

The Egyptians were perhaps the first to manufacture paper; in this chapter I divided the Coptic Manuscripts to two parts:

- 1) The material (Papyri, Parchment and Paper)
- 2) The texts (Literary manuscripts, Sub-literary manuscripts and Non-literary manuscripts)

Chapter II: The Manuscript No. 3530

The Coptic Museum purchased this papyrus from a called dealer Kamal Abd-Allah in 1937, the contents of this text is a private letter. In all texts I focus in reading, translate and grammatical and cultured comments. In this text I focus on the formula of the Coptic letter especially introduction, greetings and address formulas. Then I made some classifications for the Egyptian proper names in this period.

Chapter III: The Manuscript No. 4057

This papyrus was transferred from the Egyptian Museum to the Coptic Museum in 1939, the contents of this text is also private letter. This was a big surprise since the papyrus belongs to Archive of Dioscuros of Aphrodito (Kom Ishkaw). Moreover, this letter is very important and interesting for many reasons among which: The letter belongs to one of the most well known Greek-Coptic Archive, The dialect of the letter is interesting because of its being irregular, in its omission, addition and metathesis of the letter h. and The address is written in Greek.

Chapter IV: Three fragments Nos. 3418, 2677, 3376

In this chapter, there are three fragments: a contract and two private letters. The first fragment is a contract; the Coptic Museum purchased it from Al-Bahnasa dealer Mahmoud Ali in 1935. The contract is dealing with money matter, although this contract is small fragment, but well-known expressions and formulas of Coptic contract are used.

The second fragment is a private letter, its provenance is unknown and its dialect is Sahidic with some incorrect spelling and Fayoumic influences, there are some words, which are not clear because of the bad condition of the papyrus. May be this letter is dealing with a money matter.

The third fragment is a private letter, was purchased from Al-Bahnasa dealer Mahmoud Ali in 1937, its dialect is Sahidic, and the papyrus is in very bad condition. The letter is about an agricultural matter and deals with a agricultural productions.

Table of contents

Acknowledgement:	iv
Preface:	v
List of abbreviations:.....	viii
List of plates:.....	x
Introduction:.....	1
The Coptic language	
Chapter I:.....	17
The Coptic Manuscripts	
Chapter II:.....	37
The Manuscript No. 3530	
Chapter III:.....	53
The Manuscript No. 4057	
Chapter IV:.....	68
Three fragments:	
The Manuscript No. 3418	
The Manuscript No. 2677	
The Manuscript No. 3376	
Conclusion:.....	85
Terminology Glossary:.....	91
Indexes:.....	103
Bibliography:.....	113
Plates:.....	128