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MIDDLE ARABIC IN A COPTIC-ARABIC MANUSCRIPT
IN THE
"RÖHSSKA KONSTSLÖJDMUSÉET", GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN

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In 1927 the "Röhsska Konstslöjdmuséet" in Göteborg received a Coptic-Arabic manuscript as a gift from the late Sigfrid Lindstam who probably had bought it in Istanbul in 1911 or 1912.¹ The manuscript has the designation RKM 32-27.²

The manuscript contains the Coptic text of the baptismal ritual of the Coptic Church with an Arabic translation.³ It consists of 103 folios. It is written by two hands. Hand A uses a neat and easily legible *nasxī* script while hand B is much cruder and clumsier. Hand B has written folios 18, 41-44, 63 and 76-83 which obviously replace the corresponding folios belonging to hand A which have been worn out. The manuscript, which is bound in a codex, shows traces of at least two mendings where the folios by hand A have been cut out and glued to new strips of paper in the inner margins. The manuscript is rather worn especially in the beginning and it is also stained by water in the folios containing the texts for the consecration of the baptismal font.

Apart from the priestly readings and prayers belonging to the ritual the ms. also contains two sermons in rhymed prose, one of which is ascribed to al-Ṣafī b. al-^cAssāl (95v).⁴

It is clear that hand B has written both the Coptic and the Arabic while this is less obvious with hand A. The Arabic stands on the right side of the page in a rather narrow column.

D a t i n g

The ms. contains two colophons by hand A which run as follows:

ατε شم وكمل ذلك في خامس عشرين هاتور سنة ١٣٥٥ (15r)

"So this was completed on the 25th of Hatūr in the year 1305."

(93v) ثم وكمل ذلك في يوم الثلثا المبارك
 ثامن عشرين شهر كيهك المبارك
 سنة ٩٣٤ للشهداء الاطهار السعدا
 الايرار رزقنا الله تعالى بركاتهم امين

"So this was completed on the blessed Tuesday, the 28th of the blessed month of Kīhak in the year 1305 of the pure, blessed and pious martyrs. May God grant us their blessings! Amen."

The year 1305 according to the Coptic "Era of the Martyrs" is 1589 A.D. and the months Hatūr and Kīhak correspond to November and December.⁵

It may be supposed that the ms. was written in Egypt. The earliest ms. of this content noted by Graf is from 1307.⁶ The great bulk of Coptic-Arabic texts is from the 12th century and later.⁷ Blau's studies on Christian and Jewish Middle Arabic are based on texts from the 9th to the 13th centuries while the material used by Knutsson starts in the 14th century.⁸ Egyptian Middle Arabic material has been studied by Blau (13th century) and Davies (17th century). Recently a Muslim Egyptian text from the 14th century has been published with notes on Middle Arabic elements by Lundén.⁹ In the present study special reference will be made to the parallels with Middle Arabic and Egyptian origin.

The homily ascribed to al-Ṣafī b. al-^cAssāl in the ms. is also found in two mss. in the Vatican Library from the 16th and 17th centuries.¹⁰ This sermon was thus a part of the baptismal liturgy at least from the 16th century. The oldest version of the homily may be as early as the 13th century, i.e. when al-Ṣafī was still alive.¹¹ The letters in the two sermons, which are in Arabic only, are somewhat larger than in the sections translated from the Coptic and they are also written with a slightly thicker pencil. This is explicable by the more ample space available to the writer when he did not have to pay regard to the Coptic text. The handwriting is in all other details identical with hand A. The second colophon concludes the homily of al-Ṣafī.

The Middle Arabic of the ms.

As pointed out by Blau, the term Middle Arabic is most properly used as a designation of the kind of Arabic found in several medieval Arabic texts which show influences from a colloquial of more or less the same type as the modern Arabic dialects.¹² Middle Arabic is thus not the Arabic spoken in the Middle Ages but the language found in the texts, which hovers between Classical Arabic, the colloquial and pseudocorrections. From this point of view, the present ms. is of a clearly Middle Arabic type, showing many of the elements de-

scribed by Blau and others. The study of Middle Arabic is a part of the study of Arabic diglossia in general. A distinction should thus be made between the description of this diglossia at different stages of the history of Arabic and between the problem of the origin of the diglossic situation. From this point of view all periods of Arabic deserve to be investigated. This also holds for "the dark centuries" after 1500 where Knutsson's study is the main contribution. The investigation of Arabic diglossia has, in general, been concentrated on the present century and the earliest Islamic period.

H A N D A

Vocalisation and diacritical points

The ms. is furnished with vowel signs. This is, however, a pseudovocalisation since the *fatha* sign is used almost always, even in cases which should have *kasra* or *ḍamma*, e.g. بِالْعُلُومِ (94r) الدِّينِ (ibid.) "religion". In a few words the *ḍamma* is used correctly, e.g. شُم (15v). Only once a *maḡhūl* form is marked: تُغْلَبُ (88r) "it is defeated", cf. سَتَرْتُ (35) "it was hidden".

The *sukūn* is never used. The *šadda* occurs consistently only in the word اللّٰه (29v, 36r, 38r, 51v), and once in اَمَّا (48v).¹³ The perpendicular *ʿalif* is not used.

The *tanwīn* is consistent only with the accusative ending ۛ.¹⁴ The genitive *-in* is written in a few cases: كل ذكۛر (5r) بحرقة (29v), but mostly left unmarked, e.g. الى مياه طوه (69r). The nominative *-un* is never found written with *tanwīn*. Worth noting is the spelling of a participle III يآق وانت باق (4r). This is the only case of the indeterminate state of a root of this kind in the ms.¹⁵

The *madda* is used with the ending -آ but not consistently: للشهداء (93v) but للشهداء (ibid.). The long -ā- is sometimes spelt with *madda* also when not final: جآو (5r). One may note the spelling جآوآ (6r) "they came".¹⁶

The *alif otiosum* is missing in جآو above. On the other hand, it is once written in a non-finite form: بآاء مملوا (96r) "with a filled vessel".¹⁷

The distinction between final *yā* and *ʿalif maqṣūra* is not made. Thus the endings -ī and -ā are indiscriminately written *yā* as *mater lectionis*, sometimes with the diacritical points and sometimes without them, no principle in the spelling being apparent. Thus, e.g., the relative particle الذي، التي is spelt with ي 26 times in the first 40 folios, and with ى 18 times. The preposition الى is written الي 7 times, but without the two dots three times only. Spel-

lings like يري for *yārā* (6r) موسي for *mūsā* (5r) ابتي (49r) and مفي (47v) for *'ibtadā* and *maqā* should also be noted. On the other hand, there are spellings like الحقيقي (8v, 13r) and المشقى (ibid.) (for المشتقى).

The same inconsistency in the use of the diacritics is found in the spelling of final *-ay*. Thus لكي (6r) but لکی (8v, 9v). It should be remarked that this haphazard use of the diacritical points occurs only with final *yā*.¹⁸

Hamza. The *hamza* sign is extensively used only in words ending in *-ā* in Classical Arabic, but not consistently even here.¹⁹ It has the invariable form ء or ؤ regardless of the case, e.g. فجاء (6r) "and he came", مرتم اناء لروح (102r) "You have become a vessel for the Holy Ghost". There are, however, cases where it is not written, e.g. السعدا (93v) but ibid. للشهداء (both in the genitive). Instances where the *hamza* is not written are: perfect of the verb اضا (99r, cf. اضي 91v) "to enlighten" and يشا (52v) "to want". In the same manner الهوا (72r) "air", عزا (5v) "comfort" (but العراء 70v). "Virgin" is العدري (8r, 13r).²⁰

A few times *hamza* is found after a consonant: البدء (3v, genitive),²¹ شيء (39v). The latter is mostly spelt without *hamza*: شى (67v) or شي (70r).²² Once the *hamza* is put in front of the first consonant: كلءشي (34v).²³

The *hamza* is never written on initial *'alif* and, except for one doubtful case, never within a word. Thus the sequence C+*hamz*+V always appears with *'alif* only:²⁴ ياخذ (35v), نسال (9v); cf. also شيا (16r), ملاك (9v). The Classical *hamz* preceded by a short *-a-* is not marked either: يقرأ (3r) (95v, passive).

The same principle is found in the few cases of *u+hamz*:²⁵ روكم (68r, 75r) روكسا (101v). The word تومن (54r) may possibly have a small *hamza* written over *wāw* but it is hardly discernible in the ms. The same might hold for الودب (8v).

Sequences *i'a/a'i* are written with *yā*, mostly with the diacritical points,²⁶ so always in the active participle of *verba IIw/y*: قايل (16r) دايم (93v). There is only one exception: خافا (5v). In the same way the plural of "angel": ملايكه (84v). Further: السمايين (84r), ريسا (50v). "Israel" is mostly spelt with *ḥ* but a few instances have اسرايل (53r).²⁷ One might further note ليلا (55r) for لئلا. The word for "sins" is written السييات (55r).²⁸

The sequence *-i'a* is always written without *hamza*: رديا (31v, 32v, fem.) بريه (47r).²⁹

Hamzat al-waḥl. The word for "woman" is written according to

Classical standards except in one case: *مراه* (16r). In other words, the *'alif* is consistently written even in words with *hamzat al-waṣl*.³⁰

L o n g \bar{a} . There are a few cases of defective spelling. It occurs twice with "three": *ثالث* (73v, 75v),³¹ and once in *سوك* (4r) "except you". The word *الله* is always spelt in the Qur'anic way (mostly also with *šadda*).³² With *'ilāh-*, however, there is an inconsistency. The derived adjective *'ilāhiyy-* is always defective; when the word *'ilāh-* has a pronominal suffix (e.g. "our God") the *plene* writing is twice as frequent as the defective. Without suffix it is always defective, thus *الله* but *الاهنا*.³³

t / \underline{t} . While there is no case of confusion between *šin* and *šin* in the ms. (the latter always being written with three dots) the *tā* and *tā* alternate in a way that seems to reflect a pronunciation different from the one found in Classical Arabic.³⁴ The root *ثبت* is always written with *tā* (20r, 34v). The same holds for *ثوب* (7v, 12v, 60r, 98r). Further *الوارثين* (38r) "inheritors", *ثمره* (9r, 13v) "fruit", *الخبث* (39v) "the wicked one",³⁵ and *الثاني* (95v) "the second". In words of higher frequency the spelling varies: *مثال* (60v), *مثال* (38v, 74v) but with *tā* in 9r, 14r, 62v, 64r (*مثال*), 48v (*مثل*). *tumma* is written with *tā* a few times (10r, 19v), and "idols" is *الاورتان* in 23r and 24v. The rather frequent numeral "three" is always written with *tā* except once in the derived word "trinity": *للثلوث المقدس*: (102r) which could be a contamination with the abstract suffix \bar{t} .

d / \underline{d} . There are a few exceptional cases where the diacritical point is missing in *nūn* and *bā*. The relative particle *الذي* occurs 19 times with the diacritical point and 6 times without it in the first 40 folios of the ms. while the plural *الذين* is found six times, always without the dot. This makes 19 vs. 12 for this word. Of 16 cases of *هذا*, *هذه* four are written with *dāl*. To this may be added *ها هو دا* (7r, 49v) and *من دى قبل* (51v, but *ذى* 52v). One may also compare *اللديده* (36r), *ادرعته* (35v), *دراعيه* (6r) "arms" and *انقدهم* (39r) "save them".³⁶ Finally, the spelling *الجديت* (72v) "the new one" should be noted.³⁷

z / \bar{z} . There are two cases of *ط* instead of *ظ*, both in the same word: *موعظه* (23r, 24r) "promised" (but *موعظه* 25r and *ليوعظوا* 21r). The highly frequent participle *ضابط* is once spelt with *ظ* (25v).³⁸

h / \bar{h} . The use of the diacritical points over final *hā* marking it as *tā mar-būṭa* follows a clear pattern: the points occur when the word is in the construct state: *شركة سرايرك المقدسه* (17r) "participation in Thy holy mysteries"; *من الضلاله الى معرفة الحق*; *شجرة الزيتون اللديده* (35r) "the delicious olive tree";

ومن عبادة الاصنام (31r) "from error to knowledge of the truth and from service of the idols..."; من جهة بشارة اناجيله المقدسه (8v) "by the message of His holy Gospel". When occurring in the other states the *hā* is written without the two dots: الحياه المهلكه (21v) "the death-bringing sin"; الارواح المقاومه الشريره (31v) "the opposing evil spirits". Cf. also كانت مرتا (*sic*) مجتهده (11v) "Martha was busy" and القديسه مريم (8r, 13r) "Holy Mary". There are only a few deviations from this pattern: صلاه تحليل (15v) "the prayer of absolution" (the only case of *h* in the construct state); (*sic*) للنعمة الذي (28v) "the Grace which..."; المرأة التي (10v) "the woman who..."; سلطان الرحمة (30r) "the power of Mercy"; ومن الضلالة (26r) "from the Error".

The consistent differentiation between *hā* and *tā marbūṭa* must reflect a pronunciation -*h*/*-t* as in the modern colloquial.³⁹ Some of the instances of *tā marbūṭa* in the non-construct states might be due to a pseudoclassical pronunciation -*t* when several words occur in a closer connection. The two cases where the word in *h* is followed by the relative particle should be noted in this connection. Further examples are: سلطان الحية الدايمة (38v) "the power of the everlasting life"; بالمياة المره (69r) "the bitter waters"; بالامراه المومنه (10v) "by the woman who believes"; كانت امراه مومنه (10v) "[she was] a woman who believes"; بحرقه كثيره (29v) "with great agony"; نعمة المعمودية الغافرة (95v) "the Grace of Baptism which forgives sins"; but اعمالك المعطية (33v) "Thy deeds which give life".

There is one example of confusion between *h* and *t*: واجبت ان تقيم معه :ة (10v) "she has to live with him" (= I Cor. 7:12).⁴⁰

The general impression is that the differentiation between homographs by means of diacritical points is not made haphazardly in the ms., but reflects the pronunciation of the writer. This is evident in the distribution of *hā* and *tā marbūṭa*. In words with *t/ṭ* and *d/ḍ* the interdental tend to be replaced by the dentals in words of low frequency, while in words of higher frequency, like the relative particles, there is a more insecure handling of the diacritical points. As will be shown later, the use of these particles in the ms. indicates that the writer does not have a natural intuition or even a grammatical insight into the rules for their use. Lastly, the rendering of the Classical *hamza* shows that the writer does not have this phoneme in his speech, and it is resubstituted in special cases only in order to indicate a more Classical reading.

Personal pronouns

The only instance of a form deviating from Classical Arabic is انتي (7r) "you" (fem. sing.).⁴¹

The definite article

There is a kind of popular etymology of the name Pontius Pilate: بلاطس البنطي (24r). This may be a reflex of the definite article *P-* in Coptic.

'*Idāfa*

There is one instance of two *muḍāfāt* to one *muḍāf* 'ilayhi: هم جسد ودم الابن (102v) "they are the body and blood of the Son". Like similar examples quoted by Blau the two words in question are synonyms, parallels or otherwise connected.⁴²

There is often confusion between '*idāfa* constructions and attributive constructions. Thus, "the First Letter to the Corinthians" is رسالة قورنثيه الاولى (10r, 96r).⁴³ Rather frequent are negative *naḥt*-adjectives where the adjective agrees with the noun and the article is attached to the *muḍāf*: الموهبه الغير فاسده (21r) "the incorruptible gift"; اللباس الغير فاسده (66r, 85v) "the incorruptible clothing"; الحياه...الغير فاسده (85r-v, 89v) "the incorruptible life". With the latter may be compared عدم الموت...الحياه (86r) "the immortal life". Further: النور العلوي الغير موصوف (99v) "the heavenly, indescribable light"; يا سيدي الغير خاطي (60v) "O Lord without sins".⁴⁴ Two cases occur with the article attached to a numeral: الثلثه صلوات السلامه (7v) "the three prayers of peace"; السبع صلوات او اكي الكبار (55v) "the seven great prayers".⁴⁵

A special case is the expression "the Holy Spirit". In the ms. this is consistently translated الروح القدس which seems to be the normal form in modern Christian Arabic. Thus the modern Bible translation has it in e.g. Matthew 1:18 and 28:19 while Levin's texts here have the '*idāfa* روح القدس "the Spirit of Holiness".⁴⁶ In the present ms. the '*idāfa* is used with a possessive suffix: روح قدسك (9v, 14v, 57v, 65v, 71r) "Thy holy Spirit". With the suffix the attributive construction is sometimes employed: روح القدس (20r, 29r, 35r, 89v, 92r). With other nouns this latter construction is frequent, e.g.: مديحك (74r) "Thy holy altar"; اسمك القدس (72r) "Thy holy Name".

Case inflection

Since the vocalisation does not render the pronunciation, the use of the case endings is reflected only in the consonantal spelling. The handling of the Classical inflectional system is, on the whole, rather insecure.

N o m i n a t i v e. Oblique forms are often written instead of the nominative, e.g., the genitive: الدين كتبوا اسمائهم (27v) "whose names are written"; الدين

وكان ابيه وامه⁴⁷ (28r) "whose names have been presented";⁴⁸ يتعجبان (6v) "and his father and his mother were astonished";⁴⁹ the accusative: الذين كتبوا اسماءهم (29v) "whose names are written". The accusative in the first word of the Lord's Prayer is particularly striking: يقول الشعب ابانا (19v) "the people shall say: Our Father...".⁴⁹ It is doubtful if this should be seen as a correct use of the accusative (as the object to the verb) since the same form occurs with the verb in the *mağhūl*: يقال ابانا الذي في السموات (100v) "(then) is said: Our Father, which art in heaven...". The accusative seems to be common in this passage (without the vocative particle *yā*) since the modern translation also has it, while Levin's text (Matthew) has ابونا.

The word *ab* "father" regularly lacks the special nominative construct form in *ab ribna* (7v *passim*) "The Father of our Lord". As has already been shown, the construct appears with pronominal suffixes in the accusative and genitive (although incorrectly used).⁵⁰

G e n i t i v e. Accusative occurs instead of genitive in a few cases: من قبل انبياه القديسين (57r) "from His holy prophets" (cf. *ibid.*: "the God of the prophets"); في امانتك المقدسه ورجاك (17v) "in Thy true faith and hope".⁵¹ A striking case is *amamk* (59v) "nothing is impure before Thee".

A c c u s a t i v e. The final *'alif* marking the indeterminate state of the accusative is absent in several cases: كان انسان صديقا خافا (5v) "he was a righteous and (god)fearing man" (= Luke 2:25); فان عيناي ابصرتا خلاصك... نور (6v) "and my eyes have seen Thy salvation... a light which has become manifest"; كلل رسله الاطهار القديسين وانبيائه وشهادته (87r) "He crowned His pure, holy apostles and His prophets and His martyrs"; ليكونوا لباس غير فاسد (64v) "so that they (the water and the oil) may become an incorruptible clothing"; (ال)مملو مجدا (102r) "the crown filled with glory" (but *al*) in e.g. 62r, 67v, 72r); يلبس المعموديين ثيابا بيضا (85r) "He dresses the baptizees in white clothes"; كان متمنطق (93v) "he was girdled".⁵²

Gender

The word *shayṭān* and its plural *shayṭān* are both treated as fem. sing. and as proper names (without the definite article): شيطان الظهيره (39v) "the visible devil"; كل شياطينك الرديه (32v) "all your evil devils". The word *malakūt* is feminine in accordance with Aramaic. Thus قربت ملكوت السموات (98r) "the kingdom of heaven has come near"; ملكوتك الممجده (89v) "Thy glorious kingdom"; المملوكوت (100v) "The heavenly kingdom".⁵³

Adjectives and participles

An adjective found in other texts of this kind is المَيِّت (95v) for "dead". A participle derived from the noun منطقة "belt" occurs in 98v: وكان متمنطق بادم (sic) "...and he (John the Baptist) was girdled with skin".⁵⁴

Numerals

The numeral "two" is once used in the absolute state with a pronominal suffix: ونزلا اثنينهم (49v) "and they (the two) descended".⁵⁵

Weak verbs

There is one example of a *media geminata* conjugated as III *yā*: لانك استحققت: لانك (103r) "because you were entitled".⁵⁶

There are some verbs III *hanza* written with *yā* in the ms. Thus the *maḡhūl* of "read" is تقري (91r fem. 3rd person but تقرا in 95v). "To be filled" is spelt in a way that suggests that it is conjugated according to this pattern: يمتلوا (28v) "they are filled with Thy power".⁵⁷ Further: ليستفوا بفياء انجل (39r) "so that they may be enlightened by the Light of the gospel of Thy kingdom". Other forms of this verb are: يفي (30r), cf. the imperative and jussive: افي (99v); ليفي (73r); افي (91v) = perf. This spelling probably reflects the vernacular forms of this verb which in Egyptian Arabic are formed from the root *ḡwy*.⁵⁸ Of the same type is هييناهم (87r) "we prepared them".

The tL form of the root *ḡdd*, "to oppose", is always strong in the ms. where it only occurs as a participle: المضاددين (37v).⁵⁹

Imperative

The verb "to give" has once a masculine singular imperative: اعطيه قوة (71r) "give him power" (but واعط 29r "and give").⁶⁰ The verb "to prepare" (stem IV of عدد) occurs once with the *'alif* and twice without it in the imperative: اعدوا طريق الرب (98r) "prepare ye the way of the Lord", but: عدهم هيكل (26v, 57r) "prepare them to a temple".⁶¹

Use of moods

The indicative is used instead of the subjunctive: امنحهم ان يحيون ويفكرون... (58v) "grant them that they may live...and think...and understand" (cf. 21v: يجتمعوا الكهنه وياتوا باناء مملوا ماء; (وامنحهم... ان يدركوا الشفا: 96r) "the priests shall gather and bring a vessel filled with water and the priest shall say".⁶² Once the writer has written the imperfect of the verb "give" without the *yā*: وينحهم... ويعطهم (96r) "and he shall give them".

(102r) "and we pray that he will make these children forget...and that he will give them...". The *hā*, however, has two dots under it, which therefore must have been put there as a correction.

The subjunctive/jussive is once used instead of the indicative: عبيدك يا رب (58r) "Thy servants, O Lord, who serve Thee and call upon Thy name".⁶³

Gender/number agreement

Deviations from the strict rules of agreement of Classical grammar are rather frequent in the ms., and many of them bear witness to the writer's own speech. Here all cases of interest will be given.⁶⁴

a) masculine plural instead of feminine singular

- (7r) لکی ینکشف افکار قلوب کثیر "so that the thoughts of many hearts / the thoughts of the hearts of many may be revealed"
- (16r) ایاما قلایل "a few days"
- وغلق الاعماق وختمهم "and He shut the depths and sealed them"
- من بعد هذا یلبس المعمودین ثیابا "after this he dresses the baptizees in white clothes"
- (68v) بیض "white clothes"
- هذه الاکالیل الذین هییناهم لللبسهم "these crowns which we have prepared in order to put them on Thy servants...so that they may be to them crowns of glory"
- عبیدک...لکی یكونوا لهم اکالیل مجد (87r)

Cf. also the examples 27v and 29v quoted under "Nominative" above and 55v under "The definite article".⁶⁵

b) masculine plural instead of feminine plural⁶⁶

- رسم الطهاره الواجبه على کل امرأه "the prescription of purification incumbent on every woman who has given birth that they shall abide during a few days as you have prescribed for them..."
- تلد ان یلبتوا (sic) ایاما قلایل "and we implore...on behalf of these Thy servants(f.) who have kept Thy law and fulfilled Thy commandments and who have longed to enter the place of Thy holiness and to prostrate before Thy temple..."
- كما قد رسمت لهم کیلا یلمسوا "and we implore...on behalf of these Thy servants(f.) who have kept Thy law and fulfilled Thy commandments and who have longed to enter the place of Thy holiness and to prostrate before Thy temple..."
- (16r) ...شیا "and we implore...on behalf of these Thy servants(f.) who have kept Thy law and fulfilled Thy commandments and who have longed to enter the place of Thy holiness and to prostrate before Thy temple..."
- ونضرع...عن اماتک هولاء التي حفظوا ناموسک واکملوا وصایاک واشتہوا الدخول الي موضع قدسک ویسجدوا امام هیکلک... (16v)
- بارک اماتک...ولیستحقوا شركة سرائیرک المقدسه (17r) "bless Thy servants(f.)...that they may deserve participation in Thy holy mysteries..."

c) masculine plural instead of dual⁶⁷

قدس هذا الماء وهذا الزيت ليكونوا
 (64r) حميم الميلاد they may become the hot water of birth"

Cf. the correct use of the dual: خالق السماء والارض وكل زينتهما (67r) "Creator of heaven and earth and all their beauty". A special case is the following: وليكن هذا الماء وهذا الزيت مباركين مملوئين مجدا مطهرين... (73r-v) "may this water and this oil be blessed, filled with glory, purified...". The Classical spelling would have مملوئين for the dual accusative and مملوئين for the plural accusative. The omission of one of two identical consonants when one of them is *kursī hamza* is, however, frequent, and a decisive conclusion cannot be made here. In view of the insecure handling of numeral agreement in the ms., especially of the dual (see below) makes this interpretation of the spelling plausible.

d) dual instead of feminine plural

بارك اماتك وطهرهما وحللها...
 (17r) absolve them..."

هكذا ايضا يا سيدنا هولاء الاطفال
 (17r-v) المولودين منها (= the female servants)"

e) dual instead of masculine plural

باركها وقدسها وتبتهما وات بهم
 (17v) الى حد القامة (*sic*) d) and sanctify them and make them grow and bring them to full stature"

f) masculine singular instead of feminine singular

This kind of disagreement always involves the relative particle الذي (cf. also a, second last example, and b, second example).⁶⁹

حيلتك الذي هو هذا الزيت (23r) "Thy body which is this oil"
 النعمة الذي تقدموا اليها (28v) "the mercy toward which they have strived"
 الامانه الذي لا يغلب الذي لا يقاوم (37v) "the faith which cannot be defeated and which cannot be resisted"
 بهذه النعمة الذي استحقها اولادكم (102v) "with this mercy which your children have deserved"
 السراير الالهيه الذي هم جسد ودم (102v) الابن blood of the Son"

g) feminine plural instead of masculine singular

(52r) لا تعجبين "Do not be astonished" (= Jesus to Nicodemus, John 3:7)⁷⁰

h) masculine singular instead of masculine plural

(102r) هذا الاولاد "These children"⁷¹

At last, a case of *constructio ad sensum*: (25v) دعيت جميع الامم "all nations have been called".⁷²

Passive

With the G-stem the *maǧhūl* form is the normal form in passive constructions in the ms.⁷³ One verb has once *maǧhūl* and once Gt: وكما رفع موسى الحيه في البريه (53v) "and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (= John 3:14); ارتفعت ارتفعت "in his humiliation his judgement was taken away...for his life is taken from the earth" (= Acts 8:33).⁷⁴ There is only one example of an nG form in a passive construction: وانصبغوا جميعا (96v) "and they were all baptised" (= I Corinthians 10:2). The Gt of *ʿmd* is used once in the homilies: المسيح الذى اعتمد في نهر اردن (103r) "Christ... who was baptised in the river Jordan". In other passages this verb has the tD in passive constructions. In the ms. the *maǧhūl* forms seem to occur with the G stem only, augmented forms being used with derived stems. It is impossible to decide whether these augmented forms (mostly tD) are also *maǧhūl* due to the lack of consistency in the vocalisation of the ms.⁷⁵

Passive constructions with agent extension are rather frequent. Some of them may be influenced by the Coptic, and it is evident that the writer had no difficulty or restrictions in finding Arabic equivalents to such phrases.⁷⁶

a) agent phrase with the preposition من (with noun)

سلاح الامانه...الذي لا...يقاوم من
(37v) المضاددين "the armour of faith which cannot be resisted by the adversaries"

لكي نخلص من جهة بشاره اناجيله
(8v) "so that we may be saved by the message of His Gospels"⁷⁷

هذا الذي من قبله دعيت جميع الامم
(25v) من الظلمه "He is the one by whom all nations have been called out of darkness"⁷⁸

وكان قد اوحى عليه من فيل الروح
(5v-6r) القدس "and it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost" (= Luke 2:26)⁷⁹

هذا الذي قيل من قبل اشعياء النبي "This is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah" (= Matthew 3:3)⁸⁰

الذي اعتمد في نهر الاردن من يد الصايق الصايغ يوحنا Precursor John the Baptist"⁸¹

b) agent phrase by the preposition على

وانصبغوا جميعا على يد موس "and they were all baptised by Moses" (= I Corinthians 10:2)⁸²

c) agent phrase with ب

الكلام الذى وعظوا به "by whom they have been exhorted"⁸³

Relative clauses

The tendency evident early in Classical Arabic for the relative particles to become subordinate conjunctions or relative pronouns is documented by at least one case in the ms.:⁸⁴ اقبلوا نعمة الروح القدس بالذى (sic) نالوا نعمة المعمودية (102r) "they drew near to the mercy of the Holy Spirit by whom/which they received the mercy of Holy Baptism". The frequent cases of disagreement with the relative particle quoted under "Gender/number agreement" f above may be interpreted as evidence for this particle to have become a general subordinating conjunction introducing relative clauses.⁸⁵

Subordinate clauses

In one case the article ان is missing and the construction is asyndetic as in the modern colloquial: من يقدر يقصه (49r) "who can tell it?"⁸⁶ لكي is once used where ان would be more normal: لكي يفتح مسامع... فلنطلب... ونسال الله... (29v-30r) "we beg...and ask God...that He will open the ears of their hearts".⁸⁷

أما...ف

The particle ف is missing once in connection with the topicalisation particle أما (10r) "as far as the rest of mankind is concerned I say...".⁸⁸

Prepositional object

The preposition ل is sometimes used instead of others in non-locative verbal complements: انعم لهم بمغفرة خطاياهم (21r) "bestow upon them forgiveness of their sins". In 26v the normal construction occurs: ان تنعم عليهم بالنمو في الامان. Further: ونبين لعرسك السمايي (38r) "and may we see Thy heavenly throne";⁸⁹ لنلبسهم لعبيدك (87r) "that we may put them (the crowns) on Thy servants";

المضاديين لنا (37v) "our adversaries". The latter is interpretable as an objective genitive expressed analytically, a construction which is not entirely outside the system of Classical Arabic but still characteristic of Middle Arabic.⁹⁰

H A N D B

Spelling

In the folios of hand B there are no cases of ث, this always being replaced with ت. Also ذ is lacking except in a few instances of الذي, e.g. هذا الذي (44v). The two dots are also consistently written under all *yā*'s, i.e. also when they are *'alif maqṣūra*. The *hamza* is written twice, in the words البدء (79v) and الماء (79v). One may also note the spellings احشاي (77v) "my bowels" and هولاي (63v) "these". The accusative *tanwīn* is always according to Classical standards. The handling of *tā marbūṭa* follows that of hand A. A possible case of short *-a-* instead of long is السلطين (43v) "the powers".⁹¹

Grammatical features

A negated adjective occurs in الحيه الموبده الغير مايته (83r) "the eternal, immortal life".

واضوا بنور لاهوتك (80r) conjugated as *III yā* is found here as in hand A: "and they are enlightened by the light of Thy divinity".

N O T E S

- 1 S. Lindstam (1879-1942), who was a Graecist and a teacher of Classical languages, undertook in the years 1911-1913 a journey to Italy, Greece and Turkey. The manuscript must have been bought during this journey, probably in Istanbul. According to Professor Åke Fridh, Department of Classical Studies, Göteborg, Lindstam in 1939 himself mentioned a manuscript for which he had paid 200 Swedish crowns. In the present ms. the figure 200 is written twice on the first page. There is also written, by another hand, £420, which might be the original price in Turkish pounds. For the data on Lindstam, see Göteborgs Högskolas matrikel 1916-41 (Göteborg 1942).
- 2 I want to express my thanks to the "Röhsska Konstslöjdmuséet" and especially Mr. Thomas Baagöe for giving me the opportunity to work with the manuscript.
- 3 For a description of the archaic Coptic baptismal ceremony, see O. H. E. Burmester, *The Egyptian or Coptic Church. A detailed description of her liturgical services...* in *Textes et documents* (Publications de la Société d'Archéologie Copte), Le Caire 1967, pp. 111-126. For a more penetrating study of the text and its relations to the rituals of other Oriental churches, see *id.*, *The Baptismal rite of the Coptic Church: A critical study*, in *Bulletin de la Société d'Archéologie Copte* t. XI (1945), pp. 27-86.

- 4 al-Ṣafī b. al-^cAssāl, according to A. Mallon a Coptic counterpart to Bonaventura and Thomas ab Aquino, lived in the first half of the thirteenth century. The exact years of his birth and death cannot be determined but according to Graf he was dead when his brother Abū Ishāq composed his main work *مجموع اصول الدين ومسموع محصول اليقين* between 1253 and 1260, see Graf, *Aulād al-^cAssāl*, p. 129-130. The most complete survey of the work of the ^cAssālids is found in Graf, *Aulād and id.*, *Geschichte*. See also A. Mallon, *Ibn al-^cAssāl. Les trois écrivains de ce nom*, in *Journal Asiatique* 10:6 (1905), pp. 509-529, and A. J. B. Higgins, *Ibn al-^cAssāl*, in *The Journal of Theological Studies* 44 (1943), pp. 73-75.
- 5 The numbers are written with cursive Greek letters which is the usual form found in Coptic manuscripts. For these, see Mallon, 4th ed., p. 234. Before it was possible to check the numbers in Mallon's work, Professor Rostislav Holthoer, Uppsala, suggested the 16th century on paleographic evidence with reference to Cramer ms. Nr. 54. This suggestion thus turned out to be correct.
- 6 Graf, *Geschichte I*, pp. 648-649.
- 7 Cramer (Vorwort).
- 8 Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 21ff.; Knutsson, pp. 220ff.
- 9 Blau, *Observations*, p. 215; Lundén, pp. 32ff.; Davies, pp. 4ff.
- 10 Graf, *Geschichte II*, p. 396. In *Aulād* Graf claims a homily on baptism to be contained in a manuscript in Cairo (Kopt. Patr. 749, *Aulād*, p. 140). When listing this manuscript in his *Catalogue* (p. 158 = Nr. 433) and in *Geschichte II*, p. 396), this holy homily is, however, not mentioned.
- 11 The dating of Kopt. Patr. 749 is somewhat contradictory, but according to the *Hiġra* reckoning it is completed in 1239 A.D. (637 H).
- 12 Blau, *Emergence*, p. 215. This distinction was actually made by H. Blanc in his review of Blau's *Emergence*.
- 13 Cf. Blau, *Grammar*, p. 122f. Cf. Knutsson's *karshuni* ms. 1.5 ('*allāh*).
- 14 The accusative *-an* is, however, not used according to Classical grammar, see below under "Case inflection".
- 15 In MA texts these words often invariably and in *-ī* (Blau, *Grammar*, p. 317).
- 16 For the use of *madda*, see Wright, *Grammar I*, p. 24-26; Knutsson, p. 77 n. 49.
- 17 Cf. Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 127-128.
- 18 The lack of consistency in distinguishing between final *-ī*, *-ā* and *-ay* is found also in Knutsson's texts (judging from the facsimiles). To this may be added the ending *-ā'* which may be written in the same way in MA (cf. Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 81ff., and examples under *hamza* below). Levin suggests that the alternation between this latter ending and the spelling with *yā* might reflect '*imāla*' (Levin, p. 20). This is supported by the evidence in Blau's Coptic ms. where *hawle* (for *hawlā'i*) and *beki* (for *beqī* = Class. *baqā'*) are found (Blau, *Observations*, pp. 222-227). In Levin there is a case like *انقضى* for *انقضاء*. This suggests that the '*imāla*' (if this is the correct interpretation) may be independent of faryngalised consonants like *qāf* and *ḏād*. That this occurs even in modern dialects is well known (cf. Borg, *Imaala*, pp. 205ff.). For '*imāla*' after *-r-*, cf. Talmoudi, *Sūsa*, p. 37 *ḥrēm*; *id.*, *Diglossic situation*, p. 104 *fikrā*, p. 42 *rāzi^can*, and the opposition *žra* "it happened" vs. *žrā* "he ran" (oral communication). In light of this, Davies' *xḏrḥ* may after all reflect pausal '*imāla*' (cf. *wikiḥ* from

- wikā'*; cf. Davies, p. 81). In the present ms. "virgin" (Class. العذراء) is written العذري (see below under "Hamza"). The inconsistent use of the two dots in final *yā* might thus reflect a pronunciation where final *-ā*, *-ā'*, *-ī* and *-ay* sounded more or less the same. For the question of pausal *'imā-la*, see Davies, pp. 81ff.
- 19 For *hamza* in general in Christian Arabic, see Blau, Grammar, pp. 83ff.
- 20 Cf. Blau, Grammar, p. 89. The *hamza* may be seen as a classicizing element in the spelling signalling one of the most conspicuous differences between colloquial and Classical accentuation. In the Egyptian colloquial the words which in CA end in *-ā'* have *-a*, and the accent is on the first syllable if all syllables are short, and on the penultima if this is short and the antepenultima is long (Diem, pp. 34-35; Harrell, pp. 9-13). The colloquial accentuation is mostly extended even to borrowings from CA, e.g. *rūyasa* "gangsters"; *rū'asa* "chiefs" (Mitchell, p. 212). The restitution of *hamz* in these words with ensuing shift of accent to the ultima is an obvious signal of attempts to speak "*faṣīḥ*". This restitution is common in the modern Standard Arabic texts analysed by Harrell and Diem. Cf. also Palva, Notes, p. 26; Blanc, Stylistic variations, p. 95; Davies, p. 73. Of special interest is the following case in Diem: *bi-šuhadā'u* (Diem, p. 72 l. 9 in the Arabic text) "with its martyrs". The speaker here restitutes *hamz* but is not able to form the correct case ending at the same time. Mostly, the case endings are lacking in these texts with nouns ending in *-ā'*. The restitution of *hamz* and the consequent accentuation opposed to the colloquial seems to have higher priority than the *'i^crāb*, which, of course, is more difficult to handle. The same picture emerges from the present ms. where the restitution of *hamz* is pervading in these words while the handling of the case inflection is rather chaotic (see below under "Case inflection").
- 21 The same spelling of this word is seen in one of Cramer's manuscripts (Cramer, Tafel 87). The restitution of *hamz* in final position after a consonant is often found in the Egyptian Standard Arabic texts already mentioned. Thus, Diem has *bi-bad'i l-cāmi* (p. 69, text 3 l. 2) "in the beginning of the year"; *quz'e minḥa* (Diem, p. 72, text 7 l. 4) "one part of it"; cf. *'annaha quz'um min-al-waṭani* (Harrell, p. 57 l. 13) "that it is a part of the (Arab) world".
- 22 Blau, Grammar, p. 93.
- 23 This could be a reflex of the anaptyctic vowel typical for Egyptian Arabic: *koll^e ḥāga* (Tomiche, p. 42-43, 201). Cf. Diem, p. 71 text Nr. 6 l. 8: *kull-e mā fīḥa* etc. One could also compare the Syro-Palestinian form *'aššī* (Cowell, p. 142).
- 24 Blau, Grammar, pp. 99-100; Knutsson, p. 77; Lundén, p. 36.
- 25 Blau, Grammar, p. 97; cf. *id.*, Observations, p. 236: *mowaxaxah = mu'āxāt*. Davies, p. 72.
- 26 Blau, Grammar, pp. 93-95; Knutsson, pp. 65ff.
- 27 Knutsson, *loc. cit.*
- 28 Blau, Grammar, p. 86, 96 rem. A; Knutsson, p. 76.
- 29 Blau, Grammar, pp. 95-96.
- 30 Blau, Grammar, p. 99; cf. *ibid.*, pp. 104-105; *id.*, Observations, p. 236.
- 31 Blau, Grammar, pp. 77ff. and, especially Knutsson, p. 55 note 2, and p. 60 note 2.

- 32 Cf. note 13.
- 33 Cf. Knutsson, p. 55 note 2.
- 34 For this phenomenon in Christian Arabic, cf. Levin, p. 19, and the thorough discussion by Knutsson, pp. 78ff. See also Blau, *Diqdûq*, p. 34, and the remarks in *Observations*, pp. 221-222. The main argument for this spelling being a reflection of a pronunciation different from that of CA is the difference in the use of diacritical points in the ms.: with certain letters (ش/س, ن/ن, ر/ر, non-final ى) there is a consistent use of these signs according to the Classical orthography while ت/ط and د/ذ are differentiated in a way that shows insecurity with the writer. As has been emphasised by Knutsson, the ت and ذ have in the modern colloquial (and consequently also in medieval spoken Arabic) both *t/s* and *d/z* as corresponding sounds. The words in the present ms. which show alternation between *t/ṭ* and *d/ḏ* are precisely those which in modern Arabic are documented with *s* and *z* respectively (cf. Knutsson, pp. 80-81 and *passim*). See also Blau, *Emergence*, p. 76, and Davies, pp. 66f.
- 35 Cf. Knutsson, p. 81 note 13 for this word.
- 36 Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 107-108.
- 37 Blau, *Grammar*, p. 106 (top).
- 38 Due to the low frequency of words with ط in the ms. it is difficult to make any conclusions as to the phonetic background of this spelling. Cf. the discussion in Blau, *Observations*, p. 221.
- 39 This has not been found in the earlier investigations of MA but, interestingly enough, it is clearly documented in Blau's Coptic-Arabic text (*Observations*, p. 246), cf. *id.*, *Grammar*, p. 115, and Knutsson, pp. 109-112. One case of this is even visible in Knutsson's karshuni ms. (LII 1. 12 = *ḥašrat 'ālāf*). A few examples are found in Davies, p. 81.
- 40 A similar case in Knutsson, p. 109 note 1 (confusion between ت and ط).
- 41 Blau, *Grammar*, p. 133; Knutsson, p. 54; Davies p. 177.
- 42 The same example in Levin, Matthew 4:16; cf. further Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 345-346; *id.*, *Observations*, p. 251.
- 43 Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 359-360. Observe the ط in the first word.
- 44 Cf. Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 350ff. For such constructions in Modern Standard Arabic, see Monteil, pp. 140-141; Cantarino II, pp. 149-150. For modern Arabic dialects, see Cowell, p. 456, Féghali, pp. 198-199.
- 45 Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 379-382. For modern dialects, cf. Cowell, pp. 471ff., Féghali, pp. 186-189. For Modern Standard, cf. Cantarino II, pp. 375-377. The word اواكي is probably to be read اواشي and is an Arabic plural of the Coptic *ōšī* "prayer".
- 46 So also in Matthew 3:11, 12:32 and Mark 1:10. The form used in the present ms. is also frequent in Knutsson (although not noticed by him), e.g. pp. 22, 26, 31 (cf. *id.*, p. 168). The Qur'ān has *'iḏāfa*, e.g. 2:87, 2:253, 5:110, 16:102.
- 47 Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 90-91.
- 48 Blau, *Grammar*, p. 320; Knutsson, pp. 166-167.
- 49 Most of the cases with oblique case instead of the nominative are in passive constructions, cf. Blau, *Grammar*, p. 336, and *ibid.*, note 64. For the use of the accusative in address, see Wright II, pp. 85-86; Blau, *Grammar*, pp. 338-339.

agreement in the ms. this is less probable than the interpretation forwarded here.

- 71 Knutsson, pp. 117-118.
- 72 Blau, Grammar, p. 292.
- 73 For the passive in MA in general, see Blau, Grammar, pp. 150ff.
- 74 The modern translation has Gt of *nz^c* here: في تواضعه انتزع قضاؤه لان حياته . تنتزع من الارض من الضغطة ومن الدينونة اخذ وفي حيله من كان يظن انه قطع من ارض الاحياء . In Luke 10:42 both the ms. (12r) and the modern translation have *maǧhūl*: لا ينزع منها "it shall not be taken from her".
- 75 Blau has the passive اعمد (Grammar, p. 158) and اعتمد (*ibid.*, p. 166, as well as استاق "to be led" (*ibid.*, p. 166) while the ms. has سبق (48v) in the same meaning. The modern translation uses the Gt in these passages while Levin's text has Gt of صبغ (but cf. the apparatus to Mark 1:5 يعتمدون and Blau, Grammar, p. 424).
- 76 For agent extension with passive constructions in MA, see Blau, Grammar, pp. 424-425; in modern dialects, see Retsö, pp. 169ff. For the passive construction (with agent extension) in Coptic, see Steindorff, pp. 193-194.
- 77 Lit.: "from the direction of". The Coptic has *EBOL HITEN* which is the normal agent phrase (Steindorff, p. 194; Mallon, § 276).
- 78 The Coptic has *EBOL HITOTF* as agent preposition.
- 79 The Coptic has *M-* (= *n-*) which is dative or instrumental (Steindorff, p. 89; Mallon, § 361). The Greek original, however, has ὑπὸ τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ ἁγίου which must be agent.
- 80 The Coptic has *EBOL HITOTF N-ĒSAĒAS* as agent phrase while the Greek has δού and the modern Arabic translation *bi-* (rather instrumental).
- 81 This is part of one of the homilies which have no Coptic counterparts. One could compare e.g. Mark 1:9 where the Greek has ὑπὸ Ἰωάννου, while Levin and the modern translation have *min* with the same verb (Gt).
- 82 It is possible that the Greek in this passage (εἰς τὸν Μωϋσῆν) reflects the Hebrew (or Aramaic) *l-* as agent preposition (the interpretation is dependent upon the exegesis of the verse). The Coptic has here *E-MŌYSEŚ* which is terminative (= Arab. *ʿilā*) or dative (Steindorff, p. 89; Mallon, § 313). The modern translation has *li-* على يد is, however, not uncommon as agent preposition in both Literary and colloquial Arabic (cf. Retsö, p. 171).
- 83 For *bi-* as agent preposition, cf. Reckendorf, pp. 233-234.
- 84 Blau, Grammar, p. 563; Knutsson, pp. 178ff; Lundén, 75:10.
- 85 Blau, Grammar, pp. 549-550.
- 86 Blau, Grammar, p. 492; Knutsson, p. 177.
- 87 Blau, Grammar, pp. 522ff.
- 88 Blau, Grammar, pp. 482-483; Knutsson, p. 176.
- 89 Blau, Grammar, p. 251, 413ff.
- 90 Blau, Grammar, pp. 414ff.
- 91 Lundén, 83 note 5.

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