

Rapporti culturali e letterari tra Egitto ed Etiopia nella tarda antichità

In September 2012 I had the chance to present in Rome in the plenary session of the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies, on kind invitation of the organizers, a paper dedicated to ‘Literary production related to the Christian Egyptian culture’, that was eventually published in 2016 in the Proceedings of that Congress (‘Ethiopic Literary Production Related to the Christian Egyptian Culture’, in Paola Buzi, Alberto Camplani, and Federico Contardi, eds, *Coptic Society, Literature and Religion from Late Antiquity to Modern Times. Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Coptic Studies, Rome, September 17th-22nd, 2012, and Plenary Reports of the Ninth International Congress of Coptic Studies, Cairo, September 15th-19th, 2008*, I, *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta*, 247 (Leuven: Peeters, 2016), 503–571). This was the first time an International Congress of Coptic Studies included a paper on the topic. The paper was provided with an appendix with an extensive bibliography that can still be considered a starting point for a first orientation on the topic. Only a few years after the presentation of the paper and its publication in the proceedings in an updated form in 2016 it is already worthwhile to try to assess which are the aspects that still need most to be better highlighted, which are the most promising research directions, and where can at best fruitful interactions with other disciplines focusing on Egyptian cultural and literary production be envisaged. It appears that a better understanding of the complex earliest textual Ethiopic heritage calls for an in-depth re-evaluation of the literary relationships of late antique Ethiopia, i.e. the kingdom of Aksum, with the ancient and late antique literature of Egypt and Byzantium.

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