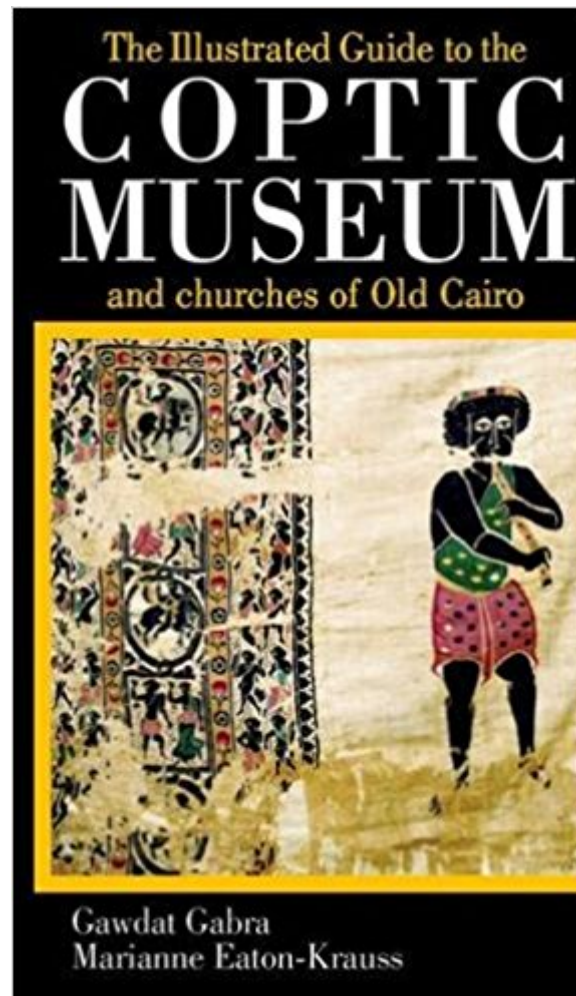




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# The Illustrated Guide To The Coptic Museum And Churches Of Old Cairo



## Synopsis

Egypt's Coptic Church is one of the oldest in the world, encompassing two millennia of history, tradition, and culture. The Coptic Museum, founded in Old Cairo in 1908, houses the world's largest and most exquisite collection of Coptic artifacts, representing every historical era, from the earliest Christian period to the nineteenth century. After undergoing extensive renovations and repair, the Coptic Museum is open to the public again, making this richly informative and illustrated book very timely for anyone interested in this rich artistic heritage. Structured as a guide, but fully illustrated with superb color photographs, this book suggests a simple but comprehensive itinerary through one of Egypt's most fascinating museums. Taking readers through the various exhibits, this useful guidebook explains and illuminates the aesthetic and religious importance of each of the museum's works on display, such as icons, stelae, sculptures, wall paintings, wooden altar screens, liturgical implements, and vestments and bible caskets. Textiles, ceramics and documents (including the Nag Hammadi Gnostic library from the fourth century, one of the most important collections of papyri in the world) provide valuable insights into the economic and social life of Egypt's Copts over the last two thousand years.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: The American University in Cairo Press; 1 edition (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 977416007X

ISBN-13: 978-9774160073

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.7 x 5.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,224,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > Cairo](#) #156 in [Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > General](#) #559 in [Books > History > Africa > Egypt](#)

## Customer Reviews

GAWDAT GABRA, a former director of the Coptic Museum, is the author or editor of numerous books related to the literary and material culture of Egyptian Christianity, including *Christianity and Monasticism in the Fayoum Oasis* (AUC Press 2005) and, most recently, *The Treasures of Coptic Art* (AUC Press 2006.) MARIANNE EATON-KRAUSS is a specialist on the art and archaeology of

pharaonic Egypt. She is the author of *The Representations of Statuary in Private Tombs of the Old Kingdom*.

Since I have been at this museum, I needed a guide to share with others about this magnificent place. This book does a outstanding job describing Coptic treasures!!

Nice book about a topic not easy to found, particularly when you live far away from Egypt. Useful and practical guide.

I borrowed this with the intention of taking it with me the next time I go to Cairo but the book is a great reference even if you have no intention of visiting the Coptic Museum. Illustrated with photographs, the guide is a window on a world that most tourists to Egypt are unaware even exists. The Coptic Church is one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. It has survived repression under the Roman emperors, the Islamic invasion, wars, famines and various anti-Christian pogroms. Today Copts are 9 million strong in Egypt, and yet are invisible to the world media. The Coptic Museum in Cairo only recently reopened after damage caused by an earthquake in the 1990s and decades of neglect prior to that. At the very least this guide is an excellent eye opener to a history and culture that is seemingly invisible to the outside world.

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