



ST. MARK'S COPTIC MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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St. Mark's Coptic Museum Contemporary Icon Series

By Victor Asaad Fakhoury

The Museum's Newsletter Vol. 8, No.3, Fall 2014 introduced the acquisition of the 2011 icon titled *The Martyrs of Maspero* by iconographer Victor Asaad Fakhoury. We explained that this icon departs from classical iconography because it reflects on a contemporary event in the life of the Coptic Church. Furthermore, the icon is part of a series of icons that Fakhoury has made it his mission to chronicle impact of the so-called Arab-Spring, January 25, 2011 revolution in Egypt on the Coptic Church and the copts.

Two years later the Museum reported that it had acquired a second icon in the series: *The Martyrs of Libya*, 2015 (Museum Newsletter Vol. 10 No. 1 Winter 2016). Because of the historical significance of Fakhoury's icons, the Museum have acquired seven other icons in this series.

The series will be launched at an exhibition during the city-wide Myseum Toronto Intersections Festival in March 2018. A catalogue (in French and in English) interpreting Fakhoury's biblical message and artistic rendition of each icon will be published for the occasion.



Marina Hanna, a second year student in the Library and Information Technician program at Seneca College was employed this summer to enter and update the Museum catalogue of each artefact in its collection on a specially designed database. It was also a learning experience for Marina to discover all the research and administration that goes on “behind the scenes” in a museum. What stood out for her was that she “learned that each artefact in the museum has its own story in terms of the way it got to the museum and the story behind the creation of it. Also whenever a donor donated an artefact to the museum they have a story as to how they received it. It taught me that these are not just “artefacts” but that they each have their own personal story.”



Volley-Ball for Coptic Studies.

On Saturday August 5, for a third year in a row, Coptic Students at the U of T organised a volleyball tournament in the Cathedral gym to raise awareness about Coptic Studies courses at the U of T and to raise funds towards a Chair in Coptic Studies at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations.

1. Coptic-Canadian Festival (September 8-10, 2017)
George Makary and Kiros Kilada demonstrated how icons are written.
2. Members from the Egyptian-Canadian Association (Toronto).
3. Mr. and Mrs. Strikler, visitors from Kansas City, Missouri discussing with U of T Professor Michael Gervers their special interest in Ethiopian artefacts.
4. Retreat study field trip of children from St. Mary and St. Abraham Coptic Orthodox Church, Ajax.