



# ST. MARK'S COPTIC MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

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We are pleased to feature in this issue of the Newsletter,  
the most recent acquisition of the Museum:

## The Christ Collection According to the Four Gospels

a set of twelve silver commemorative coins on the life of Jesus Christ issued by the Egyptian Mint Authority.

# The Christ Collection

According to the Four Gospels



The collection was issued to mark the designation of Egypt as a Vatican pilgrimage destination. Each coin has one side an engraving of an event in the life of Christ, and the other side bears a relevant Bible verse from the four Gospels.

The coins commemorate the Annunciation, Birth of Jesus, Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, Christ's Baptism, Christ's disciples, the Sermon on the Mount, the miracles of Jesus, the Victorious Entry of Christ into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, Jesus in Gethsemane, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. The coins are commemorative (souvenir) coins and not currency coins.





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The planning for and design of the collection was done in coordination with the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities and the Coptic Orthodox Church, under supervision of Ishaq Agban, Deputy Dean of the Institute of Coptic Studies.

According to Ahmed Kamal, who supervised the team that worked on the coin collection, the design was based on a selection of pictures sent by the Church; these included the Tree of St. Mary in Mattariya, and the well from which the Holy Family drank in Samanoud, the cave they took refuge in at St. Serga Church and others.

The designs were made by artists Rawan Osama and Abdel-Rahman al-Agouz, calligrapher Taha Abbas of the Designs and Models Department at the Mint, and Engineer Khairy Abdel-Moneim, Director of the Femtograph Department.

The design was first made on the computer, then impressed on circular gypsum tablets, and worked into the metal coins. The design on the gypsum tablets was three times bigger than the size of the final model to make it possible for more accurate detail.

**The Christ Collection is now on display in the Museum. The Museum is open on request.  
Email us for an appointment!**

(The above information on the process of minting the coins was taken from an article published by *Watani International* on 13 June 2018: <http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/coptic-affairs/the-christ-collection/22226/>.)



### The Christ Collection, Egyptian Mint Authority

#### *Good Tidings*

Date of issue: December 2017

Obverse: Archangel Gabriel holding a palm branch and the Virgin Mary in a sitting position.

Reverse: Inscriptions in Arabic:

Along the annular arc: "You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest." Luke 1:31-32

(Biblical verse reference not inscribed on coin)

Below biblical inscription: First Year BC

### The Christ Collection, Egyptian Mint Authority

#### *The Resurrection*

Date of issue: December 2017

Obverse: Jesus walking with the burial cloth draped around Him.

On His left three crosses in the background and a ladder leaning against His cross.

On His right the open tomb.

Reverse: Inscriptions in Arabic:

Along the annular arc: "He is not here, for He has risen." Matt. 28:6

(Biblical verse reference not inscribed on coin)

Below biblical inscription: Year 34 AD



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