

DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA E CRITICA DELLE ARTI
UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI VENEZIA

DE 01159

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COPTIC

TAPESTRIES and SCULPTURE



TO DI STORIA
DELLE ARTI

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BIBLIOTECA

Coptic Art from Medieval Art

by

Charles Rufus Morey

Coptic art is the most primitive phase of the early Christian; its inspiration when one can penetrate its content, is more superstition than faith. The relapse into primitive style which Coptic art illustrates is confirmed by its better performance in ornament, a genre in which a primitive esthetic can always be best expressed. For Coptic ornament at its best can be very beautiful, fully repaying its loss of naturalism with chiaroscuro of lighted flat surface and shadow, often obtained by a perforated design.

The greatest wealth of material for examining Coptic ornament, and to some extent its figure style, is provided by the textiles that have come out of Nilotic burial grounds, preserved by the dry air in faultless state. In these one may trace the evolution of the art from pieces of almost pure Hellenistic inspiration like the Hestia textile of Dumbarton Oaks to the weavings of the sixth and later centuries in which the skillful ornament disintegrates and the flat frontality of figures and infantile drawing of the wide-eyed heads marks a dead end of antique style.

COPTIC ART

CIRCA 200-400 A.D.

TAPESTRIES

- 1 Two Saints
- 2 Figures intermingled with designs
- 3 Warriors on horseback
- 4 Fantasy figures
- 5 Figure of a dog
- 6 Portrait
- 7 Black figure in heroic gesture
- 8 Horse and rider
- 9 Soldier on horseback
- 10 Portrait
- 11 Woman's figure wearing exotic costume
- 12 Two figures
- 13 Imaginary animal
- 14 Woman rider and horse
- 15 Portrait of a bearded man
- 16 Bird in flight
- 17 Portrait of a Queen

SCULPTURE

- 1 Bone carvings
- 2 Bone carvings
- 3 Woodcarving of figure and Saint
- 4 Reclining figure and foliage
Limestone
- 5 Ancient Goddess
Limestone
- 6 Woman with baskets of fruit
Limestone
- 7 Lion rampant with foliage
Limestone
- 8 Fantasy animal with fruit baskets
Limestone
- 9 Imaginary animal with foliage
Limestone
- 10 Imaginary Deer with foliage
Limestone
- 11 Portrait study
Limestone
- 12 Head of Goddess
Limestone

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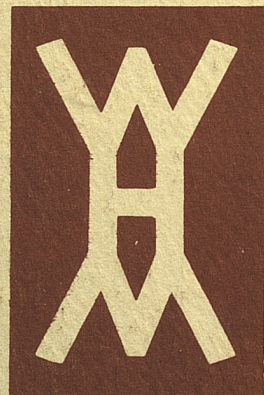


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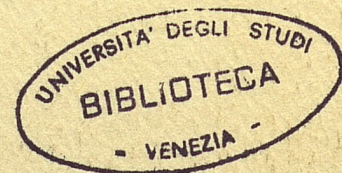
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