



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
Washington, DC 20064

“Hidden in Plain Sight: On the Trail of the Clarendon Press Manuscripts from Mullen Library (CUA) to the Bodleian (Oxford)”

An illustrated lecture by
Mark Sheridan, OSB

CUA alumnus and former rector and dean of the faculty
Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, Rome

Monday, January 25, 2016, 5:15 p.m.

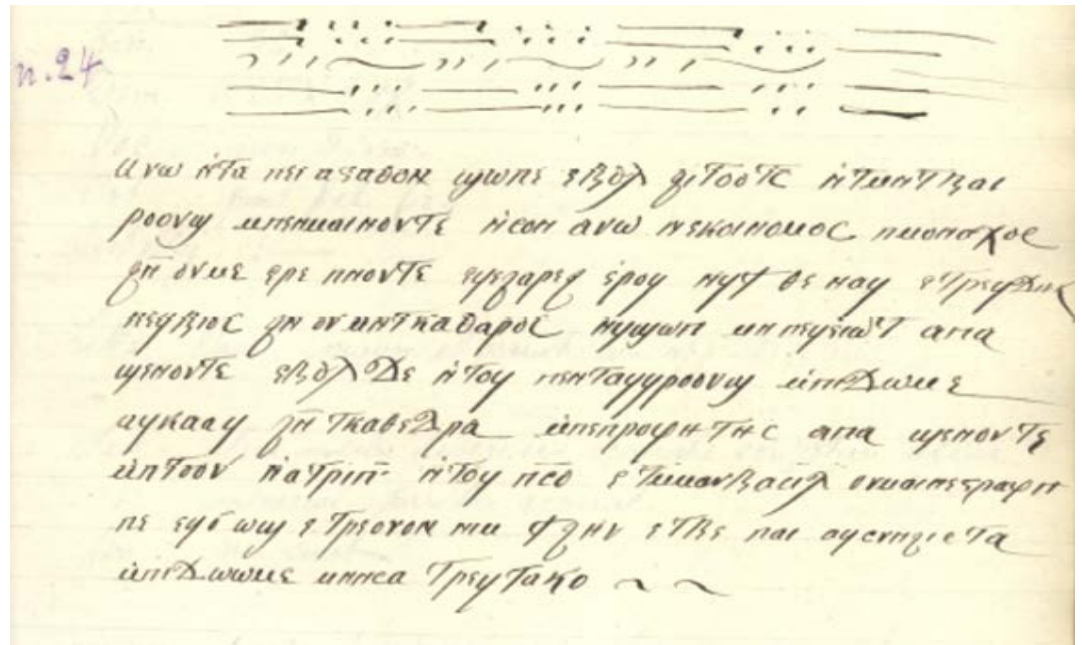
The May Gallery of Mullen Library
The Catholic University of America

Reception to follow

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Two ships left the port of Alexandria in Egypt in the 1780s, bound for London and Venice. Both carried a precious hoard of Coptic manuscripts from the White Monastery, but with pages from the same codices on different ships. Why?

In 1887, Henri Hyvernat completed a catalogue of the Clarendon Coptic (Sahidic) manuscripts that had been deposited in the Bodleian library. Hyvernat retained a copy of the catalogue and kept it in the collections of the Semitics/ICOR library at CUA, where he was professor of Semitic and Egyptian languages until his death in 1941. Armed with the Hyvernat catalogue, Fr. Sheridan eventually was able to locate the manuscripts in the Bodleian and photograph them in August 2015, along with archival material related to their acquisition. It is now possible to reconstruct in greater detail the history of the dispersal of the White Monastery (in Upper Egypt, north of Thebes) manuscripts, beginning in the 16th century and continuing to key events in 1787, as ships left Egypt.



Detail 89bis Hyvernat Catalogue of Clarendon Sahidic Coptic mss.