Saint Macarius Monastery

Volume One

Wadi al-Natrun, Egypt 2009

Acknowledgements

The St. Mark Foundation
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Dr. Fawzy Estafanous
Fr. Bertie
Rafik Gabriel

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Laura Watson
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The Monasteries of Wadi al-Natrun
Wadi al-Natrun, Egypt

Wadi al-Natrun, the valley of natron, is located 90 kilometers northwest of Cairo and is in the Libyan desert. It is approximately 50 kilometers in length and is the most important monastic center in Egypt. The area began as hermitic settlements around 330 AD when Saint Macarius the Great withdrew into the valley. By the fourth century, four settlements had developed, the monasteries of Old Baramous, St. Pshoi, St. Macarius, and St. John the Little. St. Pshoi and St. Macarius are still in existence today. As a result of a theological dispute within the Coptic Church, four more monasteries were founded as counterparts of the original four monasteries toward the end of the sixth century. Of these, the Monastery of the Virgin of Baramus and the Monastery of the Syrians are still in existence.

Nomads from the desert destroyed the monasteries in the fifth and ninth centuries, causing the monks to erect towers to live in when necessary and to fortify the monasteries. By the fourteenth century the monks lived predominantly within enclosed monastery walls for protection.

These monasteries have been and continue to be the monasteries providing most of the Coptic patriarchs and many of the bishops from among their ranks. Their history and culture are a key source of information on art, literature and architecture.

Saint Macarius Monastery

The monastery is named after Saint Macarius the Great, and is considered one of the most significant Coptic monasteries in existence because of its impact on the Coptic Church. It has been a source of the culture on which nearly all ecclesiastical Coptic life is based, and has supplied the Coptic Church with more prelates than any other monastery. It has provided more than a quarter of the Coptic patriarchs. When the Byzantines ruled Egypt and did not allow the patriarchs to live in Alexandria it became a patriarchal residence.

The monastery has been pillaged many times over the centuries. After the Arab occupation in the 7th century, a new church was consecrated there. It was much larger than the present day Church of Saint Macarius and encompassed the Church of the 49 Martyrs. This smaller church commemorates the forty-nine monks who suffered martyrdom during the sack of 444 AD. The Church of Saint Macarius at one time housed the head of St. Mark. The sanctuary of Saint Mark, which was named after him, is also called the sanctuary of St. John the Baptist, because his relics are buried there.

The keep is considered to be one of the most interesting keeps of all the Coptic monasteries. Today, the monastery has been completely renovated and has reclaimed large tracts of desert and is a center for livestock production and agricultural experimentation.

Explanation of Figures And Photo Orientation.

This book is in two parts, Volume One, which covers the three main churches, and Volume Two, which covers the keep, the library, the bell tower, the mausoleum and the areas outside the monastery walls. The book has been structured to provide the reader with the opportunity to experience the monastery as if one were walking through it. Consequently, the maps on pages four and five should be used to provide an understanding of where the photos in this book were taken in relation to the monastery as a whole.

Page four, the Map of the Grounds, provides an aerial view of the overall monastery complex, showing the area within its walls as well as the area surrounding the walls. This view corresponds with page five, which is a Map of the Monastery, showing the grounds within the monastery walls with the major buildings and features labelled.

The majority of the photos in this book are provided with a key in the form of a letter, for example (A), to show the reader where the image is in relationship to the monastery as a whole. These letters correspond to the key on the Map of the Monastery on page five.

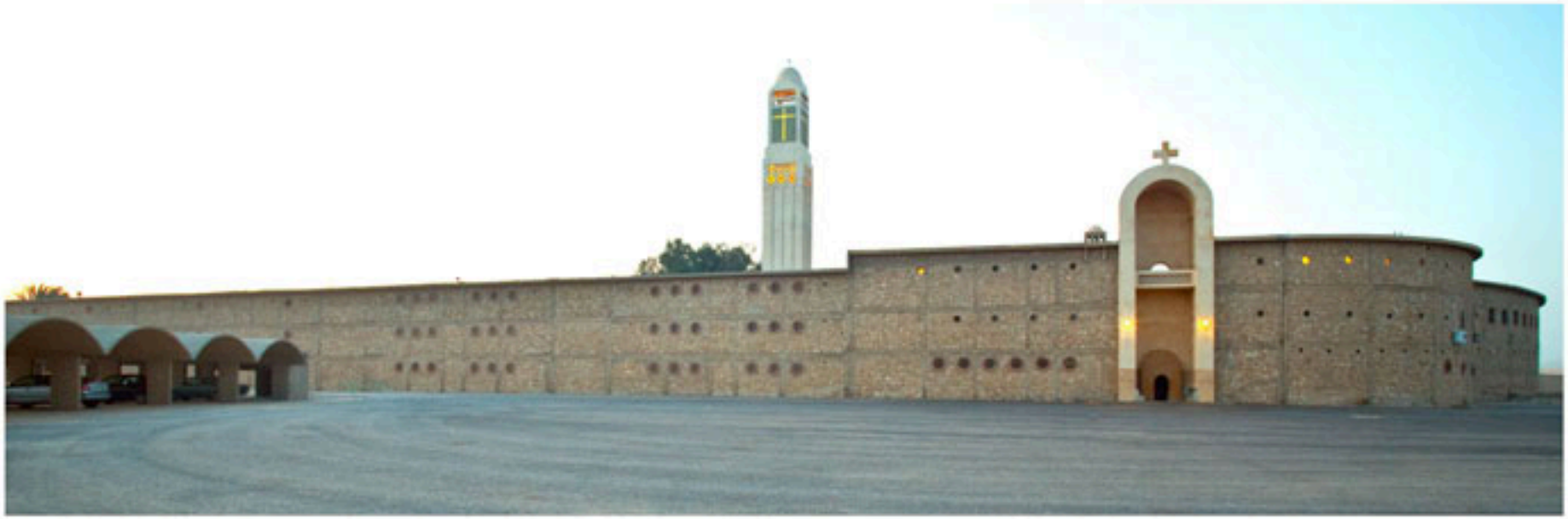
Page twenty, Volume One, is a floor plan of the Church of Saint Macarius, with features labelled. Page nine, Volume Two, is a floor plan of the third floor of the keep, with features labelled.

Map of the Grounds. The area identified as Main Monastery corresponds with the Map of the Monastery on page 5.

A - Main North Gate
B - North Courtyard
C - Church of St. Macarius
D - Church of the 49 Martyrs
E - Church of Abba Iskheirun
F - Keep
G - Old Refectory
H - Old Kitchen
I - New Kitchen
J - New Refectory
K - Monks' Cells
L - Central Gardens
M - Library
N - Upper West Courtyard
O - Upper South Courtyard
P - Mausoleum

Map of the Monastery. Map of the area within the monastery walls. The key on the right corresponds with the photos on the following pages. Please use this for the identification of photos on the following pages.

Saint Macarius Monastery. North wall (Area A).



Saint Macarius Monastery. North wall at sunrise (Area A).

Saint Macarius Monastery. South wall.

Saint Macarius Monastery. West wall.

Preceding Page: West wall detail with mausoleum in foreground.This Page: East wall.

Main entrance to the monastery.
Exterior of north door in north wall (Area A).

Left: north door in north wall detail with arch visible through doorway. Right: north door in north wall from the monastery interior. (Area A).

Guesthouse in main courtyard looking north (Area B).

View of ancient arch from main courtyard (Area B).

Preceding Page: Ancient arch that has been recovered from the desert sands. It was the northern entrance to the church before the ninth century and may go back to the seventh century. This Page: small library in main courtyard. (Area B).

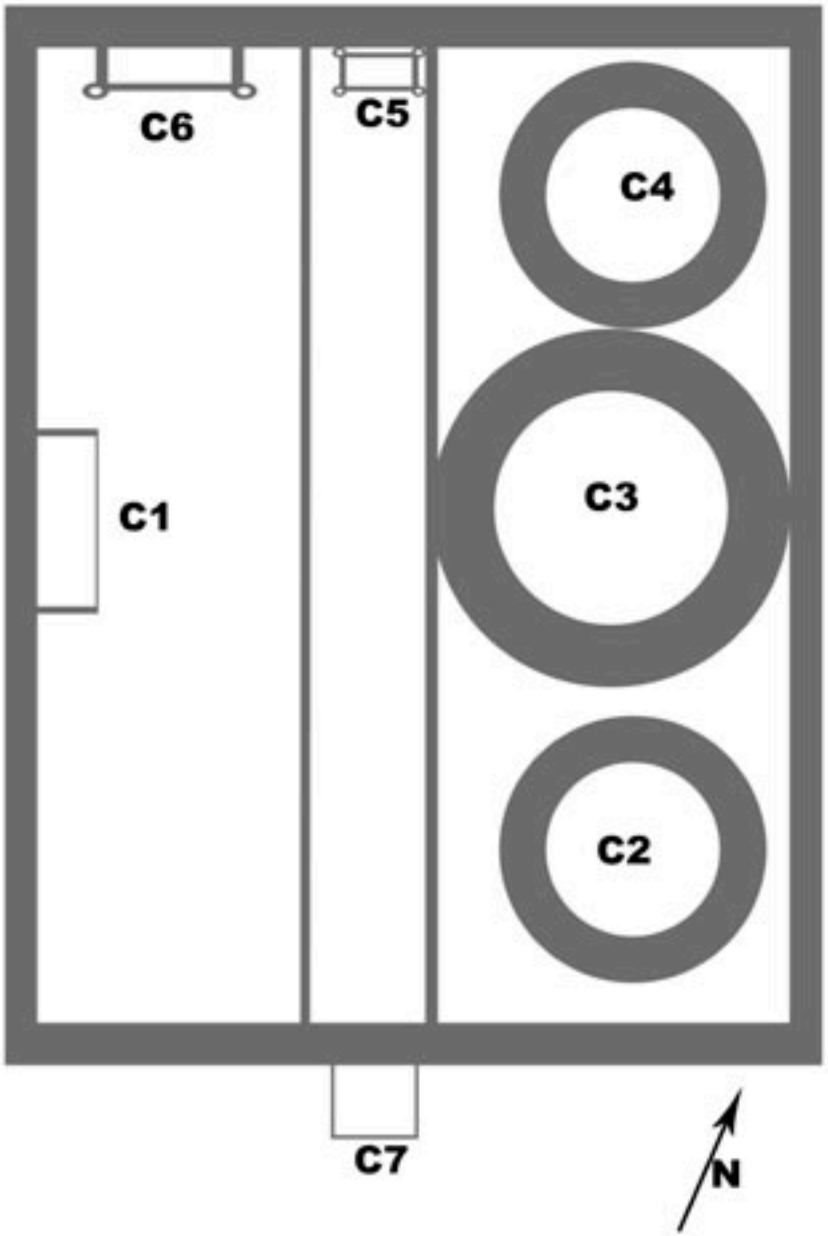
Monks' cells bordering main courtyard (Area K).

The Church of Saint Macarius

The Church of Saint Macarius was consecrated by Patriarch Benjamin I in 655 when it was rebuilt following the Arab conquest. It was originally much larger than at present. Of the original church, only the central sanctuary, the sanctuary of Anba Benjamin, and that of St. John the Baptist, also called the sanctuary of St. Mark, have survived. Originally the church, which was extremely beautiful and imposing, extended from the western end of the present church to the Church of the 49 Martyrs, which formed part of the original Church of Saint Macarius.

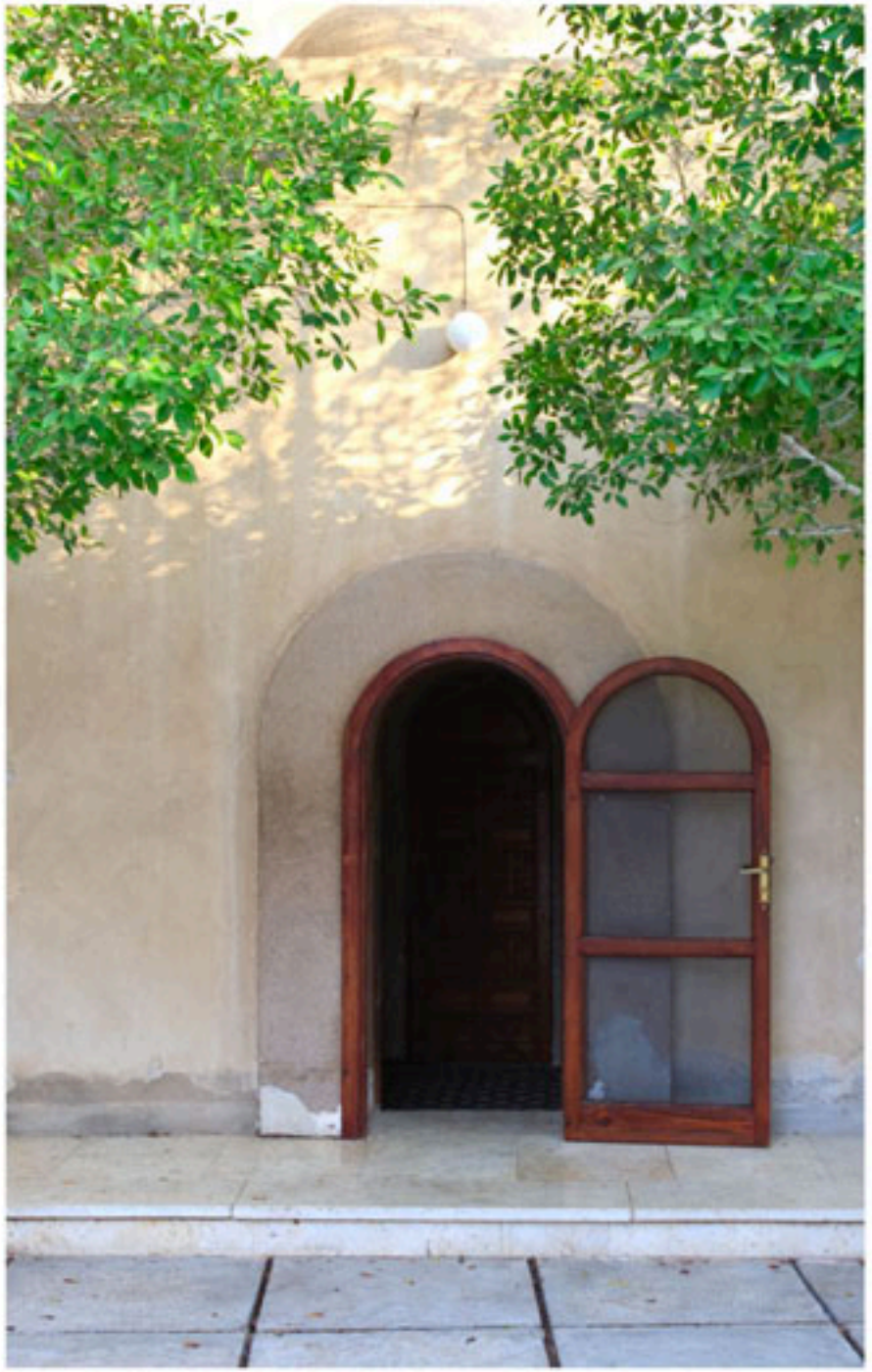
In the fourteenth century the Black Death, and the unprecedented persecution of the Copts, devastated the monastery. Raids and the impact of the natural elements contributed greatly to its destruction. In the twentieth century, the repair and renovation of the monastery began and continues to the present day.

Among the many spectacular artworks in the church, the sanctuary of Anba Benjamin features a beautiful arch encased in wood that contains paintings of medallions representing the life of Christ. One of them depicts Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea embalming the body of Christ. Another illustrates them carrying the wrapped body. The sanctuary of St. John the Baptist is named in this manner because the relics of St. John the Baptist are buried there, along with Elisha the Prophet. It is covered with exquisite paintings.

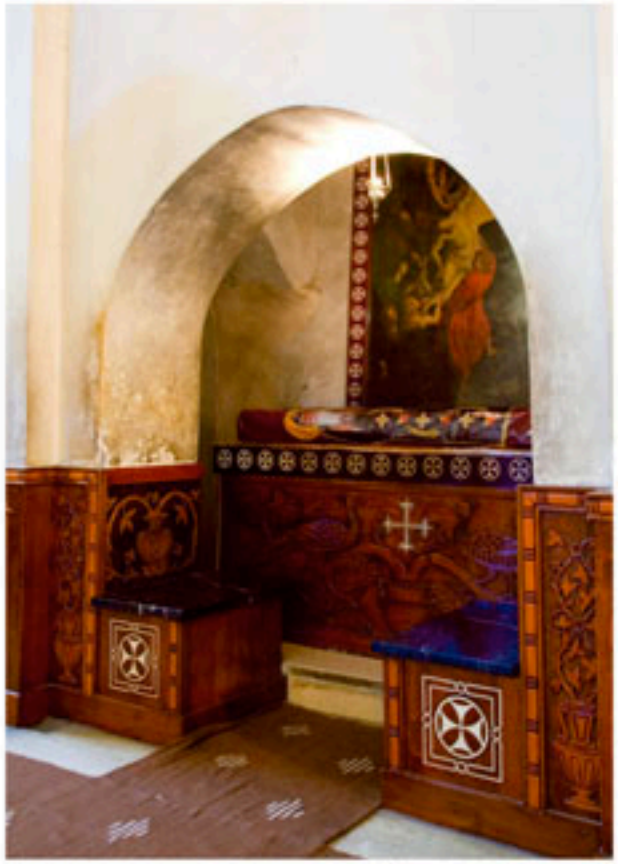


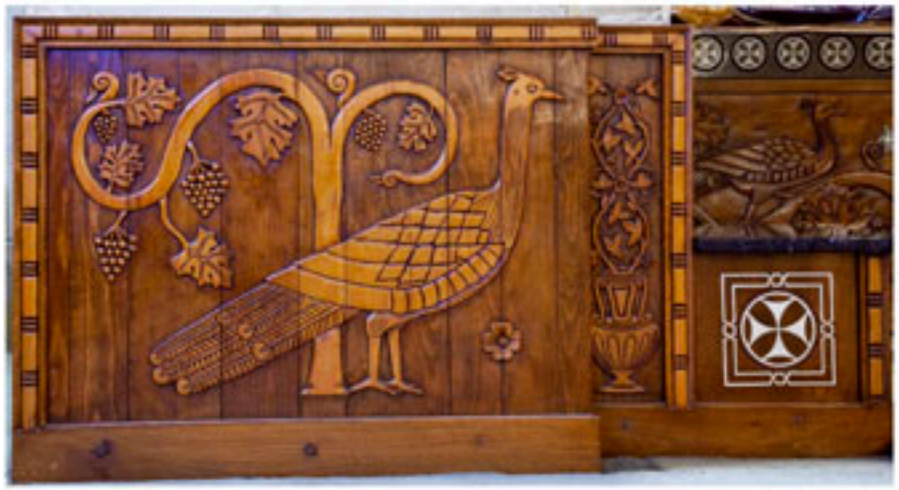
C1 - Main Entrance
C2 - South Sanctuary
C3 - Sanctuary of St. Benjamin
C4 - Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist
C5 - Reliquary of St. John The Baptist
C6 - Reliquary of the Three Macarii
C7 - Side Entrance

Floor plan of the Church of Saint Macarius (Area C, page 5).
Please use this for the identification of photos on the following pages.



Preceding Page: View of the Church of Saint Macarius from the keep (Area C). Above Left: Main entrance (Area C-1). Above Right: Side entrance (Area C-7). Following Page: View of the choir looking north. (Area C). Church of Saint Macarius.





Preceding Page: North wall, reliquary of the Three Macarii: Macarius the Great, Macarius of Alexandria and Macarius the Martyr. Above: Detail, reliquary. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-6).

Above Left: South wall.
Above Right: Nave, looking north. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C).

Crypt of Saint John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. North wall. (Area C-5).

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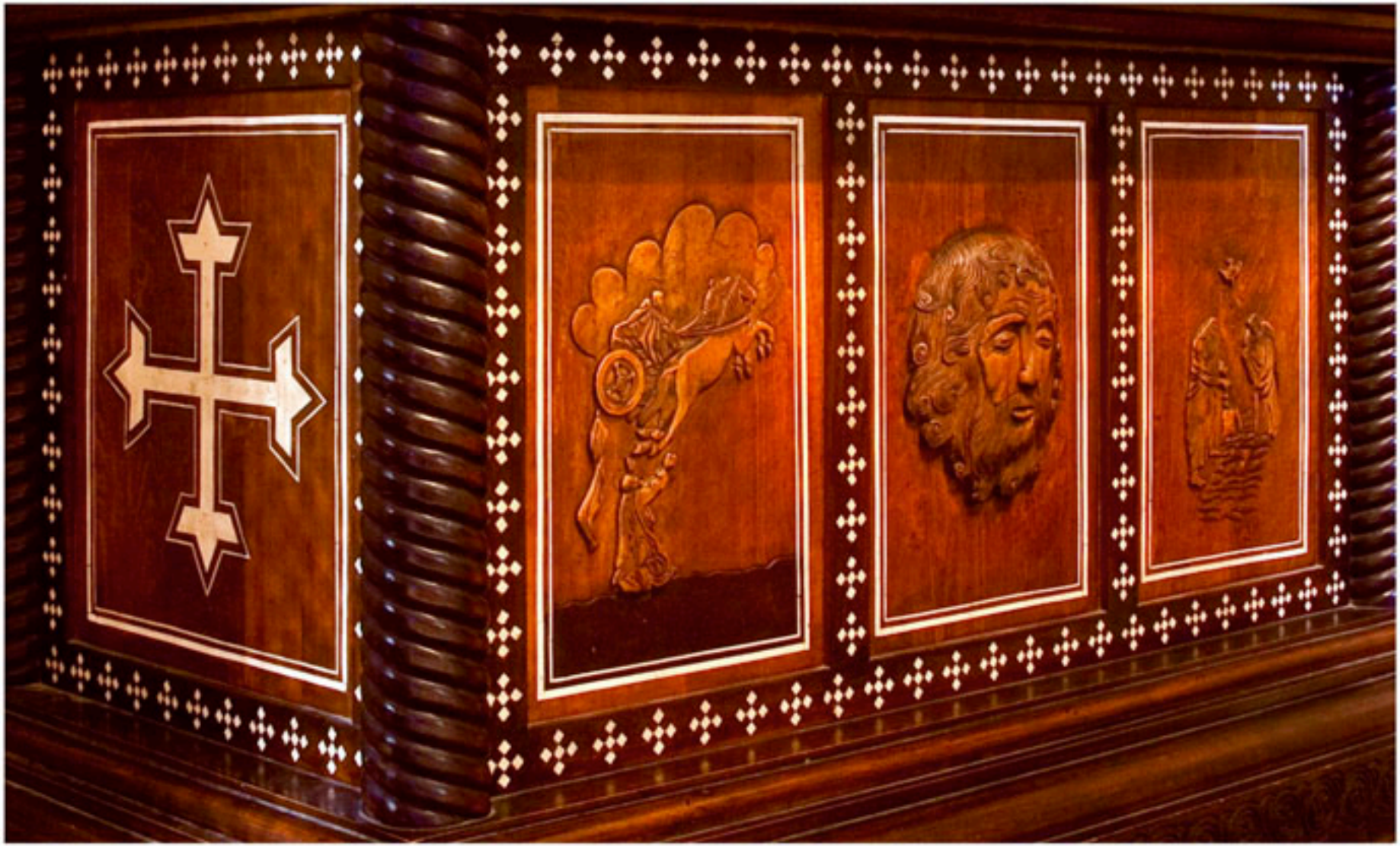
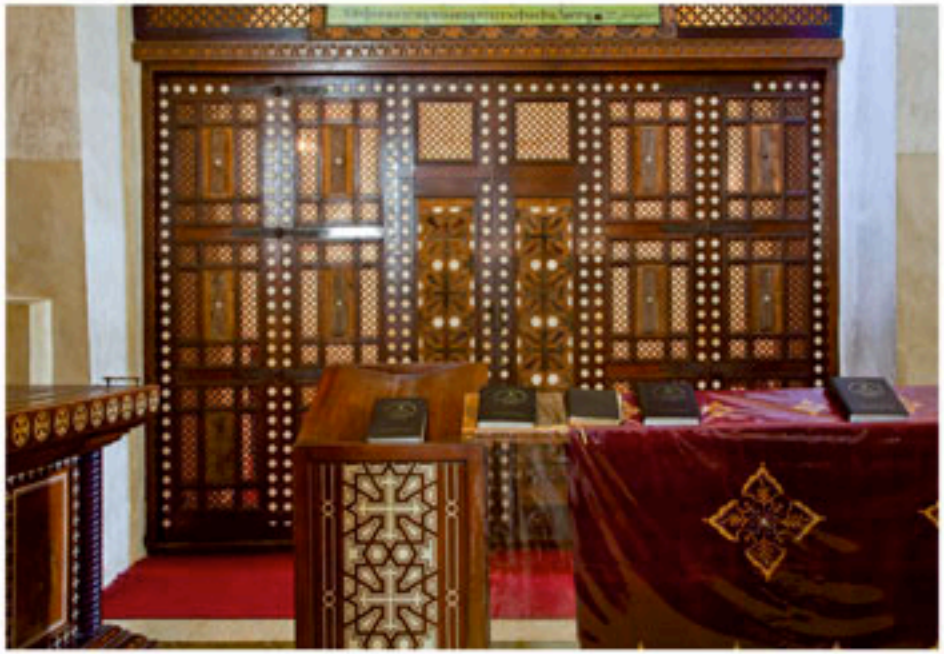
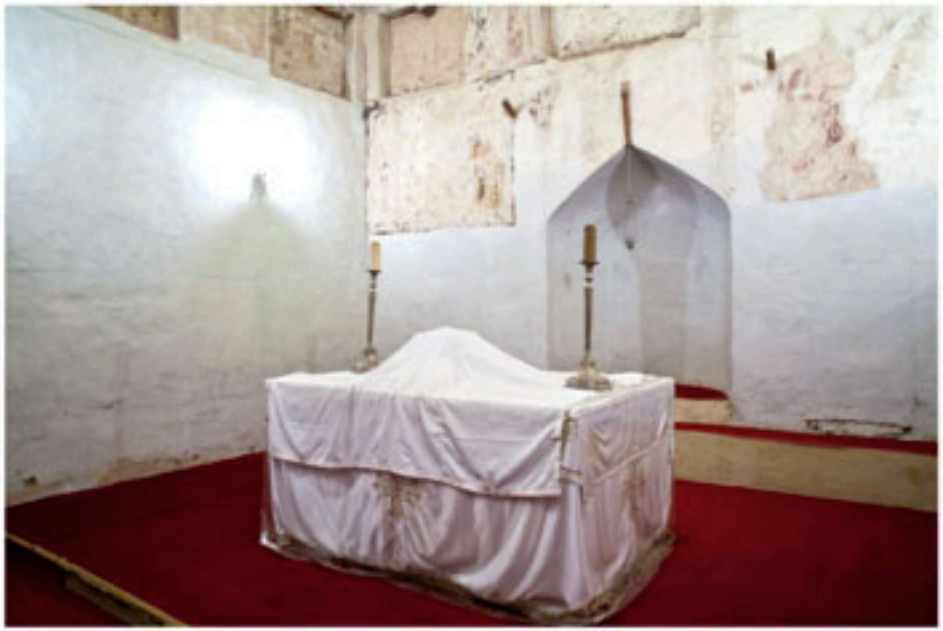
يوحنا المعمدان والبشع النبي
Relics of St. John The Baptist
and Elisha The Prophet



Preceding Page and Above: Reliquary of Saint John the Baptist and Elisha the Prophet. Church of Saint Macarius. North wall. (Area C-5).





Preceding Page: Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist from choir. This Page Above Left: Altar screen and nave.
This Page Above Right: Altar. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

This Page and Page Following: Frescos around ceiling of Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Individual frescos are shown on the pages following beginning with page 34. Please refer to these two pages to see the placement of the individual frescos around the sanctuary.

Previous Page: the Sacrifice of Isaac. In the arcature: Evangelists. Below the arches: monastic saints. North wall.
This Page: the Annunciation. In recess, the Nativity. Northeast wall. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of St. Macarius. (Area C-4).

Preceding Page: Moses and Aaron. In the arcature: the Deisis (Virgin Mary and St. John). East wall.
This Page: Annunciation to Zachariah. Southeast wall. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

Preceding Page: Left Side: the Purification of Isaiah. Right Side: Abraham and Melchizedek. South wall.
This Page: Job. In recess: the Baptism of Christ. Southwest wall. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

Above the doorway arch on either side: monastic saints. Blank area: Not identified. West wall.
Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

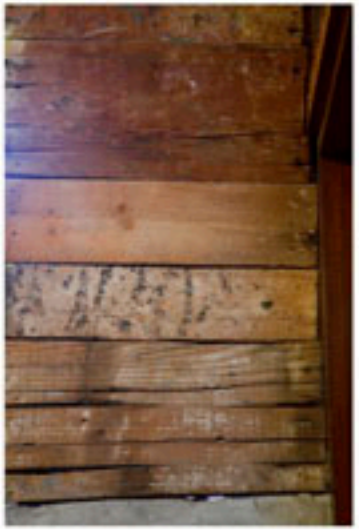
In the spandrel, right: Jacob’s dream. In the spandrel, left: Christ and Nathanael. In the recess: the Resurrection. Northwest wall. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

Preceding Page: East wall, showing placement of frescos on this page.
This Page: Left: The Three Hebrews. Right: Christ's entry into Jerusalem.
East wall. Sanctuary of St. John the Baptist. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-4).

Preceding Page: Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Center sanctuary. From choir area.

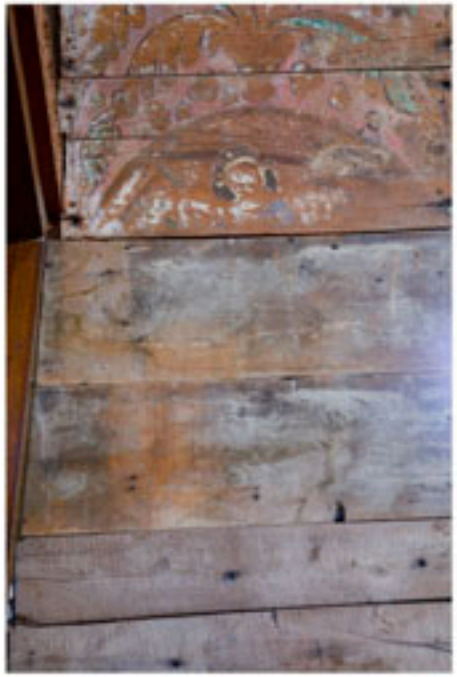
This Page: Altar screen and altar screen detail. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. East wall. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).

Altar screen and altar screen detail. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. East wall. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).

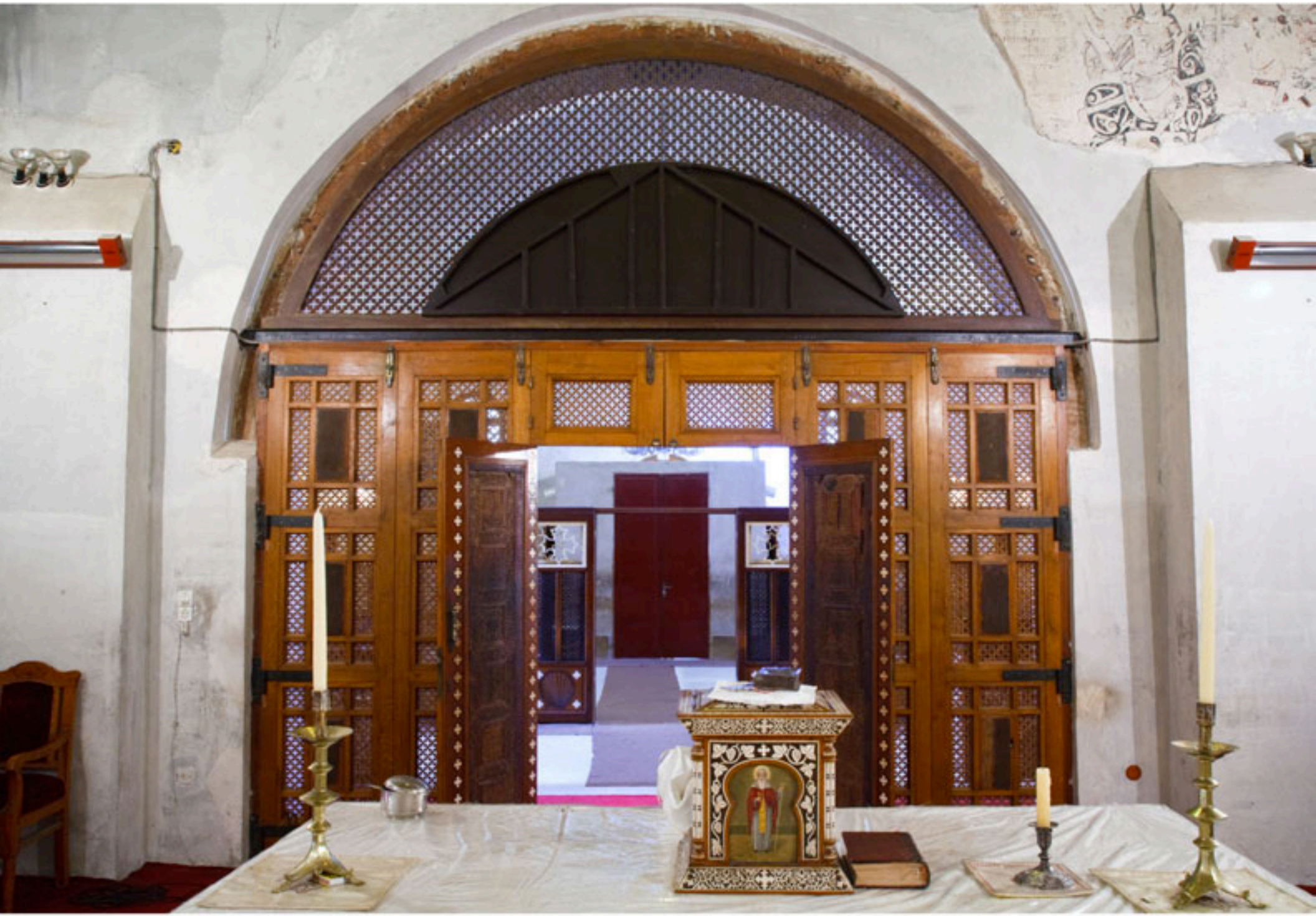


Above Left: Wooden arch with icons depicting the Life of Christ. Above Right: Detail. Wooden arch with icons. Please use the arch photo as a reference point for the detailed photos on the next pages. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. East wall. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).

Previous Page: Left: Medallion. Right: Nicodemus and Joseph of Armathea embalming the body of Christ.
This Page Left: Medallion. This Page Right: Nicodemus and Joseph of Armathea carrying the wrapped body of Christ.
Wooden arch with icons depicting the Life of Christ. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. East wall. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).



This Page: wooden arch with icons depicting the Life of Christ.
Following Page: Sanctuary of St. Benjamin looking west towards entrance. East wall. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).



This Page: Altar.
Following Page: Dome. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).

East Wall. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-3).

Part of the Twenty-Four Elders of the Apocalypse, on jewelled thrones, holding small vessels. Southeast corner. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

Part of the Twenty-Four Elders of the Apocalypse, on jewelled thrones, holding small vessels. South wall. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

Above: St. John the Baptist, in dark red tunic and yellow-brown cloak with white edging. Left hand holds a medallion containing a horned ram. Next Page: Detail. St. John the Baptist. Southwest corner. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

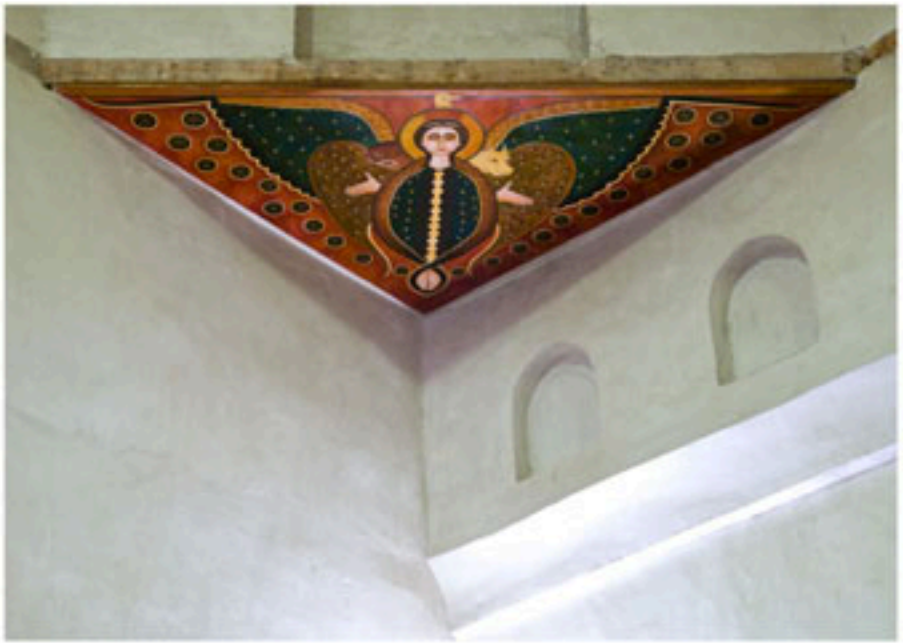
Preceding Page: The Ascension. Christ between two angels, flanked by Apostles and Evangelists, each depicted within an arcade. Above: Detail. The Ascension. West wall. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

This Page: The Ascension, the Twenty-Four Elders of the Apocalypse and lower left: two equestrian saints, Claudius and Mena. Next Two Pages: Detail. The Ascension and the Equestrians. Northwest corner. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

Part of the Twenty-Four Elders of the Apocalypse, on jewelled thrones, holding small vessels. North wall. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

Cherub with haloed human head, oval body, egg-shaped tail, hands out and two wings with eyes on edges, featuring the four creatures of the Apocalypse: bull, lion, eagle and a human. Northeast corner. Sanctuary of St. Benjamin. Church of Saint Macarius (Area C-3).

Above Left: Altar screen.
Above Right: Altar. South sanctuary. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-2).



Cherubs. South sanctuary. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-2).

Preceding Page, Above and Lower Left: Ancient frescos. Lower Right: Honeycomb on exterior wall. South sanctuary. Church of Saint Macarius. (Area C-2).

The Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs

The Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs is dedicated to the commemoration of the forty-nine monks who suffered martyrdom during the sack by the Berbers that occurred in the year 444. During this raid, the third raid, most of the monks moved to the keep for protection and raised the drawbridge. Forty-nine monks, including the abbot and hegoumenos Anba Youannis, stood ready for martyrdom and were murdered.

Before the thirteenth century the relics of the forty-nine martyrs, along with the patriarchs, were buried outside the monastery walls in a special place near St. Zachariah's Monastery. When the monks gathered inside the walls in the 14th century, they brought the relics inside. The relics were moved from place to place until they were finally interred in a reliquary in the second choir of the Church of Saint Macarius, which lies near the relics of Saint John the Baptist and Elisha the Prophet.

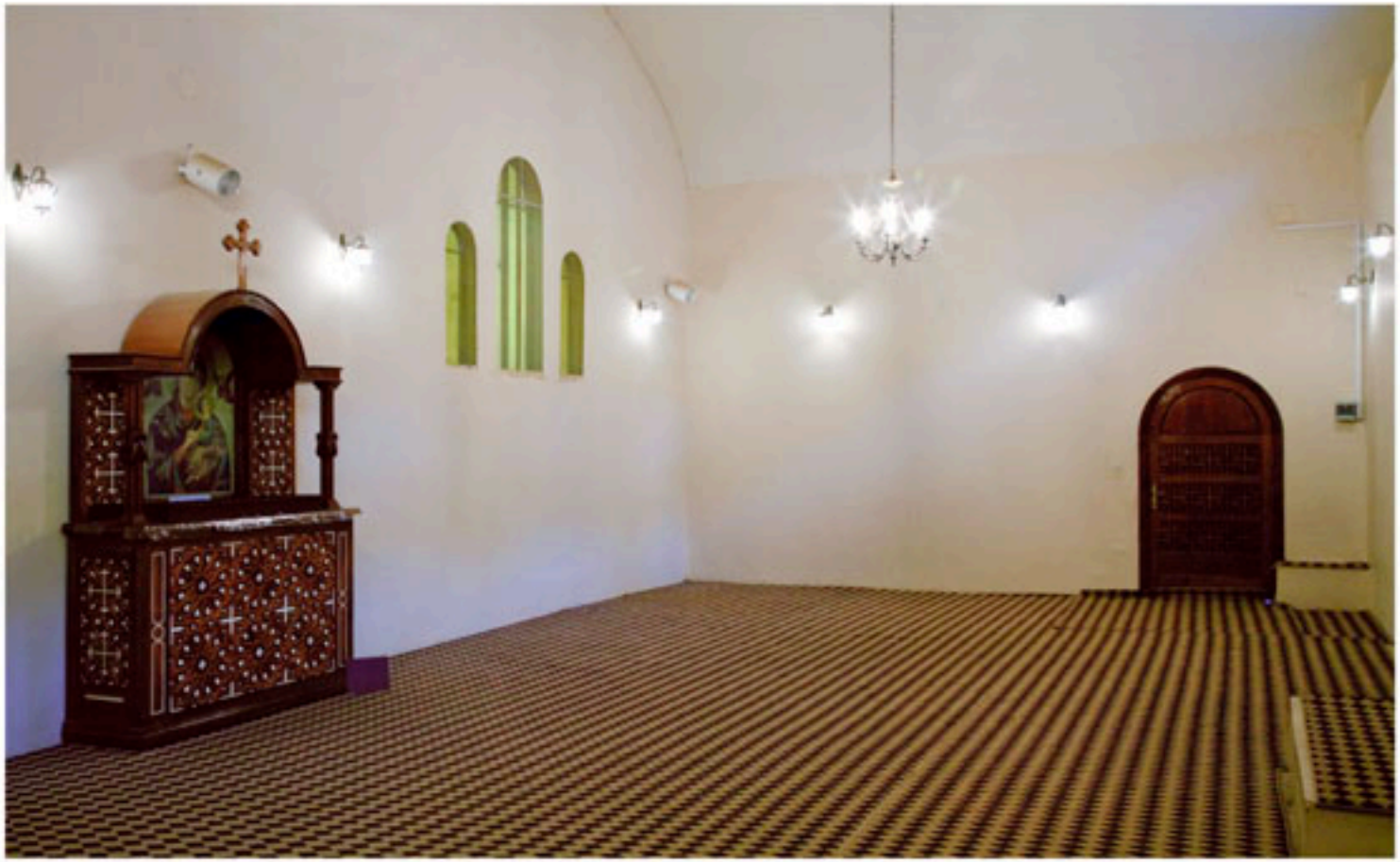
The Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs was originally part of the western side of the Church of Saint Macarius. It was rebuilt by the notable Copt Ibrahim al-Gawhari. It has been modernized extensively since 1969.

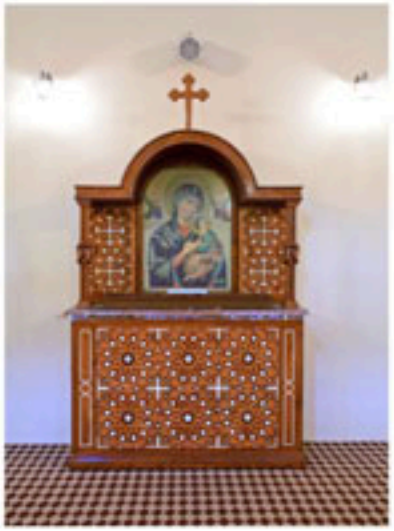
Entrance to Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs.

Preceding Page, Above Left and Upper Right: Choir. Lower Right: Nave.
Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs. (Area D).

Preceding Page: Memorial to the Forty-Nine Martyrs.
Above: Nave and Altar Screen. Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs. (Area D).

Altar. Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs. (Area D).





Left: Side room with reliquary. Above Right: reliquary. Below Right: Detail. Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs. (Area D).

The Church of Saint Iskheirun

The Church of Saint Iskheirun was originally located on the southern side of the Church of Saint Macarius and was probably the sanctuary of the three children, Ananias, Azarias, and Misael. After the Church of Saint Macarius collapsed, it became a separate church.

In the past, the Church of Saint Iskheirun was also connected with another church south of the monastery called the Church of Aristomachus the Blessed, which was taken over by a dissenting sect, the Gianistes, in the year 535.

The Church of Saint Iskheirun was named for a great Coptic martyr, Abbascheiron, who was killed during the Diocletian persecution and suffered an incredible amount of torture.

One of the most noteworthy architectural details of the church is the quadripartite dome, a masterpiece of architecture and one of the most beautiful monuments of the monastery. Another very important aspect of the church is the door of the first choir to the north, which opened onto the nave of the old Church of Saint Macarius. After a partition wall was built, the door enclosed a small chamber which was dedicated to the relics of Saint John the Little. The door has an exquisite decoration in red brick, with ancient writings embedded in the brick.

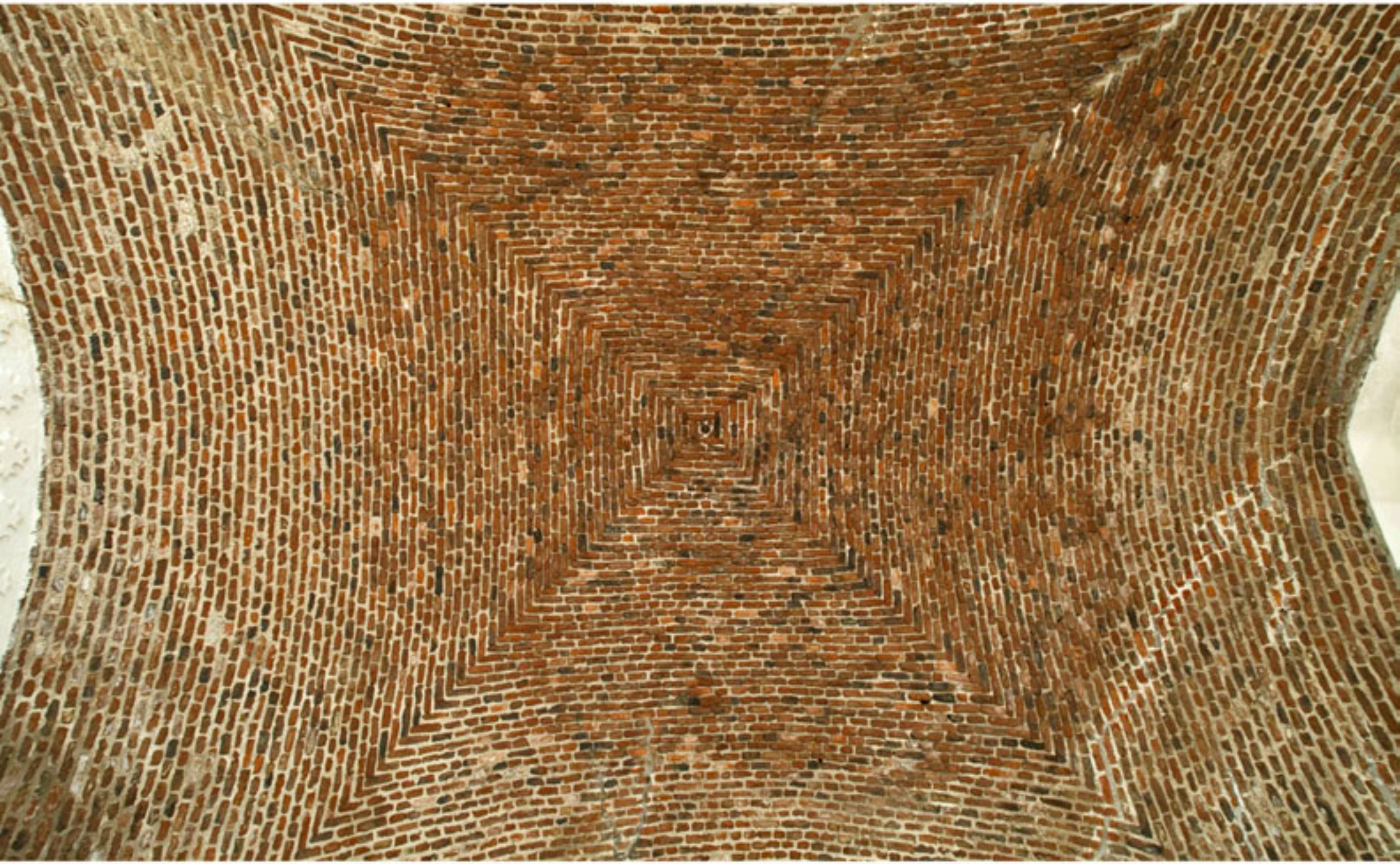
Above Left: Main door to the Church of Saint Iskheirun. Above Right: Church of Saint Iskheirun. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Preceding Page: Nave and Choir. Above: Nave with ancient door. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Above: Ancient door. Followiing Page: Detail. Writing on ancient door.
Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

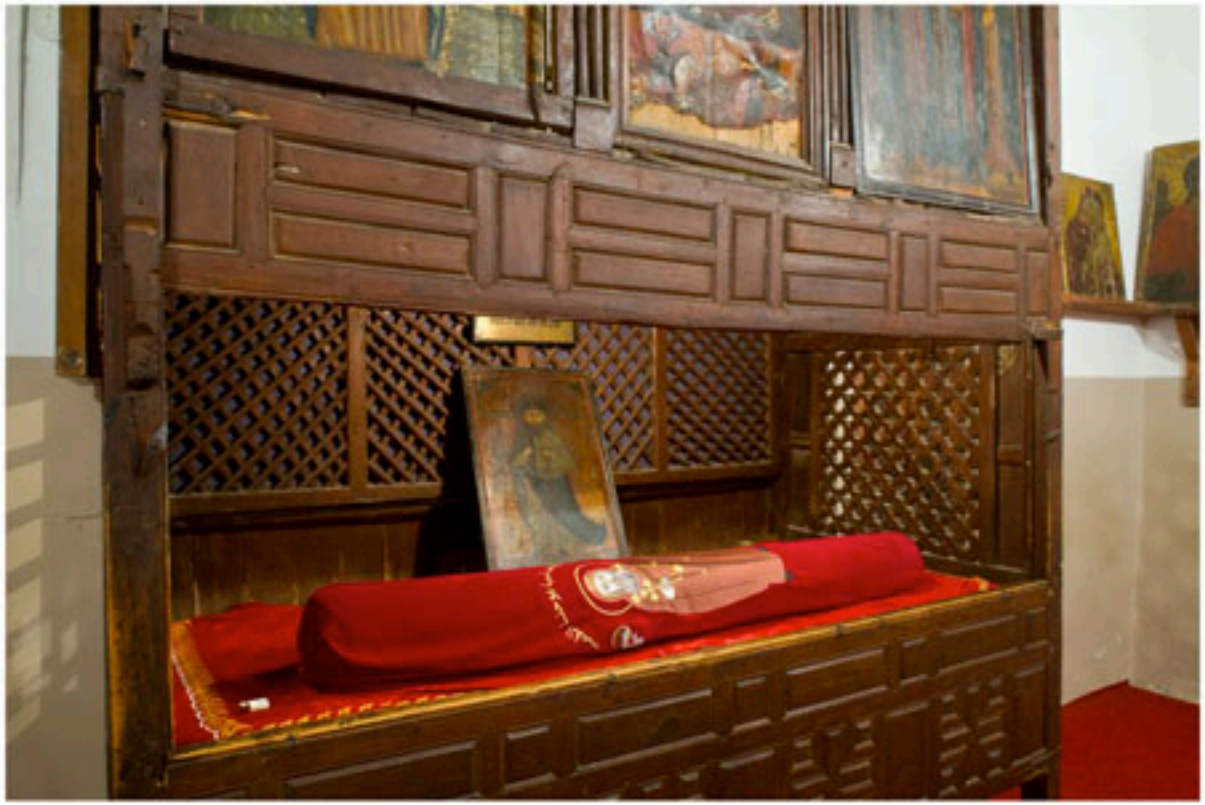
Interior door. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

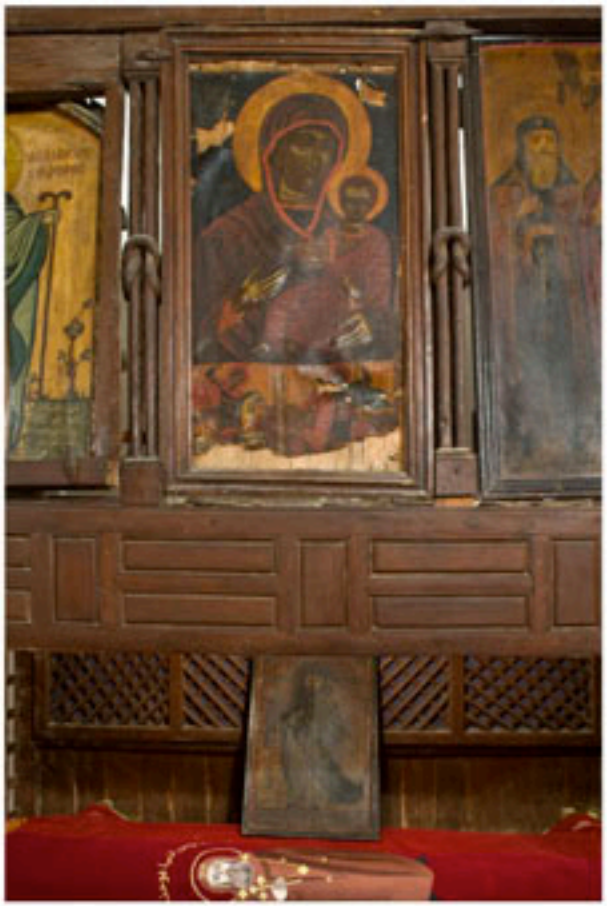
Choir and nave with church entrance in background. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).



Preceding Page and Above: Quadripartite dome.
Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

This Page: Altar screen.
Following Page: Sanctuary. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).





This Page: Reliquary of Saint John the Little.
Following Page: Detail. Reliquary of Saint John the Little. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

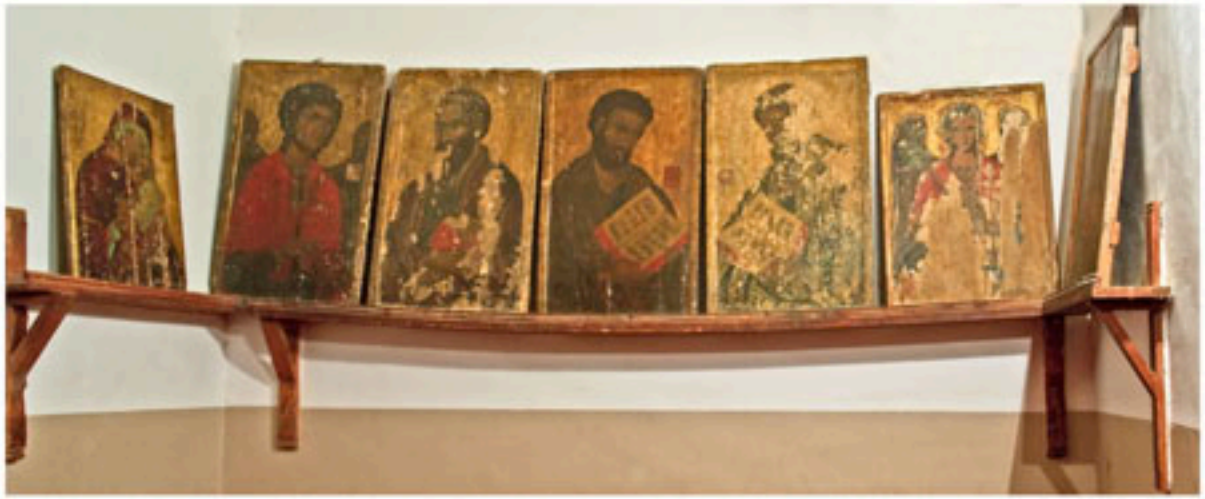
ⲁⲃⲃⲁ ⲙⲁⲕⲁⲣⲓ
ⲑⲟⲩⲫⲟⲣⲟⲥ
ⲟⲥⲓⲟⲥ ⲡⲓⲛⲓⲧⲏ
ابا مقار المتوحد الناسك
ورئيس الرهبان

Detail. Reliquary of Saint John the Little. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Detail. Reliquary of Saint John the Little. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Above Left: Entrance to Chapel of Saint John the Little.
Above Right and Following Page: Sanctuary. Chapel of Saint John the Little. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Oil Basin.
Chapel of Saint John the Little. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).



Left: Ancient icons. Right: The Virgin Mary with Jesus. Ancient icon.
Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

Left and Right: Ancient icon. Church of Saint Iskheirun. (Area E).

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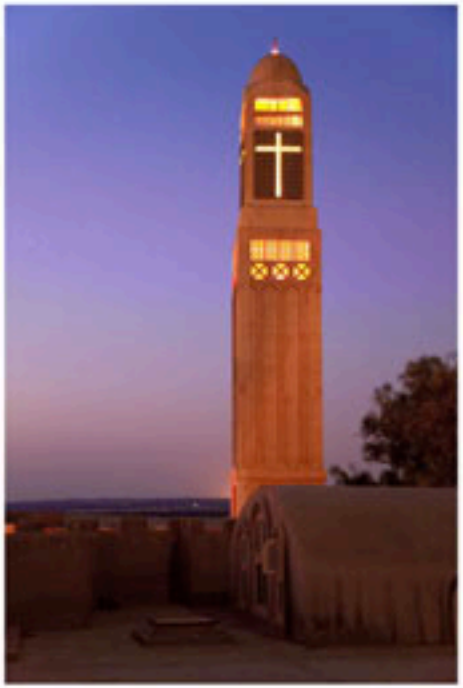

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Map of the Grounds. The area identified as Main Monastery corresponds with the Map of the Monastery on page 3.

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P - Mausoleum

Map of the Monastery. Map of the area within the monastery walls. The key on the right corresponds with the photos on the following pages. Please use this for the identification of photos on the following pages.

This Page: Monk cells south of the Church of Saint Macarius. They are on the ruins of the collapsed southern sanctuaries of the Church of Saint Macarius and date to the fourteenth century. Following Page: Steps on the outside of the Church of the Forty-Nine Martyrs (Area D).

Previous Page: Small bell tower.

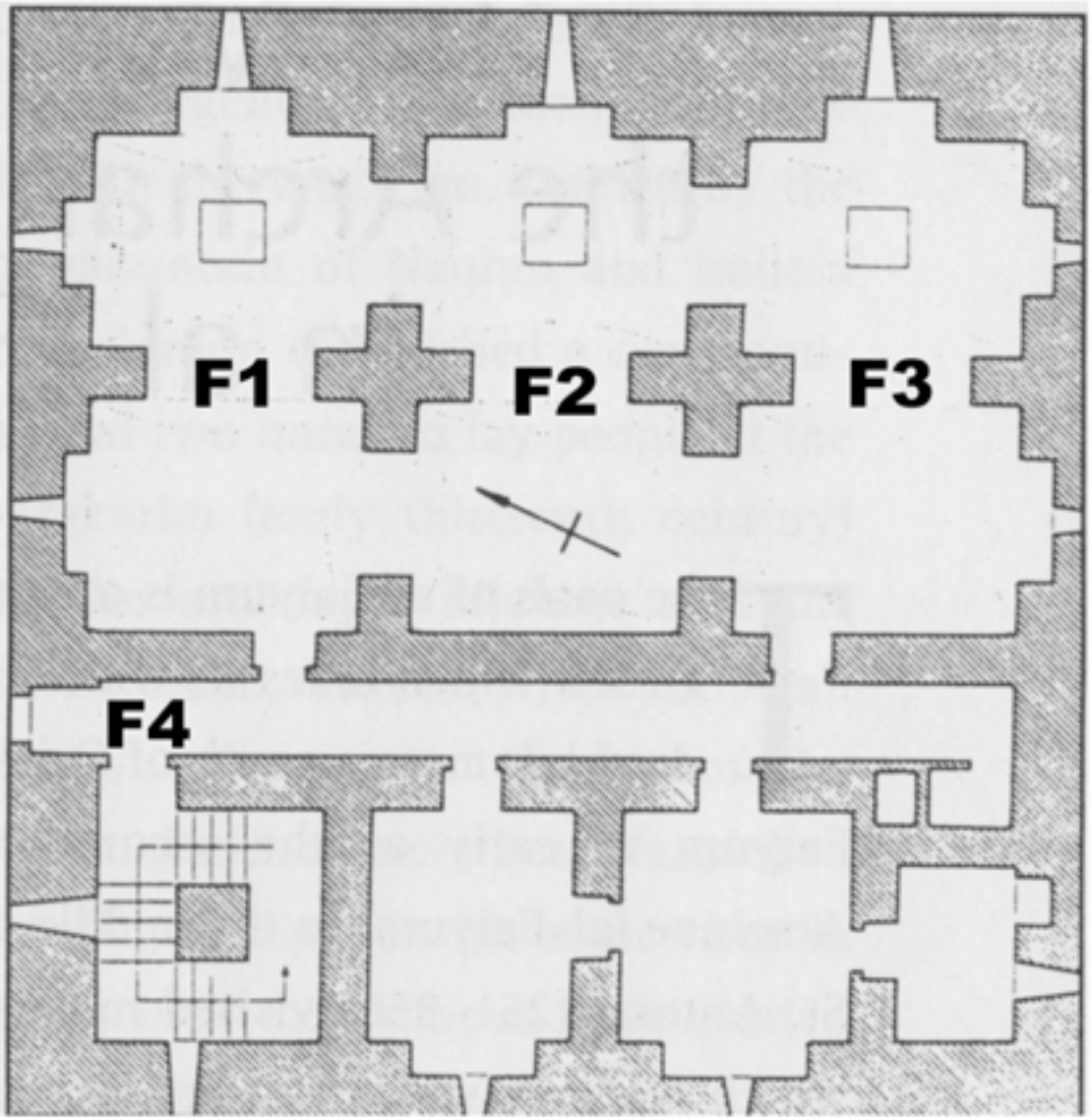
This Page: Above Left: Small bell tower and keep. Above Right: Entrance to small bell tower. (Area F).

The Keep

The keep is one of the most important keeps of all Coptic monasteries. It was used in times of danger as a place of refuge. It has a first floor and two upper floors, and is separated from the small bell tower by a drawbridge which could be raised as needed. The first floor consists of spacious vaulted rooms used for storage. At the northern end is a well which was used during a state of siege. The second floor has two main parts: the Chapel of the Holy Virgin Mary in the eastern section, which has three altars and some altar screens formed from a collection of ancient art objects of fine workmanship from medieval days, and in the western section rooms used in later periods for pressing wine and olive oil. A trapdoor in this area led to an oubliette for manuscripts.

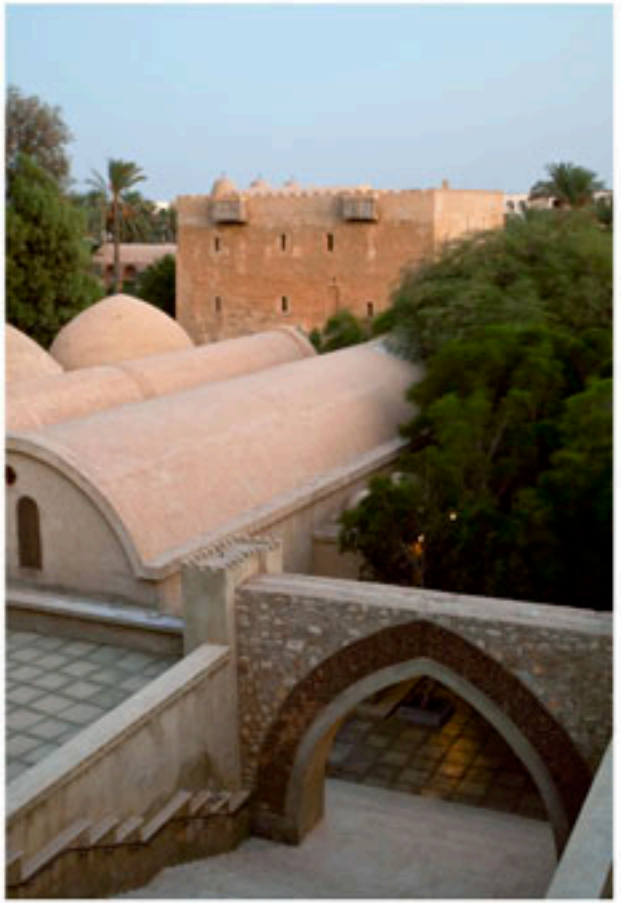
On the third floor are three chapels with frescos on the walls. Most of the paintings were executed by the Ethiopian Tekla in 1517. On the northern side is a church dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel. Next to it is a church dedicated to Saint Anthony. The church on the southern end is dedicated to the Hermits, defenders of the faith in times of persecution.

The roof of the keep was used as a watchtower. In the early centuries a monk stood guard day and night, and sounded the alarm by beating a huge slab of hard wood with a hammer. This sent the alarm throughout the desert, calling the solitaries living in distant places to the monastery.



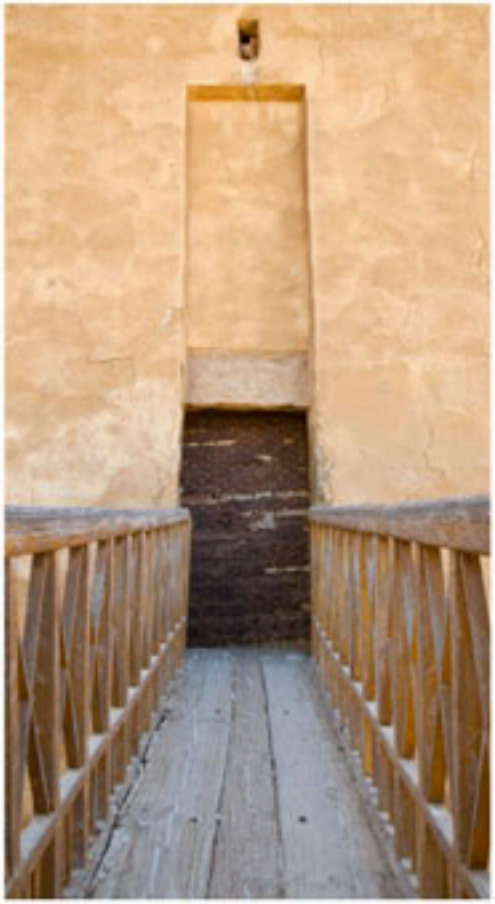
F1 - Chapel of St. Michael
F2 - Chapel of St. Anthony
F3 - Chapel of the Hermits
F4 - Bridge Winch

Map of the third floor of the keep. The key on the right corresponds with the photos on the next pages. Please use this for the identification of photos on the following pages.



This Page Left: Looking at west wall of keep from Church of the Forty-Nine Marytrs.
This Page Right: Keep with Church of Saint Macarius and ancient arch in the foreground. Following Page: The keep. (Area F).

The keep. (Area F).



Drawbridge to the keep and keep exterior door. (Area F).

Preceding Page: Exterior. Keep door. This Page Left: Interior. Keep Door.
This Page Right: Detail of locking mechanism. Keep door. Keep. (Area F).

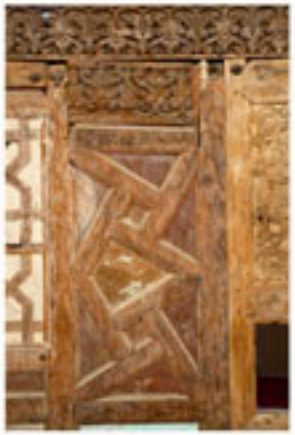
This Page: Above Left and Right: Nave. Second floor.
Following Page: Ancient altar screen, northern sanctuary. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Second Floor. Keep. (Area F).

Detail. Ancient altar screen. Northern sanctuary. Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).

Ancient altar screen, center sanctuary.
Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).

This Page: Altar. Following Two Pages: Detail. Altar screen. Center sanctuary. Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).

Preceding Page: Ancient altar screen. Southern sanctuary. This Page: Detail. Ancient altar screen. Southern sanctuary. Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).



Detail. Ancient altar screen. Southern sanctuary.
Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).

Detail. Ancient altar screen. Southern sanctuary.
Second floor. Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. Keep. (Area F).

Above Left: Storage room.
Above Right: Door to secret manuscript room. Second floor. Keep. (Area F).

Preceding Page and This Page: Chapel of Saint Michael. The equestrian saints on the southern wall from east to west are: St. Basilidis, St. Eusebius, St. Macarius, St. Justus and St.Apoli. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-1).

Frescos. Chapel of Saint Michael. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-1).
Please refer to Page 29 as a reference point for the frescos on this page.

Frescos. Chapel of Saint Michael. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-1).
Please refer to Page 29 as a reference point for the frescos on this page.

This Page: Chapel of Saint Michael. Third floor.
Following Page: Fresco. Chapel of Saint Michael, northern wall. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-1).

Preceding Page: Altar screen. This Page: Altar.
Chapel of Saint Michael. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-1).

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بع كل مالك واتبعني

Preceding Page and This Page: Chapel of Saint Anthony. The saints on the northern wall are: St. Anthony, St. Paul the Hermit, and St. Pachomius. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-2).

Preceding Page and This Page: Chapel of The Hermits. The saints on the northern wall from east to west are: St. Samuel of Qalamun, St. John, St. Onnophrius, St. Abraham, St. George, St. Apollo, St. Apip, St. Misael, and St. Pigimi. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-3).

Frescos. Chapel of The Hermits. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-3).
Please refer to Page 39 as a reference point for the frescos on this page.

Frescos. Chapel of The Hermits. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-3).
Please refer to Page 39 as a reference point for the frescos on this page.

Preceding Page: Fresco. Chapel of The Hermits. Third floor. Keep. (Area F-3).
Please refer to Page 39 as a reference point for the fresco on that page.
Above Left: Store room. Keep. (Area F). Above Right: Winch. Keep. (Area F-4).

First floor storerooms with artifacts. Keep. (Area F).

Above: Olive press. Below: First floor storerooms with artifacts. Keep. (Area F).

Icons. Keep. (Area F).

Icons. Keep. (Area F).

Icon of the Three Saints Macarii. This is the oldest icon in the monastery. Keep. (Area F).

Icon. Keep. (Area F).

Icon. Keep. (Area F).

Artifacts. Keep. (Area F).

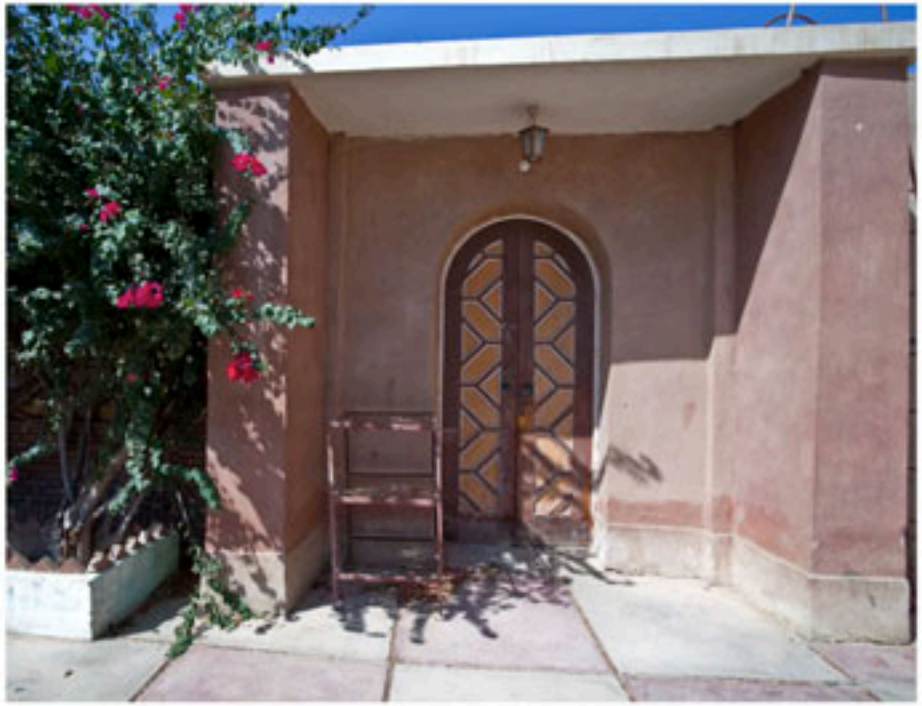
Artifacts. Keep. (Area F).

Above Left: Exterior. Above Right: Exterior door.
Following Page: Interior. Old Refectory. (Area G).

Lectern. Old Refectory. (Area G).

Interior. Old Refectory. (Area G).

This Page: Exterior. Old Kitchen. (Area H).
Following Page: Old Kitchen in courtyard. (Area H).

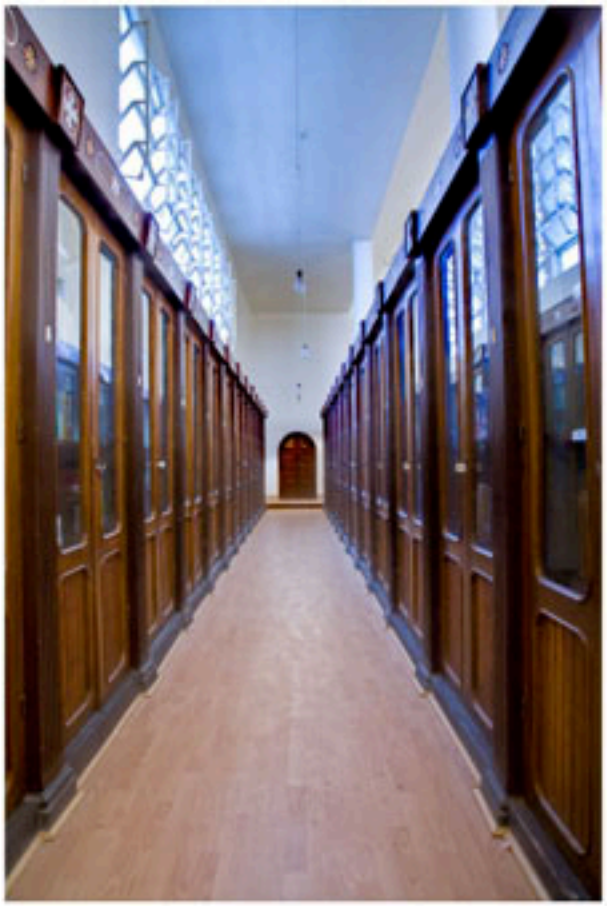


Above Left: New refectory and monks' cells. (Areas J and K).
Above Right: New kitchen. (Area I).

New refectory, eastern aspect. (Area J).

This Page: Monks' cells. (Area K).
Following Page: Central Gardens. (Area L).

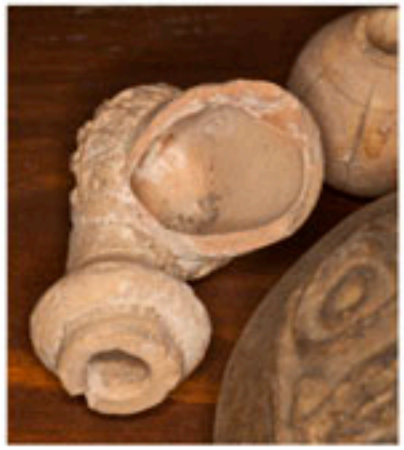
This Page: Central Gardens. (Area L).
Following Page: Exterior. Library and Church of the Virgin and Saint Paul. (Area M).



Interior. Library. (Area M).

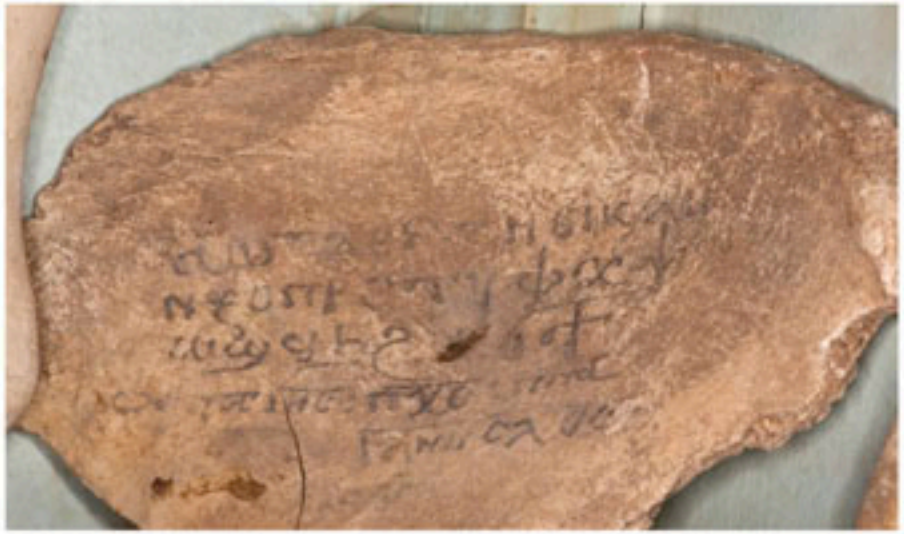
Above Left: Altar screen. Above Right: Altar. Church of the Virgin and Saint Paul. (Area M).

Preceding Page and This Page: Artifacts. Library. (Area M).



Preceding Page and This Page: Artifacts. Library. (Area M).

Preceding Page and This Page: Artifacts. Library. (Area M).



Artifacts. Library. (Area M).

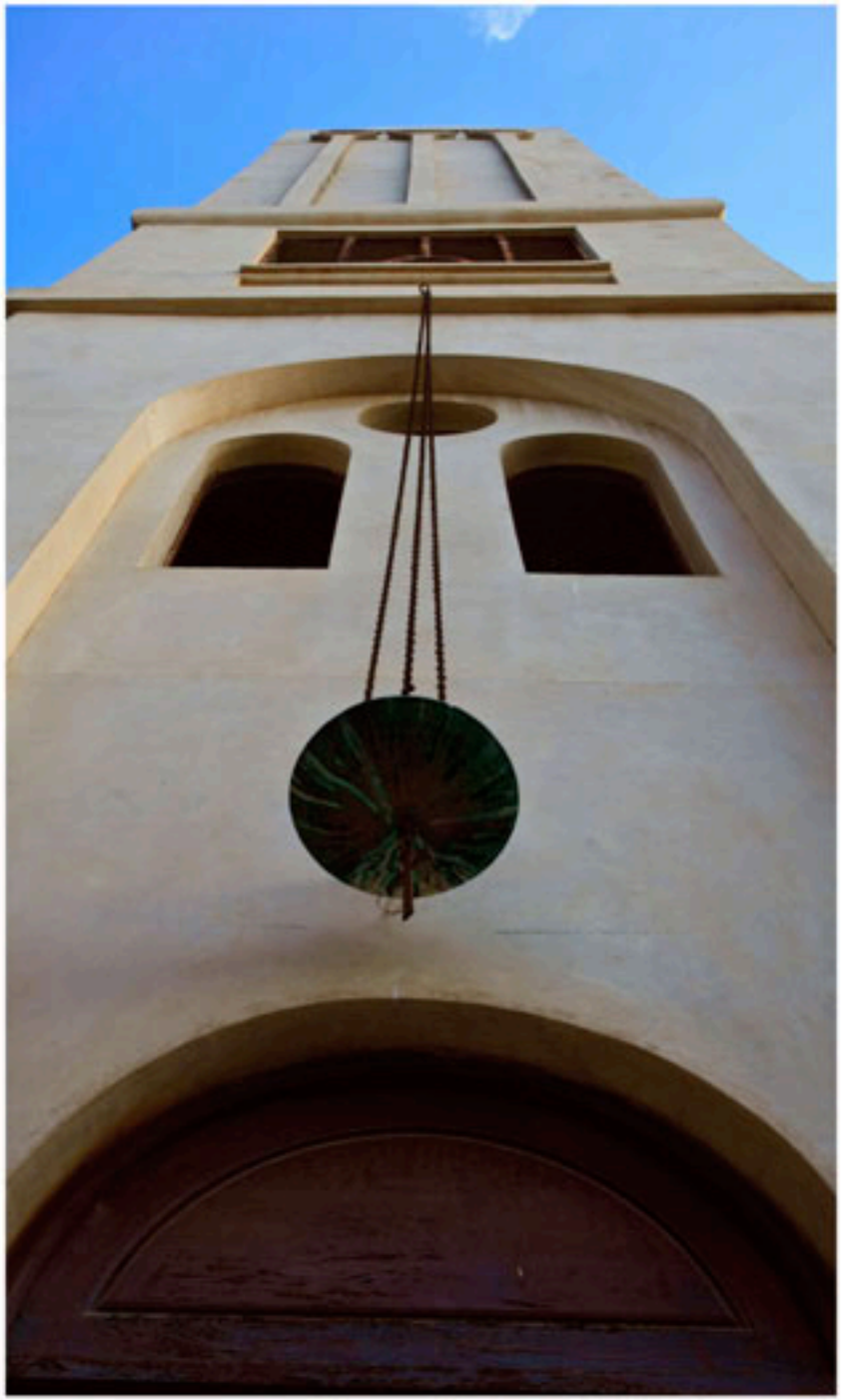
Artifacts. Library. (Area M).

This Page and Following Page: Artifacts. Library. (Area M).

Capitals used in the old Church of Saint Macarius found during the renovation.
Museum located to the north of the library.

Vessels used to hold water for liturgical use and old clay jars found during the renovation. Museum located to the north of the library.

Preceding Page and This Page: Bell tower.



Preceding Page: Bell tower from roof of keep.
This Page: Detail. Bell tower. Following Two Pages: Mausoleum. (Area P).

على رجاء القيامة

Monastery grounds, looking northeast from the bell tower, with the main gate, monk cells, and fields visible in the background.

Gatehouse and main gate to monastery. See page 2, Map of the Grounds.

This Page and Following Page: Main gate to monastery. See page 2, Map of the Grounds.

• الزيارات ممنوعة تماماً في الأسوار بعد استئذان
• الزيارة يومي الجمعة والأحد بميعاد سابق
ولا تزيد عن ساعة والمجاميع ممنوعة
• الدير للصلاة فقط والضيافة بالضيفة الأرضية
• أكتب بياناتك بمجرد وصولك السير
• محافظة إنعاشاً تحولك من البركة ومن الزيارة مرة أخرى
ممنوع استعما
إنتبه

Preceding Page and This Page: Cave of Saint Macarius in desert. See page 2, Map of the Grounds.

Saint Macarius Monastery
Volume Two

Wadi al-Natrun, Egypt 2009