GRIFFITH'S "NICENE CANONS"

With this article I complete my revisions of the four major texts edited by F. Ll. Griffith in *The Nubian Texts of the Christian Period*, Abhandlungen der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Jahrgang 1918, Philosophisch-historische Classe (Berlin). For the other publications see *Griffith's Old Nubian Lectionary*, Papyrologica Castroctaviana 8 (Rome-Barcelona 1982); "Griffith's Stauros-Text," *StudPap* 22 (1983) 75-119; "Griffith's Miracle of Saint Menas," *BASP* 20 (1983) 23-38.

The so-called "Nicene Canons," transcribed and translated in Griffith 16-24, is found in British Museum Or. MS. 6805, which begins with the Miracle of Saint Menas (pp. 1-17, with a picture of the Saint on the 18th page) and concludes with the Canons text, occupying 16 unnumbered pages (pp. [19]-[34]).

In preparing this revision I have used the photographs published by E.A.W. Budge in *Texts Relating to Saint Mêna of Egypt and Canons of Nicaea in a Nubian Dialect, with Facsimile* (London 1909), and I have also consulted the manuscript itself in the British Museum in September 1980. As was the case with the Menas-Legend (pp. 23-38 in *BASP* 20, cited above), Griffith appears to have based his edition of the present work solely on the photographs in Budge and to have ignored the original: he did not notice the erased letters in 27.3, 28.12 and 15, which are faint in Budge but discernible in the manuscript, and he could not discern the correction in 32.9, though autopsis makes it clear (see the commentary below for details). See also 21.13n.

For the abbreviations employed consult "Griffith's Stauros-Text" (cited above) 80f, and note that *STB = Sudan Texts Bulletin*. The unpublished biblical texts referred to are those listed in my article, "The Old Nubian Verbal System," *BASP* 19 (1982) 9f.

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