

The Alexandria Center for Hellenistic Studies
in Cooperation with
University College London, UK
Presents a Conference on
Alexandria and Other Centers of Thought in Ancient
Egypt

10-11 December 2009

Venue: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria

This conference aims perhaps for the first time to shed light on specific sites in the ancient world that were once designated as 'centers of thought and learning'. The conference begins with Alexandria, the capital city of learning in the Hellenistic World, demonstrating how knowledge was transmitted to and from Alexandria to other famous cities including Heliopolis, Hermopolis, Tanis, Panopolis, Qus and Cairo. It is hoped that this conference will lay the foundation for similar conferences possibly to take place in the future on bi-annual basis either in one of these major centers in Egypt or around the world.

The conference is proposed and organized by:

- **Professor Stephen Quirke**, Egyptologist and Curator of Petrie Museum, University College London.
- **Professor Mervat Abdel Nasser**, Visiting Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Kings College, London, Writer, Egyptologist & Head of the New Hermopolis Trust, UK.

The conference is chaired by:

Professor Abdel Halim Nur El Din, Cairo University & Professor Ahmed Etman, the Alexandria Center for Hellenistic Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Program

Thursday 10 December, 2009

Heliopolis in Hermopolis

- 10:00 am** **Welcome**
- 10:15 am** *Heliopolis: Where 'Light' first became 'Enlightenment'.*
Prof. Stephen Quirke Petrie Museum, University College London.
- 11:00 am** *Development and Intrigue in the Knowledge of the New City of the Sun (El Amarna).*
Prof. Barry Kemp, Cambridge University & El Amarna Foundation.
- 11:45 am** *Writers and Lovers of Tuna El Gebel : Petosiris, Isadora and Taha Hussain.*
Prof. Mahmoud El Saadany, Helwan University.
- 2:30 pm** Hermopolis and Panopolis (Akhmim): *Ancient Egyptian Sciences in Medieval Arabic Writings.*
Prof. Okasha El Daly, University College London.
- 3:15 pm** *The Enduring Legacy of Ancient Hermopolis in Modern Western Literature.*
Prof. Mervat Abdel Nasser, KCL & New Hermopolis Foundation.
- 4:00- 4:30 pm** Discussion.

Friday 11 December, 2009

Alexandria: The Transfer of Knowledge

10:00 am *Cleopatra's Alexandria: The Invention of a Global Capital of Learning in the Newly Hellenized World.*

Prof. Mohamed Abdel Ghany, Alexandria University.

10:45 am *From Plotinus to Hypatia: Alexandria and New Platonism.*

Prof. Hassan Teleb, Helwan University.

11:30 am *Intellectual and Military Might: The Politics of Learning between Alexandria and Rome.*

Prof. Magda El Nowiemy, Alexandria University.

12:15 pm *From Alexandria to Baghdad via El Bahnsa.*

Prof. Ahmed Etman, Cairo University.

2:30 – 4:00 pm *The Role of Libraries, Old and New, in the Flow of Thought.*

Prof. Fekri Hassan, University College London.

Discussants:

The ancient Alexandria Library- **Dr. Kyriakos Savvopoulos**

Nag Hamdi Library- **Dr. Gamal El Din Abdel Aziz/** Historian & writer

The New Alexandria Library and the role of libraries in this day and age-

Lamia Abdel Fattah

4:45 – 5:15 pm *Closing Remarks: The reactivation of some of these centers and the use of this unique intellectual heritage towards further education and cultural tourism.*

Prof. Fekri Hassan & Prof. Mervat Abdel Nasser.