

The Antiochian

The Newsletter of *Antioch*:

A Center for Antiochian Orthodox Christian Studies and Research

www.AntiochCentre.net

Antioch Centre's Newsletter

Antioch Centre hopes to publish the Newsletter in an effort to promote awareness of the *Centre's* latest activities, and provide interested parties with information and new research that Fr. Elia is uncovering regarding the patrimony and heritage of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. It is important to say, however, that part of the main focus of Fr. Elia Khalifeh's work does not lend itself to immediate, far reaching, great and new discoveries.

The reason for this is somewhat simple. Such revelations are usually the product of research and evaluation of material found in archaeological excavations, the study of manuscripts and icons, and of new evidence in general. The beginning of such work, however, must be the location of, and cataloguing of the evidence, in which Fr. Elia's work is largely engaged. The translation into English of a lost Saint's life or homily must be preceded by finding the Saint's life or homily in the primary sources themselves. It is to this task that Fr. Elia is largely committed on a regular basis, as once it is done it will be done for all time, allowing future scholars to follow his work, and begin their research in the appropriate places.

Thus, Fr. Elia's chief concern at the moment, and for the foreseeable future, is the location and cataloguing of all manuscripts that proceeded from the Patriarchate, and relating to it. It is hoped that the gradual collection of these manuscripts, or at least

digital copies of them, will also be undertaken. It is no exaggeration to say that these manuscripts are scattered throughout the world, located most often in countries which have been historically Orthodox, or have had the financial resources to acquire such manuscripts. To date, Fr. Elia has located and catalogued over 50.000 manuscripts of this kind, dating from the 5th century, to the early 20th century, 6.000 of which are clearly Orthodox.

The locating and cataloguing of these manuscripts is in itself an enormous amount of work, especially given the quantity of information Fr. Elia intends to publish in the catalogue. Names, dates, locations, associations with other churches, as well as many other items are being recorded. This does not, however, mean that new discoveries are not being made and recorded, and some of these can be reported. As can be seen in the newsletter here, important new revelations are being made, which have immediate implications for our knowledge of the Antiochian Church and its contribution to the larger Orthodox world.

We would like to thank your interest in the *Centre*. The *Centre* is still in its initial stages. Please contact us, both with suggestions, and any help you may be able to offer. We hope that awareness of the *Centre* and its activities will grow as much as possible through interpersonal communication and relations.

Antioch Centre (Oxford, UK)

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- * To advance the education of the public in the history, culture, and society of the Rum Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch.
- * To facilitate and enhance the study of Antiochian history, demography, hagiography, spirituality, theology, liturgy, biography, archaeology, and linguistics.
- * To publish and disseminate information on the Rum Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch that is otherwise unavailable to the general public.