

CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xix
1 <i>Remodeling the Christianization of Egypt</i>	1
I Overture	1
II Historical Setting	3
III The Problem of “Pagan Survivals”	7
IV Syncretism and Purification	15
V Agency, Gesture, and Landscape	20
VI Social Sites and Religious Worlds of Syncretism in Late Antique Egypt	24
VII Postscript on Comparison and the Scope of Argument	31
2 <i>Domestic Devotion and Religious Change</i>	
Traditions of the Domestic Sphere	34
I Overture	34
II Defining the Domestic Sphere and Its Religious Character in Late Antique Egypt	38
III Christianization and the Imagination of New Boundaries	44
IV The Domestic World as Site of Religious Bricolage	48
V Domestic Ritual, Domestic Agents, and the Syncretic Construction of Christianity	54
A Lamp-lighting	55
B Bread Stamps	55
C Domestic Charms and Their <i>Dramatis Personae</i>	56
D Female Figurines and the Ambiguity of Representation	58
E Amulets, Curses, Saintly Blessings, and Votive Donations	61
VI Agents of the Domestic Sphere: Gender and Creative Independence	64
VII Conclusion	68

CONTENTS

3	<i>Controller of Demons, Dispenser of Blessings</i>	
	Traditions of the Holy Man as Craftsman of Local Christianity	69
	I Introduction: Saints and Syncretism	69
	II Implications of Classification: From "Saint" to "Regional Prophet"	74
	III Exorcism and the Reordering of Tradition	76
	A Reordering Perceptions of Evil	78
	B Exorcism and Charisma	80
	C Demonology as Preservation	85
	IV Holy Men in the Egyptian Landscape	87
	A Divination and the Definition of New Centers	87
	B Ritual and the Egyptian Environment	90
	C Syncretism and the Dispensing of Materials	92
	V Conclusion	100
4	<i>A Site of Blessings, Dreams, and Wonders</i>	
	Traditions of the Saint's Shrine	104
	I Introduction	104
	II The Saint's Shrine as Social Site	108
	III Gestures	111
	IV Collective Expressions: Festivals and Their Gestures	114
	A Festival Hilarity and Control	114
	B Processions	118
	C Animal Slaughter and Feasting	120
	D Dance	122
	V Individual Expressions: Imprecation, Contact, Votive	126
	VI Divination	130
	VII Possession and the Performance of Spirits and Sainly Power	138
	VIII Conclusion	144
5	<i>The Magic of Craft</i>	
	Traditions of the Workshop and the Construction of Efficacy	145
	I Introduction: Art and Efficacy	145
	II Workshops in Late Antique Egypt	151
	III Examples	160
	A Stonecarvers	160
	B Potters and Terracotta Artisans	162
	C Painters	167
	D Textile Weavers	171
	E The Mortuary Craft	176
	IV Conclusion	181

CONTENTS

6	<i>Scribality and Syncretism</i>	
	Traditions of Writing and the Book	184
I	Introduction	184
II	Scribality at the Shrines of the Saints	186
III	Monastic Scribes and the Mediation of Christianity	189
	A Monastic Libraries and Eclectic Scribes	190
	B Monastic Settings of Scribal Mediation	192
IV	Scribes and the Magic of Word and Song	197
V	The Recollection of Literary Traditions through the Scribal Craft	211
	A The Land of Egypt Oracle	212
	B Images of Amente and Its Demons	218
	1 The Media of Amente in Late Antique Egypt	219
	2 The Coptic Amente Mythology: Earlier Egyptian and Jewish Apocalyptic Traditions	222
	3 Apocalyptic Interpretation in Egypt and the Integration of Egyptian Traditions	226
VI	Conclusion	228
7	<i>Whispering Spirits, Holy Processions</i>	
	Traditions of the Egyptian Landscape	233
I	Introduction: Religious Landscape and Christianization	233
II	Temples and Churches	237
III	Habitats and Haunts of Spirits	242
IV	Procession and the Perception of Landscape	248
V	Inventing and Envisioning a Sacred Landscape	253
VI	Conclusion	256
	<i>Afterword</i>	257
	<i>Bibliography</i>	263
	<i>Illustration Credits</i>	309
	<i>Index</i>	311