

Preface

THE PRESENT WORK, *THE Manichaean Codices of Medinet Madi*, is primarily a mass of unpublished documentation I excerpted from the Manichaean archives in the main depositories, Berlin and Dublin, in 1984–1986, and from interviews with those directly involved. Copies were given to these two depositories in 1991, as well as to Wolf-Peter Funk of the University of Laval in Québec, Canada, the leading authority in this field, to whom I hence also gave my own Manichaean archives themselves. Hence the present publication does not continue the history of research up to the present, but leaves that for the next generation of scholarship.

The presentation contains very extensive—but often inconclusive—information; this uncertainty is indicated here, lest their publication give them a degree of certainty that is not appropriate. Yet the amount of otherwise inaccessible but reliable information, from interviews, correspondence, and unpublished documents, should not be lost from sight, but should be made available to the scholarship of the future.

To facilitate reading, indeed to keep the reader from being lost in detail, the extensive documentation is preceded by two already published summaries. First is a brief abstract prepared for the 18th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Moscow, August 8–15, 1991. This then is followed by a more extensive introduction: “The Fate of the Manichaean Codices of Medinet Madi, 1929–1989.” It was originally published in *International Kongress zum Manichäismus 6.–10. August 1989 St. Augustin/Bonn*, edited by Gernot Wiessner and Hans-Joachim

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Klimkeit, in *Studies in Oriental Religions* 23 (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1992) 19–62.

The presentation of material is less complete for the material in the Chester Beatty Library, since the sorting and recording had to be done primarily for the scattered Berlin material. Yet the extensive archival material in Dublin makes it clear that considerably more detail could be added to the presentation of the return of the Chester Beatty codices after World War II, to the description of the work of Rolf Ibscher in London and Dublin, and to the analysis of the Dublin holdings.

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