

MARCUS SIMAIKA (1864-1944)

The Founder of the **Coptic Museum**. He was born in [Cairo](#) to venerable and prosperous Coptic parents. From his youth he showed great interest in Egypt's Christian monuments. It is to his well-deserved credit that he founded the Coptic [Museum](#) in 1908. He succeeded in attracting the Coptic [Church](#) and the Egyptian public to support his efforts in establishing the museum. In 1906, Simaika became a member of the Commission for the Preservation of the Arab Monuments and later its chairman.

He was able to place the ancient [Coptic churches](#) and monasteries under the supervision of that committee. In collaboration with **Yassa 'Abd al-Masih**, he published the *Catalogue of the Coptic and Arabic Manuscripts in the Coptic Museum, the Patriarchate, the Principal Churches of [Cairo](#) and [Alexandria](#) and the Monasteries of Egypt*, in two volumes (Cairo, 1939-1942).

GAWDAT GABRA

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