

## 2009 WILLIAM E. AND MIRIAM S. BLAKE LECTURE IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY



***“Rediscovering the Life and Works of Shenoute of Atripe:  
Prospects for the History of Late Ancient Christianity”***

*Given by Andrew Crislip, Ph.D., Associate Professor and W. E. Blake and M. S. Blake Chair in the History of Christianity at VCU*

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 8 PM**

University Student Commons  
Richmond Salon III, 907 Floyd Avenue

More information: 804 828-1636, <http://www.has.vcu.edu/his/> click on events

**This event is free and open to the public.**

**On Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at 8 p.m. **Associate Professor Andrew Crislip** will present the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual William E. and Miriam S. Blake Lecture in the History of Christianity at Virginia Commonwealth University. The title of his lecture is *Rediscovering the Life and Works of Shenoute of Atripe: Prospects for the History of Late Ancient Christianity.*

Shenoute of Atripe led a federation of three monasteries in Upper Egypt for nearly eight decades until his death in AD 465. During his long and eventful career as an administrator, preacher, monk, and political firebrand, he left behind an enormous and varied legacy of original literature written in Coptic, the indigenous language of ancient Egypt. His writings form a literary corpus that dwarfs that of any other writer in the Coptic language. While Shenoute would come to dominate the Christian culture of late ancient Egypt, he remained largely unknown beyond the Nile, and in the centuries following the Arab conquest his literary legacy was lost even within Egypt. Only in the past decade have the works of this seminal ancient Christian writer been reconstructed.

In this illustrated lecture, Professor Crislip will discuss the tumultuous career of this forgotten figure, the loss of his writings, and their rediscovery and reconstruction by modern scholars. He will also demonstrate the exciting prospects that the recovery of his work holds for our understanding of this formative period in the history of Christianity.



**Andrew Crislip** is an Associate Professor of History and holds the William E. & Miriam S. Blake Chair in the History of Christianity at Virginia Commonwealth University. His current research focuses on the Critical Edition of the Works of Shenoute of Atripe, the most important and prolific author in Coptic, the indigenous language of ancient Egypt, as well as on the cultural history of illness, healing, and the "cure of souls" in Christian monastic tradition.

Dr. Crislip's research focuses on the history of Christianity in late antiquity, particularly focusing on monasticism and medicine in Egypt and Coptic. His first book, *From Monastery to Hospital: Christian Monasticism and the Transformation of Health Care in Late Antiquity* appeared in 2005 (University of Michigan Press), and explores the intersection between asceticism and healing in several late ancient monastic communities in Egypt and the ancient Mediterranean world. Professor Crislip has published widely in such journals as the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Harvard Theological Review*, and *Zeitschrift fur Papyrologie und Epigraphik*, and has received numerous awards and fellowships.

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**Call 804 828-1636 for special accommodations.**