

EGYPTIAN MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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September – December 2009

Issue 6



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Full coverage of the Children's Museum of the Egyptian Museum!

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General Working Hours: 9 am - 3.30 pm

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All information in the Newsletter is correct
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Entrance Fees:

Foreign Adults: 60 LE
Foreign Students (*with valid ISIC ID*): 30 LE
Egyptian and Arab Adults: 4.00 LE
Egyptian and Arab Students: 1.00 LE

Mummy Rooms (one ticket for both rooms):

Foreign Adults: 100 LE
Foreign Students (*with valid ISIC ID*): 60 LE
Egyptian and Arab Adults: 10 LE
Egyptian and Arab Students: 5 LE

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A new website is under construction.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Children's Museum: Where Children Can Play and Learn

Fifteen years ago, I took my children to visit a museum exhibition in Germany called "Pharaoh's Secrets." This exhibition contained LEGO models of ancient Egyptian scenes and statuary. My children were fascinated, and asked to visit the museum multiple times. We were impressed with the details of the LEGO constructions; I was especially drawn to them because they introduced ancient Egypt to children in a simple and easy manner. Since then, I have strived to bring this LEGO exhibition to Egypt. We are now celebrating the opening of the Children's Museum of the Egyptian Museum of Cairo (CMEMC) which shows these

LEGO models alongside antiquities. The Children's Museum is located in the basement of the Egyptian Museum, and is entered from the western side of the Museum. Six rooms are filled with objects that aim to attract children's attention, making the children's educational visit to the Museum complete. A few of the topics featured in the exhibition are writing in ancient Egypt, daily life, religion, pyramid building, death and the afterlife. The Children's Museum is equipped to welcome handicapped and visually- and hearing-impaired youth. The young visitors to the Museums can participate in a fun and educational workshop after their visit. ✨

Dr Wafaa al-Saddik
General Director
Egyptian Museum, Cairo

PROFILE

Mme Zainab el-Guizawy

Museum Deputy for Museum Education.

Mme Zainab obtained her BA in Egyptian Archaeology from Cairo University in 1977, and holds a diploma in history from the Institute of African Studies in Cairo. In 1995, she participated in a training course in Cologne, Germany, that specialized in museum education where she learnt more about cultural and educational activities in museums. Mme Zainab now coordinates with the Ministry for Social Cooperation in creating a museum education programme at the Egyptian Museum for children in orphanages and special needs institutions as well as for blind and hearing-impaired individuals. Mme Zainab and the Museum Education Department recently began the "Mobile Museum" scheme, in which replicas of objects and educational material are packed and taken to schools and children, who are not able to come to the Egyptian Museum. ✨



Photo by S. Abdel Mohsen

Repatriated Reliefs from the Tomb of Tetiky to be Displayed in a Special Exhibition



Five relief fragments were recently returned to Egypt from the Louvre Museum following SCA Secretary General Dr Zahi Hawass's efforts to repatriate them. The pieces were stolen from the Theban Tomb of Tetiky. They are now stored in the Museum, and will be displayed next April as part of an exhibition on repatriated antiquities. Many more repatriated masterpieces of Egyptian antiquities will also be displayed in the upcoming exhibition.

One of the repatriated reliefs (Photo: SCA)

Hungarian Excavations in the Theban Necropolis: A Celebration of 102 Years of Fieldwork in Egypt

The series of archaeological project exhibitions in Egypt continues with the celebration of 102 years of archaeological work by Hungary. This beautiful exhibition includes over 140 artefacts excavated by Hungarian archaeologists in Egypt since 1907. The objects mostly come from Theban tombs, including the tombs of Djehutymes (Theban Tomb 32), Menkheperasoneb/Amenhotep (TT 61), Amenhotep (TT 64), Nebamun/Imiseba (TT 65), and Nefermenu (TT 184). The objects displayed range in date from the Middle Kingdom to the eighth century A.D. Coffins, faience amulets, and heart scarabs (scarabs with protective spells inscribed on them that were placed next to the heart of the deceased) and many more beautiful objects, offer an insight into Egyptian funerary practices and Theban funerary art. The already beautiful objects are complemented by excellent lighting and displays. Instead of the regular panels attached to the walls, the exhibition's text panels are painted on the wall; the photographs are placed between the texts.

The first Hungarian excavations in Egypt took place in Gamhud in Middle Egypt. Some of the finds from these excavations are split between the Budapest Museum of Fine Arts, Vienna, Krakow, and the Egyptian Museum of Cairo. Hungarian excavations resumed in 1983 by Professor Laszlo Kakosy in el-Khoka and Sheikh Abd el-Gurna, two sections of the Theban Necropolis.

The Hungarian Minister of Education and Culture H.E. Istvan Hiller, and the Egyptian Minister of Culture H.E. Farouk Hosni inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Dr Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA and Dr Wafaa al-Saddik, the Museum's Director. A colloquium was held at the SCA in conjunction with the exhibition. ✨

Linen fragment with image of the god Anubis from the early Ptolemaic Period, about 3rd century AD, from Theban Tomb 32 (Photo by M. El Dorry)



Ministers H.E. Istvan Hiller of Hungary and H.E. Farouk Hosni of Egypt inaugurate the exhibition with Dr Zahi Hawass and Dr Wafaa el-Saddik (Photo by J. Willoughby).



The entrance of the exhibition with a collection of ushabtis from various tombs in the Theban necropolis. (Photo by M. El Dorry)

View from the entrance over the complete exhibition, showing a limestone statue of Djehutymes and his family, which dates to the reign of Ramses II (ca. 1279-1213 BC). (Photo by M. El Dorry)



NEWS

Egyptian Museum curators have recently participated in a training workshop in museology. The workshop was organized by the Arab regional alliance of the International Council of Museum (ICOM-Arab); it was organised by Dr Chedlia El Annabi, under the patronage of Dr Zahi Hawass. The workshop was hosted by the Nubia Museum in Aswan under the direction of Dr Ossama Abdel Wareth who is also the Vice President of the ICOM-Arab. Curators and museum personnel from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Qatar, Sudan, the Sultanate of Oman, and Tunisia participated in the workshop. Representatives from ICOM Europe and ICOM International attended as well. The Egyptian Museum curators who attended are: Soha Mahmoud Khalil, Abeyya El Shamy, Kholoud AbdAllah, Mennat-Allah El Dorry and



Heba Hamdi. Ms Hamdi also presented the latest developments at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to the other attendees. Curators attended lectures on museology, and participated in a practical workshop on organising temporary exhibitions.

L-r: curators Abeyya, Soha, Kholoud and Heba in the garden of the Nubia Museum (Photo by M. El Dorry)

In an effort to decrease the amount of noise in the Museum, guides are now able to explain the Museum's collection using a portable audio system. The portable audio system can be rented, allowing guides to explain the collections without needing to shout to be heard above the throngs of visitors.

The Egyptian Museum and the Louvre Museum celebrated the end of the Seshat Workshop for the blind and visually impaired. To commemorate the occasion, the Louvre Museum produced a book about hieroglyphs that is translated from French to Arabic and Braille. A copy of this beautiful book is now part of the Children's Museum's library.

Mr Mohamed Aly, Section Five curator, recently gave a talk in the Museum on the renovation works that are going to be carried out in the Late Period and Greco-Roman halls.

The Registration and Collections Management Department recently gave a four-day training workshop to the Museum's curators. The workshop included theoretical lectures and practical work.



Dr Wafaa el-Saddik was recently given the Dedication Award for Cultural Exchange which is an award given to international personalities who have made significant contributions to the cultural exchange between China and other countries. It is the highest award given by the Chinese government in the field of cultural exchange. The Prime Minister of China H.E. Mr Ben Jiabao presented the award to Dr Wafaa.

Errata: Last issue, Section Two was featured. Unfortunately, a printing error resulted in the omission of the names of Section Two's Heads: Ms Seham Abdel Razek, Mr Mahmoud El Halwagy (pictured) and Mr Gamal El Balam. We apologise for this error!



Acknowledgements

- Dr Tarek el-Awady
- Ms Sabah Abdel Razik
- Ms Samar Samir
- Ms Abeyya el-Shamy
- Mr Lotfi Abdel Hamid
- Ms Roqaya Masoud

The Egyptian Museum is loaning objects to several international exhibitions over the next few months. So far the following have been confirmed:

Shanghain Expo 2010 in China, Egyptian Pavillion; from May 1 to October 31, 2010.

The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia; from June 5, 2010 to January 2, 2011; exhibition entitled "Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt." This exhibition will travel to four North American cities after the Franklin Philadelphia.

The Children's Museum of the Egyptian Museum of Cairo

Participating in something new, seeing a project come to life and succeed is a true privilege. It has been a great experience for me to be assigned by Dr Wafaa el-Saddik to work on the Children's Museum and carry on the tasks begun by many dear colleagues. Perhaps visitors coming to the Children's Museum will not realize how much work; effort and time have gone into making this museum a reality. Over the last two years, many employees and friends of the Egyptian Museum have participated in the various activities, from preparing the panels and labels, to working on the displays, to the conservation and maintenance of the objects and the LEGO, and many more tasks. An important, although small, part of the Children's Museum is a library which I have been sorting through and archiving. These books, donated by Dr Wafaa al-Saddik, cover a wide range of topics on ancient Egypt and other ancient civilizations. I have also sought to include music to be played in the halls of the museum where the musical instruments are displayed, and where a LEGO model includes dancers in a festival scene. The Children's Museum is not only a place where children can see antiquities and LEGO, but it is also somewhere where they can read and participate in workshops that will interest children more in the past, and help them to become creative and interactive!

Maather Aboueich



A LEGO model of a funerary bed (Photo by M. El Dorry).

What's up with the LEGO stuff?

Sixteen LEGO models from the exhibition "Secrets of the Pharaohs" are now permanently part of the Children's Museum, thanks to cooperation between the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the LEGO Group in Denmark, and the Royal Danish Embassy in Egypt who facilitated the transport of the LEGO models from Denmark to Egypt.

This exhibition was first conceived in 1991, and has since traveled throughout the world starting with Denmark, the home of LEGO, and passing through Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Japan, and Canada.

Since 1934, LEGO has been a staple in children's play sets. The name LEGO came about when the founder of LEGO, Ole Kirk Christiansen, took the first two letters of each of the Danish words "Leg godt", meaning "play well", and put them together. This was very fitting because "Lego" is the Latin for "I put together." LEGO models of ancient Egypt constitute an integral part of the Children's Museum.

About 502,836 LEGO blocks make up the sixteen models on display, which took approximately 2,430 hours to construct. Models of deities such as Isis and Osiris, a mummy and embalming equipment, a scribe, a sphinx, a mask of King Tutankhamun, a model of pyramid building, and another model of sculpting represent various aspects of ancient Egyptian life and create a more exciting display for children visiting the Children's Museum.

Mennat-Allah El Dorry



View of one of the halls. (Photo by M. El Dorry).

FEATURE PAGE



HRH The Prince Consort Henrik of Denmark inaugurating the Children's Museum with Dr Zahi Hawass and Dr Wafaa al-Saddik. (Photo by S. Abdel Mohsen)

سمو الأمير هنريك زوج ملكة الدنمارك
يفتح متحف الطفل ويجواره الدكتور
زاهي حواس والدكتورة وفاء الصديق.
(تصوير سامح عبد المحسن)

Prince Henrik with a participant in the Egyptian Museum's Education Department programs for children with special needs. On the left is H.E. Mr Christian Hoppe, the Danish Ambassador to Egypt (Photo by S. Abdel Mohsen).

أصر سمو الأمير هنريك على أن يلتقط صورة
مع أحد طلبة برنامج التربية المتحفية لذوي
الإحتياجات الخاصة والموهوبين، ويظهر
بجواره سعادة سفير الدنمارك بمصر السيد/
كريستيان هوب. (تصوير سامح عبد المحسن).



Prince Henrik signing the Children's Museum's guestbook (Photo by S. Abdel Mohsen).

سمو الأمير هنريك وهو يوقع
دفتر زوار متحف الطفل.
(تصوير سامح عبد المحسن)



It was very difficult to photograph Mrs Zainab Tawfik (Section Five Head Curator) during the preparations of the Children's Museum; she never sat down and seemed to be in every hall simultaneously! The only time she sat down is here when she was cleaning vitrine the day before the opening. Mrs Zainab worked closely with Dr Wafaa in choosing and displaying the objects, and also oversaw the painting of the walls and installing the electrical fittings (Photo by M. El Dorry)

السيدة / زينب توفيق، دينامو العمل على مدار فترة التجهيزات الطويلة لمتحف الطفل، وجدنا صعوبة بالغة في تصويرها أثناء العمل وذلك لنشاطها وتواجدها في أكثر من مكان أثناء متابعتها لسير العمل من حيث الدهانات، وأعمال الكهرباء وبالطبع إختيار وعرض القطع الأثرية مع الدكتورة وفاء. وأخيراً تمكنا من تصويرها جالسة داخل إحدى خزانات العرض أثناء تنظيفها قبل الافتتاح. (تصوير مئة الله الدري)



Children were invited to play with LEGO blocks during the inauguration. Many of them were thrilled with the endless possibilities they could create. Ms Tilde Anderson from the Danish Embassy in Cairo gave away LEGO key chains to children. Indiana Jones and Harry Potter were amongst the many characters fashioned out of LEGO and made into the key chains that adults were as excited about as the children. (Photos by M. El Dorry)

أشترك الأطفال أثناء حفل الافتتاح في اللعب بقطع الليجو على طاولات مخصصة لذلك، وهم في حالة انبهار. قامت السيدة / تيلدا أندرسون من السفارة الدنماركية بالقاهرة بتوزيع سلاسل مفاتيح من الليجو على هيئة شخصيات محببة لدى الأطفال وبهرت هذه الهدايا البسيطة الصغار والكبار أيضاً اللذين حرصوا على اقتنائها. (تصوير مئة الله الدري)



Artist Rasha Kamal putting the final touches on the wooden base for a LEGO model. (Photo by M. El Dorry)

السيدة / رشا كمال تضيفي للمسماة الفنية الأخيرة على إحدى قواعد عرض نماذج الليجو. (تصوير مئة الله الدري)