



# Ministry of Antiquities

Newsletter of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities \* Issue 12 \* May 2017

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- The Egyptian archaeological mission in Dahshur uncovered a burial chamber of a thirteenth-dynasty royal pyramid found last month by the mission. The chamber contained a canopic box, made of wood and covered with a layer of plaster. The box was inscribed with three lines of hieroglyphic text to protect the deceased, and included the name of the deceased, Hatshepsut?, who was possibly the daughter of King Imeny Qemaw. An anthropoid coffin lid, golden foils, a stone lamp and remains of human bones were also found. Excavations during the month of May were supported by AT Land Production and Lion Television.



- The Faculty of Archaeology of Cairo University working in Tuna al-Gebel in Minya discovered an underground necropolis, accessible through an eight metre shaft. The shaft end has a number of corridors, with numerous burials and mummies, several of which had gilded plaster masks. Uninscribed stone coffins and pottery coffins were also found. The mission also found two papyri written in Demotic script. Elsewhere on

the west side of the tomb of Petosiris and east of the Roman water wheel, a number of Roman funerary houses made of clay were discovered, including a number of chambers and stores with vaulted ceilings. The Minister of Antiquities announced the discovery during an international press conference attended by the Governor of Minya, the President of Cairo University, members of the Parliament, the deans of the Faculties of Archaeology and Science at Cairo University, a number of ambassadors of foreign countries, and MoA officials. The event was supported by the Horus Hotel in Minya (13 May, 2017).

- The international mission under the auspices of the University of Alcalá, working at the Middle Kingdom tomb of the Vizier Ipi (TT 315) has relocated fifty-six jars filled with embalming materials for the mummification of the Vizier. The jars were first recorded by American Egyptologist Herbert Winlock in 1921-22 inside an auxiliary chamber in the north-eastern corner of the upper courtyard of Ipi's tomb. The deposit of the mummification materials used for Ipi included sixty-seven jars with postmarks and other types of inscriptions, various shrouds, linen sheets, bandages, and other textiles used for mummification. Most interestingly, finds include what seems to be a mummified heart.



- The Egyptian Spanish Archaeological Mission from the Antiquities Museum in Madrid has discovered a large lintel of red granite during its excavations in the temple of Hershef in Herakleopolis Magna, at Ichnasya el-Medina in Beni Suef governorate. The lintel is carrying the names of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty King Senusert II.



## Repatriated Antiquities

- MoA succeeded in retrieving a stela from the reign of King Nectanebo II (13<sup>th</sup> dynasty) from France where it was displayed at an auction house in Paris. The piece was looted in the 1990s from Saqqara. It is made of limestone, and measures 44x50 cm. It depicts the goddess Sekhmet with a sun disk above her head, and the cartouche of King Nectanebo II.



- The MoA received 44 items seized at the Charles de Gaulle airport in France, which include bead work, ivory and bone tools, and a number of items from different periods (May 9, 2017).

# Temporary Exhibitions

## Local Exhibitions

- On the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the Great Temple in Abu Simbel, the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy in Egypt organized a temporary exhibition entitled “Abu Simbel: 200 years after Sheikh Ibrahim Burckhardt”. The occasion also marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Swiss explorer and traveller Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, who was the first European to discover the Temple of Abu Simbel. Twenty-five items from the EMC’s collection, discovered by Burckhardt during his trip to Nubia, were exhibited. Two of the exhibition’s highlights are remains of inscriptions from the Wady al-Sebu’a Temple dating to the reign of King Amenhotep III, in addition to the upper part of the statue of King Ramesses II. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Antiquities and the Swiss Ambassador in the presence of the Minister of Social Solidarity and a number of ambassadors (15 May - 25 June, 2017).
- The Luxor Museum hosted a temporary exhibition of the finds from the recently excavated Tomb number 157 attributed to Userhat (May 17 – June 17, 2017).
- An exhibition was inaugurated at the Museum of Islamic Art on artwork related to prayer. Thirty-five objects are on display (20 May – 5 July, 2017).



## International Exhibitions

- The Age of the Pyramid Builders exhibition in Japan is continuing in the city of Shizuoka until the end of June before it moves in to its last Japanese stop.
- The Egypt’s Sunken Treasures exhibition at the Rietberg Museum in Zurich is continuing until 13 August, 2017.

# Meeting and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on visits to: Giza (Dahshur); Minya (Tuna al-Gebel); Luxor (Luxor Temple, Avenue of the Sphinxes, the tomb of Userhat Tomb in Western Thebes); Aswan (al-Kab, Gebel al-Silsila, Crocodile Museum, Nubia Museum and the Temples of ‘Amda and al-Sebu’a).



- The Minister of Antiquities received several high official guests including Advisor to the Head of the Arab World Institute; representatives from the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum in Denmark; Director of the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen Mannheim, Germany; Head of the American Mission working in Mit Rahina; Ambassadors of Iraq and Yemen; and the Yemeni Minister of Culture.

# Projects

## Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The concrete and metal structures of the Museum have been completed, while other finishings are underway.
- Transferring King Tutankhamun's collections to GEM proceeded this month with the transfer of two masterpieces: a chariot and a funerary bed. The two items were professionally packed by an Egyptian-Japanese team. The items were received at GEM-Conservation Center amidst international press and media coverage. So far, 41,270 items have been moved to GEM in preparation for its early 2018 partial opening (May 23, 2017).



# Field Work

Several archaeological projects have continued their field work in multiple governorate. In addition, the American-Belgian joint mission between the Universities of Brussels and Yale have resumed their work in al-Kab.

## Conferences

- The Scientific Research Department of the Upper Egypt Antiquities Region organized the first Karnak Conference at the Egyptian Public Library in Luxor. It included lectures by a number of Egyptian and foreign researchers about Karnak Temples and ongoing projects and researches there (2-3 May, 2017).
- GEM held its third annual King Tutankhamun conference at the Ahmed Kamal Pasha Hall. A wide range of local and international specialists presented their research on the conference's themes: human remains and furniture. The event was sponsored by Art d'Égypt. (6-8 May 2017).
- The Second Archaeological Missions Meeting was held at the Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall at the MoA, giving heads and members of missions an opportunity to present their 2016-2017 season results (25 May, 2017).



# Protocols

MoA signed a protocol with the Egyptian-Russian Association for Culture and Sciences in order to sell the Association's publications at the MoA's gift shops (18 May, 2017).

# Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Malawi Museum in Minya started broadcasting its first radio channel on YouTube. Objects on display at the museum are explained in an accessible manner, as well as selected topics from history lessons taught at schools (May 4, 2017).
- The first class graduated from a carpet workshop set up by the Mallawi Museum in Minya to train women in manufacturing handmade carpets. Such educational workshops have been held in other museums such as the Museum of Islamic Art, the Gayer-Anderson Museum and the Coptic Museum, which aim to preserve traditional arts (May 9, 2017).
- ICOM organized a conference with multiple lectures on museology on the occasion of the International Day of Museums. It was hosted by NMEC (18 May, 2017).
- In celebration of the International Day of Museums, museums across the country organised a variety of event for the public. The National Museum of Alexandria, the Suez Museum and the Luxor Museum have organized a number of workshops to train youth on a selection of traditional crafts such as leather manufacture, textile printing and jewellery making, as well as guided tours within the museums (17-19 May 2017).
- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization held a series of lectures by a number of university professors specialized in museology (May 18, 2017).

## Lectures

Dr Hourig Sourouzian, head of the International Colossi of Memnon and Amenhotep III Temple Conservation project, delivered a talk at the MoA to present the project's latest findings (2 May, 2017).

## Training

MoA held a scientific symposium to evaluate the first half-year of the Minister's annual training program. Recipients of training from across the country presented their work (23 May, 2017).

## International Participation

Several colleagues were granted approval for international travel, including: Elham Salah al-Din (Head of the Museums Sector), Sabah Abd al-Razek (Director of EMC), Heba Samy (Curator at GEM), and Abd al-Hamid Salah (Supervisor of Administration of Risk Assessment and Training Affairs in the General Administration of Crises and Disasters) have travelled to Italy; Dr Yasmin El Shazly (Supervisor of Administration of international Cultural Heritage Organizations and International Cooperation Files), Ayman Abo al-Qasem (Head of Ancient Egypt Department in GEM) to Switzerland; Ali Ahmed (General Director of Archaeological Seizures Administration) to France; Dr Hisham al-Lithy (General Director of Egyptian Antiquities Registration Centre), Dr Mohamed Ismail (Director of Administration of Foreign and Egyptian Missions) to the Czech Republic; Hany Hana (General Director of Helwan, Saff, and Atfih Sites), Islam Abd al-Maqoud (GEM Conservator), Wesam Mohamed (EMC Curator) to USA; Eng. Mahrous Saied (NMEC Supervisor), Eng. Ashraf Salah al-Din (NMEC), Eng. Ahmed Mohamed Farahat (Engineering Management, NMEC) to Canada; Amina al-Baroudy (Assistant to the Minister for Digital Services) to UAE; Samir Abd al-Tawab (Archaeologist in North Assuit), Hassan Mohamed (Head of Section of Tutankhamun objects and Director of Library at GEM); Rezaq Diab Ghadery (Director of Research and Scientific Publishing in GEM) to Japan; Abd al-Rahman Medhat (GEM Conservator) to Colombia; Dr Ashraf Nageh (Deputy of the General Director of Conservation Centre) to Sweden; Osama Abo al-Kher (General Director of Conservation Affairs at GEM), Ibrahim Abd al-Fatah (GEM Conservator) to Lebanon.

# Appointments

- Dr Mohamed Abd al-Latif has been appointed as Associate to the Minister for Archaeological Affairs for one year.
- Eman Zidan, Assistant to the Minister for Financial Resources, has been appointed as Supervisor of the Financial Resources Development Unit. Hanaa Shawky has been appointed as Deputy Supervisor of the Unit. Mohamed Abd al-Qader, Manal Ali, Mohamed Ibrahim, al-Sayed al-Qady, and Fawzy Ahmed have been appointed to work in the Unit.
- Reham Mohamed Dahshan has been appointed to work in the Press Office of the Minister's Office.
- Amr Abd al-Kareem and Shaimaa Osama have been appointed to work in the World Heritage Site Management Unit of the Administration of the International Organizations for Cultural Heritage and the International Files of the Minister's Technical Office.
- Sherif Fawzy has been appointed general coordinator with all responsible authorities to follow-up the security and cleanliness of the al-Mu'izz street and to organize the celebrations, in addition to his original work.
- Mr Mohammed Mostafa Abbas has been appointed as director of the Rokn Farouk Museum in Helwan.
- Dr Mostafa al-Nahas has been appointed as head of the central department of underwater archaeology.
- Mr Ahmed Salah Mohamed has been appointed general director of the central administration for survey and estates.
- Two new archaeological units have been established: one at the fishing port in Edco, and another in Rashid. Mr Emad Mohamed al-Shinnawy has been appointed director of both units.

# Decrees

## Committees formed during March include:

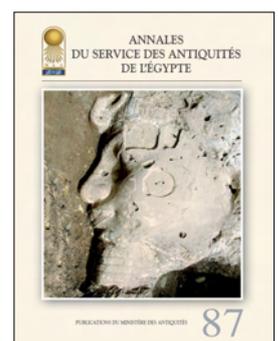
- Establishing a World Heritage Site Management Unit at the Administration of International Organizations for Cultural Heritage and International Cooperation in the Minister's Technical Office.
- Establishing an Administration for Site Managements.
- Approving a national project to register and document stationary objects.
- Approving the launch of the Cairo Pass. The Pass allows foreigners to visit all open archaeological sites and museum in the Greater Cairo area for five days, starting November.
- Granting free entry to Egyptian visitors with special needs to all open archaeological sites and museum.
- Approving an annual pass to \*one\* museum in Egypt. The Pass costs 200EGP & 50EGP for Egyptians & students; 90€/100USD & 45€/50USD for foreigners & students. One accompanying guests can join as well.

## Varia

The MoA has created a new sponsorship system which affords sponsors a variety of advantages. The system is divided into platinum, gold and silver segments and offers the opportunity to sponsor excavations and restoration projects, and events. For more information, kindly contact [emanzidan@moantiq.gov.eg](mailto:emanzidan@moantiq.gov.eg).

## Publications

Volume 87 of the *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte* has been published. It includes a series of archaeological reports and specialised articles. This issue is dedicated to Dr Aleyyah Sherif, former head of the Publications Department, and former Head of the Egyptian Museum's library.



# Department of the Month

## Centre for Research and Conservation



The Centre for Research and Conservation began a small laboratory set up by English chemist Alfred Lucas in 1923 at the tomb of King Sety II, established to restore and pack the finds from the tomb of King Tutankhamun. It was Lucas who laid the basis of restoration work in Egypt, and that it is necessary to understand the materials of which objects were made and the technologies employed in their manufacture, in order to determine the appropriate materials for restoration and their effects on the object. The laboratory took many shapes until 1953, when Dr Zaki Iskandar moved it to the Egyptian Museum, Cairo and created an integrated centre for research and conservation. At the time, the research and restoration were carried out in cooperation between scientists and technicians from various disciplines such as physics, geology and biology. The first radio carbon dating laboratory was inaugurated at the time at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo.



The Centre also played a prominent role in the development of restoration in Egypt at the hands of Dr Saleh Ahmed, who founded the first restoration department at the Faculty of Archaeology at Cairo University.

Since 2000, the Centre has been based at the Palace of Ismail Pasha at Lazoghly. It currently includes ten laboratories that offer scientific services, and collaborates with archaeological missions and supervises sampling and analysis of material from archaeological sites across the country.

Among the most important achievements of the Centre are the restoration works and chemical analysis of the Second Solar Boat of Khufu in Giza, the conservation of crocodile mummies in the Kom Ombo Museum, establishing protective programs against termites at the Arish Museum, microbial treatment at the tomb of King Tutankhamun; treating insect infestations at the Library of the \* Court in Alexandria; and maintaining animal and fish mummies at the Fish Garden in Cairo, the Agricultural Museum in Cairo, and the Alexandria Zoo.

In 2016, the microbial infections laboratory at the Centre was awarded the ICOM Prize as the best museum exhibition for their work at the Giza Zoo Museum.

To contact the Centre by mail: 4 Noubar Street - Palace of Ismail Pasha - Ground Floor - Lazoghly Square - Cairo – P.O. Box 11521.

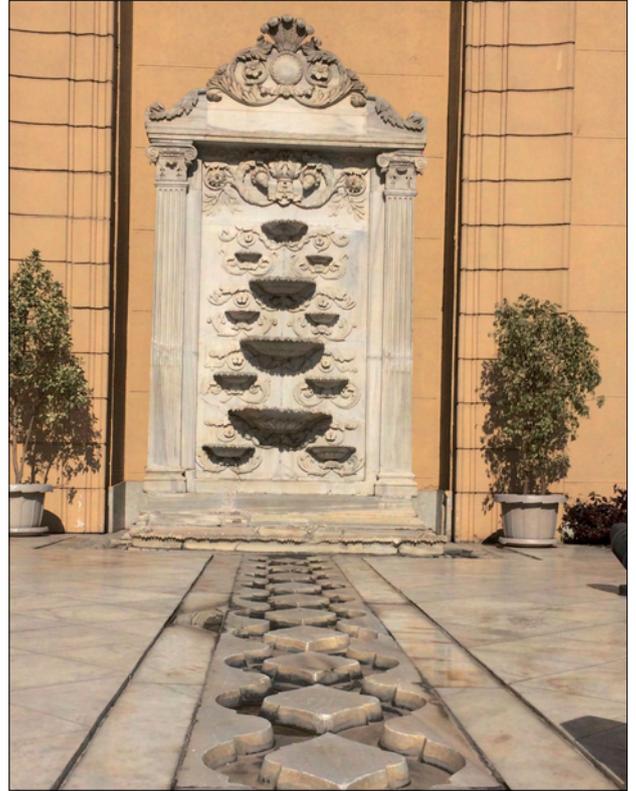
# Monument of the Month

## The Manesterly Fountain At The Museum of Islamic Art

Visitors to the Museum of Islamic Art may easily miss this masterpiece, which stands at the far end of the Museum's garden. This fountain originally comes from the palace of Hassan Fuad Pasha al-Manesterly, in Manial Rodah. Al-Manesterly Pasha held who held several prominent positions during the reign of Khedive Abbas Helmy, including lieutenant, governor of Cairo and Minister of Interior.

The fountain combines features of both Islamic and Western art. Such fountains - and water displays in general - were abundant during the Muhammad Aly Dynasty in Egypt, and has its origins from Greco-Roman times. The fountain has underground water supply pipes, including a purification system to remove impurities which get caught on the intricate floral carvings on the fountain. The fountain consists of two parts: the vertical marble slab known as *salsabil* in Arabic, and the second part is a rectangular basin with a decorated waterway. The finest details of this masterpiece are to be found in the waterway where different sorts of fish, crabs, and even a merman, are all carved in the little channel.

Fountains attached to the palaces and gardens played an important role in Islamic architecture. Manuscripts have provided us with drawings of many examples of these fountains and their technical details. They were not only useful in providing water, but were also aesthetically pleasing, calming, and cooling.



AT LAND  
PRODUCTIONS



Editor: Mennat-Allah El Dorry  
Staff: Maather Ibrahim Aboueich  
Mohamed Saad - Ashwaq Mosleh  
Hoda Khalifa - Rhio Barnhart  
Marwa Emad - Lamiaa Shehata  
Designer: Marwa El Shimy

Ministry of Antiquities  
3 El-Adel Abu Bakr Street, Zamalek  
Cairo, Egypt

[antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com)

Telephone numbers:  
(+2-02) 237356010 - 27358761  
27365645 - 27371724  
Fax: (+2-02) 27357239

 Ministry of Antiquities  
 ministry\_of\_antiquities  
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