



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 16 * September 2017

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES



The Egyptian archeological mission working in Draa Abu al-Naga archaeological site on the west bank of Luxor discovered an 18th Dynasty tomb of a goldsmith named Amenemhat. (see Monument of the Month p. 8).

Repatriated Antiquities

- In collaboration with Safaga Maritime Port Police Department in the Red Sea, the MoA Archaeological Ports Unit foils the smuggling attempt of a collection of 21 coins. The coins date to the Ottoman period, from the reigns of Sultan Hussein Kamel and king Farouk.



- The Ministry of Interior arrested a security member of the Coptic Museum while smuggling parts of wooden decorative element stolen from the wooden door of Saint Barbara on display at the museum.



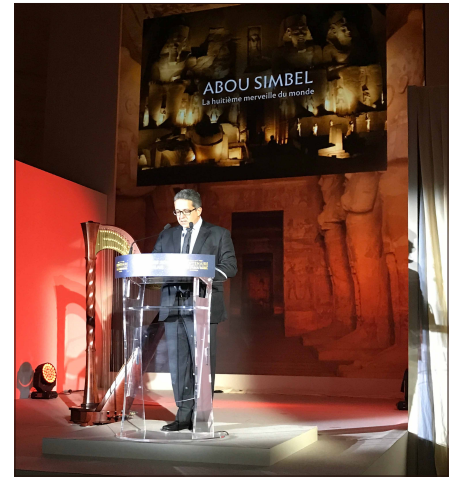
- The Archaeological Ports Unit at Cairo International Airport seized three Ottoman pistols, 34 Coptic textiles, and a decorated headdress and three Ottoman manuscripts before being smuggled.

Field work

Several archeological missions began their work in September 2017, including: A joint mission from Durham University and the Egyptian Exploration Society (EES) in Sa al-Hagar in al-Gharbiya Governorate; A British-German mission from London and Cologne Universities in Zawyet al-Mayeteen in al-Minya Governorate; A Swiss-French mission from the University of Geneva and the Sorbonne in Saqqara, Giza Governorate; A Hildesheim Museum mission in Qantir area in Sharqiya Governorate; The Austrian Academy of Science mission in Philae Temple in Aswan; The University of Warsaw mission in Tell al-Farkha in al-Daqahliya Governorate; The French mission working in San al-Hagar in al-Sharqiya Governorate.

Meeting and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities met the Ambassador of Switzerland in Cairo, the Ambassador of Cyprus in Cairo, the US cultural attaché, Dr Franco Porcelli from the Department of Applied Science and Technology, Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy, Dr Mark Lehner, Director of the American mission working in Mit Rahina, and members of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA.
- The Minister of Antiquities, accompanied by MoA officials, embarked on several inspection tours to different archaeological sites, museums and projects in Luxor, Giza and South Sinai.
- The Minister of Antiquities has participated in the 200th anniversary celebration of the discovery of Abu Simbel temples, organized by the Egyptian Embassy in Paris at "Le Petit Palais", which is part of a series of scheduled celebrations organized by Egypt for such occasion. The celebration was attended by a number of French officials, cultural figures, a large number of ambassadors and permanent delegates of UNESCO (12 September, 2017).
- The Minister of Antiquities and his Assistant for Islamic Antiquities have participated in the conference "the Forum of Heaven Religions" in South Sinai (28-29 September, 2017).



Temporary Exhibitions

A temporary exhibition entitled "The Extraordinary Discovery of Pharaoh Amenhotep II" inaugurated in Milan, Italy, the exhibition includes nine pieces of King Amenhotep II from Egyptian Museum at Cairo, it is worth mentioning that many countries had participated in this exhibition (13 September, 2017 - 7 January, 2018).

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- Almost 75% of the GEM project has been completed. The interior design, the fabrication of showcases, the displaying scenario and the final touches are currently in process.
- GEM has received a dozen of gigantic colossi from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir (EMC). The most important of them are a red granite head of King Userkaf, two sandstone fragments of the Sphinx beard, a sandstone colossus of deities Amun Re and Hathor, as well as the upper part of a granite statue of King Thutmose III (20 September, 2017).
- The Minister of Antiquities has led the first meeting of the GEM Board of Directors held at the museum with its full members consisting of MoA officials, archaeologists, representatives of the relevant ministries and public figures. The board members went on an inspection tour, organised by the GEM general supervisor, around the museum's different sections in order to check upon all the project's latest achievements (25 September, 2017).



Training

The Historic Cairo Rehabilitation Project, in co-operation with the Department of Archaeological Documentation, organized a training course titled "Archaeological Documentation between Virtual and Reality" at Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall, MoA, Zamalek (24-27 September, 2017).

Conservation Projects

MoA began the restoration of the Roman Rock-hewn tomb No. 54 discovered in 1991 in the Valley of the Golden Mummies in Bahriyah Oasis.

International Participation

A number of MoA employees have travelled abroad to participate in different conferences, seminars, training courses and touring exhibitions: to Japan: Mohammed Badr el-Din (Director of the Archaeological Storehouses and Registration Department at GEM), Tamer al-Nawagy (Director of Heavy Transportations and Multi-Compositions at GEM), Mohammed Abd el-Rahman (Head of the New Kingdom Department at GEM), Ayman Saed (Director of the Children's Museum at GEM), Samar Hamdoun (Head of the Educational Department at GEM), Colonel Mohammed Abd el-Aal (Inspector at the Tourism and Antiquities Police); to Vienna: Yasser Mahmoud (Inspector at Beni Suef archaeological area); to Denmark: Abd el-Aziz Mohammed Kamel and Anwar Mohammed el-Sayed (Restoration Specialists at GEM); to Switzerland: Dr Rizk Diab Ghadiry (Director of Research and Scientific Publication at GEM); to France: Ahmed Abd el-Galil Mohammed (Inspector at Samannud Temple); to China: Sanaa Ahmed (General Director of Upper Egypt Museums), Ahmed Obaid (Supervisor of the Technical Office of the Minister of Antiquities), Eman Ahmed (Director of Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan); to Georgia: Wessam Mohammed (Member of the Technical Office of the Minister of Antiquities Assistant for Archaeological Affairs).

- A mission of the Documentation Center at MoA began the documentation, architectural survey and digital photography of San al-Hagar archaeological site in al-Sharqiya Governorate.



- The conference "Sinai: the Capital of Religious Tourism", is scheduled to be held from 28 to 30 September 2017 in Sharm al-Sheikh town, South Sinai.

- The Ancient Egypt Research Association, in cooperation with MoA, USAID and York University, has completed the development project of Mit Rahina. The project has created a visiting path connecting eight archeological sites in the center of Egypt's first capital during the pharaonic time. These sites are Chapel of Ramesses II, Temple of Hathor, Temple of Ramesses II, Tombs of the High Priests, Chapel of Seti I, Serapeum Area and the western gate of the Great Temple of Ptah, as well as the Open Air Museum. The project started in August 2015, in which, all the archaeological remains in the area were documented and 84 inspectors were trained on sites management. A website under the title memphisegypt.org, was launched and a guidebook for visitors was published. The MoA celebrated the completion of the project in a gala



ceremony on site attended by the Minister of Antiquities, the Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, the US Charge D'Affairs, the Governor of Giza, the President of the Ancient Egypt Research Association, and a number of members of the Parliament and Heads of foreign institutes in Egypt (23 September, 2017).



- A mission from the Austrian Academy of Science started a project to study and transport some architectural elements at al-Shallal area in Philae Island in Aswan, within the framework of a project to transport and study more than 200 archaeological blocks.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

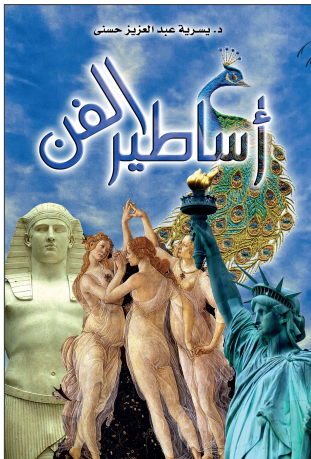
- According to «Your Origin is Your Monument» Program, the MoA in cooperation with the Misr Al-Erada NGO, organized a series of guided tours for universities students in Egypt around the Religions Complex area in Old Cairo, Salah El-Din Citadel, Al-Moez Street, al-Ghuriya street in Medieval Cairo, the Historic Houses Complex and the Cairo Northern Wall (7-18 September, 2017).
- Under the title: «Industries in Ancient Egypt», the Children Museum at EMC, organized a workshop for children ages ranging from 9 to 12 (13 September, 2017).



- The Cultural Development Department at MoA celebrated the first anniversary of launching the «Touf wi Shouf» initiative at Wikalit al-Ghury, launched in cooperation with the Department of Archaeological Awareness of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector (24 September, 2017).



- To celebrate the International Tourism Day, the MoA, in cooperation with al-Minya Governorate organized a marathon at Tuna al-Gebel in al-Minya (27 September, 2017).



New Publications

The MoA published a book entitled "Legends of Art", written by Dr Yousreya Abd el-Aziz Hosny. The book has five chapters of mythical stories from different civilizations. The stories reflect the concepts and thoughts of the communities of these civilizations, portrayed on their temples' walls. It lived until now because it moved from one era to another according to the vision of these myths.

Appointments

- Prof Mostafa Amin Mostafa has been appointed Assistant to the Minister of Antiquities for Technical Affairs.
- Prof Mostafa Fathey Waziry has been appointed the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Dr Mohammed Abd el-Latif has been appointed the Head of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector, beside his work as the Assistant of the Minister of Antiquities for Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Affairs.
- Atef Sayed Mohammed has been appointed a member in the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities' Technical Office.
- Talaat Abd el-Aziz has been appointed General Director of Luxor Antiquities.
- Fathy Abd el-Karem has been appointed General Director of al-Qurna Antiquities.
- Ramadan Ahmed has been appointed General Director of the missions in al-Qurna.
- Mostafa al-Saghir has been appointed General Director of al-Karnak and the General Supervisor of the Sphinxes Avenue in Luxor.
- Amin Ramadan has been appointed General Director of Eastern Luxor Antiquities.
- Adel Arfan has been appointed as Director at Karnak Temple.
- Mona Fatthy has been appointed as Director at the Archaeological Documentation.
- Mohammed Hamed has been appointed General Director of the Archaeological Documentation in Qena.
- Ayman Hendy has been appointed General Director of Qena Antiquities.
- Ashraf Mobarak has been appointed Director of Qena Antiquities.
- Hassaan Mohammed has been appointed Inspector at the Archaeological Documentation.

Decrees

- Approving the renewal of the scientific cooperation agreement with the Egyptian-French Center for the Studies of Karnak Temples in field expeditions.
- The Permanent Committee of the Supreme Council of Antiquities agreed on the beginning of Shaly village restoration project in Siwa Oasis, which contains a number of archaeological buildings.
- Determining the safe zone of Virgin Mary Church in al-Balyana area, Souhag.
- Modifying the official hours of the New Valley Museum to be from 9 am to 4 pm.
- The establishment of a Sub-Stores and mission stores administration under the affiliation of the Central Administration of Museum Stores and Sub-stores.
- Approving the registration of Yacoub Menasce Synagogue in al-Manshiya Square in Alexandria, on Egypt' Heritage list for Islamic, Coptic and Jewish monuments.
- Approving to start of Beit Al-Qadi development project in al-Gamaliya.
- The first meeting of the Rosetta Development Project Committee was held.





Many tourist monuments and archaeological sites characterize Matrouh governorate. One of the most important archaeological sites is Rommel Cave Museum. It reflects the history of this city and people. During the World War II, German commander Erwin Rommel used this cave in Matrouh as a command Center for Military Operations, which was also used in the Roman period as a grain store.

Rommel's Cave Museum is located on the peninsula of Rommel (northeast of Matrouh), which is about five kilometers away from Matrouh. It is an historical site, which has been converted to a museum. Its architectural design is a cavity in the mountain, in the form of a horseshoe (arch), and has an entrance and an exit to open on the sea. In 1977 the cave was turned into an historical museum, under the administration of the governorate of Matrouh. It began to collect military objects associated with Rommel used during World War II, in addition to gifts from Manfred Rommel, the Mayor of Stuttgart and Rommel's son, who donated some of his father's military belongings for display.

In 1998, the museum has been joined to Supreme Council of Antiquities, in response to the request of Matrouh Governorate to provide environmental control, preventive conservation, museum security and exhibition scenario.

Since 2009, the museum has undergone restoration work, while its objects were stored in



museum stores. Museum curators created a new exhibition scenario, changed lighting and insurance systems, and installed new surveillance cameras. They replaced the old crumbling concrete cladding with new ones, and reinforced the mountain walls with iron grid before the opening on 24 August, 2017.

The museum exhibition of the Rommel's Cave Museum is displaying their objects in historical context, with exhibits closely linked to the nature of the museum, which was used as a command Center for Military Operations. The exhibition galleries includes different collections of small war weapons used during World War II like; some maps containing Rommel's notes in his own handwriting; some military medals of Rommel; famous leather coat and his own telescope; wooden box used to keep the clothes of Commander Rommel; wooden box for military file keeping; collection of metal helmets of the German army; collections of photographs of Commander Rommel and others.

Monument of the Month

The Tomb of the Gold Maker (Amenemhat)

«KAMP 390»

This month the world's attention turned to the city of Luxor, following the revealing of the contents of a New Kingdom tomb from the 18th dynasty, in Draa Abu al-Naga necropolis on the West Bank of Luxor. This announcement came out during an international press conference held on the footstep of the tomb on 9 September, 2017 and was attended by a large number of Egyptian and foreign dignitaries. The tomb is known as "KAMP 390" and its owner was the goldsmith god Amun-Re, named "Amenemhat".



The tomb consists of an entrance leading to a semi-square chamber ending with a painting including text with the name of the tomb's owner. A base built of bricks was uncovered with a double statue of Amenemhat

and his wife, between them the remains of a statue of their son named "Nb Nfr". The main shaft of the tomb is located on the right. It is about 7 meters deep leading to a large burial chamber where a set of coffins, mummies, wooden masks and some small statues are located.



On the left side of the tomb, there is a hole leading to another shaft. Inside, there is a collection of coffins from the 21 and 22 dynasties, some of which were deliberately

burned in the Late Period. Found inside the tomb were fragments of a limestone painting depicting offerings to the owner of the tomb, a double sandstone statue, remains of four wooden coffins decorated with hieroglyphic inscriptions, and scenes of various gods from the 21 and 22 dynasty. Also found were 150 Ushabti made of faience, wood, burnt clay and limestone, and about 50 funerary seals, as well as a number of pottery vessels, two ceramic amulets with offering scenes, two head restraints, seven Ostraca from pottery and limestone, and a model of a pottery coffin inscribed with black ink.

A shaft was discovered in the outer courtyard of the cemetery, a family burial, belonging to a family from the Middle Kingdom containing three mummies and two cedar wood coffins in one of which was found a mummy of a woman from the fifth decade, and in the second was found two young mummies from the third and the second decade.



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