



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

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INAUGURATIONS

The Minister of Antiquities has officially inaugurated the antiquities storehouse of Kharga Oasis in the New Valley Governorate. The opening was attended by the Minister of Youth and Sports, both Governors of the New Valley and Fayoum, the Executive Head of the Small Projects Authority and the Ministry's top officials. The storehouse is 2400 meters wide and equipped with state-of-the-art conservation equipment. It is surrounded by a wall with towers, electronic monitoring cameras and fire alarms. It consists of nine halls, metal storage units for heavy objects, and a restoration lab. The storehouse is planned to display a collection of 10,000 artifacts selected from several museum storerooms (1 October, 2017).



Repatriated Antiquities

- The Central Administration of Archaeological Units and Ports of MoA seized a collection of six pottery vessels from the 19th century before being smuggled out of the country via the Badr al-Barry Customs. It also successfully seized a collection of 11 Roman coins before being smuggled through Nuwebaa Port, in South Sinai.



- The MoA succeeded in confiscating a copper Icon dating back to the 18th century during an attempt to smuggle it out of the country through the International Hurghudah Airport. The Icon is decorated with religious scenes depicting the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ in the Byzantine Style.

Commercial Sponsorship

A number of companies presented commercial sponsorship to the Egyptian Museum, Cairo: Philips Lighting Company sponsored the development of the lighting system of the atrium for 70,000; Hassan Allam Company sponsored the upgrading of four bathrooms with the amount of 300,000 EGP, which contributes to the improvement of the services provided to the museum's visitors. Inertia Corporation provided a sum of 300,000 EGP to upgrade the landscape of the museum's front garden, exterior lighting design and the landscape of the lotus basin area, as well as the repair of the elevator.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- During the archaeological survey at Wadi Abu Sabira, north of Aswan, an Egyptian archaeological mission of the Quarries and Mines Department uncovered a number of Late Paleolithic period rock inscriptions, engraved on a block of sandstone.



- In collaboration with the MoA, the joint French-Swiss mission from the University of Geneva discovered a number of monumental fragments during excavation works carried out at the eastern side of Queen Ankhesenpepy II's funerary complex. She was the mother of King Pepy II, one of the kings of the Sixth Dynasty. The mission discovered the upper part of an obelisk, a small rose granite pyramidion and a wooden head of a statue of the Queen. (see Object of the Month p. 8).

- The Egyptian-German mission, working in Souq al-Khamis archaeological area in Matareyyah, uncovered 1920 fragments of quartzite, representing the lower part of a statue of King Psamtik I, the upper part of which was revealed by the expedition in March. The fragments also contain parts of the back pillar, containing the Horus name of the King, which confirms that the statue belongs to Psamtik I. The newly discovered parts were transported to the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, after restoration.



- The Egyptian-Czech mission in Abusir necropolis uncovered the foundations of a Temple of King Rameses II. The temple is about 32 x 51m wide and contains the mud-brick foundations of one of its pylons, an open courtyard leading to a columned hall and a slope leading to a chapel divided into three parallel chambers, decorated with painted scenes.

- During works at the western side of the Avenue of Sphinxes, beneath al-Mathan Bridge in Luxor, an Egyptian archaeological mission stumbled upon a tombstone of a Coptic girl, carved in limestone. Preliminary examination reveals that the tombstone could be dated back to some time between the seventh and tenth centuries.



Field work

Several archeological missions began their fieldwork in October 2017, including: MoA-ARCE joint mission working in Sheikh Abd al-Qurna at Luxor; MoA-German University of Tübingen joint mission working in Saqqara; Minya University-Hanover German Museum joint mission working in Tuna al-Gebel, al-Minya; IFAO mission in the areas of: Assasif in Luxor, Wadi Sannur in al-Sharqiyyah Governorate, Kom Abu Billo in al-Khatatbah, south-west of Cairo, Tabet al-Gesh in Saqqara, and Qift in Qena; the Metropolitan Museum of Art's mission working in Senwosret III funerary complex at Dahshur; the Spanish mission of the University of Madrid working in Wadi al-Khabeaa at Luxor; the British Museum mission working in Qaryet al-Shatb in Asyut and the Italian Papyrus Institute mission working in al-Sheikh Abada in Minya.

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The second chariot of King Tutankhamun was transported from EMC to GEM. The chariot was subjected to documentation and first aid restoration to consolidate its weak parts. The chariot consists of 12 fragments, packed with acid-free packaging materials, to prevent any interaction with its gilded layers. The fragments were then stored in four wooden boxes (5 October, 2017).
- The GEM Board of Directors—headed by the Minister of Antiquities, and consisting of a number of MoA officials, archaeologists, representatives of the relevant ministries and public figures—met at MoA in Zamalek to discuss and take the necessary decisions regarding the GEM project (8 and 23 October, 2017).
- Several committees of the GEM Board of Directors held their meetings separately to follow up on their tasks, including the Management and Structuring Committee (12 and 19 October, 2017) and the Finance Committee (9, 16 and 17 October, 2017).
- The Egyptian-Japanese Higher Committee held its meeting at MoA in Zamalek to review the latest development of the GEM project (17 October, 2017).
- GEM received a crown of a Ptolemaic column, dating to the reign of Ptolemy II, coming from the town of Samannud. The crown is of one of the pillars of the Ptolemaic Gate of Samannud Temple (26 October, 2017).



National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

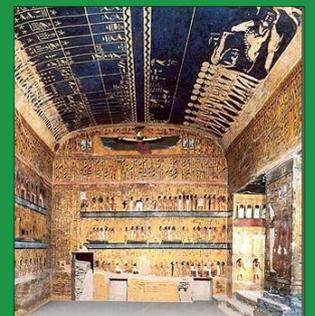
- NMEC in Al-Fustat received a number of objects from the storerooms of the EMC. The artifacts were originally excavated between 1942 and 1954 at Ezbet Al-Walda site in Helwan. The objects will be on display in the NMEC's second phase (12 October, 2017).
- NMEC hosted the 19th session of the Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of Nubia Museum in Aswan and NMEC. The Minister of Antiquities, representatives of the member states (Egypt, France, the Czech Republic and Sudan) and members of UNESCO, attended the meeting, in addition to observers from international organizations such as ICOM, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IFLA (19 October, 2017).

International Participation

A number of MoA employees have travelled abroad. Below is a list of the countries, and the employees who traveled to them: to Georgia: Mahrous Eid, Sayed Abo El-Fadl, Abd El-Rahman Osman (Curators at NMEC); to Italy: Abd El-Hameed Sayed (Supervisor of the MoA Risk Assessment Unit and Crisis and Disaster Management), Basem Azer (Inspector at al-Haram); to Japan: Gehad Shawky (Curator at EMC); to UAE: Khaled Abd El-Rady (Restoration Specialist at GEM); to China: Mohammed Yousry (Restoration Specialist at GEM); to Germany: Dr. Rabeaa Eissa (Inspector at Beni Suef Archaeological Area), Amir Nabil (Inspector at Saqqara); to Jordan: Islam Abd El-Gawad (Inspector at the Central Department of Sunken Monuments); to Switzerland: Dr. Mohammed Ismail (Supervisor of the Standing Committees and Foreign Missions), Nagla Mohammed (Archaeological Documentation Specialist at Abu Rawash); to USA: Haitham Saleh (Restoration Specialist at GEM), Bahaa El-Din Mohammed (Restoration Specialist at the Central Maintenance and Restoration Department), Fayrouz Fikry (Director of the International Relations Department at NMEC), Hany Salah and Osama Amer (Inspectors at Aswan), Mohammed Abd El-Kader (Member of the Financial Resources Management Team at the Minister's Office), Shaimaa Magdy (Inspector at the Archaeological Documentation Center), Azmy Taha (Inspector at Saqqara), Hamsa Mohammed (Inspector at the Minister's Office), Dr. Mostafa Waziri (Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities).

Varia

- The first meeting of the Ministerial Committee for the development of Rosetta, formed by a decree from the Prime Minister, was held at MoA in Zamalek, headed by the Minister of Antiquities. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Local Development and the Governor of al-Beheira. The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Tourism, Endowments, Environment, Culture, Housing, Planning and Local Development, as well as members from the Administrative Control Authority and the Head of the General Authority for Urban Planning (9 October, 2017).
- MoA, in coordination with Alexandria Governorate and Security Directorate, managed to remove three illegal floors of a property before the Al-Mandara archaeological mill, which dates back to 1807.
- On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the discovery of both the Temple of Abu Simbel and the Tomb of Sety I, the Minister of Antiquities and the Italian Ambassador in Cairo inaugurated an exhibition of photographs displaying the different stages of the discovery process, at the Italian Cultural Center in Cairo. For this occasion, MoA granted the holders of tickets to the Tomb of Sety I a free visit to the Tomb of Tutankhamun, on 17 October (19 October, 2017).
- On Sunday 22 October 2017 at 5:55 am, Abu Simbel Temple witnessed the solar alignment in the sanctuary, in the presence of more than 2000 visitors. The event was attended by the Minister of Antiquities, the Minister of Culture, the Governor of Aswan, representatives of the embassies of Switzerland and Italy and a number of MoA officials.
- The Prime Minister agreed to increase the supplementary remuneration of the employees of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Nubia Salvage Fund in accordance with decree No. 2255 of 2017 (23 October, 2017).



Thanks and Gratitude

Dr Ahmed Abd El-Kader Al-Sawy (1932-2017)

He obtained his BA in Egyptology from the Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University in 1957 and a PhD in Egyptology from Charles University in Prague in Czechoslovakia in 1978. He began his work as an inspector at the Egyptian Antiquities Authority. He then held several positions until he became Head of the Central Department of Egyptian Antiquities. During his work tenure, he participated in excavation works, archaeological documentation, the supervision of Egyptian and foreign excavation



missions as well as taking part in carrying out inventories, registration and documentation of a number of artifacts in museums and storerooms in various regions. In 1979, Dr El-Sawy worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Archeology in the Faculty of Arts, Sohag University until he became the Dean of the Faculty in 1990. On 30th September 2017, Dr El-Sawy passed away at the age of eighty-five, leaving behind him a rich history of archaeological and academic work.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- To celebrate the victory of the October War, Mallawi Museum, in collaboration with the Youth and Sports Department in Al-Minya Governorate, organized a symposium entitled "Egyptian Civilization: Between the Past and the Present" (3 October, 2017).
- The Alexandria National Museum celebrated its 14th anniversary by organizing a series of lectures and honoring its former directors. A play titled "Eye of Horus" was also performed (4-5 October, 2017).
- The Gayer-Anderson Museum celebrated the glorious October Victory this year by organizing guided tours for school pupils to visit the Museum's Weapons Hall. A documentary recounting the history of the October War to children was screened under the title "Grandpa is a Hero".
- As the new school year began, the Children's Museum at the EMC organized a series of educational programs in Arabic and English for pupils, such as: "Your Tour at the Children's Museum", "Ancient Language at the Children's Museum", "The Secret of Mummification" and "Forming Egyptian Landmarks with Lego". A series of educational guided tours in English has also been organized for pupils in American and British Schools in Cairo.
- Under the title "Your Heritage is Your Title", the Aton Museum in Al-Minya Governorate organized a series of educational lectures to raise the archaeological awareness of the Governorate's inhabitants.
- The Museum of Islamic Art, in collaboration with the Cultural Palace Authority, organized an exhibition entitled "Lens" under the slogan "Towards a Better Tourism Image". The exhibition put on show a collection of 66 photographs, taken by 39 photographers, during the competition organized last August. The photos show the museum's different halls and



treasured collection. The best photo was announced and the winner was offered a free annual pass to all open archaeological sites and museums. The exhibition will last for one month and will then tour many governorates around Egypt (10 October-10 November, 2017).

- The Cultural Development and Community Outreach Department organized a number of training courses and events, in collaboration with the Cultural Palaces and local associations, to celebrate the Sixth October War anniversary. The training course included: a free Hieroglyphics workshop for beginners at al-Shatby Cultural Palace (12 October-30 November, 2017), a workshop for university students entitled "Urban Architectural Heritage and Community Interaction" with the Heritage for All Initiative at Rasheed Museum (4-8 October, 2017), a ceremony under the title "Battles which Made History" with the Egypt Description Association for Tourism Development at EMC (14 October, 2017).
- EMC hosted a ceremony under the title "A Night at the Museum", attended by the Minister of Antiquities (28 October, 2017).

Training

- The American Research Center in Egypt, in co-operation with MoA, held a training project for the archaeologists of Upper Egypt on the documentation of the inscriptions of Theban Tomb 110 in the West Bank cemetery in Luxor (25 October - 18 November 2017).
- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, in cooperation with the UNESCO Cairo Office, held a training course under the title: "Restoration and Conservation of Mummies and Human Remains" (29 October - 2 November 2017).

Appointments

- Hany Mohammed Abd El-Ghany has been appointed Supervisor of the Department of Political Communication and Public Relations at the Minister's Office.
- Mona Abd El-Nazeer Sayed has been appointed Supervisor of Protocol at the Minister's Office.
- Soher Al-Sayed Qonsowah has been appointed General Director of Old Cairo and al-Fustat.
- Atef Mohammed Al-Saeed has been appointed Director of the Store galleries of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector at al-Fustat.
- Gamal Abd El-Halim Farahat has been appointed Supervisor of the Restoration and Development Works of Mohammed Aly Palace at Shubra.
- Khairy Abd El-Rahman has been appointed General Director of Scientific Research of the Egyptian Antiquities Restoration Department in Cairo, Dr. Essam Mohammed has been appointed General Director of Restoration of the Citadel Museums, Reda Seddiq has been appointed Director of Restoration at the Pyramids area, Tabyena Mohammed has been appointed Restoration Director of Mit Rahina archaeological site, Manal Fekry has been appointed Director of the Follow-up Department of the Giza Restoration Department, Al-Seddiq Al-Seddiq has been appointed Restoration Director of the Pyramids' archaeological area, and Shaaban Abd El-Moneim has been appointed Restoration Director of the Khufu Boat Museum at the Giza Plateau.
- Sayed Abdo Abd El-Aziz has been appointed Director of the Souhag archaeological area.
- Mohammed Mohammed Youssef has been appointed Director of the Saqqara archaeological area.
- Mohammed Helmy Hashim has been appointed Director of Helwan, al-Saff and Atfih archaeological areas.
- Yasser Abd El-Aziz has been appointed General Director of the Tickets Storehouses Department and Saber Ibrahim has been appointed Supervisor of the tickets Department.
- Mostafa Ahmed Mahmoud has been appointed General Director of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities of Upper Egypt.
- Eman Mohammed Hanafy has been appointed General Director of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities of the Red Sea and Mohammed Abo Al-Wafa has been appointed Director of Archaeological Awareness in the region.
- Mahmoud Ahmed Mohammed has been appointed General Director of the Khufu Boat Museum at the Giza Plateau.
- Abd El-Salam Hassan has been appointed General Director of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities in Aswan and Edfu, Nadia Ahmed has been appointed General Director of Upper Egypt Antiquities Affairs, Gamal Mohammed has been appointed General Director of Archeological Documentation in Upper Egypt, Abd El-Baset Abdullah has been appointed General Director of Nag Hammadi Antiquities in Upper Egypt, Abd El-Hady Kamel has been appointed General Director of Technical Follow-up of the Antiquities of Upper Egypt, Sawsan Abd El-Hamed has been appointed General Director of Archaeological Research and Studies of Upper Egypt, Manal Mohammed has been appointed General Director of Upper Egypt Antiquities Registration in Luxor, Mahmoud Masoad has been appointed General Director of Upper Egypt Antiquities Registration in Isna, Mohsen Abd El-Aal has been appointed General Director of the Seizures of Antiquities of Upper Egypt in Souhag, Magdy El-Sayed has been appointed General Director of Trespassing for Upper Egypt Antiquities in northern Souhag, Gamal Hamada has been appointed General Director of Excavations of Upper Egypt in Souhag and Mousa Aly has been appointed General Director of the Properties of Upper Egypt Antiquities in Nag Hammadi.

Decrees

- The Permanent Committee for Islamic and Coptic Antiquities has approved the study, documentation and restoration of a number of Mamluk Pulpits in Historic Cairo. The project is a cooperation between MoA and the Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation. It aims to rescue four pulpits and produce a full documentation of the other ten in Historic Cairo.
- Th Permanent Committee for Islamic and Coptic Antiquities has approved the consolidation and documentation of the archaeological buildings in Bab al-Azab gate at Salah El-Din's Citadel.

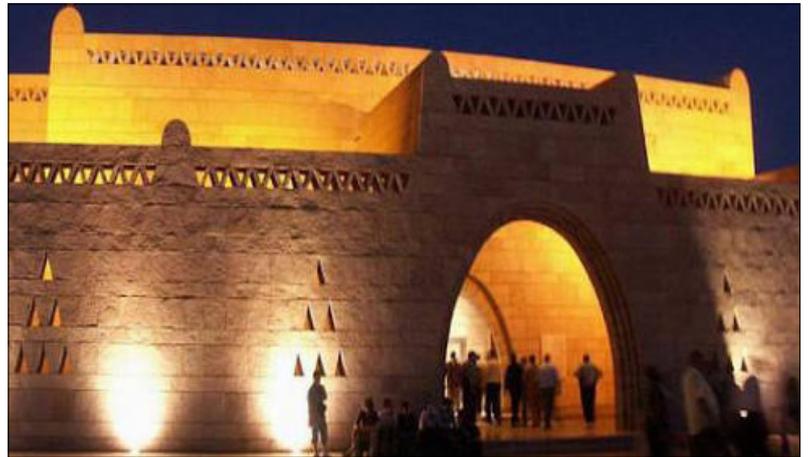
Museum of the Month

Nubia Museum at Aswan

The idea of Nubia Museum came up during the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia in the 1960s and 1970s.

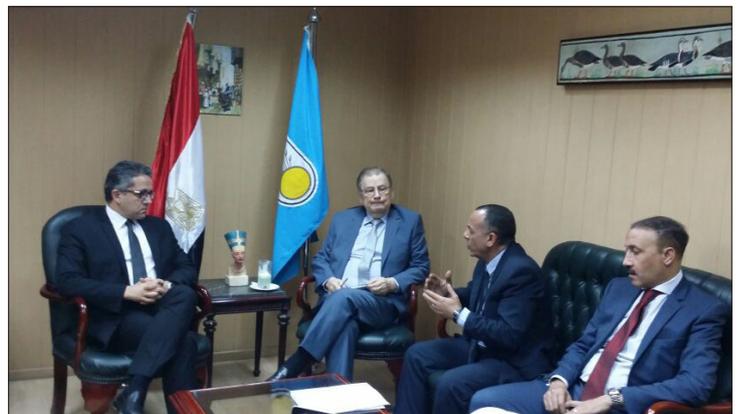
The aim of the museum was to preserve and display the archaeological, historical, cultural and environmental heritage of Nubia. In the early 1980s, the technical studies of the project started, and committees were formed of experts from the Egyptian Antiquities Authority and UNESCO along with some Egyptian university experts.

The museum consists of three floors. It has a main exhibition hall, and several departments, the most important of which are: the information center and the Educational Activities for Students Department. The selection of objects represents the stages of the development of the Nubian civilization, including maps and geographical photos. Local traditional architecture played a role in the design of the museum. The Nubia Museum is in the open-display style, with an open-air museum, containing various elements reflecting different aspects of Nubian life. The museum was opened in November 1997.



Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities met the Ambassadors of Australia and Russia in Cairo as well as the Commissioner for Educational Policy and Foreign Research of Germany, the Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Commission Minister of the Dominican Republic and the Director of the Prince Charles Foundation for Heritage and Classical Arts.
- The Minister of Antiquities, accompanied by Engineer, Ibrahim Mahleb, Adviser to the President of the Republic and MoA officials, embarked on an inspection tour of Giza, where he visited GEM and the Giza Plateau Development Project. Accompanied by Prime Minister, Engineer Sherif Ismail, the Minister inspected Karnak and Mut temples as well as The Avenue of Sphinxes in Luxor. The Minister also paid a visit to the Temple of Abu Simbel and the New Valley Governorate.
- The Minister of Antiquities attended a meeting with representatives of vendors and horse-riders located at the Giza Plateau, in the presence of the Minister of Social Solidarity, the Minister of Tourism, the Governor of Giza, Tourism and Antiquities Police officials and Giza Members of Parliament (18 October, 2017).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in the opening session of the Fifth International Conference of the Faculty of Archeology, Cairo University under the title: "Archeology and Heritage in a Changing World", held on the Faculty's premises (29 October, 2017).



Monument of the Month

New Discoveries in Saqqara

Adel Okasha and Azmy Salama

The Saqqara necropolis revealed some of its secrets, as the Egyptian-French-Swiss mission stumbled upon several archaeological items during excavations carried out in the area located to the east of Queen Ankhessenpepy II's—mother of the sixth dynasty King Pepy II—pyramid.

The mission uncovered the upper part of an obelisk which had once stood at the entrance of her Valley temple as well as the pyramidion of her yet still uncovered satellite pyramid, and a wooden head of one of her statues. The part of the obelisk that was found is carved in rose granite and bears the cartouche of King Pepy II. The studies on the length of this part reveal that the obelisk may have been between five to six meters high. The pyramidion is also carved in rose granite, and is of a height of 1.3 m and a width of 1.1 m. The discovered wooden head belongs to Ankhessenpepy II and is attached to a wooden neck and the ears have two wooden earrings. Studies show that the head was probably part of a larger statue of the queen.




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