



Newsletter of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

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MoA launched the first phase of the beta version of its official portal <www.antiquities.gov.eg> after a year of preparation, in cooperation with the Project for the Establishment and Development of Government Portals. This is within the framework of the Development of Governmental Services Program of the Administrative Development Sector in the Ministry of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform.

EMC'S 115TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

EMC celebrated its 115th anniversary, during which a temporary exhibition of a collection of photographs and objects related to the establishment and opening of the museum, was opened by HE Minister of Antiquities, Dr. Khaled El-Enany. Within the framework of the celebration, a collection of objects recovered from the principality of Sharjah in the UAE, was also put on display, in addition to some objects discovered by the Russian mission in al-Fayoum. The celebration was attended by the Ministers of Tourism; Investment and International Cooperation; Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform; Social Solidarity, Industry and Trade and Local Development and Military Production, as well as the Governor of Giza, a number of foreign ambassadors and directors of foreign archaeological institutes in Egypt. The Ambassador of Austria delivered a speech on behalf of all the ambassadors present. The event was also attended by a number of Members of Parliament in addition to MoA high officials. The ceremony was sponsored by a number of major companies (28 November, 2017).



Repatriated Antiquities



- EMC received 440 objects recovered from the principality of Sharjah in the UAE. His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Qasimy, Ruler of Sharjah, ordered that the objects be returned to Egypt after being confiscated by the police. The artifacts, which date back to different periods of ancient Egyptian and Islamic history, include: parts of painted false-doors and a collection of bronze statues of ancient Egyptian deities of different sizes, in addition to a collection of faience amulets, a vessel with the cartouche of King Ramesses III and Islamic tombstones.
- MoA succeeded in repatriating eight objects from France, including coffin fragments, two statues of cats and a basalt anthropoid head.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- The joint Egyptian-German mission working in Watfa in al-Fayoum revealed the remains of the first gymnasium ever to be discovered in Egypt. The structure dates back to the Hellenistic period. The gymnasium was an institution dedicated to the teaching of reading and writing, sports and the holding of philosophical discussions. It also included a large meeting hall with a number of statues, a dining hall and a courtyard, as well as a race-track of about 200 meters in length.
- The Egyptian-Russian Archaeological Mission working in Deir al-Banat, near the Monastery of Archangel Gabriel in New Fayoum, discovered a wooden coffin with a Greco-Roman mummy. The mummy is in a good state of preservation. It is wrapped in linen and the head is covered with a cartonnage mask painted in blue and gold. The coffin and mummy were moved to storage for study and restoration purposes.

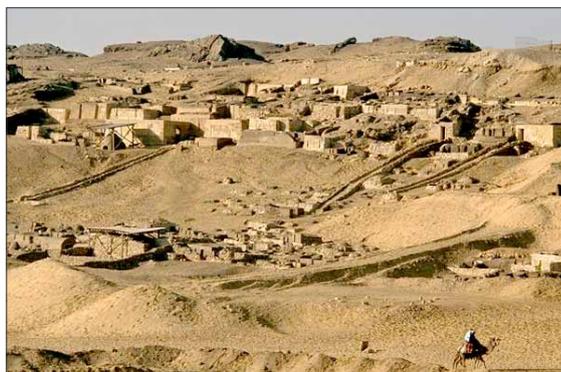


- A MoA mission, in cooperation with the European Institute of Marine Archeology in the Eastern Port of Alexandria, succeeded in finding the ruins of three ships, a crystal royal statue head and three gold coins, as well as a bronze votive boat of the god Osiris, all dating to the Roman period.
- During the excavations carried out by the Egyptian mission, as part of the project for the lowering of the groundwater level in Kom Ombo Temple in Aswan, a sandstone architectural element was discovered in the northwestern side of the temple. The object is inscribed with the coronation name of the Emperor Philip Arrhidaeus, which means that the temple is probably older than previously thought.
- The German-Swiss mission working in Elephantine Island in Aswan revealed an 18th dynasty workshop. The structure is a carpentry workshop, dating back to the 18th Dynasty. Two double-faced axes and a wooden stick were found inside.



INAUGURATIONS

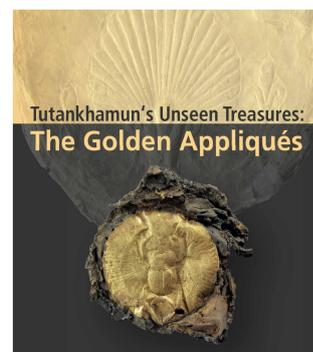
MoA opened the site of the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders, in the Upper Cemetery at Giza, to the public for the first time since it was discovered in 1990, after completing the necessary restoration work. Visitor information signs and panels, in both Arabic and English, were mounted. The designated tour of the cemetery includes the tombs of Ptah-shepses; Supervisor of the Royal Palace, Nefer-thieth; and the tomb of the Supervisor of Pyramids' construction works, Petety. Two additional tombs were opened after their restoration was completed: the tomb of Khufukhaef, Son of King Khufu and the tomb Seshemnefertheti (1 November, 2017).



Temporary Exhibitions

Internal Exhibition

- As part of the festivities celebrating the 115th anniversary of the EMC, MoA, in cooperation with the DAI, organized a temporary exhibition at the EMC under the title "Tutankhamun's Unseen Treasures: The Golden Appliqués." The exhibition includes 86 gold pieces from the collection of Tutankhamun, 55 of which are put on display for the first time since their discovery (15 November-31 December, 2017).
- Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan organized a temporary exhibition titled "A King's Life" at the reception hall of the museum, in celebration of the Museum's 75th anniversary. The exhibition aims to shed light on the character of King Farouk and the history of the museum, as well as the history of the city of Helwan in general. It includes three objects: a painting representing the Kursi verse from Surat al-Baqara in the Holy Quran, with a dedication inscribed at the bottom from a resident of Helwan to King Farouk on the day of the opening of the rest-house; a photograph of King Farouk with a synopsis of his life and the dates of his reign, and a leather tableau that was given to the King by an owner of a printing press on 6 May, 1947, on the occasion of his ascent to the throne (8 November - 8 December, 2017).



Field work

Several archaeological missions began their work in November 2017, including the Italian missions of the University of Turin, working at Nelson Island in Alexandria and the University of Salento in Lecce, working at Dimiat al-Sebaa in al-Fayoum; the German missions of Göttingen University, working at the site of Shedia in the Beheira governorate and Tübingen University working at al-Sheikh Hamad in Souhag; the University of Höttingen, working at Shedia in al-Beheira; the American mission of the University of Memphis, working at the Hypostyle Hall of Karnak Temple in Luxor; the British mission of Oxford University, working at Al-Kom al-Ahmar in Edfu, Aswan; and the mission of the Austrian Institute of Archaeology, working at Kom Ombo in Aswan.

Conferences

- MoA, in cooperation with the DAI, IFAO, ARCE, AUC and EES, organized the first conference entitled "Science of Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology" (SAEMT). The conference was held at the Palace of Prince Mohammed Ali in Manial and focused on the use of science—such as chemical analyses, archeobotany, animal remains, geology and mummification sciences—in the field of archeology. It highlighted the use of the latest methods in these areas, with the aim of exploring the nature of materials and industrial techniques used in ancient Egypt (4-6 November, 2017).
- MoA, in cooperation with Cairo University, organized a scientific conference on the results of the Egyptian and foreign missions' excavations in al-Minya. The conference was held in the lecture hall of NMEC in al-Fustat (16 November, 2017)



Lectures

- MoA organized a scientific lecture titled "The Temple of the Goddess Repit in Athribis" by Dr. Christian Leitz (26 November, 2017).
- The Patrons of the Egyptian Museum (PEMC) organized a lecture titled "Excavations of the Causeway of Sahure's Pyramid in Abusir" by Dr. Mohammed Ismail, General Director of Permanent Committees and Missions at MoA (27 November, 2017).

Training

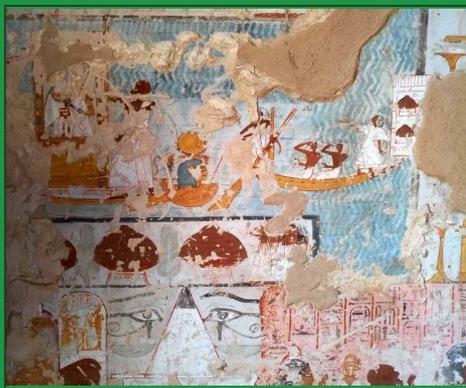
- The American Research Center in Egypt, in collaboration with MoA, launched a training program for 20 conservators for the conservation of the Red Monastery in Souhag (27 November to 14 December, 2017).
- The EES, in cooperation with MoA, organized a Photoshop Illustrator training program for 5 archaeologists. The training was held at the British Council in Agouza (12 November, 2017).
- A microbiology specialist from MoA received training in archeobotany, through the IFAO (13-21 November, 2017).

International Participation

- The Minister of Antiquities participated in a panel discussion under the title "International Experiences in Archeology," as part of the first KSA antiquities forum in Riyadh, organized by the Tourism and National Heritage Authority in the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by ministers from the delegations of 36 Arab and non-Arab countries (7 November, 2017).
- A number of MoA employees have travelled abroad to the following countries: Dr. Nagwa Metwally (General Director of the Scientific Publication Department) to France; Mona Mohamed Abd El-Wakeel (Curator at the EMC) to Italy; Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Abd El-Latif (Assistant Minister for Sites Affairs and Head of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector), Dr. Adel Ziada and Dr. Diaa Mohamed Gad El-Karim (General Director of the Registration Department of the Islamic Antiquities Sector) to Saudi Arabia; Dr Tarek Sayed Tawfik (Supervisor of the GEM project) to Spain; Hebat-Allah El-Dars (Inspector at Aswan) to UAE; General Medhat Mahmoud Abbas (Tourism and Antiquities Police) to Switzerland and America.

Varia

- MoA condemned the despicable terroristic act that took place in al-Rawda Mosque in Bir al-Abd, North Sinai, which resulted in the martyrdom of over 300 innocent Egyptians and prays for their families and loved ones to find strength and solace in these difficult times (28 November, 2017).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in the opening of the 20th session of the Conference of the Union of Arab Archaeologists, titled "Studies in the Archaeology of the Arab World" held in the Grand Hall of Fayoum University. The conference was sponsored by the Arab League, in cooperation with the Union of Islamic Universities and ISESCO. The opening session was attended by a number of officials, representatives of international organizations, university professors and archaeologists from Egypt and the Arab world (11 November, 2017).
- MoA launched an archaeological educational project, in cooperation with Microsoft, titled "My Museum in Your Classroom", to create a new and innovative educational and cultural environment through the use of modern technology applications in museums and archaeological sites, in order to educate the students about the different aspects of Egyptian civilization. The project creates a virtual connection between museums and educational institutions through virtual tours by the museum's curators of the museum's different galleries, using Skype to communicate with teachers and students in the classroom. This creates new electronic educational windows that can be uploaded to the site education.microsoft.com, through which teachers and staff in educational institutions can communicate with the museums' curators. The project aims to make museums accessible to students in the classroom (23 November, 2017).



A meeting of the committee formed by a Prime Minister's decree and headed by the Minister of Antiquities, for the purpose of supervising the implementation of the Rosetta Development Project, took place. The meeting was attended by the Governor of al-Beheira, representatives of the Ministries of Tourism; Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform; Environment; Culture and Housing and Urban Communities, as well as the General Authority for Urban Planning and a number of Members of Parliament and MoA officials.

- The mission of the Center of Documentation of Egyptian Antiquities working in Luxor has succeeded in registering 24 tombs in the areas of Dra' Abu al-Naga, Sheikh Abd al-Qurna and al-Khokha, on the western bank of Luxor during its 2017-2018 season.

Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities received the Ambassadors of Italy, Belgium and Japan in Cairo, the Chinese Cultural Counselor and the Director of IFAO, in his office at MoA in Zamalek.
- The Minister of Antiquities, accompanied by high MoA officials, visited some archeological sites, museums and projects in the following governorates: al-Beheira (the Tell and Mosque of Abu Mandor complex, Zaghlol Mosque, al-Mahally Mosque, Arab Keli House and the Citadel of Qaitbay at Burg Rashid), Cairo (NMEC, Arab al-Hisn in al-Matareyyah, the site of the excavations of the mission of Ain Shams University and the site of Mary's tree), Giza (the Giza Plateau) and al-Fayoum (Umm al-Baragat).

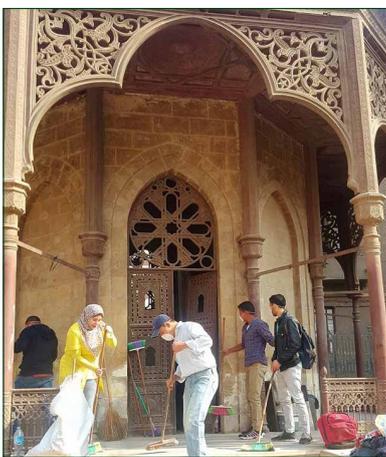


Conservation Projects

- A double limestone statue dating to the end of the 6th dynasty, and stored in the museum storeroom in Saqqara, was successfully restored. The statue was found in two fragments, and was missing parts of it. The extant two fragments were assembled and modern parts were added in order to complete it. The original paint on the statue was reinforced.
- Restoration work at Dandara Temple in Qena began. Work was done in order to reveal the surviving decoration on the ceiling of the first hall, in addition to completing the restoration of the temple's Mamissi (small chapel considered the birthplace of the god) and the ascending staircase.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Cultural Development and Community Outreach Department in the Minister's office organized a guided tour for the visually impaired titled "Insight of Art" in Salah El-Din's Citadel in Cairo, in cooperation with the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector and the National Institutes of the Ministry of Education. A 3D model of the citadel was presented to the visually impaired in order to enable them to identify the paths and archaeological areas that the tour will pass through, using the sense of touch (7 November, 2017).
- Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan organized a number of guided tours, workshops and lectures on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its establishment (8 November, 2017).
- On the occasion of Children's Day, the Textile Museum organized a celebration titled "Textile Children". It included guided tours for children and visitors of the museum, focusing on the clothes of Egyptian children through the ages. A number of shows were performed with the participation of different schools and orphanages (16 November, 2017).



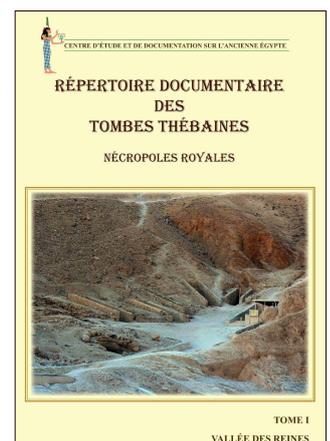
- The Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach in the Minister's office, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Studies and Training Center, launched their first guided tours to the Religions' Complex for the hearing impaired. It also organized its second guided tour of the Museum of Islamic Art, in cooperation with the Museum's staff, in addition to a play titled "Arab Youth for Theater" about the challenges of the age for people with special needs within the community by the group "Amateur," and a clown show by the "Generations" group, all in the framework of the Sustainable Development Program (16 - 23 November, 2017).

- The "Save its Beauty" initiative carried out cleaning work at the Dome of Soliman Pasha Al-Faransawy, with the participation of university students, under the auspices of the Cultural Development and Community Outreach Department in the Minister's office and the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector (24 November, 2017).

- EMC hosted a ceremony under the title "A Night at the Museum", attended by the Minister of Antiquities (28 October, 2017).

MoA Publications

- The Egyptian Antiquities Registration Center at MoA issued a book titled "Registration Works Guide of Theban Tombs, the Royal Cemeteries, Part One: The Valley of the Queens" CHECK ACTUAL ENGLISH TITLE in French and English. It is a scientific registration guide of the tombs of the Valley of the Queens, in addition to the monastery known as Deir al-Rumi. The book contains the name of each tomb, its number, date, titles of the owner, a collection of scientific references and a simplified description of the scenes and inscriptions found inside; in addition to architectural maps and photographs of each tomb.



Appointments

- El-Sayed Abd El-Alem Abd El-Rahim has been appointed Director of al-Qantara East, at North Sinai.
- Dr. Amir Fahmy El-Mesiry has been appointed Director of Port Said Antiquities.
- Ussama Mostafa El-Zayat has been appointed Director of Architectural Drawing in North Sinai.
- Mostafa Abd El-Halim has been appointed General Director of the Secretary General's Office.
- Heba Hamdy Hassan has been appointed Deputy Head of the Museums Sector.
- Abd El-Moneim Saaed Mahmoud has been appointed General Director of Aswan and Nubia Antiquities.
- Zaki Awwad has been appointed General Director of the Museum Storeroom at Tell al-Yahodiyah.
- Gamal Ibrahim Awwad has been appointed General Director of the Media Department in the Museums Sector.

Decrees

- The Permanent Committee of the Ancient Egyptian Antiquities approved to organize, for the first time, a priority list for archeological sites that are in dire need of restoration, conservation or excavations in Upper and Lower Egypt, Hills that are subjected to human encroachment and natural disasters and those were in the concession of foreigner missions but stopped working there for more than 5 years.

These sites in Lower Egypt are Kom Al-Khelgan, Tel Al-Mekdam, Tel Tabla in Daqahlia Governorate, Awlad Moussa in Suez city, Tel Al-Ezz in Damietta, Al-Shatby cemetery in Alexandria, Tel Al-Khawaled, Al-Dabaa Teda, Al-Kom Al-Ahmar Al-Ein, Al-Kom Al-Ahmar Al-Ghawet, Tel Al-Faqaa, and al-khabiza in kafr al-sheikh, Tel Hassan Dawood in Ismalia, Kom Al-Ghoraf, Kom Aziza, kom freen, Kom Trogy in Beihera). Cairo and Giza will include the site of west maadi. In Middle Egypt the sites are Al-Nour Mountain in Beni Sweif; Upper Egypt (the symbolical tomb of Osiris in Abydos in Sohag and Nakada in Qenna.

Practical Information

Commercial Photography and Filming (Cinematography, Television and Photography at Archaeological Sites and Museums)

I. Filming (Cinematography, Television and Photography at Archaeological Sites and Museums)			
Type of Photography and Filming	Egyptians	Forigners	Notes
Filming for Archaeological Discoveries and Excavation Work per day	EGP 5000	EGP 10000	
Talk Show Programs and Interviews During Official Working Hours	EGP 600	EGP 1500	+ EGP 150 for employees fund per day. In case of opening the site or museum after official working hours, an additional fee of EGP 10000 will be charged
Shooting Cinematic Commercial Films at all Archaeological Sites and Museums Open to Visitors	EGP 5000 for day EGP 20000 for week EGP 30000 for 2 weeks EGP 50000 for month	EGP 15000 for day EGP 60000 for week EGP 90000 for 2 weeks EGP 150000 for month	In case of filming in the desert areas around archaeological sites, a discount of 50% is granted from the prescribed fees for photography. In case of filming after official working hours, an extra fee of EGP 5000 will be charged for opining the site / museum.

Filming Documentaries at all Archaeological Sites and Museums Open to Visitors During Official Working Hours	EGP 500 for day EGP 2000 for week EGP 3000 for 2 weeks EGP 5000 for month	EGP 5000 for day EGP 20000 for week EGP 30000 for 2 weeks EGP 50000 for month	
Filming Documentaries in Tombs Open to Visitors During Official Working Hours for one day	EGP 1000	EGP 3000	
Filming Documentaries in Tombs Non-Opened to Visitors During Official Working Hours for one day	EGP 2000	EGP 5000	
Filming Documentaries in Tombs of Nefertary, Seti I and Tutankhamun During Official Working Hours for one tomb per hour	EGP 5000	EGP 10000	After approval of competent authority
Shooting Advertisements for Products Services at all Archaeological Sites and Museums Open to Visitors During Official Working Hours	EGP 10000	EGP 15000	After approval of competent authority for the type of advertisements
Filming (Cinematography, Television and Video) in the Mummies Room in the Egyptian Museum During Official Working Hours	EGP 5000	EGP 8000	Per hour, After approval of competent authority
II. Commercial Photography at Archaeological Sites and Museums			
Photography of Archaeological Discoveries and Excavation During Official Working Hours for one day	EGP 1000	EGP 2000	
Commercial photography in Tombs of Nefertary, Seti I and Tutankhamun During Official Working Hours for one tomb per hour	EGP 5000	EGP 5000	In addition to the ticket fees, after approval of competent authority without using flash
Commercial photography of Objects in Museums During Official Working Hours for one tomb per hour	EGP 250	EGP 500	Without opening of vitrine
	EGP 500	EGP 1000	With opening of vitrine
		EGP 500	Photography with Tutankhamun's mask for foreigners per photo
III. Photography and Filming of Sunken Monuments			
Filming (Cinematography, Television and Video)	EGP 15000 Above surface of water		For one site per day
	EGP 30000 Under surface of water		
Commercial Photography	EGP 5000 Above surface of water		
	EGP 10000 Under surface of water		
Exclusive Documentary Filming for Archaeological Discoveries	Egyptian news agencies and channels EGP 500 000 at minimum	Arab and Foreign news agencies and channels EGP 1000 000 at minimum	Charges are determined by the sponsorship committee

Monument of the Month

Workers Cemeteries at Giza Plateau Dr. Zahi Hawass

The discovery of the pyramids builders' cemetery was one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century. It revealed, for the first time, new information about the workers who built the Pyramids. This discovery confirms to the whole world that the Egyptians are the pyramids' builders and the workers were not slaves as they were able to build their tombs beside the pyramids. The story of this discovery began in 1987 when I wrote in my thesis on Giza Plateau that the pyramids builders cemetery could be found behind the wall of the crow, located to the south of the Sphinx. I also presented several evidences that support my suggestion and expectation.

In 1988, excavation works started in this area and the team unearthed a collection of human bones and remains of seeds, a fact that approves the existence of the workers cemetery. More excavations uncovered the "Lower Cemetery" dedicated for workers who transported the pyramids blocks. It houses tombs and burials of different designs among the most distinguished are those with mastaba and pyramid shapes. A collection of human bones was found inside the burials along with beer vessels. Studies carried out on the bones revealed that some workers had



hands splint and legs amputation while others had damages in their backbone because of the transportation and moving of the blocks. The "Upper cemetery" which was dedicated for the artisans, was also uncovered and it was built of limestone and mud bricks. The cemetery has the tomb of the overseer of the artisans, a yet unidentified tomb with huge limestone sarcophagi, the tomb of the responsible of the bakery, Nefetheith, and another one of a worker named "Petteti" who left a warning curse on the false door of his tomb. He wrote that whoever will enter my tomb would be eaten by

the lions, the crocodiles and hippos. To the east of the cemetery, the bakery and dried fish area, and the workers' dormitory were found along with the house of one of the workers supervisors.

In Giza Plateau, the workers were divided into groups which each consists of 40 workers and a chief. The names of these groups were inscribed inside one of the five rooms located above King Khufu's burial chamber. The construction of the pyramid was a national project for the Egyptians as the mayors of the villages in Upper and Lower Egypt were responsible for sending the workers as well as the cattle to feed them. Traces and evidences asserting the slaughtering of 11 cows and 15 sheep per day were found. The number of workers who participated in building the pyramids are estimated by 10 000 workers.


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HOLDING

INERTIA

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