

Communication creates a cohesive society, and therefore the Ministry of Antiquities has decided to issue a monthly newsletter highlighting the most important achievements and activities, and other current events within the ministry.



Newsletter  
Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities  
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# Ministry of Antiquities



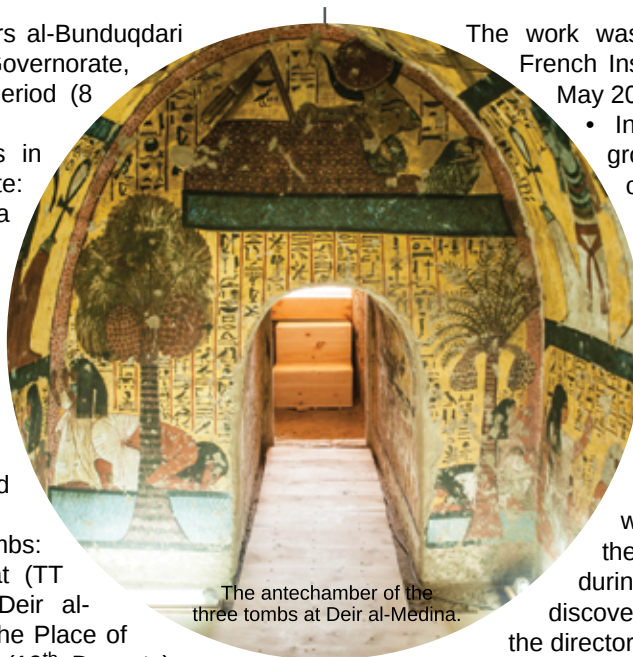
The tomb of Djehuty.



A scene from the tomb of Djehuty.

## Inaugurations

- Inauguration of al-Zahir Baybars al-Bunduqdari Mosque in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, dating back to the Mameluke Period (8 April 2016).
- Inauguration of four mosques in Fowa in Kafr al-Sheikh Governorate: al-Fokai, Abu Shara, Sidi Moussa and al-Sadat al-Qoraniyah (3 May 2016).
- Inauguration of Queen Hatshepsut's Royal Butler's tomb (Djehuty, TT 110) on the West Bank of Luxor. The restoration works were undertaken in collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt and funded by USAID (13 May 2016).
- Inauguration of three tombs: Amenakht (TT 218), Nebenmaat (TT 219), Khaemteri (TT 220) at Deir al-Medina, who were "Servants in the Place of Maat" during Ramses II's reign (19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty).



The antechamber of the three tombs at Deir al-Medina.

The work was done in collaboration with the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology (13 May 2016).

- Inauguration of the Edfu Temple groundwater lowering project after the completion of the second and last stage, in collaboration with USAID (13 May 2016).
- Re-opening of the Pyramid of Unas at Saqqara after being closed to visitors for 20 years. Two tombs in Saqqara were also reopened: the tombs of the viziers Ankhmahor and Nefersehmentah, both dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. A third tomb was inaugurated in the same site: the tomb of Nemtymes, an official during the 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. The tomb was discovered by the French mission under the directorship of Alain Zivie (26 May 2016).

# Archaeological Discoveries

- The Swiss Mission working on Elephantine Island in Aswan uncovered two statues: one belonging to Prince Hegaib (Old Kingdom), and the other belonging to an unidentified person. An offering stela dating to the New Kingdom was also recovered.

- The German Mission on Elephantine Island in Aswan succeeded in detecting a group of stone fragments likely to have been part of a shrine of a sacred boat belonging to Queen Hatshepsut and dedicated to the god Khnum dating back to the New Kingdom.

- The University of Jaén mission working in the tombs of the Nobles in West Aswan has discovered a mummy of a woman called Sathini placed inside two coffins of cedar wood dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

- The Egyptian-German joint mission in Heliopolis (al-Matariya) succeeded in finding new evidence suggesting the existence of a Temple of King Nektanebo I dating back to the 30<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in the area of the Sun Temple, in addition to industrial workshops from the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and later layers dating to the Ptolemaic Period.



A fragment from Heliopolis.

## Repatriated Antiquities



A sarcophagus lid, repatriated from Israel.

A dyad of black steatite stone, on sale in Belgium (April 2016).

- Forty-four objects seized at the Charles de Gaulle airport in France (May 2016).
- Wooden fillings from the Abbasid

Dome in al-Sayida Nafeesa in Cairo, looted in 2012 (May 2016).

- Two Pharaonic sarcophagus lids recovered from Israel (May 2016).





# Temporary Exhibitions

## 1. In Egypt

- The Egyptian Museum, Cairo inaugurated a temporary exhibition titled “Sinai: the Origin of the Alphabet”, on the occasion of the Sinai Liberation Day celebrations. The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the German archaeological mission of the University of Bonn. The exhibition highlighted the development of the alphabet in southwestern Sinai during the early period of the second millennium B.C. (25 April-24 June 2016).
- The Suez National Museum inaugurated a temporary exhibition titled “The Secrets of Icons” (17 May 2016).
- The Coptic Museum inaugurated a temporary exhibition titled “Egypt’s Security and Safety,” displaying four objects related to the Holy Family’s trip to Egypt (1 June-31 August 2016).



One of the objects displayed in the Sinai exhibition.



## 2. International Exhibitions

- Inauguration of “Pyramid Builder’s Era” in Sendai, Japan (22 April 2016).
- Inauguration of the exhibition of “Sunken Cities: Egypt’s Lost Worlds” in the British Museum, London (17 May 2016).

## Field Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities inspected several archaeological sites, museums and projects, accompanied by Heads of Sectors and officials in the following governorates: Alexandria, al-Sharqia, al-Fayoum, al-Minya, Qena, al-Beheira, Ismailia, Aswan, Luxor, North Sinai, Kafr al-Sheikh, al-Gharbiyyah, al-Qalyubiyyah, Giza and Cairo.



# National Projects

• **The Grand Egyptian Museum:** The concrete of the third level is now complete and work is underway on the roof of the museum and its interiors. More than three thousand objects have been moved from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, in addition to objects from the Maria and Mostafa Kamel stores in Alexandria and Tell al-Raba in al-Mansoura.

• **The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization:** Administrative obstacles have been overcome and preparations for a partial opening within three months are underway.

• **Historic Cairo Project:** Work is ongoing on the first phase of the “Cultural Development Project of al-Gamaliyya” in al-Moez Street. The project was recognised by the Sharjah Exhibition, organized by ICCROM-Sharjah, as one of the best heritage preservation projects in the Arab world.



# Scientific Conferences

- The Ministry of Antiquities in cooperation with the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology organized a conference to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of the priests and priestesses of the god Amun in al-Deir al-Bahari in Luxor (5 May 2016).
- The Grand Egyptian Museum organized the Second International Conference on Tutankhamun (6-8 May 2016). The final panel was dedicated to discussing the results of the scanning work in Tutankhamun's tomb. Experts recommended further scans in collaboration with international scientific institutions.
- The Egyptian Day for Conservators was celebrated (for the first time) at the Conference Hall of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat. It was followed by a conference on conservation (15 May 2016).
- On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Museums, the Ministry of Antiquities organised "The First Arab-African Conference of Museology: Museums and Cross-Border Culture" (17-19 May 2016).
- The Ministry of Antiquities held the first conference on "The Antiquities of Egypt and Sudan: Future

Cooperation Opportunities" (23-25 May 2016).

- "The International Conference of Archaeological Missions in Egypt" was organised by the Ministry (26 May 2016).



# Memoranda of Understanding



- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Egyptian Museum, Cairo and the Museum of Shanghai in the Republic of China for the protection of cultural property, digital authentication, and the exchange of scientific research studies, publications and scholarships between both countries (Cairo, 28 April 2016).
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of

Antiquities and Helwan University to promote scientific cooperation and granting the Ministry's staff 50% discount on tuition fees for the Master of Museum and Heritage Management Studies Programs (9 May 2016).

- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Museum of Islamic Art and the Louvre Museum in Paris in the field of museology and the exchange of experiences (Cairo, 15 May 2016).

- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Saudi Authority for Tourism and National Heritage to strengthen the cooperation and exchange of experiences between both countries and to fight antiquities trafficking (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 19 June 2016).



# Cultural Events...

## and Community Outreach

- A celebration was held to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center of Documentation of Ancient Egypt. Former directors and advisors to the Centre were honoured during the ceremony (18 April 2016).
- Multiple celebrations were organised on archaeological sites in Egypt on the occasion of World Heritage Day (18 April 2016).
- Several celebrations were organised in many museums on the occasion of International Museum Day (May 18 2016).
- The Egyptian Museum, Cairo hosted a celebration of the European Union Commission, which included a visit to the Museum's renewed halls (30 May 2016).
- The area of Old Cairo and the Coptic Museum held a celebration to

commemorate the Holy Family's visit to Egypt. The event took place in the Abu Serga Church (1 June 2016).

- The Museums Sector organized a number of workshops that aim to revive traditional Egyptian crafts. Workshops were held at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo and the Coptic Museum.
- The Ministry's GIS centre completed the preparation of a map of archaeological sites to be circulated to all sites and museums.
- The Ministry posted ten objects from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo on the Ministry's official Facebook page, and requested its audience to vote for their favourite object. The chosen object, a stela depicting a mother giving birth, was chosen and will be displayed at the entrance of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo during July 2016. This comes as

part of Museum's community outreach program.

- Several cultural events were held on archaeological sites recently: Majida al-Roumi's concert at the Sound and Light Theatre on the Giza Plateau; the Luxor Film Festival at the Temple of Hatshepsut in Deir al-Bahari; and the International Parachuting Championship in the Pyramid Area in cooperation with the Egyptian Parachute and International Sports Federation.

- Suggestions and complaints boxes were placed at the Ministry's entrance in Zamalek. An email account was created for suggestions:

[moa.suggestions@gmail.com](mailto:moa.suggestions@gmail.com)

and another for complaints

[moa.complaints@gmail.com](mailto:moa.complaints@gmail.com)

## Field Work

### First: Egyptian Missions

Madinet al-Qasr in al-Dakhla Oasis, al-Nour Mountain in Beni Suef, Kom Aziza in al-Behira, al-Abqeen in al-Beheira, Abu Marqiq in Marsa Matrouh, Tel al-Shaqafiyah in al-Sharqia, Tall Pharoan in al-Sharqia, and Tall al-Farama in Northern Sinai.

### Second: Foreign and Joint Missions

- Louvre Museum, France, at the Mastaba of Akhet-Hetep in Saqqara; Kansai University, Japan, at Idut's Tomb in Saqqara; Metropolitan Museum, USA, at the Pyramid of Senusret III in Dahshur; University of Tübingen, Germany, at the Tomb of Padinist in Saqqara; Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, in West Aswan; Austrian Archaeological Institute at Hisn al-Bab in Aswan; University of Cologne, Germany, the Temple of Kom Ombo; University of Chicago, USA, at Tel Edfu; University of Lund, Sweden, at Gebel al-Silsila; Polish Archaeological Institute at Napta in Aswan; British Museum at al-Kom al-Ahmar in al-Behira Governorate; University of Würzburg, Germany, in Edfu Temple; American Research Center in Egypt at al-Deir al-Ahmar in Sohag; and Macquarie University, Australia, in Beni Hassan, Minya.

- Preliminary assembly work of the floor of the captain's shrine of Khufu's second boat began. The work is being conducted in the restoration laboratory behind the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza Plateau, and in cooperation with JICA.



## Training Courses

• The Ministry of Antiquities has organized a number of training courses in different sectors, including: The Role of the Research and Maintenance Centre Laboratory in Archaeological Work; Scientific Methodology in Excavations; Archaeological Photography Techniques; Writing Excavation and Scientific Research Reports; Geo-Radar Techniques in Archaeological Studies; The Project Management Process. Training included also special courses in administrative affairs and human resources.

## Research Projects

- A team of researchers from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo received a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt (Antiquities Endowment Fund), in order to study a group of golden fragments in the Museum, belonging to the coffin from tomb KV 55 in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor.
- The second phase of the Scan Pyramids Project is ongoing at the great Pyramid of Giza. The first phase of the project included the pyramids of Dahshur.

## New Appointments

• A new Scientific Office attached to Minister's technical office was created, and comprise young professionals in several areas: Ahmed Kamal Mamdouh, Antiquities Inspector in the Islamic and Coptic Sector; Ahmed Abd al-Hamid Ahmed al-Nemr, Member of the Technical Office, Head of the Islamic and Coptic Sector; Islam Mohamed Ezzat, Restoration Specialist from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo; Dr Rasha Kamal Abdel Qader, General Director of the Cultural Development Department in the Museums Sector; Susan Fathi Mahmoud, Antiquities Inspector in the Islamic Antiquities Department in the Minister's Office; Dr Sherif Mohamed Abdel Moneim, Antiquities Inspector in

Abu Rawash; Mahmoud Amer Ahmed, Antiquities Inspector in Abydos; Mostafa Mohamed al-Saghir, Director of Southern Qurna Antiquities; Mennat-Allah El Dorry, Museum Curator and Archaeobotanist; Mona Ghareeb Youssef, Antiquities Inspector in the Egyptology Department in the Minister's Office; and Nermin Ramadan Mostafa, Antiquities Inspector in the Egyptology Department in the Minister's Office.

• Ahmed Mohamed Ebeid appointed as Supervisor of the Technical Office of the Minister, replacing Major-General Mohamed Samy, who retired.

• Dr Hussein Abdul Bassir appointed as Supervisor of the Scientific Publication Department.

• Ashraf Mohi Al-Din Mohamed appointed as Director of Giza Plateau.

• Mohamed Mokhtar appointed to

the Technical Office of the Minister.

• Nevine El-Aref appointed as the Ministry's Media Consultant.

• Dr Wael Fathi Morsi, appointed as Chief Antiquities Inspector of the Giza Plateau.

• Dr Yasmin Mohamed El Shazly appointed as the Supervisor of the Department of the International Organizations of and International Cooperation in the Minister's Office.

• Hani Abu Al-Azm appointed as the Head of the Central Administration of Upper Egypt.

• Dr Mohamed Ismail appointed as the Supervisor of the Permanent Committees and Foreign Missions.

• Sabry Mohi Al-Din Farag appointed as General Manager of Saqqara.

• Dr Doris Hanna appointed as General Manager of the Revival of Ancient Egyptian Art Centre.

# Committees

The committees formed during the past three months include:

- The National Committee to Repatriate Antiquities (convened for the first time since 2010).
- A committee to examine the rehabilitation of the Baron Empain Palace.
- A committee to establish the Ministry's online portal.
- A committee to discuss a proposal to use signage at archaeological sites, museums

and visitor tickets for advertising purposes.

- A committee to register Jewish monuments, temples and their contents.
- A committee to study the sites visited by the Holy Family in Egypt.
- A committee to update, review and approve the lists of antiquities selected for transfer to the Grand Egyptian Museum and to prepare the museum's scenario.

- A joint committee between the South Sinai Governorate and the Ministry of Tourism on the development of Pharaoh's Island in Taba to study submitted proposals for maximizing tourism revenue.

- A committee to discuss the problem of the growth of weeds on archaeological sites in cooperation with the National Research Centre, the Agricultural Research Centre and the Armed Forces.

# Decrees

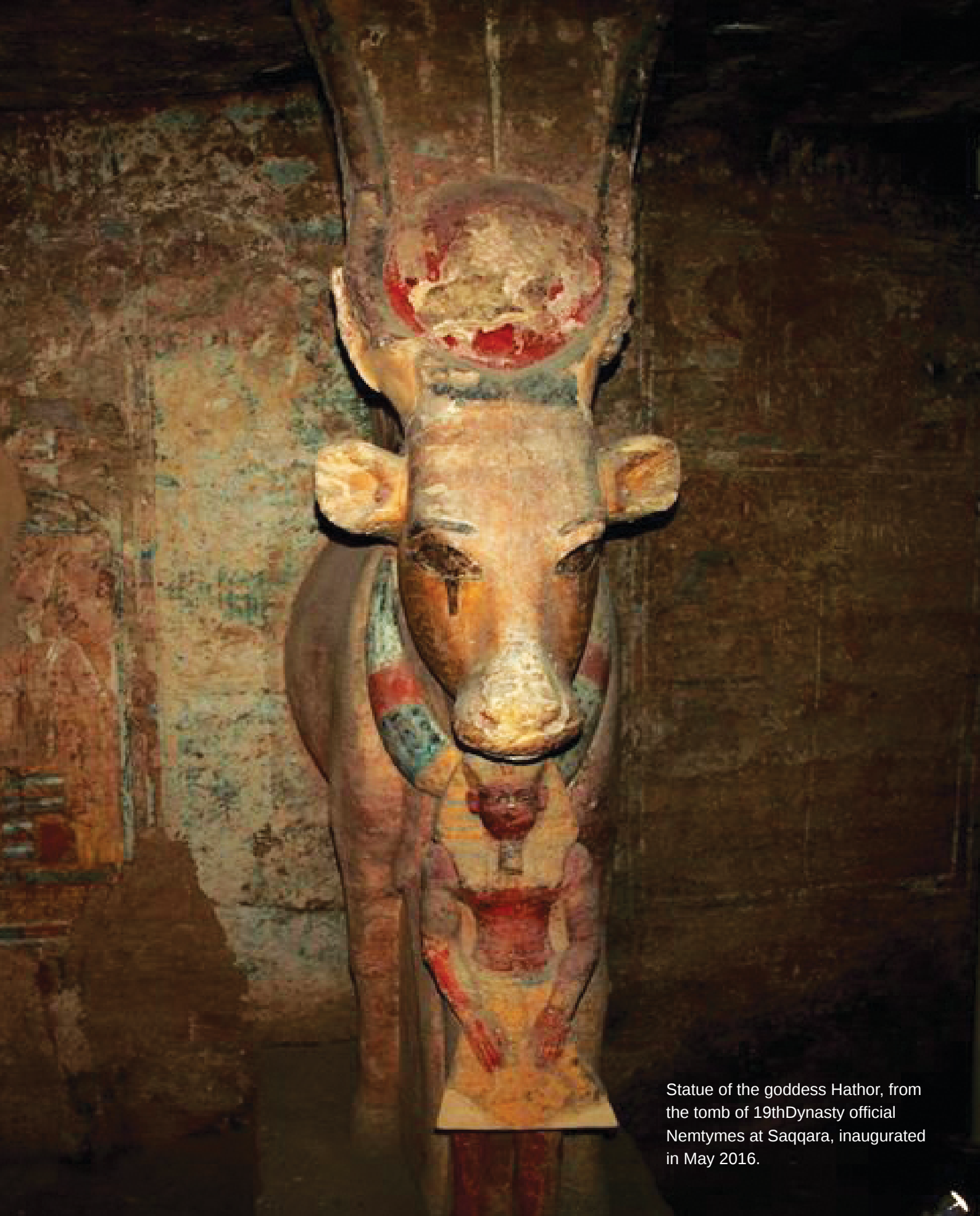
The decrees undertaken by the Board of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Permanent Committee in the last three months include:

- Allowing governmental primary school trips and the Egyptian orphanages to enter all museums and archaeological sites for free.
- Opening the Egyptian Museum, Cairo at night from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm on Sundays and Thursdays in summer (will be implemented soon).
- Opening the Citadel in Cairo at night from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm and the Qaitbay Citadel in Alexandria from 6:00 pm to midnight from the first of June until the end of October each year. Lighting of the two citadels is being updated in order to open them at night.
- Opening the Textile Museum in Cairo at night during the holy month of Ramadan from 8:00 pm

to midnight.

- 75% discount on the publications issued by the Ministry of Antiquities before 2011.
- Opening the Temple of Mousa ibn Maymoun in the Jewish quarter in Al-Gamaliyya to the public. The entrance is now to be included in the ticket of al-Moez Street.
- Approval of new regulation governing photography and events on archaeological sites starting from 1 November 2016.
- Decreasing renting fees for bazaars, cafeterias and shops in various museums and archaeological sites at rates of up to 70% of the value. Many have been closed since 2011.
- Opening the tombs of Queen Nefertari and King Sety I on the West Bank of Luxor to the public starting November 2016. The ticket price per tomb per person will be EGP 1000.





Statue of the goddess Hathor, from the tomb of 19th Dynasty official Nemtyemes at Saqqara, inaugurated in May 2016.

Editor: Mennat Allah Al-Dorry

Staff: Maather Ibrahim Aboueich  
Mohamed Saad

Design: Abdallah Yassin

Ministry of Antiquities

3 El Adel Abu Bakr Street, Zamalek  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
[antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com)

Telephone Numbers:

+2-02-27356010 - +2-02-27358761

+2-02-27365645 - +2-02-27371724

Fax: +2-02-27357239