



# Newsletter

## of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 24 \* May 2018

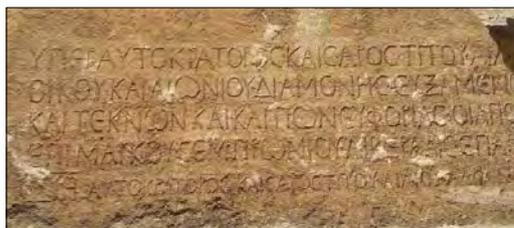
### Inaugurations

The Minister of Antiquities and the Minister of Awqaf (Religious Endowments) inaugurated the western half of Zaghloul Mosque in the city of Rashid, al-Behira Governorate. The two ministries cooperated to launch this renovation project. Zaghloul Mosque is considered the largest mosque in Rashid. Dating from the Mamluk Period, the mosque underwent an important expansion during the Ottoman Period (15 May).



### Archaeological Discoveries

•The Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University's archaeological mission working in Saqqara, uncovered the tomb of «Iw rekhy», the chief army general during the reign of Ramses II. The tomb paintings include various scenes depicting the army's infantry and chariotry heading for a military campaign beyond Egypt's eastern borders. Several decorated blocks belonging to the tomb were also discovered.



•The Egyptian archaeological mission working in El Hajj village in Siwa Oasis, near Gebel Mawta, uncovered a Greco-Roman temple that dates back to the reign of Emperor Antonius Pius in the 2nd century AD.

•The Supreme Council of Antiquities' archaeological mission working in Sa al-Hagar, al-Gharbiyyah Governorate, uncovered parts of a huge structure made of baked bricks. It is suggested that this structure may be part of a Greco-Roman bath. Several objects were also found including pottery lamps; statues made of baked clay; bronze tools; a block with remains of decorations and hieroglyphs; a small statue of a ram; in addition to a gold coin showing Ptolemy III, printed during the reign of Ptolemy IV as a memorial for his father.



### Sponsorships

The Ministry of Antiquities signed a cooperation protocol with the National Bank of Egypt to sponsor development projects to enhance the services at several archaeological sites in Egypt for one year. The protocol is a part of the ministry's plan to enhance the services provided to tourists and visitors of archaeological sites. The National Bank of Egypt is the first platinum class sponsor for development projects at archaeological sites which will include the Giza Plateau site, Karnak Temple at Luxor, as well as Abu Simbel and Philae temples in Aswan. These projects will cost a total of 1 million Egyptian pounds in exchange for promotional benefits and discounts at those sites.

## Field work

Several archaeological missions began their work in April as follows: ARCE mission working in Abydos at Sohag and in north and middle of Saqqara; MoA-German University of Tubingen joint mission working in Saqqara; the Polish Center of Archaeology mission working in west of Saqqara as well as in Gabal al-Ba'eed and Berkat al-Sheib at Aswan; Italian University of Padova mission working in al-kom al-Ahmar at al-Beheira; The Austrian Academy of Sciences mission working in Philae temple at Aswan; the American University of Yale- the Royal Museum, Brussels joint mission working in al-Kab at Aswan; the Spanish mission of the University of Alcalá working in the Middle Kingdom necropolis at al-Deir al-Bahary at Luxor.

## Repatriated Antiquities

- As part of the «Back to the Roots» initiative that was launched by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and his fellows the President of Cyprus and the President of Greece, the Cyprian Antiquities Organization delivered to Egypt 14 archaeological objects that had been illegally smuggled out of Egypt in the late 1980s and were recovered by the Cypriot authorities. The objects include an alabaster vessel incised with the name of Ramses II, and 13 amulets of various sizes and materials (1 May).
- The Antiquities Smuggling Unit of Burj al-Arab Airport halted a smuggling attempt and managed to repatriate three bronze Greco-Roman coins (3 May).
- The Antiquities Smuggling Unit at the Exports Customs of Cairo International Airport, in cooperation with the Customs Unit, halted a smuggling attempt of seven packages of manuscripts that included three rare books and ten government documents (13 May).



## Training

- Eight archaeologists working at the Ministry of Antiquities joined a workshop titled «Modern Archaeological Documentation Techniques.» The workshop was offered by Oxford University at the Kom el-Shuqafa site in Alexandria (1-15 May).
- Ten employees at the Ministry of Antiquities joined a marketing workshop which was offered by «Unique Company», at the ministry's headquarters in Zamalek (13, 22 May).
- Four employees at the Ministry of Antiquities took an ancient Greek course. The course was offered at the German Archaeological Institute, (1 January-28 June).
- Four employees at the Ministry of Antiquities joined a workshop titled «The Study of Human and Animal Remains». The workshop was held at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in cooperation with the American University in Cairo (7-10 May).

## Lectures

Dr Gemma Talley, Oxford University researcher gave a lecture titled «Guiding: Case Studies of Correct Behavior», at the Ministry of Antiquities headquarters in Zamalek (6 May).

## Meetings and Visits

- The Director of the Projects Sector at the Ministry of Antiquities visited the tombs of Kom al-Shuqafa in Alexandria to examine the progress of the ongoing project for decreasing the underground water level in the area. The project is carried out in cooperation with USAID, and is expected to be completed by the end of this year (2 May).
- The Director of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector visited several Islamic archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza, to start the project plan for the development of all Islamic archaeological sites (6 May).
- The Director of the Museums Sector visited several museums including the Military Museum located at the Citadel in Cairo, and the Islamic Art Museum.
- The Director of the Projects Sector visited the Zaghoul Mosque in Rashid on the occasion of its inauguration on 15 May.
- The Director of the Islamic and Coptic Sector visited several archaeological sites, including the Zaghoul Mosque in Rashid and the Abu Mina Monastery in Alexandria .



## Conferences

The Minister of Antiquities launched the 4th Annual International Tutankhamun Conference. The theme of this year's conference was «Tutankhamun: Weaponry and Statues» (5-7 May).

## Agreements and Protocols

A protocol was signed at Mohammed Ali Palace in Manial, between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the National Bank of Egypt to sponsor development and service projects at archaeological sites for one year (10 May).



## Varia

- The Minister attended the opening ceremony of the Zahi Hawass Center for Egyptology at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (3 May).
- The Minister of Antiquities launched the 3rd Annual Meeting for archaeological missions working in Egypt. The Ministry organizes this annual meeting to present the excavation results of the archaeological missions in Egypt. The meeting was held at Ahmed Kamal Pasha hall of the Ministry of Antiquities in Zamalek (8 May).
- The Geophysical Survey, which was carried out by Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy, showed that there are no voids behind the walls of Tutankhamun's burial chamber.
- The Ministry, in cooperation with the International Antiquities Trust, launched a documentation project for the «Tekkeya and Qubbet Ibrahim Al Kashlmy» Complex. The project follows the international standards of documentation and its plan is considered an ideal model to be adopted by other projects in Egypt.
- His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Fahd bin Naser bin Abdel Aziz Aal Seoud, the Consultant for the President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, visited the Palace of Mohamed Ali in Manial, accompanied by his delegation and the Director of the Museums Sector (23 May).
- The Ministry of Antiquities started a project to develop the visitor's center at Tell el Amarna in Menya, in cooperation with the McDonalds Institute for Archaeological Research, affiliated with Cambridge University. The project is financed by the Newton-Mushrafa Trust, affiliated with the British Cultural Council and the Development Trust for Science and Technology.
- A delegation of international experts from UNESCO, FAO, and the Italian Embassy Scientific Attaché, visited Abu Mina Monastery to examine the current status of the suggested archaeological sites under consideration for the UNESCO World Heritage sites. The minister's assistant for engineering affairs accompanied the delegation, along with the Director of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector, and the Archbishop of Abu Mina Monastery (23 May).
- An emergency meeting was held for the National Committee of Repatriation of Antiquities to discuss the ancient Egyptian artifacts that were recovered by the customs in Naples, Italy. The committee decided to send an expert from the Ministry of Antiquities to examine the authenticity of the objects (28 May).



## International Participation

Several employees of the ministry participated in a number of workshops, symposiums, conferences and exhibitions abroad: Lebanon (Dr Mustafa Amin - the Minister's Assistant for Technical Affairs); United States of America (Mr Abdel Naser Mohamed Ahmed - Chief Inspector of Qurna Archaeological Site; Ashraf Nasr Mubarak - Director of Defna Archaeological Site; Mr Samy Mohamed Ahmed - inspector; Mr Hany Hanna Aziz - General Director of Conservators of Helwan, Saff and Atfeeh Sites); Canada (Mr Mosad Ramadan Abdel Haq - General Director of Technical and Archaeological Aspects of Sultan Hassan and Refai Mosques; Ms Al Tahra Mohamed Ahmed - Conservator at Behira Antiquities); Cyprus (Mr Mohamed Youssri - Conservation Specialist at GEM); France (Mr Bassem Mohamed Ezzat - Archaeologist at the GEM Project).

# Projects

## Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The Grand Egyptian Museum received the sixth and final chariot from Tutankhamun's collection. The chariot was previously displayed at the Military Museum. The reception of the chariot was attended by the Minister of Antiquities and several Egyptian and foreign archaeologists (5 May). The Museum also received a new collection amounting to 180 objects from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Giza Pyramids magazines. The collection includes bronze statue heads dating back to the 26th Dynasty and the Graeco-Roman Period, in addition to a collection of wooden parts from Khufu's second boat, dating back to the Old Kingdom (16 May).
- The 11th meeting for the GEM Board of Directors was held recently. During the meeting, the board reviewed and agreed on all safety and legal procedures to be followed in case of fire, especially after the museum's scaffolds caught fire in an incident last month (14 May).
- A meeting was held for the committee in charge of the preparations for the GEM opening. The committee members went over the recent updates concerning the Giza Plateau Development Project and its opening; the latest updates on preparing the roads surrounding the museum; as well as the readiness of the administration building at the Giza Plateau. In addition, the committee visited the GEM construction site to examine the work progress on the ground (20 May).
- The General Director of the GEM received one of the most important members of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany and the German Bundestag, along with the Ambassador of Germany to Egypt (25 May).
- The Minister of Antiquities met with the Minister of Investments and International Cooperation at the latter's headquarters. During the meeting, the ministers discussed updates and recent developments in plans to offer the management of the GEM to an international management company (27 May).



## National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

- The museum held the DAAD and COSIMENA conference (8 May).
- The NMEC received the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, along with the Director and Vice Director of the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism (10 May).
- On International Museum Day, the Ministry of Antiquities and Bibliotheca Alexandrina launched the initiative «Heritage for Everyone». The NMEC organized several tours and the curators explained to the visitors the importance of museums and their meaningful role in the community (15 May).
- The NMEC received His Highness Prince Sultan bin Fahd bin Naser bin Abdel Aziz Al Seoud, the Consultant for the President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, and his delegation (22 May).
- Three boxes containing 22 objects were transported to the museum from Qurna magazines in Luxor.

## Historical Cairo Project

- The Ministry of Antiquities began procedures for launching the Restoration Project of Hosh al-Basha at the Imam Shaf'ei neighborhood in Cairo.
- The Ministry assigned the preparation and cleaning of the historic Cairo sites to one of the specialized cleaning companies. The initiative is part of the development project of Islamic and Coptic archaeological sites, and aimed to prepare the sites for visitors before the beginning of Ramadan.
- The Ministry started the Rehabilitation Project for court of Ahmed Koheh Mosque in the Khalifa neighborhood. The project was launched after the ministry agreed to the proposal submitted by the Urban Ideology Organization, as part of an initiative called «The Monument is Ours». The project entails the preparation of the mosque's court to enable it to hold special occasions.



## Conservation Projects

The Ministry of Antiquities launched a restoration project for Ahmed al-Bagem's mosque and madrasa at Ibiar village, Kafr al-Zayat, al-Gharbiyyah Governorate. The project is launched in cooperation with the mosque's administration. This mosque was originally a madrasa that was destroyed and rebuilt and renovated as a mosque at the end of the Ayyubid Period. The only surviving item from the original madrasa is a foundation stela in the wall of the Radwan mausoleum, overlooking the central court. The mosque was rebuilt according to the same architectural plan during the Ottoman Period.

## Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- On International Museum Day, the Cultural Development and Community Outreach Administration organized a cultural forum for Egypt's Organization for Culture and Community Development in Heliopolis. The forum was titled «Our Online Museums» (13 May).
- The Manial Palace Museum organized a workshop titled «Bring in the Lanterns, Children!» on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The workshop included telling children the story behind the first appearance of the Ramadan lanterns, and coloring different images of lanterns (15 May).
- On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, the Egyptian Textiles Museum organized a celebration titled «Ramadan of Olden Days 3», in cooperation with the General Administration of Historic Cairo. The celebration included organized tours inside the museum's galleries, workshops to make Ramadan lanterns, and art shows (May 15). The museum also celebrated the day by organizing a lecture titled «Museums Community Role: The Example of the Egyptian Textiles Museum» (16 May).
- The Minister of Antiquities, accompanied by the ambassadors of Greece and Cyprus and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, took 60 students from the Greek School on a tour inside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The tour is part of the «Back to the Roots» Egyptian-Greek-Cypriot initiative that was launched by the Ministry of Immigration (18 May).



## Appointments

- Dr Gamal Mostafa as Director of Islamic and Coptic Sector.
- Ms Hind Taha to work at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.
- Mr Ahmed Hassan Abdel Maged as Chief Inspector of Abu Simbel Antiquities.
- Mr Magdy Mohamed Awad as Director of the Rock-cut Temples of Nubia.
- The following were appointed to work at the GEM: Mr Omar Mohamed Salmeen, Ms Asmaa Abdel Rahman, Ms Tabinaa Ahmed Mohamed, Mr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz, Mr Shaaban Ragab Al Tony, Mr Hatem Gameel Mahmoud, Mr. Mahmoud Fathy Abdallah, Ms Ebtahal Mahmoud Montaser, Mr Sarhan Deeb Mohamed, Ms Naglaa Abdallah Abdel Fattah, Ms Samar Fawzy Nashid, Ms Sara Ismail Abdel Aal, Ms Al-Shaimaa Ali Mohamed, Mr Amr Mostafa Abdel Gawad, Ms Marwa Mahmoud Ahmed, Ms Enas Mohamed Ahmed, Ms Salma Ragab Abu El-Wafa, Ms Hind Yaseen Abdel Halim, Mr Ahmed Atef Abdel Haleem, Ms Eman Mohsen Mohamed, Mr Ashraf Mohamed Abdel Hady, Ms Amany Magdy Masoud, Ms Gehad Mamdouh Mohamed, Mr. Tamer Adel Shazly, Ms Shaimaa Ahmed Al-Yamani, Mr Mahmoud Shehab El-Din, Ms Sara Mahmoud Essam, Mr Ali Ahmed Ali, Ms Zeinab Mohamed Ali).
- Dr Osama El Nahas as Director of the Central Administration for Archaeological Documentation.
- Mr Al Saeed Abdel Fattah as General Director of Museums Magazines for Lower Egypt.
- Ms Maha Mostafa as General Director of Human Resources at the Archaeological Documentation Center.
- Mr Ahmed Khalil as Supervisor for the museum's magazines in Atfeeh.
- Mr Mahed El Said as Supervisor for Professional Safety and for Securing the Workplace at the Finance Sector.
- Mr Mounir Mohammed as General Manager for the office of the Director of The Islamic and Coptic Sector.

## Decrees

The most important decisions reached at the SCA Board of Directors' meetings and the meetings of the Permanent Committees:

- Approval of a protocol between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Sinai Petroleum Services organization to restore the ancient windmill in Edko, Beheira Governorate.
- Approval of a protocol between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Ministry of Defense to develop and complete the Avenue of Sphinxes in Luxor.
- Approval of a donation of 12 archaeological objects belonging to Mr Hesham Mounir and dating back to various ancient periods.
- Approval of the contract renewal for Egypt Sound and Light Company to use the Khufu Court cafeteria at the Giza Plateau.
- Approval of a cooperation protocol between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Supreme Council of Universities regarding scientific research related to the development of the field of archaeology

# Practical Information

# Current Ticket Prices for the Pharaonic Archaeological Sites Open for Visitors

Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP
<b>Cairo &amp; Giza</b>				
Giza Plateau	60	120	5	20
Great Pyramid (Khufu)	150	300	30	60
Pyramid II (Khafre)	30	60	5	20
Pyramid III (Menkaure)	30	60	5	20
Mers ankh Tomb	25	50	5	20
Worker's tombs	200	400	200	400
Inclusive Ticket for (entering area + Khufu pyramid + Sun Boats)	200	400	--	--
El Matareya Obelisk	30	60	5	10
<b>Saqqara</b>				
Saqqara & amunhotep	60	120	5	20
New Saqqara Tombs	30	60	5	10
New Kingdom Tombs	25	50	5	10
El- Serapeum	60	120	5	20
Mereruka tomb	40	80	5	20
Dahshur	30	60	5	10
Abusir	40	80	5	10
Mit Rahina	30	60	5	10
<b>Alexandria</b>				
Mostafa Kamel	20	40	5	10
El-Shatby	20	40	5	10
Kom El-Shoqafa	30	60	5	20
El-Sawary Pillar	30	60	5	20
El-Anfoshy	20	40	5	10
Kom El-Dekka	40	80	5	10
Marina Monuments	10	20	5	10
Submerged museum	35	50	-	-
<b>siwa</b>				
Gaba El-Mawta	20	40	5	20
El-Wahi Temple	20	40	5	20
<b>Bahariya Oasis</b>				
Bahariya Oases	50	100	5	10
<b>Al Sharqiya «Tell Basta»</b>				
Tell Basta	30	60	5	10
<b>Fayoum</b>				
Karanis	30	60	5	10
Qarun Temple	30	60	5	10
Hawara Pyramid	30	60	5	10
El-Lahun Pyramid	30	60	5	10
Medinet Madi	25	50	5	10
<b>Beni-Suef</b>				
Meidum Pyramid	30	60	5	10
<b>Al-Minia</b>				
Bani Hassan Tombs	30	60	5	10
Tell El-Amarna	30	60	5	10
Tuna El-Gabal	30	60	5	10
Akhnaten Tomb	20	40	5	10
Zawiat Sultan	20	40	5	10
Frezer Tombs	20	40	5	10
<b>Assuit</b>				
Meir Tombs	20	40	5	10
El-Hamamia	20	40	5	10
Western Mountain Tombs	10	20	5	10
<b>New Valley</b>				
<b>Dakhla Oasis</b>				
Inclusive Ticket for Monuments in Dakhla	60	120	5	10
El-Muzawaka Tombs	20	40	5	10
Deir El-Hagar Temple	20	40	5	10
Qilaa Al Dab'a & Ain Asil	20	40	5	10
Ezbet Bashendi	20	40	5	10



The holder of Luxor Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Luxor.

The holder of Cairo Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Cairo for 5 days.



Site	Foreigner Student EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student EGP	Egyptian EGP
<b>Kharga Oasis</b>				
Inclusive Ticket for Monuments in Kharga	60	120	5	10
Bagawat	25	50	5	10
El-Zayyan Temple	20	40	5	10
El-Gheweta	20	40	5	10
Dush Temple	20	40	5	10
Hibis Temple	40	80	5	10
<b>South of Sinai</b>				
Oyun Mousa	20	40	5	10
<b>Sohag</b>				
Seti I Temple in Abydos	40	80	5	10
Statue of Meritamen	20	40	5	10
Shunet El-Zebib and Kom El-Sultan	20	40	5	10
<b>Qena</b>				
Dendera Temple	40	80	5	10
<b>Esna</b>				
El-Tod Temple	20	40	5	10
Esna Temple	25	50	5	10
El-Ma'fla Temple	20	40	5	10
<b>Luxor</b>				
Valley of the Kings	80	160	10	20
Tutankhamun Tomb	100	200	20	40
Ramses VI Tomb	40	80	5	20
Valley of the Queens	40	80	5	20
Deir El-Bahri (Temple of Queen Hatshepsut)	40	80	5	20
Karank Temple	60	120	5	20
Inclusive Ticket (Karank Temple+Opened Museum in Karnak)	75	150	-	-
Mut Temple in Karnak	25	40	5	10
Opened Museum in Karnak	30	60	5	10
Luxor Temple	50	100	5	20
Mena & Nekht	30	60	5	10
Nefertari Tomb	500	1000	300	600

Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP
Seti I Tomb	500	1000	250	500
Babaz Tomb	20	40	5	20
Deir El-Medina	40	80	5	10
Seti I Temple	30	60	5	10
El-Assasif	30	60	5	10
R'amosa	30	60	5	10
Olwet Abd el-Qurna	20	40	10	10
Habu Temple	30	60	5	10
El-Ramesseum Temple	30	60	5	10
Pashedu Tomb	8	15	5	10
Ay Tomb	20	40	5	10
El-Khokha Tombs	20	40	5	10
Userhat & Khonsu	20	40	5	10
Roy & Shuroy Tomb	20	40	5	10
Merneptah	20	40	5	10
Carter House and Replica	25	50	5	10
Qurnt Mur'fai	20	40	5	10
Isis Temple & Monastery of Shelweet	25	40	5	10
<b>Aswan</b>				
Unfinished Obelisk	30	60	5	10
Edfu Temple	50	100	5	10
Abu Simble Temple + Documentation center	80	160	5	10
El-Soboa Area	35	70	5	10
Amada	35	70	5	10
Philae Temple	50	100	5	20
Tombs of the Nobles	30	60	5	10
Kalabsha Temple	30	60	5	10
Rock inscriptions in Sohail	20	40	5	10
El-Kab	30	60	5	10
Hor-Moheb Tomb	20	40	5	10
Kom Ombo Temple and Crocodile Museum	40	80	5	20
Visiting Abu-Simble Temple in 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb. & 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.	160	320	15	30



The holder of Cairo Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Cairo for 5 days.

This kind of passes allows foreign residents in Egypt, who hold it, to visit all museums and archaeological sites open to public for three months or for one year during official visiting hours, and during the validity period.

# Monument of the Month

## The Ramadan Lantern

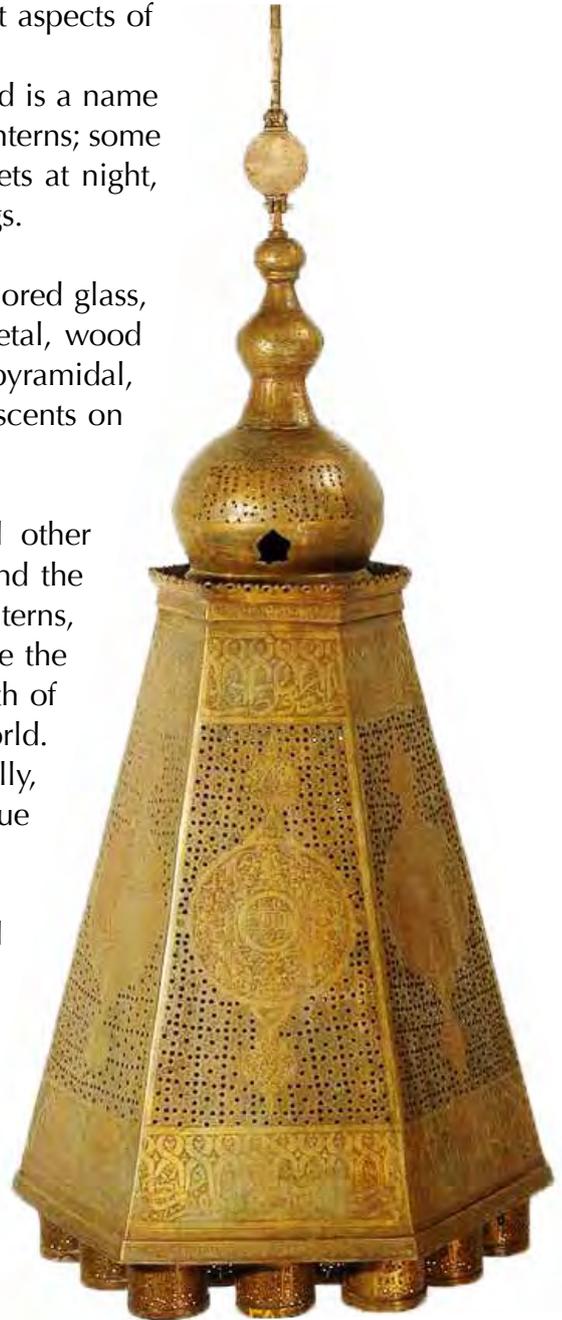
The Ramadan Lantern represents one of the most important aspects of celebration of the holy month of Ramadan.

The Arabic term for lantern «Fanous» is Greek in origin, and is a name which designates a lighting system. There are many forms of lanterns; some of which are used to light the way while walking in the streets at night, while others are made to be hung on walls or at street crossings.

Lanterns of all forms are made mostly of transparent or colored glass, in addition to other strong material for the frame such as metal, wood or plaster. Some lanterns are square in shape, rectangular, pyramidal, conical, angled or domed, and adorned with chains and crescents on top.

Several national institutions, ethnographic museums and other international museums such as Bustan Museum in Tehran, and the Islamic Art Museum, keep a variety of pyramidal metal lanterns, most of which date back to the reign of Sultan Qaitbay. Since the Fatimid Period the association of lanterns with the holy month of Ramadan helped make them popular throughout the Islamic world. During that period, Ramadan was highly celebrated. Traditionally, every year, the Sultan Al Hakim would walk to Al-Azhar Mosque holding a lightened silver lantern in his hand.

Ramadan lantern production continued well after the Fatimid era. The Mamluks used to celebrate Ramadan when the Chief Judge would go up the minaret of the madrasa of Sultan Al Mansoor Qalawun, in the Nahaseen neighborhood, for the crescent sighting. Afterward, the Chief Judge would walk in a procession of lanterns and candles until he reached his residence, announcing the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and then people would go on to their own districts to announce the news.



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