



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 25 * June 2018

Archaeological Discoveries

•The Ministry of Antiquities and Yale University's joint archaeological mission discovered a site that was used as a quarry for manufacturing flint and stone tools throughout various periods of Egyptian history. The discovery was the result of a survey that was carried out by the mission in the area of «Bier Umm Tenideba», part of a major survey project at ElKab desert, Edfu. The mission also excavated several stone stelae with raised reliefs, dating to the Pre-dynastic Period, along with multiple burials dating back to different periods of Egyptian history. In addition, the mission also uncovered a late Greco-Roman settlement.



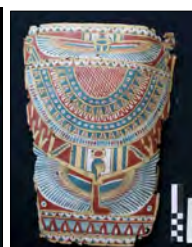
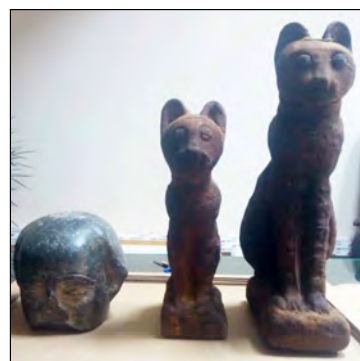
•The joint Egyptian-American mission working in South Asasif Conservation Project uncovered a collection of canopic jars inside the tomb of Karabasken (TT 391) at the South Asasif cemetery on the West Bank of Luxor. The canopic jars date from the 26th Dynasty.



Repatriated Antiquities

•The Ministry of Antiquities received nine repatriated objects from Paris at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These repatriated objects include: colored wooden coffins, two statues of cats, a basalt statue head, and a wooden mask covered in plaster (7 June).

•The Ministry of Antiquities received the ancient Egyptian artifacts that were seized by the Italian authorities at Salerno port. These objects include 21,660 coins and 195 artifacts, including 152 small faience Ushabtis; 11 pottery vessels; five mummy masks, some of which are gold-plated; one wooden coffin; two wooden model boats; two canopic stoppers; and two ceramic tiles dating to the Islamic Period (29 June).



Field work

Several archaeological missions began their new season of work in June, including the French Centre d'Études Alexandrines mission at Tabyet al-Nahaseen magazines in Shalalat, Alexandria; and the Italian Padova University mission at Manqbad in Asyut.

Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities attended a celebration at the Coptic Museum to celebrate the anniversary of the Holy Family's visit to Egypt (1 June).

- The Minister attended the first of a series of committee meetings to register the path of the Holy Family's visit among Egypt's intangible heritage (4 June).

- The Minister and the Director of the Armed Forces' Engineering Authority visited the Giza Plateau Development Project, and the Grand Egyptian Museum construction site (19 June).

- The Prime Minister and the Minister of Antiquities followed up on the latest developments of the Giza Plateau Development Project and the Grand Egyptian Museum Project (23 June).

- The Minister of Antiquities met with a group of young archaeologists at the ministry's headquarters in Zamalek. The archaeologists are part of a group participating in the presidential program to educate young adults for leadership positions, and part of the Egyptian-French program ESLESCA to prepare and educate government leaders (June 25).

- The Minister also met with: the Director of the Armed Forces' Engineering Sector; the Ambassador of Japan; the Director of the JICA; the Director of the Spanish Cultural Institute, to discuss possible joint cooperation and projects.

- The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities travelled to Italy to examine the ancient Egyptian objects that were held at the city of Napoli in Italy and come back with the objects in 29 June.

- The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities visited several archaeological sites including: Giza (Saqqara, Giza Plateau, and the Grand Egyptian Museum), and Cairo (The Egyptian Museum in Cairo).

- The Head of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector visited South Sinai Governorate to follow up on the services development projects at Saint Catherine Monastery, and to solve any issues that might hinder the project, the project is co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment South Sinai Governorate. Cairo Governorate (Sarghamtish Mosque; St. Mary's tree; Sabeel of Umm Mohammed Ali the Younger; Tekkeyat al-Mawlaweya; and Citadel of Salah al-Din al-Ayubi).



- The Head of the Egyptian Antiquities Sector visited several archaeological sites including: Gharbiya Governorate (Samanud and Behbeit al-Hegara); Menoufiya Governorate (Quesna archaeological site); Ismailiya Governorate (Tell al-Koo' excavation site, Tell Rod Iskandar, Tell Hassan Dawood).

- The Head of the Museums Sector visited the National Museum of Suez to follow up on the latest work at the museum in preparation for the inauguration of the temporary exhibition being held there.

International Participation

Several employees at the Ministry of Antiquities participated in training courses, conferences, lectures, and international exhibitions, including: Italy (Dr Mustafa Waziry, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities); Canada (Mr Mohammed Khalil al-Sayed, General Director for Technical Follow-up in North Sinai); Germany (Mr Sayed Abd al-Malek Abd al-Hamid, Head of Inspectors at Mallawi); Saudi Arabia (Ms Elham Salah, Head of Museums Sector); France (Dr Ali Ahmed Ali, Supervisor of Technical Office of the Minister).

Temporary Exhibitions

The National Museum of Suez inaugurated a temporary exhibition titled «Islamic Treasures: the Islamic House». The exhibition includes 51 objects from the museum's collection that were in storage in the magazines. These include a collection of glassware, faïence tiles, lighting implements, food utensils, and tableware (20 June- 20 July).



Agreements and Protocols

The Ministry signed a cooperation protocol with Sinai Company for Petroleum and Mining Services to launch the conservation works of the ancient windmill at Edco city, Beheira Governorate.

Varia

- The President of the Republic of Egypt has promulgated law number 91 of 2018 to amend some of the provisions of the Antiquities protection law issued by law 117 of 1983.

- The Catholic Church held a celebration on the occasion of the revival of the Holy Family's trail in Egypt.

The celebration was held at the Holy Family church at Matariya near the ancient site of St. Mary's tree. It was attended by the Director of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector as representative for the Minister of Antiquities.

In addition, the celebration was attended by the Archbishop of the Holy Family church; the Ambassador of the Vatican to Cairo; Jesuits Fathers from Cairo; the Governor of Cairo, a delegation from the Ministry, public figures, members of the Parliament, and representatives of the Ministry of Tourism.

- The Arab Republic of Egypt was selected to be the new Committee Head for the 1970 agreement related to control of illegal and illicit cultural property trafficking over the period from May 2018 until May 2019. Egypt is the first Arab country to head this committee since it was formed in 2013.

- The Ministry of Antiquities launched a new official website for the 12th International Conference for Egyptologists, which is scheduled to be held in Egypt November 3rd- 8th, 2019 (June 13) and using the following URL: www.ice12cairo.moantiq.gov.eg.



- To encourage the volunteers work at the Ministry of Antiquities, the Museums Sector started an intense volunteering program for young graduates and students at Egyptian museums. The volunteers can fill in an application to work in the fields of archaeology, tourism, marketing, and information technology. Each volunteer would be trained in their own field.

- Museums and archaeological sites in Egypt were open to Egyptian, Arab, and foreign visitors for free on the occasion of the June 30 revolution.

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- At an international press conference, the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, along with the Ministry of Antiquities announced the measures that will be carried out to operate and manage the Grand Egyptian Museum's facilities. The press conference was also attended by the Minister of Tourism, the Governor of Giza, and several ambassadors from Asian, American and European countries. The Grand Egyptian Museum features several areas ready for investments, including: a conference centre, a movie theatre, an open area for restaurants, cafes, and shops, along with libraries, a centre for teaching traditional handcrafts, a multi-purpose building, and large gardens for artistic, cultural, and entertainment events. This will make the Grand Museum both a cultural and touristic destination. In addition, the design of the logo for GEM was unveiled at the press conference (10 June).
- The 12th session of the Board of Directors of GEM was held (24 June).



National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

- The NMEC participated in a workshop that was organized by UNESCO to implement the 2003 agreement for the preservation and protection of intangible heritage. The workshop took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Giza (19-21 June).

Conservation Projects

The Ministry launched a new conservation project for «Wekalet al-Jeddawy» at Esna, south of Luxor. The project is carried out in cooperation with Takween Company to revive ancient heritage and promote communities. Wekalet al-Jeddawy was built in 1712 by Hassan Bek al-Jeddawy, who received the nickname «al-Jeddawy» as he held the Emirate of Jedda in Esna. His «Wekala» was a centre for commerce and exchange of commodities at that time.

The Ministry of Antiquities completed the restoration works of the northern side of Senefru's southern pyramid at Dahshur, also known as the Bent Pyramid. The restoration started at the base of the pyramid and went up to a height of 4 meters. The restoration team gathered the blocks that had fallen off around the pyramid and placed them back in position. In addition, the spaces between the blocks along the rows were refilled with mortark, as they had lost their original mortar due to erosion. The work was carried out with great care for preserving the authenticity of the pyramid. The restoration work on the other three sides of the pyramid will continue.



Training

Eight conservation specialists joined a training workshop titled «Conservation of Pottery and Metals» which took place at the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO) (June 24-28).

Lectures

A series of lectures by researchers from the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) were held at the Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall in Zamalek as follows:

- A lecture by Prof. Daniel Polz titled «Structure from Motion in Action».
- A lecture by Prof. Daniela Rosenow titled «The Archaeological and Scientific Analysis of Post-Pharaonic Glass».
- A lecture by Dr Clara Jeuthe titled «The Documentation and Study of Flint Artifacts during the Dynastic Periods».
- A lecture by Prof. Christian Eckmann titled «Scientific Restoration as a Research Strategy».
- A lecture by Prof. Stephane Seidlmayer titled «Epigraphic Research in Aswan Area».

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

•The Administration for Cultural Development and Community Outreach has organized a cultural day for young children. The day's theme was «The Drum's Ramadan Tradition». The day was held at the Heliopolis Foundation for Culture and Community Development (3 June).

•The Museums Sector held the first of a series of training sessions for the volunteer program at the Kom Oshim Museums (24-26 June).



•The Administration of Cultural Development and Community Outreach organized a lecture, titled «Ancient Egyptian Writing», at the 6th of October Library in Agouza. It also organized a workshop at the Maadi Public Library, titled «Arts and Scripts of Arabic Writing». The workshop and lectures are part of the cooperation program that was launched between the ministry and libraries, and aimed to connect the libraries' collections with those at museums and archaeological sites throughout the country (24, 27 June).

Appointments

- Dr Hisham Mohammed Hussein to work as General Director of North Sinai Antiquities.
- Mr Ahmed Mahfouz to work as General Director of the Center for Antiquities Units at Damietta Port.
- Mr Hossam Abd al-Moneim to work as General Director of the Antiquities Unit at Damietta Port.
- Mr Hamdy to work as General Director of Akhmim Inspectorate for Islamic and Coptic Antiquities.
- Mr Bahaa al-Din Mohammed as Supervisor of the Unit in charge of follow-up and execution of the government programs and the ministry's current projects.
- Mr Mohammed Abd al-Hakim to work at the Financial Resource Management Unit at the Minister's Office.
- Mr Mohammed al-Sayed and Ms Fatma Mahmoud to work at the Human Resource Unit of the Minister's Office.
- Eng. Waad-Allah Abu al-Elaa Hassanein, appointed as General Director for Engineering Affairs related to Egyptian and Greek Antiquities Projects at the Projects Sector.
- Mr Yasser al-Sayed Mahmoud as General Director of the Administration of Surveying and Property Affairs for Cairo and Giza.
- Mr Ahmed Saad Fathy and Mr Mohammed Salah al-Din are appointed to work at the Legal Affairs Administration at the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Committees

- The Egyptian Antiquities Committee completed a restoration and developmental plan for the area of Jebel Moussa, Jebel Sefsafa, and the Holy Wadi in South Sinai. The plan will be carried out in cooperation with the Saint Catherine City Council and the Ministry of Environment.
- A committee was re-formed to study the archaeological sites on the path of the Holy Family's journey in Egypt. The committee will then submit the path to be included in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List.
- Forming a committee to prepare and design the contents of an educational brochure for children about the Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Forming a committee to revise the project of penalties and fees list for the workers of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in light of the new law no, 81 issued in the year 2016.

Decrees

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

- Approving a Statement of Cooperation between the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo and the Melbourne Museum in Australia
- Approving an agreement between the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and Intag Co. to sponsor the Wooden Coffins at the Egyptian Museum Project.
- Approving the registration of the Mosque of Baybers Al-Khayyat, located in Godareya st., as one of the registered Islamic monuments.
- Approving a new entry ticket for the Islamic town of Al-Qasr, in Dakhla Oasis, starting from the beginning of November.

Site	Foreigner Student	Foreigner	Egyptian Student	Egyptian
Cemeteries of Muhammad Ali's Family	20	40	5	10
Al Muizz Street Monuments	50	100	5	10
Al-Fustat City	10	20	5	10
Virgin Mary Tree	20	40	5	10
Wekalet al-Ghouri	15	30	5	10
Bayt al-Sennary	-	-	5	10
Bayt Abd al-Rahman al-Harrawy	15	30	5	10
Ahmed Ibn Toulon Mosque	-	-	5	10
Bayt Zeinab Khaton	15	30	5	10
Bayt al-Seheimy	25	50	5	10
Wekalet Bazaraa	20	40	5	10
Bayt Gamal al-Din al-Dhabi	15	30	5	10
Bab Zuweila	15	30	5	10
Sabil-Kuttab of Nafisa al-Bayda	10	20	5	10
Sabil-Kuttab of Sultan Qaitbay	20	40	5	10
Bayt al-set Wasila	15	30	5	10
Muhammad Bek Abu Dahab Complex	20	40	5	10
Wekalet al-Ghouri Complex	20	40	5	10
Citadel of Qaitbay – daytime	20	40	5	20
Monuments of Rasheed city	20	40	5	10
Citadel of Qaitbay in Rasheed	15	30	5	10
Citadel of al-Quseir	15	30	5	10
Sabil-Kuttab of Mohamed Ali Pasha	5	10	5	10
Garden and Sabil of Ali Bek al-Kabir (Tanta)	-	-	5	10
Bayt Ali Labib	15	30	5	10
Mawlawia complex in Tacia al-Derwich	15	30	5	10
Mosques and Schools of Sultan Hassan and Refa'i	30	60	--	--
Salah al-Din Castle in Taba	80	160	5	10
Salah al-Din Castle	50	100	5	20
Tftef of Salah al-Din Citadel	5	10	5	5
Manisterly Palace	-	-	5	10
The Monastrey of St. Simon	20	40	5	10



The holder of the Alexandria National Museum Annual pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Muhammed Ali Palace Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Suez National Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Mallawi Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$

Current Ticket Prices for Museums Open for Visitors

Museum	Foreigner Student	Foreigner	Egyptian Student	Egyptian
Egyptian Museum	60	120	5	20
Egyptian Museum Nightly	90	180	15	30
Ticket cover (Egyptian Museum + Mummies Hall in Egyptian Museum)	120	240	--	--
Mummies Hall in Egyptian Museum	75	150	20	40
Audio Guide in Egyptian Museum	20			
Islamic Art Museum	50	100	5	10
Islamic Art Museum at Night	60	120	10	20
Coptic Museum (old Cairo Area)	50	100	5	10
Audio Guide in Coptic Museum	10			
Textile Museum	10	20	5	10
National Museum of Egyptian Civilization	30	60	5	20
National Alexandria Museum	40	80	5	10
Royal Jewellery Museum (Alexandria)	40	80	5	20
Khufu's Boat Museum	40	80	5	10
Manial Palace's Museum	50	100	10	20
New Valley Museum	30	60	5	10
Rashid National Museum	20	40	5	10
Rommel's Cave Museum	20	40	5	10
Mallawi Museum	20	40	5	10
Ismailia Museum	20	40	5	10
Kom Oshim Museum	20	40	5	10
Abdeen Palace Museum	50	100	10	20
National Suez Museum	40	80	5	10
Airport Museum	25	3 Dollars	-	-
Luxor Museum & Crypt	60	120	5	20
Mummification Museum (luxor)	40	80	5	20
Nubian Museum	50	100	5	20



The holder of the Cairo Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Museum of Islamic Arts Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Coptic Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Royal Jewelry Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$

Object of the Month

The Eid's Kahk Mold

Baking Kahk for feasts has been a tradition in Egypt since ancient times, as it continued uninterrupted throughout different periods of the country's history. In the Tolonide Period, Kahk used to be baked in special molds inscribed with the line «Eat and Give Thanks». In the Ikhshidi Period, Kahk became a major part of the Holy Fitr Eid celebrations. An Ikhshidi minister is said to have ordered the baking of Kahk stuffed with golden dinars, and it was called «Guess». The pronunciation of the name was later developed to become «Antolna». The «Antolna» Kahk became the most famous type of Kahk during the Ikhshidi Period, and it was presented at houses for the poor over a special table that reached 200 meters in length and 7 meters in width.

The Fatimids assigned an entire government office or «Diwan» to handle the baking of Kahk alone. It used to be called the «House of Intuition» and huge budgets, reaching 16,000 golden dinars, were allocated for the baking and distribution of Kahk to the poor. Work at the «House of Intuition» began in the second half of the month of Ragab, day and night, and it produced different types of Kahk.

One of the most important aspects of celebrations during the Eid was to have the Fatimid Caliph distribute Kahk to the poor and needy. At the same time, the Caliph's dining table was rich with over 60 types of Kahk to be presented to whoever visits him, including princes and kings. That tradition continued until the Ayyubid Period.

During the Mammluk Period, Mammluks paid special care to the baking and distribution of Kahk to the poor. There was even an entire market dedicated to desserts in Cairo. Ottoman Sultans were also keen on distributing Kahk to the Sufis and Tekkyas in Egypt.

Islamic art influenced the shapes of Kahk. Kahk molds were made with various Islamic decorations, especially the geometric and floral patterns. Some of those molds took the forms of animals and birds. In the Museum of Islamic Arts in Cairo, one can find Kahk molds inscribed with lines such as, «Eat with Merriment and Give Thanks», or «Eat and Thank Your Lord», along with other lines that carry the same meaning.



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