



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

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Archaeological Discoveries

• The Ministry of Antiquities archaeological mission uncovered a Ptolemaic tomb in Alexandria. The discovery took place while trenches were being dug in the land of one of the citizens in al-Karamili street, Sidi Gaber neighborhood. The tomb contained a huge black granite sarcophagus that housed three human skulls and skeletons. An unfinished alabaster statue of a man's head was also discovered. The sarcophagus was transported to the ministry's magazines in Mustafa Kamel area in preparation for its restoration and conservation. The skulls and skeletons were moved to the conservation labs in Alexandria National Museum for study and identification of the cause of death.



• The ministry's mission uncovered a cachette containing hundreds of pottery vessels, dating back to different periods, from the Graeco-Roman Period, to the Islamic Period. The discovery took place during excavation carried out in the inner museum garden, as part of the restoration and development project of the Museum.



• The ministry's archaeological mission, working on the of Mit Abu al-Kom salvage project at Maria area in Alexandria, uncovered a multi-room complex dating back to the Roman and Byzantine periods. A marble column in Roman style was found inside the complex, along with a number of coins, a column capital, and several Coptic-style lamps, vessels, and large jars.

• The archaeological mission, working on the Djoser's Step Pyramid restoration project at Saqqara, found a small bronze statue of the god Osiris, dating back to the Late Period. The discovery took place during the restoration works on the western side of the pyramid.

• The ministry's archaeological mission, working at Tell Ghazala, Senbelawein, Daqahleya Governorate, found human and animal burials dating to the Pre-dynastic Period. A group of alabaster and pottery vessels were found next to a human skeleton which was buried in a squatting position. A number of mud brick building foundations were found at the western end of the mound, along with two wineries, a group of grinding stones and stone tools, including flint knives.

• The ministry's mission, working on lowering the underground water levels at the Kom Ombo Temple in Aswan, found a pottery workshop dating back to the Old Kingdom.



• The Egyptian-German joint archaeological mission of the Ministry of Antiquities and Tübingen University uncovered a shaft with multiple burial chambers containing mummies dating back to the 26th and 27th Dynasties (664-404 BC). The shaft was discovered during the archaeological survey carried out at the Saite tombs area, south of the Pyramid of Unas at Saqqara. The mission has also discovered a silver Mummy mask, gilded and inlaid with semi-precious stones, which was used to cover the face of one of the mummies in one of the attached burial chambers. In addition to three intact mummies were discovered along with their alabaster canopic jars, blue faience ushabtis, and a group of vessels containing oils that were used in mummification.

Field work

Several archaeological missions began their new work season this July, as follows: University of California's American mission at north and east of Qarun Lake in Fayoum Governorate; and Roanoke University's American mission at Kom al-Hisn in Beheira Governorate.

Repatriated Antiquities

- The Ministry of Antiquities received 116 repatriated objects from Damietta port. The collection had been caught in previous years, when the authorities managed to halt an attempt to smuggle it (July 16).
- The authorities found 484 archaeological objects that were discovered through illegal digging in the area of Abu Qurqas in Menya. The collection includes bronze, metal and copper coins, along with pottery vessels. All date back to the Greek Period.



Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities attended a special celebration for the revival of the Holy Family trail in Egypt. The event took place at the church of St. Mary in Maadi. It was organized by the Advocates for Egypt's Peace Foundation, in cooperation with the church (1 July).
- The Minister of Antiquities attended several board and committee meetings this July, including: the committee meeting for the development of the museums scenarios; the committee of traveling exhibitions (July 10); a meeting was held with the members of the syndicates committees, at the Ministry of Antiquities' headquarter (13 July); a meeting to follow up on the revival of the Holy Family trail in Egypt at the Parliament (15 July); another with the National Committee for the Repatriation of Antiquities (19 July); a meeting was held at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, and a follow-up on the recent development of the museum exhibits after the removal of Tutankhamun collection from the museum (25 July).
- HE President of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Antiquities, the Head of the Administrative Supervisory Authority, the Governor of Giza, the Head of engineering Authority of the Armed Forces, the Head of the engineering committee of the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces, the Director of the Arab International Optics company. The meeting explored the latest developments of the Grand Egyptian Museum project, and the Giza Plateau Development Project, among others. HE the President instructed the attendees to focus their work on the inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in the year 2020; he also issued his instructions to provide all the necessary financial support for the antiquities projects (17 July).
- The Minister of Antiquities met with the Minister of Tourism at the Ministry of Tourism headquarter in Giza to discuss prospective cooperation and means of improving the services provided to visitors at museums and archaeological sites (25 July).
- The Minister of Antiquities met with the ambassadors of Japan, Guinea, Uruguay, Italy, and with the Italian Cultural attaché, the Director of the Italian Archaeological Institute, the Director of the UNESCO regional office. The meetings were held to discuss prospective cooperation.
- The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities had visited multiple archaeological sites, including: Cairo (Egyptian Museum in Cairo), Giza (Saqqara), Sharqiya (San al-Hagar), and Alexandria (Sidi Gaber).
- The Director of the Egyptian Antiquities Sector had visited a number of archaeological sites, including: Damietta (the archaeological Tells of Kom al-Dahab and Kom al-Gassa), Alexandria (Sidi Gaber, Pompey's Pillar, and Kom al-Shuqafa), Sharqiya (San al-Hagar), and Giza (Saqqara).
- The Head of the Museums Sector had visited several museums in multiple governorates, including: the Kafr al-Sheikh Museum project, the Museum of Islamic Art, the Textile Museum, the Gayer Anderson Museum, the Ismailia Museum, and the Royal Carriages Museum in Bulaq, the Citadel museums, and Manial Palace Museum.
- The Head of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities sector had visited several archaeological sites in Minya governorate, along with Salah al-Din Citadel in Cairo, and Wadi al-Natrun monasteries.
- The Head of the Projects Sector had visited several archaeological sites in Alexandria, Beheira (City of Rashid), and Giza (Saqqara).



Temporary Exhibitions

Prince Albert II of Monaco, and Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the temporary exhibition «Golden Treasures of the Pharaohs» in Monaco. The exhibition includes 149 objects from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, including some funerary furniture from the collection of Yuya and Thuya, and objects from San al-Hagar founds treasures, Sharqiya. The Minister of Tourism attended the opening ceremony, along with the Head of the Culture, Antiquities and Media Committee, and the Head of the Tourism and Aviation Committee of the Egyptian Parliament, as well as Egypt's Ambassador to France (6 July -9 September).



Varia

- The Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector carried out cleaning works at the area around Sabil al- Nahaseen at al-Moezz Street. The project is part of the collaboration between the ministry and the different NGOs, in cooperation with the Downtown Cairo District.

- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) received a marble commemorative stela from Alexandria. The stela dates back to the time of Mohammed Ali Pasha, and it is inscribed with a foundation text about the digging of the Mahmoudeya Canal. The museum also received 54 objects from the museum magazines at Arab al-Hisn and 21 mummification-related objects from Luxor; in addition to four friezes with Islamic carvings that have just returned from «The Fatimids World» exhibition that was held in Toronto, Canada.

- A meeting was held at the ministry's headquarter in Zamalek between representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the Suez Canal Administration, the Geographic Society, and the Ministry of Antiquities to organize a temporary exhibition about the Suez Canal in 2019 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Suez Canal (July 24). The representatives also made field visits to the Suez Canal hall at the Geographic Society's headquarter and the hall at the Mohamed Ali Palace in Manial (31 July).



International Participations

Several employees of the Ministry of Antiquities had participated in a number of workshops, lectures, conferences, and exhibitions abroad, as follows: China (Mr Mohammed Abd al-Meguid Abd al-Wahed -Curator at the Egyptian Museum; Mr Akram Abd al-Aziz Mohammed -Conservator at the Egyptian Museum); France (Mr Hamada Mohammed Abd al-Mo'ein -Chief Inspector at Malawi); Denmark (Dr Dalia Ahmed Mohammed Meleegy -General Director of the Research and Restoration Center of the Projects Sector); USA (Mr Safwat Mohammed Abd al-Aty -Archaeologist at Abdeen Palace museums; Mr Ahmed Mohammed Sayed al-Lithy -Director of Malawi Museum; Ms Heba Ahmed Abd al-Moneim -Inspector at Helwan, Saff, and Atfeeh; Mr Ahmed Ebeid -General Supervisor of the Minister's Office).

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The five-member committee for the support of the Grand Egyptian Museum, along with the consultancy group responsible for the preparation of bidding and contract files to manage and operate the GEM services, approved a decision to extend the final deadline for file submission until 21 August 2018. The approval came upon several embassies, foreign and Egyptian institutions to extend the deadline.
- The GEM board of directors held its 13th meeting to discuss the latest developments taking place at the museum. The board welcomed at the beginning of the meeting Dr Tadayuki Hara, the Japanese tourism expert (24 July).

Conservation Projects

- The Central Administration for Restoration and Conservation had finished the first phases of restoration and consolidation of the Manshoubya at al-Mansoureya at Imbaba, which dates back to the 7th century AD.
- The restoration department of Luxor Temple completed the cleaning and conservation works at the north and eastern sides of the Alexander the Great chapel.
- The completion of the conservation works of Saint Abaskhiron al-Qillini's icon at Abu Seyfein Monastery in Giza.
- The Egyptian mission, working at San al-Hagar in Sharqiya, finished assembling and re-erecting one of the statues of Ramses II in the site. The work was part of San al-Hagar archaeological site development project to make it an open air museum.



Cultural Events and Community Outreach

• The Administration of Cultural Development and Community Outreach organized a lecture under the title «Ancient Egyptian Language and Writing» at the Arab al-Mohammady Library for children at Waili neighborhood. The lecture is a continuation of the initiative launched earlier by the ministry to connect the children at various libraries to the treasured collections and archaeological sites (3 July). The administration also organized another lecture and workshop under the title «Arabic Calligraphy and Arts» at al-Salam Library in al-Salam neighborhood. The event took place in cooperation with the Administration of Cultural Development and Archaeological Awareness at the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector (4 July).

• Malawi Museum organized a cultural workshop called «Early Marriage and Deceiving the Law» as part of a program to erase illiteracy, within the museum's summer activities program (17 July).

• The Administration of International Organizations joined number of archaeologists from the Ministry of Antiquities for a training session to show the outstanding of value of the heritage sites and how to prepare maps for them. The session was organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Arabic Regional Center for Heritage in Bahrain, and the African-International Heritage Fund of South Africa (22-25 July).

• The Museums Sector organized several free workshops for museum visitors under the title «Together we build Egypt». The workshops are part of the ministry's plan to activate the museums' role in community development. The museums programs would take place in cooperation with a number of NGOs and the Training Administration of the Ministry of Industries, and the Friends of World Museums Foundations (22 July-22 August).

• The Cultural Development and Community Outreach Administration concluded the cultural program that was launched a 1.5 month ago to celebrate the World Heritage Day. The cultural program aimed at connecting children who visit libraries to the treasured collections of museums (24 July).



• The Archaeological Awareness Administration at the Egyptian Antiquities Sector organized an educational and artistic workshop called «The Little Explorer» at Egypt's public library at al-Zawya al-Hamra (29 July).

• Prince Mohamed Ali Palace Museum in Manial organized a free training session called «Let's Write Our Names» The workshop introduced the attendees to the different styles of Arabic calligraphy and their history as well the beginnings of writing (30-31 July).

Appointments

- Dr Yasmin al-Shazly as Scientific Supervisor of the Scientific Publication Department.
- Mr Amr Mohammed as General Director of the Human Resource Department at the replicas unit in the Citadel.
- Ms Nashwa Gaber as Director of the Foreign and Egyptian Missions and Permanent Committees Office.
- Ms Mona Darwish as Administrative Manager of the Minister's office.
- Mr Tarek Gomaa as Director of the Legal Office of the Minister.

Committees

- Approving the re-formation of a scientific committee to prepare the displaying Scenario for all Egyptian museums, select its artifacts and supervise the information texts on labels.
- Several committee meetings were held to prepare the studies related to the archaeological sites along the Holy Family trail. The committee is responsible for submitting the trail's major sites to be added to the UNESCO intangible heritage list. The meetings were held at the ministry's headquarter in Zamalek (3, 17 July).

Decrees

The most important decrees reached at the board of directors' meetings of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Permanent Committees are as follows:

- Registering several monuments on Egypt's Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish heritage list. The recently registered monuments include: the wooden pulpit of Sultan Hussam al-Din Ladin, which is located in the Mosque of Ahmed Ibn Tulun; a wooden construction at the mausoleum dome of the Eidiken al-Bondokary's Zawya and Khanqa that is located at Sayeda Zeinab and Khalifa neighborhood; and the Shabshiry House in al-Darb al-Ahmar.
- Approving the registration of the collections at al-Darb al-Ahmar area in Sayeda Aisha neighborhood and in the west Cairo archaeological site.
- Identifying the save zoning of the Saint Sem'an Monastery in Aswan.
- Identifying the borders of several archaeological sites in Cairo, including: Haswat dome, Kaltham mausoleum, al-Qasim al-Tayeb's dome at the area of al-Imam al-Shaf'ei cemeteries, Prince Mohamed Ali's palace in Manial, Zawyet Zein al-Din at Sayed Aisha, Baron Empain's palace in Heliopolis, Sabil and Kuttab Abd al-Baqi Khairy, Sabil of Hebeish's waqf in al-Darb al-Ahmar.
- Approving the amount to be paid to the ministry's employees accompanying a foreign mission to be 100 EGP a day for archaeologists, conservators, or researchers at the Research and Restoration Center, in case assistance or supervision are required. The amount should be paid to the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Approving the increase in electricity fees to be paid during events and celebrations that are held at archaeological sites. The electricity fees would increase to become 1500 EGP, instead of 1000 EGP, starting from 1 November 2018.
- The second panoramic viewing area at the Giza plateau should be considered a closed area, and fees for special opening hours should be implemented temporarily, starting 1 August 2018, until the inauguration of the Giza Plateau Development Project.
- The services fee in archeological sites all over Egypt would be increased starting 1 November 2018 ordered to be added to the ministry's employees funds as follows:
 - Permits to establish a quarry or annual renewal for quarrying activities would become 2000 EGP instead of 1000 EGP.
 - Buildings permits and installation of water and electricity meters permits would become 200 EGP instead of 100 EGP.
 - Permits for holding art shows, events, cinematic shootings, and specially opening tombs and archaeological sites would be 300 EGP instead of 150 EGP a day.

Practical Information

«Cairo Pass» & «Luxor Pass»

«Cairo Pass»

A visitor's pass is being issued «Cairo Pass» is a permit that allows foreign visitors to enter all museums and archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza for five consecutive days during official visiting hours, with an unlimited number of entries during the validity period. Passes cost 80\$, while students pay a reduced price of 40\$.

Museums and Archaeological Sites allowed to be visited for the holder of «Cairo Pass»

Egyptian Archaeological Sites	Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Archaeological Sites	Museums
Giza Plateau	Citadel of Saladin	Egyptian Museum
Khufu Pyramid	Nilometre in al-Roda	
Khafra Pyramid*	Sultan Hassan and al-Rifai Mosques	Coptic Museum
Menkawra Pyramid	Al-Mua'izz Street and Nafisa al-Bayda Road	Museum of Islamic Art
Saqqara Site	Bayt al-Sitt Waseela and Zeinab Khatoun	Khufu's Boat Museum
New Kingdom Tombs at Saqqara	Wekalet al-Ghuri and al-Ghuri Complex	Gayer Anderson Museum
Tombs of Princes at Saqqara	Bayt al-Harawi and Bab Zewaila	Royal Carriages Museum at the Citadel
Mereruka	Bayt al-Seheimi and Bayt al-Sennari	Manial Palace Museum
Dahshur Pyramid	Wekalet Bazar'a and Sabil Abdel Rahman Katkhuda	National Museum of Egyptian Civilization
Mit Rahina	Muhamad Bek Abu al-Dahab Complex	Textile Museum
	Sabil and Kuttab of Qaitbay - Tree of Maryam	Farouk's Corner Museum



* Only two pyramids are opened.

Luxor Pass

The MoA is launched «Luxor Pass» for foreigners to visit open archaeological sites and museums in Luxor, since October, 2016. The «Luxor Pass» valid over five consecutive days during official visiting hours. Luxor Pass can be bought from the Public Relations Office in the Lxur Inspectorate (behind Luxor Museum).

«Luxor Pass»	
Visitors	Prices
Foreigners (including Nefertary and Sety I tombs)	160\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days) including Nefertary and Sety I tombs.
Foreigner Students (including Nefertary and Sety I tombs)	80\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days) including Nefertary and Sety I tombs.
Foreigners (except Nefertary and Sety I tombs)	80\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days)
Foreigner Students (except Nefertary and Sety I tombs)	Tombs of Nefertary, Sety I, Ramses VI and Tutankhamun 40\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days)



Buy one pass and get %50 on the other one (Cairo Pass - Luxor Pass)
If you purchase both passes in the same year.
To purchase the pass: Copy of Passport + One Personal Photo

Monument of the Month

Moussa Ibn Maymoun Synagogue

Moussa Ibn Maymoun synagogue is one of the most famous synagogues that are currently opened to visitor at the Jews Alley in al-Moezz street in Cairo. It was built by Moussa Ibn Maymoun, also known as «Abu Omran» who was a religious figure and a Jewish physician. He was born in Cordoba in 1135 AD/ 529 Hijri, and moved with his family to Palestine. Finally, he settled in Egypt where he lived until his death in 1204 AD/ 601 Hijri, where he buried inside the synagogue. His remains were later transported to Palestine. Ibn Maymoun wrote many books in philosophy and medicine. He also worked as a physician at the court of Salah al-Din al-Ayoubi. Because of his fine reputation as a physician, Jews who suffered from a sickness or an ailment came to visit his synagogue at the Jews Alley, staying there overnight in a room attached to the synagogue to pray for healing and receive blessings.

The synagogue's entrance is located on Darb Mahmoud Street. The entrance consists of an iron door in a form of a half-circular necklace and is surrounded by marble.

Above the entrance there is a carving representing the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments, on top of an open book with Hebrew inscriptions, and framed at the top with Hebrew writings. The synagogue is



divided into three areas: the first contains the prayer area of the synagogue; the second includes the tomb, where the body of Moussa Ibn Maymoun was buried, before it was moved to Palestine, with a small room next to it, where the sick stayed overnight to pray for healing, and in addition has a well. The third area consists of several rooms for the priests and the supervisors working at the synagogue.

The prayer area consists of two floors: the first floor is for men, while the second one is for women. A sanctuary made of wood and carved with foliage motifs, is located in the middle of the eastern wall of the synagogue. The sanctuary is accessible by a marble stairway, and it has a small closet used for storing the Old Testament. In front of the sanctuary is a hole in the floor that is 50 cm in length. The platform designated for prayer and reading lies in the middle of the synagogue, and is accessible by a few marble steps.

The synagogue is open for visit every day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The entry fee is included in the collective ticket for Al-Moezz Street monuments, which can be purchased from the tickets booth at the Qalawun Complex.



Editor: Dr Hoda Khalifa
Co-editor: Mohamed Saad

Staff: Rhio Barnhart - Ashwaq Mosleh
Suzan Fathy - Dr Amira Emad
Dr AbdelRahman Medhat
Designer: Marwa El Shimy



Translated by Maryan Ragheb
Reviewed by: Dr Samira Elsayed Maged

Ministry of Antiquities
3 El-Adel Abu Bakr Street, Zamalek
Cairo, Egypt
www.antiquities.gov.eg
antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com

Telephone numbers:
(+2-02) 237356010 - 27358761

27365645 - 27371724

Fax: (+2-02) 27357239

 Ministry of Antiquities
 ministry_of_antiquities

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