



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 30 *November 2018

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Celebrating the Birthday of the Prophet and International Children's Day



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Archaeological Discoveries

- The joint archaeological mission of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology and the University of Strasbourg, France, working in the area near the tomb of Badi Amun-ipt in the northern region of al-Assasif cemetery, on the western bank of Luxor, found a sandstone plate inscribed with three texts of offerings and the names of two officials, and two wooden coffins date back to the end of 17th Dynasty and to the beginning of 18th Dynasty.



- The Egyptian archaeological mission working at Saqqara archaeological site along the causeway of King Userkaf, succeeded in uncovering three tombs dating back to the New Kingdom that had no inscriptions. These were reused during the Late Period as a cat cemetery, in addition to four other tombs dating back to the Old Kingdom, among them the tomb of «Khufu-em-hat», supervisor of royal buildings at the royal palace. The Minister of Antiquities announced the discovery in the presence of a large number of ambassadors from Arab and foreign countries, amid extensive media coverage and sponsored by Orascom Investment Holding company.

- The Italian-American joint mission working on Kom Ombo archaeological project in Aswan uncovered a burial of a pregnant woman. The remains were found, inside a cemetery that was used by travelers who moved to Egypt through the southern desert areas during the Second Intermediate Period.



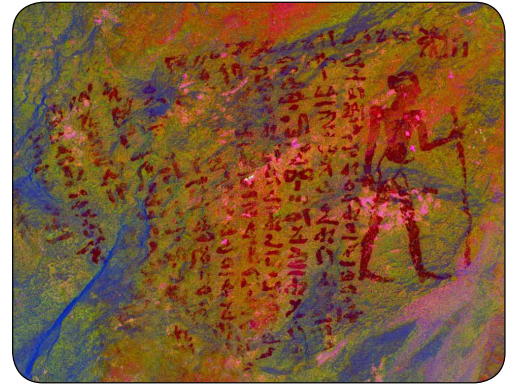
- The Egyptian archaeological expedition affiliated to Ain Shams University working in Arab al-Hesn site in al-Matareya discovered two limestone blocks on the northern side of the Ramses II statues. Engravings on the two blocks feature the title of «architect of the works of King Ramses II», whose name is Amon Inet.

- The Egyptian archaeological mission working in the south-east of the pyramid of King Amenemhat II in the Dahshur necropolis succeeded in uncovering a number of burials with eight sarcophagus made of limestone containing mummies covered with anthropoid layer of cartonage. Three of them are in good conservation condition. The burials date back to the Late Period.





- The Egyptian archaeological mission working in al-Assasif archaeological site in Luxor uncovered two tombs: one of the tombs, which was discovered for the first time, belongs to a person named «Thaw-er-khet-ef», who was the head of the mummification sanctuary at the temple of Mut. Two coffins and two statues, made of wood, were also found inside the tomb. Other archaeological objects found there include around 1,000 Ushabti statuettes made of various materials, including wood, baked clay, and ceramic. In addition, there were five colored wooden masks; two lids for canopic jars made of limestone vessels; and part of a papyrus scroll inscribed with chapter 125 of the Book of the Dead. The mission revealed the original entrance to tomb no. TT28. The Minister of Antiquities announced the discovery in the presence of the governor of Luxor and a number of members of parliament and directors of archaeological institutes in Cairo, amid extensive media coverage and sponsored by Orascom Investment Holding Company.
- The joint French-English mission of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology and the University of Liverpool uncovered the technique used by the ancient Egyptian during the reign of King Khufu to transfer stone blocks from the alabaster quarries at the site of Hatnoub, east of the city of Tell al-Amarna in Minya Governorate. They accomplished this through studies conducted by the mission on the inscriptions and writing discovered at the site.



Field Work

Many archaeological missions began their work during November as follows:

- The mission of the Egyptian Exploration Society, which carries out the archaeological survey in Kafr al-Dawar, in al-Beheira Governorate.
- The Mission of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Medamud, Luxor Governorate.
- The missions of the Warsaw University of Poland and the Polish Center for Antiquities in Cairo, working in al-Assasif site at the west bank of Luxor; in the Tell al-Ratabi site in Ismailia; and in al-Deir al-Bahari at the west bank in Luxor.
- The mission of the Institute of Oriental Studies at University of Chicago, USA, working in the temple of Medinet Habu and the temple of Khonsu and the tomb TT107 in Luxor.
- The Egyptian-German joint mission, between Cairo University and Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, working in Tuna al-Gabal site in Minya Governorate.
- The joint Egyptian mission between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Minya University working in Tuna al-Gabal, Minya Governorate.
- The mission of the French Institute for Oriental Archeology in Tabet al-Geish site in the south of Saqqara, Giza Governorate; in Dandara temple in Qena governorate; and in Ghurab site in Fayoum governorate.
- The mission of the Swiss Institute of Antiquities in Cairo, in the Aswan site.
- The mission of the Institute of Ancient Egyptian Studies of Spain, working in al-Assasif site at the western bank of Luxor.
- The joint Egyptian mission between Mansoura University and the Supreme Council of Antiquities in the Tell-Tabla site of Dakahlia governorate.
- The mission of the University of Michigan in the United States in the central cemetery in Abydos, Sohag Governorate.

Featured News

- The Minister of Antiquities inspected the latest developments at Sharm al-Sheikh National Museum during a visit to Sharm al-Sheikh to attend the World Youth Forum (6 November). The Minister also attended the opening of the trade fair in the Arabian Peninsula under the title «Roads of Arabia» at Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi (7 November).



- A coordination meeting was held at the UNESCO office in Cairo to discuss the latest measures taken by the Ministry of Antiquities to protect Abu Mina archaeological site in order to remove it from the list of endangered sites. The meeting was attended by the head of Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector; representatives of the Ministries

of Foreign Affairs, Higher Education and the Environment; the FAO organization; a number of consultant architects; specialists in water, irrigation and agriculture; representatives of Abu Mina monastery; and the Director of the UNESCO Cairo Office.

- The former president of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize-winner, Mr Lech Walesa, visited the Giza Plateau (9 November).

- The Minister of Antiquities attended the opening ceremony of the first Manial Palace Festival at the Golden Hall (1 November). The ceremony was attended by the American ambassador; the European Union ambassador; a number of artists; the prince Abbas Helmy, grandson of khedive Abbas Helmy, founder of Manial Palace, and president of the Friends of the Manial Palace Museum (1-9 November).



- The Minister of Antiquities received the ambassador of Kuwait in Cairo to discuss ways of joint cooperation and exchange of experience between the two countries in the field of archaeology (12 November). He also received the British ambassador in Cairo (14 November); the ambassador of Hungary to Egypt, delegates from the Hungarian National Assembly; the Ambassador of China to Egypt; and the ambassador of Belarus to Egypt (22 November).

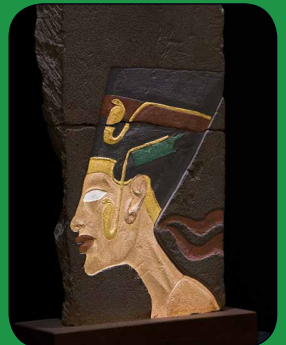
- The Grand Egyptian Museum received 614 artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, including 11 pieces from King Tutankhamun's collection. The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat received 800 artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The collection includes a number of rare artifacts dating back to various Pharaonic periods and includes a number of vessels, false doors, and sets of jewelry and ornaments made of agate, faience and glass and ornaments made of agate, faience and glass.





- In the midst of international and local media coverage, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo celebrated the 116th anniversary of its founding. In attendance were 30 current and former ministers, the Chairman of the Parliament's Committee of Antiquities and Culture, and the Chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Tourism and Aviation as well as a number of Members of Parliament, more than 50 ambassadors and cultural advisers, and a number of public figures. In its new phase, the museum takes the first steps in a new museum exhibition, by offering the complete treasures of Yuya and Thuya for the first time since they were discovered in their tomb at the Valley of the Kings in 1905. The new exhibition includes 214 different and unique artifacts, some of which were kept in storage and are being displayed for the first time, such as the mummies of Yuya and Thuya; and the colorful Yuya Papyrus, which is about 20 meters long and has been assembled by the hands of the Egyptian Museum's restorers. On this occasion, Egyptian and Arab nationals, as well as foreigners residing in Egypt were offered free entry to the museum on the day following the exhibition opening. Orascom Investment Holding Company sponsored this event (19 November).

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo held a temporary exhibition titled «Image-Mapping». The exhibition shows the development of the use of colors across various ancient Egyptian periods, from prehistoric periods to the Graeco-Roman period, through colored artifacts from ancient Egypt. The exhibition also displayed the tools used by the artists (1 November -1 December).



- The joint Egyptian-American archaeological mission started work on the restoration and reassembly of the last statue of King Ramses II, located in front of the first pylon of Luxor Temple. The work is undertaken in order to display the statue, which will be the last statue among five other known statues of King Ramses II.

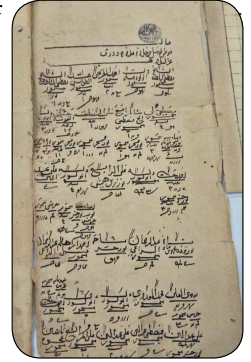
- Beginning the work on the restoration and development of the temple of Esna, south of Luxor. The works underway include restoring and cleaning the walls; strengthening the colors; removing the soot; and re-installing some stone blocks that have fallen over time.

- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo and the Islamic Museum of Australia.



Repatriated Antiquities

- An archaeological committee from the Ministry of Antiquities received a collection of from the archaeological units at the Cairo International Airport and customs seized over the previous years. Included 13 archaeological texts, official documents dating back to the 10th century Hijri, in addition to 46 items including amulets of ceramic and bronze, necklaces and wooden masks from the Late Period, as well as a candlestick dating back to the Ottoman Period. Some of the seized items were deposited in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, while others were placed in the Museum of Islamic Art.
- The archaeological unit at Cairo International Airport managed to seize 324 ancient coins dating back to various periods. The coins date back to the Ottoman Period; the reign of Sultan Hussein Kamel, Kings Fouad, and Farouk.
- The archaeological unit at Borg al-Arab International Airport in Alexandria succeeded in seizing 610 archaeological coins. The coins seized are made of bronze and silver, attributed to the Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad Periods.
- The Egyptian embassy in Switzerland received 26 small ancient artifacts that had been offered for sale on one of the websites. The pieces consist of two small statues representing Anubis and a number of small statues made of faience, some of which represent Pharaonic symbols such as Horus Eye.



Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Prince Mohammed Ali Palace Museum in Manial celebrated the birthday of the Prince. The event included organizing guided tours in the museum halls (8 November).
- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo held a celebration on the occasion of the International Children's Day in the presence of 100 children from various stages of education. The celebration included guided tours entitled «Our children, Our Future» (18 November). Also part of the celebration of International Children's Day and Prophet Mohamed's Birthday, the Textiles Museum organized an event which started with a guided tour of the museum, followed by a display of the holy textile from the Prophet's room, dating back to the Ottoman Period, in addition to a children's art workshop entitled «From the Biography of the Beloved» to paint and color the Prophet's birthday doll (19 November).
- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo organized a number of free lectures for tour guides to introduce them to the concept of the new museum exhibition, the Yuya and Thuya collection, which was launched at the museum's new venue on the 19th of November, 2018 (20-22 November).
- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo organized a celebration on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a lecture discussing the means of overcoming this violence and guided tours focused on highlighting the role of women in the ancient Egyptian society and historical models of honoring her. Under the title «The Egyptian Woman», the celebration also included a theatrical presentation by the Nasser Educational Establishment showing the importance of women's role (25 November).



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Printed by: MoA Press