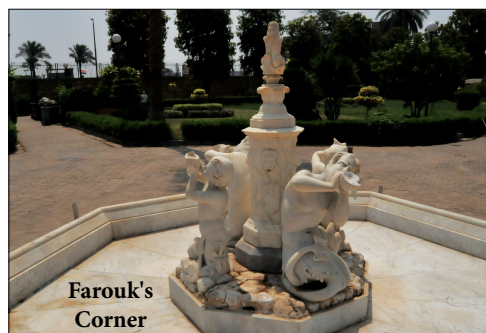




# Ministry of Antiquities



Newsletter of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities \* Issue 3 \* August 2016

## Annual Visitor Pass

The MoA is launching a new annual pass for all open archaeological sites and museums. For the first time, Egyptians, Arab and foreign residents in Egypt are able to purchase an annual pass, which can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Cultural Relations at the MoA in Zamalek.

Categories and prices are: EGP 100 for pupils of Egyptian governmental, private and international schools in Egypt; EGP 150 for Egyptian, Arab and foreign university students residing in Egypt; EGP 400 for Egyptians and Arabs residing in Egypt; \$440 for foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor), \$340 without these two tombs; and \$490 for foreign residents in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor); and \$390 without these two tombs.

In addition, the Board of the Supreme Council of Antiquities has approved free entry for Egyptian and resident Arab seniors (60+) to all archaeological sites and museums open to the public.



## Inaugurations

### Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan

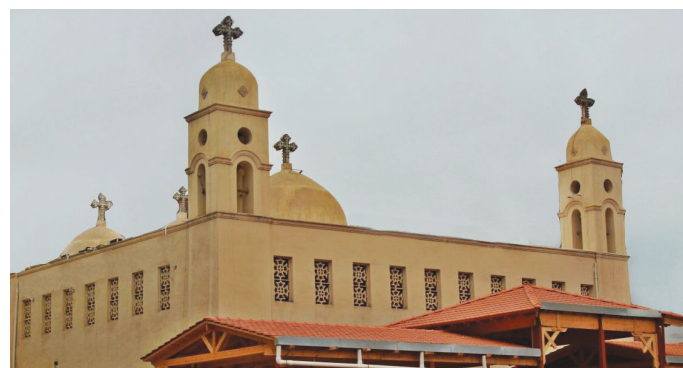
H.E. the Minister of Antiquities reopened the Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan after it was closed in 2011. The opening was attended by the Ministers of Culture and Tourism, the ambassadors of Argentina, Austria and Brazil, the American and Italian Cultural counsellors; and officials from the Ministry of Antiquities, the Governorate of Cairo, the Tourist and Antiquities Police and Helwan University (2 August, 2016).



Farouk's Corner Museum as seen from the Nile

### Abanoub Church in al-Gharbiyyah

A Church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Martyr Abanoub was inaugurated after the completion of its restoration that had began in 2005. It is believed that this church is one of the first sites visited by the Holy Family during their stay in Egypt. Many of the original furnishings and tools that were probably used by the Holy Family are still to be found (6 August, 2016).



Abanoub Church in al-Gharbiyyah

The Martyr Abanoub was born in a small village in today's al-Daqahliyyah Governorate. He dedicated his life to the service of the church and was martyred during the persecution in the reign of Emperor Diocletian.

## Field Work

Kansai University, Japan, at the Tomb of Idout in Saqqara; Groningen University, Netherlands, in Kom Aushim, Fayoum; American Research Center in Egypt at TT110, Luxor; Sohag University-FU-Berlin Egyptian-German mission, First Intermediate Period Tombs in Asyut; Waseda University, Japan, in Kom El-Debaa in al-Beheira governorate; MoA –Waseda University, Egyptian-Japanese mission in the Western Tombs at Giza.

### King Khufu's Second Boat

The MoA's collaboration with the Japanese Waseda University and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is continuing its work on King Khufu's second boat at Giza. The boat's planks are first stabilized in situ using Japanese paper, and then lifted and transferred to the site conservation laboratory. After preliminary conservation, the planks are moved to the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Center (GEM-CC). This month, 15 planks were transferred to GEM-CC. As of August 2016, a total of 704 planks have been lifted from the pit; 404 of which have been transferred to GEM-CC. Preliminary studies in the on-site laboratory have resulted in the identification of five different types of wood used for the planks: juniper, cypress, acacia, Christ's thorn, and Lebanese cedar wood. On 31 August, 2016, an eight metre plank which contained metal fragments, was lifted.



## Archaeological Discoveries

South Asasif Conservation Project working on Theban Tomb 391 in Luxor has discovered the burial chamber and sarcophagus of the official Karabasken, who was the Mayor of Thebes and Fourth Priest of Amun during the 25th Dynasty. The large sarcophagus is made of red granite and is the sole example known of a Kushite sarcophagus in an elite tomb.



## Meetings and Visits

- The President of the Arabic Republic of Egypt received H.E. the Minister of Antiquities to follow up on the ongoing projects and latest achievements in the antiquities sector.
- The Minister of Antiquities received the ambassadors of Mexico, India and Serbia to discuss avenues of collaboration. His Excellency also received the Governor of the New Valley.
- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on visits to archaeological sites, museums and projects in several governorates: al-Daqahliyyah (Tall al-Rub' magazine, Timai al-Amdid, and al-Shenawy Palace); al-Gharbiyyah (the church of the Virgin Mary and the Martyr Abanoub), South Sinai (St Catherine's Monastery); the site of the Sharm al-Sheikh Museum; and the departure hall in Sharm al-Sheikh airport to explore the possibility of establishing a small museum).



During the visit to King Khufu's Second Boat



# Temporary Exhibitions

## In Egypt

The Suez National Museum inaugurated a temporary exhibition titled “Memory of the Nation.” The exhibition focuses on Islamic numismatics, including gold and silver coins, dating back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods. The exhibition will run from August 15 until September 14, 2016.

## International Exhibitions

- “The Age of the Pyramids Builders” exhibition is currently in Kagoshima, Japan, until 15 September, 2016. Its next stop is Kyoto, Japan, from September 30 to December 25, 2016.
- “Sunken Cities: Egypt’s Lost Worlds” exhibition is currently at the British Museum in London until November 22, 2016. Its next stop is the Rietberg Museum in Zurich from January 12 to May 12, 2017.

# Projects

**Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM):** Work on the concrete and metal supports for the ceiling in the galleries and the grand staircase has been continuing, as well as landscaping in GEM’s garden spaces. The safe transfer of an additional 522 objects to GEM-CC has taken place over the past month, including items from King Djoser’s and King Tutankhamun’s collections. Finally, a committee was formed consisting of engineers, Egyptologists and other experts to research the possibilities of transferring monumental objects from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo to GEM.

**National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC):** The NMEC scenario committee met on August 11, 2016, while the High Committee for NMEC met on August 20, 2016. The committees discussed logistical and museological preparations for the temporary exhibition “Egyptian Crafts through Ages”, scheduled to open soon. The exhibition will include 400 objects (a collection of fine porcelain was transferred from the Prince Muhammad Aly Palace in Manial this month).

**Historic Cairo Project:** The Project obtained an EGP 5.2 million grant from the Ministry of Tourism to renovate and upgrade al-Mo’ezz Street and other moments in Historic Cairo. Additionally, maintenance works at al-Sultan Qalaun complex in al-Mo’ezz Street were successfully completed in order to lower the ground water level.

**Mallawi Museum in al-Minya:** The Mallawi Museum in al-Minya is scheduled to reopen very soon. The objects have been put in their vitrines, and the text panels and labels are being printed. Lighting is also being finalised.

**The Monastery of Abu Mena in Alexandria:** A contract was signed with a company specializing in water pumping to lower the ground water level at the archaeological Monastery of Abu Mena in Alexandria. The monastery was registered as a World Heritage Site in 1979, but due to rising groundwater levels, it was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger during 2001. The MoA is working towards lowering and stabilizing the groundwater in order to remove the monastery from the list of sites in danger.

## Conservation Projects

- The Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Center (GEM-CC) is examining and documenting the calcite statue of Menakure, which was transferred last month from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo.
- Conservation works at GEM-CC continue on many objects, including a sandal of King Tutankhamun.
- The first stage of fine conservation of Mohamed Beih al-Shenawy palace in al-Daqahliyyah Governorate was completed. Colour distortions on the walls were mechanically treated to bring this architectural gem back to life. The restoration works come as a part of the MoA’s plan to renovate historical palaces in Egypt.



A sandal of King Tutankhamun before and after conservation at the GEM-CC

## Research Projects

- The Egyptian Museum, Cairo has been awarded a \$130,000 grant from the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation to help preserve approximately 600 wooden coffins currently in storage. The project includes the refurbishing of two storage areas that house the coffins, the documentation, conservation needs assessment and immediate conservation for coffins in a critical condition. A training program for curators and conservators on modern methods of documentation and registration is also included in the project. A manual on the project's methodology and catalogue will also be prepared as a result of this work.
- The GEM-CC has enabled the archaeobotanical analysis of the filler material used within a foot rest belonging to King Tutankhamun. This is the first time that MoA has undertaken this type of analysis in its laboratories.

## Training

- The MoA organised a workshop for conservation and documentation of mummies, in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service in Cairo. The MoA has also organised workshop on the applications of geophysics in archaeology. A one-day workshop on writing scientific papers was held in the MoA's headquarters, while a three month course on writing skills is still ongoing. Tanta Museum is currently training its curators in a series of weekly lectures on archaeology. Additionally, twenty conservators and engineers are being trained on reducing groundwater levels, through a grant from the American Research



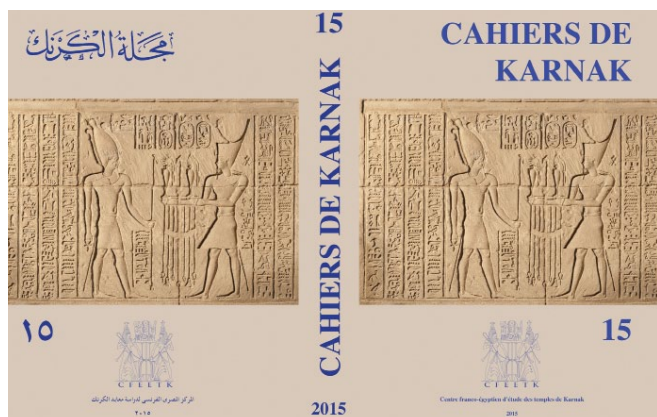
Center in Egypt.

- The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, is running a summer course for students of the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University to train them in conservation techniques. The training comes as a part of the EMC's summer activities program.
- Students from the first year at the Faculty of Islamic Archaeology, South Valley University, are being trained in Islamic Cairo under the supervision of the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector. The training comes as a part of a protocol of cooperation between the MoA and Egyptian universities.

- Almost 150 students from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Helwan University are being trained by the Centre for the Revival of Ancient Egyptian Art of the MoA.

## MoA Publications

The fifteenth volume of *Cahiers de Karnak* was released in August. The volume was published in collaboration with the French-Egyptian Centre for the Studies of Karnak Temples. The annual publication features a collection of articles on studies related to Karnak Temples in English and French, accompanied by Arabic abstracts.



## Protocols of Cooperation

The MoA signed a protocol of cooperation with Al-Ahram Foundation to organise an exhibition of replicas of Egyptian antiquities in Japan. This is the first time that the MoA organises an exhibition of replicas abroad. The protocol was signed by Dr Mostafa Amin, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.





# Varia

- Renovation work at the Coptic Museum's Library is underway with the help of a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt. After fifteen years of being shut, the curators and librarians are relocating the collections temporarily in order to re-catalogue them while the library is being refurbished. The library's holdings include important books and manuscripts that were collected by Marcus Pasha Semeika, the founder of the Coptic Museum.
- The American Consulate in Alexandria handed over four Graeco-Roman and Islamic stone objects that were previously displayed in the consulate's garden. This is the first time a diplomatic intuition in Egypt has returned objects of historical or archaeological value to the MoA.
- The Department for Private Archaeological Collections has started recording and documenting the collections at the Mar Guirgis Church in Old Cairo. The collections include Graeco-Roman lamps and nineteenth century icons.



## Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- For the first time since 2011, concerts are being held within the Roman Amphitheatre in Alexandria, in coordination with the Egyptian Opera House. This comes as part of the MoA's efforts to promote archaeological sites as venues for cultural activities.
- The Citadel of Saladin is hosting concerts as part of the twenty-fifth Citadel Musical Festival. The festival features twenty-one performances (August 17 – September 4, 2016).
- The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, continues to engage its online audience by asking them to vote for their favourites pieces to be displayed at the start of each month in the Museum's entrance. An alabaster vessel from Tutankhamun's collection was chosen for the month of August. The objects to be voted on are posted monthly on the MoA's Facebook page.
- The Cultural Development and Archaeological Awareness Administration of the Islamic and Coptic Aector, in cooperation with a local association launched the initiative of "Roam and See" to

encourage children to explore new sites and museums.

- Several cultural activities were organized for both children and adults in museums and on archaeological sites across Egypt. These include the Coptic Museum in Cairo;



Royal Carriages Museum and al-Gawhara Palace Museum in the Citadel; Gayer-Anderson Museum, Cairo; Ismailiyyah Museum; Tanta Museum; Rosetta Museum; and the Inspectorate of East al-Daqahliyyah Governorate.



# Appointments

- Mona Abd el Nazeer and Dina Talaat were appointed to the Department of Protocol and Public Relations in the Minister's Office.
- Doha Fathy, Dalia Mamdouh, Ahmed Saied, Dalia Abd El-Rahman, and Yasser Farouk were appointed to the Department of the International Organizations and International Cooperation in the Minister's Office
- Asmaa Hassan Al-Rabat was appointed head of the Archive Section in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo.
- Alaa Abd Al-Aty appointed as Director of the Suez National Museum.
- Asmaa Hassan and Amany Abdel Moneim were appointed to the Follow-Up Department in the Minister's Office.
- Dr Mohamed Ismail - head of the Permanent Committees - will coordinate the Giza Plateau Development Project.
- One-hundred and two MoA employees applied for four available Assistant to the Minister posts. The first round of interviews was conducted on August 9 and 10, with 85 applicants interviewed (while 17 were absent). The deadline for applications was extended to August 21, allowing a further 52 to apply. On August 27, a group 47 applicants were interviewed. Twenty candidates were chosen from both groups, of which four will be selected for the Assistant to the Minister posts.

# Committees

Committees formed during the August include:

- Committee from the Egyptian Antiquities Sector and the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector to explore suitable solutions to protect antiquities of the Egyptian Oases in the New Valley Governorate.
- Committee to develop feasible solutions for developing the MoA's financial resources.

In addition, the following committees have convened:

- Committee to study Egypt's signing of the UNESCO Convention of the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (August 8, 2016).
- Committee to discuss the museum planned in the New Administrative Capital of Cairo (August 14, 2016).
- Committee to discuss the refurbishing of historical

Palaces was held at the Ministry of Planning, and attended by the Ministers of Planning, Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities, in addition to representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the President of General Authority of Investment (August 14, 2016).

# Decrees

The decrees issued by the Permanent Committees in August include:

- Restoring the northern house next to the archaeological church and fortress in al-Deir al-Moharraq, in the governorate of Assyut .
- Removing sixteen illegal constructions on Coptic and Islamic monuments.
- Registering the Mosque of Khedive Tewfik (al-Tewfikia Mosque) dating to 1307 AH / AD 1889 in Helwan as an Islamic monument .
- Approving the registration of the Helwan Baths dating to AD 1892-1899 as an Islamic monument (August 3, 2016).

# Filming in Museums and on Archaeological sites

- The Board of the Supreme Council of Antiquities has approved the modification of the prices of television and cinema filming on archaeological sites, museums and archaeological temples in coordination with Ministry of Culture and the National Council of Cinema. Four bundles are available: daily / weekly / 2 weeks / monthly, and will be implemented starting November 1, 2016. The fees will be: cinematic and commercial movies for foreigners EGP 15000 / EGP 60000 / EGP 90000 / EGP 150000; for Egyptians EGP 5000 / EGP 20000 / EGP 30000 / EGP 50000. Documentary films for foreigners EGP 5000 / EGP 20000 / EGP 30000 / EGP 50000; for Egyptians EGP 500 / EGP 2000 / EGP 3000 / EGP 5000.
- Private video filming for tourists will be EGP 300 to all non-open air sites (museums and tombs), and for free in open air sites.
- Fees of video and television filming on archaeological sites and museums during unofficial working hours have been reduced by 50% .



The Central Administration of Archaeological Units in Egyptian Ports was founded in 1986. It works to prevent the illegal handling, importing, or exporting of items of cultural, historical or natural value. It aims to protect manuscripts, old publications, first and rare editions and valuable documents in general. This role comes in the light of the Antiquities Protection Law and the UNESCO Convention, as well as the cooperation convention between the MoA, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment, and National Security. The Administration's Units may be found in forty custom ports, whether naval, overland, or aerial.

When security and customs authorities seize suspicious objects from departing or arriving passengers, or from packages being imported or exported, the Administration in ports steps in to confiscate and examine the seized objects. Reports are then presented to the relevant authorities to get the legal procedures started in order to protect the seized items. The Administration follows up on the ensuing court cases to obtain the necessary decisions by prosecutors. Special or fragile objects under investigation may be transferred to the MoA's laboratories or stores until the court proceedings are finalized.

When the Administration is informed of looted items, it disseminates these announcements to the various ports and authorities in order to double their efforts to intercept these items.

Not only Egyptian valuables are protected and controlled by the Administration, but also foreign objects of cultural or archaeological value. It has

successfully retrieved Iraqi, Yemeni, Tunisian, Moroccan, Libyan, Saudi Arabian, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian objects in the past.

Among the largest collections seized by the Administration was the so-called Badr seizure in 2009, which was made up of 1,321 objects, and included silver and bronze coins, in addition to Graeco-Roman marble statues. During 2009, another important seizure took place at the Red Sea port of Ain Sokhna, where a large number of furniture and paintings dating to Muhammad Aly's Dynasty were confiscated. Another notable seizure was in 2010, where 3,301 items including gold, silver and bronze coins, in addition to Graeco-Roman statues and amulets were recovered.

In 2015, the total number of seizures reached 2,307. The largest seizure of that year was the Damietta seizure, which included 24 fragments of stone and wooden statues, and alabaster vessels that date back to the Middle and New Kingdoms.

The Administration is keen to train inspectors in detecting forgeries, understanding smuggling practices to increase their efficiency in intercepting illicit transfer of cultural heritage. The Administration also organizes special programs for employees of customs, security, and legal authorities in the different ports to update them with the latest developments in the field.

An exhibition about the objects seized in 2015 is being prepared and will be inaugurated to the public soon.



# Monument of the Month

## Farouk's Corner Museum in Helwan



In August, King Farouk's rest house in Helwan was reopened. The King had often used this rest house for relaxation, especially during the winter months. The royal rest house was transformed into a museum and was opened to the public after the 1952 revolution. It became part of the MoA's responsibility 1976.

The lands of the rest house extend over three feddans, of which 440 square meters are occupied by the rest house itself. The construction of this architecturally modern rest house was completed in 1942.

The entrance to the complex has three iron doors bearing the logo of King Farouk. The rest house is curiously built in the form of a ship, and has three

floors. The first floor has a separate entrance used for storage, kitchen and servants' quarters. The second floor was the King and his wife's residence. This floor also contains the reception hall, dining room, and a double terrace with a view on the Nile. The third floor offers a panoramic view over the Helwan.


Fruit trees fill the rest house's gardens. A mooring dock is also included in the complex, and was used for the royal yacht "Qasid Kheir".

Today, the Museum houses furniture that was once used in the royal rest house by the pyramids of Giza. Much of this furniture is inspired by ancient Egyptian art, or direct copies of ancient Egyptian furniture.



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