



# Newsletter

## of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 41 \* October 2019

Display of the Nedjemankh's golden coffin for the first time in Egypt following its return from the USA



p.2

Several funerary workshops discovered in Valley of the Kings, Luxor



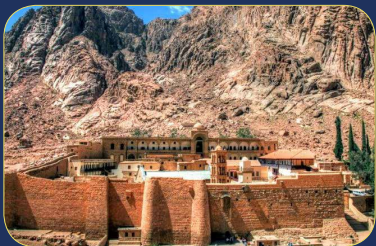
p.2

Mummy cachette discovered in Asasif, Luxor



p.2

Saint Catherine Forum for religious tolerance titled *Let's Pray Together*



p.3

Heliopolis historic tram moved to the garden of Baron Empain's Palace



p.3

Opening Ceremony of «Reimagined Narratives» Exhibition, al-Mo'izz street



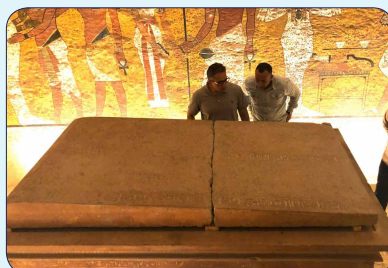
p.3

«Sunken Cities: The Magical World of Egypt» exhibition inaugurated in California, USA



p.4

Quartzite lid of Tutankhamun's sarcophagus restored in the tomb of Tutankhamun



p.5

On the behalf of H.E. President of Egypt, Minister of Antiquities attends the enthronement of His Majesty the Japanese Emperor



p.5

# Inaugurations



•H.E the Minister of Antiquities sees the display of Nedjemankh's coffin for the first time in Egypt, where it has been placed at its permanent position at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. It was placed there immediately after its return from the Metropolitan Museum. The Ambassador of the United States of America and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities attended the exhibition, along with 15 ambassadors from around the world (1 October).

# Discoveries

•H.E the Minister of Antiquities and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities attended the announcement of the Egyptian mission's archaeological discovery, headed by Dr. Zahi Hawass, in Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Monkeys. The announcement took place during the press conference on the western bank of Luxor. The important discovery consisted of thirty workshops dedicated to manufacturing funerary furniture (10 October). (→)



•30 wooden coloured anthropoid coffins were uncovered during Egyptian excavation headed by Dr. Mustafa Waziri, and the discovery received worldwide news coverage. H.E the Minister of Antiquities officially announced the discovery of the cachette, which included 30 unique wooden coloured anthropoid coffins belonging to men, women, and children. Coffins were all preserved in good condition, and were found in the same position in which they were hidden in ancient times. The coffins were still sealed and contained mummies, collected in the cachette and stacked one over the other. 18 coffins were on the first level and 12 underneath; this is the first discovery of a large coffin cachette since the end of the nineteenth century (19 October).



## News

• H.E the Prime Minister of Greece and his wife visited the Church of Saint George in the religious complex in Old Cairo. This was part of their visit to Egypt (9 October). H.E the Prime Minister's wife also visited the Textile museum in al-Mo'izz street and the Grand Egyptian Museum (13 October). (→)



(←) • H.E the Minister of Antiquities attended the Saint Catherine Forum for religious tolerance, taking place for the fifth year, titled *Lets Pray Together*. A group of 32 Ambassadors and their spouses had joined the event. The forum took place in Sinai and was hosted by the governor of South Sinai (11 October).

• The Ministry of Antiquities celebrates the return of the journal of «Studies in Islamic Archaeology», which had terminated twenty years ago. The journal is published by The Museum of Islamic Art (13 October).

• One of Heliopolis' tram carts is now displayed in the Baron's Palace garden. During the twentieth century, the tram was the oldest public transport methods in the district, slowly becoming an urban landmark (18 October). (→)



(←) • The Ministry of Antiquities initiated a project of modern lighting system in al-Mo'izz street to illuminate the complex of Sultan Qalawun. The system lights the exterior facades and the inner courts. In addition to this, a number of security cameras has been installed inside the complex of Qalawun, Bayt al-Suhaymi, the hall of Muhib al-Din, and Maqad Mamay al-Saify for the safety of the public and the structures. This project is a cooperation between the Ministry of Antiquities and Philips company with Art D'Egypte project. The ceremony of the «Reimagined Narratives» art exhibition also took place within the same location (26 October).

## Exhibitions

• Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities inaugurated an exhibition titled «Sunken Cities: The Magical World of Egypt». This third stop of the exhibition is in California and hosted in the library of Ronald Regan Presidential Hall. The exhibition includes 283 objects from the cities of Herakleion and Canopis in the Eastern port of Alexandria and the port of Abu Qir. Among the most important discoveries, there were the colossal statue of the goddess Isis and several sphinxes, in addition to jewellery and domestic utensils (5 October 2019- 5 April 2020). (→)



(←)•The Muhammad Ali Palace Museum in Manial organised a temporary exhibition titled “Keep the Weapon Awake” to commemorate the victory of the October War. The exhibition includes a rare collection of weaponry, including swords and knives, which belonged to Prince Muhammad Ali and were stored in his palace (3 October- 2 November).

•In cooperation with Mawlana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, the Museum of Islamic Art organised a competition entitled “Glimpses of India” for school students to select the best drawings of archaeological sites in India (October 15). (→)



## Meetings and Visits

• On behalf of H.E. the President of Egypt, the Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the council of the Episcopal Churches of the Global South, which was attended by the Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Egypt, of North Africa, and of the Horn of Africa. Among the other attendants, were included Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister and representatives of the Pope Twadros II, Pope of Alexandria, Patriarch of the Evangelical Church, Imam of al-Azhar, and 25 Bishops from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The council took place in the Cathedral in Zamalek (9 October). (→)



(←)•The Minister of Antiquities visited the project for developing the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Grand Egyptian Museum (9 October), and the Museum of Sharm al-Sheikh (12 October).



- H.E the Minister of Antiquities, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and Dr. Zahi Hawass visited the tomb of Tutankhamun to examine its latest restoration (10 October). The Minister of Antiquities also made another visit to the tomb to examine the quartzite sarcophagus lid that was returned to its original place (15 October). (➡)



- H.E the Minister of Antiquities gave a lecture entitled «the role of tourism in development» as part of the «Egypt Can» initiative, which was organised by the Minister of Immigration and the Affairs of Egyptians Abroad (16 October).



(⬅) • On behalf of H.E. the President of Egypt, the Minister of Antiquities attended the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The ceremony included 423 foreign participants representing 191 countries and organisations. 1600 Japanese officials and personnel were also present (22-23 October).

- H.E The Minister of Antiquities met with the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and several of its officials (21-23 October). He gave a lecture entitled «Egyptian Archaeology and Current Projects at Waseda University», presenting new archaeological discoveries and projects. The lecture was attended by H.E the Egyptian Ambassador in Tokyo and 150 other guests, including ambassadors, Egyptologists, tourism agencies, academics, students and Japanese archaeology enthusiasts (24 October). (➡)



- Honored by the presence of H.E the President of Egypt, H.E the Minister of Antiquities attended the International Conference of Radio Communication in Sharm al-Sheikh (28 October).

(⬅) • H.E the Minister welcomed each of the following: H.E The Ambassador of Malta in Cairo (7 October), and H.E the Ambassador of Poland in Cairo (8 October).

## Committees

### The Minister of Antiquities attended a number of meetings and committees:

- Meetings concerning the transportation of the royal mummies from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (3, 13 October).
- Organising and Scientific Committees of the Twelfth International Congress of Egyptologists (8 October)
- A meeting to follow the progress on the new website of the Ministry of Antiquities (14 October)
- A meeting regarding the museum display of the Grand Egyptian Museum (16 October)
- A meeting with the Minister of Housing and Urban Communities concerning the development of the area surrounding the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (16 October).

## Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Grand Egyptian Museum organised a cultural event for school children titled «The Grand Egyptian Museum Adventure». (→)



- (←)•Training courses started for the employees of the Ministry of Antiquities, which equip them with higher skills and qualifications (6 October).

- The Egyptian Textile Museum in al-Mo'izz street organised a symposium entitled «October Eagles» to celebrate the glorious victory of the October War (7 October).

## Repatriated Antiquities

- The Ministry of Antiquities received from the Egyptian customs' post office several Indian coins, which the Ministry returned to the Embassy of India in Cairo. These coins were intercepted in the post on their way from India (4 October). (→)



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