



Ministry of Antiquities



Wekalet Bazar 'a

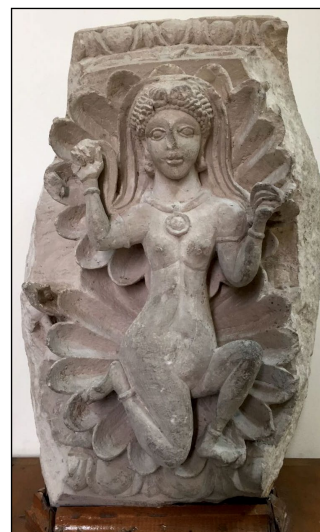
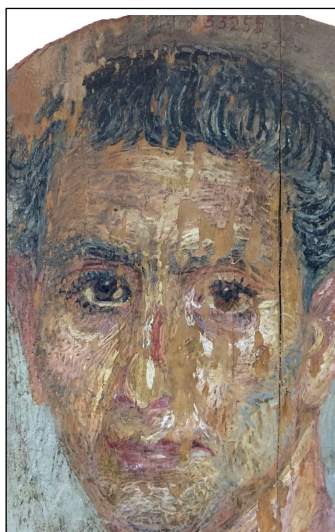
Newsletter of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities * Issue 6 * November 2016

Inaugurations and Openings

Kom Aushim Museum in Fayoum

The Minister of Antiquities and governor of Fayoum reopened the Kom Aushim Museum in Fayoum, after being fully refurbished. The inauguration was attended by the President of Fayoum University, Fayoum Security Chief, members of the parliament, ambassadors, cultural attachés, in addition to directors and members of foreign archaeological institutions (3 November, 2016).

The museum was built in 1974, and contained one gallery displaying objects excavated from Kom Aushim and Karanis. In 1993, the Supreme Council of Antiquities (now MoA) expanded the building, adding a second floor. The new design includes some 314 objects from Fayoum.



A Night at the Museum: EMC Open two Evenings a Week

The Egyptian Museum, Cairo celebrated 114 years since its inauguration. During a celebration held on this occasion, the Minister of Antiquities announced that the Museum will now be open two evenings a week, Sundays and Thursdays, from 5.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Tickets cost EGP 120/EGP 60 for foreigners/students; EGP 20/EGP 10 for Egyptians/students. Tickets for the mummy rooms are EGP 150/EGP 75 for foreigners/students and EGP 60/EGP 30 for Egyptians/students.



Luxor Pass Launched; Tombs of Sety I and Nefertari Open to the Public

For the first time, visitors to Luxor can now purchase a single pass to enter all archaeological sites and museums open to visitors! The Luxor Pass is valid over five consecutive days at the price of \$100 (\$50 for students) (for passes without the tombs of King Sety I and Queen Nefertari). A pass that includes the two tombs is also available for \$200 (\$100 for students). Additionally, the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari are now open to the public. Tickets for each tomb cost EGP 1000.

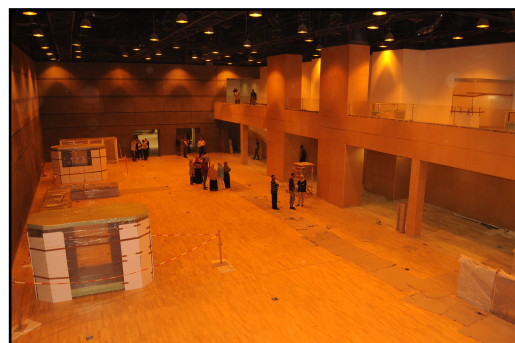
Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Centre received statues of Kings Akhenaten, Amenhotep II, Thutmose III from the EMC, in addition to another 850 objects from the Middle and New Kingdoms.
- In regards to the construction works, the ticket office building is almost complete, as well as the external casing of the administrative building. The temporary storage meant for receiving the aforementioned statuary and other large objects has been prepared.
- The Egyptian-Japanese Higher Committee of the Grand Egyptian Museum convened to discuss the project's progress (3 November, 2016).

National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

- Work is progressing on the temporary exhibition, and the vitrines have been installed in place. The irrigation system has been installed, and the landscaping and planting are underway. The lighting grid of the overall site is also being installed.
- The Higher Committee for NMEC has convened to discuss the progress of the museum (29 November, 2016).



Giza Plateau Development Project

Work is underway on the road leading to the Fayoum Road Entrance, and to the sporting area, and its foundations and asphalt are completed. The Visitor Centre is being painted, and its electrical connections are being installed. Paint work and finishings of the Police and Civil Defense building are being finished as well.

Historic Cairo Project



The Permanent Committee of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities approved two research requests submitted by the Science and Technology Development Fund, Cairo University. In the first, the United Kingdom is financing the maintenance of historical buildings using three-dimensional surveys, which provides an integrated viewing of the buildings' status. In the second project, Italy is financing a study of black encrustations on historical buildings resulting from air pollution in Cairo and Venice, which will contribute to the development of methods and materials that help treat façades of historical buildings. The MoA has agreed to receive a grant from Banque du Caire in the sum of about EGP 500,000 for maintenance of Bab Zuwayla, including the restoration of the gate and improving its electrical system.

Conservation Projects

- Work has begun on a project to conserve the Osiris Chapel in the Temple of Sety I in Abydos. The project is funded by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.
- Cataloguing work on the library in Prince Mohamed Aly's palace in Manial has been completed, while inventorying and cataloguing the manuscripts in the Palace's special museum is underway. Conservation works on an oil painting showing Prince Mohamed Aly has been completed.



Field Work

Several archaeological missions have started their work in November:

Russian State University for Humanities in tomb G7948 at Giza; University of Vienna (Austria) at Wadi al-Sheikh Fadl in Minya; joint ARCE - Memphis University mission at the Great Hypostyle Hall in Karnak; University of Tübingen (Germany) at Nag' al-Sheikh Hamad in Sohag; IFAO in Dendera; Vambery Armin Oriental Academy (Hungary) at TT344 in Dra' Abu al-Naga, Luxor; IFAO in Kom Abu Billo in Giza; joint Egyptian-German mission in West Aswan; Italian Archaeological Centre in Tall al-Maskhuta in Ismailiyyah.

Archaeological Discoveries

- The Spanish-Egyptian archaeological mission at the Temple of Millions of Years of King Thutmose III in Western Thebes uncovered a Third Intermediate Period tomb of "Amun-ir-en-ef" at the temple's southern enclosure wall. A mummy with a brightly coloured cartonnage mask and wooden coffin were found in the tomb.
- The Birmingham University, Egypt Exploration Society and MoA joint mission discovered a causeway leading to the tomb of Sarenput I, governor of the Elephantine nome during the Middle Kingdom, at Qubbet al-Hawa in Aswan.
- An MoA mission working in Abydos announced the discovery of an early dynastic elite cemetery and settlement, 400 metres south of King Sety I's Temple, belonging to senior officials in charge of the royal tombs.



Repatriated Antiquities



- The National Committee for Repatriated Antiquities convened to discuss the current status of repatriating looted Egyptian antiquities (6 November, 2016).
- A black granite block, illegally smuggled out of Egypt, has been repatriated from Switzerland. The thirtieth dynasty block carries a relief showing a goddess holding an ankh in her right hand, and was looted from Behbeit al-Hagar, al-Gharbiyyah in 1990.

Temporary Exhibitions

In Egypt

- Luxor Museum hosted an exhibition celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Egyptian-French mission's work in the Ramesseum. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Antiquities, and the celebration was attended by the Governor of Luxor, French Ambassador, archaeological mission directors, and MoA officials. The Minister of Antiquities honoured several French and Egyptian archaeologists, and delivered certificates to trainees of the Ramesseum field school. The Ramesseum project's director delivered a lecture about the mission's field work (4 November, 2016).



International Exhibitions

- The "Golden Pharaohs and Pyramids" exhibition is currently in Kyoto, Japan. It will be on display until 25 December, 2016. Its next move will be to Toyama, Japan on 13 January, 2017, where it will be on display until 26 March, 2017.
- "Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds" was at the British Museum until 22 November, 2016. Its next stop is the Rietberg Museum in Zurich from 12 January to 12 May, 2017.

International Participation

- The Minister of Antiquities travelled to Shenzhen in China to participate in the UNESCO Forum on Museums, which was also attended by Irina Bokova Director of UNESCO and the Chinese Minister of Education. The conference was attended by officials from UNESCO and directors of international museums. The Minister delivered a talk on new Egyptian museums (10-12 November, 2016).
- Dr Ahmed al-Shoky, General Supervisor of the Museum of Islamic Art, gave a lecture in London on the Agha Khan excavations of the Fatimid and Ayyubid walls of Cairo (20-24 November, 2016).
- Dr Mostafa Amin, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Dr Ahmed al-Shoky attended the inauguration of the exhibition of "Photos of Explosion and Restoration of Islamic Art Museum" in Toronto, Canada (24-28 November, 2016).
- Officials from the MoA participated in international events, including: lecturing on museology in Germany (3-12 November, 2016); "Archaeological and historical heritage in the Arab world and current threats" in Kuwait (8-10 November, 2016); and visits to German museums (29-30 November, 2016).
- Several MoA employees were granted approval for international travel to attend conferences, accompany exhibitions, or other official business, including: Eman Zidan (EMC Conservator) to China; Mohamed Morsi (Director of Saqqara) to the Czech Republic; Mohamed Hendawy (Chief Inspector of Saqqara) to Japan; Dr Hosny Hassan (General Director of Nubia Museum in Aswan), Dr Abd al-Rahman Mohamed, Dr Basem Fathy, Dr Dina Atwa (GEM Conservators), Dr Akmal Tawfik (NMEC Conservator), Dr Hanaa Abd al-Hady (EMC Conservator) to Germany.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Prince Mohammed Aly Palace Museum in Manial held an exhibition titled "Made in Egypt" in cooperation with the Faculty of Art Education at Helwan University. The exhibition included some projects by college students inspired by Egyptian heritage (5 November, 2016).
- The MoA honoured students of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Helwan University who completed a training course on the production of replicas of ancient Egyptian objects at the Centre for the Revival of Ancient Egyptian Art (15 November, 2016).



- The Giza Pyramids saw the landing of an aviation rally organized by the Egyptian Aviation Club to mark 100 years since it was launched. The vintage aircraft continued to Luxor, Aswan, and Abu Simbel, and their final destination, Cape Town, South Africa (17 November, 2016).
- The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the "Third Cairo International exhibition for inventions" at Bir Yussef in the Citadel. Some 260 inventors presented their work, and the top five received seed money for their projects (19 November, 2016).

- The Mallawi Museum in Minya held a festival entitled "Crafts through Ages" in cooperation with the Middle Tennessee State University. The festival included workshops for children (19-30 November, 2016).
- The Ministry of Antiquities organized a training program entitled "the Educational and Community Role of Museums and Archaeological Sites" under the supervision of the Cultural Development and Community Outreach Department (November 22, 2016).
- The Egyptian and Coptic Museums celebrated the International Day of Childhood, which included guided tours for children and a variety of activities (November 23, 2016).
- The Egyptian Textile Museum organised an event on the occasion of the World Day for the Disabled, which included a guided tour and performances (November 27, 2016).



Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities gave a speech during the opening session of the fifth UNWTO Global Summit on City Tourism: Cities. On this occasion, a German orchestra performed in the front of Luxor Temple (1 November, 2016).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in the opening session of the 19th Arab Archaeologists conference titled "Studies of the Arab World's Antiquities" in Mansoura University (5 November, 2016).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in the economic conference of Akhbar al-Youm. The conference was attended by the Ministers of Tourism and Aviation, and the Chairman of Tourism and Aviation Committee in the Parliament (14 November, 2016).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in a celebration for the Archaeological and Environmental Engineering Centre at the Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University, on the occasion of Centre's twenty-fifth anniversary (28 November, 2016).
- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on visits to several governorates: Cairo (al-Mu'izz Street and NMEC); Giza (Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project, accompanied by the Governor of Giza, and the heads and members of Parliamentary committees for Media and Culture and Antiquities, Tourism, and Aviation); and Sohag (Abydos, al-Deir al-Ahmar, Athribis, Akhmim, and the National Museum of Sohag).
- The Minister of Antiquities received a number of high officials, including the American Ambassador, Swiss Ambassador, President of Fayoum University, and Director of the Egyptian Museum in Berlin, Director of the Mariemont Royal Museum in Brussels, Chairman of EES, Director of EES, and President of the Chinese Institute of Archaeology in Shanghai.

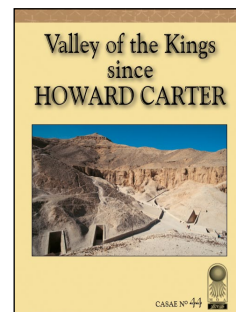


Training

The MoA organized several courses and field schools in November, in cooperation with different archaeological and specialized institutions. Courses included archaeology and conservation field schools, laser 3D-scanning in archaeology, Islamic ceramics, basics of C14 Dating, preparing showcases for museums, writing museum guidebooks, basics of scientific research, AUTOCAD 2D Applications, project management, introduction to digital marketing, introduction to Ancient Greek, studies on Greco-Roman antiquities and civilization, forming and producing metals.

Publications

The MoA has published two books: "Valley of the Kings since Howard Carter", which includes articles on animal mummies in the Valley of the Kings, the Tomb of Horemheb and conservation of wall paintings. The second book, in Arabic, is on Ruling in Ancient Egypt, with different chapters on the state's administrative structures of ancient Egypt, and daily life. The book is written by Prof. Mohammed Saleh.



Conferences

- The Ministry of Antiquities, in collaboration with DAI, ARCE, IFAO, AUC, and EES, is organising the first international conference on the Science of Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technologies, scheduled for 4-6 November, 2017. The conference will emphasise the importance of archaeological sciences and interdisciplinary approaches within Egyptology. Deadline for abstract submission is 1st March, 2017. For more information, contact submit@saemt.com

In Memoriam: Professor Dr Abd al-Halim Nour al-Din

(1 July, 1943 – 16 November, 2016)

Prof. Nour al-Din graduated from the Faculty of Arts at Cairo University in 1963, and was appointed as assistant upon his graduation. He earned a master's degree in Egyptian antiquities in 1966, and a Ph.D. from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands in 1974.

He held many academic positions in his lifetime, including head of the Egyptology Department in the Faculty of Archaeology, Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology in Fayoum University, Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Guiding in MUST.

In addition to his academic career, Prof. Nour al-Din was the first to call for the establishment of a syndicate for archaeologists in Egypt. He held the position of head of the Egyptian Antiquities organisation in 1988, and in 1993 was appointed once again as head, this time as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. His vision for the Supreme Council was to develop it as a specialised scientific institution, which supported the work of missions and opened the door to international travel and grants.

His publication repertoire is voluminous, and in

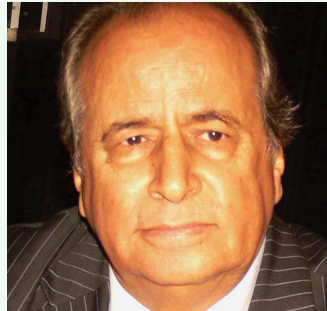
many languages, especially in ancient Egyptian language and demotic, in addition to works on archaeology and museology.

Prof. Nour al-Din's successful career was recognised by many institutions that awarded him prestigious honours, locally and internationally.

The Egyptological community lost Prof. Nour al-Din in November 2016. He has left behind him a rich legacy of publications and knowledge. The MoA held a memorial ceremony for him, which was attended by former Ministers of Antiquities Prof.

Mohamed Ibrahim and Prof. Mamdhough al-Damaty, and Prof. Mofeed Shehab, former Minister of Higher Education, colleagues from universities, including Prof. Fayza Haikal, Prof. Aly Radwan, Prof. Doha Mostafa, Prof. Ola al-Aguizy, and Prof. Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr, in addition to many other colleagues from foreign archaeological institutions.

The Ministry of Antiquities has decided to name a museum store in his hometown of Kafr Shobak in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, after him, as a sign of appreciation of his legacy.



Protocols

The MoA signed a protocol of cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The protocol will allow both Ministries to create an online platform to provide information services for archaeological sites, create websites for ten museums, in addition to establishing databases for the MoA, and upgrading the MoA's existing databases. The protocol also includes inventorying objects in six museums: GEM, EMC, NMEC, the Museum of Islamic Art, the Coptic Museum, the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, and seven museum storage facilities in Cairo and Giza (November 6, 2016).



Decrees

Decrees issued in November include:

- Approving the registration of Ismail Mohamed Palace in Zamalek as an Islamic monument.
- Removing fourteen infringements on archaeological sites.

Appointments

- Sanaa Hassan Mousa (Nubia Museum), was appointed to the Aviation, Water and Land Ports in Aswan.
- Dalia Ahmed Mellegui (Centre for Research and Conservation) was appointed as head of the Centre for Research and Conservation.

Department of the Month

Central Administration for Underwater Archaeology

The Central Administration for Underwater Antiquities celebrated during November twenty years since its inception. Underwater archaeology is not limited to shipwrecks under seas, but any body of water including rivers and lakes. Changes in the course of the Nile River, or (when the water eats the shore), amongst other ways. The Administration was established as a result of the discoveries in the Mediterranean in 1995-96, when the Alexandria Lighthouse and the royal city were found. Dr Aly Hassan (former head of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation) decreed the Administration's establishment, and it was headed by Dr Ibrahim Darwish.



The first team to work in the Administration were inspectors in Egyptology, Greco-Roman, Coptic or Islamic archaeology who received training in diving in collaboration with the Alexandria Antiquities Society.

Despite underwater archaeology focusing on sites in Alexandria such as the City of Heraklion, it also extended to the Mediterranean coast where shipwrecks are found west of Alexandria, and a submerged fort is found eastwards. In the Red Sea, the Administration has worked on projects such as the Wadi Garf Port, or the eighteenth century Saadana shipwreck.

The Nile has also revealed many of its submerged secrets. An underwater survey found a chapel of King Ptolemy VI and remains of the wall of the Ptolemaic Khnum Temple which had drowned to the east of Elephantine Island. In addition to finding a drowned port on the east bank of the Gebel al-Silsila sandstone quarries. The Administration team has also worked on water bodies in the western desert where they have found prehistoric flint tools from Qarun Lake, in addition to water sources in Siwa. The Administration also supervises and collaborates with underwater archaeological projects run by international institutes in Egypt. In addition to its purely archaeological work, the department also guides tourist diving groups in the royal city in Alexandria and lighthouse.

Underwater archaeologists rely on ancient documents to point to the possible presence of antiquities underwater, or reports from fishermen and other divers, or during survey done prior to construction projects on shorelines, or extending underwater cables or pipelines. After fieldwork is completed, the administration decides on whether or not to remove the antiquities from the water, in the case that they



are safe to keep below water, or to remove them in order to protect them.

The Administration plans on expanding its work in the future. A new diving centre will be established in Qaitbay Citadel in Alexandria, in addition to plans for an underwater museum. The Administration is also preparing for four new projects in al-Quseir in the Red Sea, Gebel al-Silsila in Aswan, al-Qals in North Sinai, and finally Ghazala Bay in Matrouh.



Wekalet Bazar'a is located in al-Tumbakshiyya street in al-Gamaliyyah neighborhood of Historic Cairo. It is situated between two other monuments: to the east the Madrasa of Gamal al-Din Yusuf al-Ustadar (built in 1408) and the Wekala of Abbas Agha (built in 1694), of which only the first section of the arched stone entrance survives. The term *wekala* (pl: *wekalat*) is the Egyptian equivalent to *qaysariyya*, *funduq* or *khan* in other Arab countries.

It is a commercial building with different functions and activities. It was used as a place to display merchandise and to conduct business deals, and to distribute the goods to the local markets. A *wekala* also offered accommodation in its upper floors to out-of-town traders.

Commercial trade flourished during Mamluk times, which resulted in the need for expansion. Hence, many *Wekalat* were constructed during the 14th and 15th centuries, the most famous being the *wekalat* of Sultan Qansuh al-Ghuri (built in 1504). During the Ottoman rule, the number of *wekalat* multiplied and followed the same Mamluk plan and style. The *Wekalet Bazar'a* was built in the 17th century.

Wekalat were named after their founders, or the activity taking place. Bazar'a was first known as *Wekalet Kihya*, named after Hasan Katkhuda Abu Shanab, who was also known by Kihya. It was dedicated at the time to the trade of timber. A Yemeni, Bazar'a, who came to Egypt in the 19th century, bought the building, and switched its activity to the sale of Nablus soap and the Yemeni coffee.

The *wekala* is composed of a central courtyard surrounded by a corridor that reaches storages on the ground floor. On the upper floors, rooms are used for accommodation. In addition, there is a space for the mules of commercial caravans.

The *wekala* has two entrances. The main one leads to the courtyard, while the secondary entrance gives access to the residential units upstairs and is separated from the courtyard to ensure privacy. The residential units are divided between two levels connected by a staircase. At the lower level, there is a reception, a kitchen and a toilet, while upstairs the bedrooms that were used by merchants and their families.

The structural condition of the *wekala* was greatly affected by the earthquake in 1992: water infiltration due to bad usage and the disintegration and decay of the mortar with time. The Supreme Council of Antiquities decided then to take the necessary measures to consolidate the structure to avoid danger and to prepare studies for a complete conservation project. In 2001, the *wekala* was rescued and it was preserved as it represents one unique example of Ottoman Architecture in Cairo.

Lately, the Historic Cairo Project propose a research project to further conserve the building. Assessments were made to define the needed maintenance and to propose a reuse for the *wekala*, and work is ongoing to ensure that the *wekala* is preserved in the best form.

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