



Ministry of Antiquities

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INAUGURATION OF A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION «TRADITIONAL EGYPTIAN CRAFTS» IN NMEC

A temporary exhibition of traditional Egyptian crafts was inaugurated at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation. The exhibition, presenting the technological innovations and continuity of pottery production, textile manufacture, woodworking, and jewellery making, is the first to be opened to the public at NMEC. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. the Minister of Antiquities; Mme Irina Bokova, General Director of UNESCO; and Dr Ghada Waly, Minister of Social Solidarity, and was attended by ministers of Tourism, Culture, Communications, Aviation, Public Works and Education, as well as the governors of Cairo, Giza and Aswan, in addition to former ministers, members of parliament, university presidents, ambassadors, cultural attachés and heads and members of foreign archaeological institutions. It was followed by a traditional musical performance and a seated formal dinner in the museum's restaurant (15 February, 2017). The exhibition was open to the public for free through the end of February. The museum's gift shop was also opened, selling replicas produced by MoA. NMEC's facilities also include a cinema, theatre, cultural centre and a printing press, in addition to the galleries themselves. When fully opened, the museum will take steps to fulfil its role as an important cultural, educational, recreational and research hub for local and international visitors and scholars.

INAUGURATIONS

Reopening of the Hunting Museum at Muhammad Aly Palace Museum in al-Manial

The Minister of Antiquities reopened the Hunting Museum at Muhammad Aly Palace Museum in al-Manial, after having been closed for renovation since 2007. The inauguration was attended by ambassadors, Egyptian university presidents, and heads of foreign archaeological institutes (7 February, 2017). The museum houses mummified animals, birds and butterflies collected by King Farouk, Prince Muhammad Aly Tawfik and Prince Youssef Kamal, in addition to skeletons of a camel and a horse that once carried the cover of the holy Ka'aba on its journey to Mecca.



Inauguration of Stopplaere's House and Opening Nakht Amun's Tomb to Visitors



The Minister of Antiquities, Governor of Luxor, General Director of UNESCO and the Swiss Ambassador to Egypt inaugurated Stopplaere House on the West Bank of Luxor after it has been restored and turned into an archaeological research and studies centre. The House is an architectural masterpiece from the twentieth century designed by Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy. The project was completed with the cooperation of the University of Basel and Factum Arte. Additionally, the tomb of Nakht-Amun (TT 335) at Deir al-Madina was opened to visitors (17, February 2017).

Inaugurations in al-Qasr, Dakhla Oasis

The Minister of Antiquities and the Dutch Ambassador to Egypt inaugurated several elite houses at the Islamic town of al-Qasr in Dakhla Oasis, after they were restored.

The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the visitors centre in al-Amheida at Dakhla Oasis in al-Wady al-Gadid governorate. The centre is the replica of the villa of Serenus, an official of the town during the Late Roman Period (fourth century AD). The centre was built by Columbia University (USA) in 2009 as replica of the villa with its decorations. It was discovered in 2004 and is an example of houses of rulers and the elite during that time. The centre was opened to the public for free until the end of February.

Reopening of Elephantine Annex Museum in Aswan

The Minister of Antiquities reopened Elephantine Annex Museum in Aswan after its refurbishing by the German Institute. The museum presents the excavations of the German Archaeological Institute working there since 1969. The museum was open to the public in 1998 and was closed since 2011 (21 February, 2017).



Field Work

Several archaeological missions have started their work in February 2017: MoA-ARCE joint mission at KV 63/ KV 10 – Valley of the Kings; Budapest University (Hungary) at Khokha in Luxor; EES at Theban Ports in Luxor; IFAO at the Northern stores of Karnak and Dendera Temple; Waseda University (Japan) at the Valley of the Kings; ARCE at Karnak; University of Prague (Czech) at Abusir; Cologne University (Austria) at Philae Temple; University of Würzburg (Germany) at Tel-Basta in al-Sharqia and at Edfu; Swiss Institute at Naga al-Hagar.

Archaeological Discoveries

- The Egyptian Japanese Mission discovered a tomb of a royal scribe named Khonsu at al-Khokha on the West Bank of Luxor, which might date to the Ramesside Period. The “T” shaped tomb consists of an entrance that leads to a hall and a burial chamber with its wall reliefs still intact.
- The Egyptian-German Mission (Hildesheim Museum) discovered a cluster of buildings that may be remains of a temple or Palace at Per-Ramesses in the eastern Delta.
- The Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project in Western Thebes revealed 52 new diorite statues of the goddess Sekhmet in the space between the temple’s court and hypostyle hall. Some of these statues show the goddess seated, while others represent her standing.



Temporary Exhibitions

Local Exhibitions

- Prince Muhammad Aly Palace Museum in Manial hosted an exhibition titled «Islamic Reflections» organised in cooperation with Aswan University and the Arab Association of Islamic Civilization and Arts. The exhibition included paintings by Egyptian painters that depict the history of the Islamic civilization and its arts (1 February, 2017).
- Minister of Antiquities and Bishop Yolyos of Old Cairo inaugurated an exhibition at the Coptic Museum, commemorating Egypt's Martyrs through the ages (2 February, 2017).
- Minister of Antiquities, Governor of Luxor and General director of UNESCO inaugurated a temporary exhibition in Luxor Museum. The exhibition was organised by the Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project in Western Thebes, and showcased statues and finds discovered during the mission's work in the temple. A statue of King Amenhotep III sitting on his throne, discovered in his mortuary temple, was also put in the museum's garden at the Luxor Museum (17 February, 2017).



International Exhibitions

The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the temporary exhibition «Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds» in Rietberg Museum in Switzerland (9 February, 2017).

Conferences

MoA organised a symposium at the Mummification Museum in Luxor celebrating 131 years since the discovery of Sennedjem's tomb at Deir al-Medina, which was discovered 2nd February, 1886. The symposium was organised in collaboration IFAO (5 February, 2017).

Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA's officials on visits to: Giza (Giza Plateau Development Project); al-Wady al-Gadid (al-Qasr in Dakhla); Luxor (New Qurna, Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Luxor Temple, Luxor Museum); Aswan (Annex Museum in Elephantine; Abu Simbel accompanied by Ministers of Tourism and Culture and the Governor of Aswan).
- The Minister of Antiquities received several high profile guests including the Ambassadors of Hungary, Belgium, India, Canada, Serbia, Switzerland, General Director of UNESCO, Director of the World Heritage Centre, and several Egyptologists.



Repatriated Antiquities

- The Egyptian embassy in London received two heads made of glass. One was stolen from al-Qantara East storage, and the other from al-Sheikh 'Ibada in al-Minya.
- The Egyptian embassy in London also received a prehistoric Axe from Leuven University in Belgium. The stone axe is originally from Nazlet Khater in Sohag.

Projects

National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

H.E. Egyptian Prime Minister issued a decree to form the Board of Trustees of NMEC, formed of: H.E. Egyptian Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform; H.E. Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation; H.E. Egyptian Minister of Finance; H.E. Egyptian Minister of Antiquities; H.E. Egyptian Minister of Tourism; Professor Aly Radwan - Professor of Egyptology and former dean at Cairo University; Professor Ola al-Aguizy - Professor of Egyptology and former dean at Cairo University; Professor Ismail Serag al-Din – Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina; Head of the Culture, Media and Antiquities Committee of the Egyptian Parliament; Ambassador Mostafa al-Fiqqy; H.E. Ambassador Moshira Khattab; Eng. Mohamed Al-Suweidy – Head of the Egyptian Union of Industries; Professor of Egyptian Archaeology and Philology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London; Professor of Islamic Arts and Archaeology, Sorbonne University, Paris IV; Director, Shanghai Museum; President and CEO, The J. Paul Getty Trust; UNESCO Director General; Prince Shah Karim Agha Khan - President of the Agha Khan Foundation.

Historic Cairo Project

A report has been received from the Agha Khan Organization about restoration of the first stage of al-Tanbagha al-Mardany Mosque in al-Darb al-Ahmar.

Conservation Projects

Restoration works of the Geographical Society's building on Qasr al-'Ainy street in Cairo have been initiated in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education. A balcony overlooking the Egyptian Parliament has been «itsalab», in addition to the façade facing the Ministry of Transport which has been repaired. the entire building is also being cleaned.

Varia

- The Ministry of Antiquities in collaboration with the Tourism and Antiquities police, Armed Forces, Public Security and Giza Governorate succeeded in removing trespasses of quarries at Dahshur, in addition to taking the necessary steps to prevent further trespasses and damage to the site.
- The Ministry of Antiquities organised a workshop about Deir al-Medina at West Bank of Luxor and graffiti in the surrounding mountains (26 February, 2017).

International Participation

Several colleagues travelled on official international trips, including: Iman Fawzy Mohamed (General Director of the Central Administration for Public Relations), Iman Zeen Ismail (General Director of the Greco-Roman Museum), Aly Qutb Hassan (General Director of the Administration for Metal Shores), Dr Hoda Ibrahim Khalifa (Technical Office of the Minister), al-Tayeb Mohamed Khodary (Isna Inspectorate) have travelled to Switzerland; Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed (Director of JICA/GEM Project), Nasef al-Sayed (Director of Archaeological Testing Unit in GEM), Mohamed Badr al-Din Hassan (Director of Administration for Archaeological Storages and Registration at GEM), Mona Taha Mahmoud (Director the Display Unit at GEM), Mohamed Rashed (al-Anfushi Inspectorate) to Japan; Ibrahim Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim (GEM Conservator) to Lebanon.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- Directional signs have been installed at Kom al-Nadura in al-Manshiyyah and the cistern of Ibn al-Nabih at Shellalat at Alexandria (9 February, 2017).
- NMEC's temporary exhibition on Egyptian crafts and the newly opened visitors centre at al-Amheida in Dakhla Oasis in al-Wady al-Gadid were opened to the public for free until the end of February (19 February, 2017).
- MoA hosted the annual Luxor Times awards ceremony for the top ten archaeological discoveries, five ongoing project and five restoration projects. Several MoA projects received awards (19 February, 2017).
- MoA celebrated the sun alignment at the temple of Abu Simple. The celebration was attended by the Ministers of Antiquities, Culture and Tourism, the governor of Aswan and the Swiss Ambassador in Cairo. On this occasion, MoA inaugurated an exhibition of fifty photographs presenting the story of the temple since its discovery in 1817 (22 February, 2017).



Decrees

Decrees issued in November include:

- MoA continues to offer foreigners a 30% discount on the Annual Visitors Pass, and 20% on Luxor Pass.
- Approving the registration of al-Salamlek Palace in the gardens of Montazah Palace in Alexandria as an Islamic monument.

Appointments

- Dr Mamdouh Hassan Mohamed was appointed General Director of the Museum of Islamic Art.
- Mr Ashraf Abol-Yazeed was appointed General Director of Textile Museum.
- Dr Mennat-Allah El Dorry was appointed as Supervisor of the Scientific Department in the Minister's Office.



The General Administration of Prehistoric Antiquities was established in 2005 to document Egypt's prehistoric sites and objects. It also provides training to archaeologists in very specific methodologies for surveys and excavations on prehistoric sites.

The Administration has overseen many projects, including a map of prehistoric sites in Egypt, completed in 2005 covering sites in the Nile Valley and Sinai and the deserts. The sites range from Lower Palaeolithic (ca. 500,000 – 220,000 BC) to Lower Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 3050 – 2700 BC).

The Administration has also undertaken archaeological surveys, revealing many sites including: Seru Valley, Abu Khadra Valley, Abu Hawass Valley and other unnamed sites in the White Desert; 'Ain Menawer, Balat, Asmant al-Kharab, Qaret al-Tasawer and Wady al-Gemal in Dakhla Oasis; Gabal al-Ganna and the White Cave in Farafra Oasis; Gabal 'Elba in Halayeb; Hamata, Abraq and Gahelleyah Well in Shalateen; Sonoor in Beni Suef Governorate; al-Medawara in Fayoum Governorate; al-'Ayat in Giza Governorate; Wady al-Garf in South Sinai; Wady Hammamat and al-Sudamin Cave in the Red Sea; unnamed sites in the Black Desert; and Wady Dara in Hurgada. Over one-hundred new sites have been identified by the Administration.

The Administration's fieldwork includes excavations north of Qarun Lake, which have uncovered more than 11,000 Prehistoric objects. The Administration is also working on constructing the first museum in Egypt and the Middle-East for prehistoric antiquities. Additionally, it is preparing an exhibition to be held at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo which will present rare objects of material culture, in addition to stone inscriptions from the Gabal al-'Ouweinat and Wady Sura Caves.



Monument of the Month

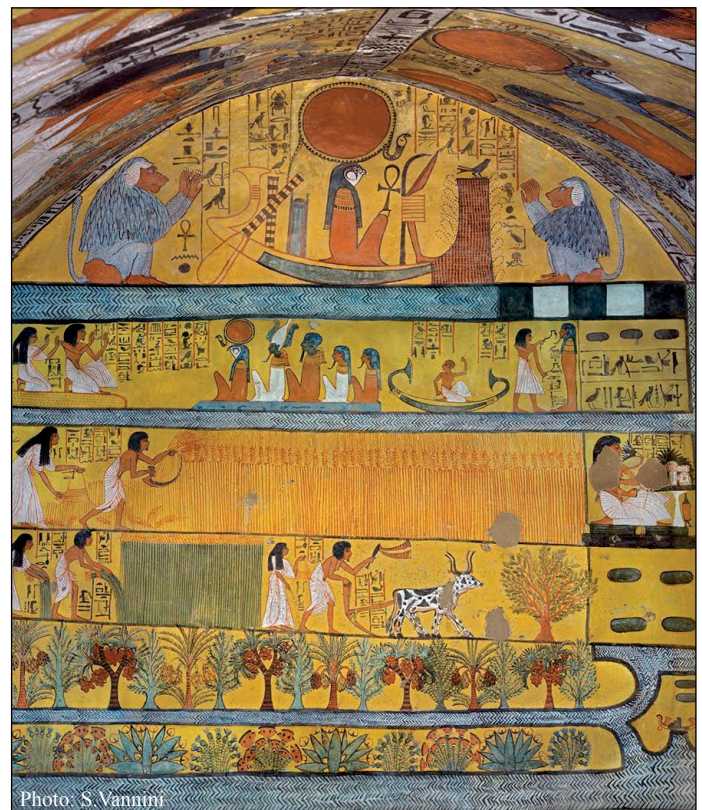
The Tomb of Sennedjem at Deir al-Medina

On January 31st, 1886, a tomb was discovered in Deir al-Medina on the Western Bank of Luxor. Twenty mummies, some in coffins and others wrapped in linen were found, along with funerary equipment. The tomb is particularly special in that it was recovered intact and was a collective burial for what was most likely three generations of a single family. The tomb's owner, Sennedjem, shared it with his family, including his wife, children and grandchildren, although a clear kinship between Sennedjem and some of the other mummies cannot be established. Since its discovery, the tomb has been designated as Theban Tomb 1 (TT1).

Sennedjem was titled «Servant in the Place of Truth», common for artisans and workers who carved and painted tombs the Valley of the Kings.


The tomb's contents were rich and diverse. Tools, probably those used by Sennedjem, were amongst the finds, including a wooden cubit measure, a right angle, and a plumb level. Funerary equipment includes the usual items: coffins, masks, sarcophagi, canopic boxes, ushabtis, and ushabti boxes. Additional items found were chairs, beds, walking sticks and toiletry boxes. These items, whether funerary or for daily life, were inscribed with Sennedjem's name, or the names of his sons or his wife. The finds were divided amongst several museums, include the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, the Berlin Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Sennedjem's richly coloured tomb reliefs have become somewhat iconic, and appear commonly in publications and in popular culture. They include a scene of Sennedjem and his wife tending to the eternal fields of rushes in the afterlife which appeared in the 2003 movie, *Mona Lisa Smile*.



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