



Arab Republic of Egypt

The Ministry of State for Antiquities

"Destruction and Restoration" is the title of the exhibition that will be held by the Ministry of Antiquities to exhibit 29 archaeological pieces; 11 of them restored from the stolen pieces of the Cairo Museum that was robbed after the state of security instability in 28 January 2011 besides 18 pieces that were reconstructed by the team work and were found destructed inside the museum.

The Minister of Antiquities, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim stated that the returned pieces are among the most important treasures of the museum for they include the famous statue of King Akhenaten holding an offering table, the statue of king Tutankhamun astride a panther and another one for him hunting with his harpoon on a papyrus skiff.

The exhibition comes within the framework of the Ministry's celebration of the return of these valuable pieces to the exhibit rooms again after finishing the restoration performed by the Egyptian Museum specialized restoration department.

There are still 28 lost pieces until now – as Mr. Ahmed Sharaf, Chief of Museums' Sector clarified. He also adds that the Ministry managed to restore 29 pieces until now pointing out that the stolen pieces are registered and can not be smuggled or owned, they are also on the ICOM and Interpol

lists. Among the stolen pieces are a lapis lazuli sash for Princess Merit Amun, daughter of King Akhenaten which dates back to the 18th Dynasty, a bronze statue of Ibis that dates to Late Period in addition to a group of shabtis that belong to Amarna Period and others from the tomb of Yoya and Toya, parents of Queen Tiye mother of King Akhenaten.

During the events of January 28th, some groups managed to break in the Egyptian Museum. The thieves managed to enter the gift shop existing behind the Museum, the museum building was entered, by way of the roof and an emergency ladder that had been placed against the wall using ropes to get to the upper floor. The thieves destroyed some showcases stealing the artifacts displayed inside and destructing others, they also made some damages to a mummy that was inside the store room.

Immediately after this event, the army was drafted in to take care of security in and around the Museum also a large number of people volunteered and formed a human chain round the Museum to protect it.

The Museum in the Revolution

On January 28, 2011, when the Museum was not well guarded, because of a general breakdown in security, intruders broke into the gift shop and stole everything there. Later on the same day, the museum building was entered, by way of the roof and an emergency ladder that had been placed against the wall. At that time a large number of people formed a human chain round the Museum to protect this precious place.

Immediately after this event, the army was drafted in to take care of security in and around the Museum and it was discovered that the thieves had stolen, damaged or discarded some priceless objects. Later, a number of senior staff members were able to enter the building and, with the help of the army, they were quickly able to start the work of checking and documenting the broken vitrines. The thieves also broke into the storeroom where mummies were kept that had been studied at Qasr al-Ainy Hospital. Among these was the mummy of a child, which was severely damaged, and a separate skull that the thieves discarded.

About 54 objects were discovered to be missing from the Museum; however, 25 of the stolen objects were retrieved by the police and the army between March 7, 2011 and February 20, 2012. Some of these were broken or damaged and were taken to the Restoration Department to be repaired and restored, together with the objects that had been found broken and discarded in the Museum and its garden. These were also handed to the highly skilled restorers who performed meticulous work on them to bring them back to a condition that is as perfect as possible.

Copy of Labels Damaged & restored

- Statue of King Tutankhamun standing on a leopard. It was one of seven royal statues, which were in black naoi in his tomb. They were for funeral purposes and they show the king overcoming difficulties in the afterworld.

This statue was found broken after the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011; the leopard was on the floor in a different room and the king was inside the case. This statue was completely smashed, especially the leopard. The process of restoration to bring it back to its previous condition lasted about six months.

Gilded wood & bronze – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (ca. 1336–1327 B.C.) – Valley of the Kings, Thebes – JE 60715

- Fan of King Tutankhamun; one of many fans that were found in the tomb of the king, it consists of a staff in the form of a papyrus stem; the upper part, which is like the lotus flower, is ivory, decorated with the royal names within cartouches.

The upper part of this fan was broken off and stolen after the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011, and the handle, which was broken into 84 slivers, was found under a case in Corridor 43. The fan was returned to the Museum on April 12, 2011, broken into 12 pieces. The parts have been restored and reassembled.

Ebony, gold and ivory – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (ca. 1336–1327 B.C.) – Valley of the Kings, Thebes – JE 62003

- King Tutankhamun on a papyrus boat. It was one of 32 statues, seven of them royal, which were found in the king's tomb. Here the king is on a boat preparing to plunge a harpoon into an enemy; in his left hand is a rope with which he will tie the creature. The enemy is probably a hippopotamus, which represented the god Seth who fought with Horus and was defeated by him. The statue indicates the victory of the king over the evil forces.

After the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011, the boat was found broken on the floor inside the Museum. The statuette of the king was stolen; it was found in an underground station and returned on April 12, 2011 in fragments. Natural oxides and fixatives were used by restorers and the repair process took three months.

Gilded wood, bronze – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (ca. 1336–1327 B.C.) – Valley of the Kings, Thebes – JE 60710

- A statue of the goddess Menkaret who originally bore a figure of King Tutankhamun above her head to facilitate his passage into the afterlife. Unfortunately, the statuette of the king was stolen during the break-in on January 28, 2011 and has not been retrieved. The Menkaret figure only was found broken into two fragments in a trash can on the western side of the Museum garden during the search for the lost artifacts after the terrible attack on the Museum.

Gilded wood – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (ca. 1336–1327 B.C.) – Valley of the Kings, Thebes – JE 60716

- The model of 40 Nubian archers was found with a group of Egyptian pike men in the tomb of Mesehti, the governor of Assiut. It is well known that during periods of disorder, the chiefs of independent nomes gave military training to young men and equipped them with weapons to defend their provinces, especially those located on the borders of Egypt. These groups were also used to defend the nation's capital.

The case of these objects was damaged during the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011 and some objects were taken off their base and scattered. The model has been restored and brought back to its former condition.

Painted wood – Middle Kingdom, 11th Dynasty (ca. 2124–1981 B.C.) – Assiut – CG 257

- Nile pleasure boat of Mesehti; it was used for picnics on the Nile, as the ancient Egyptians enjoyed going out in boats with their families and servants. Boats were the most important means of transport in the Nile Valley. Although the number of boats remaining is not large, much is

known about the forms and purposes of the boats used in ancient Egypt. There were religious, funerary, military, fishing and pleasure boats. During the break-in on January 28, 2011, the thieves broke the case and damaged the boat very badly. However, it has now been restored to its previous condition.

Painted wood – Middle Kingdom, 11th Dynasty (ca. 2124–1981 B.C.) – Assiut JE 30970

- A pair of sandals of Mesehti, governor of Assiut. The ancient Egyptians had worn sandals since the pre-Dynastic period; they were made of various materials such as wood, papyrus, leather and palm fronds. During the break-in on January 28, 2011, the thieves broke open the case and damaged the straps of one of them. However, it has now been restored to its previous condition.

Wood – Middle Kingdom, 11th Dynasty (ca. 2124–1981 B.C.) – Assiut – JE 30967

- This mummy of a child called Amenhotep, was severely damaged after the break-in at the Egyptian Museum on January 28, 2011, when thieves broke down the door of the mummy magazine. The thieves separated the head from the body and the mummy was left in a very bad condition.

When it was discovered, it was moved from the storeroom to the restoration laboratory. The beginning stages were documentation and registration of its condition, followed by treatment and restoration, the head and body were then reassembled using natural materials like those used in the mummification process.

New Kingdom – Provenance not known.

- Small, polychrome, glass vase with one handle. It was broken into slivers during the break-in on January 28, 2011 and was later restored.

Glass – New Kingdom – El-Amarna 1921 – JE 46955

- Striding statue of Tuthmosis III, considered the greatest conqueror in ancient Egyptian history. He began a foreign policy of conquest and led 17 successful campaigns that extended the Egyptian borders from Gebel Barkal in the south to the Euphrates River in the north.

At the time of the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011 this statue was severely damaged, broken into tiny pieces, and scattered in the garden of the Museum. After most of its pieces were collected from the garden, it was restored and the missing parts were replaced with new material.

Ivory, gold, ebony – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Tuthmosis III (ca. 1479–1425 B.C.) – Purchased in 1949 – JE 88888

- The model coffin, and the shawabti in it, belonged to the royal scribe Amenhotep called Huy.

After the break-in, on January 28, 2011 it was found broken in the Museum's garden.

Faience – New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty – Abydos – JE 88902

- Statuette of Bastet, the cat goddess. She might appear as a cat or a cat-headed woman, and her job was to protect the pharaoh. Bubastis in the Delta was the centre of her worship. The base of the statue is inscribed with the name of Padiamun.

After the break-in at the Egyptian Museum on January, 28, 2011 it was stolen; it was retrieved, broken, on January 9, 2012 and has now been restored.

Bronze – Late period – Serapeum, Saqqara 1904 – JE 36598

- Statuette of King Akhenaten, who ruled Egypt for about 17 years; he is bearing an offering table. The statuette was found in a house at Tell el-Amarna suggesting that its function was to magically be a substitute for the pharaoh, who was essential for religious rites connected with Aten. He changed the state cult of Amun Re to that of Aten, and moved the capital from Thebes to a new one in Middle Egypt that is now called Tell el-Amarna

After the break-in at the Museum on January 28, 2011, the offering table was found broken in the Museum but the statue had been stolen; it was returned to the Museum on February 20, 2012.

Limestone – New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, reign of Akhenaten (ca. 1353–1349 B.C.) – Tell el-Amarna – JE 43580

- Statuette of the Apis bull on his head the sun disk between its horns and uraeus. It was worshipped as a live bull, which embodied strength and fertility. It was also the herald of the creator-god Ptah. The tombs of many mummified Apis bulls have been found at Serapeum, Saqqara, the center of its worship.

It was found broken in the museum after the break-in on January 28, 2011 and it was moved to the restoration department to be restored.

Bronze – Late period – Provenance not known – TR 3/2/19/23
