



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

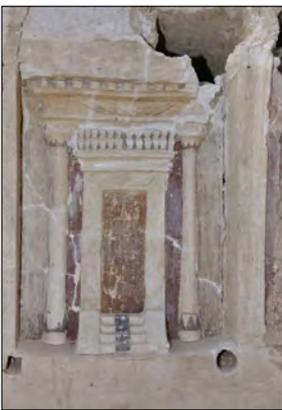
Issue 20 * January 2018



Painting of Princess Fatma

Archaeological Discoveries

- The Egyptian mission excavating at Tell al-Fara'in 'Buto', in Kafr al-Sheikh detected the remains of mud brick walls, as well as, four kilns (furnaces) that date from the Late Period. In addition, the mission discovered the bases of two limestone pillars; a limestone statue of King Psamtik I; a royal statue broken into pieces of black granite; the upper part of a quartzite statue of the god Horus; remains of engraved inscriptions representing the city of Buto; a royal hand of grey granite with remains of the cartouche of King Psamtik I; a part of a menat necklace (symbol of goddess Hathor) made from flint stone; and a collection of stone plates and pottery vessels of various shapes and sizes.*



- The Egyptian mission excavating at al-Abd theater area, Alexandria discovered a number of archaeological finds that date from the Greco – Roman Period. It is a collection of offering vessels and statues decorated with raised reliefs of goddesses. The most important object discovered is a tomb stone that was used to cover a burial at the site.*

- The joint Egyptian – American mission affiliated the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, excavating at the Tell Edfu site, Aswan, discovered an administrative complex dating back to the end of the fifth Dynasty.

- The Egyptian mission working on the project to reduce the groundwater level at the temple of Kom Ombo, revealed four artifacts at the western part of the temple. They include a limestone funerary stela; a sandstone statue of a person in a squatting position, and two sandstone statues of the god Horus.*



- The Egyptian mission working at al-Alamein region, revealed a rock-cut tomb dating from the first and second centuries AD. It consists of staircase leading down to a square chamber that represents the main tomb and another burial chamber that was later attached to the tomb. A number of coins were also found, which helped in determining the date of the tomb. In addition to numerous pottery vessels, two lamps and a limestone altar were found.*



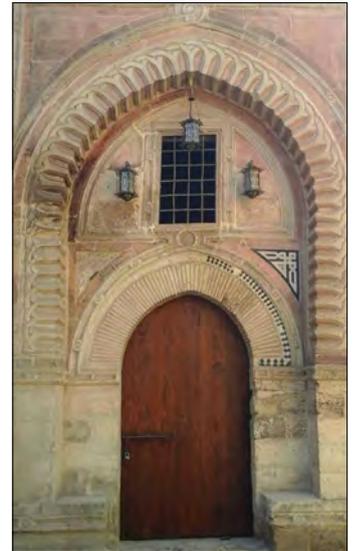
- The Egyptian mission working at San al-Hajar in Sharkia while carrying out site mangment project at the site, found a pink granite offering stela belonging to King Ramses II.

Sponsors

'Helm' Association sponsored a new initiative called 'Entaleq', as part of the Ministry of Antiquities' plan to make museums and archaeological sites accessible for visitors with special needs. The initiative represents the third stage of the project, and it includes preparing the Karnak and Luxor temples to be accessible for visitors with special needs. The cost of the project is 840,000 EGP, and includes preparing smooth passageways and ramps to facilitate the movement of wheel chairs, in addition to the installation of different labels and signs, as well as, translating all the visuals and films shown at visitors' centers into sign language. The project also includes the re-installation and preparation of restrooms to be accessible for visitors with special needs.

Inaugurations

- H.E. the Minister of Antiquities inaugurated Bab al-Wazir Restoration Project. It includes three buildings: Bimaristan of Mo'ayyed, Tekkeya of Taky al-Din al Bustami and Darb al-Labbanah gate. The restoration work uncovered a number of archaeological discoveries inside the three buildings (20 January).
- H.E. the Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the seat of Prince Mamay al-Sifi (known as Beit al-Kady) in Gamaleya district. The seat is part of the palace remains, which was established by Mamay al-Sifi in 901 AH / 1496 AD. He is one of the great princes of the Mamluk Sultan Qaitbay. The seat is considered to be the most complete example of its kind built during that period. The place was a courthouse until the end of the 19th Century. It should be noted that, in Islamic architecture, a seat is the reception place area in houses for receiving men. The seat has been restored before in 2006 (January 28).



Repatriated Antiquities

- The Ministry of Antiquities retrieved three parts of various mummies, including a head, a right hand, and a left hand, which were seized during an attempt to sell them at an auction house in Manhattan, New York State, United States of America.
- The Central Administration of Archaeological Units at Egyptian retrieved 40 coins, dating from the Ottoman and Alawi periods, at Cairo International Airport, when one of the passengers attempted to smuggle them abroad.



Field work

Numerous archaeological missions began their work in January 2018 as follows: the Egyptian archaeological mission in the Valley of Monkeys, on the west bank of Luxor; The American Research Center mission at Kom al-Ahmar in Aswan; the Brooklyn Museum and John Hopkins University joint mission at the Mut Temple, Karnak, Luxor; the Argentinian mission from the University of Buenos Aires at the cemetery of Neferhotep in Asasif, Luxor; The Australian mission of Macquarie University at Beni Hassan in Menya; the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology mission at the ancient site of Philadelphia in Fayoum; the Polish mission of the University of Warsaw at Wadi al-Gemal and Wadi Skit, the Red Sea Governorate; finally and Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology mission at Bernike in Red Sea Governorate.

Research Projects

The Egyptian -Spanish joint mission finished the archaeological survey for graffiti at the Valley of the Royal Cache, south of Deir El Bahari, on the west bank of Luxor. The mission discovered two sections of graffiti on a mountain surface at the valley.

International Participation

A number of MoA employees travelled abroad to participate in different conferences, seminars, training courses, and touring exhibitions: France (Elham Salah, Head of the Museums Sector); Japan (Osama Saber Ismail, and Ismail Ragab Abd-Allah, conservators at Saqqara site); Italy (Hasnaa Abd Rabo, conservator at GEM), USA (Ashraf Ibrahim Ragab, Director of the Monitoring Department for Lower Egypt's Museums).

Temporary Exhibitions

Internal Exhibition

- The Administration of Cultural Development and Community Engagement held a photographic exhibition, at the Cairo Opera House. The exhibition displays images of a number of archaeological palaces. These photographs were taken by the photographers participating in the 'Artists of Palaces' competition.
- The Luxor Museum is hosting two exhibitions for selected objects that were discovered, in 2017, by the Egyptian-Swiss joint mission, which is working at Dera Abu al-Naga, Luxor (25 January- 25 April).



Training

- Sixteen archaeologists and conservators have started training, by the Upper Egypt Field School, at the Rasras archaeological site, in Aswan (6 January- 20 February).
- Sixteen archaeologists and conservators were trained by the Cairo and Giza Field School at the Saqqara site (14 January- 22 February).
- A training course in crisis management was held at Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall, MoA, Zamalek (22-24 January).
- Eight archaeologists and conservators have started a photography workshop at the German Institute of Archaeology in Cairo (28 January- 1 February).
- Eighteen archaeologists and conservators have started training in the documentation of rock inscriptions at the South Sinai Training Center (29 January-3 February).

Lectures

- Dr. Laurent Bavay, Director of the Institut Français d'archéologie Orientale in Cairo, gave a lecture titled 'Pottery Ostraca as a Source to Study the History of the New Kingdom' in Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall, MoA, Zamalek (4 January).
- The MoA organized a lecture titled "The excavation of the Aton Temple at Tell al-Amarna" the lecture held by Dr. Barry Kemp, Professor of Egyptology at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (11 January).

Protocols and Agreements

In collaboration with the UNESCO Bureau in Cairo, the MoA launched a project to develop and improve the services at archaeological sites. The project includes developing a number of archaeological sites in general, and specifically the archaeological sites registered as UNESCO International Heritage sites. The project is going to work on developing information banners, signs, manuals, cultural and archaeological activities to increase archaeological awareness.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Museums Sector at the Ministry of Antiquities launched its new plan for educational and cultural programs. The motto of this new program is "Our Difference for Enrichment not for Hostility." The program aims to focus on cultural and linguistic differences. It will target different educational levels, in addition to the public, NGO communities, and libraries, during the winter break. Accordingly, the museum of Prince Mohammed Ali palace in Manial organized a number of training programs and workshops (1 January- 10 February).
- The Department of Cultural Development launched a new awareness program, titled "The Bimaristan in the Past and Present." The program includes a number of activities and workshops in the area of Bab al-Wazeer, which will last three days. The program was launched on the occasion of HE Minister of Antiquities' inauguration of the Bab al-Wazeer neighborhood for the public, after its renovations. (21-23 January).
- The Department of Archaeological Awareness at the Egyptian Antiquities Sector, MOA, participated in the 49th Cairo International Book Fair at the Fair Zone, Nasr City. The department organized a workshop titled "Heritage and Skills" to spread cultural awareness among children, in addition to organizing a number of scientific lectures by professors of archaeology (27 January- 10 February).

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The 7th and 8th Board of Directors meetings of the Grand Egyptian Museum were held. One of the most important decisions taken was approving the permission to receive visits to the GEM construction site and the conservation center with a 200 dollar entrance permit. Exempted from this fee are ambassadors, ministers, and news agencies. In addition, the Board of Directors approved the memorandum submitted by the Egyptian- Japanese University to the conservation center of the Grand Egyptian Museum. The board also accepted two donations, worth 1000 USD each, to be donated to the GEM project.
- The Minister of Antiquities issued decree No. 9 for the year 2018 to assign a group of employees from the Ministry of Antiquities to work at the following departments at the GEM: Public Relations, Scientific Publishing, and Marketing (21 January).
- The Grand Egyptian Museum witnessed the transfer of the statue of King Ramses II from its current location at the museum premises to its permanent location at the grand staircase. The transfer took place in the presence of a group of ministers, ambassadors and directors of foreign institutes in Egypt, as well as, local and international press and news agencies (25 January).*
- The Supreme Egyptian-Japanese Committee meeting was held at the MoA, Zamalek, to review the latest developments of the GEM project (29 January).
- The Ministry of Investment and International Co-operation published a booklet concerning the investments opportunities at the GEM in Arabic, English, and French.



NMEC

- The flooring preparation of the laboratories was completed, as well as, the electricity outlets of the central laboratory, lighting systems and landscaping around the museum were installed, the work on the irrigation systems is still in progress, as well as the isolation of ponds at the project entrance, installation all equipment necessary for fountains, installation of night-vision cameras, and the furniture of the administrative department at the museum.
- The NMEC storerooms received the group of (Hem- Ka) from the Egyptian Museum Cairo and continue to receive the Zaki Saad collection from (Ezzbet al-Walada, Helwan).

Historic Cairo Project

The Ministry of Antiquities began the development project of Sultan Qaitbay complex at the Mamluk cemetery, with funding from the European Union. The complex includes a collection of archaeological buildings that are considered to be live examples of Mamluk architecture in Egypt during the fifteenth century.

Conservation Projects

- The Ministry of Antiquities completed the restoration of the painting of Princess Fatma, located next to the wall of the Muhammed Ali Palace in Shubra, which was stolen in January 2011.
- The Ministry of Antiquities took the necessary precautions to prevent the damage of the house to leader Ahmed Orabi in Sharqia Governorate, after the collapse of the middle part of one of the neighboring houses (15 January).



Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities held several meetings with the Ambassador of Austria to Cairo, the Ambassador of Brazil, the Head of the Tourism and Aviation Committee of the Parliament, the Director of the American Research Center in Egypt, and the Director of the Egyptology Department at the Metropolitan Museum.
- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on visits to various archaeological sites in Minya and the Giza Plateau. The Minister also visited the South Sinai Governorate, to head a meeting to discuss the prospects of holding an exhibition at Sharm El-Sheikh in cooperation with the Private Sector.
- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on a visit to the GEM, Baron Imban Palace in Heliopolis, NMEC, and the MoA employees' club in Fustat, to observe the latest developments of these projects.

Varia

- Part of a black granite statue of King Amenhotep III from the 18th Dynasty was discovered at Akhmim in Sohag. It is a rectangular base with a rounded front. The throne and birth names of the king are inscribed at the position of the right foot (8 January).
- The Ministry of Antiquities celebrated the 12th Annual Archaeologist Day at the Grand Theater of the Cairo Opera House. The event was attended by the Minister of Antiquities, a number of other ministers and parliament members, ambassadors of foreign and Arab countries, public figures, former ministers of antiquities, directors of foreign institutes and international organizations, and MOA officials. The program included honoring a number of archaeologists.
- The Minister of Antiquities presented the members of the Association of Egyptian Museum Lovers an honorary award (16 January).



- The Ministry of Antiquities launched an archaeological project to document rock inscriptions at several archaeological sites, including, the valleys of Sinai, the Eastern Desert, the Western Desert, al-Gilf Al-Kebir, and Aswan. The goal is to preserve these inscriptions for their archaeological and historical importance, especially since most of these sites are located in areas that are extremely difficult to reach. A data base of rock inscriptions will be created to include high resolution images and coordinates of each inscription. In addition, new technologies will be used to show the faint or erased traces of the inscriptions and scenes (21 January).

Appointments

- Mohamed Ismail Shiha was appointed Deputy of the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Sahar Mabrouk was appointed Manager of the Office of Secretary-General of Supreme Council of Antiquities, in addition to her work.
- Mohamed Abdel Rafee was appointed Deputy of the Director of Egyptian Antiquities Sector at the Ministry of Antiquities.
- Hany Ahmed Abu al-Azm was appointed Director of the Central Administration of Middle Egypt Antiquities.
- Mohamed Muhamed Abdel Badee was appointed Director of the Central Administration of Upper Egypt Antiquities.
- Mostafa Abdel Halem was appointed Assistant to the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities for Islamic and Coptic Antiquities.
- Mohamed Abdel Rahman al- Sayed was appointed Supervisor of the Central Administration of Modern Heritage.
- Azaa Sayed Roshdy was appointed Director of the Central Administration of Cairo and Giza Antiquities.
- Ayman Said Sayed Abd al-Mohsen was appointed to work in the Minister's Technical Office.

Decrees

- The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities approved the registration of 10 icons from Anba Maqqar Church, Atris, Imbaba, Giza, in addition to the registration of 12 icons from the Hanging Church, the Church of Abu-Seifein, Saint Barbara Church, Abu-Serga Church, Saint Theodore Church at Old Cairo district, and Saint Minas Monastery in Fom al-Kaleeg.
- The Permanent Committee of Egyptian Antiquities decided to form an archaeological committee to reorganize the antiquities at Kom al-Shoqafa and to prepare a display scenario for the objects. This is a part of a grand project to develop the area.
- The pyramids archaeological site is welcoming Egyptian and foreign visitors from 7 AM until 5 PM, to replace the previous working hours that used to start at 8 AM. The new working hours were implemented based on a decision taken by the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Board also approved extending the working hours at the temples of Kom Ombo and Edfu for an extra hour that starts after the last working hour of the previous official schedule.
- Consent to launch a restoration and renovation project for the Amry Mosque at Ho village, Nag' Hamadi, Qena Governorate, and to launch restoration and conservation works at Ballat village, Dakhla, New Valley Governorate.
- Approval to transfer the building overlooking the museum garden at Salah al-Din Citadel, to be included under the administration of the Ministry of Culture, as it previously belonged to the Ministry of Antiquities, to be renovated by the Ministry of Culture.
- Approval to register al-Mahmal Platform-lodge (al-Khediye Kiosk) in Salah al-Din Street, located underneath the western wall of Salah al-Din Citadel. In addition to the registration of the Citadel of al-Yosra, al-Wardian, in Alexandria, to include both monuments in the registers of Coptic and Islamic antiquities.
- Approval to implement a protocol signed by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Library of Alexandria to transfer the books of the Greco Roman Museum, which are currently kept at the Maritime Museum to the Library of Alexandria.
- Approval to extend the Traditional and Handcrafts Exhibition currently held at the gift shop of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, for another three months.

Site	Foreigner Student	Foreigner	Egyptian Student	Egyptian
Cemeteries Of Muhammad Ali's Family	20	40	3	5
Al- Fustat City	10	20	3	5
Virgin Mary Tree	20	40	3	5
Wekalet al Ghouri	15	30	3	5
Bayt Abd al Rahman al Harrawy	15	30	3	5
Bayt Zeinab Khaton	15	30	3	5
Bayt al Seheimy	25	50	3	5
Wekalet Bazaraa	20	40	3	5
Bayt Gamal al-Din al-Dhabi	15	30	3	5
Bab Zuweila	15	30	3	5
Sabil-Kuttab of Nafisa al-Bayda	10	20	3	5
Sabil-Kuttab of Sultan Qaitbay	20	40	3	5
Bayt al-set Wasila	15	30	3	5
Muhammad Bek Abu Dahab Complex	20	40	3	5
Wekalet al Ghouri Complex	20	40	3	5
Citadel of Qaitbay – daytime	20	40	5	10
Monuments of Rasheed city	20	40	3	5
Citadel of Qaitbay in Rasheed	15	30	3	5
Citadel of al Quseir	15	30	3	5
Sabil-Kuttab of Mohamed Ali Pasha	5	10	3	5
Garden and Sabil of Ali Bek al-Kabir (Tanta)	-	-	3	5
El Muizz Street Monuments	50	100	3	5
Bayt Ali Labib	15	30	3	5
Mawlawia complex in Tacia al-Derwich	15	30	3	5
Mosques and Schools of Sultan Hassan and Refa'i	30	60	--	--
Salah al-Din Castle in Taba	80	160	--	--
Salah al-Din Castle in Taba <by day>	50	100	2.5	5
Tfitef of Salah al-Din Citadel	5	10	3	5
Citadel of Qaitbay <by day>	20	40	5	10
The Monastrey of St. Simon	20	40	5	10



The holder of the Alexandria National Museum Annual pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Muhammed Ali Palace Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Suez National Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Mallawi Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$

Current Ticket Prices for Museums Open for Visitors

Museum	Foreigner Student	Foreigner	Egyptian Student	Egyptian
Egyptian Museum	60	120	5	10
Egyptian Museum Nightly	90	180	15	30
Ticket cover (Mummies Hall in Egyptian Museum + Egyptian Museum)	120	240	--	--
Mummies Hall in Egyptian Museum	75	150	15	30
Audio Guide in Egyptian Museum	20			
Islamic Art Museum	50	100	5	10
Islamic Art Museum at Night	60	120	10	15
Coptic Museum (old Cairo Area)	50	100	5	10
Audio Guide in Coptic Museum	10			
Textile Museum	10	20	5	10
National Museum of Civilization	30	60	5	10
National Alexandria Museum	40	80	5	10
Royal Jewellery Museum (Alexandria)	40	80	5	10
Khufu's Boat Museum	40	80	5	10
Manial Palace's Museum	50	100	10	20
New Valley Museum	30	60	3	5
Jair Anderson Museum	30	60	5	10
Rashid National Museum	20	40	3	5
Rommel's Cave Museum	20	40	5	10
Mallawi Museum	20	40	3	5
Tanta Museum	5	15	3	5
Ismailia Museum	20	40	3	5
BaniSweif Museum	10	20	3	5
KomOshim Museum	20	40	3	5
Abdeen Palace Museum	50	100	10	20
Royal Boats Museum	50	100	10	20
Arish Museum	15	30	5	10
National Suez Museum	40	80	5	10
Museum of Suez at night	60	120	7.5	15
Airport Museum	25	3Dollars	-	-
Sohag Museum	30	60	5	10
Luxor Museum & Crypt	60	120	15	30
Mummification Museum (luxor)	40	80	5	10
Aswan Museum (closed)	35	70	5	10
Nubian Museum	50	100	5	10



The holder of the Cairo Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Museum of Islamic Arts Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Coptic Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$



The holder of the Royal Jewelry Museum Annual Pass is allowed to visit the museum with one companion each visit for a year.
For Egyptians/ Egyptian Students: 200/50 EGP
For Foreigners/ Foreigner Students:100/50 \$

Monument of the Month

Saint Catherine Monastery

Ahmed Al-Nemr
Scientific Office of the Minister

Saint Catherine Monastery is one of the most important and well-known monasteries around the world, due to its unique location at the meeting point of religions. It is registered as one of UNESCO's world heritage sites in Egypt, since 2003.

The Monastery was built during the reign of Emperor Justinian (527-565 AD) as a residence for monks, who were living at the sacred Mount Sinai site since the 4th century AD, at the location where the Prophet Moses spoke to God and received the commandments. The monastery includes different buildings and installations, including the main church (Transfiguration Church), a collection of subsidiary churches and chapels, cells for the monks, a dining room, an olive mill, an exhibition hall to display monks' skulls, a library that includes 6000 manuscripts, and a Fatimid Mosque.



The Transfiguration Church was built of granite, and it contains inside the Holy «Al Ollyka» Church, and a group of subsidiary chapels and churches. It is built in the Basilica style, with a central nave and two transepts. The upper part of the eastern dome is covered in a mosaic showing the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. The mosaic covers a 46 square meter area, and it is the best example of the technical skills and creativity in art decoration. It was also decorated with small pieces covered in materials like gold and silver leaf.

The mosaic shows a standing Jesus Christ in the middle of the scene with a cruciform halo flanked by standing figures of prophet Elijah on the right and prophet Moses on the left. The lower part of the scene shows the three disciples John, Jacob, and Peter, kneeling.

The mosaic is surrounded by 31 medallions displaying the images of other prophets and messengers. This scene is surmounted by a drawing of two angels, which is surmounted by a scene of prophet Moses taking off his shoes in front of the flaming Fodder tree «Al-Ollyka». There are also two medallions with drawings of John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary.

Traces of damages appeared on the mosaic, which resulted in the launch of the restoration project to restore, maintain and consolidate it. The project was completed in February 2017, and the church was reopened in December 2017.

The library contains the second largest collection of ancient manuscripts in the world, with only the manuscript collection of the Vatican Library in first place being larger. The library contains around 6000 manuscripts in several languages: Greek, Coptic, Arabic, Syriac, and Georgian language. It also contains thousands of books and scrolls dating back to the 4th century AD.



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