



# Newsletter

## of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 21 \* February 2018

### Inaugurations

The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated Matariya open-air museum, where the famous Matariya obelisk of king Senusret I stands. The museum was inaugurated after the completion of a site management project to prepare the site for visit. The museum tells the history of one of the most important ancient Egyptian cities, the city of «Heliopolis». It houses the obelisk of King Senusret I, in addition to other artifacts that were uncovered during excavations carried out in the area. The inauguration took place in the presence of the Governor of Cairo, heads of several parliament committees, foreign ambassadors, cultural consultants, and directors of foreign archaeological institutes (17 February).



### Archaeological Discoveries



- The Egyptian archaeological mission, under the supervision of the MoA, discovered the tomb of a lady called «Hetepet». She was one of the high officials of the royal court during the 5th Dynasty of the Old Kingdom. The tomb was found in the western cemetery of King Khufu's Pyramid (check the monument of the month below).\*

- The Egyptian archaeological mission, under the supervision of the MoA, discovered three rock-cut burial shafts at Abu Sir site. The mission uncovered, inside the shafts, funerary equipments, and coffins containing mummies of birds.\*



- The Egyptian field school at the site of Kom Rasras in Aswan Governorate, in cooperation with Aswan antiquities inspectorate, discovered the remains of a Roman sandstone temple. The excavators of the field school uncovered the temple's sanctuary, which consists of three chambers that lead to a rectangular hall, reachable through a short sloping entryway. This hall also leads to another hall, where several blocks were found.

These blocks were carved with reliefs representing stars, suggesting that they were part of the temple's ceiling.\*

- The MoA announced a discovery made by the Egyptian mission at the site of al-Ghariyfa, north of Tuna al-Gebel, in Menya. The mission discovered a Ptolemaic cemetery including 13 burials, a large number of coffins, funerary equipment, and Ushabtis, all dating from the beginning of the Ptolemaic Period.



- The Egyptian mission working on lowering the groundwater table at Kom Ombo Temple uncovered a colossal sandstone statue of King Ramses II, as well as the head of the statue, which showing the king wearing the white crown of Upper Egypt.\*

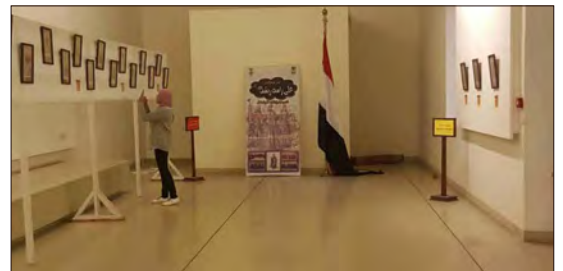
## Field work

Several archaeological missions began their work in February 2018 as follows: The MoA' mission at Shawaf site in the pyramid of Djed-ka-re in Saqqara; The IFAO mission at Philadelphia in Fayum; The DAI mission at Memnon statues and Temple of Amenhotep III in Luxor; The American mission of Brigham Young University at Fag al-Gamus in Fayum; The ARCE mission at the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Kom Ahmar, and Edfu quarries of al-Kab in Aswan; The American mission of the Metropolitan Museum at Malqata palace of Amenhotep III in Luxor; The Italian mission of Polytechnic University of Turin at tomb of Tutankhamun KV 62 in Luxor; The Hungarian mission of Eotvos University at tomb TT184 in Sheikh abd al-Qurna, Luxor; The Belgium mission of the Royal Museums of Art and History at El Kab in Aswan; The American mission of University of Chicago at the Giza Plateau.

## Temporary Exhibitions

### Internal Exhibition

Prince Mohammed Ali Palace Museum at Manial held a temporary exhibition «Thousand Nights and One Night» of a collection of paintings.. It displays a collection of 115 paintings that tell the stories of more than 30 tales from French version of book « Thousand Nights and One Night». That version is attributed to the French Physician and Orientalist Joseph Charles (14February - 14 June).



## International Participation

A number of MoA employees travelled abroad to participate in different conferences, seminars, training courses, and touring exhibition: Germany (Dr Hisham al-Leithy, General Director of Registration and Documentation Center and the Supervisor of the Central Administration for Museums' Magazines ); United Arab Emirates (Mohammed Abd al-Aziz, General Director of Historic Cairo Project and Dr Mohammed Saad al-Rashidi, Supervisor of the Conservation Unit of the Historic Cairo Project); United States of America (Rasha Mahmoud Hamam, Inspector at the Prehistoric Monuments Administration); Lebanon (Ali Ahmed Ali, Director of the Office of International Organizations for Cultural Heritage and International Cooperation); Jordan (Abd al-Hamid Salah, Conservator); Canada (Mohamed Kamel, Conservator, Mohamed Abd al-Mohsen, Director of the Conservation Unit of Maghagha site).

## Training

- Several archaeologists were trained on using Infrared Radiation in the field of archaeology. The training sessions took place at Ahmed Pasha Kamal lecture hall, at the MoA, in Zamalek (18- 20 February).
- A group of MoA staff participated in a photography workshop at the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo (DAI) (28 January - 8 February).
- Several archaeologists were trained on the principles of documentation and epigraphy of rock inscriptions at the training center of South Sinai Antiquities Inspectorate (28 January - 3 February).
- The new AERA field school started an eight weeks sessions (17 February - 8 April).

## Lectures

- Prof. Stephan Seidelmayer, Director of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, gave a lecture «Chronology in Antiquities» (7 February).
- Prof. Christian Köhler, Professor at the University of Vienna, gave a lecture, «Chronology of the ancient Egyptian Helwan Cemetery» (15 February).
- Dr Johanna Sigl, Scientific Assistant at the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, gave a lecture, «What animal remains tell us about human behavior, archaeozoology in Egypt» (22 February).

# Meetings and Visits

• The Minister of Antiquities accompanied by MoA officials, visited several projects and museums in several governorates: Suez Governorate with the Minister of Tourism, the Governor of Suez, and selected members of the Parliament (The Moses Springs archaeological site) to inaugurate the site management project at Moses Springs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism; Luxor Governorate (to examine the latest developments in the conservation and restoration of Ramses II statue at Luxor Temple, Avenue of Sphinxes, and the latest developments of Helm Project that aims at preparing Karnak Temple for Special Needs); Sohag (to visit the National Museum of Sohag).\*



• The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities visited several archaeological sites in multiple governorates, including: Matariya in Cairo, Giza Plateau, Luxor and Karnak temples, the Avenue of Sphinxes in Luxor, the National Museum of Sohag and a number of archaeological sites in Sohag, in addition to Tuna el Gebel in Menya.\*

• The Head of the Museums Sector visited the National Museum of Sohag, Matrouh Museum, Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, Tell Basta Museum in

Sharqiya, Kom Oshim Museum, Citadel Museum, Tanta Museum, and Mohammed Ali Palace Museum at Shubra to examine the latest development projects carried out in these museums.

• The Head of Ancient Egyptian Antiquities Sector visited several archaeological sites in multiple governorates, including: Giza Plateau, some archaeological sites and excavation works in Menya, several temples and tombs in Aswan, and the project of Moses Springs archaeological site in South Sinai, Matariya archaeological site in Cairo, Sawari Pillar and al-Abd Roman theatre in Alexandria, and the archaeological sites of Dakhla and Kharga Oases.

• The Head of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector, visited multiple archaeological sites in different governorates, including, al-Ghuri Complex, Matriya archaeological site, Refaa'i Mosque, Conservation Project of Sidi Ali Zein el Abdeen Mausoleum in the district of Sayeda Zeinab, Jewish monuments in Alexandria, the town of el Alamein, west of Alexandria.

• The Minister of Antiquities met the Minister of Tourism, the Governor of New Valley Governorate, the Director of The Royal Museum of Mariemont, Belgium, the Director of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, the Director of German mission in Abydos, and the Director of the Department of Ancient Egyptian Antiquities of Louvre Museum in Paris.

• Dr. Mohammed Ismail, Director of Foreign Missions Affaires and Permanent Committees, attended a reception at the ARCE headquarters to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ARCE. He also gave a speech on behalf of the Ministry (19 February).

• The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by the Governor of Giza for the celebration held by the Euro-Mediterranean Association at sound and light theatre at Giza Plateau. (20 February).

• The Minister of Antiquities attended Egypt's International Symposium for Sculpture, which is part of the celebrations taking place on the occasion of Hurghada National Day. The event was held in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Governor of the Red Sea, Governor of South Sinai, the Head of the Culture and Media Committee of the Parliament (23 February).

## Varia

• The MoA, in cooperation with the Italian mission of Polytechnic University of Turin, performed a radar scan of walls of Tutankhamun tomb KV 62 at Luxor. The radar device used by the university is considered the most up-to-date one currently used worldwide (1-8 February).

• The first meeting was held for the General Assembly of the Holding Company for Investments in Antiquities, Cultural and Archaeological Awareness (5 February).

• The Minister of Antiquities was honored by Business Today association as one of the most economically influential figures, in addition to other ministers and economic leaders.



# Projects

## Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)



- The Board of Directors of GEM held their 9th meeting, under the supervision of the Minister of Antiquities. The first half of the meeting was attended by the Director of the Central Administrative Office of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ambassador of Japan in Egypt (20 February).\*

- 114 stone objects were transported to GEM. The collection was originally stored in Saqqara magazines. GEM also received four tallest wooden parts of the second boat of Khufu.\*

- 76.5% of the project is now completed. The concrete and metal construction is now 100% completed. Currently, the internal and external finishing works are being carried out (62% of the internal finishing is completed and 60% of the flooring and external landscape is completed). The electromechanical systems are 55% completed, while construction and preparation of roads surrounding the project is 85% completed. The IT systems and modern security systems (ICT) are 20% completed.

- The General Supervisor of the GEM Project traveled to Frankfurt, Germany to examine the preliminary samples of showcases, lighting, and museum display design. The samples were approved and an agreement has been made to start the production process.

- A legal and an engineering office were selected to support the GEM staff.



## The Egyptian Museum in Cairo (EMC)

- The Minister of Antiquities met a group of directors and curators of five major European museums to discuss the possible development of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, to coincide with the upcoming opening of the first stage of the GEM. The meeting included MoA's leading staff, Ambassador of the European Union to Egypt, Director of the Department of Ancient Egyptian Antiquities of the Louvre Museum in France, Director of the New Museum of Berlin in Germany, Director of the Egyptian Museum of Turin in Italy, Director of the Department of Egypt and Sudan Antiquities of the British Museum in the United Kingdom, Director of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden Netherlands, Director of the Italian Archaeological Institute, and a member of the Italian Ministry of Culture (5 February).



- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo started to exhibit selected artifacts every week at the museum's entrance hall.

## Conservation Projects

- The Middle Egypt conservation team of the MoA started the conservation of two limestone sphinxes at the conservation labs of the Bahnsa museum magazines. The two sphinxes used to decorate the entrance of Menya Governorate Administrative Building since 1930.\*



- The MoA continued the restoration project of the ancient Monastery of Saint Paul (25 km south of Zafarana lighthouse at the Red Sea). The first stage of the project includes continuing the conservation works of the ancient reception quarters and its annexed service buildings.\*



- The MoA started a project, in cooperation with the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces, to conserve the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria. It remained closed for over 13 years.

# Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The MoA organized a guided tour for 100 disabled children at pyramids and Sphinx in Giza (3 February).
- The Museum of Islamic Arts organized a photos exhibition titled «Adasa» at the Indian Cultural Center. The exhibition took place in cooperation with the Indian Embassy in Cairo and was attended by the Ambassador of India in Cairo (14-15 February).
- Dr Zahi Hawass accompanied 500 schoolchildren on a guided tour at the Giza pyramids. The students included those who won a competition for creative scientific inventors. This tour was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the General Association for National Institutes (5 February).
- The Archaeological Awareness and Community Outreach Administration at the MoA launched a new awareness campaign for the citizens living in Gammaleya District. The campaign is titled «al-Gammaleya: Heritage and Legacy». The new awareness campaign was launched in cooperation with the Archaeological Awareness Administration at al- Gammaleya District (7 February).
- As part of the MoA participation in the 49th Cairo International Book Fair, the Archaeological Awareness Administration organized a number of art workshops for children. The initiative is titled «Leave your Children to us and Have Fun». The initiative allows parents to leave their children at the trusted and educational workshops, while they enjoy their tour at the book fair (7 February).
- The Museum of Islamic Arts started exhibiting replicas of its selected artifacts, in addition to exhibiting photographs of its collection at the underground Opera station. The marketing campaign is organized in cooperation with the underground Administration Company, and it will be implemented at other underground stations (21 February).



## Appointments

- The Prime Minister issued a decree number 180 for year 2018 to appoint Dr. Mostafa Amin as Director of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector, with the excellent employment level of First Deputy.
- Appointing Hala Kadry Selim as General Director for Financial and Administrative Inspection.
- Appointing Ali Ahmed Ali as General Director of Upper Egypt Inspectorate.
- Appointing Horreya Mohammed Abd al-Moneim as General Director for Museums and Libraries Affairs.
- Appointing Sabah Abd al-Razik as General Director of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
- Appointing Hussein Refai Abd al-Ghani as General Director for Financial and Administrative Affairs of the Projects Sector.
- Appointing Amr Mohammed Hamed as General Director for Financial and Administrative Affairs of the Museums Sector.
- Appointing Amira Ali Mahfouz as General Director for Financial and Administrative Affairs of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector.
- Appointing Amany Zein Al-Abdeen as General Director for Engineering Affairs for museums' projects.
- Appointing Magdy Mansour Badawi as General Director for Conservation and Restoration of Greater Cairo Antiquities and Museums.
- Appointing Hany Salah as Director of the Sultan Hassan and Refaai archaeological site.
- Appointing Samar Ali Khaled as Director of Administrative Affairs at the office of the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Appointing Maha Mohammed as Director of the Training Office at the Central Administration for Outlets.
- Appointing Dr Hoda Ibrahim Khalifa, Supervisor of the Scientific Office of the Minister, to supervise the Follow-Up Administration in the Minister Office.
- Appointing Dr Amira Emad, Dr Abd al-Rahman Medhat, and Mai Mohammed Kheir al-Din to work in the Scientific Office of the Minister.
- Appointing Ahmed Ebeid as General Supervisor of the Minister Office.
- Appointing Mohammed Ramadan to supervise the Legal Office of the Minister.
- Appointing Ahmed Hassan to supervise the Financial and Administrative Affairs of the Minister Office.
- Appointing Ali Ahmed Ali to supervise the Technical Office of the Minister.
- Appointing Ahmed Maher, Deputy Director of Cairo's Court of Appeals, to work as a legal consultant for the MoA until September 2018.

## Decrees

- Approving the transfer of the managerial supervision of the Virgin Mary Tree site, from the ancient Egyptian Antiquities Sector to the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector.
- Approving the construction of the Hurghada Museum.
- Approving the development of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
- Approving the loan of 491 artifacts to the Coins Museum at the Central Bank of Egypt.
- Approving the registration of a handwritten Mushaf at the Antique Properties Administration.
- Approving the registration of 1451 artifacts, located at the Agriculture Museum, in the register books of the Properties Administration.
- Approving a photography permit fee worth 500 EGP to be generalized at all archaeological sites.



### «Cairo Pass»

A visitor's pass is being issued! «Cairo Pass» is a permit that allows foreign visitors to enter all museums and archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza for five consecutive days during official visiting hours, with an unlimited number of entries during the validity period. Passes cost 80\$, while students pay a reduced price of 40\$.

#### Museums and Archaeological Sites allowed to be visit for the holder of «Cairo Pass»

Egyptian Archaeological Sites	Islamic Archaeological Sites	Museums
Giza Plateau	Citadel of Saladin	Egyptian Museum
Khufu Pyramid	Nilometre in al-Roda	Mummy Room at the Egyptian Museum
Khafra Pyramid*	Sultan Hassan and al-Rifai Mosques	Coptic Museum
Menkawra Pyramid	Al-Muaizz Street and Nafisa al-Bayda Road	Museum of Islamic Art
Saqqara Site	Bayt al-Sitt Waseela and Zeinab Khatoun	Khufu's Boat Museum
New Kingdom Tombs at Saqqara	Wekalet al-Ghouri and Al-Ghouri Complex	Gayer Anderson Museum
Tombs of Princes at Saqqara	Bayt al-Harawi and Bab Zewaila	Royal Carriages Museum
Mereruka	Bayt al-Sehemi and Bayt al-Sennari	Manial Palace Museum
Dahshur Pyramid	Wekalet Bazara and Sabil Abdel Rahman Katkhuda	National Museum of Egyptian Civilization
Mit Rahina	Muhamad Bek Abu Dahab Complex	Textile Museum
Tree of the Virgin Mary	Sabil and Kuttab of Qaitbay	Farouk's Corner Museum





# Luxor Pass

The MoA is launched «Luxor Pass» for foreigners to visit open archaeological sites and museums in Luxor, since October, 2016. The «Luxor Pass» valid over five consecutive days at the price of 80\$ (40\$ for students) for passes without the tombs of King Sety I and Queen Nefertari). A pass that is inclusive of the tombs of King Sety I and Queen Nefertari is also available for 160\$ (\$80 for students). Luxor Pass can be bought from the Public Relations Office in the Luxor Inspectorate (behind Luxor Museum).

«Luxor Pass»		
Visitors	Prices	Excepted tombs
Foreigners (including Nefertari and Sety I tombs)	160\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days) including Nefertari and Sety I tombs.	Ramses VI and Tutankhamun tombs
Foreigner Students (including Nefertari and Sety I tombs)	80\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days) including Nefertari and Sety I tombs.	Ramses VI and Tutankhamun tombs
Foreigners (except Nefertari and Sety I tombs)	80\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days)	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramses VI and Tutankhamun
Foreigner Students (except Nefertari and Sety I tombs)	40\$ (allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites open for visitors in Luxor for five days)	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramses VI and Tutankhamun



Buy one pass and get %50 on the other one (Cairo Pass - Luxor Pass)  
 If you purchase both passes in the same year.  
 To purchase the pass: Original Passport + One Personal Photo



# Monument of the Month

## Tomb of Hetepet Western Cemetery at the Giza Pyramids



Ancient Egyptian history stands as testimony to the important role of women as a major part of the community. The Western Cemetery at the Giza pyramids includes the tombs of Old Kingdom court officials. The MoA archaeological mission discovered a tomb of a priestess of Hathor, named "Hetepet." The tomb dates back to the 5th Dynasty. The layout of the newly discovered tomb begins with a vestibule leading to a corridor, followed by an L-shaped longitudinal hall. The ancient Egyptian artist creatively decorated the hall's walls with unique scenes. The reliefs that retain their colors show different daily life activities of "Hetepet." Some scenes depict her wearing the leopard skin, which was worn by priests. The scenes range from scenes of dancers and musicians, including a female harpist, to scenes of herding, butchering, and fruit collecting. There is a scene of Hetepet and her husband receiving offerings, and another showing her sitting inside a shrine held on poles that are decorated with lotus flowers. Preceding her, in this scene, are offering bearers, and a very special scene of a cow giving birth, with the head of the newly born calf emerging. Another scene shows two sycamore fig trees with hanging baskets for collecting the fruits, where a man is sitting underneath, while three monkeys climb the trees to eat the fruits. There are also fowling and fishing scenes, in addition to scenes for papyri and boats manufacture, and the smelting of metals. The longitudinal hall ends with an offering table inscribed with the names and titles of the tomb owner. On the western side of the hall, there is a vestibule with a staircase, the sidewalls of which contain scenes of incense bearers. The vestibule leads to a small chamber with a Naos in the middle that used to house a statue for Hetepet.



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