



# Newsletter

## of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 22 \* March 2018

### Inaugurations

•The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt inaugurated Matrouh Antiquities Museum via video conference. The inauguration of the museum is the result of cooperation between the MoA and the Governorate of Matrouh who provided full funding for the project. The museum displays a collection of 1000 objects that shed light on Matoruh Governorate and its history across the ages (1 March).



•The mausoleum of Sidi Ali Zein al-Abedeem from the Fatimid Period, annexed to his mosque at al-Sayeda Zeinab district, was inaugurated after the completion of its restoration. The inauguration was attended by the Assistant of the Minister of Antiquities, the Head of the Islamic and Coptic Monuments Sector, and officials of the Ministry of Endowments and the Governorate of Cairo (1 March).



•The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated Tell Basta Antiquities Museum in al-Sharqiyyah Governorate after the completion of its development. The Governor of al-Sharqiyyah and some foreign ambassadors to Egypt attended the inauguration ceremony (3 March).

•The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt inaugurated al-Azhar mosque after restoration accompanied by His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and the Minister of Antiquities. The restoration works carried out at the mosque was funded by a grant provided by the King of Saudi Arabia. The inauguration was attended by al-Azhar Grand Imam and the Ministers of Endowments, Interior, and Foreign Affairs (6 March).



## Field work

Several archaeological missions began their new work seasons in March as follows: the Dutch mission of Leiden University at Saqqara, The Russian mission of the Russian Archaeological Institute and University of Moscow at Mit Rahina in Giza, the Polish missions of Warsaw University at Kom al-Dikka in Alexandria, at Gebelein site in Aswan, and at Deir al-Bahari in Luxor.

## Repatriated Antiquities

- The Ministry of Antiquities received a collection of 36 coins, currencies and other artifacts from the Customs of Express Post Office in Ataba. The Antiquities Control Unit at the post office has managed to recover these items in previous years, before being smuggled abroad. The artifacts consist of a collection of Greco-Roman coins, Ottoman and currencies from the period of Mohamed Ali family, marriage contracts dating back to the early 20th century and original photographs of the Royal Family as well as some of the most prominent figures of the country at that time (19 March).
- The Egyptian Consulate in USA received three archaeological pieces (head and hands of a mummy) in preparation for the return to Egypt, the pieces had stolen from the Valley of the Kings in Luxor and smuggled abroad in 1927.



## Temporary Exhibitions

### Internal Exhibition

The Minister of Antiquities, and both Ambassadors of Belgium and Germany to Egypt, opened the new temporary exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo titled: «Life in Death: Middle Kingdom in Deir al-Bersha». The exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Dutch-Flemish Institute in Cairo, Leuven University in Belgium, and Mainz University in Germany. The exhibition coincides with the 120th anniversary of the archaeological mission at Deir al-Bersha. The opening was attended by the Director of the German-Belgium archaeological mission at Deir al-Bersha and a number of foreign and Arab ambassadors to Egypt, cultural attaches, directors of foreign archaeological institutes, in addition to members of Parliament, public figures, and a group of top officials from the MoA (15 March - 15 April 2018).



### International Exhibition

• «The World of the Fatimids» exhibition was opened at the Agakhan Museum in Toronto, Canada. The exhibition includes a collection of antiquities from the Fatimid Period (11 March).



- The Minister of Antiquities opened «Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds» exhibition in Saint Louis city, USA (21 March).
- The Minister of Antiquities opened «King Tut: Treasure of the Golden Pharaoh» in Los Angeles, USA (24 March).

## MoA Publications

The Antiquities Registration Center released a new publication book «The Tomb of Khaemhat TT57». The book includes a detailed description of the tomb and a large collection of photographs and drawings.

## Lectures

- The Minister of Antiquities gave a lecture concerning the most important projects, the latest discoveries, and the expected inauguration in 2018. The Minister was invited by the the French Chamber of Industry and Commerce. He was also honored at the event and awarded a Shield (5 March).
- Prof. Dr Mohamed Abd al-Latif, Assistant for the Minister of Antiquities and Head of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Sector, gave a lecture «Islamic Money, History, Importance and International Groups» at the International Conference organized by the French Cultural Center (25 March).
- Dr Daniel Anthony, British Museum, Delivered a talk about «The study of Egyptian mummies by CT scan» at the MoA in Zamalk (27 March).

## Meetings and Visits

•The Minister of Antiquities met representatives of a group of Egyptian universities at the MoA headquarter in Zamalek. The meeting was a part of the ministry's cooperation plan with Egyptian universities in the field of archaeology. The meeting discussed the possible implementation and benefits of all PhD and Master's dissertations in the field of archaeological site management (6, 29March).

•The Minister of Antiquities received the Ambassador of Serbia to Egypt, the director of UNESCO regional office, and a group of the MoA's employees who were recently appointed to official positions.

•The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials on several sites including: Giza (Saqqara and Abusir archaeological sites), Cairo (Saint George Church in Ancient Egypt), South Sinai (Salah al-Din Citadel at Pharaoh Island in Taba).



•The Minister of Antiquities met the General Director and Secretary General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at NMEC to discuss the possible cooperation between the Ministry and ICOM (19 March).

•The Minister of Antiquities held the first meeting with the committee formed to define the research focus and topics for the 12th conference of Egyptology scientists to be held from 3rd to 8th of November 2019 in Cairo (29 March).

•The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities visited several archaeological sites in multiple governorates, including: Tell Basta Museum in Sharqiyyah, Luxor sites ,Avenue of Sphinx , Greco- Roman Museum, The Saint Mark Church, the Mosaic Museum, the National Museum of Alexandriyyah and the Club of Workers in Fustat.

•The head of the Ancient Egyptian Antiquities Sector visited some archaeological sites, including: al-Masala and Arb al-Hesn sites at Matariya in Cairo; Saqqara, AbuSir, Mit Rahina, Giza Plateau, and Abu Rawash in Giza.

•The Head of the Museums Sector visited several museum projects at different governorates, including: Matrouh Antiquities Museum, Tell Basta Museum in Sharqiyyah, Sohag National Museum, Beni Suf Museum, the Citadel museums, Muhammad Aly Palace Museum in Manial, and Alexandriyyah and Rashid museums.

•The Head of Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector, visited multiple archaeological sites: Mausoleum Sidi Ali Zein al-Abedeem at al-Sayeda Zeinab district, Al-Azhar Mosque and Refaa'i's Mosque.

•The Head of projects sector visited multiple archaeological sites and museums: Tell Basta Museum in Sharqiyyah, Al-Azhar Mosque, the Club of Workers in Fustat, NMEC, Sohag National Museum, Apidus and some temples in Luxor.

## Training

Training of 70 archaeologists and conservators in excavation schools, and many training courses; excavation at Kom al-Shoqafa and Ramses II temple at Abydos, courses in the documentation of animal and human remains, using the infrared rays, and marketing.

## International Participation

A number of MoA employees have travelled abroad to participate in different Conferences, Seminars, training courses and touring exhibitions: USA (Dr Mostafa Waziri-Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Rasha Ahmed-Conservation Director at the Textiles Museum, Osama Ragab-Curator at the Greco-Roman Museum, Abd al-Ghaffar Wagdy- Inspector, Mohamed Abd al-Muggly-Chief Documentation Inspector at Abydos, Mohamed Abd al-Aziz- Inspector at al-Daqahliyyah Archaeological Site, Talaat Abd al-Hamid Mohamed- Inspector of the Central Delta Inspeccotrate, Nesreen Fawzy Rashad-Conservator at Manial Museum, Tamer Idris Mohamed-Conservator at the Administration of South Sinai Restoration, Mustafa Zaky Taha Darwish- Inspector); Canada (Dr Mustafa Amin- Minister's Assistant for Technical Affairs, Dr Mohamed Abd al-Latif-Minister's Assistant and the Director of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector, Farid Ibrahim & Mona Mostafa agents of the Islamic Museum, Abd al-Khaleq Darwish-Director of the General Administration for Commodity Storage, Mohamed Farouq Ahmed-Director General of the Muhammad Aly Shobra Palace Archives); Italy ( Dr Tarek Tawfik-General Supervisor of the GEM Project, Sayed Hassan-Engineer at the GEM, Abd al-Hamid Abd al-Salam-Director of the Scientific Publications Department at Islamic Art Museum); France (Dr Mohamed Ismail-Director of the Foreign Missions and Permanent Committees Office, Mahmoud Ali-Chief Curator of the Departments of New Kingdom and Greco-Roman Antiquities at the GEM, Ayman Abu al-Qasim-Chief Curator of the Department of Old Kingdom Antiquities at the GEM); Kuwait (Alaa Samir-Director of the Central Administration for Information); Austria (Hany Hanna-Director General of the Helwan and Saff Antiquities Conservation) Lebanon (Ibrahim Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim-Conservator at the GEM).

# Projects

## Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- The committee to prepare for the opening of GEM and Giza Plateau was held. At the meeting, the latest updates of the Giza Plateau Project was discussed. The project is being implemented under the supervision of the President's Assistant for Grand Projects Development (4 March).
- The GEM received the Pillar of Merenptah, the fourth king of the 19th Dynasty. The pillar was placed on its permanent display at the GEM atrium. The pillar, which was discovered at Matariya archaeological site, is decorated with hieroglyphic texts that include the names and titles of the king (10 March).
- The GEM Board of Directors held their 9th meeting under the supervision of the Minister of Antiquities (27 March).
- The General Supervisor of GEM project traveled to Germany and Italy to examine the preliminary samples of showcases. The samples were approved and an agreement has been made to start the production.
- The total number of objects transferred to the GEM 43026 objects, the numbers of transferred objects belongs King Tutankhamun's is 4365 object from total 5200 objects. The total number of restored objects is 19825 and conservation for 17750 objects.



## National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC)

- The supreme committee of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization held a meeting (19 March).
- A batch of 10 boxes were transported from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, containing 500 artifacts from the collection of Ezbat el-walda archaeological site in Helwan, a number of archaeological objects from Marina warehouses on the northern coast and other from Monshaat Abou Omar.
- The Museum was filmed by a flying camera (Drone) to produce a documentary movie, in collaboration with UNESCO.

## Conservation Projects

- The Mummies Conservation Team, affiliating the Ministry of Antiquities, completed the first conservation phase of the Mezauaqqa at al-Dakhla Oasis. They also completed the conservation of a mummy stored at Kom Oshim Museum storage, which was discovered during excavations at Lahun site in Fayoum.
- The Central Administration for Restoration and Conservation at the Ministry of Antiquities began their conservation project at the tomb of «Imeni» high official during the reign of king Senusret I at Lisht in Giza.



## Varia

- Dr Magdy Yaqoub, the world renowned Cardiac Surgeon, visited the temple of Abu Simbel (5 March).
- To celebrate the Women International Day, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo displayed a number of artifacts from its collection at its entrance hall to tell the story of the ancient Egyptian women (8-14 March).
- The Obelisk Open-Air Museum at Matariya received four large stone blocks that were uncovered during the excavations that took place in the area of Souq al-Khamis between 2005 and 2012 (18 March).
- The Upper Egyptian Antiquities Inspectorate organized a cultural-archaeological symposium at Luxor Museum to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the discovery of the Avenue of Sphinxes, which happened on 18 March 1949 (19-20 March).



# Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir organized several events during the month of March, which were concerned with various subjects such as medicine, healthy lifestyle, and beauty of women (16-18 March).
- The Museums Sector held a temporary exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo titled «Museums of Egypt: a Journey from Aswan to Alexandria». The exhibition shows 17 posters of Egyptian museums, which were prepared by MA students studying at the conjoined museum studies master's program at the Helwan University and Fordsburg German University (18 March - 18 April 2018).
- The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the «Glimpses from Thebes» art exhibition at the NMEC in Fustat. The exhibition was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry's Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach, the ministries of Education and Youth & Sports. It displays 150 works of art drawn by a group of talented school students to show Luxor's beauty and antiquities (19-26 March).
- The Textiles Museum at al-Moez Street held a celebration on the occasion of Mother's Day, entitled «The Mother of al-Moez». The celebration was held in cooperation with the General Administration of Historic Cairo, and the Ghuri Cultural Center (21 March).
- The Department of Culture Development and Community Outreach at the MoA organized a visit to Farouk's Corner Museum at Helwan for visitors with special needs, within the frame work of the program «it's your right to know it» in collaboration with the General Department of Cultural Empowerment for people with special needs, at Cultural Palaces Authority (General Organization of Cultural Palaces), and Training and Studies Center (disability) (24 March).

## Appointments

- Appointing Jehan Atef as the General Director of the Coptic Museum in Cairo.
- Appointing Doaa Shebl as General Director of the Department of Planning and Monitoring at the Ministry.
- Appointing Yasser Effat as General Director of the Department of Inspection and Revenue Monitoring at the Ministry.
- Appointing Ayman Saeed as the Minister's Assistant for Service Improvements at archaeological sites and museums.
- Appointing Dr Hisham al-Leithy as Director of the Central Administration for the Greco-Roman archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza, in addition to his position as a General Director of the Antiquities Registration Center.
- Appointing Magda Ismail as Director of the Central Administration for the Sectors Affairs and Director of its Board.
- Renewal of al-Saed Helmy appointing as General Director of the inspectorates and excavation of Coptic and Islamic antiquities, Cairo and Giza, from 25 May 2018 until the date of his retirement.
- Appointing Gehad al-Rawy as supervisor of the international Organizations and international cooperation Department.
- Appointing Alaa Samir as Head of the Central Department of Information and Decision Making Support.
- Appointing Ahmed Shokry as General Director of the Financial Affairs in the General Secretariat Sector for one year.
- Appointing Hazem Nabeeh, Deputy Director of the State Council, to work as a legal consultant for the MOA for one year.
- Appointing Samah Amer, to supervise the follow-up Department of the Minister Office.
- Appointing Asmaa Hasan as a Director of the Follow-up Department of the Minister Office.
- Appointing Dr Hoda Khalifa to supervise the Scientific Office of the Minister Office.
- Appointing Mohamed Eid al-Saedy as Director of the Scientific Office of the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Appointing Nahed Ismail as Director of the technical office, General Department of Financial Affairs, the General Secretariat Sector.
- Appointing Dr Nadia Kader to work as Head of Central Department of Egyptian and Greco-Roman monuments of lower Egypt, Sinai and Northern Coast monuments for one year.
- Appointing Elham Salah al-Den the Head of the Central Department of Archeological and Historical Museums affairs to work as Head Museum sector.

## Committees

- Forming a committee to study and examine all subjects and reports of the inventory committees and other subjects related to the archaeological stores.
- Forming a Occupational Safety and Health Committee in the Islamic and Coptic Aswan archaeological site.
- Forming a committee to discuss the financial and administrative work of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Forming a scientific committee to precise the research axes and to revise the abstracts of the 12th conference of Egyptologists which will be held from 3 to 8 November 2019.

## Decrees

The most important decisions reached at the SCA Board of Directors' meetings and the meetings of the Permanent Committees:

- Al-yousry fortress at al-Wardian Alexandriyyah was approved to be registered among the Islamic and Coptic monuments.
- Approving the central list libraries which will determine the fees of photocopy for Egyptian and foreigner students.
- Precise the Sanctuary (safe-zone) of Ansena at Malwai in al-Minya Governorate among the Islamic and Coptic monuments.
- Approving the Replica exhibition which will be held at Viterbo in Italy.

# «Annual Passes» «Three Months Passes»

## «Annual Passes»

The MoA launching an annual pass in July 2016 for all open archaeological sites and museums. Arab and foreign residents in Egypt are able to purchase an annual pass, which can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Cultural Relations at the MoA in Zamalek. Categories and prices are: EGP 50 for pupils of Egyptian governmental (secondary), private and international schools in Egypt; EGP 125 for Egyptian, Arab and foreign university students residing in Egypt; EGP 400 for Egyptians and Arabs residing in Egypt; 200\$ for foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor), 170\$ without these two tombs; and 240\$ for foreign residents in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor); and 140\$ without these two tombs. In addition, the Board of the Supreme Council of Antiquities has approved free entry for Egyptian and resident Arab seniors (+60) to all archaeological sites and museums open to the public.

Visitors	Prices	Excepted	Notes
Egyptians and Arabs residing in Egypt	EGP 400	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for a year.
Egyptian, Arab and foreign university students residing in Egypt	EGP 125		
pupils of Egyptian governmental (secondary), private and international schools in Egypt	EGP 50		
foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	200\$ 190 €	Tombs of Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum - Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for a year including the tombs of Nefertari, Sety I.
foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (without the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	170\$ 160 €	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for a year.
foreign residents in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	240\$ 230 €	Tombs of Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum - Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for a year including the tombs of Nefertari, Sety I.
foreign residents in Egypt (without the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	140\$ 130 €	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for a year.



Annual pass  
for Egyptians and Arabs  
residing in Egypt



Annual pass  
for Egyptian, Arab and foreign  
university students  
residing in Egypt



Annual pass  
for pupils of Egyptian governmental  
(secondary), private and international  
schools in Egypt

## Three Months Passes

The MoA launching three months pass for all open archaeological sites and museums. Foreign residents in Egypt are able to purchase the pass, which can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Cultural Relations at the MoA in Zamalek. Categories and prices are: 120\$ for foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor), 85\$ without these two tombs; and 140\$ for foreign residents in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor); and 100\$ without these two tombs.

Visitors	Prices	Excepted	Notes
Foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	120\$ 120 €	Tombs of Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for three months.
Foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt (without the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	85\$ 80 €	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for three months.
Foreign residents in Egypt (including the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	140\$ 130 €	Tombs of Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for three months.
Foreign residents in Egypt (without the tombs of Sety I and Nefertari in Luxor)	100\$ 100 €	Tombs of Nefertari, Sety I, Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun - Mummy rooms at the Cairo Museum- Inside the Great Pyramid.	Visiting all open archaeological sites and museums for three months.



Annual pass  
for foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt



Annual pass  
for foreign residents in Egypt



Three months pass  
for foreign residents in Egypt



Three months pass  
for foreigners employed by embassies and international organizations in Egypt

To purchase the pass: Original Passport + One Personal Photo  
\*New ticket prices for Egyptians starting from April 2018\*

# Monument of the Month

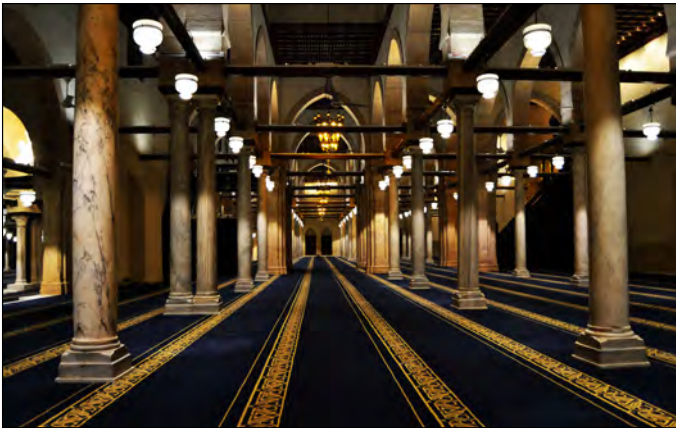
## Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo

Al-Azhar Mosque is one of the most important and famous mosques in Egypt and the Muslim world. It is the first mosque to be built within the walls of Fatimid Cairo. Building a mosque for all Muslims in the center of the city was the general rule followed when building cities and capitals in the Muslim world. Jawhar the Sicilian began the construction of the mosque in 359 AH / 970 AD under the command of Al Moezz le Din Allah, the first Fatimid Caliph in Egypt. The construction was completed in 361 AH/ 972 AD, and it was known as the Mosque of Cairo.



When it was built, Al-Azhar Mosque consisted of a central open court that is covered at its south-eastern, north-eastern, and south-western sides. In year 544 AH/ 1149 AD, the Caliph Al Hafez le Din Allah built a portico surrounding the court from all sides.

The current Al-Azhar Mosque consists of a group of archaeological buildings that were added to the Fatimid mosque in later periods, specifically the Mamluk and the Ottoman periods, in addition to the modern buildings. The Mamluk additions include three Madrasa; the Tiberseya, Aqbaghweya, and Jawhareya. The largest addition of the Ottoman Empire was the Ottoman mosque that was built by Prince Abd Al Rahman Katkhuda in 1167 AH/ 1753 AD. Muhammad Aly's family continued the restoration works and continuously added to the complex, until it reached its current size. The mosque is now a building surrounded by an enclosure wall with eight doors and has five minarets.



Recently, Al-Azhar Mosque underwent its largest and most complete restoration work in its history. On March 6th 2018, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the Minister of Antiquities, and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar inaugurated the mosque after the restoration works that were underway there for more than three years. The restoration project included the interior and exterior facades, the reliefs, decorations, ceilings, windows, Mashrabeya, and minarets, as well as the replacement of the mosque's floor with the same type of marble used in the Sanctuary of Mekka.



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