



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 30 * January 2019

A group of burials dating back to Pre-Dynastic Period discovered at Kom al-Khelgan site



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A stone relief holding King Amenhotep's I cartouche repatriated from London



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The celebration of the 13th festival for archaeologists at the Cairo Opera house

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Minister of Antiquities accompanies the French President and the French First Lady



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Two obelisks erected at the City of Art and Culture at the New Capital



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Archaeological Discoveries

- **Dakhla Oasis:** Two discoveries were made in January in Dakhla Oasis. The first was at Bir Al-Shaghala archaeological site in Mut town, where two Roman tombs were uncovered during excavation work carried out by a mission from the Ministry of Antiquities. The walls of both tombs are painted in bright colours with religious and funerary scenes. Human skeletons, clay lamps and pots were also unearthed.



The second discovery was at Ain Al-Sabil site where an Egyptian mission uncovered a treasure of gold coins hidden inside a large clay vessel. The coins can be dated to the Byzantine Period because one of its sides holds the image of the Byzantine emperor Constantine.

- **Alexandria:** At Tabet Mutawah archaeological site in Al-Ameriya area, a mission from Alexandria's antiquities department unearthed a collection of Greco-Roman archaeological elements. It is a very distinguished discovery because it shows that the site was not only used as an industrial and a commercial zone but as a necropolis as well.



- **Aswan:** The British mission from Birmingham University, working at Qubbet Al-Hawa Research Project (QHRP) in Aswan stumbled upon six Old Kingdom tombs of different sizes. Two of them have rock-cut entrances and a third has a complete entrance sealed with rocks.

Inside the tombs, the mission unearthed fragments of a funerary mask, a small metal amulet representing the deity Khnum and a variety of high quality Late Period pottery.

- **Delta:** Tombs from the Second Intermediate Period and 20 burials from the Naqada III era have been uncovered in Kom Al-Khelgan site located in the area between Al-Sharkiya and Al-Dakahliya governorates on the Nile Delta. The tombs include animals burials, a collection of broken burned clay pots, known as Tel Al-Yahudiya pottery, rounded and oval pots with holders, as well as seven amulets and scarabs carved in faience and decorated with well-known motifs of the era. Meanwhile, the 20 burials contain a collection of skulls and skeletons. The discovery was made by a mission from the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).



- **Al-Beheira:** Remains of the third section of a Greco-Roman winery and its store galleries surrounded with a mud brick wall were uncovered in Abu Al-Matameer archeological site. Adjacent to the winery, the SCA mission that made the discovery, found a residential settlement that was once used

by the winery employees. A collection of ovens and instruments including clay pots and coins dating to both the Ptolemaic and Islamic periods were also unearthed. Among those objects are also handles of amphora and fragments of iron.



Field Work

Archaeological missions that started their work during the month of January include:

- University of Basel Swiss Mission at the Tomb of Seti I in the Valley of the Kings, Luxor.
- Australian Macquarie University mission at Beni Hassan area, Minya Governorate.
- The German Institute of Archaeology mission for the documentation and restoration of glass negatives at the Islamic Antiquities Documentation Center at the citadel, Cairo.
- The mission of the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology (IFAO) and the University of Sorbonne at Medamud on the West Bank of Luxor.
- The joint mission of the Centre of Documentation of Ancient Egyptian Antiquities and the Federal University of (Brazil) at Tombs TT368 and TT123 in Luxor.
- The mission of the National Spanish Center at Dra' Abul Naga necropolis, Luxor.
- The Japanese mission of Waseda University at Dahshur site, Giza.
- The mission of Fayoum University at Kiman Fares, Fayoum Governorate.
- The mission of the Egypt Exploration Society at Naqada area, Qena.
- The mission of the French Institute for oriental Archaeology at Tel Al-Samara area, Dakahleya Governorate.
- The Hungarian mission of the University of Karl Jaspers at Tomb TT184 at Sheikh Abdel Qurnah, Luxor.
- The mission of the American Research Center of Egypt (ARCE) at the White Monastery, Sohag.
- The American mission of the Pacific Lutheran University at the Valley of the Kings, Luxor.
- The American mission of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the palace of Amenhotep III at Malqata, Luxor.
- The American mission of New York University at Abydos area, Sohag.
- The mission of the Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw at Al-Deir Al-Bahary area, Luxor.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

•The first program was launched to teach handicrafts for the disabled in cooperation with «Ability Center for Studies and Training», the programme was organized by the Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach of the Minister of Antiquities' Office (5 January-5 March).



•The Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach at the Minister's Office organized a special event at Beit Al-Sennari to honor children with disabilities, who participated in various cultural events organized (20 January).

Repatriated Antiquities

•The Ministry of Antiquities received a high relief with cartouche of King Amenhotep I. The object was on display at an auction house in London. The repatriation process comes within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the Egyptian Ministries of Antiquities and Foreign Affairs (8 January).



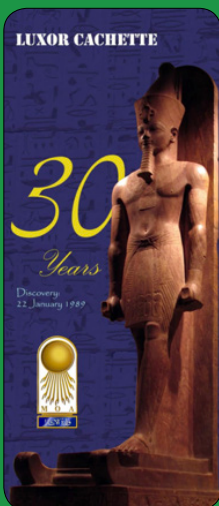
News

• At the Cairo Opera House's Main Hall, the 13th Festival for Archaeologists was celebrated in the presence of the Minister of Antiquities, the Minister of Tourism; the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Head of the State Council; former Ministers and governors, a number of Members of the Parliament, over twenty ambassadors from Arab and other foreign nations, and the heads of departments from the Ministry of Antiquities. The event featured artistic performances and a ceremony honoring a number of archaeologists along with former and present employees. Dr. Zahi Hawass delivered the best archaeologist and best restorer award, with a prize that carries his name (14 January).



• The Ministry of Antiquities started the second phase of the Rock Inscriptions Documentation Project in South Sinai. The inscriptions are dated back from the Early Dynastic Period right through the Islamic era.

• At the Supreme Council of Universities (SCU), Cairo University, Ministers of Antiquities and Higher Education and Scientific Research witnessed the signing ceremony of a cooperation protocol between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the SCU. The protocol aims at involving university students in the national projects carried out by the Ministry of Antiquities in applied science related to archaeology and raising university students' awareness of the new archaeological discoveries. The protocol was signed by Dr. Mostafa El-Waziry, Secretary General of the SCA and Dr. Mohammed Lotayef, Secretary General of the SCU (19 January).



• To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the cachette of Luxor Temple, the Ministry of Antiquities organised a photo exhibition showing the discovery of the cachette, and the restoration carried out on its statues and their exhibition. Photo copies of the stories published in local and international newspapers on the discovery were also on show. The exhibition was held at the celebration courtyard in Luxor temple and at Luxor Museum where the treasures of the cachette are on display (22 January).

• Presidential Decree no. (34) of 2019 was issued to cancel the allocation of 10% of the fees from the visit of the archaeological sites to the local municipalities.

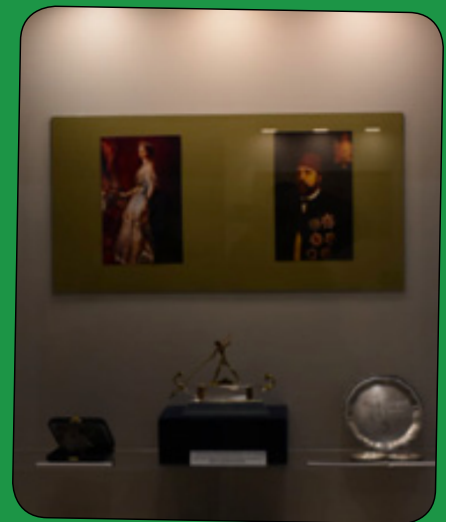
Temporary Exhibitions

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo displayed clay molds used in the ancient coin-making industry through a metal casting procedure. A pottery cylinder containing a collection of molds dating back to the Roman Period was also displayed. It shows that the Roman coin industry depended on manual labor. These objects are exhibited for the first time in the lobby of the museum (4-11 January).



- Under the title: «Rediscovering the Dead», the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir organised a temporary exhibition displaying for the first time a collection of 15 prehistoric skulls of different ages and genders. They were stored in the museum's basement since their discovery in several archaeological sites among them the Al-Kawamel in Assiut, Beit Allam in Sohag, Naqada in Qena and Gebel Al-Selsela in Aswan. The exhibition also put on show a collection of skeletons unearthed in Wadi Al-Kubaneya in Aswan as well as a Roman mummy of a child Unearthed in Akhmim in Upper Egypt.(10-31 January).

- Within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Suez Canal Authority, two exhibitions were inaugurated. The first was held at the Museum of Islamic Art under the title «The Suez Canal along the span of Ages», displaying objects from the Suez Canal museum to tell the story of the canal's digging (12-19 January). The second exhibition was inaugurated at the Historical Museum of the Suez Canal Authority, Ismailya City. It displayed objects from the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo (8-20 January). The exhibitions were organized on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the Museum's opening and the 149th anniversary of the opening of the Suez Canal.



- «God is Love» is the name of the exhibition organized at the Egyptian Textile Museum on Al-Muezz Street, Cairo. The exhibition displays the textile of Bagawat Cemetery at Kharga Oasis, within the framework of the celebrations organized by the Museums Sector for Christmas. The exhibition features unique and rare textiles showing the influence of ancient Egyptian art on Coptic art (2 January - 30 March).

- In collaboration with the Faculty of Art Education at Helwan University, the Palace of Prince Mohammed Ali at Manial is organizing an art exhibition under the name «Wrinkles». More than 50 works, made by the Faculty's students are on display, representing the impact of age on the human face (31 January - 31 March).

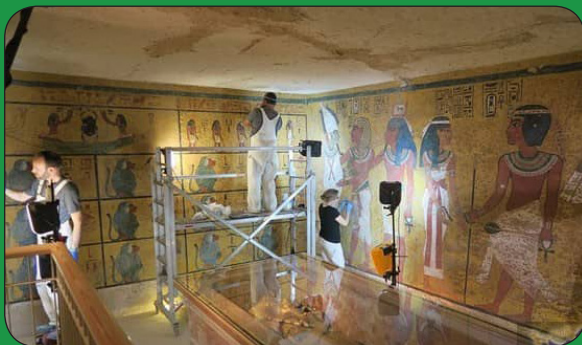
Restoration Projects

- Work has started on the restoration project of the Suez Canal Authority Administration Building registered as an archaeological building since 2004. The project reflects the continuous cooperation between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Suez Canal Authority.



- In collaboration with a French archaeological mission, Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities is developing the area around the Dendera Temple complex into an open-air museum.

- The projects department at the Ministry of Antiquities started the restoration of the pulpit of Al-Zaher Baybars Mosque, which its parts were dismantled and stored in the mosque's storehouse. The restoration work includes the re-assembling and restoration of its parts according to scientific rules and methods.



- Restoration work was completed at the tomb of King Tutankhamun, which was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Antiquities and the American Paul-Getty Institute for Restoration. Systems to control ventilation, lighting, heat and humidity were installed to preserve the wall paintings. They also added wooden floors inside and outside the cemetery.

Meetings and Visits

- The Prime Minister and the Minister of Antiquities visited Saqqara archaeological area (1 January).

- The Minister of Antiquities visited Mohammed Ali Mosque at the Citadel of Salah Al-Din to inspect the recent developments of the restoration works (26 January).



- The Minister of Antiquities and the SCA Secretary General, the Head of the Culture, Media and Antiquities Committee and a group of Members of Parliament visited the Grand Egyptian Museum (12 January).



- Both the Ministers of Antiquities, Agriculture visited the Agricultural Museum in Dokki, Cairo, accompanied by the Secretary General of the SCA, The visit was held to choose some archaeological objects from the Agricultural Museum to display among the display scenario of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (13 January).

- The Minister of Antiquities received a number of high officials: the Director of Harvard University Museums to discuss cooperation between the MoA and the University (13 January), the Swedish Ambassador to Egypt to discuss means of archaeological cooperation between countries (17 January). He also received the German Ambassador, the Director of the Berlin Museum, a delegation from the University of Kuwait and the Director of the Agha Khan Foundation for cultural services to discuss means of joint cooperation to develop the archaeological areas in Historic Cairo (22 January).



- H.E. President of France and the French First Lady visited Abu Simbel (templ) during their visit to Egypt. H.E the French President was accompanied by the Minister of Antiquities (27 January).

• H.E. the Egyptian President accompanied H.E. the French President on a tour to the New Capital, together with the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Minister of Antiquities. They visited the City of Arts and Culture, which features two ancient granite obelisks from San Al-Hagar (tomb) archaeological site in al-Sharqiyya, and date back to the reign of King Ramses II (28 January).



• H.E. the French First Lady, Mrs. Brigitte Macron, visited the Pyramids of Giza on the fringe of the official visit of H.E. the President of France to Egypt (28 January).

Appointments and Decrees

- Appointing Dr. Khaled Fahmy, the former Minister of Environment, to supervise the project of the National Museum of Ancient Egyptian Civilization.
- Ms. Mona Abdel Nazeer as Supervisor of the Cultural Relations and Ceremony Department.
- Mr. Hany Mohammed Abdel Ghany as Supervisor of Public Relations Department.
- Modifying the entry fees to the Sphinx to be 100 pounds for Egyptians starting November 2019.



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