



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 31 * February 2019

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Archaeological Discoveries

• Three shafts were discovered in Tuna al-Gabal site, Minya governorate, during the excavations of the joint mission between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Archaeological Studies and Research Center of Minya University. Each of the shafts leads to rock-cut tombs, which contained several mummies. The Minister of Antiquities announced this discovery in the presence of the Minister of Tourism, the Governor of Minya, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), the President of Minya University, and a number of Members of Parliament (MPs), ambassadors and cultural counselors.(→)



(←)•Remains of a limestone building, which dates to the Graeco-Roman period, were recently discovered in Abou Seify site, in the North Sinai governorate, during excavations of the Egyptian archaeological mission.

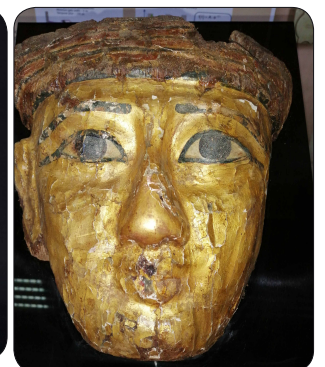
Exhibitions

• The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated a temporary exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, showing the excavations of the French-Italian Mission at Tebtunis site in Fayoum. The exhibition is organized by the Ministry of Antiquities in collaboration with both the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology (IFAO) and the University of Milano. It includes 200 pieces discovered during excavation works carried out starting in 1988 (4 February – 4 April).(→)



(←)•A temporary exhibition was held at the Coptic Museum under the name «A Glimpse of Love» in celebration of 109 years since the opening of the museum's old section. The exhibition features a variety of antiquities considered unique pieces for constructing such a museum, and a number of works by Marcus Simaika Pasha, the founder of the Museum (14 February-14 March).

•The Egyptian Museum in Cairo is currently exhibiting two pieces for the first time. The first piece is a mask that was in the possession of an Egyptian person living in France, who offered it to Egypt to be displayed in the museum. The other piece is a colored funerary stela of Nit-Ptah. This stela was found in the cemetery of Thebes at Assassif during the excavations of the Metropolitan Museum in 1915.(→)



Repatriated Antiquities

- The Egyptian Embassy in Amsterdam received a limestone statue that had been displayed in an auction in the Netherlands. The statue belongs to Ni-Kaw-Ptah, a high official who lived during the end of the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period.(→)



- (←)• The Archaeological Ports Unit in Alexandria Port managed to seize five pieces of antiquities composing parts of a military uniform. The pieces date back to the ninth century.

- The Egyptian Embassy in Canberra; Australia received the fourth and final piece of the stela of Sheshen-Nefertum that was found in the tomb of Sheshanq (TT 27), previously on display in the Macquarie Museum.(→)



- (←)• Egypt's right to repatriate the gilded coffin of Nedjem-Ankh from the United States of America was upheld, after much effort exerted by both the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Manhattan District Attorney's office. The Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art sent a letter to the Ministry of Antiquities in which he apologized to the Ministry, the Government and people of Egypt, especially after it was revealed that the museum bought the piece with a forged permit that was signed in 1971. The Metropolitan Museum undertook all procedures to return the piece back to Egypt.

- The Archaeological Ports Unit in Luxor Airport managed to seize eighteen pieces of antiquities. The seized items include silver and bronze coins and arrows that date to the Graeco-Roman period.(→)



- The Archaeological Ports Unit in Cairo International Airport was able to seize fragments of mummies inside a parcel. The seized pieces consist of six parts taken from two different mummies showing remains of mummification and resin.

Restoration Projects

Restoration works for the statue of Ramses II began at Akhmim, in Sohag Governorate. The work will include the cleaning, fixing and archaeological documentation for each part, then reassembling them in order to erect the colossus and re-exhibit it in Akhmim.(→)



News

- The Grand Egyptian Museum project was visited by a high-ranking Japanese delegation led by the Japanese Prime Minister's Advisor and the Ambassador of Japan (4 February). (→)
- The Director of the Giza Pyramid Plateau accompanied the German Minister of Economy, the German Ambassador in Egypt and a delegation accompanying them on a visit of the Pyramids Plateau (5 February).
- The Museum of Prince Mohamed Ali's Palace in Manial, in cooperation with the Arab Studio Institute, organized a training course for Arabic calligraphy (7 February).



- (←)•The Grand Egyptian Museum received 421 artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

- The Egyptian Textile Museum at al-Mu'izz street celebrated its ninth anniversary by organizing a number of events and guided tours. An exhibition of Ministry publications was also organized, offering discounts of up to 75% (13-14 February). (→)



- The recruitment of the fourth batch of contracted employees in the Ministry of Antiquities has begun, which involves the assignment of 2,544 individuals from all sectors of the Ministry on a permanent basis.

- The Egyptian-European Joint Committee held its last meeting to set a strategic plan for developing exhibitions in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in accordance with international standards. The committee included the leaders of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities as well as professors of archaeology and an alliance of five European museums: Turin Egyptian Museum in Italy, Louvre Museum in France, British Museum in England, Berlin Museum in Germany, and Leiden Museum in the Netherlands. This project is funded by the European Union (18 February). (→)



Recruitment

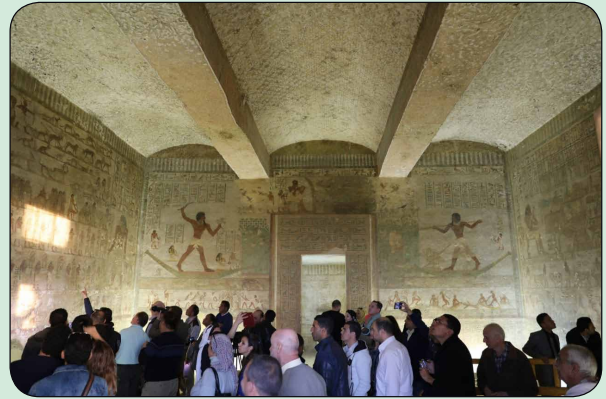
Ambassador Maged Nafie, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Cultural Relations, has been assigned to supervise the department of international organizations and foreign relations in the Ministry of Antiquities and the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Sponsorship

Designer Shaimaa Abulkhair is responsible for the project of improving the presentation, formation and visual identification of the Egyptian archaeological sites. This includes the design of a unified model for the guiding boards, recesses, lighting poles, shading places and wastebaskets. This project is to be applied to various archaeological sites in collaboration with UNESCO office in Cairo and the Egyptian National Bank.

Meetings and Visits

- The Ministers of Antiquities and Tourism and the Governor of Minya accompanied ambassadors and cultural attachees from eleven countries on a tour to several archaeological sites in Minya Governorate. The visit included the archaeological sites of Tall al-Amarna, Beni Hassan and the Aten Museum project, in the presence of the Secretary General of the SCA, the President of Minya University, and a number of MPs (1 February). (→)



(←)•The Prime Minister toured the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, in the presence of the Minister of Antiquities, the Secretary General of the SCA and a number of Ministry leaders (3 February).

- At the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, the Minister of Antiquities held the first meeting of the committee formed by the Prime Minister's decree, to study the transfer of a collection of artifacts currently preserved in the museums of various ministries, bodies and governorates, to the Ministry of Antiquities. The committee includes the Ministers of Transport, Culture, Local Development, Environment, Agriculture (3 February).

- The Minister of Antiquities chaired the meeting of the Scientific Committee for the New Museums (7 February). He also chaired a meeting of the organizing committee of the International Conference on Egyptology (10 February).

- The Minister of Antiquities received both the Acting US Ambassador (11 February), and the French Ambassador in Egypt (26 February).

- The Minister of Antiquities gave a lecture with the title: "Archaeological projects at the Ministry of Antiquities and their impact on the national economy" at the headquarters of the Administrative Control Authority. This was part of the fifth session organized by the Authority for specialists in order to support and grow their leadership capabilities (February 14).

- Ministers of Antiquities, Tourism, Youth and Sports and the Secretary General of the SCA participated in the launch of the annual Pyramid Marathon, organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports under the auspices of the Ministry of Antiquities. About 400 contestants from 75 countries participated in the marathon (15 February). (→)



(←)•The Minister of Antiquities, the Governor of South Sinai and the Secretary General of the SCA visited the archaeological site of Serabit al-Khadem, and the temple of Hathor located at the top of the mountain (16 February).

- In the context of meeting with university students and briefing them on the efforts of the State in various fields, the Minister of Antiquities delivered a lecture entitled "Egyptian antiquities... between recent discoveries and major projects" at Helwan University (18 February). (→)



- The Minister of Antiquities met with the Minister of Tourism and representatives from the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs to prepare for the opening ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum (18 February).

- The High Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites convened to discuss the challenges facing of the archaeological site of Abu Mena (February 18).



- (←) • The Minister of Antiquities attended the sunrise ceremony at Abu Simbel temple accompanied by the Ministers of Investment, Culture, Tourism, Communications, the Governor of Aswan, and more than 20 ambassadors and diplomats from African countries (22 February).

- The Minister of Antiquities and Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities participated in the memorial ceremony of the German archaeologist Rainer Stadlmann, organized by the German Archeological Institute in Cairo (27 February).

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- Under the title «Draw a Laugh!», the Coptic Museum conducted an educational and cultural activity. This activity included workshops aimed at teaching how to design special cards for children, to be painted in the form of a laughing face (7 February).

- A training program for Ministry of Antiquities employees has been initiated, aimed at teaching them how to deal with visitors with special needs. The program was prepared by the School of Archaeological Awareness for the Blind, in cooperation with the Egyptian Foundation «Hyah», working to integrate and empower the disabled (12 February).

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo organized an orientation tour for a group of children of martyrs of Egypt from al-Arish, Sheikh Zowaid and al-Rawda village in Beer al-Abd in North Sinai. The tour was held with the participation of the museum's educational section in the festival «The Love of Egypt for Children of Egypt's Martyrs» organized by the Ministry of Education (19 February).

- On the occasion of the International Mother Tongue Day, the Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach at the Minister's Office organized the «International Mother Tongue Day» event, which included a lecture on the importance of the Arabic Language and a series of videos on the Arabic language in Egyptian cinema (21 February).



Translated by Youssra Ibrahim

Reviewed by

Dr Samira Maged - Amal El Masri

Helen Strudwick

Ministry of Antiquities

3 El-Adel Abu Bakr Street, Zamalek
Cairo, Egypt

www.antiquities.gov.eg

antiquitiesnewsletter@gmail.com

Telephone numbers:

(+2-02) 237356010 - 27358761

27365645 - 27371724

Fax: (+2-02) 27357239



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