



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 38 * July 2019

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H.E. President of Madagascar, H.E. Prime Minister of Tanzania and President of FIFA visited the Giza Plateau



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The outer gilded coffin of Tutankhamun was moved to the Grand Egyptian Museum, restoration work underway



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Inaugurations

• The Minister of Antiquities opens both the Bent and Satellite Pyramids of King Snefru at Dahshur, after the completion of restoration work. The inauguration took place in the presence of the Governor of Giza and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, as well as 40 ambassadors from foreign countries to Egypt, representatives of a number of embassies, and UNESCO (13 July). (→)



(←) • The Ministers of Antiquities and Culture both inaugurated the Naguib Mahfouz Museum, located within the Tekkeyet Abu al-Dahab at Al-Azhar district. The inauguration was made possible after the approval of MoA's Permanent Committee, which accepted the Tekkeya as the ideal location for the museum, due to its proximity to the house where Mahfouz was born. The museum includes a collection of masterpieces by the late writer, decorations and certificates, and some of his personal belongings. The Tekkeyet Abu al-Dahab was founded by Prince Muhammad Bek Abu al-Dahab in 1188 AH/1774 (14 July).

Archaeological Discoveries

• An Egyptian mission excavating in the area south-east of the pyramid of Amenemhat II in Dahshur was able to uncover a 60-meter-long wall dating back to the Middle Kingdom. A number of stone, pottery and wooden coffins were also found, some of which contained mummies in good condition, as well as a number of wooden masks and a set of tools that were used for cutting and polishing. The discovery was announced amid large media coverage and in the presence of a number of ambassadors and diplomatic figures (13 July). (→)



(←) • The Egyptian-Polish archaeological mission discovered the remains of a large part of an ancient city in the area of Kom El-Dekka in Alexandria. The city dates back to the period between the fourth and seventh centuries A.D. A Roman mosaic floor was also uncovered inside one of the houses in the city. The mission discovered the remains of a small theater, a large imperial bathroom, and 22 lecture halls that are likely to be the remains of an ancient university. The mosaic will be displayed in the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria (18 July).

• An Egyptian expedition uncovered part of a huge building dating back to the Greco-Roman Period at the Farma-Pelusium archaeological site in North Sinai. The building is constructed of red brick and limestone, and was likely used to house the Senate (31 July). (→)



News

• The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Egypt Air Free Markets signed a protocol of cooperation to sell replicas produced by the Archaeological Models Department of the Ministry of Antiquities in duty free outlets at Cairo International Airport and other airports throughout the Republic (1 July). (→)



• The General Supervisor of the Department of International Organizations and International Cooperation, representing the Ministry of Antiquities, participated in the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. The meetings were attended by senior officials of the World Heritage Centre, representatives of member countries of the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the cultural and heritage sectors from around the world and experts and specialists in the field of cultural heritage (1 July).



(←)• The Central Training Unit of the Ministry of Antiquities organized a training course entitled «Heritage Buildings and Reusable Methods», in which 20 Islamic art and architecture specialists and employees of the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis participated (3 July).

• The President of the United Nations General Assembly and the accompanying delegation visited both the Textile Museum at Al-Moez Street and the Giza Plateau (4–5 July). (→)

• The Prime Minister of Tanzania and his delegation visited the Giza Plateau, accompanied by the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture (9 July).



(←)• The Ministry of Antiquities completed the development of the site of Virgin Mary's Tree in the Matareya area; one of the archaeological sites listed on the Holy Family trail.

• The Ministry has begun the development of the general site of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, which includes the entrance, the outer walls and the garden.(→)



- H.E. President of Madagascar, the first lady, and their accompanying delegation visited the Giza Plateau during their stay in Egypt to attend the African Cup of Nations (11 July). (→→)



- (←←) • The Grand Egyptian Museum received a high-level delegation from the Russian Parliament (16 July).

- The President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) visited the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (17 July) and the Giza Plateau (19 July). as part of his visit to Egypt to attend the final game of the African Cup of Nations.(→→)



- (←←) • The Qaitbay Citadel of Alexandria received trainees from the African Presidential Leadership Programme (APLP), the African youth training programme is a part of the National Training Academy (21 July).

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo received the Greek Minister of Energy and Environment during his official visit to Egypt (24 July). (→→)



- (←←) • The Gayer-Anderson Museum has completed the documentation of its modern objects, which include sculpture and paintings.

Meetings and Visits

- Meeting of the Prime Minister and Minister of Antiquities to discuss the Ministry's projects (July 1).
- The Ministry of Antiquities and the Ministry of Youth and Sports organised a dinner banquet in honour of the Ambassadors of African countries on the occasion of the Africa Cup of Nations at the Citadel of Salah El-Din (4 July).

• The Minister of Antiquities, along with the Ministers of Endowments, Electricity and Public Business Sector, and the Governor of Cairo attended Friday prayers at the Sultan Hassan Mosque to commemorate the 1050th anniversary of the city of Cairo (12 July). (→)



• **The Minister of Antiquities attended a number of committees, meetings and conferences:**

Coordination meeting at the Parliament for the fifth forum of religious tourism entitled «let's pray together» (7 July).

Several meetings were held to develop the area around the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation. The meetings were attended by: the Minister of Housing, the Governors of Cairo and Giza, the Supervisor of the Grand Egyptian Museum Project and its Surroundings, representatives from the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Irrigation (7 July).

- A meeting was held to propose a list of terms for the selection of a company with the best offers, in order to manage and operate the services of the Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Meeting with the National Committee for Antiquities Repatriation (8 July).
- Meeting with the Scientific Committee of the International Congress of Egyptologists (9 July).
- Meeting with the directors of the five European museums of the consortium of European Museums participating in the Transformation of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo project (14 July).

• The Minister co-launched the Ministry's investment map at the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation (15 July).



(←) • The Minister of Antiquities witnessed the arrival of 10 pieces of the second Khufu boat at the Grand Egyptian Museum. While at the GEM, the Minister was able to witness the commencement of the fumigation process of the coffin of Tutankhamun. The coffin was removed from the tomb in the Valley of the Kings to be restored for the first time since the discovery of the tomb in November 1922 (22 July).

• The Minister of Antiquities received a number of ambassadors to discuss possible areas of cooperation: Ambassador of Belgium (2 July), Ambassador of Italy (10 July), Ambassador of the United Kingdom and Ambassador of Japan (28 July), Ambassador of China (29 July).



Cultural Events and Community Outreach

• The Department of Education at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo organised a workshop under the title «Ancient Egyptian Jewellery in a Modern Way». The workshop taught the skill of jewellery-making using different wires and stones, and how to design costumes inspired by ancient Egyptian art (2, 9, 16 & 23 July). (→)



• The Cultural Development Department of the Office of the Minister of Antiquities, in cooperation with the libraries of the Egyptian Society for Culture and Community Development, organised a number of children's lectures on sports in ancient Egypt at the cultural centre in Ard Al-Golf.



(←)•The Department of Archaeological Awareness in the Ancient Egyptian Antiquities Department at the Ministry of Antiquities organised a series of lectures and workshops on papyrus-making in the Fayoum governorate, under the title «The Tongue of Egypt» in cooperation with the «Youth Can» initiative and Al-Aqsa Charity Association (11 July).

• For the third year in a row, the Museum of Islamic Art resumed its artistic evenings that take place each Saturday during the summer season, featuring a range of traditional arts (20 July–14 September).

• Commencement of summer activities at Mellawi Museum that take place every Monday, with guided tours within the museum and the «Discover Your Talent» programme (22 July–16 September). (→)



Decrees

- Appointment of Mr. Mahmoud Abdel Basset as Director General of the Historic Cairo Project.
- Appointment of Brigadier General Hisham Samir as the General Supervisor of the Historic Cairo Project.
- The Minister of Antiquities issued a decree appointing Brigadier General Hani Mamdouh as Assistant Minister of Antiquities for Financial and Administrative Affairs.
- The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities approved free mobile phone photography for visitors within museums and archaeological areas throughout the Republic starting 1 August 2019.



SHOSHA
KAMAL



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