



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 40 * September 2019

Two tombs in Dra' Abu al-Naga, Luxor, opened following their conservation



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On behalf of H.E. the , President of Egypt, the Minister of Antiquities attends the inauguration of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cairo



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Prince Yousef Kamal's Palace in Naga Hammadi opened following its conservation



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Two Memoranda of Understanding signed between Egypt and Belgium, and Egypt and Guinea in the field of heritage and archaeology



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Press conference announces the repatriation of Nedjemankh's coffin from the Metropolitan Museum



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Prime Minister leads a meeting about the inauguration ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum



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South Asasif Necropolis: Journey "Through Time" exhibition in Luxor museum displays the results of the Egyptian-American joint mission



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"Feather in an Inkpot" exhibition in Muhammad Ali Palace in celebration of the new school year



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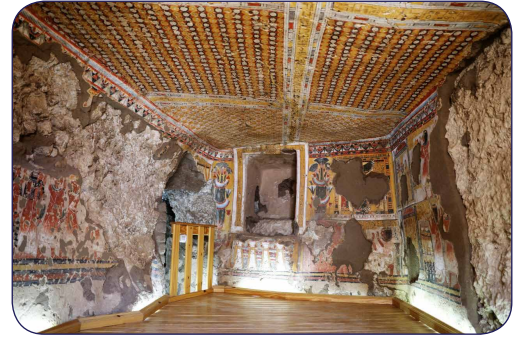
Coffins of Sennedjem and his wife unravelled and placed in a fumigation capsule



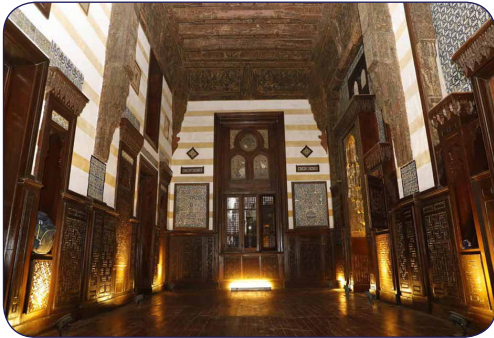
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Inaugurations

• Conservation work in tombs TT 159 and TT 286 located in Dra Abu al-Naga necropolis, Luxor, is completed, as well as the conservation of four shrines in the temple of Khonsu in Karnak. The Minister of Antiquities and the Governor of Luxor were present at the celebrations, along with U.S Chargé d'affaires in Cairo, the General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), and the Director of the American Research Center in Egypt (8 September). (→)

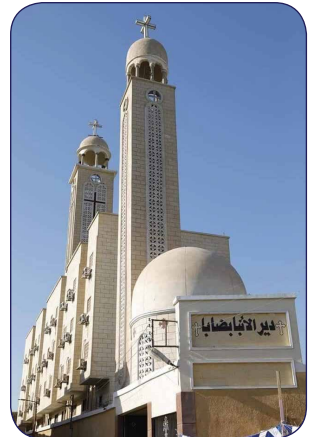


(←)• The Minister of Antiquities attended the inauguration of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cairo on behalf of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Egypt, which was reopened following the completion of conservation and renovation work (28 September).



(←)• General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) inaugurated Prince Yousef Kamal's Palace in Naga' Hammadi, following the completion of restoration work. The Minister of Planning, Follow-up, and Administrative Reforms for Planning Affairs was present at the inauguration, along with the Governor of Qena and several members of Parliament (29 September).

• The General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) also inaugurated the monastery of Anba Bidaba in Naga Hammadi following its restoration. The bishops of Naga Hammadi accompanied him at the inauguration. The Monastery is attributed to Saint Bidaba and dates to the end of the third century. (→)



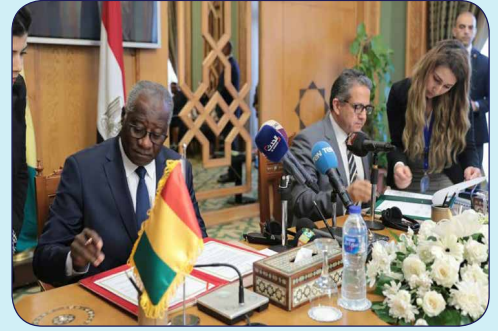
Discoveries

Ministry of Antiquities rescue excavations discovered the remains of a temple belonging to Ptolemy IV in Kom Ishqaw, Sohag. A few of the temple's stones were discovered during the installation of a new sewage system in the area (29 September). (→)



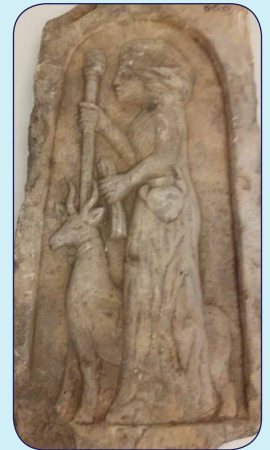
News

•The Minister of Antiquities and the Guinea Minister of Foreign Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation of the two countries in the field of museums. The MoU specifically outlined the cooperation between the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and the Sandervalia National Museum in Kunkuri, Guinea (4 September). (→)



(←)•Egypt and Belgium signed a Memorandum of Understanding addressing the contribution of about sixteen million Egyptian Pounds for the conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of Baron Empain's Palace in Heliopolis. The Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, the Ambassador of Belgium in Cairo, and the Minister of Antiquities all signed the agreement, in the presence of the Governor of Cairo. This took place at the site of Baron Empain's Palace, where conservation work is underway, in preparation for its inauguration at the end of the year (12 September).

• The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Fustat welcomed a collection of 5,000 artifacts gifted to the Ministry of Antiquities by the American University in Cairo. The American University came into possession of these antiquities in the 1960's by means of the law of division applicable in Egypt at that time. The objects were the result of the Egyptian-American mission in Fustat. It includes a stone portrait, elaborate containers, glass vessels, and fragments of statues and coffins all dating to different periods of the ancient Egyptian history (17 September). (→)



•The Great Pyramid of Giza lit for the occasion of World Day of the Sick, in cooperation with the Ministry of Antiquities (20 September).



(←)•The great hall of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) welcomed four colossal monuments coming from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, to be displayed on the grand stairs. These monuments included two rose-granite colossi of Senusret I, a triad of Ramses II, Ptah and Sekhmet in red granite, and the upper part of Queen Hatshepsut's red-granite obelisk, decorated with inscriptions detailing her titles and images of the god Amun (20 September).

•Fumigation of Tutankhamun's outer gilded coffin completed. This operation lasted for seven days, after which restoration work began. The latter is expected to last for eight months, in preparation for its display with the rest of Tutankhamun's collection at the GEM (21 September).

• Giza Plateau welcomed members of the Cirque du Soleil troop, which is a performance group that counts among the most notable circus performers in the world (24 September). (→)



•The recovery of the golden coffin of the priest Nedjemankh, which dates to the first millennia BCE, was announced. The coffin had been illegally exported out of the country and sold by traders using forged export certificate to the Metropolitan Museum of Arts in New York. The coffin returned to Egypt on the 28 September. It will be on display at the NEMC (1 October). (→)



Exhibitions



(←)• Simultaneously with the Ministry of Antiquities' celebration of World Literacy Day, World Teacher's day, and the beginning of the new school year, Muhammad Ali Palace in Manial organized a temporary exhibition titled "Feather in an Inkpot". This exhibition displays selected writing tools used by the Ottoman family, including several silver inkpots, golden pencil cases, reed pens, and other decorated utensils (4 September- 4 October).

•The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated the temporary exhibition titled "South Asasif Necropolis: Journey Through Time" at Luxor Museum. The exhibition includes fragments from the Egyptian-American joint Conservation Project in the South Asasif Necropolis. Among these objects were 39 ushabtis dating to the 25th Dynasty, in addition to a limestone stela and a collection of canopic jars dating to the 26th Dynasty (9 September). (→)



(←)•"Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh" exhibition closed its doors to the public in Paris, after breaking the French record for antiquities' exhibitions, with an astounding number of 1,423,000 visitors touring the collection during the six-month display (22 March until 22 September).

•In cooperation with the Islamic Museum of Art and the Palace of Culture in Port Said, the exhibition "Eyes of the camera" was inaugurated, with 70 artists submitting their photos of various archaeological sites (27 September).(→)



Meetings and Visits

• H.E. Prime Minister leads a meeting in the Cabinet regarding the organization of an opening ceremony for the GEM (4 September). H.E. also visited the Aten museum in Minya, accompanied by the Minister of Antiquities (7 September). (→)



(←) • The Minister of Antiquities examined the Luxor Temple (9 September) and the ongoing restoration work of the Fountain in Muhammad Ali Palace in Shubra (12 September).

• The Minister of Antiquities witnessed the unravelling of the coffins of Sennedjem, chief of the workmen during the 19th Dynasty, and his wife. Both coffins arrived at the NEMC in Fustat from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The unravelling was followed by the transportation of Sennedjem's mummy to the conservation lab and placing it in the fumigation capsule (25 September). (→)



(←) • The Minister of Antiquities meets with the following: the ambassadors of Japan and Belgium (5 September), the ambassador of France and the French cultural consultant in Cairo (18 September), the Italian ambassador and the director of the Italian Archaeological Institute in Cairo (22 September), the ambassador of Panama (23 September), and the ambassador of Germany (25 September).

Committees

The Minister of Antiquities attended several meetings and committees, including:

- A meeting with the Governor of Cairo and representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Interior, Tourism, Security Forces, and the Supreme Council of Antiquities, concerning the necessary security measures required for the transportation of royal mummies and sarcophagi from their current display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to their new permanent exhibit in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat (10 September).
- A meeting concerning the Museum of Sharm el-Sheikh (18 September).
- Scientific and Organizational committees met for the preparation of the 12th International Congress of Egyptologists (19 September).
- Meeting to review monasteries in Wadi al-Nadhirun on the World Heritage List (22 September).
- Meeting of the High Committee for Site Management, led by Sherif Ismail, assistant of the President of the Republic for National Projects (23 September).

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

•The NEMC in Fustat welcomed 200 students from the Faculties of Antiquities of the Universities of Alexandria and Damanhur, to complement their curriculum with the museum's displays (5 September). (→)



• The GEM organized the first of its public awareness programs for public school primary school students, under the title "Discover the Grand Egyptian Museum". The students toured the museum as part of the program (28 September).

Repatriated Antiquities

•Antiquities' units in the International Luxor Airport and Asyut were able to recover several Greek and Roman coins, in cooperation with customs officers and the Tourist and Antiquities police (15 September). (→)



(←)•The Antiquities units in Hurghada have also succeeded, in cooperation with the security forces, to recover 11 objects, including some dinars bearing the name of al-Kamil, dating to the Ayyubid period. In addition to this, there was also a horse saddle belonging to the family of Muhammad Ali Pasha (25 September).

Decrees

The Supreme Council of Antiquities' Board of Directors approved the following decisions:

- Agreement of cooperation between the SCA and UNESCO regarding a grant for the rehabilitation of the Museum of Islamic Art.
- Increase of the daily wage of workers in accordance to the Ministry of Antiquities' system of remuneration.



SHOSHA
KAMAL



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