



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 39 * August 2019

Tanta Antiquities Museum
Re-opened



p.2

Ministers of Antiquities and
Housing cooperate to launch
visitors' services in Saqqara



p.2

Obelisk of Ramses II now stands in
the New Alamein City, while parts
of another obelisk were moved to
Cairo to be set up in Tahrir square
following restoration



p.2

Sarcophagus of queen Tausert
moves to Luxor Museum from the
Valley of the Kings



p.2

H.E. Prime Minister visits several
archaeological projects



p.3

Cooperation protocol for
the establishment of a new
museum in the NAC



p.4

Minister of Antiquities
participates in the opening
ceremony of ASE International
Congress in Holland



p.4

Ministers of Culture and
Antiquities launched Citadel
Music Festival



p.5

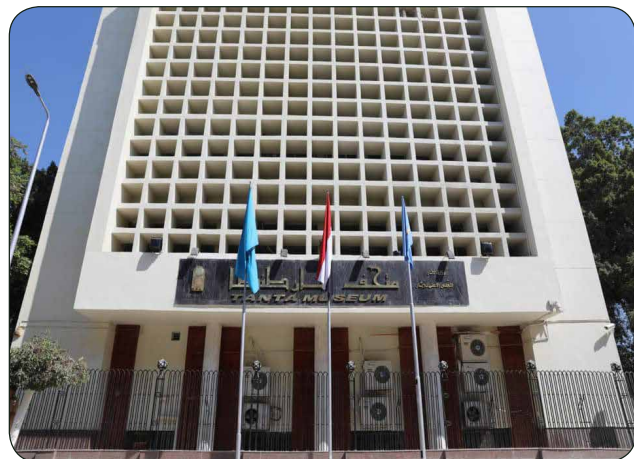
Restoration started on
Tutankhamun's gilded outer coffin



p.5

Inaugurations

- The Minister of Antiquities and the Governor of Gharbiya have re-opened Tanta Antiquities Museum after it had been closed for about nineteen years. The museum is counted among the oldest provincial museums, its first inauguration dating back to 1913. It includes collections covering different time periods and containing up to 2005 objects (31 August). (→→)



News

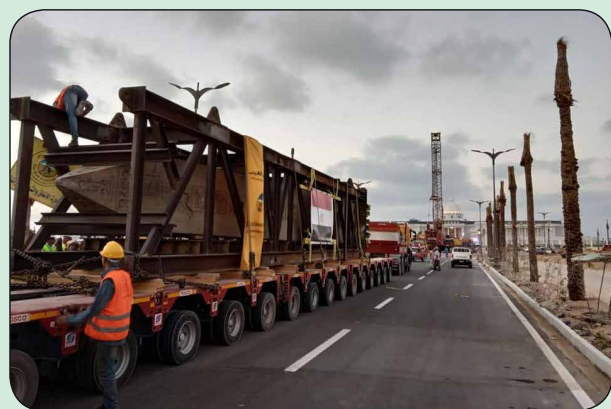
- Eco-friendly, German-made audio guides are now introduced to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, allowing for a more enjoyable, informative touring experience. The new devices can be used by guides and tour-groups alike (4 August). (→→)



(←→) • In an effort to encourage more and longer visits to Saqqara, the Ministers of Antiquities, Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities signed a protocol of cooperation for the introduction and operation of visitors' services and facilities management in Saqqara archaeological area (8 August).

- The New Alamein City is now home to an obelisk of Ramses II after it was transported from Al-Andalus garden in Zamalek. The move was facilitated through the cooperative efforts of both Ministries of Antiquities and Housing (8 August). (→→)

Also moved were eight fragments of another obelisk belonging to the same king. These were relocated from Tanis archaeological site to Cairo, where they will be reassembled and restored (29 August).



- The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) received a number of large objects coming from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (EMC). The pieces will be restored in preparation for their exposition on the grand staircase of the GEM. These objects include the sphinx-like statue of Ramses II, carved out of red granite and weighing about six tons, and the five-meter tall granite column of Amenemhat III (10 August).

- In accordance with His Excellency the President's directions to establish a Centre of Arts and Culture in the New Administrative Capital (NAC), the Minister of Antiquities and the President Advisor witnessed the signing of a protocol between the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and al-Masa Group for the establishment of a new museum in the Arts and Culture City located in the NAC (27 August). (→→)



(←→)•The sarcophagus of Tausert, last queen of the Nineteenth Dynasty, is now on display in the Luxor Museum for the first time, whereas before it was located in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings (30 August).

Restoration projects

- The joint Egyptian-German Mission completed restoration work on the architectural components of Ptolemy XII's temple in Athribis, southwest of Sohag.(→→)



- The Ministry of Antiquities committed to a set timeline, continues restoration work on the Aqueduct.



- SCA's Conservators have completed disassembling the walls of the tomb of Tutu located in al-Deyabat area, near the city of Akhmim in Sohag Governorate. Following the Permanent Committee decision, the tomb was moved to the museum of the NAC.

(←→)• 70 % of the historic buildings of the city of Shali, located in the Siwa Oasis, have been restored. .

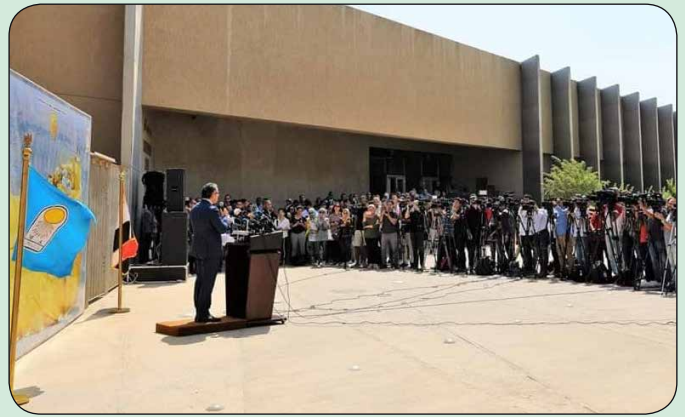
Meetings and Visits

- H.E the Prime Minister recieved the Minister of Antiquities to discuss several of the Ministry of Antiquities' projects (3, 19, 27 August). In addition to this, the Minister of Antiquities has accompanied H.E the Prime Minister to the restoration labs in the GEM to examine the condition of Tutankhamun's gilded outer coffin after it had been moved for the first time from the king's tomb.(→→)

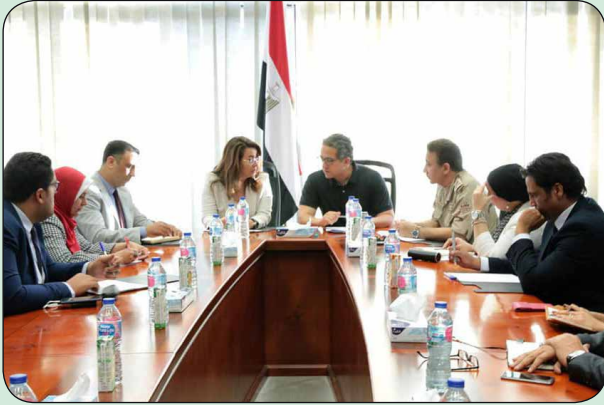


(←→)• H.E the Prime Minister and the Minister of Antiquities paid the Baron Empain Palace a visit to appraise the proceedings of the building's restoration, 85 % of which was completed in preparation for its opening in November 2019. They also visited the Royal Carriages Museum located in Boulaq (28 August).

- The Ministry of Antiquities held a press conference to announce the commencement of restoration work on Tutankhamun's gilded outer coffin (4 August). (→)



- (←) • The Minister of Antiquities met with the Minister of Social Solidarity to explore procedures for the establishment of a «Friends of the Grand Egyptian Museum» association (6 August).



- The Minister of Antiquities, together with the Governor of Alexandria visited the restoration projects underway at both the Greco-Roman Museum and the Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue (6 August). (→)



- (←) • With the opening of the Royal Carriages Museum soon, the Minister of Antiquities paid the museum a preparatory visit. The Royal Carriages Museum was established during the reign of Khedive Ismail, and later underwent several changes during the reign of Fouad. The museum includes a collection of royal carriages of different design, all used to welcome visiting kings, ambassadors, and noblemen (6 August).



- The Minister of Antiquities visited the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis to inspect the state of the building's conservation (August 18th), the National Museum of Egyptian Civilizations (19 August), and the Hurghada Museum Project, accompanied by the Red Sea Governor (30 August).

- Ministers of Culture and Antiquities launched the music festival at the Citadel, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture and hosted by the Ministry of Antiquities (17 August-1 September). (→)



• Meeting the invitation of the Association for Students of Egyptology (ASE), the Minister of Antiquities travelled to Leiden to inaugurate the International ASE Congress for Young Egyptologists 2019.

There, the minister gave a lecture entitled «Archaeological Work and Current Projects». Present at the conference's opening was Egypt's ambassador in Holland, as were members of Leiden University and the School of Humanities, the director of the National Museum, and Faculty from the Papyrological Institute and the Institute for Near Eastern Studies. Additionally, more than a hundred graduate students in Egyptology attended the conference (20-22 August).

(→)



Committees and Meetings



(←) • Minister of Antiquities met with the Minister of Housing and Governors of Cairo and Giza to discuss the development of the areas surrounding The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) (7 August). Another meeting was held to discuss the transportation of the royal mummies from the GEM to the NMEC. Investment opportunities available in both Museums have been facilitated, along with a management plan for the services that will be provided (19 August).

- Meetings were also held with the High Committee for World Heritage Sites Management and the High Committee for Museum Exhibition Scenarios (26 August).
- Several organizations in partnership also examined the latest developments of the Giza Plateau (27 August).
- Minister of Antiquities received Japanese Ambassador to Egypt (19 August), Egypt's Ambassador of Greece (27 August), and Austrian Ambassador to Egypt (29 August) to discuss possibilities of collaboration in the field of archaeology.

Exhibitions

The Museum of Muhammad Ali Prince Palace in al-Manial district organized a temporary exhibition titled «Who are Voyaging to the Beloved Prophet». In addition to a rare collection of Prince Muhammad Ali's belongings, the exhibition also included two rare, historical pieces of cloth belonging to the Kaaba's covering, a manuscript of al-Busiri's Burdah, and a rare hand-written copy of the Quraan (8 August - 8 September). (→)



Cultural Events and Community Outreach

• The Ministry of Antiquities Office' General Administration for Cultural Development organized a number of cultural engagements in different areas. Some of these engagements included: the completion of the ancient Egyptian writing program in the Salam children's library (29 August-1 September); Presenting the same program in the Mahmoud Saeed Museum in Alexandria (3 August); A Seminar in the Nasr City Library surveying mathematics across centuries (6 August); The Library of Rawd al-Faraj Culture Palace (20 August); Completing the «Features of Greco-Roman Art» summer program, the results of which will be displayed in the Egyptian Museum and its Children's Museum in Cairo (20-26 August); A seminar and play took place in the Culture Palace of Ein Helwan chronicling the story of ancient Egyptian writing (7 August); A seminar regarding mathematics across centuries in the Library of Shubra al-Kheima (8 August), The Coptic Museum organized a celebration titled «My Companion Friend» targeting a group of primary school students for the occasion of International Friendship Day (3 August).



• In the spirit of the pilgrimage season, the Egyptian Textiles Museum located in al-Moez street organized a celebration entitled «The Great Day of Hajj». It included a temporary exhibition displaying, for the first time, two pieces of silk, one of which was part the covering for the Prophet's room, while the other constituted part of the covering of the Ka'ba. Both fragments date to the end of the Mameluk, beginning of the Ottoman period. In addition to this, the museum organized a lecture outlying the history of the Ka'ba's covering and Egypt's role in its production, as well as a selection of art and education workshops for children (7-8 August).

Decrees

• **The Minister of Antiquities issued a decree to delegate each of the following:**

- Dr. Ahmad al-Shirbini, Professor at the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University, for the position of general supervisor of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization's Project.
- Renewing General Hisham Samir's position as the Minister of Antiquities' assistant for engineering affairs.
- Mr. Hazim Nabih reappointed as legal advisor to the Ministry of Antiquities.
- Mrs. Yomna Ismail, engineer at the Grand Egyptian Museum, appointed as Assistant to the Minister of Antiquities for work concerning the museum's project.



SHOSHA
KAMAL



Editor: Dr Hany El Tayeb
Co-editor: Mohamed Saad
Staff: Ashwaq Mosleh
Karim El-Ridy - Muhammad Ragab
Designer: Marwa El Shimy

Translated by Mariam Ghorab

Reviewed by
Neven el Aref

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
Ministry of Antiquities
[ministry_of_antiquities](https://www.facebook.com/ministry_of_antiquities)
Printed by: MoA Press