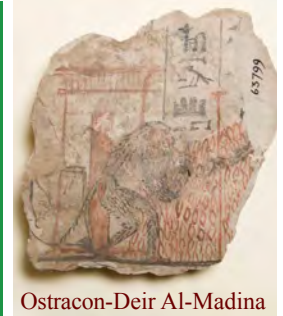




Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 19 * December 2017



Ostracon-Deir Al-Madina

- The Minister of Antiquities opened the Sanctuary of the God Amun-Ra at the Temple of Hatshepsut in Deir Al-Bahari, Luxor, after the completion of the restoration work that was done in collaboration with the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology. The opening was attended by the Governor of Luxor, the Chairperson of the Tourism and Aviation Committee of the Egyptian Parliament, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and a number of MoA officials (9 December).



- The Minister of Antiquities opened the first phase of the restoration project of the library of Saint Catherine's Monastery and the newly restored Mosaic of the Transfiguration in the Monastery's main church, which is



considered to be the largest and oldest mosaic in the Middle East. The opening was attended by H.E. the Minister of Local Development; the Governor of South Sinai; Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees of Culture, Information and Antiquities; Tourism and Civil Aviation; Foreign Affairs, and Religion, in addition to other Members of Parliament, ambassadors and public figures. The Mosaic dates back to the 9th century AD and covers an area of approximately 46 square meters. It is decorated with small gilded and silvered pieces and features an image of Jesus Christ, surrounded by 31 medallions containing images of apostles, prophets, saints and the Virgin Mary (16 December).

Repatriated Antiquities

- The Ministry of Antiquities received 28 artifacts from Cairo International Airport customs after they were intercepted during an attempt to smuggle them abroad. The artifact collection consists of different coins dating back to the Ottoman period and the reign of Muhammad Ali Pasha (6 December).
- The Archaeological Ports Unit at Cairo International Airport seized a collection of 329 coins during an attempt to smuggle them to France. The collection consists of 13 coins that date back to the Byzantine period and 157 coins of Ptolemaic date, in addition to another collection that dates back to the Roman period and bears the portraits of several emperors (24 December).
- The Central Administration of Ports in collaboration with the Passenger Security Police at Cairo International Airport succeeded in detecting a collection of antiquities and heritage objects during an attempt to smuggle them out of the country. The collection includes a bowl of red glass decorated with floral motifs and the royal emblem of the Mohamed Ali dynasty, and two wooden weights cased with metal bearing the seal of the Egyptian Weights and Scales authority and dating back the era of the Mohamed Ali dynasty. A collection of important documents of the 19th-20th Century was also confiscated (25 December).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- The Egyptian Archeological mission at the site of Dra' Abu el-Naga in Luxor has succeeded in discovering one new tomb and rediscovering a second. The first one is designated Kamp 161 and may date back to the New Kingdom (probably 18th Dynasty). The name of the owner is currently unknown. A large wooden mask, remains of a coffin, part of a colored wooden mask and four wooden chairs were found inside. The second tomb is designated Kamp 150 and dates back to end of the 17th or beginning of the 18th Dynasty. Fragments of a wooden coffin and a wooden box containing 36 wooden Ushabti statues were found inside. One hundred funerary seals, colored wooden masks and a number of clay pots and mummies were found as well.



- The joint Egyptian-European mission working on the restoration and preservation of the Colossi of Memnon succeeded in discovering 27 complete black granite statues of the goddess Sakhmet from the temple of King Amenhotep III at of Kom el-Hitan in the west bank of Luxor. The maximum height of the discovered statues is two meters, and the goddess Sakhmet is represented either seated, holding an ankh sign (symbol of life) in her left hand or standing, holding a papyrus scepter against her chest. Her head is surmounted by a sun disk and a uraes (cobra).



- The Egyptian-Italian mission of the Italian National Research Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Antiquities, has succeeded in discovering the remains of two fortresses that may date back to the Late Period, at the site of Tal al-Maskhouta in Wadi al-Tamilat, 15 km west of Ismailia Governorate. The first fortress is considered to be one of the largest ever discovered in the region. It is constructed of mud brick and supported by defensive towers.

- Aswan has witnessed numerous new discoveries. The joint Egyptian-Swedish mission working at Jabal al-Silsila has discovered four child burials that date back to the 18th Dynasty. The discovery includes funerary material, such as amulets and pottery vessels. Furthermore, the Austrian mission succeeded in discovering part of a cemetery containing a number of burials, dating back to the First Intermediate Period, in Kom Ombo. A residential city, dating back to the Old Kingdom, was discovered at the bottom of the cemetery. The seal of 5th Dynasty King, Sahure, was found inside. Finally, the Egyptian-Swiss mission working in Aswan, has found an incomplete limestone statue of a woman from the Greco-Roman period.



TRAINING

Fifteen archaeologists and conservators were trained in the documentation of rock inscriptions at the training centre of South Sinai and the Red Sea in Sarabit Al-Khadem (17-23 December).

International Participation

A number of MoA employees travelled abroad to participate in different conferences, seminars, training courses and touring exhibitions: USA: Ashraf Ibrahim Ragab (Director of Museums' Follow-up Department in Lower Egypt) and Amira Mohamed Seddeeq (Inspector of Antiquities in Nubia); UK: Soad Fayez Mahrous (General Director of Beni Suef Museum); China: Dr. Mostafa Mohamed Al-Sagheir (General Director of Karnak and Supervisor of the Avenue of Rams project) Wesam Mohamed Abd Al-Aal (Inspector of Antiquities in the Assistant Minister for Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities' Office).

Field work

A number of archaeological missions started working in December 2017, such as: The joint American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)-Ashmolean Museum mission in Edfu (Aswan governorate) and the mission of the University of Alabama in Al-Lisht (Giza governorate).

Temporary Exhibitions

Internal Exhibition

- The gift shop of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir is hosting an exhibition of Egyptian handicrafts and traditional industries under the title “Egyptian Heritage” in which 21 Egyptian companies are displaying their products. The exhibition was visited by H.E. the Minister of Antiquities accompanied by a number of MoA officials, the Chairperson of Tourism and Aviation committee of the Egyptian Parliament (3 December, 2017 – 3 February, 2018).



- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo began to organize a temporary weekly exhibition, which includes three artifacts (a repatriated antiquity, an artifact from the Museum’s storerooms, and an artifact that is on display, but is rarely noticed by visitors). H.E. Minister of Antiquities attended the opening accompanied by a number of MoA officials (7 December).

- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Fustat received a delegation from the Jiangsu Province in China, famous for its natural silk production. The delegation held a one-day photography exhibition inside the museum, which included about 45 photographs documenting the Silk Road Trade between Egypt and China (11 December,).

- The Minister of Antiquities opened a temporary exhibition in Gallery 44, on the first floor in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, titled “=-(1917-2017).” The exhibition is the product of a collaboration between the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo (IFAO) and the University of Montpellier on the occasion of the centenary celebration of French excavations in Deir al-Madina. The exhibition features 52 artifacts discovered during the French excavations, some of which are being exhibited for the first time, in addition to several documents from the IFAO’s archives, such as excavation reports and photographs (21 December,).



Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Egyptian Textile Museum organized a scientific symposium titled “Traditional Crafts: The Future and the Challenges” to discuss the problems faced by the employees and how to protect traditional crafts from extinction (17 December).
- The Temple of Karnak celebrated the solar alignment on its main axis in the presence of large numbers of Egyptian and foreign visitors (21 December).
- The Museum of the Palace of Prince Muhammed Ali and the Museum of Islamic Art both celebrated their 114th anniversary. The two events included various activities, and the two museums allowed free entry for Egyptians and foreigners living in Egypt under the age of 21 (24-28 December).
- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Museum of Islamic Art participated in an educational activity (Athon - Skype) organized by Microsoft Company to promote educational and cultural outreach between participants from different countries. This came after MoA and Microsoft launched a campaign titled “My Museum in Your Class”.

Projects

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

- 100% of the concrete and metal structures of the museum buildings were completed, in addition to 76% of the total works, 60% of the interior finishing works, and 56% of the floors of the outer areas.
- 163 objects from King Tutankhamun's collection were moved to the GEM this month. The total number of objects from the boy-king's collection moved to the GEM so far has now reached 4266 and the total number of all artefacts transported to the GEM has reached 42,755.
- GEM received the gate of King Amenemhat I after it was moved from Ezbet Helmy Faqqous in Sharqeyya governorate, and initial conservation work is currently being carried out. GEM also received three objects from King Tutankhamun's collection from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, consisting of a chariot and two linen tunics (19 December).
- The colossus of Ramesses II was separated from its temporary base in preparation for its move to the GEM's entrance hall.
- The Board of Directors of GEM accepted a donation of USD 1000 from a tourist to the Museum.
- The Board of Directors of GEM held its sixth meeting during which it decided that donations to the Museum can be made to the following Central Bank accounts: US Dollar Account Number: 4/082/18606/1 and Euro Account Number: 4/082/18607/4 (20 December).



Conservation Projects

The Ministry of Antiquities started restoration and maintenance work on Prince Taz Palace in the Al-Khalifa area at the Citadel. It is one of the historic palaces distinguished by its architectural style. It was established by Prince Seif Al-Din Taz, of the Mamluk period. Restoration work also started on Sadat's house in New Helmeya in Al-Sayeda Zeinab. The house dates to the Ottoman period. This was prompted by the national campaign to save 100 archaeological buildings in Cairo.

Appointments

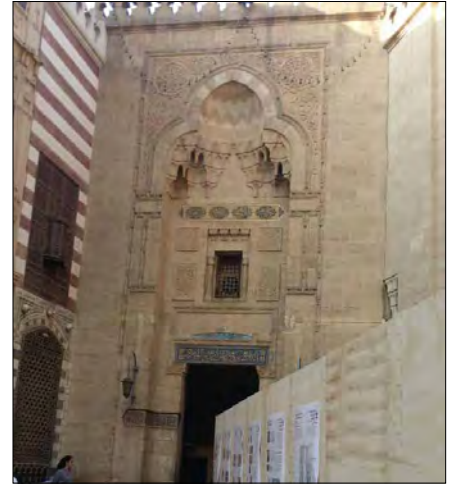
- Hassan al-Refai Abd al-Ghany was appointed Head of Finance Sector, Hassan Abd al-Hameed was appointed to work in GEM's Engineering Committee, Ashraf Sief al-Nasr was appointed Supervisor of financial and Administrative Affairs in Middle Egypt, Kareema Abd al-Kareem was appointed General Director of Planning and Follow-up in Middle Egypt, Dr Abu Bakr Ahmed was appointed Supervisor of Archaeological Sites in North Cairo, Mostafa Ezzat was appointed Director of the Infringements Department in the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector, Ahmed Hassan was appointed Director of the Archaeological Documentation Department in Upper Egypt in the Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector, and Osama Mohamed was appointed Director of the Employee's Affairs unit in Middle Delta.

Decrees

- The Permanent Committee of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities Sector approved the restoration of Hamam al-Sharaieby (bath) in al-Azhar and al-Ghoria.
- The registration of 12 icons in churches of the Misr al-Qadima area and Mar-Mina church in Fam al-Khaleg has been approved.
- Approval of the registration of Icons of Anba Maqqar Church, Atris, Imbab and Giza.
- Approval of the new travel period for all staff accompanying travelling exhibitions to be 20 days for everyone.
- Approval of the new operation hours of the Nubia Museum in Aswan to be from 9am to 9pm all weekdays.
- Approval of the granting of free entry to all archaeological sites and museums open to the public to primary and preparatory students in Egyptian governmental schools starting from 1 February, 2018. Secondary school students and Egyptian governmental university students will be granted a discount on the annual pass (50 Egyptian Pounds for secondary school students and 125 Egyptian Pounds for university students).
- Approval of the increase in fees for the special opening of the following sites and museums: Pyramids of Giza, Luxor Temple, Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Salah al-Din's Citadel in Cairo and Prince Muhammed Ali's Palace in Manyal, to be 15,000 Egyptian Pounds instead of 10,000 Egyptian Pounds, starting from 1 November, 2018.
- Increase in the entry ticket prices of some archaeological sites and museums, starting from 1 February, 2018 for Egyptians and from 1 November, 2018 for non-Egyptians (the average increase for non-Egyptians is 25%).
- 1.50% discount on Cairo Pass when purchasing Luxor Pass, and vice versa, on the condition of purchasing the two permits within the same year.

Meetings and Visits

- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by MoA officials, the acting US Ambassador and the Head of the Religious Committee in the Egyptian Parliament during his inspection of the restoration works on Al Imam Shafie's Dome (carried out through the "Heritage for us" initiative). He also viewed the latest discoveries made at the site and in the area of Hush al-Pasha, which include a number of marble installations from the tombs of the sons and grandsons of Mohammed Ali. (4 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities was accompanied by the Prince, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for a private visit to the Museum of Islamic Art. The visit was followed by a tour in the Al Moez Li Din Allah Al Fatimi Street in Historic Cairo (5 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities participated in the opening session of the scientific conference organized by the Italian Archaeological Centre in Egypt, titled "Italian Archaeology in Egypt and MENA Countries." (7 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities opened the 5th International Conference on Heritage Conservation and Site Management, organized in Aswan by Helwan University in collaboration with Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus – Germany. During his stay in Aswan, the Minister visited some of the archaeological sites in the governorate and inspected important restoration works and projects there (8 December).
- The Inauguration of a UNESCO workshop on the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict in 1954, and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in 1970.
- The Minister of Antiquities received the Ambassador of Cyprus and a delegation from the University of Cyprus to discuss possibilities of collaboration between the two countries in the fields of heritage, capacity building, and the exchange of scientific experiences (11 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities met with the Governor of the Central Bank, directors of banks in Egypt, and a group of Egyptian senior investors at NMEC to discuss investment opportunities in services provided to tourists in archaeological sites and major museums (10 -11 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities received the Director of Berlin Museum in order to discuss the development of work at the Aton Museum in Al-Minya. (17 December). He also received the Director of the Egyptian and Sudanese Antiquities Department at the British Museum (21 December).
- The Minister of Antiquities, the Governor of Giza and the President of the Committee of Tourism and Aviation in the Parliament visited the Grand Egyptian Museum project to follow up on the latest preparations for the move of Ramesses II's colossus from its current position in the Museum to its final destination in the Grand Staircase in the GEM. The Minister also visited the Giza Plateau Development Project to inspect the latest developments.



Varia

- The Pyramids area hosted the delegation of the International Federation of the Association of Professional Players, consisting of members from 70 different countries, to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the International Federation hosted by Egypt this year (6 December).
- The Ministry of Antiquities organized a memorial event to honour two great scholars—Dr Ramadan Abdo Al-Sayed and Dr Farouk Gomaa. A film about their scientific contributions was shown (11 December).
- The Prime Minister issued Decree no. 2747, establishing a general assembly for a holding company for investment in the field of archaeology and the promotion of cultural heritage (17 December).
- Discussions of the Antiquities Law in the Culture, Media, and Antiquities committee in the Parliament were closed, after the amendments made by MoA were approved by the Council of Ministers and the State Council. (18-19 December).

The first meeting of the representatives of Egyptian Universities, headed by the Minister of Antiquities, was held at MoA in Zamalek to discuss the proposals submitted by these universities concerning research projects by university students, that may contribute to the development of heritage sites and museums (26 December).

Practical Information

Current Ticket Prices for the Pharaonic Archaeological Sites Open for Visitors

Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP
Cairo & Giza				
Giza Plateau	60	120	5	10
Great Pyramid	150	300	30	60
Pyramid II	30	60	5	10
Pyramid III	30	60	5	10
Worker s Cemeteries	200	400	--	--
Ticket Cover (Entering area+Khufu Pyramid+Sun Boats)	200	400	--	--
El Matareya Obelisk	30	60	3	5
Saqqara				
Saqqara Area	60	120	5	10
New Saqqara Tombs	30	60	5	10
New Kingdom Cemeteries	25	50	3	5
El-Sarabium	60	120	10	20
Dahshur	30	60	3	5
Tomb of Mereuka	40	80	10	20
Tomb of Meresankh	25	50	10	20
Abusir	40	80	3	5
Mit Rahina	30	60	5	10
Upraising way to Unas Pyramid	2	5	3	5
Alexandria				
Mostafa Kamel	20	40	3	5
El-Shatby	20	40	3	5
Kom El-Shoqafa	30	60	5	10
El-Sawary Pillar	30	60	5	10
El-Anfoshy	20	40	3	5
Kom El-Dekka	40	80	5	10
Marina Monuments	10	20	3	5
siwa				
Gaba El-Mawta	20	40	5	10
El-Wahi Temple	20	40	5	10

Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP
Bahariya Oases				
Bahariya Oases	50	100	3	5
Al Sharqiya «Tell Basta»				
Tell Basta	30	60	3	5
Fayoum				
Karanis	30	60	3	5
Qarun Temple	30	60	3	5
Hawara Pyramid	30	60	3	5
Al-Lahun Pyramid	30	60	3	5
Medinet Madi	25	50	3	5
Beni-Suef				
Mydom Pyramid	30	60	5	10
Al-Minia				
Bani Hassan Tombs	30	60	3	5
Tell El-Amarna	30	60	5	10
Tuna El-Gabal	30	60	5	10
Akhnaten	20	40	3	5
Zawiat Sultan Pasha	20	40	3	5
Frezer Tombs	20	40	3	5
Assuit				
Meir Monumental Tombs	20	40	3	5
El-Hamamia	20	40	3	5
The Western Mountain Tombs	10	20	5	5
New Valley				
Dakhla Oasis				
Inclusive Ticket for Monuments in Dakhla	60	120	5	10
Al-Muzawaka Tombs	20	40	3	5
Deir Al-Hagar Temple	20	40	3	5
Qilaa Al Dabba & Ain Asil in Balat	20	40	3	5
Ezbet Bashendi	20	40	3	5



The holder of Cairo Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Cairo for 5 days.



The holder of Luxor Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Luxor.

Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP	Site	Foreigner Student / EGP	Foreigner EGP	Egyptian Student / EGP	Egyptian EGP
Kharga Oasis					Seti I Tomb	1000			
Inclusive Ticket for Monuments in Kharga	60	120	5	10	Babaz Tomb	20	40	5	10
Bagawat	25	50	0.50	1	Deir El-Medina	40	80	5	10
Qasr El-Zayyan	20	40	0.50	1	Seti I Temple	30	60	5	10
El-Gheweta	20	40	0.50	1	El-Assasif	30	60	5	10
Dosh Temple	20	40	0.50	1	Raamosa	30	60	5	10
Hibis Temple	40	80	0.50	1	Sheikh Abd Elqurna	20	40	5	10
South of Sinai					Habu Temple	30	60	5	10
Oyun Mousa	20	40	5	10	El-Ramsium	30	60	5	10
Sohag					Tomb of Pashedu	8	15	3	5
Abydos	40	80	5	10	Tomb of Ay	20	40	3	5
Statue of Meritamen	20	40	1	2	El-Khokha Tombs	20	40	3	5
Shunet El-Zebib + Kom El-Sultan	20	40			Userhat & Khonso	20	40	3	5
Qena					Roy & Sherwa Tomb	20	40	3	5
Dendera Temple	40	80	3	5	Merneptah	20	40	3	5
Esna					Carter House and Replica	25	50	3	5
El-Tod Temple	20	40	5	10	Qomr Maarai	20	40	5	10
Esna Temple	25	50	5	10	Isis Temple & Monastery of Shelweat	25	40	5	10
El-Malla Temple	20	40	3	5	Aswan				
Luxor					Unfinished Obelisk	30	60	3	5
Valley of the Kings	80	160	10	20	Edfu Temple	50	100	5	10
Tutankhamun Tomb	100	200	20	35	Abu Simble Temple + Documentation	80	160	5	10
Ramses VI Tomb	40	80	5	10	El-Soboa area	35	70	5	10
Valley of the Queens	40	80	5	10	Amada	35	70	5	10
Deir El-Bahri (Temple of Queen Hatshepsut)	40	80	5	10	Philae Temple	50	100	5	10
Karank Temple	60	120	5	10	Tombs of the Nobles	30	60	5	10
Ticket cover (Karank Temple+Opened Museum in Karnak)	75	150	—	—	Kalabsha Temple	30	60	5	10
Mut Temple in Karnak	25	40	5	10	Rock Relief in Sohil	20	40	5	10
Opened Museum in Karnak	30	60	5	10	El-kab	30	60	3	5
Luxor Temple	50	100	5	10	Hor Moheb	20	40	3	5
Mena & Nekht	30	60	5	10	Kom Ombo Temple and Crocodile Museum	40	80	5	10
Nefertari Tomb	1000				Visiting Abu-Simble Temple in 22nd Feb. & 22nd Oct.	120	240	10	20



The holder of Cairo Pass is allowed to visit all museums and archaeological sites (open for visitors) in Cairo for 5 days.

This kind of passes allows foreign residents in Egypt, who hold it, to visit all museums and archaeological sites open to public for three months or for one year during official visiting hours, and during the validity period.

Monument of the Month

Discovery of a Tomb Designated 'Kamp 161' Rediscovery of a Tomb Designated 'Kamp 150'

Three months after the discovery of the tomb of the Goldsmith of the God Amun, Amnemhat, at the west bank in Luxor, the Egyptian archaeological mission in Dra' Abu el-Naga discovered a new tomb and rediscovered an old one.

Friederike Kamp Seyfried had numbered the newly discovered tomb 'Kamp 161' back in the 90s, but she did not enter it. She had also worked on Tomb 'Kamp 150', until she reached the entrance but did not enter inside.

The name of the owner of Tomb Kamp 161 has not been identified, but the tomb seems to date to the reign of either Amenhotep II or Thutmose IV.

The tomb consists of a hall with walls of mud-brick and stone and a well on the southern side.

The well is six meters deep and ends with four side rooms. The entrance to the tomb, which leads to a transverse hall, is on the eastern side, and the sandstone façade is uninscribed.

A wooden mask was discovered inside the tomb. It was probably originally part of an anthropoid coffin. Part of a gilded wooden mask was also discovered, in addition to fragments of funerary chairs and the lower part of another anthropoid coffin with an image of the goddess Isis.

The tomb contains a painted scene of a man offering flowers to the deceased and his wife. The accompanying text ends with 'sn.f' which means 'his brother'. The scene is followed by the representations of guests, in four registers.



painting wooden masks, four hundred and fifty statues made of wood, faience and pottery; a wooden coffinette, and pottery vessels in different sizes and shapes, in addition to an unknown mummy wrapped in linen, in Osirid pose.




HASSAN ALLAM
HOLDING



INERTIA

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Printed by: MoA Press