

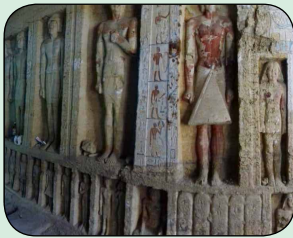


Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 31 * December 2018

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Discovering a group of Greco-Roman ceramic coffins at tell el Deir-Damietta



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Confiscating a white marble Greco-Roman statue at the Airport of Salum



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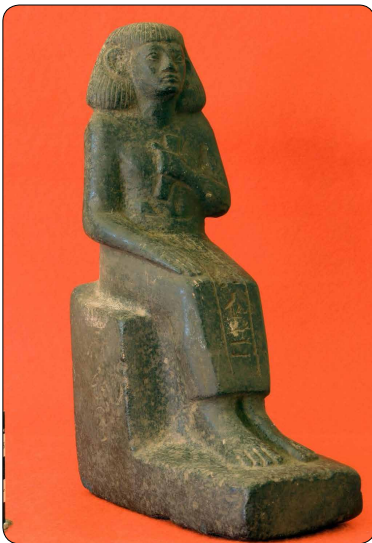
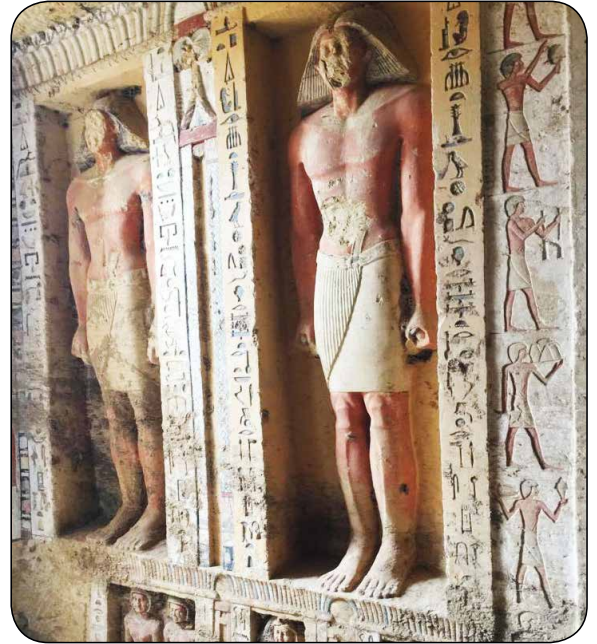
Assigning new members for the Permanent Committees of Egyptian antiquities and Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities



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Archaeological Discoveries

- The Egyptian archaeological mission working at the animal catacombs in Saqqara uncovered the tomb of the Royal Purification Priest «Wahti», dating back to the reign of Neferirkare, a king of Dynasty 5. The tomb is very well preserved and its walls are decorated with beautiful colored reliefs, as are the statues of the tomb owner and his family. The Minister of Antiquities announced the discovery in the presence of several foreign and Arab ambassadors, directors of foreign archaeological institutes, a number of committee directors, and members of parliament. The announcement took place amid wide international and local press coverage.



- The American mission of the University of Chicago at Tell Edfu uncovered a cylindrical limestone column that dates back to Dynasty 18. The column is inscribed with the name of the High Priest of Horus «Amenmesse». The mission also uncovered a limestone bust statue of a woman that dates back to Dynasty 19, and a limestone stela from Dynasty 18 in the form of a false door, in addition to a scribe statue of black diorite inscribed on all four sides.

- The Ministry of Antiquities' mission at Tell el Deir in Damietta uncovered a group of Greco-Roman ceramic coffins containing human remains, in addition to five rings, a heart amulet, and cartonnage. The mission also uncovered several pottery vessels and golden amulets of deities such as Isis, Horus, and Taweret.



- The Egyptian-Austrian archaeological mission working at Kom Ombo uncovered several cylinder seals carved with the names of kings from the Old Kingdom.

- The Swedish archaeological mission working at Gebel el Silsila in Kom Ombo discovered a tomb dating back to Dynasty 18, which includes three limestone sarcophagi, a group of scarabs and amulets, as well as human remains.

Field Work

Several archaeological missions began their work seasons in December as follows:

- Aswan: The Ministry of Antiquities' joint mission with the University of Milan in Italy began their season at the Agha Khan Mausoleum; The American-Belgian joint mission of Yale University and the Museum of Arts in Brussels began its work season at El-Kab; The American mission of the University of Pennsylvania began its work at Hierakonpolis.
- Luxor: The Hungarian mission of Eötvös University at the tomb TT65 at Sheikh Abdel Qurna; the Australian mission of Macquarie University at Draa Abu el Naga; The American mission of Johns Hopkins University at the Temple of Mut in Karnak; The IFAO's French mission at the north Karnak magazines; The Japanese mission of Waseda University at Userhat on the West Bank of Luxor; The Italian Mission of The Francesco Ballerini Center of Egyptology at Amenhotep II's Temple.
- Qena: The Egyptian-French joint mission of Ain Shams University and University of Montpellier at the ancient site of Qus and the American University in Cairo's mission at Deir el Ballas.
- Sohag: The American mission of the University of Pennsylvania at South Abydos.
- Minya: The Japanese mission of Tsukuba University at Tehna el Jabal.
- Red Sea: the Egyptian-French joint mission of the Suez Canal University and the Sorbonne at Ain el Sokhna; The American-Polish joint mission of the Polish Mediterranean Archaeology Institute and Delaware University at Bernike.
- Giza: the Italian mission of the University of Naples at Abusir in Saqqara.
- Daqahleya: the American mission of the University of Hawaii at Tell Timai El-Amdid.
- Alexandria: the French mission of the Center of Alexandrian Studies at the archaeological site of Bahig.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- The Islamic Arts Museum inaugurated a cultural exhibition at the Mohammed Naguib metro station, in cooperation with the Egyptian Company for Subway Operations. The exhibition included replicas of wooden objects, mashrabeyas, shells, colored glass, paintings on glass, jewelry, leather works, pottery work, tents, chandeliers, copper plates, paintings on ceramics, beads, and carpets (December 2).



- The Minister of Antiquities met students, members of the Friends of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, at the conclusion to their summer activities. The meeting was held at the Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall at the Zamalek headquarters of the Ministry of Antiquities (December 3).

- Dr. Zahi Hawass accompanied a group of Special Needs children on a tour of the Giza Pyramids as part of the cooperation between

the Ministry of Antiquities and the Zahi Hawass Center of Egyptology, affiliated with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (December 5).

- The Coptic Museum organized the celebration «A Tree's Tale» in time for Christmas. The celebration included art workshops for children to decorate a Christmas tree, and the children were presented with gifts. The workshop was followed by a theatrical performance and a guided tour of the museum (December 15).

- The Ministry of Antiquities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, held a celebration at the Manasterly Palace. The celebration was held to mark the occasion of issuing commemorative coins for the visit of the Holy Family to Egypt. It was attended by the Director of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector, and the Director of the Coin Minting Authority of the Ministry of Finance (December 25).



Featured News

- Mr Ahmed Ebeid, the General Director of the Minister's Office, joined the Egyptian-Kuwaiti committee meeting that was held in Kuwait, under the direction of the Egyptian and Kuwaiti Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and was attended by representatives from multiple ministries to discuss the possible collaboration between the two countries (December 1-5).
- A cooperation protocol was signed between the Supreme Council of Antiquities SCA and Orascom Holdings for Investments to provide and manage the services of the Giza Pyramids (December 13).
- Eng Mahrous Saeed, the General Supervisor of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, attended the opening ceremonies of the Museum of African Civilizations in Dakar, Senegal. Moreover, Egypt donated 20 replicas of ancient Egyptian antiquities, produced by the Replica Production Unit of the ministry, to be displayed at the museum (December 16).



- The Grand Egyptian Museum received 559 objects, including 12 wooden pieces of the second boat of Khufu, along with other objects from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (December 28).

- As part of the cooperation between the Ministry of Antiquities and the Suez Canal, the Islamic Arts Museum organized a temporary exhibition called «The Suez Canal through the Ages». The exhibition was held on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the Islamic Arts Museum, and the 149th anniversary of the Suez Canal. The opening ceremony was held in the presence of the Minister of Antiquities (December 29).

Conferences

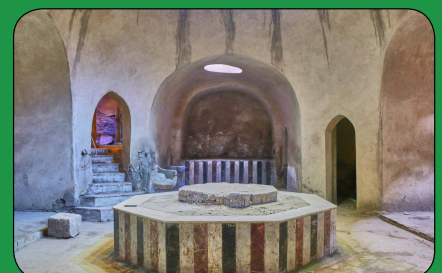
- Dr Mustafa Amin, the Minister of Antiquities' Assistant for Technical affairs, joined the opening ceremony of the Sixth International Conference «Antiquities and Heritage: Authenticity, Risks, and Challenges», organized by the Faculty of Archaeology at Cairo University (December 2).



- The Minister of Antiquities and the Italian Ambassador inaugurated the 2nd conference for the achievements of the Italian archaeological missions, called «The Italian Archaeological Missions in Egypt, North Africa, and the Middle East» (December 5-8).
- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization organized the Bio-archaeology conference «The Scientific Study of Human Remains in Archaeological Sites: Mummies in Egypt and Chile». The conference was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Chile and the UNESCO Cairo office (December 11).
- Dr Mustafa Amin, the Minister's Assistant for Technical Affairs, joined the opening ceremony of the annual international conference of the Ain Shams University Center of Papyrology and Epigraphy. The conference «Medicine and Pharmacology in Egypt and the Near East: from ancient times to the early Islamic Period» was organized by the center in cooperation with the Coptic Orthodox Cultural Center (December 19).

Restoration Projects

- The Central Administration for Restoration and Conservation completed the conservation works of the tombs «Padiniset» and "Psmatik," in the area known as the "Persian Well" at Saqqara. The works were carried out in cooperation with the Tübingen University's German mission.





- The Ministry of Antiquities completed the consolidation and cleaning works of the Sharaiby Bath at al-Azhar district. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Egyptian Institute for Heritage Rescue.
- The Ministry of Antiquities launched the first phase of The Madi Conservation Project, southwest of Fayum. The project includes the consolidation of the lion statues, and the conservation of the wall frescos on the mudbrick houses of priests, and chemical and mechanical cleaning of different elements of the ancient city.

Exhibitions

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo exhibited, for the first time, three groups of objects that were used in ancient times for bartering. The objects consist of silver blocks in different shapes and sizes, as well as Athenian coins; including a coin known as the «Athenian Broken Coin» (December 9-16).



- The Ministry of Antiquities participated in the first commercial exhibition for eco-trade in African countries. The exhibition was held at the International Conference and Exhibitions Center in Egypt (December 11-17).

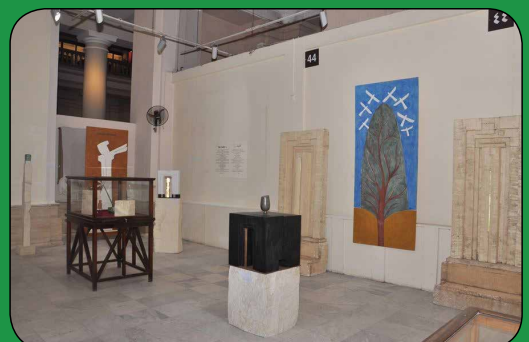


- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo organized the exhibition «The Rise of Egyptian Royalty in the 4th Millennium BC». The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the German University of Bonn (13th December-13th February 2019).



- Dr Mustafa Amin, the Minister's Assistant for Technical Affairs, inaugurated an art exhibition titled «The First Symposium for Artists in Archaeology», at the Mohammed Ali Palace Museum in Manyal, where several art pieces designed by the ministry artists were displayed (December 13-23).

- The Egyptian Museum in Cairo held an arts exhibition called «The Cache» by the artist Dr Hassan Kamel, Professor of Sculpture at the Faculty of Arts. The exhibition includes sculptures inspired by Egypt's heritage and links ancient and modern art. An introductory talk was organized to acquaint the audience with the art of sculpture, followed by a guided tour (20th December-20th January 2019).



- The Mohammed Ali Palace Museum in Manyal celebrated the International Day of the Arabic Language by organizing an arts exhibition in cooperation with the Academy for Arabic Calligraphy. The exhibition was held at the Martyr Mohammed El-Dorra School in Mahala, and included more than 50 art pieces showing the different styles of Arabic Calligraphy (December 31).

Meetings and Visits

- A meeting was held with parliament members to discuss issues related to the ministry and antiquities magazines. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the SCA, and the Director of the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector, and the Minister's assistant for Engineering Affairs (December 9).
- The Minister of Antiquities received the Ambassador of Spain and the Spanish cultural attaché (December 17); The Minister also received the Director of the Macquarie Museum of Sydney, Australia (December 18).
- The Minister of Antiquities attended several committee meetings, including: the preparatory meeting for the Higher Committee for Heritage, headed by Eng Sherif Ismail, the Former Prime Minister (December 22); and the committee meeting overseeing the development of the city of Rashid (December 24).
- The Minister of Antiquities attended a welcome ceremony for the Japanese delegation of flood survivors in Japan, along with the Minister of Tourism, and the Ambassador of Japan.

Decrees

- Reforming the permanent committees of Egyptian Antiquities and Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities.
- Appointing Mr. Wagdy Abbas as supervisor of the Technical Office of The Minister
- Appointing Dr. Usama el Nahas as supervisor of the preparation of the display halls at the Grand Egyptian Museum
- Appointing Ms. Sarah el Komy as supervisor of the Financial Development Unit at the Minister's Office.



Repatriated Antiquities

The Archaeological Unit at Salum Airport, in cooperation with the Airport Police, confiscated a white marble bust statue of a lady from the Roman Period.



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