



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter

January 2022 - Issue 25

Egypt

The Parliament Approves New Hotel and Tourist Establishments Law



More than 50 years after Law No. 173 / 1 for hotel and tourist establishments, was issued, the Parliament approved, in its session held on January 25, on a draft law submitted by the government, in the presence of the Minister, regarding the issuance of a new Hotel and Tourist Establishments Law.

The directives of H.E. the President came to facilitate the procedures for obtaining licenses for hotel and tourist establishments. Therefore, it was necessary to prepare a draft law to coordinate between all relevant authorities responsible for issuance of such licenses through what is called the "single window procedures". This is without hindering the right of each authority to collect the fees stipulated in laws and resolutions. These new procedures aim to improve the business conditions in Egypt, enhance its competitiveness to attract investments, and keep pace with all developments that have occurred in the tourism industry during the past decades. The Parliament also approved a draft law for establishing the Tourism and Antiquities Support Fund which aims to support and finance activities that develop and revitalize tourism and promoting it globally, developing services and tourist sites, stimulating inbound tourism. It also aims at supporting the activities of the Supreme Council of Antiquities projects related to the restoration, preservation and maintenance of antiquities, the development of archaeological sites, and the preservation of the cultural heritage in accordance with the concept of sustainable tourism development.



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The President and his Senegalese Counterpart Witness the Signing of an MoU for Cooperation in Archeology



H.E the President and his Senegalese counterpart witnessed, on January 29, the signing of a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of archeology between the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the Museum of African Civilizations of the Senegalese Ministry of Culture. This memorandum was signed by the Minister on the Egyptian side, and on the Senegalese side, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad.

Senegalese President Visits Giza Pyramids and the NMEC

The Senegalese President and the Senegalese official delegation visited the Giza Pyramids and the National Museum of Civilization (NMEC). He was accompanied by the Minister.

South Korean President Visits the NMEC

During his official visit to Egypt, the South Korean President visited the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC). He was accompanied by the Minister. This visit is considered the first for a South Korean President in 16 years.

Signing an MoU with the Cultural Heritage Authority of South Korea

On the sidelines of the official visit of the President of South Korea to Egypt, the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities signed, on January 21, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of antiquities and museums, with the President of the South Korean Cultural Heritage Authority.

They also met on January 20, at Karnak Temple in Luxor, to discuss aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of archeology.

On January 22, the head of the South Korean Cultural Heritage Authority, his delegation, and the press delegation accompanying the South Korean President visited the Giza Pyramids and the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir.

The PM Visits a Number of Projects to Revive Historic Cairo

On January 8, the Prime Minister (PM) visited a number of projects in Historic Cairo, to follow up on the progress of work.

The development of these areas is part of the Egyptian government's plan to revive these unique historic places to become tourist attractions.



The PM Discusses the Projects of the Ministry and the Strategy to Develop Yachting Tourism

On January 17, the Prime Minister (PM) met the Minister, and discussed the most recent inbound tourism numbers. He reviewed the completed projects of the Ministry that are ready for opening; the work done by the Ministry to improve services provided to visitors and tourists in St. Catherine; and the preparations for hosting the meetings of the 48th session of the Middle East Regional Commission of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

On January 3, the PM held a meeting to follow up on the status of implementing the strategy of maximizing yachting tourism in Egypt.

..And Steps to Develop and Revive the Historic City of Esna



On January 25, the Prime Minister followed up on the development of the historic city of Esna in Luxor. Esna includes archaeological sites from different historical eras, therefore it qualifies as an open museum to visitors. The Prime Minister stressed on the quick completion of the project's master plans for the immediate start of the project.

The PM Follows up on Preparations for Hosting COP27

The Prime Minister (PM) held a meeting, on January 25, to follow up on the preparations for hosting the 27th session of the Parties Conference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Sharm EL-Sheikh, next November.

He highlighted the directives of H.E. the President to declare Sharm el-Sheikh a «Green City», in addition to speeding up work in tourism projects to increase the number of hotel rooms, finishing infrastructure projects, and developing charging stations for electric cars within the city. The PM formed a committee headed by the Governor of South Sinai to facilitate the procedures for obtaining licenses to complete work in hotels and tourism establishments in the governorate.

Meeting with Tourist Investors to Discuss Preparations for the Conference



Sharm El-Sheikh

The Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation met with a number of tourist investors in Sharm EL-Sheikh, to discuss preparations within the tourism sector to host "COP27". They also discussed mechanisms for transforming the city of Sharm EL-Sheikh into an environmentally friendly – green city, the conversion of licensed tourism vehicles into eco-friendly ones, and improving the efficiency of hotels and increasing their accommodation capacity.

Hotels and Tourist Establishments in Sharm El-Sheikh are Obligated to Obtain A "Green" Certificate and Eco- friendly Cars Start Operating in Luxor

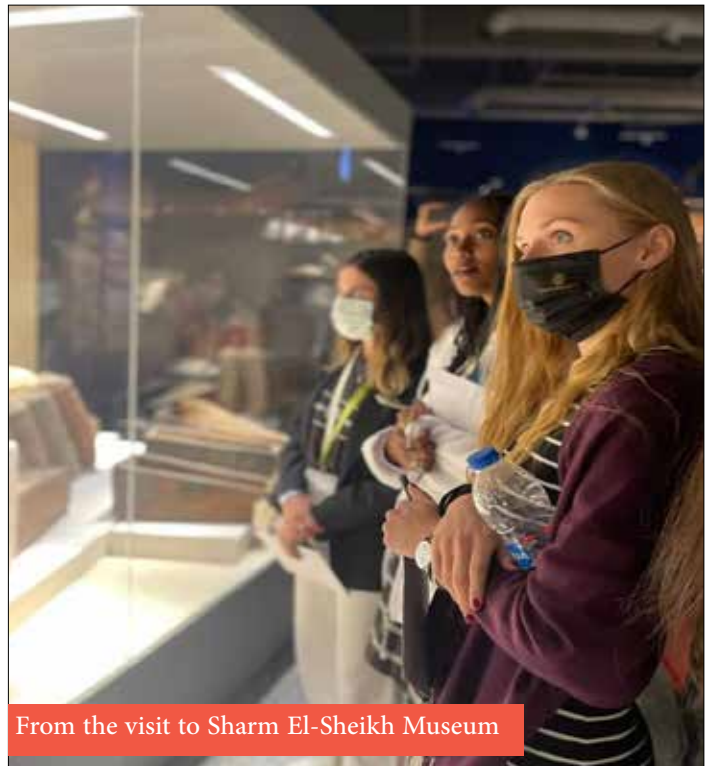
The Minister issued a ministerial decree obligating hotels and tourist establishments in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh - as a first phase - to obtain a green certificate accredited by international or local bodies in accordance with the concept of sustainable tourism. These establishments are given a grace period of six months to adjust their status. This is part of the Ministry's efforts towards transforming the tourism sector into an eco-friendly one, and in alignment with the strategic objectives of the Ministry's sustainable strategy and the vision of "Egypt 2030".

In the same context, the Ministry started operating 20 eco-friendly electric powered cars to transfer visitors inside the Valley of the Kings, and Deir al-Bahari in Luxor on January 1st. These cars are located at the entrance gates of the archaeological site.

The Ministry Participates in the 4th Edition of the World Youth Forum



The Pavillion of the Ministry at the forum



From the visit to Sharm El-Sheikh Museum

The 4th edition of the World Youth Forum (WYF) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh from -10 13 January, under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. the President, with the participation of delegations from all over the world.

The Ministry participated with a pavilion to showcase different tourist destinations and interactive videos for the cities of Sharm El-Sheikh and Dahab. The Ministry also organized a visit to Sharm El-Sheikh Museum for participants, where a temporary archaeological exhibition under the title "The Journey of the Holy Family", was opened from January 11th for six months in conjunction with the celebration of the Coptic Christmas. The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board organized a tour for the American blogger, Markian Behamo, during his attendance of the forum.

Prior to the forum, the Ministry formed a committee from the Central Administration of Hotel Establishments, Shops and Tourist activities, to inspect hotels and ensure they implement the set hygiene safety measures, and the availability of a room in every hotel for PCR tests, as well as a clinic. Inspection committees were dispatched to follow up on 79 hotels in the city including the ones hosting the forum's guests.

Celebrating Egyptian Archaeologists Day



Egyptian Archaeologists Day

17 January 2021

On January 17, the Ministry celebrated the Egyptian Archaeologists Day, at the Cairo Opera House. The program of the event included screening of a short film on the achievements of Egyptian restorers and an artistic performance. The Minister honored 16 archaeologists and antiquities workers for their achievements in the past year.





On that day, renowned archaeologist and former Antiquities Minister Dr. Zahi Hawass presented his award to the best archaeologists and restorers in 2021.



Luxor Hosts Egypt's International Marathon

The 20th edition of Egypt's International Marathon was held, on January 14, in Luxor for the ninth year, under the auspices of the Ministry, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the governorate of Luxor. Starting and finishing at the temple of Hatshepsut on the West Bank of Luxor, contestants from around 32 countries participated. This marathon is considered the oldest in Africa and the Middle East.



Sharm El-Sheikh Museum Hosts Participants of the Arab Football Cup for Short Stature



On January 27, Sharm El-Sheikh Museum hosted participants of the Arab Football Cup for short stature. They also visited a number of tourist attractions in the city.

This tournament was held among the activities of the Fourth International Festival of Short Stature in Sharm El-Sheikh, under the auspices of the Ministry, and the ministries of Youth and Sports and Social Solidarity.

International Participations and Exhibitions

Participating in the Egyptian-Omani Committee in Muscat

The CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board participated, on January 22 and 23, in the Egyptian-Oman business council held on the sidelines of the Egyptian-Omani Joint Committee, which took place at the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. An executive program for cooperation in the field of tourism between Egypt and Oman was signed, as part of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

.. And the International Exhibition for Tourism and Travel «Fitur» in Madrid

The Ministry, represented by ETPB, participated from January 19 to 23, with an official delegation headed by the Head of the Central Administration of Tourism Offices of the ETPB, at the International Travel and Tourism Exhibition "Fitur" held in Madrid, Spain. The head of the delegation met with the Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and held a number of meetings with tour operators and airline companies, the president of the Spanish Tourist Association. He also did a number of media interviews. He met with marketing representatives of the Spanish club "Real Madrid" to discuss cooperation with the club to promote Egyptian tourism.

Following up on the Restoration Project of Mohamed Ali Palace in Shubra



On January 18, the Minister visited Mohammed Ali Palace in Shubra to follow up on the progress of work in its restoration project. This project is carried out by the Ministry in cooperation with the Armed Forces Engineering Authority.

He visited Al-Fasqiah (fountain) Palace, and saw the restoration work done on the artifacts; including oil paintings, the piano, chandeliers and furniture.

Visiting Qena and Sohag

The Vice Minister for Tourism Affairs visited touristic attractions in Qena and Sohag. She met with the governors of both governorates and discussed ways to increase inbound tourism to them. This comes as part of the government's plan to develop upper Egypt. They also talked about developing local communities around touristic sites and the training requirements to develop local handicrafts in the two governorates.

In another context, the Deputy Minister visited the Ministry's headquarters in the government district in the New Administrative Capital. She was accompanied by employees of the ETPB to acquaint them and prepare them for the work environment there.

A Visit to Abu Mina Archaeological Site in Alexandria



The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Assistant Minister for Projects and Supervisor of the Historic Cairo project, visited Abu Mina archaeological site in Alexandria, to follow up on the progress of work in the project to reduce the groundwater level in Abu Mina Monastery, and the change of the irrigation system in the area surrounding this archaeological site. Abu Mina archaeological site is one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites.



One of the discovered Statues

New Archaeological Discoveries in the Conservation Project of the Colossi of Memnon and the Temple of King Amenhotep III

During the current conservation works of the Colossi of Memnon and the temple of Amenhotep III, known as the "Temple of Millions of Years" in the west bank, Luxor, the Egyptian-German archaeological mission discovered colossal stones of two royal statues of King Amenhotep III in the form of the Sphinx and the goddess Sekhmet.

In addition to the unveiling remains of walls and columns decorated with ceremonial and ritual scenes.

An Ancient Tomb from the Greco-Roman Era Discovered in Aswan

The joint Egyptian-Italian archaeological mission working in the vicinity of the Mausoleum of the Agha Khan in west Aswan, succeeded in uncovering a Greco-Roman rock-cut tomb. This tomb consists of two parts, the first above ground and the second carved into the rock.



One of the discovered artifacts

Middle Kingdom Mining Mission Premises Unearthed in South Sinai

The Egyptian archaeological mission working in Wadi Al Nasb site in South Sinai unearthed the remains of Egyptian mining mission that dates back to the Middle Kingdom. The remains of a unique sandstone edifice that was once used to supervise the mining missions for copper and turquoise in ancient Egypt more than 4,000 years ago, have been discovered.

News Highlights

The Monastery of the Warrior Tawadros and the Sulfuric Baths of Helwan Amongst Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Monuments

This month, the Minister issued decrees to register Tawadros Warrior Monastery in Luxor, and the Sulfuric baths of Helwan in Cairo, the Ancestors' Corner in Salloum in Matrouh, and the Qabas of Al-Atris and Al-Aydros in Al Sayda Zainab, among Islamic, Coptic and Jewish antiquities.

Archaeological Museums Celebrate Police Day



Archaeological Museums nationwide participated celebrating Egyptian Police Day, on January 25th. They showcased artifacts highlighting the history of the Egyptian police through different eras. The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir displayed a number of artifacts repatriated by the Tourism and Antiquities Police and returned them to the Museum in April 2014. The Military Police Music Band performed in the Museum's garden.

The National Police Museum at the Citadel of Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi in Cairo organized a cultural event in cooperation with the Department of Archaeological Awareness and Community Outreach in Historic Cairo.

Participating in Cairo International Book Fair



Statue of the Egyptian Writer in the Egyptian Museum



The Pavillion at the Book Fair

The Ministry, represented by the ETPB, and the General Administration of Scientific Publishing in the Supreme Council for Antiquities, in cooperation with Konuz Factory for archaeological replicas, participated with a pavilion in the 53rd Cairo International Book Fair, held from January 26 to February 7. The board of directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities approved granting a 50 % discount on all its publications.

The pavilion organized daily contests under the title «Know Your Country», with symbolic prizes to the winners, in addition to a competition that will be held on February 5, where 30 winners of free trips to tourist attractions, will be announced.

Egyptian museums showcased their the most beautiful statues of the "Egyptian writer" and the tools used for writing in ancient Egypt.

Hurghada & Cairo Among the Best tourist Destinations in 2022 According to Tripadvisor



Hurghada

The travel site Tripadvisor chose Hurghada among the top 10 tourist destinations to visit this year. While the city of Cairo was among the top 10 destinations in the world which achieved the largest annual increase in positive reviews that travelers share on the website. These reviews cover accommodation, restaurants and recreational activities. The British newspaper, the Telegraph, reported that Egypt is the second most popular destination for Britis in 2022.

The Seizure of 9 Archaeological Coins at Cairo International Airport



This month, the archaeological unit at Cairo International Airport seized 9 coins dating back to different historical eras, 3 gold coins from the Byzantine era and 6 metallic coins dating back to the Ptolemaic period, in addition to a candlestick made of brass from the era of Khedive Ismail.

Inaugurating Two Exhibitions in the Royal Jewelry and Carriages Museums



Under the title «Your Coffee is Royal», a temporary exhibition was opened in the Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandri. The exhibition showcased a coffee set belonging to King Farouk.

The Royal Carriages Museum in Bulaq also opened on January 23, a temporary exhibition under the title "Rare Collectibles" featuring a rare collection of artifacts of Mohamed Ali's dynasty.

Operating the Electronic Ticketing System in 4 Archaeological Sites in Aswan



The electronic ticketing system at the entrance gates of the Abu Simbel and Philae temples, the Unfinished Obelisk area, and the Museum of Nubia in Aswan, started operating, this January , to replace manual tickets. This is part of operating the electronic ticketing systems in museums and archaeological sites.

The Ministry has implemented this system in 14 museums and archaeological sites, so far. This project targets 32 museums and archaeological sites nationwide, as a first phase.

Tourism and Archaeological Awareness

Launching the “Training Ambassadors” Program to Transfer Expertise Among Ministry Employees

Under the title «Training Ambassadors», the Ministry launched, in January, a program to exchanging expertise among employees of the Ministry. The Training Ambassadors are the employees who have taken courses in “training of trainers”, and those holding masters or doctorate degrees in different disciplines. This program started by a training course for public relations workers in museums located within Cairo.

An Awareness Trip for Disabled Students to Fayoum



The ministry represented by ETPB, organized an awareness trip for a group of disabled students to visit a number of tourist and archaeological sites in Fayoum, including the Kom Oshim Museum, the archaeological area of Karanis, and they also visited the famous village of Tunis.

This is part of "Know Your Country" initiative launched by the Ministry in December 2020 to raise the tourist and archaeological awareness among students.

Visits and Meetings

The First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board in 2022

On January 31, the Minister chaired the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETPB this year. During the meeting, events, organized or hosted by the ETPB during the coming period were presented. They included: an event on the occasion of the solar alignment in Abu Simbel organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, which will have a unique date this year: 22.2.22, and the fashion show of the Italian designer Stefano Ricci, marking the brand's 50th anniversary that will be held in Luxor next March.

The meeting discussed initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to launch an eco- friendly aircraft of Egypt Air for the first time, and the importance of having similar initiatives that can increase environmental awareness. They also discussed including the Pottery Village within programs of tourism companies.

The Board was briefed on international participations in the coming period, which aim to promote Egyptian tourism; including Egypt's participation as a guest of honor in this year's Hungexpo, in Budapest, Hungary, early March.

In the context of promoting yachting tourism, the participation of the Ministry at the Seatrade Cruise Global exhibition, in the US from April 25 to 27 was approved. ETPB's draft budget for the fiscal year 2023/2022, was reviewed during the meeting.

The Nigerian Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Praises Egypt's Efforts in Promoting Tourism



The Nigerian Minister at the Egyptian Museum

The Minister received the Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism in Nigeria on January 25, to discuss cooperation between the two countries in tourism and archaeology fields. The Nigerian Minister praised the Egyptian efforts in tourism promotion and the resumption of inbound tourism since July 2020. He expressed his wish to benefit from the Egyptian experience on managing museums,

archaeological sites, hotel establishments, training, and the repatriation of Egyptian antiquities smuggled abroad.

During his stay in Egypt, he visited Giza pyramids and the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir.

The Board of Directors of SCA Gives African Visitors the Same Entry Ticket Prices to Museums and archeological sites as Egyptians



Karnak Temple

On January 25, the Minister headed the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA). During the meeting they approved giving African visitors, to all Egyptian museums and archaeological sites, the same entry ticket prices as Egyptians during 2022.

The Board agreed to continue reducing the rent value of tenants of bazars and cafeterias in museums and archaeological sites affiliated with the council and Nubia Antiquities Fund, by 50 % in February and March 2022.

Discussing Preparations for Umrah for the Current Hijri Year

On January 16, the Minister met with the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah, headed by the Assistant Minister for Tourism Companies Affairs, the Deputy Minister for Tourism Affairs, and the President of the Egyptian Tourism Federation to discuss preparations for the start of Umrah for the 1443 AH season, starting from the month of Rajab of the Hijri year. Coordination with the Saudi side to discuss special procedures to prepare for the upcoming Hajj season was also discussed.

Discussing Cooperation with the Iraqi Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities



The Iraqi Minister visiting NMEC

The Minister received the Iraqi Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities on January 29. Many aspects of cooperation were discussed, including carrying out a series of workshops, joint programs to exchange expertise in the field of archaeological restoration, documentation training, and building museums.

It was agreed that the first workshop will be held next March due to Egypt's presidency and hosting of the 48th meeting of the Middle East Regional Commission of World Tourism Organization.

During his stay in Egypt, the Iraqi minister visited the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

Participating in the First Meeting of the Board of Directors of ETF in 2022

On January 18, the Minister participated in the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF) held this year. The meeting discussed many important topics related to the development of the tourism sector, setting a plan to train workers in the sector and developing their skills. It also discussed preparations for the next summer season.

Discussing Egypt's Preparations to Host the Middle East Regional Commission of UNWTO

On January 17, the Minister held a coordination meeting to discuss preparations for Egypt's hosting of the 48th meeting of the Middle East Regional Commission of the World Tourism Organization, which is scheduled to take place at the end of March.

Egypt won the presidency of this commission during the elections that were held during the 47th meeting last May in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

A Lecture at the AUC on the Achievements of the Ministry



On January 18, the American University invited the Minister to be the guest speaker at the annual memorial held by the university to honor the late Egyptian diplomat Nadia Younis.

The Minister gave a lecture highlighting the achievements of the Ministry in tourism and antiquities sectors. The Minister elaborated the achievements in the fields of excavations, discoveries and restoration projects, developing and building museums, recovering smuggled antiquities. The lecture was given at the headquarters of the American University in Tahrir.

Receiving the First Report Issued by the Tourism Satellite Accounts Unit

This January, the Minister received the first report issued by the Tourism Satellite Accounts Unit. This report was done within the framework of the cooperation protocol signed between the Ministry and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

This unit had been suspended since 2017, and its work resumed by a ministerial decree. The importance of the unit stems from establishing tourism statistical data with a sound scientific methodology for accurate knowledge of the economics of tourism and evaluating its contribution to the national economy. This unit includes in its membership an elite group of experts specialized in the fields of economics, statistics and tourism.

Assigning a Head for the Central Administration of Tourist Offices in ETPB

The Minister issued a decree assigning Mr. Maged Abu Sedira to carry out the tasks and duties of the head of the central administration for tourist offices of the ETPB for a year or until this job is filled by appointment, whichever is sooner.

The Minister also issued a decree appointing a general supervisor for the Ministry's office in South Sinai, within the framework of merging the regional offices of the ETPB, and the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

From the Center of Documentation Archive



Luxor Temple in 1910

The First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Museum in 2022



On January 24, the Minister chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Museum, in the presence of the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, whose presence was via video conference.

The CEO of the Museum Authority informed the board that the Museum's restoration center is about to receive a number of state of the art devices and equipment, and the completion of the process of verifying the Museum's official pages on social media platforms.

"Hosting the "World Art Forum for Sustainable Development

The Museum hosted, from January 15, and for three days, the "World Art Forum for Sustainable Development" in its first edition. It was held under the auspices of the Ministry and the Ministries of Planning and Economic Development, Culture, Immigration and Egyptians Abroad Affairs, and Environment, in partnership with the United Nations and the International Association for Contemporary Arts in New York. More than 150 artists from 30 countries participated in the forum.

This January the Museum received VIPs; such as: the Algerian Minister of Culture and Arts, and the Libyan Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development.



Launching the First Update of the Mobile Application of the Museum

The Museum launched the first update of its mobile application which includes information about the artifacts on display, the Museum's internal maps as well as services provided to visitors. The update was done based on evaluations of Egyptian visitors and tourists user of the application.

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the GEM



On January 5, the Minister chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Grand Egyptian Museum's authority. The meeting covered a number of topics; including: the overall progress of work in the museum, and the building dedicated to showcase King Khufu's boats. The meeting also reviewed the action plan put forward to operate services at the Museum.

Upgrading Hotels in the Area Surrounding the Museum

On January 30, the Minister held a meeting to follow up on the progress achieved so far in upgrading and raising the efficiency of hotels in the area surrounding the Museum, especially with the upcoming grand opening of the Museum.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of benefiting from them from the initiatives of the Central Bank of Egypt to support the tourism sector.

Restoring the Plant Necklace of King Tutankhamun



Before restoration



After restoration

The conservation center of Museum completed the restoration of most of the antiquities of the collection of King Tutankhamun. The organic conservation lab succeeded in restoring the plant necklace of the Boy King, discovered in his tomb in 1922 and was kept in the stores of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir for more than 9 decades.. It was suffering from damage, dryness, missing parts, and the complete disintegration of some of its parts.

In their work, restorers referred to the documentation that has previously been done for the necklace at the time of its discovery. Components were carefully examined using a scanning electron microscope and optical microscopy. The parts of the necklace were fixed according to the original shape using a linen thread.

Celebrating the Birth of Christ

The legacies and effects of Coptic arts is an important episode of the Egyptian civilization. These legacies include stories and celebrations of historical, doctrinal and social significance specific to Egyptian Christians than the rest of the world.

Celebrating Coptic Christmas is considered the most important and famous Coptic celebration. The Coptic Church celebrate the memory of the birth of Jesus Christ



The Nativity Scene in the Red Monastery, Sohag

on the 29th of Kiahk and the 7th of January of each year, when the Christ was born in Bethlehem, Palestine. Perhaps the moment of the birth of Christ is one of the most important artistic manifestations which the Coptic artist was keen to represent on all Coptic Arts, including manuscripts, icons, murals and collectibles of various shapes and raw materials. These art pieces we find preserved in churches, Coptic monasteries and museums locally and globally.

As for the manifestations of celebrating the birth of Christ, it is one of the Coptic heritages that began since the dawn of Christianity and continued through various ages, inherited by generations that have been recorded in many religious and historical sources. Copts used to celebrate it by decorating churches and homes with decorations and lighting. Historians have described these manifestations, especially in the Islamic era, and among the most famous of them is the historian Taqi al-Din al-Maqrizi "The day of the celebration of this feast is characterized by abundant selling of colored candles and exquisitely shaped statues".

Coptic narrations also indicate that Patriarch Benjamin and all the priests gathered in the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary to celebrate this holiday, and moreover, Abu Saleh Al-Armani mentioned that it was a tradition of the Egyptians, Copts and Muslims, to light candles, lamps, and wood. All these traditions and customs assert the extent and depth of harmony between the Copts and Muslims in Egypt.

Dr. Ahmed Abdel Hamid Al-Nimr, member of the Minister's scientific office



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