



Newsletter

of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 34 * March 2019

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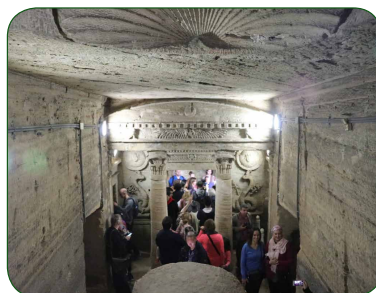
Restoration of al-Wardeyan tombs in Alexandria



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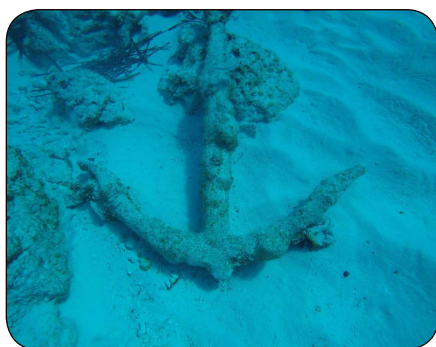
Inaugurations

•The Minister of Antiquities opened two groundwater-lowering projects in Kom al-Shoqafa archaeological site in Alexandria and Kom Ombo temple in Aswan. Both projects were carried out in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Authority for Potable Water and Sewage with a budget of US 14 million dollars (March 3,25). (→)



Archaeological Discoveries

•A joint Egyptian-Swedish archaeological mission found a New Kingdom workshop for the fabrication of stone blocks, in Gebel al-Silsila site in Aswan.



(←) •During the archaeological survey carried out at the northwestern coast port of Bagoush, the mission of the Maritime Archaeology Center (Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University), uncovered a collection of stone and metal anchors of different sizes and shapes. They are dated to several eras, starting from the Hellenistic Period up until the 20th century. A collection of clay pots fabricated in North Africa, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Spain and Palestine was also unearthed.



•The main port used to transport stone blocks from Gebel al-Silsila quarries in Aswan across the Nile to build temples and obelisks was revealed during archaeological excavations carried out by MoA. (→)

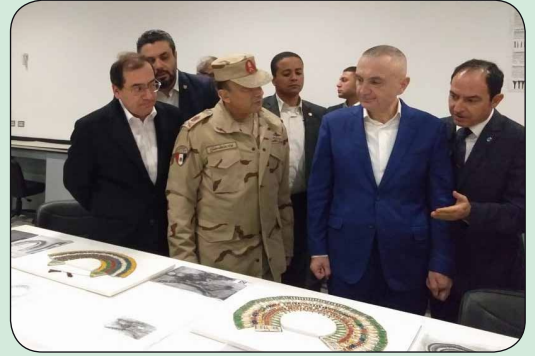
Repatriated Antiquities

•The Egyptian Embassy in Switzerland received from the Swiss authorities a wooden statue of the Goddess Bastet and a red granite statuettes of the God Horus that had been stolen and illegally smuggled out of the country. The objects were seized in the Canton of Geneva. (→)



News

• The President of the Republic of Albania and his accompanying delegation visited the Grand Egyptian Museum and the Giza Plateau on the fringes of their visit to Egypt (March 1). (→)



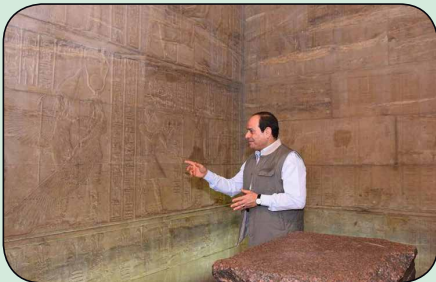
(←) • The Ministry of Antiquities participated in the Regional Mosaic meeting in Rome, Italy (March 3-6).



• The American rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers' concert took place in front of the Giza Pyramids, where 10,000 people of different nationalities attended the performance (March 15). (→)



(←) • H.E. President visited the temple of Philae on the fringes of the Arab-African Youth Forum which took place in Aswan (March 18).



• To celebrate the national day of Minya Governorate, the Mallawi Museum opened its doors free of charge for Egyptians (March 18). Meanwhile, Mit Rahina archaeological site was opened to Egyptians for free to celebrate the national day of Giza Governorate (March 31).

• The Egyptian Antiquities Registration Center organized a lecture entitled «Recent Research and Discoveries at Tomb Number 45 in al-Sheikh Abdel-Qurna Area», by Dr. Carina van den Hoven from Leiden University, Netherlands (March 18).

• According to the Protocol signed with the National Bank of Egypt, MoA provided a number of facilities and services at Giza Plateau and Philae temple. The work continues at the Abu Simbel and Karnak temples. More services and facilities are to be provided in Giza Plateau, as well as Saqqara and Dahshur archaeological sites, in coordination with the UNESCO Cairo Office. (→)



(←) • In collaboration with the French archaeological mission, the development work carried out in the area around Dendera temple in Qena Governorate was completed with the view of developing it into an open-air museum.

•Almost 60% of construction work of the training center and club for the Ministry of Antiquities' employees in Fustat has been completed.(→)



(←)•The Assistant of the Minister of Antiquities for Engineering Affairs participated in the 14th session of the Egyptian Omani Joint Committee, held in the Sultanate of Oman (March 25).

•The Ministry of Antiquities participated in the 5th round of the Alexandria International Book Fair with a variety of specialized publications in the field of ancient Egyptian, Islamic, Coptic and Greco-Roman antiquities and their restoration. The Ministry is offering discounts of up to 70% on all of its publications issued before 2011 (March 25 – April 7).

•The President of Bulgaria and his wife along with their accompanying delegation toured a number of archaeological sites in Cairo including Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi Citadel and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (March 26).(→)



Exhibitions

•In order to develop the exhibition scenario of the New Valley Museum, the head of the museums sector opened a permanent exhibition showing the collection of the Dabashih tomb, which had been put in the museum's store gallery since its discovery in 1994. The tomb belongs to a person named «Mes-We»(March 9).(→)



(←)•Egypt Minister of Antiquities, the French Minister of Culture and the Egyptian Ambassador in Paris opened the exhibition of the Golden Pharaoh entitled «Tutankhamun.. The Treasure of the Pharaoh», in its second stop at the Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris, amid wide media coverage (March 21).

•To celebrate women and the Egyptian Mother's Day, the Prince Mohamed Ali Palace Museum in Manial and the Mallawi museum in Minya organized two exhibitions. Entitled «My Lady», The Manial Palace Museum put on show 30 artifacts from the treasured collection of the women of the Mohamed Ali family, displaying cosmetics and beauty instruments owned by the family (March 21 – April 21). Entitled «Motherhood and Childhood in Ancient Egypt», the Mallawi museum displayed a collection of artifacts illustrating the role of the mother in ancient Egypt. A number of workshops were also held on the fringes of the exhibition to teach students to draw paintings in oil and colors for a month(21March-21 April).

Meetings and Visits

•The Minister of Antiquities attended a ceremony to celebrate the installation of a new lighting system in Prince Mohamed Ali Palace in Manial, sponsored by Philips Lighting Company (March 2).



(←)•The Minister of Antiquities inspected the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria to check progress in the museum's development and restoration project. The museum has about 20,000 artifacts dated to the Graeco-Roman eras (March 3).

•Dr. Zahi Hawass, former Minister of Antiquities, handed over to the Minister of Antiquities the catalogue of King Tutankhamun Gallery at the Grand Egyptian Museum. Dr. Hawass wrote the catalog as a gift to the ministry (March 10).

(→)



(←)•The Minister of Antiquities met with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to discuss cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two countries in the field of archaeology and museums (March 13).

•The Minister met with the Chairman of the Arab Contractors Company to discuss the ongoing cooperation between the Ministry and the company (March 14).

•The Minister met with the Austrian Ambassador to discuss means of boosting cooperation between the two countries in the field of archaeology (March 15).



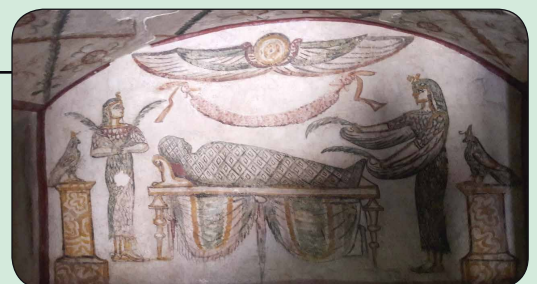
•The Prime Minister accompanied the Minister of Antiquities and the Ministers of Planning and Tourism on a visit to Philae temple (March 18).

(←)•The Minister delivered a lecture on the recent discoveries and national archaeological projects during the 45th meeting of the World Tourism Organization conference for the Middle East UNWTO (March 24).

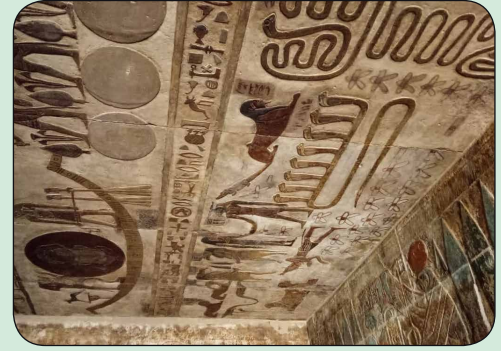
•The Minister of Antiquities farewelled the President of Bulgaria and his wife after their visit to Egypt (March 27).

Restoration projects

•The Ministry of Antiquities has carried out the restoration and reconstruction of Al-Wardeyan tombs number G989 and G990 in Kom Al-Shoqafa archaeological site in Alexandria.(→)



- The Ministry of Antiquities marked the completion of the partial cleaning and restoration work on the ceiling inscriptions of Esna Temple, south of Luxor Governorate, within the framework of the temple's restoration and development project carried out in cooperation with the University of Tübingen, Germany and the Egyptian Antiquities Registration Center.(→→)



- The Ministry of Antiquities began the second phase of the development project of Abu Mina archaeological site in Borg Al Arab area, in cooperation with the Governorate of Alexandria. Reducing the groundwater in the region is the ministry's top priority, as it is considered the biggest threat to the site. The work is expected to be completed at the end of this year.

Decrees

- The acceptance of the sponsorship of Prime Group to organize an inspection tour around several archaeological sites and museum in Sohag; as well as the announcement of a new discovery and the restoration and re-erection of King Ramses II colossus.

Cultural Events and Community Outreach

- To mark the International Women's Day, The Egyptian Textile Museum in Al-Moez Street, in collaboration with the General Administration of Historic Cairo, and the Cultural Development Department at the minister of antiquities' office organized several celebrations. The first was held at Al-Moez Street under the title «Soft Hands – Egyptian women in 100 Years», (March 7). The second entitled “Egyptian Women. The 100-Year Challenge” at Al-Senari House.

The Cultural Development Department at the minister of antiquities' office has also celebrated the centenary of the 1919 Revolution and Egyptian women's 100 years of participation in the realm of politics with an art exhibition entitled «Noun Arts» featuring a collection of artworks inspired by Egyptian heritage (March 11).

- Prince Mohamed Ali Palace Museum in Manial organized a free training course teaching Arabic calligraphy for youngsters starting from the age of 18 years, in cooperation with the Institute of Arabic Studio for Arabic Calligraphy and Arabic Language (March 12- 28).

- The Department of Cultural Development at the minister's office organized a visit to the Religious Compound for a group of disabled in cooperation with the General Administration of Cultural Empowerment for people with special needs at the Culture Palaces Authority (March 14).

- Prince Mohamed Ali Palace Museum in Manial organized a workshop for children entitled «Have Fun, Draw, Color!» in collaboration with the Arab Elmohamady Library (March 16).

- The Egyptian Textile Museum in Al Moez Street organized numbers of events under the title «Um Al-Moez» to mark Mother's Day. A number of mothers from Elgamalia neighborhood and Al-Moez Street were honored. The event included a guided tour to showcase the most important pieces that reflect maternity (March 20 –21).



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