



# Newsletter

## of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Issue 29 \* October 2018

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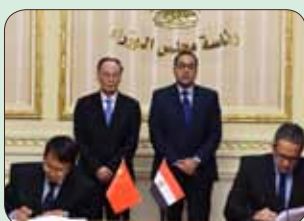
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## Archaeological Discoveries

- The Czech archaeological mission, working at Abusir, north of Saqqara, discovered the tomb of “Ka-ir-es,” who was Overseer of the King’s Works. It dates back to Dynasty 5 (1 October).
- The Egyptian archaeological mission, working on the reduction of the underground water-table at the Temple of Kom Ombo in Aswan, discovered two sandstone stele. One of stele dates back to the reign of Seti I, while the other dates back to the reign of Ptolemy IV (1 October). In addition, the team discovered the upper portion of a limestone stela. The scene depicted on the stela shows two individuals giving offerings to Queen Teti-Sheri, and Queen Ahmose-Nefertari. Several other stele were found at the same site (11 October).
- The Ain Shams University’s Egyptian mission, working at Arab el Hisn, in Matariya, uncovered the festival pavilion of Ramses II, where the king sat during special festivities (25 October).



## Repatriated Antiquities

- In light of the fruitful cooperation among the ministries of Antiquities and Foreign Affairs, and the Kuwaiti authorities, the Ministry of Antiquities received a repatriated anthropoid wooden coffin lid, painted and decorated. It probably dates back to the end of the Late Period and the beginning of the Ptolemaic Period. The coffin was confiscated by the Kuwaiti Customs in March 2018 (8 October).



- The Ministry of Antiquities’ Department of Repatriated Antiquities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, retrieved an inscribed limestone fragment bearing the cartouche of Amenhotep I. The fragment had been previously lost from Karnak Temple back in 1991, and was auctioned off at one of London’s auction houses.

- The Antiquities Unit at Cairo International Airport confiscated an ancient document that dates back to the 10th century Hijri. The document bears the title “The Mirror of Time” by Abi al Faraj ibn al Jawzi. The document records important historical events that took place since the beginning of creation and until the death of the author (15 October).



## Field Work

Several archaeological missions began their new excavation seasons in October as follows:

- Oxford University's English mission at Saqqara in Giza.
- The Swiss-French joint mission of Geneva University and the Sorbonne at Pepi I's pyramid complex at Saqqara in Giza.
- The Chicago Oriental Institute's American mission at Tell Edfu in Aswan.
- The American Research Center's mission at Sheikh Abdel Qurna on the west bank of Luxor.
- Ibiza University's Italian mission at TT14 at Draa Abul-Naga on the west bank of Luxor.
- The French-Italian joint mission of University of Milan and the IFAO at Umm al-Buraygat in Fayum.
- The Free University of Berlin's German mission at Shutb magazines in Asyut.
- The University of Tübingen's German mission at Nag' al-Sheikh Hamad in Sohag.
- The Mexican Institute of Egyptology's mission at tomb TT39 at Khokha on the west bank of Luxor.
- The Italian-American joint mission of University of Bologna and Yale University, carrying out epigraphic work on rock art at Kom Ombo in Aswan

## Inauguration

The Minister of Antiquities inaugurated Tatandy Mosque at the village of Shali in Siwa Oasis, Matrouh Governorate. The mosque was inaugurated after the completion of restoration and conservation works. The mosque is also known as the Mosque of Sheikha Hasina, a Moroccan woman who stopped at Shali on her way to pilgrimage, and donated a sum of money to build the mosque in 600 Hijri/AD 1203. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Tourism; the Governor of Matrouh; several foreign ambassadors; the elders of Siwa; several members of Parliament; Ministry officials; staff from the Matrouh Governorate, the Ministry of Endowments, and the Tourism Revival Institution; and local authorities (5 October).



## Cultural Events and Community Outreach

### Special Abilities Program

The Department of Cultural Development and Community Outreach at the Minister's Office held its fourth guided tour for «'Our Children' Organization for Children with Special Needs». The Department also held a guided tour for the hearing impaired. The tour was held in cooperation with the Center for Research and Training, and the Department of Archaeological Awareness at the Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Antiquities Sector (20 October).



### Marathon



The Ministry of Antiquities held a marathon at the Citadel, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the UNESCO Egypt Office (15 October).

## Prominent and International Public Figures Visiting Archaeological Sites



The Minister of Antiquities and the Minister of Tourism welcomed Melania Trump, the First Lady of the United States of America, during her visit to the Giza Pyramids. The Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Director of the Giza Plateau were also present to take the First Lady on a tour at the Giza Pyramids, the Sphinx, and the Panorama area (6 October).



The Minister of Antiquities welcomed the President of Tatarstan and his accompanying delegation at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (15 October).



The Minister accompanied His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Salman, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, during His visit to Luxor (25 October).



The Minister of Antiquities and the Minister of Tourism accompanied the Vice-President of China on his visit to the Giza Pyramids (27 October).



The Minister of Antiquities accompanied several foreign ambassadors and cultural Attachés to Egypt on a tour at the Monastery of Saint Catherine, the Church of Apparition, the Mosque of al-Amer bi Ahkam Allah, and the Burning Bush (19 October).



The Minister of Antiquities attended the celebration of the solar alignment at the Temple of Abu Simbel, accompanied by several ministers, ambassadors, cultural attachés, and directors of foreign archaeological institutions. The event was sponsored by Orascom Investments and covered by the press which aired the Solar Alignment live, as it coincided this year with the 50th anniversary of the Abu Simbel Rescue Project, part of the UNESCO international campaign for the rescue of Nubian archaeological sites (22 October).



The tour of the Minister of Antiquities, accompanied by 30 ambassadors and cultural attachés from 17 foreign and Arab countries to archaeological sites, and the Kharga Museum in the New Valley Governorate (26 October).

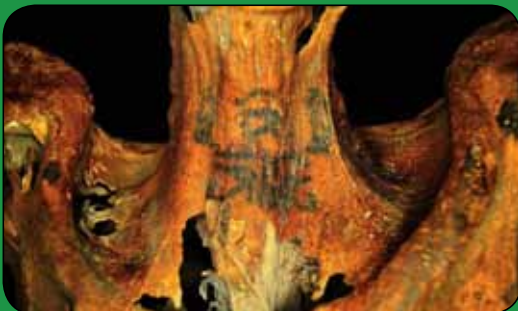
## Featured News

• The Minister of Antiquities headed the Egyptian delegation attending the 17th Annual Summit of the International Organization for Francophonie, hosted at the Armenian Capital of Yerevan. The theme of this year's summit was "Living Together in Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Respect for Cultural Diversity, Peace and Prosperity of La Francophonie" (11-12 October).



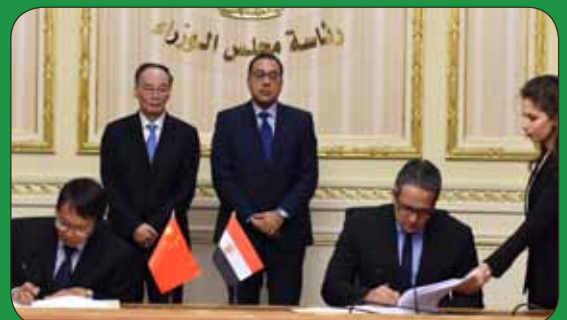
• The archaeological mission working at Farafra Oasis organized a workshop titled "Deserts, Lakes, and Rivers: Similarities and Differences in the Pre-Late Pleistocene Age in Egypt." The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Italian Cultural Institute, the Italian Archaeological Institute, and the Ministry of Antiquities (14-15 October).

• The Giza Plateau archaeological site welcomed the managers of Manchester City English football team, as part of their tour with the Cups that the team won last year and for winning the English Premiere League and the English Confederation Cup (16 October).



• The French archaeological mission of the IFAO, working at Deir al-Medina, completed their studies that were conducted on a group of mummies known as "the tattooed mummies," which were found in 2014 during the excavation works at the workmen's village of Deir al-Medina on the west bank of Luxor.

• The Minister of Antiquities signed a Protocol of Cooperation with the Chinese Archaeological Institute for Social Sciences of the Republic of China. The signing of the Protocol, which took place at the Egyptian Cabinet Headquarter, is a step towards cooperation between Egypt and China for projects in preservation of antiquities, research, exchange of experience, and exchange of temporary exhibitions and archaeological missions (27 October).



• Art d'Égypte Organization held an art exhibition «Nothing Vanishes, Everything Transforms» at Manial Palace. The exhibition showcases a comparison between ancient and contemporary arts (28 October -28 November).

• The Ministry of Antiquities participated as an honorary guest at the International Meeting for Archaeological Film, which is organized by the Civilization Museum at Rovereto, Italy. The Minister's Assistant for Arts attended the Meeting on behalf of the Minister of Antiquities (3-7 October).



- The “Sunken Cities: The Magical World of Egypt” temporary exhibition was opened in the State of Minneapolis in the United States of America. The exhibition includes 293 objects (29 October 2018 – 29 April 2019).



- The National Committee for Repatriated Antiquities held its meeting, under the direction of the Minister of Antiquities. The members of the committee discussed the subject of the Rio de Janeiro Museum fire and the fate of the Egyptian antiquities there (30 October).



- The Minister of Antiquities welcomed the French Republic’s representative for Heritage, and the Educational Network, along with the Ambassador of France, Ambassador of Switzerland, Factum Arte representative, Ambassador of Spain, Ambassador of Belgium, Directors of Orascom and BESIX, Ambassador of Japan, Director of the Egyptian Department of the British Museum, directors of international museums, directors of foreign archaeological institutes, General Manager of the JEICA Institute Middle East Office, the Head of the Bishops Committee, Gatia, in southern Italy, along with a delegation of professors from the Catholic University in Rome.



- The Minister of Antiquities visited the Mosque of al-Zahir Baybars after the conservation and restoration works were completed. The Minister also visited the conservation projects of the Mosque of Tanboga al-Mardani at Darb el Ahmar, in cooperation with the Agha Khan Institute for Cultural Services. In addition, he visited several archaeological sites in Aswan Governorate and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization at Fustat to check the latest developments of three halls which will open soon.

- The launch of the conservation project of al Kasan Palace in Asyut.
- The Minister of Antiquities decreed the appointment of Dr Nevine Nizar as the Minister’s Assistant for Museum Display and Dr Osama el Nahas as Supervisor for the Technical Office at the Minister’s Office.
- The Scientific Committee held a meeting to develop the design of the display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
- The victory of the 6th of October War was celebrated by both the Textiles Museum at Muezz Street and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



### Conference Synopsis

The Ministry of Antiquities is hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Egyptologists, scheduled to be held from November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in Cairo. The International Association of Egyptologists approved the organization of the congress by the Ministry of Antiquities. The Ministry announced that paper submissions for the conference, which has been open since June 1st, 2018 till October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, would be extended. Considering the increasing demand, the ministry decided to extend the deadline for paper submissions to 31<sup>th</sup> of October 2018.

Researchers wishing to participate in the conference should fill in the registration form and submit a 270-word abstract to the following email address: [ice12.cai2019@moantiq.gov.eg](mailto:ice12.cai2019@moantiq.gov.eg). All applicants must be members in the International Congress of Egyptologists ([www.iae-egyptology.org](http://www.iae-egyptology.org)). For more information, please visit the official website of the congress [www.ice12cairo.moantiq.gov.eg](http://www.ice12cairo.moantiq.gov.eg)

### Fees for Egyptians

	FULL REGISTRATION OR ATTENDANCE				Guest Registration (Attendance Only)
	University Professor	PhD Students	MoA Employees	MoA Employees Registered for PhD	
Early registration deadline April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	EGP1000	EGP500	EGP500	EGP250	EGP800
Late registration deadline June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	EGP1200	EGP600	EGP600	EGP300	

### Fees for Non-Egyptians

	FULL REGISTRATION		Guest Registration (Attendance Only)	
	Professional	Student	Professional	Student
Early registration deadline April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	\$200*	\$150*	\$100*	\$75*
Late registration deadline June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	\$250*	\$180*	\$125*	\$90*

\* Or equivalent in Euros (€)

### Payment Methods of Conference Fees

Bank	Arab African International Bank
Address	Khalil Agha Street-Qasr el-Nil- Garden City-Cairo
Account Name	Central Bank- Supreme Council of Antiquities
EGP Account Number	(EGP £): 9/450/87805/8
USD Account Number	(US \$): 4/082/17512/4
EURO Account Number	(EURO €): 4/082/17674/1
Swift Code	ARAIEGXXXX / ARAIEGCX
IBAN Number for Bank Transfers	6003364021 CBEGEGC XXXX
Payment Deadline	June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2019

### Congress Themes

1. Archaeology: Current Methods and Fieldwork
2. Art & Architecture
3. Site Management, Conservation and Preservation
4. History
5. Views on the Egyptian Past
  - History of Egyptology
  - Ancient Egypt and Abroad
6. Language, Literature and Texts
7. Archaeological Science and Technology
8. Museums & Collections
9. Religion Thoughts
10. Social Life in Ancient Egypt

# Object of the Month

## The Magic Shirt

Dr. Abdel Hamid Abdel Salam, Director of the Department of Training and Scientific Research at Museum of Islamic Arts

The Museum of Islamic Arts in Cairo is one of the largest museums in the world that specializes in Islamic arts and antiquities. That is why we will select from its collection a unique object which reflects this rich past. This object is known as the "Magic Shirt", because it is painted with magical motifs and symbols.

The linen shirt is decorated with geometrical patterns in squares, circles, rhomboids, and rectangles, with numbers and verses from the Quran, and prayers, which are written in black and red ink. The shirt is surrounded on three sides with two frames of Quranic verses from Surat al-Fath. The maker of the shirt also painted floral motifs and divided them into book pages with prayers appealing to angels, holy prophets, and messengers, as well as to some of the demons and genies. At the abdominal region, the shirt maker placed a magical talisman, which is a group of consecutive squares similar to a chessboard. The most important aspect of this shirt is that it includes the date of its manufacture, written in a magical, talismanic way. To write the date of manufacture, the maker drew a rectangle with a circle inside, with the circle touching one of the sides of the rectangle. Halfway through each side of the rectangle there is a repeated inscription in black ink, found on three of the four sides. The inscriptions say «علي ي 100». According to calculations of this magical formula, the first and second letters of the name Ali (علي) correspond to numbers, where the 70=ع and 30=ل, while the separate ي letter corresponds to the number 1. When put together, the date of manufacture reveals itself to be 1100 Hijri. The date goes back to the Sadawi State Period, during the reign of Suliman I (Safi II), who ruled from 1077-1105 Hijri/ AD 1666-1693. The shirt is one of the most important amulets that were worn for protection against enemies and evil. The Quranic verses, prayers, and magical spells that were painted on it testify to its use as an amulet for protection and for bringing victory over enemies. The presence of blood on the shirt suggests that these shirts were worn during battles and wars for protection. Perhaps the blood means that the owner of the shirt died in battle.



### Dr Zahi Hawass Award

The Ministry of Antiquities is launching the Zahi Hawass Award for best archaeologist and conservator working at the Ministry, and for best participant in an archaeological or conservation project. The recipients will be chosen by an Egyptian-International Evaluation Committee. The recipients in each of the two categories will be awarded a 15,000 EGP on the National Day of Archaeologists on 14 January 2019:



#### Application criteria:

1. An archaeologist or conservator working at the ministry who has shown exceptional participation in an excavation or conservation project.
2. Not older than 40 years old. Send a resume and a one-page summary of the work carried out by 30 November 2018 to the following email address: [zhawassprize@moantiq.gov.eg](mailto:zhawassprize@moantiq.gov.eg)



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Printed by: MoA Press