

Archaeological Discoveries

- 31 January: Lund University (Sweden) discovered twelve tombs from the 18th dynasty, at Gebel al-Selsela – Aswan.
- 6-7 March: Egyptian-German Mission working at Mattariyyah archaeological site (ancient Heliopolis) discovered the fragments of the bust and head of the Royal colossus of Psamtik I.*
- 28 march: The Mission of Jaen University working in Aswan's west bank discovered an intact burial chamber from the 12th dynasty - Middle Kingdom.
- 5 April: The Egyptian mission in Dahshur uncovered remains of a pyramid of the thirteenth dynasty south of Senfru's Pyramid, in addition to a box with remains of human innards of a princess.
- 18 April: The Egyptian mission at the west bank of Luxor discovered the tomb of Userhat, where a number of human mummies and ushabti figurines were uncovered.*
- 3 May: The Spanish mission at Draa Abu Al-Naga necropolis on the west bank, Luxor, uncovered the remains of a funerary botanical garden at the open court of a Middle Kingdom rock-hewn tomb.
- 13 May: The Egyptian mission from Cairo University in Tuna Al-Gebel in Minya discovered a tomb where 17 mummies were found as well as other important finds.*



- 20 May: The Spanish mission of Alcala University discovered the embalming cachette of vizier Iby from the reign of Amenemhat I, at Deir Al-Bahari, where remains of embalming materials as well as 56 pottery vessels with materials used for mummification were found.



- 26 May: The Spanish mission of Madrid museum discovered a big stone block bearing the name of King Senusret II at Ihnasya Al-Madina.

- 1 June: The Egyptian mission at the west bank of Aswan discovered 10 tombs from the Late Period.

- 22 June: Yale University mission working at the ElKab Desert Survey Project discovered new rock inscription.

- **13 July:** The Egyptian mission at Moharam Bek in Alexandria uncovered a mosaic pavement which could be the remains of a Roman Bath.
- **19 July:** A collection of Arabic inscriptions related to the Holy Pilgrimage were discovered in a mountain cave behind the tomb of Sheikh Abd al-'Aal on Quft-Quseir road.
- **23 July:** Egyptian conservators working at the monastery of Saint Pishoy at Wadi Al Natroun uncovered some mural paintings during the restoration work carried out in the monastery.*



- **15 August:** The Egyptian mission working at the south-western part of Samalout town in Minya uncovered three rock-cut tombs.

- **18 August:** The Egyptian mission working at Al-Bahansa in Minya discovered the remains of a 5th century A.D village and rock-cut tombs.

- **23 August:** The Egyptian mission at Bir Al Shaghala in Dakhla Oasis discovered five tombs from the Roman period.

- **9 September:** A Ministry of Antiquities mission discovered the tomb of the goldsmith Amenemhat at Draa Abu Al-Naga necropolis on Luxor's west bank.*

- **3 October:** The quarries and mines department at the MoA uncovered several rock inscriptions from the pre-dynastic period in Aswan.

- **4 October:** The French-Swiss mission from the University of Geneva discovered a number of monumental fragments south of Queen Ankhesenpepy II's pyramid at Saqqara.*

- **10 October:** Egyptian - German Mission working at Mattariyyah archaeological site (ancient Heliopolis) discovered 1920 quartzite fragments (lower part of the same colossus of Psamtik I discovered in March 2017).



- **15 October:** The Egyptian - Czech mission at Abu Sir discovered the remains of Ramses II temple.

- **23 October:** The Egyptian mission at the Avenue of Sphinxes discovered a funerary stela of a young girl called Takla.*

- **2 November:** Scan Pyramids international research team published a scientific paper about the detection of an unknown cavity inside the Great pyramid of Khufu.

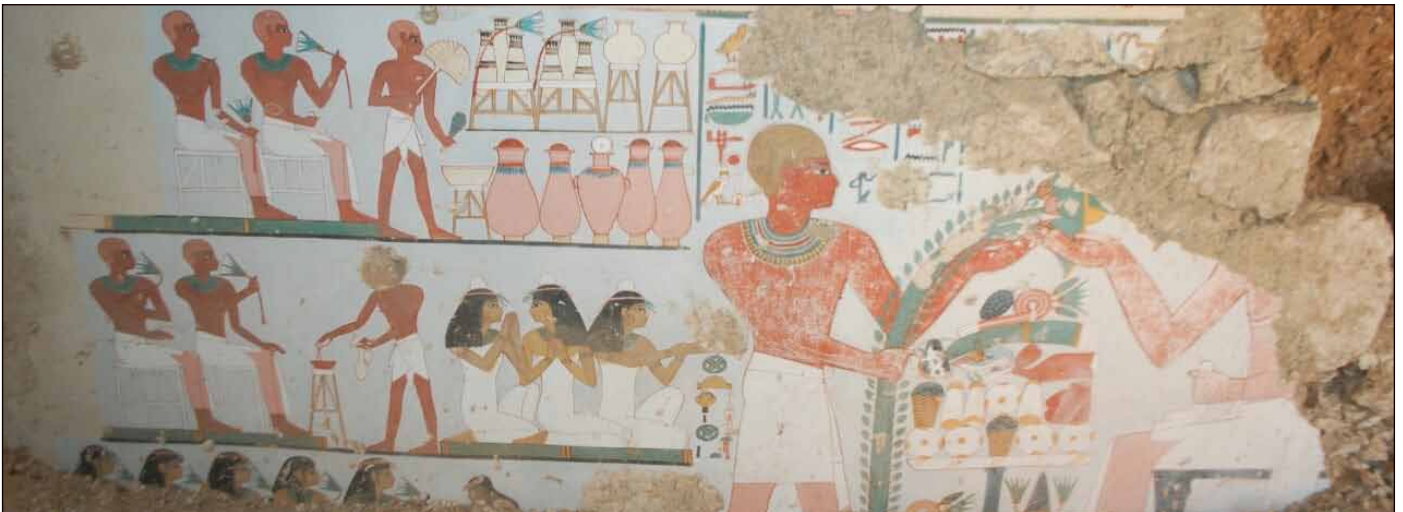
- **6 November:** The Egyptian - German mission at Watfa in Fayoum discovered the first gymnasium from the Hellenistic Period.

- **14 November:** The Egyptian mission along with the European institute for maritime archaeology working at the eastern harbor of Alexandria discovered three shipwrecks, three golden coins, a royal stone head and a votive ship model.





- 21 November: The Egyptian - Russian mission at Deir Al-Banat area in Fayoum discovered a wooden sarcophagus with a mummy date back to the Greco-Roman Period.*
- 9 December: The Egyptian mission at Draa Abu Al-Naga at the west bank of Luxor discovered a new tomb and rediscovered a second one with number of objects.*
- 11 December: The Egyptian - Italian mission at Tel Al-Maskhouta, west of Ismailia discovered the remains of two castles most probably date back to the Late Period.



- 14 December: The Egyptian - Swedish mission uncovered four 18th Dynasty intact child burials at Gabal Al-Silsila.
- 14 December: An Austrian mission uncovered a section of a First Intermediate Period necropolis in Kom Ombo.*
- 14 December: A Swiss - Egyptian mission unearthed a headless statue carved in limestone during excavations at the the old city of Aswan. The statue is also missing its right arm.*



Openings



- **18 January:** The re-opening of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo in the presence of His Excellency the President of Arab Republic of Egypt and the Prime Minister, after its rehabilitation in cooperation with the United Arab of Emirates Coordination Office for Development Projects, the American Research Center, the Swiss Government, the Italian Government and UNESCO.*
- **7 February:** The re-opening of the Hunting Museum at Prince Mohamed Ali Tawfiq Palace in Manial (closed since 2006).*
- **15 February:** The opening of the temporary exhibition hall at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization with an exhibition entitled "Egyptian Crafts through the Ages", in the presence of the UNESCO General Director along with ministers, and ambassadors.*
- **17 February:** The opening of Nakht-Amun tomb at Deir Al-Madina on the west bank of Luxor for visitors. The inauguration of the house of the architect Alexander Stopplaere after its restoration and development by the Preservation of the Theban Cemetery Initiative and the University of Basel in Switzerland with the presence of the UNESCO General Director and the Swiss ambassador to Egypt.



- **19 February:** The opening of the second phase of the restoration of three houses in the Islamic city of "Al-Qasr" in Al-Dakhla Oasis, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute of Archeology. A model of Serenos Villa in the New Valley Governorate was also inaugurated in cooperation with a mission from Columbia University of America.
- **21 February:** The re-opening of the Annex of Aswan Museum in cooperation with the German archaeological institute in Cairo (DAI) after its closure in 2011.*



- **1 April:** The modification of the visiting path of Kom Al-Dikka archaeological site in Alexandria to include the settlements, the remnants of the old university, the ancient workshops and the villa of birds, in the presence of the President of Warsaw University in Poland and the Polish ambassador to Egypt and a delegation from the Egyptian Parliament.*



- **18 April:** The re-erection of King Ramses II colossus in front of the first pylon of Luxor temple after the completion of its restoration. The colossus is 11 meters height and it was discovered in 1958 broken into 57 pieces. The work was achieved by an Egyptian team.*
- **9 July:** The re-opening of several historical monuments at Al-Moez street after the accomplishment of its restoration. This includes the Hall of Moheib Al-Din Abou Al-Tayeb, Sabil Khesrou pasha and the mausoleum of Al-Saleh Najm Al-Din Ayyub. The re-opening ceremony was attended by Egyptian ministers, ambassadors, directors of foreign archaeological institutes in Egypt and members of Egyptian Parliament.*



- **30 July:** The opening of Mashykh Al Azhar building after the completion of its restoration.
- **25 August:** Re-opening of Rommel's Cave Museum in Matrouh Governorate after the completion of its restoration in collaboration with Matrouh Governorate (closed since 2011).*



- **16 September:** Accomplishment of Saqqara Site Management Project in cooperation with the French Development Agency (AFD). The work includes the enhancement of the main gate of the archaeological area, the establishment of new security and ticketing rooms, the installation of new informational panels and a new lighting system for Unas Pyramid.
- **23 September:** The opening of Ancient Memphis Development Project in Mit Rahina. The project connects eight archaeological sites in the center of Egypt's first capital city during the Pharaonic period through providing a new visiting path. The project is funded by the USAID.*



- **1 October:** Opening the new archaeological magazine in Al-Kharga Oasis - New Valley governorate.
- **4 November:** Opening the Pyramids builders' cemetery at Giza plateau to visitors for the first time since its discovery in 1990.
- **9 December:** The re-opening of Amun-Re sanctuary in Hatshepsut temple at Deir Al-Bahari after the completion of its restoration in collaboration with the Polish Center for Mediterranean Archaeology.*

- **16 December:** The re-opening of the library of Saint Catherine Monastery after the completion of its restoration project started in 2013, and the completion of the Mosaic of Transfiguration restoration project at the Monastery's main church (the restoration project started in 2005).*



Ministry Major Projects

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)



- About 76% of the whole project was achieved.
- Completion of 100% of the concrete and metal structures of the museum buildings; 60% of the interiors finishing works and 56% of floors of the outer areas. The number of artifacts transported to GEM reached 42,581 objects (contains about 4255 objects of King Tutankhamun).*
- **26 August:** The establishment of GEM's board of directors, headed by H.E minister of antiquities, professors of archaeology, representatives of concerned ministries and other experts in various fields.
- **20 September:** Starting the transportation of the large and heavy artifacts to be displayed at the Grand Stair Case from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir to GEM.*



- **25 September:** Holding the first meeting of the GEM's board of directors.
- **3 December:** Starting the transportation of king Ramses II's colossus to its final place in GEM.*

National Museum of Egyptian Civilization(NMEC)

- 15 February: Opening the temporary exhibition hall at the NMEC with an exhibition entitled "Egyptian Crafts Through the Ages", in the presence of the UNESCO General Director accompanied with ministers and ambassadors.
- 19 October: Hosting the 19th meeting of the executive committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the NMEC in Cairo.
- 8 November: The start of work in three permanent exhibition galleries, as part of the third phase of the NMEC Project (Central Gallery, Royal Mummies, Capital Museum, in preparation for their opening end of 2018).



Conservation project of the Baron Empain Palace



- July: The beginning of the development project of the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis within a protocol signed with the Engineering Authority of the Armed forces.

Giza Plateau development project

- August: The Engineering Authority of the Armed forces began its supervision of the Giza Plateau development project. About 75% of works of the first phase have been completed.



Mohamed Ali Shubra Palace development project



- August: The beginning of the conservation project work of Mohamed Ali Shubra Palace within a protocol signed with the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces.

The development project of Jewish Synagogue of Eliyahu Hanavi in Alexandria

- August: Starting the Conservation work of the Jewish Synagogue of Eliyahu Hanavi in Alexandria



Sphinxes in Luxor development project

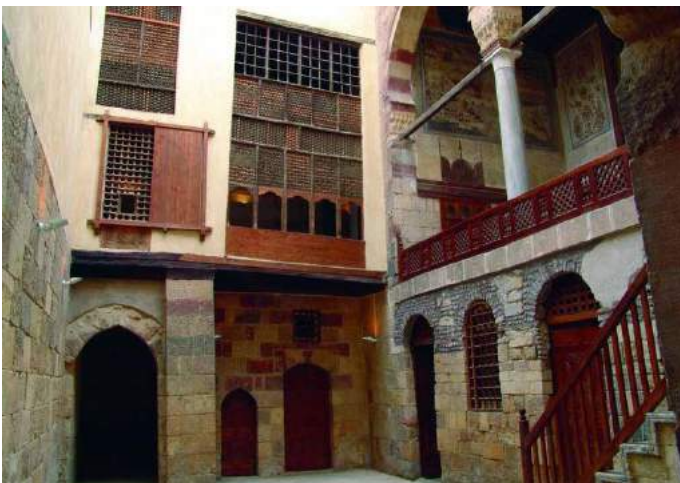


- September: The resume of the work at the Avenue of Sphinxes in Luxor within a protocol signed with the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces.

Historic Cairo



- August : Starting the maintenance and conservation works in five monuments in Al-Gamaliya, Al-Azhar and Al-Ghouriya areas.
- December: The beginning Prince Taz Palace and Sadat House conservation projects within the framework of the national campaign to rescue one hundred archaeological buildings in Historic Cairo.*



Temporary Exhibitions

International Exhibitions:

- 13 January: Opening of "The Golden Pharaohs and Pyramids Builders" exhibition in Toyama city on the sixth leg of its tour in Japan.*
- 10 February: Opening of "Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries" exhibition in Rietberg Museum in Zurich, Switzerland on the third and last leg of its tour in Europe.*
- 22 April: Opening of "The Golden Pharaohs and Pyramid Builders" exhibition in Shizuoka city, on the seventh leg of its tour in Japan.
- 18 June: Opening of "Sultan Baibars and his Reign" exhibition at the Asatana National Museum in Kazakhstan. The exhibition displayed 22 artefacts of Sultan Baibars collection that were selected from the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo.



- 8 July : Opening of "The Golden Pharaohs and Pyramids Builders" exhibition in Fukuoka city on the eighth and last leg of its tour in Japan.
- 13 September : Opening of "Egypt: The Extraordinary Discovery of the Pharaoh Amenhotep II " exhibition in MUDEC-Museum of Cultures in Milan. The exhibition displays a collection of 9 artefacts.

National Exhibitions:

- 1 January – 31 March: "Arms in the Eighteenth Century" exhibition at Rosetta Museum, Egypt.
- 26 January - 26 February: "Egypt: the Cradle of Religions" exhibition at the Egyptian Museum, Tahrir Square.
- 2 February: "Martyrs of Egypt" exhibition in the Coptic Museum, Old Cairo.
- 18 February: "Discoveries of the Egyptian-German Joint Mission" West bank, Luxor, in the presence of Director General of UNESCO and the Governor of Luxor.
- 16 March: Presentation of the most recent discovered bust and head of King Psmatik I unearthed in Souq al-Khamis, area in Mattariyyah by the Egyptian-German expedition. The event was organized in the garden of the Egyptian Museum with presence of the Minister of Tourism, Parliament members and a large number of ambassadors. The event was covered by large number of national and international media and press.*



- **15 May – 20 June:** "Abu Simbel: 200 years after Sheikh Ibrahim Burckhardt" exhibition was held in cooperation with the University of Basel at the Egyptian Museum, Tahrir Square. The exhibition was inaugurated with Minister of Antiquities and Swiss ambassador to Egypt.



- **20 May- 5 June:** "Artists Creativity" exhibition organized at the Museum of Islamic Art. It displayed 35 artifacts dating back to different periods of the Islamic civilization.*

- **13 – 30 July:** "Thirty Years of Excavations at the Eastern Gateway of Egypt (1987–2017)" exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Antiquities in cooperation with Bibliotheca

Alexandrina. The exhibition displays around 1,000 pictures featuring the work and findings of excavation works in Sinai and other pictures depicting the remains of military fortresses discovered there and the history of the development of military architecture.



- **27 August:** "Pharaonic Faces" students' exhibition organized by the Faculty of Art, Helwan University at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

- **27 August:** MoA has handed over paper currency and bonds to the Iraqi and Chinese embassies in Cairo, during a special ceremony held at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo. This is after the Archaeological units of the Central Administration of Ports and the Archaeological units in Egyptian Ports had seized 44 paper currency and coins which date to the Royal Period of Iraq, specifically to the reigns of Kings Faisal I & II and Ghazy I, and also after the Egyptian Postal Service in Ramses Station (Central Station) had intercepted 13 Chinese paper bonds that are in fact registered as antiquities in China.

- **28 August:** "Feather on his Head" exhibition of Ottoman costumes at the Manial Palace Museum.
- **19 October:** The Minister of Antiquities and the Italian Ambassador in Cairo opened a photo exhibition at the Italian Cultural Center in Cairo highlighting the discovery of Abu Simbel temple and the tomb of Seti I, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of their discovery by Belzoni.

- **31 October:** "150 Years of Belgian Royal Visits to Egypt" photos exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square.



- **November:** "Tutankhamun's Unseen Treasures" exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir. The exhibition organized by the Ministry of Antiquities, in cooperation with the German Institute of Archeology. It displays a collection of 86 of gold appliques, 55 of which were presented for the first time for the public (15 November-31 December).*

- **3 December:** "Egyptian Heritage" exhibition of handmade products and traditional handicrafts at the Egyptian Museum's Gift shop. The exhibition starts from December 2017 until February 2018.*

- **7 December:** The Egyptian Museum, Cairo starts to put 3 new objects on display at the Museum's entrance, every Thursday.

- **11 December:** The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization hosted a one-day photo exhibition from a delegation from the Chinese province of Jian Su. The exhibition displays 45 photographs documenting the Silk Road trade between Egypt and China.

- **21 December:** Inauguration of "Artisans of the Pharaohs through Their Artworks" exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir in collaboration with the IFAO and the University of Pau-Valery Montpellier 3 in France.

Repatriated Antiquities

- 586 artifacts were repatriated from January to November 2017.
- **May:** The recovery of a stone relief from the reign of king Nectanebo II from Paris.*



- **July:** The recovery of eight wooden inlays from London.*
- **November:** The recovery of eight objects from France among them coffins remains, two cats and a basalt human head.*

The Ministry of Interior has also seized a large number of stolen Egyptian antiquities in a short time, among them:

- **January:** The recovery of the lamps stolen from the Sultan Hassan mosque after three weeks of their missing and put them on show at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir.
- **March:** The recovery of the wooden door of Al-Sultan Al-Kamel and the wooden inlays of Al-Shafei Dome in Cairo.



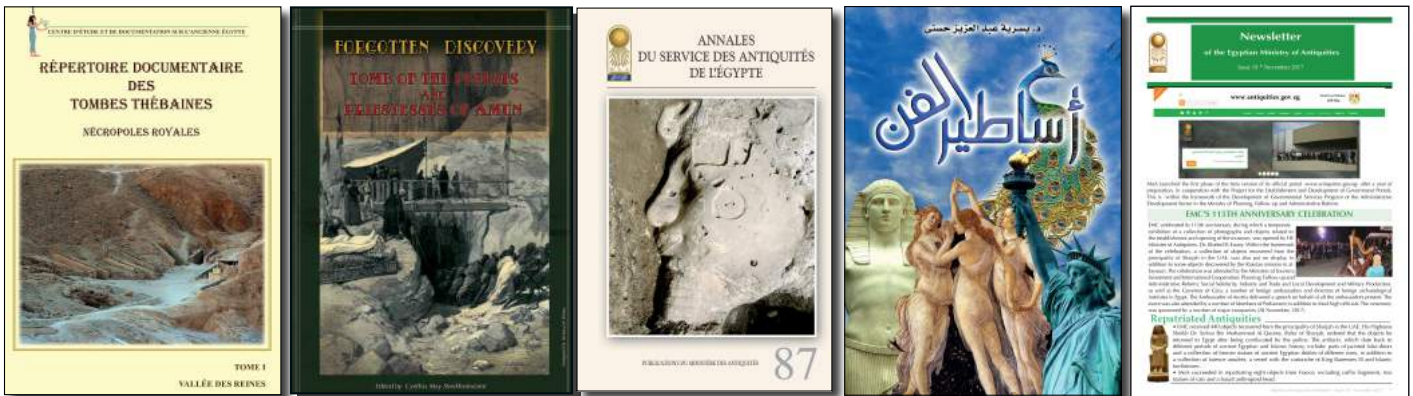
Services in Archaeological Sites and Museums

- **29 January** : The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities applies a new fees for research and scientific photographs inside the tombs, archaeological sites and museological storehouses.
- **January**: Postponing the debts payment of the bazaars owners in Qena, Luxor and Aswan Governorates until the end of 2017
- **8 March**: Deciding to open the Museum of Islamic Art to visitors at night on Saturdays starting April 2017.
- **26 March**: The approval of commercial sponsorship regulation for the first time at the Ministry of Antiquities. It includes the sponsorship for archaeological sites, museums, events, conferences, temporary exhibitions, archaeological excavations, and restoration and development projects.
- **May**: Allowing a free entrance of Egyptian handicapped to archaeological sites and museums in Egypt.
- **June**: Issuing an annual visit permit for Egyptians and resident foreigners to visit a museum with any number of visits.
- **June**: A new visitor's pass is now being issued! "Cairo Pass" is a permit that allows foreign visitors to enter all museums and archaeological sites in Cairo and Giza for five consecutive days during official visiting hours, with an unlimited number of entries during the validity period. Passes cost \$80, while students pay a reduced price of \$40.
- **5 July**: Purchase five electric cars to facilitate the transmission of visitors Al-Moez Street for Din Al-Fatimi.
- **August - October 2017**: Development of the Abu Simbel site to develop the toilets, increase the number of fixed and mobile surveillance cameras, upgrading of the parking plot, the beautification of wooden pergolas and cultivating the entrance of visitors with trees.*
- **22 August** : The opening of the Suez Museum every Thursday from 6pm to 10pm.
- **26 September**: The Board of Directors approves that the maximum age of 30 year-old could benefiting from student rates for the purchase of tickets and permits to archaeological sites and museums .
- **28 November**: The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities approves a fee of 300 LE for personal and non-commercial photographs and videos in Abu Simbel site in Aswan Governorate, for Egyptians and foreigners .
- **November**: The Ministry of Antiquities launched an archaeological project in collaboration with Microsoft Corporation under the title "Museum in Your Class".



Publications

- **January:** The MoA published a catalogue for a new temporary exhibition "Forgotten discoveries: The Tomb of the Priests and Priestess of Amun". The catalogue contains presents the tomb's history, which was discovered in 1891 near the temple of Hatshepsut in Al-Deir Al-Bahri.
- **January:** The launching Museum of Islamic Art Guidebook on the occasion of its re-opening.
- **May:** Volume 87 of the Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte has been published. It includes a series of archaeological reports and specialized articles. This issue is dedicated to Dr Aliyyah Sherif, former head of the Publications Department, and former Head of the Egyptian Museum's library.
- **September:** MoA published a book entitled "Legends of Art", written by Dr Yousreya Abd el-Aziz Hosny.
- **November:** Publication of "Registration Works Guide of Theban Tombs, the Royal Cemeteries, Part one: The valley of the Queens", in French and English. It is a scientific registration guide of the tombs of the Valley of the Queens.



Cooperation Protocols

The Ministry of Antiquities has signed a number of cooperation protocols:

- With the Ministry of Tourism to improve services provided to visitors at archaeological sites.
- With the National Organization for Urban Harmony to use modern technology in archaeological documentation and the inauguration of the Architectural and Urban Heritage Research Center.
- With the Egyptian Russian Association for Culture and Sciences to sell its publications at the MoA's gift shops.
- With Matrouh Governorate to build an Archaeological museum.*
- With the American University in Cairo Press to sell the English publications of MoA.
- With Kafr Al-Sheikh Governorate to build its Archaeological museum.
- With the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to use the modern technology in the documentation of Egyptain Heritage.
- With the Lebanese Ministry of Culture to develop the cooperation in the field of archaeology and heritage .



Conferences

• **2 February:** MoA organized a symposium at the Mummification Museum in Luxor celebrating 131 years since the discovery of Sennedjem's tomb at Deir al-Medina, which was discovered 2nd February, 1886. The symposium was organized in collaboration with IFAO .



• **13-17 March:** The organization of a training workshop on the organization of cultural events and development of financial resources at the British Council in Cairo.

• **3 April:** The fifth round of the Delta Archaeological Survey Conference in collaboration with the EES and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

• **24 April:** The Center of Documentation of Ancient Egypt held its second annual conference about its work.

• **2-3 May :** The Scientific Research Department of the Upper Egypt Antiquities Region organized the first Karnak Conference at the Egyptian Public Library in Luxor.

• **6-8 May:** GEM held its third annual King Tutankhamun conference at Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall. A wide range of local and international specialists presented their research

on the conference's themes: Human Remains and Furniture. The event was sponsored by Art d'Égypte.*

• **16-18 May:** A three-day conference was held at the NMEC to celebrate the World Museums Day.

• **21 May:** The French-Egyptian Archaeologists Forum on the fringe of the annual celebration of French archaeological missions in Egypt.

• **23 May:** The forum of Junior Archaeologists of the Ministry of Antiquities was held on the occasion of mid-year evaluation of the training Programme.

• **25 May:** The Second Archaeological Missions Meeting was held at the Ahmed Pasha Kamal Hall, giving heads and members of missions an opportunity to present their 2016-2017 season results.

• **13-30 July:** In collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the MoA organized a conference entitled "Thirty Years of Excavations at Egypt's Eastern Gate.*

• **29 October:** In collaboration with UNESCO, the NMEC organized a training programme on the maintenance and restoration of mummies.

• **4-6 November:** MoA, in cooperation with the DAI, IFAO, ARCE, AUC and EES, organized the first conference entitled "Science of Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology" (SAEMT). The conference was held at the Palace of Prince Mohammed Ali in Manial and focused on the use of science – such as chemical analyses, archaeobotany, animal remains, geology and mummification sciences- in the field of archaeology.*

• **10 December:** The inauguration of a workshop of UNESCO to discuss 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.



MoA Official WebSite

A beta version of MoA official website was launched in 15 November (www.antiquities.gov.eg)

The screenshot displays the official website of the Ministry of Antiquities of Egypt. The header includes the national emblem and the text 'جمهورية مصر العربية' and 'وزارة الآثار'. A search bar is present in the top left. The main navigation menu lists various services and information. The central banner features a large image of an archaeological site with the headline 'ساتخ اجنبي يقدم اول تبرع للمتحف المصري الكبير' and a 'المزيد' button. Below the banner, there are sections for 'الفعاليات' (Events) with a calendar for November 2018, 'نည်း تاريخية' (Historical News) with an article about the 19th-century archaeological scene, and 'متاحف' (Museums) with a grid of museum images and names. A sidebar on the left lists 'خدمات الوزارة' (Ministry Services) such as 'إصدارات الوزارة' and 'النماذج الأثرية'. The footer contains social media icons, contact information, and logos for HASSAN ALLAM HOLDING, INERTIA, and PHILIPS.

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