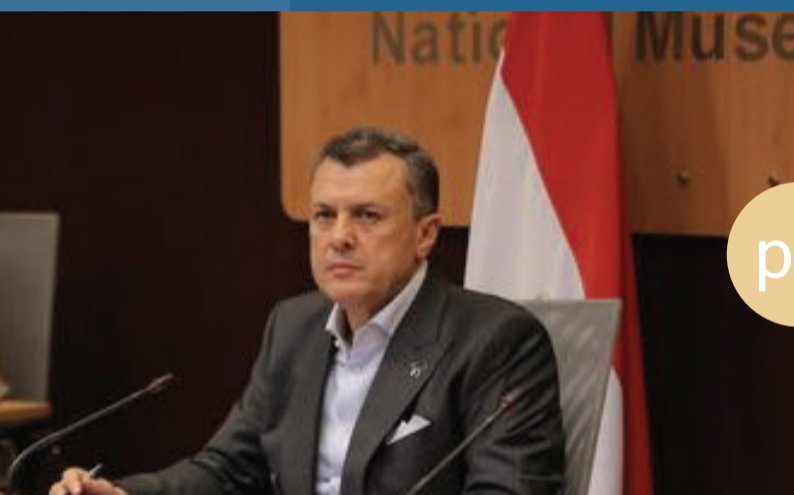


# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

Newsletter published by NMEC

Issue 5/ Sep. 2022



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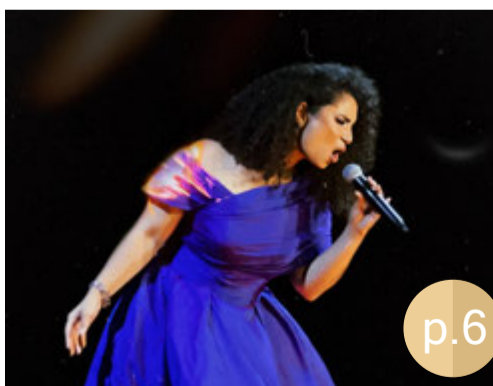
The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities chaired the first meeting of the Board of Directors of NMEC after holding the Ministry

One Year Anniversary of NMEC's Newsletter

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## Opening hours

NMEC is open everyday during the week, including public holidays, from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM and on Fridays from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM, and from 6:00 PM till 9:00 PM

# The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities at the First Meeting of the Board of Directors of NMEC after holding the Ministry



NMEC board meeting

H.E Mr. Ahmed Eissa, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, held a meeting with Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, the Managing Executive Director of NMEC, Ms. Fayrouz Fekry; Deputy Director for Operation and Management, and Dr. Maisarah Abdullah; Deputy Director for Archaeological Affairs and the directors of various departments at NMEC to introduce NMEC and review its flow of work. Moreover, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities chaired the first Board meeting of Directors of NMEC at the museum's headquarter in Fustat after taking over the Ministry, where Dr. Hala El-Said, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development and Mr. Amr Al-Kady, the CEO of Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) have participated in the meeting via video conferencing.

The Minister expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Khaled Al-Anani, the former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, for his efforts and achievements during his leadership of the Board, and NMEC.



Managing Executive Director of NMEC

I am glad to join the readers of the newsletter in the celebration of the one-year anniversary of the publication of NMEC's Quarterly Newsletter. This year the Newsletter documented all the museum's activities and events, the important visits it witnessed at both national and international levels as well as the major achievements it accomplished since its grand opening in April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic Abdelfattah El-Sisi.

I am taking this opportunity to thank NMEC's team especially those in charge of producing a comprehensive document for NMEC's greatest accomplishments. Here's to many more successes in the years ahead.

Prof. Ahmed Ghoneim

# OFFICIAL VISITS



The President of the International Olympic Committee, accompanied by the Minister of Youth and Sports



Delegation from the Arab Businesswomen Council

NMEC continues to receive a number of international dignitaries, government officials and public figures from Egypt and the world since its grand opening in April 2021. For instance, NMEC received a delegation from the Arab Businesswomen Council, which included the Chairwoman of Council; Dr Sheikha Hessa Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Hind bint Salman Al Khalifa, Maryam bint Salman Al Khalifa, Laila bint Al Hadi Al-Khayat and the accompanying delegation of 70 women from different brotherly Arab countries. NMEC also received Thomas Bach; President of the International Olympic Committee accompanied by Dr. Ashraf Sobhi; Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Hassan Mustafa; President of the International Handball Federation, Mustafa Braf; President of the Association of African Olympic Committees "ANOCA", and Engineer Hisham Hatab, President of the Egyptian Olympic Committee.



The Director of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and his accompanying delegation



Delegation from the Arab Media Authority and the Iraqi Minister of Information

Moreover NMEC received H.E Lutfi Raouf, Indonesia's Ambassador to Cairo, and a delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Defense, as well as H.E Dr. Nabil Jassim, the Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media, the Head of Iraqi Media network (IMN), as well as a high-level delegation from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), headed by Mr. Darren Tang, the Director of the organization.

# OFFICIAL VISITS



The Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, accompanied by the Deputy Director for Operation and Management

On the other hand, NMEC received H.E President of the Supreme Constitutional Court; Boulos Fahmy, and his accompanying delegation of heads of constitutional courts, supreme courts and African constitutional councils. NMEC received, as well, the Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs, H.E Malek Ezzahi.



H.E President of the Supreme Constitutional Court and his accompanying delegation of heads of constitutional courts

It is worth-mentioning that NMEC received H.E; Miroslav Cestovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Cairo, and his accompanying delegation, to discuss the possibilities of enhancing the tourism and archaeological sectors between both countries, in light of the memorandum of understanding signed between NMEC and the Museum of African Arts in Serbia, which was signed during the last visit of the President of the Republic of Egypt to the capital Belgrade in July.



Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Cairo

# OFFICIAL VISITS



The Canadian Minister of Defense and Tourism and his accompanying delegation

The Museum as well received a high-ranking Canadian delegation that included H.E Mr. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development, his deputy, H.E Mr. Christopher McLennan, and the Canadian Ambassador in Cairo, Mr. Louis Dumas. Most notably, NMEC received the Korean Black Eagles team, who participated in the Pyramids Air Show 2022, which was held the at the Pyramids of Giza.



The Korean Black Eagles team

The delegations were warmly welcomed by Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, Managing Executive Director of NMEC, where Dr. Ghoneim delivered an overview of the museum and its displayed collections, that tells the story of Egypt's richness throughout different eras. Accompanied by our curators, the distinguished guests have toured the museum's galleries to get acquainted with its distinguished artifacts and breathtaking archeological treasures, as well as to learn about the latest museum display methods in the world used in the Core Exhibition gallery, the Royal Mummies Gallery and the Egyptian Textiles Gallery.

# EVENTS



Korean Ambassador plays the saxophone



El Leila El Kebira Operetta

NMEC organized a performance of Egypt's most famed puppet show "El-Leila El-Kebira" or "The Grand Night", where the songs were written by Salah Jahin and composed by Sayed Mekawy. The Operetta was followed by a saxophone performance by H.E Hong Jin Wook; Ambassador of South Korea. The event was attended by a number of public figures, most prominently, the distinguished Egyptian actress; Yousra. At the end of the event, Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, acknowledged the Ministry of Culture and the Cairo Puppet Theater, along with the sponsoring companies for their efforts, emphasizing the importance of such events, as well as of the conduction of cultural and artistic forums, workshops and activities that reflect the great value of Egypt and its heritage.



Nesma Mahgoub's concert

On the other hand, NMEC hosted on its Grand Theatre a concert for the renowned Egyptian singer Nesma Mahgoub within the cultural and artistic program organized by the museum. Where Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim praised the great public success witnessed by the event, stating that more than 500 fans of different age groups have remarkably interacted with the event and Mahgoub's songs. It is worth mentioning that the concert was broadcasted on NMEC's official Social Media platforms.



Crowds flock to visit NMEC to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone

NMEC offered Egyptians and Egyptian students a 50% discount on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone and the emergence of Egyptology.

The influx of visitors to the museum from citizens of different age groups, as well as from tourists from all over the world exceeded all expectations, as the number of visitors recorded nearly ten thousand visitors, which indicates the passion and interest of Egyptians and tourists in the museum, that includes an integrated history of the Egyptian civilization, rare archaeological treasures, and the exquisite Royal Mummies.

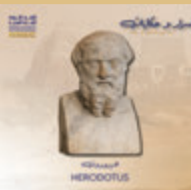


Rosetta Stone

It is worth-mentioning that NMEC exclusively exhibits a replica for the Rosetta Stone, which led to deciphering ancient Egyptian writing and the emergence of Egyptology. The Rosetta Stone was discovered in July 1799, by the French officer; François Bouchard during the French expedition, who found it at Fort Julien in the city of Rashid.

The Rosetta Stone dates back to 196 B.C, when the Syndicate of Priests of Egypt met in the city of Canopus and presented a letter of congratulations during the Ptolemaic dynasty on behalf of King Ptolemy V on his assumption of the throne of Egypt, and acknowledged him for exempting temples from taxes due to the low flood, where he recorded appreciations inscribed with three versions of a decree. However, on September 27, 1822, the French archaeologist Jean-Francois Champollion was able to decipher the mystery of the stone and correctly read the ancient Egyptian signs, which resulted in the birth of Egyptology.

NMEC as well displays, for the first time in Egypt, a copy of the "Description of Egypt" prepared by the scholars of the French campaign.



NMEC's Deputy Director for Archaeological Affairs gives a speech on the Rosetta Stone and its significance in the Egyptian civilization

Moreover, NMEC's Deputy Director for Archaeological Affairs; Dr. Maisarah Abdullah delivered a lecture entitled "Inscriptions on the Wall of Time", where he revealed the secrets of the Rosetta Stone including its discovery, its history and some of the most important archaeological facts about it and its value in Egyptian civilization.

NMEC's Department of Education on the other hand, participated in several workshops, for instance; a workshop on hieroglyphic writing for young participants up to the age of 18, titled "The Young Egyptologist", a wood carving workshop for young people over 20 years old, and a gypsum workshop, and a workshop telling the children stories about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone. Moreover, the Department of Community Communication and Heritage organized several workshops to accompany this major event, which included a granite stone sculpting workshop to form a model of the Rosetta Stone, with the opportunity for museum visitors to experience direct stone sculpting with the help of artist Barakat Hamza. As for the second workshop, it included the disclosure of one of the texts of the Rosetta Stone using the secret ink, which fascinated the visitors with the experience of deciphering as part of the hieroglyphic text of the stone, under the supervision of Mona Gawish, a Restoration Specialist at NMEC.

While the third workshop tackled the art of Puffy Paint, which the visitors expressed their admiration for the color painting of the letters of their names in the hieroglyphic script, conducted by the artist Germaine George, a Senior Art Specialist at NMEC.

The fourth and final workshop allowed the visitors to experience designing the symbols and letters of ancient Egyptian writing on wood, and it was conducted by the artist; Walaa El-Shazly.

It is worth-mentioning that NMEC's team of Social Media contributed throughout the month of September on sharing the stories of the most important scientists, travelers and early orientalists who preceded the era of Champollion, and the tales surrounding the decipherment of the Rosetta Stone.





Beads workshop



Leather making workshop



Macrame art workshop

Believing in the role of NMEC in instilling the values of belonging and citizenship, NMEC's Department of Education organized a number of educational, cultural and artistic activities to introduce the artistic heritage of Egyptian civilization and other civilizations, as these workshops are considered a goal to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. Among these workshops was on the "Art of Macramé", one of the most authentic forms of weaving arts that appeared in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Arab weavers, and was spread after that in Spain, Italy and England, whose presence in turn gives the place an authentic and attractive appearance.



Arabic font workshop



Recycling workshop



Art of Arabic Calligraphy

The Education Department delivered another workshop on "Leather-Making and Tanning", as one of the most important industries that the museum's cultural surroundings have been famous for centuries, especially in the neighborhood of Magra El-Oyoun Fence. And to emphasize NMEC's role in promoting environmental sustainability, several workshops on "Processes of Recycling" were conducted in collaboration with Nestlé, Ajyal Salima Nutrition Education Program and Nile Masr Initiative for Environmental Education. Another workshop was conducted on a the "Art of Arabic Calligraphy" In collaboration with Al Qalam School, that aimed at motivating participants in learning about Arabic calligraphy, its principals and aesthetics, and its use in decorations for various traditional crafts. The Education Department as well delivered two workshops on "Beading and Jewelry Making" for adults and children, that introduced the methods of designing jewelry inspired by Pharaonic jewelry using beads and threads of different shapes and sizes using beads and weaving.

# The Department of Community Communication and Heritage

On the other hand, the Department of Community Communication and Heritage organized a number of events that included several workshops and exhibitions aimed at connecting Egyptians with traditional crafts, such as; “Discover the Art of Serma”, which included a design workshop on cloth through hiring the technique of Serma embroidery, using the hand loom and golden threads. The event as well included an art exhibition on Serma designs, conducted in collaboration with Al Qalam School on the Art of Arabic Calligraphy. Another event on the “Wood Carving Art” conducted in collaboration with Al Qalam School on the Art of Arabic Calligraphy, which included an exhibition on pieces of art executed in the Wood Carving technique. Most remarkably was an event conducted on Egyptian governorates’ heritage, tackling the unique heritage of Asyut Governorate, largest city in Upper Egypt. A number of workshops were delivered during the event, such as; a workshop for the manufacture of Asyut Kilim (rug) on the loom “Al kilim al-yadawwi” conducted in collaboration with The National Society for the Protection of Heritage in Upper Egypt, a workshop on the “Tulle-bi-Telli” traditional metal thread embroidery, a workshop on “Traditional Cooking”, delivered by Dr. Nagwa Bakr, a photographic exhibition that reflects the cultural and heritage diversity in Asyut Governorate by the photographer Ahmed Mostafa from Asyut, and a musical show for Rababa player presented by Safa Hilali.



Discover the Art of Serma Activity



Art exhibition on Serma crafts



Oyma craft workshop



Assiut Heritage Event



Assiut Heritage Event

# Cultural Awareness



The Egyptian Historian, Dr. Maged Farag's lecture  
"The Days of Avendina"



Dr. Ing. Uwe Dorka's lecture "Recovering Ancient key Techniques: The Cheops Antechamber Experiments"

To complement the mission of NMEC in spreading cultural awareness among different groups of society, the museum organized a lecture by the Egyptian historian, Dr. Maged Farag, entitled "The Days of Avendina", where he recounted many historical secrets about the reign of Khedive Ismail, which were not known to the public during the lecture.

The museum also organized a scientific lecture by Dr. Ing. Uwe Dorka, Head of the Department of Steel and Composite Structures at the University of Kassel, Germany, entitled "Recovering Ancient key Techniques: The Cheops Antechamber Experiments".



Memorial Ceremony for the late Dr. Ahmed Morsi

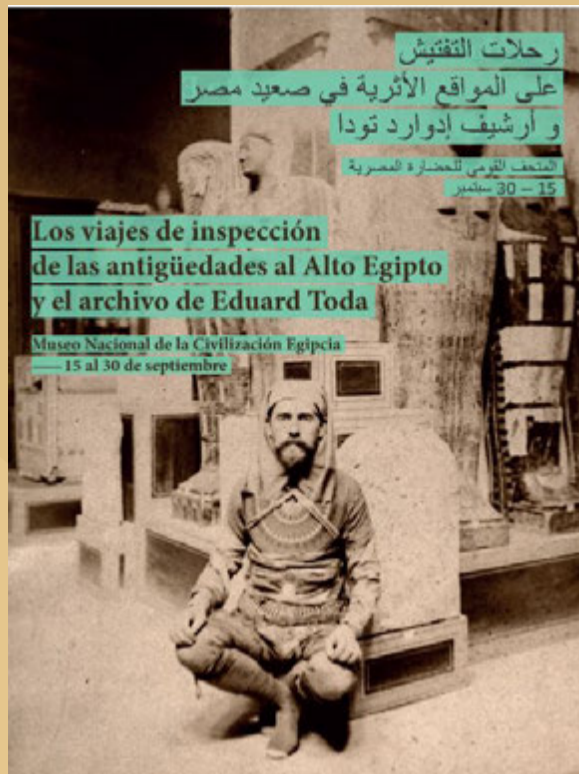
NMEC organized a memorial ceremony for the late Dr. Ahmed Morsi; Professor of Literature and Folklore at Cairo University for his recognized expertise in the safeguarding of Egypt's Intangible Cultural Heritage. The memorial ceremony was attended by Dr. Mahmoud Mabrouk; Advisor to The Minister of Antiquities for Museum Displays, Dr. Mokhtar El-Kasbani; Professor of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities at Cairo University, Counselor Maher Sami; Deputy Head of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the Spanish Cultural Counselor; H.E Candido Cris, and a number of students, friends and family members of Dr. Ahmed Morsi. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim handed over to the sons of Dr. Ahmed Morsi a shield from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, on which the name of the late was written, in appreciation of his creative contributions to enriching cultural life and Egyptian folklore.

The Managing Executive Director of NMEC; Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim and the Ambassador of Spain in Cairo Alvaro Iranzo Gutienéz inaugurated an exhibition of archival photos entitled “Inspection Trips to Archaeological Sites in Upper Egypt and the Edward Toda Archive”.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, a scientific symposium was organized for a group of Egyptian and Spanish archaeologists on the history of the Spanish archaeological missions’ work in Upper Egypt and their most important discoveries. The exhibition presents some photographs from the collection of Eduard Toda I Güell (1852 -1941),

who was posted as a Spanish vice-consul in Cairo between 1884 and 1886, as the collection helps to understand the work of the Egyptian Antiquities Service during the 19th century.

The exhibition is co-organised by NMEC in Cairo and the Embassy of Spain in Cairo, pointing out the necessity to invest this cultural and knowledge cooperation between the two sides and exchange experiences in all fields in a manner beneficial to the history and heritage of both countries.



The Photography Exhibition of “Inspection Trips to Archaeological Sites in Upper Egypt and the Edward Toda Archive



The Exhibition of “Mexico and Egypt from Above, a Unique Perspective”



On the other hand, Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim and the Ambassador of Mexico in Cairo José Octavio Tripp inaugurated an aerial photography exhibition entitled: “Mexico and Egypt from Above, a Unique Perspective”.

The event was held in the Egyptian Textile Gallery at NMEC, in the presence of the Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs and Egyptians Abroad, Ambassador; Salah Abdel Sadiq, the Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson and the Director of the Public Diplomacy Department; Ambassador Ahmed Abu-Zeid, and a number of foreign ambassadors and members of the Mexican community in Egypt.

This is within the framework of the various activities that the museum is keen to organize constantly in cooperation with embassies and diplomatic entities in Egypt, as it is an important cultural and heritage edifice, aiming at achieving cultural exchange between Egyptians and other nations, and introducing the museum's visitors, both Egyptians and foreigners, to the ancient civilization of Egypt, which fascinates the world.



The Exhibition of "Mexico and Egypt from Above, a Unique Perspective"

The exhibition contains aerial photographs that pair birdlike images of Mexico with natural archeological, and urban landscape views of Egypt, in collaboration with a number of Egyptian and Mexican Artists such as Ahmed Abdel Tawab, Ahmed El-Qawy, Ahmed Emad, Ahmed Nagy, Taymour Othman, Youssef Nasser and the Mexican photographer; Roberto Hernandez.

The opening ceremony included an exhibition of cultural and popular heritage of Mexico, in addition to Mexico's famous cuisine and its distinctive traditional costumes, with the aim of introducing the Egyptian public to the Mexican heritage. A concert was also held in which the artist Rola Zaki, famously known as "The Voice of Love and Peace", performed a number of songs from the Egyptian heritage and some Mexican classic songs such as "Bisasi Mocho" and "Cilito Lindo", which created a joyful atmosphere at the museum, as this contributed to linking the Egyptian and Mexican cultures together.

# Conservation and Restoration Center

NMEC received two X-Ray Radiography machines which are among the most modern devices in the world and the only one of their kind in Egypt.

The two devices are distinguished by the fact that one of them is fixed and the other is portable for use in radiology applications in archeology. These devices are used in photographing mummies as well as artifacts with high quality and speed of accuracy as these two devices represent a qualitative leap and an important addition in the scientific role played by the museum in the field of using modern technology in archeology.



Taha Ismail Shehata, Head of the Human Remains Laboratory at NMEC, presented a paper entitled "Measuring and Analyzing the Thickness of the Facial Soft Tissue in the Present Egyptians Using a Cone-Beam Tomography".

The research presents an anatomical study of the facial soft tissue of contemporary Egyptians using 3D conical tomography technique. The study benefits researchers in the field of cosmetics and identification techniques in forensic medicine. It also provides a primary database when deriving and constructing facial features from skeletal remains.

It is worth-mentioning that Dr. Shehata is a doctoral researcher in the field of Biological Anthropology and a member of the Egyptian Society for Biological Anthropology. Dr. Shehata also participated in working with many foreign missions and research teams in the field of mummies and human remains.



Head of the Human Remains Laboratory while working with archaeological missions



Training of the Cultural Heritage Conservation and Restoration Center in Venaria, Italy

Mona Gawish, a Conservator for manuscripts and archeological documents, and Mohaomed Soleiman, a Specialist in restoration at the First Aid Laboratory, received training in preserving books and archival materials, at Centro per la Conservazione ed il Restauro de Beni Culturali in the Italian city of Venaria, by experts in this field.

# EXPLORE OUR COLLECTION

Dreyer discovered a tomb in Umm el-Qaab in Abydos, which he called tomb U-j, Naqda III period (dynasty 0). The tomb contains about 160 small ivory and bone labels with marks ranging in size from 1.5-2 cm. These labels dates back between 3300 and 2900 BC. They represent the oldest signs of a written system in history. These labels feature a small hole that is used to tie it up to a pot. The purpose of these labels was to identify the contents of these pots. And as for the rest of the labels, it held the names of places and administrative units are mentioned on them. While others represents the source of these contents, which indicates that the ancient Egyptians were the first to know what is now called a certificate of origin



Dreyer's labels



Description de l'Égypte

Description de l'Égypte is considered the greatest cultural achievement at the beginning of the nineteenth century, which was compiled by scholars who accompanied the French Expedition led by Napoleon Bonaparte to Egypt between 1798-1801. Scholars observed and recorded the aspects of Egypt's cultural and social life, as well as recording monuments from Alexandria to Aswan, in addition to the nature and geography of the Egyptian land. Approximately 160 savants in various fields participated in this publication, in addition to a large group of artists and painters under the supervision of Napoleon Bonaparte. The first edition appeared in 1809 and was completed in 1829. NMEC exhibits special edition of this book

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

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National Museum of  
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