

A communicative society is more interconnected. As a result, NMEC regularly releases a newsletter that highlights the museum's most significant initiatives, successes, and events.

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The opening of the scientific research laboratories at NMEC

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim inaugurated the specialized scientific research laboratories for precise analysis at the museum. He was accompanied by Dr. Zahi Hawass, an archaeologist and former Minister of Antiquities. Dr. Ghoneim delivered a speech on behalf of Mr. Ahmed Issa, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, conveying his greetings to everyone on this occasion and expressing his joy at the opening of these laboratories. He emphasized their significant importance for NMEC as a beacon of cultural and scientific integration, contributing to the protection of Egyptian heritage.



Dr. Ghoneim highlighted that these laboratories, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and teams, are not only a cultural and scientific asset for Egypt but also for the world at large. He noted that these laboratories, with their capabilities, equipment, and skilled workforce, represent an important source of revenue and economic returns for the museum as economic units. They are expected

to generate substantial income through sample analysis, scientific projects, and collaborative research endeavors.

He emphasized that today's opening of these laboratories is rooted in the role of museums as beacons of education, learning, and strongholds of advanced scientific research that align with the spirit of the times. This sets an exemplary standard among Egyptian museums, in line with the

International Council of Museums (ICOM) theme for 2024, which aims to make museums centers for education and scientific research. He affirmed that these laboratories, equipped with research and analysis units, as well as radiography and measurement units, will significantly contribute to advancing scientific research not only in the field of antiquities but across various relevant scientific fields.



Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim also expressed his personal happiness at the opening of these laboratories, extending his thanks to everyone who contributed to this significant event and to the entire museum team. The CEO of the museum highlighted that today's opening was a major challenge for the museum, as it was scheduled to open several years ago but faced numerous financial and administrative obstacles. Today marks the announcement of this great achievement.

In his address on this occasion, Dr. Zahi Hawass, renowned archaeologist and former Minister of Antiquities, emphasized that the opening of these research and scientific laboratories today will greatly enhance the museum's role as a scientific and cultural institution. He specifically mentioned the DNA laboratory, which will have a profound impact on studying and analyzing sev-

eral Egyptian mummies whose identities remain unknown. He pointed out that the upcoming period will witness announcements regarding the identities of several unidentified mummies and the causes of their deaths.

The CEO of the Museum accompanied the attendees on a tour inside the scientific research laboratories, during which they were introduced to the facilities, devices, and equipment housed there.

Among those present at the opening were Dr. Maysara Abdullah, Vice President of the Museum for Archaeological Affairs; the President of the Academy of Scientific Research; the President of the National Research Center; the President of the Export and Import Control Authority; the President of Cairo Customs; the official from the Military Production Factories; and several heads of foreign archaeological missions and institutes in Egypt. Also attending were academics and researchers specializing in various scientific fields from Egyptian universities, research centers, and analytical laboratories, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

NMEC houses a range of specialized scientific research laboratories that serve in the field of archaeological restoration and scientific research across various disciplines. These laboratories include:

1. Ancient DNA Laboratory:

This is Africa's first reference laboratory for studying ancient DNA of humans, animals, and plants. The lab studies human kinship and investigates diseases in the ancient Egyptian environment.



2. Bioinformatics Unit (Part of the Ancient DNA Laboratory):

This unit analyzes genomic data and extracts molecular results, which helps in identifying and understanding unknown mummies, their familial relationships, infectious diseases, and genetic traits using powerful computational programs. This unit serves as a nucleus for a data analysis center supporting the museum's scientific research laboratories.

3. Archaeobotany Laboratory:

This lab studies archaeological plants from various excavations, identifying plant species for archaeological study and documentation, and reconstructing ancient plant environments.

4. Mobile Laboratory:

A unique unit that moves to excavation sites to conduct various analyses such as element discovery and concentration, pigment analysis, and mummy imaging. The unit includes equipment like Raman spectroscopy, X-ray equipment, X-ray fluorescence, and infrared spectroscopy.



5. Human Remains Laboratory:

This lab focuses on studying human remains using physical anthropology techniques to determine human origins, ages, death rates in ancient societies, and how humans interacted with their environments.

6. Anoxia Unit:

This specialized unit sterilizes artifacts and artworks using inert nitrogen gas, which is toxic to most insects but has no harmful effects on archaeological pieces. This method ensures the safety of the artifacts during sterilization.

7. Preparation Laboratory:

Contains various auxiliary devices needed for researchers in specific tests for their scientific projects, such as viscosity measurement devices, rotary evaporators, freeze dryers, water distillation devices, heat sterilization devices, water baths, centrifuges, and mills.

8. Microscopy Unit:

Provides a service for examining various and diverse samples in multiple fields such as biology, geology, engineering, medicine, and archaeology. The unit includes several microscopes: stereomicroscopes, inverted metallurgical microscopes, polarizing microscopes, and fluorescent microscopes.



9. Molecular Spectroscopy Laboratory:

Analyzes organic materials, identifies proteins and their amino acids, studies pigments, and measures the quality of various products. The lab houses two vertical instruments: UV/Visible spectrophotometer and Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrometer.



10. Microbiology Laboratory:

Isolates various species of microorganisms and studies the best possible methods for treating and eliminating microbial damage in archaeological artifacts.

11. Thermal Analysis Laboratory:

Used for measuring sample weight at different temperatures, determining weight loss with temperature increase, and studying the thermal stability of various compounds. The lab includes devices like DMA, DSC, TGA, and FT-IR microscopy.

12. Elemental Analysis Laboratory:

Specializes in analyzing most periodic table elements, especially heavy metals, rare earth elements, and isotopes. Elemental analysis is used in various fields such as food industry and drinking water analysis. The lab features two vertical instruments: Atomic Absorption Spectrometer and LA-ICP-MS.

13. Particle Size Measurement Unit:

Utilizes the Mastersizer 2000 device to measure particle size and distribution, serving daily industrial needs for particle size determination.



14. Chromatography Separation Unit:

Separates, identifies, and quantitatively measures various organic materials including fats, proteins, carbohydrates, resins, waxes, pigments, plant extracts, and other biological molecules. The unit includes two main devices: UPLC-ToF and GC-MS-HS.

15. Raman Spectroscopy Laboratory:

Analyzes chemical, mineral, and gem materials non-destructively, particularly valuable in archaeology, mineralogy, and various compound sciences.

16. X-ray Laboratory:

Uses X-ray imaging to study various mummies by imaging bones, identifying fractures, and determining solid objects within the body.



The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities chairs the meeting of the Board of Directors of NMEC



On Monday, February 19, 2024, Mr. Ahmed Issa, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, chaired a meeting of the Board of Directors of NMEC, held at the museum's headquarters in Fustat. Dr. Hala El Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, participated in the meeting virtually.

The meeting began with a brief presentation by Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim outlining the museum's performance, revenue generated, and the number of Egyptian and foreign visitors during the recent period, which saw a significant increase, especially during the mid-year vacations.

During the meeting, they also reviewed the museum's prominent cultural and scientific events and activities organized and hosted during the recent period. These included several temporary archaeological exhibitions such as the "Let There Be Light - Glimpses of Christian Arts" exhibition held during the Christmas holidays, a cultural event to revive pottery craftsmanship, interactive workshops, and the opening of the second season of the "Egyptian Tablia" initiative to revive traditional Egyptian cuisine, accompanied by a temporary archaeological exhibition titled "On AIT-ablia."

During the meeting, members were briefed that a group of scientific research laboratories at the museum are scheduled to open in February 2024, consisting of 13 fully functional labs out of the 15 labs. This initiative aims to enhance the museum's scientific and research capabilities, thereby maximizing its revenue.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved during the session. Financial flows for the Museum Authority for the fiscal year 2023-2024, from July 2023 to January 2024, both estimated and actual figures, were presented and discussed in detail. This included ticket sales and the number of Egyptian and foreign visitors.

Furthermore, there was a discussion on a proposed memorandum of understanding between the Museum

Authority and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology to enhance research capacities through collaboration with research institutions, and to activate the use of the museum's existing lab facilities.

Additionally, the meeting addressed and approved an increase in ticket prices for entry to the restoration labs starting April 1st: 300 Egyptian pounds for Egyptian visitors and 1000 Egyptian pounds for foreign visitors, emphasizing the importance of reviewing these prices annually.

During the meeting, it was discussed and agreed to utilize tour guides for guided tours organized at the museum as an additional service for visitors starting from March 1, 2024. This will be implemented through a cooperation protocol prepared between the Museum Authority and the Tour Guides Union. Visitors requesting this service will need to make an electronic reservation at least 48 hours before their visit. It was also agreed to evaluate this experience during the initial three months of its implementation.

Furthermore, a proposal was presented, discussed, and approved to offer a discount on bulk tickets for entry to museum exhibition halls for tourism companies. This initiative aims to encourage these companies to include museum visits more prominently in their tourism programs, thereby promoting the museum and increasing visitor numbers. If more than 500 tickets are purchased, a 10% discount will apply. The validity of these tickets will be for three months or until any announced price increases, whichever is sooner. The effectiveness of this initiative will be evaluated after six months of implementation.

Additionally, it was discussed and approved to accept a donation of various books from the American University in Cairo to the Museum Authority. The official working hours during the holy month of Ramadan were also approved to be from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily, with ticket sales closing at 3:00 PM.

Official Visits

Continuing the series of official visits from prominent figures and officials from foreign and Arab countries that the NMEC witnesses, the museum has received several visits from foreign delegations as part of their official visits to Egypt. Among these visits are:



“ NMEC received Dr. **Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser**, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, and his accompanying delegation, during his official visit to Egypt on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Dr. **Ahmed Ghoneim**, CEO of the museum authority, welcomed them and provided an overview of the museum's unique location, history, and cultural and societal role. He highlighted the importance of the museum, which has become a cornerstone in promoting Egypt's ancient civilization, enhancing Egypt's leadership as a global tourist destination, showcasing its positive image to the world, and supporting the national economy through tourism development.

Mr. Bassem Raouf, the museum curator, accompanied them on a tour inside the various exhibition halls, providing them with a comprehensive explanation of the museum and its treasures that narrate the history of the ancient Egyptian civilization through different historical eras.

Dr. **Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser** expressed his happiness with this visit and his admiration for the museum and the archaeological treasures displayed from various historical periods, which showcase the splendor of Egyptian civilization and its history through the ages. He also thanked the museum administration for the warm welcome and the well-organized visit. ”

“ As part of the series of official visits to NMEC, the museum received His Excellency Dr. **Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari**, Qatari Minister of State with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister and President of Qatar National Library, and his wife, during his visit to Egypt on Friday, February 16, 2024.

Dr. **Ahmed Ghoneim** welcomed them and provided an overview of the museum and its multifaceted roles. He also presented Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz with a souvenir from the museum. Dr. Sayed Abu Al-Fadl, the supervisor of the exhibition halls, accompanied them on a tour inside the various exhibition halls of the museum. At the end of the tour, Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz expressed his happiness with the visit and his admiration for the museum as a cultural beacon that testifies to the uniqueness of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages, through its exhibits that showcase the greatness of Egyptian civilization and its history. He also thanked the museum administration for the warm welcome. ”



An artistic evening and religious chanting were organized at NMEC in celebration of the approaching holy month of Ramadan.



Titled "Ramadan Inspirations," NMEC organized an artistic evening on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The event featured the Egyptian Sufi chanting group led by Amer El-Touny, in celebration of the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

The evening took place at the museum's theater amidst a large audience, including several ministers, current and former officials, foreign ambassadors in Egypt, renowned musicians, artists, and a diverse group of public figures and celebrities.

ious artistic and cultural events, making it a hub for artists and musicians in Egypt and globally. He praised the role of the private sector, represented by the Egyptian Ahli Bank and EFG Hermes Financial Investments, for sponsoring the event and their commitment to collaborating with the Museum Authority to support its cultural and artistic mission.

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim also announced the establishment of the Friends of NMEC Association, under the presidency of Dr. Ashraf El-Araby, former Minister of Planning and head of the National Planning Institute, with General Mohamed Youssef as the Secretary-General. The association includes distinguished personalities among its members.



Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim opened the evening with a welcoming speech expressing his delight at the artistic event. He highlighted how the museum has become a cultural institution supporting var-

The evening featured a variety of performances of traditional religious chants, where the group presented a distinctive artistic blend combining Sufi dance, religious chanting, and invocations, reflecting a unique state of Sufism.

The group performed a selection of their most



renowned works by eminent poets, including a collection of poetic praise of the Prophet and Sufi poems that advocate noble virtues. Among them were "Laulak Laulak," "Mata Ya Habib Al-Qalb," "Ayni L'gheir Jamalkum La Tanzar," "Ya Maliha Qad Tajalla," "Wa Barqat Sa'ad," and "Narha Fi Adlai."

The chanter, Amer El-Touny, expressed his happiness at organizing this evening within this magnificent cultural institution, where he felt the greatness that distinguishes Egypt. He extended his gratitude to the museum management and all

those involved in organizing the event.

It is worth mentioning that the "Egyptian Mawlawiyya" is a musical group dedicated to Sufi music and dance, founded in 1994 by its chanter, Amer El-Touny. The group attracts audiences from all over the country, aiming to showcase Egyptian Mawlawi heritage on the global stage, affirming to the world that Egypt has a distinctive cultural heritage among nations, thus emphasizing its cultural identity.



NMEC hosts a celebration marking the one-year anniversary of the launch of the **Fahim Foundation for Psychological Support.**



NMEC hosted an event on Saturday, March 2, 2024, organized by the Fahim Foundation for Psychological Support to commemorate its one-year anniversary as Egypt's first institution dedicated to mental health awareness. The event was attended by several dignitaries including Dr. Hala El-Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development; Counselor Alaa El-Din Fouad, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Dr. Ali Moselhi, Minister of Supply and Internal Trade; Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment; Mr. Said El-Quseir, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation; Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Health and Population; and Dr. Nevine El-Qabbaj, Minister of Social Solidarity.

Also in attendance were Ambassador Moushira Khattab, former Minister of Family and Population and Chairperson of the National Council for Human Rights; Professor Gabriel Ivbijaro, Secretary-General of the World Federation for Mental Health; several former ministers; members of the House of Representatives and the Shura Council; in addition to numerous ambassadors of foreign countries in Cairo, politicians, and mental health experts, along with many public figures.

The event began with a documentary showcasing the Fahim Foundation for Psychological Support's key activities and events during its first year, focusing on raising awareness about mental health. The foundation successfully organized 122 diverse events, benefiting a total of 1635 participants during that period, in collaboration with relevant ministries and authorities.

Ambassador Nabila Makram, founder and chairperson of the board of trustees of the Fahim Foundation for Psychological Support and former Minister of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, delivered an opening speech highlighting the role of the foundation as a pioneering Egyptian institution in the field of mental health across Egypt and the Arab world. Despite its recent establishment in January 2023, the foundation has achieved significant success.



Nabila Makram emphasized the commitment of the "Fahim for Mental Support" foundation to support mental health and promote the understanding of mental illness, treating it as an organic disease. She presented the concept of mental illness from a scientific perspective, how to recognize it, support patients and their families, protect children from the causes of mental illness, and maintain their psychological stability and well-being.



Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim emphasized the museum's commitment to collaborating with various institutions, especially those involved in humanitarian and social activities, supporting different segments of society. This aligns with the museum's comprehensive role, not only as a cultural institution, but also as a supporter of activities and events that contribute to enhancing the behaviours of the general Egyptian population and raising awareness among them, whether cultural or humanitarian.

It is worth mentioning that "Fahim Psychosocial Support Foundation" is a leading civil institution aiming to raise awareness about mental illnesses through awareness campaigns, seminars, and workshops with governmental bodies, specialists, and psychiatrists. Additionally, it prepares the families of mentally ill patients to understand the nature of the illness, how to deal with it, and to eliminate common negative perceptions about mental illness.



Educational Department

Under the slogan "Learn, Innovate, Enjoy..." the Education Section of NMEC continues to organize workshops that positively impact youth by providing a cultural environment equipped

with educational, artistic, and recreational tools. These workshops aim to enhance their mental abilities and refine their general taste. Some of these workshops include:

* Origami Art

The "Origami Art" workshop stood out for being an art form based on paper folding to create three-dimensional shapes such as animals and geometric figures. The Education Section organized this workshop specifically for children aged 8 to 14 years old.



* portrait art

As for portrait art, it is one of the oldest arts mastered by ancient Egyptians, flourishing during the Roman period. It had distinctive features and characteristics, with the famous Fayum portraits gaining worldwide fame. Therefore, the Education Section organized an interactive workshop titled "Features from a Portrait," attended by a group of youth aged 16 to 24 years old.



* Threads and Light

The "Threads and Light" workshop was inspired by the belief that recycling plays a significant role in revitalizing old materials to maintain environmental balance and encourage eco-friendly lifestyles. In line with this, the Education Section organized this workshop, which included handicrafts tailored for children aged 7 to 14 years old. The workshop focused on recycling old threads to create Ramadan decorations.

In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan and considering the Ramadan lantern as an integral part of the traditions and festivities of this blessed month, since it is crafted from various materials such as glass, metals, and paper, adorned with geometric shapes and traditional patterns, and adorned with a variety of colors reflecting the beauty of local culture and traditions, the Education Section organized the "Colors and Light" workshop. This workshop focused on creating glass candle holders inspired by the lantern concept, utilizing the enchanting light reflections produced by the colors of glass. It was designed for youth aged 16 years and older.



“Antica” Cultural Event to Revive Heritage at NMEC

Building on NMEC’s role in presenting an innovative vision of Egyptian civilization and its diverse identities, the Heritage and Community Engagement Department, under the supervision of Nancy Ammar and Manar Hassan, art specialists at the museum, organized an event titled ‘Antica’ on Friday, January 12, 2024. The event highlighted our tangible heritage, represented in artifacts and tools Egyptians used in their daily lives, which have become cultural heritage. It also showcased valuable artistic artifacts that have evolved to align with modern times.

The event included a variety of live workshops and exhibitions, such as:

- An exhibition of rare artifacts, tools, and heritage items that were essential in Egyptian households in ancient times, such as gramophones, radios, telephones, and lighting units, with participation from a group

of heritage collectors.

- Display of a collection of old photos, newspapers, Egyptian advertisements, and images documented by Orientalists that depict social life in Cairo.

- An interactive sculpture workshop using unconventional materials to create artistic forms inspired by Egyptian heritage.

- An introduction to various types of ancient Egyptian coins and stamps by Professor Yehia Fathi.

- Participation of distinguished Egyptian brands in the world of perfumes and cosmetics from the last century, such as ‘Kasima’ and ‘El Shabrawishi,’ showcasing products that were part of Egyptians’ daily lives in the past century.

- Participation of Roaia Fine Arts in recycling symbols and forms of heritage artifacts into modern art pieces for contemporary use.

The event also featured workshops such as sculpting on unconventional materials and designing artistic forms that echo Egyptian heritage by artist Ahmed Yehia, a craftsmanship workshop in copper artistry titled ‘Arkat Al-Nahas’ by artist Yasmine Mahmoud, and a workshop on storytelling tra-



ditional proverbs and their ethical values and teachings deeply rooted in Egyptian minds, both ancient and contemporary, by Professor Ola Mohamed.

The event included an introductory display of the 19th-century Egyptian women’s attire ‘Al-Taziera’ by Professor Sally Abdel-Moneim, a presentation and introduction to the ‘Bianola’ musical instrument, which was one of the main arts in early 20th-century Egyptian street life, by artist Germaine George. Additionally, the character of Charlie Chaplin was portrayed by artist Ahmed El-Shadly, and visitors eagerly took commemorative photos with him.

The event concluded with the museum honoring all participating artists with certificates of appreciation for their efforts and contributions to this event.

The event “Creative Pottery” took place on Saturday, February 3, 2024, to highlight crafts and traditional arts associated with pottery-making, demonstrating how clay pieces are transformed into artistic treasures and employed in showcasing Egyptian heritage and its continuity. This was done





in collaboration with a selection of Egyptian craftsmen and artists.

The event included interactive workshops on crafting ancient Egyptian faience pottery and the process of preparing and shaping it into various artistic pieces. It also featured an art exhibition showcasing pottery pieces and murals designed from Aswan clay, granite, and oxides inspired by ancient Egyptian heritage, curated by Dr. Saleha El Masry. Additionally, there was an interactive workshop on the art of crafting ceramic tiles and decorating them, traditionally used to adorn palaces, temples, and homes in ancient times. Another interactive workshop focused on the art of painting and coloring ceramic dishes with geometric and botanical heritage designs, renowned in Islamic art. Finally, there was an interactive workshop on handcrafting pottery using a pottery wheel.



The second season of the “Tablia Misr” initiative was launched at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization Theater witnessed the launch of the second season of the “Tablia Misr” initiative to revive Egyptian folk dishes, amidst an audience of students, researchers, university professors, lovers of Egyptian heritage and those interested in it. This event is organized by a team from the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization represented by colleagues Hind Taha, Marian Adel, Sabah Amin, and Nourhan Adel, under the supervision of Dr. Mennat Allah El-Dory, Lecturer of Archaeological Botany at the Faculty of Archaeology, Ain Shams University, for the second year in a row in cooperation with Sadco Group. Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, CEO of the Museum Authority, began the celebration with a speech in which he welcomed the guests, expressing his happiness at the museum hosting this initiative, which achieved great success and public turnout during its first season, which was launched on February 19 of last year, to



shed light on the popular heritage of foods, and to celebrate and revive the legacies of popular foods, as one of the types of intangible heritage to protect it from extinction, in addition to promoting tourism for Egyptian foods, and educating society and the younger generation on how to choose their diet in a healthy way, and how to find healthy alternatives to traditional foods, through a group of events, artistic workshops and platforms to display Egyptian traditional foods.

The CEO of the Museum Authority stressed the museum's keenness to embrace these initiatives that shed light on the Egyptian heritage and civilization, which play an important role in raising cultural and archaeological awareness among all members of society, regardless of their age or social background, and activating the role of the museum in protecting Egypt's cultural and civilizational heritage, extending his thanks to all heritage, academic and media institutions and bodies that cooperated with the museum in shedding light on this initiative, as well as to those in charge of it from the museum, professors and lecturers for their efforts to make the initiative a success and work to document Egyptian heritage foods. For his part, Dr. Maysara Abdullah, Vice President of the Museum Authority for Archaeological Affairs, said that Egyptian civilization has a rich heritage known for the diversity of its foods, as the ancient Egyptians throughout the ages cared about the table and the diversity of healthy foods on

it, as it is a cultural heritage, stressing that Egyptian civilization was distinguished, in addition to its richness in the fields of arts, architecture and others, by many heritage foods that the ancient Egyptians invented, which are still present on the Egyptian table to this day. Dr. Hassan Abu Bakr, Professor of Organic Agriculture and Biological Control at the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, participated in the initiative's activities. In his speech, he spoke about some of the topics that will be addressed during the discussion sessions this season, such as “Grow Your Food,” “Your Food is Your Medicine,” and “Every Season Has a Meal,” in order to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability in Egyptian cuisine.

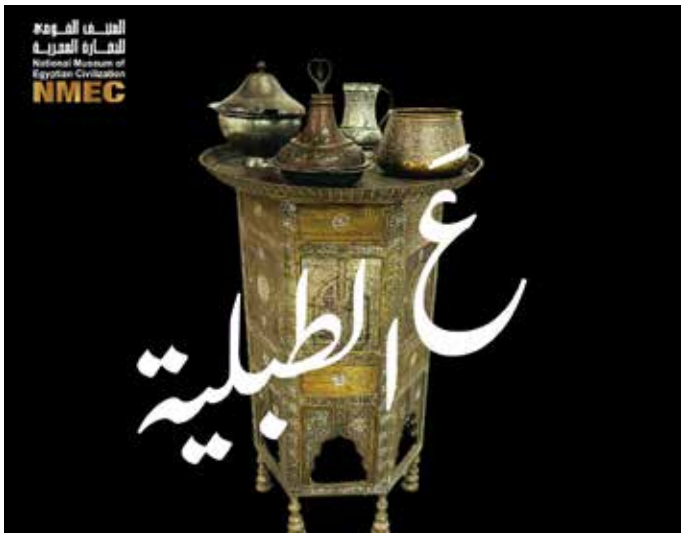
On the sidelines of the event and in celebration of the second season of the initiative, the museum is organizing a temporary archaeological exhibition entitled “On the Table” on Thursday, February 15, 2024. The exhibition will continue for two weeks.

The exhibition includes a unique and diverse col-



lection of antiquities and arts from different eras, including foods, fruits, grains, and food preparation equipment, as well as tools used on the Egyptian table, such as plates and cups. Among the exhibits in the exhibition:

The offering table of “Dabhet Hetpu”, whose scenes are among the most famous in ancient Egypt, which records the lists of offerings presented to the deceased, which showed us that the ancient Egyptian table was characterized by richness and diversity as a result of the diversity of agricultural crops and livestock, and bread was the mainstay of the table,



of which the Egyptians knew more than forty types. A scene depicting a woman sitting in front of a table topped with a list of offerings Old Kingdom, early Fifth Dynasty, Saqqara (Teti Necropolis), limestone.

The event also included an art exhibition titled "Creative Cooking", which displays a collection of drawings, writings and documentaries from the Solar Kitchen project by artists Mina Nasr and Lamis Hajjaj, for the most important recipes that contain



sunlight in the cooking process, in addition to a collection of paintings by artist Tagreed Youssef that simulate ancient and contemporary Egyptian heritage made from leftovers and food waste such as eggshells, pistachios and others, amidst great interaction, admiration and welcome from the attendees.

Among the season's activities, the first interactive discussion sessions were launched at the museum entitled "Grow Your Food in the Museum's Scientific Library", where the museum launched the initiative to protect the Egyptian food heritage throughout history.

The museum witnessed a discussion session moderated by Dr. Hassan Abu Bakr, Professor of Organic Agriculture and Biological Control at the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, in the presence of a group of experts in the field of sustainability in Egyptian cuisine, including Dr. Mohamed Hassan, Dr. Saeed Shehata, Dr. Ahmed Hawash from the Agricultural Research Center, and Professor Shahira Mahrez, a researcher in the field of heritage



and traditional costumes, as well as a group of students and researchers from universities and lovers of Egyptian heritage and those interested in it. The museum was also keen to broadcast the session online, where they learned about vertical, aerial and hydroponic farming methods, and methods and techniques of farming without soil on the roofs of buildings, schools, youth centers and factories. Pictures of actual projects for these models were also displayed, with a proposal to implement these ideas in part of the museum garden as a practical and applied model. It was decided to raise some topics such as Your Food is Your Medicine, Children's Food, and Every Season Has a Meal, for discussion in upcoming sessions with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of sustainability in Egyptian cuisine.

The museum's educational department also organized several workshops under the supervision of Ms. Azza Rizk, head of museum education and the educational department, and Asmaa Sayed, Nesma Ahmed, and Hoda Sultan from the educational department team, a number of cultural and educational activities and workshops under the title "The Little Egyptian Chef" as part of the activities of the second season of the "Tablia Misr" initiative, which presented to the public, especially children, some popular foods and inherited meals. These workshops include "Halbsa or Hummus Sham Workshop" on Saturday 2/17/2024, "Umm Ali" Workshop on Saturday 2/24/2024, and "Nabet and Basara" Workshop on Saturday 3/9/2024, with the participation of Ms. Fatima Jalal, and under the supervision of Ms. Dalia Fakh, head of conscious marketing and cultural projects development at Sadco Foundation.



Friends of the museum with disabilities are creating a model of a green city.

As part of NMEC's educational and community role in promoting the concept of green environment, green practices, and recycling, the museum presented an exhibition titled "City of Dreams." This exhibition featured a model of an environmentally friendly city designed and executed by a team of individuals with disabilities from the Friends of the Museum group, in collaboration with the Guide of Goodness Association for Development.

The project included presenting a concept for an integrated city entirely based on recycling using environmentally friendly materials, representing a futuristic vision of sustainable cities. It emphasized the necessity of collaboration and active participation to achieve innovative solutions.

Furthermore, the project highlighted the importance of recycling through the materials used in the projects and how taking serious, albeit simple steps can reduce climate change impacts. Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim emphasized that such activities align with the state's concern about the implications and risks of climate change. This falls within the museum's strategy to integrate all segments of society and engage them in its various activities.

Members of the team showcased the materials used in the project and provided a detailed explanation of each part of the city and its function to make it a fully integrated city with all the services that citizens need.

Dr. Maha Sweilam, Director of Training at the museum and responsible for the disability affairs, also emphasized the museum's commitment to providing workshops, educational, and artistic activities for members of the community with disabilities. These initiatives aim to encourage them to explore Egyptian civilization, raise awareness among all members of society, and enhance their knowledge of green practices. The museum, being the first to calculate its carbon footprint and work on reducing it, represents a serious step towards becoming an environmentally friendly cultural center.

The members of the Museum Friends team and their families expressed their happiness at the opportunity to present their project inside the museum and participate in its activities.

Ms. Samar Hasaballah, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Dalil Al-Khair Association for Development, expressed her joy in participating in such important activities. She highlighted the organization of various workshops on recycling and agriculture within this cultural and civilizational institution, which contributed to solidifying and developing the ideas further.



Memories of Civilization Symposium

Fifty-four years of success have marked the Cairo International Book Fair, held for its fifty-fifth edition this year from January 24 to February 6, 2024, at the Egypt International Exhibition Center. It stands as one of the largest book fairs in the Middle East, annually attracting around two million visitors as a major cultural and media event.

As part of this year's fair, a symposium titled "Memories of Civilization: The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization" was held on January 30, 2024. The symposium highlighted the unique experience offered by NMEC to its visitors. Distinguished artists and intellectuals attended, including Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, the CEO of NMEC, along with Dr. Walid Kanoush, Head of the Fine



Arts Sector. Also present were Dr. Farid Fadel and Dr. Manal Mahdy Eldin, with moderation by Abdel Fattah El-Gebaly.

The symposium addressed the topic of museums as integral parts of nations' collective memory and historical records of civilization. A documentary film was presented showcasing NMEC, capturing significant artistic and cultural events. These included performances by Yehia Khalil, the Royal Mummies Parade, as well as artistic presentations by renowned singers from Egypt and around the world, and international music concerts.

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim elaborated on the mu-

seum's strategy and vision since assuming leadership, highlighting its museum exhibition concept. He also discussed the museum's organization of educational, artistic, and meaningful entertainment events. Additionally, he mentioned various artistic and cultural initiatives, such as the "Egyptian Drum" initiative aimed at preserving Egyptian heritage and cultural traditions, including traditional culinary heritage across Egyptian civilization ages.

Ghoneim emphasized that NMEC operates without financial burden to the state. The activities, initiatives, and events organized in collaboration with various entities aim to preserve heritage and civilization while generat-

ing revenue for the Egyptian state through these initiatives.

During the symposium, visual artist and musician Dr. Farid Fadel spoke about the comprehensive vision of the museum, which has been realized through various events, workshops, and meetings with prominent artists. This diversity has transformed the museum into a significant cultural beacon, expanding its role beyond merely exhibiting archaeological and heritage treasures.

Dr. Waleed Qanoush, Head of the Fine Arts Sector, emphasized that despite the museum being open for less than three years, it has made a strong impact during this short period.

He highlighted its distinctive personality among other museums, attributing its success to comprehensive and wide-ranging management strategies. He also noted that the museum's financial independence enables it to plan comprehensively for all its activities.

Dr. Manal Mohie El-Din, a harpist at the Cairo Opera House, mentioned during her speech at the symposium that the museum stands out for presenting all eras of Egyptian history, from ancient Egyptian civilization to Roman civilization and beyond. She also highlighted the museum's facilities, including its restoration labs, which are among the largest and most important in Egypt.



The seminar titled "Medicine and Mummification in Ancient Egypt," held as part of the cultural and scientific sessions on Saturday, February 3, 2024, featured Professor Gamal Mostafa El-Said, Emeritus Professor of General Surgery and Oncology at the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, and recipient of the State Prize in Medical Sciences, alongside Dr. Mostafa Ismail, Director of the Mummies and Their Contents Storage and Head of the Mummy Preservation and Conservation Laboratory at the NMEC. The discussion was moderated by Huda Abdel Aziz.

The seminar explored the concepts of medicine and mummification in ancient Egypt, discussing the ancient Egyptians' knowledge of various diseases, their ability to control and treat them, and even perform surgeries when necessary. The seminar also delved into the process of mummification in ancient Egypt, highlighting the Egyptians' exceptional skill and precision in carrying out this highly complex procedure. It also covered the different stages and developments of mummification over time, including changes in techniques, tools, and materials used in the process.

“Let There Be Light” Exhibition



Under the title “Let There Be Light - Glimpses from Christian Arts in Egypt,” Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim inaugurated a temporary archaeological exhibition in the Egyptian Textile Hall of the museum. The exhibition was held in celebration of the New Year and Christmas festivities, focusing on Coptic art masterpieces for the new calendar year. Dr. Maysara Abdullah, the Deputy CEO for Antiquities Affairs, accompanied him during the opening.

The exhibition featured a unique collection from the museum, showcasing early Coptic art treasures. This initiative underscores the museum's commitment to highlighting traditional and significant cultural celebrations and events, aiming to raise awareness about archaeological and cultural heritage. It also aims to introduce various age groups to Coptic art forms, emphasizing the role of art in promoting tolerance among peoples and supporting cultural convergence.

The icon depicts the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus holding the globe, both surrounded by a



Period: First half of the 19th century

golden halo. They are surrounded by two winged angels on clouds crowning the Virgin Mary.

The icon represents the Virgin Mary carrying the infant Jesus Christ, with depictions of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel on the shoulders, alongside Saints George and Demetrius.

The exhibition also included some artifacts displayed to the public for the first time, such as Coptic icons executed in various artistic styles, and several manuscripts written in both Coptic and Arabic from the early Islamic era. Additionally, there were examples of Coptic arts in metalwork and woodwork, as well as samples of pottery and ceramics used in monasteries, churches, and religious rituals in Egypt.

On the sidelines of this occasion, the educational department of the museum organized several cultural and educational activities and workshops aimed at various age groups, especially children, to celebrate the beginning of the new year 2024. These activities included an origami workshop to teach the creation of Christmas tree greeting cards adorned with ancient Greek names, along with paper decorations symbolizing the New Year festivities. Additionally, there was a project using reclaimed old wood to create an artistic panel, emphasizing the department's focus on educating youth about the importance of recycling materials. These workshops were conducted by Ms. Heba Abdelkader, an art specialist at the museum, together with students from the Faculty of Art Education.

NMEC celebrates women throughout March 2024.

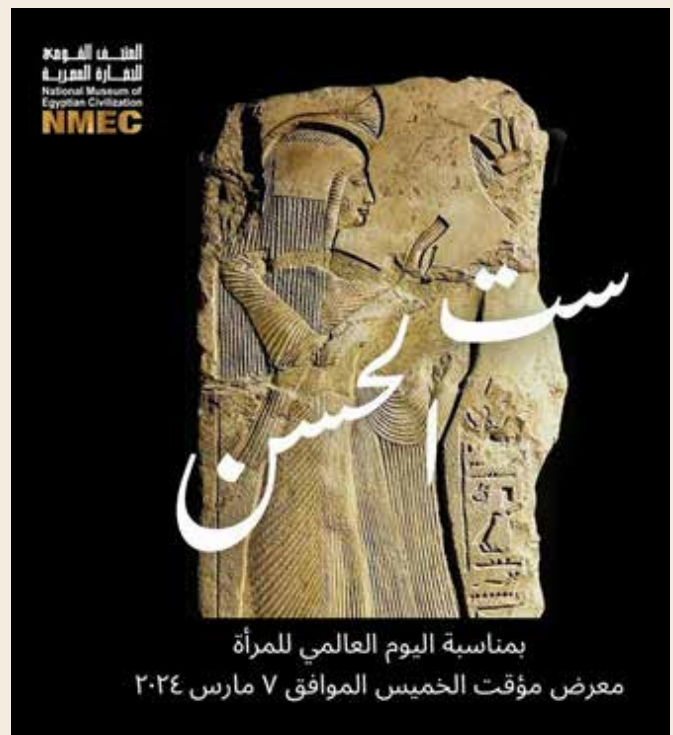


The Egyptian woman has played a significant and prominent role throughout Egyptian history. She has been a wife, a mother, and a companion in life and in struggle. Moreover, the Egyptian woman has managed to achieve a unique status and occupy prominent positions in various fields of life, whether intellectual, scientific, or political. History has witnessed many Egyptian women who have had a profound impact on Egyptian society throughout the ages.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, NMEC organized a temporary exhibition titled "Sitt El-Hassan" (Lady of Beauty). They also hosted a series of cultural, artistic, and educational events, along with a temporary archaeological exhibition to celebrate women throughout March 2024. This includes several events dedicated to women, such as International Women's Day on March 8, Egyptian Women's Day on March 16, and Mother's Day on March 21.

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim inaugurated the temporary exhibition on Friday, March 8, 2024. He was accompanied by Dr. Maysara Abdullah, the Deputy CEO for Archaeological Affairs, and Ms. Fayrouz Fikry, the Deputy CEO for Management and Operations.

These events are part of the museum's com-



mitment to highlighting significant cultural celebrations aimed at raising archaeological and cultural awareness. Egyptian women have played a vital and impactful role in advancing Egyptian civilization and development. The museum's exhibitions and activities also focus on showcasing Egyptian women as unique models of contribution, success, resilience, and self-assertion.



The exhibition included a unique collection of museum artifacts that highlight the status and active role of Egyptian women throughout history. It featured various artifacts and models depicting aspects of women's lives, adornments, and beauty across the ages, including metalwork, woodwork, and pottery.

Alongside the exhibition, the museum organized a public lecture titled "Lady from Egypt," delivered by Dr. Maysara Abdullah. The lecture explored the historical significance and active role of Egyptian women, emphasizing their equality with men in various aspects of life since the early settlements in Egypt. The lecture highlighted notable Egyptian women who achieved great deeds throughout history. Artistic works left by Egyptians further validate their elevated status. Notable exhibits include the statue of Lady Nefretiti, who lived in the 24th century BCE, depicted standing with her back against a column bearing her name and titles and the Giza cemetery, Old Kingdom, 5th Dynasty, limestone.

The Education Section also organized a variety of cultural and educational events and workshops throughout March 2024 to celebrate women. These events were tailored for various age groups, particularly children, in celebration of International Women's Day. Additionally, two workshops were held: "Women in the Eyes of Visual Art," where artists Ala El Mahdy and Heba Abdelkader provided insights into pioneering Egyptian women in visual arts such as Effat Nagy, Gazbia Sirry, Zeinab Abdel Hamid, and Margue-

rite Nakhla. The workshop also featured simulations of famous artworks depicting women.

The second workshop was titled "Sitt El-Hasan's Earrings", presented by Dr. Heba Abdelkader, an arts specialist at the museum, on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The workshop aimed to highlight traditional jewelry and craftsmanship as essential adornments for women in rural and Upper Egypt. It also included a practical session on modern materials used in lathe turning.



NMEC Team

Stone tools are among the oldest tools used by the Egyptians in their daily lives since the ancient Stone Ages. These tools varied and included scrapers, blades, knives, arrowheads, and more. The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization holds a large collection of these tools, both on display and in storage. Recognizing the importance of these tools, the museum ensured the participation of Dr. Fatma Bakkar, Director of the Archaeological Documentation Department, and Ms. Heba Ahmed, a Museum Curator in the Archaeological Documentation Department, in a training course organized by the Scientific Center for Training in Cairo and Giza, part of the Central Training Unit at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The course was held in collaboration with the Museums Sector, represented by the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, from January 16 to 18, 2024, in the lecture hall of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir. The course, titled "Introduction to the Study and Classification of Stone Tools," covered the study of stone tools, their examination, classification, and drawing based on the latest scientific and global methods. The course was led by Dr. Doaa Sayed Ibrahim, a researcher and specialist in prehistory and an antiquities inspector at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in the Abu Rawash area.



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Museum Opening Hours:

The museum is open all days of the week from 9 am to 5 pm, except on Fridays, two shifts from 9 am to 5 pm and from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Tickets Prices			
Egyptian	80 L.E	Foreign	500 L.E
Egyptian Student	40 L.E	Foreign Student	250 L.E



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