

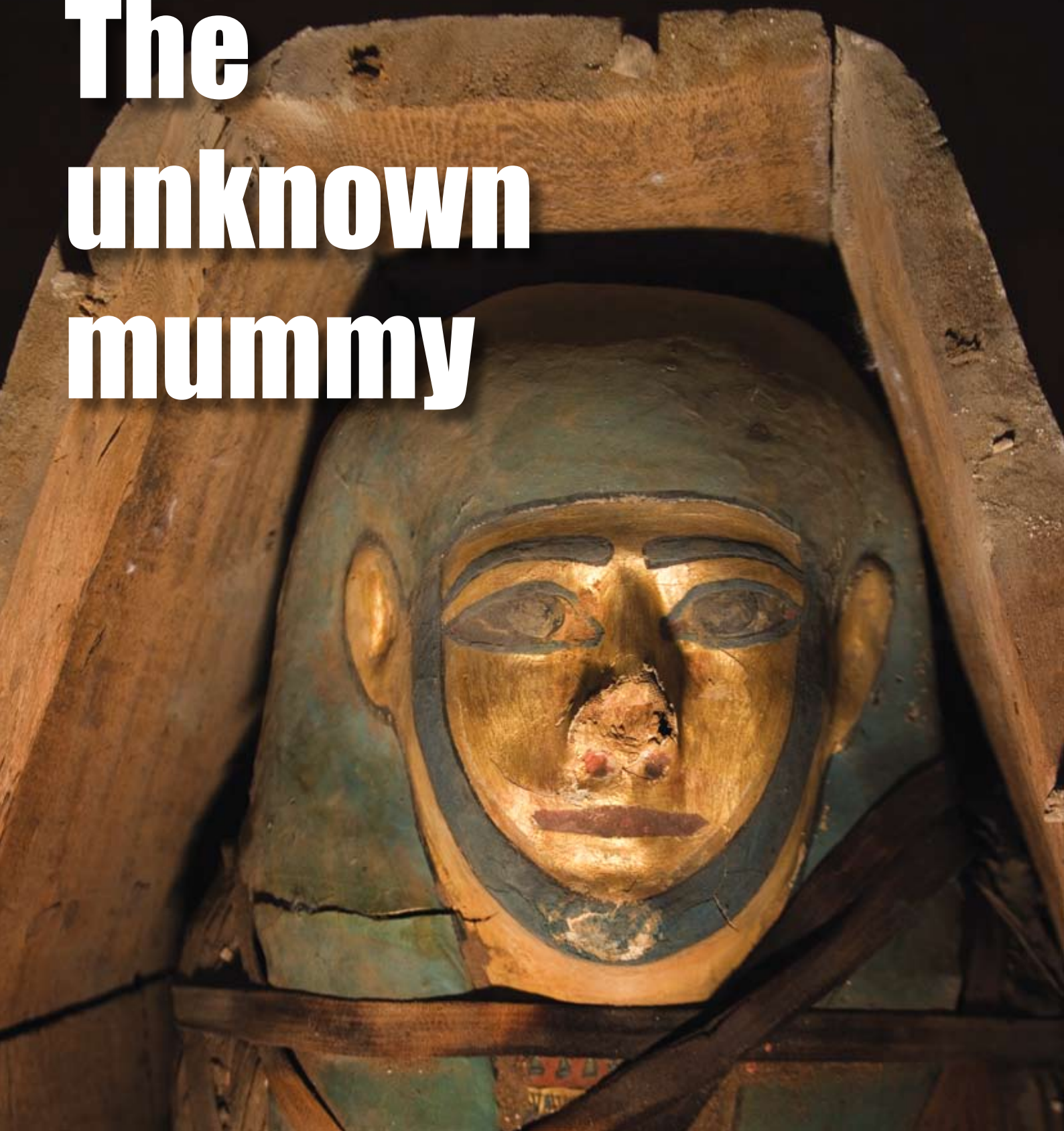
ANTIQUITIES OF EGYPT

SCA's Monthly Newsletter

October 2006

Issue No. 5

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The unknown mummy

While cleaning the burial shaft of Qar's tomb, a royal physician who lived during the late Fifth and early Sixth Dynasties, located close to King Djoser's pyramid complex at Saqqara, an Egyptian excavation team led by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), stumbled upon a splendid painted Late Period anthropoid wooden coffin. The features are that of a bearded man with a reddish brown face and thick black eyebrows, large eyes outlined in black, and red lips. He wears a dark blue garment with a collar consisting of three rows of blue, green, and yellow cylindrical beads and a pendant adorned with Maat, goddess of truth, who stretches her wings so that she holds both sides of the lid.

The lower part of the lid is decorated with a scene in vibrant colors showing the mummies of the Four Sons of Horus standing in two rows facing each other while offering the deceased linen wrappings. Below is another scene showing two ladies mourning the deceased. Inscriptions mentioning Osiris, god of the afterlife, are also written on the lid.

Opening the coffin, a well-preserved Thirtieth Dynasty mummy wearing a gilded funerary mask showing the idealized facial features of the deceased was found. The mummy is decorated with colored scenes divided into several registers on cartonnage. The uppermost is decorated with a broad collar consisting of several rows of colored beads and the goddess Maat with outstretched wings. Below this are repeating images of the *tyet* knot, a symbol of the goddess Isis, and the *djed* pillar symbolizing the god Osiris. The second register shows the sun-god Khepri with the sun disk and the god Anubis who is depicted mummifying the deceased on a lion-shaped bed. Below are four canopic jars with lids representing the Four Sons of Horus. At the bottom are two registers containing rows of minor deities. The ankles of the mummy are decorated with geometric patterns, while feet are carefully painted at the end.

“It is one of the most beautiful Late Period mummies ever discovered and is comparable to any mummy currently on display in a museum,” asserted Dr. Hawass. He explained that early studies revealed that the mummy had been wrapped with a large number of linen strips, and it is likely that the mummy does not belong to the coffin. The coffin was probably reused. “It also supports the belief,” said Dr. Hawass, “that ancient Egyptian priests had to insert this mummy inside a coffin in a hurry in an attempt to protect it from tomb robbers by removing it from its original location.”

Now, the coffin and the mummy are stored at the Saqqara Restoration Laboratory where it will be restored and research will be conducted on the scenes and hieroglyphic texts in order to identify the owner of this mummy and the reasons behind inserting it into a coffin in Qar's tomb. The excavation team also unearthed 22 Late Period bronze statuettes of various deities in different shapes and sizes. Among the most interesting are Ptah, Horus as a child, and Isis. A statuette of the architect Imhotep, who built Djoser's pyramid complex, was also

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FOCUS



among the group of bronze statuettes.

The tomb of Qar, which dates originally to the late Fifth or early Sixth Dynasties, is actually a large mastaba with a chapel and a limestone false door. The tomb was discovered by Dr. Hawass in 2000 along with its burial shaft. Further excavation inside the shaft revealed Qar's limestone coffin with his mummy, along with pottery stamped with the name of Qar, a round alabaster offering plate with a list of offerings, and a collection of copper medical instruments that were once used by Qar to treat his patients and to carry out surgeries.

RESTORATION

Dendera resurrected

On the west bank of the Nile opposite the upper Egyptian city of Qena is the temple of Hathor at Dendera, with its awe-inspiring Pharaonic architecture symbolic of the ancient Egyptian civilization that has lasted for more than 5,000 years. According to early inscriptions, there was a cult structure to the goddess Hathor at Dendera during the Old Kingdom. During King Khufu's reign (ca. 2609-2584 BC) of the Fourth Dynasty, the owner of the Great Pyramid at Giza, this structure was rebuilt and dedicated to Hathor and her son Ihy, who formed the main triad at Dendera along with Horus, Hathor's husband and Ihy's father. Inscriptions in a later temple at Dendera also mention that King Pepi I constructed a temple at the site. Later additions and modifications to the temple of Hathor were undertaken by several kings of the New Kingdom (ca. 1569-1081 BC), including Thutmose III, Thutmose IV, and Amenhotep III as well as Ramesses II and III.

The temple of Hathor at Dendara today was built on the ruins of the old temple during the late Ptolemaic period. Ptolemy XII Auletes (80-58, 55-51 BC), whose name is found in the crypts, is associated with the foundation of the temple. During the Late Period and Graeco-Roman period, several hypostyle halls, columns, kiosks, and birth houses were also added to the temple area by Nectanebo I, Ptolemy VI, Ptolemy X, and Ptolemy XI as well as by the Roman emperors Augustus, Tiberius, and Nero.

The main temple area is fronted by several Roman kiosks. Behind these is the impressive gateway of Domitian and Trajan, which is set into a massive mud-brick enclosure wall that surrounded the complex. An unfinished inner enclosure wall of stone built during the reign of Tiberius in the 1st century AD surrounds a courtyard with side entrances. This unfinished courtyard precedes the large hypostyle hall that was also added by Tiberius. The facade of the hypostyle hall fronting the main temple has a low screen created by the inter-columnar walls that leave the hall's ceiling and 24 columns with sistrum capitals in Hathoric style in full view.

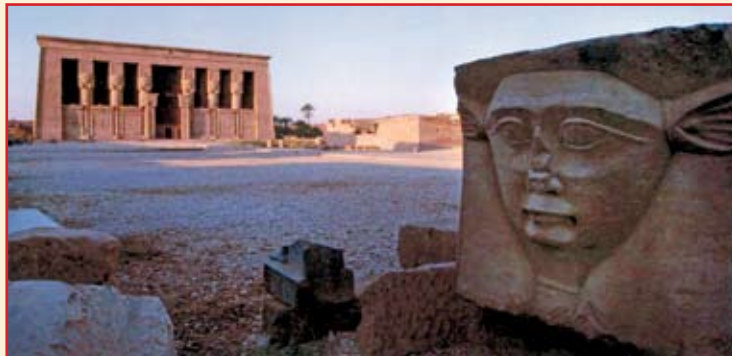
The temple consists of two hypostyle halls: an outer one and an inner hall. The outer hypostyle hall was decorated by emperors ranging from Augustus to Nero. Among the most important and beautiful scenes on the temple's walls are those on the ceiling of the hypostyle hall, which still retains much of its original color. It is decorated with a chart of the heavens, including zodiac signs and Nut, the goddess who swallowed the sun disk in the evening and gave birth to it again at dawn. The inner hypostyle hall, known as the "hall of appearances," is decorated with scenes that show the king in foundation ceremonies related to the temple's construction.

On the rear exterior wall of the temple directly behind the sanctuary and beneath the two lion-headed waterspouts that drained rainwater from the roof (there are also three on each of its side walls) are scenes showing a large-scale figure of Cleopatra VII and her son, Caesarion, by Julius Caesar, who became her co-regent as Ptolemy XV.

North and west of the main temple are two birth houses. The Roman birth house is considered to be the latest preserved temple of its type. It was perhaps built by Augustus and probably decorated by Trajan. The birth house was the ritual place where Hathor gave birth to Ihy, who represents the young phase of the creator gods. It is decorated with different scenes. One of the finest depicts Trajan making offerings to Hathor. The god Bes, patron of childbirth, is carved on the abaci above the column capitals, and the reliefs on the exterior walls portray the divine birth and childhood of the infant Horus whose rites legitimize the divine descent of the king.

The second and earlier birth house, which was built by Nectanebo I of the Thirtieth Dynasty and decorated during the Ptolemaic period, was cut through by the foundations of the unfinished courtyard of the main temple. Only a false door on the eastern exterior wall of the main temple of Hathor is a reference to the original sanctuary.

On the southern end of the earlier birth house are the remains of a mud-brick "sanatorium." This sanatorium is the only one of its kind known in association with a temple, although other examples may have existed. Here, visitors to the temple could rest in chambers over night while awaiting a "healing dream" related to Hathor. Visitors could also bathe in the sacred waters. An inscription on a statue base found at this location suggests that water was poured over



magical texts on the statues causing the water to become holy and to cure all sorts of diseases and illnesses. Basins used to collect holy water can still be seen on the western end.

Dendera over time has suffered from great deterioration due to continual visits to the site. As a result, the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) under the auspices of Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture, began a restoration project at the site. This project also aims to make the site more tourist-friendly. One of the main goals is to reduce the number of visitors as well as the time spent inside the temple by constructing a visitor's center in the empty space before the temple. A 15-minute documentary about the temple, its history, important scenes, and reliefs will be presented in the center. A bookshop and a cafeteria will also be constructed.

Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, added that a new visitor's path will also be created in an attempt to guide tourists within the temple complex.

Abdel Hamid Qutb, Head of the Engineering Department at the SCA, stated that in collaboration with the Governor of Qena, the garden neighboring the temple was added to the site management plan in order to build a restoration lab, extra facilities, and services as well as establishing an open air museum that will exhibit objects and blocks discovered at the site. New lighting and security systems have also been installed.

NEWSREEL

Abusir

The Czech Archaeological Mission started its new excavation and restoration concession in different locations at the Abusir necropolis, almost 25 km south of the Giza Plateau. The first monument to be excavated is Lepsius' mastaba 23 located southeast of the pyramid complex of Queen Khentkaus, the shaft of Menkhebnukhu, and the area east of Iufaa's shaft, discovered intact by the mission during the 1990's.

Dr. Tarek El-Awady, Chief Inspector at Abusir, mentioned that the mission will continue its documentation project begun last year of all the objects discovered in the last decade and now stored in the Saqqara magazines as well as carrying out X-ray examinations of remains of the daman and calla (animal and plant) found in the ancient lake area south of the Abusir archaeological site.

Dahshur

The archaeological mission of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York led by Dr. Dieter Arnold began its work early this month at the pyramid complex of King Senwosret III in Dahshur, 35 km south of the Giza Plateau. This season's work will include the restoration of the tomb of Khnumhotep II, discovered in 1894 by French archaeologist Jacques de Morgan, as well as surrounding the tomb with an enclosure wall for protection and installing new lighting. The expedition also plans to study the fragments discovered at King Amenemhat III's pyramid complex at Dahshur that are now stored in the Saqqara magazines. These fragments will be compared with blocks discovered in the pyramid complex of King Senwosret III and now stored at Mit Rahina.

Dra' Abu el-Naga'

The Macquarie University Mission from Australia discovered early this week a collection of cosmetic items made of faience and a large number of objects dated to the New Kingdom, during their routine cleaning work in TT147 in the Dra' Abu el-Naga' area on Luxor's west bank. In fact, the tomb belongs to two different persons; one was the "guardian of Amun's gate" at Karnak, and the second was the "guard of Amun's house" and the "purifier of the god Khonsu."

Inside the tomb, the mission also discovered a group of seals with the hieroglyphs, *nefer reneet*, and wooden and inlaid alabaster fragments which are thought to be from a sarcophagus. A collection of blue ushabti figurines dated to the end of the New Kingdom and amulets belonging to the Eighteenth Dynasty in the form of a scarab, including two made of faience, were also found. One of the scarabs is decorated with a falcon-headed god, while the other has a *djed* symbol.

Luxor

The joint Polish-Egyptian archaeological mission discovered a large collection of pottery fragments, pieces of cartonnage, and parts of the priest Bani-mesu's sarcophagus while excavating at Queen Hatshepsut's temple at Deir el-Bahari on Luxor's west bank. Numerous pieces of ostraca, pottery, ushabti figurines, papyri written in Coptic, and fragments of a *nemes* headdress of King Thutmose III have been also unearthed.

The mission also continued its program of restoring, documenting, and drawing of the New Kingdom shrines on the third terrace of Deir el-Bahari, including those of Thutmose III, Queen Hatshepsut, and the northern and southern shrines of Amun-Re. The mission's projects also include studying fragments and blocks restored in these shrines, which belong to the festival court of the temple. They will be returned to their original locations, and all the inscriptions on the walls of these shrines will then be copied.

Daqahliya

An Egyptian mission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) has found two Coptic churches underneath St. Antony's Church at St. Demiana Monastery in the Lower Egyptian city of Daqahliya. This find was located while carrying out a restoration plan at St. Antony's Church which was, in fact, built on top of two earlier churches. The first one is located on the western side of St. Antony's Church and is rectangular in shape with a sanctuary on its southern part that has a mud-brick altar in the middle. Traces of vaults are found on its eastern side. The second church, which most probably was built to host a larger number of priests and prayers, has a separate sanctuary made of a mud brick and niches where a collection of pottery used in religious rituals have been also found.

Both churches were originally built during the period of Patriarch Alexander, the 19th patriarch of Alexandria (AD 295-318) and rebuilt during the age of Patriarch Khael I, the 46th patriarch of Alexandria (AD 743-767).

The Monastery of St. Demiana was considered to be a church compound that included five churches; hence the area served worshippers to the legendary monastery. Several travelers and historians wrote about it; Fanselip the Dominican traveler mentioned that during his visit to Egypt in AD 1772 the Monastery of St. Demiana consisted of 25 domes, but traveler Sikar asserted that it had 22 domes in AD 1714. Al-Maqrizi the 15th century Egyptian historian mentioned that the area of al-Badara includes four monasteries, the most well known being the St. Demiana Monastery, which was subjected to deterioration and damage throughout the ages due to the Mediterranean floods that demolished its original churches and domes. Several churches were built on top of the original remains among them is St. Antony's Church.

As a result, the SCA's permanent committee for Coptic and Islamic monuments decided to remove St. Antony's Church from Egypt's antiquities list and insert the two newly discovered churches as they were built prior to St. Antony's Church, and they still bear many of its archaeological elements.

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ADMISSION FEES LIST

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni approved the delay of the application of the SCA's new admission fess list to 1-11-2006 upon the request of Tourism Minister Zoheir Garana, in on attempt to allow the tourism agencies enough time to Re-Structure their pricing.

Archaeological sites					Cinema & video						Photo					
Areas	Site	Prices		Visit time	Advertising		Novelist & Commercial		Documental		Advertising		Novelist & Commercial		Documental	
		Egy	Forei		Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei
Cairo & Giza																
Giza area																
Great pyramid & valley temple	Pyramid	2	50	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Great pyramid	Pyramid	20	100	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Khafre pyramid	Pyramid	2	25	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Menkura pyramid	Pyramid	2	20	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Saqqara area	Saqqara	2	40	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Alexandria																
Kum el shokafa	Alex	2	25	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Luxor																
Tut anch amun tomb	West bank	2	80	9:5	*	*	*	*	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Valley of kings	West bank	4	70	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Nefertari tomb	West bank	*	*	9:5	*	*	*	*	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
El der el bahari	West bank	2	25	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Karnak temple	Luxor	2	50	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Luxor temple	Luxor	2	40	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Aswan & Nubia																
Philae temple	Aswan	2	40	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Broken obelisk	Aswan	1	25	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Kalabsha temple	Aswan	2	25	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Edfu temple	Edfu	2	40	9:5	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	500	1000
Islamic & Coptic antiquities																
Mary's tree	Matarya	2	10	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
St. George Abbey	Old Cairo	Free	Free	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
Al ghouri mart	Al Azhar	Free	Free	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
Saladin Citadel	Citadel	2	40	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
Fustat area	Old Cairo	1	10	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
Al Sehemee House	Al Gamalya	2	25	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
Al harrawy House	Beyond Al Azhar Mosque	1	10	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500
St. Katrina Abbey	Southern Sinai	Free	Free	9:4	7000	7000	3000	5000	600	1000	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500

All prices in L.E Pound / shooting fees inside the tombs per hour/ archeological sites opened for visiting only
*Fees defined after the SCA secretary general agreement.

Museums					Cinema & video						Photo					
Museums	Site	Prices		Visit time	Advertising		Novelist & Commercial		Documental		Advertising		Novelist & Commercial		Documental	
		Egy	Forei		Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei	Egy	Forei
Main museums																
Cairo Museum	El Tahrir – Cairo	2	50	9:7	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500	250	500	150	300
Coptic Museum & the Archaeological Area	Old Cairo	2	40	9:5	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500	250	500	150	300
Nubia Museum	Aswan	4	40	9:5	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500	250	500	150	300
National Museum of Alexandria	Alex	2	30	9:5	*	*	1000	2000	1000	2000	250	500	250	500	150	300

All prices in L.E Pound / shooting per hour without opening the showcases or using flash
*Fees defined after the SCA secretary general agreement.