

The Art of Ancient Egyptian Writing

One of the most prominent indications of civilization and progress of nations is writing. The ancient Egyptians were one of the first cultures to invent a writing system, and to subsequently record their history by documenting their achievements, beliefs, and daily life activities on tomb and temple walls, as well as papyri all over Egypt. These are now known as hieroglyphic writing, hieratic writing, and demotic writing.

The scribe was a prominent figure in ancient Egyptian society and took on the role of an ambassador who conveyed to the world the history and knowledge of the era it is witnessing in ancient Egyptian society. The title of the scribe was symbolized by the hieroglyphic word (pronounced sš 'sesh').



A colored limestone statue representing an Egyptian scribe - Old Kingdom



A Funerary Papyrus of the Priest "Pak-en-Mut"
Deir el-Bahari, West Thebes

Daily-Life in Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptians were extremely interested in embodying their daily-life activities and what they wish in the other world, where they adorned a wide range of lively scenes reflecting the various aspects of household work, as well as their work in the fields and in the granaries and workshops of various industries on wall reliefs and inscriptions of tombs and temples.

As an example, one can observe this work of art in a magnificent wooden model found in al-Assasif area. This model represents several statues depicting male and female servants undertaking various tasks - from preparing bread and pressing beer, to slaughtering animals for consumption and use in other activities.



A colored wooden model of illustrating scenes representing beer and bread making and butchering - Middle Kingdom

The Afterlife's Gateway

The ancient Egyptians excelled in the art of mummification as one of the arts required by the ancient Egyptian religion, due to their belief in resurrection and immortality and their belief that death is only a portal to the eternal life that requires preserving the body to ensure the return of the soul to it in the afterlife.

The notion of mummification is based on keeping the body in perfect condition for the crossing into the afterlife. The mummies were covered with a layer of plaster that was adorned with colored scenes and gold paint, as shown in a mummy from the Roman Period that was wrapped in linen and the face covered with a beautiful gilded mask.



A mummy of a man wrapped in linen strips - Early Roman Period

Canopic Jars

The canopic jars are one of the most important funerary objects that have been created in the ancient Egyptians' tombs to preserve the internal organs of the deceased.

Each jar had a cover in the form of one of the deities responsible for protecting the body of the deceased, or the image of the deceased himself.



A set of limestone canopic jars with lids in the shape of the heads of the sons of Horus - New Kingdom

Deities

The ancient Egyptian deities, and the beliefs and rituals that followed, formed the core of religion in ancient times. These deities represented elements of natural forces and phenomena in the landscape, and as a result, the Egyptians worshipped and appeased these gods and goddesses through offerings and rituals.

The goddess Aphrodite is one of the most important and famous of deities in the ancient world. Regarded by the Greeks as the goddess of beauty and love, her veneration spread in Egypt and in the Mediterranean Basin during Roman times.

According to the myth, Aphrodite was born from the sea foam near Cyprus and was personified in the form of a beautiful woman, often naked or half-naked, due to her association with the sea from which she was born.

In addition, a marble statue, discovered in Antinopolis in Minya Governorate in 2013, illustrates the presence of the shell on it, thus indicating the flow of water around the statue. This means that it had previously been used in the garden of a house belonging to a wealthy Roman in Antinopolis, and built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian during his visit to Egypt in 130 AD in memory of his friend "Anthony".

A marble statue of Aphrodite - Roman Period

Coptic Icons



Icon representing the Virgin Mary carrying Christ with golden halos enveloping their heads

The Egyptian creativity continued across time and within various art sectors, in particular religious icons and murals for which Coptic art is renowned since the first centuries of the AD in Egypt.

The icon is a ritual wood panel depicting Jesus Christ or the Virgin, the apostles, saints, angels as well as other religious representations mentioned in the Bible and it used to decorate the walls of churches and used in rituals and celebrations.

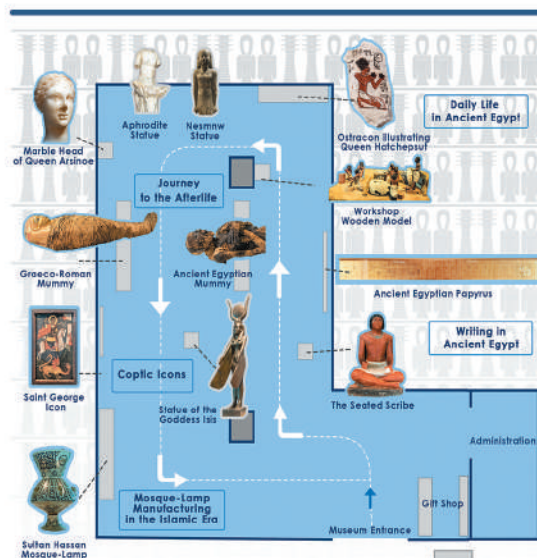
Mishkah "Lamp" in Islamic Art

Mishkah is considered one of the most prominent features of the Islamic period in Egypt, as it represents one of the main means of lighting that was used for illuminating mosques, shrines as well as palaces and homes. Also, it was a crucial part of the history and life of the sultans and princes, especially in the Mamluk era, who paid great attention to these lamps.

The Mishkah is marked by inscriptions which are represented in the religious writings that included prayers or verses from the Qur'an, in addition to writings that incorporated the sultan's name and titles. Among the most famous lamps of the Mamluk Period, there is a lamp created out of enameled glass, bearing the name of Sultan Hasan, and decorated with Quranic verses of Surat al-Nur in the Mamluk thuluth script.



Glass Lamp of Sultan Al-Nasir Hasan - Mamluk period



Cairo International Airport Museum

Terminal 3



For more Information:



The Airport Museum is a gateway to the history and civilization of Egypt extending across the ages to shed light on the sublime antiquities and arts inherited by the Egyptians for thousands of years.

The concept of establishing a museum at Cairo International Airport arose as a cultural attraction to motivate travelers arriving to Egypt and its glorious landmarks in the different governorates, as well as the breathtaking archaeological sites.

The idea of this museum was conveyed on the ground in 2016 following the combined efforts of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, to establish the first museum inside an airport in Egypt.

In 2020, the museum was moved to a larger area inside Terminal (3) to enrich it with an additional variety of collections and artifacts reflecting a wide arrange of historical periods – from ancient Egyptian to the Greco-Roman Period, as well as offering glimpses from Coptic, Islamic, and modern era.

Tickets

Visitors 3 USD

Photography (Personal Use - Without flash)	50 EGP
Camera Holder	20 EGP

Free Entry for Children under 6 Years

Open 24 hours

Cairo International Airport - Terminal 3

egyptmonuments.gov.eg/en/museums/cairo-international-airport-museum-terminal-3

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Cairo International Airport Museum

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