

## Foreword

I AM GREATLY HONORED to present the Proceedings of the 12th International Congress of Egyptologists (ICE), the fourth to be organized in Egypt, previously hosted in Cairo in 1976, 1988 and 2000. The 12th ICE was held from the 3rd to the 8th of November, 2019, under the patronage of H.E. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly.

The International Congress of Egyptologists is the most important global scientific gathering of students, scholars and professors of Egyptology. It is an exceptional opportunity to discuss and present the latest discoveries, research and theories in all fields of Egyptology. Above all, it brings together Egyptologists from around the world to meet, network and open new perspectives for scientific cooperation and projects. It also creates new personal and institutional ties.

In addition to being a scientific forum, the Congress was an exceptional opportunity to honor prominent Egyptologists for their outstanding contributions. On behalf of the Ministry of Antiquities, I was delighted to honor H.E. Prof. Zahi Hawass from Egypt, Prof. Mark Lehner from the United States of America, Prof. Stephan Seidlmayer from Germany, and Prof. Sakuji Yoshimura from Japan during the opening session.

Organizing the ICE in Egypt is always very special, as it offers non-Egyptian students and scholars the chance to witness the latest developments in archaeology, restoration projects and museums in Egypt first hand. It also informs the international Egyptological community about the scientific and archaeological work of their Egyptian colleagues since hosting the Congress in Egypt allows a greater number of Egyptian academics, including younger scholars, to participate and present their work and research projects. It is also a wonderful occasion to enable Egyptian Egyptologists to meet and exchange thoughts with their non-Egyptian colleagues, which helps them learn more about the progress in research in Egyptology outside Egypt.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Organizing and Scientific Committees for their efforts in planning and implementing the many tasks involved in holding such a successful congress. All the work completed before, during, and after the congress, from the start until the publication of the Proceedings, was undertaken by the hardworking committees. The Congress would not have been possible without the support and sponsorship of many Egyptian Organizations, such as the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry

of Petroleum, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Bank of Egypt, Banque Misr, and Waterway Developments, Orascom Developments and Telecom Egypt (We) corporations. I would also like to express my gratitude to the foreign archaeological institutes in Egypt for their support.

The Organizing Committee, composed of skilled colleagues from the Ministry of Antiquities, worked closely and efficiently with me for more than two years to plan, prepare, and fulfil all the logistical procedures that enabled us to welcome the participants in the most appropriate way, and to facilitate the scientific debates and exchange between such a large number of scholars from all over the world. Furthermore, to keep our guests aware of new developments in Egyptian archaeology and museums, we were keen to present our main archaeological projects during the ICE and arrange visits to Egyptian sites and museums. We also organized several cultural events at different historic sites to provide the participants with a chance to meet and get to know each other more personally.

The Egyptian-International Scientific Committee received 556 abstracts by Egyptologists from 37 countries. After rigorous evaluation, 369 papers were accepted from students and scholars from 30 countries. The Congress was a significant opportunity for around 1000 participants to discuss, debate and exchange their knowledge on the main themes in Egyptology, as established by the Scientific Committee, which were:

- Archaeology: Current Methods and Fieldwork;
- Art and Architecture;
- Site Management, Conservation and Preservation;
- History Views on the Egyptian Past Language, Literature and Texts;
- Archaeological Science and Technology;
- Museums and Collections;
- Religious Thoughts;
- Society and Life in Ancient Egypt.

The number of submissions to the Proceedings was overwhelming. After evaluation by the Scientific Committee, 137 articles were accepted for publication. They are organized for the Proceedings in thematic order, according to the themes of the Congress listed above. The papers are very rich and their scope is very wide, covering all aspects of Egyptology, from the prehistory of Egypt to the modern history of Egyptology. The presentation of new material and many innovative topics and ideas stimulates questions that will open yet more diverse research investigations in the future.

The editors of the Proceedings, Prof. Ola el-Aguizy and Dr. Burt Kasparian, together with the Scientific Committee, were extremely efficient. It has taken three years of hard work to finalize this colossal publication and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to them. Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IFAO Press and editorial staff, who were of great help in completing the Congress' mission by publishing the Proceedings at such a high standard.

And finally, I am eager to reiterate some aims mentioned in my opening speech at the 12th ICE. I emphasize that it is very important for students, scholars and Egyptological institutions from all over the world to work more collectively and closely, as one big family. To achieve this goal, I invite non-Egyptian scholars and institutions to contribute scientifically, in cooperation with their colleagues from Egypt, to Egyptian projects and museums. I urge the Egyptological community,

in Egypt and abroad, to follow an overall action plan and establish more sustainable institutional programs targeting priorities in Egyptology and Egyptian archaeology. I am confident that the International Association of Egyptologists is ready to expand its mandate and play an essential role in the future to reach this ultimate goal. I believe that all who participated in the 12th International Congress of Egyptologists and all who read the Proceedings will take positive action with regard to these wishes. This can only be beneficial for the discipline that we all love and which brings us together, Egyptology.

Prof. Khaled EL-ENANY

President of the 12th International Congress of Egyptologists

Former Minister of Antiquities, Egypt (2016-2019)

Former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt (2019-2022)