Egypt: Malawi Museum, objects reported looted

Those working in the cultural heritage sector are asked to look out for items recently reported looted from Egypt’s Malawe (Malawi) Museum, also known as Malawi Monuments Museum, Malawi Antiquities (Archaeological) Museum and Museum of Malawi. The museum housed collections from sites such as Tuna al-Gebel and Hermopolis.¹

On 15th August over 1000 items were taken from the Museum, in Al-Minya, in Upper Egypt, and other items were broken and damaged. The Ministry of Antiquities issued a statement, reported by Jill Reilly for the Daily Mail On-Line and others, in which the Minister of State of Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim is reported to have said: 'It is a great loss and I am really saddened by what has happened to such a museum'. Egypt Independent reported (18.8.2013) that the minister has "stressed that no archaeological site had been exposed to attacks, except for the Museum of Malawi which was attacked on Wednesday when unknown assailants robbed, burnt and smashed its contents".

The Artifacts

In accordance with the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970² and endeavoring to stop the items being smuggled out of the country the Ministry has issued photographs of the missing objects. Those working in the Cultural Heritage sector and associated fields are asked to be vigilant and to report any sightings to police and art crime units.

On the following pages are images of missing items.

We hope to have English language descriptions of the objects in the next few days.

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¹ http://www.sca-egypt.org/eng/MUS_Malawi.htm
Egypt: Malawi Museum, Al-Minya. Missing collection