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# THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND HUMANKIND

NEWSLETTER  
Autumn / Winter 2008



*In this issue:*  
Museum Director announces “After 12 Years” a legal case brought by the Botanical Department before the Swiss legal system on behalf of five olive trees.

## ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind was established in 1961 to inspire wonder, encourage discovery and promote knowledge. It aims to provoke curiosity and to deepen understanding of our natural and cultural worlds.



Our goal is to inform, connect, fascinate, amaze, delight, surprise and excite the visitor's interest by focusing on the natural and cultural history of Palestine. The care and expansion of the Museum's unique collections, together with research and dissemination of knowledge through publications, exhibitions and education projects remain the cornerstones of the Museum's mission today.

The Museum's four main departments – the Anthropological Department, the Botanical Department, the Geology and Palaeontology Department, and the Earth and Solar System Department – maintain their collections and continually engage in new research into their specific areas of interest. Each department promotes its work and discoveries through public events and conferences, both internationally and locally.

## EDITORIAL

In 2007, we loaned one of the most important items in the Museum collection, the '50,320 Names' to the Brunei Gallery at University College, London. The museum also re-acquired Petrie's Palestinian Collection – an important collection of historical artefacts originally stolen and taken from Palestine in 1948. The '50,320 Names' research project (a collaboration with the RIWAQ Centre for Architectural Conservation in Palestine) is an inventory of 50,320 historic buildings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This unique project records a vital part of Palestinian heritage and conserves it for the nation. This special loan arrangement with one of London's major universities enabled the results of this project to be seen by the British public and the thousands of international visitors who pass through London each summer. This was followed by an international tour to other museums in Shanghai, Helsinki, Auckland, Lagos, Baghdad, Santiago, Guadalajara and ending in Kabul – giving the Museum a truly global profile. The Museum also re-acquired Petrie's Palestinian Collection – an important collection of historical artefacts originally stolen and taken from Palestine in 1948.

2008 also sees the Museum collaborating with international partners. The Museum's Botanical Department has

been working with arboriculture experts in Palestine, Switzerland and the UK to produce a new diorama display that is a major addition to the Department's exhibits. The display documents the lives of five olive trees removed from Palestine in 1995 and replanted outside the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. The trees were a gift to, and entrusted by the Museum to the care of, the Swiss nation and the United Nations. Sadly, the Trustees of the Museum have to report on the failure of this peaceful nation and the international monitoring and peace keeping organisation that it hosts in honouring their obligations and promises.

On a happier note, we are pleased to report on the success of our new partnership with the United States of Palestine Airlines who have provided us with continuing support, thus enabling the Museum to pursue its activities and develop new research projects and exhibitions. The growing international profile of the airline and its global network has enabled the Museum to create further links with scientists, historians and cultural anthropologists around the world – providing our own specialists with more dissemination forums for their work in major international centres of excellence. We look forward to the continuation of this highly successful partnership.

photographs: © National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens (EMST)



# THE PERMANENT COLLECTION



The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind's Permanent Collection is a vital archive and resource for archaeologists, artists, historians and cultural anthropologists. Specialists in the sciences – from astronomy to botany to geology – can find a wealth of material that will help them in their fields. The artefacts it contains are also a valuable information source for the whole community, for school and college students as well as for the general public. All of the objects in the Permanent Collection contain a wealth of hidden clues about when and how they were created, about the people that created them and about the landscape that nurtured them.

The Collection is based around a selection of objects – fossils, bones, pottery, textiles, meteorites, rocks, stuffed animals and birds, to name but a few – examples of the material and natural cultures of a people at the advanced stages of civilisation for thousands of years. The value of this kind of collection is of unaccountable worth; its unique and rare artefacts are an example of the need to preserve our natural and cultural history.

The Museum's Public Programmes are responsible for making the Collection available to all. The curators and outreach staff facilitate communicating the results of the Museum specialists' research and making them available to as wide

an audience as possible. Visitors to the Collection's displays and specially curated exhibitions can witness actual examples of their historical culture – things that it is difficult, if not impossible, to see anywhere else.

## International Recognition for the Museum's work

The Permanent Collection of the Palestine Museum of Natural History and Humankind has been the recipient of several international awards: the Al Ayyam Family Friendly Museum Award in 2000; the Al Jazeera Award for the Best Museum Displays in the Arab World in 2003; and the Aga Khan Award for Best Educational Outreach Programmes in 2005.



## A Conference on Conservation in the 21st Century

Our specialist teams of researchers and conservators are the most advanced in their field. They regularly attend international conferences and symposia to meet with other colleagues and collaborators to present the results of their work. The Museum itself is hosting an international conference in Palestine in the spring of 2009: 'Conservation in the 21st Century: a new geo-political science' is inviting submissions for papers. See [www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/conservation2009](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/conservation2009) for details on how to submit your proposal. We welcome submissions from museum and conservation experts from around the world, especially from institutions in countries where the preservation of national heritage is of vital importance to national identity and stability.

## After 12 Years:

The Botanical Department's new 'After 12 Years' display contributes important documentary data and records to the Permanent Collection. In this electronic era, the cataloguing, preservation and display of recorded information is an important tool as so much of our current heritage of records and communications, etc, will leave no physical trace for the benefit of future generations. An email or digital photograph leaves no paper trail – unless in the hands of an enlightened conservator. 'After 12 Years' showcases documentation of the journey the five olive trees made from Ramallah to Geneva in 1995. It explores what has become of the trees' original home and what has happened to the trees during their 12 year exile in Switzerland. It also displays the legal context, general documentation and terminologies to help towards providing a full understanding of a complex history and context.



## Teachers and Educators:

What to look for: you can look out for many interesting items in the new display to show your students. Examples from the exhibits and documentations you will see when you visit the new display at its first public showing in Liverpool can be used for your National History or Citizenship or Biodiversity courses. These important documentations and artefacts illustrate the 'facts on the ground' for your students – and will contribute to their understanding of their world's history and cultural environment.

# BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT NEWS



## 'After 12 Years' – a major new display is unveiled

This new diorama display will be on show to the public for the first time this autumn in the 2008 Liverpool Biennale in the north of England. It will be unveiled in the Museum's new permanent home in Palestine early in 2009. The Botanical Department's work has previously concentrated mainly on plant conservation; its highly successful 'Tulips in Palestine' project saw the reintroduction of the tulip to its original home in Palestine. The Museum's Botanical Garden houses a wide variety of native plant specimens collected from different parts of historical Palestine and has brought pleasure to the thousands who visit throughout the year. But this year, the Department's work has diversified to produce a major new display that revolves around that symbol of everything Palestinian – the olive tree.

peace as well as a reminder of the effects of war and land confiscation for the Palestinian people, their economy and identity. This uprooting was also a botanical experiment for the European experts who were involved in the project – to see how, and if, such strong and sturdy native species of the Palestinian land could survive such a process. Sadly, however, we have to report that the United Nations did not maintain its side of the agreement and the collaboration with the Museum that had promised so many positive and encouraging outcomes broke down irretrievably. The trees were not given the care and attention they required and were uprooted again because of a condition imposed by the Israeli delegation to the UN to have them removed. The whereabouts of four of the trees and their current condition remain unknown. 'After 12 Years', the Museum's new diorama, documents their history and the ensuing legal battles to establish their entitlements and rights. Their story of displacement and the extinguishment of their rights are the basis for the current legal battle the Museum has regrettably embarked upon.

Images: Grafting, 1995, (olive trees, earth, threads), Ariana Park, United Nations Office, Geneva, Switzerland

Some historical background is necessary here: in 1995, the Museum extended its Botanical Department work to Europe as part of its outreach programme at the time. The Department was instrumental in removal and moving five olive trees from their home on the edge of the West Bank city of Ramallah. The trees were transplanted to Ariana Park in Geneva, the beautiful park that surrounds the home of the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). The transplantation was part of the Museum's 1995 'Grafting' exhibition programme. The trees were a gift to the UN and the people of Switzerland and were symbolic ambassadors for



## 'After 12 Years' – The Legal Case



The Museum is taking this opportunity to publicly announce that it is in the process of bringing a legal case in the Swiss Federal Supreme Court. The case is being brought by the Botanical Department, on behalf of the five olive trees. The case argues for the trees' legal right to be granted Swiss citizenship having fulfilled Swiss naturalisation requirements for the past 12 years. The case is supported by the Museum's collections, its comprehensive research and its documentation concerning the trees. The case brings into question issues of immigration, asylum, citizenship, naturalisation, exile and the right of return.

The legal case has two arguments: the first is against the United Nations for permitting the removal of the trees from Ariana Park. The United Nations allowed this displacement to take place and did not protect the trees' condition as stateless beings with a right to a dignified life. The second is against the Canton of Geneva, and ultimately against the Swiss government, for refusing to accept the validity of the trees' application for naturalisation. Swiss law states that if, after 12 years' residence, all relevant criteria are met then individuals have the right to apply

for and can be granted Swiss citizenship. Such requirements include paying taxes, observing the rule of law, passing tests on Swiss culture and language, and presenting no danger to internal or external security. The trees have satisfied all of the necessary requirements, have resided in the country for over 12 years and complied with the laws and regulations. The Canton of Geneva, however, has reacted with prejudice in refusing to grant citizenship and the possibility of permanent settlement. After the failure in the first instance of the United Nations to uphold their rights, the Canton – and the Swiss government – has further denied the possibility of a dignified existence to the trees as beings in their own right and as representatives of the Palestinian people.

The Museum regrets that it is having to waste its valuable resources and personnel on such a case, but the Director and Trustees feel that it is an important issue and one that will establish a precedent for the future work of the Botanical Department. The Museum is, in this instance, 'in loco parentis' for the trees which are unable to speak, represent themselves and have no

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authorised representatives recognised by the host country. The Museum's arboriculture experts, and its legal advisors, have no viable alternative if the work of the Museum is to have any ongoing value and meaning.

## 'After 12 Years' – the Right of Return?

Given the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the trees and their ongoing unstable condition of exile and statelessness, the Museum – in partnership with some international legal organisations – is launching an investigation into the trees' right to return to their home territory. This is outside of the Museum's normal scope of activities, which have previously focused on research and on preservation, cataloguing and archiving. However, in the current global environment, cultural and environmental politics affect all aspects of a museum's work. The right of return of a botanical object such as a tree is of concern to all those with an interest in the globalisation of capital markets and issues such as biodiversity and climate change. Due to social, political and geographical changes, the condition of the original location of many displaced botanical specimens has changed, and it is a difficult task to return them to exactly their original location. The original environmental conditions are no longer what they were 12 years ago, the situation and facts on the ground have changed and further and ongoing scientific research is required. Nature has its own laws and behavioural and growth patterns that are beyond human control. The Museum's botanical experts are currently engaged in research to determine whether the

conditions for return are achievable, given that the original landscape has changed beyond recognition in the 12 year period that the trees have been in exile on Swiss territory.

## The Dignity of Living Beings with Regard to Plants or Legal Rights for Natural Objects

The Museum's Botanical Department has hired a new team of international research scientists who specialise in arboriculture, in both the natural sciences and a growing branch of the field: the legal rights of trees and other living plants. This is a challenging, but exciting, new direction for the Museum. Can, or should, a plant or a tree have any legal basis through which to defend its rights? Is it possible for a living but inanimate being to have legal standing? Christopher Stone, in his 1972 essay *Should Trees Have Standing? Towards Legal Rights for Natural Objects*, argues that trees should have three basic legal rights: <sup>1</sup> the right to institute legal action at their own behest; <sup>2</sup> the right to have injuries to them taken into account in determining legal relief; and <sup>3</sup> the right to benefit from that relief. Since trees and other natural entities cannot exercise such rights themselves, then individuals or groups of individuals ought to be able to apply to the courts for legal guardianship and for the right to litigate on behalf of the natural object. Our team of scientists and legal experts have discovered that there are precedents for such cases. The Museum's Botanical Department is acting in this capacity in the current legal negotiations.



1 Reprinted in Christopher D. Stone, *Should Trees Have Standing?* and other essays on law, morals and the environment, 1996, Oceana Publications, Inc., Dobbs Ferry, New York.

2 In 2006, 7000 citizens of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, in the United States, passed the Tamaqua Borough Sewage Sludge Ordinance that protected trees from sewage sludge. This ordinance recognises "natural communities as legal persons with legal rights", and protects nature for its own sake, regardless of its use or benefit to humans and their future. See Silver Donald Cameron, 'When does a tree have rights?' *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1 July 2007.

3 Published by the Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology ECNH, Berne, April 2008.



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The Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology (ECNH) in its 2008 pamphlet, *The dignity of living beings with regard to plants*, states that the Swiss Federal Constitution has “three forms of protection for plants: the protection of biodiversity, species protection, and the duty to take the dignity of living beings into consideration when handling plants” (p 3). It also states its position on social-ethical limits at the end of the pamphlet: “Social ethics is not primarily concerned with individual human actions, but with the social structures and institutions that permit and encourage possible individual actions and prevent or limit others. However, social structures do not exist for their own sake, and should be examined continuously in terms of how they affect the interplay of the various actors and what impacts this has on the actions of individuals and communities.” The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind considers these parameters for social and ethical limits to have been breached

in the treatment meted out to the olive trees, the representatives of the Palestinian land and people. In our new ‘After 12 Years’ exhibit, we aim to exhibit the details of and background to this injustice and hypocrisy.

It is this new branch of research that we hope will open up new sources of funding and opportunities for the Museum in its work to redress some of the injustices that have contributed to the destruction of the Palestinian landscape and natural history. Biodiversity and the protection and preservation of the rights of indigenous plants is of increasing relevance in contemporary times for all human life, but especially for the botanical sciences and for the global scientific community as it seeks to intervene in the processes that have led to injustice and destruction. The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind will take its place at this table.



image: Olive tree in Domaine De Penthes/ Conservatoire & Jardin Botanique- Ville De Geneve, 2008

## DID YOU KNOW? Olive tree facts

Pliny the Elder told of a sacred Greek olive tree that was 1600 years old.

There are thousands of cultivars of the olive. 'Nabali' is a Palestinian cultivar also known locally as 'Baladi', which along with 'Souri' and 'Malissi' are considered to produce among the highest quality olive oil in the world.

Olive trees show a marked preference for calcareous soils, flourishing best on limestone slopes and crags,<sup>1</sup> and coastal climate conditions.<sup>2</sup>

1 The landscape in Palestine is a perfect example of this kind of geological and physiological landscape.

2 Palestine originally had these perfect coastal conditions, where now industrial scale production of the famous Jaffa oranges flourishes.

They tolerate drought well, thanks to their sturdy and extensive root system. Olive trees can be exceptionally long lived, up to several centuries, and can remain productive for as long, providing they are pruned correctly and regularly.

The foliage of the olive tree has been used for centuries to honour victory, wisdom and peace.

According to the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem over 500,000 olive trees [in Palestine] have been destroyed since 2000.

Palestinians say “to seize an olive tree is like a confiscation of memory”.



## THE PHOTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE

The Photography Archive at the Museum serves as an important supplementary area to the Museum's other activities. As Susan Sontag said in her 1977 book, *On Photography*, photographs "now provide most of the knowledge people have about the look of the past and the reach of the present". The Archive contains tens of thousands of images: images that document the history and geography of Palestine. Despite the selective nature of photographers and the photographed, photographs are an important tool in the documentation of historical time and events. Here, the casual visitor or dedicated researcher can find images of archaeological sites, artefacts, significant events, natural wonders – bringing the past to life and documenting the present. No other museum in the world contains so many images of its people and the events that have occurred to them. This vital archive is being added to daily.

The fragile nature of old photographic prints and negatives demand careful restoration and storage. Our dedicated

storage facilities provide the optimum environment to preserve for the nation this valuable archive. Research into identifying the locations and events pictured in the thousands of images is ongoing, often hampered by the lack of historical documentation and the geographical dispersion of the original owners. We are currently in the process of cataloguing the Archive and creating a digital archive that will eventually be accessible on-line to the world (see [www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/photoarchive](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/photoarchive))

Visitors to the Museum can see what is but a small selection of the Archive through the use of the latest interactive digital display technology. Plans are in the initial stages to publish a series of catalogue publications that will also make available in book form various selections from the Archive. Look out for more news on this in future Museum newsletters.

photograph: © The Museum's Photography Archive





الولايات الفلسطينية المتحدة للطيران

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## OUR SPONSORS

The Museum has been proud to have been working with the United States of Palestine Airlines as our major sponsor over the last year. The Airlines – with its national offices in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Nablus, Hebron, Haifa and Jaffa – has extended its operation bases internationally and now has offices in New York, London, Sydney and Shanghai. This partnership has enabled Museum directors and curators to travel to international conferences and meetings, circumventing the usual travel difficulties, and placing the Museum securely on the global map of museums and galleries. At the International Forum of Museum Directors annual conference earlier this year in Rome, the

Director of New York's Metropolitan Museum was quoted as saying, "As one of the most generously endowed museums in the world, we are envious of the Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind's partnership with the United States of Palestine Airlines: such a relationship is one that we can only dream of here in the United States of America. The Airlines' support of the Museum and its important work is turning it into one of the world's most important museums".

We are proud of this historical partnership that has helped the Museum develop and extend its collections and research. An important new development in this special relationship is the plans for the new United States of Palestine Airlines exhibition gallery at the Museum that is due to be open in 2009.



images: United States of Palestine Airlines, Al-Hamra Street, Beirut, Lebanon  
photograph: © Ashkal Alwan, Home Works IV, 2008

**FIND OUT MORE** about business partnership opportunities at the Museum by contacting our Public Relations team on:

[helpyourmuseum@thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org](mailto:helpyourmuseum@thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org)

Generous benefits packages are available with flexible partnership arrangements that are tailored to suit your company's marketing objectives. Free membership deals are available for families and employees. The Museum exhibition galleries are also available to hire for your hospitality functions: hold your next annual general meeting dinner and party surrounded by the natural and cultural history of Palestine!

# GEOLOGY & PALAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS

The important work that the Museum's Department of Geology and Palaeontology has been engaged in over recent years continues. The Department's Wall Zone Project work is ongoing and of increasing urgency. The Wall Zone Project is a collaborative programme with the Botanical Department, and seeks to study the environment of the Wall Zone. The Project was launched in 2004 to study the environment of the areas affected by the construction of The Wall – generally known internationally as the Occupation Wall, the Security Wall, the Apartheid Wall or the Separation Wall. Swathes of territory have become inaccessible on the 'other' side of this Wall as it snakes its way through Palestinian land. Environmental impact studies are, therefore, only able to study a partial amount of the affected areas. In some areas, the destruction that has occurred in the construction path is complete – houses and public buildings destroyed, olive trees uprooted, land bulldozed – but our geologists, palaeontologists, archaeologists and botanists are working round the clock to document the effects of the destruction and to research ways of reversing this catastrophic situation. Fragile ecosystems are being destroyed on a daily basis. International

experts in toxicology have been studying the effects of the toxins from the Wall's concrete construction that have leached into the surrounding soils and water (the sustenance basis for all life forms) and are poisoning and upsetting the natural delicate balance of flora and fauna. But one of the discoveries that are beginning to emerge is the resilience of nature and the power of natural forces to overturn the most ambitious of human attempts to impose control over the surrounding environment. The combined experiences and knowledge of our multidisciplinary teams of specialists are leading to some surprising discoveries: for example, the earth's seismic movements (imperceptible to the human eye and senses) are beginning to render the Wall's foundations unstable. Small cracks and fissures have been noticed in certain areas. The Wall is inherently unstable – structural engineers have already commented elsewhere on its structurally unbalanced style of construction.<sup>1</sup> Our experts continue to monitor the situation.

1 See The Wall Must Fall, various authors, Khalil Rabah (ed), Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind Press, Ramallah, 2008. There are also many other articles on this subject, too numerous to itemise here.

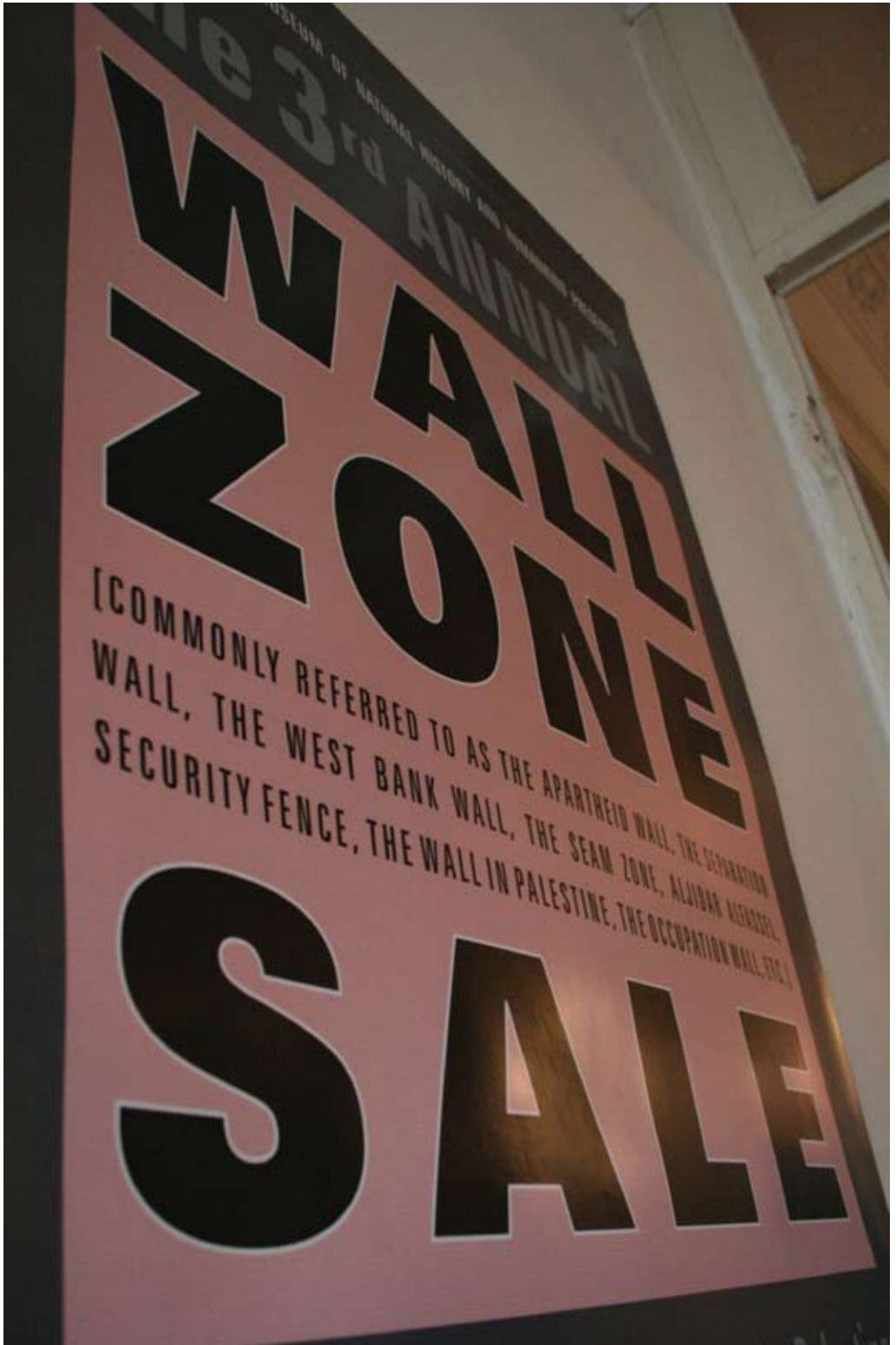


image: The Museum's 3rd Annual Wall Zone Auction  
photograph: © Rula Halawani

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The environmental impact studies of the Wall Zone Project have taken up large amounts of our funding. Our sponsorship deal with United States of Palestine Airlines has enabled us to continue the work, but we are urgently seeking other partners. If you would like to support the important work of the Wall Zone Project at this crucial time, please contact our sponsorship department through the website [www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org) to see how you or your business can participate.

image: The Museum's 3rd Annual Wall Zone Auction

# NEWS FROM THE ANTHROPOLOGY, AND THE EARTH AND SOLAR SYSTEM DEPARTMENTS



The Museum's Departments of Anthropology, and Earth and the Solar System, have both produced reports in 2008 that document their general activities. Copies are available from the Museum's Publication Department (please go to the Museum website for details).

The Department of Anthropology has finally been able to display selections from the Petrie Collection that the Museum acquired in 2007 – the collection of archaeological finds taken to London from Palestine by the British archaeologist Sir Flinders Petrie in the early 20th Century. New interactive technology developed by the burgeoning Palestinian multimedia industries (staffed by highly talented young Palestinian designers and software engineers) has been introduced to the displays – thus making a visit to the Museum a fun, but educative, experience for thousands of Palestinian school

children. The Collection includes textiles, pottery, tools, coins, jewellery – some of which were still in daily use at the time that they were taken by the archaeologists. It documents a timeline of continuous habitation and illustrates the high skill level in the cultural traditions in the area.

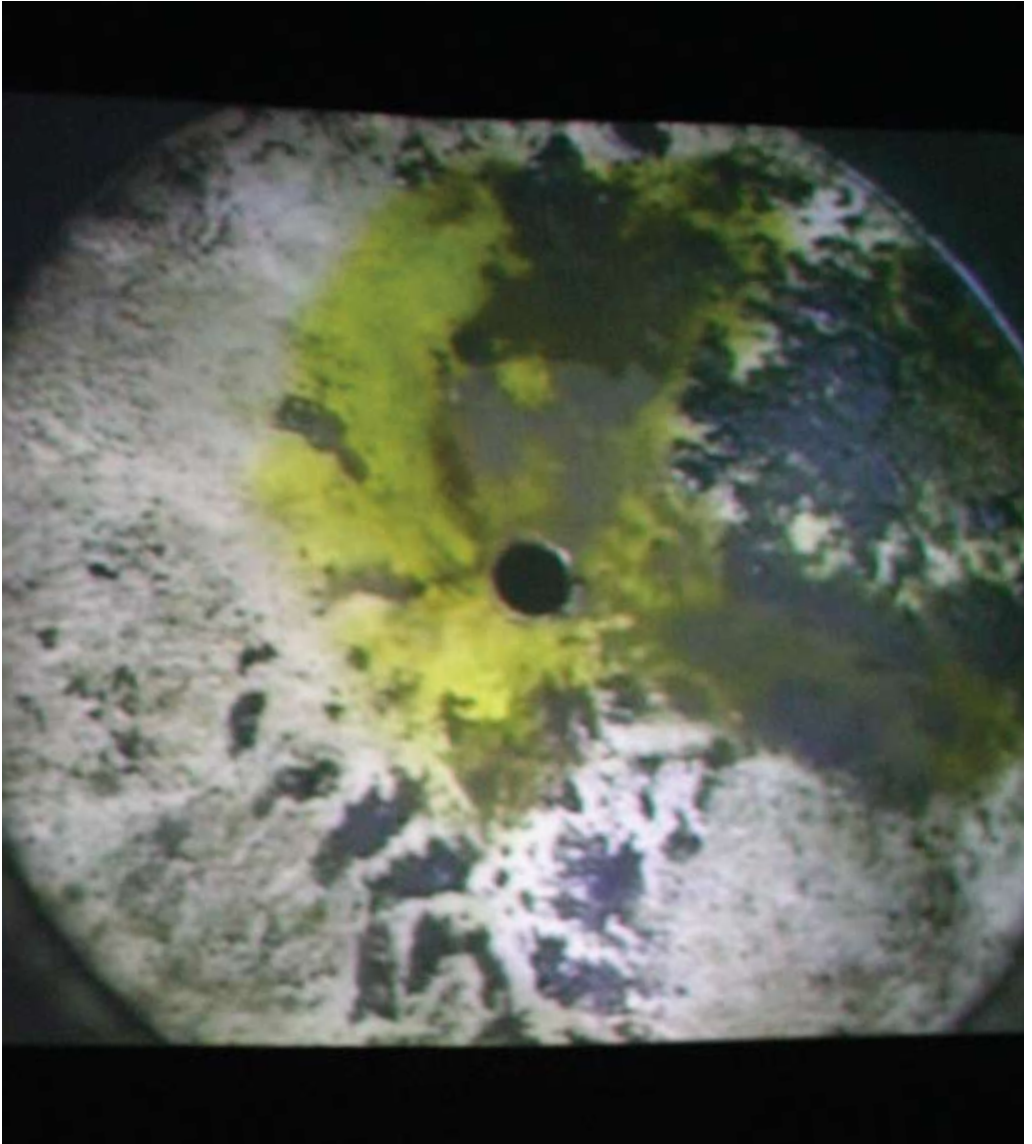
The Earth and Solar System Department has also been installing new interactive displays which have proved one of the most popular attractions in the Museum for all ages. Our world is in a constant state of flux, constantly being remoulded by powerful forces beyond our control and the new displays illustrate some of these wonders. An interactive display on the phenomena of the eclipses of the sun and moon that bring temporary darkness to the world is very popular with young and old alike. Visitors can create their own eclipse by moving the moon around in its natural orbit pattern, speeding



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up time, until it arrives at the point where it blocks the sun's life-giving rays. Another on the moon and its orbit around the earth and the push-and-pull nature of the earth's gravity that holds the moon permanently trapped in its orbit is also proving great fun for everyone. The meteorite display continues to be a big attraction for visitors – these examples of the large rocks from outer space have, with increasing frequency, been landing on Palestinian land creating devastation and havoc where they fall. These rocks, with their molecular composition that still proves baffling to decipher for our earth-trained experts, are one of the Museum's

most popular touring exhibits. There are also fascinating examples of space 'debris' that break through the earth's atmospheric blanket – artefacts that resemble bomb and mortar shells, various styles of bullet casings and objects that have been described by one of the Museum's space archaeologists as "relics of some unknown military hardware that bear no relation to anything we have yet seen on the planet".

Come and visit the Museum and see for yourself!

image: Earth and the Solar System  
photograph: © From the Earth and Solar System Department Video Collection

## MUSEUM SHOP

The Museum Shop announces a 20% off sale on selected items ranging from jewellery, natural olive oil products such as soap and cosmetics, and educational and scientific children's games. Buy your Christmas and Eid presents now! Be prepared and avoid the Christmas rush! Stocks are limited, so order now.

The Shop has a new range of unique, limited edition products for the home designed by young Palestinian artists and designers. Items range from olive wood salad bowls and lampshades to tiles for the floor, your kitchen or bathroom. This is an opportunity to own something special, and also to support the Museum as well as the artists. The artists are generously donating 50% of their sale price to the Museum.

Our usual range of posters, postcards, books, jewellery and embroidered textiles are also available. However, we have ceased to stock and sell any of the Dead Sea cosmetic and toiletry products due to the environmental damage that is being caused by the extraction of the mud and water for the industry from this world heritage site.

You can now order your selected items on-line over the website. Postage and packing are free if you are ordering in Palestine. Elsewhere, orders have free p&p over £100. All credit cards accepted. Remember you can use your new Bank of Palestine Friends of the Museum credit card to earn an extra 10% discount! Visit [www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/museumshop](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/museumshop)



# TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS AND OUTREACH



## 50,320 Names

The Museum's '50,320 Names' exhibit has been on a world tour over 2007 and 2008 to many important museums and has been seen by thousands of visitors. This historically important national registry of historic buildings in Palestine is an inventory of over 50,000 buildings in 16 main towns and 406 villages in 11 districts in the West Bank and 5 in the Gaza Strip. This major archival project also includes maps and over 70,000 photographs. Information about the unique architectural heritage of Palestine – which is threatened with decay and neglect due to lack of resources and effective conservation – has thus been shown around the world. The Museum would like to thank the RIWAQ Centre for Architectural Conservation in Ramallah for being such an important collaborative partner in this project. We

hope that we can collaborate in the future on other projects and share our expertise with this important organisation. With the lack of public national institutions in Palestine that might perform this kind of work, RIWAQ's work is to be highly commended.

Further dates and venues are currently being negotiated to extend the world tour for '50,320 Names'. The Exhibitions and Outreach team are currently in negotiations with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, Berlin's Kunsthalle and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark. Please check the Museum's website for confirmation of dates over 2009-10:

[www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org)

## Tulips in Palestine

A collaboration between the Museum and De Appel arts centre in Amsterdam, the 'Tulips in Palestine' project aimed to reintroduce the tulip into its original homeland and culminated in the spring of 2007 with tulips blooming all over Palestine – in private gardens, public parks, along roadways, and beside roadblocks and checkpoints. Instead of the manicured landscaping on the Israeli side of the Wall, many different coloured species of tulips bloomed naturally along the Palestinian side. Natural beauty returned to claim its rightful place. This major reintroduction and biodiversity project brought even more colour and life to the Palestinian landscape. The collaborative research between Palestinian and Dutch tulip experts behind the project will continue to re-introduce more tulips and will be extending the programme to Gaza,

working with children in refugee camps. Thousands of children will engage in a mass tulip planting at the end of the 2008 summer vacation with a special variety that has been bred by tulip experts in Holland to thrive in the sandy soil along Gaza's beaches. The Museum wishes to thank the International Fun for Children Campaign for their participation and support of this project.



# BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM

Becoming a friend of The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind provides numerous benefits and supports the mission of the Museum to inspire wonder, knowledge and discovery of Palestine, its culture, people and its outstanding natural beauty. Friends receive:

- the quarterly newsletter to keep you up to date with the Museum's activities.
- discounts on gifts in the Museum Shop.
- free entry to the Museum with your Friend of the Museum card.
- personal invitations to Friends' Evenings and special exhibition openings.
- special entry to the Friends' Café where access is reserved exclusively for Friends



We are also launching the new Friend of the Museum credit card, sponsored by the Bank of Palestine: 10% on all your purchases made with the card will go to the Museum. Apply now at [www.bankofpalestine.org/friendofthemuseumcard](http://www.bankofpalestine.org/friendofthemuseumcard).

## Gift Aid

The Museum relies on the generosity of its Friends and supporters to continue its work and to provide education and outreach programmes within Palestine and internationally. A gift from you will ensure we can uphold our standards, continue to add to the collections, produce publications and develop new initiatives. You can support the Museum in various ways: by individual donations or annual contributions. Your gift can go towards a specific department or programme, or towards the Museum in general. The different levels of giving we offer allow anyone to support YOUR museum. Our new Gift Aid programme benefits both the Museum and your own pocket: by making regular Gift Aid donations, you are eligible to receive tax benefits. Please visit [www.thepalestinemuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/giftaid](http://www.thepalestinemuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org/giftaid) for further details and to review the different ways you can support the work of the Museum.

# THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND HUMANKIND

NEWSLETTER  
Autumn / Winter 2008

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## The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind

### OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday to Sunday: 11.00 – 19.00 Thursday: 11.00 – 22.00 Monday: closed  
[www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org](http://www.thepalestinianmuseumofnaturalhistoryandhumankind.org)

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