



MUSEUM  
VALLETTA

# SUPPLEMENT TO THE Malta Government Gazette.

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Thursday, 25th August, 1904.

[Price One Penny.]

THE MUSEUM,

*Valletta, 17th May, 1904.*

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the first annual report of the Museum for the year 1903-1904.

2. The Museum which had been an appendage to the Public Library, was in June, 1903, given autonomous existence under a Curator and a Committee of Management composed of ten members.

3. The Museum was started at the time of the Order of St. John and is of a purely historical and archæological interest; but although its importance was recognized both in former and in recent times, no serious attempt has ever been made to increase the collection or at least to arrange and classify the exhibits in a manner to satisfy, as much as possible, the requirements of students and of the general public. No effort has ever been made to interest the public in the Museum or to indirectly attract public attention to it by loan exhibitions of objects of archæological interest from the numerous private local collections, some of which are very rich.

4. A first step towards the reorganization of the Museum was to find a building in which to house the collection, the two rooms in which it was preserved at the Public Library being neither large enough nor sufficiently lighted.

For want of better accommodation the house No. 38, Strada San Giovanni, formerly occupied by the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, and used by them as an Industrial Exhibition, was taken and fitted up to receive the collection.

5. The removal of the objects from the Public Library involved a great deal of trouble. There being no catalogue or inventory of the collection, every article had to be numbered for further identification and for the formation of a list on which to draw up a receipt to the Librarian.

6. The whole collection was described, numbered, and removed to the new premises during the summer months of 1903, under the supervision of the Curator, by the Public Works Department.

His Honour,  
The Lieutenant Governor  
and Chief Secretary to Government.



7. Every precaution was taken to preserve all marks which might help in the identification of objects. Most articles, however, were unfortunately unlabelled and whatever labels were found were mostly loose or wormeaten beyond the possibility of deciphering.

This want of proper labelling, I regret to say, seriously impairs the value of the collection.

8. In the arrangement of the collection in the new premises an attempt has been made to group the different objects systematically, so far as the accommodation of the building will allow.

So far the arrangement proposed to be adopted is as follows :-

- (a) The Greek and Roman inscriptions, capitals, columns and other heavy pieces which could not be safely placed in the upper floors, to be arranged in the entrance hall.
- (b) The Collection of coins and medals, to be placed in the room above the entrance.
- (c) In the landing on the upper floor, statues, busts, reliefs, &c., are exhibited.
- (d) The long hall to contain the Phœnician, Carthaginian and Roman pottery and other objects classified, as far as possible, according to their epoch.
- (e) The middle room to contain objects in connection with the Order of St. John.
- (f) The inner room to be reserved for exhibits not connected with the history of these Islands.

This division, it is hoped, will render the collection more interesting and by far more instructive.

9. With a view to increasing the collection, the various Government Departments were asked to send to the Museum any object of a historical or artistic value they might possess, and by this means many valuable additions have been made to the Museum collection.

10. It is very probable that, when the Museum, arranged on the abovementioned plan, is opened to the public, private persons will come forward to contribute to the formation of an archaeological collection worthy of the history of these islands.

11. So far the Museum has already received valuable contributions. General Lord Grenfell, to whom the Museum owes its present independent existence, left a valuable collection of Egyptian antiquities on his relinquishing the government of these Islands. He subsequently made a present of a further collection of lamps, statuettes, stelæ and other objects found by him in Egypt. A marble tablet has been placed in the Museum to commemorate the gift.

Last January Mr. H. W. Seton-Karr, of Wimbledon, England, presented to the Museum, through the Resident Curator of the Horniman Museum, London, a great number of flint implements found in Fayoom, Egypt. This gift, together with another one previously made by Mr. Karr to the Museum, forms an important collection which will be of great interest to students.

A Maltese gentleman has also come forward of late to help the Museum. Mr. Alfonso M. Galea, of Sliema, has made a present of a collection of 137 medals struck during the reign of Pius IX.

Mr. J. Bruyin Andrews, of London, has given two bronze fibulæ which that gentleman obtained from excavations in Dordogne.

13th August, 1904.

12. The thanks of the Committee are likewise due to the Admiral Superintendent for an interesting present he has been good enough to send to the Museum, in the shape of a set of photos and plan of the Galley Slaves Prison existing on the southern part of Fort St. Angelo. These prisons cut in the rock, and which during the time of the Grand Masters, were used as prisons for the Galley Slaves, are very interesting and as it is possible that they cannot any longer be preserved, their photographs become of great value.

13. The Committee of Management of the Museum, has been very wisely entrusted with the care of the antiquities of these Islands, for which, up to the present, nobody seemed to be responsible.

The importance of the antiquities of Malta is recognized by archæologists and a great service will be done to the island if these relics of old times are better taken care of, for the future. It is hoped that under the care of the new Committee this will be the case.

14. The exploration of the hypogeum lately discovered at Paula, in the Has-Saffieni field, is the first work the Committee has taken in hand. The exploration is being carried on under the supervision of Father E. Magri, S.J., whose competence is unquestionable, and who will undoubtedly give us a full report on the completion of the work.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. M. ZAMMIT,

*Curator.*

## PUBLIC REGISTRY OFFICE,

Valletta, 15th April, 1904.

SIR,

In compliance with your Circular No. 6 of the 3rd March last, I have the honour to forward the following report on the working of the Department under my charge, during the financial year, 1903-4.

2. The Public Registry and Government Notary Department (irrespective of the Archives of the late Order of St. John), consists of the following branches, namely:— (a) Register of "Hypothecations" or mortgages; (b) Register of "Insinuazioni" or record of wills, transfers of immovable property, &c. (c) Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths; (d) Register of Trade-marks and Patents; (e) Register of Copyrights; and (f) The Government notarial business.

3. The Hypothecation branch is governed by Ordinances No. XII of 1856, No. VII of 1868, and No. XIII of 1895.

During the last financial year, 6,129 "Notes" or registrations were received, as against 5,728 received during the previous year, classified as follows:—

	In the year 1902-3	1903-4
Hypothecations by agreement and judicial	3,804	4,119
Legal hypothecations	1,027	1,061
Renewals of hypothecation	26	22
Transfers or discharges of hypothecation	871	927
	<u>5,728</u>	<u>6,129</u>

The decennial rate during the last 30 years is as follows:—

1874-1883	1884-1893	1894-1903
38,754	47,972	64,272

4. The "Insinuazione" branch is governed by the provisions of the law contained in (Ordinance No. V of 1855; as amended by Ordinance No. V of 1897), in Ordinance No. VII of 1859, and in Ordinance No. VII of 1868. The number of registrations during the year 1903-4 is 3,575, being an increase of 192 over that of the previous year.

The registrations were as follows:—

	In the year 1902-3	1903-4
Wills	811	829
Matrimonial agreements	436	396
Sales	1,153	1,298
Exchanges	73	68
Partitions of immovable property	103	118
Donations	38	33
Other Acts or Agreements	769	833
	<u>3,383</u>	<u>3,575</u>

The last three decades of years in this branch give the following result:—

1874-1883	1884-1893	1894-1903
22,994	30,221	32,353



5. The registration of births, marriages and deaths is made in accordance with the requirements of Ordinance No. I of 1873, embodying the enactment No. II of 1862, under which the system of registration of all acts of birth, marriage, or death, in the Public Registry Office, was first established.

The Acts registered during the last financial year were as follows:—

Births 6,605                      Marriages 1,276                      Deaths 4,426

The registrations in 1902-3 were:—

Births 6,725                      Marriages 1,355                      Deaths 4,527

The result of the last three decennia gives the following figures:—

	1874-1883	1884-1893	1894-1903
Births	47,829	55,946	60,436

The increase being 8.025 per cent.

Marriages	8,945	9,864	10,527
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Increase 6.721 per cent.

Deaths	34,156	41,798	42,634
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Increase 2. per cent.

6. The law relating to Industrial Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and Models of Manufactures, is contained in Ordinance No. XI of the year 1899. In the last financial year, 60 trade marks were registered, against 90 in the year 1902-3, and 11 in the year 1901-2.

7. The registration of Copyright is regulated by Ordinance No. II of the year 1888. In 1903-4, twenty three books, booklets &c. were registered, and in 1902-3, registration included twelve, against eleven in the previous year.

8. The Notarial business in 1903-04 shows an increase of 18 deeds over the number of deeds received in the previous year. In the last financial year, the deeds entered into were 369, and in 1902-3 the number was 351.

The nature of deeds executed was as follows:—

	In the year	1902-3	1903-4
Sales or purchases	...	109	103
Emphyteusis (long or perpetual leases)	...	11	1
Short leases	...	46	62
Agreements for Contract works and supplies	...	68	83
Other deeds	...	117	120
		<u>351</u>	<u>369</u>

9. The revenue of the Office in the last financial year was £1,849 1. 4, namely:—  
Public Registry branch £1,659, 19 9; Notarial branch £279. 1 7, showing an increase over the previous year, as follows:—

	1902-3	1903-4
Public Registry	£1,475 3 10	£1,569 19 9
Notarial Branch	231 11 1	279 1 7
	<u>£1,706 14 11</u>	<u>£1,849 1 4</u>

10. The expenditure in the year 1903-4 amounted to £1,570. 15. 4 against £1,616. 0. 10 in the previous financial year.

11. I beg to forward the accompanying Returns, showing the gradual, steady, increase of the work of this Department in its different branches since the establishment thereof. The total number of Acts received in the Public Registry during the last financial year was 22,011 against 21,718 received in the previous year, showing an increase of 293 due, principally, to the business done in the hypothecary and Insinuazione branches.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MICALLEF,

*Director.*

His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor

and Chief Secretary to Government,

&c.

&c.

&c.

## Return of Note d'ipoteche (Mortgages) registered from the year 1857 to the year 1903.

YEAR	Register M	Register I	Register R	Register I. L.	Register I. R.	TOTAL	Remarks
1857	89	684				773	
1858	450	2,960				3,410	
1859	368	2,479				2,847	
1860	453	2,574				3,027	
1861	474	2,797				3,271	
1862	404	2,729				3,133	
1863	505	2,946				3,451	
1864	481	2,685				3,166	
1865	384	2,624				3,008	
1866	522	2,946				3,468	
1867	556	3,352				3,908	
1868	441	3,562				4,003	
1869	544	3,319				3,863	
1870	513	3,068				3,581	
1871	468	3,076				3,544	
1872	473	3,388				3,861	
1873	487	3,109				3,596	
1874	455	3,191				3,646	
1875	473	3,023				3,496	
1876	515	3,004				3,519	
1877	557	3,330				3,887	
1878	577	3,488				4,065	
1879	600	3,283				3,883	
1880	568	3,387				3,955	
1881		3,874	438			4,312	
1882		3,671	376			4,047	
1883		3,499	445			3,944	
1884		3,402	351			3,753	
1885		3,571	420			3,991	
1886		3,899	413			4,312	
1887		4,133	445			4,578	
1888		4,522	450			4,972	
1889		4,467	551			5,018	
1890		4,479	525			5,004	
1891		4,767	518			5,285	
1892		5,201	499			5,700	
1893		4,902	457			5,359	
1894		4,912	583			5,495	
1895		4,468	814	550	2	5,834	
1896		4,684	717	865	74	6,340	
1897		6,550	701	851	181	8,283	
1898		5,741	809	905	227	7,682	
1899		5,893	614	958	86	7,551	
1900		3,960	783	859	30	5,632	
1901		3,779	949	927	19	5,674	
1902		3,836	858	1,018	26	5,738	
1903		4,060	870	1,092	21	6,043	

Public Registry Office,

Valletta, 15th April, 1904

A. MICALLEF,

Director.

## Return of "Note d'Insinuazione", registered from the year 1859 to the year 1903.

YEAR	No. of Notes	Remarks	YEAR	No. of Notes	Remarks
1859	853		1881	2,442	
1860	2,204		1882	2,329	
1861	2,217		1883	2,734	
1862	2,394		1884	2,422	
1863	2,460		1885	2,691	
1864	2,159		1886	2,994	
1865	2,581		1887	2,998	
1866	2,558		1888	3,079	
1867	2,356		1889	3,142	
1868	2,177		1890	3,123	
1869	2,721		1891	3,348	
1870	1,981		1892	3,220	
1871	1,912		1893	3,204	
1872	2,094		1894	2,974	
1873	2,379		1895	3,126	
1874	2,270		1896	3,060	
1875	2,111		1897	3,214	
1876	2,024		1898	3,297	
1877	2,139		1899	3,180	
1878	2,230		1900	3,154	
1879	2,376		1901	3,381	
1880	2,339		1902	3,426	
			1903	3,541	

Public Registry Office,  
Valletta, 15th April, 1904.

A. MICALFÉ,  
Director.

## Return of Acts of Birth, Marriage and Death, registered from the year 1863 to the year 1903.

YEAR	NO. OF ACTS REGISTERED			YEAR	NO. OF ACTS REGISTERED		
	Births	Marriages	Deaths		Births	Marriages	Deaths
1863	4,163	752	2,767	1883	5,262	973	3,228
1864	4,330	869	3,253	1884	5,588	965	3,510
1865	4,210	838	5,594	1885	5,555	941	5,059
1866	4,417	1,059	2,925	1886	5,638	1,058	3,617
1867	4,453	721	3,634	1887	5,548	846	4,217
1868	3,685	781	3,473	1888	5,374	1,009	3,699
1869	4,499	783	3,213	1889	5,871	1,064	4,181
1870	4,348	714	3,338	1890	5,526	1,005	3,824
1871	4,112	736	4,086	1891	5,714	1,086	4,270
1872	4,365	841	3,020	1892	5,476	954	4,976
1873	4,300	739	2,797	1893	5,656	936	4,445
1874	4,059	748	4,080	1894	5,560	884	3,869
1875	4,695	875	2,964	1895	5,454	887	3,798
1876	4,632	877	2,991	1896	5,117	923	3,905
1877	4,799	820	3,115	1897	6,072	947	4,699
1878	4,665	813	3,343	1898	5,959	985	4,147
1879	4,774	927	3,269	1899	6,017	1,094	4,207
1880	4,813	982	4,155	1900	6,525	1,045	4,744
1881	5,115	988	3,732	1901	6,412	1,104	4,303
1882	5,015	942	3,279	1902	6,646	1,345	4,262
				1903	6,674	1,313	4,700

Public Registry Office,  
Valletta, 15th April, 1904.

A. MICALFÉ,  
Director.