

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CURATOR OF THE VALLETTA MUSEUM

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1912-13.

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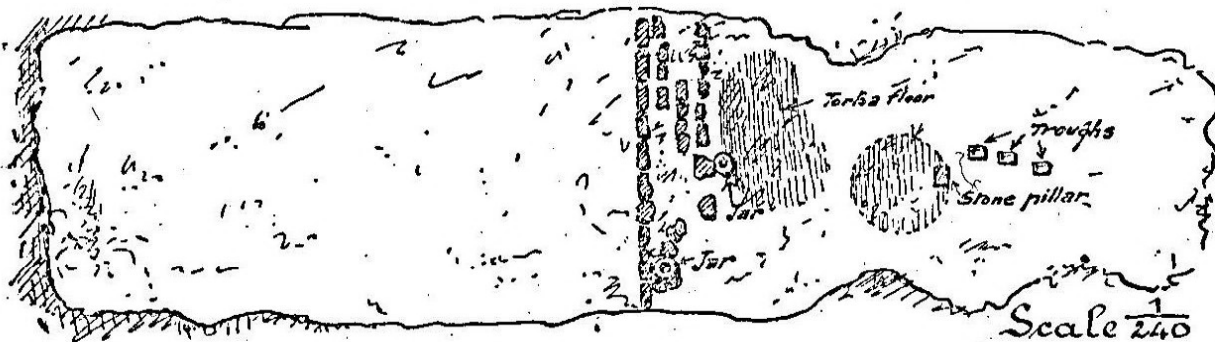
PREHISTORIC ANTIQUITIES.

Neolithic station at Kallilia.

A prehistoric station at Kallilia was discovered and excavated by the Curator in September 1912.

What is known as Kallilia is the rocky plateau on the northern slope of the Kligha water-course, opposite and to the north west, of the Mtarfa hill. This plateau is barren and very uneven and the couple of families, who live in a cluster of huts and caves in the middle of the area, scarcely manage to make a decent living from the working of these lands.

Numerous well-tombs and tomb-caves are found on this plateau and several of these were found sealed recently, both by the Curator and by other persons who obtained therefrom a considerable amount of funeral pottery of the punic type.



It was the report of the discovery of a sealed tomb in this district, in September 1912, that called the attention of the Curator to this site.

Several tomb-caves of the punic type were opened and surveyed, as will be described later on in this report, but at a certain point known as Iddura (the circle) signs of a much older civilization were detected. Large blocks of stone lie about, and several menhirs were found which had been standing but a few years ago. In a shallow field, about 50 yards to the east of Iddura, the farmer pointed out a place where large stones had been standing and from which potsherds were obtained, in considerable quantities.

This shallow field is surrounded by barren patches of rock, strewn all over with large slabs and blocks of masonry which cannot but be the ruins of a cluster of huts.

Two trenches, 3 feet wide, were dug out, one in a western direction in the line of the length of the field, which is about 120 feet long, and the other at right angles to the field for about 30 feet.

The red soil of the field is of various thickness. For the first 65 feet from the eastern wall, the bed-rock was under about 4 inches of soil, but beyond this, the rock was found at about 3 feet under the surface, gradually rising up at the sides and towards the western limit.

The foundations of a stone-wall were found across the field, in a southern direction, at the point where the field becomes deeper and measures 30 feet across. This wall was made of twelve large blocks of stone some of which emerged, for a few inches, out of the soil.

This wall, though very old, was not built on the solid rock but on a 4 inches layer of dark grey soil. In this dark soil potsherds and fragments of bones of domestic animals were found in abundance.

That the wall was old can well be inferred from the fact that one of the blocks of stone was found to be hollowed out and, in this repository, three large lenticular objects of clay, pierced through and resembling spindle-whorls, were carefully hidden.

The grey soil, which consisted mainly of ashes, was limited to the area under the wall for beyond this point it was not met with again.



Beyond this wall, the field, about 3 feet deep, was filled up with cobble-stones varying in diameter from 2 feet to 2 inches. This layer was covered with the red soil of the field but, originally, a floor was carefully laid upon it. Twenty feet to the west of the wall a perfectly flat surface was met with, which covered about 10 square feet of the whole width of the field. This white torba floor, about 3 inches thick, was made of powdered limestone and had a very smooth surface. The exceptional whiteness of this floor is due to the powdering of a special semi-crystalline stone known as "Seconda" which is extensively used in the Island for lime burning. A good portion of this floor had been destroyed some time ago by the farmer, but a good six feet of it remains intact.

Beyond the torba, to the west, cobble-stones were still met with but no floor. In the bed-rock at this point a round hole, 3 inches deep and 6 inches in diameter, was found 1 foot 3 inches under the surface of the field. All around this hole the rock had been carefully cut and smoothed. A square stone trough, 4 inches deep and 10 inches across, with sides 2 inches thick, was also found close by and fragments of another similar receptacle were met with not far away.

Close to the round hole a rectangular block of limestone was found embedded in the torba floor from which it emerged for about half a foot. The stone, which measured 2 feet by 1 foot 5 inches, by 1 foot 5 inches, had been removed from its place by the farmer as it greatly interfered with his work.

Two large jars were found firmly embedded in the soil of the field and carefully protected by stones all around. One of the jars was fixed at the northern end of the N.S. wall and rested on the layer of ash just like the stones of that wall and it must therefore have been contemporary with it. The jar was badly cracked and the upper portion was carried away by the plough which must have passed freely upon it for centuries.

The other jar, similar in all respects to the first one, was met with, 13 feet to the west of the wall about half a foot under the surface of the field. Its neck was also damaged, but otherwise it was in good state of preservation. Both jars are about 2 feet 4 ins. high and 1 foot 10 inches at their widest portion. Four small ears were disposed round the neck, which is 6 inches high and 10 inches wide. Both jars were firmly fixed in the soil and a large, flat, hard stone, which must have been used as rubber in neolithic times, was found in each. The stones being considerably heavy must have contributed to the stability of the vessels.

The jars were, with great difficulty, extracted and carried to the Museum. One of them was easily repaired but the other was so brittle that it could not be mended, so far.

From all the observations made on this important place it appears that the Kallilia plateau was inhabited in prehistoric times. The megalithic remains, the neolithic sherds, the ashes, the bones of domestic animals and the shells, found in the deep layers of the field excavated, leave no doubt about an old settlement on the north side of the Wied il Kligha valley. The potsherds are very characteristic and resemble, mostly, the Bahria type of sherds. The vessels were well made, of an elegant form and richly ornamented with deep incised geometrical design. The ware is, mostly, black and hand burnished and the deep incisions were filled up with a white paste giving a very pleasing effect.

The ashes and refuse of the settlers were deposited in the middle of the field where there was a natural or artificial depression in the ground. Later on, a wall was built across the field over the ashes, the large jars were fixed and the torba floor laid on the cobbles and the debris of former settlers. The later colony, which must have extended well into the Punic and Roman times, have left behind them their sherds and their dead, cremated or interred, in the numerous tombs cut in the rocks all around.

Neolithic Station at the "Guardia ta San Giorg".

This station is on the highest point of the south western end of the rocky plateau known as "Gebel Ciantar". It juts out at the end of the high cliff and affords a magnificent view of the southern and south western shores of the Island. The road that leads from the Inquisitor's Palace and the "Ta Zuta" farmhouse dips under the station and winds down, in wide detours, towards the "Fawwara" lands. This flat stretch of ground overhanging a deep ravine, makes an admirable observation station and it was undoubtedly used as such in prehistoric times, when a wall made of great blocks of stones had been raised all around it for protection against an enemy and for shelter against the wind, which sweeps this high plateau from all directions. Most of this megalithic wall is now in ruin, the stones being scattered all around. Some of them were used, recently, for the repair of the road leading to Fawwara. Part of the wall is, however, still in situ. The debris of the station was, by the help of time and wind, covered with dust which the industrious peasants have turned into a couple of fields.

Although no excavations were made, in or around this station, still a patient search on the surface of the field brought up a collection of potsherds which can tell a definite tale.

The majority of the sherds are of the usual Maltese prehistoric type, plain, mostly, thick, hand burnished, black on one side and covered with a red slip on the other side. Some of the bits found are incised with deep lines filled once with a white paste. The pots were well made and some of them were very tastefully finished and ornamented.

Sherds of a punic type and fragments of late medioeval pots were also found, showing that the place was kept in use to a comparatively late period. The potsherds obtained from this station are exhibited in the Valletta Museum.

My attention to this interesting place was called by the Honourable Colonel E. P. S. Roupell, D.S.O. who also helped in collecting the potsherds.

Ghar Dalam. In December 1912, a partial exploration of the Ghar Dalam cave was made by Prof. Tagliaferro I.S.O. and Mr. C. Rizzo L.S.A. with a view to determining how far the cave had been explored and what new ground there was for research. A trench, made at a point where the soil appeared to be unexplored, brought out important material. Bones of a hippopotamus and of a deer were found at the bottom of the trench and, above them, a considerable quantity of prehistoric sherds.

These sherds, mostly of large vessels, are well worked and well baked, of a reddish colour, mottled with black spots. Two large sherds of a red ware were ornamented with an incised triangular design filled up with a white paste. A vessel, with only a small bit missing, was obtained from this trench. The black ware recalls the Bahria pottery.

Phoenician Inscription at Gigantia. On one of the slabs of the pavement of the main apsis of the western building at Gigantia, a Phoenician inscription was found in 1912. The inscription was pointed out to the Curator by Miss N. Erichsen who was visiting the ruins with Miss R. Cleveland. It consists of two lines and ten letters, seven of which in the first line and three in the second. The letters are deeply engraved and measure on the average 9 cm. the first line being 90 cms. long and the second line 42 cms. The letters are Phoenician of the archaic type. A photograph was submitted to Prof. Ignazio Guidi of Rome and to Prof. Lidzbarski of Grenfswald who both declared the inscription to be Phoenician but very difficult to understand. Rev. Ronsevalle, of the Oriental Faculty of the St. Joseph

University of Beyrouth (Syria), is not sure about the genuineness of the inscription and points out that the second line of the inscription should not be on the left end of the first line but on the right end. He thinks that the inscription should be more deeply studied before a definite opinion on the same be ventured. Chev. Roudanovsky M.V.O., a local student of Oriental languages, expressed the following opinion: "The inscription is in semitic characters of a period of transition from the Phoenician into later types and belongs to the first centuries after Christ.

"The author of the inscription uses one sign of *He* for another, a peculiarity which appears on some Arabic inscriptions of the early Christian era, e. g. on the Namara inscription (Province of Hawran, 4th century).

"The meaning of the inscription is:

"First line) li rahm aba A.B.A.M.H.R.L.

"Second line) yahwah H.U.H.

"This is a liturgical sentence in Syriac and means, "for love of father Yahwe".

"The inscription shows that either the language of the ritual of the first Maltese Christians must have been Syriac, or that those who made this inscription in Hawdax used Syriac in their prayers."

It would appear rather strange that an inscription of this size should have remained hidden to the eyes of the numerous visitors who, for a whole century, have inspected the ruins. When it is known, however, that the ruins are in a deplorable state of preservation and that dust and weeds cover the pavement of all the chambers, one does not wonder that the letters have been completely overlooked.

There can also be no doubts that the inscription is not genuine for the ruins are quite out of the reach of practical jokers and the deeply incised letters show a deliberate purpose and an expert hand.

TOMBS OF THE PUNICO-ROMAN PERIOD.

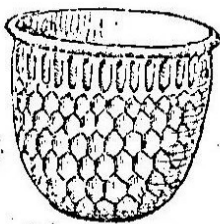
Well-tomb at San Niclau. A well-tomb was discovered, on the 11th July 1912, in the field known as "Ta Barroda" at San Niclau, to the west of Krendi. The pit was 5 feet deep, by 5 feet wide and 4 feet 7 inches long and the single chamber was closed by a soft stone slab 2 feet 5 inches high 1 foot 11 inches wide and 4 inches thick.

The pit was full of stones and red earth and the slab was closely adhering to the mouth of the chamber. On removing the slab an oblong chamber was seen; just beyond the entrance, a trench 1 foot 8 inches deep and 1 foot 8 inches wide ran parallel to the mouth of the chamber, for 3 feet 4 inches of its length.

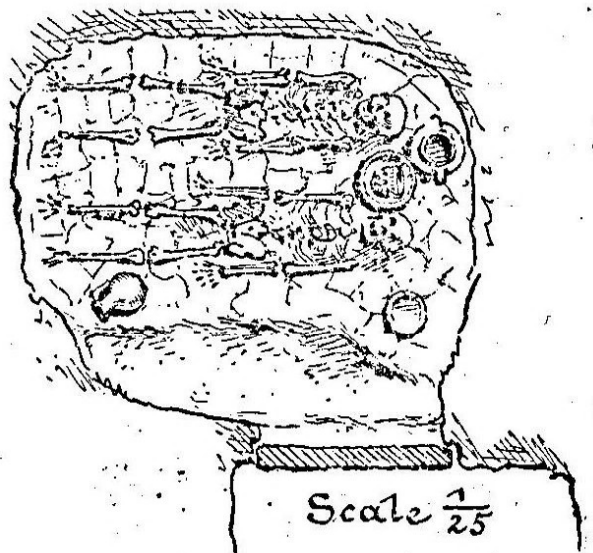
Two skeletons were lying on the floor of the chamber, the one nearer the entrance was that of a male and the other one of a female. The upper part of these skeletons was well preserved but the lower limbs were thoroughly rotten, water having found its way in the chamber and collected repeatedly, at the N. E. end of the same. The bodies appeared to have been laid on their back without being placed in a coffin or wrapped in a shroud.

A feature of this tomb was that its floor was covered with irregular, flat, loose stones. Very probably the intention was that the bodies laid on this artificial floor should not come in touch with any water which might find its way into the tomb.

On opening the tomb, the two skeletons appeared lying side by side with the tomb furniture piously arranged around them. Two large red dishes lay between the heads and in one of them a fine glass cup was laid on its side. This cup is one of the finest ever met with in Malta. It is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch. high 5 inch. wide at the mouth, and 2 inch. at the base. It has a projecting rim $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. high and below it the cup is fluted for 1 inch. The rest of the vessel is ornamented with 9 rows of hexagons in relief, of gradually increasing size from above, downwards. The general effect is very pleasing to the eye. The glass is thin and of a greenish yellow colour. A cup of this type, but 6 cms. high, is described by P. Orsi as found in the Catacombs of San Giovanni near Syracuse (See *Notizie degli Scavi*, Dec. 1895). The rest of the furniture was a red Roman lamp, an aryballus, and a basin with handle and cover.



Scale $\frac{1}{5}$



Scale $\frac{1}{25}$

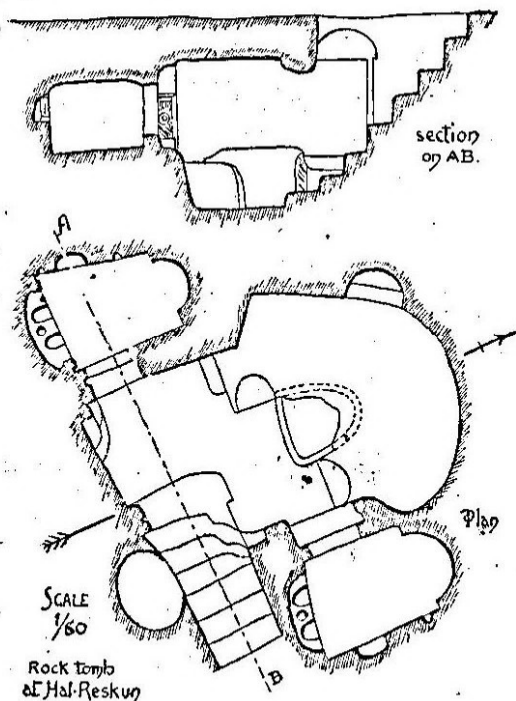
On further examining the tomb we found, in the dust covering the floor, ashes of human bones, fragments of pottery and of glassware, two punic lamps and a small plate. All this points to the fact that before the interment of the two bodies the cave was used for the deposition of one or more cremated bodies, the remains of which were laid aside when, later on, the two bodies came to be buried. The furniture found in this tomb is of a late Roman period but the tomb itself must have been in use at an earlier date.

TOMBS AT HAL RESKUN.

Groups of tombs are found in the lands "ta l'Iskof" between Gudia and Luca, to the N. W. of the chapel known as "Santa Maria ta Bir Miftuh". Some of these, of the usual late punic type, are open and half full of stones and dust. One of them, close to the public road, was cleared and surveyed in August 1912. It is a Christian tomb, with features of the late Roman period, which must have served the purpose of a burial place and of a chapel.

It is to my mind the first tomb of the kind ever met with in these Islands. Unluckily it was found rifled and in part destroyed. In 1887 a water main was laid through that road and across part of the cave. The cave is cut in the solid rock and its floor is several feet under the level of the road. Going down a flight of steps a spacious room is found, about seven feet high. In front there is the principal tomb, cut at about four feet above the floor; the entrance is in the shape of an arcosolium, with a flat sill, and ornamented at the sides and on the top. The tomb was meant for two bodies, for the heads of which, two depressions were cut at the left end of the chamber. The entrance was meant to be closed by means of a slab.

Another chamber, similar in all to the one described, but without ornaments, is cut in the opposite wall, to the right of the entrance.



To the left of the entrance the wall is straight but shows signs that another tomb, with arcosolium, was to be dug out at the same level as the other two; to the right the wall curves into a semi-circle and a platform, cut in the solid rock, may well have served the purpose of a table for the funeral repast.

At the end of this platform a round step is cut which makes an excellent settee with a low back and with some ornaments at the base. On this chair the officiating minister would be seated, and a little to the right, a small step may well be intended for an assistant.

The arch of the arcosolium, of the tomb in front, is ornamented with deeply cut figures representing the Biblical scene of creation. The work is not highly finished but the figures are clear enough to give an idea of the meaning of the artist.

In the middle is the figure of God with outstretched arms, the two figures of Adam and Eve appear among the figures of animals. Several quadrupeds are represented, some of them back to back for economy of space.

On the left are pair of fishes and of birds. The pillars of the arcosolium are fluted and otherwise ornamented.

An attempt to ornamentation is also observed on the left. At the entrance, beyond the first two steps the roof is arched and finished in the shape of a scallop shell. On this a characteristic Christian design is cut representing two large pelicans feeding their young. This symbol of the Redeemer and of Charity, cut at the entrance of this tomb, is an evident sign of Christianity at a period which had already passed its primitive stage.

The fragments of glass, pottery, etc. obtained were also of the late Roman period.

TOMBS OF A PUNIC TYPE AT KALLILIA (N.W. OF RABAT)

The rocky plateau to the north of the Wied il Kligha, limited to the west by the "tas-Salib" road, contains a great number of well-tombs, some of which are exceptionally well made. There being little soil on this plateau the tombs were easily detected and opened long time ago. The few which were found unopened, on this occasion, were at a deeper level than the others and completely hidden in depressions of the rock.

On the 26th September 1912, we dug out the first tomb. The shaft, in which a fig tree grew, was oblong with rounded corners. It was filled up to the surface with stones of which some, near the bottom, were embedded in mortar. The slab covering the mouth of the cave was broken at its upper end, and the thick roots of the fig-tree grew freely in the cave.

On removing the slab, we found the chamber full of red soil in which the bones of several human skeletons and fragments of pottery and stones were hopelessly entangled in a thick net of roots. The tomb was cleared and surveyed but from the objects found no information could be gathered about the circumstances of the burial.

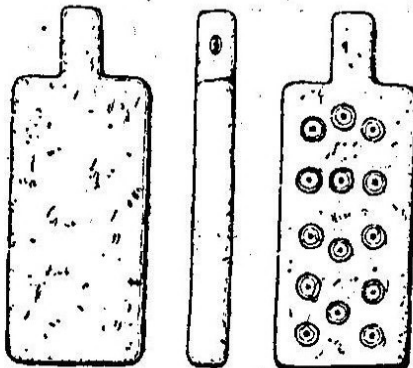
The second tomb was of an older type than the one just mentioned.

The shaft was nearly cylindrical (5 feet 3 inches by 4 feet 5 inches) and about 6 feet deep, with a chamber of an elliptical shape. Both chamber and shaft were remarkably well finished. A deep gutter existed immediately beyond the entrance, and a shelf, with a raised border, was left for the bodies to be laid upon.

The tomb was opened by the farmer, but the few articles of furniture collected were handed over to us. These were few but well made; a jar with its covering plate, a puni lamp, a deep plate, two small clay bottles, a clay spindle whorl, a circular bronze mirror and a blue bead. The tomb was surveyed and sketched. The farmer who opened it informed me that he had found 3 skeletons laid on the floor; and that the pottery was all in the gutter at the entrance.

The third tomb had a large shaft 6 feet deep, with five small steps cut in the rock, it had two funeral chambers, one on the N. W. side of the shaft and the other on the N. E. side. Both chambers had at their mouth the slab that used to seal them, but broken at the upper portion so as to admit a person. Through this opening the two chambers had been rifled long ago. One of the chambers (N.E.) was full of red soil, solidly packed, and nothing but fragments of bones and pottery were found. The other chamber (N.W.) contained the bones of at least eight skeletons mixed up together as if the chamber had been used as an ossuary. Only a few sherds were found and a clay jug.

The fourth tomb, found not far from the "tas-Salib road", was one chambered and of an older type. The shaft was 7 feet deep with rounded corners, and the elliptical chamber was 6 feet 6 inches long by 5 feet 4 inches. A deep trench ran along the length of the chamber immediately beyond the entrance, and further on, a ledge on which the bodies were to be laid. At one end a head-rest, about 4 inches high, was cut in the rock with a lamphole above it. Water must have found its way in this tomb, for the bones were in part scattered about and in part collected in small heaps. The skeletons of two adults and of a child could be recognised. Ashes of human bodies were also found but no trace of cinerary urns. All the pottery must have been removed from this tomb before it was closed as none was to be found. Careful sifting brought out a pair of small copper bangles .25 inches thick and



Natural size.

1.25 inches in diameter, and an amulet made of a soft greenish stone 1.5 inch long by .7 inch wide and .3 inch thick, drilled at one end to admit a wire or a thread. One of the faces of the tablet is smooth and has no signs, the other face is ornamented with three rows of circles, five on each side and four in the middle. The circles are incised, apparently, by means of a metallic cylinder or a small compass. Each circle has a double contour and a hole in the centre.

The fifth tomb was found on the eastern border of the plateau. The shaft, 6 feet deep, was irregular and followed a rent of the rock. The chamber was small and roughly cut. The slab, at the mouth, was broken at the upper edge and red soil found its way freely in the

chamber. A feature of this tomb was that instead of the usual gutter, cut to leave a separate space for the bodies, loose stones were disposed in a line so as to form a partition to keep apart the tomb furniture. Fragments of bones were recovered from the red soil and a poor furniture consisting of a wide mouthed jar with cover, a jug (enochoe) a dish, a deep saucer, a punic lamp, fragments of a bronze mirror, a copper bangle (2.5 inches diam) and a small white bone cylinder 1.5 inch long, with .25 inch diam. drilled at one end, which had been burnt and which must have formed part of the contents of a cinerary urn, as fragments of ashed bone were also found.

The sixth tomb in this district was explored on the 18th November 1912. It is not far from the fourth one, close to the tas-Salib road.

Before clearing the shaft of this tomb, a filled up trench was observed at a short distance from it, 4 feet long, 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep. In this trench a wide mouthed clay vessel (caccabium) with its covering plate, was found carefully fixed by stones placed around it. The vessel contained earth but it is presumed that it was left there full of water.

The shaft of the tomb, 5 feet deep, was full of stones and earth. When this was cleared, the covering slab was found closely fitting the groove, cut in the rock, to contain it. The slab measured 2 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, by 8 inches and was firmly kept *in situ* by a block of stone at the bottom of the shaft.

On removing the slab it was noticed that the contents of the burial chamber were not disturbed, except by the water which had found its way in, and left a thin deposit of slime. Two bodies had been laid side by side. The one, in the inner part of the chamber, was the skeleton of a male who, evidently, was the first occupant of the tomb. The bones were in a slight disorder as if they had been pushed aside to make room for the second body.

The second skeleton, that of an old woman, was laid straight on the back. A ring was found among the bones of the right hand. There were no signs of a coffin and no indication that the bodies had been wrapped up in a shroud. The heads were slightly raised on a step cut for the purpose in the rock.

Close to the heads, there was a large clay bilychnes lamp of the punic type made of badly baked clay and in a state of decay. Not far from it was a dish made of the same material. A graceful clay jug (enochoe) was standing to the right of the entrance, near the head of the

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woman, so firmly fixed in mortar that a pick-axe had to be used to detach it. A deep saucer, near the enochoe, was fixed in the same manner. A broken clay dish, near by, was still full of the mortar which had been used to fix the two vessels. A patera near the head was loose.

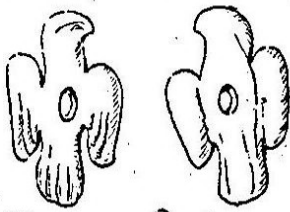
Across the legs of the male skeleton another enochoe was laid on its side and at its feet a roughly made, punic, bilychnes lamp was placed.

It is difficult to understand how the male body, about 6 feet long, was laid in the chamber of which the mouth was only 2 feet across.

The tomb is of the older type without a trench at the entrance and without a lamphole.

Tombs at "Tac-Cghaki" Hill, Rabat. The "Tac-Cghaki" hill which, in the early Roman period, was a vast necropolis has given up some more well-tombs this year.

In one of these well-tombs, with a single chamber, a farmer found a mass of tomb furniture evidently removed from other tombs and laid there for preservation. The chamber was small and contained only fragments of bones. The following objects were found in the chamber: — 7 clay cinerary urns of various shapes, 12 bottles (aryballi) 22 bilychnes lamps of a punic type, 1 red Roman lamp, 3 small jars (enochoe) 6 small clay bottles with wide mouth, 32 glass bottles of various shapes and sizes, 1 long fusiform clay bottle, one cup, one small jug, fragments of a bronze mirror, a metal (tin) band which appears to have formed the neck of an amphora, 2 perforated shells, (Venus) 2 large bronze needles and a small amulet about 1 inch long in the shape of a pigeon, flattened, and with a hole in its centre. This amulet is made of a light ruby coloured, resinous substance. The other tombs were dug out close to the one just mentioned but they were found rifled. One of them was two-chambered and very shallow, with a quaint funnel-shaped shaft, the other had a shaft 20 feet deep and had only one chamber.

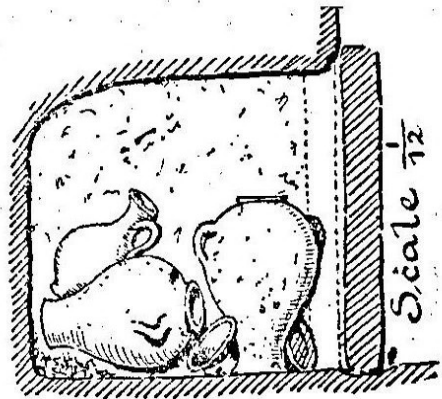


Natural size.

Tomb at "Gnien Izzghir", Rabat. A tomb was found to the south of the Gnien Izzghir, close to the ruined chapel built by Bishop Cagliares. The tomb, full of red soil to the very surface, proved to be completely rifled. It is a well made tomb with a large shaft, 6 ft. 10 in. wide and 6 ft. 10 in. deep, in which 4 steps were cut to give an easy access to the chamber. The chamber is well finished and provided beyond the entrance, with a deep gutter all along the front of the same.

Tomb at Zeitun. Whilst cutting a trench for a main sewer at Zeitun, a tomb-cave was discovered, in December 1912, at Str. Santa Caterina, close to house No. 28. The tomb-cave was very small, square, with not more than 1 ft. 8 in. per side, and was full of clay vessels closely packed together, the mouth of the cave being subsequently closed with a stone slab. The shaft of this small tomb was beyond the trench and therefore left unopened.

The furniture consisted of two clay cinerary urns, of the usual pear shaped pattern, with their covering dish, two old fashioned punic lamps and a reddish clay jar.



Well-tombs at Mtarfa. By kind permission of the Chief Engineer we examined, in January 1913, two tombs discovered by the Royal Engineers, whilst laying the foundation of an electric station, on Mtarfa Hill. The furniture of these tombs was sent for preservation in the Valletta Museum.

One of the tombs, with large shaft, had its mouth still closed by a large slab of limestone, 3 ft. 3 in., by 3 ft. 7 in., by 9 in. The roughly dressed slab was in situ, and had no signs upon it. When removed, the funeral chamber appeared roughly semicircular with a thick layer of mud covering the floor and the objects lying upon it. The loose bones of at least two skeletons could be seen in the gutter. Behind the slab, a large amphora was laid on its side.

In the right corner of the chamber a bilychnes clay lamp, of a punic type, was found and, close to it, a clay jug and a plate carefully propped by stones. No glass or bronze objects were found and no signs of incineration.

The other tombs, which when opened turned out to be full of debris, were found near by. The type of these tombs correspond exactly to that of the one already described. They all had at the entrance a gutter running parallel to the length of the tomb but no lamp holes.

OBJECTS ACQUIRED FOR THE MUSEUM.

The following objects were acquired for the Museum during the year:—

15 prints, lithographs, etc.

1 wooden measure (nofs kasba) of the time of the Order.

1 marble coat-of-arms of Gr. Master de la Sengle.

1 do. do. do. Despuig.

2 brass knockers with portrait of Gr. Master Manoel.

Besides, potsherds, flints, etc. from the various megalithic stations and tomb-furnitures from the several tombs discovered during the year, were added to the collection.

DONATIONS.

Chief Engineer—Furniture of a tomb found at Mtarfa (one amphora and a punice lamp).

The Admiral Supt. H. M. Dockyard, Malta. A collection of fossil bones of a giant land tortoise.

Fleet Surgeon A. W. Wightman R.N.—Seven brass coins of William IV.

Enrico Calleja, Esq., P.A.A.—1 Water colour painting of 1829.

Michele Zammit, Esq.—1 brass coin of Gr. Master Paula and 1 silver coin of Pope Pius IX.

Major W. H. Babington R.A.M.C.—1 worked stone from Hagiar Kim.

A. Bartolo Esq., LL.D.—1 Proclamation by Sir Charles Cameron.

Rev. P. Vella Mangion D.D.—22 copper plates—images of Saints. X

Magistrate E. Parnis LL.D.—Bequest of his whole collection of antique objects.

The bequest of the late Magistrate Parnis deserves a special notice. The learned gentleman, who for a good number of years collected objects and books about Malta, died on the 7th January 1913 and bequeathed all his books and papers to the Public Library and his collection of antique objects to the Museum. Among the valuable things left to the Museum the following deserve special notice:

Collection of prints, plans etc. concerning Malta.

Collection of autographs and diplomas of the time of the Order.

Copper plates of views of Malta.

Old pharmacy jars.

Coins of the Order, of Great Britain, of Turkey and of several European States.

A marble inscription and several fragments of monumental marbles.

Collection of gold and silver snuff-boxes, watches, pencil-cases, seals and medals.

Magistrate Parnis was a Member of the Committee of management of the Museum and, as such, he contributed to the development of this Institution.

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE ANTIQUITIES OF MALTA AND GOZO.

During the year the following publications appeared:

1. *Malta and the Mediterranean Race*.—By R. N. Bradley B.A.—The book describes our antiquities and traces the origin of the Maltese civilization and language from prehistoric times.

2. *The Rough Stone Monuments and their builders*.—By Mr. E. T. Peet B.A. (Harper's Library of Living Thought).—The book describes and compares the megalithic ruins, known so far, and throws a good deal of light on our prehistoric monuments and their significance.

3. *Guide to the Valletta Museum*.—By the Curator (Malta 1913).—This small book describes the objects exhibited in the Valletta Museum and gives a short sketch of the history of these Islands.

4. *Report of the Excavations in 1910-11 in various megalithic buildings in Malta and Gozo.*—
By Thomas Ashby D. Litt., R. N. Bradley B.A., T. E. Peet B.A. and N. Tagliaferro I.S.O.
This report appeared in volume VI of the Papers of the British School at Rome and reprints
of the same may be obtained at the Museum. The Report describes the excavations at Hagiar
Kim, Mnajdra, Cordin, Bahria, Santa Verna and It-torri tal Wilgia, and is a valuable
contribution to our knowledge of prehistoric monuments in the Maltese Islands.

During the financial year the number of visitors to the various places of antiquity was as
follows:—

Valletta Museum (on payment) ...	...	...	...	...	2,083
Do. do. (free) ...	...	...	...	...	4,653
Rabat Museum ...	...	...	...	...	353
St. Paul's Catacombs ...	...	...	...	...	300
Hal-Safieni ...	...	...	...	...	874

Besides Personal Emoluments (£ 336. 0. 1) £ 100. 1. 1 were expended in connection
with the exploration and preservation of antiquities, £ 23. 9. 8 in connection with the purchase
of objects and £ 28. 5. 5 on miscellaneous expenses.

TEM. ZAMMIT,
Curator.