

7178

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

# MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

DURING

1923-24.



MALTA  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1924.

## MALTA.

### Report on the working of the Museum Department for the year 1923-24.

THE MUSEUM.

3rd September, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Museum, including those of the Archeological, Natural History, Mineralogy and Art Sections, for the twelve months—1st April, 1923, to 31st March, 1924.

2. Pending the reorganization of the Museum and the transfer of the collections to the Auberge d'Italie, the activity of the various Curators was greatly hampered and very little work could be done.

I have &c.,

TEM. ZAMMIT,  
Director of the Museum.

The Honourable  
The Minister for Public Instruction.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

##### Prehistoric.

##### BORG-IN-NADUR.

Miss M. Murray F.S.A. resumed the excavation of Borg-In-Nadur from the beginning of August to the middle of September 1923. A good portion of the mound was cleared and more walls of absidal rooms were discovered and a great amount of potsherds were unearthed. The sherds were mostly of the Maltese Bronze Age type, but some good bits of the Stone Age were met with. The site was not completely worked out and no general conclusions can be drawn at the present state of the research. Miss Murray has published a volume giving an account of her excavations of some of the minor ruins such as tal-Bakkari and Santa Sfia and of her first campaign at Borg-Innadur. The volume, which is profusely illustrated, shows the chief characteristics of the Borg-Innadur remains and of the pottery so far met with. A second volume on the same subject is in course of preparation.

##### HAGIAR KIM.

2. From the debris of Hagiar Kim a very interesting neolithic object was obtained. It is a small baked clay statuette consisting of the head and neck of a figure with the face damaged but bearing on the sides a pair of horns twisted twice round the ears. It is not clear whether a human figure or that of a ram was meant by the artist, but one is more inclined to see a human than an animal figure. The statuette is 43 m. m. height with an elongated base of 35 m. m. It is of a polished ware of a fawn colour, hard burnished, well baked and made of a selected clay as the well-known Maltese neolithic ware.

##### TA HAGRAT.

3. A very interesting mound exists at Mgar to the south of the new Government School, in a field called "ta Hagrat". Large coralline limestone blocks emerge from the mound and, in the middle, the remain of a fine trilithon with jambs broken at the top, are still standing and a magnificent lintel lies reversed on the floor.

4. Pending the acquisition of the site by the Government a preliminary investigation was conducted. Mr. G.G. Sinclair A.M.I.C.E., undertook to superintend

the excavations at Mgar and he was constantly in attendance from about the middle of August to the beginning of September 1923. His cooperation was invaluable as he trained the workmen to a careful handling of the material so that no important object should be lost. The Reverend Edgar Salomone of Mgar lent also his valuable cooperation.

5. The site is badly disturbed and smashed all over; the owner of the field recounts with great "gusto" how he had, twenty years ago, broken to bits an extensive megalithic ruin using the stones to build a house; the cartloads of pottery picked up from the field he pounded and turned into rain proof material, (deffun) to cover the roof of the house. To avoid further delapidations I proposed to the Government that the site and what remained of the monument should be acquired, and started at once preliminary investigations. About a month digging with a few men brought to light a great mass of potsberds, flints, cherts, stone implements, &c., which make a valuable addition to our prehistoric collection. The pottery is all of the typical Maltese neolithic type, well made, well finished and well baked. Nearly all the types of Hal Tarxien and Hallsaflieni were met with.

6. The most interesting object found, so far, at Mgar, is a small model of a megalithic building. The model is oval and made of soft local globigerina limestone. It is 47 m.m. in length 33 m.m. in height. It represents a building made of slabs on end with pillars between them. The entrance is through a trilithon with a high sill built across it. Eight horizontal slabs roof the building.

7. Considering in what a dilapidated state megalithic ruins are usually found, the discovery of a contemporary model throws floods of light on the questions of these prehistoric buildings. Fragments of original models of megalithic buildings were found at Tarxien in 1916, and the small model of Mgar enriches this important series.

8. Other important objects found are:— a number of well finished flint and obsidian implements, a clay figurine 40 m.m. long representing a cow, and a circular clay disk slightly embossed in the centre, 45 m.m. in diameter.

It is hoped that the Mgar excavations will be taken in hand once more in the near future.

#### RUINS AT TA MARZIENA—Gozo.

9. A very interesting megalithic ruin was pointed out to me by Mr. Carmelo Rizzo, the Civil Engineer, on the 18th August, 1923. It is an extensive ruin with megalithic stading to form an entrance or with a deep apse to the right and remains of huge walls all round. The site is to the S.W. of Victoria in a field known as «Ix-xaghra ta Marziena». Neolithic sherds of the usual Maltese type were picked up from the surface of the field. The site is well worth protecting and eventually excavating.

#### RUINS AT LUKA. IT-TUMBATA.

10. Another interesting prehistoric ruin I visited with Mr. C. Rizzo on the 5th January, 1924, to the S. W. of Casal Luka, in a field known as «It-Tumbata». The field is surrounded by huge megalithic slabs and at a certain point a gateway is still standing made up of two uprights about 2.7 metres high. It is a site which being covered with about 2 m. of soil in an out of the way place, may yield important material from an archaeological point of view.

#### Phœnician remains.

11. Of the Phœnician period we have, practically, nothing but the rock-cut tombs and these are only met with accidentally when fields are worked deeply or when, in the course of building operations, the rock surface is laid bare.

#### VICTORIA—Gozo.

12. An early burial site enclosed by large boulders was accidentally discovered on the south side of Strada Corsa, at Victoria Gozo, in the course of widening the road near Villa Rundle in August, 1923. Under about 1 metre of the field surface a circle of boulders, with a diameter of about 9 m. was found; the boulders, not in any way squared, measuring about 1 m. in diameter. In the middle of the circle, half covered by a large stone slab was a heap of human bones mixed with fragments of rough clay



vessels. The pottery, hopelessly broken, was originally of the usual type of funerary ware of about the 5th century B. C., viz: plates, water jugs and ointment vessels.

#### TOMB AT XLENDI.

13. On the southern cliff overlooking the Xlendi creek, a rock tomb of a pre-Christian type was accidentally discovered last year but left untouched. I had it opened once more on the 18th August, 1923, in order to be able to examine it and survey it. Water and mud had found their way for centuries so that the contents of the grave were smothered in a fine clayey soil which had to be carefully cleared out.

The tomb consisted of a large quadrangular cave with a flat roof, 2.44 m. in length and about as much wide and 1.23 m. high. It had a square entrance 16 cms. high with an arched lintel made of a slab carefully laid across. The tomb is practically cut in the vertical face of the rock a few feet under the surface so that the entrance is at the bottom of a small square pit sunk about a meter below the surface.

A characteristic feature of this tomb is that at the back of the same a sarcophagus 60 cms. wide, and about 26 cms. high, is built with slabs on end and covered with three slabs 1 m., 68 cms. and 15 cms. long, respectively.

Two skulls and other human bones were found within the sarcophagus, and three skulls and other bones on the cover of the same. The fragments of pottery obtained were of the ordinary clay variety, plain and typical of the Punic funerary ware.

#### MTARFA TOMBS.

14. In the course of clearing the ground for building operations, several rock-cut tombs were met with on the Mtarfa plateau to the West of the Military Hospital. On the 6th November, 1923, a circular pit in the shape of a silos was broken into. The pit, about 1.50 m. deep, had an original circular opening 40 cms. in diameter. The sides were concave and the flat bottom practically circular with a diameter of 3.20 m. In the centre of the floor, in correspondence with the entrance, there was a prominence of the rock about 30 cms. in diameter and 10 cms. high. The pit was full of stones and soil but fragments of human bones and of a coarse funerary pottery were met with.

15. A similar pit was met with at a small distance from the one just described. It was surveyed on the 13th November and found to measure 1.20 m. in depth, as much across the bottom, and 45 cms. at the entrance. It was full of stones and soil with small fragments of pottery.

16. On the 27th November a rock-cut tomb of an unusual form was cut through at Mtarfa. A circular hole 76 cms. in diameter was all that was visible on the rock surface. A bell shaped cavity followed, 1.50 m. deep, with a flat round bottom 1.70 m. in diameter. One of the sides of the silos was pierced and gave entrance to a chamber 1 m. deep and 1.82 wide, with a flat floor and a sloping ceiling ending gradually in a concave wall. Two steps, one 7.5 cms. and the other 23 cms. high, lead up to this chamber. Only fragments of human bones and of pottery were found, the place being filled up with stones and field soil.

17. To the north of the last described tomb another one was discovered on the same day. It was an early rock-cut tomb with a full sized forecourt, circular at the bottom and square close to the surface. It measured 1.5 m. across and was 1.5 m. deep. Flush with the bottom, the funeral chamber was cut in the South West side, with a square mouth 71 cms. high. Beyond the threshold, to the whole width of the entrance, a trench 45 cms. deep and 40 cms. wide extended to the whole width of the chamber. The floor beyond this was 1.12 m. wide and 1.60 m. long. The height of the chamber was 86 cms. at the entrance but this went on decreasing as the ceiling met gradually the wall at the back, forming a graceful curve. This tomb was completely rifled and full of stones and rubbish.

18. Another peculiarly shaped rock tomb was broken into on the Marfa hill on the 31st March, 1924. The shaft could not be examined as it lay under a large heap of stones. The chamber was well cut and had slightly concave walls all round. A deep trench beyond the square entrance had a ledge on the right side with a cup-like circular depression 18 cms. in diameter in which a round bottomed jar was standing. Beyond the trench, 48 cms. wide and 45 cms. deep, was the floor of the chamber 96 cms. wide and 2 m. long on which the skeleton of an adult man was laid with the

*Mtarfa*



head to the south-east. The ceiling was flat and flush with the upper part of the square entrance, 78 cms. above the floor. All together it was a carefully cut tomb. Besides the jar, a large thick bylichnes lamp of the early Phoenician pattern, a deep saucer of red clay, and fragments of some copper objects such as earrings, rings, and a small medallion, were obtained by carefully sifting the few centimetres of soil that covered the burial.

#### TOMBS AT HAL-BAJJADA.

20. During the month of April 1923, two double chambered tombs met with at Hal Bajjada to the west of Saint Paul's Catacombs, were cleared and surveyed. They were both completely rifled and full of stones and soil. They were about 4 m. distant from each other and consisted of a rectangular shaft with a rectangular chamber at each end of the shaft.

One of them, which lay in a N. N. W direction, had a shaft 2 m. long, 60 m. wide and 1.80 m. deep. The chambers, 2 m. long and 1.5 m. wide, had an oblong pit in the middle of the floor, the ceiling 90 cms. high at the entrance, come down to meet the floor in a graceful curve.

The second tomb had a N. E. direction with a shaft 1.82 m. deep, 2.36 m. long and 73 cms. wide. The two funeral chambers were in all similar to those just described. From the second tomb, 5 flat bylichnes lamps of a late type, 1 clay plate, a wide mouthed one handled jar and a small jug were picked out from the rubbish.

#### TOMBS AT TAL HERR.

21. A double chambered rock-cut tomb of an early Phoenician type was broken into accidentally whilst digging two modern graves in the Addolorata Cemetery (Tal Herr) Section Q. Compartment H. On the 10th January, the tombs were examined and surveyed. The common shaft could not be reached but both chambers were still sealed by a slab on end at the entrance.

Both the chambers were semicircular with a trench at right angles to the entrance and immediately beyond it. They were 1.80 m. long and 98 cms. high at the entrance; the walls curved to meet the ceiling in a flat curve. One of the chambers contained the crumbled remains of a female adult skeleton. The furniture was mostly broken and consisted in a round bodied clay jar, a clay enochae with trefoil lip and two plates. Six small blue glass beads were obtained by sifting the layer of dust collected at the bottom.

The other chamber contained the decayed remains of an old man. The furniture was in all equal to that found in the other chamber with the addition of a heavy large bylichnes lamp.

The interest of these tombs is considerable as they contained only one burial and were untouched since their use about eight centuries ago. They taught us which was the minimum funeral furniture deposited with each body, at that time, viz: two plates, one jar, one amphora and one lamp. It was queer that no lamp was laid with the body of the woman who had, however, beads buried with her.

#### ROCK TOMBS AT SAINT PAUL'S BAY.

22. Two rocks were found on the main road of Saint Paul's Bay whilst digging for the foundation of houses. They were inspected and surveyed on the 28th. July 1923. The rock being soft and clayey the outlines of the shafts were very indistinct and one of the chambers was hopelessly broken. The chamber measured was rectangular, 1.80 m. long by 60 cms. wide. It contained the remains of at least six persons mixed up with the soil. Pottery of the late Punic period was obtained but most of the tomb furniture must have been rifled or broken to fragments. The pottery consisted of a large one handled amphora, a water jug, cinerary urns, plates, saucers, aryballi and glass unguentaria.

## REPTILES.

- (i) Several specimens of Maltese Lizards, (*Lacerta muralis*, Laur. var.).
- (ii) One Lizard (*Lacerta muralis*, Laur. var. *serpa*), 1 skink (*Calcides ocellatus*, Forsk.) and one Toad (*Bufo vulgaris*, Laur.) collected on the Islet of Capopassero, Sicily, in 1923.

## FISHES.

- (i) A *Pompilus* (*Centrolophus pompilus* Cuv.).
- (ii) Three young specimens of *Sargus fasciatus*, Cuv.
- (iii) A Sunfish (*Ortagoriscus mola*, L.), 34½ inches long and another specimen of the same species 17 inches in length.

The *Pompilus* is the first specimen obtained for the Museum. The *Sargus fasciatus* is of rare occurrence in our waters whilst the Sunfish besides being rather rare is also very difficult to take. Plaster casts of both the specimens of the Sunfish have been made.

## MOLLUSCA.

- (i) A large series of land shells collected within the Province of Syracuse in the Autumn of 1923.
- (ii) Extensive material has been obtained from dredgings carried out in our waters. The more important species found amongst this material are the following, viz:—

*Bittium reticulatum*, var.

*B. exiguum*, Dantz.

*Turbonella striatula*, L.

*Lepthothyre sanguinea*.

*Atys jeffreysi*, Wkff.

*Volvula acuminata*, Burg.

*Caecum trachea*, Mont.

*Gibbula rachetti*, Payr.

*Ocinabra edwardsii*, Payr. var.

*Rissoa cancellata*, da Costa.

*R. lineata*, Risso.

*Cardium traversale*, Desh.

- (iii) Specimens of *Carinaria mediterranea*, Lam. and of *Pterotrachea coronata*, Forsk. preserved in alcohol, collected at Marsascala.

## CRUSTACEA.

- (i) Four *Squilla mantis*, Rond. mounted dry.
- (ii) Three very fine specimens of *Scyllarus arctus*, Fabr. mounted dry.
- (iii) One *Peneus caramote*, Desm. preserved in alcohol.

## ECHINODERMS.

- The following additions to this collection are all specimens preserved in alcohol:—

*Antedon roscea*, Norm.

*Amphiura squamata*, Sars.

*Asterias tenuispina*, Lam.

*Asterina pancerii*, Gasco.

*Astropecten bispinosus*, Mull. Tr.

*A. pentacanthus*, Mull. Tr.

*A. squamatus*, Mull. Tr.

*Chaetaster longipes*, Mull. Tr.

*Ophiacantha setosa*, Mull. Tr.

*Ophidiaster attenuatus*, Gray.

*O. ophidianus*, L. Ag.

*Ophiomyxa pentagona*, Mull. Tr.

*Ophiospila arenea*, Forbs.

*Palmipes membranaceus cordatum*, Gray.

*Echinus acutus*, Lam.

*Sphaerechinus granularis*, Ag.

*Cucumaria plancii*, Brdt.

*C. syracusana*, Sars.

*C. tergestina*, Sars.

*Holotura forskalii*, D. Ch.

*H. impatiens*, Forsk.

*H. poli*, D. Ch.

*H. sanctori*, D. Ch.

*H. tubulosa*, Gml.

*Phyllophorus granulatus*, Grube.

*P. urna*, Grube.

*Synapta inhaerens*, Dub. et Kor.

## PALEONTOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

- (i) A fine collection of tertiary fossils consisting of Mollusca, Brachyopoda and few remains of a Cetacean? from the sand strata at Kammieh.

1923

*Trigona  
owner  
the field*

### Roman Period.

23. In November 1923, it was reported that a man was quarrying stones in a field near Birricca in the district known as «Tal Hereb» between Zeitun and the Tas-Silg chapel. The site, inspected on the 23rd November, was found to be a large field planted with vines in which the foundations of a large house could be seen about 1 m. under the surface of the field. Ashlar masonry, forming two walls at right angles to each other, had been uncovered, the stones measuring from 1.5 m. to 2.7 m. with a height of 76 cms. The farmer who had cleared the field to get down to the masonry, found in the soil fragments of fluted columns, and a great quantity of potsherds of the Roman type, all the remains are mostly of household articles, pans, plates, amphora, water and wine jugs etc.

One of the big amphorae was stamped in relief at the handle with the Roman letters MENODO. The inscription is 45 mm. long and 15 mm. wide.

As nothing but the foundations of a house had been left in this site it is doubtful whether it is worth while to dig up the remaining part of the field. The district, however, is full of relics of an early settlement and if time and money allow one would find it interesting to make trial trenches in the neighbouring fields, especially nearer the top of the hill where Roman pavements are visible at the edge of a field close to the public road.

### EXCAVATIONS AT RABAT.

24. The excavations at Rabat to the north of the Roman Villa Museum were taken in hand under the care of Professor R. V. Galea I.L.S. & A. who for about two months acted for the Director, away on duty from the Island. Mr. Louis Upton Way F.A.S. undertook to superintend the excavations and to bear portion of the cost; he arrived here in June and left about the middle of July. His constant attendance on the ground was of great help, for he made notes of the slightest details during the work and checked the workmen who are apt to be careless when not watched. It is unfortunate that the result of the excavations was meagre this year when provisions were made for a careful investigation. The clearing of the soil at the end of the ground to the north was a slow and costly process for the soil was as hard as concrete and only a few walls were found standing, the rest having been carted away probably before the 10th Century. The system of rooms, passages and wells were apparently the work of the 3rd and 4th centuries when small dwellings were erected at the outskirts of the Roman palace. The walls of the buildings are constructed of stone of various sizes piled up anyhow, the whole being afterwards covered with a thick layer of mortar carefully smoothed and sometimes pointed. The stones were mostly taken from ruins, for they are very often weatherworm.

Several water tanks were found and cleared to the bottom and two wells of a depth of about 30 feet were found to be still in good condition with water flowing at the bottom over the layer of blue clay which outcrops in the district.

The amount of potsherds was astonishing. Cartloads of them were extracted every day, but very few whole objects were recovered. Every bit showing some particular feature was retained. The most important objects recovered during the year were a number of Roman lamps some of them bearing the potter's mark. The marks Q. MARCI, LUCANI were clearly visible on several lamps.

### Objects sent to the Wembley Exhibition.

The following objects were sent to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley:—

#### PREHISTORIC.

- 4 models to scale (1/30) of the megalithic ruins of:— 1 Hagiar Kim; 2 Mischra; 3 Gigantia; 4 Hal-Tarxien.
- 14 plaster casts of decorations in relief from Hal-Tarxien temples.
- 8 plaster casts of neolithic statuettes from Hagiar Kim and Tarxien.
- 7 conical and other stones from Tarxien.
- 9 boards on which prehistoric potsherds, flint and obsidian implements, from neolithic sites, were mounted.



## PHOENICIAN.

- Casts of Phoenician inscriptions found in the Maltese Islands, mounted on a board.
- Photo of the cippus showing the Phoenician inscription, 1a. Melitensis of the Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum,
- 3 wooden models, to scale, of rock tombs made under the direction of Mr. P. F. Bellanti,
- 10 cinerary urns and 37 funerary vessels from rock tombs in Malta.
- 11 Clay bilychnes lamps mounted on two boards.

## ROMAN AND EARLY CHRISTIAN.

- 29 funerary clay and glass vessels from tombs.
- 9 clay lamps mounted on a board.
- 9 pieces mosaic work and marble slabs.
- 1 plaster cast of a funerary slab.

Besides these objects, 30 framed photographs of interesting sites were sent, one embroidered collar case, one section of a War vessel of the Order, one portrait of Grand Master Pinto, one portrait of a lady by Zahra, and four oil painting of galleys of the Order.

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## 26. The following objects were presented to the Museum:—

- General de Brezò—Russian Military Cross of Saint George,
- Angelo Galea, Esq.—5s. postage stamp of Malta (Green and red on yellow).
- Capt. G. E. Wardle, D.S.O., R.N.,—£1 note of 1914.
- Emmanuele Xerri, Esq.—1 manuscript (Grammatica Araba).
- Carmelo Micallef, Esq., B.E.A.,—44 beads found in a broken bowl at Rabat.
- Miss Mary Bonavia—one old silver spoon.
- Mrs. A. M. Galea—one old silk embroidered swaddling band.
- P. Farrugia Gay—one old velvet waistcoat and a warrant of Jurat issued to P. Debono.

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## 27. List of objects acquired for the Museum:—

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Six coins.                                | Set of photos from British Museum.                     |
| One silk old baby's swaddling band.       | One old marble slab.                                   |
| One book of sketches.                     | One old marble mortar.                                 |
| Three wooden measures.                    | One old painting by Zahra representing a Maltese lady. |
| Thirteen prints.                          | One stone coat of arms.                                |
| Nine books.                               | One cast and model of a fish.                          |
| One balance pan with Turkish inscription. | Two antique figures.                                   |
| One frame with old picture of Malta.      |  |

... ..

28. During the year, 6,702 visited the Valletta Museum, of whom 5,569 on Sundays, 195 on Saturdays, and 938 on other week days.

TEM. ZAMMIT.

Director of Museum.

## APPENDIX A.

## Report of the Curator of the Mineralogical Section.

THE MUSEUM.

Valletta, 16th July, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that since the reorganization of the Museum Department my geological collection has been transported to the new premises (Auberge d'Italie) and that I have all the time been occupied in the classification of the specimens for the compilation of a catalogue.

2. The specimens will be exhibited to the public as soon as the new showcases are ready. In the meanwhile the collection has been increased by 183 specimens, viz:—

A—80 specimens of minerals for the students' collection.

B—1 piece of fine red agate and 1 piece agatized wood presented by Angelo Galea, Esq.

C—3 stalactites from a recently discovered cave at Gibraltar, at present closed to the public, presented by Mrs. Bower.

D—1 triple geode presented by Mr. Azzopardi of Gozo.

E—10 pieces of local stone, 1 piece Egyptian sienite, 1 nodule, 2 ammonites and 1 shark's tooth in matrix presented by the Honourable Professor T. Zammit.

F—24 pebbles from Gozo presented by the Most Rev. Mons. Can. Marcello Agius.

G—7 pieces Italian marble (polished) presented by Mr. Edwin Vassallo, L.S. & A., M.L.A.

H—45 fossil shells presented by Mr. E. Scerri of Valletta.

I—3 pieces of Sudan granite and two pieces of Maltese calcite presented by Professor Alex. Sultana, M.D.

I have &amp;c.,

LEWIS F. MIZZI,

Curator of the Mineralogical Section.

The Director of the Museum.

## APPENDIX B.

## Report of the Curator of the Art Section.

THE MUSEUM.

22nd July, 1924.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 16th instant re: the Annual Report of the Museum, I beg to state that, since January last, when I reported to you on the subject, no remarkable changes have occurred and the section under my charge has yet to be shaped. I have nothing to report for the period April 1923-March 1924. As soon as the premises are finished with door and window frames and iron rods for the hanging of pictures &c., I will earnestly begin to fulfil my task. Some paintings have accrued to the Museum, and steps have been taken to remove to the Auberge d'Italie those pictures, that are worth showing in the Museum, now held in other Government Departments. Herewith a detailed list of the pictures and other works of Art accrued to the Museum within the last 12 months. viz:—



A fine portrait in oils of an old Maltese Lady by the Maltese artist Francesco Zahra. Early XVIIIth Century.

Three oil paintings representing (a) Sacred subject, (b) a Portrait, (c) Still Life, acquired by the right of preemption from a sale at the Pinto Stores, Marina. The big Still Life, is a fine specimen of early XVII Century Italian Art.

Two wooden statuettes in their original "graffito"; late XVI Century Italian Art. Very probably these wooden figures belonged to the Ricasoli Chapel, and along with two other similar statuettes, still in possession of that Chapel, formed a "Presepio". The Bambino only is now missing. These were bought from an Auction Room.

Three small tempera sketches of sea fights of the Order; two small wax busts portraits, local, early XIX Century, and a small plaster bas-relief portrait on a slate slab, of G. M. Pinto, acquired from a sale by auction.

As to the pictures removed from other Government buildings to the Auberge d'Italie, a few weeks ago, two were taken from the Orphan Asylum. They represent the Incredulity of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Baptism of Our Lord and are fine specimens of Mattia Preti's art. As many works of Art were previously removed from various Departments since my appointment as Inspector of National Works of Art, very few objects worth showing in a public Art Collection can still be carried off from these Departments. Only the Poor House, the Collegio, the Public Works, and Public Health Departments may still furnish a few pictures.

I have &c.,

VINCENZO BONELLO.

The Director of the Museum.

## APPENDIX C.

### Report of the Curator of the Natural History Section.

THE MUSEUM.

Natural History Section,  
Valletta, 23rd August 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that since my appointment as Curator of the Natural History Section of the Museum the collections under my charge have been enriched by the following items:—

#### BIRDS.

- (i) Twenty-six specimens presented by Chev. William Gollcher from the collection of the late Captain Strickland. The more important amongst these are:— A Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*, Pall.), a bird of rare occurrence in these Islands, and a Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*, L.), a mere straggler to our shores. The latter specimen was taken by the late Mr. Alex. Cachia Zammit at Marsascirocco on the 23rd November 1861.
- (ii) Two Honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, L.), presented by Dr. Oloff Gollcher in the flesh and mounted by Mr. Alex Grech Ellul of Birchircara.



- (ii) A very fine collection of animal remains from a quarternary deposit in a fissure excavated by Mr. George Sinclair, C.E.

The most important amongst these are the following:— (a) *Equus asinus*; many teeth, limb bones (mostly broken), two phalanges, one calcaneum, one hoof and one caudal vertebra; (b) *cervus elaphus*, var. *barbarus*: many teeth, bits of jaws, limb bones, vertebrae, calcaneums, astragali, phalanges, hoofs and bits of skulls and antlers; (c) *Canis vulpes*: many teeth, bits of jaws and few fragments of limb bones; (d) *Aves*: one proximal end of tibia, one distal end of tibia and one distal end of ulna. (Species not yet determined); (e) *Testudo graeca*? : Several bits of carapace; (f) *Mollusca*: many *Helix aspersa*, Mull.—Some *Macularia vermiculata*, Mull.—Few *Xerophila caruanae*, Kob.—Few *Rumina decollata*, R.—Two *Clausilia bidens*, L. and one *Cyclostoma melintense*, Sowb.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

The following publications dealing with our Natural History have appeared during the period under review, namely:—

- (i) Despott G. «Excavations at Ghar Dalam (Dalam Cave, Malta)» Journ. Roy. Anthropol. Inst. Vol. LIII, 1923.
- (ii) Caton Thompson G. «Ghar Dalam» London, 1923.
- (iii) Despott G. «Cattura di una Tortora del Senegal, (*Turtur senegalensis*, L.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 1, 1923.
- (iv) Despott G. «*Lodola del becco curvo* (*Alaemon alaudipes*, Desf.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 1, 1923.
- (v) Despott G. «Il Succiacapre algerino (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*, Licht.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 1, 1923.
- (vi) Despott G. «Il cuculo del ciuffo (*Cuccystes glandarius*, L.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 1, 1923.
- (vii) Despott G. «L'Oca lombardella (*Anser albifrons*, Scop.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 6, 1923.
- (viii) Despott G. «Cattura di due Gruccioni egiziani (*Merops persicus*, Pall.) a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 2, 1923.
- (ix) Despott G. «Cattura di uccelli inannellati a Malta» Riv. It. d'Orn., Vol. VI, pt. 2, 1923.

The following is a list of Fossils from Corradino, Zebbug, Tal Herba Fissures and Ghar Dalam sent to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley and exhibited in the Scientific Section of the Malta Pavilion.

i.	Elephant	10 specimens mounted on five boards.
ii.	Elephant	1 specimen mounted in one glazed box.
iii.	Elephant	2 specimens unmounted.
iv.	Hippo	6 specimens mounted on two boards.
v.	Hippo	2 specimens unmounted.
vi.	Stag	13 specimens mounted on three boards.
vii.	Stag	18 specimens mounted in two glazed boxes.
viii.	Pig	2 specimens mounted on 1 board.
ix.	Wolf	1 specimen mounted in 1 glazed box.

XI

x.	Fox	21 specimens mounted in two glazed boxes.
xi.	Darmouse	13 specimens mounted in one glazed box.
xii.	Vole	34 specimens mounted in one glazed box.
xii.	Birds (var)	6 specimens mounted on one board.
xiv.	Birds (var)	26 specimens mounted in four glazed boxes.
xv.	Tortoise	67 specimens mounted on fourteen boards.
xvi.	Tortoise	26 specimens mounted in three glazed boxes.
xvii.	Toad	27 specimens mounted in one glazed box.
xviii.	Marine Shells	14 specimens mounted in three glazed boxes.
xix.	Land Shells	20 specimens mounted in two glazed boxes.

I have &c.,

G. DESPOTT,  
Curator.

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