

REPORTS
ON THE WORKING OF
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR
1924-25.

Published by Authority.



PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, MALTA.

1926.
[Price 2s.]

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THE MUSEUM.
Valletta, 24th July, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report concerning the working of the Museum Department for the financial year 1924-25.

I have &c.,

TEM. ZAMMIT,
Director.

The Honourable
The Minister for Public Instruction.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION.

PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

Great hopes were held last year that the megaliths discovered at Casal Luca in the field known as *Il-tumbata* would lead us to the ruins of a neolithic building. The site has been since acquired by the Government for the construction of a water reservoir and most of the field soil had to be removed in connection with the construction of the water-tank. The water works Engineer Mr. C. Rizzo gave me every facility to conduct my investigations. I had therefore great opportunities of inspecting the site and of making trial trenches.

My observations elicited the fact that there was once at *Il-tumbata* an extensive neolithic building of which the entrance is still standing at the northwest limit of the field, but during the process of making the field no stone was left standing. Fragments of neolithic pottery, of the same type met with in the other megalithic buildings of Malta and Gozo, were found all over the field. These sherds and the fragments of megaliths is all that remains of an important prehistoric site.

PHœNICIAN PERIOD.

Of the Phœnician period including, of course, the Punic or Carthaginian occupation, nothing but rock-cut graves remain, but those are very numerous all over the Island of Malta. They are met with much less frequently in Gozo.

Many of these graves were examined during the year.

THE EARLY TYPE OF GRAVE.

One of these graves was broken into accidentally in January 1925 whilst blasting rocks at Musta in a field known as *Ta Grandi*, in the district called *Ta Santa Margherita*. The Police promptly reported the fact to the Museum director who inspected the site repeatedly. The plan of the tomb was distinctly made out after clearing the debris caused by the blasting. A circular shaft, about 7 feet deep and 6 feet in diameter, preceded the chamber. The broken slab that sealed the entrance was still there and, to the north side and close to it, a cavity 1 foot 10 inches long and about 1 foot deep, contained the bones of a buried child.

The entrance was 2 ft. 5 in. wide and 15 inches deep on the northern, and 10 inches on the southern side. Immediately beyond the entrance a trench 1 foot 4 inches deep was cut across it. The floor of the chamber was oval in shape 5 feet long, 3 ft. 9 in. wide in the middle portion, 2 ft. 11 in. at the N.W. end and 2 feet at the other end. A shallow step on the Northern side appeared to have served the purpose of a head rest for the body. The direction of chamber and shaft was West by East the shaft being on the Eastern side.

Like the sides of the grave, everything within it was broken by the explosion. The collected fragments, however, showed that an adult body had been buried in that grave and that the following clay vessels were deposited during the burial: one oval jar 10 in. in diameter, and 5 in. at the mouth; one long jar $14\frac{1}{2}$ in high and 9 in. across the shoulders, two plates $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, one small jug with trefoil mouth, one thick lamp with two wicks and two middle sized jars of which the flat bottoms only could be found.

This rock-tomb was, certainly, one of the earliest known graves in Malta.

SILOS SHAPED GRAVES.

These graves are pretty common but have, so far, passed rather unobserved. One of them was broken into whilst quarrying stones at Imgiar to the N.E. of the Police Station. It was very clearly bell shaped, 5 feet deep with a circular bottom about 7 feet in diameter. Its mouth was oval and measured 1 ft. 11 in. by 1 ft. 8 in. It was cleared on the 4th December 1924. Being full of stones and red soil it took us some time to discover that in the concavity of half a clay amphora the bones of a young person were deposited.

One small clay flask, two deep saucers and fragments of a large dish and of a glass unguentarium were obtained from among the debris.

Another tomb of the same description came to light later on not far from the first one. It was full of soil and nothing but small fragments of the ordinary funerary pottery was obtained from it. The tomb was pear shaped 5 ft. deep, with a circular mouth about 2 feet in diameter. Below 2 feet of the entrance it opened up and ended in a slightly concave bottom about 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter.

On the 20th May 1924 another similar rock-tomb was broken into at Mtarfa whilst cutting a deep trench to lay a main sewer.

This silos was evidently used as an ossuary for not less than 27 skulls were found, most of them, of course, greatly damaged by dampness and pressure. Fragments of clay vessels were numerous but not one of them was whole. A thin copper ring 17 m.m. in diameter and a wire bracelet also of copper, 38 m.m. in diameter were obtained; a pair of tiny copper wire bracelets were still connected with the forearm bones of a child.

The jaw of a dog and that of a sheep were also found in the debris, but it was not possible to determine whether they were there by accident or by design. The tomb was 7 ft. deep with a circular bottom 7 ft. in diameter.

Not far from this tomb another one of the rectangular type was met with at Mtarfa on the 7th June 1924.

The funeral chamber, that was broken into accidentally, was 6 ft. 8 in. long and 6 ft. 6 in. wide with a deep trench parallel to the walls in the middle, 1 ft. 9 in. wide and about 1 ft. deep. Silt that had found its way in the chamber covered all the objects including four human skeletons, but otherwise everything remained undisturbed. The bones were so friable that they could not be handled but the following objects were obtained: one glass bowl 60 m.m. in diameter and 20 m.m. high, four clay two wicked lamps, 8, 6, 6 and 5 m.m. in diameter; 3 pairs of jugs with handle, each pair of a shape different from the others; the following were their measures:

1st pair—	height	140 m.m.,	width	100 m.m.,	neck	40 m.m.
2nd "	"	120 "	"	90 "	"	42 "
3rd "	"	115 "	"	42 "	"	32 "

10 clay saucers in good condition and two broken ones. The height of the saucers varied between 60 and 31 m.m. and their diameter between 152 and 110 m.m.

A bronze needle for knitting nets, 104 m.m. long, was also found.

ROCK-TOMBS AT HAL BAJJADA.

Two rock-tombs of the late Punic period were found rifled in a field at Hal Bajjada to the S.W. of the Catacombs. One of them was surveyed on the 23rd April 1924 and consisted of a rectangular shaft and a rectangular chamber. The shaft was 5 ft. 6 in. wide and 3 feet deep. Through a square entrance, 1 ft. 8 in. across, a funereal chamber was reached 6 ft. 9 in. long, 4 ft. 4 in. wide and 3 ft. high, with a flat ceiling and a trench along the whole floor 13 in. deep and 7 in. wide. Only a small clay ointment jar was found in the debris that filled this tomb throughout.

The second tomb was surveyed on the 31st January 1925. It was in all similar to the first one and was completely rifled and full of field soil.

TOMB IN VIA BOSCHETTO.

On the 18th October 1924 a rock tomb of the third Punic period was met with, whilst cutting rock for the foundation of a building. The tomb was full of stones and soil with which human bones and fragments of pottery were mixed. Four persons, at least, were buried in this tomb but ashed human bones were also present. Both shaft and chamber were rectangular and presented no peculiar features.

TOMB AT IX-XAGHRA TAL ISKOF.

A double rock tomb entered through a common rectangular shaft was found on the 13th January 1925 to the North of Boschetto on the rocky plateau known as "Ix-xaghra tal Iskof". The shaft provided with a narrow flight of steps on one of the sides, was 8 ft. 5 in. long, 4 ft. wide and 8 ft. 4 in. deep. The chamber to the West was 8 ft. 8 in. in long, 6 ft. 4 in. wide at the back and 4 ft. 10 in wide behind the entrance. It had a flat ceiling and was 4 feet high. No trench and no lampholes. The eastern chamber, as plain as the first one, was 6 ft. 8 in. long, 4 ft. wide and 4 feet high. Two human adult skulls and some bones were found in this chamber but no pottery. Both chambers and shaft were full of stones and field soil.

ROCK TOMB AT HAMRUN.

An interesting rock-tomb came to light at Hamrun in the garden of the male section of the Conservatorio Bugeja. Mr. Vincenzo Mercieca, who was directing some building operations there, reported at once the fact to the Director of the Museum and gave all possible help to have the tomb properly surveyed.

On the 20th February 1925 the chamber was cleared of the debris and surveyed by Prof. R. V. Galea who has always tried to help the Director in his difficult excursions. The shaft could not be got at as it was buried deep under the soil of the garden. The chamber was well cut and finished, it was rectangular in shape about 7 feet long and 8 feet across, with a height of 4 feet 3 inches. In the middle of the floor and parallel to the walls, a trench 3 feet 1 inch wide extended along the whole length of the chamber with a depth of 1 foot 6 inches on one side and 1 foot 2 inches on the other. This trench was flanked on both sides by a ledge of the rock, 2 feet 8 inches in width, on which the body was to be laid. At about one foot beyond the entrance a cylindrical pit about 1 foot in diameter was cut with a depth of 1 foot 10 inches.

A lamphole was found in the right wall behind the entrance and another one at the back about 2 feet above the floor.

The chamber was full of stones and soil and only fragments of pottery of no special importance were obtained which showed the tomb to be of a late period. Bones from the skeleton of an adult and from that of a young person were identified.

THE ROMAN VILLA AT RABAT.

The exploration of the ground to the north and to the south of the Roman Villa Museum was resumed during the year. For nearly two months (May 5th to June 27th) Mr. L. Upton Way, F.S.A. helped me by suprintending the work and by financing to a certain extent the excavation.

On the northern side, the ruins were cleared down to the rock when several rooms, a few pits, and some wells and water tanks could be uncovered and surveyed.

Most of the rooms appeared to be built of stones used in an earlier building as some of the stones were ill-assorted in the walls and other had been crumbling down before they were rebuilt. It is clear that the rooms to the north of the Roman house were of a later date, and quite independent of the Villa.

One of the minor houses had at least two stories for a flight of steps was still in situ.

A subterranean space, on the furthest end of the plateau may have been a natural cave patched up and utilized by the inhabitants but the roof had given way and nothing could be made out of the confused mass of stones and rubbish which had filled up the site. Fragments of common household pottery were abundant. Another cave which had all the appearance of an original Phoenician rock-tomb served the purpose of a cellar. It was, naturally, enlarged and conveniently arranged for use as a cellar but the primitive shape could not be mistaken.

A deep pit, greatly enlarged towards the bottom was found not far from this cave; it appears to have been used as a cesspit.

A couple of deep wells (about 30 feet deep) had been dug out to reach the clay layer and thus assure a constant supply of fresh water. Two large water tanks were also found provided with proper mouths and with terracotta pipes which led the rain water from the roofs.

This group of small houses must have belonged to the working classes and weavers must have been numerous if one had to judge by the great number of heavy stones found drilled at one end which were probably loom weights. At one time also a road was made to pass in front of these houses; this came down in a northwards direction at first and then turned to the east where it is lost now under the fortifications.

All these ruins are not very regularly distributed hence it is difficult to draw a plan of them, the Public Works Department however have promised to make such a plan which will in time be published for the information of the public.

Many objects, besides cartloads of common household pottery, mostly in minute fragments, were obtained during this excavation among the best being the following:

An elongated wine amphora, 92 cms. high and 31 cms. across the shoulders, with an inscription of 14 letters in two lines, written in black ink. This appears to be in early latin script but, so far, has not been deciphered.

Five hard stone balls of a diameter ranging from 180 to 85 cms. An almond shaped stone measuring 14 by 11 by 7 cms. has a small cross cut upon it.

Close to the mouth of a water tank a cracked jar 1 m. (3 feet) in height, stood in a corner. This was repaired and is now in the Museum.

A remarkably fine head of a marble statuette 12 cms. in height and 11 cms. at the base of the neck. It, probably, represents Pluto as it is fully bearded and has his head covered by the toga. It is a good work of the Hellenistic period of art.

The lower part of a draped statuette was found not far from the above mentioned head. It is of a semi-transparent marble 24 cms. high and 12 cms. across the base. It represents a lady of rank with an elaborate dress much more showy than the plain state of Roman matrons. This statuette is likewise the work of the hellenistic period of art.

A tiny bone rattle consisting of a flat thin body, the upper part of which makes the handle. A pair of flappers are to be attached, one on each side of the body, by cords fixed through a couple of holes. The toy is 9 cms. long, handle and all.

A triangular iron dagger or knife 17 cms. long and about 5 cms. at the base.

An iron spearhead 6 cms. long with a tang of 4 cms.

A fine copper ewer 18 cms. high with a spherical body 12 cms. in diameter, apparently of pre Roman art. It is well made and well preserved though covered with thick scales of oxidation.

Many coins were obtained from the debris; they were mostly defaced but the following could be made out.

Several Maltese coins of *Melitaion* type in fair condition.

One Maltese coin of the *Arruntanus Balbus* type.

One second brass of Maxentius

One second brass of Faustina

One second brass of Constantinus

One third brass of Constantinus Gallus

One third brass of Constantinus II

To the south of the Roman Villa Museum three trenches, about 60 ft. long and 10 ft. wide, were cut at right angles to the new portico and at a distance of about 6 ft. from it. This work started at the end of July took us to the end of the season.

Under a couple of feet below the road surface, Saracenic graves were met with in all the trenches. As usual these graves, about 6 ft. long, were built of small, roughly squared stones, usually covered with sawn limestone slabs. Their direction is invariably East to West, the head of the body being always to the west, the face turned to the south. No objects were found in any of the graves. Fragments of the usual long tombstones with a pyramidal section and with simple line decorations at each end were numerous.

About 100 such graves were met with. No Roman remains of set buildings were met with in the course of this excavation. At the end of the western trench, at a distance of 55 ft. from the front wall of the Museum two fluted pillars of coralline limestone stood on the rock surface at a distance of 5 ft. 10 in. from each other. One of the pillars was 4 ft. 7 in. high

and 1 ft. 6 in. in diameter the other, made of two portions, was 5 ft. 9 in. high. They were both at about 9 ft. under the surface of the road but were not in any way fixed nor had they a pedestal or a base; they were, evidently, carried there from some other place to support rafters or another wooden structure. A rectangular pillar on a high ledge of rock came up to their height in the vicinity and most have served the same purpose.

A pit 7 ft. 3 in. deep, ending in a sort of cave, was met with in the middle of the western trench. This was, evidently, a phoenician rocktomb for potsherds of the funereal type were found in it. In Roman days a wall was built across this pit in order to shore up the concave part of the cave.

Samian pottery was not plentiful in these trenches, one piece had the potter's mark SEX.M.F in planta pedis, another one the mark AMYR.F, also in planta pedis, the bottom of a small vase was stamped with the letters KX in a small circle and a Roman lamp was stamped with the letters . . CEND in a circle.

About thirty bone and ivory hairpins, about 10 cms long, were also found, several bodikins and needles and an ivory reel 4 cms long.

Although this years excavations did not yield startling results they have thrown light on the Roman House and its surroundings. Both the first century palace and the modest third century houses were a heap of ruins in the 9th century when the Saracens, who garrisoned the capital of the island, their holy Mdina, turned the waste land into a burial ground. Saracenic, Roman and Phoenician remains make a tangle of heterogeneous material which was further disarranged when the Knights of St. John built their works of defence around Notabile which had become the Città Vecchia when the Città Nuova of La Vallette was built.

Our excavations in the last three seasons have supplied us with a key to this archeological puzzle.

... ..

The following objects were presented to the Museum during the year.

The Hon. Superintendant of Public Works Department—one stone slab 49 by 44 cms., found in the cellar of the Opera House and probably removed from the building that was pulled down when the Opera House was built. It relates how this edifice was built in 1756 as a store for gunpowder for the use of the ships of the Order and of private parties, this material having, previously, been stored at Fort St. Angelo.

QUESTO EDIFICIO
FU COSTRUITO NEL 1756
PER CONSERVARE IN ESSO
LA POLVERE DELLE NAVI
DELLA SACRA RELIGIONE
E QUELLA DEI PARTICOLARI
CHE PRIMA SI DISPONEVA
AL CASTELLO SANT'ANGELO.

Mr. Thomas Vassallo—eight large wooden grain measures of the time of the Order of St. John.

Notaro C. Micallef de Caro—one old map by Gramignani.

Mr. Emmanuele Xerri—one square marble slab 33 X 33 cms. once, probably, fixed under a statue of St. Paul at Zurrigo.

S. PAULO APOSTOLO
MELIENSIS PATRI
SIMULACRUM HOC
IN PII GRATIQUE
ANIMI MONUMENTUM
ZURRICENSIS STATUERUNT
A.D. MDCCCXV.

6 prints by S. Busuttil (1823), one copy vol. 1 *Giornale Catolico intitolato la conversazione di Filoteo—del Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Fiteni—1841*, one old photo of Strada Reale, Valletta; 2 seals, one brass—*Consolato generale di Sardegna—Malta*, and one steel with a cross; one dozen filigree copper buttons; one miniature shilling, Queen Victoria.

Mr. Briffa Brincati—four manuscript sheets concerning D. Gaetano Mannarino and a zucchetto.

Mr. Henry Casolani, M.B.E.—one golden miniature of the knife used for cutting sugar cane in Queensland.

Rev. D. Gaetano Sammut—two prints by Mallia.

Mr. Santi Bisazza—two silver pennies 1845 and 1852.

Mr. Lorenzo Falzon—three old maps (America, Asia, Italy).

The following objects were acquired :

One framed parchment, grant of a pontifical cross to F. Dimech of Malta—1757; one lithograph by G. Calleja (Mons. Buttigieg); two old maps of Malta, one old book on artillery; three sketches of galleys of the Order; one glass pot with arms of Lascaris; two small majolica vases with arms of a knight; two small wax busts under glass shade; one portrait in relief of G. M. Pinto.

The Valletta Museum was visited by 5,363 persons of whom 4,245 free on Sundays, 121 on Saturdays and 997 on week days at full fees.

This is exclusive of hundreds of pupils of the Elementary and other schools who are allowed to visit the sites under the Department, free when under the direction of a responsible party. 743 persons visited, on payment, the Roman Villa Museum, 483 the Catacombs and 1382 the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. No record is kept of the people visiting Tarxien, Hagiär Kim and Mnajdra.

Reports of the Curators of the other sections are hereto appended.

TEM. ZAMMIT.

Director.

APPENDIX A.

Report of the Curator of the Mineralogical and Crystallographical Section.

THE MUSEUM,

9th June, 1925.

Sir,

Referring to my last report of the 16th July 1924, I beg to state, that there has been considerable progress in the exhibition of mineralogical specimens, as most of the showcases mentioned in that report have been made over to me. There are still six showcases to be filled, four of them, however, are ready and the remaining two are in hand.

When all the said showcases are ready they will be filled with the remaining exhibits that I have ready in store for them.

The collection has been increased by the following :—

DONATIONS.

1. Prof. the Hon. Dr. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D. LITT. (Oxon).

A quantity of minute white calcite crystals of two different forms (The smallest I have ever seen) found at Casal Tarxien.

2. Mrs. Ella Sydney Mizzi,

One specimen of very deep green serpentine, from Borostienecö, Hungary.

Twelve fossil mollusks (*Congeria triangularis* Partsch.) from Lake Balaton, Hungary.

One big fossil shell from Hungary.

3. G. Despott, Esq., M.B.E., C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c.

Thirtytwo specimens of different Sicilian Rocks, with their respective cases.

4. Prof. A. Sultana, M.D.

One fine fossil shell and one piece of oxide of manganese, of unknown origin.

One piece of Ittro-Tilanite of unknown origin and some iron black and yellow sand from Gozo.

5. E. Xerri, Esq.

One finely sculptured cup of yellow polished marble.

One black polished marble stand.

In all, 54 pieces.

I hope that within two months, all my specimens will be duly exhibited, so as to be able to number them and to be thereby enabled to start compiling the catalogue of this collection, the main materials of which are now ready.

I have &c.,

LRWIS F. MIZZI,

Curator of the Mineralogical
and Crystallographical Section.

The Director of the Museum.

APPENDIX B.

Report of the Curator of the Natural History Section.

THE MUSEUM,

24th June, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the financial year 1924-25.

During the month of May 1924 Miss G. Caton Thompson resumed the excavations at Ghar Dalam. These excavations have been commenced in the summer of 1922, and a detailed report was thereon published in 1923. Miss Thompson was the holder of a fund from the Sladen Trustees and had originally obtained permission to carry out excavations at Ghar Dalam, in view of these circumstances and also in view of the fact that she had expressly returned to Malta for the only purpose of continuing the work already begun she was allowed to resume her excavations; this time however, under the following conditions:

- a. The site to be selected and the work carried out in consultation with the Curator of the Natural History Section of the Museum.
- b. All the objects found to remain the property of the Museum, but the Curator will use his discretion as to what should be taken away to be examined by experts.
- c. The expenses connected with the research to be defrayed by the excavator.

The report on these excavations has not so far been published, but Miss Thompson has very kindly furnished the Museum with a typewritten copy.

The specimens found and not hitherto represented in the Museum's collection have been also returned, making thus a most interesting and valuable addition. They have been described by Miss Bate of the Geological Department of the British Museum. Miss Bate has, on several other occasions, offered her valuable help in the matter.

The specimens in question consist in the following:—

- i. Two mandibular rami of a shrew (*Crocidura* cf. *leucodon*). This is a very important find as it is the first time that the genus is recorded from our cave deposits. Though recently two species have been found living in these islands.
- ii. One mandibular ramus of a bat (*Rhinolophus* cf. *euryale*) also important for the same reason. This species is similar in many points to *R. clivosus* which Dr. Gulia gives as an occasional one amongst the recent bats of Malta.
- iii. Several imperfect skulls, mandibles and many limb bones of another bat (*Myotis oxygnatus*) from the superficial deposits of the cave. These specimens are more or less recent, but have not been collected before from the locality.
- iv. Portions of two metapodials and a digital phalange of a carnivorous animal the size of a small wolf. Remains of the wolf have already been met with in Ghar Dalam, but they belong to an animal of a larger size.
- v. One proximal phalange of a fox of a very small size.
- vi. Two mandibular rami of the long tailed field mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) also recorded for the first time from our quaternary deposits, it is also important to know that no species of the genus has been observed, so far, living in these islands.
- vii. One left femur of the Short eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) a species also for the first time recorded from the same deposits, though the bird occurs regularly on passage during both seasons and has also been known to breed here.
- viii. Proximal end of left humerus of the Sheldrake (*Tadorna cornuta*). Like the foregoing recorded for the first time from the same deposits. To-day this bird occurs rather sparingly and is more or less irregular in its visits to these islands.
- ix. Distal end of right humerus of the Carrion Crow* (*Corvus corone*) undoubtedly one of the most important and interesting additions not only because it has been recorded for the first time from our quaternary deposits, but also because the species does not figure today amongst the birds of Malta, and apparently has not even been met with yet in the region as far south as central Italy.
- x. One left ulna of the Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) recorded also for the first time from the same deposits. The species to-day is generally rare, and met with rather irregularly and at long intervals. In comparing the specimen in question with the corresponding bone of a recent bird, I notice it is remarkably smaller.

- xi. One left humerus of a Thrush, very near the Song Thrush (*Turdus musicus*).
- xii. Distal end of tibiotarsus of another species of the same genus, very closely allied to the Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). These last two species have not, apparently, been found before in these deposits.

Besides the above, the following are other important additions to the same collections. They were found in a fissure in proximity of Micabiba and have been already described and figured by Miss Bate in the proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.

- i. One right metacarpus of a swan (*Cygnus equitum*. Bate). As noted by Miss Bate, this bone is much shorter and stouter than the corresponding one in the ordinary swan or goose and must have belonged to a bird in which the power of flight had been considerably reduced.
 - ii. One proximal end of left humerus belonging to the same species.
 - iii. A right caracoid of same.
- 16 local fossil casts of lamellibranchia presented by Madam Gollcher.

MAMMALS.

A skeleton of a shrew from Gozo. This specimen together with another one, were very kindly sent by Messrs. Antonio and Giuseppe dei Conti Manduca. A specimen in alcohol has been sent to the British Museum for identification.

BIRDS.

The most important addition to the ornithological collection consists in the following:

- i. Two rooks picked up on the Valletta market. A fine adult male in December 1924 and a young female in March last.
- ii. A live specimen was presented by Mr. Ciancio, but as the bird had been kept for some time in confinement, and consequently its plumage was in a very deplorable condition, only some of its skeletal parts have been kept; these will serve for the Museum's reference collection.
- iii. A dead swan was sent by Prof. Borg the Superintendent of Agriculture from St. Antonio Gardens. The skeleton of this bird has been also prepared for the same collection.

REPTILES.

Various specimens of the Maltese lizard recently described as a new variety by Baron Fejervárý of the Royal Hungarian Museum.

Several eggs of these reptiles which have not so far figured in the Museum.

FISHES.

This collection is continually being enlarged, and many of the new additions have been prepared in the solution which retains very satisfactorily many of the natural colours. The most interesting addition, however, consists in a specimen of the Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) a species not hitherto represented in the collection.

Madam Gollcher presented also two stuffed specimens belonging to an exotic species.

MOLLUSCS.

From the dredging carried out by the Fisheries Department very interesting and copious material has been obtained.

The most important additions, however, consist in the following:—

- i. A very fine series of *Pecten opercularis*. Of this species only four dead specimens and a few valves had previously been obtained.
- ii. A new variety of *Murex edwardsii*, a *Trophon muricatus*, a *Calliostoma miliare*, a *Homostoma loprestianum* and a few *Rissoa indistincta*.
- iii. A collection of exotic shells and a few local ones formerly belonging to the late Chev. G. Gollcher, presented by Madame Gollcher. Amongst the local species may be mentioned two very fine specimens of *Spondylus gaederopus*, a species which is now only very occasionally met with in our waters and generally in small specimens.

CRUSTACEANS.

To this collections too, many specimens have been added, the most important however being:—

- i. One male specimen of *Lissa chiragra*; a species not represented before in the collection and so far considered very scarce in our waters.
- ii. A male specimen of *Herbastia condyliata*, another new addition and apparently much rarer than the foregoing.

CORALS AND SPONGES.

A fine collection of exotic and a few local species of corals, also a few local sponges, formerly belonging to the late Chev. G. Gollcher very kindly presented also by Madam Gollcher.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following are the publications regarding the Local Natural History, etc. which have appeared during the period under review and of which copies have been received:—

Stach G.—Eine alte Relectenform in der hentigen Apterigoten Fauna von Malta
Zugleich uber einige Collembolen dieser Insel und aus Tunis—in "*Annales Historico
Naturales Musei Nationales Hungarici*"—Vol. XXI pp. 105-130.

Despott G.—Passo straordinario del Tordo sassello (*Turdus iliacus* L.) a Malta (1922-23).
—in "*Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia*"—Anno settimo No. 1 pp. 20-21.

Fejerváry G. J.—Preliminary notes to a monograph of the lacertinean fauna of the
Maltese Islands, in "*Biologica Hungarica*"—Vol. I fasc. 5.

Keith A.—Neanderthal Man in Malta—in "*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*"
—Vol. LIX pp. 251-260.

Sinclair G. G.—Ghar Dalam and the Eurafrian land bridge—in "*Journal of the Royal
Anthropological Institute*"—Vol. LIX pp. 261-275.

Fejerváry G. J.—Über die Identität von *Lacerta muralis* Laur. var. *maltensis* Mert. und
var. *Despotti* Fejerv.—in "*Zoolog. Anzeiger Bd. 7/8 20.3.25. Akademische Verlags-
gesellschaft*"—pp. 177-180.

OBJECTS SENT TO WEMBLEY.

The paleontological specimens exhibited in the Malta Pavilion at Wembley have been
duly returned here in good condition.

I have the honour, &c.,

G. DESPOTT,
Curator.

The Director of the Museum.

APPENDIX C.

Report of the Curator of the Art Section.

THE MUSEUM—ART SECTION.

23rd July, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the collections under my charge have been increased by the following items :

PAINTINGS (Purchased).

- a) *St. Peter, Rome.* Interior with figures by Cesare Dies. Oils on canvas, 33 by 20½ in. Cesare Dies flourished in Rome in the second half of the XIXth Century.
- b) *A Rocky Landscape.* Flemish school, early XVIIth Century. Oils on panel, 24 by 18½ in.
- c) *A Mountainous Landscape.* By Richard Zimmermann. Oils on canvas, 24 by 19½ in. Richard Zimmermann (1820-1875) was born in Zittau, Saxony; his winter landscapes, forest and mountain views, became very popular in his time.
- d) *Rocks and Trees.* Attributed to Salvator Rosa (1615-1673). Oils on canvas, 25 by 18½ in.
- e) *Allegorical Subject.* Genoese school (?) early XVIIIth Century. Oils on canvas, 18 by 14 in. A lively bozzetto.
- f) *Portrait of a Child.* Italian school, XVth Century. Oils on canvas, 16½ by 13 in.
- g) *The Artist's Wife.* By Vincenzo Hyzler. Oils on canvas, 30 by 22 in. Vincenzo Hyzler (1813-1849) was a Maltese artist of great promise who died young.

SCULPTURE (Purchased).

- h) *Portrait (Queen Victoria?)* Marble bust, life size, signed: J. E. Jones, London 1856. J. E. Jones (1806-1862) was an architect who had great success as a sculptor; he was employed by many of the most distinguished persons of his time and had among his sitters the Queen and the Prince Consort, Louis-Philippe and Napoleon III. He excelled in busts and exhibited largely at the Royal Academy, from 1844 until his death.

I have &c.,

VINCENZO BONELLO.
Curator of the Art Section.

The Director of the Museum.