

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

## MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

DURING

1925-26.



MALTA  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1926.

# MALTA.

## Report on the working of the Museum Department for the year 1925-26.

THE MUSEUM,  
Valletta 6th. October, 1926.

Sir,  
I have the honour to submit the yearly reports of the Museum Department for the financial year 1925-1926.

I have &c.

THEM. ZAMMIT,  
Director.

The Honourable  
The Minister for Public Instruction.

### PREHISTORIC SITES.

The prehistoric site called *It-tumbata*, at C. Luca, which gave hopes of important discoveries proved a complete failure. The construction of a water reservoir at this point afforded us the means of examining the ground thoroughly, for in the course of clearing the surface for the reservoir we could make out observations without extra trouble or expense.

The upright blocks and the huge slabs on end on the N.W. side of the field showed the remains of an enormous enclosure of the Stone Age period, but on clearing the ground it was evident that in order to make an arable field all the stone walls beyond the entrance had been broken and swept away. Here and there traces of the building remain visible but otherwise the destruction was thorough and complete. The scanty soil that formed the field contained abundant fragments of neolithic pottery of the typical Maltese kind, plain and decorated, and this confirmed our surmise that an important building towered on the crest of that hill in the Stone Age.

### MGAR.

The clearing of the prehistoric site at *Ta Hajrat* at Mgar, Malta, was taken again in hand on the 18th. June, 1925. Mr. L. J. Upton Way, F.S.A. took charge of the excavation as I could only get there only in the afternoon when Mr. D. Colt and Professor R. V. Galea helped each in his way. Mr. Way and Mr. Colt, very kindly defrayed the transport expenses, which for such a distant place were considerable. Mr. Way, Mr. Colt and Professor Galea are hereby thanked for the help they gave on this and on other occasions. Mr. Way and Mr. Colt left Malta on the 5th. July, 1925.

The site was completely disorganized and much clearing of stones, big and small, was necessary before any part of the building could be made out with certainty. All the big stones that formed the outer walls and most of those that formed the inner walls had been dislocated and thrown down, spaces were filled up with loose stones and with soil and silt carried in by rain and wind covered the whole mass.

The site was evidently occupied originally by a neolithic population but was, later on, occupied by people who were familiar with a Bronze Age culture. Pottery of a Punic type was also found in the surface layers.

During this year's excavations circular enclosures, made of comparatively small stones, were found of which the pavement was made of beaten earth. At this horizon only Bronze Age potsherds were met with, but under some of the big stones and at the bottom of two pits, about 5 feet deep, typical Maltese neolithic pottery was found.

A patch of torba floor lying in front of a few large stones on the Eastern side of the mound was from 3 inches to 1 inch thick. In this, a circular depression was found, 15 inches wide and 4 inches deep at the centre. This floor does not continue under the stones which, evidently, had fallen from a higher place before the beaten earth pavement was made.

Under the circumstances, our work consisted mainly in collecting the potsherds that came up with the soil and examine attentively every bit. Several boxes were examined every day, the good bits were put aside and safely deposited in a room in the new school at Mgar, kindly placed at our disposal by the Honourable the Minister for Public Instruction.

The most important find of the year was a triangular handle of a vase made of the finest clay, of the usual neolithic type. It is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the base. The tapering end represents a ram's head with curved horns. Another curious object is a triangular hard stone very carefully worked and smoothed on all its surfaces. The base is straight,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and 6 inches thick. The height of the stone is 15 in.; it tapers to a smooth oval end, 3 in. below which it is pierced by an elliptical hole 7 in. long and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. high. The stone is very heavy and difficult to lift. Its object cannot be ascertained. A similar stone was met with during the excavations at Tarxien, and described in *Archeologia* 1917 at page 274. The slit at the apex shown in the Tarxien specimen is wanting in that of Mgiar.

#### CART-TRACKS.

A set of interesting cart-tracks were pointed out to me on the 18th. April, 1925, by Mr. F. Weston to the N.W. of the Dweira lines at Falca gap. The width of the tracks between their centre line is  $54\frac{1}{2}$  inches. An important fact observed on one of the pairs of ruts is that they are intercepted by the rectangular shaft of a rock-tomb as in the case of the Mtarfa cart-ruts. This shows that when the rock-tomb was cut (a few centuries B.C.) the cart-ruts were no longer in use.

#### PHOENICIAN AND PUNIC PERIOD.

##### ROCK TOMBS.

Many rock tombs were met with during the period under examination, most of them completely rifled but some of them broken accidentally or during the making of fields, contained still some of the furniture originally deposited with the dead. In many cases, our work was limited to the survey of the tomb. It is not always possible to preserve a tomb accidentally discovered, for either the foundation of a building is being laid or else the tomb is in a field and cannot be left open. Such tombs are however, so numerous with us that unless they show some peculiar features their filling up or their destruction cannot be objected to. These tombs are described here in the order of their discovery.

##### CASAL PAULA.

In connection with the new workmen's dwellings which are being constructed in the lands "Tal Borg" at C. Paula, three rock-cut tombs were discovered whilst clearing the bed-rock in September 1925. They are of the late Punic type and had been rifled long ago. In one of them a broken amphora was found and some human bones; nothing worth mentioning was found in the others. It was not thought worth while to preserve these tombs. They were, therefore, filled up with stones and earth and the building of the house was allowed to go on.

##### BAHRIA.

Mr. C. Cassar Torregiani informed me that in his lands at Bahria an old grave was discovered. He, very kindly, took me to inspect the same on the 22nd. October, 1925. I found that the farmers had, some time ago, come across a rock-tomb which they found open and full of stones and soil. A small terracotta saucer of a late Punic period was the only object met with among the debris.

The chamber of the tomb was hollowed out under the ledge of a rock and reached through a shallow shaft cut in the ground. Other rock-cut tombs were shown to me at other points. All these tombs are of the same period which cannot go beyond the third century B.C. There was no reason to have special care taken of these tombs. They had been there for centuries, and the farmers said they had no reasons to interfere with them.

##### RABAT.

On the 1st. May, the Police reported that workmen cutting stones for a limekiln at Il Bur to the S.W. of Rabat, broke into a rock-tomb. I inspected the site at once and surveyed the tombs that had been met with.

A rectangular shaft 6 feet long, 4 feet wide and about 6 feet deep, cut in an E.W. direction, had a rectangular chamber dug out at its eastern side. This chamber, 8 feet long, 5 feet wide, and about 3 feet high, was very plainly cut and showed no decoration. There were neither trenches nor ledges for the deposition of bodies. This tomb was found completely rifled. Whilst tapping on the southern wall of this chamber it was observed that it sounded hollow and one of the workmen, under orders of the tenant of the land, smashed the wall of a second chamber, which was originally



entered through another shaft to the south east of the first one. The shaft could not be reached but the chamber was entered from the gap made in its northern wall and surveyed.

It was a plain chamber like the first one, but cut at right angles to it and separated from the same by a few inches of rock. It was 8 feet long and 5 wide. Three skeletons were laid at full length and the following objects were deposited near the bones:— Two cinerary urns, 25 cms. high, covered each with a plate, one trefoil jug 30 cms. high, one deep saucer 83 mm. diameter, two thick lipped two-wicked lamps of a Phoenician type 10 cms. in diameter, and two clay unguentaria 9 and 7 cms. high, respectively. As the tombs were wantonly broken into and their contents disturbed, the lessee of the land, who ordered the breaking of the tomb, and the removal of the objects, was summoned for having contravened the Antiquities Act. The case was decided against him on the 6th. July, 1925, but he had applied on his behalf article 23 of the Criminal Laws as being his first offence. The objects were claimed by the owner of the land and they had to be delivered after being measured and photographed.

#### RABAT—LI MSIERAH TAN-NIGRET.

Fifteen tombs, on the rocky plateau called *Li Msierah tan-Nigret* were cleared and surveyed on the 30th. May, 1925. They had been known long ago but had never been properly surveyed. Plans and sections of the same are being prepared. The work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Way and Mr. Colt, Professor Galea giving technical advice all the time.

The same party proceeded to survey some tombs reported to have been met with whilst clearing a field at *Gnien Is-Sultan* to the North-East of Nigret. One of the graves was a bell-shaped silos of which the upper portion had been destroyed. The concave bottom of the silos was 6 feet 2 inches in diameter. Fragments of human bones and of ordinary funereal pottery were mixed up with the earth that filled it up.

An open rock-tomb, close by, was of the second period, that is having a rectangular shaft that led into a circular chamber. A large slab that sealed the entrance was still *in situ* but of the chamber only the walls and the floor remained. A raised platform, at right angles to the entrance, was meant to receive the body, and a deep trench was cut in front of the same. Although all these tombs were broken in the course of lowering the surface of the field they were not rifled and a quantity of pottery was found mixed with the earth that filled the gaping pit.

The following is a list of the tomb furniture obtained from the silos:— 3 lamps of a late Punic period, 2 aryballi, 6 plates, one small jar, 5 glass unguentaria.

From the broken tomb:— 5 trefoil-jugs of different size, 2 clay bottles, 3 glass unguentaria (broken), 5 Phoenician thick lipped lamps (bilychnes), 1 early Roman lamp, the bottom of a clay cinerary urn. This tomb was, evidently, of a much earlier date than the silos. In another silos, close by, an admixture of pottery, both old and comparatively modern, were found in the earth that filled it up. This comprised clay pots and plates, one Saracenic lamp with a yellow glaze and a small glass vessel of Roman manufacture.

#### TARXIEN.

In Strada Santa Maria, Tarxien, whilst cutting the rocky ground for the foundation of a factory, a rock tomb was discovered on the 27th. March, 1926. It happened that a second chamber, connected with the shaft of the first one, was met with on the 6th. of May; so that the two chambers had better be described together having formed part of the same system.

The shaft common to both tombs, cut in a N.W.—S.E direction, was 2 ft. 6 in. wide. The chamber to the north of it was 6 ft. 3 in. long and 2 ft. wide but, immediately to the left of the entrance, a vaulted recess was cut in the wall of the chamber, 3 ft. 8 in. wide. A shelf for the deposition of objects was cut at a height of about 1 foot from the ground. The height of this recess was 3 ft. 7 in. and its length 3 ft. 4 in. Another recess, 1 ft. 7 in. wide and only 3 in. deep, was cut on the right side.

The chamber was perfectly empty, a sign that it was discovered and cleared long ago.

The chamber, met with in May, was 6 ft. 2 in. in length and about 1 ft. 9 in. close to the entrance.

On the right side, however, a recess 3 ft. 8 in. wide and 5 ft. 3 in. long was cut in the wall. The end, close to the entrance was concave and had a kind of head-rest with two circular depressions in which the head of two bodies could be fitted.



On the left side, 2 ft. 2 in. away from the entrance, a chamber was dug in the wall, 6 ft. 5 in. long with a curved recess 2 ft. 6 in. deep. The width of the chamber was 2 ft. 11 in. and the height about 3 ft. Head rests for two persons were also cut out at the end of the recess.

Both chambers were found completely rifled.

The double tomb is of a very late period, very likely dating from the 1st. or 2nd. century A.D., just before the people took to the construction of catacombs. It is unfortunate that the dating could not be made clearer by the presence of tomb furniture.

#### ROMAN PERIOD.

##### ROMAN FARM-HOUSE AT FIDDIEN-LANDS "TAL GHASSIEU".

Remains of a building having been reported to exist in a field at Fiddien on the way to Mthaleb, on the 27th. May, 1925, I arranged to have the site examined. Mr. L. U. Way and Mr. D. Colt undertook to superintend the work.

A kind of raised platform existed in one of the fields, well squared stones cropped up here and there, a beaten earth floor appeared at different points close to the platform and potsherds of a Roman type were numerous.

Several trenches were cut where it was likely to meet the building, and to the S.W., we soon came across 20 feet of a rubble wall and a large block of well squared stone. At the depth of about 8 feet, fragments of marble and of pottery were still to be found but no trace of a pavement. It was only close to the platform that a concrete surface was struck which, however, did not extend over 6 square feet. Another concrete floor was found to the S.W. at a depth of 2½ feet and close to it masses of concrete with white bits of mosaic stuck in it.

As there was no hope of getting any more information by digging any further the work was stopped.

The discovery in that field of foundation stones, built rubble walls, concrete floors with traces of mosaic, pottery fragments of large amphorae, and other household utensils, bits of marble slabs, lozenge-shaped clay tiles and remains of marble pavements, showed that a building of the Roman period, probably an important farmhouse, flourished in the early centuries A.D. The thorough destruction of the site in the course of making an arable field has practically rooted out the building so as to render even the making out of the ground plan impossible.

The only coin recovered was a third brass of the Emperor Claudius II (Gothicus) 268-270.

##### REMAINS OF A BUILDING, PROBABLY ROMAN, CLOSE TO BUR-MARROD.

Whilst working the field, somewhat more deeply than usual, the tenant of the lands "Ta Diar id-dwieb", in the field called "Il Wilgia ta fuk il Wied", came across large foundation stones and portions of buried walls. The Rev. Mgr. V. Bugeja, who owns the lands reported the fact to me on the 29th. September, 1925, and very kindly took me to inspect the site on the 9th. October.

The tenant agreed to continue to clear the walls under my supervision but after some time it became evident that there was no hope of getting much information about a building which was demolished centuries ago and of which most of the foundation stones were carried away. Sherds of the Roman period could be picked up everywhere but nothing special that could throw light on the building or the date in which it flourished.

The site should be, however, kept in mind for possible later developments. The field is to the left of the road that from Naxaro leads to Saint Paul's Bay, a few hundred yards before one gets to the farmhouse known as "Ir-Razzett ta Diar Id-dwieb". Crossing the road to the S.E. close to the field, is the path called "Li Skak tal Latmia" and the same path runs to the N.W. as the "Skak tal Mkarkaia".

##### ROMAN VILLA—RABAT.

Before the construction of the new façade of the Roman Villa Museum was completed it was imperative that the ground to the S.E. of the Museum should be thoroughly excavated.

On the 20th. April, one large trench 57 feet long and 11 feet wide was opened. At a distance of 8 ft. 8 in. from the last step of the new portico, what appeared to be the pediment of a statue was discovered. Half of the block was wanting but the whole, originally, stood on a platform 5 ft. 9 in. long, 4 ft. 6 in. wide and 1 foot 10 in. high. A second trench to the east of the first one was opened on the 25th. April; it was

Cases 16, 17, 18 and 19. These cases are still empty and will serve for newly acquired material obtained from other local quaternary deposits.

Case 20. Elephant remains collected by A. Leith Adams, M.B., F.R.S., F.G.S., from "il Mghalak" (district of Krendi) in 1851. The collection is labelled "Coll. Adams".

Case 21. Other elephant remains collected by A. A. Caruana Esq., D.D., from a fissure at "ta Gandia" (District of Micabiba) in 1863. The collection is labelled "Coll. Caruana". An Elephant's molar discovered in 1857 and presented by Dr. Spiteri is also exhibited in this case. It is said that this specimen gave rise to the research for fossil elephants remains in Malta.

Case 22. Remains of Hippopotamus found from "Ilalk is-sigiar" in 1858 and remains of Elephant from a fissure at Xantin found in 1870. All the material was collected by A. A. Caruana Esq., D.D., and it is now labelled "Coll. Caruana".

A few of the specimens belonging to the last named collection have not yet been exhibited for lack of proper accommodation.

Cases 23 to 30. Fossil remains casts of citaceans reptiles and fishes from the tertiary strata of these islands. Unfortunately most of the specimens in this collection bear no data whatsoever and most of them still lack identification. It is hoped, however, that steps for their identification, will be taken in due course.

Cases 31 to 33. Fossil remains and casts of mollusca crustacea &c. as well as fossil teeth of sharks from the same strata. Like the specimens in cases 23 to 30 these also lack the necessary data. Their identification, however, is already being proceeded with.

Case 34. A part of the collection of echinoderms from our tertiary strata is exhibited in this case. The majority of the species have already been studied and described by Prof. Cottreau of the Paleontological Museum of Paris, who published a monograph on them in the "Annales de l'Institut Oceanographique" of Monaco.

A fissure containing a quaternary deposit was discovered in one of the quarries near Micabiba, late in December, 1925. The work in this site is still in progress and very rich material is being obtained. The remains so far met with belong to Cervus, Canis, Testudo and Bufo, besides many subfossil shells of snails all belonging to our recent species.

#### DONATIONS.

(a) A small collection consisting chiefly of exotic fossils, presented by Commendatore Lewis F. Mizzi, LL.D., M.L.A.

(b) Eleven fossils from the tertiary strata of Malta, presented by Prof. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D.Litt. (Oxon).

#### ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

##### Room A.

Cases 1 and 2. Recent mammals of the Maltese Islands. Some of these were transferred from the University Museum in 1924, the following specimens, however, are the additions made since 1925:—

7 bats	(stuffed)	1 hedgehog	(stuffed)	2 mice	(in alcohol)
2 rats	do.	2 mice	do.	5 rats	(skeletons)
1 rabbit	do.	1 weasel	do.		

Case 3. Stuffed specimens as well as mounted skeletons of species, or of species pertaining to genera of which remains have been met with in our quaternary deposits. The following are those obtained since 1925:—

2 shrews	(stuffed)	1 mouse	(stuffed)	1 fox	(skeleton)
2 voles	do.	1 doormouse	do.	1 vole	do.

Cases 4 to 15. A part of the old Ornithological collection of the University consisting of 378 stuffed specimens and 11 mounted skeletons. These were transferred from the University Museum in 1924.

Unfortunately almost all the specimens lack the necessary data, they are also very poorly mounted, and it is hoped, therefore, that they will be gradually replaced, when a suitable place is found where to keep them for future reference.

##### Room B.

Cases 1 to 6. The remaining part of the same collection. Many of the specimens, which were in a most deplorable state have been remounted recently, but like that foregoing they also lack the necessary data.

Cases 7 to 10 and 12 to 15. The birds in this collection were collected by the late Messrs. Gustav and James Gollcher and have been recently presented to the Museum by Madame Gustav Gollcher. The collection is now labelled "Coll. Gollcher".

It must be noted that though all the specimens in this collection were skinned and mounted by the Maltese taxidermist, the late Mr. Giuseppe Micallef, a few which were picked up on the Valletta Market were taken in Sicily and were imported with other birds which are usually sent here from that island.

Case 11. The specimens in this case were also transferred from the University Museum in 1924, and though representing species on the Maltese list, they were stuffed in London and imported here about 16 or 17 years ago.

#### DONATIONS.

The following are other donations besides the Gollcher Collection:—

One stuffed sparrow (albino) presented by Oloff Gollcher, Esq., LL.D.

One stuffed avocet presented by Raff. Bonello, Esq.

##### Room C.

Cases 1 to 6. Birds from the Curator's private collection, some of which mounted in groups. The remaining part of this collection cannot yet be transferred to the Museum for want of the necessary space. The Swan in case 1 was taken in Salina Bay in 1925 and was presented by G. C. De-giorgio, Esq., to whom it was sent in the flesh by the man who shot it. The collection is labelled "Coll. Despott".

Cases 7 to 10 and 12. The herpetological collection exhibited in these cases consists, for the greater part, of specimens taken locally, for purpose of comparison; however, specimens from other localities bordering the Mediterranean, especially from Sicily and the North of Africa, are also being collected and exhibited separately in the same cases.

#### DONATIONS.

One stuffed young crocodile presented by Oreste Caruana Scicluna, Esq.

57 feet long and 15 feet wide. The ground, as we knew from the excavation of last year, is made of the debris of the Roman House built about the 1st. Century A.D. and is, consequently, littered with fragments of pottery, stucco, marble, and paving tiles of every description. No particularly interesting objects of Roman type were, however, obtained during this year's excavation.

#### SARACENIC GRAVES.

As mentioned in last year's report, the site was used in the 9th. and 10th. centuries as a burial place of the Saracenic garrison that were stationed at Mdina. In the absence of any burial place in any other site in Malta it seems legitimate to draw the inference that no Moslem population settled beyond the walls of the Capital (Mdina) during the Saracenic occupation of these Islands (870-1010).

The mound made of the debris of the Roman House on the plateau overlooking Gherieshem was utilized as a Moslem burial place, during all the time of the occupation and, in fact, Moslem graves were closely packed in a comparatively small space and at different levels from the rock-bottom.

Although full notes were kept of the number, position and appearance of every grave met with, it is not of general interest to detail their characters in this report. It is enough to say that over fifty graves were met with in various states of preservation. They were all about 6 feet long built of small stones, some well squared others roughly so. There must have been a difference between a common soldier and an officer, a camp follower and a high official. The graves carefully prepared were covered with stone slabs neatly put together and marked by headstones on which funeral inscriptions were cut. The body in these graves was buried in a coffin of which the heavy iron clamps were found at the four corners of the grave, the wood having perished in the damp earth.

The poorer graves were built anyhow and covered with slabs picked up anywhere.

A very remarkable fact is that in some of the poorer graves pieces of decorated headstones formed part of the grave wall. The slabs that covered the graves are all sawn to the required thickness. This must have been the work of foreign workmen as the Maltese stone cutter was never fond of sawing stone, he preferred the adze which he used with exceptional dexterity.

The graves were, as observed last year, in an E.-W. direction, the body being laid with the head to the west and with the face turned to the south.

The headstones must have been very numerous for portions of good many of them were obtained from the debris. Some were small and very plainly cut with a triangular or pyramidal section and with straight vertical ends, others plain or decorated with simple geometrical patterns.

The tombstones with inscriptions were fairly numerous but, unluckily, not a complete inscription was recovered.

Some of the incipations were carved with care, mostly in Kufic characters, some letters being raised and other sunk. In one case the background of the inscription was painted in vermillion.

Other inscriptions were in current Arabic hand and incised plainly but not very deeply.

The Museum of the Roman Villa at Rabat can now boast of a good collection of Saracenic headstones with and without inscriptions.

#### CATACOMBS.

The Saint Paul's Catacombs at Rabat are now properly provided with electric light which was laid on the 20th. July, 1925. Visitors can now circulate freely along the numerous corridors and examine the monuments in detail whilst having a clear vista of the whole system of early Christian burials.

An interesting group scratched on the right jamb of the entrance to a tomb in catacomb No. 3 was discovered on the 5th. July, 1925. The design is rather rough and was, originally, filled up with a red pigment. It consists of the outline of a house or tower below which are two birds to the left, one above the other. As designs of any sort are rare in our catacombs this exception is worth recording.

#### CATACOMB AT HAL BAJADA.

The Catacombs of Hal Bajada, lately acquired from private owners, were connected with those taken from the Augustinian Friars some time ago. The common entrance is now in Strada S. Agata, on the side of St. Paul's Catabombs, and a marble slab with the inscription "AD CATACUMBAS" was fixed in May 1925.



73

The following objects were presented to the Museum:—

Signed photograph of Professor Stefano Zerafa, the Maltese Naturalist; Flora Melitensis, by Gio. Carlo Delicata, 1853; Three zinc medals (1) La giovine Italia ai suoi martiri, (2) Industrial Exhibition, 1851, and (3) Industrial Exhibition, 1851, (smaller)—By A. Gera De Petri, Esq., Ph. C.

Passport by the Franciscan Fathers of Jerusalem authorising a vessel to hoist the Jerusalem flag, dated 1849; One seal; Brass seal with inscription "Regia Corte Civile, Malta"—By Judge A. Parnis, O.B.E., LL.D.

One hand painted map of Malta—By Commendatore Augusto Lurati.

The rising tide of color, by L. Stoddart—By General C. Voensky de Brezè.

One wooden box with necessaire of a gentleman of the early nineteenth century by the Hon. Senator A. M. Galea.

One copy "Excavations in Malta" by M. A. Murray and G. Caton Thompson, Part II—By Miss M. A. Murray, F.S.A. London.

One steel die of a button of the Order—By Emmanuele Scerri, Esq.

One third brass of M. Aurelius Probus—By Father Levanzin, M.C.

Hand painted map of Malta and Gozo by Dr. Ant. de Seguará y Carvaja, 1829—By B. Bonnici, Esq., LL.D.

Oil painting (5' 4" by 3' 6") representing a Naval battle of the Order—By R. Bencini, Esq.

The following objects were kindly presented to the Archeological and Historical Section of the Museum:—

One engraved portrait of Lord Grenfell—By Major H. D. Vella.

Iron and stone canon balls found during the demolition of St. Michael's Bastion—By the Hon. Superintendent of Public Works.

One framed engraving (St. Paul)—By A. Gera De Petri, Esq., Ph. C.

One gold medal, Camera di Commercio a Giuseppe Bonavia, Architetto—By the Hon. Senator A. M. Galea.

One manuscript of 1796—By Emmanuele Zerafa, Esq.

One marble slab, latin inscription of 1798—By Thomas Vassallo, Esq.

A collection of flint tools from North Africa—By M. Docteur E. Gobert, Tunis.

Twenty brochures on archeological subjects—By M. Docteur Poinso, Tunis.

Twelve pieces of Punic pottery—By Madame Carton, Tunis.

One portfolio with 108 enlarged photos of Civil, Ecclesiastical and Military authorities of Malta and a set of aerial photos formerly exhibited at Wembley—By the Honourable Minister for the Treasury.

One wax bust of Bosio—By Marchese Testaferrata.

The following objects were acquired for the Museum:—

One 2s. piece, 1924; one 6d. piece, 1865; one 6d. piece, 1925.

One copy, "Malta" (Paribeni); one copy "Stonehenge" (Stone); one copy, Roman Imperial coinage; one copy "Jewish coins"; one copy Bronze coinage of late Roman Empire.

One old document.

Pencil drawing of fish market at the time of Wignacourt.

Model of two Maltese boats.

One lot of old pottery from Gnien Is-Sultan.

One astrolabe.

One old waistcoat.

Two knives.

The number of persons who visited the Valletta Museum and other places of antiquities has been as follows:—

Valletta Museum—on week days 1,487, on Sundays 8,461.

Halsaflieni Hypogeum—2,109.

Roman Villa—960.

Rabat Catacombs—665.

TEM. ZAMMIT,

Curator Archaeological Section.

## APPENDIX A.

## Report of the Curator of the Mineralogical and Crystallographical Section.

THE MUSEUM,

4th. October, 1923.

Sir,  
Referring to my last report of the 9th. June, 1923, I beg to state that my Mineralogical and Crystallographical Collection has now been duly squeezed into the 32 big and smaller show-cases which, when completed, will be duly numbered, according, as much as it will be possible, to the nature of the exhibits. I am pleased to report quite a number of donations, as follows:—

## DONATIONS.

- One piece of red brown polished marble of unknown origin, presented by Mr. John Apap.
- 14 pieces of different interesting rocks, collected by him in the neighbourhood of Petralia and Catavoluro, in the interior of Sicily, and presented by the Honourable Count Alfred Caruana Gatto.
- One fine piece of Stallactite found by him in the vicinity of Naxaro, presented by Mr. Pietro Cachia.
- One small piece with some fragments of zircon from Zanzibar, presented by the Rev. Canon Tartaglia.
- A fine slab of granite of unknown origin, presented by Mr. Alfred Gera De Petri.
- A nice wooden frame containing 4 specimens of rich marbles, (1 carmicino di Massa; 1 giallo di Siena; 1 fior di pesca and 1 Breccia Medicea) presented by Mr. Gio. Batta Delia.
- Nine big pieces of granites and other stones from Midansolo village, Maswa, Subdistrict Taganyika, along with gold reef quartz from that neighbourhood, collected and most kindly brought with him by Walter Bonavia, Esq.
- A piece of old iron, claimed to be a fragment from the old port chain, presented by Joseph Demajo, Esq. This same gentleman equally presented a piece of petrified wood containing some metallic formations.
- Seven pieces of very fine rocks from the Cadore, Italy, collected and forwarded by Mrs. Emily Servicen Mizzi.
- One specimen of copper from Canada, presented by Mr. John Mamo.
- Two fine XIs of quartz on a sulphureous rock of unknown origin, presented by Mr. V. Lupi.
- A small case containing 1 XI of Amatist, 1 piece of black rock with XIs, 1 piece of iron ore, 1 piece of landscape marble, 1 piece of radiating wavellite, 1 piece of green aventurine, 2 two coloured piece of flint, all of unknown origin, except the piece of landscape marble which comes from Bristol, England, presented by Major Balbi. (See Note).
- Thirteen different stones from Palestine, whereof 8 pebbles from the Dead Sea, 2 rocks from the Mount of Olives, 1 piece of Serpentine from the Jerusalem Temple and 2 pieces of rock from Jerico, collected and presented to this section by Miss Mabel Strickland.
- One piece of Sulphide of Arsenic of unknown origin and six small test tubes containing substances for chemical analysis, presented by Prof. A. Sultana, Esq., M.D.
- A piece of rock containing a large effort of invading flint, found at Imtahlep, Malta, presented by Chev. J. Ellis.
- Mrs. Philip Calleja, of 9 Victoria Avenue, Sliema, presented to this section her well known replica of the Cullinan Diamond, presented to her late husband, the regretted Philip Calleja, by Messrs. Joseph Asscher & Cie, of Paris, together with an album explaining the process of cutting. This specimen is one of the only six replicas made of this diamond. Mrs. Calleja also presented 2 fine pieces of rock, whereof one from mount Pilatus and the other from Righi, Switzerland.
- The Gold Coast Geological Survey Department presented 10 pieces of Stavrolite straight XI from the Gold Coast.
- The London Office of this same Geological Survey Department presented 20 XIs. of Limonite cubes after Pyrites (noted as one specimen) and two pieces of Haematite (one dull and the other shining) as well as one specimen of Ilmenite, or Titaniferous Magnetite from Sierra Leone.
- One piece of fine Stallactite (Calcite) from Manacor, Majorca Islands, presented by the Rev. George Whitaker.
- One piece of very fine granite from Mourmansk, presented by Lt. Col. Pringle.
- One piece of fine Marble white, green and black from Leptis Magna, Tripoli, presented by H. E. Lady Congreve.
- One piece of friable mass of native calcium carbonate from Giordan Hill Lighthouse at Gozo; some pebbles found at Xlendi, Gozo, and also quite a quantity of rocks and minerals from which I selected for classification in the Section the following:— a fine piece of Calamine from Gebel Trozza, Tunis; 1 fine piece of Galena from the 8th. level of this Trozza Mine; 1 piece of iron; 1 Iron Rock and 2 pieces of clay with iron from Hamam Lif, Tunis, collected and presented to this section by Prof. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D.LITT. (Oxon).
- One fine piece of Stallagmite from Ghar Dalam, Malta; 1 fine big specimen of Rock from Wied Incita, Malta, which was duly cut into four pieces of remarkable beauty; 1 fine piece of Sulphur and quartz crystallized rock, unfortunately of unknown origin; 1 fine piece of Maltese chert and 1 piece of calcite of lithographic nature, from Wied-el-Ghibir, Madliena, Malta, collected and presented by G. Despott, Esq., M.B.E., C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
- Three pieces of Serpentine, 1 piece of obsidian, 1 fine octagonal stand of eight different qualities of marble, 3 specimens whereof 1 of Alabaster (all the foregoing of unknown origin) 1 of dark Bardiglio Marble and the other of French Demidoff Marble; 1 piece of Rock from Bastia, Corsica Island; 1 piece of black granite from Troodos and 1 small but most remarkable piece of white, red and black granite from Leptis Magna, Tripoli; 1 very fine piece of Silicate of white bluish colour, with traces of iron and nickel, but of unknown origin, presented by Mr. Emmanuele Xerri.

N.B.—XI and XIs stand for crystal and crystals.

The Director of the Museum.

A very fine and curious black stone, found at Wied Kirda, Malta, which has yet to be analyzed, presented by Mr. Joseph Cutajar.

One specimen of iron with XIs of amatiste in course of formation, of unknown origin, presented by Mr. Carmelo Camilleri.

One very fine but slightly damaged light blue sapphire of a round form, well polished and with the letter C. engraved on one of its sides, but of unknown origin, presented by Mr. Carmelo Brincat.

Five pieces of very fine rocks from the Tirol Alps, presented by Mrs. Morizzo.

Six pieces of rock with milk white quartz XIs, 1 piece of banded Mexican Onyx and 1 piece of Stallagmitic yellow Alabaster from Egypt, these last two pieces cut and richly polished, collected and presented by Mrs. Emily Servicen Mizzi.

The foregoing represent 131 specimens that have to be added to this section, but have not yet been exhibited, owing to want of show cases.

I have &c.,  
LEWIS F. MIZZI,  
Curator of the Mineralogical  
and Crystallographical Section.

## APPENDIX B.

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

THE MUSEUM,  
4th. October, 1926.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the Museum during the financial year 1925-1926.

The local Natural History material which was transferred from the University Museum to the Auberge d'Italie in 1924 has been, for the greater part, provisionally exhibited in the various cases while a great quantity of new material has likewise been put on show.

The material so far exhibited has been distributed as follows:—

#### PALEONTOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

##### CORRIDOR.

*Case 1.* Material from a fissure in Wied il Buni, (district of Birzebbugia), consisting of bones of Cervus and Equus, collected in 1922 by Prof. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D.Litt. (Oxon) and C. Rizzo, Esq., P.A.A. The collection is labelled "Coll. Zammit-Rizzo".

*Cases 2 and 3.* (a). Similar Material from the same fissure subsequently collected by G. Sinclair Esq., A.M.I.C.E. The collection is labelled "Coll. Sinclair".

(b). Material from "Burmeghez" and "Tal Herba" fissures (district of Micabiba) consisting, mostly, of remains of birds, collected by the Curator. The collection is labelled "Coll. Despott".  
N.B.—Similar material collected from the second named fissure by Dr. Ashby, Prof. Zammit, Mr. Rizzo, and the Curator has been sent for identification, previous to its exhibition.

*Case 4.* Material consisting chiefly of remains of mammals and birds obtained during the excavations conducted at Ghar Dalam by Miss Caton Thompson in 1924 and similar material obtained during the excavations conducted by the Curator in the same locality from 1916 to 1920. The two collections are respectively labelled "Coll. Thompson" and "Coll. Despott".

Facsimiles of the two Neanderthal molars found in 1917 are also exhibited in this case.

*Cases 5, 6 and 7.* Material consisting chiefly of remains of Cervus and Hippopotamus obtained during the excavations conducted by the Curator in Ghar Dalam from 1916 to 1920. The collection is labelled "Coll. Despott".

*Case 8.* Elephant remains, especially molars, obtained during the above mentioned excavations. The collection is labelled "Coll. Despott".

*Cases 9 and 10.* Material consisting of the remains of Cervus and Hippopotamus obtained during the excavations conducted by Dr. Ashby and the Curator in 1913-14. The collection is labelled "Coll. Ashby-Despott".

*Case 11.* Remains of Testudo from a fissure at Corradino collected and described by the late Prof. Tagliaferro. The collection is labelled "Coll. Tagliaferro".

*Case 12.* Remains of Elephas antiquus? from a fissure at Zebbug, collected also by the late Prof. Tagliaferro. The collection is labelled "Coll. Tagliaferro".

*Cases 13, 14 and 15.* The specimens exhibited in these cases consist of the remains of Cervus and Hippopotamus obtained during the excavations conducted in Ghar Dalam by Cooke in 1892. The collection is labelled "Coll. Cooke".

This collection had to be almost totally remounted owing to damages caused by the water which flooded the room in which it was stored after its transfer from the University.

The Director of the Museum—Valletta



#### Room D.

Cases 3, 4 and 5. Crustaceans and Echinoderms prepared dry. All the specimens in these cases are new exhibits and were all collected locally.

Case 6. Crustaceans, Echinoderms, &c. preserved in alcohol. A few of these are not locally taken specimens, but have been imported for purposes of comparison, and though they represent species on the Maltese list, it is intended to exhibit them separately as a reference collection.

Cases 7, 8, 9 and 10. Locally taken fishes, (wet). The majority of the specimens are being exhibited for the first time and were collected since 1924.

Cases 11, 12 and 13. Stuffed fishes. This is the old collection of the University Museum which was transferred from there in 1924—it can only serve for purposes of reference—and it is hoped to store it elsewhere, as soon as another locality is available.

Cases 14 and 15. Fishes in their various stages, (wet). This is all new material mostly collected during the period under review. Its arrangement is only temporary, its proper classification will follow when more extensive material will be obtained.

With the exception of the stuffed fishes and a few wet specimens which were transferred from the University Museum in 1924, the greater part of the material exhibited in this room has been obtained through the research work conducted by the Fisheries Department and the funds for its upkeep and preparation have been likewise provided by that Department.

The following is all exotic material (preserved in alcohol recently acquired by the Fisheries Department for the purpose of reference. It will be exhibited separately as soon as the necessary cases are available.

Coelenterata:			Crustacea:		
Anthozoa	...	11 species	Cirripedia	...	8 species
Hydromedusae	...	20 "	Copepoda	...	5 "
Siphonophora	...	6 "	Stomatopoda	...	1 "
Acalephae	...	2 "	Macrura	...	27 "
Otenophora	...	1 "	Brachyura	...	16 "
Echinoderma:			Amphipoda	...	12 "
Asteroidea	...	8 "	Mollusca:		
Echinoidea	...	5 "	Cephalopoda	...	7 "
Holothuroidea	...	1 "	Brachiopoda	...	2 "
Vermes:			Tunicata:		
Polycladidea	...	3 "	Appendicularia	...	7 "
Nemertina	...	3 "	Ascidiae compositae	...	3 "
Gephyrei	...	3 "	Ascidiae simplices	...	2 "
Hirudinea	...	1 "	Salpae	...	2 "
Annulata	...	40 "	Pisces		
Chaetognatha	...	1 "	...	...	33 "
Enteropneusta	...	1 "			

#### DONATIONS.

One specimen of *Trachipterus* presented by Marquis Scicluna.  
Two dried specimens of *Balistes capriscus* and a tail with spines of a large specimen of *Dasyatis pastenaca*. Presented by L. Cachia Zammit, Esq.

#### Room E.

Cases 3, 4, 5 and 6. Land shells of the Maltese Islands. These collections are being exhibited for the first time and the greater part of the material was collected since 1914.

Cases 7, 8, 9 and 10. Shells of local marine mollusca. This is also an entirely new collection mostly obtained since 1914.

Mamo's collection of local marine shell, which was also transferred from the University in 1924, was considerably damaged by the water which penetrated into the place where it was temporarily stored. It now needs remounting; when this is done it will be kept in special cabinets for purposes of reference.

#### DONATIONS.

- A small collection of exotic marine shells presented by Commendatore Lewis F. Mizzi, LL.D., M.L.A.
- A small collection of both local and exotic shells bequeathed by the late Honble. Senator the Right Rev. Mgr. Ignazio Panzavecchia, D.D.
- A part of the collection of the Honble. Senator the Most Noble Count Alfredo Carnana Gatto, B.A., LL.D.,

#### Room F.

Cases 3 to 5 and 9 to 11. Entomological material. This is being exhibited for the first time and has been mostly obtained recently.

Case 6. Lepidoptera (mounted singly in glazed boxes). This is the collection which was transferred from the University Museum in 1924.

#### DONATIONS.

(a) A collection of the various orders of insects especially Hymenoptera, collected chiefly within a radius of one mile from St. Julian's by Col. H. C. Harford, C.B., by whom it was presented to the Museum. The specimens in this collection are undoubtedly perfectly mounted and are justly considered to be some of the finest and most valuable exhibits in this Museum.

(b) A small collection of lepidoptera from Continental Europe, presented also by Col. Harford. The specimens in this collection were also taken and mounted by the donor. Both these collections are now labelled "Col. Harford".

(c) A small collection of Lepidoptera from British Guiana, presented by Jos. Glavina, Esq. M.D.

(d) Two beetles from the Gold Coast, presented by Victor Critien, Esq. M.D.

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE SECTION.

- (a) One copy of "Flora Melithensis" by Prof. S. Zerafa, presented by Alf. Gera De Petri, Esq., Ph.C.
- (b) An autographed photograph of Prof. S. Zerafa, presented also by Alf. Gera De Petri, Esq., Ph.C.
- (c) "Elenco sinottico degli uccelli che visitano queste Isole di Malta e Gozo, ecc. compilato da Nicola Ardoino 1893", in its original manuscript, presented by Lt. Col. J. Ardoino of the Indian Army.

The following are the publications dealing with the local Natural History which have appeared during the period under review and of which copies have been received:—

- (a) A. Caruana Gatto, Conte "Primo Contributo alla conoscenza dei Zoocacidii delle isole Maltesi".
- (b) C. Caton Thompson, "Ghar Dalam" Chap. I in "Excavations in Malta" part II by M. A. Murry.

I have &c.,

G. DESPOTT,

Curator.

APPENDIX C.

Report of the Curator of the Art Section.

THE MUSEUM—ART SECTION.

25th. June, 1926.

Sir, I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Fine Arts Section for the financial year 1925-26.

INQUISITOR'S PALACE.

This most interesting monument which bears evidence of the Medioeval, the Renaissance and the Baroque periods is being freed, as far as possible, of the abundant traces of the awkward and mischievous meddling of man, during the last century. In almost every room of the first and second floors, mural decorations have been discovered. They consist chiefly of rich decorative friezes bearing very often the coat of arms of inquisitors, of popes or the Inquisition's peculiar emblem. Some inscriptions have also been met with. The chapel, once very richly carved and gilded, has also been set free of the plaster that concealed its carvings, but unhappily, very little could be recovered, owing to previous diligent scraping of every jutting ornament. Generally speaking, architectural and decorative elements that could not disappear under a whitewash, were hewn off to obtain a plain even surface. Only when the whitewash was removed from the main room to discover the rich armorial frieze, it was found that the entrance to the chapel was originally adorned with a bold jutting architectural façade consisting of an entablature surmounted with scrolls and festoons laid down over two pilasters. Of this sumptuous decoration, diligently smoothed evenly with the wall's surface, only an outline remains due to the discontinued painted wall surface. The supports or cartouches that enclosed the big inscription facing the main staircase were likewise cut off and scraped. Modern partition-walls were pulled down and walled up staircases reopened. Other partition-walls have still to be demolished and dungeons and other subterranean places cleared out.

DISCOVERY OF MURAL PAINTING IN ST. ROCCO CHURCH.

Whilst proceeding with some repairs, traces of old painting were discovered under the whitewash. Under my supervision the whitewash from this portion of the church was removed. The painting thus discovered—late XVIIth. or early XVIIIth. century art—covers the whole semicircular wall on the left hand side chapel, from cornice to roof; it is painted in oils and represents the Deposition of Christ from the Cross.

ACQUISITIONS.

Paintings.

1. Portrait of G. M. De Rohan. By Ant. Favrey 1706 1780 (?). Likely a bozzetto for a big picture, 35 by 25 cm. Purchased by Right of preemption.
2. The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian. By Corrado Giaquinto (?) 94 by 72 cm. Purchased. Corrado Giaquinto born in Molfetta in 1699, studied in Naples under F. Solimena and afterwards in Rome under Sebastiano Conca; worked in Rome, Pisa, Cesana, Turin and Madrid. Died in Naples in 1765.
3. Portrait of the Bali de Manosque F. Gaspard Francois De La Croix. Artist unknown. Life size, 2m. 8cm. by 1m. 53 cm. Purchased by Right of preemption. On the background the following inscription is discernible:

F. GASPARD  
FRANCOIS  
DE LA CROIX  
DE SEYVE EST  
ENTRE LE COM. LE  
13. 7. 1783  
ET EN EST SORT  
BAILLY DE MA  
NOSQUE LE 27  
FEVRIER  
1784

4. Two small Malta views in oils by Giorgio Pullicino. Giorgio Pullicino, an architect and landscape and seascape painter, was born in Malta in 1780 circa, studied in Rome and died in Malta in 1862 circa.

*Drawings.*

1. Ten architectural drawings by Giorgio Pullicino. Presented to the Museum by the heirs of the late Mrs. Pullicino.
2. The Marina with Neptune's fountain, Porta del Monte and the Nicchione del Salvatore. Signed pencil drawing by G. Pullicino. Purchased.

*Prints.*

1. A wood block by Giovanni Farrugia. 1798-1861. Strangely enough this wood block is treated as if it was a copper plate, the sunk lines being intended to appear black in print. Purchased.
2. John H. Robinson after Sir David Wilkie. Napoleon and the Pope. Without margins and in bad condition.
3. Ant. Cappellan after Correggio, Rome 1772. S. Caterina.
4. Ant. Morghen after Raphael. The Holy Family. Reprinted in lithography by F. Favia in Malta.
5. Same as above; smaller.
6. Madonna and Child. A circular print badly shaved.
7. Giov. Farrugia after G. Reni, 1820. Beatrice Cenci.
8. Paolo Caruana (?) Accoglienza popolare fatta a S. M. Adelaide Regina d'Inghilterra in Malta, 5 dec. 1838. Lithograph.
9. Luigi Brockdorff. Spencer monument. Lith.
10. " Valletta from S. Julian's road. Lith.
11. " St. Antonio (gardens) Lith.
12. " Great Harbour of Malta. Lith. Items 2 to 12 presented by Major H. Balbi, M.H.E.
13. Joseph Bonett, Malta 1798. St. Paul's Shipwreck. Presented by Mr. Alf. Gera de Petri, Ph.C.
14. Piazza Tesoreria on the 19th. of December, 1847. Lith. Presented by Capt. L. Upton Way, F.S.A.

*Ceramics.*

1. One English porcelain statuette. Presented by Dr. Edgar Cesareo.

I have &c.,  
VINCENZO BONELLO,  
Curator of the Arts Section.

The Director of the Museum.