

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

DURING

1926-27.



MALTA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1927.

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Report on the working of the Museum Department for 1926-27.

THE MUSEUM,
22nd July, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report of the financial year 1926-27, together with that of the Curators of the other sections for the same period.

I have &c.

THEM. ZAMMIT,
Director.

The Honourable
The Minister for Public Instruction.

PREHISTORIC REMAINS.

"TA HAG'RAT"—MG'AR—MALTA.

The excavation of the prehistoric remains at Mg'ar-Malta were resumed early in May, 1926. One has to make a distinction between the Mg'ar of Malta and that of Gozo. The term *Mg'ar* is common to several localities in both islands, meaning, in Maltese, *springs*. The local name of spring is *Mag'ra* in the singular and *Mg'ar* in the plural so that *Mg'ar* would be the name of any group of springs anywhere in these Islands.

The Mg'ar in question lies on the plateau overlooking the G'neina valley, to the south-west of Malta, in the midst of highly cultivated ground and adequately provided with running water.

The excavations which, as described in last year's report, were taken in hand in June 1925, were continued and brought to a conclusion during the financial year.

Five men were employed and Mr. L. Upton Way, F.S.A., very kindly undertook to be on the spot all day in the absence of the Director who could only drive to the site in the afternoon; for his intelligent supervision and his untiring energy the thanks of this Department is especially due to this gentleman. Prof. R. V. Galea, L.S. & A., has once more helped us with his professional knowledge, during this year's excavations, and his cooperation is gratefully recorded.

Without going into details which will be in time duly developed in an exhaustive report, we can show that the Ta Hag'rat ruins consist of a building of the Stone Age which in the Bronze Age period was utilized once more, another group of buildings being added.

The Stone Age building has its main axis in a S.E.-N.W. direction. The façade in its original state must have been very imposing, set in the middle of a semicircular forecourt over 50 feet wide.

Two steps lead up to the main entrance and a corridor, flanked by huge uprights of coralline limestone, three on each side. These pillars once supported large hard-stone slabs. One of these slabs, 8 ft. 5 in. long, 4 ft. 2 in. wide and 2 ft. 4 in. thick, weighing about 6 tons, lies across the uprights, pushed off its original position by the farmer to protect a huge carob tree of which the thick leaves overshadowed the whole mound.

Another roofing slab, now in front of the entrance, is 9 ft. 6 in. long, 6 ft. 6 in. wide, and 4 ft. 2 in. thick.

Some of the standing slabs, forming the outer wall, are still *in situ* and measure, on an average, 13 ft. by 7 ft. with a thickness of about 3 ft. 6 in.

The corridor beyond the entrance is 6 ft. wide and about 16 ft. long and is paved with large stone blocks fitted with great accuracy.

At the end of the corridor a paved rectangular space is reached, about 16 ft. long and 8 ft. wide. This hall was also flanked by large roughly hewn hard-stone slabs of which, in time, some were knocked down and others broken.

Both to the right and to the left, an opening furnished with a regular threshold, about 4 ft. wide, leads into an elliptical room about 20 ft. long and 12 ft. wide, in the middle, with roughly hewn stone walls. These side chambers were, very probably, domed over by the corbelling of the masonry that formed the curved walls.

To the left (S.W.) the chamber has, at present, a roughly circular shape, about 10 ft. in diameter, flanked at the entrance by two large pillars. To the right, the wall shows the original curve of the elliptical apse, but to the left a wall of huge slabs was built across the room, backed by stones and soil.

The necessity for this alteration is not apparent, but it is possible that the outer wall was not solidly backed; the strong wall across and the material beyond it were of great help to shore up the outer wall. This room is not paved, but here and there remains of a hard torba floor may be still seen.

In front of the quadrangular space or hall, an entrance furnished with a threshold leads to a circular room about 13 ft. in diameter, of which the walls were found in a very bad state of preservation. These walls were not made of slabs on end, but of large, roughly squared, hard-stone blocks, built up in regular courses.

To the right of the quadrangular hall, an entrance with a large threshold leads into what was originally a large elliptical room of which, however, only the S.E. portion remains unaltered, the rest having been demolished and otherwise interfered with in ancient times.

The part of the wall of the original structure that remains is distinctly curved inwards, clearly demonstrating that the room was domed over. Like the room on the other side of the middle hall, the wall is made up of roughly squared stones laid in regular courses.

The western end of the room was in a tangle and no definite wall could be traced. Stones, large and small, filled up the space beyond the wall of the circular room leading up to a kind of passage bounded to the S.E. by the walls of the said room, and to the N.W. by large stone blocks forming an outer wall, pierced by an entrance furnished with a threshold 3 feet wide. This entrance was, probably, made at a later period, unless other parts of the building, of which no traces exist, stood on the other side of the big wall, rendering the opening in the wall a necessary feature.

To the North of the N.E. apse the features of the ruins are completely changed. Walls made of comparatively small masonry enclose a building which, originally, consisted of an entrance, looking South, one large apse on each side, and a smaller semi-circular apse at the back. Later on, the eastern apse was divided into two roughly circular rooms, the southern one about 9 ft. in diameter, the northern one about 5 ft. with a small entrance in the shape of a trilithon. The entrance to the southern chamber is wide open, measuring about 9 feet.

These four rooms are low-walled and have a floor of beaten earth (torba) broken here and there.

Between the entrance of this secondary building and the wall of the primitive structure three pits, about 5 ft. deep, were found, bounded by roughly constructed walls. Together, they occupied a space of about 10 square feet, which had to be filled up during the excavation in order to move the stones and allow a passage to be formed between the two buildings.

Outside the eastern wall of the eastern large apse, the backing of the wall is about 7 ft. thick, and about 4 ft. beyond the wall a torba floor appears of which about 3 feet remain undisturbed.

In this torba floor, about 3 in. thick, a circular depression is found, 15 in. across and 4 in. deep at its central portion. This kind of basin, carefully made in the torba floor, is a new feature of our prehistoric buildings and should be kept in mind when examining this kind of floor in these Islands.

Without going into further details, the conclusion of this year's work at *Ta Hag'rat* appears to be that the large building to the south-west was the work of the Stone Age period of our culture, whilst the smaller group was built in a later period partly

at the expense of the material of the earlier group. The architectural features of the large group are quite in keeping with the well known buildings of *Cordin*, *Debdieba*, *Hal Ginwi*, *Xropp-il-Ghagin* etc., reflecting the higher technique of *Hajar Kim*, *Tarzien*, etc.

The minor group built with smaller stones and with a weak technique shows a marked decadence which is characteristic, in Malta, of the Bronze Age period.

The objects met with in the two groups confirm the evidence drawn from the architectural features.

In one, the pottery is of the typical neolithic period, well formed, well baked, and delicately finished and decorated, whilst the secondary building yielded pottery typical of an early metal age in no way comparable with the magnificent specimens characteristic of the Maltese Stone Age ware.

It is very gratifying to note that the Government has acquired the site on which the remains of *Ta Hagrat* are built and the right of way to reach the same from the public road.

ROCK-TOMBS.

This is the first time that we are able to bring rock-tombs under the heading of *prehistoric*. So far, nobody had dared to assign rock-cut funereal chambers to a period earlier than the Phoenician, but this year proofs were obtained that some of the early rock-cut tombs were the work of the Stone Age people.

In November 1910, a burial in a layer of red ochre, at the bottom of a shaft cut in the rock, was discovered on the road to *Bugana* between Attard village and the Mtarfa road. Along with this burial, pottery of a type completely different from the usual rock-tomb ware was obtained. The pottery, at the time, did not appeal to the finder as of any special importance, but the presence of red ochre was so striking that a communication to the "Times" was sent about it.

In June 1926, the finding of a small rock-tomb was reported from the village of Xaghra (Kaccia) Gozo. On the 12th of that month, the tomb was examined and surveyed.

It was a round-chambered grave 2 ft. 3 in. high, 5 ft. 8 in. by 5 ft. 4 in. with a concave ceiling. The entrance was slanting, sealed with a square stone slab, and reached from a round shaft about 3 feet deep. When the tomb was surveyed, the contents had already been handled by the farmer and completely disarranged but nothing was subtracted. The bones were broken, but a nearly complete skull and four human jaws show that the grave was used on several occasions. Slabs lay at the bottom of the grave and several lumps of red ochre were found among the debris, the sandy soil and the bones being stained with the pigment. Four small pots about 3 in. high, of a type unknown in our rock-tombs, were recovered. This ware of a delicate shape and manufacture is decorated with linear patterns in which traces of red pigment are still visible. The ware is distinctly neolithic in type not to be, in any way, confounded with the Phoenician, Punic, and Roman ware that is ordinarily met with in rock-tombs.

On the 10th of November 1926, whilst surveying a few rifled tombs in the district of Rabat on the top of the Tas-Salib road (Ix-xaghra il Kbira-Telgha tan-Nadur), an open tomb attracted my attention. There was a shallow shaft and the chamber was half full of a caked red soil mixed with bits of pottery which struck me at once as of a peculiar type. I had the soil carefully sifted, and carried away a small sackful of sherds caked with soil and discoloured by age and dampness. The cleaned sherds showed at once that they were of a neolithic type, and a tasteful pattern of curved lines testified to its relation with the pottery of our neolithic buildings. Two concave saucers with a typical triangular handle and covered with incised designs were reconstructed. No doubts, therefore, can be had about the age of this tomb which, although of a type not uncommon in later periods, was used before the Age of metals.

That the foregoing facts open up a new horizon in the history of our rock-tomb burials is evident; so far, the neolithic period in Malta has been studied from the remains of temples and other minor buildings but henceforward we must look for rock-cut graves as material for the study of our prehistoric Age.

PHOENICIAN, PUNIC AND ROMAN ROCK-TOMBS.

In this report it is well to mention the rock-tombs surveyed during the year with reference to the time of the survey and not to their actual age. A scientific survey of such tombs will be attempted in a more elaborate report.

ROCK-TOMB AT GHAIN KLIB. 12 May, 1926.

A double tomb was surveyed in a field at *Ghain Klieb*. The square shaft was full of rubbish which, on clearing, showed that both sealing slabs were wanting.

Two of the walls of the shaft were pierced by a square entrance to a rectangular chamber, one on the S.W. and one on the S.E. side; the latter chamber was full of rubbish and contained no archaeological material. The other chamber was half full of soil on clearing which an unexpected mass of tomb furniture was revealed. The tomb had, evidently, been opened before but not cleared by the finder. The following objects were obtained. 12 saucer-shaped Phoenician lamps, one round spouted lamp of a Carthaginian type and one red Roman lamp bearing a stamp of the late 1st Century A.D. (IVNIVS Draco); 12 saucers, 1 broken oenochoe, 4 aryballi, 1 trefoil-lipped jug, 3 alabastri of various shapes, 2 deep cups, 2 flasks and a fragment of a red tile. Besides numerous fragments of other pottery, 3 glass unguentaria (tear bottles) were obtained in a fair condition.

Not far from the group of tombs just described, a second shaft was uncovered which, when cleared of the stones that filled it up, was found to have two chambers connected with it. The one to the west was empty of archaeological material but a strong slab still guarded the entrance of the eastern one.

The shaft was 13 ft. deep, 9 ft. long and about 3 ft. wide.

The rifled chamber was about 7 ft. long, 4½ ft. wide at the back and 5 ft. high.

The second chamber was untouched, the disarrangement of its contents being due to the yearly flooding by rain water that brought with it a considerable amount of silt.

There was only one body interred, lying across the floor with the head to the east. Some of the bones were broken and scattered about by the action of water. A large clay amphora lay alongside the body. A heavy bilychnes lamp with sooty lips was still in its lamphole in the wall.

This tomb, containing a single burial, showed us what at this period they had, as tomb furniture: one large amphora, one trefoil-lipped jug, one round plate with delicate handles and a lamp.

The chamber was of the simplest description with hammer-dressed walls. The entrance was 2 ft. square with a front wall 4 ft. side and a back wall of 6 ft. wide, the length of the chamber was 7 feet; the lamphole, on the right wall, a couple of feet from the entrance, being cut at 3 feet above the ground.

ROCK-TOMB AT GOZO.

A rock-cut grave was broken into whilst cutting rock for the road leading to the new isolation hospital at *Ta Librag* or *Tal Forkiet* at Gozo.

On the 20th of July the tomb was surveyed with the help of Prof. R. V. Galea, M.L.A., L.S. & A.

The rock in which the grave was cut is so soft and friable (Torbazz) that what we could see was only a mass of hard earth mixed with fragments of bone and pottery. With great care, 7 small jars, 6 saucers, a small ivory disc, 2 copper rings, 2 copper earrings and one thin silver wire ring were obtained.

ROCK-TOMB AT ZURRIQ.

In August, a rock tomb was accidentally met with during some drainage work at Zurriq in Strada St. Andrea close to the Safi mill.

Surveyed on the 6th of the same month, the tomb was found to be about 3 ft. under the road surface; its original entrance was close to the wall of the mill, during the original construction of which, the tomb was first opened and rifled.

This tomb is interesting for its peculiar structure. A shaft about 5 ft. deep led to a gallery about 12 ft. long, and 5 ft. deep, at its middle portion. At the end of this

On the 18th October, the cleaning of this catacomb was taken in hand. Behind the trees grown in front of the entrance, and the heaps of stones that filled up every corner of the place these catacombs disappeared. On clearing the front of the main entrance, four wide steps were uncovered at a distance of 9 ft. 9 in. from the same. The heap of stone to the left of the entrance was removed when it was found that the wall of the side chapel, with the painted scene of the Crucifixion, had been completely destroyed. Beyond the entrance, the spacious hall was cleared of the caked soil that covered it, when six rectangular graves were found hewn in the rock. These were full of stones and rubbish and contained no archaeological material. The soil in front of the whole rocky ledge was removed when other caves and a carefully cut catacomb was found on the extreme right of the platform a few feet below the level of the field.

The work had to be stopped for want of funds but many important facts were discovered during the few days of the excavation. This catacomb was assuredly the best and the richest monument of early Christian worship in these islands, for it has been proved that the walls of the numerous tombs were originally covered with marble slabs.

It is hoped that further investigation will bring to light other important information about this monument.

The following objects were presented to the Museum:—

L. J. Upton Way, Esq., F.S.A.—One coloured lithograph of Queen's Square, Valletta.

Ed. Gouder, Esq.—One old brass seal.

Miss Murray, F.S.A. (London)—Six Chinese paintings reproduced by the British Museum.

Han. Scicluna, Esq., L.P., on behalf of Count M. de Pierdon—2 bronze medals.

Chev. Henry Zarb—Miniature of Nicolò Isouard.

J. Adam, Esq.—Two gourds (Bread fruit) from Western Australia.

Charles Giacomotto, Esq.—Two mounted photographs—Malta views.

Gius. Magro, P.C.—One coin of Perellos.

Enrico Calleja, Esq., P.A.A.—Remains of an old stone window.

The Most Noble Fr. Sant Cassia—One limestone slab with Hebrew inscription, part of one fluted marble column, two small marble capitals, and a fragment of a big stalactite.

The hon. the Supt. of Public Works—One stone coat of arms of Perellos, from Salina Bay.

Rev. Lorenzo Scicluna—2 old silk waistcoats, 1 silk and 1 cotton jacket, 1 piece fossilized wood.

Gius. Gravina, Esq., M.D., (through Surg. Lieut. Flynn, M.D.)—1 bow and 2 arrows from British Guiana.

Rev. Raph. Pace—2 copies "Ordo recitandi D.O." 1764-1792.

F. X. Pace, Esq.—One old Spanish clipped coin.

Rev. Can. S. Tartaglia—1 miniature of Teresa Xara.

Rev. Ant. Cachia—Pagella of Ordination by Bishop Gori Mancini.

Lent by Vin. Bonello, Esq.—One engraved portrait of Alexander Ball.

Reports and other publications received:—

Colchester Museum—Annual Report, 1926.

Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology—Bulletin, July 1926.

Instituto Oswaldo Cruz-Manguinhos—1926, fasc. I & II.

H. Casolani, Esq., M.B.E.—Report on Emigration & unemployment 1926.

Prof. Raff. Battaglia—Trieste—(1) Selci e ossa paleolitiche della Caverna Pocala.
(2) Su qualche selce lavorata della Gefara, 1925.

McGill University—Montreal—Six years at McGill, by the Principal.

Rev. Père Delattre—Carthage—Quelques nouvelles trouvailles 1925-26.

His Grace Bishop Tonizza—Tripoli—(1) La missione Francescana in Libia.

(2) Tripoli dal 1510 al 1810.

to the end of the shaft a ledge of rock, 4 ft. wide, was left, at which level a square entrance was found to an elliptical chamber 7 feet long and about 4 ft. wide, with a head-rest at one of the ends for the body that had to lay in it.

Fragments of late Roman pottery were obtained from the soil that filled the tomb, a shallow plate of red ware, and a red lamp of about the 2nd century A.D.

ROCK-TOMB AT NIGRET.

During the same month the Police of Zurrico reported the accidental opening of another rock-tomb at *Nigret* in a field called *Tax-xalba*. The tomb was full of a thick red soil which had to be removed with much trouble. On the 17th August, the place was surveyed. It was a tomb completely rifled ages ago and used afterwards as a water cistern.

It consists of a shaft about 7 ft. deep, 4½ ft. wide, and about 9 ft. long, covered by a number of slabs resting on two small arches, constructed at a distance of about 3 feet from each other. The shaft has a N.E.-S.W. direction. At one of the ends a small chamber with a deeply concave ceiling and about 3 feet deep, is somewhat irregularly cut. On the N.E. side, an elliptical chamber was hewn in the rock, about 8 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and nearly 4 ft. high at the entrance, the ceiling curving down gradually to form a well formed vault. No archaeological material was obtained but the shape of the tomb was worth noting. The field must have been in old time, used as a burial place for a considerable village, for all round the field the high ledge of rock is honeycombed with cavities now used for the storage of implements etc., but originally intended for graves.

ROCK-TOMBS AT DWEIRA.

At *Dweira*, whilst breaking ground for the planting of vines, a farmer came across a tomb. Informed of the fact, I inspected the place on the 22nd September. The site is known as *Ix-xaghra*, near *Gnien Ix-Xieh*. The tomb consisted of a rectangular shaft about 7 ft. long, 3 ft. wide, and 7 ft. deep, cut in N.E., S.W. direction. At the S.W. end, a rectangular chamber was cut with a concave ceiling, 8 ft. long, 5 ft. wide, with a rectangular trench about 1 ft. deep, that from the entrance extended to about 6 ft. inwards. A lamp hole was cut in the back wall.

The archaeological material was handled by the farmer before my arrival but, probably, nothing was missing. There were bones of at least 6 individuals and four complete skulls of adults were taken to the Museum for further investigation. The following objects were obtained: one large clay amphora of the usual type, 6 cinerary urns, 3 trefoil-lipped oenoches, 12 large flasks (aryballi) and 3 small ones, 13 cups, 12 plates, some of which deep and others flat, 14 lamps of the flat-Phoenician type, one spindle-shaped unguentarium, 1 red clay, well made, situla, 1 glass square bottle and one glass flask; in all 80 pieces of furniture besides numerous fragments.

A second rock-tomb was reported in the same locality a few days later. I inspected it on the 25th September. Although not far from the previous tomb, this one was of a much earlier type. It was still unopened but to the great surprise of the farmer and of the archaeologist there was a single burial without the least trace of furniture.

An irregularly cut semicircular shaft, about 5 ft. deep, was 6 ft. wide at the face of the rock, against which a large slab was still standing. The chamber was circular, about 5 ft. in diameter with a deep trench 2 ft. wide, at right angles to the entrance; the ceiling was distinctly curved. The trench at the entrance turned the back of the chamber into a flat ledge on which the body was laid, in such a position that, in the course of time, the head had rolled down and was found at the bottom of the trench.

ROCK-TOMBS ON THE LEFT OF THE "TAS-SALIB ROAD" TO THE WEST OF

"QALLILIA" CLOSE TO THE TOP OF "NADUR" HILL.

The site is called *Is-sellum Tax-xaghra*.

These tombs were all open and rifled long ago; they formed, however, important groups which it was well worth while to clear and survey.

On the 9th November, the following tomb was surveyed: Rectangular shaft 6 ft. long by 5 ft. wide, and 7 ft. deep in a NE-SW direction. One chamber on the Northern wall and one on the Western. The Western chamber is irregularly cut, with concave



ceiling, about 2 ft. high, and 7 ft. long; 5 ft. wide at its eastern end, for a length of 4 ft., and gradually restricted to an acute angle at the other end. No trench, no lamp-hole; walls and floor roughly cut. Chamber full of soil from which bones of an adult individual were collected. No pottery.

The Western chamber is semicircular in shape with curved ceiling and a trench across the floor at right angles to the entrance. Front wall 6 ft. wide, depth of chamber about 4 ft., the semicircular ledge on which the body had to be laid was $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide by 6 ft. long. The bones of an adult skeleton were examined, fragments of Punic pottery met with, the largest being those of an oenochoe and of a plate. A fine bilychnes Phoenician lamp of an exceptional thickness was also obtained from this early type of rock-tomb.

b) Another tomb was cleared in the same district on the 15th November. It was an early tomb with a small rectangular shaft, $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep and a roughly oval chamber 6 ft. long by 4 wide in the middle, with curved ceiling, about 3 ft. high at the entrance. Shaft and chamber full of red soil from which fragment of human bones, a large flat bilychnes lamp, a clay unguentarium and some potsherds were recovered. The entrance to the chamber had a NE. aspect.

c) A second tomb, cleared on the same day, at the same site, was very similar to the first one. The shaft was semicircular in shape, 6 ft. wide at the face of the rock, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide at its central portion and about 6 ft. deep. The chamber, with a S.E. aspect, was still protected by a large slab on end broken for about one half of its height. The chamber was circular, 5 ft. in diameter with a curved ceiling and a height of 2 ft. at the square entrance. Fragments of human bones and of Punic potsherds were obtained from the red soil that filled this tomb.

d) A third tomb, irregularly cut, but of the same early type of the two mentioned above, was cleared on the same day. The oval chamber, 7 ft. long with an average width of 6 ft. and a maximum height of $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. had a square entrance with a S.E. aspect, 3 ft. each side. The shaft, irregular and quadrangular, was on the average 7 ft. long by 6 ft. wide with a depth of 6 ft. Small fragments of bones and pottery were obtained from the soil that filled this tomb.

Higher up in the same district, nearer to Nadur on the plateau known as "Ix-xaghra ta Ghattuqa" other tombs were cleared in November. They were all rifled and very little material was obtained from them. Some of their shapes, however, were of peculiar interest.

e) The first tomb cleared had a SE by E aspect. The shaft was 5 ft. deep, 6 ft. long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide. Along the eastern wall a few steps were cut. The circular chamber with a barrel-shaped vault was 7 ft. long. Fragments of bones and of Punic sherds were obtained from the soil that filled the tomb.

f) A second tomb with a S.E. aspect had the same features as the last one described. Rectangular shaft 7 ft. long, 4 ft. wide, 4 ft. deep. Chamber circular with curved ceiling about 7 ft. long, with a shallow trench at the entrance extending, at right angles to the same, to the eastern wall for a distance of 4 feet. A few potsherds and a small cup were recovered from the soil.

g) A double tomb was surveyed on the 20th September, in the same district. It was full of red soil and contained only fragments of bones and pottery. A minute search, however, brought to light a most interesting big flat Phoenician lamp, scarce in our collection, and a silver ring of which the bezel, undoubtedly a signet, is wanting.

The shaft of the tombs lies in a N.E.—S.W. direction with a funereal chamber at each end; it is rectangular, $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, 4 ft. wide, and about 4 ft. deep at the S.W. end but over 5 ft. at the other end. The western chamber is roughly triangular in shape with a curved base on the side of the entrance about 7 ft. long, the northern side, in a line with the side of the shaft, makes an angle with the other side, both being 7 ft. long. The ceiling of the chamber is flat and 3 ft. above the floor. Along the northern wall, a ledge of the rock 2 ft. wide, juts out as a bed on which the body was probably stretched. The eastern chamber is more regular, it is rectangular in front, with rounded angles at the back, about 6 ft. long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, and 3 feet high. A stone bench, similar to that of the other chamber, is cut along the whole side of the northern wall.

h) Another tomb, not far from those just described, has the peculiarity of having the chamber not at right angles but parallel to the main axis of the shaft. The entrance to it is cut in the N.E. corner of a rectangular shaft about 8 ft. long, 4½ ft. wide and 5 ft. deep, in a NW. direction. Two steps are cut in its northern angle and, in its middle, the floor shows a bulge of the rock left uncut for about 4 feet at a height of 2 ft. From a rectangular entrance, about 3 ft. high and 2 ft. wide, the chamber, elliptical in plan and barrel-shaped in section, is reached. Its length is just over 6 ft. and its width at the middle part is not 3 ft.; the height at the entrance is just over 3 ft. Both shaft and chamber were full of soil, but fragments of bones and pottery were obtained on sifting with care. A most interesting bilychnes lamp, thick and clumsy, resting on a flat base, was obtained whole from the debris. It is a rare specimen of this type of lamp.

ROCK-TOMB AT CURMI.

In December 1926, whilst cutting the rock for the foundation of a new Govt. School at C. Curmi (*Tal Hammieri* district) a rock-tomb was broken into. Although the upper portion of the tomb had already disappeared, it was clear that it was of an early type with a round shaft and an oval chamber. Cleared of the stones and soil, a circular shaft 6 ft. in diameter, 5 ft. deep, and with concave walls, appeared clearly in front of a small oblong chamber, at right angles to the shaft, 6 ft. long and 3½ ft. wide, at its middle portion. The entrance was in the southern wall of the shaft about 2 ft. from the bottom. Evidently the tomb was rifled much before it was broken but on a strict examination interesting potsherds were recovered of a thick ware with a red slip, resembling pottery of the Bronze Age period. In the chamber, fragments of bones of a young adult were recognized, and in the shaft, bones of a sheep or goat.

A few feet from the tomb just described, another one was broken into on the 2nd December. This was of the silos or pear shape type, with an opening flush with the rock surface (about 2 ft. in diameter) a depth of 5½ feet, and a base diameter of about 5 feet. This tomb contained no archaeological material.

ROCK-TOMB AT "NIGRET" (RABAT) TO THE NORTH OF THE LUNZIATA DISTRICT SOUTH OF THE FARM "TAS-SALVATUR". (3rd December 1926).

This tomb, accidentally opened by the farmer, under a ledge of rock in his field, proved of great interest both for its shape and its contents. A shaft just beyond the rock face, barely 3 ft. wide at the top and 4 ft. deep, is cylindrical in shape. In its eastern wall a square entrance, 2 ft. high, opens at the bottom leading into a barrel shaped space with a floor diameter of about 5 feet and walls about 4 ft. high. At a height of about 2 ft. from the floor the cave is dug out for a further depth of 4 ft. with a height of about 3 ft. at its entrance, the ceiling curving down rapidly at the back. A distinct ridge in front of this internal cave allows for the disposal of the body, flat on its back, with a little step to the South on which the head could be supported. Above the head-rest a lamphole was cut in the wall, and on the northern end of the platform a hole was dug in which a jar was found standing. The lamphole had still its sooty lamp *in situ*. The farmer had removed both bones and pottery when we arrived on the spot but he explained that the bones were on the platform and the pottery in the first cave after the entrance. One clay taited amphora, one large double-handled jar, two jugs, one plate and a flat bilychnes lamp was consigned by the farmer who later on brought us also two heavy tin rings one of which with Egyptian scarab and inscription on the bezel. The tomb and the pottery are of an early type. Miss M. Murray, F.S.A., of University College, London, who examined the ring, reported that the ring is an Egyptian one and bears the name of "Sebek-Hetep" of the 13th Dynasty.

ROCK-TOMB AT "TAL HERR".

On the 20th of December, a tomb was accidentally discovered at "Tal Horr", in the lands of the Addolorata Cemetery. Whilst digging for the construction of a modern grave, the workmen got into the shaft of a pagan rock-tomb of the late period.

The shaft was quadrangular, about 8½ ft. long and 5 ft. wide, with three rough steps cut in its eastern wall; its depth was about 10 ft.



At its S.W. side, a square entrance (3 ft. high) was found at the western corner, covered completely by a large stone slab, on the removal of which a rectangular chamber was found with straight walls, 6 ft. long, about 5 ft. wide and 4 ft. high, with a flat ceiling. Beyond 1 ft. from the entrance, a trench 1 ft. deep and as much wide, was dug out for the length of 3 ft. A lamphole was cut on the eastern wall about 1 ft. from its S.E. upper angle. The bones of two bodies could be distinguished. The following bits of furniture were obtained: 2 cinerary urns of the usual Maltese type, 2 large water amphorae, 1 thick flat bilychnes lamp, 1 clay plate, 2 trefoil-lipped jugs, and 1 spherical flask (aryballum).

ROCK-TOMB AT MTARFA.

The last rock-tomb found during the financial year was, possibly, the most important of the series.

The farmer of the lands called *Is-sandar* discovered a tomb, with its sealing slab still *in situ*, cut in the face of the northern rocky side of the Mtarfa hill. I was present at the opening of the tomb which was untouched. There was no shaft, the chamber being cut in the face of the rock. The slab covered the entrance completely and stood on a ledge of the projecting rock. On removing the slab a vaulted entrance appeared 2½ ft. high and 1½ ft. wide at the base. As the chamber was free from soil it appeared neat and clear, with all the contents standing out against the white walls. Two amphorae stood on the left and the floor was strewn with undamaged pottery. A cinerary urn on the right was broken but the fragments were piled up in a heap.

The floor of the tomb was circular with a diameter of barely 3½ ft.; the roof was vaulted, curving rapidly beyond the entrance. The following furniture was recovered: two large water amphorae, 3 trefoil-lipped jugs, one flask, one large clay dish and several smaller ones, whole and fragmentary, 3 cups with handles, one clay bowl and one very fine proto-Corinthian cup. It is evident that the tomb was intended for the burial of cinerary urns and used on several occasions. The floor was strewn with incinerated bones, but the only cinerary urn found was broken.

Two objects, new to our collection, were found in this tomb. These were dishes on a base with a conical stand in the centre not unlike a modern candlestick. Such objects are reported to have been met with in tombs in Canaan in Palestine.

ROMAN REMAINS.

On the 28th July 1926, my attention was drawn to a site in a field on the road which from Butt-Marrod leads up to Wardia. The farmer of this field came across a kind of cistern from which, mixed with a slimy deposit, he drew up fragments of Roman glass, pottery, marble slabs, tiles etc., and a coin of Trajanus (89-117 A.D.) From these remains and from some stones cropping up in the field it is evident that a Roman Villa existed somewhere in the neighbourhood. The intense cultivation of the field on the slope of that hill has caused every trace of the Roman building to completely disappear. The owner of the field, Mr. Matrenza, very kindly put the field at my disposal in case I required to make further investigations.

ROMAN CATACOMB AT RABAT.

During some work in a field at Hal-Bajjada (Sqaq tal Midhna or Tax-xatba), steps cut in the rock were reported to me. On the 8th of November, I inspected the place and directed the cleaning of the shaft when an unfinished catacomb was discovered. Four steps cut in the rock led down to a platform 3½ ft. square at a depth of 5½ ft. under the surface of the field. A high threshold 2 ft. wide marked the entrance to a lower corridor 3 ft. below it, reached by descending two steps. This corridor was 14 ft. long, 7½ ft. high and 4 ft. wide. In one of the walls, an arcosolium, was beginning to be cut; a chord of a circle with a 5 ft. base and 2 ft. high having been already hewn in the rock. At this point, the work had ceased but so far it had proceeded with great care and accuracy. The site had to be filled up and covered over again.

THE CATACOMBS OF THE "ABATIA TAD-DEIR".

The site known as *Tad-deir* at Rabat, described and illustrated by Dr. A. A. Caruana in his "Ancient Pagan Tombs and Christian Cemeteries in Malta [1898]", was acquired by the Government in order to have it preserved and eventually studied and restored.

- Drs. Favilli & Lusena—Firenze—9 brochures on bacteriological subjects.
 Renato Bartoccini—Edifici d'interesse Archeologico di Tripoli, 1926.
 H. H. Brindley (through Miss Murray)—A Bronze Age anchor.
 Prof. Mauceri—Pittori seicentisti del Museo di Messina.
 Società Piemontese di Archeologia e Belle Arti—Fascicolo 3-4 anno X.
 American Museum Natural History—57th Annual Report, 1925.
 Major H. A. Balbi, M.B.E.—Discours sur l'étude de l'histoire des Chevaliers Hospitaliers, 1927.
 Institute Pasteur de Tunis—Archives Tome XVI, No. 1, 1927.
 Auckland Institute & Museum—Annual Report, 1926-27.
 James H. Hyde Esq., Paris—The four parts of the world as represented in old-time pageants and ballets, 1927.
 Dr. Ant. Tonelli—Torino—Grammatica e Glossario della lingua degli Onas, 1927.

Acquired for the Museum:—

Cast of Napoleon's face. Model of old Maltese barge. Four pairs shoes 18th century. Seven waistcoats 18th century. 9 old coins. One sword 16th century. 8 prints and sketches; and the following books:—Ravioli, La Gigantea 1870; Restoration of Antiquities, B. Museum; Legey, Essai de Folklore Marocain; Contenau, La Civilisation Phénicienne; Bertillon et Chervin, Anthropologie métrique; De Paniagua, La Civilisation néolithique; Rose, Primitive culture in Italy; Dudley Buxton, Primitive Labour; D. Garrod, Upper paleolithic Age in Great Britain; A. Machin, The Ascent of man; N. Jorga, Synthèse de l'histoire de l'humanité.

The following is the list of visitors to the Valletta Museum and the other sites controlled by this Department:—

Admittance during the Financial Year.

Valletta Museum:—

Free on Sundays and Saturdays (May to Sept.) and by special students' ticket	...	...	...	...	4,793
On Week days at 6d. per ticket	...	...	...	...	2,570
On Saturdays at 3d. per ticket	...	...	...	...	472

Total No. of visitors ... 7,835

Roman Villa Museum, Rabat:—

Admission by payment (3d.) ... 886

St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat:—

Admission by payment (3d.) ... 808

Hal-Saffieni Hypogeum:—

Admission by payment (6d.) ... 2,460

Free tickets were given during the year to classes of various schools and colleges under the guidance of their teachers or directors, as well as to parties of foreign institutions when led by a responsible director.

Students' tickets are also granted to bonafide students of our antiquities either for one visit or for one whole year, the ticket being renewable at the request of the holder.

It is evident that the Museum Department is being appreciated by the public and it will be much more so in a near future when catalogues will be available and guide-books written on the various subjects.

THEM. ZAMMIT,

Director of the Museum
and Curator of the Archaeological Section.

APPENDIX A.

Report of the Curator of the Mineralogical and Crystallographical Section.

THE MUSEUM,
30th May, 1927.

Sir,

Referring to my last report of the 4th October 1926, I beg to state that all the specimens filling the showcases large and small, are now all properly numbered and the formation of the catalogue is being attended to at the rate of between 10 to 12 specimens per diem.

Owing to new acquisitions and to new presents made to my section, new showcases are necessary and should be provided.

I am also pleased to report a fair continuation of donations as hereunder noted.

It is to be regretted that the origin of quite a number of specimens, given to the section, is unknown but that cannot be helped and the absence of such qualification is no reason for refusing a donation which is always welcome in such a collection which is universal in nature and destination.

DONATIONS.

- 1927
- January 3rd ... 1 Half Quartz Geode, with Amethyst XIs: of origin unknown.
1 Piece of Actinolite, of un: or:
1 Piece of Quartz with White XIs, of un: or:
One full Geode of Quartz, equally of un: or:
The above four specimens were presented by Mr. Emmanuele Xerri.
- do. 15th ... 2 Marble Specimens properly cut and polished, of un: or, presented by Mr. Luigi Schembri.
- do. 26th ... 1 piece of rock covered on one side with massive sulphur and on the other side with fine XIs: of Sulphur, from Solfatara di Napoli, presented by Chev. John Ellis.
- February 4th ... 1 fine specimen of Pirites, of un: or, presented by Mr. Costanzo Busuttill.
- do. 5th ... One specimen of fossilized wood from Egypt, presented by The Rev. Don Lawrence Scieluna of Casal Asiack.
- do. 25th ... 1 piece of emerald Rock with a fine emerald attached from Hedjaz, presented by Capt. W. R. Gatt, A.D.C.
- do. 25th ... 1 piece of rock with a curious natural but superficial bluish coat, presented by Prof. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D.Litt. (Oxon), from Mnaidra, Malta.
- do. 26th ... 1 piece of Calcite, var: Stallactitic, found at Benjemma, Malta, presented by the aforementioned Capt. W. R. Gatt, A.D.C.
- April 3rd ... 1 half pebble with shining mica of un: or: presented by Mr. Emmanuele Xerri.
- do. 5th ... 8 pieces of Acqua-Marine, found in Catta's Jewels, presented by Mrs. Philip Calleja, origin unknown.
- do. 8th ... 7 different pieces of cut and polished marbles from Gozo, presented by Capt. W. R. Gatt, A.D.C.
- do. 10th ... 1 big piece of Calcite, var: Stallactitic, of un: or, presented by Mr. Edward Schembri, through Prof. J. Despott, M.B.E., C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
2 Petrified Nautilus Shells, found at the Marsa School excavations, presented by Dr. A. Laferla and handed over to Prof. J. Despott's Section.
- May 17th ... 2 fine pieces of rocks with mica, of un: or, presented by Mr. Antonio Galea of No. 147, Via Boschetto, Rabato.
- do. 18th { 1 piece of marble from the excavations of Laeptis Magna from Tripoli, Africa.
1 piece of Calcite of Stallagmitic formation, polished and cut as paper-weight, of un: or:
2 round cut and polished paper-weights of brown and rose rock, from Oregon, all the four presented by Capt. W. R. Gatt, A.D.C.
- do. 30th ... Fragments that constitute one whole Nautilus, found at Tal Horr Addolorata Cemetry, presented by Carmelo Mallia, Esq, L.S. & A., and handed over to Prof. J. Despott's Section.

I should also add, that along with these donations I have acquired one very fine Quartz Geode with a hole properly cut for seeing its wonderful interior formation, to see which, however, an interior electric bulb should be fixed. The origin of this Geode is again unknown. Other acquisitions consist in quite a number of new specimens found at my House at Pera, Constantinople, along with a whole collection of 145 minerals and rocks from Canada and the foregoing will be added to my section when the Government will please to provide the necessary show-cases.

This set will be duly described in the next report.

I have &c,
LEWIS 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 August, 1927.

Sir,
I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the Museum for the financial year 1926-27.

I. TA GANDIA FISSURE.

The exploration of the pleistocene deposits in a deep fissure in the quarry known as "Il barriera tal Facciol" at "Ta Gandia" a district to the north west of Micabiba, was continued during the period under review and a plentiful and interesting material was obtained therefrom, especially during the summer and autumn of 1926, it consisted chiefly of the following remains:

1. Deer (*Cervus elaphus* var. *barbarus*) A large number of highly mineralized bones in a very good state of preservation, belonging to animals in their various stages of growth.
2. Fox (*Canis vulpes* var. ?) Bones also in a perfect state of mineralization and mostly very well preserved, belonging to a distinct variety of the common fox, were also obtained rather plentifully showing very clearly that this carnivore was rather common during that period. It is perhaps important to note that though the fossil remains of the fox have already been met with in Malta they were never as plentiful as in this locality.

In 1919, Miss Dorothea Bate, of the South Kensington Museum, to whom I had sent similar specimens for identification expressed the opinion that they belonged to a variety of a fox smaller than that now living in Sardinia known as *V. ichnusae* and probably approximating in size *V. nilotica*.

3. Other small mammals. Remains of small mammals in the same state of fossilization were also collected. These, however, have not yet been identified.

4. Toad (probably *Bufo viridis*) A large number of limb bones and also some vertebrae of this batrachian in a perfectly mineralized condition were likewise collected. Of course, I need hardly state that no toad is nowadays found living in these Islands.

5. Tortoise (probably *Testudo graeca*) Equally mineralized remains of a tortoise were sparingly met with showing that the animal lived here during the period. It is important perhaps to point out that no tortoises are to be met with to-day in Malta in a wild state, but they are only kept in confinement in some gardens where they also reproduce themselves. Specimens are also imported, almost annually, from several countries bordering the Mediterranean.

II. GHAR DALAM.

The digging of a trench at the mouth of Ghar Dalam was taken in hand on the 22nd March 1927 with the main object of laying a solid foundation for the railings intended to guard this most important site which has been called by Sir Arthur Keith "a pleistocene palace of Knossos". It is, no doubt, one of the richest pleistocene deposits known.

Consistently with the practice followed by me when making similar excavations, the work has been and is still being carried out systematically. Many specimens are being left in situ whilst others are being preserved for exhibition at the Museum. A detailed report on the trench in question will be published, separately, in due course.

III. PALEONTOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

The following are some of the important additions to this collection:—

(a) Tertiary fossils

1. A portion of the caudal fin and some vertebrae of a tunny fish (*Thynnus*) in a block of globigerina limestone from one of the quarries at Casal Luca, presented by Mr. Giovanni Dacutros.
2. Three gastropod shells (not yet identified) from the blue globigerina at "Il Kanfud" in the vicinity of Rohan Gate, Zebbug, presented by Prof. Alex. Sultana M.D.
3. A number of specimens from the greensand at "Kammieh" collected by the curator. The most important amongst these being a portion of a vertebra and a tooth of a cetacean, identified by Miss Bate as probably belonging to the genus *Hoplacetus*.
4. Portion of a mandible and several teeth of a cetacean, also identified by Miss Bate as probably a "Squalodon" found by Mr. C. Rizzo P.A.A. at Gozo and presented by the Director of the Museum Prof. T. Zammit M.D., C.M.G., D.Litt. (Oxon).
5. A small collection of specimens from the lower coralline near Hagiar Kim also presented by Prof. Zammit.
6. A number of specimens from the greensand of Gneina and Id-Delli collected by the Curator.

(b) Quaternary fossils

1. Portion of an elephant's tusk and several fragments of bones, probably belonging to an animal of the same genus (*Elephas* ?) found in the alluvial deposits on the "Ta Bukana" road, Attard, presented by Contino Teuma Castelletti.
2. A number of avian remains collected by the curator from various sites of the Maltese pleistocene deposits. Amongst these, the following, which were identified by Miss Bate, are the most important:
 - i) Raven (*Corvus corax*) A metacarpus and a distal end of tibio tarsus. Though this bird figures on the list of our recent species as one of rare occurrence, this species is an entirely new addition to the list of our fossil birds.
 - ii) Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) A proximal end of the right tibio metatarsus. The golden eagle is also included in the list of our recent species as one of very rare occurrence and is now appearing for the first time amongst our pleistocene avifauna.

To Director of the Museum.

iii) Bean goose (*Anser fabilis*) Portion of right femur, caracoid and a second digit. Every now and then one of these geese makes its appearance in Malta, generally in winter during stormy weather, but this is the first time that it is being recorded as found in our pleistocene deposits.

iv) Pochard (*Fuligula ferina*) An imperfect carpus metacarpus; another of our recent birds whose occurrence is very rare in these islands, in fact, so far, only three specimens are recorded as having been locally observed. It is now being recorded also for the first time in a fossil state.

v) Ruddy sheldrake (*Tadorna casarca*). Numerous limb bones. In the list of our recent birds this species figures as one of very rare occurrence, but judging from the quantity of its remains found in our pleistocene deposits it must have been a fairly common duck during that period.

vi) Swan, small (*Cygnus sp.?*) A distal end of the right tibio tarsus and the proximal end of two radii. As far as I am aware, this swan has not as yet ever been described and very probably belongs to an extinct species. It is certainly a new addition to the collection of the Museum.

Other avian remains were also added to this collection during the period under review, but they all belong to species already recorded from our pleistocene deposits. Amongst these, the following are the most interesting:

i) Carrion crow, (*corvus cf. corone*) Distal portions of two tibio tarsi. This species does not figure with our recent birds, it is probably unknown in Sicily, and is considered to be very rare in central Italy. It appears to be sedentary in the northern provinces. Its fossil remains have already been met with in the pleistocene deposits of Ghar Dalam by Miss Caton Thompson in 1922.

ii) Vulture (*Gyps sp.*) Proximal end of left metatarsus. The only species of the genus on the list of our recent birds is the Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) a specimen of which was locally taken many years ago and is now in our Museum. Amongst our fossil species we have the *Gyps melitensis* of Liddyker, remains of which were found in the deposits of Zebbug Cave by Spratt—and are now in the British Museum.

iii) Swan (*Cygnus falconeri*) Twelve toe bones and two fragmentary distal portions of two tarsi metatarsi. Remains of this extinct species have already been noted. Spratt collected several specimens from the pleistocene deposits of Zebbug Cave, which he presented to the British Museum in 1878.

iv) Mute swan (*Cygnus musicus*). Two fragments of tibia and a distal end of right humerus. This species makes its appearance here at rather long intervals usually during very severe winters. Remains which are believed to belong to this species and are now in the British Museum were obtained from the pleistocene deposits of Zebbug Cave.

v) Great bustard (*Otis tarda*). Portions of tibio tarsus and ulna of a cock bird and portions of femur and of tarsus metatarsus of hen. On the list of our recent birds this species figures as one of very rare occurrence. It has also been recorded, however, amongst our fossil species.

MAMMALS—(recent).

The additions to this collection consist of the following:—

1. Baboon (*Papio*) from South Africa. One bleached skull. Presented by Captain J. S. Bliss.
2. Lesser horse shoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposiderus*) 2 specimens in alcohol.
3. Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europæus*) 2 young specimens in alcohol.
4. European musk shrew (*Crocidura suaveolens*) one specimen in alcohol.
5. Fox (*Canis vulpes*) two skeleton feet and one skull.
6. Weasel (*Mustela putorius*) two stuffed specimens.
7. Brown rat (*Mus decumanus*) one skull.
8. Black rat (*Mus rattus*) one skull.
9. House mouse (*Mus musculus*) one skull.
10. Long tailed field mouse (*Mus sylvaticus*) one skull.
11. Harvest mouse (*Mus minutus*) one skull.
12. Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) one skeleton foot.
13. Pig and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) two skeleton feet.
14. Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) one mounted skeleton of a young specimen and one skull of an adult.

BIRDS—(recent).

The only additions to this collection consist of the following:—

1. Three storm petrels (*Thalassidroma pelagica*) from Filfla, mounted for a nature group.
2. One marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). This specimen was purchased on the Valletta Market in April 1926. This species is of very rare occurrence in these islands; it was recorded by Wright in 1875.

It is very much regretted that owing to pressure of other work and the want of the necessary staff required, so very little has been added to the ornithological collection.

REPTILES—(recent).

The additions to the herpetological collection consist of the following:—

1. Three geckos (*Hemidactylus turcicus*) various sizes, preserved in a formaline solution.
2. Seven wall lizards from Malta (*Lacerta muralis* var. *mallensis*) preserved in alcohol.
3. Four skinks (*Chalcides ocellatus*) various sizes preserved in a formaline solution.
4. One do. presented by Chev. J. Ellis in a formaline solution.
5. One dark green snake (*Zamensis atrovirens*) preserved in alcohol, presented by Mr. Paul Borg Ph.C., Plant Pathologist to the local Department of Agriculture.
6. One variety of the leopard snake (*Coluber leopardinus*) preserved in alcohol and presented also by Mr. Borg.
7. Painted frog (*Discoglossus pictus*) a series of specimens of various sizes from Gozo collected, by Mr. Tancredi Borg of the Natural History Section of the Museum.
8. A large stuffed lizard from Africa, presented by Mr. John Portelli.



FISHES—(recent).

The ichthyological collection is continually being increased and during the period under review more than 200 specimens have been added, the greater part of which have been prepared by the new method which retains their colour more or less satisfactorily. Amongst the new additions, the following are the most important:

1. One saury pike (*Scomberesox saurus*) so far the only specimen in the collection.
2. One young fierasfer (*Fierasfer acus*) a species which is rather difficult to obtain.
3. One globe fish (*Lagocephalus lagocephalus*). This is also another fish which is rather difficult to obtain, and this is the only specimen in the Museum.
4. One Rabbit fish (*Chimera monstrosa*). Another species difficult to obtain.
5. Five very young specimens of the Angel fish (*Squatina squatina*).
6. One young specimen of the Hammer headed shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*).
7. Six very young specimens of Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*).

MOLLUSCA—(recent).

The conchological collection was increased very appreciably during the period under review. The Department of Fisheries has provided abundant material from the dredgings carried out under its direction. The terrestrial material obtained especially during December 1926 and March 1927 is likewise considerable.

The rich collection of the late Count the Hon. Senator A. Caruana Gatto B.A., LL.D., consisting of both local and exotic material, which took the Count more than 40 years to collect, was transferred to the Museum in December 1926, but so far very little has been done with regard to its classification and proper mounting, and I feel in duty bound to point out that unless I am given the necessary help and relieved of some other work which can be easily carried out by other persons, the exhibition of this rich collection to the public will have to be left indefinitely in abeyance.

Another fine collection containing specimens from all parts of the world, especially from the French colonies, was sent to the Count by Mr. Otto Stehli of Zurich in December 1926 and consequently reached the Museum after the Count's demise. Owing to bad packing the material suffered considerably. The greater part of the specimens have no data whatsoever, which fact will necessarily entail a good deal of additional work.

The following is material acquired through the Department of Fisheries and is mostly intended for purposes of reference.

Protozoa ...	...	...	5 species	Crustacea:			
Porifera ...	...	...	1 "	Cirripedia ...	...	...	1 species
Coelenterata:				Copepoda ...	...	...	5 "
Hydromedusae ...	...	...	2 "	Stomapoda...	...	...	8 "
Etnophora ...	...	...	1 "	Macrura ...	...	...	8 "
Vermes:				Brachiura ...	...	...	20 "
Polyclatidea ...	...	...	5 "	Isopoda ...	...	...	1 "
Trimatoda ...	...	...	1 "	Mollusca:			
Hirudinea ...	...	...	1 "	Lamellibranchiata ...	...	...	14 "
Annulata...	...	...	29 "	Pteropoda...	...	...	5 "
Briozoa ...	...	...	9 "				

INSECTS—(recent).

The entomological collection has also been increased considerably; amongst the new additions, the following may be mentioned:—

1. A series of butterflies and moths mostly collected during September and October.
2. A series of larvae of our lepidoptera.
3. A small collection of butterflies and moths from Switzerland collected and prepared by Col. H. C. Harford, C.B., by whom they were also presented to the Museum.
4. A small collection of butterflies and moths from British Guiana collected and prepared by Dr. Joseph Glavina, who presented them to the Museum.
5. Another collection of butterflies and moths in papers also from the British Guiana, collected and presented by Dr. Joseph Glavina.
6. Three very fine stag beetles from Italy prepared and presented by the Rev. Father D. Glavina S.J.
7. Two cabinets containing local entomological material collected and set by the late Count Caruana Gatto. Unfortunately this material is in a very deteriorated condition and though every effort has been made to save it, the greater part of the specimens must be considered a wreck.

BOOKS.

A very fine collection of books and pamphlets dealing with Natural History were also bequeathed to this section of the Museum by the late Count Caruana Gatto. Capt. J. S. Bliss has very kindly offered his services to compile the catalogue, which, it is hoped, will be published in due course.

I have, &c.,

G. DESPOTT,
Curator.

APPENDIX C.

Report of the Curator of the Art Section.

THE MUSEUM,

22nd July, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Fine Arts Section for the financial year 1926-27.

INQUISITOR'S PALACE.

The works of restoration in the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa, were continued; other inscriptions were met with; some of them deeply engraved, were concealed under a thick coat of plaster; these, along with other indications arising out of the contents of the freizes and the inscriptions discovered before, will presently afford us sufficient data for the understanding of this very interesting monument. In the entrance, remains of grotesque decorations in fine Italian *Cinquecento* were met with and freed of the whitewash that covered them.

ACQUISITIONS.

1. Portrait of a Lady, by Allingham. Purchased.
2. Portrait of a Maltese Officer, probably a Testaferata, by Allingham. Purchased.
3. Portrait of a child, by Allingham. Purchased.
4. Portrait of Ignazio Costù of Senglea; Maltese art; early XVIIIth. Cent. Purchased.
5. St. Mary Magdalen; Flemish School; middle XVIth. Cent. panel. Purchased.
The figure is repainted over, but it is hoped the original painting may still be recovered in almost its entirety; the beautiful mountainous landscape in the background is in perfect state of preservation.
6. The Brothers Grech (?) in their Studio. Pen and wash. Purchased.
Painted probably by Antonaci, called *Naici* who is here seen seated with palette in hand; his brother Giuseppe, a very promising artist who died in Rome (1787) when 32 years old is here seen standing talking with two young ladies, probably his sisters.
7. Portrait of G.M. Pinto; by Favray. Bequeathed by the late Dr. Beniamino Bonnici, late Member of the Council of Government and of the Antiquities Committee.
8. Judith. By Jean de Boulogne called *Le Valentin*. Acquired from an Italian Collection, in force of Art. 5 of Antiquities Act 1925.
Jean de Boulogne called *Le Valentin* (1591-1634) was born in Brie near Paris; when still a lad he proceeded to Rome where he became an ardent follower of Caravaggio. He painted for St. Peter's church the well known altarpiece of St. Processo and Martiniano.
9. Portrait of Sir Agostino Portelli. Purchased.
10. Portrait of Matteo Bonavia. Purchased.
Matteo Bonavia was an architect and engineer; (1748-1823). He was the assistant of Bali Tigné.
11. Portrait of Bali Caplaya. Purchased.
12. Portrait of Fr. Jac. de Chambray, Grand Cross and Vice Admiral of the Order; by Favray. Purchased.
13. Portrait of Bishop Fra Paolo Alferan. Purchased.
14. San Tommaso di Villanova. Terracotta group by Melchiorre Gafà called *Il Maltese*.
A spirited bozzetto for the colossal marble group in St. Agostino's Church, Rome. The marble group, as many of Gafà's works, owing to the untimely death of the artist, was finished by his master Ferrata. It is recorded by Nibby and Vasi, and was engraved by Peter Del Po.
15. Leather altar-front; late XVIIIth. Cent. Lent by the Rev. Fathers of Santa Maria di Porto Salvo.
16. Snuff box; tortoiseshell with miniature portrait of a Grand Cross of the Order. Purchased.
17. Two Majolica plates; Italian, early XVIIIth. Cent. Purchased.

CONTEMPORARY ART.

18. Study of figures and drapery; by Cesare Mariani (1880) Presented by the Artist's grandson, Dott. Valerio Mariani of Rome.

19. Nina de Vetlina; by Antonio Sciortino. Bronze figure. This statue, much admired in the 2nd Biennale of Rome, was kindly presented by Prof. Sciortino; a sum was paid just to cover the expenses of the bronze and the casting.

I have &c.,

VINCENZO BONELLO,

Curator of the Fine Arts Section.

To the Director of the Museum.

