

4323

REPORTS

ON THE WORKING OF

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1927-28.

Published by Authority.



PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, MALTA.

1929.

[Price 2s.]

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THE MUSEUM,
26th October, 1928.

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Museum Department for the year ending 31st March 1928.

THEM. ZAMMIT,
Director.

The Honourable,
The Minister for Public Instruction.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

Considerable work was done during the year with important result illustrating both our historical and prehistoric periods.

PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

A queer deposit of soil on the top of a steep hillock in the *Torri Falca* district had for a long time attracted our attention, but it was only in May 1927 that we found it convenient to make a thorough investigation of the site. A natural cave, visible from the road below, was found to be empty though showing traces of tertiary and probably of neolithic deposit but close to this cave was a patch of greyish soil which, on closer examination, proved to be stratified as if it was the sedimentary material of a cave of which the walls had disappeared. It is very probable that coralline limestone was quarried off this site when the parapet known as the Victoria lines, in the *Torri Falca* district, was constructed in 1887.

With the help of Mr. L. Upton Way, F.S.A., Prof. R. V. Galea and Mr. C. Rizzo, the clearing of the site was taken in hand on the 23rd of May.

The stratified patch of loose material, about 10 feet high, was ensconced in an angle of the rock extending for about 20 feet in height with a horizontal depth of about 10 feet.

The top layer consisted of a couple of feet of red virgin soil with a layer of boulders and chipped stones mixed with a yellowish clayey earth. This was laid on a gray sandy soil, about 2½ feet high, resting on a hard beaten earth (torba floor) about 1 inch thick on the rock floor of the original cave.

Archaeological material was met with in the gray soil only, the higher layers being sterile of handmade objects.

No stratification was detected in the gray soil so that one can only affirm that all the objects obtained had been lying in the cave since the Stone and Bronze Age periods.

As no human bones were found, we infer that the cave was used as a dwelling, and not as a burial place.

The following objects were obtained from the loose gray earth, carefully dug out with trowels and other small implements:

Flints

Flint flakes were numerous, mostly small, but in some cases as much as 6 cms. in length. A fragment of a remarkably well tooled flint knife, 4 cms. in length, was obtained together with other worked flints and bits of chert and obsidian.

Stone Implements.

The most important worked stone met with was a discoid block 2 ft. 3 in. (68 cms.) wide, and 8 in. (20 cms.) thick, pierced by a biconical hole 9 in. (23 cms.) wide, which may have served the purpose of a socket to a door-post.

A hard-stone cylindrical plug or polisher, with smooth surface, was the other important stone implement met with.

Pottery.

No complete object was recovered, but potsherds were very numerous. Some of these have undoubted Stone Age characters but the great majority correspond to the Maltese Bronze Age ware.

The most important sherds are worth mentioning:—

- a) plain black ware (neolithic) polished surface, excellent paste. Handles made of two triangles joined at the apex, so numerous at Tarxien,
- b) similar black ware, decorated with criss-crossed lines, triangles and curved patterns,
- c) a gray ware with deep parallel grooves,
- d) thick dark-gray ware with prominent circular studs,
- e) fawn polished ware with incised patterns made of fine lines radiating from a centre forming a kind of rosette,
- f) fish-scale ware, rather coarse, of a light brown colour,
- g) typical pitted ware, black, polished, with elongated pits,
- h) black-ware with incised circles,
- i) red polished ware with fine scratched parallel lines,
- j) red polished ware with thicker lines and a rougher surface,
- k) highly polished thick ware of a fawn colour,
- l) two spindle whorls of a fawn colour, with a highly polished surface.

One of them is conical, the other has the shape of a truncated cone about 3 in. (8 cm.) at the base and 1½ in. (4 cms.) high; they are both pierced with a vertical hole.

Although the result of this investigation was rather disappointing it has enabled us to add another neolithic site to the long list we already have in Malta, and probably a cave dwelling still in use in about 2,000 B.C.

The objects mentioned above are now exhibited in the Valletta Museum.

NEOLITHIC RUINS AT "TAL QADI".

(On the way to Salina Bay, through the "Mdawwra" road, a group of megaliths, close to a farm-house, are to be seen from the road. They were first pointed out to me by Mr. Henry Sant, one of the Civil Engineers of the Civil Government, but could not be investigated before June 1927.) These ruins are in Government lands so that we had only to come to terms with the tenant to start work as soon as his crops had been lifted.

(Mr. L. Upton Way, F.S.A.) who was in Malta between the 11th May and the 28th of June, kindly undertook to supervise the excavation during that period in the absence of the writer who could not be on the spot before late in the afternoon.

Although megaliths cropped up at different points of the field there was not great hope of getting much archaeological material when the scanty soil in the field and the lay of the ground was taken into consideration. The ground at the foot of the hill was terraced, and the Government was induced to acquire a couple of fields known as "ic-cens tas-sinistru" in which standing stones appeared to form an entrance to a building on a higher level.

When the field was cleared of the soil and the loose stones, it was found that an important neolithic building stood there. Broken and quarried for ages, what was left of it could barely enable one to get a clear idea of its shape. No decorated stones, bethyls, or sheltered recesses, so common in the Maltese prehistoric temples,

were met with.) What remains of the site may be described in a few words: The few blocks of coralline limestone aligned in the lower field appear to have been a corridor 12 ft. (3.66 m.) wide that led to the main entrance of the building facing due West. Steps may have led to the gateway about 5 ft. (1.53 m.) above the lower field, where standing blocks, about 12 ft. (3.66 m.) apart, still mark the site.) 31 ft. (8.45 m.) to the east of the entrance a smooth slab is laid as a threshold between two courses at right angles to it, now flush with the ground. This slab is 5 ft. 4 in. (1.63 m.) long and 2 ft. 8 in. (82 cms.) wide, the slabs at right angles to it being 1 ft. 10 in. (56 cms.) in width; how far these slabs went it is not possible to say for they were broken at about 5 ft. (1.5 m.) from the threshold. Behind this spot, at a distance of 15 ft. (4.5 m.), two large stone slabs, 6 ft. (1.83 m.) wide, are deeply laid in the same E.W. direction. The nearest slab is 3 ft. (92 cms.) by 6 ft. (1.83 m.) and the other one, close to it, is 8 ft. 7 in. (2.62 m.) long. Beyond this, bed rock is found all along the field, and no trace of buildings is visible. A rubble wall was built at this point in a E.S. direction to limit the farmer's field to the East. On each side of this central line W.E. in direction, at a distance of 29 ft. (8.85 m.), there are the remains of a semicircular wall about 4 ft. 9 in. (1.45 m.) thick. The surviving arcs of these circles are clearly defined; the one on the northern side has a chord 16 ft. 9 in. (5.10 m.) long with a depth of 4 ft. 10 in. (1.48 m.) at the middle of the chord; that to the South has a chord of 24 ft. (7.32 m.) This is practically all that remains of a once large solid building that occupied an area of at least 80 ft. (24.40 m.) by 60 ft. (18.30 m.) of rocky ground levelled by torba floors, slabs, and other stones that were made to fill up the irregularities of the natural surface.

The most striking feature of this neolithic site consist of a series of megaliths in a recumbent position now supported by irregular blocks of stone, lying in a N.E. direction not more than 7 ft. (2.12 m.) from the outer wall of the Northern apse.

One cannot affirm that these megaliths formed part of the building now in complete ruins, formed mainly of well squared stones.

The four megaliths now in a recumbent position have all the appearance of an *allée couverte* or rectangular gallery, considerably disarranged by the crumbling of some of the supports. The stones appear to have been laid end to end, although now they are no longer at the same level.

The four horizontal blocks have the following dimensions:—

- 1st one to the West: 14 ft. (4.27 m.) by 8 ft. (2.44 m.) by 2 ft. 4 in. (71 cms.)
- 2nd stone 13 ft. 6 in. (3.98 m.) by 8 ft. 6 in. (2.50 m.) by 2 ft. 10 in. (87 cms.)
- 3rd stone 11 ft. (3.35 m.) by 5 ft. 6 in. (1.68 m.) by 1 ft. 6 in. (35 cms.)
- 4th stone 7 ft. (2.13 m.) by 7 ft. 6 in. (2.29 m.) by 2 ft. 6 in. (76 cms.)

The Western end of the gallery is clear, but the Eastern end is still blocked up by a heap of stones which are to be cleared later on.

Not many objects were obtained from the excavation of this site, but enough came to light to show that the building must be attributed to a neolithic population and used, in later days, when Bronze Age pottery was introduced.

Flints.

The most important finds were the following:—numerous flakes and chips of flint, and chert among which 12 implements including one borer and 4 scrapers.

Pottery.

A fragment of a rough clay statuette, 4 cms. high, with hands in repose in front of the body. The potsherds collected were plentiful but too small to allow reconstruction. They are mostly fragments of thick large vessels decorated with scale patterns; but a finer ware with the ordinary neolithic Maltese decoration was also represented. The Bronze Age ware is similar to some of the types met with at Tarxien.

MEGALITHIC REMAINS AT QALLET MALKU.

Qaliet Malku is a creek to the N.W. of Bahar Ic-ciaghk. It is the end of a valley that winds its way along the eastern hills. About a quarter of a mile up the *Ta l'Ihfar* road, a small dolmen is still standing on the rock and the remains of

another one are strewn in the vicinity. The two uprights that support the table-stone one at each end, are rectangular, about 35 in. (90 cms.) high and built on smaller blocks standing on a ledge of rock making the distance between the table stone and the ground about 5 ft. 8 in. (1.73 m.) The coping stone is rectangular about 14 in. (36 cms.) high, 48 in. (1.22 m.) wide and 5 ft. 7 in. (1.70 m.) long. Of the broken dolmen, the rectangular uprights are 54 in. (1.42 m.) by 5 ft. 6 in. (1.68 m.) by 3 ft. 1 in. (94 cms.); the lintel about 7 ft. (2.15 m.) by 22 in. (56 cms.) by 42 in. (1.17 m.)

In some fields, further to the west, (fields taz-Zebbugia) a number of megaliths are still to be seen standing as walls, passages etc. of once existing buildings. The highest upright, standing in one of the fields, is 63 in. (1.60m) above the ground, another one in the next field is a block 6 ft. 3 in. (1.90m.) high 37 in. (94 cms.) wide and 16 in. (40 cms.) thick.

These ruins were examined on the 18th of January in a perfunctory manner but they deserve a deeper study, although there is little hope to get any definite information about the original buildings.

WIED TA BRANDA. CAIRNS

The high plateau overlooking the ravine known as Wied ta Branda, or Wied Moqbel, to the South of the Island, is strewn with megaliths, isolated or grouped but forming no definite plan, the rest of the extensive buildings having been pulled down in the course of time. The rock surface out here is naked so that when a standing stone is pulled down it is easily moved away without leaving a trace of its original situation.

Here and there groups of slabs are still to be seen. A group of four stones form a wall about 20 ft. long (6.10 m.) with a maximum height of 66 in. (1.68 m.). Another wall ends in a passage with an upright 76 in. high (1.93 m.) on one side and a slab 56 in. (1.42 m.) high and 8 ft. 9 in. (2.70 m.) long.

Not far from the edge of the plateau a water-tank, dug out in the rock, is open in part, the rest being covered with long slabs. Its long axis is in a S.W.N.E. direction; the length of the whole tank is about 10 ft. (3.5 m.), its width 70 in. (1.80 m.) and its depth, at the open side, at least 5 ft. (1.53 m.) one slab 85 in. (2.16 m.) long lies across it at a distance of 47 in. (1.20 m.) from the open end and beyond this and at right angles of it three slabs about 5 ft. (1.53 m.) long and about 2 ft. (60 cms.) wide. The tank is full of stones and soil and does not appear to hold water. The site was examined on the 12th January 1928.

BAHRIA.

A visit to Bahria was rewarded by a small collection of typical potsherd of an exquisite design that went to enrich the Valletta Museum collection. The type of the pottery is always that mentioned by Peet in his article on "The study of the Pre-historic period in Malta in Papers of the British School at Rome Vol. V. No. 3, 1910", but some new patterns were obtained.

TARXIEN.

The clearing of corners and patches covered with soil in the neolithic temples of Tarxien brought to light small objects and potsherds of great interest. Among the objects we got: (a) an almond shaped white stone, flat on one side and convex on the other, (calcite or alabaster) 3 cms. long, 2 cms high and 12 mm. thick. It has a base of about 2 cms. long, and tapers on both sides to the shape of a triangle having the appearance of an animal head. In the middle of the body 2 tiny holes and a horizontal slit give the appearance of a human face. (b) An ovoid pebble of a greyish white hard material, smoothed apparently by the action of water on a beach is 4 cms. long, 25 mm. at its widest part, with a biconical hole close to the broad extremity. Its peculiarity is that it has on one side a deeply engraved mark resembling very much a letter M, with three vertical lines and a horizontal line on top of them,

in touch, however, with only two of the perpendicular lines. (c) One small alabaster elongated oval head of a figurine, considerably worn out, but the slits for eyes, nose, and mouth, can be well traced; at the back, there is a mass of hair or a wig with two distinct waves marked by two deep lines. At the side of the neck there is a wide biconical hole that goes through from side to side. The base of the neck is not broken but cut on purpose slanting backwards.

The following objects were also found at Tarxien during the year:—

One bone borer, about 6 cms. in length. A black pebble, almond shaped 45 mm long with scratches which may be accidental, but which look, under certain angles, as a group of figures. An almond shaped black pendant of mica-schist 4 cms. long, with a biconical hole for suspension at one of the extremities. Several flint implements some of which carefully finished. Very interesting potsherds came to light, one of which is of extreme importance. The reconstructed sherd is only 7 cms. long. It is 10 mm. thick, of a reddish gray colour made of a fine paste free from grit of any sort. The surface is smooth and hand polished. It is probably a fragment of a plate exquisitely decorated with incised lines filled up with red pigment. It had a wide border made of chevrons with a dot in the centre. It represent trees and bulls. The five pieces of sherds that could be stuck together show the profile of two bulls drawn with a steady hand. To the left, the shoulders and the horned head of a bull is shown, and to the right, a whole bull of which part of the head is missing. Nothing more beautiful than this ware has been found at Tarxien, or indeed anywhere in Malta.

DEBRIS OUTSIDE PORTA REALE, VALLETTA.

In July 1927, when the ground outside Porta Reale was being levelled in connection with the building scheme of the Harper area, I had an eye kept on the clearing of the glacis which, constructed at the end of the 16th century, contained necessarily material thrown in as rubbish from neighbouring dwelling places. Fragments of architectural debris met with proved of no importance, but the numerous fragments of pottery were greatly interesting. These potsherds, of which a good collection was made for the Museum, consisted naturally of the common household ware used at the beginning of the 17th century, mostly Sicilian ware, highly glazed and very brightly coloured. Very striking however, were the sherds of a peculiar ware which should be attributed to North Africa rather than to Sicily. This ware consisted of large vessels, amphorae, jars, basins, bottles etc., with thick walls, and a smooth outer surface. This ware was mostly covered with a red slip on which elaborate line designs in white, were painted with a brush. In many cases, the pot was covered with a white slip on which thick lines, in various patterns, were painted in red.

I do not know how far this painted ware was common in this particular age, but in North Africa, such as Tunis and Algeria, this kind of ware was common in the 17th century and in some villages is made even to these days.

It is an interesting fact, that this thick ware, decorated with painted lines, white on red or red on white, is met with in very old sites both in Malta and Gozo. Father Magri made a collection of them during the excavations at Ta Ghammieza, Gozo, Mr. P. F. Bellanti met with several specimens during his investigations, and I collected numerous bits from a deep pit on the outer glacis near the Roman Villa, corresponding probably to a Roman horizon. I know that this characteristic ware is being studied at Tunis by Dr. Gobert who appears to consider it a survival of a pre-historic industry.

- CART-TRACKS OUTSIDE PORTA REALE.

When the loose material of the glacis was removed, the Public Works Department reported the presence of deep grooves in the soft globigerina rock about 4 ft. (1.22 m.) under the surface of the glacis. I visited the site at once, had photographs taken, and surveyed what had been left of the grooves. I found two sets of cart-tracks, pretty close to each other, one with a N.E. by E. and the other with a N.E. direction. Of one set there were about 39 feet (9 m.) left, of the other only 11 feet (3.3 m.). The ruts were V shaped with a surface width varying from 9½ in. (24 cms.) to 13½ in. (34.5 cms.) and a bottom width about 3 in. (7.5 cms.). It is natural that in the soft

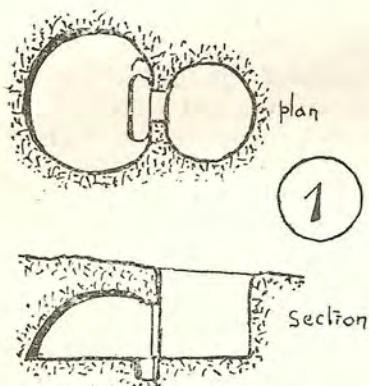
globigerina limestone the wheels wobbled more freely and widened the rut at the surface after a long run. The path between the ruts was about 3 ft. 5 in. (1 m.), but measured from the middle part of one groove to that of the other the distance was very nearly 4 ft. 6 in. (1.37 m.) which is the internal distance of the wheels that moved in the ruts, found to be practically constant in all the prehistoric cart-tracks in Malta.

PUNIC REMAINS.

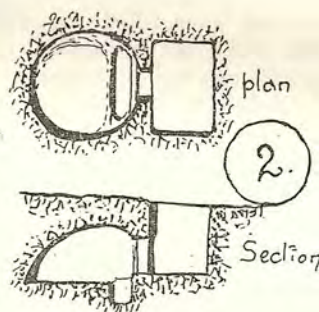
Numerous rock-tombs were examined during the year; some were unripped, but the great majority were empty or filled with soil carried in by the rain, after the sealing slab was removed and the contents taken away.

The tombs examined are here described in the order of their discovery.

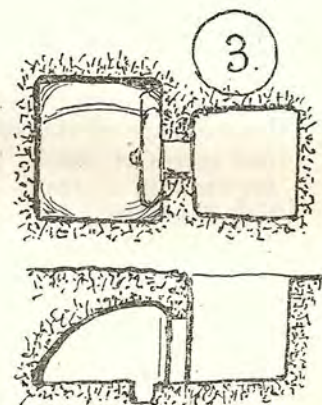
Rock-tombs



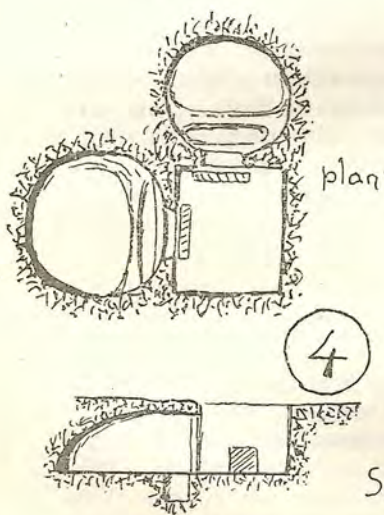
Nadur 1st type



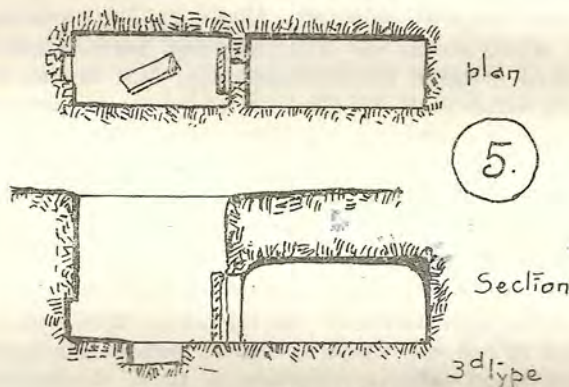
Nadur 2^d type



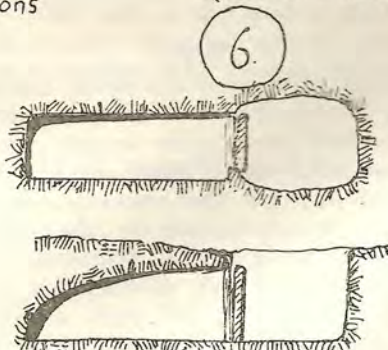
Nadur 2^d type



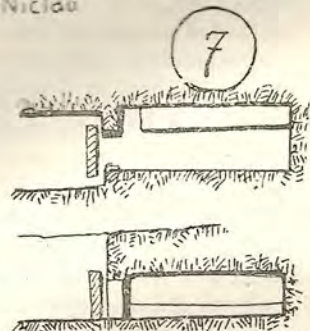
Curmi - 2nd type.



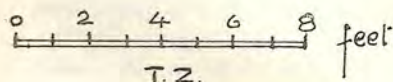
QRENDI - San Niclao



Benjemma - 3^d type



TARXIEN - 3^d type



ROCK-TOMB AT SAN NICLAU.

Between Qrendi and Siggiewi, discovered by a farmer in a field known as "il gnien tal kabocci" on the 14th September 1928. [Fig. 5.]

(1). The rock-tomb, of the third type, consists of a rectangular pit and a rectangular chamber. Its long axis has a N.S. direction, the opening of the chamber looks North, the head of the body being to the South. The shaft is 7 feet long, by 4 feet wide and about 7 feet deep. At its bottom, another rectangular pit is 3 feet 4 inches deep and 4 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 4 inches, for each side; the axis of this small pit is not parallel to that of the shaft floor, but has very nearly a N.W. direction. This is a very exceptional arrangement, and in fact, it is the first case I met in all my experience.

At the back of the main shaft there is a small recess a few inches deep, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, as if it was the intention of the diggers to cut another chamber on that side of the shaft.

To the right of the entrance, a ledge of rock juts out along the wall down from the surface in the shape of rough steps that would have helped to carry down the body.

The chamber was still sealed by a rectangular slab 5 feet high and 2 feet wide. The shaft was full of soil and stones, and half way down, a patch made up of ashes and charcoal was met with, but no objects were found, barring a few potsherds of the punic type, so common in connection with similar rocktombs.

On removing the slab, the funeral chamber was found dusty but free from red earth, showing that the slab was tight enough to keep the rain water out. Stretched on its back, was the skeleton of an adult female. Between the legs was a deep clay cup. Close to the legs an enochoe lay on the right and another one on the left side, and on this side, along the body, were two clay amphorae of which one was standing on its mouth. At each angle on the front wall, close to the entrance, was a lamphole, the one to the right of the entrance contained a bilychnis Phoenician lamp, in the other was a handful of a yellow clayey soil. No other objects were met with, the pots being empty except for a thin layer of dust deposited in the course of ages.

The chamber was 7 feet 9 inches long, 4 feet 6 inches wide, and 5 feet high. A ledge of rock run along its right wall, starting near the entrance with a width of about 1 foot and diminishing as it went to the back wall.

This was evidently the burial place of a very poor person but having been used only once it gave us the important information of the minimum amount of furniture used at the time.

The type of the furniture is characteristic of the third type of rock-tombs (rectangular shaft and rectangular chamber); there is, however, no trace of Roman influence and the lamp is frankly Phoenician in type.

ROCK TOMB AT CURMI.

(2). On the 23rd October 1927, the Police telephoned from Curmi that a burial place was accidentally discovered in the valley to the west of the village, and that people had extracted therefrom bones and pottery. The site was inspected on the 24th. At the back of the village a rocky valley, extending westwards, contains on its northern slopes several rock-tombs, empty and in part destroyed. [Fig. 4.]

The newly discovered tombs were two, cut in two sides of a rectangular shaft, practically at right angles to each other. The shaft is 6 feet long by 5 feet wide and about 4 feet deep, with its long axis in a N.E. direction. When discovered, the shaft was full of stones, and the slabs sealing the tombs were still in place though displaced a little by the youngsters who were anxious to peep into the caves.

Both tombs were full of soil carried in by the seasonal rains, so that the contents had to be dug out from the soil and most of the pottery was broken during their extraction by untrained workmen.

The numerous bones found, show that the two tombs were used over and over again; beside burials, cremated bodies were deposited in them, for human ashes were recovered. One of the jars may have served the purpose of a cinerary urn. The remains of two large water amphorae were collected, but their reconstruction was not possible. Besides these the following pottery was obtained:—

One amphora with its plate cover, 14 inches high, 2 enochoes, one jar with cylindrical neck, 8 plates, 3 of which with horizontal handles, and 3 Phoenician two-wicked lamps of a late type, but with no Carthaginian influence. Two of the plates were decorated with red lines, both inside and outside. Two twisted copper wire finger rings, were also obtained.

The tombs were of the Second Punic type (circular chamber and rectangular shaft). They were about 8 feet long, with a deep trench at right angles to the entrance and a ledge or shaft at the back, on which the body was to be laid.

TOMBS AT BENJEMMA.

Sixteen groups of rock-cut tombs were cleared on the Benjemma hill in the vicinity of the small chapel (S. Maria della lettera) in the lands known as "Ix-xaghra ta Ghattuqa" and "Ix-xaghra ta Ghar Sijra", mostly to the west and north-west of the Tas-Salib road.

The tombs were all rifled long ago, but I had them cleared by people living in their neighbourhood, and surveyed chiefly on the 10th November with the assistance of Lt. Commander J. H. Drummond, D.Sc., R.N. Most of these tombs are single, but some of them are double. Considered in their relation to time, 3 of these tombs may be put to the 1st period, 9 to the second period, and one to the third period in as much as the first three have a round shaft and a circular chamber, the 12 tombs have circular chambers but a rectangular shaft, whilst the last one had both chamber and shaft of a rectangular shape.

1st Type—(earliest tombs)—Nadur facing Bur-Nuhhala (No. VIII in the series).

(3). Entrance facing N.N.E., diameter of chamber about 6 feet, small trench immediately beyond the entrance, lamp hole in the wall to the right, looking outwards; maximum height of chamber 3 feet. Shaft circular, about 5 feet in diameter, and 5 feet deep. Small fragment of pottery which appear to be neolithic. [*Fig. 1.*]

(4). Group of two tombs adjoining each other and opening on to a circular shaft 7 feet in diameter 5 feet deep. Each tomb has a diameter of about 5½ feet with a small trench immediately beyond the entrance; concave ceiling, about 3 feet high in the middle portion. No remains whatever.

(5). Single tomb, entrance looking south-west, diameter of chamber—6 feet, height about 3 feet; deep trench beyond entrance. Shaft circular about 7 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep. No bones or pottery.

2nd Type—(later period)—"Xaghra ta Ghattuqa".

(6). Rectangular shaft 6 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 7 feet deep. Entrance to the chamber looking north-west 2 feet deep. Chamber lenticular in shape 3½ feet high, about 6 feet in diameter, deep trench beyond entrance forming a ledge at the back. [*Fig. 2.*]

(7). Same field. Group of two tombs opening on a common roughly square shaft, about 6 feet per side, 5 feet deep. Both chambers are lenticular in shape with a diameter of about 7 feet, 3 feet in height with a deep trench beyond the entrance, and a rock bed at the back with a circular hole at the right side (looking out) in each case, for an amphora. One of the tombs has an axis in a north-east and the other in a south-east direction.

(8). Xaghra ta Ghattuqa—Double tomb, one chamber at each end of a rectangular shaft 7 feet long, 4 feet wide, 6 feet deep, with a ridge cut to serve the purpose of steps on one of the sides; its main axis is north-west—south-east.

The tomb to the north-west is barrel-shaped in section with an almost circular floor; diameter about 4 feet; no trenches beyond the entrance, height of chamber about 3 feet. Chamber to the south-east of the same type, 6 feet in diameter, 3½ feet high. No remains.

(9). Xaghra ta Ghar Sijra.—Double tomb, chambers adjoining on the same line, flat floor, concave ceiling, small trench beyond entrance. One rectangular shaft common to both, about 7 feet long 5 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. Its long axis has a north-south direction, the two chambers open on the western side: they are about 6 feet long separated by a partition barely 1 foot thick; they both are 4 feet wide with a narrow trench beyond the entrance.

(10). Same district.—Single tomb, square shaft 5 feet per side. $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. Chamber with flat roundish floor and deeply concave ceiling, about 3 feet high. Depth of chamber 6 feet, width 7 feet. A deep trench beyond the entrance. No remains except traces of charred bones and small fragments of pottery thin and well worked, probably of neolithic facture. [Fig. 3.]

(11). Same district.—Single tomb in all similar to the one just described. Rectangular shaft 6 feet long $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, 8 feet deep, with a ridge to serve as steps on one of the sides. The chamber has an irregular rectangular floor, 6 feet long by 5 feet wide, with a deep trench at the entrance and a ledge at the back. Ceiling deeply concave. Square entrance looking south-east.

(12). Same district.—Type of tomb similar to the above. Rectangular shaft 6 feet deep, 5 feet long 4 feet wide. The chamber with a north-south axis looks south. It has a roughly rectangular floor with rounded walls, the ceiling being deeply concave. It has a deep trench with a flat ledge at the back, a hole for an amphora to the west and a raised ledge of rock to the east to serve as a pillow for the head of the body. Traces of cremated bodies, and fragments of thin pottery with a prehistoric appearance were found.

(13). Same district.—Single tomb similar to the above and practically of the same dimensions.

(14). Same district.—Single tomb, square shaft 5 feet deep and 5 feet per side. Chamber with a semicircular floor and lenticular section with a diameter of about 6 feet and a height of 3 feet. Shallow trench at the entrance.

(15). Same district.—Single tomb similar to the preceding one, the shaft is smaller, the chamber has a deeper trench, diameter of chamber 6 feet, height 3 feet.

(16). Nadur south-west of Bur Nuhhala.—The shaft has a roundish form which renders the tomb similar to the first type, but the wall in which the chamber is cut is straight and not concave. Shaft $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ wide. Circular chamber $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, deep trench at entrance, height of chamber 3 feet. The long axis of the tomb is north-west by south-east at the entrance looking north-west.

(17). Same district.—Single tomb with rectangular shaft 6 feet long $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 5 feet deep, with square entrance to a practically circular chamber with concave ceiling and a deep trench beyond the doorway. Total length of chamber 6 feet with a ledge 3 feet wide at the back of the trench. No material obtained.

3rd Type.

(18). The only tomb of the third type was also found on the Benjemma plateau not far from the chapel. One can hardly classify this tomb as it has irregular features. Cut in the face of a step in the hill the shaft or forecourt is really an irregular pit and the chamber is a long cutting in the rock of a rectangular shape but with rounded corners at the back; the ceiling is straight at the entrance, but before reaching the back it curves down gradually to meet the floor. The chamber is not carefully cut for the rock is soft and friable. It is 10 feet long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high at the entrance, where the width is 4 feet that gradually comes down to 3 feet at the back. [Fig. 6.]

Both shaft and chamber were smothered with red soil and the sealing slab was broken at the top, a clear sign that the chamber was entered on some previous occasion. The big slab that stood against the doorway was pulled back and the mass of hard-caked soil was with care removed with a trowel. Bones and pottery were met with mixed up with earth; a proper clearing by layers was not possible for the whole chamber was full of soil up to the ceiling. The bones of several skeletons were recognized but it was not possible to be sure as to their number and their age. Pottery was got out of the mass, some whole, others in fragments; their type is late Punic and even Roman of the usual type with nothing in it to call for special mention. The only peculiarity noted in this tomb was a human face carved in the wall to the left of the entrance at about 3 feet from the floor. The face is 9 inches high, oval in shape with the traces of a neck; the eyes, the nose and the mouth are deep but roughly cut.

BURIAL IN THE MARNISI DISTRICT.

(19). Near Marsaxlokk, in a field known as "Il bur ta ghonq il giarra".

On the 7th November 1927 a report reached the Museum that a burial place was accidentally discovered by a farmer in that district. The site was inspected on that afternoon but the pottery found was already taken to a farm-house. At the site, one could see charred bones and fragments of pottery mixed with the earth that had been deeply worked. In a corner of the field pottery and bones were discovered buried in the soil with biggish stones supporting the pots. It was evidently a simple burial of cinerary urns in a trench. The pottery preserved by the farmer consisted of three clay cinerary urns of the usual Maltese Punic type, the fragments of two other similar vessels, a few clay plates, and a few small unguentaria. None of these were worth preserving as they are specimens of the commonest types of funeral pottery.

ROCK TOMB AT TARXIEN.

(20). On the 15th November 1927, it was reported that whilst cutting a trench for laying a water-pipe at Tarxien in Strada Tarxien & Paula, a burial chamber was broken into. [Fig. 7.] On inspecting the site it was found that the trench had broken the fore part of the chamber which was only a couple of feet below the surface of the road. The chamber was rectangular in shape about 9 feet long, 3½ feet wide, and 3 feet high, with a flat rectangular ceiling. Along the left side a bench about 18 inches high and 18 inches wide, was cut in the wall. A big slab was still standing at the mouth of the chamber which was so well protected that no soil was ever washed in from the surrounding fields. It was not possible to reach the shaft which was under the public road. The tomb must have been used over and over again, for there were the broken bones of several skeletons; both burial and incineration had been resorted to, for both ashed and buried bones were recovered. The pottery obtained from this tomb was numerous but of the ordinary late Punic or Roman type; the only important object was a huge tailed amphora cylindrical in shape and ending in a comparatively narrow neck with two small tape handles. The amphora was carefully cut at the shoulder but the detached piece fitted the rest perfectly so that the jar served the purpose of a receptacle. A few long bones were found in this jar, but it appeared that these had found their way into it later on, when the furniture was rehandled, for originally, it could not have contained these bones alone. The rest of the objects found were 3 whole cinerary urns, the fragments of a fourth one, 5 enochoe or water jars, 6 aryballi or bottles with spherical bodies, 22 plates of various shapes and size, 4 lamps of the late Punic period, 1 cup, 1 bottle, together with numerous fragments of glass and clay vessels.

ROCK TOMB AT RABAT.

(21) In the Mtarfa district on the side of the hill known as "Ta Zlampa" not far from the most interesting tomb discovered in March 1927, and described in last year's annual report, another rock-tomb was met with and reported at once by the farmer. A roughly square pit, about 6 feet wide and 7 feet deep, was full of a very hard soil on the removal of which the slab at the entrance was still in place but with the top part removed. This destroyed all our hopes of an important discovery and, in fact the chamber was found full to the ceiling with large cobbles, small stones, and a hard caked soil. All the toil was in vain for no objects were recovered although fragments of pottery and ashed human bones were met with in the rubbish. The funeral chamber had a circular section with a deep square trench beyond the entrance with a height of 2½ feet, the ceiling starting at this point and curving down rapidly to meet the floor at a distance of about 7½ feet from the doorway.

The following objects were presented to the Museum:—

Mr. H. Duncombe Colt	2 gold Roman coins (Phocas and Heraclius).
General C. de Brezé	1 brass medal, Russian Crimean War 1853-6.
Dr. Joseph Cauchi	Leather needle holder, pocket flasks for tobacco, leather boxes for musk, tiny box with musk, from the Northern Provinces, Nigeria District [West Africa.
The Noble Ignazio dei Marchesi Testa- ferrata Bonici, and members of his family	(on loan) Two old one horse carriages--(calessi) of the end of the 18th century.
Prof. Henry Vassallo, LL.D.	2 framed photos of Hajar Kim.
Mr. Valentino Lupi	1 print—The British Army 1803.
Rev. G. C. Muscat of Zebbug	1 clay plate.
The Sub. Prior Order of S. John of Jerusalem, London	Bronze Commemorative medal 1926.
Rev. Father Bezzina, O.M.C.	one old silk lady's jacket, and one silk band and ring with shell bezel.
F. S. Pace, Esq. of Sliema	2 flint arrowheads and stone mace from Australia.
Rev. Gaet. Sammut of Attard	1 lithograph 1826, & sketch of fireworks display.
Mr. Emm. Borg of Floriana	1 Roman coin—Hadrianus Aug.
Dr. Alex. Granville Pasha, C.M.G.	Guide to Alexandria.
Mr. Jos. Sammut	2 steel helmets used during the Great War.
Dr. Victor Critien. D.M.S.S. Accra	6 bronze figurines used as gold weights from the Gold Coast.
Rev. W. Bonett of Sidney N.S. Wales	2 silver florins of New South Wales 1927.

The following publications were received:—

Mr. W. Birss, Headmaster Auckland New Zealand—Calendar of the University, 1927.	
Archaeologischen—Institut des Deutschen Reiches Berlin (Jahresbericht für das Jahr 1925).	
Fundberichte aus Schwaben 1924-26 presented by Württ Landeskunst Sammelungen.	
Prof. D. W. Dorpfeld—Die Altgriechische Kunst and Homer. Jena. [Stuttgart.	
The Director Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, Toronto—Bulletin July, 1927.	
Senatore Prof. D. Ridola—Le Grandi trincee preistoriche di Matera, 1926.	
The Director—Memorias de Oswaldo Cruz—1927 tome XX fasc. 1 ^o Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.	
Dr. Ettore Rossi - Assedio e conquista di Rodi, 1522.	
Emm. B. Vella, Headmaster Zabbar School—Storia taz-Zeitun u Marsaxlokk.	
Prof. Peter Goessler—Excavations at Leuka. 1927. The Museum Stuttgart.	
Prof. F. A. Lucas—American Museum Natural History—The Dinosaurs No. 70.	
André German Ph.C. Port Said—1 copy India's pictorial Magazine.	
The Director Tropical Institute in Moscow—10 Pogodinskaja Moskow. Journal Tom. V No. 7.	
The British Guiana Medical Annual 1925 Presented by Dr. Giavina.	
Istituto Pontificio d'archeologia Cristiana—Presented by A. M. Galea, Esq.	
Institut Finisterien d'études préhistoriques Bulletin & Memories No. 2, 3, 4. (1924-25-26)— Presented by the Director.	
The Secretary—University of Toronto. History of the University, 1925.	
Some Rock-tombs and habitation caves in Mallorca—Presented by W. J. Hemp, F.S.A.	

The following objects were purchased:—

1 silver coin of Hadrian (A.D. 118) Imp. Cesar.	Maximova -- Les vases plastiques.
Hadrianus. Aug.	Hare-- Babylonian religion.
1 copper coin (Roman).	Lenormant—Les sciences occultes en Asie.
2 copper Roman rings.	N. Jorga—Histoire de l'humanité.
4 copper plates and one manuscript on hall marks.	V. Bérard—Les Phéniciens et l'Odyssee.
2 prints, views of Malta.	Judas—Langues Phénicienne et Lybique.
1 old Abruzzese jug.	De Morgan--La préhistoire Orientale.
1 brass seal—Consulado General de Portugal en Malta.	Feghali et Cuny—Du genre grammatical en Semitique.
1 large old clock.	E. O. James—The Stone Age.
1 old wooden sofa.	F. W. Kelsey Excavations at Carthage.
1 lot prints and pamphlets.	H. J. Fleure—The races of Mankind.
2 marble pillars from Zeitun.	R. R. Marett—Man in the making.
1 plaster bust of Dr. Grima.	Gautier—L'islamisation de l'Afrique du Nord.
Conteneau—La Deesse Babylonienne.	Gautier—Bullettino di Paletnologia Ita- liana, 1928
Conteneau—Les rituels Accadiens.	

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

Valletta Museum:—

Free on Sundays and Saturdays (May to September) and by special students' ticket	...	...	...	4,250
On Week days at 6d. per ticket	...	...	...	2,464
On Saturdays at 3d. per ticket	...	...	...	548
Total Number of visitors				7,262

Roman Villa Museum, Rabat:—

Admission by payment (3d.)	616
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St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat:—

Admission by payment (3d.)	605
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Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum:—

Admission by payment (6d.)	2,072
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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 from 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.

THEM. ZAMMIT,

Curator of the Archaeological Section.



APPENDIX A.

THE MUSEUM,
Valletta, 25th August, 1928.

Sir,

In my 1927 report I mentioned the collection of Canadian minerals which reached me just as the report was being sent in.

This collection of 144 specimens of rocks were duly classified on Dana's system. As shown in the detailed list, the collection is of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks from Canada, carefully packed by the Ottawa Department of Mines. This interesting collection is now exhibited in the Museum in a set of showcases made expressly for it.

I am sorry that I am not in time this year to give a detailed description of an important collection of minerals presented to the Museum by Dr. Charles Bannister of 18 Mount Street, Belfast.

Dr. Bannister, a well known scientist, is himself a collector of minerals; as such, he got interested in our Museum but his interest was enhanced by the fact that the learned gentleman was born in this island where his family resided for a considerable time. My best thanks and those of the Museum authorities, are heartily offered to Dr. Bannister for his important gift and for his disinterestedness, having declined to be defrayed even of the transport expenses.

In the next annual report I hope to go into details about this collection of Irish rocks which Dr. Bannister promises to increase by his personal researches.

It is gratifying to note that the mineralogical section is being appreciated more and more every year and this is clearly seen by the gifts we are continuously receiving both locally and from foreign countries.

The space allotted for the Mineralogical Section is perhaps not ample enough but the addition of showcases, which I hope to see in a near future, will house a considerable number of specimen.

The collection of local mineralogy is becoming a prominent feature of this section of the Museum.

I have &c,

LEWIS F. MIZZI,

To the Director of the Museum.

J.

List No. 1.

MINERALS AND LOCALITY.

Native Elements.

- 1. Graphite... Buckingham, Que.
- 2. Graphite disseminated... Buckingham, Que.
- 3. Graphite... Brougham, Ont.

Sulphides, Arsenides and Sulpharsenides.

- 4. Stibnite... Lake George, N.S.
- 5. Molybdenite... Egan, Que.
- 6. Galena (argentiferous)... East Kootenay, B.C.
- 7. Sphalerite... Moutauban, Que
- 8. Niccolite with smaltite... Coleman, Ont.
- 9. Pyrrhotite... Creighton Mine. Ont.
- 10. Bornite with quartz... Leeds, Que.
- 11. Chalcocopyrite with quartz... Cobden, Ont.
- 12. Pyrite... Hungerford, Ont.
- 13. Pyrite, loose... Helen Mine. Ont.
- 14. Pyrite with chalcocopyrite... Ascot, Que.
- 15. Smaltite... Coleman, Ont.
- 16. Arsenopyrite... Marmora, Ont.
- 17. Arsenopyrite with feldspar... Marmora, Ont.

Fluorides.

- 18. Fluorite... Madoc, Ont.
- 19. Fluorite in calcite... Ross, Ont.

Oxides of Non-Metals.

- 20. Quartz (crystals)... Egan, Que.
- 21. Quartz massive... Villeneuve, Que.
- 22. Quartz massive... Waters, Ont.
- 23. Quartz (var. jasper)... Hull, Que.

Oxides of Metals (Anhydrous).

- 24. Corundum... Raglan, Ont.
- 25. Hematite... Dunham, Que.
- 26. Hematite... Helen Mine, Ont.
- 27. Hematite... Madon, Ont.
- 28. Hematite... Torbrook, N.S.
- 29. Hematite (var. specularite)... Glencoe, N.S.
- 30. Ilmenite... St. Urbain, Que.
- 31. Ilmenite with Rutile... St. Urbain, Que.
- 32. Spinel... Bouchette, Que.
- 33. Magnetite... Clementsport, N.S.
- 34. Magnetite... Mayo, Ont.
- 35. Magnetite crystal in schist... Brôme, Ont.
- 36. Iron Sand... Moisie, Que.
- 37. Chromite... Caleraïne, Que.

Oxides of Metals (Hydrous).

- 38. Manganite... New Ross, N.S.
- 39. Wad... Dawson Settlement, N.B.
- 40. Limonite... Londonderry, N.S.
- 41. Bog Iron Ore... Wilmot, N.S.
- 42. Ochre, yellow... St. Malo, Que.

Carbonates (Anhydrous).

- 43. Calcite... Oxford, Que.
- 44. Calcite, pink... Hull, Que.
- 45. Calcite, blue... Lyndock, Ont.
- 46. Calcite (calc-tufa)... Banff, Alta.
- 47. Calcite (shell marl)... Ross, Ont.
- 48. Siderite... Helen Mine, Ont.
- 49. Siderite... Londonoerry, N.S.
- 50. Strontianite... Nepean, Ont.

Carbonates (Hydrous).

- 51. Hydromagnesite... Atlin, B.C.

Silicates (Anhydrous).

- 52. Orthoclase... Hershell, Ont.
- 53. Microcline... Villeneuve, Que.
- 54. Microcline (var. amezonite)... Cameron, Ont.
- 55. Albite... Villeneuve, Que.
- 56. Labradorite... Labrador.
- 57. Perthite... North Burgess, Ont.
- 58. Pyroxene... Hull, Que.
- 59. Pyroxene... Hershell, Ont.
- 60. Wollastonite... Grenville, Que.
- 61. Amphibole (var. hornblende)... Sebastopol, Ont.
- 62. Sodalite... Dungannon, Ont.
- 63. Gas-nots... Tudor, Ont.
- 64. Olivine... Bigelow, Que.
- 65. Wernerite... Augmentation of Grenville, Que.
- 66. Epidote... Whitehorse, Yukon.
- 67. Tourmaline... Villeneuve, Que.
- 68. Staurolite... Pubnico, N.S.

Silicates (Hydrous).

- 69. Zeolites... Wasson's Bluff, N.S.
- 70. Mica (var. Muscovite)... Pied des Monts, Que.
- 71. Mica (var. biotite)... Sebastopol, Ont.
- 72. Mica (var. phlogopite)... Portland, Que.
- 73. Chlorite... Belmont, Ont.
- 74. Serpentine... Denholm, Que.
- 75. Serpentine (var. picrolite)... Broughton, Que.
- 76. Serpentine (var. chrysotile)... Theiford, Que.
- 77. Serpentine with chrysotile... Coloraine, Que.
- 78. Talc... Huntingdon, Ont.
- 79. Talc... Grimsthorpe, Ont.
- 80. Talc (var. steatite)... Broughton, Ont.

Phosphatis, etc.

- 81. Apatite (green)... Templeton, Que.
- 82. Apatite (sugar)... Templeton, Que.
- 83. Apatite (red)... Sebastopol, Ont.
- 84. Apatite (green in calcite)... Hull, Que.

Sulphates (Anhydrous)

- 85. Barite... Five Islands, N.S.
- 86. Celestite... Bagot, Ont.
- 87. Anhydrite... Hillsboro, N.B.

Sulphates (Hydrous).

- 88. Gypsum... Hillsboro, N.B.
- 89. Gypsum (fibrous)... Moore Islands, N.S.
- 90. Gypsum (var. selenite)... Elmsdale, N.S.

Hydro—Carbons.

91. Tar with sand	Alhabaska river, Alta.
92. Stellarite	Stellarton, N.S.
93. Albertite	Albert Mines, N.S.
94. Anthracite	Anthracite, Alta.
95. Bituminous coal	Springhill, N.S.
96. Lignite	Edmonton, Alta.

ROCKS.

Igneous Rocks.

97. Graphic granite	Bouchette, Que.
98. Biotite granite	Nictaux, N.S.
99. Hornblende granite	St. George, N.S.
100. Hornblende granite	Staynerville, Que.
101. Hornblende granite	Gananoque, Ont.
102. Hornblende syenite	Rigand, Que.
103. Nepheline syenite	Dungannon, Ont.
104. Nepheline syenite	Outremont, Que.
105. Red syenite	Monmouth, Ont.
106. Pyroxene syenite	Buckingham, Que.
107. Anorthosite	Horton, Ont.
108. Andesite	Phoenix, B.C.
109. Rhyolite	Coleman, Ont.
110. Tuff	Dowling, Ont.
111. Diorite	Wakefield, Que.
112. Diabase	Coleman, Ont.
113. Olivine diabase	McKim, Ont.
114. Gabbro	Limerick, Ont.
115. Essexite	Mount Royal, Montreal, Que.
116. Amigdaloidal trap	Morden, N.S.
117. Dunite	Tulameen, B.C.
118. Pyroxenite	Nulameen, B.C.
119. Amphibolite (feather)	Faraday, Ont.
120. Igneous breccia	Outremont, Que.

Sedimentary Rocks.

121. Fossiliferous limestone	Hull, Que.
122. Limestone	Hull, Que.
123. Limestone (lithographic)	Madoc, Ont.
124. Dolomite	Guelph, Ont.
125. Conglomerate	Sonlanges Canal, Que.
126. Sandstone	Nepean, Ont.
127. Sandstone (red)	Amherst, N.S.
128. Gray bituminous shale	Rosevale, N.B.
129. Black bituminous shale	Albert Mines, N.S.
130. Cream coloured shale	Souris, Man.

Metamorphic Rocks.

131. Slate	Melbourne, Que.
132. Slate	Acton, Que.
133. Quartzite, sea green	Martineau Bay, Ont.
134. Quartzite	Elizabetha, Ont.
135. Crystalline limestone	Hull, Que.
136. Crystalline limestone	Faraday, Ont.
137. Crystalline limestone (banded)	Glamorgan, Ont.
138. Crystalline dolomites	Ross, Ont.
139. Serpentine limestone	Hull, Que.
140. Andalusite mica schist	Ditchfield, Que.
141. Chloritic schist	Broughton, Que.
142. Steatite schist	Sherbrooke, Que.
143. Garnetiferous gneiss	Hull, Que.
144. Biotite gneiss	— Pepinean, Que.

LIST No. 2.

The following donations were made during this year:—

- Mr. Carmelo Rizzo, Civil Engineer of the Water Works Department.
A geode he discovered at Luka whilst cutting the new water reservoir. The geode has a fine white clayey appearance. It is hollow and has inside a loose fragment which can be distinctly felt whilst shakeing the mass.
Two fine stallactitic masses.
- Prof. T. Zammit, the Director of the Museum brought in the following specimen:—
One piece of black and white granite from Tarxien.
Ten pieces of rocks from Gozo.
One piece of pyrites from Zeitun.
Two pebbles from the Ramla ta San Tumas.
One mass of phosphatic nodules from Burmarrod.
Twelve pebbles from Wied il Ghasel.
- Chev. John Ellis.
Two pieces of rocks with crystals from the Solfatara at Naples.
- M. V. H. Dandria.
Two pieces of granite from Leptis Magna.
- Mrs. Daisy Caesar of London.
Five Scath Topazes cut and polished.
- Mr. Emanuele Xerri.
One small serpentine stand.
One piece of obsidian O. U.
One marble paper weight made up of a number of different pieces.
Two specimens of marble.
One piece of petrified wood O. U.
- F. S. Pace, Esq. of Sliema.
One piece of native gold from Australia.
One piece of azurite of O. U.

O.U.—Origin unknown.

- Benedetto Schembri, Esq.
One piece of white rock with crystals from the Red Sea.
- Captain W. Gatt, A.D.C.
Twelve pieces of rock (granites and marbles from Leptis Magna).
Two pieces of rock from Mnaidra.
- Sir Reginald Bankart.
Six specimens of rocks containing iron, manganese and calcite from near Musta Fort.
- Prof. Buca of the Etna Observatory.
One piece of Lava.
- Mr. Cost. Busuttil.
One piece of lava from the 1914 eruption. (Etna).
- Mr. John Muscat.
One piece stratified mica from Lybia.
- Prof. Alexander Sultana.
Seven specimens of sand from different points at Gozo.
Two pieces of limonite with streaks of calcium carbonate.
- Gius. Despott, Esq., M.B.E.
Five pieces of manganese, limonite, etc. with crystals from Musta District.
- Thomas Debono, Esq.
One old decorated marble slab.
One large fragment of a marble column.
Six pieces of rock (stallactite, metallic, marble etc. O. U.)
- Col. Grieswood.
Three specimens of rock, O.U.
- Dr. Charles Bannister, of Belfast.
A collection of Irish Rocks from St. Hellen's Bay.
(12 cases).

BIRDS.

As it has been found rather difficult to obtain well mounted specimens fit for exhibition in a Museum, it has been decided to make a collection of skins which will serve for purely Ornithological purposes.

The following are the skins collected during the period under review :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Starlings— <i>Sturnes vulgaris vulgaris</i> L. | 1 Black cap— <i>Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla</i> L. |
| 4 Greenfinches— <i>Chloris chloris chloris</i> L. | 2 Sardinian warblers— <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
[<i>melanocephala</i> Gm] |
| 1 Goldfinch— <i>Carduelis carduelis carduelis</i> L. | 2 Subalpine warblers— <i>Sylvia cantillans can-</i>
[<i>tillans</i> Pall] |
| 1 Linnet— <i>Carduelis cannabina cannabina</i> L. | 1 Blue rock thrush— <i>Monticola solitarius</i>
[<i>solitarius</i> L. |
| 2 Chaffinches— <i>Fringilla coelebs coelebs</i> L. | 2 Robins— <i>Dandulus rubecula rubecula</i> L. |
| 2 Sicilian sparrows— <i>Passer hispaneolensis</i>
[<i>maltae</i> Hart] | 2 Short eared owls— <i>Asio flammeus flam-</i>
[<i>meus</i> Pont. |
| 1 Sicilian sparrow— <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
[<i>maltae</i> Hart (<i>isabelline</i>)] | 2 Kestrels— <i>Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus</i> L. |
| 1 Corn bunting— <i>Emberiza calandra calandra</i> L. | 1 Red footed falcon— <i>Falco vespertinus</i>
[<i>vespertinus</i> L. |
| 1 Tawny pipit— <i>Anthus campestris campestris</i> L. | |
| 1 Meadow pipit— <i>Anthus pratensis</i> L. | |
| 1 Grey wagtail— <i>Motacilla boarula boarula</i> L. | |
| 3 White wagtails— <i>Motacilla alba alba</i> L. | |

REPTILES.

The following are the only additions made to this collection:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 very young specimens of the ocellated skink—
[<i>Calcidex ocellatus</i> Forst. | 1 very young leopard snake— <i>Coluber</i>
[<i>leopardinus</i> Bp. |
| 2 Dark green snakes— <i>Zamensis gemonensis</i>
[Wagl. | 1 Cat snake— <i>Tarbophis fallax</i> Schleg. |
| 1 Dark green snake— <i>Zamensis gemonensis</i> var.
[<i>carbonaria</i> . | 12 eggs of the Loggerhead turtle— <i>Thalas-</i>
[<i>sochelis caretta</i> , Linn. |

FISHES.

The ichthyological collection is continually being increased. The greater part of the specimens obtained have been prepared in alcohol so that they might also serve for the purposes of dissection.

The more interesting specimens consist of the following:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Black mouthed dog fish— <i>Pristiurus melano-</i>
[<i>stomus</i> Raf. | 2 Short nosed sea horse— <i>Hippocampus</i>
[<i>brevirostris</i> Cuv. |
| 3 Very young specimens of the Cramp ray—
[<i>Torpedo ocellata</i> Raf] | 3 Sucker fish— <i>Lepadogaster</i> sp. |
| 4 Fetal specimens of the Sting Ray— <i>Dasyatis</i>
[<i>pastinaca</i> Lin. | 4 Very young specimens of the Sea pike
[<i>Sphyræna spet</i> Lac. |
| | 1 Red bandfish— <i>Cepola rubescens</i> Lin. |

The following Mediterranean species, but not locally obtained, have been added to the reference collection:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Planer's lamprey. <i>Petromyzon planeri</i> Bl. | 1 Variegated sole— <i>Solea variegata</i> Gthr |
| 1 Valentin's hound— <i>Scymnus lichia</i> Cuv. (juv.) | 1 Sole?— <i>Solea monoebis</i> , Bp. |
| 1 Black dogfish? <i>Spinax niger</i> Cloquet (juv.) | 1 Basse— <i>Decentrarchus labrax</i> Jord et
[<i>Eigenm</i> |
| 1 Smooth hound— <i>Mustelus laevis</i> Risso (juv.) | 1 Smare?— <i>Smaris vulgaris</i> C.V. |
| 1 Common hound— <i>Mustelus vulgaris</i> H. Fle.
(juv.) | 1 Scorpaena?— <i>Scorpaena ustulata</i> Low- |
| 1 Blue shark— <i>Carcharias glaucus</i> Ag. (juv.) | 1 Greater weaver— <i>Trachinus draco</i> L. |
| 1 Myrus <i>Vulgaris</i> Kp. | 1 Weaeer?— " <i>radiatus</i> C.V. |
| 1 <i>Ophichthys imberbis</i> Gunth | 1 Lesser weaver— " <i>vipera</i> C.V. |
| 1 Pilchard— <i>Clupea pilchardus</i> Art. | 1 " — <i>Corvina nigra</i> C.V. |
| 1 <i>Chlorophthalmus agassizii</i> Bp. | 1 Bonito? — <i>Auxisbisus</i> Bp |
| 1 <i>Argyroplecus hemigymnus</i> Cocco | 1 " — <i>Stromateus fiatola</i> L. |
| 1 Rockling? <i>Motella?</i> | 1 Corpaena — <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> L. |
| 1 Brill— <i>Rhombus laevis</i> Rondel | 1 Goby? — <i>Gobius paganellus</i> L. |
| 1 Sole?— <i>Solea Kleinii</i> Risso | 1 " ? — <i>Gobius exanthematicus</i>
[Pall] |
| 1 " " <i>ocellata</i> Gthr | |
| 1 " " <i>impar</i> Benn | 1 Angler? — <i>Lophius parvipennis</i> Cuv. |

CRUSTACEANS.

A new collection of specimens preserved in alcohol has been started. So far, the following specimens have been obtained.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Ilia nucleus</i> Leach | 12. <i>Eriphia spinifrons</i> Sav |
| 2. <i>Calappa granulata</i> Fabr | 13. <i>Lupa hastata</i> M. Edw |
| 3. <i>Stenorhynchus phalangium</i> M. Edw | 14. <i>Portunus puber</i> Latr. |
| 4. " <i>longirostris</i> M. Edw | 15. " <i>depurator</i> Laech |
| 5. <i>Acanthonix lunulatus</i> Ltr | 16. " <i>corrugatus</i> Leach |
| 6. <i>Maja verrucosa</i> M. Edw | 17. " <i>arcuatus</i> Leach |
| 7. <i>Lambrus massaena</i> Ronx | 18. <i>Locarcinus holsatus</i> Stimps |
| 8. " <i>angulifrons</i> M. Edw | 19. <i>Carcinus maenas</i> Leach |
| 9. <i>Xantho florida</i> Leach | 20. <i>Brachynotus sexdentatus</i> Hl&df |
| 10. " <i>tuberculata</i> Bell | 21. <i>Pachygrapsus marmoratus</i> Stimps. |
| 11. <i>Pilimnus</i> | |

Amongst the specimens which have been prepared in the dry state, the following are the most interesting:—

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Homarus vulgaris</i> M. Edw. | <i>Homola spinifrons</i> Leach |
| <i>Scyllarus latus</i> Latr | <i>Herbstia condyliata</i> M. Edw |
| <i>Arctus ursus</i> Dana | <i>Lambrus mediterraneus</i> Roux |
| <i>Palinurus vulgaris</i> Latr | <i>Paragalene longicrura</i> Staz. Zool |
| <i>Dromia vulgaris</i> M. Edw | <i>Polybius henslowi</i> Leach |

The last species which is an Atlantic pelagic crab has not yet been reported from our waters—and apparently has only been found, so far, in the Mediterranean inside the stomach of tunny fish taken in Malaga—*Paragalene longicrura* is also another species which is being recorded for the first time from Maltese waters.

ECHINODERMS.

The new additions to this collection consist of the following specimens preserved dry:—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Tathyaster subirnermis</i> Phil. | <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> Peters |
| <i>Astrospartus arborescens</i> Risso | <i>Echinocardium mediterraneum</i> Forbs. |

MOLLUSCA.

An abundant material has been obtained through the dredgings carried out by the Department of Fisheries but the mounting, identification and classification of the material could not be proceeded with owing to lack of time and necessary help.

I have etc.,

G. DESPOTT,
Curator.

THE MUSEUM,
23rd October, 1928.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Fine Arts Section for the Financial Year 1927-28.

INQUISITOR'S PALACE.

(*Palazzo del Sant'Uffizio.*)

The works of restoration were continued. In the ground-floor another set of prisons was discovered and explored; an iron gate and a bulky wooden door, still *in situ*, were met with; the door was rotten, but remains of it will greatly help us in reconstructing it and other similar fixtures. When clearing the cells of the debris, a good number of architectural and ornamental stone fragments, belonging chiefly to the Chapel, were recovered. These fragments will be of great use, some day, when the original features of the Chapel will be reintegrated. Fragments of an inscribed cartouche and of a colossal papal escutcheon were also found. In the inner cell of the old prisons, the place known as the *oubliette* of the Inquisition was also explored, but what tradition pointed out as a dreadful place, only proved to be a small bell shaped well of the usual type, 8 feet 6 inches deep.

This well, which is partially dug under one of the outer walls of the Palace, belonged to a former building and came within the precincts of the Santo Ufficio when Mons. Gori Pannellini (1639-1646) erected the prisons, along with one of the wings of the Palace. When clearing this well, a number of potsherds of medieval and later periods, a small glazed lamp, a lot of old clay pipes and a fragment of a big jug with a fine embossed XVI Century escutcheon, were obtained. In the first floor, some walled up doorways and the loggia adjoining the Chapel, were opened and the old wooden ceiling of the main room, which partially had been removed, was reinstated.

ACQUISITIONS.

PAINTINGS.

Purchased:—

1. "St. Anthony of Padova"; oils, large; by Mattia Preti, 1613-1699. Formerly in St. Francis's Church, Valletta.
2. "The Immaculate Conception"; oils, large; School of Preti. Formerly in St. Francis's Church, Valletta.
3. "Portrait of Giorgio Grognet"; oils, small; painted by Paolo Caruana in 1829.
4. "Santa Rosa"; oils, large; school of Zahra.
5. "The Madonna and Child and young St. John"; oils, large; Sicilian art; XVIIth Cent.
6. "The Triumphant return of David after the Victory over Goliath"; oils, on panel small; Flemish-Neapolitan Art; XVIIth Cent.
7. "Self portrait"; oils, small; by Giuseppe Grech a very promising Maltese artist who died in Rome in 1787 when only 32 years old.
8. "Portrait of a Gentleman"; oils, small; north Italian School, XVIth Cent.
9. "Portrait of Don Gaetano Mannarino"; oils, small; late XVIIIth Cent.
10. "Portrait of Anna Maria Daubenberger"; oils, small panel; by Rudolph Luterburg, 1723.
11. "Portrait of Bishop Labini"; oils.
12. "Portrait of Sir F. C. Ponsonby"; oils.

Kindly lent by Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli:—

13. "St. Gregory"; oils, small. Bozzetto by Salvatore Busuttill for the altar-piece in the Parish Church of Kerchem, Gozo.
14. "Hope, Faith and Charity"; oils, small; Neapolitan Art, XVIIth Cent.

Kindly lent by the Bellanti Family:—

15. "Portrait of Paolo Corraro, Podestà di Brescia"; oils; School of Tintoretto.
16. "S. Margherita da Cortona"; oils; by G. B. Tiepolo.
17. "Portrait of a Gentleman"; oils; North-Italian early XVIth Cent. Art.
18. "Cats and Pigeons"; oils; Venetian, late XVIIIth Cent. Art.

19. "Figures and Sheep"; oils, large, by Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione (1610-1665).
20. "Landscape"; oils, small; ascribed to Salvator Rosa
21. "Girl with a spinet"; oils; Venetian XVIth Cent. Art.
22. "Knight with armour"; oils; Venetian XVIth Cent. Art.
23. "St. Mary Magdalen"; oils; a replica by or a copy after G. B. Moroni.
24. "Interior of a Church"; oils; Flemish School, XVIIth Cent.
25. "Portrait of a lad"; oils, small; school of Giorgione, probably by Domenico Mancini.
26. "Portrait of a young woman"; oils; by Bernardo Strozzi (1581-1644).
27. "Portrait of a musician"; oils, small; School of the Bellini; Venetian, XVth Cent.
28. "Martyrdom of St. Laurence"; oils; a bozzetto, Venetian, XVIth Cent; ascribed to Titian.
29. "Still Life"; oils; large, by Giurrian Van Streek (1632-1678) signed.
30. "Painting, an allegory"; oils; by Luca Giordano (1632-1705).
31. "Epifany"; oils; Venetian school, early XVIIth Cent.
32. "Man and Horse"; oils, small; Flemish XVIIth Cent.
33. "St. Peter"; oils, small; ascribed to Guido Reni.
34. "Cristo Portacroce"; oils, small panel; North Italian school, late XVI Cent.
35. "Old Galleys"; oils; Flemish, XVIIth Cent.
36. "St. Gerome"; oils; small Venetian school, ascribed to Bassano.
37. "Portrait of Petrus Etruscus"; ascribed to Pordenone.
38. "Marriage of St. Catherine"; oils; Venetian, late XVIth Cent.
39. "Christ before Pilate; oils"; unfinished, by Michele Bellanti, Maltese, (1807-1883).
40. "Invention of the Holy Cross"; oils; small by Michele Bellanti.
41. "Jesuit Saints"; two small oil paintings by Michele Bellanti.
42. "St. Francis of Assisi's vocation"; oils; by Michele Bellanti.
43. "The Addolorata"; oils, small; by Michele Bellanti.
44. "Madonna & Child, and St. Eliah"; two cartoons for the altar piece in the Church of N. S. del Carmelo, Notabile; by Michele Bellanti.
45. "St. Mary Magdalen"; oils; by Dean Giuseppe Bellanti (1798-1863).

DRAWINGS AND PRINTS.

Purchased:—

46. Two pencil sketches by Allingham; early XIX Cent.
47. 9 water colours by Michele Bellanti.
48. 4 Sepia drawings by Michele Bellanti.
49. 17 pencil drawings by Michele Bellanti.
50. 5 unfinished water colours by Michele Bellanti.
51. 53 pencil drawings by Michele Bellanti.
52. 34 published and unpublished lithographs by Michele Bellanti.
53. 1 album with 33 coloured drawings by Michele Bellanti.
"The tombs of the Grand Masters of the Order in Rhodes." A work intended to be lithographed and published by subscription; only one sheet was published.
54. "Eliodorus driven out of the Temple"; Carlo Maratti after Raphael; big. fol.
55. "Anthony and Cleopatra"; Bartolozzi after Tresham, 1792.
56. "Monument to Lord Chatham"; Bartolozzi after I. Bacon, 1799.
57. "Frontispiece"; Bartolozzi after F. Viera, 1799.
58. "Study of Legs"; Bartolozzi, 1792.
59. "B. Hieronymus Emilianus"; by D. Tiepolo.
60. "Ecce Homo"; by Ant. Van Dyck.
61. "Christ before Chaifas"; Fontana after G. delle Notti; large fol; artist's proof.
62. "Sheep"; Demarteau after Boucher; two prints.
63. "Slaughter of the Holy Innocents"; Marc'Antonio Raimondi after Raphael.
64. "The Apostles"; 12 prints; by Marc'Antonio Raimondi.
65. "A Study"; Piranesi after Guercino.
66. "An Allegory"; Pinelli after Aparicio 1813; large fol.
67. "Sir Adrian Fortesque"; three prints by R. B. Parkes, after the originals in St. John's Church and the Collegio of Rabato, Malta.
68. 23 odd prints.
69. Four pencil drawings after Mantegna's paintings in the Eremitani of Padova.
70. Two lithographs by A. Falzon.
71. Four odd Maltese lithographs.

SCULPTURE.

72. Small wax bust, portrait, early XIXth Cent. Art; supposed to be Lady Ball.

CERAMICS.

73. Majolica jug; Abruzzi; XVIIIth Cent.

CONTEMPORARY ART.

Purchased:—

74. "Il Grano d'Oltremare"; oils; by Antonio Barrera. Exhibited in the Turin Quadriennale in 1923.
-
75. "The dream"; bronze statuette by Boris Edwards.

Presented by Prof. C. E. Oppo of Rome:—

76. "Landscape"; etching by C. Carrà.

Kindly lent by Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli:—

77. "Terracina"; oils by Dante Ricci.
-
78. "Study of a head"; oils; by M. de Vadasz.
-
79. "A Neapolitan girl"; oils; by De Lisio.
-
80. "The Model"; oils; by Adolph Dechenaud (1868-1926).

The following collection of pictures and prints was presented to the Museum by Comm. O. F. Gollcher as a first instalment of a further donation. Comm. Gollcher's generous gift is to be especially mentioned as it shows that the Museum is steadily attracting the attention of connoisseurs and arousing public spirit:—

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------|
| oils : | | Water Colours : | |
| 81. "La Storta"; by F. Anvitti | | 100. "Mezzano"; by E. Ortolani. | |
| 82. "A beggar"; by A. Carosi. | | Drawing : | |
| 83. "Florence"; C. Ortolani. | | 101. "Civitavecchia"; by A. Barrera. | |
| 84. "Fogliano"; A. Bocchi. | | 102. "Peasants"; by E. Gallarado. | |
| 85. "Arco delle Gorgoni"; by A. Carosi. | | 103. "Study of a head"; by E. del Neri. | |
| 86. "Boats"; by E. Anastasio. | | 104. "Study of a head"; by T. Lamesi. | |
| 87. "Study of a head"; by A. Barrera. | | 105. "An old model"; by A. Noci. | |
| 88. "Piazza della Fontana"; by A. Carosi. | | 106. "Study of a woman"; by P. Vetri. | |
| 89. "Grain"; by F. Corelli. | | Pastels : | |
| 90. "Anticoli Corrado"; by O. Amato. | | 107. "Sheep"; by E. Prola. | |
| 91. "The herd"; by O. Amato. | | Etchings : | |
| 92. "The Roman Campagna"; by F. [Corelli. | | 108. "Trastevere, Rome"; | |
| 93. "Mountain kitchen"; by C. Romagnoli. | | 109. "Rue Mont Cenis, Paris"; | } by A. Carbonati. |
| 94. "Study of a head"; by R. Tomassi. | | 110. "Lungotevere Tibaldi, Rome"; | |
| 95. "Portrait of Mrs. G. Gollcher"; by Aldo [Severi. | | 111. "S. Maria in Monticelli, Rome"; | |
| 96. "Portrait of Mrs. G. Gollcher"; by E. [Okun. | | 112. "Rue de Renard, Paris"; | |
| 97. "Self portrait"; by Zumino. | | 113. "S. Maria Nuova, Perugia"; by B. [Disertori. | |
| 98. "Portrait of a girl"; by E. Carosi. | | 114. "The Duomo, Modena"; by M. Ma- [gnavacca. | |
| 99. "Sardinian woman"; by R. Ferro. | | Wood-cuts : | |
| | | 115. "Life"; by A. de Carolis. | |

I have ecc,

VINCENZO BONELLO,
Curator of the Fine Arts Section.

To The Director of the Museum.