

REPORTS
ON THE WORKING OF
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR
1928-29.

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THE MUSEUM,
18th September, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit this annual report of the Museum Department for the financial year 1928-29, to which are attached the reports of the Curators of the various sections. These reports show that the interest taken in the institution since it has been lodged in the "Auberge d'Italie" has been yearly increasing, a fact which is of great encouragement to the Curators concerned.

A Course of General Archaeology to be given by the Director of the Museum at the Auberge d'Italie was announced in the Government Gazette of the 3rd February, 1927. 33 persons joined the class, of whom 20 attended with great regularity. The lectures were illustrated with diagrams, photographs and specimens, and at the conclusion of the same, in May, several excursions were made with floor lectures at the more important monuments of antiquities in the Island.

The following is a table showing the number of visitors to the various sites under the Museum Department:—

Valletta Museum.

Free on special days and by Student's tickets	...	4,051
On week days at 6d.	... ..	2,817
On week days at 3d.	... ..	316
Total number of visitors	...	7,184

<i>Roman Villa-Museum, Rabat</i>	... ..	542
Admission on payment (3d.)	...	
<i>St. Paul's Catacombs</i>	... ..	744
Admission on payment (3d.)	...	
<i>Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum, C. Paula</i>	... ..	1,891
Admission on payment (6d.)	...	

No statistics are available of visitors to Hajar Kim and Mnaidra and Tarxien as no tickets are, so far, issued for the sites. Free tickets were given during the year to directors of schools, other institutions, and independent parties, for visiting our antiquities when under the guidance of a responsible person for the purposes of instruction.

The following objects and publications were presented to the Museum between the 30th March 1928 to the 1st of April 1929:—

H.R.H. The Dowager Marchioness of Milford Haven	One large piece of Black Maltese lace, presented in 1887 by the Maltese ladies to H. M. Queen Victoria on the occasion of her jubilee.
Mr. Emmanuele Lupi	... .. An old plan of Valletta and Floriana.
Mr. and Mrs. Colt	... .. Fifteen wax figures under a glass shade. (profession of a Knight).
Prof. A. V. Bernard, O.B.E., M.D.	Two lithographs and a print on silk. (G. M. Ximenes).
Roger Strickland, Esq., M.L.A.	... .. Sixteen architectural fragments of various epochs, a collection of the Strickland family.
V. Briffa Brincati, Esq.	... .. One gilt woden shield with arms of Ximenes.
Comm. Olof Gollcher	... .. Two volumes. La seconda e la terza Biennale Romana d'Arte.
Mr. Luigi Debono, M.D.	... .. Indice di Caratteri della stampa Vaticana, 1628.
V. Rizzo, Esq.	... .. One sheet calendar of Malta, 1790.
F. S. Pace, Esq.	... .. Two Australian boomerangs, one bull-roarer and one stick.

Mr. J. P. Naudi, M.D. ...	...	One bronze inkstand and a bronze figure of a native of the west coast of Africa.
Rev. Vin. Azzopardi, D.D....	...	Four architectural fragments from the Parish Church of C. Curmi.
R. Naudi, Esq. ...	...	One small wooden cross with Byzantine decorations.
Chev. Edward Caruana Dingli ...	...	One old gold embroidered officer's pouch of the R.M.A.
Antonio Schembri, Esq. ...	...	One steel die of a Sicilian coin.
Emmanuele Xerri, Esq. ...	...	One small bronze model of a gun.
Sir Aurel Stein ...	...	Specimen pages of his work "Innermost Asia".
Ralph Clifton Smith, Esq ...	...	A Bibliography of museums and Museum work.
Dr. Luigi M. Ugolini ...	...	One Vol. L'antica Albania.
Rev. Prof. Sayce ...	...	One Vol. Contes Maughrebins.
		One Vol. L. Woolley. The Sumerians.
R. Istituto di Archeologia e Storia d'Arte		Six parts (1 to 6) Notizie degli Scavi d'Antichità, 1928.
The Director Stockholm Museum...		Guide to the Museum.
H. J. E. Peake, Esq., M.A., F.S. A.		The introduction of civilization into Britain.
Miss M. Murry, F.S.A. ...	...	Ancient Egypt (1928 June part II.)
The Director ...	...	Memorias de Instituto Osualdo Cruz. Tomo XXI, 1928.
Dott. Favelli ...	...	Two brochures on Mediterranean Fever.
Prof. Peter Goessler ...	...	Fundberichte Aus Schwaben. Neue Folge IV.
Prof. Hermann Thirsch ...	...	Aginetische Studien I and II.
Hon. L. Gatt, Esq., C.M.G. ...	...	Sui lavori idraulici eseguiti in queste isole.
Dr. Johannes Boehlau ...	...	Die Spirale in der Bandkeramik.
The Secretary Toronto University		Bulletin of the R. Ontario Museum of Archaeology.
The Director ...	...	R. College of Engineering—Port Arthur—Manchuria Vol. I and II.
Capt. James Robinson ...	...	Four Volumes Smith's Dock Journal.

The following objects were acquired during the same period :—

A set of lithographs by Brockdorff.
 One seal "British Consulate in Malta" time of the Order.
 One gold coin of Tiberius—Found in Malta.
 One gold coin of Costantinus II.
 A water colour by Naici.
 A large framed oil painting of the Grand Harbour
 One lithograph by Destefano and Galdes.
 One old silk garment.
 One old silk waistcoat.
 One copy E. F. Gautier—L'islamisation de l'Afrique de Nord.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THEM. ZAMMIT,

Director

The Honourable
 The Minister for Public Instruction.

APPENDIX A.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.

BUGIBBA—*Prehistoric sites.*

In my annual report for the Year 1922-23, I drew the attention of the Government to a site at Bugibba, not far from Qawra point, where a number of megaliths protruded out of the soil in a field to the right of the main road. I made arrangements with the tenants of the fields and with the agent of the owners to excavate the site from which all crops had been lifted.

On the 23rd. May, Mr. L. Upton Way, F.A.S., who had just arrived in Malta, kindly agreed to superintend the excavation during the forenoon, a task which, eventually, he carried out with the greatest assiduity up to the 30th. of June when he had to leave the island.

Besides the megaliths that stood close to a small room in the field, there were no indications of other remains, so that trial trenches had to be cut in various directions in order to try to obtain an inkling of the general lay of the ruins.

We were not long in perceiving that whatever buildings had stood there had been ruthlessly pulled down, broken up, and carted away long ago, leaving the ground strewn with debris, and very few stones in place. By the second week in June, a sort of platform was reached, and here carefully worked stones were found in place and a well-made floor of beaten earth.

The stones looked like benches arranged symmetrically in front of a clear space which had the appearance of being the centre of the building.

On the 14th. of June, clearing the field in front of these benches, Mr. Way came across two beautifully carved stones still in place and very little damaged.

It was evident that, on the other side of the space, there had been similar stones, which no longer existed, having been removed together with the beaten earth floor on which they had stood.

The larger block had a square surface, measuring 1 m. on each side, with a height of 30 cms. Two of the perpendicular surfaces meant to be on show, are slightly convex; a panel sunk in each of the two surfaces measures 74 cms. and is framed by a plain band carved out of the stone. The two panels are decorated with two sets of spirals carved in relief.

To the Eastern side of the stone, about 35 cms. away from it, in a step cut in the rock, a couple of rope-holes, each plugged with a hard stone, were discovered.

Parallel to the carved block, in line with its Western surface, a second carved stone appeared, still in place. It measures 90 cms. by 45 cms. and has a thickness of 28 cms. The sides are also slightly convex and two of them are decorated with a panel enclosed in a frame.

The long surface shows three fishes in relief, two of them facing each other, and the third one looking to the right. The Eastern surface of the stone shows a carved fish to the left; the head is not clearly defined, but the impression one gets of the figure is that the fish has its head plunged in a net.

As a precaution against weathering, and against rough handling, these decorated stones were taken to the Museum at Valletta, and replaced *in situ* by a replica in globigerina limestone.

At this juncture, the work had to be stopped, for it was imperative that a small room, close to the carved stones, should be pulled down before further researches could be proceeded with.

The room is evidently built on prehistoric remains which, presumably, were not so badly damaged as the rest of the ruins. Steps have been taken to expropriate the owner of this small patch of ground, and when the expropriation is effected it will be possible to make a proper survey of the ruins.

Besides the megaliths and the carved stones a considerable amount of potsherds of the typical Maltese Stone Age were obtained in the course of the excavations. Unfortunately, as fully expected, no complete vases were recovered; the soil in these fields is very shallow and what there is of it has been ploughed and howed for ages, so that nothing larger in size than a couple of inches escaped the agricultural implements used for centuries.

BUSBISIA—*Prehistoric rock-tomb.*

The ledge of a globigerina rocky ground at Busbisia, to the East of the so-called "Falca gap", gave way during the winter rains, bringing down with it a stone hut built up against the wall of the field. The broken mass of rock revealed, in a cavity of the same, human bones and potsherds embedded in the field soil. On clearing this soil it was evident that we had to deal with the bottom of a rock-cut tomb of which the upper part had been destroyed when the field was made. Every object in this grave was in a rotten condition and, owing to the dampness of the soil, it was very difficult to extract both sherds and bones from the clayey earth. The bones of five skeletons were removed from the cavity, and a small basketful of potsherds.

Though carefully handled, the skulls went to pieces hopelessly whenever an attempt was made to remove the soil that caked them, but with the help of plaster the shape of three skulls was clearly defined and roughly measured. The type of skulls was dolicephalic.

The potsherds proved to be of great interest, for they were clearly of a prehistoric type, analogous in all respects to the pottery obtained from other Maltese neolithic sites and from the three tombs described in the *Antiquaries Journal* of October 1928 (Vol. VIII, No. 4.)

Although the sherds were mostly in a fragmentary condition the following reconstructions were made:-

a) One circular dish with everted sides 5 cms. high, 19 cms. in diameter, and about 16 cms. at the base; dark brown in colour, made of purified clay, well-modelled, well-baked, and tastefully decorated in the style of the well-known Maltese neolithic pottery. On the outside, i. e. at the base, a pattern of delicate curves is incised, originally filled up either with a white or, more probably, a red material. Two lines at right angles divide the circle into four quadrants, each line ending in an elongated bulge at the edge of the dish, pierced with a hole as a kind of miniature handle. The sides are decorated with a curved V-shaped design.

b) Fragments of another dish similar to the one just described, dark brown in colour, about 15 cms. in diameter, with inverted sides, 33 cms. high, and fully decorated with straight parallel lines up to a height of 13 mm.

c) Deep round-bottomed cup with slightly concave sides, 10 cms. in diameter at the mouth, total height 75 mm, of which two cms. consist in the height of the convex bottom. It has one typically Maltese triangular handle jutting out in a line with the base. The decoration of the sides consists of simple symmetrical curved lines starting from a pyramidal trunk.

d) Fragments of a deep cup, 17 cms. at the mouth, about 9 cms. in height. A triangular handle fixed at the base juts out for about 4 cms. A simple scratched lineal design is to be seen on the sides.

e) A roughly egg-shaped jar 85 cms. high, not so nicely finished as the other pieces, though similarly decorated with curved lines. At its widest part it is 6.5 cms. and at the mouth and base about 4 cms.

It was very gratifying that the Rev. Prof. H. Sayce was present when the tomb was first approached on the 8th of March 1929.

LATER ANTIQUITIES.

The following rock-tombs met with during the period under consideration are here described in the order of date on which they were surveyed:-

I. Rock-tomb at Hal Kircop.

Whilst quarrying the land "Ta Brillu" or "Ir-Ramlia" to the left of the road that from Hal-Luka leads to Hal-Kircop, the owner came across a rifled tomb cut in the globigerina limestone.

Surveyed on the 17th. August 1928, with the help of Mr. E. B. Vella, Head Teacher of Tarxien Government School, the tomb proved to be of the Second period, that is, with a rectangular shaft, about 4 feet deep, and 5 feet wide. It has four steps cut along the

Eastern side. The burial chamber is deeply concave, in the shape of a segment of a circle, with a 2 feet entrance, widening to 5 feet before it reaches a deep trench cut parallel to the axis of the tomb. The chamber is $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide beyond the entrance. A slightly raised ledge on its extreme right is the only peculiarity worth mentioning, but otherwise it is well-cut and finished. A tiny lamphole in the right wall of the chamber is to be found close to the ceiling. A few broken bones of a young person were disinterred with the debris that filled the cavity, together with a few potsherds of a late Punic type.

Rock-tomb at Birkirkara.

At the back of a farm-house in Via Gargur, No. 19, a rock-tomb was broken into whilst digging for the foundation of an annexe to the said farm-house.

This tomb is one of the bell-shaped types, resembling a silos with a circular slab 9" thick. The mouth had a diameter of 3' and, below that, at a depth of 3' 3", the cavity grows up to a diameter of 8' 4"; at this point a marked ledge is cut all round and juts out for about 4". The total depth is 8'. When discovered, the tomb was half empty, the lower part being filled with large and small stones, field soil, human bones and pottery. Two of the large stones appeared to be fragments of covering slabs thrown in before the last one was laid. Thirteen skulls were found in a good state of preservation and two of them were taken to the Museum for further observations.

The following pieces of pottery were recovered :—

Fragments of two large amphorae, 23 globular flasks with handle, 32 flat dishes of different size, 12 bilychnes Phoenician lamps, one clay lamp of Carthaginian type, 4 deep cups and one delicately ribbed globular flask. The last piece was a flat lenticular bottle recalling a modern water-bottle, with strong side-handles, and slightly everted neck and mouth; it is made of refined clay and has the appearance of pseudo-samian ware.

Mgiar Tombs at Gozo.

At Gozo, whilst cutting stone from the surface of the Zewwieqa cliff at Mgiar, an artificial cavity was broken into in January 1929 and rock-cut tombs appeared at the back. The site, inspected on the 13th. of January, could not be surveyed at the time, as the new entrance was blocked with stones. The proper entrance was not discovered, but it must have been in a filled-up fissure somewhere at the back. A number of rock-tombs can be seen at the back of this cliff, most of them being used as pens or stys. Fragments of pottery obtained from these tombs, including a clay lamp of a late Carthaginian type show distinct evidence of its pertaining to a late Punic period. When the entrance was cleared later on, a set of properly made graves was found cut in the soft white stone both on the sides and on the floor of the cave. Human bones and rough late Punic pottery were found. The friable rock, flaking continuously, covered most of the graves and practically destroyed them.

On the same day, at Sannat, Gozo, the site of burial was met with in a quarry. What was discovered was a small jar, an enochee, and a red Roman lamp found close to a heap of rotten human bones. The lamp is of a Christian type with two oil-holes, between which, a dove with spread wings is shown in relief. The lamp has a straight solid handle. At the back a large capital B is engraved.

Tomb at Melleha.

In March, 1929, the Police reported that a grave was broken into in the course of clearing a rocky site for building purposes at Melleha on the eastern cliffs facing the village

On the 9th. March, the tomb was found to be practically destroyed, no shaft could be made out and part of the burial chamber had also disappeared, the rock being so friable as to be hardly distinguishable from the surrounding dry soil. The entrance to the burial chamber was 4' high and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide, the length of the grave 10', roughly oval in shape, and about 4' at its widest part. The broken bones of the skeleton of an adult were recovered, together with a water amphora, 2' 2" high with tapering base and two small handles on the shoulders, one conical jar (13" high) with flat base, and two plates 6" in diameter.

Tombs in the Mosta district.

Six rock-tombs scooped out in the rocky face of the Wied-il-Ghasel ravine, in the vicinity of "Ta l'Isperanza" Church, about 12' above the bottom of the valley, were surveyed by Mr. Emmanuele B. Vella, who found them completely rifled. Cut in the face of the rock, the tombs were practically shaftless, but their formation, with a flat floor and a domed ceiling, is that of a Second Period type of Maltese Tombs; two flat, ordinary Phoenician lamps, and a common Carthaginian one, were also recovered.

Another interesting tomb of the silos type (bell-shaped) not far from Mosta Fort, was cleared and surveyed by Mr. E. Vella. The depth of the tomb is 7' with a maximum width of 5' 5". The circular mouth is 1' 10" in diameter. The bottom is circular and slightly concave. The tomb was filled up with stones and rubbish and no interesting objects were recovered from it.

A small Christian family tomb was also surveyed in the garden of the so-called "Torre Cumbo" in the Mosta district. The catacomb, reached through a flight of steps, consists of three chambers, each for two bodies, cut in the thickness of the walls. The fact that the graves are preceded by an anti-chamber is a precious indication that it was cut by Christians.

THEM. ZAMMIT,

Curator Archaeological Section

APPENDIX B.

THE MUSEUM,
1st September, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the Museum for the financial year 1928-29.

GEOLOGY.

(a) *Ta Gandia Fissures and other pleistocene deposits.*

Further research in these localities has yielded some very important material, a list of which is given hereunder along with the name of the locality where each specimen was found.

(b) *Ghar Dalam.*

Unfortunately, the proposed museum which had to be erected over the cave has not, as yet, been built. Consequently, as stated in last year's report, the material obtained during former excavations has not yet been properly classified and exhibited for lack of the necessary accommodation and is still lying at the entrance of the cave. For the time being, therefore, it has been considered more prudent not to resume further excavations. I may mention, however, that the necessary steps have been taken for protecting this most important locality from any undue deterioration; in fact, special care has been taken for the preservation of certain specimens which are still in situ and of the two columns of cave oarth which were threatening to collapse. These columns show the various strata in their original position and convey a very clear idea of the various epochs these islands have been through.

PALAEONTHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

The following are the more interesting additions :—

Tertiary—Several fossils and casts of pelecypoda and gastropoda from the coralline deposits presented by Mr. Fred. Bonavia, A.&C.E., of the Public Works Department.

Remains of a crab of the genus *portunus* in the globigerina presented by Mr. S. Astarita a foreman in the same Department.

Quaternary—Mammalian remains:—One right and two left metatarsals and one right femur of a hare (Cfr. *Lepus arcticus timidus*) from Musta ravine. One left metatarsal of a bear (*Ursus* either *speleus* or *arctus*) and the distal part of left humerus of a canis (Cfr. *Lupus lupus*) from Ghar Dalam.

The species have been identified by Mr. Nicholas Kretzoi a recognised authority on fossil mammalia to whom the material was handed over by Professor Baron de Fejervary.

AVIAN REMAINS.

1. Three distal portions of left humerus	...	Ta Gandia Fissure (1)
2. Two proximal portions do.	...	do.
3. Two proximal portions of left femur	...	do.
4. A distal portion of do.	...	do.
5. Distal portion of right tibio-tarsus	...	do.
6. Distal portion of left do.	...	do.
7. Two left tarsi meta-tarsi	...	do.
8. Right tibio-tarsus	...	do.
9. Two left coracoids	...	do.
10. Proximal portion of left tarsus meta-tarsus	...	do.
11. Two fragments of left coracoid	...	do.
12. Right humerus	...	do.
13. Two distal portions right humerus	...	Ghar Dalam
14. Right tarsus meta-tarsus	...	do.
15. Portion right coracoid	...	do.
16. Portion left coracoid	...	do.
17. Fragment of radius	...	do.

The Director,
The Museum, Valletta.

18.	Distal portion of left femur	..	...	Ghar Bodecabu
19.	Left femur	...	...	do.
20.	Right femur	...	...	do.
21.	Distal end of left femur	...	...	do.
22.	Fragment of left coracoid	...	...	do.
23.	Prox. portion of left humerus	...	...	Benghisa Gap
24.	Right tibio-tarsus	...	...	Musta ravine
25.	Distal end of right humerus	...	...	Ta Gandia Fissure (2)
26.	End of left tibio-tarsus	...	...	Tal Herba Fissure
27.	Prox. portion of left ulna	...	...	do.
28.	Dist. portion of left metacarpus	...	...	do.
29.	Left metacarpus	...	...	do.
30.	Three left metacarpi	...	...	do.
31.	Left femur	...	...	do.
32.	Left humerus	...	...	do.
33.	Prox. portion of left ulna	...	...	do.
34.	Dist. end of right metacarpus	...	...	do.
35.	Dist. end of carpus metacarpus	...	...	do.
36.	Dist. portion of right metacarpus...	...	...	do.
37.	Left humerus	...	...	do.
38.	Prox. portion of left metacarpus	...	...	Benghisa gap
39.	Dist. end of ulna	...	...	do.
40.	Prox. portion left metacarpus	...	...	do.
41.	Dist. end of left metacarpus	...	...	Ghar Dalam
42.	Dist. portion of left metacarpus	...	...	Calafrana Fissure
43.	Dist. portion of right metacarpus...	...	...	Ta Gandia Fissure (2)
44.	Fibula	...	...	do.
45.	Prox. portion of right femur	...	...	Tal Herba Fissure
46.	Three fibulas	...	...	do.
47.	Phalanx	...	...	Benghisa Gap
48.	Prox. end of left tarso meta-tarsus	...	...	do.
49.	Dist. end of radius	...	...	Ta Gandia Fissure (1)
50.	Dist. end of right humerus	...	...	do.
51.	Prox. portion of right metacarpus	...	...	do.
52.	Prox. end of left metacarpus	...	...	Tal Herba Fissure
53.	Dist. end of radius	...	...	Benghisa Gap
54.	Right metacarpus	...	...	do.
55.	Dist. end of ulna	...	...	do.
56.	Dist. end of left metatarsus	...	...	Ghar Dalam
57.	Dist. end of right tarso metatarsus	...	...	do.
58.	Right humerus	...	...	Musta Ravine
59.	Dist. portion of right metatarsus	...	...	Ta Gandia Fissure (1)
60.	Dist. portion tibio tarsus	...	...	do.
61.	Right humerus	...	...	Musta Ravine

The species of the above specimens, as respectively numbered, is given hereunder:-

1—24	<i>Branta leucopsis</i> Bechst.	...	...	Bernacle goose
25—42	<i>Cygnus equitum</i> Bate	...	...	Swan ?
43—48	<i>Cygnus falconerii</i> Parker	...	...	do.
49—54	<i>Cygnas</i> sp.	...	...	do.
55—56	<i>Otis tetrax</i> Linn.	...	...	Little bustard
	<i>Otis tarda</i> Linn.	...	...	Bustard
	<i>Anas boschas</i> Linn.	...	...	Wild duck
	<i>Marmaronetta</i> sp.	...	...	Marbled duck ?
	<i>Gyps</i> sp.	...	...	Vulture ?
	<i>Lagopus albus</i> Gmel.	...	...	Willow grouse.

The specific identification is due to the well known palaeornithologist Dr. Koloman, Lambrecht, Reader in the Roy. Hung. Elizabeth Univ. and Librarian to the Roy. Hung. Geological Survey, who will also in due course publish his observations accompanied by illustrations concerning the above material, in the series on the Natural History of the Maltese Islands which publication will appear in the Annals of the Roy. Hung. Museum.

The fossil mammal and avian remains from Musta ravine were found by Mr. E. B. Vella, Head Master of Tarxien Government School, a keen student of our Archaeology, within a Punic tomb into which they were evidently washed by floods, as the entire contents were found in a pell mell condition.

CHELONIAN REMAINS.

An ulna, a radius and a fibula belonging to a small tortoise were also sent to Baron de Fejervary who passed them over to be studied by the well known specialist in fossil chelonians Dr. Szalai of the Hungarian National Museum, who states that they belong to a new species very closely resembling *Testudo ibera*.

ZOOLOGY.

MAMMALS.

A shrew (*Pachyura etrusca*. Savi) from the neighbourhood of Rabato (Malta). Preserved in alcohol.

Several mice (*Mus musculus* Linn.) from various localities in Malta. Preserved in alcohol.

Three specimens of the local weasel (*Putorius*?) Stuffed.

Jaws with teeth of the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*. Linn.) from Marsamuscetto Harbour. Dry.

Jaws with teeth as well as the tail of the very rare species (*Delphinus tursio* Fabr.) taken by the Xlendi fishermen in those waters.

Several of the smaller mammals of Hungary presented by Prof. Baron de Ferjervary, Preserved in alcohol.

BIRDS.

A spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia* Linn.) shot by Mr. C. Cassar Torreggiani on the Fish Ponds of Marsascirocco and stuffed by Mr. Fortunato Azzopardi.

An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus* Linn) shot on the fish ponds of Marsascala. It is perhaps important to point out that according to the information obtained this bird was ringed but the ring had been removed and put on another specimen by the sportsman who shot it.

The following is a list of the birds prepared into skins for the Museum's Collection by Mr. Fortunato Azzopardi, the taxidermist of Misida:—

Two Golden orioles (*Oriolus oriolus galbula* L.)

One gold-finch (*Carduelis carduelis carduelis* L.)

Linnet (*Carduelis carduelis cannabina* L.)

Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs cœlebs* L.)

Three sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis maltae* Hart.)

Cornbunting (*Emberiza calandra calandra* L.)

Meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis* L.)

Red throated pipit (*Anthus cervinus* Pall.)

Blue headed wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava* L.)

Ashy headed wagtail (*Motacilla flava cinereocapilla* Savi.)

Blackbird (*Turdus merula merula* L.)

Wheatear (*œnanthe œnanthe* L.)

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra rubetra* L.)

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata rubicola* L.)

Red start (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus* L.)

Black red start (*Phoenicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis* Gm.)

Two robins (*Dandulus rubecula rubecula* L.)

Two swallows (*Hirundo rustica rustica* L.)

Two martins (*Delichon urbica urbica* L.)

Two rollers (*Coracias garrulus garrulus* L.)

Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla* L.)

Scops owl (*Otus scops scops* L.)

Two short eared owls (*Asio flammeus flammeus* Pont.)

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus* L.)

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni naumanni* Fleisch.)

Red footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus* L.)

Marsch harrier (*Circus aeruginosus* L.)

Glosey ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus* L.)

Two paratinkles (*Glareola pratincola* L.)

Dotterel (*Caradrius morinellus* L.)

Common redshank (*Tringa totanus* L.)

White winged black tern (*Hydrochelidon leucoptera leucoptera* Temm.)

One of the pratincoles and the white winged black tern were presented in the flesh by Lewis Galea, Esq., LL.D.

REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS.

Thirty-seven specimens of the local lizards (*Lac. Muralis* var. *maltensis*. Mert.) from various localities in Malta and Gozo.

Fourteen specimens of (*Lac. muralis* var. *kieselbachi*, Fejer.) from Selmun Island.

Three specimens of (*Lac. muralis* var. *generalensis* (Gulia) from the Fungus Rock.

Four specimens belonging to one or two new varieties not yet described from two different localities on this archipelago.

Amongst the snakes collected during the period under review, the most important new additions consist in the following:—

Four specimens of *Zamensis algirus*, Jan. viz:—

- a) One collected by Mr. C. Penza, Keeper of the Argotti Botanical Gardens;
- b) One collected by Mr. S. Astarita from the ditch on the left outside Portes des Bombes, (young)
- c) One collected by Mr. Fortunato Azzopardi from the neighbourhood of Misida;
- d) One young specimen from the neighbourhood of C. Curmi, purchased.

Three specimens of *Tarbophis fallax*, Schleg. collected by Mr. Penza from the Argotti Gardens.

One specimen collected from Marsa by Miss Burns and presented by Mr. C. Mompalao de Piro.

One specimen caught at Rundle Gardens, Valletta, purchased.

Several continental reptiles and batrachians, preserved in alcohol, presented by Baron de Fejervary, were added to the reference collection.

SPECIMENS OBTAINED FROM LAMPEDUSA.

Several green toads, *Bufo viridis*, in their adult, young and tadpole stages, preserved in alcohol. This species which appears to be on the verge of extinction on that Island must have existed here thousands of years ago in large quantities. In fact its fossil remains are very plentifully found in several of our pleistocene deposits.

A skink of a variety which has not yet been met with on those Islands, and apparently the only peculiar variety in Lampedusa.

FISHES.

Forty-five specimens were added to the Museum's Collections; amongst these the more important are the following:—

- One young specimen of the Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus* L.)
- Two specimens of the rare smare (*Smaris mauri*. Bonap.)
- Two young specimens of the common tunny fish (*Thynnus thynnus* L.)
- One specimen of *Seriola tapeinometopon* Bleek.
- One specimen of the greater flying fish (*Exocoetus volitans* L.)
- One young specimen of the sun fish (*Orthogoriscus mola* L.)

MOLLUSCA.

The more important additions are:—

Three live specimens of *Spondylus gaederopus* L. from the Grand Harbour. This species was considered extinct in our waters.

Two live specimens of *Pecten pefelis* L. which apparently has never been recorded alive in our waters.

Several specimens of our land mollusca have been kept in alcohol, whilst other specimens, similarly prepared, have been sent to the well known malacologist Schlesch, of Copenhagen, who together with Dr. Soos of Budapest is working on their anatomy. The result of their studies will be included in a catalogue of the land fresh and brackish water mollusca on the Maltese Islands. It is hoped that this work will be an exhaustive one on the subject.

PUBLICATIONS.

Gli uccelli di Malta—A posthumous work of Chev. Nicola Ardoino, published in the Archivum Melitense of 1928.

I have, etc.,

G. DESPOTT,
Curator, Natural History Section

APPENDIX C.

THE MUSEUM,
20th August, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Fine Arts Section for the Financial Year 1928-1929.

Owing to lack of funds, which were voted late in the year, the regular work of the section was considerably hampered and the restoration of the Inquisitor's Palace at Vittoriosa was not carried on any further than last year.

The following works of art were added to the Museum Collection:—

PAINTINGS.

- 1-4. Four large paintings representing famous historical tragedies. By Matteo Stomer. (Size about 1'95 by 1'46 ms.)

This artist, Matteo Stom or Stomer, born in Flanders in the early part of the XVIIth. Century, practiced mainly in Italy and in Sicily in 1640. He studied in Rome where he followed the Italian light and shade school of the period and, like Gerard Honthorst, he used to place his subjects in dark surroundings, entrusting to candle light the plastic effect of his paintings.

These four paintings were given to the Museum by Comm. Augusto Lurati of San Remo, partly in payment of an export duty, in force of Art. 5 of the Antiquities Act, 1925.

5. A small oil painting, by Alessandro Magnasco. (30 by 22 cms.)

Alessandro Magnasco, called "Il Lissandrino", born in Genoa in 1667 and died in 1749. He studied at Milan where he joined the "Bottega" of Filippo Abbiati; it seems that he began his career as a portrait painter and practised in Flanders where he was patronised by the Grand Duke Giovanni Gastone. The art of Magnasco summed up almost all the tendencies which were then in the turmoil of Italian art; and in many ways he proved to be the forerunner of Goja. He was at his best when he painted queer and grotesque subjects, his works being characterised by a great fantastic power often with a touch of humour, and are also pleasant for marked decorativeness.

Presented to the Museum by Prof. Roberto Longhi of Rome.

6. Portrait of a young woman, oil painting, by Bernardo Strozzi. (Size about 67 by 51 cms.)

Bernardo Strozzi, called "Il Cappuccino" or "Il Prete Genovese" born in Genoa in 1581, was a pupil of Pietro Sorri. When 17 years old he became a Capuchin Friar, but was afterwards compelled to leave the cloister in order to support his sister and his aged mother. When, however, his mother died and his sister got married he refused to return to his Order and, having been called to do so, he was for some time forcibly confined to his Monastery. He passed the remainder of his days as a secular priest in Venice, and in 1635, he was created a Monsignore. As a portrait painter, he may perhaps be ranked above his contemporaries. A great admirer of Rubens at Genoa, he absorbed at Venice all he could gather from the works of Veronese, and through the art of Lys and Feti he followed Caravaggio's school so closely, that his works gave a new impulse to the decadent Venetian school. He died in 1644.

From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased.

7. A Knight in Armour, attributed to Tintoretto. (size about 77 by 67 cms.) From the late Mr. Bellanti's collection. Purchased.

Jacopo Robusti, called "Il Tintoretto" on account of his father's trade, was born in Venice in the early part of the XVIth. Century. He is the culminating genius of the Venetian School, combining in himself the high merits of his contemporaries. The impetuosity of his genius and his deliberate boldness of execution were hardly understood by his contemporaries. Perhaps this was also due to his unusual readiness and despatch that resulted often in the production of works unworthy of his talents. Unlike the great Italians, he is poorly represented in the Galleries of Europe because his best works still remain in Venice. As a portrait painter, Tintoretto was in the very front rank of artists. His influence on Velasquez, who copied several of his works, is quite easy to trace, and modern art owes more to him than is usually recognised.

8. Interior of a Church. Oil painting. Flemish Art, XVIIth Century. (Size 6 by 62 cms). From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased.

9. The Deluge. Oil painting. Flemish Art, XVIIth. Century. (Size 18 by 75 cms.) Purchased.

10. Filippo d'Agira. By Francesco Zahra. Malta early XVIIIth Century. Purchased.
11. Malta Harbour. Water colour. By David Roberts. Signed and dated 1839. (Size 78 by 41 cms.)

David Roberts (1796-1864) was born at Stockbridge near Edinburgh. As a scene painter, he was on the permanent staff of the Drury Lane Theatre and afterwards at Covent Garden. In 1826, he sent his first contribution to the Royal Academy. He was elected A.R.A. in 1829, and R.A. in 1841. His best works, dealing with scenes of Western Europe, were painted before 1840. His subjects show a considerable architectural sense and he understood how to subordinate detail, without losing richness of effect as a whole.

12. Ecce Homo. XVIIIth. Century. (Size 2'20 by 1'16 cms.) Presented by Mr. Thomas Vassallo, Antiquarian, It is intended to be placed in the Inquisitor's Palace at Vittoriosa.

13. St. Elia. A cartoon for an altar piece in the Carmelite Church of Notabile. By Michele Bellanti (1807-1883). (Size 62 by 44 cms.)

CONTEMPORARY ART.

14. Three lino-cuts, Maltese subjects, by Roakin. (Purchased).
15. Three wood-cuts, Maltese subjects, by Mrs. Dorothy A. Hirst. (Purchased).
16. Charcoal drawing by Alfredo Biagini of Rome. Presented by the author.

I have etc.

VINCENZO BONELLO,

Curator of the Fine Arts Section.

The Director of the Museum.

APPENDIX D.

THE MUSEUM,

10th. September, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Mineralogical Section ending 30th. March, 1929.

The compilation of the catalogue of the extensive Museum collection continued to engage my earnest attention.

The following gentlemen have been so good as to present objects which I have not yet had time to examine:—

1. The Museum Director. A bit of coralline conglomerate from Casal Dingli district; one stalagmitic mass; specimens of blue clay and green-sand from shafts at Ghain Tuffieha.
2. Mr. Thomas Debono of Zeitun. A fine grained, brightly coloured bit of sandstone.
3. Mr. Bannister. A collection of Irish stones met with in various district.
4. Mr. Emmanuele Xerri of Valletta. A gilt edged alabaster cup.
5. Mr. Leone Servien of Constantinople. 21 polished granite masses from Heraclea (Gulf of Ismidt in Asia Minor).
6. Mr. John Mamo of Valletta. Three specimens of coralline limestone from Hal-Far.
7. Rev. Fr. Glavina. Three specimens of garnet from Aosta, Italy, and two specimens of Novara granite.

A rearrangement of several parts of the collection will be taken in hand as soon as the necessary show cases are provided.

I have etc.

LEWIS F. MIZZI.

Curator, Mineralogical Section.

The Director of the Museum.