

REPORTS

ON THE WORKING OF

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1929-30.

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THE MUSEUM,
Auberge d'Italie, Valletta-Malta.
30th September, 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Museum Department for the financial year, April 1929, May 1930, to which are attached the reports of the Curators of the various sections.

The following is a table showing the number of visitors to the sites under the Department.

Valletta Museum.

Free on special days and by Student's Tickets	...	5,261	
On week-days at 6d.	... ..	2,848	
On week-days at 3d.	... ..	496	
Total No. of Visitors	..	8,605	

Roman Villa-Museum, Rabat.

Admission on payment (3d.)	... ..	649	
Free admission	... ..	325	
Total No. of Visitors	...	974	

St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat.

Admission on payment (3d.)	... ..	1,182	
Free admission about	... ..	300	
Total No. of Visitors	...	1,482	

Hal-Saftieni Hypogeum, C. Paula.

Admission on payment (6d.)	... ..	2,464	
Free admission	... ..	217	
Total No. of Visitors	...	2,681	

No statistics are available of Hajar Kim and Mnaidra, Tarxien and other sites, for no entrance fees are charged in these sites and no registers are kept.

Free tickets are issued to schools and other institutions when accompanied by a teacher or a responsible person with an eye to instruction; groups of foreign visitors who wish to visit our antiquities for the purpose of instruction are also allowed free entrance when an application is made by the consul concerned.

The following objects and publications were presented to the Museum during the ensuing year.

A collection of oil and water-colour pictures presented by Chev. O. F. Gollcher, is detailed in the report of the Curator of Fine Arts.

1 Roman lamp from Comino Island	...	by	Capt. A. Zammit Cutajar
1 Collection of local Lichens	... ..	by	Sir Reginald Bankart
6 Old unmounted photos of Malta	... ..	by	Mr. Tancred Borg
1 Framed oil painting	... ..	by	Dr. Edgar Cesareo
2 Lithographs...	... ..	by	Rev. D. Gaetano Sammut
1 Coloured map of Malta	... ..	by	Mrs. Clogstoun
2 Painted Greek Vases, 8 small pots, 50 clay beads, 3 brass coins, 18 clay plates etc. from Cyrene	... ..	by	Mrs. J. Alvarez

1 Set of wicker-work objects etc. from British Guiana	by Dr. J. Glavina
3 Roman brass coins	by Capt. Ch. Vassallo
2 Pieces of brass grani of Despuig	by Commissioner of Police (Mr. S. Galea)
1 Old marble inscription from Fort St. Angelo... ..	by the Superintendent Civil Engineer H. M. Dockyard
1 Programme of a play at the Opera House printed on silk in 1825	by Mr. J. Azzopardi
2 Old Maltese Calendars	by Mr. Giuseè Gatt
8 Shards (Bucchero Nero Etrusco)... ..	} by Dr. Luigi Ugolini
1 Old bottle	
2 Cups (3rd Century)... ..	
2 Paterae (Greek-Roman)	
2 Pieces of old Maltese lace	
1 Model of Royal stool from Ashantee	by Miss Knight
	by Dr. Victor Cretien

OBJECTS SENT TO THE MUSEUM ON LOAN.

1 Old silk baldaquin with coat-of-arms of a Knight of the Order	by The Rev. Fathers of St. Mary of Jesus of Rabat
15 Water colours and other drawings	by Miss Ruth Bellanti

PUBLICATIONS.

One copy, III Report Excavations in Malta	Miss M. Murray F.R.S.
One Book by G. Bosio (Collana del Cavaliere Gerosolimitano)	Mr. Em. Xerri
Five Vols. Philology and Archaeology	Prof. Rev. H. Sayce
Two Vols. Journal of Hellenic Studies	Mrs. Clogstoun
Annual report Auckland Inst. and Museum 28-29-30	The Curator
Archives des Inst. Pasteur d'Indochine	The Director
Bulletino Società Piemontese d'Archeologia e Belle Arti	The Director
Memoires Rojun College of Engineering (Japan)	The Director
Scoperta di un cranio Neanderthal presso Roma... ..	Prof. Sergio Sergi
Les Hesperidi Européens	The Director
El Origen de la columna de tipo mediterraneo	J. Martinez Santa Olalla
Bulletin Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology	The Director
Cratères et candelabres de Mahdia	L. M. Poinsot
L'autel de la gens Augusta à Carthage	do.
Scavi e rinvenimenti in Tripolitania	Dr. R. Bartoccini
Memorias de Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Manguinhos	The Director
The early colonization of Northeastern Scotland... ..	Prof. V. Gordon Childe
Bulletin Logan Museum	The Director
Jahresbericht des Archeologischen Instituts des Deutschen Reiches 1928-1929	The Director
Report—The Colchester Essex Museum 1929	The Director
Smith's Dock Journal—North Shields	The Editor
New York Natural History Museum Journal	The Director
Istituto di Speleologia—Trieste	The Director
61st report Natural History 1929. The American Museum of Natural History	The Director

The following objects were acquired for the Museum :—

- One Stole of the Knights of the Order worn by officials on special occasions.
- One water colour by De Cros. "View of Valetta from St. Angelo" (For the purchase of this water-colour Chev. O. F. Gollcher contributed £ 10).
- One gold coin of Tiberius found in a field at Malta.
- One gold coin of Constantinus.
- One water-colour by Naici.
- One framed old picture, of the Grand Harbour.
- One lithograph by De Stefano and Galdes.
- Three engravings by Mrs. A. D. Hirst.
- Two old silk garments.

One silk embroidered old stole.
 One set drawing instruments.
 One photographic camera.
 Three oil paintings by Roakin (Mr. H. D. Hawkins).
 Six old silver buttons.
 One pencil portrait of a British Officer by Farrugia.

The following books and brochures were added to the Museum Library:—

“Louis Carton”.—Carthage.
 “Malinjoud”.—Textes en dialect de Damas.
 “Nahum Slousch”.—“Le Civilisation Hebraique et Phaenicienne”.
 “De la Motte Capron”—Sidna Noulay Ismail. (Contes Maghrebiens).
 “Feghali”—Syntaxe des parlers du Liban.
 “Feghali”.—Textes Arabes de Wadi-Chahrour (Liban).
 Visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in Malta (1876).
 “De la Ville”—Note sur les Sceaux de l’Order.
 “St. Priest”.—Malte par un voyageur Francais.
 “Piccioni”.—L’Orde de Malte.
 (2 prints) Portrait-Statue of L’Isle-Adam.
 “Aldecca”.—Cours d’Arabe.
 “Brunot”.—Arabe dialectal Marocin.
 “Massignon”—Notes sur le dialecte du Maroc.
 “Gaudefroy-Demorne”—Manuel d’Arabe.
 “Oestroup”.—Contes de Damas.
 “Tedjini”—Mon premier liver d’Arabe.
 “Sir T. Zammit”.—Prehistoric Malta—The Tarxien Temples.

In December 1929, the Museum published the first number of a Bulletin, edited by the Director, in which articles on Archaeology, Natural History, and Fine Arts were contributed by the Curators of the Sections concerned. It is hoped that this Bulletin, of which the second number is in preparation, will enhance the practical value of the Museum and will set before the eyes of students the importance of the Maltese Islands as a field of scientific and artistic research. (Bulletin of the Museum—Valletta, Malta, Vol. I. No. 1. Dec. 1929).

In March 1930, the Director contributed to “Antiquity”, a quarterly Review of Archaeology, a fully illustrated paper on the prehistoric remains of the Maltese Islands (Antiquity—March 1930, Vol. IV No. 13).

In May 1930, the Oxford University Press published a book by the Director under the title of “Prehistoric Malta” The Tarxien Temples—giving a full account of these Neolithic buildings and the objects found in them during their excavation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

TEM. ZAMMIT,

Director of the Museum.

The Secretary
 Maltese Imperial Government.

APPENDIX A.
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION.
 PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

Excavation to the West of the Tarxien Temples.

With the kind and valuable cooperation of Mr. Lewis J. Upton Way, F.R.S. whose services were available during May and June 1929, the cleaning of the earth to the west of the second temple was taken in hand.

Large blocks of stone were known to be embedded in the red soil not far from the original walls, as an aid to their stability, but as to their size and position in relation to the temple wall, we could know nothing before removing the earth in which they were buried.

Before reaching the site of the middle temple to the west, we had to clear, as far as possible, the huge blocks which appeared to be the remains of a boundary wall of the first temple, and which had become dislodged and left on the ground. These stones have been used as a supply of building stone in past times, as some of them show that large chunks had been cut off from them.

The amount of trouble involved in the demolition of this gigantic wall must have been enormous, for besides having to be levered off, the stones were removed to a considerable distance. This was, presumably, the work of modern farmers who were anxious to make an arable field of this abandoned site. The large blocks were found covered by a layer of smaller stones and about 5 feet of red earth.

The first squared block to the north east of the boundary wall, met with in correspondence with the apse of the First Temple, is 10 feet (3 m.) long, 5 feet 6 inches (1·65 m.) wide and 3 feet (92 cms.) high. Three conical pits varying in depth from 7½ inches (18 cms.) to 1 foot 7 inches (48 cms.) are cut in a diagonal line on the surface of the stone at a distance of 1 foot 7 inches (48 cms.) and 1 foot 9 inches (53 cms.) between centres; their diameter at the surface is, 10 inches (26 cms.) for the two outside and 13 inches (33 cms.) for the central, respectively.

These rough hewn blocks are carefully laid behind the First Temple for about 30 feet (9 m.) in an easterly direction; the outer surface of these blocks is deeply recessed in three places at the floor level; these recesses are 18 inches (46 cms.) in length and about 12 inches (30 cms.) in depth, with a curved head, the cavity being filled up by a well fitting plug of stone, a curious and, apparently, useless purpose.

Close up alongside this rough walling, two well-squared blocks follow its eastern direction. One of these blocks is 7 feet 6 inches (2·29 m.) long 3 foot 6 inches (1·7 m.) and 1 foot 8 inches (51 cms.) high, the other is 10 feet (3 m.) long 5 feet (1·53 m.) wide and 2 feet (61 cms.) high. About the middle of each of these stones a double ropehole is cut in each of the vertical face.

At the back of these stones the walling continues to the back of the second or middle temple and at this point the base of a rectangular pillar is still in position.

Two large blocks, at right angles to those mentioned in the penultimate paragraph, are in front of others of smaller size. One of them measures 6 feet (1·83 m.) by 4 feet (1·22 m.) by 2 feet (61 cms.); a rope hole is neatly cut at the north-eastern angle formed by the vertical faces of this stone.

The original entrance of the Second Temple is now sealed by a huge slab on end, 9 feet 6 inches (2·90 m.) high 6 feet (1·83 m.) wide and 3 feet (93 cms.) thick. This carefully finished slab has two circular blind holes at about its middle, presumably for the insertion of levers. At the base there are four deep cup-like recesses.

This slab is flanked by a roughly hewn pillar on each side both of which, broken on the top, now measure 9 feet 6 inches (2·90 m.), by 6 feet 3 inches (1·90) by 3 feet (92 cms.) and 8 feet 6 inches (2·60 m.) by 6 feet 3 inches (1·90 m.) by 3 feet (92 cms.) respectively.

A loose block originally found on the surface of the field, and now lying on the rocky floor in front of this disused portal, very probably, formed part of the wall of the Second temple.

No set stones are met with to the north-east for a distance of 13 feet (4 m.) where another series of well squared blocks commence, a continuation, probably, of the boundary wall of the temple. One of these blocks measures 7 feet 6 inches (2·15 m.) by 4 feet (1·22 m.); the one next to it has not yet been freed from the red earth in which it is embedded.

The next block in front of those just mentioned is 11 feet (3.36 m.) long, 7 feet 4 inches (2.13 m.) wide and 4 feet (1.22 m.) high quite close to another one not sufficiently cleared to be properly measured. What appears to be a wall composed of smaller stones and running in a north-westerly direction, is still hidden under the red earth. Three of its stones are each 3 feet 6 inches (1 m.) long.

The small objects met with in this extramural space do not differ from those found in the earlier days of excavation within the temples. Potsherds both of the Stone and of the Bronze Age varieties were collected and so were flint and obsidian implements similar to those already found.

A stone head of a statuette about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch (35 mm.) high and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (20 mm.) wide was found; although badly worn, it showed that the features were originally carefully cut.

Of a greater importance is a fragment of a stone statuette of the Maltese obese type. This statuette recalls the one found at Tarxien in 1919 and described and illustrated in *Archaeologia* 1921, Vol. LXX Page 197 and plate XV., and subsequently in the *Anthropological Journal* Vol. LIV. 1924, Plate XVI page 98. The fragment now discovered is wedge-shaped with a flat irregular base 10 by 7 cms. (4 inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches) with a height of 20 cms. (8 inches) and a maximum width of 21 cms. ($8\frac{1}{4}$ inches); in front, it is distinctly convex, but at the back, where the fracture had taken place, it is hollow at the line where the waist of the figure would be expected to appear; this cavity served probably as a mortise for the insertion of a dowel to join the upper portion of the figure.

The figure is represented as sitting on a bench or leaning against it; a pear, shaped leg appears below the edge of a short pleated skirt reaching the surface of the bench. The pleats of the skirt decorate the edge of the garment for a height of 4 cms. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inches) as if the part was attached to it as a flounce surmounted by semicircular lines of embroidery.

The bench on which the figure is sitting is 8 cms. (3 inches) high with a rectangular border 13 mm. ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch) high, below which three figures are cut in low relief. The round heads of these flat figures contribute to the decoration of the bench. The figures are faintly outlined but they all show the usual hieratic attitude of the well known Maltese obese figures, with the left fore-arm bent at right angles on the chest, whilst the right arm hangs down at the side.

Another small figure much more distinctly carved than the other three, is to be seen in a sitting position on one side of the bench cut near the angle of a smooth panel 36 mm. ($1\frac{1}{4}$ inches) high. The two arms are folded in front of the figure, the hands resting on the obese thighs as in many other Tarxien figures.

Although this year's investigation did not yield very striking results, it showed that the excavation should be continued and extended so as to ascertain the features of the outside walls of the temples, of which the approach must have been carefully arranged.

As our limited excavation has showed this year, special features may be brought to light and objects discovered which might greatly contribute to the solution of the numerous problems concerning the Maltese Megalithic Temples.

Stone Circle at Melleha.

Flight Lt. R. Forbes-Bentley, has drawn my attention to a stone circle he has measured and photographed on one of the highest points of the Melleha ridge. Though made of comparatively small stones the monument is no doubt prehistoric. No potsherds were found on the ground surface but if the shallow layer of soil he cleared some sherds may be met with that could give a date to the site. Remains of a second circle are scattered in the vicinity.

PAGAN ROCK-TOMBS.

Several rock-cut graves of the usual Maltese type came under the notice of this Department during the financial year under review. They will be briefly dealt with in the date order of their discovery.

Rock-tomb at Casal Paula.

On the 22nd October 1929, Major Stivala, Superintendent of the Corradino Civil Prison, reported the discovery of a cave in the Prison grounds whilst conducting some irrigation works. I at once visited the site and had the cave cleared by a party of the

inmates. Deep in the ground, was a rock-cut grave of the second period, with a square shaft 5 feet (1·53 m.) per side and a circular chamber about 5 feet (1·53 m.) in diameter, with a trench about 1 foot (30 cms.) deep in a line with the entrance. The height of the chamber was three feet (92 cms.) and a lamp-hole was cut high up near the ceiling in the southern wall. To the left of the entrance beyond the deep trench a circular pit was cut in which an amphora probably stood.

The tomb had been rifled long ago, and no objects were found in it. As it happened to be on the line of the proposed irrigation work and as it was of a very common type, the tomb was allowed to be destroyed.

Rock-tomb in the Hamrun-Birkirkara District.

On the 12th December 1929, the mason who was laying the foundation of a house in Strada Fleur-de-Lys at Hamrun, to the northwest of the Conservatorio Bugeja, broke into a cave which was at once inspected by me.

I found that the barrel-shaped ceiling of a rock-cut tomb had been broken at its middle portion. The chamber was 9 feet (2·75 m.) long, 5 feet (1·53 m.) wide and, at its central part 3 feet (92 cms.) high, with a flat floor and without any trench or head supports. The sealing slab on the outside of the tomb was still in place, but the shaft leading to the chamber could not be reached as it was encumbered by the building materials. At least three skeletons were still lying in the grave, a female skull with a cephalic index of 72, being in perfect condition. The few pottery objects found were badly broken except a small clay jar 11 cms. ($4\frac{3}{4}$ inches) high, a clay dish 9 cms. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches) in diameter and a heavy bilychnes lamp of an early Phoenician type. The burial could be ascribed to the 6th Century B.C. but it had no peculiar features worth recording.

Rock-tomb at Rabat.

On the 4th February, 1930, whilst the Public Works Department was laying drain pipes in Kola Xara Street, corner with the lane leading to the Tach-Chaki Hill, a cavity was broken into, probably the remains of a rock-tomb, full of black ashes mixed with a clayey earth. Fragments of funereal pottery were found connected, in all probability, with the cremation of several bodies. A large spherical vase (Caccabium), a globular jar, one half of a cinerary urn of a special type, not very common in the island, fragments of a large clay dish, a clay ointment jar, and a small one-handled clay bottle, were recovered and deposited in the Roman Villa Museum.

Rock-tomb at Zurriek — Strada Santa Caterina.

On the 15th March 1930, the Police reported that during the construction of a house at Zurriek a grave had been accidentally broken into. It proved to be a rock-cut tomb, dug in white friable clayey rock, which, in the course of time, had been filled up by the flaking off of the rock. The shaft of the tomb could not be reached as it had already been built upon. The chamber, irregular in shape with a flat roof and a flat floor, was reached with difficulty through a narrow breach in the roof. Fragments of human bones and a few pieces of a late clay funeral pottery were found. One ovular clay amphora, about 3 feet long, and one thick bilychnes lamp were recovered and deposited in the Roman Villa Museum at Rabat. There were no special features worth recording in this tomb, which was evidently of the 2nd period, about the 7th century B.C.

Christian Catacombs.

In a field adjoining Strada Collegio, at Rabat, of which a portion was acquired by the Government for the purpose of widening the street, catacombs were discovered during the construction of the boundary wall.

Five of these Catacombs were in part cleared and examined. As they had been opened to all comers before the rocky ground had been made into a field, they were found ruthlessly defaced and filled up with all sort of rubbish.

Two of these catacombs which were in a better state of preservation, were thoroughly cleaned and surveyed. Mr. Charles Zammit was entrusted with the survey and the production of drawings.

There are no special features about these catacombs, not already observed in other catacombs common to that district. A few loculi, very roughly cut out in the walls for the burial of infants, were found to be still sealed up by means of slabs of stone and a thick layer of lime mortar. One side-tomb with arcosolium and a canopied table-grave were also found unopened. It had been intended to leave these graves unopened but during the cleaning of the site it happened that unknown people had gone down after the workmen had left and tampered with the graves to such an extent that they had to be surveyed and described before further damage was done. The tomb in the side of the wall had its sealing-slab removed but no damage to the contents was observed.

The oblong chamber 6 feet long 3 feet 6 inches wide, about its middle portion, had a ledge, a couple of inches high, at the end close to the entrance. Two semicircular notches were cut in this ledge, for placing the heads of the two bodies but as a matter of fact, three adult bodies were buried in this chamber, two in the proper position, with heads in the notches, and the third one between the other two.

The chamber being damp, the skeletons were black and decayed; they had been laid on their backs without having been wrapped up closely in swatheing cloths, for the limbs were lying straight in their natural positions.

The only furniture in this grave was a couple of green glass vessels, one a conical cup 11 cms. high 7 cms. wide at the mouth, the other was a square-bodied bottle with a short neck and a flat wide handle, 14 cms. high 9 cms. wide. The two vessels were laid on the ledge behind the heads and were in a perfect state of preservation.

The table-grave, in close proximity to the arcosolium tomb just described, was hewn in the live rock and covered by four stone slabs measuring 37 inches (94 cms.) in length, 15 inches (38 cms.) in breadth, and 3½ inches in thickness. The sealing of the grave was perfect, the slabs rested on a ledge cut in the rock and the interstices filled up with a thick lime mortar. The grave was 5 feet 7 inches (1.71 m.) long, 3 feet 2 inches (1.58 m.) deep and 29 inches (53 cms.) wide. A head-rest was provided at one of the ends with the customary two semicircular notches. As in the other grave, three adult bodies were laid, two in the proper place and a third one between the other two. The conditions of the entombed were identical to those observed in the other grave,—black decayed bones lying in their anatomical position without any sign of restraint due to close wrapping.

The furniture in this grave was a conical green glass cup 17 cms. long and 10 cms. wide at the mouth, which was found lying on the ledge at the back of the heads, and a red clay dish of a Pseudo-Samian type which was found in a horizontal recess cut in the lower end of the grave close to the floor. The diameter of the dish was of 21 cms. 5 cms. deep. All the objects recovered from these graves are now preserved in the Roman Villa Museum.

The graves were carefully resealed and the catacombs walled up and covered, the field having been returned to its normal condition.

ROMAN BUILDING AT BUSBISIA.

Not far from the site in which a Prehistoric rock-tomb was discovered last year at Busbisias (Musta district), a wall built of large stone blocks and about 60 feet in length was found to bind and retain the earth of a field at a higher level. This wall in so close proximity to the Stone Age grave, suggested a Megalithic ruin, and having obtained the consent of the owner, the Marchese Testaferrata Bonici, the work of excavating the field beyond this big wall was proceeded with in July 1929, Mr. E. B. Vella, very kindly, undertaking to supervise the excavations.

The remains of partition walls were soon reached which suggested a Roman building, and the numerous potsherds found confirmed our surmises. It proved to be one of the numerous rustic villas which in course of time had fallen into ruin, and the site it stood upon had been turned into an arable field. Two small brass coins of a Spanish Medioeval type were discovered but no other objects worth mentioning were found in the debris. The field was restored to its normal conditions.

ROMAN VILLA AND THERMAE AT GHAIN TUFFIEHA.

In the course of digging shafts in a field at Ghain Tuffieha (il gnien) the Water Works Department came across numerous bricks to which my attention was called by Mr. C. Rizzo, the Engineer of the Department.

On the 18th June 1929, I accompanied Mr. Rizzo to the spot where we perceived that one of the shafts skirted a horizontal wall composed of Roman bricks under about 3 feet of field earth.

A second shaft was directed to be cut at a distance of about 20 feet to the west of the first one whereupon a floor of tiles was reached at about the same level, and when the field was cleared horizontally, a mosaic floor was exposed to view. No standing walls were met with in the vicinity of these floors, but the foundation of partition walls, door sills, stone and earthenware channels, cisterns, etc. were uncovered during the succeeding dry months and by the end of winter the ruins had been sufficiently cleared to enable us to get an idea of the original building and to make a survey of what had been so far brought to light.

The building was evidently raised in the 1st Century or at the beginning of the 2nd Century A. D. and consisted of a set of living rooms and extensive baths and thermae.

There is every indication of the existence of a hot air room with the necessary underground furnaces, of cold baths, and of simple rooms for resting and for storage purposes.

The Suspensura or underground chamber in which the fire was kept burning for the heating of the air is still visible with its array of pillars and arches made of bricks for the Hypocaustum from which the hot air was led to the hall overhead through fireclay pipes of which several are still attached to the wall. The ceiling that covered the Suspensura and the tiled or mosaic floor of the hot air room proper, was found completely destroyed. This is the first time that arrangements for hot air baths in a Roman building had been met with in these islands.

So far, the following parts of the building has been uncovered. A corridor of an average width of 2 m. (6 feet 6 inches) runs for about 25 m. (80 feet in a direction from east to west). Originally, its floor was neatly covered, for a distance of about 8 m., with small lozenge-shaped tiles 10 cms. long, and for a distance of about 16 m. from the western end, with tiles 14 cms. long.

The eastern end of this corridor appears to have been crossed at right angles by a water channel, so that the entrance to it will have to be sought at the western end.

To the south, the corridor is flanked by six rooms square in shape of about 3 m. side each, of which the walls have disappeared except in the case of the last room on the western side. The position of the doorways to these rooms cannot always be determined.

The second room from the western end has its threshold on the corridor, the wall is gone and the floor is covered with diamond shaped tiles; a small threshold in the western wall shows that it was connected with the next room which has a mosaic floor of a different pattern to the first one. The floor is in a poor state of preservation but the pattern of the mosaic was easily made out.

The next room has a tiled floor and a doorway leading to the next room to the east the floor of which, very badly damaged, was originally covered with a delicate mosaic of which the pattern can scarcely be discerned.

The sixth room has a mosaic floor, now broken and with the design hardly recognizable, adjoining which is a seventh room with a tiled floor. These may have been dressing rooms for bathers, as a large piscina was lately uncovered to the south of them.

The northern side of the eastern end of the main corridor mentioned before is still a puzzle as it is, for a length of about 10 m. still covered with a bank of stones and earth filling the slope between the corridor and the steep rocky cliff above at the top of which is the public road.

A stone water channel, lined with rectangular earthenware pipes runs along the northern edge of the corridor but ends abruptly close to a bath where it is broken.

About 5 m. from the water channel another similar conduit skirts a deep cistern about 3 m. square with steps leading down to it on the western side. The walls of this cistern are covered with a thick smooth plaster and the floor is decorated with red and blue mosaic squares of which only a few patches survive. This was probably the cold swimming bath fed by a channel on the eastern side.

The best preserved part of the *Thermae* is close to the above mentioned deep bath. It is an oblong room 5 m. (16 feet 8 inches) long of which the walls have been pulled down long ago. The floor at the sides is built on layers of large Roman bricks and is gently sloped towards the centre, were a delicately finished and pierced marble slab serves the purpose of a sink to drain any water away.

Twelve stone benches, of which four can still be traced, afford sitting accomodation along the walls of this hall the entrance of which was over a fine threshold in its southern side. The western side of the floor is completely destroyed but the rest is in excellent preservation.

The mosaic pattern of this floor consists of a central circular design 2.10 m. (6 feet 10 inches) in diameter of a geometrical design in form of a rosette of which the regular intersecting and converging elements in different colours are highly effective. The four triangular portions of the floor left between this circular design and the walls are decorated with delicate geometrical patterns, both the circular design and the triangular designs being enclosed in a border of guilloche design.

The furnace room occupies an area of about 25 square meters about 2 m. off the room just described which may have served the purpose of a *tepidarium*. The furnace room is oblong and many of the arches specially made of wedge-shaped bricks, about 66 cms. high, that supported the tiles covering the *suspensura*, are still in place. A tiled and lined corridor runs along the northern side of the furnace room ending, in as far as is now excavated, in a mortar lined cistern 1.5 m. (4 feet) long, 80 cms. (2 feet 8 inches) long and 90 cms. (3 feet) deep.

This corridor is about 2 m. (6 feet 7 inches) wide, and on its northern side are two rooms of which a small part of the walls are still standing. The first room is square with sides measuring 3.6 m. (10 feet). It appears to have served the purpose of an ablution room and a privy. Along the sides of this room a kind of bench made of vertical slabs 30 cms. high (12 inches) and horizontal slabs 50 cms. wide, supported by the uprights on one end and inserted in the wall at the other end. At the edge of this horizontal slab a circular hole is cut measuring 15 cms. (6 inches) in diameter corresponding to another hole in the vertical slab. These holes of which three are still visible and in place, are cut at a distance of about 50 cms. (1 foot 8 inches) from each other; very probably there were three on each side of the room. The slabs appear to have been movable so that if an earth system of sewage disposal was in use, the space under the slab could be easily cleaned and filled with fresh earth when necessary.

A shallow stone water channel stood out on the floor in front of the benches, at a distance of 22 cms. (9 inches) from them. The rest of the room 3 m. by 2.50 (9 feet 10 inches by 8 feet 3 inches) was closely covered with diamond shaped tiles 14 cms. (5½ inches) still in perfect condition, but on the western side there is a kind of gully-hole that must have drained any waste water that may run over the tiled floor.

The internal walls were covered with a thick Roman plaster. The front wall was made of large stone blocks of which some are left standing.

The door sill 1 m. (3 feet 3 inches) long and 48 cms. (1 foot 7 inches) wide has a hard stone socket inserted in the middle which evidently formed the pivot of a revolving or swinging door. The lower part of the right door jamb, still in situ, is concave in plan evidently to allow the door to revolve on a pivot. When pushed back from any of the sides, the door revolved back to its normal position ensuring the privacy of the interior. In the southern wall of the same room a lead pipe is still to be seen laid in a vertical trench after which it pierces the wall 40 cm. (1 foot 4 inches) thick, and appears on the inner wall of the room where it probably ended in a brass tap.

The leaden pipe 2 mm, (1/6 inch) thick, shows a butt joint but no sign of soldering so it must have been hammered to be made water tight. It had an internal diameter of 35 mm. (1½ inches.) A length of similar leaden pipe 2 m. (6 feet 7 inches) in length was picked up loose in the debris of the furnace room.

To the west of this room, another one, of the same width but about 5 m. (16 feet) long must have been repaired and practically reconstructed at some later period for the floor shows patches of superimposed tiles and two troughs inserted in the floor at different levels. A small cistern in the northern wall was filled with water from an earthenware pipe that runs alongside the northern wall of this and the adjoining room.

From what has been uncovered so far, it appears that this Villa was the rural residence of a wealthy Roman person, probably the same officer who owned the town house at Rabat, (now the Roman Villa Museum) and was raised on this site owing to the presence of an abundant water supply. In the immediate vicinity, in fact, there is a spring of fresh water, yielding an average of 80,000 gallons per 24 hours. This water is now piped at the source and supplies consumers in the villages of St. Paul's and Melleha. The surplus of this spring runs into a large cistern and is distributed daily to the Government fields at Ghain Tuffieha for irrigation purposes.

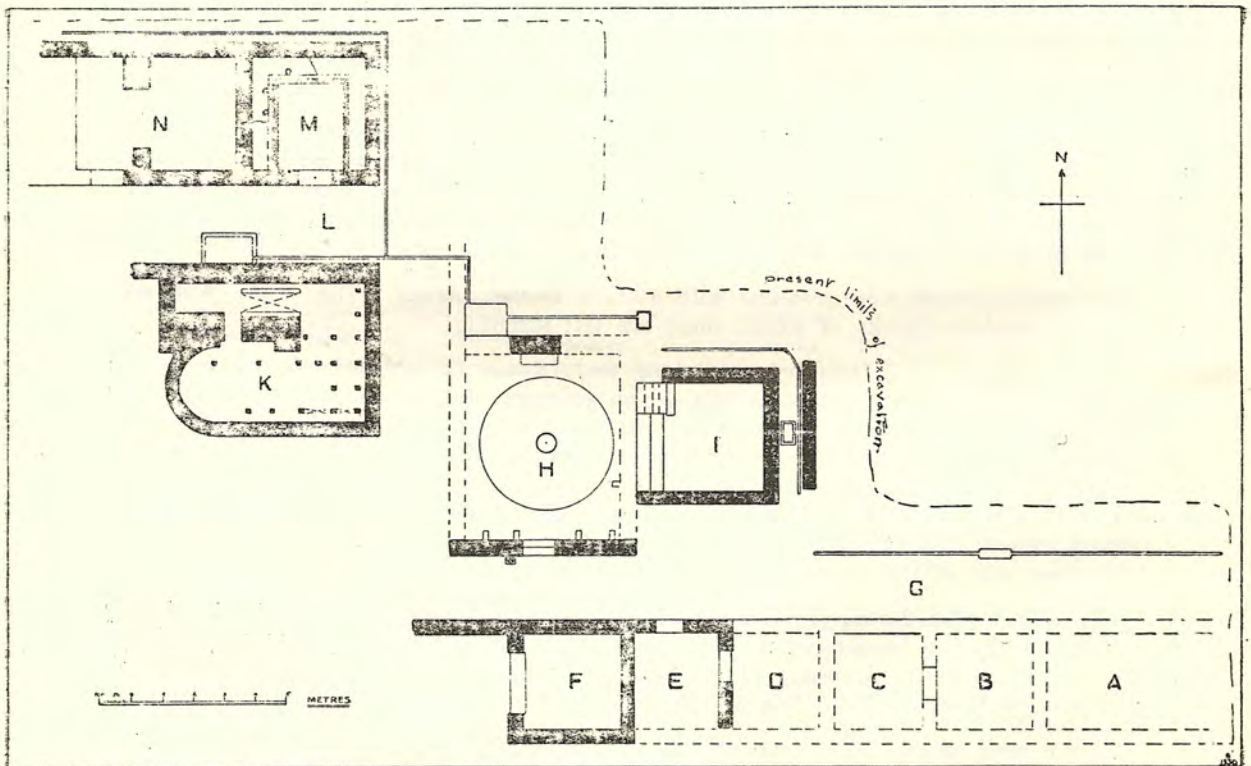
All this water in the Roman days gushed out of the rocky plateau and, naturally, attracted the well-to-do to settle in the district. We are convinced that the site was, at an earlier date, utilized by a Stone and Bronze Age population of which the remains have been found early this year. The Villa and Thermae left to themselves collapsed in due time, the stones of the building were carted away, built into rubble walls and probably utilized to raise the high long wall that crosses the valley from north to south for a distance of about 350 feet (106 m.). When the large stones were removed the gaps were filled with small stones and the ground turned into an arable field.

A number of fig trees on the well watered soil, grew to huge size and their roots helped to displace the foundations and to disintegrate and to break up the water conduits. The working of the fields for nearly 2000 years completed the destruction of the ruins which were in time forgotten.

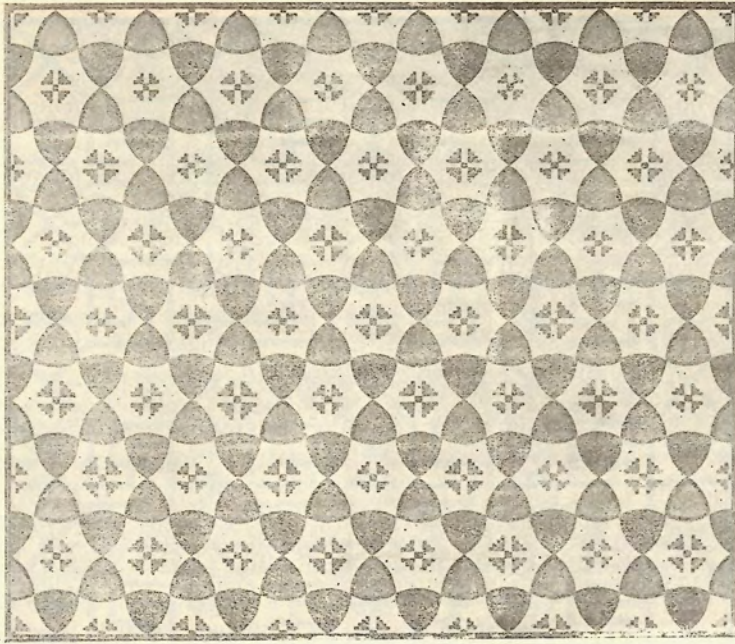
In any way, the present excavation was very poor in results as no statues, architectural decorations, Samian ware, coins etc. were found, though ordinary sherds of household pottery were numerous enough.

The numerous bricks and more numerous tiles are not stamped or likewise marked, but they show evidence that they were not locally made. It is hoped that greater and more important finds may be made when the excavations are continued during the next dry season.

T. ZAMMIT,
Curator of the Archaeological Section.



Plan of the portion of the Ghain Tuffieha Roman Thermae excavated up to the end of March 1930.



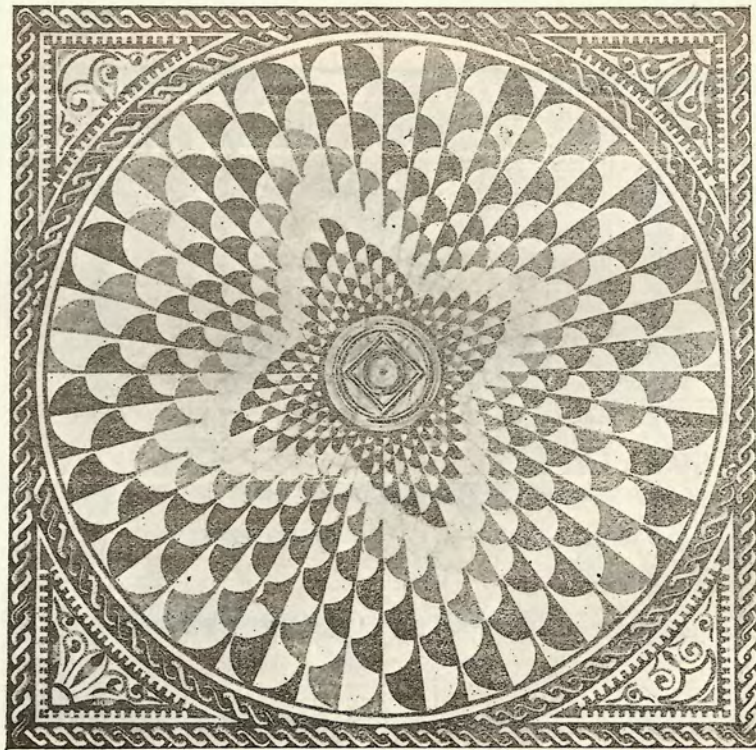
Mosaic floor of Room B.



Mosaic floor of Room D.



Mosaic floor of Room F.



Mosaic floor of Room H.

APPENDIX B.
NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

THE MUSEUM
Auberge d'Italie
6th August 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Natural History Section of the Museum for the financial year 1929-30.

GEOLOGY.

a) *Fissure at Hal Reskun.*

At the beginning of April 1929, Loreto Zammit reported to me that some very large bones were met with whilst breaking rocks in one of the quarries between Gudia and Luca. I went on the spot and collected all the fossil remains I could find. The fissure was somewhat similar to the slanting bell-shaped ones of the Burmeghes district and the fossil animal remains, though no doubt belonging to an elephant, most probably the *Elephas mnaidrensis*, met with in Ghar Dalam, were in a very fragmentary state, every thing having been washed pell-mell in the same fissure by the same torrential waters which have caused the deposits in Ghar Dalam where the remains of the *Elephas mnaidrensis* are found. This is evident from the very similar geological likeness of the remains.

The same fissure seems to extend further to the west or south-west and I have advised the proprietors of the quarry to give us notice immediately the breaking of the rocks in that direction will be resumed.

b) *Ghar Dalam.*

Some other important specimens, have been obtained in Ghar-Dalam owing to the crumbling of some of the deposits inside the cave. For this reason, it is most important to have the local Museum ready as quickly as possible so that all important specimens may go straight to their place before the exact spot of their finding is forgotten and this will be surely the cause of much confusion as has happened in years gone by.

c) *From the tertiary deposits:—*

Besides several small remains found in the various tertiary layers, a most interesting caudal fin together with the last eight vertebrae of a tunny fish (*Thynnus thynnus*) was obtained from one of the quarries at Krendi and presented to the Museum by Mr. Luigi Galea.

ZOOLOGY.

a) *Mammals.*

One weasel in alcohol, a similar specimen was also sent to the specialists of the British Museum, Nat. Hist. Dept. for identification.

b) *Birds.*

A collection of the species which are considered useful to Agriculture etc. has been commenced and photographs of same are being taken.

c) *Reptiles.*

Among the reptiles obtained during the period under review I may mention the following:—

Two specimens of *Zamensis algerus*, Jan. about 2½ feet long taken from the Argotti Botanical gardens and presented to the Museum by the keeper Mr. Carmelo Penza.

A still younger specimen of the same species, having its head entirely black which is characteristic to the snake in its very early stages, taken from the same locality, also presented by Mr. Penza.

Two young specimens of the Cat snakes (*Tarbophis fallax* Sch.) from the Argotti gardens.

A rather marked variety of the leopard snake (*Callopeltis leopardina* Sch.) from St. Julian's presented by Col. Francia, M.V.O., M.B.O.U.

A specimen of a young (*Chelone mydas* Sch.) turtle captured alive at a short distance from the mouth of the Grand Harbour, stuffed by the taxidermist Mr. F. Azzopardi.

A carapace 2½ feet long of a specimen of the same species, captured practically in the same locality and at the same time as the preceding, and presented to the Museum by Mr. Carmelo Zahra, a wholesale fish dealer at the Fish Market of the Marina, Valletta.

d) *Fishes.*

Amongst the specimens which have been added to the collection, the following are the most important: —

One Remora (*Echineis remora* Lin.) taken in the Marsamuscetto Harbour.

One specimen of *Myrus vulgaris*, Kaup. Though Prof. Gulia says that this fish is common, this is the first specimen I have ever seen.

e) *Molluscs.*

The most important addition to our malacological collection consists in a fine specimen of *Cancellaria cancellata* Lam. brought up with some fishing nets set in the close proximity of Benghisa reef by Amabile Vella, a fisherman of Marsascirocco.

EXOTIC SPECIMENS.

The following are the collection of exotic specimen added to the Museum collection during the period under review: —

- 1) Reptiles: Four snakes from the Gold Coast.
- 2) Lepidoptera: A very fine collection of butterflies from the Gold Coast.
- 3) Lepidoptera: another fine collection of moths from the same locality.
- 4) Coleoptera: a collection of beetles from the same locality. The most important items of this collection consist in some very fine specimens of the Goliath beetle.
- 6) Besides the above, Dr. and Mrs. Critien presented also to the Museum several other very curious insects and spiders likewise collected from the Gold Coast.

PUBLICATIONS.

- 1) Ornithological Notes in "The Bulletin of the Museum 1930".
- 2) Ornithological Notes 2nd. Edition, Critien Valletta 1930.
- 3) Ichthyological and Carcinological Notes in Archivum Melitense, Valletta 1930.
- 4) Grande irruzione di Crocieri a Malta durante la seconda metà di Ottobre 1929: in "Natura" rivista di scienze naturali, Milan.

I have, etc.

G. DESPOTT,
Curator.

The Director,
The Museum, Valletta.

APPENDIX C.

FINE ARTS SECTION.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report on the working of the Fine Art Section for the financial year 1929-30.

PALAZZO DEL SANTO UFFIZIO.

(*Inquisitor's Palace*).

The works of restoration in the Palazzo del Santo Uffizio were continued. Almost all the apartments have now been restored to their original structural features. After demolishing a partition wall which divided the large wall of the Palace, part of the beamed ceiling had to be reconstructed to match the older portion. An open terraced passage which once united the two wings of the Palace across the garden, was reopened and partially restored; to achieve this, some old balausters were secured from an old house in a neighbouring village, and erected where traces of the old balaustrade were still visible.

Some bell-shaped cisterns which belonged, evidently, to houses demolished when the Palace extended itself on a wider area, were cleared, and a lot of potsherds was recovered along with some unglazed decorated terracotta vases of different shapes, and a small metal holy water vessel.

A garden close to the prisons, in which a trench was cut, had all the appearances of a cemetery, but no human bones were met with.

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

PAINTINGS.

1. *Santa Margherita da Cortona*. By Tiepolo (Giambattista or Domenico?) Oils; 110 by 91 cms. From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased.

Giov. Battista Tiepolo was born in Venice in 1696; his master was the overpraised Gregorio Lazzarini, but the careful study of the works of Paolo Veronese, of Sebastiano Ricci and of Piazzetta worked upon his genius with more successful results. He worked in the principal cities of the Veneto and Lombardy and also at Würzburg and in Spain, where, invited by King Charles III to the Court of Madrid, he executed a number of fine works in the Spanish Royal Palaces. He died in Madrid in 1770. He was an artist of great creative power and his transparent atmospheric effects have never been surpassed. Whilst in Spain he, however, incurred the jealousy and active enmity of Raphael Mengs, and owing to this bitter rivalry and curius artistic blindness of the immediately succeeding generations, the wonderful merits of Tiepolo have scarcely been recognized until recently. His son Gian Domenico (1727-1804) accompanied and assisted his father in most of his important works. The picture of Santa Caterina now in the Museum, belongs to the Spanish period of Gio. Battista's activity or is a notable work of his son who was in no way unworthy of his father's name and fame.

2. *Landscape*. By Salvator Rosa. Oils; 91 by 59 cms. From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased.

Salvatore Rosa or De Rosa, was born at Arenella near Naples in 1615; he was the son of an architect and brother in law of Francesco Fracanzano. His impetuous character and temperament seem to have brought him into great trouble. He studied the works of Spagnoletto and of Aniello Falcone but formed a style of his own. He worked in Rome, at Viterbo and in Tuscany, and joined Masaniello in the Revolution in 1647. He was also a poet, a musician and an engraver. Died in Rome in 1673. Our picture is also an interesting pictorial *palimpsest*, for, in the skies, some figures belonging to an underlying painting can easily be detected.

3. *Old English galleys*. By J. Van Beeq. Oils; 90 by 54 cms. From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased.

Jan Karel Donatus Van Beeq. A Dutch marine painter who was born at Amsterdam in 1638; established himself in Paris in 1681 where he was the guest of the Duke of Vandome, and became a member of the Academy in the same year; he painted pictures for the Castle of Marly and left Paris in 1714. He died, probably in Holland, in 1722. Some of his sea pictures have been engraved by Fouard. The picture secured for the Museum bears at the back the name of the artist and the date 1679.

4. *St. Domenic*, After Titian. Oils 94 by 79 cm. From the Bellanti Collection. Purchased. It is a replica (?) or a coeval copy of the original in the Borghese Gallery, Rome.
5. *Portrait of the Grand Master Raimondo Perellos*; by Gio Nicola Buhagiar (?) Oils; 133 by 108 cm. Purchased in London.
This picture was exhibited at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Albert Hall in 1886.
6. *Portrait of the Grand Prior of the Order Domenico Mainardi*; Oils, dated 1758; 104 by 77 cm. Purchased.
7. *Portrait of a Maltese Lady in Blue*; early XVIIIth Cent. Oils, 100 by 75 cm.
8. *Portrait of a Maltese Gentlemen*; painted in Venice in 1817; Oils 87 by 74 cm.
9. *Portrait of a Monsignore*, probably of the Sceberras family, XVIIIth Cent. Oils; 87 by 66 cm.
Pictures No. 7, 8 and 9 were presented to the Museum by Maj. H. E. Balbi when some pictures belonging to him were exported.
10. *Christ before Pilate*, by Michele Bellanti (1807-1883). Oils, unfinished, 153 by 107 cm. Purchased.

WATER COLOURS, DRAWINGS AND PRINTS.

11. *Valletta from Fort St. Angelo*, by A. L. Du Cros; Water Colour 54 by 38 cm. Presented to the Museum by Comm. O. F. Gollcher.
Abraham Louis Rodolphe Du Cros, a Swiss painter in Oil and Water Colours and an Engraver, was born at Moulon in 1748, and died at Lousanne in 1810. He lived for a considerable time in Rome and painted views of that city and its environs; he also worked in Malta for some time, and he was known as the "Painter of Rome and Malta", in 1789 he published 24 prints views of Sicily and Malta; many of his Maltese paintings are in the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lousanne.
12. *Portrait of a man*; by Giovanni Farrugia, after Allingham; charcoal drawing 26 by 19 cm. Purchased.
13. *Mater Dolorosa*; by Giovanni Farrugia, after Guido Reni; Charcoal drawing 31 by 24 cm. Purchased.
14. *Portrait of a man*; by Giovanni Farrugia; charcoal drawing, 30 by 21 cm. Purchased.
15. *Portrait of a gentleman in military uniform*, by Giovanni Farrugia, pencil drawing, Purchased.
16. *Madonna and Child*; a cartoon for the altar-piece in the Carmelite Church, Notabile by Michele Bellanti. Purchased.
17. *St. Paul*; line engraving by Giovanni Farrugia. Purchased.
18. *S. Pubblio Vescovo e Martire*; Etching published in Malta in 1813 by P.P. Caruana (?) Purchased.

SCULPTURE.

19. A terra-cotta figure of Christ; 42 cm. high. Purchased in Rome.
This figure of Christ receiving Baptism is, very likely the bozzetto by Melchiorre Gafà for the marble group in St. John's Church; the figure of St. John is missing. Of this group a few bronze copies were cast in the XVIIth Cent. and are well known to scholars.
20. *Pope Innocent XI*; (1676-1689) a coeval marble bas-relief, oval, 38 by 30 cm. Purchased in Rome.

WORKS OF ART.

21. Two glass ampullae covered with silver filigree; XVIIIth Cent. Sicilian or Maltese work. Purchased.

CONTEMPORARY ART.

22. *Stabilimento di bagni* by F. Lojacono; Oils; 48 by 28 cm.

Francesco Lojacono (1838-1915) was a pupil of Filippo Palizzi; he is represented by a large seascape in the National Gallery of Modern art in Rome.

23. *Donna che fila*, by Giuseppe Carosi. Oils; 54 by 51 cm.
 24. *Roviano*, by E. Okun. Oils; 21 by 16 cm.
 25. *Il ponte sul fiume* by R. Pulvirenti. Oils, 38 by 22 cm.
 26. *La bifora*, by Augusto Corelli, Oils, 31 by 22 cm.
 27. *Pulcini*, by L. Lamesi, Oils, 47 by 40 cm.
 28. *Venice*, by L. Lamesi, Oils, 53 by 50 cm.
 29. *Sheep*, by L. Lamesi, Oils, 50 by 50 cm.
 30. *Study of a head*, by C. De Filippi, Water Colour, 37 by 25 cm.
 31. *Study of a head*, by S. Postiglione. Oils; 38 by 25 cms.

Salvatore Postiglione (1861-1906) was one of the most brilliant artists of the Neapolitan School; he is represented in the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome, by a large canvass representing *S. Pier Damiani e la Contessa Adelaide*.

32. *Paese sul fiume*, by Carlo Montani, Oils; 26 by 20 cm.
 33. *Study of a man*, by Filiberto Corelli, Oils; 39 by 45 cm.
 34. *Landscape*, by R. Tomassi, Oils; 32 by 23 cm.
 35. *Sunset*, by O. F. Gollcher, Oils; 76 by 59 cm.
 36. *Atrani*, by O. F. Gollcher, Oils; 88 by 69 cm.
 37. *Capo D'Orso*, by O. F. Gollcher, Oils; 89 by 69 cm.
 38-41. Four coloured Japanese wood-cuts; 38 by 26 cm.

Pictures No. 10, 21-41 were presented to the Museum by Comm. O. F. Gollcher. Comm. Gollcher had already presented a collection of pictures and prints in 1928; such a generous gift is to be specially mentioned as it shows that the Museum is steadily arousing public spirit.

42. *Maltese landscape*, by Raokin, Oils; 74 by 59 cms. Purchased.
 43. *The new road*, by Raokin; Oils; 75 by 49 cms. Purchased.
 44. *Constructing the new bridge*, by Raokin, Oils; 70 by 52 cms. Purchased.

Raokin (Harold Fredrick Weaver Hawkins) had a picture purchased for the London Art Gallery, and is an exhibitor at the Royal Academy; New English Art Club, etc. etc.

I have etc.

The Director of the Museum.

VINCENZO BONELLO,
 Curator of the Art Section.

APPENDIX D.

MINERALOGICAL SECTION.

THE MUSEUM,
15th September, 1930.

Sir,

The report of the Mineralogical Section this year is, of necessity, very meagre the work of the Curator having been concentrated on the preparation of the catalogue and the arrangement of the collection.

2. It is gratifying to remark the increasing interest of the public in this section, as evidenced by the questions addressed to me and by the offers of specimens made by several persons.

Judge Montanaro Gauci, Mr. Silvio Mizzi and Mr. Ernest Geoghegan have, very kindly, presented fine specimens of rocks. Mr. Geoghegan has taken the trouble of collecting specimen of rocks during his late travels in France. Some of the specimens he kindly presented to the Museum in which they will find their place in the extensive collection.

I hope that in the next annual report a description of the specimens presented may be added.

I have etc.,

LEWIS F. MIZZI,
Curator Mineralogical Section.

The Director of the Museum.
