

REPORTS

ON THE WORKING OF

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1951-52.

Published by Authority



MALTA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1955

Price 5s.

INDEX

	PAGE
Courts of Judicial Police	1
War Damage Commission	3
Commissioner for Gozo	27
Electoral Registry	31
Trade Development Officer	37
Customs and Port Department	49
Water and Electricity Department	67
Medical and Health Department	99
Police Department	233
Government Printing Office	257
Public Registry	261
Notary to Government	273
Museum Department	277
Department of Labour	291
Tourist Bureau	361
Her Majesty's Superior Courts	365
Registrar of Trade Unions	373
Auditor	377

Report on the work of the Museum Department for 1951-52

THE MUSEUM,

Auberge d'Italie,
Valletta.

27th July, 1953.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Museum Department for the financial year 1951-52.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. G. BALDACCHINO,
Director.

The Honourable
the Minister of Education.

RESTORATION OF TARXIEN MEGALITHIC TEMPLES

During the year under review restorations were conducted in the Middle Temple of the Tarxien group.

This work was necessitated by the advanced state of disintegration of some of the megaliths which were in imminent danger of collapse and also threatening the adjacent and overlying structures. Great care was taken to preserve any original decorations or other characteristic features which had escaped destruction.

Three orthostats, two dolmenic structures, a port-hole slab and a pillar, all lying on the north-west side of the elliptical enclosure nearest to the entrance, were restored; three blocks of stone missing from the course of masonry overlying the orthostats of the apse on the same side were also replaced.

Accurate records of all the work effected are kept for reference.

CATACOMBS AT RABAT

In January, 1952, whilst work was in progress in the grounds at the back of the new Government Primary School at "tač-Čaghqi", Rabat, two catacombs, rifled a long time ago, were discovered at a depth of 7 feet from the surface.

A flight of steps, cut in the rock in a south-west direction, leads down to both catacombs which are situated on opposite sides but at different levels, the one on the south-east being higher than the other on the north-west.

The south-east catacomb consists, in its main feature, of a somewhat rectangular vestibule communicating with six independent burial chambers excavated in the sides.

The vestibule is furnished with five small benches, hewn out of the rock, and in its walls are excavated, at different heights, thirteen small loculi and three lamp-holes. In the benches are cut eight graves.

Above the entrance of five of the cubacula are visible traces of an inscription painted in red ochre. Three pairs of rope-holes are also found above the doorways of three of the chambers.

The doorway of each cubiculum was originally plugged by a rectangular knob projecting from the surface of a stone slab. Only one of these blocking stones is still in situ. A peculiar feature in five of these slabs, not hitherto recorded, is the presence of a shallow rectangular depression, variously decorated, cut in the top side and having at the bottom a small hole leading into a canal which traverses obliquely the thickness of the stone and opens on the posterior surface either directly or through a small cavity. On one of the slabs are carved two sickles and a pick.

An arcosolium is excavated in the front and side walls of the cubacula, except the one whose entrance is still blocked.

In these tombs the solia are not hollowed out and their top surface, on which the bodies were laid extended, is bordered externally by a low ridge having in two cases a draining hole or a notch. Lamp-holes are common in the chambers.

The following objects were recovered from the burial chambers of the catacomb:

TERRA-COTTA.

A bowl, in fragments.

A plate, in fragments.

A dish, d. $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Four bilychnis lamps:

a) max. d. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., unused.

b) max. d. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., unused.

c) max. d. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., unused.

d) a fragment.

A Romano-Maltese lamp, damaged, used.

GLASS.

Fragments of vessels.

BONE.

Nine hair pins, average length 3 in.

SILVER.

An end mount, square section, 1 in. high, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide.

BRONZE.

Fragments of coffin-clamps.

Fragments of nails.

WOOD.

Fragments.

The catacomb on the north-west side consisted originally of a vestibule communicating with a cubiculum; it was subsequently enlarged by the addition of an apsidal chamber and two short passages.

In the centre of the vestibule there is an agape table of a type not hitherto recorded in the Maltese Islands. It consists of a rectangular block of Globigerina limestone having its top surface surrounded by a raised border which is intentionally notched at one point; its base is fixed in a shallow depression cut purposely in the floor.

In the walls of the vestibule are cut three loculi, a small arcosolium and two lamp-holes.

The cubiculum is provided with three arcosolia, a table grave and a window-grave (fenstergrab), each intended for the burial of two bodies. One of the arcosolia has in addition two small rectangular graves for the interment of children. A loculus and four lamp-holes are cut in its walls.

On the opposite side of the cubiculum there is a short passage ending in a bisomal window grave and having two loculi on one side and a window-grave for a single body on the other. A lamp-hole is found on the inside and another on the outside of the bisomal grave.

The vestibule extends into an apsidal chamber containing a circular agape table of the usual type, a bisomal window-grave, a loculus, a small niche and a lamp-hole. Two steps lead down from this chamber to a short passage having a similar window-grave excavated in one of its sides and a lamp-hole in the opposite one.

The following objects were found:

TERRA-COTTA.

A single-handled jug, ht. $4\frac{3}{4}$ in., damaged.

Two Romano-Maltese lamps:

a) max. d. 3 in., damaged, used.

b) max. d. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., used.

A valve of *Spondylus gaederopus*, used as a lamp.

These catacombs have been preserved and they are now accessible from the adjoining school.

In connection with this work I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Director of Education and to Mr. H. Borg, A. & C.E., for their kind co-operation.

FUNERARY MONUMENT AT RABAT

On the 27th November, 1951, a funerary monument was discovered in the grounds of the new Government Primary School at "taç-Çaghqi", Rabat. It is now preserved in the Museum of Roman Antiquities.

It consists of a rectangular block of Coralline limestone, 2 ft. 5 in. high, 5 ft. long and 1 ft. 9 in. broad, representing a table for oblations. It bears, in the middle of its anterior side, a Greek inscription of which the following is the English version:

DEDICATED TO THE GODS OF THE UNDERWORLD.

HAIL

P(ublius) AELIUS HERMOLAOS, A COMEDIAN

AND LYRE PLAYER FROM PERGAMUS.

LIVED 25 YEARS. FAREWELL.

Above the inscription is carved a festoon with ribbons attached to its extremities; this might indicate the wreath worn by successful actors. Below the inscription there are two different types of plectra. On the right side a mask and a rolled scroll are reproduced one above the other and on the left a lyre is represented.

The top surface of the table is decorated by shallow grooves which form a central rectangular figure having each of the angles joined by a straight groove to the corresponding angle of the top surface, the whole design resembling the horizontal projection of a frustrum of a wedge. The two elaborately designed front legs of this table are also represented.

The monument was resting directly on the rock-bed and beneath it was found a thin layer of black ashes in which were embedded scraps of calcined human bones and fragments of glass twisted by fire. The palaeographic characters of the inscription indicate that it belongs to the middle of the second century A.D. : the initial "HAIL", however, seems to have been added at a later date.

I would like to express my indebtedness to Padre A. Ferrua, S.J., and to the Rev. Can. Prof. E. Coleiro for their kind co-operation.

ROCK TOMBS AT TAÇ-ÇAGHQI, RABAT

During the period April to August, 1951, fourteen rock-cut tombs were discovered in the grounds of the new Government Primary School at "taç-Çaghqi", Rabat, Malta.

It will be recalled that another eighteen rock tombs were cleared in the same locality between October, 1950 and March, 1951 (Museum Annual Report, 1950-51).

All the tombs under review, with the exception of No. 20 consisted of a vertical shaft, rectangular in plan, giving access through a rectangular entrance to one or two laterally situated burial chambers and their long axis, passing through the shaft and chamber, was orientated in the majority of cases in a North direction. The tombs had evidently been opened and rifled a long time ago when most of their contents were removed and the shafts and the chambers filled with debris. Fragments of sealing slabs were found in the material filling the shafts.

Tomb No. 19.

Situated 5 ft. to the north-east of tomb No. 6 (Annual Report 1950-51). Orientation north-east.

The shaft measured 9 ft. in length, 4 ft. 4 in. in width and 9 ft. 10 in. in depth. In the north-west side were cut five uneven steps starting from the north corner and leading down to the bottom of the shaft.

The entrance to the burial chamber was situated in the south-west side of the shaft; it measured 3 ft. 10 in. in height, 2 ft. 3 in. in width and 1 ft. in depth, its sill being on the same level of the floor of the shaft.

The burial chamber was rectangular in plan; its floor was 5 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance. It measured 8 ft. 10 in. in length, 6 ft. 5 in. in width and 4 ft. 8 in. in height. A rectangular trench, measuring 5 ft. in length, 1 ft. 2 in. in width and 2 ft. in depth, was cut in the middle of the floor, parallel to the long axis of the chamber and situated 10 in. beyond the entrance.

No archaeological remains were recovered from this tomb.

Tomb No. 20.

Situated under the vestibule of the school.

The tomb consisted of a roughly circular cavity, measuring 3 ft. 9 in. in maximum length, 2 ft. 9 in. in maximum width and attained an average depth of 1 ft. 6 in. It was filled with a black ashy soil in which were embedded the following terra-cotta objects :

A jar, ht. 14 in.

An aryballos, ht. 7½ in.

An oenochoë, ht. 9 in.

A thistle shaped vessel, ht. 7¾ in., max. d. 5½ in.

A cup, ht. 3½ in., max. d. 3¾ in.

A calix, ht. 3½ in., max. d. 4¼ in.

A plate, d. 6 in.

Scraps of calcined human bones were found in the deposit.

Tomb No. 21.

Situated to the south of tomb No. 18 (Annual Report 1950-51). Orientation east.

The shaft measured 6 ft. 6 in. in length, 2 ft. 2 in. in width and 3 ft. in depth.

The entrance to the burial chamber was situated on the west side of the shaft; it measured 2 ft. in height, 1 ft. 5 in. in width and 3 in. in depth; its sill being 3 in. above the level of the floor of the shaft.

The burial chamber was roughly rectangular in plan, with rounded corners and a flat ceiling; it measured 2 ft. 5 in. in length, 2 ft. 2 in. in width and 2 ft. 6 in. in height, the floor being 6 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance.

The following terra-cotta objects were recovered from the debris which filled the chamber :

A circular lid with a knob in the centre, d. $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.

An unguentarium, damaged.

A plate, d. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Two bilychnis lamps :

a) max. d. 4 in., unused.

b) max. d. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., unused.

Tomb No. 22.

Situated under the west boundary wall of the school grounds, at a distance of 144 ft. from the south-west corner of the play ground. Orientation west.

The shaft measured 6 ft. 8 in. in length, 2 ft. 10 in. in width and 4 ft. 8 in. in depth and served two burial chambers one situated on the east side and the other on the opposite side.

The entrance to the east burial chamber measured 2 ft. 5 in. in length, 1 ft. 7 in. in width and 6 in. in depth; its sill was 2 in. above the bottom of the shaft.

The east burial chamber was roughly oval in plan and measured 5 ft. in maximum length, 3 ft. in maximum width and 4 ft. in height; its long axis ran in a north direction and its floor was 4 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance.

The west burial chamber was found completely destroyed and turned into a water cistern.

Scattered on the floor of the east burial chamber were the fragmentary remains of four children aged 7 years, 4 years, 18 months and 8 months respectively.

Tomb No. 23.

Situated 8 ft. to the north of tomb No. 2 (Annual Report 1950-51). Orientation north.

The shaft measured 8 ft. 6 in. in length, 4 ft. in width and 11 ft. in depth. On the east side were cut four uneven steps starting from the north-east corner and leading down to the bottom of the shaft.

The entrance to the burial chamber was situated on the south side of the shaft and measured 4 ft. in height, 2 ft. 9 in. width and 9 in. in depth; its sill was on the same level of the floor of the shaft.

The rectangular burial chamber measured 8 ft. in length, 6 ft. 9 in. in width and 4 ft. in height; its floor was on the same level of the sill of the entrance. A lamp-hole, 6 in. in height, 8 in. in width and 8 in. in depth was cut in the south wall, 2 ft. 7 in. above the floor and 1 ft. 4 in. from the south-west corner of the chamber.

The following terra-cotta objects were recovered from the burial chamber :

A bowl, ht. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., diam. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., damaged.

A plate, d. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Fragments of vessels.

The following terra-cotta statuettes were found at the bottom of the shaft :

- a) Representing a human figure on horse-back, wearing a pointed hood and having a cloak fastened to the neck and falling down at the back.
- b) and c) same as a), damaged.
- d) Representing a bird, damaged.
- e) Representing a fish, damaged.

Tomb No. 24.

Situated 2 ft. to the east of tomb No. 23. Orientation north.

The shaft served two rectangular burial chambers one situated on the north side and the other on the opposite side; it measured 7 ft. 3 in. in length, 2 ft. 3 in. in width and 6 ft. 6 in. in depth.

The entrance to the north chamber measured 2 ft. 9 in. in height, 1 ft. 8 in. in width and 6 in. in depth; its sill was 2 in. above the level of the floor of the shaft.

The north chamber measured 7 ft. 3 in. in length, 5 ft. 7 in. in width and 3 ft. 7 in. in height; its floor was 1 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance. A trench, 5 ft. 6 in. in length, 1 ft. in width and 1 ft. 8 in. in depth was cut in the middle of the floor, parallel to the long axis of the chamber; it was provided with two steps at its southern extremity. In the floor, between the north wall and the north extremity of the trench, was a concave excavation, 8 in. in diameter and 5 in. depth. In the middle of the north wall was cut a niche, 8 in. in height, 1 ft. 4 in. in width and 4 in. in depth, situated just below the ceiling.

The south chamber was practically identical, as regards shape and size, to the north chamber.

A bilychnis lamp, max. d. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., unused, was recovered from the south chamber.

Lying on the floor of the north chamber were the fragmentary remains of 2 skeletons belonging to an adult male and to another individual advanced in years. The cranial index of the male skull is 75.6.

Tomb No. 25.

Situated 16 ft. to the east of the tomb No. 24. Orientation north.

The shaft measured 6 ft. 6 in. in length, 2 ft. 5 in. in width and 4 ft. 6 in. in depth.

The entrance to the burial chamber was cut in the south side of the shaft; it measured 3 ft. in height, 2 ft. in width and 6 in. in depth; the sill being on the same level of the floor of the shaft.

The rectangular burial chamber measured 6 ft. 8 in. in length, 4 ft. 9 in. in width and 3 ft. in height; its floor was on the same level of the sill of the entrance. In the floor was excavated a rectangular trench, 3 ft. 3 in. in length, 10 in. in width and 7 in. in depth, parallel to the long axis of the chamber. A rectangular niche, was cut in the middle of the south wall, 9 in. above the floor; it measured 1 ft. in height, 1 ft. 4 in. in width and 7 in. in depth.

In the north side of the shaft was cut an irregular cavity, 2 ft. in height, from 1 ft. 10 in. to 2 ft. 6 in. in width and 1 ft. 9 in. in depth, indicating the intention of excavating another burial chamber on this side of the shaft.

The following objects were recovered from the south burial chamber :

TERRA-COTTA.

- An oinochoë, ht. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.
- A bowl, ht. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., max. d. 4 in.
- An unguentarium, damaged.

Two plates :

- a) d. $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.
- b) d. $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Two bilychnis lamps :

- a) max. d. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., used.
- b) max. d. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., used.

GLASS.

One unguentarium, ht. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., damaged.
Fragments of unguentaria.

Tomb No. 26.

Situated 12 ft. to the north of tomb No. 25. Orientation north.

The shaft measured 5 ft. 3 in. in length, 2 ft. in width and 3 ft. 3 in. in depth.

On the south side of the shaft was cut an entrance, 2 ft. 4 in. in height, 1 ft. 6 in. in width and 6 in. in depth leading into an oval chamber 2 ft. 5 in. in maximum length, 1 ft. 3 in. in maximum width and 2 ft. in height; the long axis of the chamber ran at right angles to that of the shaft and its floor was level with the sill of the entrance and with the floor of the shaft.

No archaeological material was recovered from this tomb.

Tomb No. 27.

Situated 5 ft. to the north of tomb No. 26. Orientation north.

The shaft, 7 ft. 9 in. in length, 2 ft. 8 in. in width and 6 ft. 4 in. in depth, served two rectangular chambers one situated on the north side and the other on the opposite side.

The entrance to the north chamber measured 2 ft. 5 in. in height, 2 ft. in width and 10 in. in depth; its sill being 3 in. higher than the floor of the shaft.

The north burial chamber measured 6 ft. 7 in. in length, 5 ft. 2 in. in width and 3 ft. 3 in. in height; its floor being on the same level as that of the sill of the entrance. In the middle of the north wall, 2 ft. 1 in. above the floor, was cut a rectangular niche, 9 in. in height, 8 in. in width and 4 in. in depth. In the floor was excavated a trench, 5 ft. in length, 10 in. in width and 1 ft. in depth, parallel to the long axis of the chamber.

The south chamber was practically identical, as regards shape and dimensions, to the north chamber.

The following terra-cotta objects were found in the north chamber :

An oinochoë, ht. 4 in., damaged.

An unguentarium, damaged.

A bilychnis lamp, max. d. $2\frac{3}{4}$ in., unused.

No archaeological remains were recovered from the south burial chamber.

Tomb No. 28.

Situated 3 ft. to the east of tomb No. 19. Orientation north-west.

The shaft, 7 ft. 3 in. in length, 2 ft. 5 in. in width and 7 ft. 6 in. in depth, served two rectangular burial chambers, one situated on the north-west side and the other on the opposite side.

The entrance to the north-west chamber measured 3 ft. 6 in. in height, 2 ft. in width and 1 ft. in depth; its sill was level with the floor of the shaft.

The north-west burial chamber measured 13 ft. 6 in. in length, 5 ft. 6 in. width and 3 ft. 6 in. in height; its floor was 4 in. below the sill of the entrance. It was provided with two lamp-holes one situated in the middle of the south-west wall and the other on the north-west wall close to the north corner of the chamber. A trench,

6 ft. 4 in. in length, 1 ft. in width and 1 ft. 7 in. in depth, was cut in the middle of the floor, parallel to the long axis of the chamber. A circular cavity, 10 in. in diameter and 7 in. in depth was cut in the floor and situated midway between the north-west wall and the north-west extremity of the trench.

The entrance to the south-east chamber measured 3 ft. 6 in. in height, 2 ft. 3 in. in width and 6 in. in depth; its sill was on the same level of the floor of the shaft.

The south-east burial chamber measured 7 ft. 2 in. in length, 5 ft. 10 in. in width and 3 ft. 6 in. in height; its floor was level with the sill of the entrance. A trench, 5 ft. 9 in. in length, 10 in. in width and 1 ft. 10 in. in depth was cut in the middle of the floor parallel to the long axis of the chamber. A circular cavity, 11 in. in diameter and 9 in. in depth, was excavated in the floor and situated midway between the south-east extremity of the trench and the south-east wall of the chamber.

The following terra-cotta objects were recovered from the north-west chamber:

A plate, d. $6\frac{3}{4}$ in., damaged.

Two bilychnis lamps:

a) max. d. $2\frac{3}{4}$ in., used.

b) max. d. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., used.

In the south-east chamber were found the following terra-cotta objects:

Two plates:

a) d. 6 in., damaged.

b) d. 6 in.

Tomb No. 29.

Situated 5 ft. to the north of tomb No. 23. Orientation west.

This tomb was first cleared in February, 1910 and was described in the Museum Annual Report for the financial year 1909-10, pp. 5 & 6. Its burial chamber is of considerable importance as it presents certain decorative features which are seldom met with in the Maltese Punic rock-cut tombs. Of special interest are a bust representing a human figure carved in relief in the wall of the chamber facing the entrance and a rosette painted in red on the ceiling.

Tomb No. 30.

Situated 27 ft. to the north of tomb No. 7 (Annual Report 1950-51). Orientation north.

The shaft served two rectangular burial chambers one situated on the north side and the other on the opposite side. It measured 7 ft. in length, 3 ft. in width and 6 ft. 9 in. in depth.

The entrance to the north burial chamber measured 3 ft. in height, 2 ft. in width and 6 in. in depth; its sill being 4 in. above the level of the floor of the shaft.

The north burial chamber measured 6 ft. 10 in. in length, 5 ft. 3 in. in width and 3 ft. 4 in. in height; its floor was 3 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance. A niche, 9 in. high, 1 ft. wide and 4 in. deep, was cut in the middle of the north wall just below the ceiling. In the middle of the floor was excavated a trench, parallel to the long axis of the chamber, 5 ft. long, 10 in. wide and 1 ft. deep. A circular cavity, 1 ft. in diameter and 9 in. in depth, was hollowed out in the floor between the north extremity of the trench and the north wall.

The south chamber was practically identical, as regards shape and size, to the north chamber.

No archaeological remains were recovered from this tomb.

Tomb No. 31.

Situated 10 ft. to the north of tomb No. 10 (Annual Report 1950-51). Orientation north.

The shape and dimensions of this tomb were almost identical to those of tomb No. 30. No archaeological remains were recovered.

Tomb No. 32.

Situated 25 ft. to the north-east of tomb No. 27. Orientation east.

The shaft served two rectangular burial chambers one situated on the east side and the other on the opposite side. It measured 7 ft. in length, 2 ft. in width and 7 ft. in depth. In the middle of the long sides of the shaft were cut three foot-holes placed one above the other in a vertical line.

The entrance to the east burial chamber measured 3 ft. in height, 1 ft. 9 in. in width and 9 in. in depth; its sill being level with the floor of the shaft.

The east chamber, 6 ft. 10 in. in length, 4 ft. 6 in. in width and 3 ft. in height, had its floor 6 in. below the level of the sill of the entrance. In the middle of the east wall, just below the ceiling, was cut a niche, 6 in. in height, 1 ft. in width and 4 in. in depth. A trench, 5 ft. in length, 1 ft. in width and 1 ft. in depth was excavated in the middle of the floor and parallel to the long axis of the chamber.

The west chamber was similar, as regards shape and dimensions, to the east chamber.

No archaeological remains were recovered.

ROCK TOMB AT TARXIEN

On the 11th December, 1951, while workmen were digging a trench for the laying of drain pipes in ta' l-Erwieħ Lane, Tarxien (Malta 2" Map ref. 479225), the burial chamber of a rock-cut tomb was broken into at a depth of 2 ft. 4 in. below the road surface.

The burial chamber, almost rectangular in plan with a flat ceiling, measured 6 ft. 6 in. in length, 4 ft. in width and 2 ft. 6 in. in height; its long axis ran in a south-east direction. A trench, 5 ft. in length, 1 ft. 4 in. in width and 1 ft. 2 in. in depth, was excavated in the floor along the south-west wall of the chamber. A raised ledge of rock, 3 ft. in length, 10 in. in width and 4 in. in height, serving as a head-rest, was cut along the south-east wall. A lamp-hole was excavated in the south-east wall just below the ceiling and at a distance of 3 in. from the south corner of the chamber.

Access to the burial chamber was originally gained through a rectangular entrance, 2 ft. 3 in. in height, 2 ft. in width and 1 ft. in depth, situated in the south-west side of the chamber at a distance of 1 ft. 4 in. from the south corner; its sill was 3 in. above the floor of the chamber. The usual sealing slab was still in situ.

The shaft outside the burial chamber was not explored as it extended underneath a dwelling house.

The following terra-cotta objects were recovered from the burial chamber:

A jar with vertical handles, ht. 9½ in., max. d. 8 in., damaged.

A narrow necked flask, ht. $5\frac{3}{4}$ in., max. d. 3 in. decorated with dark red horizontal bands and lines, damaged.

Two chalices :

a) ht. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., max. d. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., decorated with dark red horizontal lines..

b) ht. 2 in., max. d. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., decorated with dark red horizontal lines, damaged.

A cup with two horizontal handles, ht. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. max. d. 6 in., decorated with dark red horizontal bands and lines, damaged.

A plate, d. 7 in., damaged.

A bilychnis lamp, max. d. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., used.

Fragmentary remains of two human skeletons, a male and a female, were found scattered on the floor of the chamber. The cranial index of the male skull is 75.4.

EXHIBITIONS

In July, 1951, the Museum participated in the exhibition which was held at the Royal Malta Library and which coincided with the visit to Malta of the Members of the World Organization of the Teaching Profession. The material displayed consisted of a selection of Maltese prehistoric vases and statuettes.

In September, 1951, another exhibition was held at the Armoury of the Magisterial Palace, Valletta, in connection with the celebration of festivities to commemorate the raising of the Great Siege of Malta in the year 1565.

COMMEMORATIVE TABLETS

Commemorative tablets have been affixed to "Tal-Kaptan" Tower, San Pawl tat-Targa, which bears the coats-of-arms of Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Vallette and of Grand Master Ferdinand Hompesch, and to St. Julian's Tower, which was erected in the year 1658 by Grand Master Martino de Redin.

RESTORATIONS AT THE MAGISTERIAL PALACE, VALLETTA

During the year under review the restoration works of the friezes in the Hall of the Ambassadors were continued.

The panels treated are the following :

A seated figure of Isaiah, "Levabit signum in nationibus".

A seated figure of Ezechiel, "Exaltavi lignum humile".

A seated figure of Daniel, "Non est confusio confidentibus in te".

A scene representing Zizzimi, brother of the Grand Turk Baiazette, being received at Rhodes by Grand Master Fr. Pietro Abusone in the year 1482.

A scene representing the departure of the fleet of the Order of St. John from Rhodes in pursuit of that of the Sultan of Egypt.

RESTORATION OF THE PALACE TAPESTRIES

The Gobelins tapestries which hang in the Council Chamber, originally the Council Hall of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in the Magisterial Palace at Valletta, are amongst the priceless treasures we possess, thanks to the munificence of Grand Master Ramon de Perellos y Rocafull (1697-1720).

They are commonly known as the "Indian Hangings", and according to tradition they originated from a series of paintings representing animals and exotic plants which Louis XIV of France received as a gift from a Prince of Nassau. Having been repeatedly used, the original models were in such a bad state of preservation by 1725 that François Desportes had to repaint them completely. In so doing he introduced several variations into the composition, in fact the pieces woven after 1725 vary considerably from those produced previously.

Our set, belonging to the earlier version of "Hangings", consists of ten large pieces and seven smaller ones; it was executed under the supervision of Charles Lebrun, court painter of Louis XIV and director of the Royal Manufactory for crown furniture, and bears the name of Le Blond, contractor of one of the workshops of the manufactory.

The subjects illustrated in the large pieces are the following: the Birds (4 m. 70 cm. × 2 m. 92 cm.), the Huntsman at rest (4 m. 70 cm. × 3 m. 40 cm.), the Arab on horseback (4 m. 70 cm. × 4 m. 30 cm.), the fight of Animals with a hippopotamus and a striped horse (4 m. 70 cm. × 5 m.), the Moorish King carried by two negroes (4 m. 70 cm. × 4 m. 50 cm.), the combat of the Tigers, tapir and wild boar (4 m. 70 cm. × 4 m. 50 cm.), the Bulls and the hammock carried by the negroes (4 m. 70 cm. × 5 m.), the Huntsman with the bow and arrow and the fishermen with a net (4 m. 70 cm. × 4 m.), the Elephants (4 m. 70 cm. × 3 m. 90 cm.) and the "Isabelle" horse (4 m. 70 cm. × 2 m. 92 cm.). The smaller panels (1 m. 39 cm. × 1 m. 79 cm.) represent the coat-of-arms of Grand Master Perellos with the exception of a specimen of Flemish tapestry the design of which is after D. Teniers.

Two of the small pieces, which were in a bad state of preservation, have been restored during the period under review.

RESTORATION OF OIL PAINTINGS

Valletta Museum.

Full length portrait of the Great Commander Fra Antoine d'Alibertis.

The last Supper; a bozzetto by A. Favray.

Battle scene between Knights and Moors.

An English galley, by Van de Velde.

The Magisterial Palace, Valletta.

The Blessed Gerard receiving Godfrey de Bouillon at the Hospital of St. John after the capture of Jerusalem by the first Crusaders in the year 1093; by A. Favray.

Full length portrait of Charles King of Spain.

Full length portrait of Ferdinand III King of Naples.

Perseus showing Medusa's head.

St. Peter; by P. P. Caruana.

Auberge d'Aragon.

Full length portrait of Fra Pietro De Busson.

Portrait of a Roman Emperor.

Royal University of Malta.

Portrait of Melchiorre Gafà.

Portrait of Andreas Cassar.

Portrait of I. Baptista Cassar.

Portrait of Fr. Stefanus d'Angelo.

Portrait of Ioannes Dominicus Lorito.

Portrait of Don Bartholomeus Axiaç.

Portrait of Ioannes Franciscus Bonamico.
Portrait of Nicolaus Saura.
Portrait of Ioannes Vassallo.
Portrait of Fr. Andreas Xuereb.
Portrait of Don Aloysius Rigord.
Portrait of Antonius Hagius.

St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

Our Lady and Child; by Solimena.

St. Catherine's Church, Valletta.

Portrait of P. Ioan. Sagnanus.

Jesuits' Church, Valletta.

St. Peter and St. Paul on the way to martyrdom. A lunette by Mattia Preti.

The Nativity of Our Lady. A lunette by A. Erardi.
Four decorative side panels.

NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

Donation.

Mr. C. Busuttill:

AE farthing, 1941. George VI (1936-1952).

Accessions.

AR sixpence, 1825. George IV (1820-1830).

AR sixpence, 1843. Victoria (1837-1901).

Gold two pounds, 1937. George VI (1936-1952).

Gold half-sovereign, 1937. George VI (1936-1952).

AR crown, 1951. George VI (1936-1952).

DONATION

The Director of Public Works:

Two badly weathered coats-of-arms of Globigerina limestone representing the marshallings of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and of Grand Master Hugues de Loubenx Verdala, formerly fixed to the external wall of "Casa Lanfreducci" at No. 2, Victory Square, Valletta.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS

Landscape with bridge. Oils on paper pasted on to canvas. Mid. 19th century art, 10½ in. *h.* by 14½ in. *w.*

An album containing the following water-colours:

Monument to Giuseppe Nicola Zammit at the Upper Barracca, Valletta; by Giorgio Pullicino, 10½ in. *h.* by 9½ in. *w.*

Maltese street hawkers; by Giorgio Pullicino, $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese earthenware vendor; by Giorgio Pullicino, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese lady wearing the faldetta; by Giorgio Pullicino, 9 in. *h.* by 7 in. *w.*

A Maltese peasant woman; by Giorgio Pullicino, $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

The south-west end of Kingsway, Valletta; by Giorgio Pullicino, 9 in. *h.* by 11 in. *w.*

Auberge de Baviere, Valletta; by Giorgio Pullicino, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. *w.*

St. Paul's Catacombs at Rabat, Malta; by Giorgio Pullicino, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by 11 in. *w.*

Notabile Road, Malta; by Giorgio Pullicino, 9 in. *h.* by 11 in. *w.*

Monument to Sir Alexander Ball at the Lower Barracca, Valletta; by Giorgio Pullicino, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by 11 in. *w.*

The Citadel and Rabat, Gozo; by Giorgio Pullicino. $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. *w.*

La Gran Fontana, Rabat, Gozo; by Giorgio Pullicino, 9 in. *h.* by 11 in. *w.*

"Riccarton", a race-horse; by Giorgio Pullicino, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. *w.*

Four drawings representing different stages in the preparation of cotton yarn; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese milkman; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese market boy; by F. Zimelli, 9 in. *h.* by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese lady wearing the faldetta; by F. Zimelli, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

An old Maltese peasant; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. *w.*

A Maltese Roman Catholic canon; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by 7 in. *w.*

A Maltese lady wearing the faldetta; by F. Zimelli, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Dominican monk; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A discalced Carmelite monk; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Carmelite monk; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

A Capuchin monk; by F. Zimelli, $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

Race-winners at the Mnarja; by de Brockdorff (signed), 10 in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. *w.*

Maltese peasants in winter costume; by Brockdorff (signed), $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *w.*

Maltese fishermen. Maltese school, 1st half of the 19th century. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by 10 in. *w.*

A Maltese speronara. Maltese school, early 19th century. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by 10 in. *w.*

Two drawings on one mount representing the Taj Mahal, Agra; by an artist of the early 19th century. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by 7 in. *w.*

The tomb of Akbar at Sikandara, six miles from Agra; by an artist of the early 19th century. $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. *h.* by 7 in. *w.*

A coloured lithograph: "The New Aqueduct"; by M. Bellanti, $11\frac{1}{4}$ in. *h.* by $15\frac{1}{4}$ in. *w.*

A coloured map of Malta and Gozo dated 1718 and bearing the inscription "Nouvelle Carte de Lisle de Malthe dediée a Monsieur le Chevalier D'Orleans, General des Galeres de France". $19\frac{1}{2}$ in. *h.* by 28 in. *w.*

A Maltese silver sugar basin. Hall mark for 1802-1809.

Sixteen silver buttons bearing the eight pointed cross of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. 18th century

A complete set of Malta Postage and Revenue Stamps commemorating the 7th centenary of the Carmelite Scapular. (-/1d., -/3d., 1s/-).

APPENDIX

ADMISSION OF VISITORS TO VARIOUS SITES UNDER THIS DEPARTMENT FROM THE 1st APRIL, 1951, TO THE 31st MARCH, 1952.

				Admission on payment	Admission free
The Valletta Museum	...	...	...	—	—
The Museum of Roman Antiquities	...	...	...	1,617	4,203
The St. Paul's Catacombs	...	...	...	1,735	2,313
The Tarxien Neolithic Temples	...	...	...	1,170	915
The Hal Safieni Hypogeum	...	...	...	1,316	1,463
The Għar Dalam Cave & Museum	...	...	...	734	561
The Ggantija Temples, Gozo	...	...	...	—	927
The Palace Armoury	...	...	...	2,151	2,014