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# REPORTS

ON THE WORKING OF

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

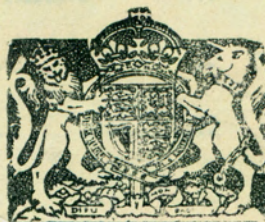
DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1953-54.

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Published by Authority

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MALTA  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1957

Price 5s.

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## RESTORATIONS AT THE MAGISTERIAL PALACE, VALLETTA

During the financial year under review, restoration works were conducted on the frieze of the Supreme Council Chamber, known as the Hall of St. Michael and St. George.

The late sixteenth century frieze, as is well known, was executed by Matteo Perez de Alesio, commonly known as Matteo d'Aleccio and represents scenes from the Great Siege of 1565.

Restoration works in most of the motifs, on the walls of the Entrance Corridor, were also carried out during this period.

The motifs on the walls of the Prince of Wales Corridor, as well as those on the walls of the Armoury Corridor were also retouched. This work, however, was of a preliminary nature.

### Restoration of the Palace Tapestries

One of the smaller panels of the Gobelins Tapestries hanging in the Tapestry Chamber, formerly Council Hall of the Order, was thoroughly restored during the financial year under review. The panel depicts the Coat-of-Arms of Grand Master Ramon de Perellos y Roccafull.

### Palace Armoury

Extensive restoration works were carried out on the regimental colours preserved in the Palace Armoury.

## RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS

### Valletta Museum

1. Venetian School, XVI cent.: Martyrdom of St. Lawrence.
2. Venetian School, XVI cent.: Portrait of a Venetian nobleman.
3. Neapolitan School, XVII cent.: A Beggar.
4. Luca Giordano: A winged putto. This picture is possibly a fragment of a larger work. The palette and other painting instruments, which were a modern addition were removed.
5. M. Bellanti: Christ before Pilate.
6. Flemish School; XVII cent.: A bread-seller.
7. M. Preti: St. Bartholomew.
8. Ferrarese School; late XVI cent.: Biblical subject.
9. After Murillo: St. Thomas of Villanova distributing alms.
10. Antonio Zammit: Portrait of Tommaso Madiona.
11. Francesco Zahra: St. Paschal Baylon.
12. Allingham: Portrait of a lady.
13. After Guercino: St. William of Aquitania.
14. Italian School: The taking of Christ.
15. Maltese Art: Portrait of G. Barbara.

### Magisterial Palace, Valletta

1. Italian School: Landscape.
2. Salvatore Rosa (?): Extensive landscape.
3. School of Preti: St. Paul the Hermit.
4. Portrait of A. Ball.

## Royal University of Malta

1. Portrait of Domenicus Magri.
2. Portrait of Gregorius Xerri.
3. Portrait of Franciscus Condilles.
4. Portrait of Carolus Zerafa.

### Sarria Church

The restoration work on the two extensively damaged lunettes by M. Preti, representing "St. John giving the habit to the Order of Malta" and "St. Michael overthrowing the rebel Angels" was brought to completion.

### Pilar Church

1. Portrait of Grand Master Martino Garzes.
2. Portrait of Grand Master Ramon Perellos.

### Central Civil Hospital

1. After M. Preti: "SS Cosmas and Damian".
2. "Crucifixion".

### Liesse Church

1. St. Philip Neri.

### Law Courts

1. Madonna and Child.

## RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS

### UPPER BARACCA

The Monument to Sir Nicola Zammit was extensively restored.

### ACCESSIONS

#### By gift

1. One 1½d. postage stamp commemorating the coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Presented by Mr. C. Busuttill.
2. A board with seventeen wood-cuts, XVII cent. Presented by the Rev. Can. Prep. J. Zammit.
3. Eight bronze petards. Presented by the Commissioner of Police.
4. Eight photographic plates showing the Opera House after the fire of 1873. Presented by the Secretary, Royal Opera House Reconstruction Committee.

#### By purchase

#### Pictures

1. Edward Caruana Dingli: A street corner in Gozo — oils on canvas (20¼" × 12½")

Chevalier E. Caruana Dingli was born in Valletta in 1876 where he died in 1950. He produced portraits, genre pictures and occasionally historical subjects. He is chiefly known as a portrait-painter.

2. R. Bompiani: Portrait of a cardinal, signed — oils on canvas. (18" × 14").

Roberto Bompiani was born in Rome in 1812 and was a painter and sculptor. He studied at the Academy of St. Luke of which he was later elected president. Amongst his pictures may be mentioned "The Dance" and the portrait of Queen Marguerite. He died in Rome in 1908.

### Drawings

1. Isola point — Malta, 1868 — water-colour. (9" × 13")
2. Valletta — Malta, 1869 — water-colour. (9" × 13")
3. Imtahleb — Malta, 1870 — water-colour. (9" × 10")
4. Dockyard Creek — Malta, 1870 — water-colour. (9" × 13")
5. Bingemma — Malta, 1870 — water-colour. (10" × 14")
6. Città Vecchia — Malta, 1870 — water-colour. (10" × 14")
7. St. Paul's Bay — Malta, 1870 — water-colour. (10" × 14")
8. Quarantine Harbour — Malta 1870 — water-colour. (10" × 14")
9. Verdala — Malta 1870 — water-colour. (10" × 14")
10. Inscribed G. Schranz, 1858 — Gozo-boat — water-colour. (7" × 10½")
11. E. Caruana Dingli: Section of Good Friday procession — water-colour. (14¼" × 10¼")
12. E. Caruana Dingli: Procession passing St. John's Co-Cathedral, water-colour. (18¾" × 12¼")
13. One album containing fiftyfour water-colour and wash drawings, amongst which sixteen water-colours representing Governors of Malta, by Salvatore Micallef.

Salvatore Micallef was born in Valletta round 1810 and died in the last quarter of the same century. He was a pupil of Giuseppe Hyzler and painted amongst other things the altar-piece with the Virgin and Child enthroned in the church of St. Mary of Jesus, Valletta.

14. D. Serres: Valletta Harbour — water-colour. (6¾" × 12½")

Dominic Serres was a water-colour draughtsman and a teacher of drawing. He exhibited lanscapes at the Royal Academy from 1783 to 1787.

15. V. Fenech, four water-colour drawings depicting Malta costumes. (6¾" × 5")
16. S. Postiglione: A lady reading — pastels — (18" × 15½").

Salvatore Postiglione was born in Naples in 1861 and studied under Domenico Morelli. He painted sacred subjects and genre pictures as well as portraits. Amongst his works may be mentioned "St. Pier Damiani" in the Gallery of Modern Art in Rome. He died in 1906.

17. A birds' eye view of Valletta and environs, 1780 — gouache. (25" × 18¾")

### Prints

1. G. Goodal: View of the City of Malta and coloured-engraving. (18½" × 10½")
2. Valletta from St. Julian's Road — coloured lithograph. (8½" × 12")
3. Brockdorff: Great Harbour of Malta — coloured-lithograph. (8¾" × 12")
4. Picken: Entrance to Sa Maison — lithograph. (11½" × 8")

One maiolica dish, Deruta circa 1630.

Two Staffordshire figurines representing Maltese countryman and countrywoman.

One album containing photographs of Maltese and Italian views.

Nineteen photographs representing views of Malta.

## NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

### ACCESSIONS

#### By gift

- AE penny, 1949, George VI (1936-1952). Presented by Mr. C. Busuttil.
- AE halfpenny, 1952, George VI (1936-1952). Presented by Mr. J. Sammut.
- AE farthing, 1952, George VI (1936-1952). Presented by Mr. J. Sammut.

**By purchase**

- AR Florin, 1951, George VI (1936-1952).
- AR Crown, 1953, Elizabeth II (1952-...).
- AR Halfcrown, 1953, do.
- AR Florin, 1953, do.
- AR Shilling, 1953 Elizabeth II (1952-...).
- AR Shilling, 1953 do.
- AR Sixpence, 1953 do.
- AE Twelve-sided threepence, 1953 do.
- AE Penny, 1953 do.
- AE Halfpenny, 1953 do.
- AE Farthing, 1953 do.
- AR Shilling, 1954 do.

**ADMISSION OF VISITORS TO MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS**

FROM THE 1st APRIL, 1953, TO THE 31st MARCH, 1954

	Admission on payment	Admission Free
The Valletta Museum ... ..	—	—
The Museum of Roman Antiquities ... ..	2,318	2,079
The St. Paul's Catacombs ... ..	2,622	1,960
The Tarxien Neolithic Temples ... ..	1,657	991
The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum ... ..	2,007	984
The Għar Dalam Cave and Museum ... ..	859	470
The Ġgantija Temples, Gozo ... ..	266	720
The Palace Armoury ... ..	8,551	8,171

NUMISMATIC COLLECTION

ACQUISITION

By gift

AE Penny 1953, George VI (1936-1952), Presented by Mr. J. Sammut.  
 AE Halfpenny 1953, George VI (1936-1952), Presented by Mr. J. Sammut.  
 AE Farthing 1953, George VI (1936-1952), Presented by Mr. J. Sammut.