



REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1957-58

MALTA

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1957/58

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

Auberge de Provence,

Valletta.

11th August, 1958.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Museum Department for the financial year 1957/58.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) Ch. Zammit,

DIRECTOR.

The Legal and Administrative assistant.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

The National Museum of Malta was officially inaugurated by the Minister of Education, on the 11th January, 1958, in the presence of a number of distinguished guests including H.H. the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice, members of the Legislative Assembly and Heads of Departments.

The guests were addressed by the Director who briefly outlined the history of the Museum from its birth at Palazzo Xaghra in 1904 to the present day and described the layout and contents of the present Museum. The Minister replied to the Director's address. She welcomed the guests to the official opening and thanked all those who directly or indirectly had contributed to the setting up of the National Museum. The guests were then conducted round the various exhibition halls.

In the present exhibition, the more important archaeological, artistic and historical collections are now on show to the public: the former are displayed on the ground floor and the latter on the top floor, or 'piano nobile', of the Auberge de Provence.

The prehistoric collections have been arranged in conformity with Professor J.D. Evan's recently compiled chronological classification which covers a period of about 1,500 years, from 2,300 B.C. to 800 B.C. This collection includes a number of decorated stone blocks recently transferred to the National Museum from the Tarxien prehistoric temples for better preservation and protection. Typical examples of tomb furniture of the Punic and Roman periods have also been displayed in one of the halls of the ground floor.

The halls on the top floor contain pictures and drawings of Italian and other continental schools of the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, as well as specimens by 20th century masters. A section is confined to works by Maltese artists. Besides the aforesaid collections, a display has been arranged of relics of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the main hall of the 'piano nobile' has been reserved for this purpose. The arrangement and display of the Fine Arts collection was very ably taken care of by the Curator of Fine Arts, Dr J.A. Cauchi. A collection of coins, commemorative medals and decorations is also exhibited on this floor.

The arrangement and proper storage of the archaeological, artistic and historical material which is not considered of interest to the general public is now in hand. This material is being classified and stored in such a way as to be easily accessible to students on demand. Parts of the basement of the Auberge de Provence, formerly occupied by private persons, have been taken over by the Government for this purpose.

RESTORATIONS TO MEGALITHIC TEMPLES

Haġar Qim.

The damaged megaliths on the north side of the elliptical enclosure marked I on Mayer's plan III, were restored. These slabs on end had developed cracks and threatened to break up in small pieces. The lintel over the south-east entrance to the temple, in which a longitudinal crack had recently become visible, was made secure by the application of bronze cleats and rods. All the blocks were treated with stone preservative to retard weathering.

Tarxien.

The restoration of the Tarxien group of temples which was started in 1956 was continued during the year under review. A number of megaliths in the Middle Temple were repaired including those on which the two bulls and the sow are carved in relief. Stone preservative was applied to blocks where necessary.

The field soil which covered the foundations of the perimeter wall on the north-east side of the south temple, and that at the back of the middle temple, was removed. Owing to the existence of the modern rubble boundary wall which surrounds the ruins and which was built only a few feet away from the back of the middle temple, it was not possible to expose fully the stumps of large orthostats which exist at the back of this temple.

ROCK TOMB AT MOSTA

On the 4th October, 1957 whilst work was in progress for the construction of kennels in the grounds of Fort Mosta (Malta 2" map - 1954 - ref. 485755), a burial chamber of a rock-cut tomb was broken into.

The tomb consisted of a elliptical chamber hollowed out in the face of a low escarpment to the south-east of the Fort.

The burial chamber was very roughly cut and measured 8ft in length, 3ft 2in. in maximum width and 3ft 4in. in maximum height; its long axis ran in a north-east, south-west direction. The entrance to the chamber was situated in the middle of the south-west wall and was partly hewn out of the rock and partly built with rubble; it measured 3ft 3in. in height, 3ft in width and 1ft in depth and was found blocked by a rubble wall.

Fragmentary remains of a human skeleton belonging to an adult female, a bilychnis oil lamp and fragments of punic pottery were recovered from the layer of field soil, 1ft high, which covered the floor of the burial chamber.

ROCK TOMBS AT VICTORIA: GOZO.

On the 10th October, 1957, two rock tombs were accidentally discovered in Mgr. Pietro Pace Street, Victoria, Gozo by workmen who were digging a trench in the rock for the laying of a cable.

These tombs were very roughly cut in the Globigerina limestone and consisted of a vertical shaft giving access through a rectangular entrance to a laterally situated burial chamber; the long axis of the tombs, passing through the shaft and chamber were orientated in an east-west direction. Both tombs were violated a long time ago when most of the funerary pottery was taken away and the shafts and chambers filled with debris.

Tomb No. 1

Situated 10 feet to the east of premises at No 108.

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

The entrance to the burial chamber was situated on the east side of the shaft and measured 3ft in width, 3ft 6in. in height and 1ft in depth.

The roughly circular chamber measured 8ft in maximum length, 8ft 6in. in maximum width and 4 ft 6in. in height.

Numerous fragments of human bones and of terra-cotta plates, dishes, amphorae, cinerary urns, jars and other vessels were recovered from the debris which filled the burial chamber.

Tomb No 2.

Situated 10 feet to the east of tomb No 1.

This tomb was roughly similar in shape and size to tomb No 1.

It contained the remains of four human skeletons belonging to adults, a dish with two handles 4in. in diameter and 1 1/2in. in height decorated with red lines, fragments of various terra-cotta vessels, fragments of brass coffin clamps and ferrules. A brass coin minted in Syracuse by Hiero, bearing on the obverse the head of Persephone looking left and on the reverse a butting bull (274 to 216 B.C.), was also recovered from the filling of the burial chamber.

ROCK TOMBS AT FERRIS STREET, RABAT, MALTA

On the 12th November, 1957, the burial chambers of two rock-cut tombs in Ferris Street, Rabat, were broken into whilst a trench was being dug in the rock for the laying of a cable.

Tomb No 1.

Situated opposite the gate leading to the playground of the Government Primary School.

The burial chamber was almost rectangular in plan with a flat ceiling and measured 6ft in length, 4ft in width and 3ft in height; its long axis was orientated in a north-east south-west direction. A trench, 4ft in length, 1ft in width and 9in. in depth was cut in the floor along the north-west side of the chamber. A lamp-hole was hollowed out in the middle of the south-east wall just below the ceiling.

Access to the burial chamber was originally gained through a rectangular entrance, 2ft wide, 2ft 3in. high and 1ft deep, situated in the north-east wall; its sill was 3in. above the floor of the chamber. The usual sealing slab was missing. The shaft outside the burial chamber was not explored as it extended under a field wall.

The following objects were recovered from the burial chamber (Plate I a):

Terra-Cotta.

Four oenochoi:

- ht 4 1/2in., max. d. 2 1/4in.
- ht 4 1/4in., max. d. 2 in.
- ht 3 3/4in., max. d. 2 1/4in.
- ht 3 1/2in., max. d. 1 3/4in.

Two unguentaria with globular body:

- ht 3in., max. d. 1 3/4in.
- ht 3in., max. d. 1in.

Four plates:

- ht 1in., d. 5in.
- ht 3/4in., d. 3 3/4in.
- ht 3/4., d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 3/4., d. 3 1/2in.

Ten bowls:

- ht 3in., d. 3 1/4in.; damaged
- ht 2 3/4in., d. 4 1/4in.; damaged
- ht 2 1/4 in., d. 4in.; damaged
- ht 1 3/4in., d. 4 1/4in.
- ht 1 3/4in., d. 4 1/4in.
- ht 1 1/2in., d. 3 1/4in.
- ht 1 1/4in., d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 1in., d. 2 3/4in.
- ht 1in., d. 3 1/4in.
- ht 1in., d. 2 3/4in.

Fifteen bilychnis lamps:

- ht 1 1/2in., max. d. 4in.
- ht 1 1/4in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 1 1/4in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 3in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 3in.
- ht 1in., max. d. 3 1/4in.
- ht 3/4in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- ht 3/4in., max. d. 2 1/2in.
- ht 3/4in., max. d. 2 1/4in.
- ht 1/2in., max. d. 2 1/2in.
- ht 1/2in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- ht 3/4in., damaged.

Glass

Six unguentaria:

- a) ht 5 1/4in., max. d. 5 1/4in.
- b) ht 5 1/4in., damaged
- c) d), e) and f) - damaged.

Brass

Two needles 3in. long.

Fragmentary remains of human skeletons belonging to adults were scattered on the floor of the chamber.

Tomb No 2.

Situated five feet to the south-west of tomb No 1.

The chamber of this tomb was found to be practically similar to tomb No 1. The sealing slab at the entrance to the burial chamber was also found missing and the tomb filled with debris.

The following terra-cotta objects were found in the chamber.

One aryballos:

ht 5 1/4in., max. d. 4 1/2in.

One jug with one handle and wide mouth:

ht 6in., max. d. 5in.

Two small oenochoi with broken neck.

Four unguentaria:

- a) ht 8 1/2in., max. d. 1 3/4in., spindle shaped
- b) ht 8in., max. d. 2in., spindle shaped
- c) damaged; with globular body
- d) ht 3 1/2in., max. d. 1 3/4in.; with globular body.

Two plates:

- a) ht 3/4in., d. 4 1/4in.
- b) ht 3/4in., d. 3 3/4in.

Two dishes:

- a) ht 1 3/4in.; d. 5 3/4in.
- b) ht 1 1/2in., d. 5 1/2in.

Five bowls:

- a) ht 2 1/2in., max. d. 4in.; damaged
- b) ht 1 3/4in., max. d. 4in.
- c) ht 1 1/4in., max. d. 3 3/4in.
- d) ht 1 1/4in., d. 3in.
- e) ht 1 1/4in., d. 3in.

Seven bilychnis lamps:

- a) ht 1 1/4in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- b) ht 1 in., max. d. 3 1/2in.
- c) ht 1 in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- d) ht 1 in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- e) ht 1 in., max. d. 2 1/2in.
- f) ht 1 1/2in., max. d. 3in.
- g) ht 1 1/2in., d. 2 1/4in.

Glass.

A Bowl: ht 2in., max. d. 1 3/4in.
Fragments of glass vessels.

Both these tombs were violated a long time ago when the larger vessels such as amphorae and cinerary urns were removed and the shafts and chambers filled with soil. The objects recovered from the burial chambers of these tombs were found resting on the floor of the chambers in a layer of silt about one foot high.

ROCK TOMBS AT TARKIEN

Three rock cut tombs were accidentally uncovered during levelling operations for the construction of a new Government Primary School on the by-pass road at Tarkien (Malta 2" map (1954) ref. 557689). These finds were reported to the Museum by the Public Works Department Engineer in charge of the construction of the school, who also placed a number of workmen at the disposal of the Museum Department whilst the tombs were being examined.

These tombs consisted of a vertical shaft giving access through rectangular entrances, to one or more laterally situated burial chambers. They were cut in a very friable layer of Globigerina limestone and some of the ceilings of the burial chambers had given way under the weight of the bull dozer which was used to strip the site of the overlying field soil.

Tomb No 1 - (Fig. 1)

Discovered on the 28th November, 1957.

The rectangular shaft measured 9ft 6in. in length, 4ft 8in. in width and 5ft in depth and its long axis ran in an east-west direction. It served three burial chambers cut in the north, west and east sides respectively.

The west chamber (A on plan) was oval in plan with a flat ceiling and measured 6ft 7in. in maximum width and 3ft in height. Its rectangular entrance measured 3ft in width, 3ft in height and 2ft in depth and was found blocked by a sealing slab.

The entrance to the north chamber was cut at a distance of 5ft 6in. from the north-west corner of the shaft and measured 2ft in width, 2ft 6in. in height and 1ft in depth. Its sill was 10in. above the floor of the shaft.

The north burial chamber (B on plan) was roughly oval in plan and measured 6ft in maximum length, 3ft 7in. in maximum width and 2ft 8in. in height. Its ceiling was partly destroyed.

The east burial chamber (C on plan) was almost rectangular in plan and measured 8ft 6in. in length, 6ft 6in. in average width and about 3ft 6in. in height. A rectangular trench 3ft in length, 1ft wide and 9in. deep was cut in the floor of the chamber. The ceiling and entrance of this chamber was found badly damaged.

The following terra-cotta objects were found in Chamber A (Plate I, b):

Five aryballoi:

- a) ht 6 3/4in., max. d. 5 1/4in.
- b) ht 6 1/2in., max. d. 5in.
- c) ht 6in., max. d. 5 1/4in.
- d) ht 5 3/4in., max. d. 4 3/4in.
- e) ht 5 1/4in., max. d. 4 3/4in.

Two oenochoi:

- a) ht 7in., max. d. 4 3/4in.
- b) ht 3 1/2in., max. d. 2 1/2in.; damaged

Nine dishes:

- a) ht 2in., diam. 4 1/2in.
- b) ht 2in., diam. 4 3/4in.
- c) ht 2in., diam. 5 1/4in.
- d) ht 1 3/4in., diam. 6in.
- e) ht 1 3/4in., diam. 5 3/4in.
- f) ht 1 1/2in., max. d. 5 1/4in.
- g) ht 1 1/2in., max. d. 4 1/2in.
- h) ht 1 1/2in., max. d. 4 3/4in.; damaged
- i) ht 1 1/4in., max. d. 3 1/2in.

Four bowls:

- a) ht 2 1/2in., max. d. 2 3/4in.
- b) ht 2 1/2in., max. d. 6in.
- c) ht 2 3/4in., max. d. 3 3/4in.
- d) ht 2in., max. d. 4 1/4in.

Four bilychnis lamps:

- a) ht 1 in., max. d. 2 1/2 in.; used.
- b) ht 1 in., max. d. 2 1/2 in.; used.
- c) ht 3/4 in., max. d. 2 3/4 in.; used.
- d) ht 3/4 in., max. d. 2 1/2 in.; used, damaged.

The following objects were found in Chamber B.

Terra-cotta.

An amphora with pointed base, damaged.

Two oenochoai:

- a) ht 6 3/4 in., max. d. 4 3/4 in.
- b) ht 3 3/4 in., max. d. 2 1/2 in.; damaged

Four dishes:

- a) ht 2 in., d. 5 3/4 in.
- b) ht 2 in., d. 5 3/4 in.
- c) ht 1 1/2 in., d. 5 1/2 in.
- d) ht 1 1/2 in., d. 4 1/2 in.

Three bowls:

- a) ht 2 1/2 in., d. 3 1/2 in.
- b) ht 2 in., d. 3 in.
- c) ht 1 3/4 in., d. 4 in.

A bilychnis lamp; damaged.

A Romano-Maltese lamp, ht 1 1/2 in., 3 3/4 in. in length; damaged.

Glass

One unguentarium, ht 4 3/4 in.

The following objects were found in Chamber C (Plate II, a)

Terra-cotta

Two egg-shaped amphorae:

- a) ht 1 ft 8 in., max. d. 1 ft 1 in.
- b) damaged.

Two cinerary urns:

- a) ht 10 3/4 in., max. d. 9 1/2 in.; damaged
- b) damaged.

Three aryballoi:

- a) ht 5 1/2 in., max. d. 5 in.
- b) ht 5 1/4 in., max. d. 4 1/2 in.
- c) ht 5 1/4 in., max. d. 4 in.

Four oenochoai:

- a) ht 9 3/4 in., max. d. 5 1/2 in.; damaged
- b) ht 5 in., max. d. 4 1/4 in.; damaged
- c) ht 3 1/4 in., max. d. 2 in.; damaged
- d) damaged.

Twelve damaged plates.

Fragments of several vessels.

Glass.

Two unguentaria:

- a) ht 3 1/2 in., max. d. 1 in.
- b) damaged.

Fragments of brass coffin clamps.

Fragments of lead objects.

Tomb No 2 (Fig. 2)

Discovered on the 17th January, 1958.

The rectangular shaft of this tomb was situated at a distance of 8 feet to the south-east of chamber C, Tomb No 1. It measured 7ft 4in. in length, 5ft in width and 6ft in depth and its long axis was orientated in an east-west direction. It served three burial chambers cut in the east, west and south sides respectively.

The east burial chamber (A on plan) was roughly rectangular in plan and measured 7ft in length, 3ft in width and about 3ft in height. It was provided with a rectangular entrance 1ft 9in. in width, 1ft 6in. in depth and about 3ft in height. The ceiling was very badly damaged: An egg-shaped amphora, 2ft in height and 13in. in maximum diameter and a hard stone ball 5 1/4in. in diameter were found in this chamber.

The south chamber (B on plan) consisted of a rough cavity 5ft in maximum length and 4ft in maximum width. Its entrance was found blocked by a damaged sealing slab and its ceiling was entirely missing. No archaeological remains were found in this chamber.

The rectangular entrance to the west burial chamber measured 1ft 9in. in width: 2ft 7in. in height and 1ft in depth. Its sill was 3in. above the floor of the shaft.

The west burial chamber (C on plan) was roughly oval in plan with a flat ceiling and measured 7ft in maximum length, 3ft in maximum width and 2ft 7in. in height.

The following objects were found in chamber C. (Plate II., 6):

One egg-shaped amphora; ht 1ft 8 1/2in., max. d. 12 1/2in.; a jar with two handles, decorated with red lines; ht 1ft 1 1/2in., max. d. 7 1/4in. and a plate decorated with red lines, diameter 6 1/2in., ht 1 1/4in.

Tomb No 3.

Discovered on the 14th February, 1958.

This tomb was found almost completely destroyed and only a bare outline of a rectangular shaft and a roughly elliptical chamber could be seen.

The following objects were recovered from the field soil which filled the shallow cavity:

Two cinerary urns:

- a) ht 6 1/2in., max. d. 6 3/4in.; damaged.
- b) damaged.

One oenochoe:

ht 8in., max. d. 4 1/2in.; damaged.

Two aryballoi:

- a) ht 5 1/2in., max. d. 5in.
- b) ht 4 1/2in., max. d. 3in.

Two plates; damaged.

One bowl, ht 1 3/4in., max. d. 3 3/4in.

Fragments of plates, dishes and other vessels.

ROCK TOMB AT MTARFA

On the 7th March, 1958, a rock cut tomb was found by workmen who were digging a shaft in the public road at the back of the Maternity Hospital, Mtarfa.

On 11th June, 1957 six paintings were sent to the Instituto Centrale in Rome for cleaning and restoration.

The tomb consisted of a vertical shaft giving access to two laterally situated burial chambers (Fig. 3) cut in the south-west and south-east side respectively.

The shaft was rectangular in plan and measured 7ft 6in. in length, 5ft 5in. in width and 11 ft in depth. Its long axis ran in a north-east south-west direction.

The rectangular entrance to the south-west chamber measured 1ft 9in. in width, 3ft. in height and 8in. in depth; its sill was level with the floor of the shaft. The chamber, 5ft 4in. in length, 3ft 7in. in width and 4ft in height, had its floor on a level with the sill of the entrance and its ceiling curved gently towards the sides. A platform, 1ft 6in. high and 2ft 4in. in average width, ran along the south-west side of the chamber and a lamp hole, 8in. wide, 6in. deep and 8in. high, was cut in the west wall close to the jamb of the entrance of the chamber.

The following objects were recovered from the debris which filled the south-west chamber. (Plats III).

Terra-cotta

One aryballos, ht 5in.; max. d. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; damaged.

Two unguentaria with globular body:

- a) ht 5in., max. d. $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.; damaged.
- b) ht $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., max. d. 2 in.

Three plates:

- a) ht $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., max. d. $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.
- b) ht $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., max. d. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; damaged
- c) ht $\frac{3}{4}$ in., max. d. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Three bowls:

- a) ht 2in., max. d. $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; damaged
- b) ht $1\frac{3}{4}$ in., max. d. 5in.; damaged
- c) ht 2in.; damaged.

One Romano-Maltese lamp:

ht $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., max. length $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Two bilychnis lamps:

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

Silver.

Fragments of ear-rings, finger rings and hair pins.

Copper.

Two rings or ferrules, 1in. in diameter.

Scraps of human bones.

The entrance to the south-east chamber measured 3ft 2in. in width, 3ft in height and 1ft in depth; its sill was 3in. above the floor of the shaft.

The apsidal burial chamber attained a maximum length of 7ft 3in., a maximum depth of 5ft 4in. and a height of 4ft 2in. A trench, 3ft 4in. long, 2ft wide and 1ft deep was cut immediately behind the sill of the entrance and parallel to it. On the floor, close to the west corner of the chamber was a concave excavation 9 in. in diameter and 4 in. deep at the centre. Two rectangular lamp holes were cut in the south side of the chamber. No archaeological remains were found in this chamber.

ROMAN REMAINS AND SARACENIC GRAVES AT RABAT, MALTA:

During the period under review, the field known as "Tal-Franciz" (See Museum Annual Report for 1956/57), was stripped of all the field soil by the Public Works Department. Although it was evident that Roman constructions built with well squared blocks of stone, originally existed on this site, the remains uncovered were scanty and mostly disconnected. It appears that the destruction of the old buildings took place a long time ago and that the blocks of stone were removed from the site for building purposes.

At the east side of the field the remains of a number of intercommunicated troughs (Plate IV) and the bed of a press similar to the one found at the Roman House near Borg-in-Nadur, Birzebugia, and described by Dr T. Ashby in his "Roman Malta", were uncovered.

A plan of the site showing the various remains of walls, the water cisterns and the troughs has been made and photographs of the remains have been taken for record purposes.

At the south-west corner of this same site seven Saracenic tombs were uncovered and examined. The tombs were built with rubble and were covered by slabs of stone (Plates V, VI and VII). They rested on a layer of field soil just above the Roman remains and four feet below the surface of the field. All the graves were orientated in an east-west direction, the skull being to the west and the face looking towards the south; they contained the human skeletal remains of male adults in a fairly good state of preservation. No archaeological remains were found inside the tombs and no head stones were present on or near the graves.

It will be recalled that a number of similar Saracenic graves were unearthed thirty-three years ago in Museum Esplanade, Rabat and at the back of the Museum of Roman Antiquities (See Museum Annual Report 1924/25 and 1925/26).

RESTORATION WORKS AT THE MAGISTERIAL PALACE, VALLETTA

During the financial year under review, the restoration works on the frieze of the Hall of St Michael and St George were continued. They are still in progress.

The restoration of the lunettes "in tempera" in the Armoury corridor was continued.

Repair works were carried out to the friezes on canvas in the rooms used by the Legislative Assembly.

RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS

National Museum.

1. Corrado Giaquinto: Madonna & Child - oil on canvas (Plate VIII)
2. Venetian School, XVIII century: Cat and birds - oil on canvas.
3. Bernardo Strozzi: Portrait of a lady - oil on canvas (Plate IX)
4. Attributed to Palma Giovane: Martyrdom of St Lawrence - oil on panel.
5. Workshop of G.B. Trott: Deposition - oil on canvas
6. Santi di Tito (?): Portrait of a child - oil on canvas.
7. Francesco Zahra: Portrait of a lady - oil on canvas
8. Francesco Zahra: St Philip of Aggyra - oil on canvas.
9. Maltese School, XVIII century: Portrait of a lady.
10. Giuseppe Grech: Self-portrait - oil on canvas (Plate X)
11. Giorgio Bonavia: Portrait of a lady - oil on canvas.
12. Edward Caruana Dingli: La Valette victorious - en grisaille - oil on canvas.

Verdala Palace

Whole-length portrait of Grand Master Ximenes.

On 11th June, 1957 six paintings were sent to the Istituto Centrale in Rome for cleaning and restoration.

Two suits of armour and two rapiers were sent on 15th January, 1958 to be shown at the Inter-national Exhibition in Brussels.

The said specimens were shown at the Pavilion of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

EXHIBITIONS

At the National Museum.

An exhibition of the two Caravaggio pictures was held at the National Museum, after the two masterpieces had been cleaned and restored at the "Istituto Centrale del Restauro", Rome.

The official opening was held on 13th April, 1957 and the show was closed on 13th December, 1957. "11,129 persons visited the exhibition."

At the Palace Armoury.

The annual exhibition commemorating the Defeat of the Turks on 8th September, 1565 was held at the Armoury in the Magisterial Palace, Valletta, kindly lent by His Excellency the Officer administering the Government for the said occasion.

The number of visitors amounted to 9,243 and the exhibition was open to the public from 1st to 12th September.

ACCESSIONS

By Gift

1. Pictures.

- One lithograph - "Portrait of Dr Agostino Naudi" - Sir Arturo Mercieca.
- One pen and ink drawing - "Monument to Grand Master Vilhena" - Sir Arturo Mercieca.
- One pen and ink drawing - "Monument to Nicola Zammit" - Sir Arturo Mercieca.
- One pen and ink drawing - "Neptune" (Palace) - Sir Arturo Mercieca.

2. Other Objects.

- A vertebral column of a fish embedded in Globigerina limestone from Mqabba. Given by Mr Anthony Triganza
- A prehistoric terra-cotta scoop - Period Ic - from Ta' Lippija, Mgarr, Malta. Given by Commander & Mrs A. Woolner.
- A prehistoric jug- Period Iib - from the Xemxija tombs, St Paul's Bay. Given by Mr George E Darmanin
- A white marble bath, 1st half of 19th century - Mr Anthony Cassar.
- Two Japanese suits of armour - Mrs V. Stilon.
- A section of Wignacourt's Aqueduct from Porte des Bombes - Director of Public Works.
- A gold pendant, late 18th century - Mrs M.J. Bugeja.
- A set of Postage & Revenue stamps 1/-, -/3 and -/1 1/2, issued on the 15th April, 1957, commemorating the award of the George Cross. Given by the Postmaster General.
- A set of Postage and Revenue stamps 1/-, -/3 and -/1 1/2 - Technical Education issue - placed on sale on the 15th February, 1958. Given by the Postmaster General.
- A carlino, 1799. Given by Mr Victor Schembri.
- A halfcrown, a florin, a shilling (two specimens), a sixpence, a three pence and a halfpenny - 1957 - Elizabeth II. Given by Mr John Sammut.

The following Natural History specimens were given by Dr C. Testa, LL.D.:-

- Odonata: twenty-eight specimens
- Orthoptera: twenty-four specimens
- Hemiptera: seventy-three specimens
- Diptera: fifteen specimens
- Coleoptera: sixty-four specimens
- Reptilia: Five specimens
- Amphibia: one specimen
- Crustacea: twenty-four specimens

By Purchase

1. Pictures.

- 1. Edward Caruana Dingli: **La Valette triumphant** - grisaille - oil on paper - 19 1/2in. x 27 1/2in.

2. Jacob Ferdinand Voet: Portrait of Fr Jacques de Souvre - oil on canvas - 131 1/2in. x 56 1/2in.
3. A. Palombi: Sacred subject, bozzetto - oil on canvas - 12 3/4in. x 13 3/4in.
4. Bolognese School, XVIII century: "A Saint in ecstasy" - grisaille - oil on canvas 18 3/4in. x 13 1/2in.
5. North Italian School, XVI century: "Christ among the Doctors" - oil on panel - 9 3/4in. x 8 1/4in.
6. North Italian School, XVI: "The Visitation" - oil on panel 9 3/4in. x 8 1/4in.
7. Scottish School, XIX century: "Dream of a Highlander" - oil on canvas - 26in. x 30in.
8. Italian School, XVIII century: "Portrait of Bishop Mancini" - oil on canvas - 45in. x 36in.
9. Italian School, XVIII century: "Portrait of an ecclesiastic of the Order" - oil on canvas - 39in. x 29in.
10. M. Bellanti: "Portrait of the artist's daughter" - oil on canvas - 14 1/4in. x 11 1/4in.
11. M. Bellanti: "The Nursing of Jupiter" - oil on panel - 16 1/4in. x 8 1/4in.
12. Francesco Maffei: An Allegory - oil on canvas - 31in. x 50in. (Plate XI).
13. Joseph Nash: "A scene from Woodstock" - oil on canvas - 17 5/8in. x 23 3/4in.
14. M. Busutti: "The Magdalen" - oil on canvas - 10in. x 8in.
15. S. Micállef: "Selmun Palace" - water colour - 7 1/2in. x 9 3/4in.
16. S. Micállef: "Norman House" - water colour - 7 1/2in. x 9 3/4in.
17. S. Micállef: "Greek Gate" - water colour - 6 3/4in. x 9 1/4in.
18. S. Micállef: "View of Notabile" - water colour - 7 1/4in. x 10 1/4in.
19. S. Micállef: "A Cloister" - water colour - 6 5/8in. x 5 1/4in.
20. S. Micállef: "Virgin of the scapular" - water colour - 9 1/4in. x 4 1/4in.
21. Preziosi: "An Oriental" - water colour - 4in. x 10 1/2in.
22. Preziosi: "A Turkish Lady" - water colour 14in. x 10 1/2in.
23. A. Favray: "A sheet of studies" - red chalk - 12 3/4in. x 18 1/4in.
24. A. Favray: "Study of a lying figure" - pencil - 7 1/2in. x 9 5/8in.
25. A. Favray: "Head of a lady" - coloured chalk - 17in. x 11 1/2in.
26. A. Favray: "Landscape" - red chalk - 8 1/2in. x 12 3/4in.
27. A. Favray: "Studies" - 8 1/4in. x 12 7/8in.
28. Sieneese School, end of 16th century: "Figure subject" - pen and sepia wash - 9 1/2in. x 7 1/4in.
29. P.P. Caruana: "Studies of a male nude" - pencil - 21 1/4in. x 12 1/2in.
30. P.P. Caruana: "Nativity" - pen and pencil - 8 7/8in. x 5 3/8in.
31. P.P. Caruana (?): "Abraham" pen and wash - 6 3/16in. x 8 1/2in.
32. G. Schranz "Landscape" - sepia and wash - 4 3/4in. x 7in.
33. School of Piazzetta "An oil man holding a staff and a book" - chalk on paper - 13 1/2in. x 16 1/2in.
34. V. Hyzler: "Reclining lady" - Pencil and wash - 9in. x 12in.
35. V. Hyzler: "Finding of Moses" - pencil - 10in. x 12 1/4in.
36. G. Hyzler: "St Michael" - pencil and wash - 29 1/3in. x 21 1/4in.
37. G. Hyzler: "Crucifixion" - pencil - 23in. x 17 1/2in.
38. G. Hyzler: "Christ with His Disciples" - pencil - 11 1/4in. x 13 1/4in.
39. G.B. Piranesi: "Coliseum" - etching; 21 3/4in. x 29 1/2in.

2. Other Objects.

1. 18th century copper plate: "St Aloysius Conzaga" - 7 7/8in.
2. 18th century copper plate: "The Immaculate Conception" - 6 7/8in. x 4 5/16in.
3. Sicilian Art, early 18th century: A terra-cotta relief representing "The Last Supper" - 13in. x 8 1/4in.
4. A Shilling - 1874 - Victoria.
5. A florin - 1954 - Elizabeth II

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VISITORS ADMITTED TO
SITES UNDER THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT DURING
1956/1957 AND 1957/1958**

PLACE	1956 - 1957		1957 - 1958	
	On Payment	Free	On Payment	Free
National Museum	-	-	12,529*	3,038*
The Palace Armoury	7,798	9,777	6,700	10,487
Hal Saffien Hypogeum	3,576	1,114	3,756	1,762
Museum of Roman Antiquities	3,680	1,756	3,187	2,107
St Paul's Catacombs	4,692	945	2,603	570
Tarxien Neolithic Temples	1,377	630	1,193	985
Ghar Dalam Museum	1,955	270	2,432	774
Ggantija Temples, Gozo	471	270	555	164

	1956 - 1957	1957 - 1958
Total No of Visitors admitted on payment	23,549	32,400
Total No of visitors admitted free	15,667	19,889
	£1,977.19s.0d.	£2,277.9s.0d.

* Including number of visitors admitted to Caravaggio Exhibition.



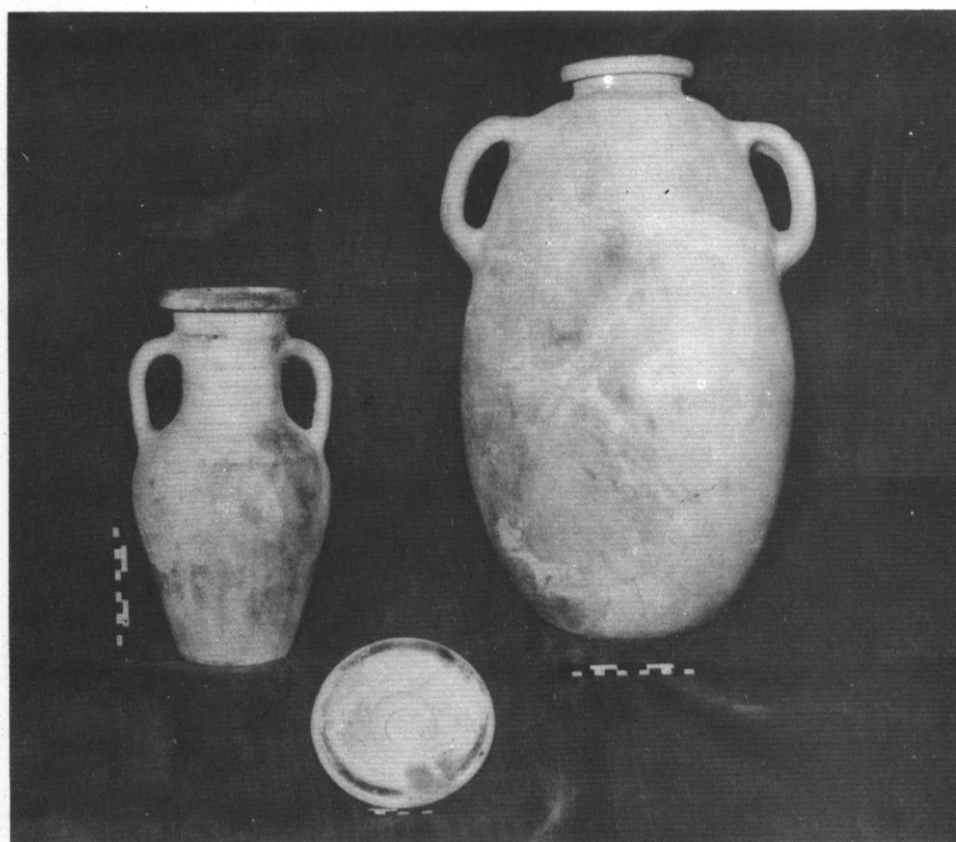
a) Pottery and Glass from Ferris Street, Rabat. (Tomb No. 1)
(Page 3)



b) Pottery from Tarxien. (Tomb No. 1, Chamber A)
(Page 5)



a) Pottery and Glass from Tarxien, (Tomb No. 1, Chamber C).
(Page 6)





Pottery from Mtarfa - (South-west Chamber)
(Page 8)



Roman Troughs at Rabat
(Page 9)



BERNARDO STROZZI: Portrait of a Lady
(Page 9)



A Group of Saracenic Graves at Rabat
Page 9



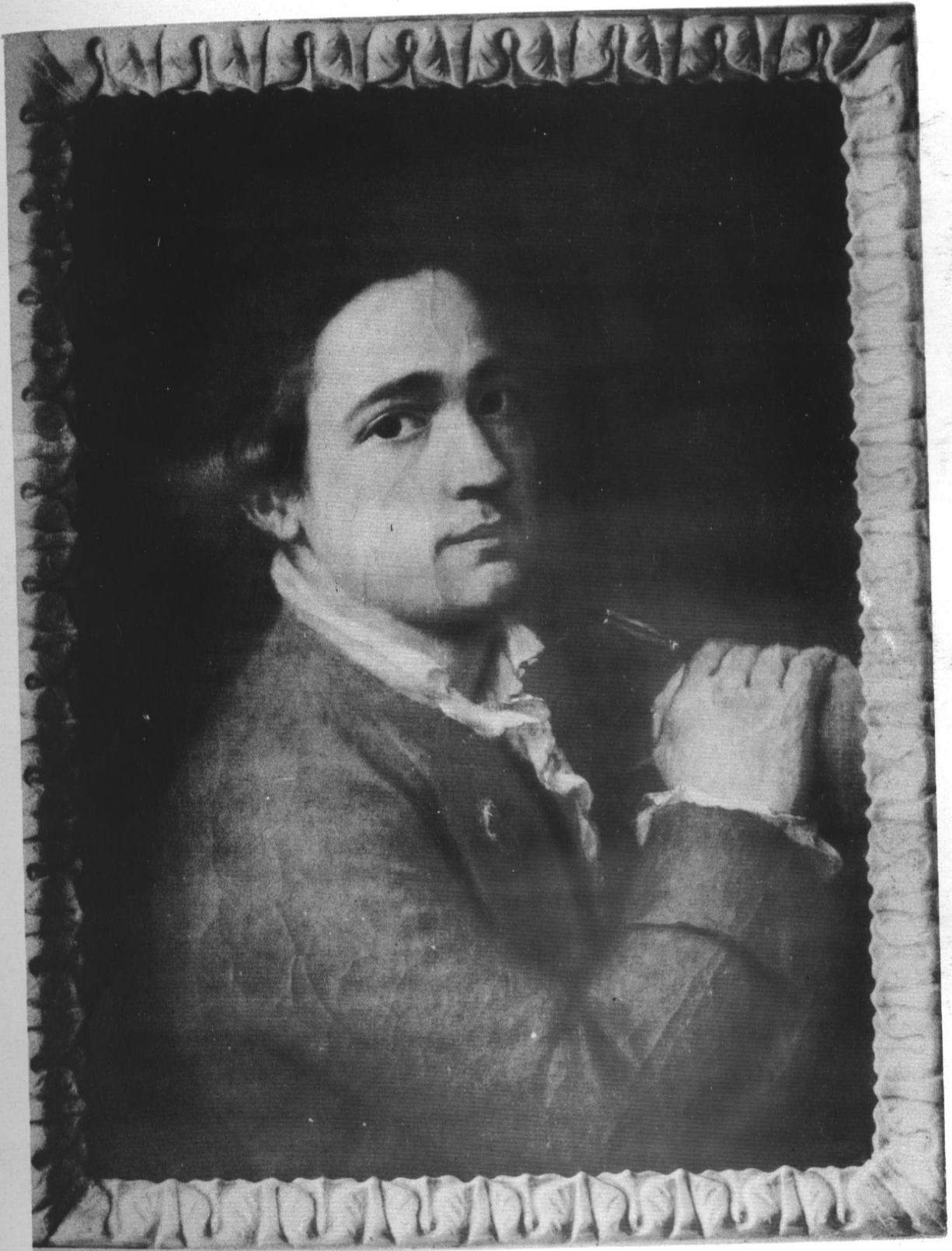
Saracenic Grave at Rabat
(Page 9)



Saracenic Grave at Rabat
(Page 9)



CORRADO GIAGUINTO: Madonna and Child
(Page 9)



GIUSEPPE GRECH: Self-Portrait
(Page 9)



FRANCESCO MAFFEI: An Allegory
(Page 11)

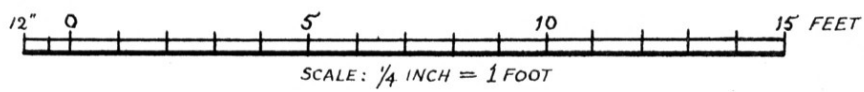
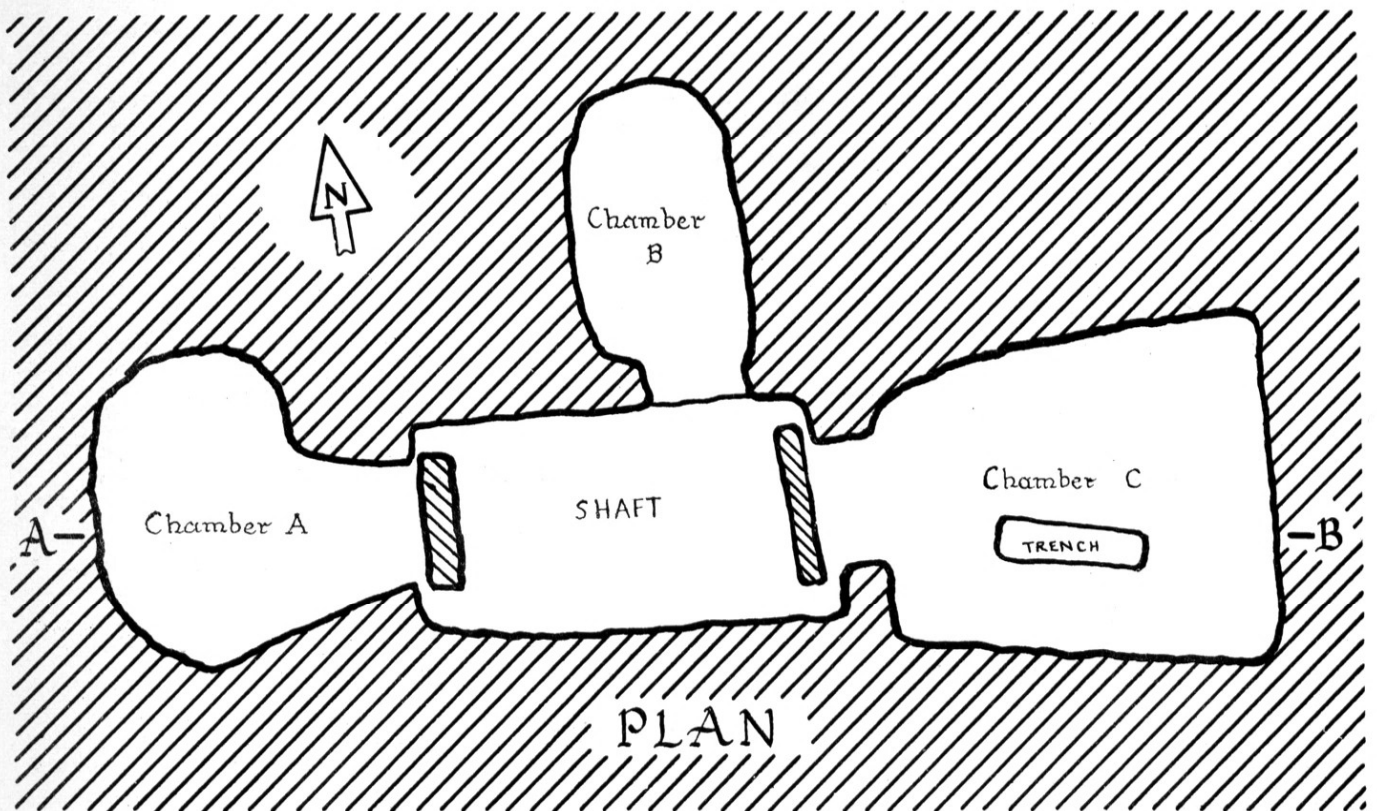
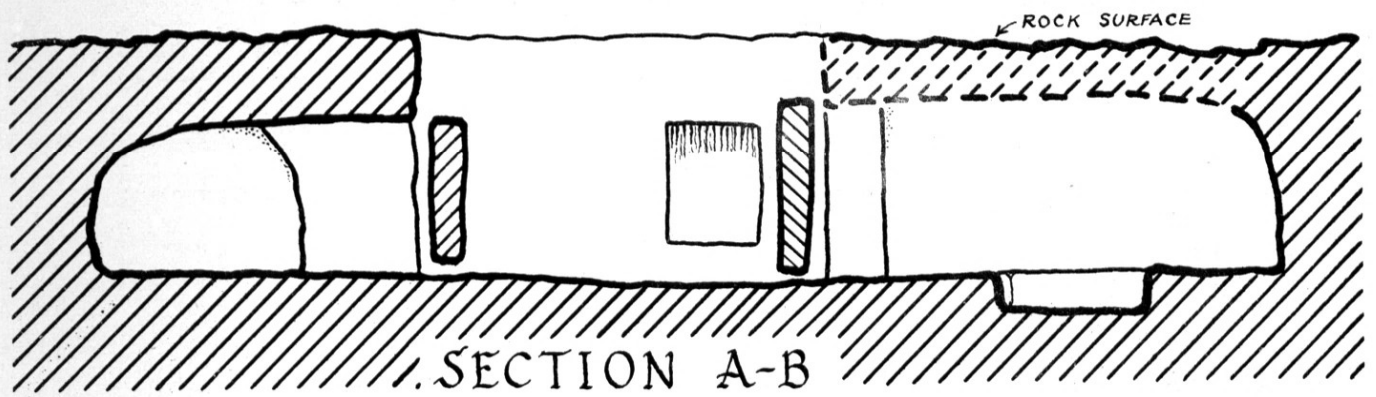


Figure 1 - Tarxien; Rock Tomb No. 1.
(Page 5)

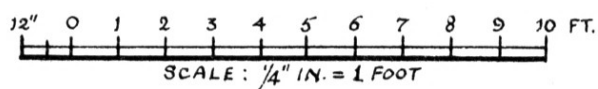
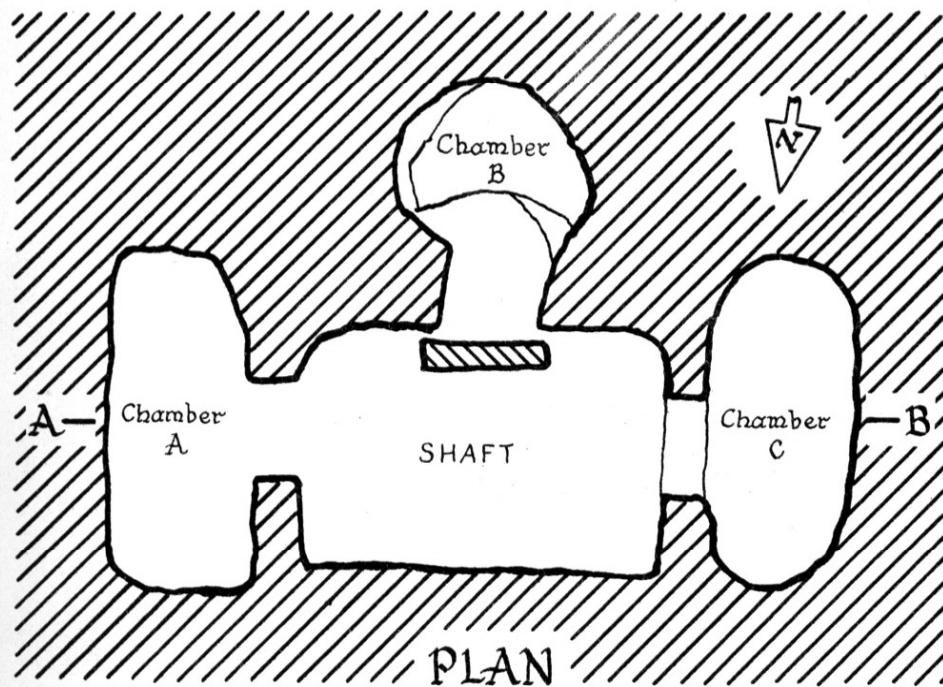
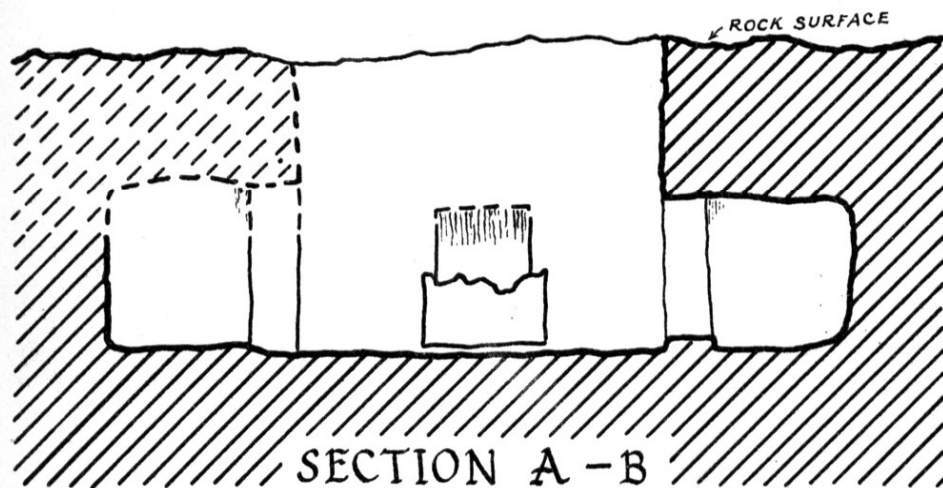


Figure 2 - Tarxien; Rock Tomb No. 2.
(Page 7)

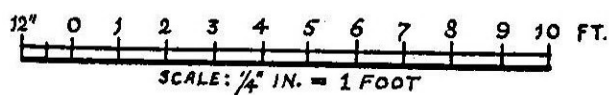
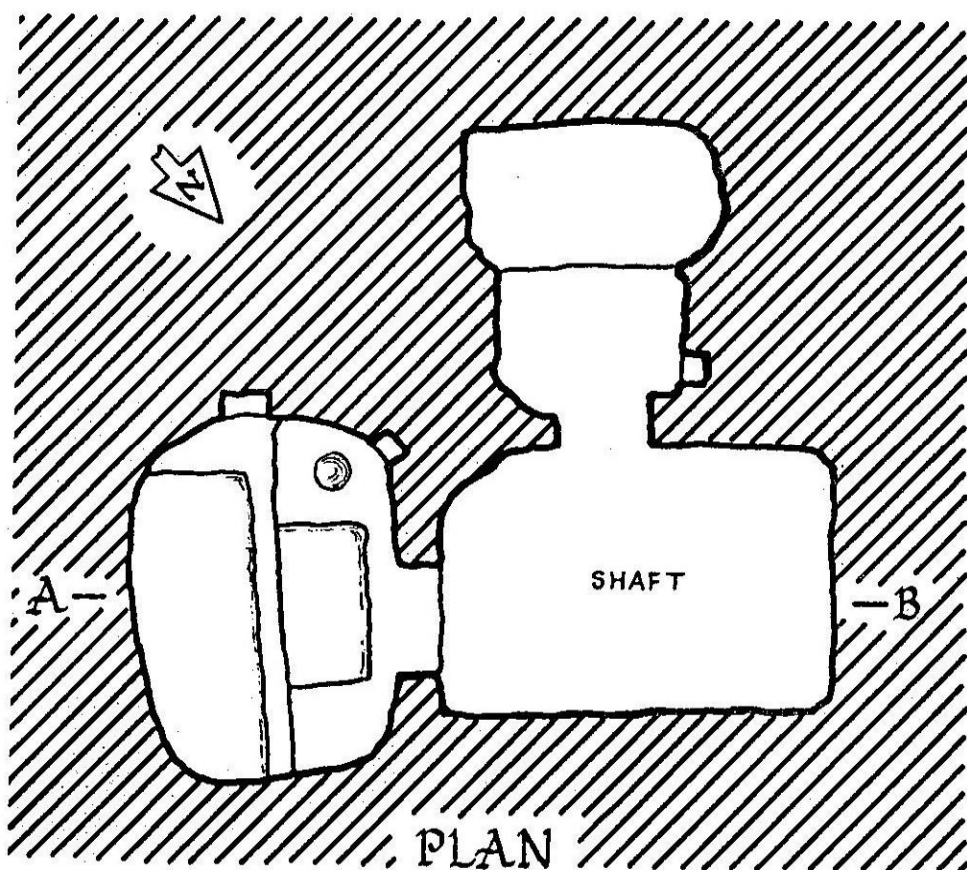
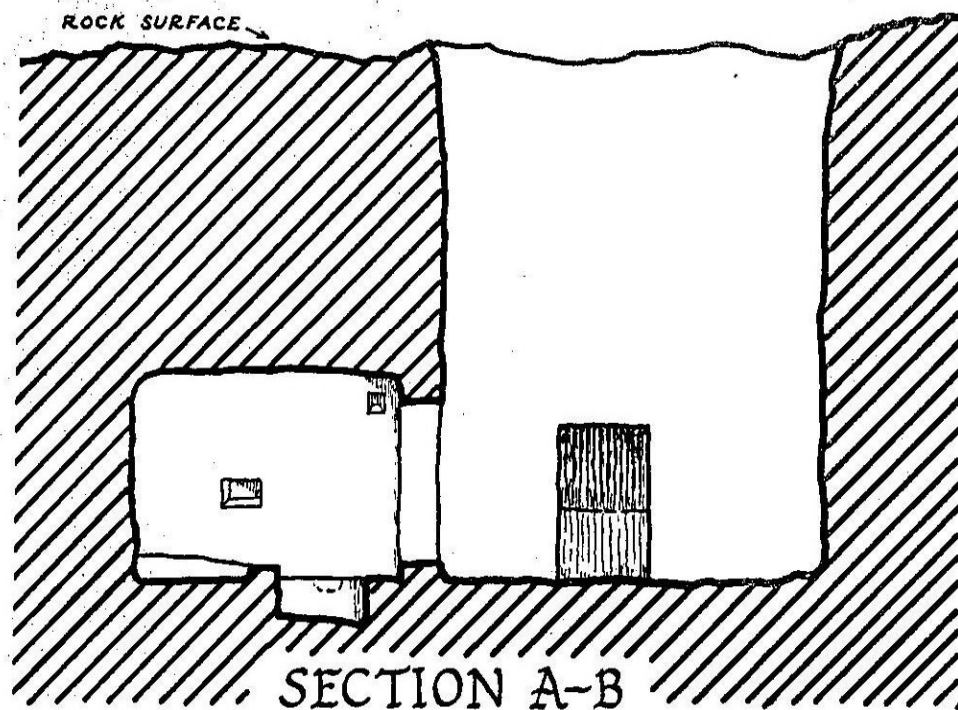


Figure 3 - Rock Tomb at Mtarfa.
(Page 8)