



# REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

# MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1961

MALTA

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION

*Staff.* In June, Mr F.S. Mallia completed satisfactorily the first year of his course at the Institute of Archaeology, London, to qualify him for the Curatorship of Archaeology. Dr D.H. Trump's appointment was extended by two years in November to cover the period of take-over. Mr P. Busuttil and Mr J. Spiteri also attended the Institute for training in restoration work and photography respectively. The latter also spent some time at the Courtauld Institute. He was supported by a British Council grant.

Of volunteer assistants, Mr W. Phelps, B.A. (Oxon.), left to train professionally as an archaeologist in June. Mrs V. Greer, B.A., (Oxon.), continued to give constant help. The assistance of Miss B. Wilson, M.A. (Edinb.), was put on a more permanent footing by her becoming Mrs D.H. Trump. Volunteers recruited from abroad to assist at Skorba included Mr G.E. Chambers, M.A., F.S.A., Mrs I. Ainley, Miss C. Williams, C. Higham, J. Nandris, (the last three from Cambridge) and W. Marshall (of Munich). Mr F.S. Mallia returned to Malta to participate in the Easter campaign during his vacation. Many local residents gave of their time and labour to further the Museum's interests.

*Museums.* Throughout the year, the Recent Activities case was changed constantly to keep it up to date with the new discoveries. The most important results of the year's work, however, were in the field, and it is only when they have been fully evaluated that the public displays, in the Auberge de Provence and the Casa Bondi', can be altered accordingly.

The catalogue of the prehistoric collections, begun by Professor Evans, was completed by the end of the year. The guide-book to the Archaeological Section of the National Museum was put on sale in May. At the end of the year, a slip-in sheet was added taking account of the changes necessitated by recent excavations.

An authoritative checked survey of all known prehistoric antiquities in the islands, marked on the 6" to a mile survey sheets, with an accompanying catalogue, was commenced. By the end of the year, all but a few sites in Gozo had been checked and sheets I to III of Malta had also been completed. For the first time, a full survey of the cartruts was included. This task has led to certain subtractions and additions to the lists. The megalithic sites at Ghajn Żejtuna and Tat-Tomna, both near Mellieħa, have disappeared, the one by sea erosion, the other by quarrying. Those at Ras il-Gebel (Mġarr) and Qala Hill (St. Paul's Bay) have been recognised as fortified villages of the type of Borġ in-Nadur and the Wardija ta' San Gorg. The first three all have cartruts approaching them.

*Restorations.* With the help of a generous grant from UNESCO, restoration work was done on the mosaics at the Roman Baths, Ghajn Tuffieħa, by an Italian expert, Sig. Zorzetto, during January to March. Later in the year, huts were erected over the two main floors to prevent deterioration from recommencing, and the smaller floor fragments were protected in a similar fashion.

## SKORBA

The site at Skorba, on the outskirts of Żebbieħ, a mile east of Mġarr, 438753, has been known since early in the century. A trench in the later 1930's strongly suggested that it was another temple, but it was not then further pursued. By 1960, it was felt that the time was ripe for a proper examination, since no new temple site had been dug for over twenty years, and no other known site held so much promise of detailed information on the earlier prehistory of the islands.

A first campaign ran for five weeks in March and April, a single trench was cut in June, and a further five weeks' work was completed in the autumn, from the beginning of October. More remains to be done. As each campaign followed naturally from the point at which the last had left off, it is unnecessary, confusing even, to attempt to keep the results of each separate. For the same reason, aspects of the excavation incomplete at the end of the year will be dealt with summarily, a full account waiting until the next annual report.

No funds were available until after the first campaign, which was made possible only by the volunteer assistants and help with labour from the Director of Public Works. Later, to clear outstanding debts and to finance further work, grants and donations were received from the following bodies — the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries, members of the Maltese Archaeological Circle and a generous anonymous donor. The army, through the kindness of Col. Cleasby-Thompson, M.B.E., M.C., gave invaluable help with the problem of spoilheap removal. This wealth of assistance is acknowledged with deep gratitude.

*West Temple.* To date, the main structure cleared is a temple of trefoil plan, closely comparable to Mgarr west, Kordin III west or, particularly, the inner three apses of the Ggantija south. Its width internally is 18.40 metres (60 feet), its length, from door sill to boundary wall, 16.70 metres (55 feet). Its construction is securely dated to the Ggantija period by pottery found in the thickness of its walls.

At that time, it consisted of a square central courtyard with three D-shaped apses opening off it. These were approached through a concave facade, now represented only by the packing stones beneath the missing orthostats of the eastern side, and an entrance passage, its paving blocks perforated for libations. The boundary wall was irregular and served simply to retain the earlier deposits (see below) into which the temple was partly cut. The floor at this stage could be examined at only a few points. In the court and west apse it was merely the untreated surface of underlying clay; in the east apse it was at least partly torba-ed. Somewhere within the building had stood a trilithon shrine or altar and a stone bowl, both with pitted decoration.

In the Tarxien phase, drastic alterations were carried out. The inner apse was walled off but a central trilithon doorway of well-dressed globigerina slabs, rebated on the inner side and provided with central V-perforations and bar-holes through the rebate. The four corners of this wall had altars added, solid globigerina blocks or, in the north-east corner, rubble built and plastered. A prepared plaque with a scratched drawing of a temple-facade lay in this rubble. The spaces behind the other altars were also filled with rubble, including the fragment of pitted bowl. The side apses had steps added, incorporating the dismantled shrine, and further, the eastern one had a trilithon entrance and "porthole" slab, possibly between dressed blocks. Within the apse were the stumps of two trilithon altars, though these might go back to the Ggantija phase.

Small finds and pottery were disappointingly scarce within the temple by reason of later re-occupation, in the Tarxien Cemetery phase. The central apse had cross-walls of rougher workmanship added, splitting it into two smaller rooms. In the larger of these was a bench following the wall, originally clay plastered. There is good evidence that the temple was already in a dilapidated state and its front apses may have been completely ruinous as they were used for rubbish tips only. Finds here included a small juglet, bone pin, fragment of bronze saw, three larger jars (restored from sherds) and the foot of a figurine.

Destruction of the temple began as soon as it was first abandoned. Damage continued, however, down to a recent date, when the orthostats flanking the entrance passage were broken off at original ground level by slotting and wedging. The removal of the facade and southern walls of the side apses was probably completed at the same time. As now standing, the 4 metre high "menhir" west of the inner end of the entrance and the stumps of the entrance orthostats are all that survive at original floor level forward of the axis of the side apses. Towards the back of

the temple, however, all walls survive to about 1.50 metres, the Tarxien door-jambs are complete at a height of 1.90 (the lintel is broken and pushed into the central court), and the orthostats at the angles between the central and side apses stand 2.40 metres above the torba.

*Western outbuildings.* Subsequent to the temple, though within the same phase, are buildings butted against its boundary wall on the west. One only was completely cleared in 1961, the nearest. It was of circular form, its floor torba-ed, its walls plastered, and both then red ochred. A small patch of coloured plaster survived in position. Any doorway was in the destroyed southern half. This chamber went out of use before the end of the phase.

Part of a second room beyond was cleared, of the same date but remaining in use down to the succeeding Saffieni phase, when its torba floor was renewed at a higher level. Trial trenches to the north struck others which await complete excavation. From one of these floors were recovered one complete and several restorable fine vessels of Ggantija type.

Traces of megalithic masonry in the terrace bounding the field in front of the temple were investigated. They proved to be part of an original terrace, like the forecourts at the Ggantija and Mnajdra, again contemporary with the temple.

*East Temple.* The eastern boundary wall of the west temple was interrupted by a torba floor not communicating with the apse. Its floor, and the wall between it and the facade, produced copious Tarxien phase material. When considered with the megalithic blocks in the wall of the lane to the east, it seems likely that a second building, possibly another trefoil temple, abuts on the west temple on this side. There was no Bronze Age admixture here.

*Earlier levels.* As mentioned above, the temple of Skorba was cut back into sloping deposits of earlier date to produce a level floor. On the other hand, it is probably the masonry of the temple which has preserved the exceptional depth of 2.50 metres (8 feet) of deposits from subsequent erosion, and it is certainly the temple ruins which attracted attention to the site. It is these levels which have given the most important results of the year, indeed, the most important step forward in our understanding of prehistoric Malta since Professor J.D. Evans's great advance in 1953-4.

It is now clear that period I has to be recast. Eight phases can now be recognised (Evans had five) and their order is firmly fixed stratigraphically in the Skorba trenches. The first six were all present in trench PA, five in GA, four in ZA. The new sequence runs — Ghar Dalam (not previously found in an undisturbed level), Grey Skorba, Red Skorba (these two not recognised before), Żebbuġ, Mġarr (these two in the reverse order to Evans), Ggantija, Saffieni (now distinguished clearly enough to be separated from the next), Tarxien. Carbon samples have been collected from all but the first two phases which should, on testing, give a firm basis for the chronology.

The two new phases, named from this, the first site where they were found, need further treatment here. Both are characterised by a grey ware with frequent small white grits never found in other phases, by pedestalled vessels and splayed lugs. In all these, however, they differ slightly from each other. The pottery in the earlier phase is unslipped, retaining a grey, brown or rarely pinkish surface, pedestals are short and vertical, lugs simply splayed. It is undecorated. Some coarse pedestals and rather gritty sherds found in pure Ghar Dalam levels suggest that Grey Skorba is locally developed from the preceding phase. Red Skorba, in view of the many close similarities, is clearly a more evolved version of the Grey. It is usually slipped in red, occasionally in black, its pedestals are longer and slope out to their junction with the bowl (a most unusual feature), its lugs more exaggerated, of true trumpet form. Simple scratched decoration appears — a sort of wheat-ear chevron either side of a carination, or loops of uncertain design due to the small size of the sherds yet found.



Red Skorba bears important resemblances to the Diana ware of Sicily, Lipari and southern Italy, yet is locally derived. Only further work there can decide between the two possible explanations. Either the sequences here and in Sicily followed each other closely, contacts between them keeping them in step, and a culture similar to Grey Skorba will eventually be found there to link Stentinello (= Ghar Dalam) with Diana (= Red Skorba) as Grey Skorba does in Malta. Or such development occurred only in Malta, whence Red Skorba was later passed back to Sicily, thence spreading widely as the Diana culture.

More material is needed for study of both these phases. In particular, an enigmatic structure consisting so far of 7 metres of light, straight wall, with a clay floor running up to it, sealed in a Grey Skorba level beneath the western outbuildings, demands full investigation.

Zebbug, which follows Red Skorba, is a completely foreign tradition, deriving from Copper Age Sicily, San Cono. A case could be made out for reviving the term Maltese Neolithic, rejected by Evans, to be applied to the first three phases of the local sequence. The remaining five, Zebbug to Tarxien, would then become the Maltese Copper Age or Chalcolithic. The break now apparent here is nearly as great as that which separates Evans's periods I and II.

As well as giving stratigraphic proof of the correct order of Zebbug and Mgarr, the upper levels of the trenches behind the temple gave further useful results. In particular, all three trenches encountered traces of dwellings of the Zebbug phase, light huts dug partly into the ground, with deeper hearths. Part of an axe head of imported hard stone came from one such hearth. Here too might be mentioned slingstones in the Red Skorba level. A large fragment of a restorable jar of the Mgarr phase was recovered and further light was thrown on the little understood Pellegrin ware. This is a hard-fired bright red ware, often with a plastery surface. Shapes were very simple, and it must be regarded as a coarse ware for domestic cooking pots. A few sherds seem to link its origin to the yellow-buff version of Zebbug, but it became common only in the Mgarr and Ggantija phases. Finally, from a level of the latter date, unfortunately with sporadic material of many earlier phases, came an intriguing head of small size and strongly Cycladic cast of features.

#### OTHER TEMPLE SITES

At the end of the spring campaign at Skorba, levels of Ghar Dalam, Grey Skorba, Zebbug and Ggantija date had been found, leaving the relationships of Mgarr highly problematical. It was still believed to precede Zebbug. During the summer, trial trenches were dug at several sites with the object of elucidating this point.

*Skorba.* A trench west of the temple discovered the outbuildings and the underlying Grey Skorba structure, but threw no light on the immediate problem.

*Mgarr.* In the right apse of Mgarr east a trench found Saffieni sherds lying on the lowest floor, in contradiction to Evan's date (Mgarr phase) for this building. In this floor were Zebbug sherds and charcoal fragments, the source of the sample which he had collected for C 14 dating. The figure of  $2700 \pm 150$  B.C. therefore pertains to the Zebbug phase, not Mgarr as published. A later trench in the western apse located a level with Ggantija material passing beneath the temple wall. Mgarr east cannot, then, be earlier than that phase.

A Zebbug date for Mgarr west was supported by a trench in its central apse, but its position as by far the oldest temple was anomalous considering its comparatively advanced form. When it was re-investigated in November, Ggantija sherds were found low in the wall fill, the Zebbug ones having come from earlier levels not completely cut away when, as at Skorba, the temple was built into them. No temple, therefore, can now be dated before the Ggantija phase, which saw their origin and development as far as the four-apse form. Evans's theory explaining them as copies of rock-cut tombs remains the most likely.

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*Kordin III.* Trenches just behind the eastern temple showed the cause of Evan's mistaken stratigraphy here, an accidental admixture of Zebbug sherds in a later level. By demonstrating a gradual transition from Mgarr to Ggantija levels, it strongly supported the suspicions that Mgarr was later than Zebbug.

*Santa Verna.* A pit beneath the Saffieni-phase temple was found to contain Zebbug material above a Grey Skorba level.

However, the final version of the new sequence, discounting the possibility of future additions or refinements, was not completed until the levels behind Skorba already described, were investigated in October.

### ACCIDENTAL FINDS

A number of finds of archaeological importance were made accidentally during the year. The tombs will be dealt with together in the next section.

At *Tal Mejtin*, Luqa, (see Annual Reports for 1959-60 and 1960) a further cistern was found and cleared. It was of irregular shape, much shallower than its neighbours, and apparently unfinished. A clay sample taken from the 1960 cistern was kindly analysed for pollen grains by Professor H. Godwin of the Botany School, Cambridge. It gave a picture of the local vegetation at the time the cistern was in use, the Late Bronze Age from the sherds found in it. Professor Godwin's report is included as Appendix I below.

In April, Public Works Department labourers found a hoard of late Roman coins at *Doni Street, Rabat*, which were immediately passed to the Museum. R.A.G. Carson of the British Museum kindly agreed to examine them. His report is included as Appendix II below.

In preparing the ground for building a new village school at *Zejtun*, 582675, traces of Roman masonry and some pottery came to light. Investigation by this department showed that the remains were slight.

On the shore of *Marsaxlokk* towards Qrajten Point, 590655, two skeletons were reported in the same area as has produced them before (Annual Report 1960, etc.). One, male, on its back east-west, its head to the west, had been somewhat disturbed. The skull itself was missing. Of the other, only a femur, a vertebra and the mandible survived. There were no accompanying finds.

At the end of December, a trench to take a deep drain from the new public convenience in *It-Tokk, Victoria, Gozo*, 315892, turned up archaeological material and was thereafter kept under observation. The cultural levels extended through some 3.50 metres (11½ feet) and the length of the square, 52 metres (171 feet). A few sherds immediately above the natural clay indicated a first occupation in the Early Bronze Age. Above this, levels, including a few floors and rough walls, contained sherds of Punic type. Amongst these were some of a coarse handmade, red-slipped and burnished ware not previously recognised here. The major part of the deposit, however, with many floors and walls, was of the Roman period. Later periods were represented by pits and wells only. A careful drawing of the trench section was made for record purposes.

Two groups of Roman pottery deserve further mention. The ruins of a cellar contained wine amphorae, of which substantial fragments of four were recovered, three bearing the stamps of their makers — AGAS, BALI and ONO. Much higher, a burnt level, perhaps a burnt out house, produced several small vessels including three lamps, two complete. These bore a cross design, two running dogs, and two monkeys carrying a bunch of grapes from a pole across their shoulders, with the chi-rho monogram above. The finds are preserved in the Casa Bondi'.



- ✓ At *Ta' Kandja*, Mqabba, work on the extension to Luqa runway which disclosed a tomb and catacomb in 1960 (see the Annual Report for that year) came upon another a short distance away, 516673. This had a square shaft and sub-rectangular chambers running parallel to its south and east sides. The latter had been despoiled, probably recently. The former contained a Punic-type amphora, an oinochoe, two saucers, two jarlets, a carinated bowl and fragments of a saucer of unbaked clay. With these lay a bronze pin, pointed at either end, and three beads, two "bullseye", the third of plain blue glass. There were also the skeleton of a young man and scattered bones of a woman and, in the trench by the door, a child.
- ✓ Extension of a quarry at *Misraħ Sinjura*, Qrendi, 511663, disclosed two tombs of Roman form, a rectangular chamber on the same axis as a rectangular shaft. Both were empty. The second had three rough carvings on its wall, a human head and two very stylised human figures of which one was defaced before it could be removed to safety. These are most unusual.
- ✓ Beside Ponsonby Road, *Mosta*, 488733, a similar tomb was found in October. Though recently rifled, the contents were recovered from the finder. They consisted of small pieces only, two jarlets, two bowls, a bilychnis lamp, a saucer and an unguentarium.
- ✓ The same day, a tomb was reported at the farmhouse *Tal Bloq*, Ghajn Tuffieha, 424769. The shaft was again rectangular with a chamber opening from the end of it, but of an unusual form. Two steps led down through an inwardly projecting entrance. One end was divided as if for a double interment. A shelf ran round that end and the long wall opposite the door. There had been five inhumation burials here, three males of 25 to 30 years of age and two elderly females, of 50 and over 60, and also one cremation in a cinerary jar. Other pottery included a Punic amphora with a potter's mark, a bilychnis, a saucer, a jarlet and six variously shaped bowls.
- ✓ Two further tombs were found and cleared at *Wied Rini*, Bahrija, 407723. Like previous ones here (see 1959-60) they had been violated. One had no features of interest. The other, a subtriangular chamber in a slight escarpment, entered from the end of a shallow rectangular shaft, contained sherds of two cinerary urns (the chamber was too small for inhumations), a saucer, an unguentarium and other sherds.
- ✓ Behind the old Government Technical School at *Mrieħel*, 511723, a shallow pit in the rock containing pottery and bones came to light, all in poor shape. A Punic amphora could be recognised among the fragments.

## UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

Results from this new branch of research continue to accumulate. The Museum's grateful thanks are due to the various diving teams who have helped — H.M.S. *Falcon*, the Fleet Diving Centre (Manoel Island), the R.A.F. Subaqua Club, the Malta Subaqua Club and Captain O.F. Gollcher's team (a branch of the International Institute of Mediterranean Archaeology). In August, an expedition from Imperial College, London, under Mr J.D. Woods, visited the island to carry out underwater exploration.

*Xlendi*. The most important discovery by far was the material recovered from depths of 30 to 60 metres (100 to 200 feet) along the reef at the mouth of *Xlendi* Bay, Gozo. The site was located by a team from H.M.S. *Falcon*, Hal Far under Lt. Martins in June, and was more fully studied by the Manoel Island and Imperial College teams, with help from the others.

Apart from a few stray pieces, including a Tarxien Cemetery sherd, this material appears to come from two wrecks, a comparatively poor one of about the 5th century A.D. and a very rich one of the 2nd century B.C. The latter carried a cargo of amphorae of very varied form, including Punic (20), Spanish Punic (3), Roman (11), Italian Greek (34) and Aegean Greek (10) forms. One of the last had the potter's mark EROI on the neck. The variety demonstrates the wide-ranging trade in the Mediterranean immediately following on its conquest by Rome.

Also from the wreck were the complete lead parts of one anchor and the stocks of two more. One of these had four letters on its side which cannot now be deciphered. There were four parts to the first — the stock, a solid bar with a square shaft-hole for the shank at the centre; the collar, a frame to bind the three wooden elements together, with a vertical hole for the shank and an oblique one on either side for the flukes; and two thinner bars of uncertain use, perhaps let into the flukes to give their tips added holding power.

*Other sites.* Anchor stocks of similar shape were raised by the R.A.F. Sub-aqua Club off Qala and by J. Ripard and V. Micallef-De Cesare off Marsalforn. The latter was of quite exceptional size, with a weight around 500 lbs. Material continued to come from Salina Bay, emphasising its importance to shipping in later Roman times. Capt. O.F. Gollcher presented the Gozo Museum, through the Gozo Civic Council, with a small marble head of Hellenistic type and a bronze leg recovered by his team in Gozitan waters. An Italo-Greek amphora dredged from a depth of 33 metres on the Hurd Bank, 12 miles to the north east of Malta, was given to the Fishery Department, who reported it to the Museum.

A temporary display of this interesting collection was prepared in the Gozo Museum, the remainder, in the absence of proper storage facilities, being stacked in the Medieval Room until better accomodation could be found.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

In view of the increase in articles on Museum Department activities and Maltese archaeology generally which have appeared during the year, it is proposed in future to list these in the Annual Report for reference purposes.

*C 14 date for the Maltese early neolithic.* J.D. Evans. *Antiquity*, June 1961, p. 143. Result from a sample collected at Mgarr in 1954. 2700 B.C. But see text on Mgarr above.

*The later prehistory of Malta.* D.H. Trump. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, vol. 27, 1961, p. 253. A full report of the 1959 excavations at Borg in-Nadur and Bahrija.

*The trefoil temple of Skorba.* D.H. Trump. *Illustrated London News*, 12. VIII. 1961, p. 248. A preliminary report of the spring campaign, 1961.

*ditto.* 30. XII. 1961, p. 1144. A preliminary report of the autumn campaign, 1961.

*Skorba, detective work on Malta's past.* D.H. Trump. *Sunday Times of Malta*, 24. XI. 61, p. 11. An account of the work leading up to the change in the prehistoric culture sequence.

*Skorba, Malta and the Mediterranean.* D.H. Trump. *Antiquity*, December 1961, p. 300. Light from Skorba on the Brea-Evans controversy (*Antiquity*, June, p. 132 and September 1960, p. 218).



## APPENDIX I

Report on a pollen sample from a late Borg in-Nadur cistern at Tal Mejtin, by Professor H. Godwin, F.R.S., Botany School, Cambridge University.

There were no identifiable macroscopic remains and the pollen grains were extremely sparse. What, however, emerges is that of the total pollen counted, trees (entirely pine) constituted a very small fraction of the whole. The most abundant pollen is that of various types found within the compositae. There are also a good many associated with the genus *Plantago* (plantain) and a few miscellaneous forms of other herbaceous families. Grasses are very infrequent and there are very few shrubs, although there is a certain frequency of pollen grains that belong to the same morphological type as the Olive (*Olea*).

The picture as a whole is certainly that of a landscape round the cisterns from which native woodland has disappeared, and where weeds of cultivation are prevalent. One has no means of knowing just what the *Olea* pollen type represents, whether it is from planted trees or from wild plants of this family.

## APPENDIX II

Report on a hoard of mid-fourth century bronze coins from Doni Street, Rabat, by R.A.G. Carson, assistant Keeper, Department of Coins and Medals British Museum.

### A HOARD OF MID-FOURTH CENTURY BRONZE COINS FROM MALTA

This hoard of 65 bronze coins found at Doni Street, Rabat, Malta in April, 1961 consisted, with one exception, exclusively of coins of Constantius II as Augustus and of Julian as Caesar. The exception was a single small bronze of the deified Constantine I. The coins of Constantius II which account for 56 of the number are of two types only: the FEL TEMP REPARATIO, Falling horseman, of  $\text{Æ}$  3 module and the smaller variety at that and the SPES REIPUBLICAE, Emperor standing, of  $\text{Æ}$  4 module. With the exception of the coin of Constantine, all the coins of the hoard fall within the period A.D.351-360, the joint reign of Constantius II with Constantius Gallus and subsequently, from A.D.355, with Julian as his Caesar. The majority of the coins are so badly preserved that it has not been possible to attribute them all to specific mints. The signatures which can be read are of the mints of Rome, Aquileia, Thessalonica, Heraclea, Constantinople, Cyzicus and Nicomedia. None of the mints of the western provinces is represented.

The details of the coins are listed below with references to Carson, Hill and Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*.

# CONSTANTINE I

A.D.

1. *Rev.* VN-MR, Uncertain mint, cf. *LRBC I*, 1063, 341-46.

## CONSTANTIUS II

### Rome

2. *Rev.* FEL TEMP REPARATIO  $\overline{R^*P}$ , *LRBC II*, 674, 352-4.
3. "  $\overline{RP}$ , " 677, "
4. "  $\overline{RQ}$ , " 680, "
- 5-6. "  $\overline{R \cdot M \cdot P}$ , " 684, 355-60.
- 7-8. "  $\overline{RQP}$ , " 687, "
9. "  $\overline{RQQ}$ , " 687, "
- 10-11. *Rev.* SPES REIPVBLICE  $\overline{RQQ}$ , " 689, "
- 12-13. "  $\overline{R^*P}$ , " 691, "
14. *Rev.* FEL TEMP REPARATIO  $\overline{\frac{M}{AQP}}$ , " 939, "
15. "  $\overline{AQP}$ , " 950, "

### Thessalonica

16. *Rev.* FEL TEMP REPARATIO  $\overline{SMTS\Gamma}$ , " 1687, "
17. *Rev.* SPES REIPVBLICE  $\overline{SMTSB}$ , " 1689, "

### Heraclea

18. *Rev.* FEL TEMP REPARATIO  $\overline{SMHA}$ , " 1900, "

### Constantinople

19. *Rev.* FEL TEMP REPARATIO  $\overline{CONSA}$ , " 2039, "
20. "  $\overline{CONSA}$ , " 2041, "
21. "  $\overline{\frac{M}{CONSA}}$ , " 2049, "
22. "  $\overline{CONSA}$ , " 2053, "



Nicomedia

23. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\overline{SMNA}$ , <i>LRBC II</i> ,	2311,	A.D. 355-60.
24.	"	$\frac{\cdot M \cdot   ?}{\overline{SMNA}}$ ,	" cf. 2313,	"
25.	"	$\frac{A  }{\overline{SMNA}}$ ,	" " "	"
26. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\overline{SMNA}$ ,	" 2315,	"
27.	"	$\overline{SMNA\Delta}$ ,	" " "	"

Cyzicus

28. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\overline{SMKB}$ ,	" 2498,	"
29. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\overline{SMK///}$	" 2504,	"

Uncertain Mint

30.-35. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\frac{M  }{?}$	" cf. 458,	"
36.-45.	"	?	" " "	"
46.-56. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	?	" cf. 689,	"

JULIAN /

Rome

57. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\overline{RMS*}$ ,	" cf. 686,	"
58. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\overline{R*P}$ ,	" 692,	"

Constantinople

59. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\frac{\cdot M \cdot  }{\overline{CONSS}}$ ,	" 2051,	"
60. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\overline{CONS///}$ ,	" 2054,	"

Nicomedia

61. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\overline{SMNA\Delta}$ ,	" 2316,	"
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Uncertain Mint

62. <i>Rev.</i>	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	$\frac{ }{?}$ ,	" cf. 683,	"
63.-65. <i>Rev.</i>	SPES REIPVBLICE	$\frac{ }{?}$ ,	" cf. 692,	"

## RESTORATION WORKS AT THE MAGISTERIAL PALACE, VALLETTA

The restoration works on the frescoes in the Supreme Council Chamber known also as the Hall of St. Michael and St. George proceeded with interruptions owing to functions held in the hall.

On instructions from the Colonial A.D.C. to His Excellency the works in question had to be constantly interrupted during the year under review.

## RESTORATION WORKS AT ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

*Cycle of Paintings by M. Preti*

The restoration works on the painted vault of the old Conventual Church of the Order were continued by the Italian restorers from the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Rome. The Istituto Centrale is responsible for the said restoration works.

In the course of the year under review, a bay and a half were cleaned and restored and the apse was similarly cleaned and restored.

*The Crypt*

Restoration works to the decorated ceiling were carried out under the supervision of this Department.

## RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS

*Museum*

Palma Giovane: Fall of the walls of Jericho.

(?) Pietro Testa: Classical subject.

Maltese school early XIX cent.: Portrait of a boy.

Antonio Joli: Architectural capriccio.

P. Cuschieri: Ecstasy of S. Theresa.

Neapolitan School XVIII cent.: Madonna with S. Stanislas and Angels.

Flemish School early XVII cent.: Landscape.

Neapolitan School XVII cent.: A Beggar.

Flemish School XVII cent.: Horse and Groom.

After S. del Piombo: Christ carrying the Cross.

S. Erardi: Head of Christ Child.

S. Erardi: Virgin of Sorrows.

(?) D. Roberts: View of the Grand Harbour.

*Magisterial Palace*

G. d'Arena: Martyrdom of S. Lawrence.

French School, end XVII cent.; Portrait of Grand Master Adrien de Wignacourt.

*St. John's Co-Cathedral*

(?) Cassarini: Baptism of Christ.



*Jesuits' Church*

Italian School XVIII cent.: Flower piece (pendentive).

Italian School XVIII cent.: Flower piece (pendentive).

*Victory Church*

Italian School XVII cent.: Portrait of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt.

Probably by Cassarini: Temptation of S. Anthony.

(?) Cassarini: Portrait of Grand Master La Valette.

*Liesse Church*

Cassarini: S. Maurus.

*The Collegio, Rabat*

(?) B. Luti: Mater Dolorosa (tondo).

EXHIBITION AT VALLETTA

The annual exhibition in commemoration of the victory over the Turks in 1565, was held in the Armoury of the Magisterial Palace, Valletta, from 1st to 12th September. The number of visitors was 5,297.

EXHIBITION AT VERSAILLES

On 25 May cases containing arms and armour, paintings, ceramics and other works of art connected with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem were embarked on the French warship "Berlaimont" en route to Toulon. The objects were shown in the Chateau de Versailles at the exhibition "Malte, Huit Siècles d'Histoire".

ACCESSIONS

*By Bequest*

*Pictures*

T.L. Hornbrook: The Grand Harbour, Valletta — oil on canvas —  $33\frac{1}{2} \times 47$  ins.

Bequeathed by the late Mrs. H.E. Griffie Williams.

G. Duca: Portrait of Mrs Annunziata Psaila — pastels —  $28 \times 23$  ins.

Bequeathed by the late Mons. C. Psaila, C.B.E., D.Litt.

*By Gift*

Hans Heysen: Landscape — water-colour —  $14 \times 18\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

Presented to the people of Malta by the Honourable A.R. Downer M.P. Minister of Immigration on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of the arrival of the 25,00th assisted migrants from Malta on March, 1960.

*Coins*

A Maltese coin, Phoenician period.

Given by Mr Anthony Debattista.

Silver three pence, 1907, Edward VII.

Silver three pence, 1922, George V.

Given by the Rev. Fr. L. Calleja, O.F.M.

- Shilling, 1885, Victoria.
- Farthing, 1925, George V.
- Penny, 1948, George V.
- Half penny, 1960, Elizabeth II.
- Half crown, 1961, Elizabeth II.
- Florin, 1961, Elizabeth II.
- Shilling, 1961, Elizabeth II.
- Sixpence, 1961, Elizabeth II.
- Three pence, 1961, Elizabeth II.

Given by Mr J.M. Spiteri.

A bronze medal commemorating the election of the Venerable Bailiff Fra Ernesto Paterno' Castello as Lieutenant of the Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta, 1955.

Given by Sir H.P. Scicluna.

*Other Objects*

A set of Malta Postage and Revenue Stamps; 1/-, -/3d, -/1½d. issued on the 15th April, 1961, commemorating the award of the George Cross to Malta.

Given by the Post Master General.

Probably Venetian 18th century: sailing boat — glass, 6½ ins. height.

Given by Dr. J.A. Cauchi, Curator of Fine Arts.

A scale model in stone of the Sacra Infermeria, Valletta .

Given by Dr. Paul Cassar, M.D., D.P.M.

A Roman breviary in four volumes used by the late Mons. C. Psaila, C.B.E., D.Litt.

Given by Mr C. Vassallo, Ph.C.

A Roman lead anchor from off Qala point Gozo.

Given by Malta and R.A.F. Subaqua Club.

A Roman lead anchor stock from Marsalforn, Gozo.

Given by Mr V. DeCesare and Mr M.P. Ripard.

The following items were transferred to the National Museum from various Government Departments:

An 18th century silver sanctuary lamp, embossed with the arms of Grand Masters Cottoner and Perellos and the emblem of the Order — 35 × 12 ins.

An 18th century incense boat.

An 18th century silver thurible embossed with the arms of Grand Master Perellos and of the Order — 35½ × 3¾ ins.

A marble ornament, Roman period.

Given by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. G. Agius D.D., J.D.C.



Three 19th century silk bodices.

Given by Mr Anthony Gremona, D.Litt.

XIX century wooden cotton-gin.

XIX century wooden chest.

Given by the Rev. Jesuits' Fathers.

XIX century Casserole (Baqra).

Given by Mr Michael Zammit.

The last five items are preserved in the Gozo Museum.

### *By Purchase*

#### *Paintings*

Neapolitan School, XVII cent.: A beggar — oil on canvas —  $38\frac{1}{2} \times 29\frac{3}{4}$  ins.

Neapolitan School, XVIII cent.: Madonna, St. Stanislas and Angels — oil on canvas —  $28\frac{1}{2} \times 19\frac{3}{4}$  ins.

P. Cuschieri: Ecstasy of S. Theresa — oil on canvas —  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 6$  ins.

(?) D. Roberts: A view of the Grand Harbour, Valletta, with the Upper Barracca on the right — oil on canvas —  $11 \times 15$  ins.

(?) Pietro Testa: Classical subject — oil on canvas —  $18\frac{1}{4} \times 22$  ins.

Francesco Zahra: S. John the Evangelist — oil on canvas —  $31 \times 25\frac{3}{4}$  ins.

Antonio Joli: Architectural capriccio — oil on canvas —  $38\frac{3}{4} \times 38\frac{1}{4}$  ins.

School of M. Preti: A man in turban — oil on canvas —  $52\frac{1}{2} \times 38\frac{3}{4}$  ins.

Palma Giovane: The fall of the walls of Jericho — oil on canvas —  $34\frac{1}{2} \times 61\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

Palma Giovane: The triumph of David — oil on canvas —  $34\frac{1}{2} \times 61\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

#### *Drawings*

Attributed to F. Overbeck: Twenty eight (28) drawings for intarsias of choir stalls in Mdina Cathedral, measuring:

Fifteen;  $29\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  ins.

Eight;  $43 \times 16\frac{1}{4}$  ins.

Three;  $23\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

Two;  $23\frac{3}{4} \times 30$  ins.

#### *Furniture*

18th century Maltese veneered chest of drawers, serpentine fronted.

19th century writing desk which was used by the late Maltese Poet, Mons. C. Psaila, C.B.E., D.Litt.

A bronze sesterius of Severus Alexander (222-235 A.D.).

A bronze antoninus of Gallienus (253-268 A.D.).

A bronze saracenic coin, IX century.

A gold Zecchino of Grand Master Verdala (1582-95).

A silver Tari' piece, 1776, Grand Master De Rohan.

Half crown, 1825, George IV.

Third farthing, George IV.

Half farthing, 1844, Victoria.

Florin, 1849, Victoria.

Farthing, 1886, Victoria.

Half crown, 1896, Victoria.

Half crown, 1900, Victoria.

Third farthing, 1900, Victoria.

Sovereign, 1917, George V.

Sovereign, 1918, George V.

Sovereign, 1919, George V.

Sovereign, 1920, George V.

Sovereign, 1922, George V.

Sovereign, 1923, George V.

Sovereign, 1925, George V.

Sovereign, 1927, George V.

Sovereign, 1929, George V.

Sovereign, 1931, George V.

Farthing, 1929, George V.

One third or a farthing, 1913, Geoger V.

Crown, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Crown, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Half crown, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Florin, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Shilling, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Shilling (Scottish), 1960, Elizabeth II.

Sixpence, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Three pence, 1960, Elizabeth II.

Half penny, 1960, Elizabeth II.

One five pound note (issued by the Government of Malta in 1961).

Half crown, 1961, Elizabeth II.

Half crown, 1961, Elizabeth II.

Sixpence, 1961, Elizabeth II.

Two specimens of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Malta, Golden Jubilee, 1909-1959, medal.



PLACE	1960		1961	
	On payment	Free	On payment	Free
National Museum ... ..	4,043	1,934	4,343	2,768
The Palace Armoury ... ..	6,141	6,122	10,424	6,741*
Hal Saffieni Hypogeum ... ..	4,004	3,538	5,306	3,113
Museum of Roman Antiquities ... ..	2,354	5,277	2,772	4,738
St. Paul's Catacombs ... ..	1,823	3,729	3,694	1,211
Tarsien Neolithic Temples ... ..	1,126	2,979	1,612	3,040
Ghar Dalam Museum ... ..	2,047	2,187	2,891	2,281
Gozo Museum ... ..	621	303	1,365	140
Ggantija Temples, Gozo ... ..	716	167	947	137
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>22,875</b>	<b>26,236</b>	<b>33,354</b>	<b>24,169</b>
<b>Total Admission fees collected ... ..</b>	<b>£1,778. 0s. 3d.</b>		<b>£2,420. 3s. 10d.</b>	

\* Inclusive of 5,297 visitors admitted during the 8th September Exhibition.



Skorba, first temple from the south east.





2



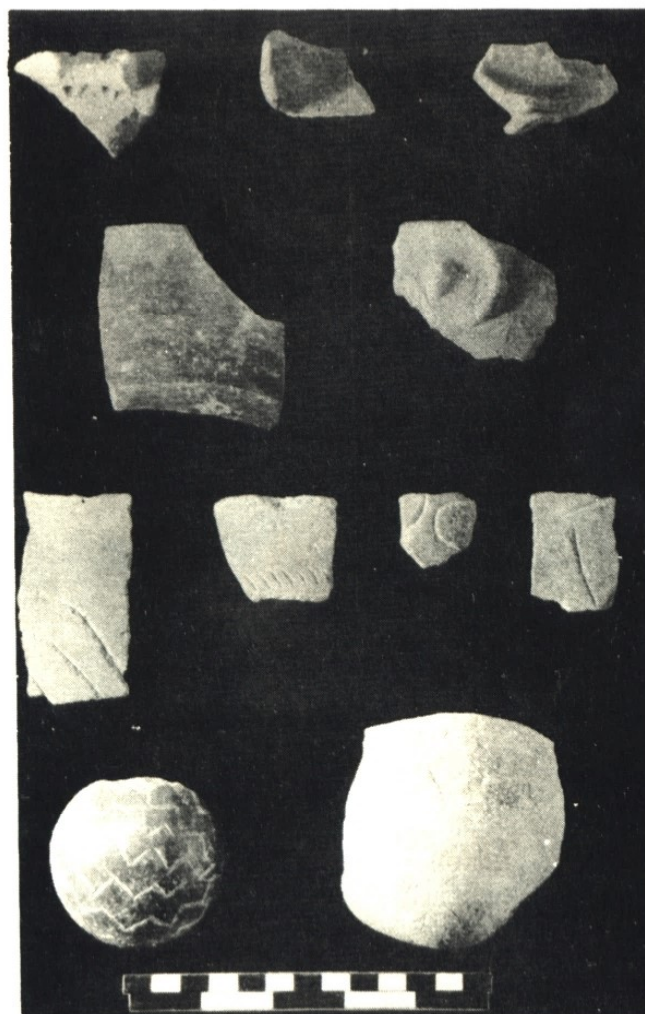
NATIONAL  
MUSEUM  
MALTA

from the south west.

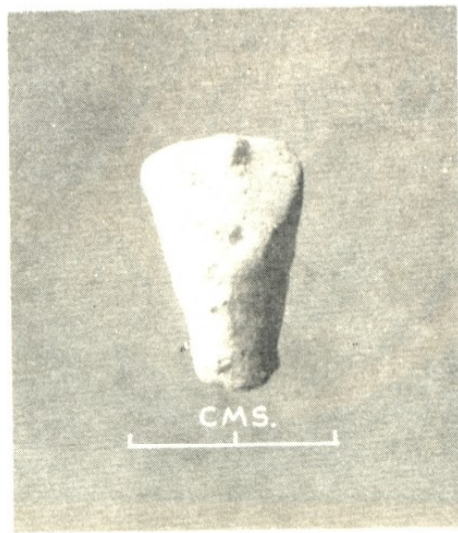




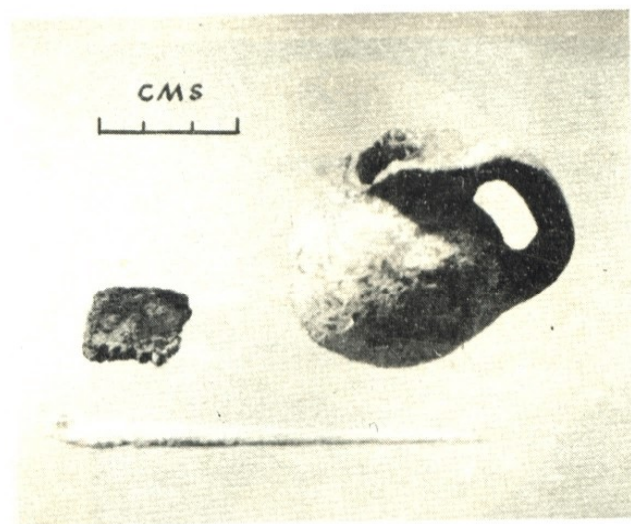
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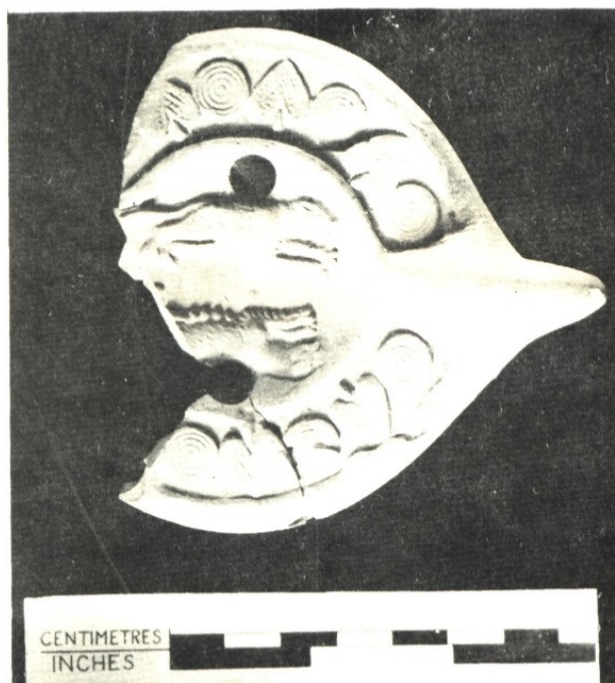


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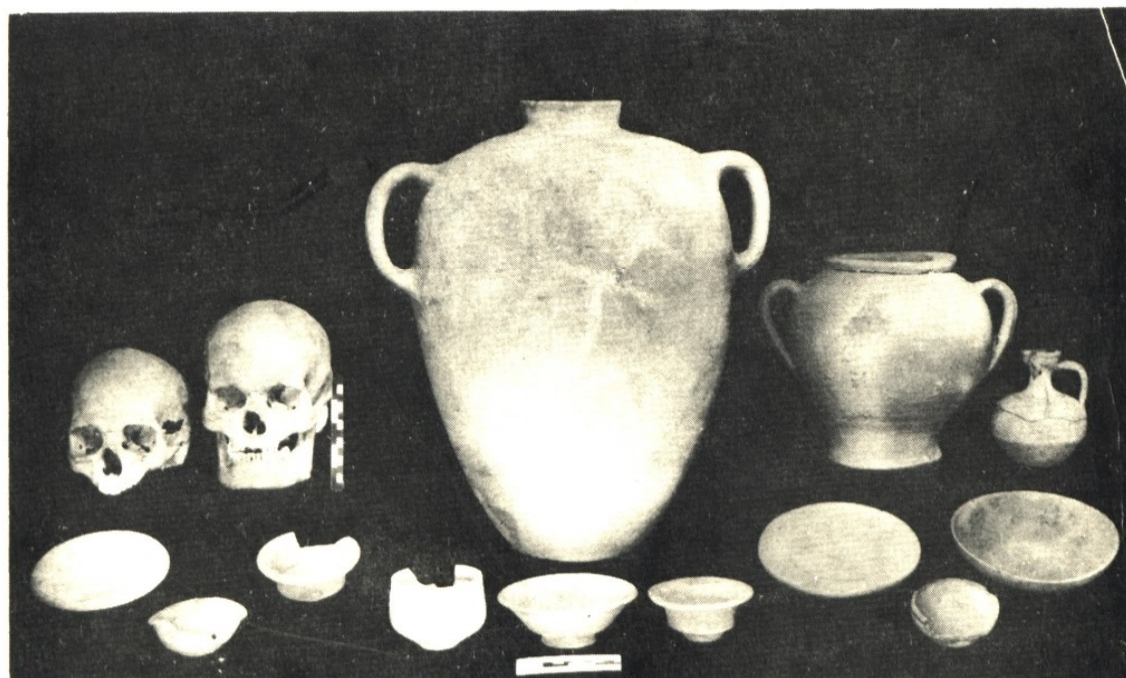
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Tomb groups, Tal-Bloq (a) and Ta' Kandja (b)



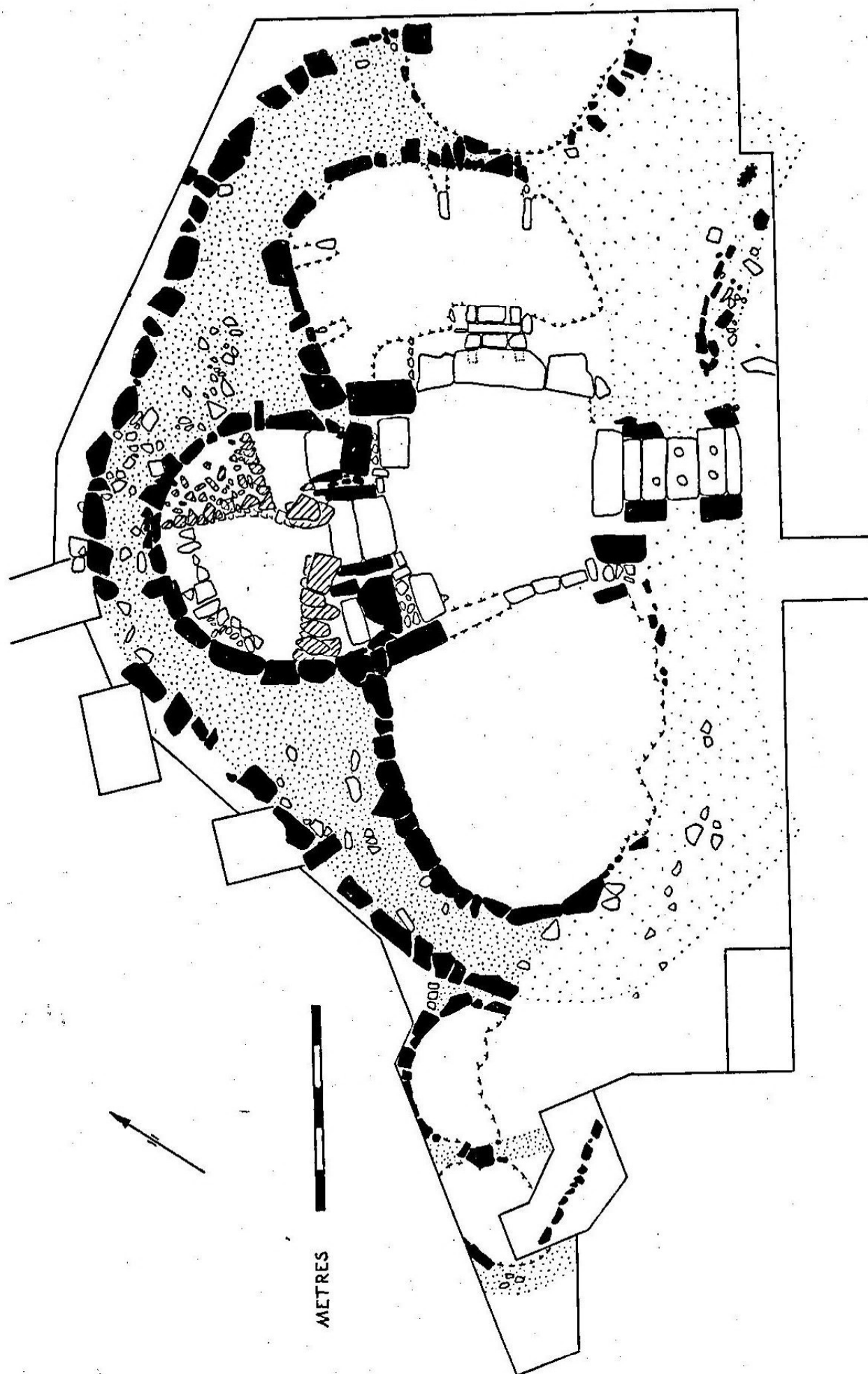
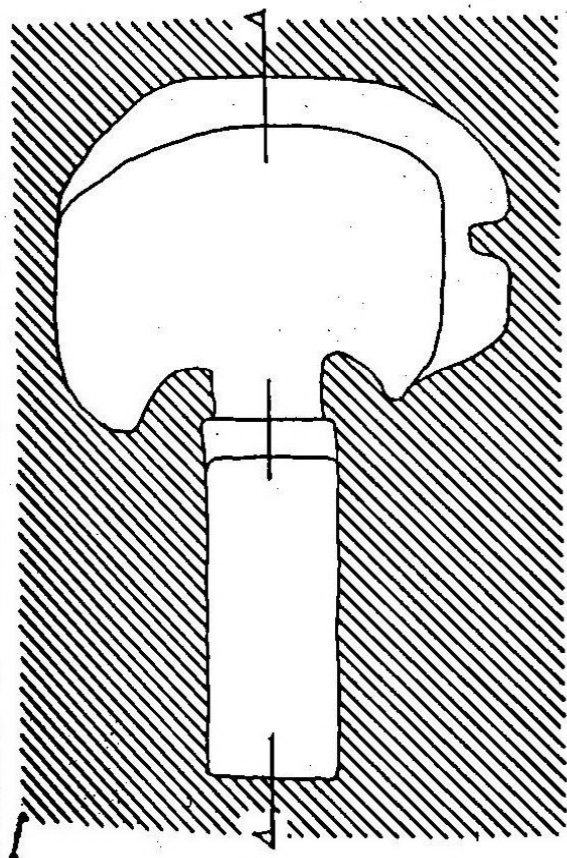
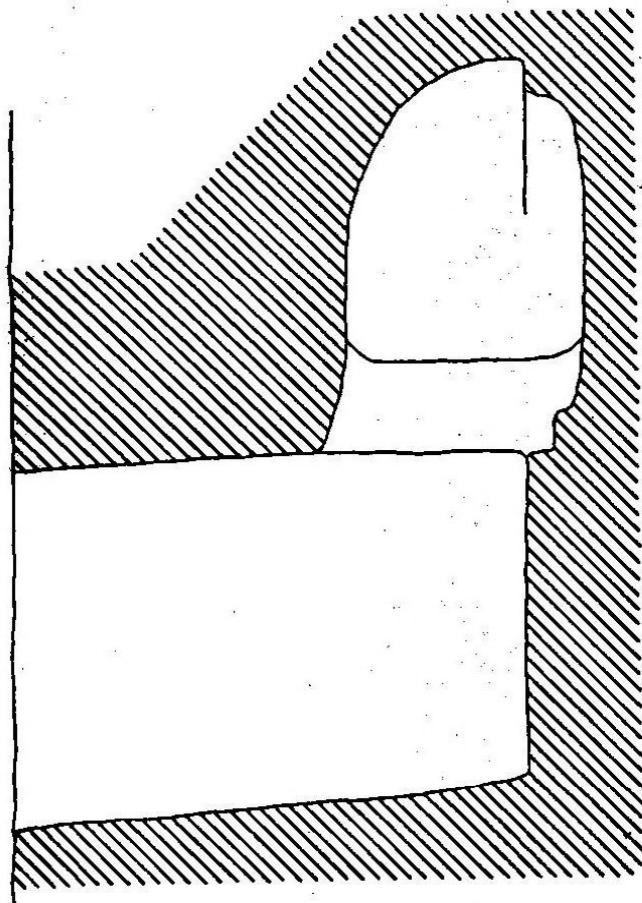


Fig. 1. Skorba, plan of the temple after the second campaign.

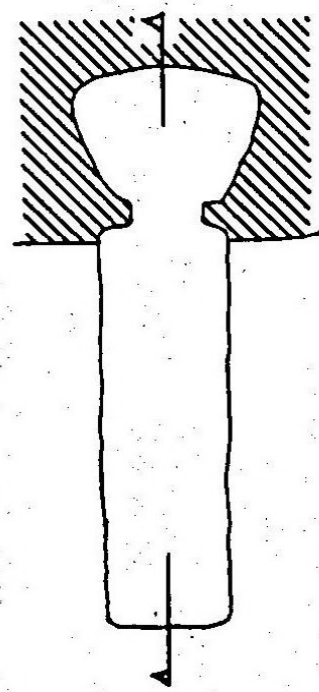




TAL BLOQ



M.s. | Ft.



WIED RINI

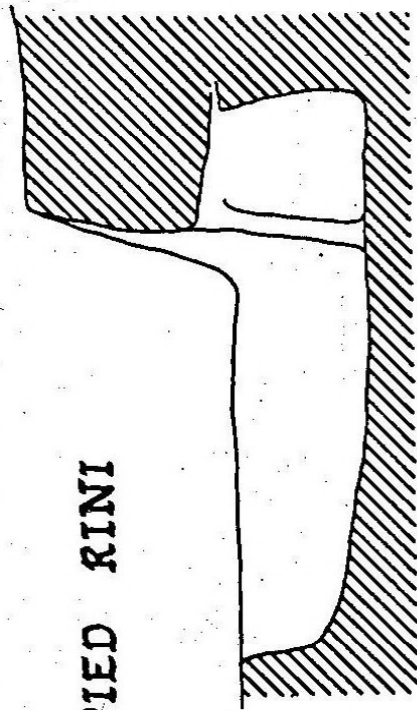
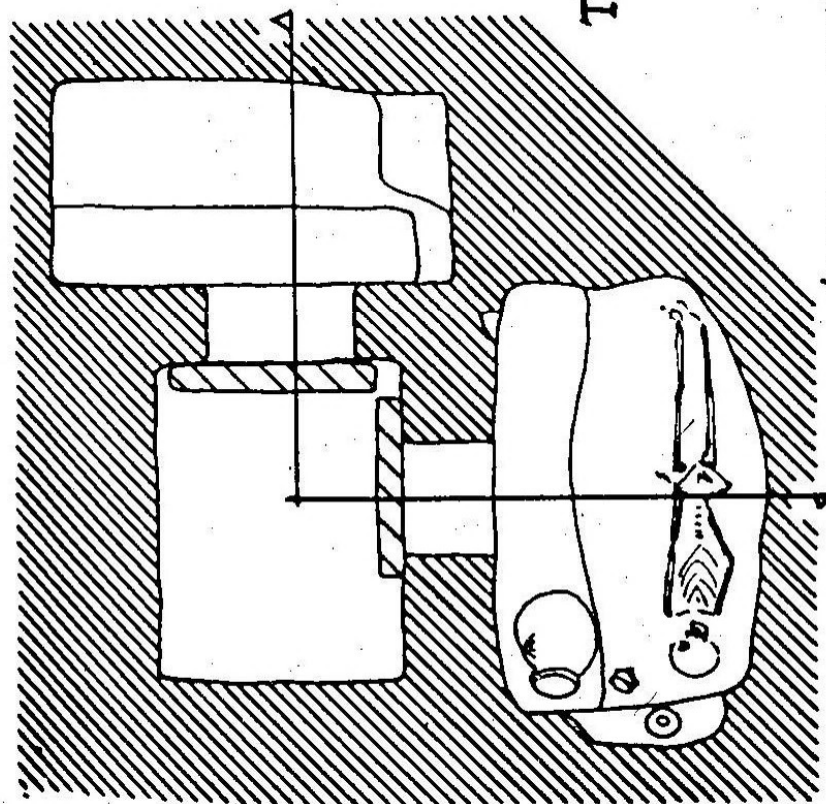
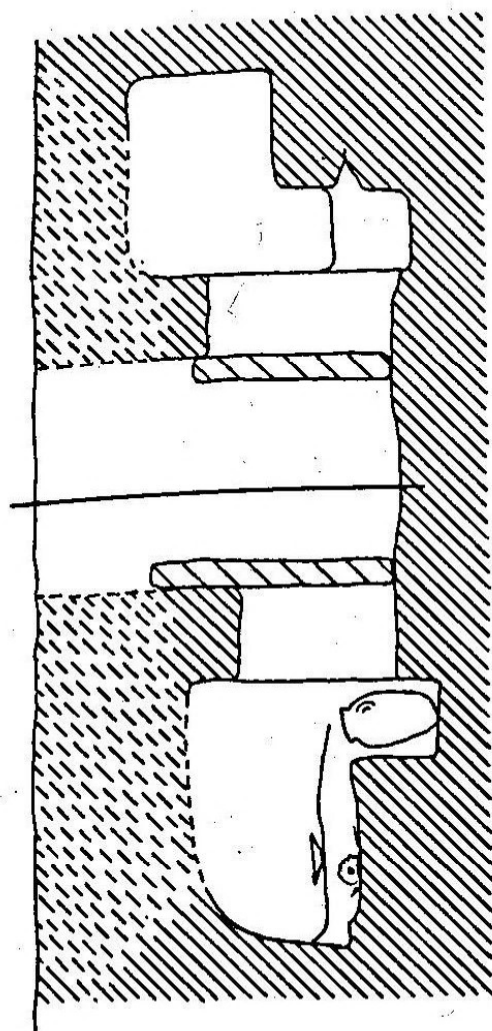
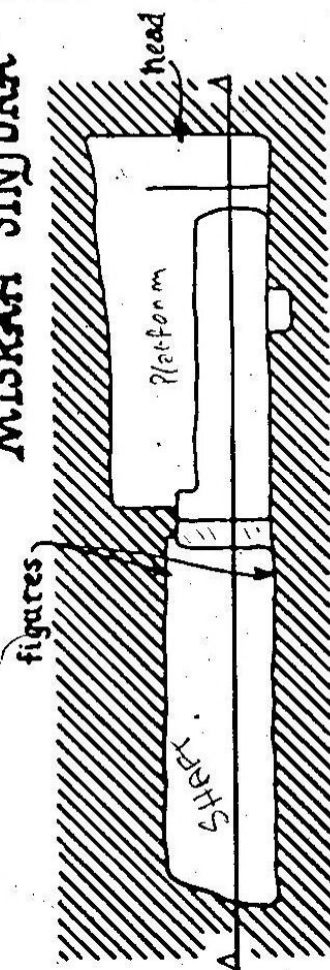


Fig. 3. Plans and sections of Punic tombs.





MISRAH SINJURA



TA' KANDJA

Mts. | Ft.

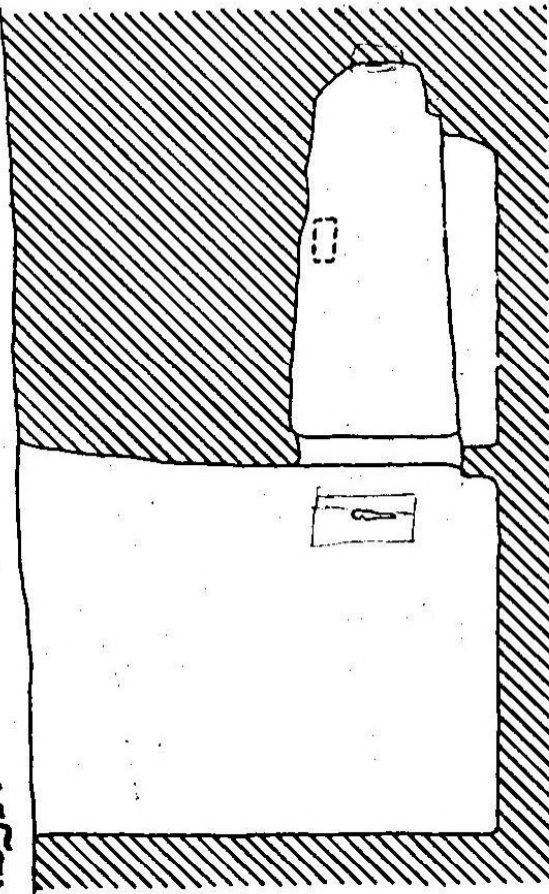


Fig. 4. Plans and sections of Punic and Roman tombs.

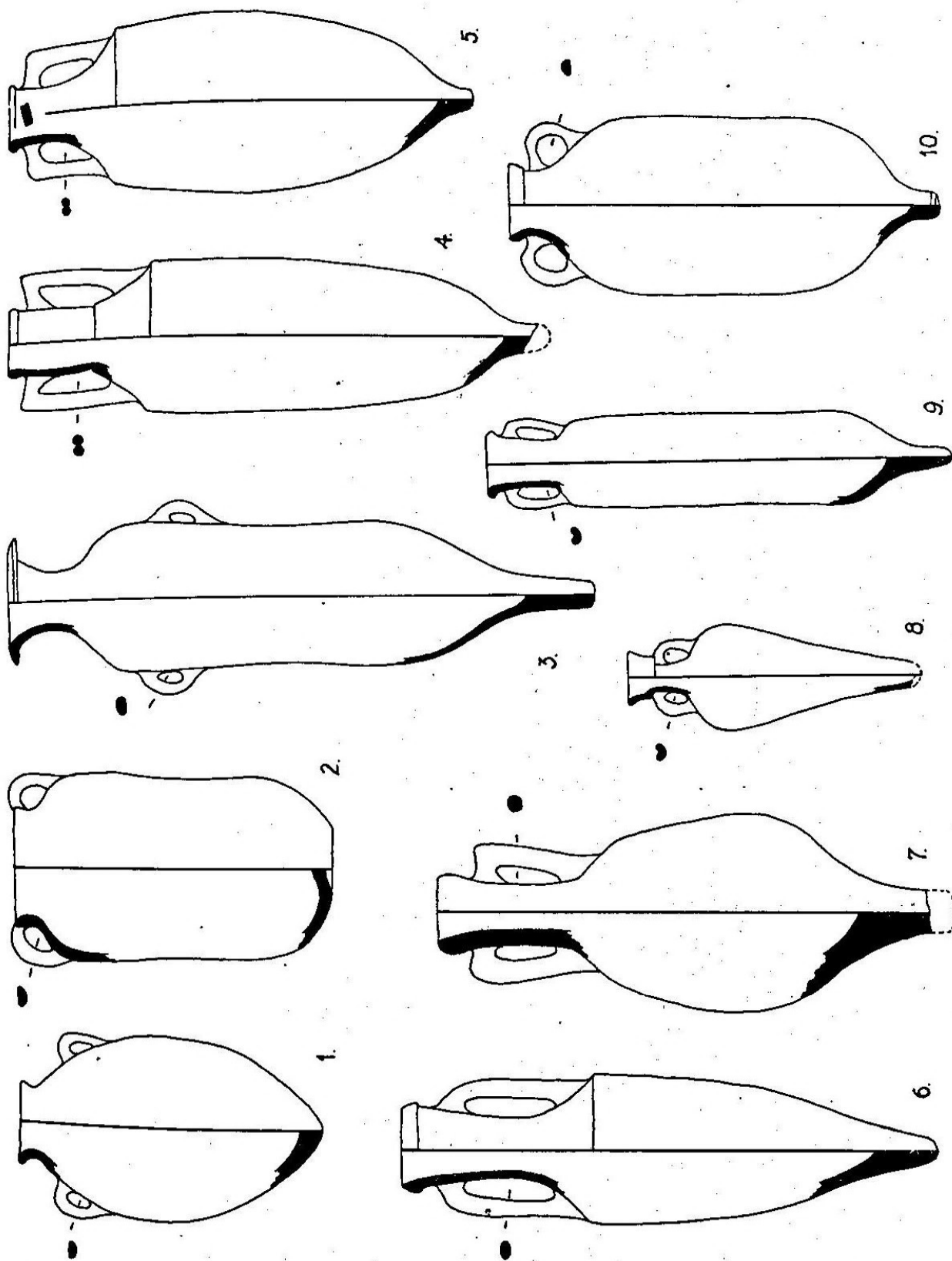


Fig. 5. Xlendi, amphorae recovered from the wreck. 1-2 Punic, 3 Spanish,