

Note:

As from this year, annual reports on the working of Government departments are being published in one volume.

Reports in this volume cover periods varying from three months to fifteen months. This has been done so that those Departments whose reports previously covered the calendar year shall be brought in line with others whose reports covered the financial year. In the case of the Public Service Commission and of the Courts, the reports carried in this issue cover the period from the last published reports to the 31st March, 1972.

As from next year, therefore, all annual reports on Government departments will cover the period from the 1st April of one year to the 31st March of the following year, except in the case of reports in respect of the House of Representatives and of the Education Department, which will cover the parliamentary year and the scholastic year respectively.

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REPORTS

on the working of

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

covering periods between

1st January 1971

and

4th August 1972

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
MALTA
1972

Price 15c

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The total number of Acts passed by Parliament during the calendar years 1967-70 was 31, 31, 35 and 32.

MUSEUM

(Period covered: 1st January, 1971 to 31st March, 1972)

1. During the period under review the senior staff complement underwent important changes which are here recorded in chronological order. The Natural History Section suffered the loss of Dr C. De Lucca who died on March 3, 1971. Capt. C. G. Zammit, F.S.A., Director of the Museum since 1955, retired from the service as from May 18, 1971 on reaching the age limit; his successor from the same date was Mr F. S. Mallia, Dip. Archaeol. (Lond.), F.S.A.Scot., Curator of the Archaeological Section. Dr J. A. Cauchi, LL.D., Curator of the Fine Arts Section, retired from the service for health reasons on September 8, 1971.

2. Throughout the first half of 1971 the Department was still waiting to be handed over the Auberge d'Italie to initiate the proposed Archaeological Museum. When later in the year Government carried out a review of public office accommodation in Valletta, the former Admiralty House in South Street was designated as the future Museum of Fine Arts and the Auberge de Provence, the present National Museum, as the location for a reorganized Archaeological Section and in substitution of the Auberge d'Italie.

3. The indexing of the archaeological library made very good progress and for practical purposes was complete by the end of March 1972. Users of the library now have at their disposal a basic index by author and a class index on a geographical basis with subdivisions for general works, special subjects and periods, etc.

4. Rescue excavations featured prominently in the field work of the Archaeological Section. The number of rock-cut Punic and Roman tombs dealt with during 1971 was five, while another three were added to the list in the first quarter of 1972. The localities involved were Żurrieq, Luqa, Żabbar, Qormi, Imrieħel (twice) and Dingli (twice). Useful material evidence on the Punic and Roman periods was obtained in the process.

5. As in former years the members of the Italian Archaeological mission from the University of Rome carried out excavations at Tas-Silġ during October/November.

6. In October Government received a brief report by Dr M. Medic of Yugoslavia who had been commissioned by Unesco to study and report on the mosaics at the Roman Villa, Rabat and the Thermae at Ghajn Tuffieħa with a view to their restoration and preservation.

7. The Fine Arts Section organized or directly helped to organize a record number of temporary exhibitions in the entrance hall of the National Museum under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture, as listed below:

Title or nature of exhibition	Exhibitor or Organizer
Europe around 1400	Council of Europe
Ancient Maltese Customs and Crafts	Malta Folklore Society
Chinese Masterpieces (in facsimile)	Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
Paintings by contemporary Chinese artists	Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
Sculpture by Antonio Sciortino	Fine Arts Section, National Museum
4th Centenary of Parish of St Paul Shipwrecked, Valletta	Chapter of St Paul Shipwrecked Parish Church and the Pauline Society, Valletta
Photographs	Malta Photographic Society
Unesco Anniversary	Unesco Club of Malta
Paintings	Mary De Piro
Paintings	Alfred Chircop
Paintings	Beryl Chapple Diamantino
Sculpture and Paintings	Samuel Bugeja

8. The work of compiling an inventory of historic and artistic buildings in Malta and Gozo as a pilot project of the Council of Europe was proceeded with to the maximum extent allowed by the one-man *équipe* responsible for local work on this project. Even so, all the requirements of the Council of Europe experts in the way of complete index-cards for the first volume of the inventory to deal with Mdina and Safi were satisfied in time and early publication is awaited.

9. At the beginning of the year 1971 the first of a number of sections which will be comprised in the Museum of Natural History at the Vilhena Palace, Mdina was very near completion; this section deals with the native and migratory birds and promises to be a major popular and scientific attraction. Thereafter, attention was given to other sections, notably land and sea shells, fossils, insects including butterflies and human and animal skeletal anatomy. By the end of March 1972 the first two of these sections were nearly completed, while the remainder were in an advanced stage of preparation.

10. A considerable amount of conservation work was done on the reserve collections, particularly where these consisted of organic material, e.g. birds and fishes. Incidentally, the latter will be displayed in a section by themselves, although for reasons beyond the Museum's control not enough are available at the time of writing to determine whether the section will be opened to the public at the same time as the other sections, provisionally fixed for the autumn of 1972. The field work of the section was directed towards making the various collections of natural history specimens more comprehensive or improving them both qualitatively and quantitatively.

11. The Natural History Section hosted and co-operated with a scientific expedition from the University of Pisa. The occasion was availed of to gain fresh knowledge on Malta's palaeontology and to acquire relevant material for the Museum collection.

5th August, 1972

F. MALLIA
Director of Museum

**Comparative Statement of visitors admitted to Museums and Monuments
during the Financial Year 1970-71 and 1971-72**

Place	1970-71		1971-72	
	On Payment	Free	On Payment	Free
National Museum	14,767	3,107	15,381	3,230
Palace Armoury	17,100	10,086	20,016	8,366*
Museum of Roman Antiquities ...	15,680	3,079	14,142	4,069
St Paul's Catacombs	25,620	2,397	23,255	3,110
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	22,411	3,159	20,640	3,872
Tarxien Temples	12,393	2,500	12,264	5,407
Għar Dalam Cave and Museum ...	12,392	4,167	11,500	3,777
Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa ...	1,600	380	1,500	365
Museum, Gozo	7,392	998	6,298	1,908
Ggantija Temples, Gozo	21,723	4,585	25,705	1,116
General Day Tickets	32,916	—	61,463	—
XIII Council of Europe Exhibition	17,010	—	—	—
Special "Caravaggio" Exhibition ...	2,754	—	—	—
TOTAL	203,758	34,458	212,164	35,220
Total admission fees collected ...	£14,799. 1s. 0d.		£13,389. 7s. 6d.	

* Inclusive of 4,750 visitors admitted during the 8th September Exhibition.