



# **REPORTS**

on the working of

# **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

covering periods between

**1st April, 1976**

**and**

**13th August, 1977**

Published by the Department of Information  
Printed at the Central Office of Statistics (Printing Division)  
MALTA  
1977  
*Price 15c*

# INDEX

	<i>Page</i>	<i>Page</i>	
House of Representatives ... ..	1	Public Libraries ... ..	60
Public Service Commission ... ..	5	Museums ... ..	64
Information ... ..	7	Treasury ... ..	67
Armed Forces of Malta ... ..	10	Inland Revenue ... ..	70
Gozo Secretariat ... ..	16	Public Lotto ... ..	75
Police ... ..	18	Customs ... ..	77
Civil Aviation ... ..	20	Audit ... ..	80
Statistics ... ..	22	Posts ... ..	82
Attorney General ... ..	26	Port ... ..	86
Public Registry (Malta) ... ..	28	Health ... ..	90
Public Registry (Gozo) ... ..	31	Public Works ... ..	92
Notary to Government (Malta) ... ..	32	Water ... ..	99
Notary to Government (Gozo) ... ..	33	Labour and Emigration ... ..	103
Courts of Law ... ..	34	Social Services ... ..	108
Prisons ... ..	37	Trade ... ..	114
Lands ... ..	40	Industry ... ..	118
Land Registry ... ..	43	Agriculture and Fisheries ... ..	122
Housing ... ..	44	Milk Marketing Undertaking ... ..	125
Education ... ..	47		

## Leader of the Malta Labour Party

At today, 17th December, 1976, the Hon. I. Bugeja, Minister of Justice, Lands, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs was elected Deputy Leader for Government Affairs and the Hon. I. Bristow was elected Deputy Leader for Party Affairs.

## Leader of Opposition

At Sitting No. 34 of 3rd May, 1977, the Minister of Justice, Lands, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs laid on the Table of the House, a copy of Government Notice No. 216, nominating the Hon. Eddie Fenech Adams, as Leader of



## Museums

(Period covered:

1st April, 1976 to 31st March, 1977)

While continuing with its normal activities of running the museums and monuments under its care during the year under review, the Department made improvements wherever possible in the service it renders to the public. On instructions by the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Culture, the Department started preparations for the setting-up of a Folk Museum at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa. The building is being given a face-lift and adapted for its future role, although certain areas, mainly at first floor level, would still be maintained and furnished as an approximate image of their original, historic function. The Department's holdings in the spheres of popular arts, crafts and customs are being transferred to temporary storage at the Palace where they will be restored and prepared for display.

2. The Archaeological Section was very active in the field, investigating ancient rock-cut tombs (Tal-Horr limits of Paola, and Mgarr) and remains of tombs and catacombs in the Rabat area, all discovered accidentally. Another campaign of excavations was carried out during the summer at the Roman villa site in the grounds of the Girl's Secondary School at Żejtun, where the Department again availed itself of the voluntary help of university and other students. Towards the end of the year under review, preparations were made to conduct the first scientific excavations at the site of the Annunciation Church at Ħal Millieri; as this operation was brought to a close about the middle of April 1977, its results will be given in the Annual Report for 1977-78.

3. Extensive work was done on the reserve collection of archaeological material to identify the provenance and association of individual items or groups of items, and to restore and re-interpret them in the light of present-day knowledge on the different periods involved. This operation is aimed at an early general overhaul and up-dating of the prehistoric, Punic and Roman displays in the National Museum of Archaeology.

4. At the National Museum of Fine Arts a

sub-section for the display and storage of drawings, maps and manuscript material was prepared and will soon be available to the public and researchers. A terrace on the first floor of the Museum was converted into a hall where the rich collection of plaster casts by Antonio Sciortino will shortly be exhibited. The display in various areas of the Museum was added to and improved at every opportunity.

5. Among works of art — paintings, sculpture and furniture — acquired by gift or purchase were featured works by Prof. Vincent Apap and an important donation of plaster casts by Prof. George Borg, one of Malta's leading sculptors. Moreover, each artist exhibiting at the National Museum of Fine Arts donated a work to the public collection.

6. Many paintings belonging to the Museum, St John's Co-Cathedral and Government departments were restored during the year, thanks to the assistance of experienced volunteer helpers who worked under the supervision of the Curator of Fine Arts. A temporary workshop was set up at the north end of the long hall of the "Sacra Infermeria", Valletta to restore the large series of paintings by Nicolo' Nasoni (1691-1773) which formerly adorned the corridor ceiling of the Magisterial Palace. Mr Samuel Bugeja, master in charge of the School of Art at the Polytechnic, has volunteered to restore the panels and re-mount them in their original place; he will be assisted by a number of his students.

7. During the year, the Department presented the following temporary exhibitions at its three principal museums:

### National Museum of Archaeology

Title or subject of exhibition	Exhibitor or organiser
Children in China (photographs) ... ..	Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Books on Historical Buildings and Places	The British Council
Foundation and Development of the Medical School of Malta — Tercentenary Exhibition ... ..	Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta



### National Museum of Fine Arts

Title or subject of exhibition	Exhibitor or organiser
Paintings ... ..	Erwin and Helmut Plones
Paintings ... ..	Caroline Beresford
Paintings ... ..	Marcia Cowee
Paintings ... ..	Celine Schembri Wis-mayer
Ceramics ... ..	Neville Ferry
Paintings and sculpture	Francis Galea and An-thony Mahoney
Paintings ... ..	R. Jamieson
American Ceramics ...	American Embassy
Paintings ... ..	Laurence Isherwood
Paintings ... ..	Beryl Chapple Diaman-tino
Paintings ... ..	Juan A. Guirado
Sculpture ... ..	Manoel Chetcuti
Paintings and sculpture	Recent accessions by the Museum
Water-colours and draw-ings by Edward Lear	Various contributors
Paintings ... ..	Paul Carbonaro
Etchings ... ..	Roger Platiel
Paintings ... ..	Mariska Marker
Paintings ... ..	Raymond Pitre'
Paintings ... ..	Barbara McAdam
Paintings ... ..	John Borg Manduca
Ceramics ... ..	Gabriel Caruana
Water-colours ... ..	Edwin Galea
Water-colours ... ..	Giuseppe Arcidiacono
Paintings and drawings	Misome' Piele
Numismatics ... ..	Malta Numismatic So-cietly
Paintings ... ..	Rudolph Enzweiler

### National Museum of Natural History

Bird paintings and draw-ings ... ..	Chloe Talbot Kelly, Donald Watson and others
Bird paintings and draw-ings ... ..	Freddie Fenech
Paintings and drawings (various nature sub-jects) ... ..	Natural History So-cietly.

8. The great event of the year for the National Museum of Natural History, Mdina was

the publication in July 1976 of the tome "Birds of the Maltese Archipelago" by D.A. Bannerman, one of the world's leading ornithologists and J.A. Vella-Gaffiero of the same Museum. The book contains a detailed and annotated essay on each and every bird recorded in the Maltese Islands up to the end of 1975, supplemented by twenty-two plates in colour illustrating 190 birds, over two hundred line drawings, and four in-deces: scientific, English, Maltese and Italian. Sales performance has been most encouraging, while the scientific literature has invariably given the book a favourable reception.

9. Worthy of note in connection with this event was the acquisition by the Gollcher Founda-tion of the original paintings for all twenty-two colour plates (frontispiece by Donald Watson, remainder by Chloe Talbot Kelly) and their dona-tion to the National Museum of Natural History. They will form the nucleus of a special display of natural history art to be set up at the same Museum. Moreover, the authors of "Birds of the Maltese Archipelago" donated their joint manu-script.

10. In September 1976 the Museum launch-ed the official bird-ringing scheme with the help of several trained volunteers. By the end of March 1977 nearly three thousand birds, repre-senting fifty-nine different species, had been ringed, the Chiffchaff, with just over seven hund-red, being the most ringed species. The scheme will be extended as more ringers are trained by the Museum staff and qualified assistants.

11. The Museum did more work on its dis-play and reserve collections, particularly those referring to insects, shells, land/sea reptiles and mammals. Several thousand shells in the reserve collection, representing hundreds of species, were cleaned, labelled and card-indexed. The hall which will display in dioramas the collection of foreign mammals transferred from the Argotti Gardens was in an advanced state of preparation.

12. The Assistant Curator of Natural His-tory, with special responsibility for the geological and palaeontological sub-sections, worked on the reserve collections with a view to extending the display in the said areas. The second and the larger of the Moon Rock specimens donated some years ago by the United States of America was exhibited by the entrance to the Geology Hall.

13. A dangerous crack which had develop-ed in the rock above the entrance to Ghar Dalam was repaired by the Public Works Department at the end of September 1976. The operation necessitated the closing of the place to the public for only five days.



14. At the Drill Hall in Fort St Elmo, Valletta, the popularity of the display of militaria centred around the relic of the gladiator "Faith" of World War II fame continued to increase. Although officially the place is open to the public all day on Saturday and half-day on Sunday — thanks to the members of the War Museum Association who attend regularly on those days — the steady trickle of visitors on week-days is never refused admission by the Museum's staff.

15. Throughout the year, the exhibition itself was improved, extended and partly re-organised with the aim of making it more comprehensive and representative, thus increasing its popular and scientific interest. The Association help-

ing the Department in this project undertook several restorations and took the first tangible steps towards the formation of a reference library and a photographic and documentary archive. The Association was also instrumental in bringing about donations of important items relevant to the theme of the Museum.

F. S. MALLIA  
Director of Museums

6th June, 1977.

**Comparative statement of visitors admitted to Museums and Monuments  
during the Financial Years 1975-76 and 1976-77**

Place	1975-76		1976-77	
	On Payment	Free	On Payment	Free
National Museum of Archaeology ... ..	22,816	2,307	20,630	3,124
National Museum of Fine Arts ... ..	9,246	2,948	8,147	2,817
National Museum of Natural History ... ..	17,608	12,507	15,298	11,716
Palace Armoury ... ..	30,655	12,822	28,130	10,847*
Museum of Roman Antiquities ... ..	22,781	6,929	21,909	6,791
St Paul's Catacombs ... ..	45,670	4,020	38,312	4,382
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum ... ..	29,883	4,785	24,119	5,739
Tarxien Temples ... ..	19,431	6,237	17,817	5,067
Għar Dalam Cave and Museum ... ..	15,516	4,648	14,549	5,250
Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa ... ..	3,441	507	2,199	1,503
Museum, Gozo ... ..	8,604	924	7,794	1,249
Ggantija Temples, Gozo ... ..	57,900	1,511	49,800	1,927
General Day Tickets ... ..	103,475	—	127,088	—
Total: ... ..	387,026	60,145	375,792	60,412
Total admission fees collected: ... ..	£M23,741.60,0		£M22,774.12,5	

\* Inclusive of 4,735 visitors admitted during the 8th September Exhibition.