

MUSEUMS DEPARTMENTAL - ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1996

ARCHAEOLOGY

In the year under review work was mainly concentrated on the Permanent Exhibition Project aimed at the thorough re-organisation of the Museum of Archaeology. Extensive structural restoration works were taken in hand at the *Auberge de Provence*, housing the museum, and the conservation survey of the archaeological collections, initiated in 1995, was continued steadily. Some important aspects of this project were undertaken with the help of a \$150,000 grant awarded to the museum by the Getty Foundation, USA, on the 9th January 1996.

An exhibition of archaeological items, models and informative panels, aimed at communicating to the general public the relevance of the Permanent Exhibition Project, was mounted by the curatorial staff in the lobby of the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. It was inaugurated on the 25th April and remained open to the public up to the end of August.

Another exhibition entitled *Maltese Prehistoric Art. 5000-2500 B.C.* was organised jointly by the department and *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*. This extensive exhibition was intended to present an overview of the many different aspects of Maltese prehistoric art, and included archaeological material from recent excavations which had previously not been accessible to the general public. It was inaugurated on the 1st March, 1996, on the premises of the Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, where it remained up to the end of April. Subsequently, it was taken to Florence, Italy, where it was housed in the *Palazzo di Parte Guelfa* from the 8th June to the 7th July 1996. An illustrated catalogue for this exhibition, with contributions by various authors on Maltese prehistory, was published in English and Italian respectively.

Extensive works to restore, consolidate and protect the megalithic temples at Mnajdra were undertaken during the course of the year under the direction of Eng. Dr. Alex Torpiano, Director of the Institute for Masonry and Construction Research at the University of Malta. A collapse of some megaliths was caused by a heavy rainstorm in April, 1994, between the southern and middle temple at Mnajdra. As a result, a number of megaliths forming part of the outer wall of the southern temple and the inner wall of the south western

apse of the middle temple fell out of position, in some cases by a distance of over two metres.

Following a detailed study of the collapse a programme of works was prepared by Eng. Dr. Torpiano and approved by the Mnajdra Restoration Committee. The megalithic boulders which had collapsed were lifted out of the site and new, more solid foundations, were created beneath the area of collapse to prevent any re-occurrence. Other preventive matters taken were the improvement of rain water run-off from the site through the installation of a porous draining layer on the floor of the middle temple, and the installation of plastic gutters and drains on the upper surfaces of the fills between the walls around the middle temple. The reconstruction of the collapsed megaliths was completed in November, when each megalith was replaced in its original position, with the exception of some elements which were taken to the University laboratories for further treatment.

On the night between the 26th and 27th October, unknown vandals sprayed a number of graffiti on the facade and interior of the southern temple at Mnajdra. Measures were taken immediately to analyse the black spray paint scientifically and to identify an appropriate cleaning agent. The paint, however, proved extremely difficult to clean and may only recede gradually through exposure to the elements.

Works on the Hypogeum Conservation Project continued at a steady rate throughout the year. During the first four months of 1996, a specially designed steel support structure was installed in the main hall of the new visitors centre, in order to support the weight of the glass partitions which were then installed around the prehistoric upper level of the hypogeum. The purpose of these glass partitions is to allow the appreciation of the site by visitors while protecting its micro-climate from external conditions and fluctuations. Air-conditioning equipment, which will further safeguard the micro-climate of the site, was installed on the roof during the summer months. Other infrastructural works and finishes were also executed, such as the installation of a raised floor in the main hall which is specially designed to rest on the uneven rock surface beneath it without being fixed to the rock, in order to be fully reversible.

A dense scatter of prehistoric potsherds of the Ghar Dalam phase (5000 - 4500 B.C.) was discovered in the course of a site inspection on an underdeveloped plot of land located at Triq E. Schembri, Birkirkara. The site has not yet been excavated, but legal measures were taken to protect it from development. This discovery is

exceptional in that it is the first reported sighting of prehistoric potsherds along the Mriehel ridge.

A rock-cut tomb dating to the Hellenistic Period was discovered at tal-Qroqq in the course of development on the San Raffaele Hospital site. The tomb, which was slightly damaged at the time of its discovery, was a typical shaft inhumation grave. No skeletal remains still in articulation were identified within the burial chamber, which however yielded a large quantity of human bones, cremated remains and potsherds. This tomb appears to have been utilised for successive burials from the 3rd to the 1st century B.C. Another burial, in a simple rock-cut circular pit, was also brought to light a few meters away. This was found to contain the fragmented remains of two Punic amphorae, and a clay tile. The Archaeological Section of the department took steps to ensure the continued preservation of both these tombs.

A human skeleton, still in articulation, was discovered on the shoreline in an area known as Ghar l'Ahmar, Marsaxlokk. The skeleton, apparently belonging to a juvenile individual was found lying on its back in a shallow pit dug in the soil and was not accompanied by any grave goods. It was orientated in an east-west direction, with the skull to the west. Similar burials were discovered in the 1960's in the same locality.

The stone column surmounted by a cross in Howard Gardens, Rabat, was damaged by vandals in January. The cross was toppled from its position and broken in many fragments. These were carefully recovered and eventually pieced together by the technical staff at the Museum of Archaeology. The restored cross was returned to its original position in November.

A large quantity of ceramic fragments, glass and animal bones were recovered by personnel from the Archaeology Section during the course of renovation works in the basement of the *Auberge de Castille*. These ceramic and glass fragments are datable to the 18th and 19th century.

A palaeo-Christian catacomb complex, with rock-cut decorative motifs, was accidentally brought to light by Works Department personnel in the course of roadworks immediately to the east of the Xarolla Windmill at Zurrieq. The complex was found to have been damaged by quarry works, apparently late in the 19th century. It extended beneath the existing road surface and could therefore only be investigated partially. Measures have been taken to protect the site and plans are underway to investigate it more fully.

FINE ARTS

The Museum of Fine Arts has the responsibility of curating and documenting the various collections of Fine Arts objects belonging to the national collections. Part of this curating activity consists of conservation and restoration, for which objective the Museum of Fine Arts runs a Restoration Workshop. In addition, the museum organises an annual programme of exhibitions - mostly of contemporary art - that have over the years become an essential feature of local cultural activities. It is likewise this museum's responsibility to carry out inspections relevant to the exportation and importation of antiques, whenever such inspections are requested by the Controller of Customs.

The annual programme of exhibitions is for the most part dedicated to contemporary works, thus in part compensating for the fact that modern and contemporary works of art are scarcely represented in the museum's permanent collection. One of the museum's halls, known as the Contemporary Hall, together with the Loggia, are utilised for these events, thus providing enough space to view small and medium-size collections. During the year under review these two venues hosted 42 exhibitions in all, of which 21 were personal events by Maltese artists working in various media, and exclude such events as the 'Kreativa' or the *Institute of Visual Arts* Art Competition; besides an event organised by the Malta Photographic Society, *Arti Indipendenza* and one joint event by four Maltese watercolour artists, as well as another of works by Amedeo Preziosi (1816 - 1882), producing also - for the latter events - a small monograph. The Museum of Fine Arts also helped to organise in December a retrospective exhibition of Maltese-Canadian artist Joseph Calleja - one of the pioneers of Malta's Modern Art Group, active in the early 1950's.

The same two venues hosted works by 17 other artists hailing from the U.K., Germany, Italy, France, Rumania, Bulgaria and Russia, as well as a collection of photographs by the Australian-Maltese artist John Grech. There was another photographic collection presented by the Rumanian club *Nufarul* apart from representative collections of engravings and lithographs by the two well known Italian masters Mario Schifano and Mino Maccari (Vide Annex 1).

In the course of 1996, the Museum managed to restore and install back to its original site - on the Gzira marina - the concrete monument *Id-Crieki* created by the late sculpture Frans Galea (1945 - 1994) which unhappily had been vandalised in 1987. In October of

the same year, the Museum of Fine Arts erected a monument at the Upper Barracca Gardens commemorating Giuseppe Cali (1846 - 1930) on the 150th anniversary of his birth. for this purpose the Museum of Fine Arts obtained permission from the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce to utilise the 'gesso' bust of Cali by the sculptor Vincent Apap (b. 1909) which was bronze-casted locally in the foundry of Joseph Chetcuti at Pembroke.

Over the same twelve months, the Museum of Fine Arts acquired some 47 works of art between paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, miniatures, etc. Most of the acquisitions were presentations made to the museum by contemporary artists following exhibitions of their works in one of the museum's venues. The Capt. O.F. Gollcher Art and Archaeological Foundation donated three works by Willie Apap (1918 - 1970), including two paintings - *Roof-tops from Via Margutta* and *Woman Undressing*, and a drawing of a *Female Nude* (Brazilian period) (Vide Annex II).

The museum's permanent display was enriched by the acquisition of a painting by Mattia Preti (1613 - 1699) representing *St Augustine of Hippo*, that has further enhanced the museum's holding of works of Preti. Other notable additions are a set of four miniatures painted on ivory datable to the late 18th and early 19th Century - these being the first works of the kind in the national collection of Malta. A female head in 'gesso' by the late Joséph M. Genius (1934 - 1970) is likewise a valuable acquisition since works by this sculptor are now very hard to come by. In effect the majority of the acquisitions were acquired through the contemporary exhibitions held in the museum's two venues. The hanging arrangement in both the Contemporary Hall and the Loggia has this year been upgraded to provide for a neater display.

A request for the loan of two 18th century paintings by Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz, held at the Verdala Castle and San Anton Palace, was received from the *Fomento Cultural Banamex* of Mexico. These two paintings, the *'Vista de la Plaza del Volador'* (Inv. 8387) and the *'Vista de la Plaza Major de Mexico'* (Inv. 8419), were shipped to Mexico on the 6th of September and were returned to Malta on the 29th December. Both works were featured in an illustrated volume entitled *'European Traveller Artists in 19th Century Mexico'* published by the Mexican organisers. Similarly, the bronze *'Redeemer'* (Inv. 3811) by Melchiorre Gafà (1636 - 1667) was loaned to the Cathedral Museum, Mdina, during the month of March.

The despatch of Caravaggio's famous *Beheading of John the Baptist* to the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* in Firenze proved to be a major operation that taxed the resources of the Fine Arts Museum. The condition of the large canvas was first investigated by Paola Bracco and Dott. Giorgio Bonsanti in April. After a number of precautionary measures were carried out by the equipe from Florence, the painting accompanied by Fr. Marius Zerafa left Malta on board the Italian Navy Ship *'Cassiopeia'* on Sunday, 9 June, en route to Livorno and subsequently to Firenze where the *Opificio* is currently carrying out a through restoration.

The museum's restoration workshop has also been engaged throughout the year on a large number of restoration projects, the major interventions of which are listed in Appendix III. Among the more prestigious operations were the restoration and re-installment of the *pala d'altare* by Filippo Paladini *The 'Circumcision'* in the Gesù Church, Valletta and the even larger altarpiece representing *The Martyrdom of St Ursula* by Mattia Preti in the cloister-church of St. Ursula, Valletta. Concurrently, the Valletta Rehabilitation project contracted out the cleaning of the bay-murals in the church of Our Lady of Victories, by Alessio Erardi which operation was supervised by the curator and restoration staff of the museum.

The Museum of Fine Arts submitted two projects for consideration according to the terms of the 4th Italo-Maltese Protocol; these include the cleaning and restoration of the 17th century gilt bronze and silver monstrance by Ciro Ferri held by the Museum of St. John, and the setting-up of a tapestry-restoration workshop based on the plans prepared by Dott^{ssa} Anna Milaneschi in 1993.

A twinning ceremony was held in Cosenza in January and subsequently in October, in Malta, between the Museum of Fine Arts and the 'Museo Civico di Rende' based on the common Mattia Preti link which both our museum and that of Calabria share between them. The party from Rende presented the museum with a 'gesso' bust of Mattia Preti by the Cosenza-based sculptor Giuseppe M Pisani (b. 1927). This bust has been put on display in Room 12 dedicated entirely to works by this old master.

The cataloguing of works of art held in the National Collection of Malta was pursued steadily and towards the end of the year, the inventory of all special items held at the *Auberge de Castille* was concluded. A number of checks held randomly in some departments and ministries have though revealed a certain amount of discrepancies - which is very worrying as it brings out

the fact that these entities have been shifting round their holdings of special items without informing the Museum of Fine Arts - holder of the national inventory - and without keeping any records.

The 1996 launching of the campaign '*Valletta: city of History and Elegance*' took place in the Museum of Fine Arts; while on May 10, the Museum Loggia served as venue for a very well attended debate on *Maltese Philosophy - What Future?* conducted by the University in the public media, particularly on such television cultural programmes as Meander, it-Tila, and Preti f'Malta.

In the year under review a total of Lm32,585.16 was collected by the Museum of Fine Arts in connection with inspection fees relevant to the importation and exportation of antiques.

ARMS AND ARMOUR

During the year under review, considerable improvements were made in the exhibition of arms and armour in the Palace Armoury, Valletta. new suitable display units were acquired and two of these were utilised for the display of breast-plates. There were mounted on specially built wooden racks purposely designed to imitate the type of racks generally employed in Armouries throughout the 15th and 16th centuries. In the new manner of display adopted, the breastplates have been grouped together to enhance both the richness of the collection and to enable a better comparison of the diversity in design, form and style of decoration. Two other showcases were utilised for the display of firearms.

Most of the old showcases were refurbished and used for the display of exhibits newly grouped together according to the various types and styles of weapons and armour. These include:

Morions	three showcases
Closed helmets	two showcases
Burgonets and Falling Buff	one showcase
Savoyard style helmets	one showcase
Burgonets, 17th century	one showcase
Gorgetts and Tassets	one showcase
Pauldrons	two showcases
Shields and S Swords	one showcase
Carbines	one showcase
Flintlock Muskets	one showcase
Snaphance Musket	one showcase
Flintlock Pistols	one showcase

A number of exhibits were also brought back to the Armoury from the Museum of Fine Arts. These included a small bronze saluting cannon and a composite suit of armour.

All pole-arms were mounted on a continuous row of racks affixed to the walls in the left hall. Part of the phalanx of mannequins was dismantled and the suits of armour re-displayed on simple wooden frameworks placed inside refurbished showcases.

Some minor improvements were made to the existing lighting system, and new captions were designed to describe the exhibits.

A conservation programme was initiated for those weapons and pieces of armour displayed on the walls of the Palace Armoury. This work mainly involved the dismantling of each panel, the examination and recording of the state of each exhibit, cleaning and basic conservation treatment, application of protective waxing and greasing, and remounting. Restoration work was also carried out on the suits of armour and weapons at Verdala Castle, Buskett.

Structural works were carried out inside the workshop area of the Palace Armoury by Public Works employees under the supervision of officials from the Committee responsible for the improvement of the Magisterial Palace. These works were aimed at solving the rainwater draining problem within the small courtyard adjoining the workshop. A new culvert was cut out so as to re-direct the run of rain water accumulating in the courtyard to another outlet.

Works in the War Museum at Lower Fort St. Elmo, Valletta, mainly involved general maintenance. A long stretch of wall panelling in the French Period Section of the museum., which collapsed in October, was repaired and remounted. A number of framed pictures, damaged when the panelling collapsed, were also repaired.

The Arms and Armour Section was involved in the restoration and mounting of the 19th century cannon on the Msida bastion cemetery, and supervised the transfer of three similar cannon from Spinola entrenchment to Fort St. Elmo. The Section was also involved in consultation with the Planning Authority, Local Councils and other Bodies regarding the conservation, development and restoration of the following fortifications: Fort Mosta (in connection with the Med-Urbs Project for the rehabilitation of the Victoria Lines); Fort Madliena; the Gozo Citadel; remains of fortifications at Ramla Bay, Gozo (scheduling); fougasse and rock-hewn traverse at Marsalforn, Gozo;

Wignacourt Tower, St. Paul's Bay; and Fort Ricasoli (development brief).

NATURAL SCIENCES

Structural works in connection with the extension of the Ghar Dalam Museum, Birzebugia, were taken in hand early in January and were nearing completion by the end of the year. These works involved the construction of a much larger exhibition hall, laboratory and storage facilities, adequate office space and new toilet facilities. Concurrently the back door of the museum, the cave gate and the benches in the garden at the rear of the museum were refurbished and repainted. Suitable litter-bins were also installed at various points along the pathway leading to the cave.

The landscaping of the back garden was continued throughout the year and a number of trees were planted. These included Myrtle (Rihana), Bay Trees (Randa), the National Tree (Sandarac Gum Tree) and Jujube (Zinzla).

For the convenience of visitors a large informative panel was installed just inside the entrance to Ghar Dalam. This didactic panel includes a plan and a sectional drawing of the cave and outlines its important features in five languages (Maltese, English, Italian, French and German).

A display of recent finds at Ghar Dalam was opened to the general public in the course of the year under review. This incorporates hippopotamus remains excavated by the Curator, comprising a large jaw (with two canines, three incisors and three molars still in situ), a large complete pelvis and a small femur.

Another new display of Maltese Pleistocene Elephant remains includes a sample of the *Bone Breccia*, a maxilla with two molars in situ, a scapula, a juvenile shaft, the lower end of a femur of *E. Mnaidrensis*, patellae and molars. Informative labels (large-printed on lap-top computer and laser printed) were prepared by the Curator for these two new displays.

The mounted skeletons of modern bear, elephant, hippopotamus, deer, wolf and fox, display at the Ghar Dalam Museum for comparative studies, were consolidated with polyvinyl acetate glue and their bases were repainted. These bones, especially those of the elephant, were getting over-dry and exfoliating, whilst the elephant molars were cracking. The wolf was found to have a metal tag stuck to the underside of its base indicating that it had been supplied by *Dr. Schröter &*

Dr. Masse, Halle/Salle. Below the tag was the date 1927 and the name *Vella Museum* in pencil. This shows that the item was imported well before the opening of the Ghar Dalam Museum.

At the Museum of Natural Sciences, Mdina, the display on the theory of the earth's origin (Geology Hall, 1) was updated and replaced. Concurrently, the large geology model of Malta which was exposed and had been damaged by visitors touching the exhibit, was cleaned and restored. Work was also continued on the indexing and preparation of ornithological, entomological and concological specimens for display purposes.

MARITIME MUSEUM

In the course of 1996 major structural repairs were taken in hand, and completed, on one of the halls of the Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa, which are not yet open to the general public. These works involved the removal of a partially caved-in roof and its subsequent reconstruction to its original state.

Several improvements were effected in the exhibition areas by the addition of new exhibits previously held in storage, or were acquired by purchase or donation (vide annexes IV & V). The library and archives of the museum considerable increased their holdings of books, photographs and documents relevant to maritime history. Several items of office furniture and equipment were also purchased and installed on the premises. Work on the improvement of storage facilities for the reserve collections continued throughout the year.

The Maritime Museum entered into partnership with the Barcelona Maritime Museum, Spain, in a project relevant to the Raphael Programme of the European Union. This useful and important project involves the cataloguing of mediterranean maritime heritage.

During the year under review Mr. Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, Curator of the Maritime Museum, attended a conference on museology at the USIS Centre in Barcelona, Spain. The same official also represented the Museums Department at the *ICMM Conference* held at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, U.K.; the conference on the *Mediterranean Maritime Heritage*, Barcelona, Spain; and at the *Steam at Sea Conference* organised by the University of Hull, U.K. Two other officials from the Maritime Museum, Mr. Joseph Muscat and Mr. Joseph Abela, represented the department at the *2nd Common European Maritime Heritage Congress* held at Rochefort, France. The latter

officials also attended the conference on *The Great Age of Sail* held at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, U.K.

ETHNOGRAPHY

During 1996 the Ethnography Section concentrated on the consolidation of the role of ethnography within the Museums Department, and work was initiated on plans for a rehabilitation programme.

The Inquisitor's Palace at Vittoriosa was equipped to house a display - in part permanent, in part temporary - on the ethnography of Maltese culture from a comparative perspective. Restoration works, ultimately aimed at the rehabilitation of the building to its former state were also taken in hand in the course of the year. A new lightning system was also installed in the *Cancelleria*, the *Camera d'Udienza*, *Anticamera* and the *Tribunal Room*. These halls were subsequently redecorated. The painted friezes of the *Anticamera* and *Camera d'Udienza* on the *Piano Nobile* of the Inquisitor's Palace were cleaned and restored. The chapel and sacristy area on the same floor were also renovated according to existing documentation.

Structural restoration works in connection with the rehabilitation of the *Auberge de France* at Vittoriosa were also initiated during the year. These works were taken in hand by the Cottonera Rehabilitation Project within the Ministry for Public Works and Construction. On completion of these works, it is planned to utilise the building as a Museum of Urban Popular Culture.

In the year under review Dr. Charles Cassar, officer in charge of the Ethnography Section, attended the *Second European Conference of Ethnographic Museums*, held in Bucharest, Rumania, from the 17th - 19th May. The three day conference dealt mainly on the training of museum specialists, the restoration and conservation of ethnographic artefacts and international co-operation between ethnographic museums.



T. GOUDER
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS

Exhibitions held at the Museum of Fine Arts in 1996

	Date	Artist	Medium	Location
1	1-16 January	John Ross	Painting	Contemporary Hall
2	2 - 18 January	Peter Mendl	Paintings	Loggia
3	18 January - 6 February	Mario Schifano	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
4	19 January - 4 February	Falah Ghati	Paintings	Loggia
5	6 - 20 February	John P. Muscat	Paintings	Loggia
6	8 - 25 February	Sarah Warren Cassar	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
7	22 February - 7 March	Nick Nickermann	Prints	Loggia
8	26 February - 10 March	Joseph Navarro	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
9	8 - 24 March	Pia Magro	Ceramics	Loggia
10	11 - 25 March	Carmel Micallef	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
11	25 March - 9 April	Ray Azzopardi	Sculpture in wood	Loggia
12	26 March - 9 April	Damien Ebejer	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
13	10 - 26 April	Guy Lemesre	Sculpture in stone	Contemporary Hall
14	10 - 26 April	Amedeo Preziosi (1816-1882)	Watercolours and Prints	Contemporary Hall
15	28 April - 14 May	Austin Camilleri	Etchings	Contemporary Hall
16	28 April - 14 May	Alex Dalli	Paintings	Loggia
17	15 May - 16 June	Joseph Cassar	Paintings and Drawings	Loggia
18	16 - 29 May	Photoclub Nufarul (Romania)	Photographs	Contemporary Hall
19	30 May - 11 June	Mino Maccari	Paintings	Contemporary Hall

20	13 - 25 June	Metodi Pekunov	Paintings and sculpture - in stone	Contemporary Hall
21	22 June - 14 July	Institute of Visual Arts Competition	Paintings	Loggia
22	27 June - 14 July	Elizabeth Meek	Miniature paintings	Contemporary Hall
23	16 - 31 July	Joanne Schembri	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
24	18 July - 1 August	Kevin Cordina	Drawings	Loggia
25	2 - 18 August	Josmar Azzopardi	Abstract paintings	Contemporary Hall
26	2 - 16 August	Anna Sakho/ Tytiana Martynova	Paintings on silk	Loggia
27	17 - 28 August	Patrizia Bifani	Paintings	Loggia
28	28 August-9 September	Ray Darmanin	Drawings	Contemporary Hall
29	30 August - 15 September	Victor Manduca	Paintings	Loggia
30	11 - 29 September	Photographic Society	Photography	Contemporary Hall
31	16 - 29 September	Arti Indipendenza	Various media	Loggia
32	16 - 29 September	Eugenie Zipf	Paintings	Loggia
33	1 - 13 October	Paul Caruana	Watercolour	Contemporary Hall
34	14 - 29 October	Tony Briffa	Ceramics	Contemporary Hall
35	17 October - 3 November	Norbert Attard	Paintings	Loggia
36	30 October - 14 November	Debbie Caruana Dingli John M. Borg Anna Grima Jeni Caruana	Watercolours	Contemporary Hall
37	5 - 20 November	John Grech	Paintings	Loggia
38	15 November - 8 December	Josette Caruana	Paintings	Contemporary Hall
39	20 November - 9 December	Barrie Temple/Frances Smith	Watercolours	Loggia
40	9 - 22 December	Sina Farrugia	Ceramics	Contemporary Hall
41	10 - 31 December	Joseph Calleja	Paintings and sculpture	Loggia
42	23 December - 7 January 1997	John Grech	Photograph	Contemporary Hall

Acquisitions made by the Museum of Fine Arts in 1996

No.	Artist & Title of Work	Medium	Inventory No.
1	Peter Mendl <i>Seascape</i>	lithograph 11/100	1179-30 FAS/Pr/270
2	Falah Ghati <i>Crumpled Newspaper</i>	ink on paper	11733-4
3	Nick Neckerman <i>The Yellow Man</i>	Photographic print	11767-8 FAS/Ph/6
4	Willie Apap <i>View from roof-tops of Via Margutta</i>	oils on canvas	11737-8 FAS/P/1602
5	Willie Apap <i>Female Undressing</i>	oils on paper	11761-2 FAS/P/1610
6	Willie Apap <i>Female Nude (standing)</i>	ink on paper	11763-4 FAS/P/1611
7	John P. Muscat <i>Country Road</i>	acrylics on hardboard	11769-70 FAS/P/1612
8	Carmel Micallef <i>Untitled</i>	acrylics on canvas	11771-2 FAS/P/1612
9	Ray Azzopardi <i>Age (1995)</i>	pinewood sculpture	11795-6 FAS/S/245
10	Damien Ebejer <i>Still Life with Apples and Pears</i>	acrylics on canvas	11797-8 FAS/P/1615
11	Carmel Micallef <i>Untitled</i>	crayons	11799-800 FAS/P/1616
12	Pia Magro <i>Hazardous Games</i>	terracotta	11803-4 FAS/S/247
13	Guy Lemesre <i>Fat Lady Seated</i>	globigerina	11805-6 FAS/S/248
14	Giuseppe Morrocchi <i>Musica</i>	oils on canvas	11807-8 FAS/P/1617
15	Giuseppe Morrocchi <i>Marina</i>	gouache on cardboard	11809-10 FAS/P/1617
16	Alex Dalli <i>Mistra (1994)</i>	oils on hardboard	11811-2 FAS/P/1619
17	Sarah Cassar Warren <i>The Meeting (1995-6)</i>	acrylics on canvas	11815-6 FAS/P/1621
18	Metodi Pechunov <i>Evocation of St. Julian's</i>	oils on canvas	11835-6 FAS/P/1625
19	Joseph P. Cassar <i>Bird Dance</i>	pencil, ink and wash on paper	11839-40 FAS/D/157
20	Elizabeth Meek <i>Man from Mellieha</i>	oils on ivory	11845-6 FAS/P/1627
21	Joanne Schembri <i>The Animus (1995)</i>	oils on canvas	11903-4 FAS/P/1652
22	Anna Sakho <i>Remembering St. Julian's</i>	batik	11909-10 FAS/P/1655

23	Kevin Cordina <i>Blue Spots (1996)</i>	mixed media and oils on paper	11911-2 FAS/P/1655
24	Josmar Azzopardi <i>Painting 1996</i>	mixed media	11913-4 FAS/P/1657
25	Patrizia Bifani <i>Jeux de Lumiere</i>	oils on board	11915-6 FAS/P/1658
26	Austin Camilleri <i>Abstract VI (1996)</i>	drypoint 2/50	11919-20 FAS/E/210
27	Victor Manduca <i>The Builder (1996)</i>	acrylics on board	11941-2 FAS/P/1667
28	John Martin Borg <i>Maltese Landscape with overcast sky</i>	watercolours	14501-2 FAS/P/1686
29	Debbie Caruana Dingli <i>John Martin Borg painting behind the rubble wall</i>	watercolours	14503-4 FAS/P/1687
30	Anna Grima <i>Two cabbages</i>	watercolour	14505-6 FAS/P/1688
31	Jeni caruana <i>Cliffside</i>	watercolour	14507-8 FAS/P/1689
32	John grech <i>The Leg</i>	mixed media on plywood	14509-10 FAS/P/1690
33	Eugenia Zipf <i>Spectator</i>	graffito en photographic paper	14511-2 FAS/D/159
34	Tony Briffa <i>Corpora V</i>	ceramic and paper pulp	14513-4 FAS/C/69
35	Frances Seba Smith <i>Fishing Boats in St. Julian's Harbour</i>	watercolours on paper	14519-20 FAS/P/1691
36	Barrie Temple <i>Storm over Mtarfa</i>	watercolours on paper	14521-2 FAS/P/1692
37	Paul Caruana <i>Farmhouse. Gozo</i>	watercolours on paper	14523-4 FAS/P/1698
38	Josette Caruana <i>Light and Matter VI</i>	acrylics on paper	14527-8 FAS/P/1700
39	Joseph Calleja <i>Harbour Scene</i>	oils on canvas	14529-30 FAS/P/1701
40	Joseph Calleja <i>Riven Stone</i>	Ontario limestone	14531-2 FAS/S/257
41	Ray Darmanin <i>Table Tennis Player</i>	pencil on paper	14533-4 FAS/D/160
42	French 18th century <i>Lady with Mandolin</i>	Pempera on Ivory (miniature)	14537-8 FAS/P/1703
43	French 18th century <i>Lady holding Palette and Brush</i>	Tempera on Ivory (miniature)	14539-40 FAS/P/1704
44	M. Albanesi <i>Maltese Lady in Black Faldetta</i>	Tempera on Ivory (miniature)	14541-2 FAS/P/1705
45	M. Albanesi <i>Maltese Lady in Fashionable Costume</i>	Tempera on Ivory (miniature)	14543-4 FAS/P/1706
46	Matia Preti <i>Portanier St. Augustine of Hippo</i>	oils on canvas	14611-2 FAS/P/1733
47	Joseph M. Genuis <i>Head of Laura</i>	gesso	14613-4 FAS/S/259

Conservation and Restoration works completed by the Museum of Fine Arts during 1996

No.	Artist	Title of Work	Proveannce
1	Maltese, late 18th century	Confessional	Inquisition Palace, Vittoriosa
2	Maltese, late 18th century	Pulpit	Inquisition Palace, Vittoriosa
3	Maltese, 18th century	Armchair with turned front legs	Inquisition Palace, Vittoriosa
4	Harry Alden	Doves of Peace	Ministry of Transport, Lascaris
5	Matia Preti	St. Nicholas	Sarria Church
6	Follower of Favray	Portrait of Bishop Labini	Museum of Fine Arts (Res.)
7	Mattia preti	Martyrdom of St. Ursula	Church of St. Ursula, Valletta
8	?Nicolaci Grech	Classical Landscape (affresco)	San Anton Palace
9	Antonio cardona	Salesian Theatre Proscenium	Sliema

Donations made to the Maritime Museum in 1996

No.	Item	Donated by	Month
1	Crest of the Armed Forces of Malta	Col. A. Camilleri	January
2	Model of an ancient Athenian <i>Trireme</i>	Consul General for Malta in Greece	January
3	Crest of Carrier Air Wing I	H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, President of the Republic	February
4	Souvenir tile, mounted on board-USS <i>America</i>	H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, President of the Republic	February
5	Framed picture of America Battle Group	H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, President of the Republic	February
6	Seagull outboard engine	Mr D. Delceppo	February
7	Life belt with stand and crest of HMS St. Angelo	Mr. John A. Mizzi	February
8	White enign	Mr. John A. Mizzi	February
9	Uniform jacket of inspector of marine police	Capt. Martim Cauchi Inglott	February
10	Racing Kajjik equipped with sprit sails and sections	Mr. Josepg Delceppo	March
11	Unifrom jacket (Petty officer) Royal Navy	Mr. J. Grech	March
12	Cap (Petty officer) Royal Navy	Mr. J. Grech	March
13	Crest of dutch frigate Hr Ms Van Amstel	Chev James Gollcher	March
14	Crest of dutch frigate Hr. Ms. Tjerk Hiddes	Chev. James Gollcher	March
15	Seaman's caul	F.A. Wilkins, U.K.	March
16	Framed view of the Grand Harbour	Chev James Gollcher	April
17	Customs officer cap badge	Mr. A. Strickland	April
18	Crest of HMS Cumberland	Mr. A. Strickland	April
19	Crest of HMS Eagle	Mr. A. Strickland	April
20	Crest of HMS Jupiter	Mr. A. Strickland	April
21	Crest of HMS Coventry	Mr. A. Strickland	April
22	Crest of HMS Liverpool	Mr. A. Strickland	April

23	Crest of HMS Orion	Mr. A. Strickland	April
24	Crest of HMS Otus	Mr. A. Strickland	April
25	Crest of HMS Frobisher	Mr. A. Strickland	April
26	Crest of HMS Corncrake	Mr. A. Strickland	April
27	Crest of HMS Jackdaw	Mr. A. Strickland	April
28	Crest of HMS Gadwell	Mr. A. Strickland	April
29	Crest of HMS Wildfire Sheerness	Mr. A. Strickland	April
30	Crest of HMS Goshawk	Mr. A. Strickland	April
31	Crest of HMS Revenge	Mr. A. Strickland	April
32	Crest of HMS Brittanis	Mr. A. Strickland	April
33	Crests of HMS Rodney	Mr. A. Strickland	April
34	Crest of HMS Wildgoose	Mr. A. Strickland	April
35	Crest of HMS Repulse	Mr. A. Strickland	April
36	Crest of HMS Renown	Mr. A. Strickland	April
37	Model of a German Mortar	Mr. A. Strickland	April
38	Crest of USS Grasp	Commanding Officer of USS Grasp	April
39	Diver's knife with brass sheath	Mr. J. Magro	April
40	Uniform & Cap-Senior Customs officer	Mr. V. Coppini	May
41	Crest of Spanish frigate 'Navarra'	Commanding Officer of ship	May
42	Watercolour by Mr. Mario Casha - French quarterly master 19th century	Mr. Mario Casha	May
43	Watercolour by Mr. Mario Casha - sailor handling a cutlass	Mr. Mario Casha	May
44	Set of steamship models	Mr. N. Darmanin Demajo	May
45	Flag - Task Force Maritime Squadron	Armed Forces of Malta	May
46	Model of a German battleship 'Ilelgolant'	Mr. N. Darmanin Demajo	May
47	Cup (Shenango)	Anonymous donation	June
48	2 waterbottles (baraccia)	Mr. J. Mercieca	June

75	Sailor's knife	Mr. W.H. Nichols (ex P.O. RN0) though Moira Bishop	November
76	Bosun's call	Mr. W.H. Nichols (ex P.O. RN) through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
77	Badge: HMS Juno	Mr. W.H. Nichols (ex P.O. RN) through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
78	Badge: HMS Abdiel	Mr. W.H. Nichols (ex P.O. RN) through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
79	Basdge: HMS Aveley	Mr. W.H. Nichols (ez P.O. RN) hthrough Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
80	Badge: HMS Wishart	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
81	Original ship's badge removed from HMS Wishart	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
82	Sailor's wooden box	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
83	Burnisher	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
84	Two Petty Officer's cap badge	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
86	Two Petty Officer's rate badge and good conduct chevron	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
87	Badge torpedo Coxwain	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
88	Two Gun layer 2nd class rate badge	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
89	Gun layer rate badge 1935-39	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
90	Petty officer's summer shirt	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
91	Medal ribbons: left to right - Police long service and good conduct, War medal 1939-45, Italy Star, Burma Star, Africa Star, Atlantic Star, 1939-45 Star	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
92	Tin ciao box	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
93	Identification tag	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
94	Hand stamp for making personal blongings	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
95	badge: HMS Cleopatra	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
96	Gunner's ear muffler	Mr.W. H Nichols (ex P.O. RN)through Mrs. Moira Bishop	November
97	Harbour tug master's cap	Capt. Martin Cauchi Inglott	December
98	Two clay pipes	Mr. E. Magro Conti	December
99	Three USN table spoons	Mr. E. Magro Conti	December
100	Tea cup and saucer	Mr. A. Borg Cardona	December

Items acquired by purchase for the Maritime Museum in 1996

No.	Item purchased	Purchased from	Month
1	Model of SS Malta in glass case	London Architectural Salvage Supply Co. Ltd	January
2	Gouche of a battleship in choppy seaa	OK Ltd.	January
3	Gouche of a battleship	O.K Ltd.	January
4	Map of Valletta and Grand Harbour	Vassallo Antiques	February
5	Set of 2 sprit sails	Mr. Zerafa	February
6	Steel engravings - 'The New Dock at Malta'	Melitensia Art Gallery	March
7	Gouche, RMMS.Paramatta Bombay	Melitensia Art Gallery	March
8	Two Prints, representing scenes at Malta	Collector's Den	April
9	'Spalliera ta' Dghajsa'	Mr. F. Mercieca	June
10	Gouche, ' Tartana di Malta'	Mr. P. Camilleri	June
11	Engraving of 'Spemoara'	Mr. Joseph Muscat	June
12	Oil Painting, 'Maltese Luzzu at Menqa'	La Vallette, Art Gallery	July
13	Colour engraving - 'The British approaching the French Squadron at the Battle of teh Nile'	Mr. A. Vella	October
14	Colour engraving - 'The battle of the Nile'	Mr. A. Vella	October
15	Brass cigarette box	Mr. Joseph Muscat	November

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VISITORS ADMITTED TO MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS
DURING THE CALENDAR YEARS 1995 AND 1996**

	1995		1996	
MUSEUM/SITE	ON PAYMENT	FREE	ON PAYMENT	FREE
Museum of Archaeology *	66,221	4,671	18,083	2,437
Museum of Fine Arts	16,486	1,995	29,948	6,572
Museum of Natural History	8,111	8,720	7,004	6,864
Museum of Roman Antiquities	48,044	8,769	42,926	8,990
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	85,820	9,830	79,201	10,336
Hagar Qim Megalithic Temples	84,537	13,982	84,137	11,446
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum **	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inquisitor's Palace & Folklore Museum	19,950	4,987	25,326	7,439
Maritime Museum	12,315	6,098	12,875	11,381
Palace Armoury	69,075	8,645	67,055	9,568
Palace State Rooms	103,965	4,602	95,781	6,978
San Pawl Milqghi	1,156	538	1,254	597
St. Paul's Catacombs	67,492	6,317	62,257	8,754
Tarxien Megalithic Temples	100,346	6,856	95,743	9,688
War Museum	31,478	8,148	26,543	10,645
Museum of Archaeology, Gozo	13,741	2,598	13,003	5,655
Museum of Folklore, Gozo	12,622	2,484	11,132	6,388
Museum of Natural Science, Gozo	3,972	654	1,578	3,867
Ggantija Temples, Gozo	137,195	10,602	123,805	12,813
Windmill, Gozo	21,320	3,700	30,843	5,547
TOTAL	903,846	114,196	828,494	145,965
Group tickets purchased by Travel Agents	118,053	/	161,957	/
	LM609,704.70		LM633,975.02	

* Closed for restoration and refurbishment since April 1996

** Closed for restoration and refurbishment since September 1991