

Museums Department

(Period covered:
1st January, 1998 to 31st December, 1998)

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

National Museum of Archaeology

The Museum's main objective for 1998 was the re-opening of the Prehistoric Collection to the general public on the ground floor of the Auberge de Provence. This was achieved on the 4th of April 1998. The Museum's innovative display design has proved to be very successful with both the Maltese and foreign visitors. This achievement included the setting up of a new system of showcases, the production of graphics and models, the preparation of extensive bilingual texts (in Maltese and English), and the review and restoration of hundreds of archaeological artefacts. The interpretative display was financed by the J.P. Getty Foundation (1996/2001 financial grant).

The upper floor of the Museum was meanwhile used to host a temporary archaeological exhibition entitled "Sulla Rotta dei Fenici" which displayed - side by side - various aspects of Phoenician culture from Malta as well as from Sicily, Sardegna and Ibiza. This event - which opened on the 3rd of November - was organised jointly with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Malta, the Ministero degli Affari Esteri and Associazione Civita. A full-colour catalogue of the exhibition was published for this event, with the help and sponsorship of the Malta Experience. This event attracted a lot of attention particularly from the Maltese public. Furthermore, a public seminar was organised on the 2nd of October at the Auberge de Provence on the theme of Phoenician archaeology. The speakers to this well attended seminar were Dr T Gouder, Prof. A Acquaro and Prof.ssa A Ciasca.

Meanwhile structural works in the Museum's upper floors have been continued, antiquated electrical and plumbing systems were replaced, old

blocked-up doorways were re-opened, and modern joinery works were installed.

Site Management Unit

A number of projects were continued or initiated at the following archaeological sites:

The Hypogeum Conservation Project - Works here were slowed down considerably while approval was obtained for the cost variations required to implement a number of improvements to the new visitor experience. Works resumed at a rapid rate during the second half of the year. Visitor walkways were installed in the upper level of the site, which may now be properly experienced by the visitor for the first time. The audio-visual experience has been finalised and translated into five languages, and the related furnishings and equipment installed.

Tarxien Temples - New, improved sanitary facilities were installed on the site, as well as a number of information panels which were placed within the site itself. These initiatives were partially funded by the Bank of Valletta International Heritage Trust, which meanwhile continued negotiations with Government regarding its possible future role in the management and conservation of this site.

Hagar Qim - A new programme of works was launched at Hagar Qim. The objectives of these works were to improve the quality of the visitor experience by re-integrating the site within its landscape. A new fence was designed with the support of the Restoration Unit of the Works Division. This was designed to minimise its visual impact without compromising security by following the contours of the landscape, adopting a light tensile structure, and doubling the distance from the site to the fence. The old, more obtrusive, enclosure will be dismantled in 1999. Saplings of trees from a number of species which were believed to have been present in Malta in prehistory were also planted, and the car park upgraded.

World Monuments Watch Grant - Following a successful application submitted by the Department, the World Monuments Watch awarded a \$50,000 grant for a conservation study to take place at Mnajdra. The purpose of this study will be to gain a better understanding of deterioration processes affecting the site, and to identify safe solutions. This

was intended to be a pilot study; other Maltese megalithic sites would benefit from this research.

UNESCO World Heritage Emergency Fund Grant - On the 28th of November 1998, part of the northern side of the first apse collapsed at Hagar Qim. The damage occurred to the right of the temples as one enters through the main entrance. The World Heritage Committee happened to be holding one of its sessions and was immediately informed. The Museums Department submitted a request for emergency funds. The Committee approved a grant equal to \$72,000 dollars that was intended to cover the greater part of the costs of reconstructing the collapsed area, as well as conducting a preventive study to avoid a repetition of such collapses.

Heritage Information Unit

The Unit's more important archaeological interventions in 1998 were the following :

Birkirkara - A double-chambered rock-cut tomb was discovered at Triq Il-Kbira, Has-Sajjied. The tomb had been emptied of its contents in antiquity, but its internal rock-cut arrangements were extremely well preserved. The tomb was roughly datable to the Late Roman era. It was being preserved by the owner of the property.

Birzebbugia - An impressive masonry structure made of large stone blocks was discovered immediately to the south of the megalithic temple of Borg in-Nadur. An investigation established conclusively that the remains dated to the Borg in-Nadur phase, and that they belonged to an extensive system of Bronze Age fortifications that seemed to encircle the entire hill-top. Furthermore, it was determined that this defensive wall was constructed over the remains of an earlier domestic structure which included a small oven. It was also datable to the Bronze Age.

Mdina - The Unit carried out three archaeological interventions at Mesquita Square, Xara Palace and St. Paul's Street in relation to ongoing development works. These soundings provided a wealth of entirely new archaeological data on the origins and history of Mdina.

Important Phoenician layers (datable to the 8th/6th Century BC) were encountered at both Mesquita Square and at Palazzo Xara, including the remains of various domestic floors and hearths. An

impressive Punic ashlar construction was discovered in the Mesquita Square sondage - given its dimensions, these remains must belong to an important public or defensive construction. Equally impressive were the Byzantine and Islamic remains discovered at the above two sites. Early modern remains were investigated at Palazzo Xara and St. Paul's Street illustrating Mdina's transformation by the Order of St. John during the 16th and 17th Century.

Paola - A rock-cut tomb was discovered at Triq il-Vittmi Tax-Xoghol, Ghajn Dwieli. Investigation of the tomb established that it was probably Punic in date, although most of the tomb's original contents were found to be missing. The tomb is the fourth to be discovered within this limited zone in recent years. Arrangements for the tomb's preservation were undertaken with Enemalta, who were the proprietors of the site.

Marsaxlokk - The Unit supervised two separate archaeological investigations at the Punic sanctuary at Tas-Silg. The Missione Archaeologica Italiana in Malta continued with the re-evaluation of the site's northern half, while the University of Malta carried on with its sondages in the southern half. Talks between the Museums Department and the Missione Archaeologica have been initiated with respect to the long-term conservation and public presentation of this important and little appreciated monument.

Also at Marsaxlokk, two skeletons were discovered in the coastal area known as Ghar L-Ahmar. The first individual was found in a supine position within a shallow trench cut into the natural sub-soil. The body was oriented on an east/west axis, the head being placed to the west. Unfortunately, the second individual was disturbed by vandals before its location was reported to the Museum. This is the fifth inhumation to be recorded from this area over the last 30 years.

Zurrieq - The investigation of the Xarolla catacomb cluster has been started anew, resulting in the uncovering of nine new small catacombs. One tomb was discovered beneath the Zurrieq-Hal Safi Road, and access to it was maintained through the construction of a man-hole. The remaining tombs were all clustered further to the west of the catacombs discovered in 1996. Work on this impressive cluster of Late Roman funerary monuments is continuing into 1999 and a fence has

been temporarily erected around the site through the agency of the Works Division.

Medieval Ceramics Survey - The Unit was involved in a re-assessment of the extensive collection of archaeological materials kept in reserve storage by the Museum of Archaeology. In view of the forthcoming opening of the historic galleries at the Auberge de Provence, priority was given to the study of the Classical and Medieval materials. In particular, during the month of June, a thorough survey of all the Museum holdings of Medieval ceramics was carried out with the generous assistance of Dott.ssa Alessandra Molinari of the Università di Siena. Materials from 28 different excavations were examined in detail and an impressive amount of new information on Malta's little-understood Medieval past has been compiled. This information has been presented in a Technical Report and will form the basis of the Museum's projected Medieval display.

ETHNOGRAPHY SECTION

The Inquisitor's Palace - The restoration and rehabilitation of the Inquisitor's Palace was continued in 1998 under the direction of Works Division and with the executive assistance of the Cottonera Rehabilitation Project and the Gerolamo Cassar School. Archaeological supervision of these works was provided by the Heritage Information Unit to ensure that no historical data is accidentally damaged or left unrecorded.

Infrastructural works included the stripping of walls from modern plaster and whitewash at ground floor level, the construction of a short flight of steps in the smaller yard and the removal of intrusive modern soil and rubble fills. The rehabilitation of the garden was taken in hand with the removal of cement plasters and the replacement of obtrusive modern drain pipes. The two staircases were whitewashed while a small bath area was completed in the staff area. The basement was cleared of modern rubble in-fill, while repairs of the Palace's roofs have been commenced.

A laboratory for the restoration of the Museum's Historic Costume Collection has been completed and is now functional. This required the completion of structural works in the lab area, the installation of air conditioning systems, the creation of storage areas and acquisition of laboratory equipment. A

three-man team was now working on the costume collection which should be installed at the Auberge de France, Birgu.

GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY SECTION

Geology and Palaeontology Sections, Mdina - Work in this section included the substitution of outdated labels and the introduction of new storage facilities for the collection of fossil fish - the fossils being first cleaned and reinforced with polyvinyl solution. The principal addition to the geological collection consisted in a sirenian rib fragment embedded in a boulder of greensands, impounded by the Curator from a foreign collector of fossils.

Ghar Dalam Museum - Infrastructural works included the construction of new drawer-system storage cabinets. Work continued on the construction of a new display unit for the recently-built new exhibition hall. Two further air conditioners were installed within the Museum and repairs were made to the roof's waterproofing membrane. Considerable improvements were also carried out on the Museum's entrance area and its gardens. Furthermore new lights have been installed within the Ghar Dalam Cave.

MARITIME MUSEUM

The Museum was the venue of several cultural and social activities, while 42 new items have been added to the Museum's collection (Appendices D-E).

The principal event of the year was the opening of an exhibition entitled *Blockade: The Royal Navy and Malta 1798 to 1800*. The exhibition was organised by the Maritime Museum jointly with the British High Commission and the Greenwich National Maritime Museum. It proved to be a very popular event.

Structural works were carried out at the Museum to ensure appropriate waterproofing of the roofs.

MILITARY HISTORY UNIT

The Palace Armoury - The Reserve Collections at the Armoury have been re-classified, cleaned and oiled. Important items were identified and separated

for special attention and eventual display. A group of 16th century powder flasks and muskets that were in store were restored and displayed. The old mannequins display at the Armoury was removed and will be re-placed with plain wooden supports. Work on the foyer panelling was completed by the Carpenters' Co-operative of Marsa. Work on the Armoury inventory included all items displayed on the walls, in the showcases, and free standing in the two Armoury halls and Palace corridors. These were group photographed and numbered while important items have been individually photographed.

Four small bronze guns on iron carriages were placed in the entrance of the Palace Armoury. Two of these were formerly sited outside the Main Guard, while the remaining two guns were displayed beside the Great Siege monument. Two large stone cannon balls, reputedly 16th Century in date, were removed from the War Museum to the Palace Armoury with the assistance of the Armed Forces.

War Museum - A general review of the Museum's display was carried out and several items in the central hall were rearranged in a more sensible manner. All the items were superficially cleaned, special attention being given to the artillery pieces in the central display. The aircraft section was also carefully dusted and cleaned, the aircraft engines and machine guns being cleaned and treated with silicone oil. A number of wartime vehicles were placed on display in the passageway of the War Museum courtyard. The canvas canopy erected for the protection of these wartime vehicles was extended so as to accommodate another vehicle.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

A total of 36 art exhibitions were held at the Museum of Fine Arts (Appendix A). The Museum was also responsible for the annual Maltafest 1998 event held at the Arts Centre at St James Cavalier.

The Museum organised an exhibition of drawings by Antoine de Favray, since 1998 happened to be the second centenary of his death. The Museum used its own considerable collection of Favray's drawings together with a number on loan from private sources. The Museum published a catalogue of the exhibits which included an introductory essay.

1998 happened to be the tercentenary from the death of Mattia Preti. The Museum felt under obligation to plan a series of commemorative events in tribute to this artist's outstanding contribution to the culture of Malta. Maltacom p.l.c. and Posta Ltd. were approached by the Department and issued sets of telecards and postal stamps to mark the event. Two exhibitions were organised to mark the event, one consisting of a collection of Preti's drawings from the Museum's own collection as well as from the *Galleria degli Uffizi* (Firenze), the Albertina Museum (Vienna) and the *Museo Civico di Taverna*. A number of other drawings were loaned private Maltese collections. Seventeen Maltese contemporary artists contributed to the other exhibition that was entitled "*Re-interpreting Preti*". They exhibited works inspired somehow by the great artist. Both these events were accompanied by fully illustrated catalogues with contributions by recognised scholars in the field and by the Museum staff. The Preti commemorations included a mass "*in memoriam*" held in the Oratory of St John's Church, as well as a lecture by Prof John T Spike. AirMalta published a splendid calendar illustrating in full colours works by Mattia Preti held by the Museum of Fine Arts. Further exposure in this direction was afforded by Jagrove Ltd who created a web-site on the Internet for the Museum's holdings of Preti works.

The Museum hosted a retrospective collection of Josef Kalleya's sculptures and paintings displayed in the Museum Loggia on 10-29th December. The Ministry of Education organised the event following the artist's recent demise. Two publications were issued and included an essay on Kalleya's significance in Maltese Art by the Curator of the Museum.

The Museum loaned the painting '*Allegory of the Order*' to the Portuguese Branch of the Order of St John to exhibit in their pavilion at the EXPO '98 held in Lisbon. It likewise loaned two of Ducros' '*Views of Valletta and its Harbours*' to the 1798-1800 *Blockade* exhibition put up at the Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa. Similarly, the Museums Department loaned a number of historical portraits to the organisers of an exhibition held in the Hall of the Grand Council, the Palace, Valletta - with Malta's connections with Russia as its theme.

In answer to an invitation from the cultural offices of the EU in Brussels, the Museum of Fine Arts made arrangements to send the young artists Austin Camilleri and Savio Deguara to represent

Malta, with their respective exhibits, in an art event called *Mediterranea*, held during October 1998 in various prestigious localities in Brussels. Participation proved to be a resounding success.

In December the lighting system of the Contemporary Hall was upgraded. The Museum secured an adjoining property - no. 8, Old Mint Street, Valletta. It was planned to convert this property into a Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

The Restoration Workshop carried out a number of important restoration interventions (Appendix C) the more significant of which concerned two works by Mattia Preti, the old altarpiece of St John's by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio, and a portrait of "*Bali Raymond Soler*" a previously unrecognised, autographed work by Pedro Nunez de Villavicencio. The Department continued with the restoration in the Armoury corridor of the Grand Masters' palace.

Following an agreement reached between the Valletta Rehabilitation Project and the Paul Getty Foundation, a team from the Courtauld's Institute of London commenced work in November on the restoration of the Paladini frescoes in the Old Verdalle chapel of the Grand Masters' Palace. The Getty Foundation itself contracted the Courtauld's Institute of London. Current work consisted in an exploratory investigation of the frescoes' condition.

By January 23rd, 1998 the two panels of the Flemish tapestries - '*The Nativity*' and '*The Annunciation*' - loaned from St John's for the *Rubentextiel* exhibition in Antwerp were returned to Malta after undergoing conservation treatment at the De Witt Conservatory, Mechelen.

Contact was maintained with the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* of Firenze concerning the on-going restoration of Caravaggio's '*Beheading of St John the Baptist*'. In December, the Museum was informed that the restoration intervention was planned to be terminated by the end of January 1999. The work would then be exhibited in Firenze, according to the *protocollo d'intesa*, before being shipped back to Malta. The preparatory work that would be carried out in the Oratory of St John's Church has been agreed upon with Dott Marco Ciatti of the *Opificio* during his June visit to Malta. This would consist in:

1. completion of the support structure to enable inspection of the canvas from the rear in January, 1999;

2. restoration of the ornamental *cornicione* by the *Opificio* to be completed by mid-March 1999.

3. works of art and antiques were acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts for the national collection (Appendix B) including paintings, prints, and photographic prints - mostly presented by artists exhibiting at the Museum. One painting, a '*Crucifixion*' by Giuseppe Briffa (1901-1986) was presented by the Capt O. F. Gollcher Art and Archaeological Foundation. A portrait of Dr C Pace by Willie Apap (1918-1970) was kindly presented by the Bank of Valletta, while the Alan Mordey bequest of hand-woven representations was augmented by a further seven works.

In October, the Minister presided over the official launching of Peter Mayo's book on the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Museum has also collected Lm13,402 in the form of inspection fees on the importation and exportation of antique objects and other works-of-art. Throughout the same year, 118 such inspections were carried out upon referral by the Comptroller of Customs; a fee was paid in all cases. A further 486 applications for clearance were processed.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Work continued on the indexing of the Museum's biological collections and the improvement of its library. Restoration of the biological specimens and the construction of models was also carried out by its staff. The Museum's educational programme was continued, 81 classes being hosted ranging from Year II to Form III and involving 2,250 students. A programme of research on local bird species was carried out. The restoration of the more perilous parts of Vilhena Palace has been started. Clamps have been installed, under the supervision of the Works Division, as temporary measures in the threatened sections.

A PACE
Director

EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS 1998

No	Date	Artist	Location
1	3 - 20 Jan	Anthony Macelli	Contemporary Hall
2	7 - 27 Jan	Juliet Horncastle	Loggia
3	21 Jan -10 Feb	Franco Gentilini	Contemporary Hall
4	28 Jan - 17 Feb	Johan Huy	Loggia
5	11 Feb - 3 Mar	Walter Barbara	Contemporary Hall
6	18 Feb - 10 Mar	Sig. Giacomina Venuti	Loggia
7	4 - 24 Mar	Guzeppi Schembri	Contemporary Hall
8	11 - 29 Mar	Alfred Mizzi	Loggia
9	25 Mar - 15Apr	Arthur Dutton	Contemporary Hall
10	30 Mar - 19 Apr	EKG Frequenzen	Loggia
11	16 Apr - 5 May	Milena Kunz-Bijno	Contemporary Hall
12	20 Apr - 10 May	Thomas Scicluna	Loggia
13	6 - 26 May	Anthony Calleja	Contemporary Hall
14	11 May - 1 Jun	Antoine P. Camilleri	Loggia
15	27 May - 16 Jun	Malta Photographic Society	Contemporary Hall
16	3 - 23 Jun	Alfred Chircop	Loggia
17	17 Jun - 7 Jul	Giuseppe Cassar	Contemporary Hall
18	24 Jun - 14 Jul	James Vassallo	Loggia
20	15 Jul - 4 Aug	Drawings by Antoine Favray	Loggia
21	29 Jul -18 Aug	Daniel Martens	Contemporary Hall
22	5 - 25 Aug	Luciano Schifano	Loggia
23	19 Aug - 8 Sep	Dusan Djurdjevic	Contemporary Hall
24	26 Aug - 15 Sept	Joanne Schembri	Loggia
25	16 Sep - 6 Oct	France Slana	Loggia
26	30 Sep - 20 Oct	Renata Boero: Italian Cultural Institute	Contemporary Hall
27	7 - 27 Oct	Taverna Artists	Loggia
28	21 Oct - 10 Nov	Francoise Archambault de Beune	Contemporary Hall
29	28 Oct - 17 Nov	Joseph P. Cassar	Loggia
30	11 Nov - 1 Dec	Vince Briffa	Contemporary Hall
31	18 Nov - 9 Dec	Josette Caruana	Loggia
32	2 - 22 Dec	John Martin Borg	Contemporary Hall
33	10 - 29 Dec	Josef Kalleya Commemorative exhibition	Loggia
34	23 Dec -12 Jan	Drawings by Mattia Preti	Contemporary Hall
35	30 Dec - 19 Jan	Re-interpreting Preti	Loggia

APPENDIX B

ACQUISITIONS MADE BY THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS 1998

No	Artist	Work of Art	Medium	Inventory No.
1	Mario Galea	<i>Architectural Concept</i>	mild steel and glass	14883-4 FAS/S/263
2	Dolores Puthod	<i>Adoring Angels</i>	ink and washes	14889-90 FAS/D/184
3	Richard Saliba	<i>Untitled 22</i>	aquatint	14901-2 FAS/E/231
4	Juliet Horncastle	<i>Gregale</i>	oils on canvas	14903-4 FAS/P/1780
5	Brian Grima	<i>The Vilhena Lion</i>	etching on paper	14905-6 FAS/E/232
6	Norbert Attard	<i>Abstract V</i>	acrylics on cardboard	14907-8 FAS/P/1781
7	Arthur Dutton	<i>Exploring the Unknown</i>	pastels on white paper	14909-10 FAS/P/1783
8	Alfred Mizzi	<i>Gharbilt</i>	oils on canvas	14955-6 FAS/P/1784
9	Walter Barbara	<i>Pensive</i>	photographic print	14957-8 FAS/Photo/10
10	Milena Kunz-Bijno	<i>Fulfilment</i>	charcoal on paper/canvas	14959-60 FAS/P/1795
11	Johan Huy	<i>Scream of Loneliness</i>	etching on white paper	14963-4 FAS/E/233
12	Anthony Calleja	<i>Driving</i>	acrylics on plywood	14965-6 FAS/P/1786
13	Giuseppe Briffa	<i>Christ Crucified</i>	oils on cardboard	14975-6 FAS/P/1788
14	Giuseppe Cassar	<i>Sqaq il-katakombi, Rabat</i>	watercolours on paper	14971-2 FAS/P/1787
15	Antoine Paul Camilleri	<i>Horse in Stable</i>	pen on paper	14973-4 FAS/D/207
16	James Vassallo	<i>Boy playing with a ball</i>	acrylics on fibreboard	14979-80 FAS/P/1790
17	Willie Apap	<i>Portrait of Dr Joseph L. Pace LL.D.</i>	oils on canvas	14981-2 FAS/P/1791
18	Dusan Djurdjevic	<i>Marsaxlokk</i>	cibachrome	14983-4 FAS/Photo/11
19	Peter Paul Barbara	<i>Untitled</i>	photographic print	14985-6 FAS/Photo/12
20	Joanne Schembri	<i>Fireglow</i>	oils on paper	14987-8 FAS/P/1792
21	Richard England	<i>Project for House of Representatives (Sept 76)</i>	B & W photography	14989-90 FAS/Photo/13
22	Alan Mordey	<i>Female Dancer</i>	knotted wool on canvas	14991-2 FAS/Tx/31
23	Alan Mordey	<i>Connemara, Ireland</i>	knotted wool on canvas	14993-4 FAS/Tx/32
24	Alan Mordey	<i>The Mill</i>	knotted wool on canvas	14995-6 FAS/Tx/33
25	France Slana	<i>The Forest</i>	mixed media on paper	14997-8 FAS/P/1794
26	Luciano Schifano	<i>4 Prints from Album 'Itinerario Archaeologico'</i>	offset print	14999-15000 FAS/Pr/279
27	Alan Mordey	<i>Garden in Arles</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15139-40 FAS/Tx/34
28	Alan Mordey	<i>Iris</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15141-2 FAS/Tx/35
29	Alan Mordey	<i>Vase of wild flowers</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15143-4 FAS/Tx/36
30	Alan Mordey	<i>Starry Night</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15145-6 FAS/Tx/37
31	Joseph P Cassar	<i>Untitled</i>	oils on canvas	15147-8 FAS/P/1793

**CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION CONCLUDED DURING 1998 AT
THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

No.	Artist and Title	Provenance
1	Mattia Preti <i>Rest on the Flight into Egypt</i>	Church of the Holy Family, Sliema
2	Matteo Perez d'Aleccio <i>The Baptism of Christ</i>	Museum of St John's
3	Pedro Nunez de Villavicencio <i>Portrait of Bali' Raymond Soler (1674)</i>	Museum of Fine Arts
4	Circle of Filippo Paladini <i>St John the Evangelist (panel)</i>	Church of Our Lady of Victories
5	17th century artist <i>Still Life with Flowers</i>	Foreign Affairs (Embassy)
6	Mattia Preti <i>St Sebastian</i>	Sarria Church, Floriana
7	Maltese, 19th century <i>Landscapes (Two lunettes)</i>	Corridor, The Palace, Valletta
8	Anonymous, 16th century <i>St Anthony the Abbot</i>	Church of Our Lady of Victories, Valletta
9	Anonymous, 16th century <i>St Anthony of Padova</i>	Church of Our Lady of Victories, Valletta
10	19th century Ornamental Fireplace	Palazzo Parisio, Valletta

DONATIONS MADE TO THE MARITIME MUSEUM DURING 1998

No	Date	Item	Donated by
1	10 Jan	Miniature life belt in wood inscribed 'HEAVEN'S LIGHT OUR GUIDE' and decorated with two gold and black stars. The motto and decorations relate to HMS Sirius. This item formed part of the Maritime collection formerly pertaining to the late Rev. Paul Cauchi of Senglea who had inherited from his father.	Mr Maurice Cordina
2	13 Feb	Nineteenth century map: 'Overland Route to India' drawn and engraved by John Rapkin (active 1845-51) with inset illustrations by H. Warren and engraved by J.H. Kernot	Friends of the Maritime Museum Association
3	27 Feb	Ship's badge of RNA Birkenhead	Mr Alfred Vassallo
4	3 Mar	Ship's badge of German submarine 'U26'	HE the President Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici
5	3 Mar	Ship's badge of Italian Training Ship 'Palinuro'	HE the President Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici
6	3 Mar	Ship's badge of Italian frigate 'Urania'	HE the President Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici
7	6 Mar	Ship's badge of French submarine 'Psyche'	Submarine's CO
8	25 Mar	Set of two (2) hand painted Malta Stone frames on stands produced by German POW in Malta	Mr Joseph Muscat
9	30 Mar	Nineteenth century Sextant (with original box) manufactured by Luigi Cauchi (active 1850-60) of 31 Strada Mercanti, Valletta. This item was originally purchased in Malta by the donor's great grand-father who was a sea captain.	Mr Francesco Lenzi of Milan, Italy
10	2 April	Maker's brass plate from a 'Milners' Fire Resisting Strong Holdfast Safe'	Mr Edward Vassallo
11	7 May	150 th anniversary commemorative medal (1848-1998) of the Malta Chamber of Commerce	Malta Chamber of Commerce
12	16 May	Ship's badge of survey ship 'H.M.S. Herald'	Ship's CO
13	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of mine sweeper 'H.M.S. Roasario' made at Malta Dockyard c.1943	Anon
14	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of destroyer 'H.M.S. Charity' (c.1946) made at Malta Dockyard	Anon
15	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of destroyer 'H.M.S. Keppel' (c.1935) made at Malta Dockyard	Anon
16	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of submarine 'Sea Devil' (c1945) made at Malta Dockyard	Anon
17	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of an unidentified British naval ship made at Malta Dockyard	Anon

No	Date	Item	Donated by
18	19 May	Wood pattern for ship's badge of Royal Pakistan Navy ship 'Jhelum' (c.1942) made at Malta	Anon
19	4 June	Ship's badge of French corvette 'Aviso Commandant Bouan'	HE the French Ambassador
20	20 June	Set of five (5) offset prints after water colours by Joseph Pace Ross reproducing Malta related maritime scenes	Mr Joseph Pace Ross
21	20 July	Bill of lading dated July 1777	Mr Lorenzo Zahra
22	24 July	Badge of the Royal Navy Officers' Association, Malta	RNOAM
23	25 July	Ship's badge of submarine mother ship 'HMS Forth'	Mr L.S.G. Middleton
24	12 Aug	80th anniversary commemorative brass plaque of the Polish Navy in memory of crews of Polish submarines who served in Malta 1941-43	Polish Submarine Crews Society
25	10 Sept.	Watercolours 'HMS Victoria' by G. D'Esposito signed and dated 1894	British Marine Mutual Insurance Association Ltd. England
26	15 Sep	Set of photographs and one (1) programme connected to the Presentation of Colours by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to the Royal Marines at Malta on 29 November 1952	Mr J.M. Coll, England
27	28 Oct	one (1) late 19th century bicorn naval hat in tin case	Mr Mario Farrugia, Keeper of Fort Rinella
28	31 Oct.	One (1) Marine Police (general pattern) button and one (1) Royal Navy officers button worn between 1827 and 1843	Denis Darmanin
29	3 Nov	One (1) iron canon ball	Mr R.T.H. Bird
30	3 Nov	One (1) Royal Navy divers knife	Mr R.T.H. bird
31	24 Oct	Torpedo gyro	Gospport Submarine Museum, England
32	19 Nov	One (1) model of 68 pounder 1805 carronade	Major Edward Axisa
33	30 Nov	Ships' Badge of 'Comando Generale de Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto'	Admiral Renato Ferraro, Italy
34	30 Nov	Badge of the 'Lega Navale Italiana, Sezione di Agrigento'	Lega Navale Italiana of Agrigento, Italy
35	30 Nov	Ship's Badge of the French Frigate 'Courbet'	Ship's CO
36	30 Nov	Ship's badge of the 'USS Austin'	Officers and crew of the ship
37	30 Oct	Oil on canvas Painting 'A Tribute to the People of Malta 1940-43'	HE the President Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici

APPENDIX E

TRANSFERS TO THE MARITIME MUSEUM DURING 1998

No	Date	Item	Transferred from
1	12 May	One (1) full scale 1806 24 pounder British Naval Gun	Fort Mosta

ITEMS PURCHASED BY THE MARITIME MUSEUM

No	Item purchased	Date
1	Twenty-eight (28) hand crafted miniature wood models of pre World War II British Warships of the Mediterranean Station	4 June
2	Built up scale model of an ancient Roman Merchant Ship	23 Oct
3	One (1) 1955 UK War Department standard issue Brass Pyrene hand-pump action fire extinguisher	3 Nov
4	One (1) late 18th century Wedgewood plaque with profile portrait of Lord Nelson	12 Dec

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VISITORS ADMITTED TO MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS DURING THE CALENDAR YEARS 1997 AND 1998

PLACE	1997		1998	
	On payment	Free	On payment	Free
Museum of Archaeology	NIL	NIL	48,185	7,746
Museum of Fine Arts	33,544	4,035	35,513	3,428
Museum of Natural History	7,922	7,574	9,302	8,035
Museum of Roman Antiquities	41,816	22,148	53,513	8,886
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	74,572	11,021	80,896	10,861
Hagar Qim Megalithic Temples	89,743	23,708	118,228	13,995
Hypogeum	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inquisitor's Palace & Folklore Museum	28,019	24,869	33,114	8,708
Maritime Museum	26,237	7,612	32,653	12,378
Palace Armoury	72,423	11,251	101,277	11,375
Palace State Rooms	89,919	5,406	130,569	6,903
San Pawl Milqghi	764	744	223	648
St. Paul's Catacombs	60,264	8,144	78,686	11,730
Tarxien Megalithic Temples	98,037	30,338	112,502	10,908
War Museum	36,582	8,167	41,999	7,344
Museum of Archaeology, Gozo	14,183	6,191	14,535	6,226
Museum of Folklore, Gozo	9,911	7,220	10,109	6,684
Museum of Natural Science, Gozo	1,1561	4,234	5,015	3,564
Ggantija Temples, Gozo	121,103	16,497	144,395	19,200
Windmill, Gozo	31,765	8,325	31,511	6,451
TOTAL	838,365	207,484	1,081,925	165,070
Group tickets purchased by Travel Agents	378,064	/	277,343	
	Lm666,875.54		Lm918,260.00	