

Museums Department

(Period covered:
1st January, 1999 to 31st December, 1999)

MISSION

The Department's mission is to ensure, by means of its diverse services, that present and future generations are able to derive cultural, educational and economic benefit from Malta's heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

National Museum of Archaeology

In 1999 the Museum proceeded with a number of refurbishments within the Auberge de Provence in preparation for the new archaeological displays to be sited on the upper floor galleries. This saw the installation of all joinery works on the upper floor, including the restoration of wall mouldings and of the apertures overlooking Republic Street.

Although the Museum opened its Prehistoric Galleries to the public in 1998, museum staff continued to upgrade and improve upon this display with additional information and graphics. They initiated the planning and preparation process of the upper floor permanent exhibition.

In 1999, the Museum established three temporary exhibitions, hosted a number of lectures and events in connection with the theme of cultural heritage:

An Island in Prehistory - Malta 5000-2500 B.C. - This exhibition, which focused on the Prehistoric Collection, was initiated by the Corinthia Group of Companies in collaboration with Airmalta, Prague Castle and the National Museum of Archaeology. The exhibition helped forge new relations between Malta and the Czech Republic within a cultural heritage dimension. The exhibition was held within Prague Castle between the 11th and the 22nd May and included an interesting cross section of Maltese prehistoric material.

Seven Women, Seven Temples - The exhibition consisted of a collection of paintings and sculptures inspired by seven Maltese temples. A catalogue showing the works of the seven artists - Julie Apap, Jeni Caruana, Sina Farrugia, Ebba von Fersen Balzan, Anna Grima, Caroline Hills, Olaug Vethal, accompanied the exhibition, which was held between 28th October and 18th November. On the occasion of this exhibition the National Museum of Archaeology received a donation of temporary exhibition boards of a total value of Lm1,000.

Fragments de Civilisation - this exhibition consisted of a series of photographic montages prepared by the French photographer/artist Jackie Just, all of which deal with the theme of Malta's impressive megalithic Maltese architecture. The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the French Embassy in Malta and was opened on the 26th of November 1999.

Archaeological Site Management Unit

The conservation of Malta's megalithic temple sites has emerged as a principal challenge. During 1999, a number of initiatives were taken in this regard, while projects in other areas of activity continued.

Experts' Meeting on the Conservation of Malta's Megalithic Temples - In May 1999, the Ministry of Education convened an international meeting of experts aimed at defining some of the conservation challenges that are being faced on Malta's megalithic sites, and possible strategies to respond to these challenges. The meeting was attended by representatives of ICOMOS and ICCROM, specialists from the Universities of Malta, Florence and Karlsruhe, as well as the Restoration Unit of the Works Division and other interested parties. During the four-day meeting, an intensive debate developed, drawing on past experiences in various countries in order to identify challenges, possible pitfalls and practical solutions. A number of recommendations are now being implemented.

Conservation of Megalithic Temple Sites - In fulfilment of part of the recommendations of the Experts' Meeting, the Museums Department issued a public call in June 1999 to engage the services of an architectural firm to conduct a condition survey of the principal temple sites, to identify threatened areas, and to design a detailed plan of action giving priority to the most vulnerable sectors. By the end of 1999, the

selected consultants had completed their preliminary survey of Hagar Qim, Mnajdra, Ggantija and Tarxien, which included an endoscopic survey using the equipment given as emergency assistance by UNESCO. The consultants submitted the first interim report on this work in December 1999.

Improvements at Hagar Qim - Improvements of the infrastructure at Hagar Qim continued this year, with further work aimed at protecting the site in a visitor-friendly manner. Following the installation of a new fence at the end of last year, the old boundary wall was removed. This has secured the site from intruders, while improving the visual aspect of the site. A timber walkway along the main axis through the principal temple structure at Hagar Qim was likewise installed to allow visitor-flow through safely, without threading on delicate surfaces. The external circuit of this structure has been roped off, drastically reducing visitor impact.

Hypogeum Conservation Project - Work on this project came to a standstill during the first five months of 1999, because of an extensive review of the design of the walkways and railings within the complex. Owing to safety considerations and the generally low light levels maintained on this site, the handrails that have been installed are suitable and desirable. Works resumed in earnest in June, and are envisaged to be completed in 2000.

EXPO 2000 - Under the aegis of a EUROMED initiative, the Museums Department is participating in an exhibition affiliated to EXPO 2000 starting in May 2000. Around 14 countries from Europe and the Mediterranean are partners in this initiative. This exhibition is being organised by the city of Hildesheim. The theme of the exhibition is the application of technology in the conservation of the cultural heritage. The Museums Department is presenting the Hypogeum Project.

Weed Control Programme - The Site Management Unit has deployed a small team of gardeners to implement a programme of weed control on various sites, including a number of sites not open to the public at present. These sites include San Pawl Milqi, Tas-Silg, the area behind the Museum of Roman Antiquities, and the temples at Ta' Hagra and Skorba. The major aims of the programme are to facilitate visual access to archaeological features, while preventing damage through the action of roots or foliage. The combined action of manual cutting and

string cutters and the regular use of herbicide have yielded good results. Nevertheless, the use of herbicide is being reassessed in the light of its possible long-term negative conservation effects.

Heritage Information Management Unit

The Unit was engaged in several archaeological interventions during 1999, the most important being:

Emergency Interventions

- Excavations at the Inquisitor's Palace, **Vittoriosa**, were completed, revealing a number of garden features such as pathways, foundations for balustrades and traces of 18th century quarrying. Also completed was the investigation of a 19th century dump in the basement. This investigation produced a large collection of baroque architectural elements, including parts of a Latin inscription and a slab with a heraldic lion in relief.

- A small Roman catacomb was reported during building operations at **Hal Far**. Although damaged, enough remains of the catacomb have survived to determine that it had three separate burial chambers linked by a small access shaft, and that the site had undergone two distinct phases. No skeletal remains or other artefacts were recovered. The remains of the catacombs will be preserved and incorporated by the developers.

- A badly preserved catacomb complex was discovered in the Tad-Dejr area, **Rabat**, during building operations. Most of the internal rock-cut features in this complex had been quarried away. Enough survived from this complex, however, to indicate that it originally must have been a rather extensive catacomb, not unlike the Tad-Dejr catacombs in the vicinity.

- The Unit in collaboration with the Collegiata Curator investigated a number of Roman catacombs under the Wignacourt Collegiate Museum, **Rabat**. A particularly elegant catacomb with a triclinium and two baldacchino tombs was detected. A fuller investigation of this site will be attempted in 2000.

- During works at the Bank of Valletta branch in St John Street, **Valletta**, a wooden soffit was exposed. An investigation of this discovery was carried out in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, which determined that this soffit had formerly belonged to the Apartments of the Prior of St John's and dated to the mid-17th century.

- Work at the catacomb complex at Xarolla, **Zurrieq**, continued with the clearing of two service trenches, which had been cut right through the Roman site. The cleaning of these trenches resulted in the exposure of the entrances of the tombs that had been discovered in 1996. Some new features have been uncovered in the course of the works.

Archaeological Research Projects

- *Byzantine Ceramic Survey* - The unit continued the re-assessment of the collection of archaeological materials in the stores of the Museum of Archaeology by completing a survey of the Late Roman/Medieval amphorae material in collaboration with Dott.ssa Brunella Bruno of the Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta. This survey yielded impressive new information with the identification of an extensive presence of Byzantine material, hitherto overlooked in the Maltese Islands.

- *Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas University* - The first phase of a systematic survey of the Grand Harbour and Marsamxett Harbour was carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology of the University of Texas. This first phase consisted mainly of reconnaissance, aiming at a general examination of the Valletta Harbours through remote sensing and diver inspections. Various possible shipwreck sites were located and it is planned to continue the investigations in the year 2000.

- *Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta and the Istituto Centrale di Restauro (Roma)* - The Missione continued with the re-evaluation of the northern half of the site of Tas-Silg, Marsaxlokk. Experts from Istituto Centrale di Restauro of Rome have been contracted by the Missione to prepare detailed consultations on the conservation situation both at San Pawl Milqi and at Tas-Silg. A programme of emergency conservation works required at this site has also been prepared by the ICR team, including plans for weed control and reburial of certain parts of the site to preserve sections and vulnerable surfaces.

- *Department of Archaeology, University of Malta* - Two field projects were carried out in collaboration with this institution, namely,

1. For another year archaeological investigations were carried out in the Southern half of the site of **Tas-Silg, Marsaxlokk**.

2. A survey of the **Ghajn Klieb area, Rabat**, was carried out. The site contains a large scatter of classical rock-cut tombs.

Acquisitions and Bequests

- An amphora was recovered from San Niklaw Bay, **Comino**, and presented to the Museum by the Management of the Comino Hotel. The amphora (Cat: KEM1999/1) is an important item, being datable to the 4th/3rd centuries B.C. of Greco-Italic origin.

- The Gollcher Foundation acquired two ancient coins for the Museum collection. The coins, said to have been found in **Mdina**, consist of a Carthaginian gold coin (Cat: MDN1999/1) and an early imperial bronze coin (Cat: MDN1999/2).

- Part of a Neolithic stylised lobed object in ceramic (Cat: SK1999/1) was presented to the Museum by Ms Sabrina Borda, who found it at Skorba, **Mgarr**, within the megalithic temple.

- A neolithic axe-head (Cat: MST1999/1), probably of Sicilian basalt, was presented to the Museum by Dr Hans Joachim Bodenbach, who found it in a rubble wall along the bed of the Mistra Valley, **Mellieha**.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Temporary Exhibitions

The Museum continued with its ongoing programme of art exhibitions, including events by Maltese artists and other hailing from Italy, Germany, Ireland, the U.K. and Macedonia [vide Appendix A (i)]. The Museum organised four important art events in which Malta participated at the highest international level, namely the *Mediterranean Exhibition* in Brussels, the *Winsor and Newton Centennial International Exhibition*, the *World Caricature Forum* to be held in Dubai, and the 48th edition of the *Biennale di Venezia*. The latter event was the most prestigious and taxing - the last Maltese participation being in 1958. Three participants - Norbert Attard, Vince Briffa and Ray Pitre' - were selected. In this *Biennale* Malta had a pavilion of its own in the *Arsenale* that remained open from June to October 1999.

Commemoration of the 300th anniversary from the death of Mattia Preti

Two exhibitions organised by the Museum in 1998 for this event - *L'Ida del Soggetto* (a drawings display) and *Re-Interpreting Preti* - were kept open till February 1999. Two lectures were

held during the year by key scholars of Preti studies, namely John Spike and Luigi Tassoni - on January 4th and April 8th respectively - while a requiem mass celebrated by Bishop Annetto Depasquale was held in the Oratory of St John's on January 7th. Furthermore the Curator participated in a three-day conference (26 - 28 April) held at Rende, Calabria on the theme of Mattia Preti, where he read a paper on the sequence of Mattia Preti's work on the vault of St John's.

Popular appreciation of this great artist's work was further disseminated by the publication of two monographs - "*L'Idea del Soggetto*" and "*Re-Interpreting Preti*", by a fully illustrated calendar on Preti's works held by this Museum, published by Air Malta, and by the issue of a silver Lm5 commemorative coin by the Central Bank of Malta, preceded in August 1998 by a set of Maltese stamps and telecards illustrating various paintings and drawings by Mattia Preti.

Return to Malta of Caravaggio's *The Beheading of the Baptist*

This important work had been conveyed to Firenze in June 1996 for a thorough three-year restoration operation by the staff at the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure*. Between January and March 1999, a number of projects were carried out in the apse of the Oratory of St John prior to the re-installation of the painting. A system for easy access to the rear of the painting was constructed by the Restoration Unit (Works Division) to enable future monitoring of a network of microchips inserted over the surface of the canvas' rear.

Furthermore, the arch above the painting was restored and regilded, thanks to a generous contribution from APS Bank. The Directorate of the *Opificio* arranged for a team of wood-restorers to carry out the cleaning and restoration of the heavily gilded 17th century *cornicione* framing '*The Beheading*' - a project financed through the Italo-Maltese 4th Financial Protocol. A further agreement with the Directorate of the *Opificio* was designed to carry out six-monthly checks on the condition of Caravaggio's "*Beheading*" by taking readings of the microchips and thus registering fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

The famous painting was conveyed to the Pinto Marina by means of the Italian corvette '*Vega*' on

June 3rd, 1999 and immediately transferred to the Oratory of St John's where an eleven-man mission from the *Opificio* took in hand the laborious task of re-installing the canvas in its *cornicione*, completing the electronic monitoring system, and re-arranging the lights.

On June 10th, the Museum of Fine Arts organised a seminar on the restoration process by the experts involved. The proceedings were published in the monograph '*The Return of Caravaggio's "The Beheading of the Baptist" to Malta*'. The conclusion of this important occasion took place on June 15th with the presentation of various '*Gieh ir-Repubblika*' *onorificenze* to Italian personalities involved in this operation, including Dott Guido Clemente, *Assessore per la Cultura* of the *Comune di Firenze*, and Dott.ssa Cecilia Frosinini, one of the directors of the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure*. The whole Caravaggio operation received maximum media publicity. A very successful TV programme on Caravaggio's career was carried in serial form. The text was edited by the Museum. The serial received the top annual TV award for quality. A number of foreign stations likewise carried some form of coverage, including an edition of the prestigious CNN Art Club.

Collaboration with Foreign and Local Institutions

Two works by Mattia Preti - the Sarria '*St Sebastian*' and the Sliema '*Rest on the Flight into Egypt*' were loaned in March to the Museo Civico di Rende, while '*The Father Almighty*' and the '*St Zachary offering incense*' were loaned in June-July to the *Soprintendenza* of Catanzaro for an exhibition held in the *Convento di San Giovanni* of that city. '*The Flagellation and other scenes*' by the Maestro di Campodonico was loaned to the Comune di Fabriano, which published the first monograph on this obscure early painter from Le Marche. The Museum loaned works by Antoine Camilleri and Frank Portelli to Bank of Valletta plc, for retrospective exhibitions dedicated to the works of these Maltese artists held at the BOV centre in Sliema.

Restoration

The establishment of the Bigli Centre for Restoration, inaugurated in October 1999, will in future provide trained staff in the various fields of

restoration. Initially, though, the establishment of the Bighi Centre has affected adversely the restoration programme of the Museum, as two out of the Museum's total complement of four restorers of paintings joined the regular courses of the Centre - thus disrupting the programmed restorations. Nonetheless, the Museum carried out very useful work, including the completion of restoration interventions on Preti's *'Rest on the Flight into Egypt'* - duly returned to the church in Sliema - and the *'St Sebastian'* from Sarria Church, as well as the *'Baptism of Christ'* by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio, now held in the picture gallery of St John's Museum [vide Appendix A (i)].

The Museum of Fine Arts, in conjunction with the Valletta Rehabilitation Centre, prepared the project for eventual restoration of the **Paladini frescoes in the Verdala chapel of the Magisterial Palace**. A grant was secured from the Getty Foundation, which commissioned the Courtauld Institute of London to carry out the intervention, starting in February 1999 with two investigative sessions. A seminar on the project was organised with the participation of foreign experts including Dott. Giorgio Bonsanti at the Sacra Infermeria on 29 May 1999. The physical restoration of this fresco cycle was begun in the course of the November - December 1999 session. The whole project will take at least two years to be terminated.

Thanks to the patronage of Messrs Farsons Ltd, it was possible to secure the services of Dott. Sante Guido to carry out the restoration of the bronze statue of *Nettuno* - transferred to the Palace courtyard during Gaspard Le Marchand's governorship. The work is probably the most important sculpture in bronze and is presently attributed to the Mannerist sculptor Leone Leoni (1509 - 1590). The restored statue was uncovered by the President of the Republic on 24 September 1999.

Also recommenced late in the year was the gradual uncovering of the late 18th century mural in the **Banqueting Hall of Verdala Palace**.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions consisted mostly of contemporary works presented by artists after exhibiting their works in the Museum [vide Appendix A (ii)], including four works by Alan Mordey further to his bequest of the previous year. The Museum received a considerable

bequest of Helen Lowinger's own ceramic sculptures left to Malta's national collection following her death.

The Loggia of the Museum was re-decorated during the summer months, an operation funded by the Valletta Rehabilitation Committee. The adjoining property on Old Mint Street was acquired for the Museum with the intention of developing this site into a Museum of Contemporary Art.

ETHNOGRAPHY SECTION

The Inquisitor's Palace

The Palace has been the object of an on-going process of rehabilitation aimed at developing the site into a Museum on Maltese religious perceptions and values approached from an anthropological perspective and in a Mediterranean context. Owing to the shortage of employees from Gerolamo Cassar School of Building, work practically ground to a halt since July.

Works completed during 1999 had focused on the structure of the building, and addressed the re-plastering of the six rooms in the ground floor kitchen area, the replacement of two rotten beams in the Ruffo Apartments, the replacement of broken roof slabs and the setting out of the new garden arrangement according to 17th century landscaping notions.

All items belonging to the Museums Department formerly kept in the stores of Bighi Trade School have been transferred to store no. 5 in Fort Ricasoli as part of the clearing process necessary to make way for the Restoration Centre.

Improvements to the display have been carried out with the opening of a room on popular devotion related to Holy Week. The Museums library, including over 200 volumes, has been catalogued and indexed.

The Textile Laboratory cleaned and restored a clerical vestment previously exhibited in the chapel, 15 clerical vestments of the chapel of Verdala Palace and a military uniform for the Maritime Museum. The Department's clothes collection was further organised. During the summer months, two students from the *Istituto del Restauro del Tessuto. Palazzo Spinelli* of Florence did their work-phase on the restoration of our collection under the direction of Ms Gorassini.

The Museum organised activities in co-operation with other cultural institutions:

- The textile laboratory reorganised the costume exhibition of the Manoel Theatre, which falls under the responsibility of *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*;
- For the second successive year, two *Skola Sajf* students guided around 2,000 summer school children who visited the Palace, learned about the Inquisition and toured around Vittoriosa;
- In July, two B.Arch University students made a survey of the present state of conservation of the Inquisitor's Palace façade;
- In November, the Palace featured in the programme *Kultura* on the Education Channel;
- The Vittoriosa Local Council set up two temporary exhibitions - on Vittoriosa (in September) and on world population (in December) - at the Auberge de France;
- Bighi Restoration Centre helped with the restoration of the friezes in a hall of the Ruffo Apartments under the supervision of Anna Lisa Lusuardi and Roberta de Angelis. Some pieces of our clothes collection are also being restored at Bighi under the direction of Claudia Kusch.

Acquisitions

The following items were added to the ethnographic collection:

- A painted stone statue of St Michael from Ta' Ganu Windmill, B'Kara;
- A stone statue of St Joseph from Restoration Unit, Works Division;
- An old wedding carriage from Animal Husbandry Division, Ghammieri;
- Fourteen measures for fireworks powder from Museum of Natural History;
- An African musical instrument;
- One metal HIS altar frontispiece;
- One *lembut*;
- Part from an old printing machine;
- One early 20th century *ghonnella* donated by Mr Anton Cardona of Lija;
- 44 dresses, table cloths, pillow cases and other fabrics donated by Ms Doris Scerri of Birkirkara
- 63 tools and other implements from the former Bighi Trade School, Education Division

MARITIME MUSEUM

During 1999, the Maritime Museum was the venue of several cultural and social events. These included:

- An International art exhibition titled 'From Hagar Qim to the Ring of Brodgar' organised by *The Demarco European Art Foundation of Scotland* in association with the *Ministry of Education* and the *Museums*. The exhibition hosted 17 contemporary artists from 10 different countries;
- The Curator attended the 1999 International Congress of Maritime Museum held at the Independence Sea Port Maritime Museum of Philadelphia USA;
- The *Friends of the Maritime Museum* organised a seminar on 'Corsairs and the Maltese Islands'; held various other cultural activities and regularly published a newsletter for distribution amongst its members.

In 1999, work commenced on the setting up of a permanent exhibition on the Royal Navy and Malta to be inaugurated in the year 2000. The model maker was constantly involved in the care and repair of the Museum's growing collection of ships' and other models. A restorer of antique ships' models is to be employed full-time at the Maritime Museum.

The Maritime Museum collections and Library were enhanced through various donations, transfers and purchases. [Vide appendices B (i)-B (iv)]

MILITARY HISTORY UNIT

The Unit collaborated with a number of military-interest groups, particularly on issues relating to the restoration, care and display of historically important items of militaria. In particular, the Unit worked with the Armed Forces of Malta and with the Aviation Museum.

The Palace Armoury

Various improvements have been carried out or were planned for the Museum's display of antique armour, including the re-setting of horse-armour on plain wooden mannequins and the cleaning of particularly fine examples of firearms. Work was also carried out on the personal sporting guns that had

belonged to the Grand Masters and which will be eventually displayed in new showcases, the construction of which is at an advanced stage. A survey of the Armoury collection by a team of experts from the Leads Armoury has been organised by the Unit in order to draw up a comprehensive report on the conservation condition of the same collection. Through the generous sponsorship of the Bank of Valletta it has also been possible to organise the start of conservation works by the same Leads Armoury experts of a choice number of suits of armour, including the famous Wignacourt Parade Armour.

War Museum - A number of items from the collection received conservation treatment, some of which was required in view of temporary loans of objects to other museums. A call for tenders for the restoration of the damaged roofs of the Museum and for the upgrading of facilities was issued and works will be completed in 2000.

NATURAL HISTORY AND GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY SECTION

Vilhena Palace

Much work went into the cataloguing and preparation of the Museum's reserve collection of land snails and insects. Work on the restoration of

the fish specimens was followed up. Improvements in the display within the Mineral Hall were started, including the re-haul of existing labels and lighting. The Restoration Unit (Works Division) carried out a number of restoration interventions on the Palace itself, including the cleaning and sealing off of the open area to the rear of the Museum, and the water proofing of the Palace roofs.

Ghar Dalam Museum

Work started on the setting up of the new didactic exhibition on the Maltese Pleistocene fauna, including the construction of showcases and of the internal fittings for the display of items. Three additional rooms were built in the back garden, and an air conditioner was installed, to serve as office and storage space. The Restoration Unit of the Works Division undertook a study of a part of the Cave's ceiling that threatened to collapse.

ANTHONY PACE
Director

APPENDIX A (i)

EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS 1999

No	Date	Artist	Location
1	23 Dec - 16 Feb	Drawings by Mattia Preti	Contemporary Hall
2	30 Dec - 2 Feb	Re-interpreting Preti	Loggia
3	17 Feb - 9 Mar	Fernando de Filippi – Italy	Contemporary Hall
4	10 Mar - 30 Mar	Jesmond Vassallo	Contemporary Hall
5	17 Mar - 6 Apr	Winsor : Newton Collective Exhibition	Loggia
6	31 Mar - 20 Apr	Doris Micallef	Contemporary Hall
7	7 Apr - 27 Apr	Michael Anderson – UK	Loggia
8	21 Apr - 11 May	Joseph Navarro	Contemporary Hall
9	28 Apr - 18 May	Gedok-Bonn Collective – Germany	Loggia
10	12 May - 1 Jun	Pierre Portelli	Contemporary Hall
11	19 May - 8 Jun	Radjo Monk : Edith Tar – Germany	Loggia
12	2 Jun - 22 Jun	Malta Photographic Society	Contemporary Hall
13	9 Jun - 29 Jun	Madeline Gera	Loggia
14	23 Jun - 13 Jul	Alan Mordey	Contemporary Hall
15	30 Jun - 20 Jul	Renato Meneghetti – Italy	Loggia
16	14 Jul - 3 Aug	George Muscat	Contemporary Hall
17	21 Jul - 10 Aug	Sandra Copperstone	Loggia
18	4 Aug - 24 Aug	Kevin Cordina	Loggia
19	11 Aug - 31 Aug	Monica Spiteri	Contemporary Hall
20	25 Aug - 14 Sept	Andrew Micallef	Loggia
21	1 Sep - 21 Sep	Laurence Buttigieg	Contemporary Hall
22	15 Sept - 5 Oct	Sandra Bell – Ireland	Loggia
23	22 Sept - 12 Oct	Renaud	Loggia
24	6 Oct - 26 Oct	Gabriella Pompei – Italy	Contemporary hall
25	13 Oct - 2 Nov	Paul Caruana	Loggia
26	27 Oct - 16 Nov	Joseph Farrugia	Contemporary Hall
27	3 Nov - 23 Nov	Joseph L Mallia	Loggia
28	17 Nov - 7 Dec	Joseph Sammut	Contemporary Hall
29	24 Nov - 14 Dec	Charles Gatt	Loggia
30	8 Dec - 11 Jan	Ruth Jacob Hill	Contemporary Hall
31	15 Dec - 19 Jan	Goran Cejkov – Macedonia	Loggia

**CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION CONCLUDED DURING 1999
AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

No	Artist and Title	Provenance
1	Maltese, 18th Century Portrait of Grandmaster d'Homedes	Magisterial Palace, Valletta
2	Maltese Mannerist, late 16th Century St John the Baptist	Church of Our Lady of Victories, Valletta
3	Maltese Mannerist, late 16th Century St Paul the Apostle	Church of Our Lady of Victories, Valletta
4	Maltese, 19th Century Landscapes (two murals - lunettes)	Corridor, Magisterial Palace, Valletta
5	Italian, 17th Century An Evangelist (Inv. No. 4317)	Verdala Palace
6	Sicilian, 13th - 14th Century Armorial Bearings of the Crown of Sicily	Museum of Fine Arts

ACQUISITIONS MADE BY THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS 1999

No	Artist	Work of Art	Medium	Inventory No
1	George Muscat	<i>An Open Door...</i>	ceramic	2157-8 FAS/C/77
2	Renato Meneghetti	<i>Ritratto di Graham (1997)</i>	alcohol on canvas	2161-2 FAS/P/1811
3	Sandra Copperstone	<i>Boats on Wharf (1998)</i>	pastels on paper	2163-4 FAS/P/1812
4	Kevin Cordina	<i>Pink</i>	watercolours on paper	2169-70 FAS/P/1815
5	Monica Spiteri	<i>Blue</i>	watercolours on paper	2171-2 FAS/P/1816
6	John Busuttil Leaver	<i>The Egg Manscape</i>	oils on canvas with pebble	2175-6 FAS/P/1818
7	Gillian Renaud	<i>Stella Maris</i>	oils, mixed media on cardboard	2177-8 FAS/P/1819
8	Kenneth Wood	<i>Bearded Old Jew (1995)</i>	oils on canvas	2181-2 FAS/P/1820
9	Milena Kunz-Binjo	<i>The Goddess (1999)</i>	oils, collage on board	2183-4 FAS/P/1821
10	Andrew Micallef	<i>Casa Manresa (Archbishop's Curia), Floriana</i>	ink and wash on paper	2185-6 FAS/D/209
11	Sandra Bell	<i>Drifting (4/8) 1999</i>	cast bronze	2187-8 FAS/S/265
12	Renaud Archambault de Beaune	<i>La Femme</i>	Ink on Napal paper	15155-6 FAS/D/208
13	Alan Mordey	<i>After Pablo Picasso : Guernica</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15257-8 FAS/Tx/38
14	Alan Morday	<i>After V Van Gogh : Bridge at Arles</i>	knotted wool on canvas	15259-60 FAS/Tx/39
15	Alan Mordey		knotted wool on canvas	15261-2 FAS/Tx/40
16	Alan Mordey	<i>After Naci Terzi : Landscape by the sea</i>	Knotted wool on canvas	15263-4 FAS/Tx/41
17	Doris Micallef	<i>Pretty Bay, Birzebugia</i>	oils on canvas	15265-6 FAS/P/1809
18	Madeleine Gera	<i>Palm Trees</i>	acrylics on canvas	15267-8 FAS/P/1810
19	Michael Anderson	<i>Nicolo' da Lazaro after Donatello</i>	lithograph (artist's proof)	15269-70 FAS/Pr/280
20	Shelley Horton-Trippe	<i>Malta Suite</i>	over-painted silk screen	2191-2 FAS/Pr/281
21	Fernando de Filippi	<i>Pope John Paul III</i>	silk screen	2193-4 FAS/Pr/282
22	Renata Boero	<i>Abstract 14</i>	pastels on cardboard	2195-6 FAS/P/1822
23	Toby Dixey	<i>Hypogeum</i>	mixed media on cardboard	2197-8 FAS/P/1823
24	Anthony Calleja	<i>Still Life with chair and guitar</i>	oils on cardboard	2199-2200 FAS/P/1824
25	Alfred Gerada	<i>Political Trap</i>	ink on cardboard	15271-2 FAS/D/210
26	Alfred Gerada	<i>The Integration Referendum</i>	ink on cardboard	15273-4 FAS/D/211
27	Alfred Gerada	<i>The Palace Corridors</i>	ink on cardboard	15275-6 FAS/D/212
28	Alfred Gerada	<i>(Indipendenza/Integration)</i>	ink on cardboard	15277-8 FAS/D/213
29	Caltagirone 18th century albarello		polychromed maiolica	15291-92 FAS/Ph.J./550
30	Caltagirone 18th century cylindrical vase		polychromed maiolica	15293-94 FAS-Ph.J./551

APPENDIX B (i)

DONATIONS MADE TO THE MARITIME MUSEUM DURING 1999

No	Inventory No	Item	Donated by
1	MM/1118 20253-4	Model of a Hospital Ship (stone hull, upper works mixed media) Made by Carmelo Stivala (1866-1941)	Messrs Charles, Kate and Salvina Camilleri of 441 St Joseph Road Santa Venera
2	MM/1119 20255-6	Malta Harbour Pilot cap badge and band in presentation box	Mr Alfred Calleja of Fredmir Triq il-Koppla, Fgura
3	MM/1147 20311-2	Thompson's Azimuth Mirror in original wooden box	Mr Lorenzo Zahra of 18 San Lorenzo Triq Stiefnu Zerafa Marsa
4	MM/1148 20313-4	Bearing Circle	Mr Lorenzo Zahra of 18 San Lorenzo Triq Stiefnu Zerafa, Marsa
5	MM/1148 20319-20	Model of Maltese Wine Schooner 'San Antonio' (wood) made by George Gabriele	Mr Lorenzo Zahra of 18 San Lorenzo Triq Stiefnu Zerafa, Marsa
6	MM/11152 20321-2	Admiralty pattern iron anchor with missing stock	Maritime Authority
7	MM/11153a 20323-4	Stockless iron anchor from the Steam Grab Dredger 'Anadrian'	Maritime Authority
8	MM/11153b 20323-4	Stockless iron anchor from the Stream Grab Dredger 'Anadrian'	Maritime Authority
9	MM/11154 20325-6	Gas Lantern from De Redin Tower, Sliema	Maritime Authority
10	MM/11155 20327-8	Gas lantern from Ricasoli arm of the Breakwater	Maritime Authority
11	MM/11156 20329-30	Navigation light	Maritime Authority
12	MM/11157 23031-2	Lantern	Maritime Authority
13		Set of fourteen ship plans prepared by Mr Javier Pastor of Palma de Mallorca, Spain	Author
14		Two issues of the British newspaper 'Post Boy' respectively dated 7/1/1719 and 13/9/1722	Friends of the Maritime Museum Association
15	MM/11158 20333-4	Pye Marine Receiver	Mr Denis Delceppo of Fgura
16		Group photograph of Bighi Hospital staff	Mr Len Bull of England
17	MM/11159 20335-6	Badge of the 7 th Minesweeper Squadron	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
18	MM/11160 20337-8	Ship's badge of HMS Walkerton	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
19	MM/11161 20339-40	Ship's badge of HMS Leverton	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
20	MM/11162 20341-2	Ship's badge of HMS Shavington	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
21	MM/11163 20343-5	Ship's badge of HMS Ashton	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
22	MM/11164 20345-6	Ship's badge of HMS Crofton	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
23	MM/11165 20347-8	Ship's badge of HMS Stubbington	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England

No	Inventory No	Item	Donated by
24	MM/1166 20249/50	Mess soup plate manufactured by Bimpson (Potters) Ltd of Qolbridge, England – dated 1951 and bearing cypher of King George VI	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
25	MM/1167 20351-2	Mess soup plate manufactured by Bimpson (Potters) Ltd of Qolbridge, England – dated 1953 and bearing cypher of Queen Elisabeth II	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
26	MM/1168 20353-4	Mess soup plate manufactured by Bimpson (Potters) Ltd of Qolbridge, England - dated 1953 and bearing cypher of King George VI	Cdr Oliver Wright of Maidenhead, Berkshire, England
27	MM/1169 20355-6	Brass plaque engraved with profile of frigate ASM Georges Leygues	Commanding Officer
28	MM/1171 20359-60	Painting 'Shipwreck of St Paul' by RD Peel Oil on canvas	R.D. Peel of St Mary's Flat, Triq Lampara, Bahar ic-Caghaq
29	MM/1172 20361-2	Painting 'Swedish barque Malta coming into Grand Harbour in 1867' by Edwin Galea – watercolour	Chev James Gollcher Managing Director of Gollcher & Sons Ltd
30	MM/1173 20363-4	Ship's badge of HMS Stuart	Mr Mario Coleiro of St Gaetano Street, Hamrun
31	MM/1175 20367-8	Badge of 'Commando Generale del Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto'	Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici
32	MM/1175 20367-8	Brass parallel ruler in mahogany case formerly belonging to the late Vice Admiral Sir Patrick U Bayly	Lady Bayly and Mrs RAK Scallon of 28 Grange Road, London, England
33	MM/1176 20369-70	Blue serge uniform complete with ribbons. NATO badge and cap of the late Vice Admiral Sir Patrick U Bayly	Lady Bayly and Mrs RAK Scallon of 28 Grange Road, London, England
34	MM/1181 2039-80	Lithograph 'B/E Esmeralda cruzando el Cabo de Hornos' by T Schlack	Capt Luis Cavel Matzen OC Buque Escuela, Esmeralda
35	MM/1182 20381-2	Nineteenth century three purchase wood block with iron ring	Malta Drydocks
36	MM/1183 20383-4	Nineteenth century two purchase wood block with iron ring Inscribed SWL 2T 105WB-A6 5.78	Malta Drydocks
37	MMN/1184 20385-6	Nineteenth century one purchase wood block with iron ring Inscribed SWL IT 105WB-C2 5.78	Malta Drydocks
38	MM/1185 20387-8	Nineteenth century two purchase wood block with iron ring	Malta Drydocks
39	MM/1187 20391-2	Eighteenth century pocket compass and sun dial. Finely decorated and hand coloured	Friends of the Maritime Museum Association
40	MM/1187 20393-4	Eighteenth century pocket compass and sun dial	Friends of the Maritime Museum Association
41	MM/1189 20395-6	Ship's badge of HMS Gallant	Capt RH Graham of Guilford, Surrey, England
42	MM/1190 20397-8	Nineteenth century round bomb-shell	Mr Andrew Bugeja of 7 Bugeja Flats Triq is-Sajjied, B'Bugia
43	MM/1191 20399-400	Ship's badge of HMS Grampus	Mr V M Evason of Melita House, Lydd Road, Romney, Kent, England
44	MM/1192 20401-2	Ship's badge of HMS Ark Royal	Capt Adrian Strickland of Zejtun
45	MM/1193 20403-4	Badge of Amphibious Squadron Two	Capt. Adrian Strickland of Zejtun
46	MM/1194 20405-6	Painting 'AFM Condor Class Patrol Boats P30 & P31' by Aldo Galea	Lions Club Malta
47		Set of sail maker's tool. forty nine different ship's and boat plans, three early 20th century manuscripts	Mr Paul Sammut of 16 Sqaq il-Fjuri, Zurrrieq ZRQ 03
48	MM/1197 20411-2	Pewter Tankard. Inscribed HMS TIGER 1966	Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez of 'Sinrap' Flat 2 Mons Dandria Street, Msida

APPENDIX B (iii)

No	Inventory No	Item	Donated by
49	MM/1198 20413-4	Pewter Tankard. With glass bottom	Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez of 'Sinrap' Flat 2 Mons Dandria Street, Msida
50	MM/1199 20415-6	Ship's badge of HMS Penzance	OC HMS Penzance
51	MM/1200 20417-8	Ship's badge of Batiment Oceanographic 'D'Entrecasteaux'	Capitaine de Fregate Jean-Christophe Long OC Batiment Oceanographic 'D'Entrecasteaux'
52		One manuscript letter signed by A B Geary British Vice Consul at Port Said and given abroad HMS Hannibal to Joseph Jacono December 1915 when travelling on P&O Persia	Mr Rinald Micallef - President Friends of the Maritime Museum
53		One 1916 Pratique Certificate issued at Malta	Mr Joseph Caruana on behalf of the Friends of the Maritime Museum Association
54		Official Copy. Seaman's Signal Manual for use of Her Majesty's Fleet – published by the Admiralty in 1893	Mr Joseph Muscat of 9 Friar Street, Rabat
55		Ship's Bell of British Armed Merchant Cruiser 'Breconshire'	Mr Joseph Muscat of Rabat

TRANSFERS TO THE MARITIME MUSEUM DURING 1999

No	Inventory No	Item	Transferred from
1	MM/1149 20315-6	Lithograph 'Anchorage of the English, French, Turkish and Egyptian Fleets in the Bosphorus - November 1853 by Schranz	By order of HE the President of Malta from Verdala Palace
2		Tin case for bicorn hat	From the War Museum
3	MM/1196 20409-10	Terrestrial Telescope on stand One lens missing	From Mikelang Sapiano Technical Institute, Corradino Hill, Paola

ITEMS PURCHASED BY THE MARITIME MUSEUM

No	Inventory No	Item purchased
1	MM/1120 20257-8	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 28.05.1842 containing five prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
2	MM/1121 20259-60	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 14.04.1843 containing six prints two of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
3	MM/1122 20261-2	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 23.10.1847 containing three prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
4	MM/1123 20263-4	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 25.3.1854 containing four prints two of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
5	MM/1124 20265-6	Sheet from the Illustrated London news dated 05.04.1856 containing two prints of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
6	MM/1125 20267-8	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 08.08.1857 containing two prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
7	MM/1126 20269-70	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 08.01.1859 containing one print of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
8	MM/1127 20271-2	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 11.04.1863 containing two prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
9	MM/1128 20273-4	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 26.10.1867 containing two prints of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
10	MM/1129 20275-6	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 22.02.1873 containing two prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa

No	Inventory No	Item purchased
11	MM/1130 20277-8	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 15.06.1878 containing two prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
12	20279-80	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 02.02.1884 containing three prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
13	MM/1132 20281-2	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 07.09.1889 containing prints one of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
14	MM/1133 20283-4	Sheet from the Illustrated London news dated 22.07.1893 containing one print of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
15	MM/1134 20285-6	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 14.03.1903 containing one print of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
16	MM/1135 20287-8	Sheet from the Illustrated London News dated 02.05.1903 containing one print of Malta - purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
17	MM/1136 20289-90	Sheet from The Graphic dated 22.02.1873 containing two prints one of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
18	MM/1137 20291-2	Sheet from The graphic dated 14.04.1877 containing two prints of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
19	MM/1138 20293-4	Sheet from The Graphic dated 27.09.1879 containing two prints one of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
20	MM/1139 20295-6	Sheet from The Graphic dated 03.11.1883 containing prints of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
21	MM/1140 20297-8	Sheet from The Graphic dated 14.11.1885 containing prints of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
22	MM/1141 20299-300	Sheet from The Graphic dated 29.07.1893 containing two prints of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
23	MM/1142 20301-2	Sheet from The Graphic dated 27.11.1897 containing two prints one of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
24	MM/1143 20303-4	Sheet from The Graphic dated 25.04.1903 containing two prints one of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
25	MM/1144 20305-6	Sheet from The Graphic dated 02.05.1903 containing one print of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
26	MM/1145 20307-8	Sheet from The Graphic dated 02.05.1903 containing one print of Malta – purchased from Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
27	MM/1146 20309-10	Sheet from The Graphic dated 25.02.1905 containing one print of Malta – purchased by Mr Paul Bezzina of Vittoriosa
28	MM/1150 20317-8	Small brass Naval Crown together with a lot of photographs and books – purchased from Mr Antonio Saliba of Tarxien
29		Manuscript log book of HMS Parthian dated 1826 - purchased from Mr Anthony Vella Gera of Cor Jesus, Msida Valley Road, Msida
30		Manuscript log book of HMS Parthian dated 1827 - purchased from Mr Anthony Vella Gera of Cor Jesus, Msida Valley Road, Msida
31	MM/1177 20371-2	Submarine Periscope Sextant Admiralty Pattern 86 complete with original fitted wooden case - purchased from Mr Stephen Petronis of Kappara
32	MM/1178 20373-4	Eighteenth century engraving 'Fort Manoel et Ile du Lazareth a Malte' by Desprez – purchased from La Vallette Art Gallery, Valletta
33	MM/1180 20377-8	Stevengraph portrait of King Edward VII in naval uniform – purchased from Mr Emanuel Attard of 'St George' 149 Msida Road, Sta Venera
34	MM/1179 2037-6	Stevengraph portrait of Admiral Lord Beresfor - purchased from Mr Emanuel Attard of 'St George' 149 Msida Road, Sant Venera
35	MM/1195 20407-8	Submarine Periscope Admiralty Pattern G.12 (LH) Type CJ3 manufactured by Barr & Stroud in 1928 complete with original fitted wooden case – purchased from Mr Stephen Petronis of Kappara

APPENDIX C

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VISITORS ADMITTED TO
MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS DURING 1998 AND 1999**

PLACE	1998		1999	
	On Payment	Free	On Payment	Free
Museum of Archaeology	48,185	7,746	65,661	8,942
Museum of Fine Arts	35,513	3,428	29,135	3,730
Museum of Natural History	9,302	8,035	8,440	8,089
Museum of Roman Antiquities	53,213	8,886	51,530	9,916
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	80,896	10,861	86,332	11,809
Hagar Qim Megalithic Temples	118,228	13,995	119,554	15,373
Inquisitor's Palace & Folklore Museum	33,114	8,708	36,839	7,664
Maritime Museum	32,653	12,378	28,767	8,143
Palace Armoury	101,277	11,375	84,759	12,617
Palace State Rooms	130,569	6,903	120,097	8,790
San Pawl Milqghi*	223	648	0	0
St. Paul's Catacombs	78,686	11,730	74,988	11,053
Tarxien Megalithic Temples	112,502	10,908	110,784	12,320
War Museum	41,999	7,344	31,677	8,561
Museum of Archaeology, Gozo	14,535	6,226	13,829	6,348
Museum of Folklore, Gozo	10,109	6,684	10,771	7,710
Museum of Natural Science, Gozo	5,015	3,564	6,017	4,927
Ggantija Temples, Gozo	144,395	19,200	153,047	23,572
Windmill, Gozo	31,511	6,451	29,801	13,132
TOTAL	1,081,925	165,070	1,062,028	182,696
Group tickets purchased by Travel Agents	277,343	/	286,710	/
	Lm918,260		Lm879,963	

*Closed to the public in March 1998