

2005-2006



 Heritage Malta

Annual Report

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List of Abbreviations

AFM	Armed Forces of Malta
AMMM	Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums
CRPMO	Conservation and Restoration Projects Management Office
EU	European Union
HM	Heritage Malta
ICMCH	Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage, Bighi
MCAST	Malta College of Arts Science and Technology
MCCA	Malta Council for Culture and the Arts
MEPA	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
MMM	Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa
MTA	Malta Tourism Authority
MTAC	Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malta
NMA	National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta
NMFA	National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta
NMNH	National Museum of Natural History, Mdina
NWM	National War Museum, Valletta
SCH	Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, Malta
UOM	University of Malta
WHS	World Heritage Sites

Mission Statement

“The mission of Heritage Malta is to ensure that those elements of the cultural heritage entrusted to it are protected and made accessible to the public. The agency also operates a conservation division for the training of conservators and conservation scientists.

Cultural Heritage Act (Malta) 2002

HM is the national agency of the Government of Malta set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act and entrusted with the management of national museums and heritage sites and their related collections in Malta and Gozo, including seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Following the recognition of four key aspects of national cultural heritage, namely management, conservation, interpretation and marketing, HM bases all its activities bearing in mind that all our national museums and sites have an important role to play in education, learning, access and the generation of revenue to be reinvested into the heritage sector.

HM therefore seeks to act as a leader for education and outreach programmes not only by supporting school based learning, but also by encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to broaden their horizons through the museums' collections. This is carried out, among others, by developing a programme of events to develop museums as active and inclusive cultural centres. Most importantly, HM is committed to provide physical and intellectual access to a wider audience in all its sites and museums by enhancing access to its various publics and by facilitating the interpretation of its sites and collections. HM is also aware that heritage can act as a catalyst for Malta's tourism potential and consequently contribute significantly to the economy. It therefore seeks to improve both the service and the experience of all visitors in order to foster a more favourable image on a national and international level.

As from 2005, following an amendment to the Cultural Heritage Act, all activities previously carried out by the former Malta Centre for Restoration have been taken over by HM. The building at Bighi now houses the conservation unit of HM as well as the ICMCH, which is entrusted with the organisation of academic courses at various levels.

The Chairperson's Statement



Any organisation, if it is to retain its vigour, needs to revisit itself from time to time. HM, while acutely conscious of its legal remit, has evolved a culture of self-analysis; again and again, it attempts to re-define its aims, its role, its operations, its goals, its structural efficiency, even its basic philosophy. This year, we conducted seminars on strategy, research and management skills, and an academic review. Courses were held, at several levels, to promote staff competence and knowledge and to imbue the workforce with corporate ethics and vision. Experts were given the opportunity to travel to international conferences or to visit centres of excellence. After all, the strength of an entity ultimately derives from the motivation and personal richness of its members. HM has invested and will continue to invest in intellectual resources and professional skills.

This year HM carried out an intense audit and self-analysis leading to the formulation of the business plan 2006-09. The vision statement charges HM to:

- ensure the effective documentation, study, conservation and protection of the national heritage;
- become the leading organisation in order to ensure the sustainable management and promotion of the national heritage;
- create awareness and educate diverse publics to help instil a sense of pride for Malta's heritage and responsibility for its protection;
- put the agency and the national heritage on the international map.

As can be expected, our calendar this year was jam-packed; the contents of this report attest to this. Just an indication of the level and rhythm of activity: HM was engaged in 219 activities - more than one event every two days - in four different countries, Malta, Italy, Germany and Spain; HM collaborated with 93 different entities and individuals, was involved in 50 exhibitions, organised 80 lectures, ratified cultural agreements with China, Valencia and Gerace, published regular updates, extended its list of publications, increased its retail outlets, conducted heritage trails, finalised an agreement with

Din l-Art Helwa on the joint management of the Abbatija tad-Dejr, and a sponsorship agreement with Gasan-Mamo Insurance, upgraded various museums, increased interpretation facilities, installed the heritage display at the Malta International Airport, ratified the HSBC Cares for Heritage Scheme, continued negotiations with the UOM and MCAST regarding degree and vocational courses at our Conservation Division at Bigħi, pursued intensive preparatory work for Ġgantija, Haġar Qim, Mnajdra and the Tarxien Temples, fully participated in a number of EU projects and further consolidated our structure, including recruitment for vacancies. As can be seen in the report, this year, HM also made a number of acquisitions of value to the national collections.

The agency also took the audacious first steps to start investigating our underwater cultural resources. This is a field of immense potential; the subject has to be approached with great care, wisdom and always meeting the highest scientific criteria.

I have no doubt that there is now national consensus about the invaluable richness of our cultural heritage. Though I have said it many times before, it bears repeating: 'apart from the people themselves, this is our greatest resource. The whole country must show solidarity with what is being done in the field of cultural heritage; our heritage is we: what we came from, what we are and what should inspire our future. HM, the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage is determined to give a future to our past. The coming year will see other major activities, such as work on the protective covers and visitors' centre of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra and the opening of the upper galleries of the NMA. Apart from new educational programmes and a galaxy of exhibitions, both local and foreign, HM will also be hosting the renowned Chinese terracotta soldiers exhibition in the first quarter of next year.

It is a pleasure for me to express publicly my thanks and appreciation to all the staff at HM. I can vouch for



their motivation and for their incredible ability to go the extra mile. More than me, they should be signing this foreword.

Lastly, I would like to express our collective gratitude to Ms Antoinette Caruana, the former CEO at HM, for her utter dedication and innovative contributions; we all wish her well in her new assignment. I take this opportunity to welcome the new CEO Dr Luciano Mule Stagno; he knows that we offer hard work and heart-aches but we also promise rich satisfaction. I have absolutely no doubt that, altogether, with commitment, energy, imagination and relentless enterprise, we will continue to champion the cause of the cultural heritage, the source of our identity and dignity.



Dr Mario Tabone

The CEO's Statement



As the new Chief Executive of Heritage Malta, I feel honoured and privileged to be leading the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chief Executive Antoinette Caruana for all her hard work. It is amazing what HM has done and the reputation it has achieved in these four short years.

Despite being in its infancy, HM has managed to establish itself as a dynamic organisation willing to change established norms and to introduce new practices in the field of museology and conservation practice.

HM has a very important role to play in society. Undoubtedly, we manage some of the most important archaeological, historical and cultural sites in Malta and Gozo and this places our agency as a leading stakeholder in the tourism strategy. We need to continue valorizing Malta's unique Neolithic past and we genuinely believe that we can offer a unique product to all those who travel to Malta whether for business or pleasure.

HM's corporate social responsibilities extend far beyond its role in tourism. As can be gleaned from this annual report, the agency is investing heavily in the conservation sciences and introducing educational programmes to help youngsters master a sound appreciation for the country's rich cultural heritage.

The year in review has been the first full twelve months since HM absorbed the functions of the former Malta Centre for Restoration. The integration process was a

testing time for all employees. Decisions had to be taken to strengthen the operations of the conservation division and today I can safely say that our centre at Bighi is an integral part of Heritage Malta's strategy. The Institute for Conservation and Management for Cultural Heritage (ICMCH) is already running a number of certificate and degree courses and plans are underway for more specialised courses to be on offer. As from October 2006, ICMCH, in conjunction with the University of Malta, has been running a Masters Course in Management of Cultural Heritage.

Apart from the buildings and the collections, our key resource remains the dedicated work force. The annual report speaks for itself. With a workforce of just over 325 persons, the number of events that Heritage Malta was involved in during the year in review is indeed remarkable.

HM has managed to position itself as the leading player in the cultural field. The agency is staying focused in its objectives to ensure that it is prepared to meet the challenges ahead. Various changes have taken place in HM's short history and more will undoubtedly take place to better realign the agency for maximum efficiency and to provide the best possible experience.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Chairman, Board of Directors and all Heritage Malta employees for their support. We all share the same vision which will hopefully continue to see this national agency evolve and achieving new milestones in the cultural heritage field.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Luciano Mule Stagno'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr Luciano Mule Stagno

HM Board of Directors

Dr Mario Tabone, Chairperson
Ms Simone Mizzi, Deputy Chairperson
Rev. Mgr John Azzopardi
Prof. Alfred Vella
Prof. Anthony Bonanno
Dr Ray Bondin
Mr John Cremona
Ms Cynthia Degiorgio
Mr Mario Farrugia

HM Management Team

Antoinette Caruana, Chief Executive Officer

Senior Management

Martina Caruana, Head Academic and Vocational Courses
JoAnn Cassar, Acting Head Conservation
Mario Cutajar, Head Visitor Services and Human Resources
Kenneth Gambin, Head Curator
Pierre Sammut, Head Finance and Business Development

Management

Ruben Abela, Manager Documentation (from September)
Ivan Barbara, Manager Estate and Security Management
Louis Borg, Manager Administration
Pierre Cassar, Manager Corporate Communication
Ray Cassar, Manager Business Development (up to 31 December)
Alexander Debono, Senior Curator Ethnography and Natural History (from September)
Suzannah Depasquale, Senior Curator Archaeology
Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, Consultant to CEO
Reuben Grima, Senior Curator World Heritage Sites
Emmanuel Magro Conti, Senior Curator Maritime and Military History
Ursula Rothamel, Senior Conservator Textiles
Joseph Schirò, Senior Conservator Books and Paper
Martin Spiteri, Manager Museums Development Projects
Godwin Vella, Manager Gozo Sites
Vella Jevon, Senior Conservator Architecture
Theresa Vella, Senior Curator Fine Arts
Noel Zammit, Manager IT



Safeguarding Haġar Qim and Mnajdra

A number of significant milestones were reached at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra during the year under review. HM has now taken on full responsibility for the environmental monitoring programme that was launched in 2005, using European Pre-Accession funds. In the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project for the conservation and presentation of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, the detailed design stage has been concluded, and all major tenders have been launched or are under evaluation by the end of the year under review.

Environmental Monitoring and Preventive Conservation

At the beginning of August, the Preventive Conservation Section of the Conservation Division concluded an intensive programme of environmental monitoring at these two World Heritage Temple Sites. The effort, which was fully funded by the EU, is in preparation of an extensive project for the conservation and interpretation of these two sites. The whole project costs 3.5 million Euros, and will also benefit from EU funding through the European Regional Development Fund. The target is to complete the project to shelter the sites by autumn 2008, before the onset of the rainy season.

The environmental monitoring of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra involved monitoring and recording of factors such as air temperature and relative humidity, surface temperature and time of wetness, rainfall, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, and biological, physical and chemical factors. These combined factors contribute to the sites' deterioration and loss of valuable information about a unique prehistoric culture that inhabited the Maltese Islands some 5000 years ago.

The Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate within the *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* (CNR), Italy, internationally renowned for their work in the field of conservation, was entrusted with the project. The monitoring exercise included also the transfer of skills and expertise to HM personnel. This project was

in fact envisaged from the onset as the commencement of a long-term monitoring programme for these sites. The experience gained from this project will enable HM staff to continue with the study and also, following the sheltering of the sites, will also enable the extension of this project by including further sensors inside the sheltered areas. This will enable a more detailed monitoring of the sites' environment. The lessons learnt from this project, as well as the skills transfer made possible through it, will also facilitate implementation of similar monitoring programmes at other sites of archaeological, historical and cultural importance in future.

Security

The tender for lighting and other security measures around the perimeter fence of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra was awarded to Central Power Installations Ltd. Works are expected to be concluded by the end of 2006. The scope of works includes the installation of intruder-activated security lighting, which will improve security while significantly reducing light pollution.

Protective Shelters

The protective shelters are the single largest and most important element of the project. They were proposed by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples in 2000, as a preventive conservation measure to protect the megalithic sites. They are conceived as an interim measure with a lifetime of 25 to 30 years, during which research shall continue to find other, less visually intrusive ways to protect and stabilise the megalithic structures.

During the year under review, the designs for the shelters were refined and detailed by the project architects, with very valuable contributions from the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, the team from the *Istituto di Scienza dell'Atmosfera e del Clima* that was responsible for the environmental monitoring programme, and Dr Zaki Aslan, from ICCROM. The latter, who is an expert in the field of protective shelters

for archaeological sites, visited the site in May to discuss, review, and advise upon the project. By the end of the year under review, the detailed specifications had been defined, the tender launched, and the technical evaluation of tender bids concluded.

Visitor Centre

The detailed designs for the new visitor centre were also concluded this year by the team of architects led by Mr Walter Hunziker and his Maltese partner Prof. Alex Torpiano. Four tenders have been launched, for the following works respectively: civil works; finishes; mechanical and electrical works; display showcases. At the end of the year under review, the technical evaluation of bids for the first of these works was nearly concluded.

3-D recording

A.B.C. *Appalti Bonifiche Costruzioni* have successfully delivered the services they were contracted for the previous year. High-resolution three-dimensional digital models of Haġar Qim and of Mnajdra Temples have been produced, using laser scanning technology. In addition, the topography of the entire archaeological park has been digitally mapped. The data that has been captured constitutes an invaluable base-line record for the better

conservation and management of the sites. It will also form the platform for the organisation, storage and retrieval of all spatially-correlated information about the sites, which will be developed in close collaboration with HM's documentation department.

World Monuments Watch Grant

A closely related action to the 3-D recording was undertaken using a grant awarded to Mnajdra by the World Monuments Watch '100 Most Endangered Sites' programme. \$30,000 of this grant were still unused at the start of the period under review. With the kind assistance of the World Monuments Watch, updated plans for the use of the funds were submitted and approved. The funds have now been used to acquire a high-specification workstation with a dual processor capable of handling the files with the 3-D models that were created this year, together with the specialised software that is required for this purpose.

Way Forward

All major contracts for the project are to be awarded by the end of 2006. The protective shelters are expected to be installed on site by the end of 2007. The target date for project completion remains on track for 2008.



New Frontiers: Collaboration with the Aurora Special Purpose Trust

During the year under review, HM started a programme of collaboration with the Aurora Special Purpose Trust, a non-profit organisation which specialises in ocean exploration and underwater research. One of the first actions undertaken was the award of a scholarship to a biology school teacher, Ms Sandra Agius Darmanin, enabling her to travel to Florida in July to undertake a course in the education of coastal and marine ecology.

The main purpose of the collaboration is for the two entities to develop a programme in the fields of underwater and maritime cultural heritage. A Scientific Team including representatives of the two institutions as well as the SCH has been formed, and is responsible for the scientific direction of the project and scientific publication of its results. A programme coordinator, Dr Timothy Gambin, has also been engaged and is responsible for project coordination and logistics.

After detailed consideration of potential projects, the principal action undertaken this year was the launch of a collaborative project to survey, research, protect and promote a deep-water archaeological site in Maltese waters, originally identified by the Museums Department in 1993. A related objective is the systematic mapping of the seabed and archaeological sites off Malta and Gozo. The project also envisages an education campaign aimed at school children, other target groups and the general public. These actions will ensure a better understanding of the sites by both the archaeological community and the general public.

The first season of fieldwork took place during summer, using some of the latest survey technology available, including multibeam sonar and remote operated vehicles. The results obtained so far are very positive and encouraging. HM intends to use these results to broaden its education campaign aimed at a better understanding of the island's maritime heritage. Furthermore, it is envisaged that in the future, the results will be made accessible to the public through new displays and interpretation facilities in its museums.

The project is planning to invest in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) package and to train team members in the use of this specialised mapping software. It is envisaged that the collaboration will continue in 2007 with new objectives that build on this year's results.



Consolidating our Corporate Identity through sound HR policies

Membership Scheme

Launched in December 2005, the HM Membership Scheme aims at fostering support towards the agency and culture in general by enticing the general public to enrol as members of HM. The scheme allows holders to unlimited visits to all HM sites and museums (with the exception of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum) for a period of one calendar year. Members also benefit from discounted purchases from HM shops and receive free copies of the HM newsletter published three times a year. In addition, members qualify for discounted and priority admission to special events organised by the agency. Different tiers of the membership scheme have been devised which cater for adults, juniors, senior citizens and whole families.

In a bid to promote this scheme to all households, HM signed a collaboration agreement with Maltapost through which a specially designed full-colour leaflet promoting the Membership and the Volunteers Scheme was distributed to every household in Malta and Gozo. This exercise was conducted in early September and this led to a healthy increase in the uptake of this membership scheme.

Volunteers Scheme

HM has long felt the need to open its doors to members of the general public willing to dedicate some of their free time for a good cause. The Volunteers Scheme was launched concurrently with the Membership Scheme in December 2005. In its first months of operation, the scheme attracted a number of people from all walks of life who genuinely expressed a wish to work on a voluntary basis in the cultural field.

Initially, volunteers were assigned custodian duties in various museums. All volunteers were issued an official HM identification tag which they were asked to wear while performing duties at HM sites and museums.

It is envisaged that during the next few months, volunteers will be assigned more specific duties including survey research, guiding and administrative work.

The Head Visitor Services and Head Curator were officially invited to visit the Greenwich National Maritime Museum between 21 and 28 May. During their visit they had the opportunity to view and discuss management structures, policies and procedures, reserve collections, staff roles, etc.

Visitors Services and HR Dept

Training Courses

Guiding Techniques Course ITS St Julian's October

The objective of this training course was to discuss and analyse problems and suggestions to improve guiding visitors in museums and historical sites. The participants included gallery site officers, executives and curators.

No of participants: 29

Customer Care II - Head Office Jan/Feb

The course was to provide a more intensive training in customer care to employees with front of house duties and to all staff that provide a direct service to visitors at HM museums and historical sites. It also included two sessions addressing Customer Care management to which curators attended.

No. of participants: 56

Customer Care II Head Office Jan/Feb

For the first time, a similar course was organised by the agency for employees from the St John's Co Cathedral Foundation.

The aim was to have an interaction of different ideas and experiences between the two entities of employees. The response was very positive as the lectures stimulated discussions on the implementation of duties and procedures.

No of Participants 44

Senior Management Villa Arrigo Feb-Nov 2006

During these months, team building sessions were held for Senior and Middle managers. Each half day session consisted of a training session that treated a specific subject. The second part was used as a strategic meeting for all managers.

Objectives: a series of brief, focused seminars aimed at strengthening the management skills of senior and middle management at HM. This training was conducted within a corporate context which is characterised by:

- the integration of diverse corporate cultures into one HM culture;
- the adaptation of professional/ academic personnel to a business-like, results orientated environment.

The programme consisted of six sessions between two and three hours each.

Module 1 Holistic management in action

Module 2 Effective communication

Module 3 Change Management

Module 4 Team work

Module 5 Problem solving and decision making

Module 6 Performance management

No. of Participants: 21

Lecturer Mr FX Zahra

Familiarisation Course HM Bighi Feb/Mar

The course was aimed at all ex-MCR employees who were recently absorbed in HM's structures. The course was intended to provide these employees with the necessary information regarding the objectives of the agency, procedures and policies. The course also delivered information regarding the agency's museums and historical sites.

A one day workshop on the themes covered was held at Villa Arrigo on 17 March.

No. of Participants: 33

Fire-fighting HM Bighi March

This course was aimed at all employees who are responsible for the care and safety of visitors and employees in museums and historical sites.

Topics covered:

- Causes of fire
- Tetrahedron of fire
- Classes of fire
- Extinguishing fire
- Effects of fire
- Fire prevention
- Fire contingency
- Fire extinguishers
- Safety rules

No. of participants: 125

Gozo session 16 May -No of Participants: 32

Management Course II Head office May 2006

The objective of this course was intended for curators and executives at HM. This was a follow up to the course HM had during the first half of 2005 and the same follow up was suggested by the participants.

No. of Participants: 24

Induction course Head Office Aug-Sept

The course was intended for new employees in the grades of senior clerks, executives and managers to introduce them to HM's policies and procedures as well as providing information on the agency's museums and historical sites. A series of site visits complemented this induction course.

No. of Participants: 12



Training Courses/Seminars

Past Restoration methods and their Consequences 7 October

Seminar at Aula Withmore, HM Bighi,
No of employees 12

Seminar on the use of the internet by children 12 October

Vassalli Hall MDC, No. of employees 1

Consultation and Information FHRD 24 October

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema,
No. of employees 1

Dr David Jaffe lecture on Rubens, 7 November

University of Malta, Conference Room,
No. of employees 5

FHRD Annual Conference, 17 November

Hilton Portomaso, No. of employees 2

EQF Consultation Conference, 18 November

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, No. of employees 1

Art Education in Malta Symposium, 29 November

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, No. of employees 2

Surviving Global Competition, 2 January

Exchange Buildings, Valletta. No. of employees 2

General course on IP, 24 January

DOI, Commerce Division. No. of employees 1

Art conservation by Laser Workshop, 23-25 March

National Library Valletta, HM Bighi,
No. of employees 1

Oracle Grid 6 April

Radisson SAS Bay Point resort St Julian's,
No. of employees 1

Education workshop, 26-28 April

Council of Europe training programme,
No. of employees 1

How to get European funds for organisations in Malta 15-16 June

Impetus Europe Consulting Group Ltd,
No. of employees 1

CAD Conference 22 June

San Gorg Corinthia Hotel, No. of employees 1

EU Interreg Funding Administration, 3 July

PPCD- OPM Aula Magna, No. of employees 3

Structural Funds Database Thematic Workshops, 4 July

MDC, No. of employees 1

Effective Presentation Techniques, 27 July

SPECTO Ltd, No. of employees 2

Greening the Economy, 3 October

MDC, Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, No. of employees 1

Xerox Conference, 5 October

Hilton Conference Centre, No. of employees 1

Internships 2005/2006

Internships are an increasingly important and integral component of a well rounded education and an international internship is an excellent way to gain insight into a culture, an industry, and an organisation. It allows individuals the opportunity to try out a chosen career and make some important decisions. This will define what aspects of work are more important, and what practical skills and experience one can gain.

HM considers internships as a supervised, practical, international work experience. Internships range from a few weeks to months of full-time work.

The agency provides various opportunities for students who pursue an internship within its museums and historical sites as well as its Conservation Division at Bighi.

Name	Nationality	Site	Tutor
Ming-Ling	Taiwan	NMA/Bighi	K. Stroud / M. Caruana
Katharina Weiler	Germany	Bighi	J. Schiro
Charlotte Trigance	France	Bighi	J. Vella
Elisa Nucci	Italy	Bighi	S. Pollacco
Marie Grimoldi	France	NMA	R. Grima
Lucia Medei	Italy	NMFA	T. Vella
Rebecca Cahill	USA	NMFA	T. Vella
Justin Timm	USA	NMFA	T. Vella
Kate Chiniziewski	USA	Ethnography	K. Gambin
Craig Boone	USA	Ethnography	K. Gambin
Kelsey Carlson	USA	WHS	K. Stroud
Patricia Connell	USA	NMA	S. Sultana
Eric Albjerg	USA	NMA	S. Sultana
Assad Ali	USA	MMM	M. Magro Conti
Jessica McGordon	USA	Head Office	P. Cassar
Silvia Montari	Italy	NMA	S. Sultana
Rachel Stebbings	UK	NMA	S. Sultana
Fiametta Sordi	Italy	NMA	S. Sultana
Helene Huysseune	France	NMA	S. Sultana
Onur Ates	Turkey	Head Office	P. Sammut
Caterina Antonellini	Italy	Head Office	P. Sammut
Daniela Corradini	Italy	NMFA	D. Vella



Capital, Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works

Archaeology Section

The National Museum of Archaeology

Works at the NMA continued on the upper floor in order to set up the laboratory below the stores. The area designated for the laboratory was full of boxes of artefacts which were taken up to the stores and systematically stored. A new electrical system was installed in the laboratory, and the three rooms were entirely refurbished. The windows overlooking Cart Street were replaced with new ones since the old ones were causing a safety concern. The laboratory equipment, which was given to the museum in 2000 through the sixth Italian protocol, was installed. Three fire and security doors were installed: one leading to the kitchen area, one leading to the stores on the upper level, and one leading to the laboratory on the mezzanine level.

A new roof was built on the existing one of the Monetarium, to protect the internal roof from the elements. Work is still being carried out in this regard. The 29 showcases which were in the Monetarium were dismantled and transferred to the NMNH to be used for the minerals display and collection.

In view of the plan to open a section of the upper floor with the permanent display of the Bronze Age, Phoenician, Punic, Roman and Byzantine periods, a number of works had to be carried out. A planimetry and photogrammetric survey of the facades of Melita Street and Cart Street was conducted in preparation for the publication of the tenders in order to carry out the necessary restoration of these two facades and their respective apertures. Architect Hermann Bonnici is preparing this tender along with that of other required internal civil works, such as the marble flooring which has to be replaced in three rooms on the upper floor. This will also include the reconditioning of the timber flooring of one hall which shall be used for the display, as well as that of the Salon. Electrical engineer Victor Bonello is also drafting four tenders (Electrical, Audio, Security and Network) in view of the upper floor display.

Pending issues in relation to the substation and electrical connectivity were resolved. Legal negotiations ensued

with Scicluna installations and an agreement was reached whereby the main distribution panel was installed and connectivity will be provided by the contractor. An agreement was also reached with Enemalta with regards to the substation, which is accessible from Melita Street, and the property was handed over after a contract was signed between the two parties in order to delineate access points. To this effect a gate was installed in the courtyard. The substation equipment was brought over and the installation process has started. Trenching works have to be carried out in the basement in order to connect the substation cables with the distribution board which will power the museum. This will determine the commissioning of the lift.

Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs

On 2 November HM signed an agreement with *Din l-Art Helwa* for the development of the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs with the view of conserving the site and opening it up to the general public. The project aims at safeguarding and rehabilitating the site so that it may be preserved, interpreted and appreciated by present and future generations.

The specific objectives of the team working on this project are:

- to safeguard the site for the enjoyment of future generations;
- to provide physical and intellectual access to the site's different audiences;
- to contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage; and
- to manage and broaden understanding and appreciation of Malta's paleo-Christian heritage

Through this agreement, both organisations have made a financial commitment for the conservation and management of the site. A project team for the site which included members of both organisations has been appointed. This team is responsible for developing draft conservation, management and development plans for the

site which has been in an abandoned state for a number of years, and has often been the subject of vandalism. The development of a conservation plan is essential to highlight the main conservation issues and how they can be tackled. This will pave the way for developing a sound plan for managing the site in an effective way.

The site has been cleaned and a survey carried out to determine the exact extent and layout of the catacombs. A perimeter fence is currently being erected and a security camera has also been installed on site (through the initiative of the Rabat Local Council, which is supporting the project). A number of conservation assessment measures are currently being carried out by the conservation division of HM with the aim of assessing the current state of the site, establish its visitor capacity, and decide what kind of conservation interventions are needed. A report on the general state of conservation of the catacombs was submitted.

An important audience within the development of this site has been the local community. Residents and other stakeholders have been informed about the proposed development of the site and their help solicited in both the prevention of further vandal attacks and for ideas for management and development of the site. This will ensure that the site will be developed in a holistic manner and will ensure success to the project.

Ta' Bistra Catacombs

An agreement on the site was reached between HM and the Mosta Local Council on 6 July. This agreement will enable the sustainable management and conservation of the site, and the implementation of the Cultexchange Project, which is an Interreg IIIA Italia-Malta Project partly funded by the EU. Following the signing of the agreement, a joint committee was set up to implement the actions required for the completion of the project. The committee includes members from the Mosta community (Local Council representatives), archaeologists and conservators, and has the responsibility of the management and regular upkeep of the site, together with any works that are carried out. The inclusion of members from different backgrounds will ensure the sound management of the site.

The following actions were taken following the set up of the joint committee: A general clean-up of the site was

conducted so that initial works could be possible. The site was also decontaminated and extensively photographed. Very little information about the catacombs was traced in the archives of the NMA, therefore the documentation of the site is essential to document the present state of the site before any interventions are made. The site was surveyed to identify the full extent of the catacombs, and how they relate to the buildings and roads above. Apart from providing the committee with the necessary plans to be able to carry out works, the document produced will also allow a better interpretation of the site.

An assessment of the structural condition of the building overlying the site was carried out. The architect concluded that several of the external walls of the building need re-pointing, as the mortar has weathered or fallen off. The western part of the building also shows signs of foundation movement as some wide cracks are visible in the walls. Internally, the timber beams supporting the roof of the building are in a very bad state of deterioration, and some of the stone slabs are broken and in a critical state. Two roofs supported on stone arches, on the other hand, seem to be stable. An extension of the building shows serious structural defects. Work on a state of conservation report of the site commenced in August. A conservator and a biologist from HM's staff conducted a number of site visits to identify alterations present within the site. The conservation team reported extensive structural damage to most of the catacomb chambers that has been inflicted on the site by the construction of a farmhouse directly above. Furthermore, instances of salt deterioration and biological growths require further study.

Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths

Several consultation meetings were organised by the Archaeology Section about the Ghajn Tuffieħa Baths Project. Detailed plans prepared for the project in the previous year were discussed with HM staff, the Archaeological Society, and a number of environmental NGOs. Although funds are not yet available for this project, consultation with the various stakeholders will pave the way for its implementation in the future. All stakeholders are submitting their feedback, which will be studied and where possible incorporated into the plan. Consultation with other interested stakeholders, such as the Mġarr community and the public in general, will continue in the coming year. Following discussions with



the Lands Department, properties adjacent to the site that are necessary for implementing this project were acquired.

St Paul's Catacombs

An internal committee was set up in September to draft a project plan for St Paul's Catacombs. The committee identified a number of initial studies that need to be carried out in order to be able to plan well according to the site's and its visitors' needs. The studies include a topographical survey of the site, incorporating the catacombs, roads and location of drains, and the location of overlying structures; an assessment of the state of conservation of the catacombs which will eventually lead to the formulation of a conservation plan for the site; a geo-radar survey to identify the location of unknown catacombs, if any; and archaeological surveys and investigations. Data resulting from these studies will allow the committee to work on drafting a sound management and conservation plan for the site, which will also indicate the needs of the site as regards new facilities and interpretation.

Ethnography Section

The Inquisitor's Palace

Major projects undertaken at the Inquisitor's Palace include the completion of Phase I of a new electrical system installation. This project covers the Inquisitor's quarters, prison cells, kitchen and main staircase. The new trunking system has replaced old metal conduit pipes and new services have been concealed beneath the flagstone flooring of the palace. New main switches were also installed and it is envisaged that a new meter will be installed in the near future to enable the full transfer of the electrical service. New electrical fittings have also been installed in the various halls and prison cells. Preparatory works for the installation of Phase II have commenced.

Other works include the pointing and plastering of the external façade of the palace where necessary. The kitchen walls have also been refurbished; a number of stones were replaced and the walls cleaned and re-pointed. New flagstones were also laid in the kitchen. Works were also carried out in the prison communal cells. Concrete flooring was removed from the last communal cell with a doorway into Bishop's Palace Street and the original floor level was reinstated.

The garden has been further furnished with the installation of a fountain produced following an original description of the seventeenth century then in situ. New furniture items for use by staff including lockers and tool cupboards have also been manufactured or purchased. Preparation of specifications and plans for the installation of new sanitary facilities are in hand. In August general maintenance works were also carried out at the *Auberge de France*.

Fine Arts Section

The National Museum of Fine Arts

In late 2005, the refurbishment of Casa Scaglia and its conversion to the museum annexe neared completion. Furniture and fittings were purchased and installed in January, and the curatorial staff moved into the new offices the following month. The new, larger, office premises permitted the engagement of interns and volunteers to support the Fine Arts Section while gaining hands-on experience. Thanks to the availability of the new premises, a project could be undertaken to survey the state of preservation of all works of art on paper that are located within the NMFA.

Work on the technical specifications and tender documents for the completion and setting up of the museum library and prints and drawings room continued, through the financial support of HSBC. This work involves structural installations (mezzanine floor, spiral staircase, railings) as well as purchase of the required furniture (cabinets and plan chests).

Gozo Section

Ġgantija Temples

The MTA visitor survey which commenced in August 2005 was concluded in July. Reports were submitted to HM by MTA every quarter, and will now be summarised in the final report which will round up results on visitor characteristics, requirements and expectations, including a special survey of schoolchildren.

A call for tenders for an ecological survey of the Ġgantija Temples and their grounds was published in October, and the tender was awarded in December to Envirocoop



Ltd, who carried out the fieldwork between January and May. This project has provided HM with a detailed survey of the natural habitats of the cited grounds, and recommendations for upgrading the natural landscape.

Another call for tenders for the procurement of services of a consultant expert specialised in architectural conservation and structural engineering was published in September. This project is aimed to assess the current scaffolding supporting the temples at several locations, and providing recommendations for improving the structural stability of the monument.

Following MEPA's refusal of development permission for an interim visitor centre, a request for reconsideration was submitted to MEPA in November and again in April. After being referred to the Development Control Commission, a full development permission was issued in July. Works commenced soon after for the procurement of interim units for this purpose.

A multi-lingual information podium sponsored by Exalta Projects was formally presented to HM in a ceremony in the presence of the Minister for Gozo on 5 April.

New revised timeframes for the disbursement of funds provided under the Vodafone Ġgantija Project were

proposed to the Vodafone Malta Foundation in July. These new timeframes will see the design and installation of a walkway and viewing platform completed by the end of 2007 and a pilot project for handheld guides taking place in 2007. Environmental monitoring and the installation of a remote security system will materialise in 2008 in view of the increased scope of the project.

Closely linked with the above is the permanent visitor centre project, identified by Cabinet in July as one of the main projects to be financed by the EU Structural Funds 2007-13. A revised work plan was prepared by HM for the materialisation of successive steps in preparation for the implementation of this project.

With regards to the preservation of the temples, a conservation catalogue was compiled together with the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples identifying areas which pose conservation problems. This exercise was carried out for all the megalithic temples, and will be followed by problem prioritisation and identification of methods of intervention.

Rehabilitation works continued within the Ġgantija grounds and included the removal of alien shrubbery from the area opposite the olive grove. This area will

now be embellished with indigenous flora following the recommendations put forward in the ecological survey mentioned above. With regards to the repair and reconstruction of rubble walls along the southern cliff of the buffer zone and surrounding the olive grove, MEPA issued a full development permission in April, following which works could commence and/or resume.

The Xaghra Stone Circle

A full development permission for reinstating the existing boundary rubble wall, field room and security fence has been submitted to MEPA.

Ta' Kola Windmill

A full development application for the restoration of the outer fabric and for the upgrading of the existing sanitary facilities was submitted to MEPA.

Other Sites – Xaghra

Maintenance works were carried out on a routine basis at all other Xaghra sites which are not open to the public, including the Ghar ta' Ghejzu and Il-Haġra ta' Sansuna prehistoric remains.

The Gozo Museum of Archaeology

Following the badly needed replacement of the premises' stairwell roof and its sealing with waterproof membrane in 2005, infrastructural works on the interior in preparation for the revamped Prehistory and Mediaeval sections were undertaken in January. These works involved the entire ground-floor, the stairwell, and two first-floor rooms which are to start forming part of an enriched prehistory section. The said works included the reinstatement of the premises' original ventilation arrangement, the re-routing of all electrical and communication services, the laying of a network of pipes in connection with the installation of a more comprehensive CCTV system, the stripping of the existing plastic-based paintwork and unstable plaster and their replacement with air-flow substitutes, and the replacement of the ground-floor pavement. Likewise, an unobtrusive glass door for the main entrance and a customer friendly reception desk have also been commissioned.

The Museum of Folklore

Preparatory works in connection with the upgrading of the mill-room and the re-design of the existing

permanent display were undertaken. These included the re-instatement of the original ventilation system and the control of algae growth along the walls.

The Museum of Natural Science

At the end of the period under review, the rehabilitation project of the soft area at the back of the museum was nearing its completion. This involved the restoration and consolidation of all existing walls, the formation of a thematic garden with garigue flora, and the creation of a fully accessible children's activity area. The said activity area is to be made available to all organised school visits and related educational activities within the Citadel.

Maritime and Military Section

The Malta Maritime Museum

As from March, following a demonstration session by Mr Stephen Zammit, a local clock repairer, to two in-house technical members of staff, the MMM historic clock was wound up again, after almost the lapse of a year. The tower clock bells are still under study, and a decision is to be taken whether to restore the bells or have them replaced.

The necessary MEPA permits for various structural works at the MMM are still awaiting MEPA Board approval. However various works were tackled in an area earmarked for the future foyer. This area was chosen to host the 'Nelson and Malta' exhibition and works on the clearing of various wooden, concrete brick and stone accretions were taken in hand in May. Three large wooden doors (3m wide x 5.5 m high) and two small doors were also restored. This involved the ordering of thick planks specifically for the project. Various stored artefacts had to be removed to other areas of the museum to make way for the above works. These included no less than eight regatta racing boats, five large marine engines, all salvaged equipment from the *San Lucjan Primam*, four large winches, including an armaments bronze example, and the four-ton *Blucher* model earmarked for future conversion, restoration and display at the NWM. The metal workshop was also transferred from this area to the Ovens Hall. After the opening up of closed off areas, a large amount of unwanted accumulated material was extracted from these areas and disposed of.

The Palace Armoury

Preparation, publication and awarding of the tender for the upgrading of sanitary facilities were completed, and the long awaited new restroom facilities were concluded. The old restrooms were demolished and the space amalgamated within the new office space. The display workshop had to be sacrificed to make space for the new restrooms. Every effort is being made so that HM is given another space within the Palace for this workshop and also for the conservation workshop, because since 1604, an Armoury workshop was always busy tending to the needs of the Palace Armoury, even during WWII. Presently the conservation workshop is located within the Weapons Hall behind a partition. Apart from being inappropriate, this space is needed for further exhibits. In fact plans are in hand for the total refurbishment of the office area, library, and the Weapons Hall. Work will commence early next year.

The National War Museum

In April works were taken in hand to repair the leaking roof over the Royal Navy Hall. By June various showcases, framed pictures and artefacts were again placed on display from temporary storage which was deemed necessary because of the leaking roof. A draft plan was also drawn up for the Aviation Hall, Royal Navy Hall and the office. These works are to commence in 2007.

Natural History Section

The National Museum of Natural History

As the electrical system in the palace is outdated, a survey of all the electrical system of the palace was conducted. The electrical supply was found to be unevenly distributed. All the switchboxes and distribution boxes were checked and numbered.

The corridors in the main wing of the museum and the inner courtyard were whitewashed. A number of steel beams in the main museum wing were also treated and coated with rust prevention paint. The cleaning of accumulated rubbish from a number of rooms continued throughout the financial year and finally all the rooms are now clear. Some of these rooms have already been converted into stores and workshops while others are in the process of being rehabilitated. Work has also started

on a series of prison cells situated in the middle section of the palace. Preparatory meetings and arrangements were held in view of the planned visit by University College of London students in November 2006.

Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum

Works carried out during the past year include maintenance of the museum air condition units, wooden doors and redecoration of main corridor and corridor leading to visitors' sanitary facilities. The electrical system in the cave has also been subject to regular maintenance. Landscaping works adjacent to the old wing of the museum have also commenced. The area has been cleared from debris to bedrock level and a new rubble wall parallel to the water gutter constructed. A number of endemic and indigenous trees and shrubs have also been planted in other areas. Preparatory meetings and arrangements were held in view of the planned visit by University College of London students in November 2006.

World Heritage Sites Section

Tarxien Temples

The application for a full development permit for the construction of a visitors' centre as part of the BOV Tarxien Temples Project was submitted to MEPA in October. This application will soon be extended to include the visitors' walkways which are planned for areas around and within the site. These walkways, which are in the final stages of design, will make the site accessible to all while protecting the original prehistoric floors and surfaces.

In November, a communication strategy was drawn up for this project and in May mechanical excavation works were conducted in the area earmarked for the visitors' centre. Following the construction of a boundary wall, these preliminary excavations were monitored in collaboration with the SCH and were aimed at investigating the area for any archaeology which might be impacted by the proposed development. No archaeological remains were discovered during this exercise. Further archaeological excavations will be conducted shortly in the areas where the foundations of the visitors' centre will come in direct contact with the bedrock. This will further safeguard against a negative impact on the archaeology that may be present in the area.

Preparations have also been made for the exhibition and activities which will be held within this centre. The cataloguing of every artefact which was excavated from Tarxien Temples was commenced in September and is envisaged to be completed by December 2006. This catalogue will be the first ever holistic record of the artefacts that were discovered within this site and will therefore aid in a better understanding of the monuments while facilitating the choice of artefacts to be placed on exhibit within the visitors' centre.

The storyline for the exhibition as well as the interactive activities that will be held within this centre have started being developed with the help of Dr David Trump, who participated in this exercise during a visit to Malta in August. Plans for the exhibition within this centre envisage the presentation of various aspects of the site including its landscape context, its discovery and excavation, and the Tarxien Cemetery Phase of the Bronze Age Period in Malta. It will focus particularly on the interactivity with the architecture of the temples and the activities that took place within this site in prehistory.

Some of the children's activities that may be housed within the new visitors' centre have already been developed and will be made available on site as from the beginning of the next scholastic year, October 2006. These have been produced in collaboration with the Bank of Valletta (BOV) and the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO. These activities were developed together with Dr Yosanne Vella, a pedagogist specialised in the teaching of history and lecturer at the UOM, and include a teachers' resource book, the use of jigsaw puzzles, a 3D model of the temples, as well as a workbook for students

in Maltese and English. The educational material should encourage and stimulate children to interact actively with the site and to better understand and appreciate its value.

An integral element to the BOV Tarxien Temples Project is the conservation of the site and a project has been launched for the conservation of the ship graffiti megaliths at Tarxien Temples. An extensive examination of the state of preservation of the ship graffiti megaliths was conducted and based on this information, the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples recommended that the best manner in which to preserve them is to place them indoors. Additional information on the state of preservation of the megaliths, any movement or cracking of the blocks, was obtained via remote sensing, using X-Ray and thermography. These were carried out in July and did not indicate any extensive structural damage within the megaliths, making their removal and transportation possible. The megaliths were consolidated in August, and an excavation adjacent to the megaliths was conducted by the SCH in the beginning of September. This excavation will facilitate extraction of the megaliths. The ship graffiti megaliths will be placed within the present visitors' building until the new visitors' centre is constructed. In August a working group was also set up to identify the best interpretative means to replace the megaliths on site once they are removed.

Further efforts are being made to understand the causes of deterioration of this site and in April, the environmental monitoring programme at Tarxien was extended to include monitoring of pollutants that may be effecting the preservation of the site.



Events and Exhibitions



HM set up the heritage display at the Arrivals Lounge of the Malta International Airport, officially inaugurated on 27 June.

Television

HM actively seeks collaboration agreements with all national television stations to ensure that the agency and its events receive regular coverage. During the year in review, HM struck a number of important agreements which provided extensive coverage during different times of the day, thus appealing to different audiences.

HM sites were featured during a weekly clip on 22am, an educational breakfast show broadcast on Education 22.

In addition, HM also featured regularly on popular cultural programme Meander on TVM. Important HM events were covered by all the leading television stations.

During the summer schedule HM struck a deal with DeeMedia TV which led to the production and broadcast of series of programmes entitled Wirtna on TVM. The series focused specifically on HM sites.

The agency is also securing agreements which should lead to further exposure of sites and museums on television over the coming months. These include the screening of popular programme Bondi Plus from HM sites; a series of programmes focusing on different museums and sites entitled Muftieh and a series of one minute slots providing information on various artefacts on display in different HM locations. The latter is scheduled to be broadcast on all leading national stations and is assigned to a sponsorship agreement supported by Magro Brothers.

Archaeology Section

The National Museum of Archaeology

Throughout the year under review, the Salon of the NMA acted host to a number of activities. These included 'The Foundation Myths of Architecture', an international

conference organised by AP Architecture Projects to celebrate World Architecture Day from 7 to 9 October; an exhibition of antique and contemporary Maltese silverware organised by Victor Azzopardi Ltd from 16 to 30 October; 'Faces of Neolithic Malta', which included the launch of the book *Human Form in Neolithic Malta* by Isabelle Vella Gregory and a photographic exhibition of Malta's prehistoric portrait gallery by Daniel Cilia on the occasion of CHOGM – Malta 2005 (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) from 19 November to 15 January; 'Characters in Beijing Opera', an exhibition organised by the Cultural Centre of the People's Republic of China in Malta and HM from 27 January to 23 April; 'Landscape Architectural Conceptual Proposals for Valletta and Floriana', an exhibition of drawings by the Anhalt University of Applied Science organised by the Valletta Local Council in collaboration with HM from 2 to 9 May; and 'World Heritage Sites 360°', the launch of a book with the same title by Reuben Grima and an exhibition with images from the said publication organised by Miranda Publications in collaboration with HM and the support of HSBC from 30 June to 23 July.

Moreover, the NMA also hosted 'Crusades: Myth and Realities', an exhibition organised by the Pierides Foundation of Cyprus in collaboration with the SCH, Foundation of the Hellenic World of Greece, *Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* of Italy, and the *Centre de Recherches en Arts, Images et Formes, Universite de Picardie Jules Verne* of France, at the Preti Halls from 6 to 15 January; and 'Symbolic Imagery of Archaic Gems', an exhibition of paintings by Monica Spiteri at the Medieval Hall from 21 January to 15 March. Another initiative was that from 1 June to 30 September the opening hours of the NMA were extended by two hours and the museum remained open till 19.00 hours on a daily basis. The scheme was a wholesome success and will be extended.

Other Sites

On 5 February **St Paul's Catacombs** in Rabat participated



in the Heritage Trail 'In the Footsteps of St Paul' organised by HM on the occasion of the feast of St Paul, while on 20 May the opening hours of the site were extended and admission fees reduced on the occasion of the Night of Museums, organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and the 2006 International Museum Day, an initiative of ICOM under the patronage of the Council of Europe. On 23 October the opening hours of the **Domvs Romana** were extended until 21.00 hrs, admission fees reduced and hourly guided tours offered to the public on the occasion of the European Heritage Days. The same site welcomed the spouses of the Heads of State participating in the CHOGM on 27 November, and together with **Tas-Silġ** participated in the Heritage Trail 'The Romans in Malta' on 7 May. Holy Mass organised by the Burmarrad Parish Pastoral Council was celebrated at the chapel of **San Pawl Milqi** at Burmarrad on 10 February on the occasion of the feast of St Paul, while on the same day, guided tours were conducted on site as part of the Heritage Trail 'In the Footsteps of St Paul'. **Ta' Mintna Catacombs** in Mqabba were opened for visitors every last Sunday of the month. Guided tours around three interlinking hypogea were held at 9.30 and 10.30 hrs on each occasion. Entrance to the catacombs is restricted to ten visitors per tour due to their small size. This initiative was another important step in HM's effort to make more closed sites open and accessible to the public.

Ethnography Section

The Inquisitor's Palace

Considering the outstanding success enjoyed by 'The Art of Pain – Torture Instruments from the Middle Ages to the 19th century' exhibition, the display was extended until 31 December. As a consequence, in January, the *Piano Nobile* of the palace was once more reorganised with the religious ethnographic permanent display, which was also extended to the two halls composing the Old Inquisitor's Quarters.

Two major exhibitions were held during this current year. 'Holy Week Works of Art. A National Exhibition of Statues and Statuettes' was held between 10 March and 20 April. Most of the ethnographic collection related to Easter was on exhibit for the first time and the exhibition highlighted Malta's religious culture and craftsmanship as produced by local popular artists. This was primarily an outreach exercise by the Ethnography Section towards the community of popular religious artists which are under-represented, or ignored in most museums. HM staff was also involved directly in this exhibition with members of staff lending artefacts from their personal collections. The display followed a chronological order, focusing on the eight traditional episodes of the passion of Christ.

'The Cards of Destiny; Gambling, Luck and Magic' exhibition was inaugurated on 17 June and will come to an end on 31 October 2006. This exhibition has been organised by HM in collaboration with the *Associazione Culturale Le Tarot* and the *Biblioteca Classense* of Ravenna under the patronage of the *Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali* of Italy, the MTAC and the MTA. The exhibition provides a social message against gambling and the reading of fortune by explaining the history of tarot cards and divination. It explores playing cards, tarots, the allegories and symbolism of tarot cards, the Book of Thot and the connection between cartomancy and the Inquisition. Also on exhibit are a wide variety of playing and tarot cards, etchings of works by famous artists, rare books and accessories related to playing cards, together with appositely produced scenography.

Following the cultural agreement signed by HM and the *Fundació Jaume II el Just* of Valencia in May, the Ethnography Section also coordinated and researched an exhibition of a donation inspired by the original La Vallette sword and dagger presented by Philip II to Grand Master La Vallette in 1566. After having been inaugurated at HM Head Office in September, the exhibition was mounted at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa, and will be travelling to HM Gozo Area Office in November.

A multi-site ticket for Vittoriosa HM sites has been introduced during this current year and has been received well by visitors. The Inquisitor's Palace was opened on special events such as 'Birgu by Candlelight' held during the Historic Cities Festival between 8 and 9 October and as part of the CHOGM activities in November. The opening hours of the palace were extended to 21.00hrs and 23.00hrs respectively on 13 and 14 April, on the occasion of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday for the 'Holy Week Works of Art' exhibition. Access to the palace was also extended to 19.00hrs throughout the month of August as a pilot project to study the feedback of the public to late opening hours in Vittoriosa. It was also extended to 22.00hrs on 9, 10, 26 and 27 August on the occasion of the feasts of St Lawrence and St Dominic in Vittoriosa. The palace was also open with reduced entrance fees on the occasion of World Tourism Day on 27 September.

The permanent display was enhanced with replicas of torture instruments produced in-house which were installed in the torture chamber. A new flexible system for the installation of paintings and artefacts in the halls of the *piano nobile*, which are currently used for major temporary exhibitions, is currently being discussed. This will reduce the constant use of nails for hanging exhibition pictures, paintings and artefacts. Exhibits in these halls will also be reassessed to reflect the character of an eighteenth century *piano nobile* hall. Structural works in the kitchen are now complete and work on its reconstruction, including the production of tables and kitchen utensils, will be carried out in the forthcoming year.

The Auberge de France

From 19 to 24 October the Auberge was used as the headquarters of the Malta Historical Reenactment Group, which coordinated the Malta International Napoleonic Event to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. On 5 March the Auberge was specially opened for visitors taking part in the Vittoriosa cultural tour organised by the MTAC.

On 25 February, HM joined the rest of the world in celebrating the International Mother Language Day, an initiative under the patronage of UNESCO and the United Nations. The event, which was organised for the second time, was entitled *Vers Aghġini*, and was prepared in collaboration with FrannyJo Publications. Small groups of primary school children hailing from Vittoriosa, Birżebbuġa, Senglea, Kalkara, Mgarr, Mqabba, Hal Safi, Sta Venera and Żejtun read stories from *Ġabra ta' Ward* of E. B. Vella, on the sixtieth anniversary from his death, accompanied by music by Walter Micallef. The event was attended by representatives of the Local Councils of the respective localities and by the parents of the participating children. During Summer, FrannyJo Publications also organised a number of events entitled *Storja, Kultura u Qari bil-Malti fil-Berġa ta' Franza*. The events, which were well attended, were targeted for secondary school students, and included a guided tour of the Auberge, an educational quiz, and reading of literary works by Maltese authors intended to increase literary and reading skills, especially when reading for an audience.

Fine Arts Section

The National Museum of Fine Arts

The following exhibitions of contemporary art were organised in collaboration with Maltese and visiting artists between October and September: Drawings by Anton Grech (November – January); ‘Insights’, paintings by John Grima (December – February); Paintings by Juliet Horncastle (March – April); ‘Don’t Run over the Birds, Please’, a video installation by Ruth Bianco (March – April); ‘Right Outside my Window’, paintings by Craig Hanna (April – May); ‘Glass Attitudes’, glass sculptures by Walter Vella (April – May); Paintings by Alex Dalli (May – June); Drawings by Gilbert Calleja (May – June), and ‘Impressions’, engravings by Hanneke Wessels (September). A retrospective exhibition by John Martin Borg was held from November to December, to coincide with the launch of a publication on the same subject.

A number of historic exhibitions, showing mainly works of art from the national collection, were also held, on the themes of ‘Drawings by Giorgio Grognet’, (October – November); the ‘School Prints Series: Modern Lithographs by Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Leger, Moore and Dufy’, modern lithographs from the David Elyan Donation (2001) (February – March); ‘The Joseph Briffa Bequest (1987) and Other Works’ (July – September); the ‘Commemorative Silver Salver (1800)’, on the occasion of the donation by Dr J. Farrugia (June – July); and ‘Maltese Arts and Crafts’ mural by Frank Portelli, on the occasion of this acquisition (August – September). A collaborative exhibition with the ICMCH on subjects studied in the course of dissertations by graduates of the B.Cons (Hons) degree course entitled ‘Medics in Art’ was held between July and August.

Moreover, the museum also hosted the following events. In October HSBC launched its HSBC Cares for Heritage Fund in the museum’s Preti Halls, and announced its continued support for the NMFA by pledging a three-year funding programme of Lm10,000 per year. The new lecture room in Casa Scaglia started to be used immediately with a series of lectures to university undergraduate students from the courses in History of Art, and B.Educ (Art), while a course in ‘Caring for your Collection’ was conducted by ICMCH personnel. The Master Plan for Maltese Architecture, entitled ‘Today’s Architecture, Tomorrow’s Heritage’, was also launched

by the Chamber of Architects at the NMFA. Plans are also in hand to commemorate 2006 as the 400th anniversary year of the birth of Rembrandt van Rijn in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Embassy. A public talk by the international scholar Dr Gary Schwartz will be taking place later this year as a result of this collaboration.

Gozo Section

The Gozo Area Office at the Citadel hosted a number of temporary exhibitions during the year under review. The first was ‘Shedding new light on the Egyptian Statue of Neferabet’ from 5 September 2005 to 27 November, followed by ‘Pasturi: Crafts and practices of rural life in pre WWII Gozo’ from 5 December to 28 January, ‘A Tribute to the Noble Craft of Lace Making’ from 6 February to 30 March, and ‘The Good Friday Procession’ from 7 to 23 April. Other exhibitions included a painting exhibition entitled ‘The Citadel: a Child’s Perspective’ from 2 May to 10 June in collaboration with the Victoria Primary School, an exhibition of ‘Ethnographic items acquired for the Folklore Museum’ from 26 June to 25 August, and ‘The Silver Salver Donation’ from 28 August to 6 October.

Other events included an official visit by His Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Ġgantija Temples on 25 November, as part of the events taking place in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Malta. On 1 July the Ġgantija Temples hosted a classical concert held in collaboration with the Victoria International Arts Festival, which saw the performance of Berlioz’s *Cléopâtre*, and excerpts from Gluck’s *Orpheus and Euridice*. A ‘Solar Festival’ under the name ‘Ġgantija Alive’ took place on 5 August in collaboration with the Xaghra Local Council, and included dance performances inspired by legends linked to the temples.

On 28 June the ‘Gran Castello Experience’ focused on the Gozo Citadel and its history. This event, which included a folk show, poetry reading and a barbecue, was held in collaboration with the Poetry on Gozo Group. On this trail, participants were taken around the Citadel’s fortifications. An innovative feature was the participation of three actors who enacted the legend of the finding of a golden calf on the hill of Ta’ Gelmus, the story of Bernardo De Opuo and the 1551 siege, and the imprisonment of La Vallette in Gozo.

The Gozo Museum of Archaeology

A set of nine climate-controlled showcases for the prehistory section were installed in April. The new permanent display will feature some of the most representative artefacts unearthed at the Xaghra Stone Circle and a number of other items formerly kept at the NMA. The procurement of these showcases was part-financed (75%) by European Regional Development Funds on the initiative of the Ministry for Gozo. The showcases were installed in time to take a temporary exhibition specifically set up for the visit to Gozo of the EU commissioner for regional policy, who toured the display on 24 April. Besides the refurbishment of the premises and the procurement of display cases, all items earmarked for the new permanent displays of the Prehistory and Mediaeval sections were subjected to a thorough conservation treatment by HM's Conservation Division. Likewise, by the end of the year under review, the multi-disciplinary team entrusted with the setting up of the said permanent displays concluded the designs of the Medieval section. A more rational visitor flow will also feature as part of the new display setup. A temporary exhibition entitled 'Prehistoric Gozo' was also set up at the museum from 24 April to 31 May.

Maritime and Military Section

The Malta Maritime Museum

During this year the museum hosted several cultural and social events, including a CHOGM related function in November, the Cost Action G7 Seminar in March, and the Graduation Ceremony of the International Maritime Law Institute in May.

On 10 October the MMM hosted the second annual national conference of HM, entitled 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage'. The conference was very well attended by various maritime museum directors and curators from the leading Mediterranean maritime museums. Admiral Roy Clare, Director of Greenwich National Maritime Museum was also present and a key speaker during the conference. In fact in October, the museum also acted host to the eleventh AMMM (Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums) annual conference which was attended by all the leading Mediterranean maritime museums. This was the second time that the MMM hosted this conference, the first time

being 1997. Moreover, in March, the decision to hold the 2007 International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) in Malta was taken by the executive council. The hosting of such an event mirrors the standing of the MMM among other maritime museums. The museum was also visited by VIPs, foremost of which is Mr Fredrik Vahlquist, Ambassador of Sweden to Malta.

The long preparations to host the 'Nelson and Malta: A Naval Hero's Vision' exhibition came to an end on 10 October, at the end of the HM annual conference, when the exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister for Tourism and Culture in the presence of the AMMM delegates attending the above mentioned conference and Admiral Roy Clare, Director of Greenwich National Maritime Museum. The exhibition ran up to 9 January and proved to be a success.

The Palace Armoury

After being launched in September 2004, the number of audio/text guides had to be augmented during the course of this year, attesting to their popularity with the visitors. In March, an agreement was signed at the Armoury between HM and Gasan Mamo Insurance, by which the latter company will sponsor the Armoury for three consecutive years with a total amount of Lm15,000, intended mainly for display material. This year, the sponsorship covered the expense for the purchase of various replica period boots, mannequins, busts and heads, all to be utilised for display purposes. Further improvement was also registered at the **National War Museum**, where more clearing of repetitive material was affected from the exhibition halls, allowing for more space around showcases and large artefacts.

Natural History Section

The National Museum of Natural History

A new display dedicated to the history of the museum was set up incorporating three showcases highlighting the national plant, bird and tree, a display on the evolution of natural sciences and a third showcase dedicated to Giuseppe Despott, the first curator of the Natural History Section. A flat showcase displays the recently acquired specimens by the NMNH. The new entomological display was finally opened. This was set up with the assistance of the Entomological Society of Malta, in

particular President Dr David Mifsud and Secretary Mr Paul Sammut.

A small display on the importance of potable water (water table, extraction, reverse osmosis and aquifers) was also opened during this year. Work on the much anticipated display hall dedicated to Islands of Ecological Importance in the Maltese Islands is practically concluded and the hall should be inaugurated in early 2007. The next major display in preparation is dedicated to exotic fauna. Initial works commenced on the four large dioramas highlighting the African Savannah, Australian Bush, Tropical Rain Forest and European Woodland. Bi-lingual labels were placed in most of the showcases replacing the old labels, while all the neon tubes inside the showcases have been replaced by soft-light energy savers which emit less UV rays and generate less heat. A small window display on Maltese snails was removed from the corridor. This will be set up in a more appropriate and scientific manner in the Conchological Hall.

On 5 June, on the occasion of World Environment Day, the museum organised a number of events. Activities for the day included normal guided tours of the museum, two special guided tours of the reserve collections and other areas not usually accessible to the public (chapel, library, bastions, new halls, laboratory/preparation room), and pottery-making for children. The Malta Lace Guild held a workshop and their annual general meeting in the museum's lecture hall on 18 June.

As part of its outreach programme, the NMNH and its various collections featured in a number of television and radio programmes, while several articles and features appeared in the daily press and journals. Apart from guided tours, a number of schools requested either lectures in their own schools or a field trip covering various topics of Maltese ecology. The NMNH also provided marine specimens as inspiration material for MCAST students, while the curator delivered a series of thirteen lectures to prospective ITS guides on 'The natural environment', as well as a lecture on 'Man's attitude towards nature' to Bournemouth University Students at the Foundation of International Studies, Valletta.

Għar Dalam Cave and Museum

On 4 December, Għar Dalam participated in the cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with

HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Birżebbuġa and Qrendi area. On 9 April the site featured prominently in the 'Focus on Birżebbuġa Heritage Trail' organised by HM, while on 20 May the opening hours of the site were extended and admission fees reduced on the occasion of the Night of Museums, organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and the 2006 International Museum Day, an initiative of ICOM under the patronage of the Council of Europe.

The permanent display was enhanced with the installation of the remaining number of bi-lingual information captions in the old exhibition hall. The Għar Dalam educational programme was unofficially launched in February, when two successful trial runs were carried out with two secondary schools. The activity room has been equipped with all necessary facilities, a panel featuring the fauna of Dalam Valley was installed, and the booklet which will be used during such educational visits is currently in print.

World Heritage Sites Section

Haġar Qim and Mnajdra

Annual events held at Mnajdra and Haġar Qim Temples included the Winter solstice on 21 December, the vernal (spring) equinox on 20 March, the Summer solstice on 21 June and the autumn equinox on 23 September. All events were very well attended with visitor numbers reaching the maximum capacity for these events. On 4 December the two temples took part in the cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Birżebbuġa and Qrendi area, while on 14 June Haġar Qim hosted the official launch of the HSBC Cares for Heritage Fund.

Ta' Haġrat and Skorba

These two sites continued to be opened on a regular basis every Tuesday morning. Furthermore, two gallery site officers were trained and guided tours are being offered to all visitors. This initiative has been very successful and the number of visitors during the year under review was triple that of 2004-05. In addition to the regular opening times, an open day was held at Ta' Haġrat on 23 November, and both sites were included in a Heritage Trail on 21 June. In August, discussions were held with Dr David Trump as part of the preparations for introducing interpretation aids at Skorba.



Research and Collections

MICHAEL PLUS project

MICHAEL is a ground-breaking project that aims to open up worldwide access to the European cultural heritage. The project is supported by the European Commission with funding through eTen programme, which is dedicated to the deployment of new technologies in Europe.

MICHAEL aims to provide simple and quick access to the digital collections of museums, libraries and archives from different European countries. Work began in June 2004, with the focus on implementing an innovative multi-lingual open source platform that will be equipped with a search engine. By 2007, the MICHAEL platform will be capable of retrieving digital collections that are dispersed across Europe. There will be many uses for MICHAEL, for example students and researchers will be able to discover information about European collections that might previously have been difficult to find. The services will also support cultural tourism, the creative industries and other interests.

The project consortium includes members from the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK with representatives from public authorities, research institutions and private companies.

The key objectives of the project are to add value to the European cultural heritage and to encourage interoperability and the use of common standards across major national digital cultural heritage initiatives. The MICHAEL project is a multi-national deployment of a cultural portal platform already in use in France. It focuses on the integration and alignment of many national initiatives in the digital cultural heritage sector, including

the most important initiatives in France, Italy and the UK. The project will deliver interoperability of national cultural portal initiatives and a high-quality end-user service, which will facilitate the exploitation of European cultural content resources.

These national initiatives will take place regardless of the availability of funding from the eTen programme. However, support from eTen will enable the national bodies to devote resources to the integration and alignment of their initiatives, adding great value from the European perspective as well as facilitating the end-user.

The project will establish an international online service, which will allow its users to search, browse and examine multiple national cultural portals from a single point of access. The end user will use the MICHAEL service to find and explore European cultural heritage material, which can be accessed over the Internet. This material may include learning resources, catalogue information or the description of physical collections; however, the majority of this material will be digitised cultural heritage assets such as images, 3D models and meta-data descriptions of archaeological sites, buildings, paintings, sculpture etc.

Searching will be possible using both simple-text based search as well as search-by-category and search-with-meta-data, and potentially through the use of GIS to enable the creation of location-based services. The scope of the search can be restricted to a single country, to a number of countries or to all sites linked to the MICHAEL service. The common, agreed, meta-data model will increase the value of the results of cross-border searching. Its implementation is a key recommendation of the Lund Action Plan.

The MICHAEL service will be available on a multilingual basis; the MICHAEL platform will be localised for each country in the MICHAEL consortium, both those in the initial consortium and those who are recruited subsequently.



Heritage Malta initiatives tied to the Michael Plus project

HM specifically sought participation in such an ambitious project in order to gain the required experience and momentum in digitising and putting the large collections in its care on-line. It is ultimately HM's intention to make its collections accessible, on different levels, to all its audiences: from the local to the global community.

The current collections management systems employed in our museums are all outdated and uncoordinated. These range in nature and scope according to the individual initiatives of past and present curators. On a national level there was no concerted effort. Most inventories are found on a card or register system. Through past initiatives a number of inventories were input into computer-based databases, mainly in a basic MS Excel format. In some cases, other formats, such as Filemaker or Access were adopted.

For the purpose of internal collections management and for the purpose of Michael Plus, HM is embarking on an exercise of consolidating its collections management system and bringing it up to standards with current practices. This will entail a whole revision of how HM, or rather the defunct Museums Department, had termed and organised its collections till its cessation in operations three years ago. HM will therefore be looking at international models of Collections Management Systems which all use international standards of inventorying. It will be carrying out an in-house exercise of reorganising the rationale behind its various collections to bring them in line with these as well as making the necessary preparations to be able to export all the gathered data into up-to-date systems and, eventually, the CHIMS database.

For the purpose of Michael Plus, HM has already pinpointed a number of important artefacts and items within its collections that will spearhead this initiative as a pilot project. Therefore it is the intention of HM to put the best items from its various collections on line by the time Michael Plus is approaching its final phases: in approximately three years.

Thus Michael Plus has taken on a double challenge for HM since the project has presumed that its participants had most of their collections digitised, whereas in actual

fact, HM has still to catch up on this. This will certainly be another important milestone in the string of successes that HM has achieved in ensuring a future for our past.

Archaeology Section

The National Museum of Archaeology

In view of the project of the permanent exhibition display which will see the opening of four halls on the upper floor at the NMA, a number of consultants and researchers were engaged on a contract basis in order to research and select the material to be displayed from the stores. The input provided by some interns from Italy and the US also represented a very welcome helping hand towards this project.

Three freelance archaeologists, David Cardona, Cynthianne Spiteri and Elaine Azzopardi started by making an inventory of the stores (2980 boxes inputted so far from the stores at the NMA). The digitisation process initiated with the Phoenician/Punic material and progressed with the Roman and Bronze Age material. The Phoenician/Punic material digitisation process has nearly reached completion and progressed to the conservation stage. Around 85% of the Roman material has also been digitised and is reaching its final stage, while the Bronze Age is still pending the Tarxien Cemetery material. This digitisation process also incorporated research regarding the provenance of the artefact where necessary. To date this database, which is still on excel, has over 6500 entries, from which artefacts are being chosen for the display. The choice of such artefacts is carried out by the researchers and the respective consultants, namely Dr David Trump for the Bronze age, Dr Nicholas Vella for the Phoenician and Punic periods, Prof. Anthony Bonanno for the Roman and Byzantine periods and Prof. Anthony Frendo for the inscriptions. Dr John Samut Tagliaferro is carrying out osteological studies, while Prof. George Camilleri is carrying out the necessary dental analysis on a voluntary basis. The groundwork of a storyline has been drawn up for all the periods and was discussed with the respective consultants. The themes for the Phoenician, Punic and Roman / Byzantine have been established. At the end of August, Pierre Bonello was assigned the task of designing the permanent display, and work on the design and layout has started with the Phoenician and Punic halls.

The refurbishment of the laboratory enabled the conservation of the artefacts which have been chosen for the display to be carried out on site. Part of this exercise was carried out in Summer with five conservators from the Conservation Division. Four archaeology students and three conservation students were also engaged on a short-term contract basis to assist in this conservation project. This proved to be an engaging experience for all since both professions gained a lot of insight through the discussions that took place. Condition assessments and interventive actions initiated on the Phoenician/Punic and Roman material. A similar process will have to ensue after completion of the Bronze Age selection. To date the number of conserved artefacts amounts to 689. Conservation work of the rest of the artefacts will continue at Bighi.

Two photographers from the Documentation Section at Bighi documented the artefacts before going for conservation. These photographs, along with the ones shot after conservation, shall eventually form part of the database. Two cinerary urns filled with bone were investigated via X-ray by the Documentation Section. This was done prior to the removal of the bones from the urns for conservation purposes. However the results were not as fruitful as envisaged due to the thickness of the pottery and the intensity of the packed bone. Another artefact that is being given special attention is that of a wooden statue of Baal, whose provenance and authenticity are not known. Tests are therefore being carried out by the Documentation Section in order to shed some light on this statue. A collection of mainly Phoenician and Punic material, which belongs to Chev. Sammut, is going to be loaned for a period of ten years to the NMA. The contract has been drafted and the collection shall be transferred to the NMA in due course after condition assessments have been carried out.

Information labels were placed in the showcases of the ground floor display at the NMA. These enable the visitors to appreciate the collection more. The showcases were also numbered to facilitate the visitor flow and to enable visitors to view the display chronologically. A guide book of the ground floor authored by the curator of the NMA was also published in April.

On the occasion of one of Dr David Trump's visits to Malta, the Archaeology Section set up a pottery workshop

for which UOM students reading Archaeology and staff within the Archaeology Section attended. This workshop, which was held on 16 November at Head Office, gave all participants the opportunity to learn through a hands-on session from Dr Trump on how to distinguish prehistoric pottery of the various phases.

Tas-Silġ Symposium

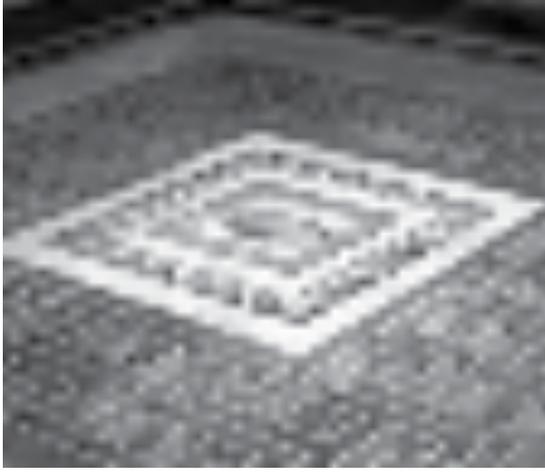
In May 2005, a scientific committee was set up including Maria Elena Zammit (HM), Maria Pia Rossignani (*Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta*), Nathaniel Cutajar (SCH), and Prof. Anthony Bonanno (UOM). The purpose of this committee is to prepare for a symposium about the site of Tas-Silġ that is being planned for November 2006. The committee agreed that the themes that will be discussed during the symposium will be results from past and ongoing excavations carried out by the *Missione* and by the UOM, and conservation and management issues.

UNESCO Mosaics Project

Funds amounting to Lm8,372 were granted to HM by UNESCO last year to be utilised on four sites which have remains of mosaics and that are in dire need of conservation: the Roman Baths at Ghajn Tuffieha, the Roman Villa at Żejtun, the Roman Domus at Rabat, and the multi-period site of Tas-Silġ. HM will be utilising these funds to initiate a project that will seek to address the issues that are currently prevailing on these sites, starting with a detailed and in-depth study of the current condition of the mosaics and the requirements for their conservation and long-term protection.

The study needs to look into past interventions, including raising and extrapolation of certain segments, and to understand the causes for deterioration that have effected the mosaics, both in situ and not. The study must also include surveys and detailed documentation including the mapping of the deterioration processes. All of these documents will eventually feed into the compilation of a report that will contribute to the development of methods and approaches towards the conservation, maintenance and presentation of the mosaics.

An important part of this project will also be the training of HM personnel on the methods and procedures of how to go about the development of a condition assessment programme for mosaics. In preparation for



this project, the Archaeology Section, together with the Conservation Divisions of HM, requested the assistance of the international expert Livia Alberti to plan for the compilation of a full condition assessment of these sites over an annual seasonal period.

The senior curator attended the Mediterranean Mosaics International Conference on the valorisation of archaeological sites with mosaics, held from 22 to 23 February in Modica, Sicily. The conference, organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the *Sovrintendenza per i Beni Culturali di Ragusa*, and UNESCO (Venice), aimed at sharing good practices on the economic valorisation of cultural heritage, and at developing specific skills and knowledge related to the promotion and to the integrated management of such archaeological sites. The meeting was a follow-up of a process for the creation of a network of Mediterranean sites characterised by the presence of ancient mosaics, already initiated with a project of the Sicily Region, entitled 'Mediterranean Mosaics: Knowledge, Valorisation, Networks'. The conference also served to define the contents of a 'Chart of Modica – Joint declaration for a better management of Mediterranean sites with mosaics', and to kick off a common strategy of cooperation between the institutional partners of the countries involved. This shared strategic approach will offer a reference model for possible future initiatives aimed at improving the integrated management and valorisation (also in terms of tourism) of archaeological sites with mosaics. Countries which participated in the conference included Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Spain, Turkey and Malta.

Ethnography Section

The Inquisitor's Palace

Important acquisitions have been made for the ethnographic collection. These include a seventeenth century oil on canvas painting depicting 'The Judgement

of Solomon', which was presented to HM by Mrs Claire Miceli Matthews in memory of her late husband Mr Luca Luigi (Gino) Miceli Farrugia, with the condition that it has to remain displayed at the Inquisitor's Palace. A prized volume by the Jesuit Father Sebastian Salelles and former property of the eighteenth century Maltese Ignatio Saverio Mifsud has also been acquired. This volume will shortly be undergoing conservation works at Bighi. An oil on canvas painting of St Rocque formerly placed in a niche in Queen's Square in Valletta, has been transferred for safekeeping at the Inquisitor's Palace through the SCH. More details can be found in the appendices.

Following the cooperation agreement with Aurora Trust, specialised equipment was provided by the latter in order to carry out a survey on methods used to build or excavate a number of cisterns in the Inquisitor's Palace. No material deposits were disturbed. Data from these inspections have been archived in the museum and are available for research and study.

A number of items have also been acquired for the textile collection. New special storage boxes have been purchased and it is envisaged that the collection will be transferred to these new containers in phases. Other acquisitions include publications, etchings and religious imagery.

The former senior curator has published 'Continuity in Change. A history of the culinary culture of Malta', in *Culinary Cultures of Europe. Identity, Diversity and Dialogue*, eds D. Goldstein and K. Merkle (Council of Europe); 'The Inquisitor in Parliament. An Insight into British Colonial Policy', in *Celebratio Amicitiae. Essays in Honour of Giovanni Bonello*, eds M. Camilleri and T. Vella; 'Heretics and Palaces. The Inquisitor's Palace at Għgantija', *Treasures of Malta*, Vol. VII, No.3; and *Apostata Impenitente et Relasso. Two Death Sentences by the Inquisition Tribunal of Malta, 1639*. The present senior curator collaborated in the production of a catalogue entirely sponsored and produced by the *Associació Amigos de Malta*, financed by the Ministry of Culture, Education and Sport of the Regional Government of Valencia, with the support of the *Fundació Jaume II el Just*, and published 'La Valette's sword and dagger. A sixteenth century Spanish homage for valour and courage', in the same volume.

The *Auberge de France* is also now the repository of the archives of the *Għaqda Letterarja Maltija*, consisting of twelve boxes of documents.

Fine Arts Section

The National Museum of Fine Arts

A number of loans from the NMFA display were made as follows: *Stabilimento di Bagni*, by Francesco Lojacono (1838-1915) was loaned to the *Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna*, in Palermo, from September 2005 to January. *Martyrdom of St Catherine* by Mattia Preti, was loaned to St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation in November. Procedures are under way for the loan of a number of works of art to the forthcoming exhibition in the USA. This led to a number of Old Master paintings being removed from the museum display for conservation treatment. Procedures were also under way for the loan of *The Crucifixion, St John the Almoner* and *St Peter the Hermit* by Mattia Preti to the Comune of Reggio Calabria, Italy, and for the loan of the tapestry *The Striped Horse* from the Gobelins Series in the Palace to the forthcoming exhibition 'Splendour of the Baroque' to be held at the Metropolitan Museum, New York 2007. A twentieth century set of a Chinese settee and two armchairs were transferred to Verdala Palace in October.

A number of works were presented by artists who held an exhibition inside the NMFA between October and September. Other acquisitions worthy of mention include donations by the Capt O.F. Gollcher Art and Archaeological Foundation, by Dr J. Farrugia, by Mrs May Agius, by Judge Giovanni Bonello and Mrs Anna Xuereb, and by Ms Debbie Caruana Dingli. A number of purchases were also made. The bronze sculpture, *Pope Innocent XII* by Giuseppe Mazzuoli formerly located on the facade of the Church of Our Lady of Victories, was presented for permanent display by Valletta Rehabilitation Project (see appendix for details).

As regards research, the new Annexe of Casa Scaglia served as the base for the project undertaken by the post-graduate student team from the University College of London, in their research towards a proposal for the refurbishment of the NMFA. This phase took place over two weeks in November-December, and was led by Prof. May Cassar.

The senior curator published 'A country palace on Corradino Hill and a cavern in St George's Bay, St Julian's', in *Treasures of Malta* (Christmas 2005), while the curator of modern and contemporary art authored the catalogue and a critical essay for 'The Joseph Briffa Bequest (1987) and Other Works' exhibition held at the museum from July to September. He was also asked to curate the exhibition '25 Years: 25 Artists' on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Middlesea Insurance plc, and authored the catalogue.

A number of research projects are being supported by the Fine Arts Section that relate to under- and post-graduate dissertations by Maltese students as well as research projects by both Maltese and foreign scholars. Copies of completed dissertations by graduates were also presented at the conclusion of their university studies. The senior curator also participated in a public seminar on 'Art Education in Malta' with a paper on 'Cultural Identity and Art Museums in Malta'.

A survey on the collection of works of art on paper, including Old Master drawings, watercolours, prints, drawings, engravings and photographs was undertaken by the Paper Conservation Department of HM, assisted by students of the B.Cons (Hons) degree programme. A database with the new information was set up; this will shortly be evaluated, leading to the next phase of the conservation project.

The NMFA hosted three Italian students, Ms Lucia Medei, Ms Daniela Corradini and Ms Caterina Lomellini on their stage towards their post-graduate research in Heritage Management Studies. They assisted in designing a programme for young visitors, with digitising the museum inventory system and with a study of visitor attendance at the museum. The NMFA also hosted three Arts students from the volunteer programme organized by Prof. George Connell, from the University of Minnesota and Connecticut, USA. They provided valuable support with the digitisation programme.

A number of projects were undertaken in the Palace, Valletta, with the support of the Fine Arts Section together with conservators, namely the refurbishment of the Perellos Suite, involving the re-upholstery of the wall panels (technical assistance by the Textile Department, HM Conservation Division), the consolidation and

cleaning of the Ambassador's Hall chandelier (carried out by Re-Coop), cleaning of the marble plaques at the Palace Entrance (carried out by Re-Coop), and the preventive conservation treatment of portraits in the OPM corridor and in the Banqueting Hall (carried out by the HM Paintings Conservation Department, and Wood Conservation Department).

A major project that commenced with the acquisition of funds by the President of Malta through corporate sponsors, followed by the project designed and led by HM, is the conservation project on the mural paintings in the Main Hall of Verdala Palace. This major project will lead to the removal of the whitewash layer that at present is covering the mural decoration (See conservation projects below).

Gozo Section

The Gozo Section participated actively in the Festival Mediterranea, organised by Teatru Astra between 21 October and 6 November, which included an international conference 'From Tarxien to Rome', field trips and on-site talks on various cultural heritage sites. The Section also held 'Artistic Production on the Island of Gozo', a certificate course spread over seven sessions of two hours each from 17 February to 13 March in collaboration with the UOM Gozo Centre.

The inventories updating and digitising project registered further progress. All items on display in the respective museums are now completed, and at the end of the period under review the inventories of the reserve collection started to be revised and transferred to a digital format.

The Xaghra Stone Circle

Following the Board's request for a better management and conservation strategy for the Xaghra Stone Circle, a team was set up within HM to better address the conservation needs of the site and improve its presentation. Several recommendations were put forward for future plans, including proposals from the ex-directors of the previous excavation. The Board took several decisions, including that of reopening the site for further excavation in the near future. As regards conservation, the site will start being environmentally monitored, an exercise which will run parallel to the compilation of a catalogue of conservational problems and the drafting of a conservation plan.

The following articles on general cultural heritage issues regarding Gozo were published by the manager:

- 'Prehistoric Legacy of Gozo's Gran Castello', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 9 October;
- 'A.A. Caruana's 1891 Exploration Campaign in Victoria, Gozo', *The Gozo Observer* No. 13;
- 'Two of Gozo's Best Kept Secrets: Cold War contingency and defence measures', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 12 February;
- 'Securing Gozo's Ancient Gateway', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 28 May; 'Man-Land Relations in Temple Period Gozo',
- *The Gozo Observer* No. 14; 'A Notable Remnant of Ancient Gaulos', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 23 July.

Following the cooperation agreement with Aurora Trust, specialised equipment was provided by the latter in order to carry out a survey on methods used to build or excavate a number of cisterns in the Natural Science Museum and the Folklore Museum in the Citadel. No material deposits were disturbed. Data from these inspections have been archived in the museum and are available for research and study.

The Gozo Section also received donations and purchased artefacts on behalf of the national collection (see appendix for details). Worthy of mention is the purchase of a considerable number of ethnographic items from a farmhouse in Gharb through Mr Anthony Bajada.

Maritime and Military Section

The Malta Maritime Museum

In March, the MMM guidebook, written by the senior curator, was published and is proving to be a success with the visitors to the museum. The senior curator also gave a public talk and presentation titled 'Nelson and Malta' at HM Head Office. He was invited as guest for the opening of the seminar entitled 'Le Vie del Mare' in Palazzo d'Aumale – Terrasini, Sicily, in March, and in June was a guest speaker at the Malta – Sicily Symposium held at Palazzuolo Accredi in Sicily.

The curators assisted both local and foreign students in their research projects and/or supervised them during internships. These included Mr Onur Ates from Turkey, a student of Master Course in Economics and Valorisation

of Cultural Heritage, between July and September, a group of eight students reading for a Masters degree in Maritime Archaeology at Bristol University, and various UOM and Junior College students, in diverse research projects related to the section.

The Senior Curator identified three Maltese *dghajsa* examples from the full scale boats collection which could be renovated and used in a particular project. The project, a first of its kind for HM, seeks the partnership of third parties in renovating and actual operation of these boats. The company 'Water Taxis' offered their services to this end and so far several meetings have been conducted to agree on how operations have to be carried forward. Negotiations have reached the final stage and the agreement should be signed early next year.

In May, the Fisheries Department offered the vessel *Temptation* to the MMM. This vessel, a former Royal Navy rescue launch used for fishing since the early 1980s, was offered for free since it was earmarked for destruction following an agreement in line with EU policies on the early retirement of fishermen and their fishing vessels. HM is looking for the appropriate partners for the conversion of this launch into a tourist attraction.

The 18th century frigate model, once possibly pertaining to the nautical school of the Order of St John, is currently being restored by Mr Joseph Muscat, a former Museums Department employee, who had commenced the said restoration prior to his retirement in 1996. The model, literally in pieces since the last war, had already undergone two uncompleted attempts of restoration prior to Mr Muscat's pre-1996 attempt. Hopefully the said restoration will be concluded by mid next year.

In addition to routine cleaning and maintenance of ship models and other artefacts on exhibit at the MMM, Mr Joe Abela, HM Keeper of Models, commenced and finalised the arduous restoration of a medium sized model – *SS Valletta* – including the original metal and glass showcase. Ten miniature models from the McGarel Groves donation were also restored. Mr Abela was also responsible for the summer course on 'Ship Model Building', organised in conjunction between HM and the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Mr Emmanuel Gatt, model maker at the MMM, continued his research into archives at the AFM Maritime Squadron. This year saw the completion of the model of the Maltese-built patrol boat PC21, better known locally as *il-ħadida tal-moghħdija*, which was in service during the 1970s. Mr Svetlik Agius, technician on full-scale boats, completed the renovation of a traditional Maltese canoe, built in the 1950s. The original colours and decorations were retained. This was the first full-scale boat to be so renovated since 2000, since Mr Agius was engaged in various other pressing projects.

The Friends of the MMM continued to support the museum through donations, scholarly research and assistance. Besides publicising the MMM, holding seminars on Malta's maritime heritage and history, the Friends held other cultural activities and outings and regularly published a newsletter for distribution among their members. This year, as in former years, the Friends held their annual general meeting at the MMM on 4 December, and on 29 May organised a seminar on underwater archaeology with the assistance of HM.

The Palace Armoury

The curator supervised a group of German students who spent an internship period of six weeks at the Armoury, while the year long PROMET project, investigating the corrosion process at the Armoury, was concluded in May. Further in-situ tests will be carried out during October.

As part of the ongoing re-organisation of the collections, over thirty showcases were clad with museum quality imitation leather. The display of each and every renovated showcase was then taken in hand. Each and every artefact was cleaned from varnishes and waxes and made presentable for the display.

The Section also presented a policy for HM's collection of cannons, whereby an official mechanism has been created through which third parties wishing to make fruitful use of the said cannon can do so without any prejudice to HM's collection, research and presentation requirements. The policy is intended to increase the accessibility of the national collections to the general public, to improve HM's relations with other public institutions, and to be an instrument of education and awareness.



The National War Museum

Further clearing of repetitive material was affected from the exhibition halls, allowing for more space around showcases and large artefacts. The organisation of the Burmarrad store was also taken up, mainly since all remaining aircraft parts and military vehicle spare parts were removed from various areas of Fort St Elmo, from the watch tower within the precincts of the museum and from the open passage in front of the museum's main door. The NWM reserve collection at the MMM was better organised and space provided for further items to be brought over from the museum and from a store at Fort St Elmo. The size of certain items which needed handling and transport required various logistical considerations. The identification of various projectiles was taken in hand. These were mainly divided between the Axis powers and British. The latter was further sub-divided between Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

The War Museum Association continued with its assistance mainly in the military vehicles restoration, especially the Dodge Command Car. The vehicle's braking system was completely replaced and completed by identical parts since most components were totally missing. The vehicle's suspension and steering mechanism were also overhauled and likewise replaced where necessary.



Natural History Section

The National Museum of Natural History

Work on the reserve collections continued at a regular pace. Much attention was directed towards the entomological collections, which are being systematically checked. This exercise has also been facilitated by the construction (in-house) of 130 glass topped boxes to hold specimens. The Lepidoptera collection received the most attention with the addition of several hundred new specimens. The inventory of the ornithological collection was continued and over 2,300 birds were identified, measured and photographed. Several hundreds more have to be processed along with the numerous specimens kept in cold storage in preparation for skinning. The mineral collection was transferred from its old dusty location into the new display cases in the main mineral hall in which a new display has been prepared and set up. Metal display cases have been transferred from the *monetarium* of the NMA specifically for this purpose. These cabinets serve a dual purpose: for display as well as for storage facilities. During a visit to the museum a renowned mineralogist, Dr Thomas Krassmann, corrected a number of inaccuracies in the old display in preparation for the new one.

For the third consecutive year a joint expedition to the plateau surface of Filfla Island was held by the NMNH and BirdLife Malta. On 19 May the research party was transferred to and from the island by helicopter courtesy of the AFM. A total of 50 Yellow-legged gull *Larus michahelis* chicks were ringed. In addition to the numbered incoloy ring, a green-coloured PVC ring was also placed on the birds' legs. Observations on the fauna and flora present on the plateau of the islet were also noted. In addition, two night visits to Filfla were also carried out jointly with BirdLife Malta in July and August, this time to monitor the breeding population of the Storm Petrel.

The ongoing entomological study of the Lepidoptero fauna of the Mdina area continued steadily and while the entomological collection is increasing, a number of papers have been submitted to international journals. A paper entitled 'Faunistic notes on Momphidae, Batrachedridae, Stathmopodidae and Cosmopterigidae from the Maltese Islands', by Siaak (J. C.) Koster and Paul Sammut, was published in *Nota Lepidopterologica* 29 (2006).

Environment Protection Department

Environment Protection Department confiscated by Law Courts and presented to the NMNH - 120 specimens (Birds) from 78 species, as well as two mammals.

- Tachybaptus ruficollis
- Podiceps nigricollis
- Calonectris diomedea, Oceanodroma leucorhoa,
- Hydrobates pelagicus, Phalacrocorax carbo
Phoenicopterus roseus Ardea purpurea x2
- Ardea cinerea x2
- Ixobrychus minutus x3 Nycticorax nycticorax x2 Egretta
garzetta x3
- Ardeola ralloides
- Platalea leucorodia x2 Aquila chrysaetos
- Circaetus gallicus
- Milvus migrans
- Circus macrorus
- Circus aeruginosus x5
- Circus pygargus
- Pernis apivorus x 5
- Buteo b. vulpinus,
- Accipiter nisus
- Falco subbuteo x4
- Falco vespertinus x2
- Falco tinnunculus x4
- Falco naumanni x2
- Falco biarmicus
- Falco cherrug
- Pandion haliaetus
- Circus pygargus
- Alectoris barbara
- Crex crex
- Porzana parva
- Porzana porzana Porphyrio porphyrio
- Chlamydotis undulata
- Burhinus oedicnemus x2 Vanellus spinosus
- Charadrius hiaticula Charadrius dubius Calidris
minuta
- Actitis hypoleucos
- Tringa erythropus
- Tringa ochropus
- Tringa nebularia x2 Tringa totanus
- Charadrius morinellus x2 Tringa glareola x4
- Calidris alpina
- Larus ichthyaetus
- Larus melanocephalus

- Larus ridibundus
- Larus fuscus
- Sterna hirundo
- Sterna nilotica x2
- Chlidonias niger
- Columba palumbus
- Columba oenas
- Streptopelia senegalensis Streptopelia decaocto
Caprimulgus europaeus x2
- Alcedo atthis
- Merops apiaster
- Cuculus canorus x4
- Coracias garrulus
- Jynx torquilla
- Upupa epops x2
- Coracias garullus x2
- Merops apiaster
- Otus scops x3
- Asio flammeus x2
- Bubo (ascalaphus/deserti)i
- Phoenicurus phoenicurus
- Turdus merola
- Monticola saxatilis
- Sylvia atricapila
- Lanius senator
- Oriolus oriolus x3
- Corvus corax
- Loxia curvirostra

Mammals

Mustela nivalis, Myotis punicus

Professor Patrick J. Schembri - Biology Department University of Malta

Rana bedriaga – Bedriaga's Toad – Sarraflu Gozo.

Dr. Thomas Krassmann

One piece of Colemanite

Mr. G.W. Fletcher UK donated two separate collections to the NMNH

Native Copper & Cuprite, Calcite & Analcite, Calcite on Analcite with Marcasite Grossular Garnet, Hematite, Amphibole, Epidote, Calcite, Calcite Prismatic Barite, Calcite & Barite, Sylvite & Boracite, Analcite & Calcite, Flourite & Cerrusite, Actinolite, Calcite x 2, Flourite x 2, Chalcopyrite & Quartz on Ankerite, Lithium Muscovite,

Iron Pyrite on Quartz, Sphalerite Quartz and Galena, Wavellite, Calcite on two generations of Analcite, Aragonite, Quartz, Harmotome.

Mr. Gwido Lanfranco Bequest

Entomological collection consisting of over 1,000 specimens. The lepidoptera collection has been carefully restored and catalogued by Mr. Paul Sammut, while all other orders are being catalogued.

Mr. Henry Borg Barthet of Melieħa

Donated an entomological collection made up of various orders.

Mr. Paul Sammut of Rabat, Malta

Entomological collection consisting of various orders.

Mr. Steve Borg of Marsascula

A conchological collection of 146 specimens from UK shores

Ms. Audrey Brincat-Amri

Fossilised cast of Strombus sp. From Hal-Far Quarry

Customs Office – Hal-Far

Lot of exotic seashells from the Caribbean (Haiti)

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick, St. George's Park

Hawksbill Turtle Eretmochelis imbricata from the Bahamas taken in 1970. Collection of Marine Shells from the Bahamas

Mr. Joe Sultana of Xagħra, Gozo

One fossilized tooth of Charcarodon megalodon and a smaller tooth of a smaller shark from the clay layer of Filfla Island.

Mr. John Attard Montalto of Sliema

One skull of Caprimulgus europaeus from Luqa and one Rhinoceros Beetle from Sliema

Dr. Andreas Kroch, palaeontologist from Naturhistorisches Museum Wien

Donated his PhD. Thesis (in published form) on fossil echinoids as well as three casts of Maltese echinoids; Two Echinoneus sp. and Apatopygus gaudensis Gatt, 2005,



Mr. Michael Gatt of Rabat, Malta

Donated a copy of his two volume publication; il-Ġejoloġija u il-Palejontoloġija tal-Gżejjer Maltin Vol. I & II.

Dead specimens collected by the Curator

- 2 mummified Geckoes Haemidactylus turcicus from Filfla Island
- One Suncus etruscus from Ghadira
- Skull of Chamaleo chameleon from Comino
- Skull of Rattus rattus from Comino
- One specimen of Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa from Qbajjar, Gozo
- Two specimens of Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa from Marsalforn Valley, Gozo

In August the Conservation Division carried out a climate survey at the NMNH where data loggers were placed in the Bird and Conchological Halls.

Between 26 June and 6 July a team of three entomologists and the curator of the NMNH visited the High and Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The main aim of the visit was to collect data and some entomological specimens, record the birdlife of the area in summer and to initiate a co-operation with the Scientific Institute of Rabat, Morocco.

The curator participated in a workshop entitled 'Seabird as Bio-Indicators' and the 9th International Seabird Group Conference with the theme 'Seabirds Under Pressure', both held at Aberdeen University in September.

A number of local and foreign students made use of the museum's collections, especially the palaeontology collection, as reference material for their research. The museum collections also served as reference material for laypersons that brought over various specimens for identification purposes. Although a permit has been issued by the Environment Protection Unit of the MEPA for a taxidermist to prepare the study skins, no specimens were prepared yet due to some technical problems.

The tunnels underneath the NMNH which have been identified as a candidate Natura 2000 site because of their importance for a colony of Maghreb bats *Myotis punicus*, whose numbers in winter reach some 60-80 individuals, continued to be monitored on a monthly basis by the curator. This colony served as the basis for a genetic study by a Mr Byron Baron a Maltese BSc. student, who for the past months was collecting data and samples from the Maghreb Bat *Myotis punicus* for a genetic analysis under the supervision of the curator. He presented his thesis to the museum's library.



Ms Victoria Herridge from the University College of London, examined the elephant material from Ghar Dalam and other Quaternary sites as part of her PhD thesis on the evolution of the quaternary elephants in the Mediterranean.

The EU Life + programme on the conservation of Rдум tal-Madonna (Mellieha) and the Yelkouan Shearwater colony breeding there, has been accepted by the EU. A meeting for all the partners was held on site in September and work is envisaged to start in early October.

Following the cooperation agreement with Aurora Trust, specialised equipment was provided by the latter in order to carry out a survey on methods used to build or excavate a number of cisterns in Vilhena Palace in Mdina. No material deposits were disturbed. Data from these inspections have been archived in the museum and are available for research and study.

The flow of donations has once more been quite steady, and this reflects the increasing exposure and reputation of the museum, which continued to receive specimens from different quarters, both local as well as from visiting scientists. The specimens presented to the NMNH through court orders and especially through the intervention of the Environment Protection Unit of the MEPA have been very significant (see appendix for details). A donation worthy of separate mention is the bequest by Mr Guido Lanfranco, who presented an entomological collection consisting of over 1,000 specimens. The collection has been carefully restored and catalogued by Mr Paul Sammut, while all other orders are being catalogued.

Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum

In August data loggers were installed in the cave, in the old and new exhibition halls, and outside the museum, in connection with the third annual visit by University College of London students which took place in November-December 2006. Monitoring of the partially detached rock and stratigraphic wall in the cave has also been initiated and it is envisaged that further data capture exercises and studies have to be conducted during the forthcoming year in order to provide important information for the better management and conservation of this site.



World Heritage Sites Section

Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples

The Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, appointed by the MTAC, began to function in August 2004. Regular meetings were held by the committee during this second year of its work.

The committee called for the formation of a Maintenance Team to assess the state of preservation of the megalithic temples and to carry out maintenance on these monuments. The team, made up of in-house staff was formed in November and has been conducting a series of site visits to assess the current state of preservation of the megalithic temples and to identify the conservation interventions required at each site. It is envisaged that by the end of 2006 detailed site condition assessments for Haġar Qim and Mnajdra will be completed and maintenance interventions will commence in the beginning of 2007.

The Scientific Committee also gave its input with regards to the materials and specifications for the temporary shelters to be constructed over Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, the Ġgantija Temples project, Environmental Monitoring at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, and is also coordinating the conservation of the ship graffiti megaliths at Tarxien Temples.

Conservation Plan

The condition assessment and maintenance programme being undertaken by the Maintenance Team is part of the implementation of a conservation plan for the Megalithic Temples which is being drafted by the Scientific Committee. The conservation plan will lay down the ethical parameters, methodologies, and time-frames for the conservation of the Megalithic Temples.

Management Plan

HM is entrusted with the management of two of Malta's three sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, namely the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples of Malta (the latter are inscribed as a series). One of the requirements for all sites inscribed on the List is that a Management Plan is drafted and implemented to safeguard the site. During the year under review, HM launched the public consultation process for the development of a Management Plan for each of these two WHS. These plans will assist and improve the management of these sites, ensuring that they will be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. The senior curator authored *World Heritage in Malta 360°* a popular publication highlighting Malta's WHS, followed by an exhibition, which received extensive publicity in the press, and 'The Megalithic Temples of Malta: towards a re-evaluation of heritage' in A. Leask and A. Fyall (eds) *Managing World Heritage Sites*, Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, co-authored with Nadia Theuma.



HM Conservation Division

The Conservation Division draws together professionals trained in the field of conservation and restoration. It seeks to apply a multidisciplinary approach allowing the various expertises – both internal and external where possible – to enrich the process of documentation, scientific investigation and conservation treatment of the object, building, monument or site.

Its main functions involve

- acting as the consulting agency on conservation-restoration;
- undertaking conservation-restoration projects with priority assigned to the national collections and sites that HM has been entrusted with;
- embarking on conservation-restoration projects of artefacts and collections belonging to private owners and external curators and stakeholders time and resources permitting;
- assuming the role of educator in conservation and related areas through its ICMCH;
- contributing towards HM's commitment to creating public awareness on a national and international level on conservation and the importance of preserving Malta's cultural heritage;
- providing scientific analyses and documentation services to external individuals and entities.

Located in the ex-Naval British Hospital in Bighi, Kalkara, the Conservation Division comprises the following:

- Conservation and Restoration Projects Management Office (CRPMO)
- Preventive Conservation Section
- Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section
- Documentation Section
- Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section
- Objects Conservation Section
- Textiles Conservation Section
- Books and Paper Conservation Section
- Architectural Conservation Section

All of the above fall under the responsibility of the Head Conservation who actively oversees and manages the conservation-restoration projects across all sections. Ever since the official amalgamation of the former Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR) with HM in March 2005 (announced by Government in November 2004), cooperation between the conservators and curators has become essential to ensure that the preventive conservation and conservation-restoration priorities and actions established by the Head Conservation are adhered to and as much as possible in view of the Agency's overall broader agenda.

Each conservation section embarked on conservation-restoration projects pertinent to the type of material/s and related manufacturing techniques that they are individually responsible for. Collaboration between the various sections was also necessitated specifically when the artefact / site / monument / building (interior and exterior) under study, was of an intrinsically and extrinsically complex nature and constituted composite materials. In this way, the relevant sections teamed up to converge their knowledge and experience to apply a more comprehensive approach towards the conservation-restoration of the artefact / site / monument / building in question. The contribution of the Preventive Conservation, Diagnostic Science Laboratories and Documentation Sections was indispensable in all the conservation-restoration projects that the Conservation Division worked on, whether of a straightforward or a complex nature. Like the other conservation sections, they too were assigned with independent projects where, for instance, environmental monitoring, scientific analyses and graphic/photographic documentation may have solely been required respectively.

The Conservation Division was also entrusted with the mission to collaborate in the field of cultural heritage on an international level. This was activated by its involvement in a number of EU-funded projects directly and indirectly related to conservation and restoration in its broader bracket. Its collaboration with reputable international

academic institutes of higher learning and well-established entities, responsible for the management and preservation of cultural heritage, was part and parcel of its efforts to promote and place HM on the international map. Moreover, by means of such collaboration, the conservation staff of HM was given the opportunity to further its training abroad and also benefit from foreign specialised expertise in certain conservation-restoration projects. Through its participation in mobility programmes, the Conservation Division assumed an outreaching position therefore encouraging foreign under- and postgraduate students to enrich their educational experience through internships with the conservation sections.

With research in the field of cultural heritage and conservation-restoration occupying a central position in the agenda of HM, the *modus operandi* of administrative, academic, curatorial and conservation staff alike has been to strive towards encouraging and creating further avenues of research. Be they for their didactic nature, whereby undergraduate students actively participate to gain hands-on experience, sharpen their manual dexterity, or see in action the application of theory to practice or be they of academic, artistic, historical value and especially of conservation interest, the conservation-restoration projects that the Conservation Division has selectively undertaken, was exactly with a view to retaining research in its foremost position and to implement the research strategy of HM.

All sections have continually liaised with the ICMCH for the coordination and organisation of conservation projects on a didactic basis, for the practical sessions forming part of the degree and vocational programmes, for research projects and other academic duties.



Conservation and Restoration Projects Management Office (CRPMO)

Acting as the executive arm of and providing the necessary organisational support for the Head Conservation, the CRPMO carried out the principal duty involving the coordination of projects relating to hands-on conservation of artefacts, monuments and buildings, that form part of the national collections and sites within the responsibility of HM. By drawing in professional, academic and didactic resources, the CRPMO has contributed to reaching one of the main objectives of the Conservation Division, which is that of adopting a multidisciplinary approach in the execution of conservation-restoration projects.

Apart from managing the conservation-restoration projects that HM has attached priority to, the responsibility of the CRPMO also included the management of conservation-restoration projects of works / sites / buildings belonging to private collections as well as public and religious institutions outside the remits of HM. The management of all conservation-restoration projects broadly involved the monitoring and tracking of progress of work with a view to ensuring that contingencies were catered for, conservation decisions were reached and implemented and deadlines were as much as possible met.

Consisting of one executive and one assistant to the executive, the CRPMO has sought to play an interface role by which communication channels between the conservators and the curators as well as private owners or curators outside HM were established. Based on the condition assessments and treatment proposals drawn up by the conservation sections concerned, the CRPMO was assigned with the responsibility of drawing up quotations which included all the necessary information relevant to the conservation-restoration treatment of the artefact / site / monument / building. In addition to the mutual dependence between the various sections at the Conservation Division and the CRPMO, where matters of a fiscal and contractual nature were concerned, the latter maintained continual contact with the Finance Department.

Registering all projects by means of a filing system as well as collecting and updating paperwork, documents and correspondence for each and every project, the CRPMO undertook to regularly compile and update its database inventory of projects showing their individual

current status. Rolling meetings between the Head Conservation, the CRPMO and the senior conservators, managers and conservators/scientists were held in order to discuss important matters concerning issues such as time frames (commencement and termination dates) and identification of human and material resources. Such meetings were held also to acquire a general overview of the status of current projects, to discuss scheduling of prospective projects and prioritise according to the needs of the section/s concerned.

Criteria for Conservation Projects

Without subjecting them to any particular order of importance, the CRPMO applied one or more of the following criteria (submitted for a general workshop session called by the Head Conservation on 20 January) in an effort to prioritise and manage the conservation-restoration projects the Conservation Division has worked on:

- Didactic value;
- Physical and historical context/s that the artefact / site / monument / building is inextricably derived from;
- Conservation-restoration requirements;
- Level of urgency of need of treatment;
- Level of conservation of the material/medium/manufacturing technique;
- Ownership (whether church or privately-owned, or under the responsibility of a non-governmental organisation [NGO] or other cultural heritage body etc.);
- Artistic and historical value;
- National / international significance;
- Availability of funds/sponsorship (especially in the case of large-scale projects);
- Level of prestige that may prove to be of long-term benefit to HM (of PR, financial and business advantage);
- Availability of human and material resources;
- Availability of time;
- Level of conservation/restoration interest for research purposes (e.g. if artefact / monument / site / building presents certain forms of damage or deterioration phenomena that would enrich knowledge).

By supporting the ICMCH, the CRPMO provided aid for undergraduate and postgraduate students who required logistical support or assistance while involved in specific projects relevant to their course and dissertation studies.

The CRPMO sought to be effective in encouraging and promoting research programmes on the projects that HM undertook as well as contributed to the general education campaign that HM was duty bound to foster such as generating in the public at large the need for assuming responsibility of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It also strove to encourage collaboration with other entities/bodies/NGOs that also had the preservation of cultural heritage at heart for mutual assistance and support.

Achievements

The principal achievements of the CRPMO during the year under review were the following:

- Establishing channels of communication with the Head Finance to work towards creating a secure system by which conservation, documentation and diagnostic science laboratories staff would liaise with the CRPMO so that all phases of work are recorded, tracked and accounted for, not only for costings and quotation purposes, but also to ensure that all activities are entered systematically and recorded in the same office.
- Establishing with the Finance Office the systematic raising of proformas and issuing of official invoices upon completion of projects.
- Ensuring that matters related to certain conservation projects of a certain scale (ranging from past to current and prospective projects) were discussed with the Head Finance so that the CRPMO could work towards effectively buttressing the Finance Office insofar as the tracking of the financial side of the various conservation projects and the establishment of other polices where contracts of works, written agreements, quotations and the conditions stipulated by HM were concerned.
- Ensuring that the coordination related to the preparation for the travelling exhibition in the USA scheduled for 2008-09 permitted the conservation treatment of the various artefacts to progress at a steady pace without significant digressions and to efficiently provide solutions for contingencies that surfaced during progress of work. This involved holding regular meetings held between Head Office, Head Curator, Head Conservation and the conservators from the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture, Objects, Textiles, and Books and Paper

Conservation Sections. The CRPMO strove to provide constant assistance in the overall coordination of projects (other than those related to the USA exhibition) to ensure that this objective was given maximum priority. It also kept the relevant conservation sections updated on developments relating to this exhibition such as the artefacts that would be worked on, deadlines and other matters. It assisted in the planning and organisation of the on-site condition assessment of the artefacts and was responsible, in liaison with the Preventive Conservation Section, to trace and make easily accessible the past condition assessment reports that had been drawn up on a number of the artefacts selected for this exhibition. For facilitation purposes, the CRPMO designed templates per artefact that effectively served as a standard and systematic means for the conservators to enter the number of hours per intervention. Based on these filled templates, the CRPMO was in a position to work out the breakdown of costs that HM would incur for the conservation treatment of these artefacts to be sent to the USA.

- Ensuring that the coordination related to the preparation for the 'Voyage et Voir' exhibition, Catania, Sicily (held in October 2006) permitted the conservation treatment of the artefacts entrusted to the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture, Textiles and Books and Paper Conservation Sections to progress at a steady pace.
- Providing the necessary assistance to the Objects Conservation Section which assumed the responsibility of the treatment of select artefacts of the NMA and

the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, in order that the stipulated deadlines were met as these were intricately tied to the larger programme of works included in the list of major capital projects for the year under review.

- Investing much effort into making sure that projects that HM inherited from the former MCR were being handled with a view to completing them in the near and distant future in order to allow more time and energy on the national collections.
- Ensuring that contact with past and present clients (outside HM) was kept for updating purposes, to maintain a good rapport and to encourage them to continue entrusting the conservation treatment of their artefacts to the Conservation Division (without negatively impinging on the work schedules for the national collections and ensuring that such artefacts were worthy of HM's conservation efforts i.e. only if they were of didactic, historical, artistic and research value).
- Contributing towards the careful selection of artefacts requiring conservation from private/non-HM collections applying the criteria listed above.
- Contributing towards decreasing the backlog of conservation work that was formerly under MCR's responsibility in order to permit the activation of plans outlined in the strategy for 2005-06. The CRPMO thoroughly organised these conservation projects according to different categories, namely those of didactic importance, those that could be considered to be undertaken on an overtime basis or outsourced, those that should / could be carried out during working hours, those that HM was not in a position to undertake for various reasons related to lack of time, resources etc., those that HM would be in a position to undertake / resume in the near / distant future depending on priorities, and those that it would be interested in eventually taking on due to their artistic/historical/ownership value. This important exercise helped in an improved planning of schedules of work, distribution of human and material resources and more realistic time frames. The CRPMO was better able to support and delegate conservators so that projects could either resume, continue, commence and terminate according to their respective stages of work.



- Contributing towards executing the objective related to maximising the use of conservation facilities and equipment after normal working hours and during low peak time. On an ongoing basis, the CRPMO identified conservation projects that in-house conservators could undertake and those that could be outsourced. Short-term, urgent and close-to-completion projects that could be worked on during low peak time and outside normal hours were also carefully considered. Following a series of meetings with the CEO and Head Conservation as well as with the Conservation Sections concerned, the undertaking of projects on an overtime basis began to operate.

- Setting up periodical meetings with the Head Conservation and the Conservation Sections for:

- [1] updating purposes on progress of current projects,
- [2] discussions on how prospective projects could be scheduled into the overall work programme,
- [3] discussions of problems of a conservation, human and materials resources nature, logistics etc.,
- [4] planning of time frames, discussion of priorities and deadlines and
- [5] assignment of tasks to conservators and staff concerned. Prior to each and every meeting, a tabulated list of projects each accompanied by information on their current status and related matters that may require further discussion and updates, was prepared. While acting as an effective agenda for these meetings, these lists were then updated according to the outcome of these meetings. The updated lists – outlining actions to be taken and by whom per project – were circulated to the conservators concerned. Priorities were discussed and decided upon.

- Providing the necessary logistical assistance to the conservation sections in preparation of the ‘Open Day’ at the Conservation Division held on 10 June to ensure that the conservation laboratories were duly organised

for visitors taking security, safety, display, educational and PR factors into careful consideration.

- Contributing towards the discussions with a view to outlining problems and drawing up recommendations for the national collections and sites in the light of preventive conservation, state of conservation / deterioration factors, value and academic interest. The outcome of this valid effort was compiled into a comprehensive document on HM’s Conservation Priorities drawn up by the Head Conservation.

Architectural Conservation Section

The main conservation projects that this Section has undertaken for the current year were the following:

Statue of St Ignatius Loyola, HM Head Office’s Main Portal, Valletta

This was a brief project aimed to test site turn-around and management practices of junior conservation technicians in the Section. Works concerned the refitting of the original head of the statue that fell off in recent years. Two angled glass-fibre dowels were glued with epoxy resin to the underside of the neck and the wall behind, and since the stone statue is hollow, rested on a thin ledge corresponding to the neckline. Other missing detail between the statue and the background was built-up using plastic repair and grouted. Furthermore, a slight wash was applied to the head to account for differential weathering since the head was kept in storage for a long period of time.

Santa Marija (il-Knisja l-Qadima), Birkirkara

This project was executed in collaboration with the Documentation Section and consisted in a damage/deterioration survey of the building structure of the oldest parish church in Birkirkara, commissioned by the first local bishop of Maltese origin, Baldassare Cagliares. The church was abandoned in the eighteenth century and fell into disrepair. A refurbishment/reconstruction programme was launched about thirty years ago and completed in the 1990s.

The scope of the exercise was to present the current state of deterioration of the main building, in order to be able to quantify and determine the extent of intervention in future restoration programmes by third parties. Though





the brief called for a preliminary non-scientific survey of the church, the study has shown remarkable signs of damage. These include: settlement of supporting walls normally associated with weak sub-strata or bad foundations; cracks in the original walls, due to excessive (axial) loading; and crushing of columns and pilasters due to non homogenous building fabric and eccentric loading. Most of the damage is attributed to the unchecked loading and side thrust exerted by the barrel vault that was completed more than a decade ago. It is planned that the report will serve as a benchmark for future surveys so that, irrespective if restoration works are undertaken, the rate of deterioration can at least be checked.

Palazzo Falson (The Norman House), Mdina (under the responsibility of *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*)

The project consisted in the conservation and restoration of the main and side elevations of a listed, protected, medieval building with (at least) late nineteenth century additions executed in an eclectic Neo-Romanesque or proto-Gothic style. The property was once the residence of the late philanthropist, Olaf Gollcher. It was donated to the people of Malta and is in the process of being transformed into a permanent museum of Maltese artistic heritage by the Foundation. The house and its contents are managed by the same organisation.

Works concerned the cleaning of the upper part of the elevation and the application of a fine lime wash (*velatura*) to achieve visual integrity, especially between replacement pieces and the rest of the building fabric. The lacunae were generally the result of mechanical damage due to building settlement (mostly because of past and recent alterations), and fabric deterioration mostly due to heavy rainwater seepage within the walls and erosion especially around window detailing, and

biological growth. The ground floor was re-plastered using a proprietary lime based mix, again partly in order to establish the lost visual unity. Period drawings suggest that the house was plastered at ground floor level and left in exposed stonework on the upper floor. In principle the plasterwork will act as a sacrificial layer (period paintings always represent the skin in a semi-decayed state) but the fine lime wash will eventually dust off to expose the original patina.

Villa Cagliares, Żejtun (private ownership)

This is an ongoing project and consists in the cleaning, conservation and restoration of the chapel and facades of the main building and stables. The works programme includes the reintegration of all *deffun* (water-repellent layer consisting of broken pottery) layers both over the chapel and the original roof structures. The property is a scheduled 'Grade I' listed building, and according to tradition, belonged to the first local bishop of Maltese origin, Baldassare Cagliares or his relatives. It later passed on to the hands of Maltese nobility when it was presumably enlarged and extended. The chapel dates from this period. It eventually fell into disrepair and was recently used as a farmhouse.

Works on the chapel, including the cleaning and conservation of the altar by the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section have already been executed. The street elevation and parts of the internal facades of the main building have already been cleaned and re-pointed using a lime-based mortar, prepared by this Section. In addition, parts of the courtyard structures that will serve as stores and plant rooms, have been cleaned, mostly from cement-based plasterwork. However, because of the high concentration of salts, the walls here have been plastered using proprietary lime-based mixes. Works are currently directed towards the consolidation of the external boundary walls.

Chapel, Conservatorio Vincenzo Bugeja, Santa Venera (*Fondazzjoni Vincenzo Bugeja*)

This project consisted in the cleaning and re-pointing of the pseudo-cupola and external walls of the chapel and main entrance portal of the same *conservatorio*. Count Virginio Vespigniani, then architect to Pope Pius IX designed the premises around 1875.

Finishing touches on the outside of the chapel were concluded early in 2006. Those on the portal were executed recently. Works on the cupola involved the reintegration of *deffun* pointing that had been washed off through years of neglect. The emergency works were designed to allow the intrados of the cupola and adjoining interior wall of the chapel to re-establish moisture equilibrium before any repainting works or general maintenance programmes are commissioned. Most of the damage to the interior was due to rainwater penetration and flaking paint layers, resulting from rainwater seepage within the building fabric. Evidence of this was the large amount of plant growth that had to be eradicated. The conservation/restoration programme also concerned the laying of a new *kopertina* (thin *deffun* screed, laid to falls) on all cornices and horizontal detailing on the exterior of the building, and plastic repair wherever the building fabric was missing. The latter works were exclusively limited to friezes. When dealing with lacunae, plastic repair was slightly recessed in order to allow readability of the eroded stone surfaces.

Works on the main entrance portal included general cleaning of stone surfaces, limited amounts of re-pointing, and plastic repair around lacunae and localised deteriorated areas. Surface detail around sculptures was rebuilt and pieces that were either broken off or cracked re-attached using a combination of dowels and epoxy resin. The under-surface horizontal details of projecting cornices were given a slight lime wash to lighten their tonality and give the monument a cohesive visual unity.



The Section has actively contributed to the ECPL (European Conservation Practitioners' Licence) Project by sending in recommendations for the different minimum levels to be acquired in the conservation of architecture.

Books and Paper Conservation Section

For the year under review this Section has been entrusted with the following activities in support of HM's general programme of events:

Exhibitions

- the condition assessment, conservation and mounting of paper artefacts for the 'Nelson and Malta' exhibition at the MMM;
- the conservation and mounting of prints for the 'Commemorative Silver Salver' exhibition which was held at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA;
- the conservation and mounting of drawings on paper by Joseph Briffa for 'The Joseph Briffa Bequest (1987) and Other Works' exhibition, held at the NMFA;
- the conservation and mounting of drawings and prints for the 'Voyage et Voir' exhibition to be held in Catania, Sicily, in October 2006;
- putting up the 'Medics in Art' exhibition where the conservation project work by the B. Cons. (Hons) students of the ICMCH. The coordination, planning, administration and preparation of the exhibits were in the hands of this Section since Ms Theresa Zammit Lupi had originally launched and activated the idea.

The main conservation projects that this section has undertaken for the financial year, 2005-06, are namely:

Lieutenant Colonel Bayley Collection: This Section was involved in the conservation of a bequest to HM that consisted of the wax bust of Lt. Col. Patrick Bayley, and related documents. These were conserved and then placed in a specifically constructed preservation box. The items in question were later deposited in HM's Gozo Area Office.

Collection of books, manuscript documents, prints and flatworks from Palazzo Falson, Mdina (*Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*). The Section completed the conservation of select paper-related artefacts forming part of the Olaf Gollcher Collection. These included works of art on paper, fifteenth century parchment documents with lead bulls, two globes, and several books both printed and manuscript.

Victor Pasmore Prints, St James Cavalier, Valletta: This Section provided technical support and professional packing of large prints by V. Pasmore that were to be sent back to England in the same mint condition that they had arrived in.

Condition assessment of flat works, NMFA: The first phase of the condition assessment of the vast collection of flat works was carried out and completed throughout June-July. The survey was carried out with the help of five undergraduate students, and a total of 1,232 collective hours were put in to assess, clean, inventory and store almost 3,000 artefacts. A tailor-made database with specific fields was also designed and after each and every form was painstakingly filled in manually during the survey, the information was keyed digitally. An official report was prepared.

Consultation Services

The Section prepared a report, with recommendations, on how to deal with the Mount Carmel Hospital Archives after they suffered a flooding in January. The same Section actively contributed to HM's plans to make its libraries and archives accessible to researchers, students and the general public. It was decided to adopt the ADLIB Information System, which is that similar to the UOM Library, and that of the Library of Congress Classification System would be adopted for the national collections.

The Section has actively contributed to the ECPL (European Conservation Practitioners' Licence) Project by sending in recommendations for the different minimum levels to be acquired in the conservation of books and works of art on paper.

Internships

One intern, Katharina Weiler, from the Fachhochschule Köln (University of Applied Science), Cologne, Germany, spent three months at the Books and Paper Conservation Section working on the conservation treatment of flat works including primarily mechanical cleaning, washing, tape removal, paper repairs and hinging of works of art from the MMM collection. She also participated in the condition assessment of flat works at the NMFA.

Co-ordination of Short Courses

This Section co-ordinated and participated in the lecturing of the 'Certificate Course in Caring for your Treasures and

Historic Buildings' organised by the ICMCH, held every Saturday between February and April at the NMFA.

It was in the hands of this Section to design, coordinate and deliver the course entitled 'Preservation and Care of Books and Paper' held at the Conservation Division, Bighi in September.

This Section has been entrusted with coordinating three excellence courses, organised between the ICMCH and Palazzo Spinelli, Florence, which are 'Construction and Ornamentation of an Islamic Binding', 'Preparation of a Medieval Binding' and 'Construction and Gilding of a Sixteenth Century Binding', held between September and October.

Public Lecture

'Documenting Book Archaeology: A Case Study on the L'Isle Adam Illuminated Manuscripts' was the title of a public lecture given by the Books and Paper Conservator, Theresa Zammit Lupi. This was organised by HM and sponsored by the Farsons Foundation and was held in January.

Staff Development

The Senior Books and Paper Conservator, Mr Joseph Schirò, attended an excellence course at Ravello, Italy, in the *Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali* HQ, Villa Rufolo. The subjects tackled were traditional and innovative technologies, oriental bindings, western bindings – similarities and contrasts and co-operation proposals between entities. To market the facilities, equipment and programmes available at HM's Conservation Division, Bighi, the participant delivered a power-point presentation.

The Books and Paper Conservator, Ms Theresa Zammit Lupi, attended the ICON conference that was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, between 26 and 29 July. This was the first ICON (Institute of Conservation) international conference to be held. Previously book and paper conservation conferences were organised by IPC (Institute of Paper Conservation). IPC has now merged with ICON together with other institutions such as UKIC and the Society of Archivists. It is one of the main international conservation bodies apart from IIC and AIC. Therefore since this was ICON's first conference, it was important that a Maltese representative was present among the 450

participants. The conference included a variety of papers from the discipline.

The University of Leicester appointed Mr J. Schirò to be the personal tutor to Ms Lindsay Buttigieg B. Cons. (Hons) in Conservation Studies for her Master's thesis focused on the preservation issues of the Notarial Archives in Valletta.

Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section

Over the year under review, this Section has taken part in a number of HM conservation projects.

It is collaborating with the Documentation and Preventive Conservation Sections on the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum project. This project, currently in the planning stage, will involve the mapping and the carrying out of a condition survey of the site. This will include the study and mapping of biological growth and the monitoring of water ingress into the site. In another two projects, condition surveys have been prepared for the Ta' Bistra Catacombs, Mosta and the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs, Rabat, in collaboration with the Preventive Conservation Section.

Time, human and material resources permitting, this Section has also seen to requests from private collections and those under the responsibility of an external body other than HM, e.g. NGOs, the Curia, the churches etc. It has in fact continued offering its services to two locally based pharmaceutical companies as well as a government department.

This Section will soon be contributing to a project involving the conservation of the two lateral façades at St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, and will be carrying out the mortar and salt analysis of a large stone pond sculpture in a private garden, which will form part of a larger condition assessment of the same monument.

Alongside its own projects, this Section continued to provide its services to the other conservation sections requesting scientific investigations in relation to the various conservation projects that they have each embarked on.

Dissertation Projects

Six final-year B. Cons (Hons) undergraduates made use of the laboratory facilities as part of their dissertation projects

from November to April. One student investigated the bio-deterioration of wall paintings at St Agatha's Crypt and Catacombs, Rabat while another prepared a condition assessment and conservation strategy for a mosaic decoration of the Nympheum, Argotti Botanical Gardens, Floriana. The staff at these laboratories helped the latter student in the investigation of the salts that were leading to the deterioration phenomenon. A student reading the Master's Degree in Conservation investigated the extent of cleaning required on corroded steel armour (Knights of St John). The cleaning phase will then be followed by the application of a protective coating. The candidate also works part-time on the EU-funded PROMET project.

Internships

During the past year, this Section's staff has also managed and closely supervised three MCAST intern students. As part of their diploma course, these students are attached to these laboratories, frequenting them twice a week during their scholastic year and daily during recess periods.

The Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section has strong ties with the UOM, in particular with the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering (Faculty of Engineering) and the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture. Over the past year, students and staff from these departments have come to this Section to make use of the various instruments and equipment.

Documentation Section

The Section has worked on projects ranging from documentation services directly related to HM's agenda to those external to HM, i.e. requests for documentation services from private owners, custodians and entities who have cultural heritage collections/sites under their responsibility. By providing the required documentation services, this Section has been entrusted with privately owned works/collections, be they paintings or ecclesiastical buildings, as well as HM's national collections.

The main conservation projects that this Section has undertaken for the financial year, 2005-06, are namely:

Santa Marija (*il-Knisja l-Qadima*), Birkirkara

One of the major projects in which this Section was considerably involved was the documentation survey of the old parish church of Santa Marija. In this project,

which was led by the Architectural Conservation Section, the Documentation Section surveyed and prepared drawings of this monument documenting a number of structural cracks that were found on the building.

Lazzaretto, Manoel Island, Gżira

During the first months of this financial year, the Documentation Section invested much effort into finalising a substantial part of the documentation work on this complex, which was surveyed by using multiple media ranging from direct measurements to laser scanning.

Photographic documentation of archaeological artefacts, NMA

This entailed the general and detailed photographic capture of a considerable number of artefacts that were retrieved from the museum's reserve collection, prior to their conservation and selection for the new exhibition area to be opened at the same museum in the near future. In order to avoid unnecessary handling of artefacts, the photographic shooting sessions were held at the NMA itself, where a mini-studio was set up. During progress of work, the photographers of this Section were guided and assisted by archaeologists. This is the first time that a substantial part of the national collection was photographed item by item and a detailed inventory drawn up. This exercise has been considered as a pilot project serving as the opportunity to provide the necessary experience to be able to embark on the more ambitious project where the documentation of the whole national collection would be implemented.

MMM and the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum

These involve the surveying and preparation of digitised drawings of the ex-British Bakery, now hosting the MMM and a pilot project on Chamber 24 of the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum.

The surveying and preparation of digitised plans of the ex-British Bakery have been requested as a basis for an upgrading project at the MMM. All floors of the building are being surveyed and detailed plans and sections prepared.

The Hal Saffieni Hypogeum project is a pilot project that aims at documenting the state of conservation of the whole monument. The documentation will involve surveying and digitised photography of all the internal

surfaces of the monument. Chamber 24 of the Hypogeum has been earmarked as the pilot area to be documented. This project will have the input of all the staff within the Documentation Section since all the skills present will be required. For this project, this Section will be working hand-in-hand with the Diagnostic Science Laboratories of the Conservation Division. A number of preliminary meetings between this Section, the Senior Curator WHS and the Diagnostic Science Laboratories have already been held in order to discuss and schedule plans of action.

Other Projects

In addition to the projects listed above, the Documentation Section carried out a number of X-Ray sessions to document a number of artefacts. The most challenging of these were two amphorae originally retrieved from Ghajn Qajjet and Tal-Ghalija. These X-Ray shots were requested by the NMA in order to study the layers of deposits found in these amphorae. This was the first time that such an exercise was carried out and the archaeologists were extremely satisfied with the documentation results.

Infra Red photographs of three 18th century folia, each covering a possible eleventh century sheet, brought by the Curator of the Wignacourt Collegiate Museum, Rabat, were taken in order to bring to light the underlying information which is currently concealed. Other photographic sessions involving normal photography, Infra Red and Ultra Violet photography were also carried out on paintings brought from the NMFA for conservation at the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section. Outline drawings of these paintings were also prepared on ACAD by the Documentation Section and were used for deterioration mapping.

Staff

In August, Mr Ruben Abela was appointed as the new manager for the Documentation Section. Until such time, the Section was directly coordinated by the A/Head Conservation who sought to manage the staff component in the absence of a manager.

The Way Ahead

The Documentation Section will continue to provide its services and venture into new challenges to the best of its abilities. In addition to the incoming work, it is planned to have ongoing hands-on training on all equipment which

the Section has in order to ensure that internal staff be kept more conversant and efficient in their use of such equipment while carrying out the tasks that the various projects demand.

Objects Conservation Section

The main conservation projects that this section has undertaken for this year are namely the conservation of the following artefacts from private collections: a Spode Italian blue glazed ceramic plate; a collection of sports medallions; reverse painting on an oval glass piece; and bronze mirrors from St Agatha's Museum, Rabat.

In addition, the Section has been involved in the cleaning and conservation of a number of stone and marble statues and monuments, again in private ownership. These have included the limestone statue of St Fidelius, Hamrun Local Council; the Sacra Famiglia Monument, Addolorata Cemetery, Marsa; and the relief of Fr Manwel Magri, Addolorata Cemetery, Marsa.

In line with HM's policy to give priority to its collections, the Objects Section has also worked on the following collections: glass items from the MMM; a collection of archaeological ceramics and stone from the Gozo Museum of Archaeology (works in progress); a collection of archaeological ceramic, stone, metals and glass items from the NMA (works in progress); four majolica jars from the NMFA; and a collection of glass bottles from the Inquisitor's Palace.

Consultation Services

On a frequent basis, this Section has been approached to assess the condition of artefacts at the various museums of HM. A number of deteriorated works have in fact received the necessary attention and been given on site preliminary / emergency treatment to avoid further damage until this Section would eventually be in a position to perform a full and proper conservation intervention. This Section has also been requested by the SCH to assess artefacts made of stone, ceramics and metal and to draw up conservation proposals.

Academic Duties and Didactic Projects

The paintings conservators have also lectured and trained undergraduate conservation students reading the four-year degree B. Cons. (Hons) course in Conservation Studies. The undergraduate students have also been

closely supervised throughout their practical laboratory hours. The students have participated in many of the projects already listed above.

Staff Recruitment

During the year under review, HM has been actively recruiting new staff, including also staff for the Conservation Division. This year, in fact, three new conservators have joined the Objects Section. Recruitment is currently under way for a Senior Conservator within this Section; this will complete the staff complement within this Section.

Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section

For the year under review this Section has been entrusted with the following activities in support of HM's general programme of events:

Exhibitions

Much of the time, energy, human and material resources of this Section was mostly concentrated on the preparations for the travelling exhibition in the USA to take place in 2008-09. This project has had to be given maximum priority. Out of the list of paintings selected for this particular exhibition, the conservators of this Section have hitherto been intensively involved in the conservation treatment of the following canvas paintings from the NMFA: 'Judith and Holofernes' by Le Valentin (involving the collaboration with the *Istituto Centrale per il Restauro* (ICR), Rome; 'Baptism of Christ' by Mattia Preti; 'Death of Cato' by Mattia Stomer; 'Beheading of St John the Baptist' by Mattia Stomer; and 'Salome Receiving the Head of the Baptist' by Andrea Vaccaro.

The initial photographic (including general, detail, Infra Red, Ultra Violet and X-Ray wherever relevant) and ACAD documentation on the above listed paintings has been completed, in collaboration with the Documentation Section. In parallel with the conservation treatment, that has now commenced at a steady pace, the paintings conservators make sure to keep regular contact with the Documentation and Diagnostic Science Laboratories whose services they are dependent on for further documentation and scientific investigations. In addition to the treatment of the paintings themselves, this Section has also commenced work on their respective decorative frames that has progressed also in liaison with the



Assistant Conservator, Mr Vince Abela, based in the Valletta workshop.

The conservators of this Section contributed extensively to performing the required tasks that were identified during the many intensive meetings held throughout the early months of this year under review. These meetings, set up by the A/Head Conservation and CRPMO, were intended mainly for planning purposes and to organise work schedules that were mainly based on the condition assessment reports and time frames drawn up by the conservators for the paintings earmarked for the US exhibition.

This Section completed superficial conservation treatment on two canvas paintings, 'Portrait of a Maltese Padrone' and 'Portrait of Captain Giovanni Inglott', from the MMM, selected for the 'Voyage et Voir' exhibition to be held in Catania, Sicily in October 2006.

Conservation Projects

Due to the fact that this Section was considerably taken up by the US exhibition demands during 2005-06, it was forced to limit the time required for other conservation projects. It has nevertheless sought to meet the requests made by the curators, which were mainly of a preventive conservation nature. One important project was the assessment and emergency consolidation of one eighteenth century wooden decorated (tempera) soffit in a room on the first floor at Verdala Palace, Buskett, involving the collaboration of a paintings conservator and another specialised in wood. Some samples were taken from the paint layer, requiring therefore the involvement of the Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section that the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section is regularly in contact with for most conservation projects.

Time, human and material resources permitting, this Section remained committed to completing, as well as taking on, the conservation treatment of artefacts from private collections and those under the responsibility of an external body other than HM, e.g. NGOs, the Curia, the churches etc. The main conservation projects that fall under this category and that this Section has completed and is still involved in are namely the 'Death of Cato' (School of Mattia Preti), 'Russian Icon', 'Death of Cain', 'Madonna and Child' (painting on copper) and 'Immaculate Conception', Benedictine Nuns, St Peter's Monastery, Mdina.

This Section was also responsible for completing the conservation treatment of wooden artefacts or composite artefacts including wood as a constituent material. It was also entrusted with carrying out wood identification investigations such as those for the 'Phoenician Sculpture', at the NMA, for authenticity and dating purposes.

Consultation Services

On a frequent basis, this Section has been approached to assess the condition of paintings at the various museums of HM. A number of deteriorated works have in fact received the necessary attention and been given on site preliminary / emergency treatment to avoid further damage until this Section would eventually be in a position to perform a full and proper conservation intervention.

In liaison with the Preventive Conservation Section, this Section has also been involved in the assistance and supervision of the packing and handling of artefacts intended for transportation or for storage reasons. The condition assessment of those artefacts considered for local and overseas transportation acted as a precautionary measure establishing whether they were fit to be moved for short or long distances. Whenever possible, all the

required conservation interventions were carried out to enable artefacts fit to travel without further risk of damage.

Much preliminary treatment was in fact done to the collection of portrait paintings of the Grand Masters and British Monarchs in the Grand Master's Palace, Valletta. This included the removal of dust, disinfestations of the decorative frames and protection to deteriorated paint. The aim was to safeguard the paintings until a full conservation treatment is carried out. A lunette painting in the same palace received a similar preliminary conservation treatment as it had been torn around its borders.

The Section has actively contributed to the ECPL (European Conservation Practitioners' Licence) Project by sending in recommendations for the different minimum levels to be acquired in the conservation of panel and canvas paintings.

Academic Duties and Didactic Projects

The paintings conservators have also lectured and trained undergraduate conservation students reading the four-year degree B. Cons. (Hons) course in Conservation Studies. The undergraduate students have also been closely supervised throughout their practical laboratory hours. Among the conservation projects that the Section embarked on, the principal didactic projects that are worthy of mention are the triptych panel painting, 'Assumption of the Virgin', (commonly referred to as the 'Madonna of Filfla') from the Parish Church, Żurrieq, 'Madonna and Child with St Lucy', Mdina Cathedral, 'Landscape with Volcano', private collection, and 'Maltese View' by Girolamo Gianni, private collection (completed). All of these paintings, with the exception of the latter, will be re-integrated into the academic programme of the upcoming year, 2006-07.

Conservation of the Vault Paintings in the Main Hall, Verdala Palace, Buskett

Traditionally attributed to Filippo Paladini (c.1544-1615), the mural paintings at Verdala Palace (Buskett) underwent an unknown number of repainting interventions, last of which by the Maltese artist Giuseppe Cali (1846-1930). In the late 1930s, the paintings were covered with whitewash only to be partially uncovered again in 1986. Since then, several conservation campaigns have taken place, the latest of which in 2002-03 when a multidisciplinary

team from the then Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR) uncovered one of the five painted bays of the vault.

The current conservation project was initiated late in 2005, on the personal initiative of the President of Malta and the financial support of Tumas Group, Gasan Group, Polidano Construction and Malta Financial Services Authority. The management of this project is being carried out by HM, who is also contributing through its administrative set-up and expertise.

A large part of the paintings is still covered by whitewash, which hinders the perception of the paintings and imposes strong limitations for assessing the paintings' condition. The project is a particularly demanding one and has required careful planning, extensive historical research and scientific investigations.

The aims of this project are the completion of the removal of the whitewash layer that was applied in the late 1930s and is still covering half of the paintings, and the conservation of the painting that would therefore be made visible.

The period between March and June was dedicated to planning and carrying out all the necessary research and investigations as well as organising the logistics of this conservation project.

The on-site phase of the project kicked off at the end of July 2006 by a team of four paintings conservators, Ms Natalia Gurgone, Ms Joanna Hili Micallef, Ms Francesca Muscat and Ms Ritianne Psaila, thus including both Maltese and Italian professionals, headed by paintings conservator, Ms Roberta De Angelis. This project includes the participation of a fourth-year student, Theodora Fardi, from ICMCH's B. Cons. (Hons) degree course in Conservation Studies; she is carrying out research on the constituent materials of these vault paintings as part of her dissertation studies.

This team has been involved in tackling the first treatment, which consists in the completion of the removal of the whitewash. Scientific investigations have also been carried out to identify the constituent materials of the paintings. At the same time, historical research has commenced in May and aims to trace the complex history of the paintings and of the site.



Future developments of the project include the full assessment of the paintings' condition, and of the deterioration causes, and the performance of those treatment/measures needed to ensure the short and long-term preservation of the paintings.

It has been planned to render the complete vault painting visible as completed by Giuseppe Cali, while ensuring its preservation, both in the short and long-term. Moreover, a series of investigations, both historical and scientific, will be carried out to study the complex stratification of the paintings and trace back the physical history of the vault paintings. A specific area of the mural painting will also be identified to investigate the painting layers beneath. This investigation will lead to valuable information that should support any research on the painting layers beneath.

Preventive Conservation Section

The main conservation projects that this Section has undertaken for the financial year 2005-06, are namely:

Conservation Plan for the Temples

Since September 2005, on an ongoing basis, the Preventive Conservation Section is a joint contributor to the conservation plan for the temples that is being drafted by HM. The document which includes a maintenance methodology charts a way forward that exceeds the preventive aspect and defines ways in which interventions can take place in a practical, structured, sustainable and rational way within the approval and scope of the Scientific Committee appointed by Government.

La Vallette Hat's, Parish Museum, Vittoriosa

Between September 2005 and January, the Preventive Conservation Section was asked to draw up a report on the display conditions of the showcase that the hat, reputedly said to belong to Grand Master Jean de La Vallette, was meant to eventually be permanently exhibited in upon its return to the Parish Museum, following its conservation treatment at the Textiles Conservation Section. The Preventive Conservation Section carried out a short climate study at the Parish Museum itself that also included a fully fledged proposal on the modification of its current showcase using

conservation grade material that should help maintain a sound state of conservation for this historical hat.

Tarxien Temples

Since April, this Section was responsible for initiating the pollution monitoring for the BOV (Bank of Valetta) sponsored project at the Tarxien Temples. Although extensively monitored for a number of environmental parameters since 2003, it was deemed important to monitor this site further for SO₂ and NO_x pollutants, due mainly to its urban context. It is envisaged to monitor this site seasonally.

Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs, Rabat

A condition assessment and recommendations for the conservation and management of this important site were carried out in May 2006. The report was drawn up with the joint collaboration of Mr Mario Galea, Principal Conservator, Mr Charles Zerafa, Data Collating Technician, from the Preventive Conservation Section, and Ms Gabrielle Zammit, Biologist, from the Diagnostic Science Laboratories of the Conservation Division. The report was presented to the committee made up of *Din l-Art Helwa* and HM officials that jointly manage this site.

Ta' Bistra Catacombs, Mosta

In August, this Section, together with the Diagnostic Science Laboratories, were requested to carry out a condition assessment of the Ta' Bistra site which is jointly managed by HM and the Mosta Local Council. A number of meetings have been held in this respect. This project shall be for the most part following the procedure adopted for the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs.

There is no doubt that the condition assessment reports for the Abbatija tad-Dejr and the Ta' Bistra Catacomb Complexes will substantially contribute to a conservation plan for each site. Following certain necessary interventions and environmental monitoring, it is envisaged that both sites, which were in a state of neglect, will now be managed in a sustainable manner and made accessible to the enjoyment of the public at large.

Xaghra Stone Circle, Gozo

June saw the compilation of a preliminary condition assessment of the Xaghra Circle by this Section. This was followed by a presentation by the A/Head Conservation to the HM Board of Directors.

Showcases for the National Collections

In July, this Section, together with the Manager Museums Development Projects and the Exhibitions Executive, made another important contribution involving the re-drawing up of the technical specifications for the purchase/construction of showcases for HM. To date, a tender document for dismountable type showcases, permanent type showcases and plan chests has been compiled and published.

Underwater Archaeology

Between August and September, the Section commenced compiling a report for the feasibility by HM to set up an underwater marine finds facility. The report puts forward various options that should address an important management aspect of a part of our culture that is most often forgotten.

Textiles Conservation Section

For the financial year 2005-06, this Section has been entrusted with the following activities in support of HM's general programme of events:

Exhibitions

This Section was involved in the condition assessment and packing of one Gobelins tapestry, 'Armorial Bearing of Grand Master Perellos' from the Grand Master's Palace, Valletta, for the 'Saladin and the Crusades' exhibition held in Oldenburg, Germany.

The textile conservators also completed the condition assessment, conservation treatment and packing systems for the four costumes from the Inquisitor's Palace, for the 'Voyage et Voir' exhibition, held in Catania, Sicily, in October 2006. Concurrently, most of the same work was carried out for the six costumes from the NMFA, Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa and *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*, selected for the travelling exhibition in the USA to take place in 2008-09. Much preparation was required for the arrival (October 2006) of the large 'Striped Horse' Gobelins Tapestry, from the Grand Master's Palace, Valletta, also selected for this particular exhibition. Due to the considerable dimensions of this tapestry, the furniture and equipment inside the conservation studio was re-arranged in order to accommodate this tapestry for which a specifically designed working surface was designed and constructed.

Preparation also included planning the logistics for the removal, packing and transportation of the tapestry to the Conservation Division and identifying, ordering and purchasing the materials required for packing and treatment.

The conservators of this Section contributed extensively to performing the required tasks that were identified during the many intensive meetings held throughout this year under review. These meetings, set up by the A/Head Conservation and CRPMO, were intended mainly for planning purposes and to organise work schedules that were mainly based on the condition assessment reports and time frames drawn up by the conservators for the tapestry and costumes earmarked for the US exhibition.

Conservation Projects

The main conservation projects that this section has undertaken for the financial year, 2005-06, are namely: the disinfestation heat treatment of select woollen artefacts from the MMM (in collaboration with the Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section); condition assessment, cleaning and mounting of select displayed textiles at the MMM; conservation work on the pall, burse, stole and maniple from the Parish Church of St Lawrence, Vittoriosa; the conservation treatment of La Vallette's Hat, Parish Museum, Vittoriosa (in collaboration with the Preventive Conservation Section); two embroidered silk screens, Palazzo Falson, Mdina (*Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*) that were conserved and mounted on metal frames; conservation treatment of two mechanically woven tapestries 'Views of Venice', private collection (in collaboration with the Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation Section); and work on a staggered basis on the Teniers Tapestry, NMFA.

Other work includes research to support a two-dimensional textile, 'Pope Benedictus XIV' silk print from the Inquisitor's Palace, with the application of adhesives; research and tests for the removal of extensive rust stains on a ceremonial military costume, private collection, for a complete conservation treatment; and an ongoing condition assessment and vacuum cleaning of the costumes and textile artefacts selected for exhibitions; attachment of new inventory numbers to new textile acquisitions; work in progress on proper storage of the textile collection at the Inquisitor's Palace.



The textiles conservators have also lectured and trained undergraduate conservation students reading the four-year degree B. Cons. (Hons) course in Conservation Studies. The undergraduate students have also been closely supervised throughout their practical laboratory hours. The conservation projects listed above have practically all been carried out on a didactic basis, with the heavy involvement of the students.

Consultation Services

On a frequent basis, this Section has been approached to assess the condition of textile artefacts at the various museums of HM. A number of deteriorated works have in fact received the necessary attention and been given on site preliminary / emergency treatment to avoid further damage until this Section would eventually be in a position to perform a full and proper conservation intervention.

In liaison with the Preventive Conservation Section, this Section has also been involved in the assistance and supervision of the packing and handling of artefacts intended for transportation or for storage reasons. The condition assessment of those artefacts considered for local and overseas transportation acted as a precautionary measure establishing whether they were fit to be moved for short or long distances. Whenever possible, all the required conservation interventions were carried out to enable artefacts fit to travel without further risk of damage.

After being approached by the Ministry of Education, the Textiles Section prepared a report with conservation-oriented recommendations on how best to display a set of large tapestries created by students for the CHOGM. The proposed exhibition space was held at the foyer of the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.



The Institute for Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage

During this year ICMCH outlined its mission that is in line with HM's mission and objectives:

'To promote and conduct quality education, training and collaborative research in conservation and management of cultural heritage, particularly within Malta's Euro-Mediterranean context'.

Administration

In line with HM's strategic plan for action 2005-06 ICMCH prepared all documentation and participated in negotiations related to the formalisation of agreements with institutions of higher learning. In relation to the Maltese context, this concerned the memoranda of understanding with the UOM and the MCAST. In relation to European educational institutions ICMCH also secured the agreement with *Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro*, Palazzo Spinelli and reactivated the process for the application for HM to become a full member of the European Network for Conservation-Restoration Education (ENCoRE).

Through its Head, it also participated actively in the review of academic programmes organised by HM and accredited by the UOM conducted by Prof. May Cassar and started the implementation phase of certain recommendations.

A new prospectus reflecting the Institute's work and course offerings was also prepared and sent for printing. This contains fundamental information relating to the content of ICMCH's various courses (vocational, undergraduate, postgraduate, and short courses), as well as student exchanges, the Socrates Programme and other information that students would find useful.

The Institute continued to enhance and improve the administrative tools that were already in place, such as guidelines and procedures for lecturing staff,

tutors, coordinators and students. It also liaised with HM's human resources and finance sections on staff development and contractual procedures, and those related to lecturer payment and course coordination.

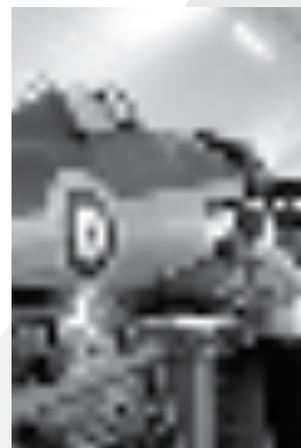
The ICMCH is currently working on a staff development programme catered for staff who participates in tuition lectures in the Institute's courses. Furthermore, ICMCH increased its staff complement through the recruitment of a Senior Clerk.

The ICMCH, together with the ICT department, finalised a web page dedicated exclusively to the Institute on the HM website, wherein people can log on and browse the text, several links, and documents with information on all the course offerings, their entry requirements and application procedures. Also in collaboration with the ICT department, ICMCH explored the possibility of introducing a distance-learning node in Gozo.

ICMCH continued to update the Institute's B.Cons. (Hons) student database, while making the necessary arrangements for a complete integration of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses into the UOM SIMS (Student Information Management System) database.

In collaboration with the finance section, ICMCH introduced the Smart Card system for students in its effort to improve in-house student services. The system was set up in the library whose infrastructure was improved. The library collection was also augmented to account for the new dimension that the Institute had taken as a result of HM's absorption of the former Malta Centre for Restoration.

Reports and budgetary measures including recommendations on the financial status of ICMCH's operations relating to the academic review were put forward.





Research

In anticipation of the preparation and implementation of a coordinated institutional research programme and a revised policy draft relating to the HM Research Fund, in February, ICMCH organised a 'Research Strategy' seminar for HM employees, with the intention of adopting a strategy contemplated on resources, sustainability, staff development, collaborative research and intellectual property rights. In April, the resultant report on HM's Research Strategy was approved by HM's Board of Directors, the following being the main considerations and recommendations for the way forward.

1. HM identifies new opportunities within an enlarged organisation.
2. Research within HM should be more organised, structured and sustainable.
3. There should be an overall HM research strategy based on perceived goals. Planning should be long term while accounting for short-term needs.
4. The structured but flexible long-term strategy for research within HM must be preceded by preliminary work that would support HM's research initiatives, not ignoring past research work and themes which have already been recognised as being important to Malta in general and HM in particular.
5. HM is to set up a Research Strategy Committee to propel and monitor initiatives linked to the definition and management of HM's research strategy.
6. HM urgently needs to invest in an appropriate IT infrastructure that enables internal communication between all HM stakeholders.
7. HM needs to create a structure to centralise then disseminate research done across HM's departments and beyond. Such a structure is also to facilitate communication of research about HM to HM.
8. HM also needs to commit resources to the development of a clear, well-defined and comprehensive Intellectual Property Rights policy to protect and encourage research.
9. HM should invest in data management systems and an urgent, comprehensive data collection exercise accounting for research resources and projects. HM needs to invest in a central resources centre within HM with the necessary manpower to coordinate future research.
10. There needs to be a commitment to a central fund for research. Funds committed to research are to

be governed by clear criteria and present defined obligations.

The Research Strategy Committee was set up and met on a regular basis. Its recommendation to include a line vote for research in HM's budget was readily accepted by management and the Board of Directors and its revision of existing procedural material was presented for approval by the same board.

Educational Programmes

During the academic year 2005-06 the ICMCH proceeded with the delivery of courses that were underway – the three levels of the Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course, the B.Cons.(Hons) programme and the M.Cons. It also saw the delivery of several short courses.

The vocational level Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course received 12 applications and admitted all these applicants. Moreover, ten vocational students progressed to HS2 level, ten progressed to HS3 level year 1 and nine progressed to HS3 level year 2. In the same admission year, ICMCH admitted one student in the B.Cons.(Hons) course Area A: Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture and received seven applications for that same year. After much work on the M.A. in Cultural Heritage Management, ICMCH obtained full approval of this course from Senate. It launched a marketing campaign and received 30 applications for admission in October 2006. In all, around 100 students attended short courses throughout the academic year.

In November, ICMCH saw the third group of B.Cons. (Hons) students graduate in all the areas of the B.Cons. (Hons) course. There were 13 graduates, bringing the total number of graduates of this programme to 30. July saw the finalisation of the programme of another 11 B.Cons. (Hons) students. Moreover, two M.Cons. students finished their studies and will graduate in December. As in the past, standards were ensured through the composition of Boards of Examiners including visiting and non-visiting external examiners.

The delivery of the courses, as well as the involvement of conservators and conservation scientists with particular expertise, was again high on the list of priorities and once again ICMCH invited highly respected foreign experts to contribute in the degree courses for the academic year

2005-06. Among others were Sandra Davidson, Kate van Lookeren Campagne and Norman Tennent. The study-units in which these foreign experts lectured were, on many occasions, offered as short courses, which not only ensured greater sustainability of the programmes, but also acted as staff development courses (coordinated in collaboration with the human resources section of HM) and continuing professional development for conservation graduates.

All the short courses advertised were certified by a certificate of attendance. These were:

- Certificate Course in History and Theory of Conservation-Restoration
- Certificate Course in Architectural and Archaeological Sites
- Certificate Course in the Conservation of Glass Objects
- Preservation of Books and Paper Course
- Introductory Course to Conservation Studies

In June the Institute held the Introductory Course to Conservation Studies. Following this course there was the Entrance Examination for the B.Cons. (Hons), which seven people sat and six passed.

Apart from organising its own short courses ICMCH collaborated with other educational institutions to broaden its educational packages.

ICMCH again collaborated with the Education Division on the Inset courses, this year launching a second course alongside an improved rerun of the course launched in 2005. The second course was the beginning of the creation of a cultural heritage 'adoption' programme featuring collaboration with the Education Division and the Local Councils. The Inset courses, organised for primary and secondary school teachers/administrators, were particularly well received and are clearly attracting considerable interest. Like last year, the aim of this initiative was to raise awareness of the importance



of educating children about cultural heritage and its protection, and how this could be done in the remits of the national minimum curriculum. These courses gave exposure to a number of HM's collections and sites and should encourage teachers to take their children on site visits. Attendance trebled when compared to the previous year.

Other short courses were coordinated in collaboration with Palazzo Spinelli. The Malta International Excellence and Short Courses were born out of the partnership and collaboration agreement between HM and the *Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro*, Palazzo Spinelli. These courses were given a lot of attention and saw the second batch of applicants in:

- Preparation of a Medieval Binding
- Construction and Ornamentation of an Islamic Binding
- Construction and Building of a Sixteenth Century Binding

When coordinating the short courses, ICMCH offered a course at the NMFA, outside the Bighi premises, and investigated the possibility of holding a short course outside HM premises and within a community. This initiative related to Gozo, where HM already had ties with the UOM Gozo Centre. ICMCH began the process of strengthening collaboration with this centre. It also explored the idea of organising an on-site training programme in one of HM's museums/sites. This was successful in relation to the Inset courses but was not

feasible in relation to the demonstration of practical conservation techniques.

Efforts to increase future student intake were high on the agenda throughout this year. ICMCH staff and course coordinators visited secondary schools as part of this education orientation outreach initiative. The Guidance and Counselling Unit were also invited to visit the Conservation Division, after which a meeting was held to outline the objectives of the Institute and devise a way of improving the dissemination of information about ICMCH courses with students and teachers at primary and secondary level.

As part of an effort to increase awareness of cultural heritage and its conservation, ICMCH welcomed over 900 school children from different schools and, in collaboration with other HM departments, organised a day of scheduled visits for the general public. The visits also acted as information and orientation sessions to guide prospective vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate students in the right path to satisfy the necessary entry requirements for the courses. As part of ICMCH's public relations campaign, courses were promoted through radio programmes, HM's newsletter, newspaper adverts and flyers. Following these promotional and educational initiatives, a lot of positive feedback was received from students who showed an interest in courses offered by the Institute. ICMCH also received several requests from prospective overseas students for information about degree courses offered.



EU and other International Initiatives

European Heritage Label

HM is representing the MTAC on this initiative, which was proposed collectively to the EU by the Ministers of Culture of Hungary, Spain and France. The main purpose of this project is to create an official list of recognised monuments, landscapes and sites that have played a key role in European history and form part of a general European identity and collective memory. The Label will be designed to promote an appreciation of the important role played by cultural heritage in European integration, highlighting especially the basic principles and values of the EU: democracy, citizenship, unity in diversity, freedom of thought and expression. One of its aims is also to develop cultural tourism by raising awareness among European citizens of their shared European space and history, and thus to promote understanding and inter-cultural dialogue.

Each Member State will define its own selection procedures of what sites to propose for inclusion in accordance with its own administrative structure and according to its own circumstances. Submissions will be forwarded to the *European Heritage Committee*, consisting of culture ministers and the European Commissioner for Culture, or their representatives, to evaluate and decide.

Inclusion on the European Heritage Label is not intended as a substitute for the UNESCO's World Heritage List, but will rather seek to complement it, both in terms of the selection criteria and the procedure. This project is open to all Member States who choose to participate, but will also comprise mechanisms to accept proposals also from countries which are not members of the EU. The first general coordination meeting was held in Paris on 10 July, where the general concept and rules of procedure were discussed. The next meeting will be held in Athens in October 2006.

Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO)

HM became an official member of NEMO, an independent network representing the European museum community, and attended the annual meeting which was held at the Manchester City Art Gallery on 25-26 November, hosted by the Museums Association of the UK. Besides general updates on museum affairs by all delegates, matters discussed included collections mobility and a standard loan agreement for European museums. For this purpose a general assessment of present loan agreements was made, from which a standard loan agreement will be formulated and presented next year. The idea is for all museums to start using such agreement in order to facilitate procedures and technical disagreements which hinder movement of cultural goods. HM's loans agreement was assessed positively.

The NEMO annual meeting was planned to coincide with the meeting held by the UK Presidency of the EU entitled 'Increasing the Mobility of Collections', which was also held at Manchester on 27-28 November. The themes discussed were: facilitating mobility through government indemnity schemes as a means of reducing the cost of lending, sharing best practice between professionals to facilitate and increase lending through the use of standard procedures, and building up trust between professionals through increased contacts to help enlarge the small club of present lenders. The CEO presented a paper entitled 'Endeavouring to Build up Trust', which focused on the special relationship which developed between HM and the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich.

The Best in Heritage Excellence Club, EXPONATEC

From 14 to 18 February the curator of the NMA participated in a symposium and fair in Cologne, Germany. During the symposium, representatives from a number of museums worldwide discussed what makes their museum a 'best in heritage' and how they managed to achieve this. A museum should to be contemporaneous, versatile,

wise, useful, honest, effective and comfortable. HM also participated in the fair with a stand which highlighted HM's sites and facilities.

EEA/Norway Transition Funds

In November the Archaeology Section submitted an application for funds for a project to be implemented at Ghajn Tuffieha Roman Baths. The application for the project included a number of actions, aimed at safeguarding the site while making it accessible to the general public. Particular actions identified within the application were: the preparation of project designs; preparatory works, including archaeological research and condition assessment of the site; conservation and archaeological works; infrastructural works (visitor centre); furnishings, security and illumination of the site and centre; interpretation; walkways to allow physical accessibility to the site. Results for this call for applications have not yet been published.

European Regional Development Funds 2007-2013 Applications

Following a request for submission of projects by the Government, HM submitted a number of applications for

the next round of EU Structural Funds for the period 2007-2013. Apart from the project concerning the Ġgantija Temples, which has been given an immediate go-ahead, all other projects below are still pending approval.

Four applications were submitted by the Archaeology Section. Basically these projects include the research, study, interpretation, conservation, and structural works necessary for the rehabilitation and for rendering the sites accessible to all, and concern St Paul's Catacombs, San Pawl Milqi, the Domvs Romana (external site) and the roof of the Salon at the NMA. A similar project refers to the set of Gobelins tapestries at the Grand Master's Palace. Other very important proposals include the total refurbishment of the NMFA, as well as the NMNH. The latter project also includes a new experience for Vilhena Palace and a construction of a new purposely-built Natural History Museum. Another project concerns a Vittoriosa Experience, whereby the three properties of HM in Vittoriosa, namely the Inquisitor's Palace, the MMM and the Auberge de France are completely rehabilitated to offer a complementary visitor experience. The same could be said of the Citadel in Gozo, for which a visitor centre and a heritage trail have been proposed.



Malta-Wiltshire Centurio Partnership

The final stage activity of the Malta-Wiltshire Centurio Partnership, funded by the AER Centurio Interreg IIC Programme, was held between 3 and 7 October. This activity involved a visit to Malta by Helen Wilmot, conservator from Wiltshire County Council. The visit included site meetings with various members of HM staff at the Megalithic Temples, the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, the NMA and HM's Conservation Division at Bighi. Discussions during these visits focused on public involvement and information regarding conservation projects as well as the creation of a research agenda for the Megalithic Temples. Ms Wilmot also participated in discussions regarding the creation of a balance between visitor accessibility and conservation at WHS, sharing experiences at WHS in the UK. A half-day seminar was also organised at HM Bighi regarding 'Past Restoration Methods and their Consequences' which saw the participation of various conservators, archaeology and conservation students as well as members of HM's curatorial and conservation teams.

Med.Archeo.Sites: Study and Valorisation of Archaeological Sites of the Mediterranean Area

The Med.Archeo.Sites project is an Interreg III B Archimed project involving the participation of Italy, Sicily, Greece, Libya and Malta, that was approved by the European Commission during this year. The project is part-financed by the EU Community Initiative, and is aimed at cataloguing archaeological heritage, so that it could be managed in a better way, and will involve the recording of monumental archaeological sites in Italy, Greece, Crete and Malta. Scientific studies about the different sites will also be conducted. Information gathered will be disseminated in the form of publications, public meetings, DVDs and websites. The aim of this project is to raise awareness of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean, and should lead to activities relating to the preservation of archaeological sites. As part of this project HM will be working on the two prehistoric sites of Ta' Haġrat and Skorba in Mġarr. These two sites will be recorded in 3D. Improvements to the ticketing facilities will also be carried out.

TRIMED

The Ethnography Section, with the technical assistance and co-operation of Across Limits, is participating in the

TRIMED project in the framework of the Culture 2000 programme of the European Union, with the participation of other Mediterranean islands such as Majorca, Malta, Corsica, Cyprus, Sicily and Naxos (Greece). The main objective of this initiative is to present the culture of the so-called 'Mediterranean trinity' of bread, wine and oil in the pre-industrial period through the remains of material, architectural and intangible heritage, to nurture the training of professional restaurateurs in the use and application of traditional techniques and materials, and to promote the said products in European gastronomy. Throughout the year representatives of HM attended meetings and seminars in Naxos and Corsica. The project is planned to come to an end in September 2007. In the meantime, preparatory works on the upgrading of the permanent display at the Ta' Kola Windmill was carried out as part of HM's obligation towards this project. Two of the rooms at ground-floor level will offer a comprehensive overview on the vital role of bread, wine and olive oil in the Mediterranean subsistence economy and on the production of bread in the Maltese Islands.

ISIDEM

The NMFA is currently participating in the ISIDEM Project, under the EU Interreg III funding programme that brings together a study of late twentieth century and contemporary Maltese art, together with a similar study of contemporary Sicilian as well as an overview of the cultural scene in Sicily. This comparative study will bring into greater focus the emerging generation of Maltese artists, and will provide a detailed career database on around 70 Maltese post-war artists. Another aspect of this project is the creation of a cultural and creative exchange between an invited foreign contemporary artist and Maltese counterparts, with the main topic to be discussed being the cultural reality in Malta today. Similar exchanges will be taking place in Syracuse and Scicli. Preliminary meetings in Syracuse, Malta and Scicli were attended by the Senior Curator of Fine Arts, and the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, and the first phase involving the design of a database was undertaken.

Cambridge Templeton Project

The Archaeology Section is currently involved in the Templeton Project together with the University of Cambridge. The strategic objectives of the project, which will last from April to December 2006, are exploring how

religion drives innovation; the recognition of the spiritual; and conceptions of the transcendent in the manifestation of prehistoric religion in Malta, with special reference to the space, structure and ritual in the temples. For this project HM has made available all its facilities and resources, determined the programme of action, and established the methodologies adopted in virtue of use and handling of the collection and work on sites. The copyright of scans and original drawings, which can be used for interpretative material and to create reproductions, belongs to both HM and Cambridge. Particular effort is being made so that personnel from both institutions work together in order to share knowledge and transfer skills. During their stay in Malta, staff from Cambridge drew a large number of artefacts and even 3D laser scanned some of them. They also conducted some scans of the temples and the hypogeum and took many images which are being transported to a software that enables virtual viewing of the temples. A copy of all data generated by the project will be submitted to HM by March 2007. Two seminars will also be organised as part of this project; the one in Malta will be held in November 2006 as part of the annual HM international conference, which will be held in Gozo, while the second one will be held in Cambridge in December 2006.

Voyage & Voir – Travellers of the Grand Tour

HM, the Valletta Rehabilitation Project, the *Comune di Palazzolo Acreide*, province of Syracuse, Sicily, the *Associazione Jean Houel* and the *Centro Studi e Iniziative per lo Sviluppo Locale ed Integrato* (CE.S.I.S), supported by the *Regione Sicilia*, have pooled their resources with the objective of embarking on the rediscovery of the 18th century 'Grand Tour' routes which fomented awareness of the common natural, historical and cultural patrimony shared by Malta and Sicily. The aim is to trigger forms of cooperation between the two parties through the creation of new specialised cultural tourism circuits inspired by the 'Grand Tour'. This will hopefully foment innovative initiatives leading to a fastening of common past and present links through the evaluation and promotion of common cultural environmental resources with a view strengthening the singular identities of both islands for the mutual social and economic advancement of the people of Malta and Sicily and the satisfaction and cultural

enrichment of modern day travellers. In connection with this project HM officials attended a seminar at Palazzo, Sicily and are now involved in the process leading to an exhibition scheduled for October in Syracuse. The project will mature in 2007 with a seminar and an exhibition on the same theme to be held at the MMM.

MERCATOR

The Interegg IIIB MEDOCC programme is an EU-funded initiative aimed at stimulating trans-national cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean area. One of the approved projects, entitled *Route des Marchands, Villes des Marchés en Méditerranée*, acronym MERCATOR, is to be headed by HM. This project is aimed at the study, understanding and valorization of various facets of Mediterranean maritime history with special emphasis on merchant cities of the Mediterranean. Throughout the centuries, all regions of the Mediterranean Basin played an important role in trading activities of the Mediterranean Sea. The final purpose of this project is not to rediscover this heritage from a narrow specialists' view, but, while respecting scientifically correct interpretations, this project intends to make the subject available to all via the modern means of information technology and modern communications. To achieve this, a number of conferences and workshops will be organised over the coming two years. The project will also develop its own website that will incorporate information on events related to MERCATOR, a database, as well as various educational pages. Other partners who are participating in this project hail from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Morocco and Lebanon. The project which started in June of this year was officially launched during the first Steering Committee Meeting which was held in Malta in October 2006 at the MMM.

PROMET

Some of the staff of the Diagnostic Laboratories Section of the Conservation Division spent much time on the EU STREP INCO-MPC1 PROMET project (Innovative conservation approaches for monitoring and protecting ancient and historic metal collections from the Mediterranean basin). As leader of Work Package 3 (Development of safe coatings and corrosion inhibitors for the protection of metal collections), HM was involved in all tasks assigned to this Work Package as well as a number of tasks within Work Package 2.



Plans are now well under way to host the PROMET partner from Greece (Demokritos). This partner is working within WP2 of the project and is involved with the development of portable micro-X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) equipment. The group will be in Malta during the second week of October 2006, and will be investigating the possibility of performing in-situ XRF measurements on a number of objects exhibited at the Palace Armoury. In the beginning of November, HM hosted PROMET's third business meeting /workshop. At the end of May, a staff member from this Section represented HM at PROMET's fourth meeting in Prague. The project is now entering its third and final year.

IAEA

The Diagnostic Science Laboratories Section of the Conservation Division is also involved in a project funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), namely Project RER/1/006 'Nuclear Techniques for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Artefacts in the Mediterranean Region'. In March, a staff member of this Section, as well as one from the Preventive Conservation Section, attended a training course organised as part of this project. The course was held in Athens, Greece and was entitled 'Implementation of Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Analysis and Ion-beam Methods in Cultural Heritage Studies'.

ECPL

The ICMCH continued to build on its achievements and strove to strengthen its European ties while aspiring to initiate new ones. In so doing, it kept on the forward-looking track at European level in line with its mission.

During the year the Institute was actively involved in the Leonardo da Vinci project entitled **European Conservation Practitioner License (ECPL)**, involving areas of conservation of architecture, easel paintings, books and paper.

Furthermore, ICMCH continued with its policy to encourage student and staff mobility to enhance their learning and teaching/coordination experience. In February ICMCH welcomed two ERASMUS exchange students, one from Nikolaus Copernicus University in Poland who followed the B.Cons. (Hons) Paintings and

Polychrome Sculpture fourth-year programme of studies, and the other from the *Università Suor Orsola Benincasa* in Naples who followed the B.Cons. (Hons) Ceramics, Glass, Metals and Stone third-year programme. The agreement with *Università Suor Orsola Benincasa* of Naples was strengthened with the accommodation of one of their students for one semester through ERASMUS student exchange. In addition, our Area A B.Cons.(Hons) third year student, on a student exchange in the same university, was followed closely. Several other Socrates student exchange applications were also received. However, these had to be turned down for eligibility reasons.

ICMCH also received a Leonardo intern from Rome currently following a specialist course in History and Conservation of Cultural Heritage at the *Università di Roma 3*. Her role within ICMCH was to assist staff on several fronts, including research and the day-to-day running of courses.

ICMCH continued to work to successfully develop its European connections and work with educational institutions to share expertise in the field of cultural heritage. It was granted over 2000 Euros worth of Socrates funds for two separate projects. The first ERASMUS project was a Teaching Staff (TS) Mobility project, which involved two members of staff travelling to Technological Educational Institution (TEI) in Athens to give lectures in their undergraduate conservation programme. Many contacts were made during this visit and the Institute's ties with TEI were strengthened. The visit also served to discuss the on-going ECPL Project. The second project was an ERASMUS Preparatory Visit to Bournemouth University in the UK. Here, two members of staff visited the Conservation Sciences Department at Bournemouth University and managed to secure an ERASMUS agreement for student and staff mobility, mainly intended for the area of cultural heritage management.

Throughout the year, the institute continued to correspond with various Euro-Mediterranean institutions on several matters that could be followed up in due course. Next on the priority list for Socrates and/or international bilateral agreements are the University of Catania, University of Bologna and Northumbria University.

Heritage Malta Services Ltd Activities

The Business Development Unit of HM

HM Services Limited is a subsidiary company set up by HM to tap business opportunities and raise much needed funds for the national agency through the renting of selected HM museums and sites for private functions and events. HMSL is led by a Business Development Manager and a Coordinator who both report to the Head Finance and Corporate Services.

Vilhena Palace

HM has continued with its ground work for the setting up of a cafeteria in the front courtyard of the NMNH. During the year in review, a number of site visits were held by MEPA on this proposed project. To date, HM is still awaiting the necessary permits for this development to take place. In addition, HM has yet to submit an application for the electrical costs as these were going to cost in excess of Lm10,000. Meanwhile, both the internal and external courtyards of the NMNH are being rented to potential customers upon request.

St Angelo Hall – MMM

Through a sponsorship obtained from the Malta Experience, HM undertook the upgrading of the public address system at the St Angelo Hall. This hall is regularly used for private functions, seminars and conferences. HM has also held its second annual international conference at this venue at the beginning of the year in review. Plans are now underway to install the necessary cabling for internet

access in the hall and fixed electrical points across the ceiling to enable fixed projection on to the screen without the need of additional stands on the floor that take up precious space apart from being aesthetically invasive.

Conservation Division – Bighi

A new contract for the catering services at this site has been drafted and proposed to Island Caterers Ltd. The new agreement seeks to address a number of new issues to ensure that HM truly offers added value to its esteemed clients. HM is also actively considering new infrastructural developments which will include the completion of a new hostel that will cater for students and academics alike who will be attending courses or delivering modules at the Conservation Division. This hostel can also be used specifically for EU vocational projects and can be an additional source of revenue for the agency.

Audio Guides

Following the success of the introduction of multi-lingual audio guides at the Palace Armoury in Valletta and the St Paul's Catacombs in Rabat, HM, through its Business Development Unit, has sought to introduce similar concepts in other sites.

The tendering process for the audio-guides at the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum has been concluded and the new multi-lingual audio guides should be in place by the first trimester of 2007. The introduction of these devices will mean that non-English speaking visitors will be able to visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site and tune in to an explanation in the language of their choice. The new audio guide will also feature the audio clips that complement the audio-visual show at the Hypogeum. This will bring to an end the current practice of using headphones for the explanation in various languages.

In the same vein, an audio guide for the city of Valletta has been launched by HM in conjunction with Exalta Ltd. The service was launched at the NMA on 19 September. Patrons wishing to make use of this service have to call



at the NMA, which is serving as the hub for this project. The incentive has been called 'My Guide' and enables users to tour the capital city at their leisure. Plans are also underway to introduce a similar guide for the Citadel in Gozo. The Old Prison will serve as the hub from where patrons can rent these audio guides.

Collaboration Agreement

HM actively seeks to enter into synergies that prove to be beneficial to all parties concerned. In September, HM signed an agreement with Limestone Heritage through which the two entities agreed to sell multi-site tickets which are being marketed as follows:

Haġar Qim – Mnajdra – Limestone Heritage

Tarxien Temples – Limestone Heritage

NMA – Limestone Heritage

Primarily this incentive seeks to offer visitors more value for money and to promote the concept of multi-site ticketing across different entities and organisations. This initiative is being supplemented with full-colour posters which are strategically placed at the entrance of museums and sites.

Another agreement is being drafted with Studio 7 which will enable the company to film Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples before the implementation of the temporary shelter project and to use this footage to promote these two UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Wirtna Shops Limited

Following the introduction of Wirtna Shops at the Domvs Romana and the NMA, new retail outlets have been set up at the Inquisitor's Palace, the Palace Armoury and the NMNH. Discussions were undertaken by HM and

Wirtna to explore the possibility of introducing new merchandise that will carry HM's logo. Such artefacts are to be sold only from the museum shops, making them unique souvenir items. Another retail shop is expected to commence operations in the beginning of 2007.

HSBC Cares for Heritage Hotel Scheme

This scheme was introduced to the media at Haġar Qim in June. Through the initiative of HSBC, leading five star hotels in Malta were asked to participate in a scheme through which patrons would be asked to donate one Euro per room night. Each hotel was assigned to a specific site or museum with the emphasis being archaeological sites. Members of staff from the different hotels were encouraged to visit the respective site/museum assigned to their hotel. While it is still early to gauge the financial return of this scheme, it is envisaged that hotels will be generating much needed funds which will go for the upkeep of the sites and museums participating in this scheme. Until the end of the year in review, the scheme had already generated Lm2500.

Fort Delimara Private Public Partnership Project

Following the take over of this fort by HM, discussions are being undertaken with a number of key stakeholders such as MTAC, MTA, MEPA, the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment and the PPP Unit within the Ministry of Finance to finalise the proposal for a private-public partnership that will not only seek to rehabilitate this important landmark of the Maltese islands but also explore potential business ventures at the site. A study is being prepared to the OPM to advise on the possibilities that exist to promote this project further to potential investors.





THE MUSEUM

The museum is a place where you can learn about the history of the city and the people who lived here. It is a place where you can see the things that were used by the people who lived here.



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Appendix I

PAINTINGS

28 September 2005	Faith, Hope and Charity by Brian Goodall	Donated by the author
28 October	Antique oil on canvas painting Maltese School	Transferred from niche opposite Eddie's Bar at Old Treasury Street, Valletta
30 November	Judgement of Solomon Anon Italian painter (Roman School?) (17th century); oil on canvas	Donated by Claire Miceli Matthews
12 December	Still life of Pomegranate, Wine Bottle and Tea Pot by Willie Apap (1918-70)	Purchase
14 December	Santa Rosalia by Francesco Mola (1612-66); oil on canvas	Purchase
14 December	Sophonisba by School of Mattia Preti; oil on canvas	Purchase
14 December	L'Assemblee French School 18th century; monochrome on paper	Purchase
14 December	Abstract by Emvin Cremona; mixed media on paper, signed and dated 1968	Purchase
14 December	Abstract by Emvin Cremona; mixed media on paper, signed and dated 1969	Purchase
14 December	Portrait of a Grand Cross displaying insignia by Francesco Vincenzo Zahra	Purchase
14 December	Caricature of Maltese Folk Character by George Preca; oil on canvas	Purchase
14 February	Argotti Gardens by Emily Frendo Camilleri	Donated by the author
6 March	Malta & Gozo Section Travel Album by Rev. David Frederick Markham (1800-58) (consists of a collection of Malta watercolours with descriptive text)	Purchase
6 March	Three months in Malta by L. Bunbury (1872). (Bound manuscript booklet illustrated with miniatures)	Purchase
15 March	Achilles by Anthony Catania	Donated by the author
18 April	Portrait of an Ecclesiastic by Francesco Vincenzo Zahra	Purchase
20 April	Beyond 010 by Antonella Grima	Donated by the author
20 April	Giovanni Cimabue observing Giotto drawing while tending sheep attributed to Giuseppe Hyzler (1793-1858)	Purchase
20 April	Abstract by Edward Micallef	Purchase
1 June	Ta' Loreto Chapel, Gudja by Matthew Kassar	Donated by the author
3 July	Portrait of Padrone Paolo de Biasi by Anon. Maltese 18th century; oil on canvas	Purchase
21 July	St Barbara Patron Saint of Bombardiers by Anon Maltese (18th century); oil on canvas	Purchase
4 August	Maltese Crafts and Trades by Frank Portelli; oil on canvas pasted on board	Purchase

SCULPTURE

11 October	Bust of Pope Innocent XI by Giuseppe Mazzuoli, bronze	Transfer through VRP. Formerly on the façade of Victory Church, Valletta
12 December	Three (3) Soldiers of the Indian Contingency by Giuseppe Rausi, (mid 19th century); papier mâché	Purchase
16 December	Carved wood male figure for a pianola (19th century)	Purchase
14 September	Two (2) Statuette of mourning Biblical female figures formerly part of the decorations of horse drawn hearse Maltese School	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard

SILVER & SILVER PLATED

12 December	Ball period (1801-1809) Maltese silver pear shaped coffee pot by Gio Carlo Cassar	Purchase
12 December	Silver Cup 'Royal Airforce', Safi	Purchase
12 December	Silver-plated Milk Jug & Sugar Basin	Purchase
17 April	Testimonial silver salver presented by the people of Malta to Captain Sir George Martin in 1800	Donated by Dr James Farrugia through the Hon. Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi

MILITARIA

15 December	Flintlock pistol by Gerard et Comp. (converted to percussion)	Purchase
15 December	Flintlock pistol French (c.1760)	Purchase
15 December	Artillery Instrument for calculating charges	Purchase
15 December	Two (2) Leather gun cases (c.1900)	Purchase
15 December	French Military musket by St Etienne (c.1777)	Purchase
15 December	Schiavona sword hilt guard (c.1600)	Purchase
15 December	Gun Powder Flask; copper (c.1780)	Purchase
15 December	Four (4) powder measures; brass (c.1790)	Purchase
17 January	Two (2) rare bombshells (period of the Knights)	Purchase
27 January	Original ship's badge of HMS BRAMHAM	Donated by Ms Ann Courtney-Ashton
3 February	Breda machine gun Model 36 (8mm.) by Breda (WWII period) This gun was taken from one of the Italian E-boats which unsuccessfully stormed Grand Harbour.	Purchase
15 March	Flintlock pistol (18th cent.)	Purchase
14 September	Small display case containing photograph, mentioned in dispatches certificate and eight (8) medals including DMS with oak leaf pertaining to the late Chief Cook Vincent Cauchi DMS	Donated by Ms Margaret Spiteri

DRAWINGS, PRINTS & MAPS

29 September	Hand coloured map of Malta	Donated by Ms Louise Cassar Attard
2 December	Battle of Trafalgar	Purchase
16 December	Maltese Milkman Late 19th century print	Purchase
19 December	Album pertaining to painter Gianni Vella containing: Small self portrait, studio's rent book, four (4) photographs of models posing, sketches and drawings for Tarxien Parish Church dome paintings, drawing of a wooden sculpture of Our Lady at the artist's studio, sketches for the Sette Giugno monument at the Addolorata Cemetery, four (4) other small sketches	Purchase
6 February	Map of Malta and Gozo (1761)	Purchase
6 February	Plan of Valletta (1803)	Purchase
26 May	Two (2) hand drawn ship's plans by M. Mifsud (fl. 1909); Indian ink, signed and dated	Donated by Exodus Antiques
4 April	Set of five (5) framed engravings by Francesco Scalletari (fl.1688)	Purchase
18 April	Lacemaker antique engraving	Purchase
18 April	Maltese Costumes antique engraving	Purchase
21 April	Sketches of Life at Malta print from Illustrated London News	Purchase
21 April	Het eilandMaltha woodcut print of Malta	Purchase
21 April	Port of Malta woodcut print	Purchase
21 April	Boats of Malta in Port woodcut print	Purchase
3 July	Pencil drawing The Madonna of the Fleet After Antonello Ricci (19th century)	Donated by Mr Joseph Muscat
3 July	Four (4) Maltese related 19th century engravings	Purchase

MODELS

4 January	Built-in ship's model of the brig Corriere	Purchase
4 January	Two (2) small models of Maltese boats (early 20th century); wood	Purchase

CERAMICS

22 March	Porcelain 'Ovaltine' cup and saucer	Purchase
21 April	Pair of 19th century porcelain army officers' mess plates inscribed 'Egypt Waterloo Peninsular'	Purchase

TEXTILES and COSTUMES

1 August	Top hat in original box	Donated by Exodus Antiques
1 August	Pair of gentleman's evening white gloves	Donated by Exodus Antiques
30 August	Bowler hat in original box Manufactured for 'The New House' D. Portelli, Valletta	Donated by Exodus Antiques
14 September	Black felt gentleman's hat	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Gentleman's Panama hat	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Gentleman's straw hat	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's white cotton and lace under shirt	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's white cotton and lace under skirt	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's white cotton and lace under dress	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's white cotton, crochet and lace under dress	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	19th century lace Jabot	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's machine knitted salmon coloured night ware shirt (early 20th century)	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard
14 September	Lady's short jacket in ivory beaded and machine embroidered tulle (c.1920)	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard

NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS

15 October	Hundred and ten (110) bird carcasses	Presented by the Environmental Protection Unit of MEPA
4 November	Eighteen (18) mounted bird specimens	Presented by the Environmental Protection Unit of MEPA
4 November	Two(2) mounted mammal specimens	Presented by the Environmental Protection Unit of MEPA
December	Large collection of insects	Donated by Mr Guido Lanfranco
December	Large collection of insects	Donated by Mr Henry Borg Barthet
December	Large collection of insects	Donated by Mr Paul Sammut
5 December	One (1) specimen of Rana bedriaga (Bedruaga's Toad)	Donated by Prof. Patrick J Schembri
5 December	One (1) specimen of Colemite (Mineral)	Donated by Prof. Patrick J. Schembri
6 February	Collection of thirteen (13) different UK minerals	Donated by Mr G. W. Fletcher
9 February	Collection of one hundred and forty-six (146) specimens of shells, snails etc. from the Outer Hebrides, UK	Donated by Mr Steve Borg
16 April	Twelve (12) UK mineral specimens	Donated by Mr G.W. Fletcher
21 April	Fossilised cast of Strombus sp. From Hal-Far Quarry	Donated by Ms Audrey Amri-Brincat
26 May	Nine (9) bird specimens	Presented by the Environmental Protection Unit of MEPA



MISCELLANEA

12 September	Holy Picture souvenir of Marian meeting held in Malta	Donated by Mr. Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez
29 September	English 19th century oak Side Table	Purchase
4 November	Cranial Calliper	Purchase
4 November	Forceps	Purchase
4 November	Wet Sterilizer	Purchase
4 November	Wet Sterilizer	Purchase
4 November	Capsule maker	Purchase
10 November	Collection of, books, periodicals, two (2) rare WWII Decca records and a collection of thirty-two (32) war photographs pertaining to Mr Charles A. McSweeney, a survivor of the submarine HMS PANDORA, which sunk by enemy bombing in Grand Harbour.	Donated by Mr Keith Wilson
12 December	Anemometer (Admiralty Pattern)	Purchase
19 January	1.5 horse power inboard VILLIERS engine	Purchase
26 January	Small Plough anchor (late 20th century)	Purchase
26 January	Small folding anchor (late 20th century)	Purchase
30 January	Carved and painted dghajsa back rest (Spalliera) (early 20th century)	Purchase
3 March	Four (4) Museums Department entrance tickets dated 1954	Donated
15 March	Old film projector formerly in use at the Oratorjo Don Bosco, Rabat, Gozo	Donated by The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts
28 March	Johnson Seahorse outboard engine (Model TD-20)	Purchase
30 March	Antique wood boat 'CATRA' complete with 'Evenrude' outboard engine	Purchase
20 April	Pair of wrought iron candelabra	Transferred from DOI
3 July	Photo Album containing 131 photos taken in Malta in 1917 pertaining to the late Mr Ernest Mills of the Army Service Corp	Donated by Mr Thomas Mills
7 July	Wax bust of Lt. Col. Charles Andrews Bayley and a collection of original documents relevant to this personage	On permanent loan from Mr Frank Salt
11 July	Collection of photographs pertaining to the late Mr Charles B. Grech	Donated by Mrs Grech
31 August	Thirty-three (33) items of Maltese ethnographic interest	Purchase
30 August	Old aluminium kettle made in China	Donated by Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez
31 August	Collection of tools and other artefacts of Maltese ethnographic interest (33 items in all)	Purchase
14 September	Wood machine bobbin with a length of original cotton thread	Donated by Ms Astrid Attard

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

12 September	Vincenzo Bonello <i>La Madonna nell'Arte</i> (Malta, 1940)	Purchase
12 December	<i>Del Diritto Municipale di Malta</i> (Codice de Rohan) (1784)	Purchase
12 December	P.F. Ruperto / A.S. Gaspare Divus Paulus Apostolus (Venice 1739)	Purchase
20 December	Collection of books and selection of files containing a miscellany of articles, pamphlets, typescripts etc., pertaining to the estate of the late Dr Tancred C. Gouder, Director of Museums 1990-1997. In all eighty-seven (87) items.	Presented by his family
21 April	E.M. Charming-Renton / Edward R. Casolani / Frederick W. Ryan <i>Mediterranean Studies</i> (1930)	Purchase
17 May	Giuseppe Antonelli (ed.) <i>Dizionario Geografico Universale</i> (10 vols) (Venice, 1826)	Purchase
1 August	Sebastiano Salelles <i>De Materis Tribunalium S. Inquisitionis</i> (Rome, 1651) Note: This very rare copy originally pertained to the well known Maltese 18th century erudite Ignazio Saverio Mifsud	Purchase
1 August	L. De Caro <i>Storia dei Gran Maestri e Cavalieri di Malta</i> (1853)	Purchase
1 August	A.E. Caruana <i>Sull'Originale della Lingua Maltese</i> (1896)	Purchase
1 August	Aldo Farini <i>Fiabe Tradizioni Leggende Maltesi</i> (Illustrations by Willie Apap) (1934)	Purchase
1 August	Aldo Farini <i>Tra Storia e Leggenda</i> (Illustrations by Willie Apap)	Purchase
1 August	Vincenzo Frendo Azzopardi <i>Canti Patriottici</i>	Purchase
1 August	Soc. San Vincenzo di Paola <i>Statuti della Cassa di Mutuo Soccorso</i> (1898)	Purchase
1 August	Vincenzo Caruana <i>Saggio Intorno alla Poesia</i> (1879)	Purchase
1 August	Lugi Farrugia <i>Della Necessita Della Lingua al Progresso dell'Uomo</i> (1884)	Purchase
1 August	Lord Nugent <i>Lands, Classical and Sacred</i> (London, 1846)	Donated by Mr Alfred Saliba
1 August	Arminius Vamert <i>Voyages d'un Faux Derviche dans l'Asie Centrale</i> (1867)	Donated by Mr Alfred Saliba
22 August	Edward Caruana Dingli <i>The Colour and Life of Malta from original paintings by Chev. Edward Caruana Dingli</i> Published by Critien's, Valletta, Malta	Purchase
24 August	William H. Prescott <i>History of the Reign of Philip The Second, King of Spain</i> (Vols. I & II) (Boston, 1855)	Donation

Appendix II

HM EVENTS DIARY

1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006

SUMMARY

During the year under review HM was involved in 219 activities, that is, an average of more than one activity every two days. 24 different sites and museums managed by HM were used.

These activities were held in four different countries: Malta, Italy, Germany and Spain.

In all these activities, HM collaborated with more than 93 different entities or individuals:

Islands and Small States Institute, Dr Jimmy Farrugia, Office of the Prime Minister, Asociacion Amigos de Malta – Spain, AP Architecture Projects, Soprintendenza al Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico Luigi Pigorini – Italy, Istituto Culturale Italiano, Midsea Books Ltd, Daniel Cilia, Cultural Centre of the People's Republic of China in Malta, Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, Comune di Reggio Calabria – Italy, Museo Archeologico Nazionale della Magna Grecia di Reggio Calabria – Italy, Anhalt University of Applied Science – Germany, Hochschule Anhalt – Germany, Valletta Local Council, Associazione Culturale Le Tarot – Italy, Biblioteca Classense di Ravenna – Italy, Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali – Italy, MTAC, Wignacourt Museum, Chapter of St Paul's Collegiate Church in Rabat, Miranda Publications, HSBC (Malta) plc, UNESCO (Malta), Pierides Foundation – Cyprus, SCH, Foundation of the Hellenic World – Greece, Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Italy, Centre de Recherches en Arts Images et Formes: Universite de Picardie Jules Verne – France, Foundation of St John's Co-Cathedral, Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch Oldenburg – Germany, MCAST, UNESCO, Middlesea Insurance plc, Victor Azzopardi Ltd., John Martin Borg, Amnesty International (Malta Group), Anton Grech, John Grima, Emily Frendo Camilleri, Monica Spiteri, Anthony Catania, Juliet Horncastle, Ruth Bianco, Matthew Kassar, Walter Vella, Craig Hanna, Gilbert Calleja, Raymond Spiteri, Alex Dalli, Ministry for Rural Affairs

and the Environment, Hanneke Wessels, Chris Ebejer, The Farsons Foundation, Wiltshire County Council – UK, MTA, AMMM, Teatru Astra, London Jing Kun Opera Association – UK, Department of Architecture and Urban Design – UOM, Friends of the MMM, Astronomical Society of Malta, Fondazzjoni Fuklar, Entomological Society of Malta, ICOM (International Council of Museums), Council of Europe, Military Wind Band of Hampshire – UK, MCCA, Kulturstiftung der Lander – Germany, Din l-Art Helwa, Office of the President of the Republic, Tumas Group, Polidano Brothers, Gasan Group, Malta Financial Services Authority, Maltacom, Fondazzjoni Memorja Kulturali Nazzjonali, Bank of Valletta, Kamra tal-Periti, FrannyJo Publications, RMF, Exalta, GasanMamo Insurance, Fundacion Jaume II El Just – Spain, Fondazione Citta di Gerace – Italy, Southampton University – UK, Orkestra Nazzjonali, Palazzo Spinelli – Italy, Valletta Alive Foundation, Burmarrad Parish Pastoral Council, International Maritime Law Institute, The Malta Lace Guild.

In 2005-06, HM was involved in 50 exhibitions:

- 12 were organised by HM,
- 11 were organised by HM in collaboration with others,
- 7 HM participations in exhibitions organised by others,
- 20 exhibitions were hosted by HM.

In 2005-06, HM was involved in 80 lectures:

- 64 were organised by HM,
- 16 lectures were hosted by HM.

In 2005-06, HM was involved in 89 different events:

- 43 were organised by HM,
- 39 were organised by HM in collaboration with others,
- 7 other events were hosted by HM.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

10 October – 9 January

Nelson and Malta: A Naval Hero's Vision – On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar and CHOGM – Malta 2005 (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting), at the Ground Floor Halls, MMM.

5 December – 28 January

Pasturi: Crafts and Practices of rural life in pre-WWII Gozo – Exhibition of traditional crib models made by Wenzu Farrugia from Victoria Gozo, at HM Gozo Area Office, The Citadel.

7 February – 5 March

The School Prints Series: Modern Lithographs by Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Leger, Moore and Dufy – An exhibition of modern lithographs from the David Elyan Donation (2001), at the Loggia, NMFA.

13 February – 8 March

A Tribute to the Noble Craft of Lace Making – Exhibition of Maltese lace at HM Gozo Area Office, The Citadel.

10 March – 23 April

Holy Week Works of Art: A National Exhibition of Statues and Statuettes – An exhibition of Holy Week works of art from the national collection and private collections at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa.

25 – 28 May

Roots of a Nation – A pictorial exhibition on the occasion of the international conference 'Sustainable Tourism with reference to Islands and Small States' organised by the Islands and Small States Institute, at the Aula Magna, Foundation of International Studies, Valletta.

13 June – 4 July

Commemorative Salver – An exhibition of a Silver Commemorative Salver donated by Dr Jimmy Farrugia to HM through the Office of the Prime Minister, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

21 July – 23 August

Medics in Art – Exhibition of conservation project work by B.Cons (Hons) Students attending the ICMCH at HM Bigħi, at the Loggia, NMFA.

25 July – 4 September

The Joseph Briffa Bequest (1987) and Other Works – An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Prof. Joseph Briffa, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

24 August – 19 September

Frank Portelli Mural – Exhibition of a large mural (1968) by Frank Portelli (1922-2004), a recent acquisition by HM for the national collection, at the Loggia, NMFA.

28 August – 8 October

Commemorative Salver – An exhibition of a silver commemorative salver donated by Dr Jimmy Farrugia to HM through the Office of the Prime Minister, at the HM Gozo Area Office, The Citadel.

7 – 29 September

The La Vallette Sword and Dagger – An exhibition by HM of a donation inspired by the original La Vallette sword and dagger presented to HM by the Asociacion Amigos de Malta (Spain), at HM Head Office, Valletta.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

7 October – 8 November

Grognet's Atlantide – Exhibition organised by AP Architecture Projects in collaboration with the National Library and HM as part of the international conference 'The Foundation Myths of Architecture', at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

8 October – 11 December

Luigi Maria Ugolini: An Italian Archaeologist in Malta – Exhibition organised by HM in collaboration with the Soprintendenza al Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico Luigi Pigorini, Istituto Culturale Italiano and Midsea Books Ltd, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

19 November – 15 January

Faces of Neolithic Malta – A photographic exhibition by Daniel Cilia of Malta's prehistoric portrait gallery, shown together with the original prehistoric figurines and heads, organised by HM in collaboration with Midsea Books Ltd on the occasion of CHOGM – Malta 2005 (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) and the launching of the book *The Human Form in Neolithic Malta* by Isabelle Vella Gregory, published by Midsea Books Ltd, at the Salon, NMA.

27 January – 23 April

Characters in Beijing Opera – Exhibition organised by the Cultural Centre of the People's Republic of China in Malta and HM, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, at the Salon, NMA.

2 – 16 April

Luigi Maria Ugolini: An Italian Archaeologist in Malta – Exhibition organised by HM and the Comune di Reggio Calabria, at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale della Magna Grecia, Reggio Calabria, Italy on the occasion of the 'VIII Settimana della cultura'. The exhibition was produced by HM in collaboration with the Soprintendenza al Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico Luigi Pigorini, Istituto Culturale Italiano and Midsea Books Ltd.

2 – 9 May

Landscape Architectural Conceptual Proposals for Valletta and Floriana – An exhibition of drawings by the Anhalt University of Applied Science / Hochschule Anhalt and Master of Landscape Architecture Programme in collaboration with Master of Architecture Programme, organised by the Valletta Local Council in collaboration with HM, at the Salon, NMA.

17 June – 29 October

The Cards of Destiny: Gambling, Luck and Magic – An exhibition organised by the Associazione Culturale Le Tarot and HM in collaboration with the Biblioteca Classense of Ravenna under the patronage of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali of Italy and the MTAC, at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa.

23 June – 16 July

St Paul's Grotto 1600-1624 and its transition to the Order of the Knights of St John – An exhibition organised by the Wignacourt Museum and the Chapter of St Paul's Collegiate Church in Rabat in collaboration with HM, at the Wignacourt Museum, Rabat.

30 June – 23 July

World Heritage Sites 360° – Exhibition with images of the book World Heritage Sites 360° organised by Miranda Publications in collaboration with HM and the support of HSBC on the occasion of its launching, at the Salon, NMA.

22 July – 13 August

UNESCO World Heritage Sites Drawings – Exhibition of drawings from a school competition to commemorate the 60th anniversary of UNESCO, organised by UNESCO Malta in collaboration with HM, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

28 July – 13 August

The Temple Builders – Exhibition of drawings submitted for the competition organised by HM and UNESCO to commemorate the 25th anniversary of UNESCO's listings of Malta's megalithic temples as WHS, at the Inner Courtyard, NMNH.

**EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH
HM PARTICIPATED****6 – 15 January**

Crusades: Myth and Realities – International exhibition organised by the Pierides Foundation of Cyprus in collaboration with the SCH, Foundation of the Hellenic World – Greece, Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Italy, and the Centre de Recherches en Arts, Images et Formes, Universite de Picardie Jules Verne – France as part of EU Culture 2000 project, at the Preti Halls, NMA.

24 – 26 October

Territorial Cultural Systems – International forum/exhibition as part of the DELTA EU Project, in Las Reales Atarazanas, Seville, Spain.

1 – 27 November

Paintings by Mattia Preti Depicting St Catherine of Italy – Exhibition organised by The Foundation of St John's Co-Cathedral, at The Annexe, St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta.

14 – 16 February

EXPONATEC Fair: International Trade Fair for Museums, Conservation and Heritage – Participation by HM as part of the Best in Heritage – Excellence Club stand, in Cologne, Germany.

5 March – 2 July

Saladin and the Crusaders – International exhibition organised by the Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch of Oldenburg, at the Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch, Oldenburg, Germany.

16 – 19 March

Vocational Training Expo – Organised by MCAST, at the Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar.

12 – 22 July

Twenty Five Years of Maltese Art – Exhibition organised by the Middlesea Insurance plc on its 25th anniversary, at the Middlesea Insurance Head Office, Floriana.

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

6 October – 15 January

Crusades: Myth and Realities – International exhibition organised by the Pierides Foundation of Cyprus in collaboration with the SCH, Foundation of the Hellenic World – Greece, Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Italy, and the Centre de Recherches en Arts, Images et Formes, Université de Picardie Jules Verne – France as part of EU Culture 2000 project, at the Preti Halls, NMA.

16 – 30 October

The Maltese Silver Collection by Victor Azzopardi – Exhibition of antique and contemporary Maltese silverware organised by Victor Azzopardi Ltd at the Salon, NMA.

5 – 30 November

John Martin Borg: A Retrospective Exhibition 1988-2005 – Exhibition of watercolours by John Martin Borg on the occasion of the 25th anniversary since his first exhibition, and the launching of the book John Martin Borg: The Watercolours, organised by Midsea Books Ltd in collaboration with HM, at the Loggia, NMFA.

8 – 12 December

Human Rights Through Art – An art exhibition organised by Amnesty International (Malta Group) at the Inner Courtyard, NMNH.

8 December – 14 February

Drawings – An exhibition of works by Anton Grech, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

16 December – 6 February

Insights – An exhibition of paintings by John Grima, at the Loggia, NMFA.

20 December – 29 January

Expressions – An exhibition of paintings by Emily Frendo Camilleri at HM Head Office, Valletta.

21 January – 15 March

Symbolic Imagery of Archaic Gems – Exhibition of paintings by Monica Spiteri at the Medieval Hall, NMA.

17 February – 31 March

Selve Oscure – An exhibition of paintings by Anthony Catania at HM Head Office, Valletta.

9 March – 2 April

Contemporary Art – An exhibition of paintings by Juliet Horncastle, at the Loggia, NMFA.

16 March – 9 April

Don't run over the birds, please – An installation by Ruth Bianco, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

5 April – 31 May

A Sense of Timelessness – An exhibition of paintings by Matthew Kassar, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

6 April – 1 May

Glass Attitudes – An exhibition of glass sculpture by Walter Vella, at the Loggia, NMFA.

13 April – 7 May

Right Outside My Window – An exhibition of paintings by Craig Hanna, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

11 May – 4 June

Drawings – An exhibition of drawings by Gilbert Calleja, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

2 June – 16 July

Lady Inspirations – An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Raymond Spiteri, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

3 June – 12 July

Contemporary Art – An exhibition of paintings by Alex Dalli, at the Loggia, NMFA.

21 August – 30 September

Trees and the Environment – A collective art exhibition organised by the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment as part of the 34U Campaign, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

8 September – 3 October

Impressions – An exhibition of engravings by Hanneke Wessels, at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

29 September – 15 October

Nostalgia – An exhibition of sculptures by Chris Ebejer, at the Inner Courtyard, NMNH.

6. LECTURES ORGANISED BY HM

6 October

The Haġar Qim / Mnajdra Project – Public lecture by Walter Hunziker, architect of the project, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7 October

L'Archivio Ugolini nel Museo L. Pigorini, Roma – Public lecture by Dott. Maria Antonietta Fugazzola Delpino, Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico L. Pigorini, Rome, as part of the international conference

Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta organised by the Istituto Culturale Italiano in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Culturale Italiano, Valletta.

7 October

Colonialism and Fascism in the Mediterranean: Maltese Italianità between the two world wars – Public lecture by Prof. Henry Frendo, UOM, as part of the international conference Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta organised by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta.

7 October

Luigi M. Ugolini e il problema della Preistoria maltese in Italia – Public lecture by Dott. Andrea Pessina, Soprintendenza ai Beni Archeologici dei Friuli Venezia Giulia, as part of the international conference Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta organised by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta.

7 October

Assessing the impact of Luigi M. Ugolini's archaeological mission to Malta – Public lecture by Dr Nicholas Vella, UOM, as part of the international conference Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta organised by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta.

7 October

Archival images as a management tool for our World Heritage Sites – Public lecture by Reuben Grima, Senior Curator WHS, as part of the international conference Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta organised by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta.

7 October

Malta's Prehistoric Temples: Past and Present Interventions and their consequences – Public lecture by Dr JoAnn Cassar, Stone Conservation Scientist, as part of the international half-day seminar 'Past Restoration Methods and their Consequences' organised in collaboration with the Wiltshire County Council, at the Aula Whitmore, HM Bighi.

7 October

The Past Interventions of the Domus Romana Mosaics and their Effect on their Current Condition – Public lecture by Francis Chetcuti, HM Stone Conservator, as part of the international half-day seminar 'Past Restoration Methods and their Consequences' organised in collaboration with the Wiltshire County Council, at the Aula Whitmore, HM Bighi.

7 October

The Wiltshire Bronze Age Ceramics Project: The removal of unsuitable materials from 105 Bronze Age Vessels – Public Lecture by Helen Wilmot, Conservator – Salisbury Conservation Laboratories in Wiltshire UK, as part of the international half-day seminar 'Past Restoration Methods and their Consequences' organised in collaboration with the Wiltshire County Council, at the Aula Whitmore, HM Bighi.

10 October

Tourism and Cultural Crime at Sea – Public lecture by Nathaniel Cutajar, Acting Superintendent for Cultural Heritage, as part of the international conference 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage' sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

The Role of MTA in Promoting Malta as a Maritime Heritage Destination – Public lecture by Romwald Lungaro Mifsud, Executive Chairman MTA, as part of the international conference 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage' sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

The Role of the Malta Maritime Authority – Public lecture by Dr Marc Bonello, Chairman MMA, as part of the international conference 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage' sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Maritime Tourism: The Catalan Experience – Public lecture by Elvira Mata, Director Museu Maritim Barcelona, as part of the international conference 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage' sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Rehabilitating the Valletta Waterfront: The VISET Experience – Public lecture by Chris Falzon, CEO VISET, as part of the international conference 'Tourism and Maritime Heritage' sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Transforming the Maltese Shoreline: Tigne and Manoel Island Projects – Public lecture by Ben Muscat, CEO MIDI, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Gibraltar’s Maritime Heritage: Research, Conservation and Touristic Potential – Public lecture by Clive Finlayson, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa.

10 October

Maritime Heritage and Tourism Needs: What Balance? – Public lecture by Joseph Magro Conti, MEPA, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Preserving Malta’s Coastal Defence Systems – Public lecture by Mario Farrugia, President Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Protecting the Coastline: What an NGO has done and can do to save Malta’s Coastline – Public lecture by Martin Galea, Din l-Art Helwa, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Underwater Archaeological Parks: A New Concept in Presenting the Maritime Past – Public lecture by Dr Timmy Gambin, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

Bringing the Key Players Together – Public lecture by Martin Vella, Malta Marine Foundation, as part of the international conference ‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

10 October

The Role of the Sea Going Back to History – Public lecture by Dr Roy Clare, Director Greenwich Maritime Museum, as part of the international conference

‘Tourism and Maritime Heritage’ sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

The Malta Maritime Museum: Future Projects – Public lecture by Emmanuel Magro Conti, Senior Curator Maritime and Military Section, as part of the AMMM Annual Forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Presentation of the Casa della Batana, Comune di Rovigno, Croatia – Public lecture by Dragana Lucija Ratkovic, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Projecte de Polilles, North Catalan Heritage: A Development Project for the Future – Public lecture by Samuel Villeveille, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Nautiko Mouseio Ellados – Public lecture by Zafira Haidou, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Galata: Museo del Mare, Genova – Public lecture by Prof. Maria Paola Profumo, President Istituzione Musei del Mare e della Navigazione di Genova, and Pierangelo Campodonico, Director and Conservator Galata Museo del Mare, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Musee de la Marine, Paris – Public lecture by Admiral Georges Proud’homme, Director Emeritus Musee de la Marine, Paris, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Mediterranean History Network – Public lecture by Carmel Vassallo, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

New Project from the Arsenale Borbonico di Palermo – Public lecture by Pietro Maniscalco, as part of the



AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Pomorski Muzej Sergej Masera: 50 Years of History – Public lecture by Piran Flavio Bonin, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Sentinel of the Mediterranean: Gibraltar, the Navy and the Strait – Public lecture by Clive Finlayson, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Dghajsa, Dghajsa! (The Maltese Boat) – Public lecture by Joseph Muscat, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Barcelona's Maritime Museum Foundation – Public lecture by Roger Marcet, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

Le Patrimoine Cultural Maritime Algerien: Les Objectifs d'un Partenariat Mediterranéen – Public lecture by Mourad Betrouni, Director General of Heritage – Algeria, as part of the AMMM annual forum organised by HM with the support of the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

18 October

Today's Architecture is Tomorrow's Heritage – Public lecture by Konrad Buhagiar, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

31 October

Temple to Cemetery: The End of an Era – Public lecture by Dr David Trump, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

31 October

A Visual Journey from Tarxien to Rome – Public lecture by Daniel Cilia, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

31 October

Shifting Settlement Patterns during the 2nd Millennium BC: A focus on the Capital of Gozo – Public lecture by Godwin Vella, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

1 November

Borg in-Nadur: Defences, Trade and Cart-Ruts – Public lecture by Dr David Trump, as part of the International Seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

1 November

Documenting Cart-Ruts and their Surroundings – Public lecture by Paul Saliba and Joe Magro Conti, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

1 November

An Archaeological Survey of Bahrija – Public lecture by Maria Elena Zammit, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

2 November

Prehistoric and Written Evidence: An Overview of their Relationship – Public lecture by Prof. Anthony Frendo, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

2 November

History, Unwritten and Written – Public lecture by Dr David Trump, as part of the international seminar 'From Tarxien to Rome', organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

16 November

Pottery in Archaeology: Pottery Identification Session – Lecture by Dr David Trump at HM Head Office, Valletta.

17 November

The Human Form in Neolithic Malta – Public lecture by Isabelle Vella Gregory, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation on the occasion of the launching of the book *The Human Form in Neolithic Malta* and the exhibition 'Faces of Prehistoric Malta', at HM Head Office, Valletta.

22 November

Photographing Prehistoric Malta – Public lecture by Daniel Cilia, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation on the occasion of the launching of the book *The Human Form in Neolithic Malta* and the exhibition ‘Faces of Prehistoric Malta’, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

24 November

How to Appreciate Chinese Paintings in the Beijing Palace Museum – Public lecture by Mr Yu Hui, Director of the Paintings Department of the Beijing Palace Museum, organised by HM and the Cultural Centre of the People’s Republic of China in Malta and sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

6 December

Nelson and Malta: A Naval Hero’s Vision – Public lecture by Emmanuel Magro Conti, Senior Curator Maritime and Military Section, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation on the occasion of the exhibition ‘Nelson and Malta: A Naval Hero’s Vision’ at HM Head Office, Valletta.

10 January

Coinage of the Crusaders and the World of Islam – Public lecture by Emmanuel Azzopardi sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, on the occasion of the exhibition ‘Coinage of the Crusaders and the World of Islam’, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

24 January

Documenting Book Archaeology: A case study on the L’Isle Adam Illuminated Manuscripts – Public lecture by Theresa Zammit Lupi, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7 February

The Conservation of 20th century Architectural Heritage in Malta – Public lecture by Konrad Thake, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation at HM Head Office, Valletta.

21 February

The Malta Section of the Travel Album of Rev David Fredrick Markham, 1845-1846 – Public lecture by Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7 March

The Development of the No. 1 Dock – Public lecture by Joseph Caruana, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

21 March

Understanding Beijing Opera – Public lecture and demonstration by Kathy Hall and Kevin Zhang, London

Jing Kun Opera Association, organised by HM and the Cultural Centre of the People’s Republic of China in Malta on the occasion of the exhibition ‘Characters in Beijing Opera’, sponsored by the MTA and The Farsons Foundation, at the Medieval Hall, NMA.

4 April

Maltese Civil and Military Uniform Buttons – Public lecture by Dennis Darmanin, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

4 April

The UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Public lecture by Prof. Jukka Jokilehto, organised by the Department of Architecture and Urban Design – UOM, in collaboration with HM, at the Aula Magna, Valletta.

18 April

The Auberge d’Italie – Public lecture by Kenneth Gambin, Head Curator, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

2 May

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Maritime Activity and the Devine – Public lecture by Dr Timmy Gambin, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

16 May

Paintings by Stefano and Alessio Erardi – Public lecture by Bernadine Scicluna, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

28 May

Nautical Graffiti – Public lecture by Dr Timmy Gambin, as part of the half-day seminar ‘Legends, Ex Voto and Graffiti’ organised by the Friends of the MMM, in collaboration with HM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

28 May

Ex Voto Paintings (Madonna tal-Hniena Chapel, Qrendi) – Public lecture by Alexandra Scicluna, as part of the half-day seminar ‘Legends, Ex Voto and Graffiti’ organised by the Friends of the MMM, in collaboration with HM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

28 May

Sea Legends – Public lecture by Joseph Muscat, as part of the half-day seminar ‘Legends, Ex Voto and Graffiti’ organised by the Friends of the MMM, in collaboration with HM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

31 May

Roman Rabat – Public lecture by Fr Eugene Theuma, sponsored by The Farsons Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7. LECTURES HOSTED BY HM

5 October

Memorable Astronomical Events – Public lecture by Prof. Frank J. Ventura organised by the Astronomical Society of Malta on the occasion of the Malta Astronomy Week 2005, at the HM Head Office, Valletta.

5 October

Observatories in Malta: Past, Present and Future – Public lecture by Alexei Pace organised by the Astronomical Society of Malta on the occasion of the Malta Astronomy Week 2005, at the HM Head Office, Valletta.

12 October

Food and Celebrations in the Maltese Islands – Lecture by Dr Nadia Theuma as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

15 October

Entomological Society of Malta Project – Public lecture by John J. Borg, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

26 October

Maltese Food and its History – Lecture by Dr Carmel Cassar as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

9 November

Maltese Food in Malta Today – Lecture by Julian Sammut as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

12 November

Maltese Honey – Lecture by Dominic Calleja as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

23 November

Wine and Beverages of Malta – Lecture by Michael Tabone as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7 December

Markets and Street Vendors – Lecture by Dr Nadia Theuma as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

14 December

The Rural and Urban Diets of Malta – Lecture by Dr Charles Cassar as part of the course ‘Maltese Gastronomy and Culture - II’ organised by Fondazzjoni Fuklar at HM Head Office, Valletta.

28 January

Apiculture – Public lecture by David Mifsud, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

28 January

Databases for Insect Collections, Bibliographies etc. – Public lecture by Jonathan Agius, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

8 April

The Antiquity of Insects – Public lecture by Paul Sammut, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

8 April

European Moth Night – Discussion organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

20 May

Maltese Odonata (Dragonfly) – Public lecture by Godwin Degabriele, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

20 May

Insecta Trivia – Public lecture by Jonathan Agius, organised by the Entomological Society of Malta at the Lecture Room, NMNH.

8. EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

10 October

Tourism and Maritime Heritage – International annual conference sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

11 October

AMMM Annual Forum – International forum sponsored by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

15 October

Pilot Creative Workshop: The Temple Builders – Pilot creative workshop for children aged between 8 and 11 years on the occasion of the European Heritage Days, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

23 October

European Heritage Days: Domus Romana Special Day – Reduced tariffs, extended hours (closing time at 21.00 hours) and hourly guided tours at the Domus Romana, Rabat, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days with the theme ‘The Local Heritage Museum’.

28 October

School Visits to HM Bighi – Organised as part of the Student Orientation Initiative of the ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

11 – 13 November

Defining a standard approach for analysing and comparing the long-term effectiveness of new or pre-existing coatings and corrosion inhibitors on metal artefacts – Workshop within the EU INCO-MPC1 PROMET at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

14 – 17 November

History and Theory of Conservation / Restoration – Certificate course organised by HM’s ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

25 November

School Visits to HM Bighi – Organised as part of the Student Orientation Initiative of the ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

30 November

Official Launching, HM Membership Scheme and Volunteers Programme – at HM Head Office, Valletta.

21 December

Winter Solstice – Special opening including guided tours on the occasion of the winter solstice, at the Mnajdra Temples, Qrendi.

27 January

School Visits to HM Bighi – Organised as part of the Student Orientation Initiative of the ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

5 February

In the Footsteps of St Paul (Part 1): Heritage Trail – Organised on the occasion of the Feast of St Paul, at St Paul’s Grotto, St Paul’s Catacombs, Rabat and St Paul’s Sanctuary, St Paul’s Bay.

10 February

In the Footsteps of St Paul (Part 2): San Pawl Milqi – Guided tours of the archaeological site and chapel of San Pawl Milqi on the occasion of the Feast of St Paul, at San Pawl Milqi, Burmarrad.

16 February

HM Research Strategy Seminar – Organised by ICMCH for HM staff, at the Coastline Hotel, Salina.

24 February

School Visits to HM Bighi – Organised as part of the Student Orientation Initiative of the ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

25 February – 8 April

Certificate Course in Caring for your Treasures and Historic Buildings – Organised by the ICMCH of HM at the NMFA.

18 March

Mattia Preti (1613-1699): Heritage Trail – At the NMFA, St John’s Co-Cathedral, Valletta and Zurrieq Parish Church, Zurrieq.

20 March

Spring Equinox – Special opening including guided tours, on occasion of the spring equinox, at the Mnajdra Temples, Qrendi.

24 March

School Visits to HM Bighi – Organised as part of the Student Orientation Initiative of the ICMCH, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

7 April

Extended Hours: Inquisitor’s Palace – Extended hours (closing time at 22.00hrs) on the occasion of the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows and the exhibition ‘Holy Week Works of Art: A National Exhibition of Statues and Statuettes’, at the Inquisitor’s Palace, Vittoriosa.

9 April

A Focus on Birzebbuga: Heritage Trail – At Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum and Borg in-Nadur, Birzebbuga.

13 April

Extended Hours: Inquisitor’s Palace – Extended hours (closing time at 23.00hrs) on the occasion of Maundy Thursday and the exhibition ‘Holy Week Works of Art: A National Exhibition of Statues and Statuettes’, at the Inquisitor’s Palace, Vittoriosa.

14 April

Special Opening Times: Inquisitor’s Palace – Special Opening Times (9.00–21.00hrs) on the occasion of Good Friday and the exhibition ‘Holy Week Works of Art: A National Exhibition of Statues and Statuettes’, at the Inquisitor’s Palace, Vittoriosa.

7 May

The Romans in Malta (218 BC): Heritage Trail – at Tas-Silġ archaeological site, Marsaxlokk and the Domus Romana, Rabat.

18 May

International Museum Day – Free Admission to individual juniors and children under the age of 17 on the occasion of the 2006 International Museum Day with the theme 'Museums and Young People', an initiative of ICOM (International Council of Museums), at all HM museums and sites in Malta and Gozo except the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, Paola.

20 May

The Night of Museums – Extended hours and reduced fees at three underground heritage sites on the occasion of the 2006 Night of Museums organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the 2006 International Museum Day, an initiative of ICOM under the patronage of the Council of Europe, at the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, Paola, St Paul's Catacombs, Rabat and Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum, Birzebbuga.

1 June – 30 September

NMA: Summer Extended Hours – During the summer months the opening hours of the NMA were extended by two hours and the museum remained open till 19.00 hours.

4 June

World Environment Day – Discounted admission, guided tours and activities for children, on the occasion of the World Environment Day, at the NMNH.

4 June

Behind the Scenes Tours – Special guided tours of the reserved collections and areas in Vilhena Palace usually closed to the public, on the occasion of the World Environment Day, at the NMNH.

10 June

HM Conservation Division Guided Tours – Guided tours of HM Conservation Division including the ICMCH, at the HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

21 June

Summer Solstice and The Temples: Heritage Trail – On the occasion of the summer solstice, at the Mnajdra and Haġar Qim Temples, Qrendi. The visitors witnessed the summer solstice temple phenomenon at one of these sites and visited Skorba and Ta' Haġrat Temples, Mgarr.

28 June

The Gran Castello: Heritage Trail – Heritage trail including re-enactments, organised by HM at the Citadel, Gozo.

7 – 11 July

Educating for the Protection of Cultural Heritage – A three-day in-service course aimed primarily for educators, at the HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

10 – 28 July

Introductory Course to Conservation Studies – Public course that can also serve as a preparatory course for the B.Cons. (Hons) at the HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

11 July

Hampshire Constabulary Concert – A fund-raising activity by the British Military Wind Band of Hampshire, at the Front Courtyard, NMNH.

1 – 31 August

Inquisitor's Palace Extended Hours – During the month of August the opening hours of the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa were extended by two hours and the museum remained open till 19.00 hours.

9 – 10 August

Late Night Opening at Reduced Admission Fee – On the occasion of the feast of St Lawrence in Vittoriosa the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa closed at 22.00 hours and all admission fees were reduced by 50% from 17.00 till 22.00 hours.

26 – 27 August

Late Night Opening at Reduced Admission Fee – On the occasion of the feast of St Dominic in Vittoriosa the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa closed at 22.00 hours and all admission fees were reduced by 50% from 17.00 till 22.00 hours.

11 – 15 September

Preservation and Care of Books and Paper – A 30-hour course consisting of theory and practical sessions organised by ICMCH of HM, at the HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

15 – 19 September

Educating on Identity through Local Heritage – A three-day in-service course aimed primarily for educators, at the HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

23 September

Autumn Equinox – Special opening to witness the autumn equinox temple phenomenon including guided tours, organised on the occasion of the autumn equinox, at the Mnajdra Temples, Qrendi.

27 September

World Tourism Day – Admission fees reduced by 50% on the occasion of the World Tourism Day, at all HM museums and sites in Malta and Gozo with the exception of the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, Paola.

27 September

World Tourism Day – Extended opening hours, on the occasion of the World Tourism Day, at the NMA and Palace Armoury, Valletta.

9. EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

2 October

Sundials Cultural Walk – Cultural walk visiting sundials, museums and heritage sites in the Rabat-Virtu-Mdina area organised by the Astronomical Society of Malta in collaboration with HM on the occasion of the Malta Astronomy Week 2005.

2 October

Launching of Autumn Cultural Tours – News conference and re-enactment on the occasion of the launching of the Autumn Cultural Tours organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, at the MTAC, Auberge d'Italie, Valletta.

4 – 8 October

Cultural Foundations in Europe: Creating an International Network for Cultural Cooperation – International conference organised by HM, MTA and Kulturstiftung der Lander (German Association of Heritage Foundations), at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.

7 October

Italianità e archeologia a Malta negli anni Trenta: La Missione di Luigi Maria Ugolini a Malta – International conference organised by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in collaboration with HM and Midsea Books Ltd, at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Valletta.

7 October

Past Restoration Methods and their Consequences – An international half-day seminar being held as part of the Malta-Wiltshire Centurio Partnership funded through the AER Centurio Interreg IIIC Project. Organised by HM and the Wiltshire County Council at the Aula Whitmore, HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

16 October

Autumn Cultural Tour 1: Naxxar, Mosta and Burmarrad – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in

the Naxxar, Mosta, Burmarrad area, including San Pawl Milqi, Burmarrad.

25 October

Launching of HSBC Cares for Malta's Heritage Fund – Launching of the HSBC Heritage Fund and lunch organised by HM and HSBC (Malta) plc, at the NMFA.

31 October – 2 November

From Tarxien to Rome – An international seminar on late Maltese prehistory and the early Classical period, organised by Teatru Astra in collaboration with HM on the occasion of the fourth Festival Mediterranea, at the Aula Magna, Old University Buildings, Valletta.

2 November

Abbatija Tad-Dejr Catacombs – Signing of an agreement between HM and Din l-Art Helwa for the provisions of management and operations of the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs in Rabat, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

6 November

Autumn Cultural Tour 2: Xemxija, Selmun and Mellieha – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Xemxija, Selmun and Mellieha area.

19 November

Official Launching, The Human Form in Neolithic Malta – A book by Isabelle Vella Gregory with photography by Daniel Cilia, organised by Midsea Books Ltd and HM, at the Salon, NMA.

4 December

Annual General Meeting – Organised by the Friends of the MMM in collaboration with HM, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

4 December

Autumn Cultural Tour 3: Birzebbuġa and Qrendi – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Birzebbuġa, Qrendi area, including Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum, Birzebbuġa and Haġar Qim Temples, Qrendi.

18 December

Autumn Cultural Tour 4: Traditional Christmas Cribs – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting a number of traditional Christmas cribs in various localities.

29 December

Verdala Palace Frescoes Conservation Project – Official launching of the frescoes conservation project organised by the Office of the President of the Republic in



collaboration with HM and with the support of the Tumas Group, Polidano Brothers, Gasan Group and Malta Financial Services Authority, at the Banqueting Hall, Verdala Palace, Buskett.

12 January

Cataloguing and Digitisation of Dr Albert Ganado's Map Collection – Signing of agreement between Maltacom, Fondazzjoni Memorja Kulturali Nazzjonali and HM, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

15 January

January – May Cultural Tour 1: Qormi, Siġġiewi and Żebbuġ – Cultural tour organised by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Qormi, Siġġiewi, Żebbuġ area.

25 January

Tarxien Temples BOV Project: Presentation – organised by HM and Bank of Valletta, at the Tarxien Temples, Tarxien.

12 February

January – May Cultural Tour 2: Valletta – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in Valletta.

23 February

Today's Architecture, Tomorrow's Heritage – Launching of the national policy of architecture, organised by the Kamra tal-Periti, HM and the MTAC, at the NMFA.

25 February

International Day of Native Languages – An evening of Maltese poems read by children on the occasion of the International Day of Native Languages, an initiative of UNESCO and the United Nations, organised by HM in collaboration with FrannyJo Publications, at the Auberge de France, Vittoriosa.

5 March

January - May Cultural Tour 3: Vittoriosa – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in Vittoriosa, including the MMM and the Auberge de France.

15 March

Launching of RMF / HM Map – The first comprehensive map showing all the locations of HM museums and sites, organised by RMF in collaboration with HM, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

2 April

January – May Cultural Tour 4: Rabat and Dingli – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Rabat, Dingli area.

5 April

Ġgantija Temples Information Pod – Official presentation to HM by Exalta, at the Ġgantija Temples, Xaghra Gozo.

30 April

January – May Cultural Tour 5: Lija and San Ġwann – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in the Lija, San Ġwann area.

4 May

Palace Armoury Sponsorship – Three-year sponsorship presentation by GasanMamo Insurance to HM, at the Palace Armoury, Valletta.

14 May

January – May Cultural Tour 6: Gozo – Cultural tour organised by the MTAC in collaboration with HM, MTA and the MCCA, visiting various sites in Gozo.

21 May

Verdala Palace Family Day – Guided tours, organised by HM and the Office of the President of the Republic, at Verdala Palace, Rabat.

26 May

Signing of Cultural and Research Collaboration Agreement: Malta and Valencia – Between the Fundacion Jaume II El Just of the Generalitat Valenciana (Government of the Region of Valencia) and HM with the aim to develop institutional collaboration in particular in exchange of exhibitions and heritage professional staff, research and education highlighting the Mediterranean cultural connection with the intention to spread Spanish culture in Malta and Maltese culture in Spain, at the NMFA.

28 May

Legends, Ex Voto and Graffiti – Half-day seminar organised by the Friends of the MMM in collaboration with HM, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

14 June

HSBC Cares for Heritage Fund – Launching of the HSBC Cares for Heritage Fund, organised by HSBC and HM, at Haġar Qim Temples, Qrendi.

28 June

Signing of Cultural and Research Collaboration Agreement: Malta and Gerace – Between HM and the Fondazione Città di Gerace with the aim to develop institutional collaboration, start up a supporting framework in connection with cultural activities, initiatives to improve research, education and events to spread Italian culture in Malta and Maltese culture in Italy, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

30 June

World Heritage Sites 360° – Launching of the book World Heritage Sites 360° organised by Miranda Publications in collaboration with HM and the support of HSBC, at the Salon, NMA.

28 July

The Temple Builders, Prize-Giving Ceremony – Prize-giving ceremony of the winning essays and drawings competition organised by HM and UNESCO to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of UNESCO's listings of Malta's megalithic temples as WHS, at the Inner Courtyard, NMNH.

10 September

Sinfonietta – Concert by the Southampton University organised by the MCCA with the support of HM, Orkestra Nazzjonali and the MTAC, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

19 September

Launch of 'My Guide' Audio Guide – Launching of a multi-lingual audio guide of Valletta, organised by Exalta in collaboration with HM, at the NMA.

25 – 29 September

Malta International Excellence and Short Courses 2006: Preparation of a Medieval Binding – A four-day course by Piero Bozzacchi and Joseph Schiro, organised by the Conservation Division of HM and Palazzo Spinelli of Florence Italy, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

25 – 29 September

Malta International Excellence and Short Courses 2006: Construction and Ornamentation of an Islamic Binding – A four-day course by Piero Bozzacchi and Joseph Schiro, organised by the Conservation Division of HM and Palazzo Spinelli of Florence Italy, at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

10. EVENTS HOSTED BY HM**7 – 9 October**

The Foundation Myths of Architecture – International conference organised by AP Architecture Projects as part of TIMEFORARCHITECTURE to celebrate World Architecture Day, at the Salon, NMA.

21 October

Newsletter Launch: Valletta Alive Foundation – Launch of newsletter organised by the Valletta Alive Foundation, at HM Head Office, Valletta.

17 November

Official Launching, John Martin Borg: The Watercolours – A book by Emmanuel Fiorentino, published by Midsea Books Ltd on the occasion of the 25th anniversary since John Martin Borg held his first exhibition. Organised by Midsea Books Ltd, at the Loggia, NMFA.

10 February

St Paul's Holy Mass – On the occasion of the feast of St Paul, organised by the Burmarrad Parish Pastoral Council at the San Pawl Milqi Chapel, Burmarrad.

25 March

Knighthood Experience – Audio-visual presentation organised by the MTA, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

13 May

Graduation Ceremony – By the International Maritime Law Institute, at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

18 June

The Malta Lace Guild: Annual General Meeting – Workshop and annual general meeting of the Malta Lace Guild, at the Lecture Hall, NMNH.

Visitor Statistics

Overview

A total of 1,076,300 visitors were registered at HM sites during the year in review. This represents a substantial 10% decrease over the number of visitors registered during the previous year under review. For a detailed summary of the total visitors per site, refer to Table 1.

As in previous years, Ġgantija Temples remain as the most popular site with visitors. The Palace State Rooms, Haġar Qim Temples, Tarxien Temples, St. Paul's Catacombs and

the National Museum of Archaeology are also very popular with visitors. Once again, archaeological sites remain as the preferred choice with visitors, particularly tourists.

A total of 198,168 visitors were registered at HM sites and museums in Gozo. This represents a total of 18.4% of visitors registered during the year in review. Ġgantija Temples alone account for 13.9% of all visitors to HM sites and museums.

Table 1 – Total visitors per site during the year in review

Sites	Oct 2005-Sept2006	Oct 2004-Sept 2005
Ġgantija Temples	150,294	156,621
Palace State Rooms	130,332	147,411
Haġar Qim Temples	106,331	127,694
Tarxien temples	104,513	100,718
St. Paul's Catacombs	83,417	99,752
National Museum of Archaeology	82,783	82,911
Palace Armoury	81,653	80,574
Għar Dalam Cave and Museum	58,828	72,866
National War Museum	49,493	57,878
Mnajdra Temples	37,912	48,873
Inquisitor's Palace	32,979	50,494
Domvs Romana	27,094	21,713
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	23,405	21,541
Malta Maritime Museum	22,303	27,620
National Museum of Fine Arts	18,920	22,831
National Museum of Natural History	17,654	20,186
Old Prison	13,321	15,392
Museum of Archaeology	10,513	12,895
Folklore Museum	8,709	11,830
Ta' Kola Windmill	8,520	9,939
Natural Science Museum	6,811	7,871
Skorba Temples	344	n/a
Ta' Haġrat Temples	171	n/a
	1,076,300	1,197,610

Table 2 – Paying visitors for the year in review

Sites	Oct 2005-Sept2006	Oct 2004-Sept 2005
Ġgantija Temples	147,399	152,635
Palace State Rooms	128,349	144,813
Hagar Qim Temples	105,548	123,669
Tarxien Temples	101,600	98,773
St. Paul's Catacombs	81,166	97,201
National Museum of Archaeology	79,929	80,204
Palace Armoury	78,415	77,172
Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum	56,018	68,512
National War Museum	47,443	55,386
Mnajdra Temples	37,912	45,807
Inquisitor's Palace	30,358	50,006
Domvs Romana	25,319	19,339
Hal Safieni Hypogeum	23,020	21,541
Malta Maritime Museum	19,633	25,294
National Museum of Fine Arts	18,214	22,296
National Museum of Natural History	15,215	15,669
Old Prison	12,539	14,206
Museum of Archaeology	9,859	11,876
Folklore Museum	8,002	10,190
Ta' Kola Windmill	7,004	7,788
Natural Science Museum	6,174	6,603
Ta' Hagar Temples		n/a
Skorba Temples		n/a
	1,039,116	1,148,980

Table 3 - Visitor statistics per month per site**Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum**

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	241	7,554	7,795	8,916	9,615	
Nov	214	3,769	3,983	4,079	4,740	
Dec	78	2,266	2,344	2,433	2,801	
Jan	64	647	711	1,901	1,964	
Feb	548	2,844	3,392	3,160	3,507	
Mar	393	3,802	4,195	6,314	6,752	
Apr	230	7,461	7,691	8,111	8,608	
May	713	6,411	7,124	8,548	9,157	
Jun	88	4,768	4,856	5,950	6,169	
Jul	157	4,528	4,685	5,213	5,438	
Aug	45	5,637	5,682	5,852	6,069	
Sep	39	6,331	6,370	8,035	8,046	
	2,810	56,018	58,828	68,512	72,866	

Hal Saffieni Hypogeum

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	50	2,083	2,133	81	2,051	2,132
Nov	54	1,713	1,767	180	1,903	2,083
Dec	0	1,572	1,572	53	1,569	1,622
Jan	18	1,697	1,715	0	785	785
Feb	14	1,823	1,837	0	1,691	1,691
Mar	82	2,016	2,098	0	1,973	1,973
Apr	51	2,050	2,101	25	1,916	1,941
May	35	2,052	2,087	49	1,977	2,026
Jun	0	1,947	1,947	19	1,935	1,954
Jul	22	1,939	1,961	21	1,784	1,805
Aug	37	2,173	2,210	0	2,145	2,145
Sep	22	1,955	1,977	5	1,812	1,817
	385	23,020	23,405	433	21,541	21,541

Mnajdra Temples

	2005/6			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	0	5,616	5,616	1,546	5,905	7,451
Nov	19	3,025	3,044	701	1,283	1,984
Dec	1	2,117	2,118	180	789	969
Jan	0	1,910	1,910	0	2,213	2,213
Feb	0	2,454	2,454	353	2,485	2,838
Mar	0	3,644	3,644	264	4,572	4,836
Apr	0	1,863	1,863	0	5,317	5,317
May	0	4,703	4,703	3	5,344	5,347
Jun	0	3,482	3,482	0	3,499	3,499
Jul	1	3,329	3,330	0	4,112	4,112
Aug	0	1,283	1,283	19	5,826	5,845
Sep	0	4,465	4,465	0	4,462	4,462
	21	37,891	37,912	3,066	45,807	48,873

Domvs Romana

	2005/6			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	181	2,978	3,159			
Nov	231	1,885	2,116			
Dec	139	1,354	1,493			
Jan	49	1,131	1,180			
Feb	151	1,390	1,541	10	232	242
Mar	217	2,011	2,228	944	3,496	4,440
Apr	203	3,527	3,730	241	3,315	3,556
May	139	2,940	3,079	830	3,466	4,296
Jun	152	1,714	1,866	141	1,886	2,027
Jul	49	1,303	1,352	15	1,870	1,885
Aug	176	2,184	2,360	94	2,661	2,755
Sep	88	2,902	2,990	99	2,413	2,512
	1,775	25,319	27,094	2,374	19,339	21,713

National Museum of Archaeology

	2005/6			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	187	10,375	10,562	698	9,183	9,881
Nov	303	4,898	5,201	606	5,731	6,337
Dec	473	3,417	3,890	8	4,168	4,176
Jan	225	3,530	3,755	18	2,893	2,911
Feb	91	3,781	3,872	26	4,280	4,306
Mar	467	6,024	6,491	218	7,245	7,463
Apr	375	9,545	9,920	118	9,870	9,988
May	218	7,985	8,203	463	9,590	10,053
Jun	67	6,408	6,475	49	5,939	5,988
Jul	202	6,703	6,905	380	5,050	5,430
Aug	89	8,106	8,195	74	8,351	8,425
Sep	157	9,157	9,314	49	7,904	7,953
	2,854	79,929	82,783	2,707	80,204	82,911

National Museum of Natural History

	2005/6			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	0	1,571	1,571	1,289	1,309	2,598
Nov	240	924	1,164	679	1,147	1,826
Dec	37	776	813	133	780	913
Jan	96	908	1,004	0	848	848
Feb	304	789	1,093	136	1,095	1,231
Mar	596	1,023	1,619	149	1,346	1,495
Apr	327	1,388	1,715	584	1,317	1,901
May	269	1,373	1,642	460	1,396	1,856
Jun	128	1,256	1,384	587	1,173	1,760
Jul	232	1,544	1,776	270	1,547	1,817
Aug	175	2,227	2,402	168	2,178	2,346
Sep	35	1,436	1,471	62	1,533	1,595
	2,439	15,215	17,654	4,517	15,669	20,186

Palace Armoury

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	71	8,006	8,077	470	12,882	13,352
Nov	460	5,609	6,069	338	5,474	5,812
Dec	232	2,607	2,839	53	3,072	3,125
Jan	242	2,239	2,481	266	2,726	2,992
Feb	516	2,421	2,937	585	3,099	3,684
Mar	852	3,624	4,476	361	6,635	6,996
Apr	184	8,540	8,724	707	6,774	7,481
May	244	6,239	6,483	328	7,622	7,950
Jun	165	6,916	7,081	83	5,515	5,598
Jul	189	9,019	9,208	143	6,634	6,777
Aug	20	7,569	7,589	43	8,222	8,265
Sep	63	15,626	15,689	25	8,517	8,542
	3,238	78,415	81,653	3,402	77,172	80,574

State Rooms

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	64	19,350	19,414	294	14,659	14,953
Nov	27	6,442	6,469	218	10,761	10,979
Dec	214	5,141	5,355	10	4,229	4,239
Jan	107	5,288	5,395	0	4,498	4,498
Feb	411	5,764	6,175	304	5,764	6,068
Mar	586	9,667	10,253	251	10,231	10,482
Apr	197	13,375	13,572	776	16,864	17,640
May	213	16,966	17,179	337	19,053	19,390
Jun	67	10,947	11,014	24	12,564	12,588
Jul	28	8,579	8,607	280	13,626	13,906
Aug	28	18,306	18,334	72	16,415	16,487
Sep	41	8,524	8,565	32	16,149	16,181
	1,983	128,349	130,332	2,598	144,813	147,411

Folklore Museum

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	37	1,063	1,100	155	1,374	1,529
Nov	31	492	523	40	519	559
Dec	4	271	275	132	309	441
Jan	6	241	247	24	374	398
Feb	0	362	362	71	406	477
Mar	101	395	496	90	701	791
Apr	46	826	872	227	892	1,119
May	220	828	1,048	717	1,001	1,718
Jun	118	658	776	107	945	1,052
Jul	50	866	916	42	1,121	1,163
Aug	75	1,162	1,237	31	1,599	1,630
Sep	19	838	857	4	949	953
	707	8,002	8,709	1,640	10,190	11,830

Museum of Archaeology GZ

	2005/6			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	18	1,478	1,496	131	1,647	1,778
Nov	2	538	540	43	676	719
Dec	7	353	360	34	456	490
Jan	6	342	348	77	440	517
Feb	0	353	353	8	501	509
Mar	28	534	562	83	886	969
Apr	198	997	1,195	64	1,215	1,279
May	198	992	1,190	346	1,332	1,678
Jun	80	832	912	93	988	1,081
Jul	53	1,016	1,069	80	1,198	1,278
Aug	41	1,331	1,372	39	1,571	1,610
Sep	23	1,093	1,116	21	966	987
	654	9,859	10,513	1,019	11,876	12,895

Ta' Kola Windmill

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	62	741	803	340	1,010	1,350
Nov	84	366	450	40	590	630
Dec	4	242	246	72	284	356
Jan	91	217	308	33	237	270
Feb	1	236	237	4	298	302
Mar	77	283	360	171	628	799
Apr	37	973	1,010	41	787	828
May	552	944	1,496	902	782	1,684
Jun	571	679	1,250	380	517	897
Jul	6	969	975	126	732	858
Aug	8	920	928	13	1,065	1,078
Sep	23	434	457	29	858	887
	1,516	7,004	8,520	2,151	7,788	9,939

Haġar Qim Temples

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	2	14,635	14,637	1,620	16,292	17,912
Nov	104	6,575	6,679	780	6,283	7,063
Dec	199	4,186	4,385	245	4,978	5,223
Jan	0	3,963	3,963	0	4,785	4,785
Feb	84	5,030	5,114	450	6,073	6,523
Mar	10	10,305	10,315	301	11,477	11,778
Apr	135	12,398	12,533	116	13,452	13,568
May	60	11,303	11,363	168	14,367	14,535
Jun	41	8,507	8,548	283	9,579	9,862
Jul	94	8,346	8,440	39	11,070	11,109
Aug	8	9,882	9,890	21	11,928	11,949
Sep	46	10,418	10,464	2	13,385	13,387
	783	105,548	106,331	4,025	123,669	127,694

Inquisitor's Palace

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	15	5,424	5,439	110	6,136	6,246
Nov	27	1,894	1,921	27	3,604	3,631
Dec	4	1,298	1,302	61	2,315	2,376
Jan	170	706	876	34	1,883	1,917
Feb	138	848	986	7	3,376	3,383
Mar	580	2,338	2,918	6	4,629	4,635
Apr	919	2,294	3,213	23	6,732	6,755
May	227	4,860	5,087	2	6,986	6,988
Jun	161	2,921	3,082	9	4,411	4,420
Jul	86	1,795	1,881	7	1,795	1,802
Aug	226	2,674	2,900	90	3,861	3,951
Sep	68	3,306	3,374	112	4,278	4,390
	2,621	30,358	32,979	488	50,006	50,494

Malta Maritime Museum

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	139	2,857	2,996	188	3,394	3,582
Nov	231	1,885	2,116	80	1,607	1,687
Dec	139	1,354	1,493	823	973	1,796
Jan	269	780	1,049	0	762	762
Feb	268	843	1,111	107	1,256	1,363
Mar	520	1,279	1,799	240	1,878	2,118
Apr	480	1,999	2,479	298	4,081	4,379
May	45	2,800	2,845	405	3,578	3,983
Jun	110	1,567	1,677	28	2,546	2,574
Jul	121	1,155	1,276	125	1,324	1,449
Aug	286	1,452	1,738	11	1,197	1,208
Sep	62	1,662	1,724	21	2,698	2,719
	2,670	19,633	22,303	2,326	25,294	27,620

National Museum of Fine Arts

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	28	2,412	2,440	14	2,085	2,099
Nov	0	1,015	1,015	146	1,378	1,524
Dec	115	720	835	164	851	1,015
Jan	31	823	854	0	899	899
Feb	47	751	798	2	1,167	1,169
Mar	132	1,138	1,270	0	1,598	1,598
Apr	101	1,935	2,036	98	2,959	3,057
May	86	2,784	2,870	78	3,264	3,342
Jun	59	1,668	1,727	12	2,293	2,305
Jul	43	1,165	1,208	8	1,398	1,406
Aug	24	1,782	1,806	13	1,777	1,790
Sep	40	2,021	2,061	0	2,627	2,627
	706	18,214	18,920	535	22,296	22,831

National War Museum

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	56	6,268	6,324	490	6,171	6,661
Nov	889	3,509	4,398	107	4,247	4,354
Dec	0	2,009	2,009	45	2,429	2,474
Jan	91	2,077	2,168	9	2,575	2,584
Feb	238	2,556	2,794	55	3,418	3,473
Mar	265	3,552	3,817	1,206	4,476	5,682
Apr	289	4,281	4,570	195	4,906	5,101
May	114	4,315	4,429	49	4,729	4,778
Jun	2	3,341	3,343	88	4,883	4,971
Jul	38	3,802	3,840	169	5,113	5,282
Aug	52	5,762	5,814	58	6,470	6,528
Sep	16	5,971	5,987	21	5,969	5,990
	2,050	47,443	49,493	2,492	55,386	57,878

St Paul's Catacombs

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	409	11,505	11,914	748	11,900	12,648
Nov	303	5,502	5,805	972	6,196	7,168
Dec	223	3,440	3,663	143	3,404	3,547
Jan	151	2,818	2,969	22	3,192	3,214
Feb	184	4,419	4,603	62	4,477	4,539
Mar	76	7,015	7,091	81	8,575	8,656
Apr	321	9,445	9,766	76	12,073	12,149
May	271	8,393	8,664	125	11,240	11,365
Jun	126	6,046	6,172	182	7,313	7,495
Jul	66	6,214	6,280	44	8,175	8,219
Aug	74	8,366	8,440	83	10,557	10,640
Sep	47	8,003	8,050	13	10,099	10,112
	2,251	81,166	83,417	2,551	97,201	99,752

Tarxien Temples

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	371	12,206	12,577	399	11,768	12,167
Nov	803	6,087	6,890	567	6,262	6,829
Dec	404	4,379	4,783	313	3,692	4,005
Jan	158	3,549	3,707	104	3,271	3,375
Feb	439	4,733	5,172	156	4,061	4,217
Mar	124	7,352	7,476	20	8,647	8,667
Apr	185	12,439	12,624	107	11,960	12,067
May	330	11,567	11,897	143	12,272	12,415
Jun	19	8,296	8,315	21	8,394	8,415
Jul	8	7,685	7,693	2	7,748	7,750
Aug	53	11,066	11,119	105	9,471	9,576
Sep	19	12,241	12,260	8	11,227	11,235
	2,913	101,600	104,513	1,945	98,773	100,718

Ġgantija Temples

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	387	16,813	17,200	724	18,694	19,418
Nov	431	8,445	8,876	124	9,432	9,556
Dec	100	5,249	5,349	125	5,853	5,978
Jan	97	4,797	4,894	55	5,098	5,153
Feb	10	6,232	6,242	44	6,193	6,237
Mar	237	10,999	11,236	255	13,577	13,832
Apr	220	17,795	18,015	478	15,486	15,964
May	798	17,558	18,356	1,336	17,085	18,421
Jun	487	13,639	14,126	467	12,947	13,414
Jul	76	13,454	13,530	237	13,374	13,611
Aug	16	16,368	16,384	67	17,622	17,689
Sep	36	16,050	16,086	74	17,274	17,348
	2,895	147,399	150,294	3,986	152,635	156,621

Natural Science Museum

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	34	724	758	286	898	1,184
Nov	5	306	311	38	306	344
Dec	2	175	177	187	176	363
Jan	5	174	179	6	203	209
Feb	0	226	226	62	214	276
Mar	101	268	369	110	402	512
Apr	85	553	638	44	483	527
May	151	469	620	211	551	762
Jun	106	464	570	117	652	769
Jul	34	1,093	1,127	86	891	977
Aug	82	1,030	1,112	68	1,198	1,266
Sep	32	692	724	53	629	682
	637	6,174	6,811	1,268	6,603	7,871

The Old Prisons

	2005/06			2004/05		
	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL	FREE	PAYING	TOTAL
Oct	92	1,676	1,768	255	1,305	1,560
Nov	52	622	674	12	629	641
Dec	6	413	419	131	384	515
Jan	12	409	421	38	554	592
Feb	2	512	514	9	467	476
Mar	46	566	612	109	895	1,004
Apr	124	1,171	1,295	99	1,075	1,174
May	147	1,143	1,290	181	1,472	1,653
Jun	150	1,115	1,265	119	1,358	1,477
Jul	57	1,357	1,414	67	1,827	1,894
Aug	50	2,114	2,164	102	2,750	2,852
Sep	44	1,441	1,485	64	1,490	1,554
	782	12,539	13,321	1,186	14,206	15,392



Consolidated Financial Statements

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Directors' Report

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2006.

Principal activities

Heritage Malta is the national agency of the Government of Malta set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act, entrusted with the management of national museums and heritage sites and their collections in Malta and Gozo, including seven UNESCO world heritage sites. Heritage Malta is responsible to ensure that those elements of the cultural heritage entrusted to it are protected and made accessible to the public and to perform restoration of cultural property owned, or otherwise held, or administrated by it.

During the 2005, following the budget speech of November 2004, the Prime Minister declared that the Malta Centre for Restoration will be absorbed by Heritage Malta, the National Agency for Museums, Sites and Collections. The actual absorption process started in March 2005 and it was officialised by ACT No. XII of 2005, an Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act, Cap. 445 in July 2005.

The Malta Centre for Restoration at Bighi, which now forms part of Heritage Malta, is now being referred to as the Conservation Division and the Institute of Conservation and Cultural Heritage Management respectively. For this financial year, the accounts of Heritage Malta incorporate the results of Conservation Division.

The Conservation Division's mission, as defined by the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002, is to become an international centre of excellence in the provision of training, education, research and practice of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage. Amongst other responsibilities, it is responsible to act as a national consulting agency on all matters related to restoration, undertake restoration projects in Malta and abroad, set up and maintain the Institute for Conservation and Restoration Studies, create

public awareness about restoration and establish working relationships with centres of restoration outside Malta.

The Agency finances its operations through a subvention voted by Government in its annual financial estimates for the Ministry for Tourism and Culture. In 2006 Lm1,646,000 (2005: Lm1,150,000 and Lm525,858 to Malta Centre for Restoration under Vote 32, item 6781 later revised to Lm340,000) to Heritage Malta was allocated to meet Heritage Malta's administrative expenditure for the calendar year from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 under Recurrent Vote 32 (2005: Vote 31), item 6031 under the Ministry for Tourism and Culture, which was later revised to Lm1,691,866.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote V in the Government's financial estimates of 2006 covering the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006. These include Lm300,000 (2005: Lm300,000) relating to improvements at Museums and historical sites, and restoration works under item 7033 and an allocation of Lm30,000 (2005: Lm100,000) for surveillance, security and automated ticketing system under item 7034. Additionally, the Capital Vote V includes Lm100,000 (2005: Lm100,000) relating to the Ggantija Heritage Site, and Lm31,250 in 2005 to Malta Centre for Restoration.

The principal activities of the Agency's subsidiary, Heritage Malta Services Limited is to act as the commercial arm of Heritage Malta in promoting initiatives, activities and events of a commercial nature. Its main activities include the hiring out venues for corporate entertainment, to promote and distribute publications, to promote the corporate patrons programme and to monitor the Museum Shop activities besides other day-to-day operations.

Review of operations

During the financial year, Heritage Malta consolidated its operations to include within its remit the new conservation division. Financing has also been consolidated and Heritage Malta's budget now caters for the full requirements of all its divisions. It continued to improve on its financial situation by registering a surplus of Lm157,366 before transfer of depreciation to capital vote. Heritage Malta's policy is that any surplus generated will be ploughed back into the agency for the further enhancement of its operations. The increase from entrance fees and other income contributed to the surplus, part of which was voted towards additional costs to cover the increase in the activities. Heritage Malta is still undergoing a recruitment exercise to cater for the ever increasing activities and events and this exercise is expected to raise salary costs in the near future.

Heritage Malta still incurs Lm110,000 per annum charged by the Government in the form of rents for the museums and sites which are managed by the Agency. Heritage Malta is bound to be assigned more sites under its remit in the coming months and this would inevitably increase the amount of rent being paid to Government. During the year in review, Heritage Malta embarked on a flagship project at the National Museum of Archaeology. Once completed, the upper floors of the museum will be open to the general public with a permanent exhibition of archaeological artefacts. Other capital projects are being planned which in turn will generate additional recurrent expenditure. The Agency keeps looking forward to generate enough income to increase its operational revenue to cover additional operational costs.

During the financial year, the Agency, through its subsidiary company Heritage Malta Services Limited, opened two more retail outlets. These museum shops were

opened at the Inquisitor's Palace and the Palace Armoury. Another three outlets are scheduled to be opened shortly. The Agency concluded the negotiations for the opening of a cafeteria at the Museum of National History, housed at the Vilhena Palace in Mdina. To-date, the agency is still awaiting for the necessary MEPA permits to be able to operate accordingly

Throughout the year, the Agency continued tapping more private funding towards the upkeep and restoration of sites. New patrons were attracted to Heritage Malta and private funding is constantly being actively sought to complement Government's annual funding to the Agency.

A new initiative named the HSBC Heritage Scheme was also introduced in conjunction with a number of 5-Star Hotels. The scheme is proving to be very successful and funds generated through this scheme will help the Agency with specific projects targeting different sites and museums.

Two other schemes, namely the Heritage Malta Membership and the Volunteers Programme were re-launched. Both schemes proved to be very popular with the agency witnessing a surge in the number of members and volunteers. Both schemes have the potential for growth for the coming months.

Heritage Malta's annual report presents a detailed description of its activities, projects and initiatives and undertakings.

Results

The results of Heritage Malta for the year ended 30 September 2005 are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 107.

Directors

The directors of Heritage Malta who held office during the year were:

Dr Mario Tabone - Chairperson
Ms Simone Mizzi - Vice Chairperson
Mons John Azzopardi
Prof Anthony Bonanno
Dr Ray Bondin
Mr John Cremona
Mr Mario Farrugia
Ms Cynthia de Giorgio
Prof Alfred Vella

In accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002, the directors are appointed for such term and under such terms and conditions as the responsible Minister may deem proper, and they are eligible for re-appointment.

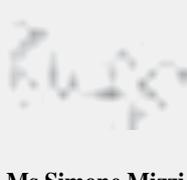
Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the board



Dr Mario Tabone
Chairperson



Ms Simone Mizzi
Director

Registered office
Heritage Malta
Old University Buildings
Merchants Street
Valletta, VLT1175
Malta

17th April 2007

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are required by the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002 to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Heritage Malta as at the end of each financial period and of the surplus or deficit for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for :

- ensuring that the financial statements have been drawn up in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards;
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances;
- ensuring that the financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in business as a going concern.

The directors are also responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and that comply with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Agency and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Directors of Heritage Malta

We have audited the financial statements of Heritage Malta on pages 6 to 23 which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 September 2006 and the income and expenditure account, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities on page 4, this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the

financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Agency as at 30 September 2006, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002.

167 Merchants Street
Valletta, VLT1175
Malta

17th April 2007

Income & Expenditure Accounts

	Notes	Consolidated		Agency	
		2006 Lm	2005* Lm	2006 Lm	2005* Lm
Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure	2	1,842,863	1,221,493	1,842,863	1,221,493
Income from operations	3	1,477,598	1,284,499	1,452,879	1,273,528
Funds available for recurrent expenditure		3,320,461	2,505,992	3,295,742	2,495,021
Recurrent operational expenditure		(2,598,337)	(1,946,155)	(2,598,337)	(1,936,336)
Recurrent administrative expenditure		(566,773)	(301,786)	(543,014)	(300,471)
Surplus on recurrent expenditure before interest		155,351	258,051	154,391	258,214
Interest receivable	6	2,964	1,420	2,975	1,420
Surplus for the financial year		158,315	259,471	157,366	259,634

* The figures of 2005 do not include the twelve month period of operations of the former Malta Centre for Restoration, now referred to as the Conservation Division and the Institute of Conservation and Cultural Heritage Management.

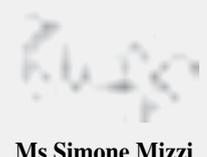
Balance Sheet

	Notes	Consolidated		Agency	
		2006 Lm	2005* Lm	2006 Lm	2005* Lm
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,483,217	980,110	1,483,217	980,110
Financial assets					
Shares in subsidiary undertaking	10	-	-	2,129	2,129
Total assets		1,483,217	980,110	1,485,346	982,239
Current assets					
Stocks	11	13,378	9,023	13,378	9,023
Debtors	12	810,120	258,467	832,460	358,276
Cash at bank and in hand		945,875	523,022	919,059	421,367
Total current assets		1,769,373	790,512	1,764,897	788,666
Total assets		3,252,590	1,770,622	3,250,243	1,770,905
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES					
Reserves					
Specific endowment funds	14	336,663	197,773	336,663	197,773
Accumulated fund					
- Capital vote		1,583,554	978,656	1,583,554	978,656
- Recurrent vote and operating activities		602,220	109,681	603,235	111,645
Total reserves		2,522,437	1,286,110	2,523,452	1,288,074
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Trade and other creditors	13	730,153	484,512	726,791	482,831
Total reserves and liabilities		3,252,590	1,770,622	3,250,243	1,770,905

* The figures of 2005 do not include balances of the former Malta Centre for Restoration, now referred to as the Conservation Division and the Institute of Conservation and Cultural Heritage Management.

The financial statements on pages 107 to 126 were authorised for issue by the board on 17th April 2007 and were signed on its behalf by:


Dr Mario Tabone
Chairperson


Ms Simone Mizzi
Director

Statement of changes in Accumulated Fund

	Notes	Recurrent vote & operating activities Lm	Capital vote Lm	Accumulated fund Lm
Consolidated				
Balance at 1 October 2004		(299,769)	783,529	483,760
Surplus for the financial year		259,471	-	259,471
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	345,106	345,106
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		103,918	(103,918)	-
Transfer of premium paid for Delimara Fort to capital vote		20,000	(20,000)	-
Transfer of Hagar Qim expenses to capital vote		26,061	(26,061)	-
Balance at 30 September 2005		109,681	978,656	1,088,337
Balance at 1 October 2005		109,681	978,656	1,088,337
Incorporation of the Conservative Division accumulated funds (formerly Malta Centre for Restoration)		136,502	577,340	713,842
Surplus for the financial year		158,315	-	158,315
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	225,280	225,280
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		246,566	(246,566)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		51,156	(51,156)	-
Transfer of ex-MCR's income to capital		(100,000)	100,000	-
Balance at 30 September 2006		602,220	1,583,554	2,185,774
Agency				
Balance at 1 October 2004		(297,968)	783,529	485,561
Surplus for the financial year		259,634	-	259,634
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	345,106	345,106
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		103,918	(103,918)	-
Transfer of premium paid for Delimara Fort to capital vote		20,000	(20,000)	-
Transfer of Hagar Qim expenses to capital vote		26,061	(26,061)	-
Balance at 30 September 2005		111,645	978,656	1,090,301
Balance at 1 October 2005		111,645	978,656	1,090,301
Incorporation of the Conservative Division accumulated funds (formerly Malta Centre for Restoration)		136,502	577,340	581,001
Surplus for the financial year		157,366	-	157,366
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	225,280	225,280
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		246,566	(246,566)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		51,156	(51,156)	-
Transfer of ex-MCR's income to capital		(100,000)	100,000	-
Balance at 30 September 2006		603,235	1,583,554	2,186,789

Cash flow Statement

	Notes	Consolidated		Agency	
		2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Operating activities					
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	16	278,251	(60,769)	353,079	(91,347)
Interest received		2,964	1,420	2,975	1,420
<hr/>					
Net cash generating from/(used in) operating activities		281,215	(59,349)	356,054	(89,927)
<hr/>					
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	9	(199,683)	(284,306)	(199,683)	(287,080)
<hr/>					
Net cash used in investing activities		(199,683)	(284,306)	(199,683)	(287,080)
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Financing activities					
Capital subvention from Government	15	225,280	345,106	225,280	345,106
Specific endowment funds	14	138,890	78,533	138,890	78,533
Assets taken over	21	(22,849)	-	(22,849)	-
<hr/>					
Net cash generated from financing activities		341,321	423,639	341,321	423,639
<hr/>					
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		422,853	79,984	497,692	46,632
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Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		523,022	443,038	421,367	374,735
<hr/>					
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	17	945,875	523,022	919,059	421,367

Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

1. Basis of preparation

These consolidated financial statements include the results of Heritage Malta and its subsidiary Heritage Malta Services Limited and are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and comply with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards effective in 2006

In 2006, the Agency and its subsidiary undertaking adopted new standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards that are mandatory for the Agency's and its subsidiary undertaking accounting period beginning on or after 1 January 2006. The adoption of these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs did not result in substantial changes to the Agency's and its subsidiary undertaking's accounting policies.

Standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards that are not yet effective

Certain new standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards have been published by the date of authorisation for issue of these financial statements, that are mandatory for the Agency's and its subsidiary undertaking's accounting periods beginning after 1 January 2006. The Agency and its subsidiary undertaking have not early adopted these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs and the directors are of the opinion that there are no requirements that will have a possible significant impact on the Agency's and its subsidiary undertaking financial statements in the period of initial application.

The Agency finances its operations through a subvention voted by Government in its annual financial estimates for the Ministry for Tourism and Culture. In 2006 Lm1,646,000 (2005: Lm1,150,000 to Heritage Malta and Lm525,858 to Malta Centre for Restoration under Vote 32,

item 6781 (later revised to Lm340,000)) was allocated to meet Heritage Malta's administrative expenditure for the calendar year from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 under Recurrent Vote 32 (2005: Vote 31), item 6031 under the Ministry for Tourism and Culture, which was later revised to Lm1,691,866.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote V in the Government's financial estimates of 2006 covering the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006. These include Lm300,000 (2005: Lm300,000) relating to improvements at Museums and historical sites, and restoration works under item 7033 and an allocation of Lm30,000 (2005: Lm100,000) for surveillance, security and automated ticketing system under item 7034. Additionally, the Capital Vote V includes Lm100,000 (2005: Lm100,000) relating to the Ggantija Heritage Site, and Lm31,250 in 2005 to Malta Centre for Restoration.

During the 2005, following the budget speech of November 2004, the Prime Minister declared that the Malta Centre for Restoration will be absorbed by Heritage Malta, the National Agency for Museums, Sites and Collections. The actual absorption process started in March 2005 and it was officialised by ACT No. XII of 2005, an Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act, Cap. 445 in July 2005.

The Malta Centre for Restoration at Bighi, which now forms part of Heritage Malta, is now being referred to as the Conservation Division and the Institute of Conservation and Cultural Heritage Management respectively. For this financial year, the accounts of Heritage Malta incorporates the results of Conservation Division.

2. Consolidation

Subsidiary undertakings, which are those companies in which Heritage Malta, directly or indirectly, has an interest of more than one half of the voting rights or otherwise has power to exercise control over the operations, have been consolidated. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Agency. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Agency. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any minority interest. The excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the Agency's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If the cost of acquisition is less than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the difference is recognised directly in the income statement.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by Heritage Malta.

A listing of the principal subsidiaries is set out in Note 9.

3. Revenue recognition

Revenue comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of services in the ordinary course of the Agency's activities. Revenue is shown net of sales taxes and discounts and is included in the financial statements as turnover. Revenue is recognised as follows:

Funds available for recurrent expenditure

Income is recognised upon performance of services rendered.

The income derived from the subvention from Government referred to in the accounting policy 1 is recognised upon receipt.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues, on a time-proportion basis using the effective interest method, unless collectibility is in doubt.

Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

4. Foreign currencies

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of the Agency are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). These financial statements are presented in Maltese Lira, which is the Agency's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

5. Borrowing costs

Interest costs are charged against income without restriction. Thus, no borrowing costs have been capitalised.

6. Tangible assets - property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, are initially recorded at cost and are subsequently stated at cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of items. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount, or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority, and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income and expenditure account during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Capital work in progress is stated at cost. Cost comprises acquisition costs, expenses incidental to acquisition, borrowing costs and difference on exchange related thereto.

Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line method to allocate the cost of the assets to their residual values over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Infrastructural improvements	5%
Plant and equipment	10%
Computer hardware & software	20-25%
Furniture, fixtures & fittings	10-12.5%
Ticketing system	15%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Gains and losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount, and are taken into account in determining operating profit.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if its carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (Accounting policy 7).

7. Impairment of assets

Impairment of financial assets

The company assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset is impaired. A financial asset is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that have occurred after the initial recognition of the asset and that has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset that can be reliably estimated.

Impairment of non financial assets

Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units).

8. Shares in subsidiary undertaking

Shares in subsidiary undertakings, are accounted for by the cost method of accounting. Provisions are recorded where, in the opinion of the directors, there is a long term impairment in value. Where there has been a permanent diminution in the value of an investment, it is recognised as an expense in the period in which the diminution is identified.

The results of subsidiary undertakings are reflected in these financial statements only to the extent of dividends receivable.

On disposal of an investment, the difference between the net disposal proceeds, and the carrying amount is charged or credited to the profit and loss account.

9. Leased assets

Leases of assets under which all the risks and benefits of ownership are effectively retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

10. Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of stocks is assigned by using the weighted average cost formula, except for items that are not ordinarily interchangeable or goods or services produced and segregated for specific projects, where cost is assigned by using specific identification of their individual costs.

The cost of stocks comprise all cost of purchase, costs of conversion, and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

11. Trade debtors

Trade debtors are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision

for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Agency will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of debts. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the provision is recognised in the income and expenditure account.

12. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the balance sheet at face value. For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, net of bank overdraft and any short term liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. In the balance sheet, the bank overdraft is included in borrowings under current liabilities.

13. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when Heritage Malta has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and when a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

14. Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided using the liability method, for all temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying values for financial reporting purposes. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred income tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Critical estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

In the opinion of the board members, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical in terms of the requirements of IAS 1 (revised).

2. Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure

Amounts advanced by Government for recurrent expenditure are made in the form of subventions from the consolidated fund in accordance with Section 20 of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. In accordance with the selected accounting policy, these amounts are accounted for upon an accrual basis. Amounts attributable to the reporting period were:

Subvention received from consolidated fund in for Heritage Malta:

- 2005
- 2006

Subvention received from consolidated fund in for Conservation Division:

- 2006

Additional amount received in kind, by way of payment by Government, of expenses on behalf of the Agency

Additional amounts received, by way of payment by Government

Consolidated & Agency

Total vote 2006	Amount attributable to reporting period 2006	Total vote 2005	Amount attributable to reporting period 2005
1,150,000	287,500	850,000	187,750
1,691,836	1,268,877	1,150,000	862,500
340,000	85,000		
-	201,486	-	132,846
-	-	-	38,397
3,467,000	1,842,863	2,000,000	1,221,493

3. Income from operations

The income from operations was generated locally from entrance fees and other minor ancillary services.

4. Expenses by nature

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Staff costs (Note 5)	2,169,764	1,681,314	2,147,633	1,671,495
Depreciation of tangible assets (Note 9)	246,566	103,918	246,566	103,918
Rent	109,092	110,965	109,092	110,965
Other expenses	639,688	351,744	638,060	350,429
	3,165,110	2,247,941	3,141,351	2,236,807

Auditors' remuneration for the current year amounted to Lm1,500 for the Agency and Lm200 for the subsidiary undertaking respectively (2005: Lm1,500 and Lm200) .

5. Staff costs

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Wages and salaries, paid by Government on behalf of the Agency	201,486	132,846	201,486	132,846
Wages and salaries, paid directly	1,841,611	1,437,233	1,841,611	1,437,233
Social security costs	126,667	111,235	126,667	111,235
	2,169,764	1,681,314	2,169,764	1,681,314
Wages and salaries recharged to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	(22,131)	(9,819)
	2,169,764	1,681,314	2,147,633	1,671,495

The average number of persons employed by Heritage Malta during the year was as follows:

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006	2005
Operations	249	215
Administration	32	27
	281	242

6. Interest receivable

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm
Bank interest	2,964	1,420	2,975	1,420

7. Taxation

Heritage Malta is exempt from any liability for the payment of income tax as per Section 13 of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002.

8. Directors' emoluments

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006	2006
	Lm	Lm
Fees	16,800	16,260

9. Property, plant and equipment

Consolidated and Agency

	Infrastructural improvements Lm	Plant & equipment Lm	Computer hardware & software Lm	Furniture fixtures & fittings Lm	Office equipment Lm	Ticketing system Lm	Total Lm
At 30 September 2004							
Cost or valuation	236,946	99,541	19,521	384,808	6,350	157,990	905,156
Accumulated depreciation	(10,357)	(12,332)	(3,226)	(60,430)	-	(19,089)	(105,434)
Net book amount	226,589	87,209	16,295	324,378	6,350	138,901	799,722

Year ended

30 September 2005

Opening net book amount	226,589	87,209	16,295	324,378	6,350	138,901	799,722
Additions	143,375	36,310	1,938	73,636	40	29,007	284,306
Depreciation charge	(16,316)	(13,339)	(4,225)	(42,714)	-	(27,324)	(103,918)
Closing net book amount	353,648	110,180	14,008	355,300	6,390	140,584	980,110

At 30 September 2005

Cost or valuation	380,321	135,851	21,459	458,444	6,390	186,997	1,189,462
Accumulated depreciation	(26,673)	(25,671)	(7,451)	(103,144)	-	(46,413)	(209,352)
Net book amount	353,648	110,180	14,008	355,300	6,390	140,584	980,110

Year ended

30 September 2006

Opening net book amount	353,648	110,180	14,008	355,300	6,390	140,584	980,110
Assets appertaining to							
Conservation Division	156,834	393,156	-	-	-	-	549,990
Additions	94,227	20,968	12,428	53,139	2,156	16,765	199,683
Depreciation charge	(49,662)	(81,727)	(7,834)	(61,705)	(15,458)	(30,180)	(246,566)
Transfers:							
Cost	-	(166,728)	9,169	71,131	86,428	-	-
Depreciation	-	134,593	(4,937)	(71,944)	(57,712)	-	-
Closing net book amount	555,047	410,442	22,834	345,921	21,804	127,169	1,483,217

At 30 September 2006

Cost or valuation	751,528	847,598	43,056	582,714	94,974	203,762	2,523,632
Accumulated depreciation	(196,481)	(437,156)	(20,222)	(236,793)	(73,170)	(76,593)	(1,040,415)
Net book amount	555,047	410,442	22,834	345,921	21,804	127,169	1,483,217

10. Shares in subsidiary undertaking

	Agency
	Lm
Year ended 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2005	
Opening and closing net book amount	2,129
At 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2005	
Cost and net book amount	2,129

The subsidiary undertaking at 30 September 2006 is shown below:

Company	Registered office	Class of shares held	Percentage of shares held
Heritage Malta Services Limited	Auberge de Provence Republic Street Valletta Malta	Ordinary shares	100%

11. Stocks

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm
Publications held for sale	13,378	9,023

12. Debtors

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm
Trade debtors - gross	213,130	20,940	196,027	19,318
Provision for impairment	(17,778)	-	(17,331)	-
Trade debtors - net	195,352	20,940	178,696	19,318
Prepayments and accrued income	13,667	9,418	13,667	9,418
Deferred expenditure	63,363	38,723	63,363	38,723
Amount owed by related undertakings	-	-	38,996	101,431
Amounts owed by Government	422,959	188,500	422,959	188,500
Other debtors	114,779	886	114,779	886
	810,120	258,467	832,460	358,276

Deferred expenditure relates to projects funded by the European Union (Note 14).

These expenses have been deferred until the income from the project is recognised.

13. Trade and other creditors

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors	301,453	245,622	301,273	245,622
Indirect taxes and social security	47,137	85,281	44,205	83,850
Amounts owed to Government	99,000	-	99,000	-
Accruals and deferred income	282,563	153,609	282,313	153,359
	730,153	484,512	726,791	482,831

14. Specific endowment funds

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Receipts		
Restricted funds – Farsons Foundation	719	700
Restricted funds – Minerva Plus	6,601	3,855
Restricted funds – MTA Roman Domus	4,000	4,000
Restricted funds – BOV Tarxien Temples	112,500	86,500
Restricted funds – Research Fund	8,250	10,250
Restricted funds – Cart Ruts	43,077	43,077
Restricted funds – Outstep	2,116	2,116
Restricted funds – Trimed	9,275	9,275
Restricted funds – Mizzi Foundation	3,000	3,000
Restricted funds – Vodafone Malta Limited	35,000	35,000
Restricted funds – HSBC Malta plc	10,000	-
Restricted funds – HSBC Hypogeum Hilton	6,097	-
Restricted funds – HSBC SPC Radisson	4,782	-
Restricted funds – HSBC Mnajdra San Gorg	1,038	-
Restricted funds – HSBC Hagar Qim Intercontinental	2,408	-
Restricted funds – HSBC Vilhena Xara Palace	197	-
Restricted funds – HSBC SPC Golden Sands	946	-
Restricted funds – Maltacom Ganado Maps	3,745	-
Restricted funds – World Monuments Funds – Mnajdra	5,145	-
Restricted funds – Domus Romana Mosaics	2,093	-
Restricted funds – Aurora Trust Scholars	1,000	-
Restricted funds – Centurio	1,888	-
Restricted funds – Abattija tad-Dejr – Din l-Art Helwa	2,000	-
Restricted funds – Palace Armoury – Gasan Mamo Insurance	5,000	-
Restricted funds – ECPL Ldv Pilot Project	38,754	-
Restricted funds – Masths Ldv Mobility	5,889	-
Restricted funds – Eurorestor Ldv Mobility	6,922	-
Restricted funds – Swap Ldv Mobility	5,250	-
Restricted funds – Intact Ldv Mobility	4,007	-
Restricted funds – Managing Cultural Heritage Ldv Mobility	4,964	-
	336,663	197,773

Endowment funds are derived from gifts and donations to Heritage Malta and can only be used for specific purposes.

15. Subvention from consolidated fund for capital expenditure

Amounts advanced by Government towards capital expenditure are made in the form of subventions from the consolidated fund in accordance with Section 22 of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. In accordance with the selected accounting policy, these amounts are accounted for upon receipt. Amounts advanced during the year were:

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Subvention received from consolidated fund under Capital Vote III, item 7033 in respect of improvements at Museums and historical sites, and restoration work	204,833	272,505
Subvention received from consolidated fund under Capital Vote III, item 7034 in respect of surveillance security and automated ticketing system	16,765	72,601
Subvention received from consolidated fund under Capital Vote III, item 7192 in respect of Ggantija Temples	3,682	-
	225,280	345,106

16. Cash generated from/(used in) operations

Reconciliation of surplus on recurrent expenditure to cash generated from/(used in) operations:

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Surplus on recurrent expenditure	155,351	258,051	154,391	258,214
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation (Note 9)	246,566	103,918	246,566	103,918
Provision for impairment of debtors (Note 12)	17,778	-	17,331	-
Changes in working capital:				
Stocks	(4,335)	2,104	(4,355)	2,104
Debtors	(325,083)	(188,276)	(247,167)	(217,914)
Creditors	187,994	(236,566)	186,313	(237,669)
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	278,251	(60,769)	353,079	(91,347)

17. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, the year end cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
Cash at bank and in hand	945,875	523,022	919,059	421,367

Included with cash at bank and in hand is an amount of Lm234,387 (2005: Lm101,023) in respect of the Specific Endowment Funds disclosed in note 14.

18. Contingent liabilities

As at 30 September 2006, Heritage Malta had a contingent liability in respect of a legal claim made by a supplier of contracting services for Lm31,513(2005: Lm31,513). No provision has been made in these accounts in respect of this claim which is being disputed by the Agency.

On 22 March 2005 the Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR) was incorporated into Heritage Malta . Prior to that date MCR had been involved in an EU funded project for which it had accounted separately. The final claim for funding submitted upon completion of the project is still subject to verification. In the event that a part of the overall claims made by MCR over the duration of this project are deemed not to be acceptable, Heritage Malta will become liable to fund any resultant shortfall.

19. Commitments

Capital commitments

Heritage Malta has committed itself to execute infrastructural works to heritage sites as funded by third parties. The relative funds so committed are disclosed as specific endowment funds (see note 14).

Operating lease commitments

The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases are as follows:

	Consolidated & Agency	
	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm
Within one year	-	6,646
	-	6,646

20. Financial instruments

Credit risk

Financial assets which potentially subject Heritage Malta to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash at bank and debtors. Heritage Malta's cash is placed with quality financial institutions. Debtors are presented net of an allowance for doubtful debts. Credit risk with respect to debts is limited due to the limited number of transactions made on credit with customers and Heritage Malta has no significant concentration of credit risk.

Fair values

At 30 September 2006 the carrying amounts of cash at bank, debtors, creditors and accrued expenses approximated their fair values.

21. Assets taken over

During the 2005, following the budget speech of November 2004, the Prime Minister declared that the Malta Centre for Restoration will be absorbed by Heritage Malta, the National Agency for Museums, Sites and Collections. The actual absorption process started in March 2005 and it was officialised by ACT No. XII of 2005, an Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act, Cap. 445 in July 2005.

The Malta Centre for Restoration at Bigħi, which now forms part of Heritage Malta, is now being referred to as the Conservation Division and the Institute of Conservation and Cultural Heritage Management respectively. For this financial year, the accounts of Heritage Malta incorporate the results of this Division.

The details of assets and liabilities incorporated in the Agency's accounts, appertaining to the former Malta Centre for Restoration are as follows:

	Lm
Property, plant and equipment (Note 9)	549,990
Debtors	244,348
Creditors	(57,647)
Accumulated fund:	
Recurrent vote	(136,502)
Capital vote	(577,340)
Cash and cash equivalents	(22,849)
	<hr/>
Fair value of net assets acquired	-
	<hr/>
Cash outflow on incorporation	22,849
	<hr/>

22. Related party transactions

Government, all entities that are Government controlled and those which fall within the Government administration structure are considered by the board members to be related parties.

Year end balances owed by or to related parties, arising principally from the above transactions are disclosed in notes 12 and 13 to these financial statements respectively.

Key management personnel compensations, consisting of board members' fees, have been disclosed in note 8.

Recharges of staff costs to related parties are disclosed in note 5.

23. Statutory information

Heritage Malta is a body corporate set up by the enactment of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002.

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Income and Expenditure Summary Account

	Agency	
	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm
Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure	1,842,863	1,221,493
Income from operations	1,452,879	1,273,528
Funds available for recurrent expenditure	3,295,742	2,495,021
Recurrent operational expenditure	(2,598,337)	(1,936,336)
Recurrent administrative expenditure	(543,014)	(300,471)
Surplus on recurrent expenditure before interest	154,391	258,214
Interest receivable	2,975	1,420
Surplus for the financial year	157,366	259,634

Income and Expenditure Accounts

	Agency	
	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm
Income		
Entrance fees	1,370,181	1,230,810
Publications	12,015	12,716
Service charges	2,076	4,515
Donations and other	107	1,871
Royalties	1,967	2,105
Other income events	65,898	20,785
Tender fees	635	726
	1,452,879	1,273,528
Operational costs		
Bonuses to tour operations	3,530	-
Salaries and wages	2,130,833	1,655,235
Cleaning	40,330	13,211
Repairs and maintenance	44,296	26,411
Police security	78,107	36,247
Water and electricity	57,288	36,964
Telecommunication	38,736	37,438
Ticketing expenses	22,125	22,635
General staff costs	8,157	4,144
Exhibitions and events	20,910	15,001
Medical expenses	1,601	462
Libraries	6,005	1,697
Acquisitions and restorations	73,251	13,230
Revenue Sharing Costs	66,339	42,019
Publications	5,438	11,642
Premium paid	1,391	20,000
	2,598,337	1,936,336
Administrative expenses		
Directors' fees	16,800	16,260
Transport and expenses	22,858	21,358
Telecommunication expenses	6,795	3,606
Printing, postages and stationery	11,985	7,642
Rent	109,092	110,965
Hospitality and accommodation	26,807	14,213
Subscriptions and membership fees	1,437	683
Professional and audit fees	31,299	17,786
Sundry expenses	2,439	1,411
Depreciation	246,566	103,918
Bank charges	1,246	926
Staff training	10,983	1,863
Marketing costs	9,998	2,218
EU Costs	18,462	-
Gain on exchange	(2,767)	(2,378)
Lecturing expenses	11,683	-
Provision for impairment of debtors	17,331	-
	543,014	300,471
Total expenditure, net of income generated directly (page 107)	1,688,472	963,279

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