



Annual Report

2007-2008

 Heritage Malta

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In accordance with the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002, the Board of Directors of Heritage Malta herewith submits the Annual Report & Accounts for the fifteen months ended 31st December 2008. It is to be noted that the financial year-end of the Agency was moved to the 31st of December (previously 30th September) so as to coincide with the accounting year-end of other Government agencies.

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List of Abbreviations

AFM	Armed Forces of Malta
AMMM	Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums
CHIMS	Cultural Heritage Information Management System
CMA	Collections Management System
EAFRD	European Agricultural Regional Development Funds
ERDF	European Regional Development Funds
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
MCESD	Malta Council for Economic and Social Development
MEPA	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
MMM	Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa
MRAE	Ministry for Resources and Environment
MRRA	Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs
MTA	Malta Tourism Authority
MTAC	Ministry for 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
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PPCD	Planning and Priorities Coordination Division, OPM
PRM	Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department
SCH	Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, Malta
SPC	St Paul's Catacombs, Rabat
UCL	University College of London
UOM	University of Malta
WHS	World Heritage Sites

Unless otherwise stated, all dates refer to the period under review: 1 October 2007 - 31 December 2008.

Mission Statement

“..... 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

Heritage Malta 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 aspect 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. It is to this effect that HM's Mission Statement was amended accordingly.

Chairman's Statement

In the period under review Heritage Malta (HM) continued with its mission of ensuring the proper management of over 40 museums, sites and their collections. As the national agency responsible for conservation we continued to run undergraduate and postgraduate academic courses in the field of conservation together with the University of Malta and vocational courses in conjunction with MCAST. The Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage also ran a number of short courses which were open to the general public. These activities are detailed within this document.

In August 2008 a new Board of Directors was appointed for a term of three years. Upon assuming office the Board sought to take stock of the situation and prioritise a programme of works spread over the coming years while ensuring continuation and completion of initiatives that were already in hand.

The Board attaches much importance to the Agency having a robust human resources structure which will allow it to operate efficiently and be in a position to take on new challenges. High standards of professional competence are indispensable throughout each area of the Agency be it academic, administrative, curatorial, conservation or clerical.

With this in mind we reviewed the Agency's organogram and sought to update it thus ensuring that the structure remained in line with that of comparable institutions.

We also undertook an exercise to take stock of the condition and needs of all the museums and sites falling within our portfolio. The purpose of this was to enable the Agency assess the condition of its assets so as to then formulate a way forward with regard to their restoration, conservation and optimisation. A similar exercise in respect of our collections and exhibits shall also be carried out.

Our commitment to bringing culture closer to the people by facilitating interpretation and accessibility remains a foremost priority. In this regard over 60 temporary exhibitions, public lectures, heritage trails or other specialised events were held. We also offered free entrance to our museums and sites on a number of occasions with circa 25,000 visitors availing themselves of such opportunities. During the period under review we also hosted no less than 39,000 schoolchildren who were given free guided tours around our museums and sites. We intend to intensify and extend such initiatives in the coming years.

The importance of Heritage Malta's role in our society cannot be over-emphasised. The assets within our portfolio are by far the most precious these Islands possess. This is borne out by the fact that Malta & Gozo rank among the leaders in terms of number and quality of sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Unlike other countries we may not have been blessed with valuable natural resources but we certainly make up for this in terms of heritage sites.



The notion that cultural heritage cannot be financially viable is questionable. We believe that as happens in the case of utilisation of natural resources up-front infrastructural investment is required before one can expect to derive benefit. With this in mind therefore, Heritage Malta will continue to seek funding in respect of such works on its museums and sites. We would also expect to see cultural heritage as

a mainstay of our economy in general and our tourist industry in particular.

We look forward to the coming years with confidence, enthusiasm and determination.

Joseph Said

The CEO's Statement

The year in review was a challenging one marked by a General election and a new Board of Directors. Additionally several changes to the management structure were made. It was also a year when two major projects, namely the refurbishment of the National War Museum and the ERDF Project at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, were nearing completion. Both projects will be delivered in 2009.

As predicted last year, this year was one of consolidation where we worked on improving our sites and strengthening our foundations. Improvement work was carried out at almost every site and a great amount of energy was invested into the largest two capital projects. Improvement of all sites will continue through better interpretation, student programmes and general facilities. While serving over 1.1M visitors, we also increased the number of organised school programmes at our sites hosting more than 39,000 school children in 2008.

We also continued our outreach to the public via numerous temporary exhibitions, lectures and special events at our sites. These included the very successful Night at the Museums and Mummy Exhibition. It is envisioned that these types of events will continue being organised regularly. Heritage Malta also supported the promotion of Malta overseas via three important exhibitions – the Antonio Sciortino and Prehistory exhibitions in Spain and the Knights exhibition in Paris. We also participated in five

other overseas exhibitions organised by others in Europe and the USA.

This year the National collection entrusted to Heritage Malta's care was significantly enriched. Of particular note are the acquisition of the Ganado collection, the Lazzaro Pisani bequest and the acquisition of several important coins of the Order of St. John.

This annual report serves as an important document which traces the main achievements of the national agency charged with the management of museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. Our slogan has always been to give a future to our past. Future generations will glean through this publication and judge our efforts through the information herein.

I conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to the previous and current Chairmen and the Board of Directors and to all the members of staff at Heritage Malta for their tireless work, which often led them to go beyond their call of duty in the collective effort to safeguard, protect and make accessible the country's priceless cultural heritage.

Luciano Mulè Stagno

HM Board of Directors (up to August 2008)

Dr Mario Tabone, Chairperson

Ms Simone Mizzi, Deputy Chairperson

Rev Mgr John Azzopardi

Prof. Anthony Bonanno

Mr John Cremona

Ms Cynthia De Giorgio

Mr Mario Farrugia

Prof. Alfred Vella

Ms Isabelle Vella

HM Board of Directors (as at 31 December 2008)

Mr Joseph Said, Chairperson

Ms Isabelle Vella, Deputy Chairperson

Ms Evelyn Baluci

Prof Anthony Bonanno

Ms Norma Camilleri

Mr John Cremona

Ms Marika Grech

Mr Bryan Magro

Mr Martin Mercieca

HM Management Team (as at 31 December 2008)

Dr Luciano Mulè Stagno, Chief Executive Officer

Senior Management

Dr Martina Caruana, Chief Officer Conservation Division and ICMCH

Kenneth Gambin, Chief Officer Curatorial and Quality Assurance

Management

Ruben Abela, Manager Stone, Metal and Glass

Dr Claire Baluci, Manager Diagnostic Science Laboratories

Ivan Barbara, Manager Estate and Security

Dr Ray Bondin, EU Projects and International Affairs

Louis Borg, Manager Operations

Olivianne Briffa, Acting Manager Finance

Pierre Cassar, Manager Corporate Communication

Alexander Debono, Senior Curator Arts and Palaces

Suzannah Depasquale, Senior Curator Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites

Thomas Dimech, Manager Business Development

Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, Consultant to CEO

Dr Reuben Grima, Senior Curator Prehistoric Sites

Emmanuel Magro Conti, Senior Curator Modern, Maritime and Military History

Nicoline Sagona, Manager Gozo Sites

Joseph Schirò, Lead Conservator and Manager Books, Paper and Textiles

Martin Spiteri, Collections Manager

Godwin Vella, Senior Curator Ethnography

Dr Jevon Vella, Manager Capital Projects

Theresa Vella, Manager Research

Noel Zammit, Manager IT and Knowledge Management

Capital, Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works

Arts and Palace Section

The National Museum of Fine Arts

The following upgrades were carried out during period under review mostly following the confirmation of HSBC as the official patron of the museum. Other work was carried out in-house. This includes the manufacture of a back panel and plinth for Valentin de Boulogne's Judith and Holophernes; the installation of a new carpet in the main staircase; installation of cctv intercom facility and eight cctv cameras in the main halls of the museum; a new staff room at ground floor level; the removal of wall and wooden soffit from the old curator's office; the installation of a safety gate within the main staircase overlooking the museum's main courtyard and of wooden hand railings; general maintenance of the roof membrane and the scraping of main facade dado from successive layers of paint.

The museum's courtyard has been a favourite place for high profile exhibitions since decades but has long lacked proper and adequate maintenance let alone a full scale conservation and restoration project. Works started in June with the erection of scaffolding and so far around 50% of the courtyard's wall space has been completed. The wall was scraped from some fourteen layers of paint, repainted and necessary replacement of stone works carried out. Rusty pipe works have been removed. During the restoration process, graffiti were also discovered. Work, being carried out under the direction of HM in-house expertise, is currently underway on the first floor of the opposite facade.

The ground floor of Casa Scaglia has been completely cleared from unwanted items and fumigated against insect infestation. During these works a number of historic furniture items and plans of projects carried out by Public Works Department in the 1970s and 1980s were identified underneath piles of deposits. Works also included the whitewashing of ground floor walls and the removal of leaking metal water pipes. The museum workshop was transferred to ground floor, and the required metal works were commissioned so that that space can house the reserve collection.

The *piano nobile* halls of the museum were refurbished for the occasion of the Caravaggio exhibition and opened to the public in October 2007. It has subsequently been decided to upgrade the 15th and 16th century halls overlooking Old Mint Street. Works on the refurbishment of these halls began in September and were completed by December 2008. Works included the complete redesign and installation of the electrical system, pointing, plastering and paint works in all halls, removal of wood accretions and a soffit, maintenance works on wooden beams, clearance of existing air vents, and installation of a state of the art picture-hanging system. These halls are envisaged to reopen to the public in 2009.

The museum has since 1998 acquired an adjacent palace from the Government Property Division

(8, Old Mint Street) which when linked to the current footprint of the NMFA has the potential to increase the permanent display area of the museum by around 70%. Serious concerns about its current state of conservation were voiced way back in late 2007 but funds for its restoration were not available. The site has so far featured as the subject of a comprehensive assignment carried out by MA Architecture Conservation students (UOM) supervised by Prof JoAnn Cassar. Information originating from this assignment has been made available to HM for planning purposes. An assessment of the roof structure and pertinent costings has also been prepared by HM's Projects Office. An accretion in danger of imminent collapse has been demolished and all material carted away.

Palace State Rooms

The tender for the installation of a reception kiosk at the entrance to the Palace was finalised and the relevant MEPA permit was issued in February. The tender should be published next year. Drafting of tender documents and preparatory works for the conservation of the structure, mechanism and figures of the Pinto palace clock tower have been finalised, while basic conservation works (rather than a fully fledged conservation project) on the decorative schemes of the palace corridors commenced in

July 2008. The scope of this treatment is the visual improvement of the decorative scheme. Works have been entrusted to a technician.

Ethnography Department

The Inquisitor's Palace

The remaining light fittings in the garden have been installed and maintenance on the iron bars of the ground floor windows (South Str) has been concluded. The workshop was transferred to ground floor level and the room previously used as workshop was refurbished into a resource room for students taking part in the educational programme. Another major concern has been the general revamping of the building with the aim of better highlighting its function as a historic house museum and one of the most important centres of power in Early Modern Malta. To this end, the Inquisitor's Quarters and part of the Ruffo Apartments have been refurbished and adorned with curtains and furnishings that provide an image of the building at the height of its power. A complementary refurbishment programme initiated during the period under review entails the repair and repainting of all exterior apertures.

General maintenance was carried out on the roof



and the membrane of the **Auberge de France**, and a wall on the back terrace was re-pointed and consolidated. Two large stone balls overlooking **Fort St Angelo** gate in imminent state of collapse were dismantled and relocated on the adjacent curtain floor in January. Following an agreement with the Restoration Unit within the MRRA workers from the said unit completed the first phase of the rehabilitation of the *polverista* within the fort. Work included the reinstatement of the traditional *deffun* layer on the ceiling, and the manual removal of the interior cement-based plastering and modern brick partitions and other accretions.

Repairs to roof membrane and the electrical and telephone wiring system of **Ta' Kola Windmill, Gozo** were carried out by the Gozo Area Office. Scaffolding was erected to remove the remaining parts of the damaged windmill antennae following a major wind storm in May.

Modern, Maritime and Military History Department

Malta Maritime Museum

Structural works commenced in 2007 continued in the former ten bin silos of the Naval Bakery. A walled wide entrance leading to the Anadrian Hall had to be opened as the future entrance to the same hall. A major clearing of debris from previously inaccessible parts was taken in hand in October and November 2007. Prior to the commencement of works, the area was researched in various archives. Constructed in the late 1930s, this and other silos in the building had unfortunately altered the original structure of the building, leading to the loss of four original floors. The roof was caving in and rain water was seeping inside the building, increasing damp problems. The re-instatement of these floors was a priority to gain access to the entire building, which was severed in two sections. By December 2008 civil works were practically finished. These included the re-introduction of three levels, visitor restrooms on two levels

including those for disabled persons, a wide passage together with smaller ones linking areas of the museum, the opening of several walled doorways and the installation of a 23-passenger lift.

During the course of works, purposely hewn passages and tunnels were found in the area at ground level. Research established that these passages are original to the building. When the infill was removed, gear wheels, shafts, cone clutches and other components were discovered still in situ. They are the oldest industrial revolution machinery to have been used in Malta, dating to the early 1840s. The tunnels were used to lay electrical cables, thus avoiding tampering with the original floor. The above finds, complimenting those of 1996 and 2003 in the adjoining mill room, are part and parcel of William Scamp's original design for the building fabric and the introduction of steam powered machinery. The largest toothed wheel of over 1.2m diameter was used as aggregate to shore up one of the RSJ beams in the late 1930s silo project. The trenches were presumably filled up in preparing foundations for the silos and above-ground machinery was removed to make space. Works came to a halt in September 2008 due to technical problems during the installation of the lift. By December these problems had been overcome and works could continue.

A tender was awarded for propping works on a defective roof at first floor level. However it transpired that the preferred supporting option was too heavy and the project had to be re-discussed. By the end of the year it was in the final stages of planning. Routine maintenance works decreased greatly due to lack of human resources. A refurbished wooden skylight was installed in September.

National War Museum

The museum was closed for the public on 5 November 2007. The display was completely dismantled and the building was entirely refurbished and structurally restored, including new visitor rest rooms and a curator's office.

Cleaning and pointing of the exterior areas was carried as well. Several Victorian period apertures came to light and were restored. In order to respect the original flooring a raised floor was introduced so that all electrical, security, and communication systems could be



laid under it. The in-house construction of a large quantity of partitions, pedestal and the refurbishment of showcases was taken in hand and was practically concluded by the end of the year.

Palace Armoury

Following the refurbishment works in the Weapons Hall affected by mid-2007, which included the transfer of the PA workshop/laboratory to part of the former carriage house, work on rehabilitating the new workshop/laboratory was taken in hand and concluded by December 2007. Works included the reinforcement of a timber roof splitting the area in two levels, thus making it possible to use the said space for the study and grouping of armour. This space made possible the dismantling of the partition in the Weapons Hall, therefore gaining further display space. It also means that the tradition of having a workshop in the Palace Armoury, present there since 1600, could be continued.

Although plans are in hand for the total refurbishment of the office and library, such works have not been concluded yet because of other priorities. All partitions and soffits have been removed and the walls have been cleaned and pointed. Various alcoves were turned into stores.

Natural History Department

The National Museum of Natural History

Work at the NMNH included the following actions: three wooden beams on the upper floor which were in dire need of replacement were temporarily propped with steel pylons; a brick wall was built at basement level to reduce access to and from the moat; a number of neon tubes in the secondary staircase were replaced with new energy saving fittings; an aluminium partition and door were installed outside the curator's office; two large halls and other areas of the

museum were whitewashed. The Restoration Unit of the MRRA continued surveying the bastions and outer walls of the building in preparation for the rehabilitation works planned to start in 2009.

At **Ghar Dalam and Museum**, besides general maintenance, the turnstile in the main corridor and swinging barrier in the didactic hall were removed as these were not functional. The patch of land between the lecture hall and the Enemalta boundary wall was cleared in January 2008 but still needs to be filled with soil. Work at the **Gozo Nature Museum** by the Gozo Area Office included the manufacture of apertures for the new toilet facilities, the installation of a new display showcase for the sale of publications, the renovation of twelve timber apertures, and enhanced security measures (coverage of well openings).



Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department

Ta' Bistra Catacombs

The INTERREG IIIA Cultexchange project moved into its final phase of deliverables that included implementing structural works among other actions, with a total budget allocation of €100,000 from EU funds. All targeted actions implemented within the site are aimed at mitigating potential serious conservation issues

pertaining to area A of the site that are found below the existing modern farmhouse, as well as in view of opening the site to the visiting public.

During this period two MEPA development applications were submitted and awarded: one for structural works and a parking area for Area A; and the second for the erection of a boundary fence in Areas B and C, with a view of consolidating the existing infrastructure of the site and to come into possession of areas that currently form part of private properties.

A tender for structural works included the structural consolidation of the building, roof and joinery, introduction of sanitary fittings, demolition and installation of a drainage system. Part of the works included minor archaeological excavation within the garden and in the building that would allow for the onsite installation of a lift and drainage system. The contractor failed repeatedly to respect existing deadlines and penalty issues were raised but were resolved amicably in November 2008. The drafting of tenders for internal finishes, parking area, garden landscaping, environmental and conservation services and audio visual production were also taken in hand.

Further to the development application for the erection of a boundary wall for areas B and C, HM also submitted a request to Lands Department to terminate an existing lease of a field in front of the new entrance of the Visitor Centre, in view of initiating works in relation to the parking area. On advice of the Lands Dept, HM intends to approach the tenant asking for an early release of the said property.

In virtue of the success of the project under the guidance of PPCD and the Italian Managing Authority for INTERREG IIIA, an application for an additional funding of €78,000 was submitted by the Ta' Bistra Joint Committee. This was approved and the INTERREG IIIA Cultexchange project deliverables deadline and budget was extended till 30 December 2008. EU

officials visited the site and the project team in October 2008. The officials clearly indicated their positive views on the project and have requested that a new slightly revised project with same and additional partners be submitted for INTERREG IV. The project team has been further requested to submit an additional claim for funds under INTERREG IIIA. Deliverables and budgets are currently being concretised in view of a potential extension till June 2009, in tandem with an INTERREG IV application.

St Paul's Catacombs

Following the call for applications for the ERDF 2007-13 grant funding, a project for SPC, Tarxien Temples and Ġgantija Temples was submitted to PPCD in September 2007. The confirmation of the acquisition of this grant arrived in June. In view of the recommendations made by the Projects Selection Committee, the project application form has been modified as regards the structuring of tenders, project duration, and disbursement and implementation schedules. Work initiated towards the generation of the terms of reference for strategic tender documents concerning architectural services, technical studies and conservation studies, which will be published in 2009.

HSBC Hotel Scheme: a MEPA outline application PA 1480/08 was submitted for the conservation of stonework and metal work of the boundary walls of SPC. Two tenders were launched in parallel. Works are envisaged to commence in 2009.

'Jewish' Catacombs within Saint Paul's Catacombs complex

In December 2007 some damage was incurred by the so-called 'Jewish' Catacombs when unknown persons, possibly entering through St Paul's Missionary College, forced open the gates of the said catacombs and left spray marks and scratches on the catacomb walls. The rector of St



Paul's Missionary College was immediately informed of the situation and, while all the gates

are being repaired, provisions have been taken to fix the boundary fence between the college and the burial grounds.

During the latter half of 2008 an international Jewish organisation raised issues in relation to scattered bone material found within the Jewish catacombs, requesting that this area be closed off to the public and that the material in question be reburied according to Jewish religious traditions. Due to the sensitivity of the treatment of archaeological human remains and conservation concerns, discussions and studies were undertaken to understand the best methodological approaches regarding conservation actions and international

archaeological conventions. The guidance of the SCH was also sought. Further actions and discussions are earmarked to occur in 2009.

St Augustine's Catacombs, Rabat

During the course of studies in relation to SPC it was determined that a further set of catacombs belonged to the Government but at some point in time had ended up in private hands. Research into ownership claims determined that the said property belonged to Government, and subsequently the keys to this property were handed over to HM. Preliminary investigations have indicated that the value of these catacombs is high and require integration within the management plan for this area. Alternative grant funding mechanisms are being sought to target required actions for this site, with a view of their

integration into the visitor experience earmarked for this area.

Abatija Tad-Dejr Catacombs

This joint collaboration project between HM and *Din l-Art Helwa* had been halted since 2006 due to the lack of the appointment of an architect. As such the committee together with HM came into an agreement with *Din l-Art Helwa* whereby it would cover all architectural expenses directly from its allocated project funding as per signed agreement. Architect Claude Busuttil was appointed to design the project. Draft plans have been submitted and are currently being reviewed.

Tas-Silġ

Due to the archaeological excavation encroachment to an existing boundary wall it was deemed necessary to submit a MEPA outline development application for the removal and erection of a new boundary wall. This boundary wall would ensure that the existing wall would not pose a threat to the site by collapse and would ensure the integration of an important field within which further ancient remains are certainly present. MEPA outline development application PA2977/08 was awarded in December 2008. However works did not ensue because the wall collapsed onto the archaeological remains of the Neolithic temple.

The Domus Romana

Within this period of action nominal clearing operations ensued on the back site. Two incidents occurred at the Domus on 14 and 17 December. The former resulted in accidental damage of exhibits in showcases within the site, while the latter resulted in damage to the boundary wall. On both counts the police were advised and conservation actions undertaken. Further action is required regarding the water infiltration in the roofs above the mosaics.

Although potential funding programmes are being tapped, no work was done on other sites such as San Pawl Milqi, Salini Catacombs and

Ta' Mintna Catacombs due to lack of human and financial resources.

Prehistoric Sites Department

Haġar Qim and Mnajdra

The ERDF project for the conservation and presentation of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra was largely implemented during the period under review. In February, a detailed report on progress on the Haġar Qim Project was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and was noted favourably by the World Heritage Committee during its 32nd session held in June in Quebec City, Canada. In April MEPA gave the green light regarding the foundation level and revised drawings for the visitor centre. Between April and August the structural works on site were completed and by December 2008 the finishes were being installed.

A very intensive debate was conducted with the SCH regarding the foundations for the shelters of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra. All issues were finally resolved, the drilling of cores for the foundation piles was completed, and by December 2008 the steel structures that will support the protective shelters over Haġar Qim and over Mnajdra were installed.

Tarxien Temples

The application for a full development permit for the Tarxien Temples Project, originally submitted in November 2005, was approved by MEPA on 13 March. This permit approved the building of a Visitors' Centre, partly funded by BOV through the BOV Tarxien Temples Project, and a specially-designed walkway with the aim of improving the visitors' experience of the site through better interpretation facilities and accessibility as well as the protection of the site.

The manufacture and installation of the walkway is one of the various activities included in the application for the 'Archaeological Heritage

Conservation Project' submitted by HM for the ERDF Structural Funds 2007-13 programme in 2007 and which was approved for funding in mid-2008. Along with three-dimensional documentation, and study of various aspects of the site, the project provides the necessary funds for the design, manufacture and installation of a shelter to protect the megalithic structure from the elements. The period under review was therefore taken up for the most part by the substantial preparations required for a project of this magnitude.

The effect of the elements on this site which HM aims to mitigate with the shelter, is clearly shown by the regular flooding of the site and the unfortunately frequent collapse of parts of the reconstructed walls in the temples' apses, the most recent of which took place in October 2008. In the meantime HM has developed a method statement for the conservation of apsidal walls at the Tarxien Temples which has been submitted to the SCH for approval.

Tarxien was also targeted for further academic research thanks to its inclusion in the research project Med-Archeo-Sites, an Interreg IIC-funded project, which enabled the investigation using Ground Penetrating Radar of parts of the field north of the site, where remains had been encountered during investigations in 1993.

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum

A new maintenance agreement was signed with CTS, to assess and repair faults in the air handling unit and chiller at the Hypogeum. Air-conditioning units in the entrance lobby were replaced, resulting in considerable improvement in temperature control at the Hypogeum. Cracks in the roof of the middle level were inspected and this area was closed to visitors in the first months of 2008. Following monitoring by HM architects, it was concluded that cracks were stable and the area was reopened to visitors. Monitoring in the area is ongoing.

Ġgantija Temples

Among the main activities related to Ġgantija was the submission of the application for ERDF 2007-13 project, including the construction of a visitor centre and structural studies of the monument. Terms of reference and technical specifications were prepared for the various tenders of this project. Preliminary documents were submitted to MEPA and land acquisition issues were discussed with the Lands Dept.

The tender for the supply and installation of a weather station forming part of the Vodafone Ġgantija Project was awarded in October. A series of meetings were held with a consultant engineer regarding the tender specifications for the supply and installation of CCTV cameras. Technical specifications for an Interactive DVD-Rom also started being prepared. The projected expenditure for the Vodafone Ġgantija Project was discussed with the Malta Vodafone Foundation in May and a publicity sign was installed on site in July.

An agreement between HM and Gaia Foundation for the implementation of an agro-environment around Ġgantija was signed in February, resulting in the planting of over 400 shrubs and trees. Besides general works and gardening, a canopy was installed for the shop, and entrance and exit turnstiles and railing were installed for controlled visitor flow. A museum shop started operating in July. The 1957 brick wall surrounding the site was demolished and was replaced with a low-profile rubble wall by June. Structural works on the Ġgantija Finds Hut were carried out.

Ta' Haġrat Temple

Following the granting of two development permits by MEPA in the immediate vicinity of Ta' Haġrat, a request for expropriation was made in the second half of 2007. The land was valued at €141, 860 in April 2008. HM secured funds from the Ministry of Finance to conclude

expropriation procedures in 2009. Following objections by HM, another development in the vicinity of Ta' Haġrat spilling into an Outside Development Zone was refused by MEPA in July 2008.

National Museum of Archaeology Department

A ramp to facilitate entry to the museum through Republic Street was put in place in October 2007. It is composed of three interlinking parts and is installed every morning. This ramp has made the museum more accessible to persons with mobility impairment. On the same note, the lift which had been installed in the museum for a number of years was finally made to function during the same week. A temporary supply from Enemalta was required for this purpose since the necessary trench works that are needed to connect the substation that was leased to Enemalta in Melita Street are going to take quite some time to be carried out. With both the ramp and the lift the museum is now more accessible especially to persons with physical disabilities.

A tender for the restoration of the timber flooring in one of the upper halls which shall form part of the permanent display was issued in January. The flooring was treated and restored and was placed back in its original sequence. The date 1818 was found engraved on one of the wooden beams which supported the flooring. Another

tender which included the installation of CCTVs, fire, intruder and sound systems, was also issued in January. However it will have to be re-issued in 2009 due to technical administrative difficulties. Restoration of the facades of both Melita Street and Cart Street has now been finalised.

Two other tenders have been issued this year in conjunction with the permanent exhibition project. These concern the restoration of all the wooden apertures and the wrought iron balconies that overlook Republic Street. Work on the former has already started, while work on the wrought iron balconies will commence in 2009.

Some maintenance works have been carried out on parts of the roof membrane. The room known as the 'Monetarium' was totally cleared from the old soffit and the carpet was also removed. It now awaits the work that needs to be carried out on the roof to eliminate water ingress. Three turnstiles (one for wheelchair access) were installed next to the reception desk on the ground floor at the museum in November 2007.

Following the Caravaggio exhibition, all the halls that are to be used for the expansion of the permanent exhibition were cleared of all the material that had accumulated over the years, which was transferred to the HM stores in Mriehel.



The Gozo Museum of Archaeology

Work in the museum included the renovation of timber doors and enhanced security measures (coverage of well openings). Nine state-of-the-art showcases were officially presented to HM by the Minister for Gozo in February. The purchase of the said showcases was made possible through co-financing by the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-06 under the ERDF.

Interpretation, Events and Exhibitions

The Head Office of HM continued with its programme of hosting temporary exhibitions in order to give space to less established artists to exhibit their works in public. During the period under review the following exhibitions were held:

<i>Exhibition Title</i>	<i>Artist</i>	<i>Period</i>
Etcetera, perche la minestra si fredda	Franco Navarro	5 October – 4 November 2007
It's Fashion, It's Art, It's Maria	Maria Fleri Soler	12 November – 23 November 2007
Transcendence: material, colori e rilievi	Anthony P. Vella	30 November 2007 – 6 January 2008
The Gentle Kiss of Existence	Daniel Spiteri	11 January – 17 February 2008
Boats, Balconies and Buildings	Lionel Coates and Narinder Coates	23 February – 13 April 2008
Treescapes ... Lifescapes	Jeni Caruana	19 April – 18 May 2008
Into my Imagination	Joe Camilleri	26 May – 22 June 2008
Portrayals	Anna Dumicz	24 June – 27 July 2008
Malta in Fantasy	Anastasia Ponvatovskaya	2 August – 31 August 2008
The Piper's Requiem	Anthony Catania	6 September – 19 October 2008
Out of the Fire	Zell Osborne, Talia Maggi, Julie Apap, Barbara Attard Pettett, Deborah Marmara, Rosella Schembri and Sue Mifsud	26 October – 8 December 2008
From Within 2008	HM members of staff	13 December 2008 – 1 February 2009

Arts and Palaces Department

The National Museum of Fine Arts

A number of events and exhibitions were hosted by the NMFA during the period under review.

For the Notte Bianca of October 2007 the department set up the exhibition Maltese abstract painting from the NMFA at the Auberge d'Italie, MTAC, while for the Notte Bianca of October 2008 the visiting hours of the NMFA was

purposely extended host a story-telling activity and an orchestral quintet. People were admitted free of charge.

From 25 January to 4 May the museum participated in the exhibition 'Agata santa – Storia, Arte, Devozione', organised by the Museo Diocesano of Catania, by the painting *The Martyrdom of St Agatha* by Giovanni Baglioni.

On 25 February the museum hosted a literary evening in memory of art critic Emanuel Fiorentino, in collaboration with Poeżijaplust.

In May the NMFA recognised HSBC as its official patron during an event held at the museum. Funds will be used for the general refurbishment of the museum.

Artisport – an event organised jointly between the Arts and Palaces Department and *Kunsill Malti għall-Isport* on 18 May 2008. The event included traditional games at Hastings Gardens followed by a treasure hunt at the NMFA. Parents of participating children were also toured around the museum and the exhibition of a number of plaster models of Antonio Sciortino.

Mondays with Oliver Friggieri – A series of four lectures organised in collaboration with *Poeżijaplust*. Excerpts from these lectures were published on *The Sunday Times of Malta* during October 2008.

15 January – 25 March: The Maria Rosa Lazzaro Pisani Bequest – An exhibition of paintings bequeathed to the national collection by the late daughter of the artist Lazzaro Pisani. The exhibition also included a catalogue published on the occasion and written by art historian Lino Borg.

2 August – 7 September 2008: Bichi – Views from the Villa – A guest-curated exhibition featuring works from the National Library, the national collection and from the recently acquired Albert Ganado Map Collection.

Antonio Sciortino – A Maltese 20th Century Sculptor – An exhibition of bronzes and marbles put up at the express request of the Ayuntamiento de Valencia at the Casa Museo Benlliure, Valencia, and under the distinguished patronage of the UNESCO Valencia committee. The exhibition has been the first ever solo international exhibition of Antonio Sciortino, a

project which the artist had longed to carry out but which unfortunately did not materialise. The exhibition also featured a complimentary exhibition catalogue funded by the Valencian authorities.

Batik Art from South East Asia – Sarkasi Said, a world-renown artist from Singapore and holder of the Guinness Book of Records award for the world's longest batik painting, held an exhibition of Batik art between 14 June and 27 July. The exhibition was managed by one of the museum's volunteers, Dr Margit Waas. A hands-on workshop on traditional batik techniques was also organised on 18 June as a complementary aspect of the exhibition.

The Maria Rosa Pisani and Briffa Bequests – An exhibition featuring the collection of works of art forming these two bequests on the occasion of the Notte Gozitana event at the Banca Giuratale, Victoria (Gozo).

Views of Gozo (1800-1940) – An exhibition including works of art featuring views and related images of Gozo was set up in the Banca Giuratale in Gozo in April and subsequently at the Gozo Area Office from June to September, and in the Pardo Hall at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Notte Bianca in October 2008. The exhibition included a good selection of previously unpublished material from the national collection shown for the first time.

Victor Pasmore in Malta Commemorative Exhibition – An exhibition featuring works from the national collection and the Central Bank of Malta Collection. The exhibition was also accompanied by a catalogue sponsored by the Malta Arts Council, Transpak Ltd and Midsea Books written for the occasion by Ms Katya Borg. The exhibition was put up from 6 December 2008 to 11 January 2009, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Pasmore's birth and the 10th from his death. On this occasion an open weekend from 12-14 December was also organised at the museum.

The Albert Ganado Map Collection – A selection of ten maps from the Albert Ganado Map Collection went on display in the OPM at the Auberge de Castile on the occasion of the Notte Bianca 2008 event in October.

A number of other temporary exhibitions by local and international artists were also held at the Contemporary Hall or at the Loggia of the museum, as follows:

<i>Exhibition Title</i>	<i>Artist</i>	<i>Period</i>
Bodies'	Jesmond Vassallo, Gilbert Calleja and Robert Zahra	7 September – 2 October 2007
The Cave of Centaurs	Anthony Catania	5 October – 26 October 2007
a white chapel for a white dance	Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci	2 November – 2 December 2007
Roots of an Island	Christopher Saliba	5 December 2007 – 22 January 2008
American Prints	Martin Karlin	15 December 2007 - 4 January 2008
The Maria Pisani Bequest	Lazzaro Pisani	15 January – 25 March 2008
Contours	Charlot Cassar	26 January – 4 March 2008
Watch	Vince Briffa, Ken G. Hay & Seetha A. and J. Michael Anderson	7 March – 15 April 2008
Visage	Jesmond Vassallo and Francesco Astiaso Garcia	29 March – 4 May 2008
Ix- u Jien	Dustin Cauchi	19 April – 18 May 2008
Mikrokosmos	Helga Portanier	10 May – 8 June 2008
Silence	Lia Salie	24 May – 8 June 2008
Silk Batik from South East Asia: Sarkasi Said	Sarkasi Said	14 June – 27 July 2008
Good Vibrations	Paul Caruana	14 June – 6 July 2008
Mile of Paper	MA / MFA student artists and tutors from the University College for the Creative Arts, Kent UK	20 June – 26 July 2008
tourism.com	Ruth Bianco and Richard Davies	20 June – 5 July 2008
Anima di Pietroburgo	Kenneth Scicluna	12 July – 17 August 2008
Soul and Spirit Creations	Imre Kohan and Masha Kohan	13 September – 12 October 2008
Silverpoint	Victor Koulbak	17 October – 9 November 2008
Diaries of Existence	Mark Sagona	8 November – 14 December 2008
Paintings	John Grima	15 November – 2 December 2008
Strange Cargo	Isabelle Borg	20 December 2008 – 30 January 2009

As from January 2008 a new strategy, drafted in collaboration with Exhibitions Department, regulates applications and selection processes related to these exhibitions. As from January 2008, some 20% of scheduled exhibitions at NMFA are expected to be foreign artists.

So far the NMFA does not have an official educational programme. A number of tasks, including a treasure hunt, other games and story telling lesson plans have been prepared voluntarily by Ms Cynthia Debono (Dip. PE for Primary Level) in collaboration with St Joan Antide School (Gudja). These have been offered to visiting schoolchildren starting off with students from St Joan Antide primary school. Following a concerted effort to attract more schoolchildren to the museum, positive results have been achieved. Visiting schoolchildren have increased by around 400% during period under review.

Palace State Rooms

Two tapestries from the Tapestry Chamber of the Palace participated in two international exhibitions. The Animal Fight tapestry was displayed in 'The Grand Atelier. Pathways of Art in Europe (5th – 18th century)' held at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels from 3 October 2007 to 20 January 2008. The Striped Horse tapestry participated in 'Threads of Splendour: Tapestry in the Baroque' at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, from 15 October 2007 to 6 January 2008.

Five large blue glazed porcelain Chinese jars displayed at the State Rooms participated in an exhibition of 'Antique Chinese Ceramics from the Magisterial Palace of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Rome) and Maltese Collections', organised by the Order of St John in collaboration with HM at Fort St Angelo from 3 to 20 July. In October 2008 the visiting hours of the State Rooms were extended for the Notte Bianca, when people were admitted free of charge.

Tal-Pilar Chapel

Following the official handing over of Tal-Pilar chapel to HM on 1 November 2007, on 18 December 2007 the chapel hosted a harpsichord and flute concert organised by the School of Practical Philosophy. In January the chapel also hosted one of the cultural tours organised by the MCCA. A selection of ecclesiastical silverware from the national collection was put on display at the chapel on the occasion of the Notte Bianca on 4 October 2008. During November 2008 the chapel also hosted an exhibition by Anna Nightingale entitled 'Angels Fall First'.

Ethnography Department

The Inquisitor's Palace

Throughout the past year, the department's main prerogative was the re-thinking, restructuring and augmentation of the museum's permanent display to better reflect the Inquisitor's Palace role as National Museum of Ethnography. This involves an extensive amount of ongoing research conducted with the aim of better developing current themes and establishing which others require integration. The research completed has resulted in a notable expansion of the permanent display, namely the setting up of the 'Passio et Resurrectio', 'A Social Portrait of Early 20th Century Malta' and 'A Humble Birth....A Worldwide Representation' exhibitions.

This year has also seen the Inquisitor's Palace strengthen its ties with Gozo ethnography-themed museums. It has been agreed that while the Inquisitor's Palace is the flagship of HM's ethnography network, there is the need to highlight its connection, as the National Museum of Ethnography, with the Museum of Folklore, the Old Prison and Ta' Kola Windmill. While these three sites concentrate on aspects of Maltese rural life, the Inquisitor's Palace, due to its location in one of the island's oldest cities and

its past function as Tribunal of the Holy Office, highlights Malta's urban religious culture. The amalgamation of these four sites in one network aims to provide visitors with a more comprehensive experience that will enable them to better appreciate both the rural and urban aspects of Maltese culture.

In the period under review the department has presented, organised and participated in the following initiatives:

On 28 October 2007 a heritage trail entitled 'L-Inkwizitur Papa' was held at the palace, when Fabio Chigi and other characters came to life to explain the Inquisition in Malta and the history of the Inquisitor's Palace.

Architecture for the Soul – A temporary exhibition of models after world renowned architects who sought to create architectural ambiances where man's soul can stop and rest. The palace provided the ideal setting for university students within the Faculty of the Built Environment who were after this display set up between 7 November and 2 December 2007. This event was inaugurated with a discussion between students and important contributors such as Rev Prof Peter Serracino Inglott, Prof Richard England, Prof Denis de Lucca, Fr Joseph Calleja OFM, artist Antonio Mifsud and Architect Lino Bianco.

Miniature Nativity Scenes: A Universal Expression – Between 6 December 2007 and 31 January 2008 the Inquisitor's Palace hosted this exhibition of miniature cribs from the Albert and Lina McCarthy Collection.

Sundays with HM – For this event on 27 January the Inquisitor's Palace offered regular guided tours throughout the day and hosted the *Ġukulari Ensemble*, a musical group best known for playing early modern Maltese melodies and *għana*.



Passio et Resurrectio: The Cult of Christ's Passion and Resurrection from Lent to Pentecost
As part of an ongoing effort to revamp the permanent display at the Inquisitor's Palace, on 29 February a permanent exhibition about rituals, customs and pageantry related to the commemoration of Christ's passion and resurrection in Malta was opened in the museum. Linking past traditions to recent developments in the religious and secular rituals of Lent, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost, the exhibition explores the rich socio-cultural and artistic legacy connected to this time of year. Highlights on display include an artistic church model set up for the Holy Week, life-size and miniature sculptures, paintings, and other equipment used in the traditional Good Friday procession.

Skola Sajf – During the months of July and August, the Ethnography Section in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, held a series of activity-days for children participating in *Skola Sajf* at the Inquisitor's Palace. Upon their arrival to the palace, the students were provided with a short guided tour. The second part of the programme consisted in the re-enactment of a 1672 Inquisition trial by a number of students chosen from each school. Finally the children were involved in a hands-on activity, in which they were given the opportunity to choose between copying their favourite prison wall graffiti in plasticene and drawing one of the 62 inquisitors' coats of arms found in the *Piano Nobile*. The students also enjoyed playing local games such as *Passju*, *Ara Ġejja l-Mewt Għalik* and *Iż-Żunżana Ddur Iddur*, while singing *Dgħajsa Ġejja w Ohra Sejra*, *Il-Karozzin* and other traditional Maltese songs. More than 450 students from 18 different schools participated in this highly successful initiative which has been marked for a come-back next summer.

Good Vibrations: An exhibition of watercolour paintings by Paul Caruana – Following the success of *Good Vibrations* at the NMFA, the exhibition was re-opened to the public at the Inquisitor's Palace from 13 August to 14 September.

The Great Siege Heritage Trail – On 7 and 28 September 2008, the curatorial team at the Inquisitor's Palace took part in a heritage trail commemorating the Great Siege. Participants first listened to a talk on Matteo Perez d'Aleccio's cycle of Great Siege frescoes at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta. Afterwards, the party visited Forts St Elmo and St Angelo, where it was presented with an overview of the Great Siege. Participants then walked to the Inquisitor's Palace and discussed the Great Siege in cultural memory.

In October 2007 and once again in October 2008 HM took part in the Birgufest organised by the

Vittoriosa Local Council. The opening hours of the Inquisitor's Palace were extended till late. Almost 5000 visitors were registered during the 2008 edition.

The Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Christmas – Activity Days for Students, HM Members and the General Public - During December 2008, a number of Christmas-themed activity days were organised for children and adults. Besides viewing an exhibition of miniature cribs from around the world, children also played traditional Christmas games and participated in a hands-on sessions during which they had the opportunity to create their own clay *pasturi* and take part in the cooking of traditional *Pudina tal-hobż*. The activity catering for members and the general public followed the same lines, however games were substituted by a longer cookery session that also included *Imbuljuta*.

Birgu by Christmas Lights – On 19 and 20 December the Inquisitor's Palace took part in the Birgu by Christmas Light Festival, organised by the Vittoriosa Local Council. The opening hours of the museum were extended to midnight on both days. Visitors also had the opportunity of leaving a donation for HM in return for a *qagħqa ta' l-għasel* and a glass of warm mulled wine.

A Social Portrait of Early Twentieth-Century Malta – Set up in what functioned as the Inquisitor's *Bibliotheca*, this permanent exhibition presents a collection of unfired clay figurines by Pawlu Scicluna (1855-1933), a self-taught artist from Valletta complemented by other artefacts such as a model of the *Manderaggio* area where most of the city's poor lived. Featuring a number of well-known dignitaries of the period, such as lawyer Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici (*il-Gross*), and painter Giuseppe Cali, the collection illustrates Malta's social categories approximately a hundred years after the Inquisition's departure from the island in 1798.

Anima: The Soul Within. Sculptures and Paintings by Antonio Mifsud – Throughout October 2008, the palace hosted an exhibition of works by Antonio Mifsud. Through a series of sacred sculptures and profane paintings, the artist endeavoured to explain the abstract side of humanity. Each piece of work held a multiplicity of meanings that focused on every individual's innate need for the spiritual and the way in which this need moulds society's collective values, beliefs and religious perceptions. Academic artistic traditions were also revived in Mifsud's composition through the use of different media.

A Humble Birth... A Worldwide Representation – In December 2008 the Inquisitor's Palace celebrated Christmas with the inauguration of a permanent exhibition of miniature cribs from around the world donated by Albert and Lina McCarthy. Featuring, among others, colourful *retablos* from Peru, smooth soapstone sets from Kenya, delicate fretwork from Germany and many other examples from around the globe, this exhibition highlights the Nativity as a universal theme in history and across cultures. The Albert and Lina McCarthy Collection was in turn complimented by a number of exhibits which highlight local Christmas traditions, such as a Maltese crib with *pasturi* dressed in local costumes, a lantern used in the MUSEUM Christmas Eve procession and a *Bambin tax-xemgħa*, among others.

Christmas Exhibition by Austin Galea and Julian Scicluna – Between 19 December 2008 and 6 January, the Inquisitor's Palace hosted an exhibition of Christmas cribs, Maltese *Bambini* and miniature models illustrating local traditions associated with the festive season. The exhibits were the product of an artistic collaboration between Austin Galea and Julian Scicluna, both well known among crib enthusiasts. Highlights consisted of cribs made from different materials such as cork and sack-cloth, together with a number of dioramas depicting local traditional activities of the season, including the Christmas Eve Baby Jesus procession organised by

MUSEUM members and the traditional child's sermon among others.

During the Birgu by Candlelight Festival in October 2008 the **Auberge de France** was opened for an exhibition of miniature models and dioramas by local enthusiasts. Parts of **Fort St Angelo** were opened to the general public on 27 January when a number of guided tours were held during the popular Sundays with HM. On 13 June the Fort hosted the event 'St Angelo by Candlelight', organised by the MTA, and from 3 to 20 July it also hosted the exhibition 'Antique Chinese Ceramics from the Magisterial Palace of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Rome) and Maltese collections' organised by the Order of St John in collaboration with HM in memory of Fra Andrew Bertie, 78th Prince and Grand Master of the Order, who died in February 2008. In September the fort hosted visitors participating in HM's Great Siege Heritage Trail.

In Gozo, the Folklore Museum, the Old prison and Ta' Kola Windmill also featured as part of the *SkolaSajf* programme organised by the Gozo Area Office. A total of 248 students participated. The Folklore Museum and Old Prison featured in a treasure hunt organised within the Citadel fortifications. A highly successful hands-on activity was held at Ta' Kola Windmill: children were given the opportunity to learn basic facts about this traditional windmill and its main functions, while linking the production of flour with modern-day uses, including the preparation of three different types of dough. A total of 163 students participated at Ta' Kola Windmill. Due to the success of this activity, requests to attend arrived from other educational groups such as the Xaghra Scout Group, and the activity was repeated upon such requests.

The Emergency Flourmill in Xlendi was opened during the 'Gozo 1234 – Notte Gozitana' held between 1 and 4 May. This special opening was organised in collaboration with the Munxar Local Council.

Modern, Maritime and Military History Department

Malta Maritime Museum

From 8 to 12 October 2007 HM hosted the bi-annual conference of the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM), entitled 'Reaching New Audiences'. The two main venues were the Mediterranean Conference Centre and the MMM. Delegates came from all over the globe, and were impressed by the exhibits of the MMM.

On 15 November 2007 the museum hosted the launch of the book *The Maltese merchant fleet of the 19th century* by Joseph Abela, while on 31 October 2008 *Sails around Malta. Types of sea vessels 1600BC – 1900AD*, by Joseph Muscat, was also launched at the museum.

The museum acted host to a number of social functions. On 20 November 2007 the museum hosted the launch of the second phase of the Malta Hotel Heritage Sponsorship scheme by HSBC, on 17 December 2007 it hosted drinks held by Rimorchiatori s.p.a. of Genoa following the merger with Tug Malta. The graduation ceremony of the International Maritime Law Institute was held on 3 May at St Angelo Hall, while on 9 December 2008 Camper and Nicholson celebrated the transfer of the main London Office to Malta at the MMM.

On 27 January the MMM participated in Sundays with HM with guided tours and military and historical interpretations by members of the Historical Re-enactment Group Malta.

On 17 February the Glarac association presented a commemorative plaque to the MMM, commemorating the loss of the aircraft-carrier *Glorious* and her two destroyer escorts HMS *Acasta* and HMS *Ardent*. Present for the ceremony was Mrs Carmela Spiteri from Nadur Gozo, evidently moved by the event. Her husband, Stuart Officer Cook Francis Spiteri lost his life and is presumed to be still on board HMS

Glorious, which is a declared war grave. Another remembrance service was held on 26 April when the Neptune Association held a small memorial service at the museum in memory of all those who lost their lives in the sinking of HMS *Neptune* and HMS *Kandahar* on 9 December 1941. The year before, a Scroll of Honour in a bound casket was presented to HM, while the president of Malta unveiled the memorial.

Coinciding with the Malta Maritime Authority Conference on 'Shipping and Malta' held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior from 26 September to 6 October 2008, the hotel's director desired to host an exhibition of maritime items from the MMM at the hotel for the duration of the conference. This exhibition and initiative was well received.

The museum also hosted three temporary exhibitions. In June members of the Friends of



the MMM hosted an exhibition in St Angelo Hall titled *The Sea*; in July Pamela Grixti held a solo exhibition 'L'Anima del Circo', while in September Kenneth Borg and P. Mizzi held an exhibition titled 'Girl Interviewed'.

The MMM featured prominently in the Birgufest activities which were held in conjunction with the Birgu Local Council in October 2008, when it hosted thousands of visitors. The museum also extended its opening hours during the weekend of the feast of St Lawrence in August.

Palace Armoury

In 11 February the Prime Minister visited the Palace Armoury to view the improvements in its permanent display, and had words of praise for HM. The Armoury acquired more funds from its official sponsor and patron, Gasan and Mamo Insurance, who sponsored more busts for the display as well as the printing of the educational programme in June. Several metal and leather artefacts were made new for the suites of armour display. Fourteen showcases were revamped. Foremost of these was prompted by the transfer from the AFM of a small late 17th century sword which had been loaned to AFM in the 1970s. A new showcase displaying communication items was also set up, featuring the Kodesh Trumpet. A new display mounting the six 16th century Falconets was also taken in hand.

On 15 April the original George Cross medal was exhibited in the Armoury as part of the George Cross Anniversary celebrations organised by the MTA in collaboration with HM. On 15 June the Armoury participated in the Heritage Trail focusing on Grand Master Wignacourt. In October 2008 the visiting hours of the Palace Armoury were extended for the Notte Bianca, when people were admitted free of charge.

Artefacts from the Palace Armoury were the highlight of the exhibition 'Between the Battle Sword and the Cross: Masterpieces from the

Armoury of Malta', set up from 20 October to 11 January 2009 by *Musee de l'Armee, Hotel National des Invalides*, Paris in collaboration with HM and with the support of MTA and the Maltese embassy in Paris on the occasion of the French presidency of the EU.

National Museum of Archaeology Department

During the Caravaggio Exhibition the NMA hosted a number of educational workshops on the great artist. Animators interacted with participants through story-telling and practical workshops on Caravaggio's techniques. The workshops were very well attended.

On 11 January the Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary since its inauguration as 'The National Museum'. On that day a TV interview by the principal curator of the NMA outlined the history of the museum, including a brief overview of the projects that the Museum and HM in general is working on.

The NMA extended its opening hours for the Notte Bianca in October 2008. 3892 people visited the museum on the night, and participated in discussions and a hands-on activity during which an explanation about the various usages of diverse archaeological material was given.

An exhibition was mounted in the lobby of the NMA in February to coincide with St Valentine's Day. This exhibition, '5000 years of Romance', displayed a very small statuette representing the only Maltese prehistoric embracing couple which is usually on display within the permanent exhibition Neolithic section.

An exhibition with archaeological material from the tomb group of Tal-Liedna in Fgura was held at the Fgura Primary School in collaboration with the Fgura Local Council in October 2008.

Malta – Prehistory and Temples: An exhibition held at the MARQ Museum in Alicante, Spain – Nearly 200 artefacts from the national archaeological collection were displayed in this exhibition from June to October 2008. A publication was also issued with four articles written by HM curatorial staff. Two lectures, one on the Neolithic period and one on the Bronze Age were also delivered a day after the opening.

World Heritage: Humanity's Gift to the Future – An ongoing exhibition located in the lobby area of the museum. Produced by UNESCO, it is being shown as part of the public information and consultation campaign on the management plans for the Megalithic Temples of Malta.

A touch screen has been placed at the end of the Tarxien display hall with a data base of cart ruts found over the Maltese islands. This touch screen will eventually be placed in the cart ruts' section within the permanent display. In conjunction with Limestone Heritage a scale replica of one of the Haġar Qim figures is being produced so that it is placed in the vicinity of the showcase displaying the original. In this manner visitors can touch the replica. This is one step towards having tactile artefacts for persons with various impairments; in this case this can also be touched by the visually impaired.

The Gozo Museum of Archaeology

Throughout 2008 new interpretation panels were prepared and installed in the prehistoric section of the museum. The new display was revised and based on a thematic approach. Several archaeological artefacts were selected from the reserve collection of the NMA and put on permanent display in the Gozo Museum. The museum also featured in a series of combined educational activities held in the Citadel as part of the *SkolaSaff* programme organised by the Gozo Area Office. A total of 248 students visited the Citadel museums for free as part of this Museum Education Programme.

Natural History Department

National Museum of Natural History

The NMNH's displays underwent considerable improvement during the period under review. A new display highlighting Malta's Marine Environment was opened to the public in January. It includes bony and cartilaginous fish, crustaceans, marine turtles and cetaceans. A new entomological display, a small display on the history of ornithology, and a display on the national bird, plant and tree were also opened to the public, together with a display on the EU LIFE Nature project, in which the NMNH is actively participating. Work on the new display highlighting the five orders of Mammals (Carnivores, Rodents, Bats, Primates and Marsupials) is still ongoing.

The museum also hosted three temporary exhibitions: Mirror of Life – A collective exhibition of paintings between 11 and 25 April 2008; Autofictions – An exhibition of paintings by Axel Plöger between 28 June and 27 July. Most importantly, the Egyptian Mummy was placed on display in April and attracted a great number of visitors.

Other activities were also held at the museum. The regular public lectures and meetings organised by BirdLife Malta and the Entomological Society and were regularly held throughout the year. These included the official launch of the new scientific journal of the Entomological Society: *Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Malta*, on 7 November 2008. The museum also participated in the 'Sundays with HM' on 27 April, when visitors were encouraged to tour HM museums and sites in Rabat and Mdina. On this occasion special behind the scenes tours were conducted at the museum, and a special treasure hunt called Natural History Detective was also organised specifically for children visiting the museum.

The principal curator also highlighted the natural aspects of Comino during a heritage trail to that island on 9 November 2008, entitled 'Discovering Our Natural Treasures'.

In March **Ghar Dalam and Museum** participated in the Sundays with HM event. The educational programme 'Scratching the Surface – discovering prehistory at Ghar Dalam' was made available for children of the visiting public who flocked to the site for the occasion. In the same month Ghar Dalam also hosted one of the cultural tours organised by the MCCA. Ghar Dalam also featured in the Heritage Trail on 'Early Man in Malta' organised by HM in April since it was there that the earliest evidence of human presence was found in Malta. The **Gozo Nature Museum** also hosted for the second year running a highly successful edition of *Skolasajf* activities during summer organised by the Gozo

Area Office.

Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department

St Paul's Catacombs and the **Domus Romana** took part in the Sundays with HM event organised at Rabat and Mdina on 27 April. A number of guided tours were conducted at both sites for the visiting public on that occasion, while the Domus façade and the Roman remains at the back of the site were specially illuminated. Both sites also hosted one of the cultural tours organised by the MCCA in January. The 'Jewish' catacombs within SPC featured in the Heritage Trail on Early Christianity in Malta organised by HM in February. **Ta' Mintna Catacombs** were opened for visitors every last



Sunday of the month. An open day was organised on 16 March in collaboration with Mqabba Local Council, following which the monthly visits were discontinued since they were barely being attended by the public. Holy Mass organised by the Burmarrad parish church was celebrated at the chapel of **San Pawl Milqi** on 10 February on the occasion of the feast of St Paul. In the same month San Pawl Milqi featured prominently in the Heritage Trail on 'Early Christianity in Malta', together with **Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

Special guided tours were conducted in March at **Tas-Silġ** for the Sundays with HM event. In October the site hosted Dr David Trump, who conducted a special guided tour as part of the Festival Mediterranea. Other tours were conducted on site for a Heritage Trail on medieval chapels in December 2008.

Prehistoric Sites Department

Hagar Qim and Mnajdra

Even though it was closed to the public because of work on the installation of the protective shelter, Hagar Qim was specially opened to the public on 27 January for the Sundays with HM event. In an effort to keep the sites as accessible to the public as possible, Hagar Qim was also opened to the public for two week between March and April during a period of time when there were no safety issues for visitors. Despite the ongoing works the summer solstice special guided tours took place as usual at Hagar Qim and at Mnajdra.

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum

A new version of audio guides for the Hypogeum was launched in March 2008. This included the introduction of music commissioned from Renzo Spiteri expressly for this purpose, and the audio-guide in Japanese. An audio-guide in the Spanish language was also added later on during the year.

Tarxien Temples

Public activities included the granting of access to the site to artists with the aim of creating works of art inspired by the temple structure. Between March and May a new children's educational programme was designed for Tarxien Temples. This envisages the use of various hands-on activities for a better understanding of the site. The model previously used as part of the education programme was donated to students of St Benedict's College in October 2008. Tarxien Temples also hosted one of the cultural tours organised by the MCCA in March.

A staged event was organised in the surfaced area north of the **Ġgantija Temples** by the organisers of the Notte Gozitana. The dance and music show 'Ġgantija Awaken' was held on the nights of 2 and 3 May. Dr David Trump toured the site as part of the Festival Mediterranea in October 2008, together with the **Xaghra Stone Circle**. Dr Trump also toured visitors around the Tarxien Temples and the **Hypogeum** as part of the same festival. **Ta' Hagrat and Ta' Skorba** continued to be opened on a regular basis every Tuesday morning. Following a Carrying Capacity survey that was carried out in 2007, visitor numbers were limited to 15 at any point in time up to 45 per day and 90 per week to minimize damage to fragile prehistoric surfaces.

Both temples also featured in the Heritage Trail on 'Early Man in Malta' organised by HM in April. Special guided tours were conducted in March at **Borġ in-Nadur** for the Sundays with HM event.



Research, Conservation and Collections

Collections Management & Libraries Department

The Collections Management Department focused on two main areas during this past year: preparation for the procurement of the Collections Management Systems (CMS) and cataloguing the HM libraries in modern standards.

The main project consisted carrying out research on terminologies and glossaries for all collections and preparation of new catalogue card fields in consultation with curators, documentation and IT manager. This also included research on CMS in the market which included a fact finding mission in UK at British Museum, National Maritime Museum, National Gallery and Wallace Collection (arranged with the help of the British High Commission), as well as attending the Museums & Heritage Show at Earl's Court. This was followed up by arranging meetings (on-line and in one case by a visit to Malta) with three major suppliers of such systems. Subsequently a draft project plan for the purchase and implementation of CMS was prepared. In the final preparatory stages, the initial specifications lists were compiled and drafted out for further editing. This process is ongoing. It is envisaged that the tender will be published in 2009.

The collections management department was also involved in the preparation for the documentation of natural history collections in relation to the STERNA project, as well as the ongoing work of the SMART museum project. Another EU financed project that was under the responsibility of this department was the ongoing supervision of the contractor and conclusion of the Minerva EC sub-project 'European Cultural Heritage Map'. HM is also representing Malta in

the Mobility of Collections EU working group by attending the meetings and carrying out work in two working groups: the Long Term Loans and Research group and the Mobility of Expert Staff group. The Collections Management Department is also involved in the research and preparatory work for the Europeana website and is an active participant in the committee headed by ministry.

Other projects in this department were: an initial draft for a HM manual for collections management and curatorial policies and operations was started and is ongoing; final draft output of the research policy paper for archaeological objects; and supervision of NMA photographic collection documentation project.

The Libraries Department commenced and concluded the cataloguing of the Central Library (Bighi). This cataloguing effort resulted in a sum total of 8500 items which are now accessioned in the Library Management System. Worth mentioning are also the 232 e-journal titles that were acquired during 2008 and made accessible through Athens. These titles have also been catalogued so as to create a one portal through which all searches could be made on any publication irrespective of medium. It also introduced the automation of circulation in Central Library. Now the OPAC shows book availability in this library in real time. There is ongoing research with IT department on the possibilities of publishing the OPAC online. The material forming part of the Gozo Reference Library was transferred to Bighi for cataloguing, while the Gozo Area Office undertook the reorganisation of the same library.

The Librarian in August launched the design of a new HM Membership – HM Libraries Membership. This is an exercise aimed at giving access to Library resources (especially digital) to third parties and revenue generation for HM.

This scheme builds on the success of the already existing HM schemes by adding another tier of services which include access to e-journals, library mailing list and other library related services.

This also saw the development of a small portal from where to access library related information <http://groups.google.com.mt/group/heritagemalta/libraries?hl=mt?hl=mt>. Through the above group library communications to HM Staff, ICMCH Students and HML Members have been facilitated. This group acts as a list server. Now instead of having multiple distribution lists with email copies sent several times to all the groups, one email is sent to the group which is diffracted to all the members of the group. An archive of all the notices sent is available through this site. This has increased efficiency in library operations.

The Library was extensively involved in the establishment of the standards to be used for cataloguing HM's photographic collection. A study was conducted which aimed at establishing standards to be used for cataloguing HM's photographic collection. Together with a Master in Cultural Heritage Management student, the library established a working procedure to be used for the 'fototeka'.

Arts and Palaces Department

National Museum of Fine Arts

The department has had its staff complement increased by one curator. Ms Bernadine Scicluna joined the department as curator of early modern art in February. The museum is now gearing itself towards a three-year strategic plan that will lead to the rethinking of its role in Maltese society. Rather than close down and completely refurbish it is now being deemed more practical to close off particular galleries for refurbishment with the museum going into a cycle whereby galleries are refurbished and re-thought every so

often to reflect changing trends and issues. This system will also enable a constant change of a percentage of works of art (c. 40%) on display. Following the transfer of all sculpture works from various areas in the museum to one room at basement level, the complete transfer of the reserve collection (paintings and majolica) was initiated. Plans were drawn and a one-year monitoring campaign initiated. The results of this monitoring campaign (made available in July) have confirmed that the spaces in Casa Scaglia identified for this purpose are a safe option.

The reserve collection was also thoroughly assessed. This assessment has determined the following categories of works of art:

- 1) Works of art fit to be transferred to Ministries and Government Departments
- 2) Works of art fit to be transferred to other HM museums and sites
- 3) Works of art that should go on permanent display at the NMFA

Following the completion of the structure of the new library, including a spiral staircase, funded by HSBC, the following related work has been carried out. The books were transferred from the previous curator's office at ground floor level to the new library premises; a room at basement level was cleared from unsorted, unclassified and previously unknown publications, brochures and other material related to artists' exhibitions; a collection of about 4,000 photographs previously unknown and unaccounted for was found in the former curator's office during clearance and sorted; old museum files and records were transferred from former curator's office and sorted in new appositely acquired shelving; around 3,000 photographs used for inventory purposes and sorted by inventory number in small envelopes and entered into a database. Moreover, around 2,000 artists' brochures and exhibitions invites (1960-2008) were classified, catalogued and transferred to the new library premises. This classification, carried out by

volunteers, is currently being fine-tuned to be made available through Access software. These additional leaflets have incremented by some 70% the total number of catalogued and accessible leaflets and brochures. It has been decided that the new library will henceforth be referred to as the HSBC Vincenzo Bonello Art Library.

New plan chests for the Prints and Drawing Room were delivered in March and fitted in situ. To date this new room houses the Albert Ganado Map Collection transferred to the NMFA in July. This is a medium-to long-term project that will feature the complete transfer of the prints and drawings collection duly tallied with existing records, mounted and sorted accordingly. The department has also compiled a comprehensive database of records covering conservation and restoration works carried out on works of art and sites within HM's remit.

A more structured approach to acquisitions has been proposed, however no significant acquisitions were concluded in view of the fact that funds were not available. The most important acquisition during the period under review is the Ganado Map collection transferred in July 2008 to the NMFA following a parliament resolution.

Transfer of works of art to the NMFA during period under review include the following:

- 1) The *Iceberg* by Albert Bierstadt (concluded following a ten year claim), from the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Communications,
- 2) *St John the Evangelist at Patmos* by Mario Minniti from the Auberge d'Aragon,
- 3) *Woman holding grapes* by Edward Caruana Dingli from former Minister's Office at Ministry of Education,
- 4) Painting of *Penitent Mary Magdalene* and marble statue of *Boy on Dolphin* from the Auberge d'Italie, MTAC,

- 5) Five works by Edward Caruana Dingli from the Maltese Embassy in Paris,
- 6) Temporary transfer of Preti's *Martyrdom of St Catherine of Alexandria* from the church of St Catherine of Italy. The painting will remain at the NMFA for a period of two years due to conservation works at this church. This transfer has been affected in full agreement with the ecclesiastical authorities.

This process of recalling works of art transferred to ministries and government departments over the years is envisaged to gain in momentum. A general assessment of the collection of furniture items in the museum has also been started with a view to streamlining the selection on display.

In December 2008 three paintings picturing nativity scenes (by Francesco Trevisani, Maestro Alberto and Carlo Maratta) featured as the Christmas stamp set of MaltaPost.

Verdala Palace

Conservation works within the remit of the conservation project covering the painted vaults in the Main Hall of Verdala Palace commenced in July 2006 was concluded during the period under review. The scope of this project was the complete uncovering of the vault painting and ensuring the preservation of the more recent (1910-12) painting scheme. Besides the removal of the 1930s whitewash and the consolidation of the painting, the project entailed extensive historical and scientific research. Works were completed in May 2008 with a formal presentation of the findings of this project. The presentation was repeated in September 2008 prior to the open day held in early October. The conservation aspect of the project was co-ordinated by Ms Roberta de Angelis and the research component of the project carried out by the curator for early modern art. The project also included the installation of an adequate lighting system for the vault painting and the installation

of two interpretation panels explaining the history and works carried out on the vault paintings.

A thorough inventory check of works of art located at **San Anton Palace** has been carried out during the period under review. Two of the three chandeliers of the throne room of the **President's Palace** have been completely restored, together with the portrait featuring Grandmaster Pinto by Pierre Bernard (18th century).

Ethnography Department

The Inquisitor's Palace

As far as the reserve collection is concerned, in line with the preparatory work for the implementation of the new CMS, the curatorial staff initiated a comprehensive stocktaking of Ethnography related artefacts and items currently on display or stored under HM's custody. The ethnography main reserve collection has been undergoing a revaluation, reorganisation and documentation exercise. A thorough exercise to identify items in need of conservation was carried out and following the detection of a widespread silverfish infestation, the Preventive Conservation Unit was roped in and a plan of action initiated. This involved the replacement of the existing chipboard shelving with steel shelving and the upgrading of storage and packaging, a much needed project which already registered its first remarkable improvements. In the process, all bulky items within the same collection are being treated for insect infestations and reassembled at the Auberge de France, thereby to be made accessible to the general public on special occasions. In turn this will lead to the identification, conservation and eventual relocation of similar bulky items of Ethnographic interest currently stored in other HM properties. A number of artefacts were acquired during the period under review. Worthy of mention are a the entire equipment of a wax factory, possibly

the only one still extant in Malta, and the complete set of Holy Week statuettes together with all related apparatus.

In November 2007 the Anthropology Curator participated in a seminar on 'Intangible Heritage Identities and Intercultural Heritage in the Mediterranean Region' with a presentation on the TRIMED project with particular reference to windmills and the production of bread.

Costumes and textiles collection: Through the years a lot has been done towards a unique collection of costumes and textiles stored in a stable and monitored environment. This involved the creation of a climate controlled costume laboratory with the right shelving and storage boxes, preliminary assessment, inventory, vacuuming and other conservation measures so as to safeguard their stability and stop or prevent damage caused by infestation.

As from this year the department started working towards a re-evaluation and assessment of the entire collection through a project which is in part fulfilment of the Masters in Conservation programme at the Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage. Work is being carried out with the help of three textile conservators in consultation with Frances Lennard, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader of the Textile Conservation Centre within Southampton University. Among the main deliverables of this project is a condition assessment of all the items in the collection. This will give us a better understanding of the state of our collection, qualifying and quantifying which are the pieces that can be displayed and which are those that need treatment. In the process, we are also working towards a detailed inventory with improved photographic documentation of all the items. Moreover the most urgent pieces are being short listed for treatment and storage is by far being improved with mounts that facilitate handling. This is an important and much needed project that will help us understand the collection from a conservational and art historical

perspective. Not only will it improve storage and accessibility but it will facilitate research, a key factor in acquiring the necessary knowledge to present our collection in the best possible way.

A number of costumes were transferred from the Folklore Museum in Gozo to Bighi for conservation treatment, while silk samples were installed in the same museum for monitoring purposes as part of a conservation study. The military uniforms of *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna* which were stored at the Inquisitor's Palace were collected back in September 2008.

The **Folklore Museum** in Gozo hosted a group of students from the University College of London (UCL) for their annual study on a HM site, which this year focused on two the physical environment and collections held within two Citadel museums.

Modern, Maritime and Military History Department

Malta Maritime Museum

Routine cleaning and maintenance of ship models and other artefacts on exhibition at the MMM continued by HM Keeper of Models. The arduous restoration of the large sized model *Dead* was concluded. Eight miniature models from the McGarel Groves donation were also restored. These die cast models, all to one scale circa 6cm in length, are wonders of detail in miniature. The donation, consisting of hundreds of such Royal Navy and Merchant models, was brought over by the donor from England over a couple of years, some sustaining damage in transit. Star items in the collection are transition period models (on display) and all the ships of 'Operation Pedestal'.

Mr Emmanuel Gatt, formerly a Malta Ship Building model maker, continued his research into his sphere of professional model making, i.e. patrol boats and tug boats. One AFM patrol boat has already been completely built while three scratch built models of the AFM patrol boats are being simultaneously built supported by the above-mentioned research. One should note that certain details of the above boats are classified as confidential and thus progress is slow. In addition to the above, Mr Gatt is also organizing the scores of ship plans and naval establishments in the MMM collection.

Restoration work continued on the 18th century frigate model by Mr Joseph Muscat, a former Museums Department employee, assisted by Mr Joe Abela, HM Keeper of Models. Two restoration attempts on the said model had proved fruitless. Mr Muscat had prior to his retirement in 1996 tried to collect and identify the hundreds of loose and scattered components of the model. The reconstruction of the model, literally in pieces since World War II, is a Herculean task. Tens of woodworm riddle pieces of wood are now back together forming one component. Continuous research and discussion was carried out. Work had progressed significantly by end December 2008 and hopefully the model will be displayed next year.

Mr Abela conducted a ten-session course for the third time on Ship Model Building, once again organised in conjunction between HM and the Malta Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce. For the second time running, the popularity of the course necessitated two classes, student's age varying from 14 to 72. The course commenced in October 2008 (until March 2009).

Work on the MMM collection of full-scale boats and on *MV Temptation* was halted following Mr Svetlick Agius's transfer to Bighi in November 2007. Previously various works were carried out on the said vessel at Manoel Island after which it was berthed up to November 2008 close to the museum in the Grand Harbour Marina. The vessel sustained damage during the 22 January 2008 storm since it was unattended. In June the

out on said vessel as had been agreed. Both berths were and are free of charge, the former thanks to Mr Ben Stuart and the latter to Mr Graham Elliott. Unfortunately, on 23 December 2008 a piece of drifting wood stuck between the quay and the vessel, puncturing it at the water line. The vessel was sinking fast and it took quite some effort by the hotel staff, HM staff, the AFM Maritime Squadron and the Aid and



vessel once again sustained vandalism by three youths who broke most of its portholes glass. The incident was reported to the police and is still under investigation. Several emergency works were carried out on *MV Temptation* in anticipation of the EU commission for Maritime and Fisheries DG representative Mr Hoehnke visit/inspection to MMM and the vessel in October 2008. It should be recalled that vessel was donated to the MMM by the EU Commission of Maritime and Fisheries. In November, the vessel was shifted to Hotel Excelsior Marina since Grand Harbour Marina needed the space and no work had been carried

Rescue Team to keep her afloat. Mr Agius carried out emergency repairs.

Scientists from the DSL were called to investigate the type of water coming from an underground source at ground floor level. This water rises in level erratically and not necessarily after downpours and can pose a problem for the conservation of the metal machinery items recently discovered there. Two grinding stones which were butting the walled entrance to the Anadrian Hall were damaged during works and are scheduled to be restored.

Further work was carried out on the Strada Stretta Bar reconstruction. Several framed pictures salvaged from quayside bars were cleaned and hanged up in the bar reconstruction, maintaining original broken glass and other defects as originally retrieved.

The MMM acquired a number of artefacts for its collection by donation, transfer and purchase. Worthy of mention are three large historic boilers were transferred from the Dockyard to the MMM and to Bighi in September 2008. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I.

The senior curator delivered a number of lectures during the period under review. On 24 October 2007, he delivered a lecture at the National Archives at Rabat focusing on how to read 19th and early 20th cent plans. This was followed by a presentation on the MMM at the third Rome Maritime Festival and Boat Show held between 28 February and 1 March. As part of Mercator and AMMM, he attended two combined conferences at Genoa held mainly at the Galata Museo del Mare e Navigazione and at the Palazzo del Mar, presenting in each papers re the Mercator Project and Historic Harbour Buildings in Malta. Finally he also attended a conference organised by the AMMM at Barcelona between 25-29 May, where he delivered a paper on the initiatives of the MMM as regards intangible heritage, the theme of the conference.

The Friends of the MMM continued to support the museum through donations, scholarly research and assistance. Besides publicising the museum and holding seminars on Malta's maritime heritage and history, the Friends held other cultural outings and regularly published a newsletter for the distribution among its members. As in former years, the Friends held their annual general meeting at the MMM on 9 December 2007 and again on 7 December 2008, and in May organised a seminar on the 'Food and Drink at Sea' with the assistance of HM. During this seminar the curator of the MMM delivered a presentation on 'Food on the Order's

galleys'. On 24 October 2008 the curator also delivered a public lecture on various aspects of the Grand Tour, mainly the food consumed.

As a conclusion of the 'Voyage & Voir: Travellers of the Grand Tour' Interreg IIIA project, the project's publication was presented to the President of Malta Dr Edward Fenech Adami at the Palace on 12 February.

The MMM represented HM in **MERCATOR**, an Interreg IIIB MeDoCC EU project led by HM. One of the aims of the project is to explore trade networks, merchant cities and the common identity extant in the Mediterranean. The MMM research sphere spanned from the 17th to the mid-19th century and concerned Maltese merchants and their trading activities, with the main focus being merchant facilities around the Grand Harbour. The project came to an end in Malta on 21 June. Various workshops were also held in Thessaloniki, Avora, and Pisa in the period covered by the report. As a last 'act' of the project, the Malta Heritage Trail was unveiled by the Minister of Education in the presence of the Tourism Parliamentary Secretary and HM Chairman. Significantly the panel of Victoria Gate, once the gateway to Malta from the sea was chosen for the occasion. Financial reports and the preparation of the MMM Mercator Educational material which was officially presented on 20 November 2008, continued till the end of December 2008.

Mr David Pinniger, a pest and disinfection expert from England was over at the MMM since the museum was chosen as a test site. All Curators in the section participated in the Insect Management Course conducted at Bighi. The 'closed' areas of the museum were identified to be those with infestation problems. Fortunately, the display areas were found to be free from insect and pest infestations.

Various meetings were held with the University College of London regarding the two week student study programme which commenced on

24 November at the MMM. On 5 December 2008 the students presented their outline reports.

Palace Armoury

In July, following the commencement of the restoration project of the wall paintings of the Palace corridors, more than thirty half armour and several other armour pieces and headgear were removed from the corridors. Such decorations were introduced during the British period and were obscuring the original murals and damaging them. The armour was also being damaged because of the open nature of display.

The Grand Master's carriage received further attention in February. The showcase was opened and the carriage cleaned. The showcase was also sealed to eliminate as much as possible the infiltration of dust. On cleaning and preparing some Falconets for display, two wooden musket ramrods were 'discovered' in the collection. Various meetings were held with the Mayor of Mdina regarding the exhibition of two cannon instead of the two bronze pieces removed in March 2007 from in front of the cathedral.

The Palace Armoury acquired a small but important number of artefacts for its collection. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I.

National War Museum

As a consequence of the refurbishment project of the museum, all artefacts save a few extra large items such as Gladiator 'Faith', which were mothballed, were shifted either to Bighi or the MMM. Most of the small items were taken to Bighi to be cleaned, conserved and packed for eventual display. Other small items were taken to NWM reserve collection at MMM. The NWM curator was also transferred to the MMM.

It was decided that the new layout of the museum was to have a chronological order – a

wartime diary, and the choice of artefacts commenced according to the artefacts relevance to a particular moment between 1914 and 1948. In all ten sections were developed as follows: WW I, inter-war period, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943-45, post war, Memorial and Maltese Regiments. The writing of interpretation, which had commenced previously, was also adapted accordingly.

Twelve aircraft models, two dioramas and two ship models were restored by HM Keeper of Models. Mr Gino Briffa assisted conservators in repainting and cleaning of the Bofors cannon, two motorcycles, a sea mine, a nursing trolley, and a quantity of bombshells. Work was carried out at MMM. Mr Martin Borg assisted in dismantling and mounting of the motorcycles.

Two Italian WWII marine compasses were investigated by the DSL of the Conservation Division since their quality and manufacture dictated that hazardous materials were used to 'illuminate' numerals in the dark. Items will be further investigated next year.

The NWM acquired a considerable number of artefacts for its collection by donation, transfer, and purchase. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I.

National Museum of Archaeology Department

Research work on the final display for the expansion of the permanent exhibition has progressed. Meetings with Dr David Trump, who is in charge of the Bronze Age section, have ensured that all the artefacts have been chosen, text and captions are ready, including a DVD on cart ruts. The design and layout of the Bronze Age room are in their final stages. A meeting was held with Maria Pia Rossignani on behalf of *Missione Archeologica Italiana* in Malta with regards to the Tas-Silg section within the

permanent display. More research continued on some of the artefacts in collaboration with DSL at Bighi and conservation works were carried out on the few remaining artefacts that will form part of the display.

A policy for access to collections for research was drafted together with the Manager Collections. Research is also being conducted on the auberge that houses the national archaeological collection by researching in Museums Department files both at NMA and at the SCH.

The Library received much attention. An exercise was carried out as part of the Masters in Cultural Heritage Course under the Practicum credit. Four students, all HM employees, put their efforts together to assist in the cataloguing programme that the Librarian has embarked on. The publications were documented, cleaned and sorted in three batches; those needing pest

control, those needing conservation and the sound publications. The sound publications were placed in boxes to be transported to Bighi for cataloguing. One of the two rooms of the library was cleared. The museum is currently trying to find possible sponsorship to refurbish the library, prior to placing back the catalogued books when they are returned from Bighi. The aim is to make the library as accessible as possible. The museum has a constant number of requests from students of various ages and researches to view material from this library.

A number of volunteers and interns, both local and foreign, have been helping with the documentation of the archival material that is in the Library, including the scanning of archival photographs. For some weeks a group of secondary school boys from San Benedittu College were helping out in the library under supervision, as part of a voluntary programme they run at school.



Work has also started on the glass negatives. Following the thesis by a student of the Masters in Cultural Heritage Management, (also an HM employee) a Fototeka is being set up. Part of the lab has been cleared in order to host the glass negatives collection. Cataloguing, documenting, carrying out conservation and preventive conservation, repacking and implementing permanent storage is being carried out in-house by two HM employees.

Prehistoric querns were inventoried and inserted in the museum's database. Ta' Haġrat material was also catalogued, inventoried and inserted in the museum's database as part of the Med-archeo-sites project. A grant was applied for by Dr Caroline Malone in order to repack, relabel and sort the archaeological artefacts that were excavated at Xaghra Stone Circle and that are housed in the 'Finds Hut' at Ġgantija, thus ensuring their long term preservation. This grant has been awarded and work was carried out in September in collaboration with Manager Gozo Sites and curator of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. Some artefacts were even sourced for future analysis. The Minister for Gozo also paid a visit to the archaeologists while the exercise was being implemented.

A Maltese student reading for her PhD abroad is carrying out a study on samples of red ochre to establish their origin, whilst another one is working on lipid analysis on ceramics. A research proposal was submitted by Prof Tykot who wanted to analyse the obsidian from Skorba and some of the obsidian from the Xaghra Stone Circle using a portable XRF in order to identify its provenance. This proposal was accepted and a copy of the results was duly submitted to the museum.

The material excavated from the area at the back of the Domus Romana has been brought to the museum for storage. Some of the artefacts which had been excavated from the Xaghra Stone Circle and were in storage at the museum have

been transferred to Gozo Museum of Archaeology to form part of the permanent newly refurbished display. Also transferred were some shards from Skorba and Bahrija to be displayed in the didactic drawer as part of the permanent display to show the different phases. Four Taurodont molars and other bone material from Ghar Dalam have been transferred to the Natural History Department. The sixty boxes of Chinese Opera Dolls which had been donated to HM by the Chinese Cultural Institute after the closure of the exhibition entitled 'Characters in Beijing Opera' which was held in the Salon in 2006, have been transferred to the Inquisitor's Palace.

Eight coins of the Order of St John were bought by HM through a sponsorship from Bank of Valletta. These coins which are currently on display at the Bank of Valletta Museum in Valletta shall be returned to the museum on 28 February 2009.

Natural History Department

National Museum of Natural History

Work on the reserve collections continued at a regular pace. Around 85% of the specimens have been inputted in the database and a photographic studio has been set up in one of the upper floors for the required photographic records.

The ornithological collections (stuffed birds, birds eggs, nests, skeletons etc) have all been digitised and a catalogue is in preparation to be published. This publication, originally intended to serve as a catalogue, now includes records and historical aspects of the ornithological collections dating back to the late 19th century. Two new chest freezers were purchased due to

the continuous intake of dead birds from MEPA and the Courts of Justice.

Work on the conchological collection continued throughout 2008 by three volunteers. The collection is now being systematically arranged and cross-referencing of the database is also being carried out. New acrylic storage boxes were acquired for this collection. The coral collection, which for many years was stored in cardboard boxes in the basement of the museum, was transferred to a more appropriate storage facility. All the specimens were cleaned, catalogued and individually placed in boxes, bags and other containers. Ten glass-topped display boxes were prepared for the new entomological display.

An Integrated Pest Management programme was initiated in collaboration with the DSL at Bighi and the collections manager. A presentation to HM staff was delivered in autumn at Whitmore Hall, Bighi.

The annual helicopter visit to Filfla Plateau was carried out in collaboration with BirdLife Malta on 19 May. The main aim of these visits was to monitor the breeding population of the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* nesting on the top of the island. A number of chicks were ringed with Incoloy numbered rings. Notes on other aspects of flora and fauna were taken as part of this ongoing monitoring.

For the second consecutive year the principal curator was invited by the Libyan Environment Agency to participate in a survey of one of the Mediterranean rarest seabirds, the Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*. The field trip covered the coast and islands off the north-eastern coast of Libya from Benghazi to El Alamein close to the Egyptian border. The International team was made up of ornithologists and marine biologists from Malta, Italy, France, Tunisia and Libya. The scope of the visit was to locate new colonies, counting, and ringing the young terns as well as continuing training on Bird Ringing to

Libyan students initiated in 2007. A number of young terns were caught and ringed from two offshore islands.

In July the principal curator was invited by the University of Palermo to participate in a visit to the island of Marettimo. The aim of this visit was to compare the breeding ecology of the European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* between this island and Maltese colonies.

Mr Edward Mifsud continued his studies on the use of dioramas for his PhD degree in education. A poster on the visual impact of wildlife dioramas on primary school children and the expression of their mental model in drawing was presented at an international conference in the UK. A copy of the poster is on display in the diorama hall.

The principal curator also assisted:

- PhD student Ms Victoria Heridge, University College London: (Comparison between Maltese and Sicilian Pleistocene Elephants),
- MSc student Ms Liz Deakin (UK): The significance of human disturbance on the ecological functioning of Rdum tal-Madonna SPA/SAC, Malta.
- BSc student Mr Steve Salvatori (UK): Novel methods for estimating Yelkouan Shearwater population size: an evaluation
- MA student Mr Simon Bajada, University of Malta: (Integrated Resource Management - Integrated management of terrestrial caves). Thesis submitted.
- BSc student Mr Darrin Saliba (RUM): Geomorphological studies in Maltese Caves. Thesis submitted.
- Ms Jennifer Fiorentino studied the museum's lichen collection for a forthcoming publication on Maltese Lichens.

In November 2007 the principal curator attended the EU LIFE Project international conference held at Marseille, France '*Conservation des populations d'oiseaux marins des îles de Marseille*', where he delivered three

presentations on various aspects of the said project. In September 2008 he also delivered a presentation on the same project at the BirdLife International World Conference held at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For the third consecutive year the principal curator delivered a series of 13 lectures to prospecting tourist guides at the ITS on 'Eco-Tourism and Malta's Natural Environment'.

The principal curator authored or co-authored the following publications:

- Borg, J.J., Lanfranco E. & Sultana, J. 2007. Nature in Gozo. BirdLife Malta
- Raine, H., Borg, J.J., & Raine, A. 2007. Marine Special Protection Areas - A report outlining national mechanisms being used to develop the Marine IBA / SPA programmes across Europe with recommendations for Malta. (BirdLife Malta/Heritage Malta).
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The Hon. Minister for the Environment Dr George Pullicino launched the new publication *Nature in Gozo* by Borg, J.J., Lanfranco, E. and Sultana, J. at the NMNH in early 2008, while on 7 November 2008, the Hon. Dr George Pullicino Minister for Infrastructure and Rural Affairs launched the *Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Malta* at the NMNH.

Throughout this year the museum has received a considerable number of donations ranging from single specimens to whole collections. This will continue to enrich the museum's reference collections and providing adequate material for research as well as for display purposes. A detailed list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I.

STERNA - The ornithological collections have been standardised so that they may be incorporated within the scope of this project that is, placing public collections on the web. STERNA (Semantic Web-based Thematic European Reference Network Application) is the contribution of twelve European natural history museums and other institutions that collect and hold content on biodiversity, wildlife and nature in general, to the objectives and realisation of a European Digital Library. The project specifically addresses the many small cultural heritage institutions and content providers that want to actively participate and contribute to the European Digital Library initiative but lack both technical skills and financial resources to do so. To help content providers to make their valuable and rich resources available to a wider audience, our vision is to create a dispersed and networked information space, supported and sustained by a member network of autonomous content organisations which serves users with a special interest in nature and wildlife worldwide. The STERNA project is supported and partly funded by the eContentplus programme of the European Commission.

EU LIFE Garnija Project - The Yelkouan Shearwater Project is Malta's largest conservation initiative. This project was started through the initiative of the principal curator, following 25 years of personal research on Malta's seabird populations. It is important because the Maltese Islands are home to approximately 10% of the world's population of Yelkouan Shearwaters *Puffinus yelkouan*. The main aim of the project is to protect the birds at the largest breeding site, Rdum tal-Madonna, in the north of Malta. The project will also improve this protected site for wildlife and visitors. At a national level, we aim to increase breeding pairs by the end of the project in 2010 and to set an example for the management of other protected sites in Malta. One of the strengths of the project is that it is a partnership of four government authorities (HM through the NMNH, Malta Centre for Fisheries Science, the AFM and the Malta Maritime Authority and three conservation organisations; BirdLife Malta, RSPB (UK) and SPEA (Portugal). The project is 50% funded by the EU Life Nature Fund. MEPA and HSBC are also supporting the project with financial contributions. This partnership approach will ensure that the project aims are achieved and will secure the long term future of the birds. The *EU Garnija Life* project was presented to over 500 delegates from over 100 countries.

The continuous block dislodgement at **Ghar Dalam and Museum** is still a concerning matter, with cracks appearing to be widening. The consolidation process for the crumbling stratigraphy wall is underway and will be finalised in 2009. The **Gozo Nature Museum** hosted a group of students from the UCL for their annual study on a HM site, which this year focused on two Citadel museums. The recommendations resulting from this study are being followed. The UCL study was eventually forwarded to the Ministry of Gozo as part of HM's submissions towards the Master Plan of the Citadel. Part of the ornithological collection from the Gozo Nature



Museum was permanently transferred to the reserve collection of the NMNH in view of the revisions in sections of the permanent display in the Gozo Nature Museum.

Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department

UNESCO Mosaics Project

Crucial funds were acquired for the development of a conservation assessment and report of a number of mosaics from UNESCO. During the course of this period HM launched the documentation deliverable of this project, that of the rectified photographic images of all mosaics and flooring within the sites of the Domus Romana and Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths. These were conducted in early 2008 and reached conclusion in June.

On the basis of this data Dssa. Livia Alberti, an international expert on mosaics, initiated the assessment in July together with HM conservators. During the course of a two week period nearly all mosaics within the Domus were assessed but none were initiated at Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths. The resulting data was uploaded into an Autocad framework by HM documentation department for further analysis and integration within Dssa. Alberti's final report. The project was put temporarily on hold due to other immediate conservation priorities and should be concluded in 2009.

European Agricultural Regional Development Fund (EAFRD)

The PRM department has worked in collaboration with MRAE/MRRA in view of potential acquisition of crucial EAFRD funds for rural natural and man made heritage. During the course of this period the National Rural Strategy document was completed together with the EAFRD funding mechanism document that has integrated Axis 3 measures 313 and 323 for

cultural heritage within the rural environments. Several discussions were held which resulted in the decision that HM shall be submitting a project for the Mgarr area, including Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths, Ta' Bistra Catacombs and a number of archaeological sites in the area.

An archaeological excavation on a cut in the atrium of the **Domus Romana** have revealed that it was not a cistern but a 50cm deep cut, probably a tree pit present on the site prior to its excavation. A draft agreement on the relationship between HM and the *Missione Archeologica a Malta* regarding **Tas-Silġ** has been drafted and will be submitted to Missione in 2009. Tas-Silġ was also targeted for further academic research thanks to its inclusion in the research project Med-Archeo-Sites, an Interreg IIIC-funded project, which enabled the investigation using Ground Penetrating Radar of parts of this segment.

Prehistoric Sites Department

Ms Katya Stroud was promoted to Principal Curator of the Scientific Support Unit within the Prehistoric Sites Department as from February. Besides providing the required support in all major archaeological projects, the unit also drafted guidelines for consultation with the SCH and the MEPA on HM projects, and was on the forefront in drafting and finalising HM's research agenda for archaeological investigations.

Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples

In November 2007 a condition assessment was carried out for Ta' Haġrat and Skorba. This included the documentation of the current state of preservation and the identification of conservation interventions required at each site.

In January the Scientific Committee prepared a report on a minor collapse that occurred at Haġar Qim on 31 December 2007. It concluded that the area of collapse was the result of a previous reconstruction.

Through January and February the Committee worked on concluding the Conservation Plan for the Megalithic Temples. This plan establishes general principles for the conservation of the temples, determining a methodology for intervention. It also presents a five-year Conservation Strategy and a Research Agenda for their conservation. The Plan is ready for publication and will be published on a CD together with the Management Plan for the Megalithic Temples. In January the committee also assessed a minor collapse of three horizontal megalithic elements on the western edge of the main building, which occurred on 1 January following heavy rains, and advised on their re-instatement.

Members of the Scientific Committee offered their resignation on the appointment of a new Ministry following the national general elections in March 2008. The committee was reappointed in December of the same year.

In May and June, in line with the Conservation Strategy mentioned above, repair of megaliths using a lime mortar was conducted at Haġar Qim Temples. This was carried out in collaboration with the Architecture, Stone and Objects Conservation Department. This exercise is expected to continue and is to be carried out at all temple sites.

Management Plan

In January 2008, the final internal consultation on the Draft Management Plan for the Megalithic Temples was conducted, by circulating the document to HM staff and SCH. The plan, which is a basic requisite for all sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, will be printed in order to form the basis for the final public

consultation during the first half of 2009. The finalised Conservation Plan was also prepared for launching in CD form, together with the printed version of the Management Plan.

Underwater Cultural Heritage

The HM / Aurora Special Trust project, now in its third season of fieldwork, has continued its studies on the underwater cultural heritage site in June and October 2008. Thanks to the provision of new last-generation sensors and expertise by Aurora Special Trust, high-resolution Side-Scan Sonar imagery of the site and its immediate surroundings were taken, thus enabling the study of a site which would otherwise be completely inaccessible. This was complemented by a Sub-Bottom profiler survey of the same areas, thereby using a remote sensing tool which allows a sound pulse to penetrate the seabed to provide an indication of what lies beneath the surface, along with the high-resolution video footage.

In the second quarter of 2008, HM, in collaboration with the SCH, approached the Malta Maritime Authority with a proposal for collaboration via the sharing of information on Underwater Cultural Heritage as a way to protect the latter from damage by maritime activities. The proposal turned out to be particularly well-timed as the Malta Maritime Authority was planning to launch a project which would see the installation of a fixed buoy for cruise liners in Xlendi Bay, in the vicinity of the well-known archaeological site excavated in the 1960s by the RAF. With the collaboration of all the entities involved, and with the technical support of the Aurora Special Trust, an investigation was carried out to determine whether the area proposed for development was archaeologically sensitive. The results, which showed that no archaeological remains were present in the area, were submitted to the SCH for a final recommendation. The SCH recommended the granting of the permit provided that a number of conditions were respected.

Other activities concerning underwater cultural heritage in this period included the start of an initiative to draft a Strategic Plan on underwater cultural heritage for HM, in order to rationalise the agency's involvement in various aspects of this field in relation to its legal responsibilities.

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

Activities funded by this project included the creation of 3D models for both Ta' Haġrat and Skorba. Work on site was carried out in the last quarter of 2007, and the models were completed by February 2008. The models were also produced in X3D format for eventual publication on HM's website. A Digital Terrain Model of the Maltese Islands was also acquired. This will eventually be used as a spatial platform for archaeological data.

Research financed by this project included the collation of data regarding sites in the buffer zone of both Temples and publishing this data in a GoogleMaps application

(<http://medarch.ikonosheritage.org/>) and on GoogleEarth.

An information seminar for the Mġarr community was held in the Mġarr Primary School Hall in April. Invites were sent to all households with the collaboration of the Mġarr Local Council. The seminar was well attended and positive feedback was given by the community.

A GPR survey was carried out in June and July around both Temples, to identify and map buried

features in these areas. The survey was also carried out in the immediate vicinity of Haġar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien and Tas-Silġ. A number of studies relating to Ta' Haġrat and Skorba, including the cataloguing of the Ta' Haġrat collection, were carried out by both HM staff members and other individuals. Editing work is currently under way, and the studies together with parts of the catalogue will be published in a single volume in 2009.

EEA/Norwegian Funds – Conservation of Hal Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage Site

A tender for the creation of a 3D model of the hypogeum was drafted and published during this reporting period. A tender for the other main component of this project – the supply of equipment for environmental monitoring of the site and installation and monitoring of such equipment – is being drafted in collaboration with the Department of Contracts and the Malta Standards Authority.





Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH)

During this year the ICMCH followed its mission to promote and conduct quality education, training and collaborative research in conservation and management of cultural heritage, particularly within Malta's Euro-Mediterranean context and endeavoured to reach the objectives earmarked for it within the context of HM's overarching objectives 2006-09.

Education Department

Tuition

During the period under review, ICMCH continued with the delivery of higher education courses that were underway – the three levels of the Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course, the Bachelor in Conservation-Restoration Studies (Honours) (B.Cons.(Hons)), the Master in Conservation of Applied Conservation (M.Cons.) and the Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage Management programmes (MA). In addition, the Institute delivered several short courses to the public and/or as continued professional development for HM staff.

October 2007 and 2008 admissions saw eight new participants joining ICMCH's B.Cons.(Hons), four joining the M.Cons., and nine joining the MA, the latter two programmes attracting five HM staff members who are being provided with structured education and training in the respective sectors. The vocational level Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course admitted 15 students in 2007 and 2008, on average 7-8 students progressed to each of the remaining three academic years of the programme.

In November 2007 and December 2008, ICMCH saw the graduation of five B.Cons.(Hons) students in Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation, and Ceramics, Glass, Metals and Stone Conservation. Furthermore, ten students

graduated from the MA programme, half of them being HM staff and two HM staff members graduates M.Cons.

The involvement of academics and professionals with particular expertise was again high on the list of priorities and once again ICMCH invited highly respected local and foreign experts to contribute in the courses for the academic year 2007-08. Among others were Ms Annemette Bruselius Scharff, Prof. Anthony Frendo, Ms Frances Lennard, Prof. Tim Padfield, and Prof. Jan Rosvall. As in the past, standards were ensured through the composition of Boards of Examiners including a visiting external examiner for the B.Cons.(Hons) course, Ms Janey Cronyn.

ICMCH also consolidated, developed and ran the Introductory Course to Conservation and Restoration which again was financially self-sustainable. Following this course there was the entrance examination for the B.Cons.(Hons), which eight people sat. ICMCH collaborated with Conservation Division staff to design and implement the pilot course 'Caring for Historic Houses', the first in a series of "Caring for..." courses. Apart from organising its own short courses ICMCH collaborated with other educational institutions, where pertinent using the EU's Gruntvig programme to secure funds. In all, over 200 participants attended short courses throughout the period under review.

ICMCH collaborated on the provision of continuing professional development (CPD) for

HM staff through opening a number of its programmes' study-units to internal audiences, thus also making such programmes more sustainable. It offered a rerun of An Introduction to Basic Competences in Education in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and HM's Human Resources Department. It also negotiated a course on Integrated Pest Management lectured by world expert David Pinniger, a course which ICMCH offered in collaboration with the Human Resources Department of HM and Archetype's International Academic Projects programme. The course was of benefit to HM staff and a limited number of places were also made available to external participants. ICMCH also worked on the coordination of the CPD programme on New Methods of Cleaning Painted Surfaces to be delivered by world expert Richard Wolbers in 2009. ICMCH again collaborated with the Education Division and HM's Education Department on the Inset courses, offering CPD courses, organised for primary and secondary school teachers/ administrators. These were particularly well received and are clearly attracting considerable interest. As in previous years, 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 further encourage teachers to take their children on site visits.

Furthermore, ICMCH continued with its policy to encourage student and staff mobility to enhance their learning and teaching/coordination experience. ICMCH renewed pre-existing ERASMUS bilateral agreements where these were beneficial to academic staff and students. ICMCH also commenced negotiations for mobility of students following the masonry heritage skills certificate programme.

Student mobility and internships

In October 2008 ICMCH welcomed one ERASMUS exchange student from Hildesheim, Germany, who followed the 2nd year Books and Paper Conservation programme in the B.Cons.(Hons) course. In 2007-8 one B.Cons.(Hons) Paintings and Polychrome Sculpture Conservation student spent an academic year studying wall paintings at Università Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples also through the ERASMUS Student Mobility Programme. The learning agreement included theoretical study-units and practical conservation work at Pompeii. In addition, another B.Cons.(Hons) student in the same area of study did a one-month internship during summer 2008 which involved work on mural paintings at the Cathedral of Santa Anastasia in Verona with Studio Daniela Campagnola.

Research

ICMCH developed and circulated a research resource handbook for use within the agency and prepared proposals for a publications framework for academic and mainstream publications, while also working on HM research publications. Furthermore, in collaboration with the events section it participated in MCST's Research Week Exhibition.

In September, ICMCH organised a student academic conference entitled 'Rethinking Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Dilemmas', which was held at the MMM. This was supported by the UOM and Bournemouth University, with Prof. Tim Darvill acting as keynote speaker. The conference, which attracted nine participants from overseas and some eighty-five participants overall, was managed by ICMCH staff in collaboration with students of the MA in Cultural Heritage Management programme and the events section of HM. It gave an opportunity to undergraduate and post-graduate students as well as recent graduates to present their research in cultural heritage related disciplines, with a focus on heritage sites and

new insights and approaches related to their management. ICMCH continued to chair the Research Strategy Committee (RSC) and to participate in the Research Support Adjudication Committee.

Administration

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 (e.g. those relating to certification, personal tutors, dissertation guidelines etc.). It also liaised with HM's human resources and finance departments on staff development and contractual procedures, and those related to lecturer payment and course coordination. It also conducted investigations into possible timetabling software. Furthermore, it developed new administrative structures to provide better quality assurance of examination papers.

ICMCH, together with the ICT department, continued updating its web page on the HM website, wherein people can log in and browse the text, several links, and documents with information on all the course offerings, their entry requirements and application procedures.

ICMCH finalised the integration of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses currently underway into the UOM Student Information Management System (SIMS) database. Since administrative access to SIMS from Bighi is not yet possible, staff manages the data from UOM offices. ICMCH is working on improving accessibility to SIMS.

Throughout the period public relations efforts were made to increase future student intake. As part of an effort to increase awareness of cultural heritage, its conservation and educational opportunities in the field, ICMCH welcomed over 700 school children from different schools. Apart from their heritage educational aspect, the visits 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, conducted in collaboration with the corporate communication section, courses were promoted through HM's newsletter, newspaper adverts and flyers, and participation in career orientation events. 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. Furthermore, ICMCH disseminated the results of the ECPL project, which it concluded at the end of 2007, in national and international fora.

Endeavours were made to ensure the sustainable management of ICMCH, present and future. Reports and budgetary measures on the financial status of ICMCH's operations were carried out and presented with a view to improving sustainability. ICMCH endeavoured to make its functions more sustainable and to attract local and European funds to carry out research, education and training, while creating a framework within which this could take place.

ICMCH concluded the ECPL Leonardo da Vinci project which is a two-year research project which sought to address the problems caused by diversity and unevenness of education and training in the field of conservation-restoration through the definition of common standards in conservation-restoration and the establishment of a common European licence. Consonant with its belief in applying for further EU funding to carry out projects, during 2008 ICMCH, in collaboration with local and foreign partners, and HM stakeholders, in particular members of the Conservation Division and the Library, drafted and successfully submitted a European Social Fund (ESF) project and later clarifications – Wood CPR: Education and Training in Wood Conservation-Restoration. The project aims at contributing to reforms in education by researching and implementing educational

programmes in heritage preservation skills/conservation-restoration and conservation science applied to wood and furniture within the context of Malta's adoption of the EQF, while also promoting social inclusion and non-discrimination, and increasing and bettering lifelong learning and employment opportunities for Maltese and Gozitans, including economically inactive people. The project was accepted and works on its implementation commenced.

Successful collaboration was registered with the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC) through collaboration on three projects of the European Social Fund (ESF) and through links forged with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP). ICMCH continued to work to successfully to develop its European connections and work with educational institutions to share expertise in the field of cultural heritage education. It received Leonardo da Vinci funds for a preparatory visit, which were used by a member of staff to attend a contact seminar about ERASMUS and Leonardo da Vinci projects in Slovenia.

It was ensured that ICMCH meets its short-term plans, and proposals for the restructuring of the division were presented to secure additional resources to be able to guarantee that medium- and long-term plans can be handled. At the end of 2008 it was announced that HM's Education Department was to merge with ICMCH. The management of the institute was also entrusted with the management of the Conservation Division.

Education

During the period the Education Unit functioned as part of the Visitor Services Division within HM.

Thematic Learning Activities

The first major learning activity held by HM's Education Department within the period under review was held in conjunction with the

Caravaggio exhibition. Family workshops were held every Sunday, morning or afternoon, during October and November 2007. Workshops featured different aspects of Caravaggio's art and were presented in a way which was both educational and fun. Malta School of Art students were also invited to produce drawings on-site during the Caravaggio exhibition. The project materialised into a fully fledged exhibition entitled 'Reinterpreting Caravaggio', held within the loggia at the NMFA.

HM's Education Department constantly strives to create partnerships with various educational institutions or foundations in a bid to generate more quality learning initiatives. HM's teaming up with the Foundation for Educational Services (FES) resulted into a string of creative-writing workshops held in a number of museums and sites. Artisport was another initiative meant to combine sport and physical activity with art. HM was entrusted with the art aspect of this Sunday activity and it was held at the NMFA. Thematic learning activities held in December 2008 at the NMNH and the Inquisitor's Palace focused on Christmas crafts and Christmas culinary delights. Separate activities were held both for school children and also for children of HM members.

Other Learning Initiatives

Between October 2007 and December 2008 various learning programmes were launched in conjunction with a number of HM museums and sites namely: the Palace Armoury, Ghar Dalam, and the MMM. Other small-scale learning programmes were introduced at the NMFA and the NMNH. Learning programmes normally comprise workbooks of different levels, interactive guided tours, hands-on activities and fun games. Teachers are being encouraged to take a more proactive role with regard to learning programmes and, to this effect, HM also published a number of resource books earmarked to assist teachers in designing an effective and enjoyable museum learning experience.

HM was also very actively involved in Skolasajf. Hundreds of students visited HM museums and sites during the summer recess. These could avail themselves of interactive guided tours and various hands-on learning activities related to the museum or site they visited.

HM organised various Heritage Trails in a bid to shed more information and to create further awareness on specific themes related to Malta's rich historical patrimony. Among those organised were trails with the following themes: The British in Malta; Nativity in Art; Early Christianity in Malta; Early Man in Malta; Grand Master Wignacourt; The Great Siege; Medieval Chapels; Military and Naval aspects in the seventeenth century. The latter was followed by 'A Taste of the Grand Tour' lecture by Mr Liam Gauci at the MMM sponsored by the Farsons Foundation.

The Education Department also managed all incoming internships to HM. Some 25 interns with diverse backgrounds, primarily from European countries, were assigned to relevant departments within HM.

The Education Department was also involved in the UOM's Degree Plus programme through the coordination of lectures and tours in museums and sites, particularly those belonging to HM – Palace Armoury, State Rooms, Għar Dalam, Inquisitor's Palace, NMFA, Tarxien Temples, NMNH, Roman Domus, MMM, Fort St Angelo, Wardija, Red Tower. The fundamental objective of these tours is to create more awareness on our cultural heritage among university students.

HM's Education Unit played a major role in delivering quality Inset courses for school teachers in collaboration with ICMCH. Courses are held over three days in June and September

and focused on museum learning and conservation awareness. The department also strengthened its presence on HM's website by setting up a dedicated section related to museum learning as part of HM's official website.

Student exhibitions

One of the main aims of HM's Education Department has always been the promotion of art and culture among the younger generations. To this effect, the department encourages students and children to produce drawings, collages, poems, stories and other means of creative expression that can be exhibited in museums alongside permanent collections. In order to be able to accommodate children's creative expression, a dedicated area within the Palace Armoury has been set up specifically for such purpose. The first exhibition showcased the works of art teachers, followed by another exhibition entirely dedicated to works produced by children.

Career Events

The Education Department also participated in the career week organised by St Aloysius College in November 2008, promoting HM and the ICMCH. Courses offered by ICMCH as well as career opportunities within HM were highlighted and discussed with the students throughout this career week.

Conservation Division

HM's Conservation Division professionals, trained in the field of conservation and restoration, continued to seek to apply a multidisciplinary approach allowing the various expertise – both internal and external where possible – to enrich the process of documentation, scientific investigation and conservation treatment of the object, building, monument or site.

It undertook consultancy work on conservation-restoration, departmental and interdepartmental conservation-restoration projects in collaboration with HM's curatorial staff, with priority assigned to the national collections and sites that HM has been entrusted with, conservation-restoration projects of artefacts and collections belonging to private owners and external curators and stakeholders, time and resources permitting. Furthermore, it contributed to education in conservation-restoration and related areas through HM's ICMCH.

The Conservation Division contributed 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.

Architecture, Stone and Objects Conservation Department

The past year saw this department being engaged in a number of projects mostly involving artefacts from the national collection and sites owned by the agency.

Architecture Conservation

The Architecture Conservation Unit provided the main training grounds to the Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate vocational students, with the aim of giving the students the full complement of the knowledge, skills and competencies expected to be achieved during their course and apprenticeship.

In the first quarter of 2008, the restoration and conservation work on one of the side facades of the Inquisitor's Palace was fully completed. This was followed up by the commencement of the cleaning and conservation of the internal courtyard facades of the NWM, which formed part of the complete refurbishment of this



museum in Valletta. Half way through 2008, another team from this department embarked on another project which will be seeing the complete conservation of the internal courtyard of the NMFA.

The other major project entrusted to this department, this time by a private client, was the restoration and conservation of the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament at Żejtun. Although the work on this project was suspended during the first half of 2008, in the last months considerable

progress was registered targeting its final completion by the end of the second quarter of 2009. This project provided a unique experience to the Matri and students due to the variety of conservation skills required.

A challenging experiment was that given to the vocational students in the end of the second quarter of 2008 when they were assessed through the execution of a project which was completely managed by the fourth-year students. Each student was responsible for the restoration of a street shrine and its statue at Sta Venera under the supervision of HM's conservators and MCAST lecturing staff. This experiment was successful in that it exposed the students not just to the application of proper conservation skills but also to project management and leadership skills.

The decision taken in 2007 by HM to combine the Architecture Conservation Department and the Stone and Objects Conservation Department, the latter having the responsibility of the coordination of the Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate vocational course, under a single manager gave fruitful results. An example of the benefits of the merger is when students from both B.Cons.(Hons) course following the Ceramics, Glass, Metals and Stone area of study and vocational students worked together on architecture conservation jobs carried out in 2008.

Stone and Objects Conservation

The Stone and Objects Conservation Unit also worked on a number of artefacts in the past year including materials such as glass, metals, ceramics and stone.

The first months of this year focused solely on the carrying out of a condition assessment and conservation of the NWM artefacts. The conservation of most of the exhibits concerning this department was completed by mid-March. All the members of the team were involved in

this project. Following the completion of the work on the NWM artefacts, each conservator was entrusted with specific projects related to the different collections within HM's museums.

Among the conservation work carried out at the Inquisitor's Palace one can mention the carrying out of a condition assessment and setting up of a proper storage space for the Scicluna dry clay statuettes, followed by the conservation of a substantial part of the collection which was exhibited later on during the year. A collection of clay pipes, which were discovered within the wells of the same museum, was also conserved, together with a model of the Manderaggio Area. A statue of St Michael which was in the reserve collection of the museum was also restored. Furthermore, the Via-Crucis was dismantled, documented and a condition assessment carried out. Conservation work proceeded on other items brought over from the Inquisitor's Palace.

At the NMA one can mention the conservation of archaeological artefacts which were to be exhibited at the Alicante Exhibition, and the conservation of the Grenfell Egyptian collection. Conservation works were also carried out on the Tarxien 'Fat Lady'. As part of the on-going maintenance of artefacts on display, the archaeological stone artefacts displayed at the museum and the showcases were cleaned through a routine housekeeping exercise which started in 2008.

Three bronze mortars and Grand Master's Pinto bust were conserved at the Stone and Objects conservation lab as part of the B.Cons.(Hons) students' final practical assessment under the supervision of HM's conservators. These items form part of the collection at the NMFA. A collection of gold and silver items were also conserved by the students under the supervision of a conservator.

During the first weeks of May, a number of armour along the Grand Masters' Palace corridors were cleaned and maintained and in

mid-June two conservators started conservation work on a number of artefacts from the Armoury's collection which were later exhibited at Les Invalides in France. During the last week of July and beginning of August two conservators together with B.Cons. (Hons) students, assisted by staff from the Documentation Department, documented the armours placed along the Palace corridors. The pieces which were hung on the walls were brought down and taken to the Palace Armoury in order to continue further studies on the collection and plan their conservation. Six large Chinese vases which decorate one of the Palace halls were brought to the Stone and Objects conservation lab for conservation prior to them being exhibited during the month of July at Fort St Angelo. Investigative and conservation work on the Chinese ceramic collection at the Grand Master's Palace and others found at the NMA continued during the last months. Furthermore, assistance was given to the Office of the President on the selection of marble for the required repairs to the Palace corridors. The three chandeliers of the Throne Room were brought over to Bighi from the Grand Master's

Palace for conservation and restoration. Two of these have been completely restored and returned back to their original position. The third chandelier will be completed in January 2009.

During this year a stone conservator and two vocational students started a project which involved the filling of cracks with lime-based mortar found on a number of megaliths at Haġar Qim. It is envisaged that this on-going project will include the other temples in order to safeguard the stones from further deterioration and decay. The work is being supervised by the Temples Scientific Committee. A number of pit-holes which resulted through visitors' flow on the floor of the SPC have also been filled with reversible material.

Paintings, Paper, Photograph, Textile and Wood Conservation Department

The department carried out a condition assessment of paintings, wooden items, uniforms and works of art on paper found in the NWM, where a priority list for the artefacts which



needed immediate attention was identified. The paintings treated were three portrait paintings including one of Lord Gort. The wooden items mainly consisted of plaques and parts of composite items. 56 uniforms, were cleaned, conserved labelled and prepared for exhibition. These were also put on mannequins to be ready for transportation and display. The Paper Department also prepared for display, badges, buttons and any other items which needed protection even while on display. All 642 items treated were also labelled.

The Paintings Department finished the following works: G.M.Pinto, M. Cassar Toreggiani and C.G. Naudi by E.C. Dingli, Portrait of a Bishop by unknown artist, S. Spiridione, Allegory of the Order, S.Ubaldesca, Fra Garzia Martinez, Blessed Gerard, the Temptation of St Anthony attributed to Cassarino, and an abstract by M. Sagona from the NMFA. The projects of paintings brought from the NMFA were divided into short term, medium term and long term projects and this was found to be an effective system. The archive of projects in this department was updated. The Paper Department finished the following items: 27 works by G. Calleja in preparation for an eventual exhibition in 2009 or 2010 and 25 other flatworks of various artists including Bellanti, Schranz, etc. A condition assessment of all the paper artefacts was commenced and to date over 3500 items have been recorded. Some rare items which needed immediate treatment were also preserved. Infested books found in the museum were also brought to the laboratory and to date over 80 of these have already been conserved. All the furniture pieces identified were done and in 2009 the conservation treatment of an eighteenth-century Maltese bureau will start.

The Textile Department has organised the storage space and added shelving in the storage area dedicated to the Inquisitor's Palace costume collection. The costume collection is being studied and sorted out to know what type of costumes are there and these are being classified

by period. About 150 costumes and accessories were documented and stored using a new packing system including polyester, wadding, and Tyvek to replace the acid free paper which had been used previously. Each individual item was boxed, photographed and labelled and a database was devised to know where each and every artefact is stored to facilitate and reduce handling. This also formed part of the research element which was carried out by the department.

Two tapestries from the *Les Tentures Des Indes* set from the Grand Master's Palace were brought back from exhibitions abroad in New York and in Brussels. These were checked and some minor damage which occurred during transportation was repaired before they were put back in place. Funding was sought from the Getty Foundation to restore the whole set of tapestries in the Grand Master's Palace but the bid was unsuccessful.

The first phase of the condition assessment of the books and paper artefacts in the NMA was carried out. Some rare maps were found and taken to the laboratory for treatment for eventual transfer to the NMFA. The treatment of the maps started and a French intern worked on the conservation treatment of some of the maps. An atlas was also identified for study and conservation treatment by a German intern for her Masters' thesis.

The conservation treatment of a rare eighteenth-century telescope found at the NMNH continued and research was carried out to try to trace its origins. After treatment the telescope will be displayed at the MMM. A rare Brockdorff print depicting a fossilised fish was conserved for the museum.

Anoxia treatment of several wooden artefacts found in various museums was also carried out. Furthermore, a campaign to do the condition assessment of all the furniture displayed in HM's museums, in the Palaces of the President and in the ministries started.

All the paintings that had to leave for the exhibition at Musée de l'Armée in Paris were conserved in time. Furthermore, ten maps from the Ganado collection were conserved, mounted and framed for eventual exhibition at the Auberge de Castille during the Notte Bianca on 4 October 2008.

The Wood Department contributed towards the submission of the ESF project entitled 'Wood CPR: Education and Training in Wood Conservation-Restoration'. The bid was successful and preparations are in hand start establishing the department.

Research was carried out on the effect of temperature and humidity on wooden panels in Malta, and two panels - the Filfla panel and the Maestro Alberto panel - were chosen for study. A monitoring campaign on the movement of wood was started and some experiments on various adhesives were also carried out. The study should finish in 2009.

HM has a considerably rich collection of photographic materials in its custody including primarily glass plate negatives and photographs. The collection is of such historical importance that it was decided to act immediately on its proper housing and preservation with the intention of establishing a 'Fototeka' for research purposes. To ensure that professional conservation and preservation treatment will be carried out on the collection, a qualified paper conservator from HM was selected to be sent for specific training abroad. The aim of this training programme was to identify the problems related to the conservation of photographs and to develop a storage and handling plan for the collection. The Alfred Mizzi Foundation generously agreed to sponsor the training of one of HM's paper conservators to attend two courses at The Centre for Photographic Conservation in London from April to June 2008. The establishment of the 'Fototeka' started, a full database of the collection started being compiled, and the premises earmarked for

the 'Fototeka' were cleared at the NMA. In the process the laboratory which had been lying in boxes in the NMA was put up. The lab will be used both for the conservation treatment of archaeological objects as well as for the paper conservators who will be doing conservation treatment on the photographs.

With reference to internships, during 2008 the Books and Paper Department accepted two interns and the Paintings Department one intern. For the Paper Department Mathilde Bigot from the *Ecole de Conde* of Paris spent three months at the lab from September to November 2008. During her stay she managed to put in an exceptional amount of work for which she prepared a portfolio. The other student, Nadine Becker, was from the Hildesheim Faculty of Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Germany. She was an ERASMUS exchange student and spent one semester which ended in January 2009. She is now back to do her Masters thesis under the supervision of Joseph Schirò. Valeria Corcione is doing an internship at the Paintings laboratory between 24 November 2008 and 16 March 2009. During her stay she is following courses and doing practical work on various paintings.

Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL) and the Preventive Conservation Unit (PCU) Departments

DSL and the PCU were involved in a large number of HM conservation projects and provided their services to other conservation departments requesting scientific investigations. In addition, DSL has seen to requests from private collections and those under the responsibility of external bodies other than HM, and has increased services offered to locally based companies.

Some of the most important activities/projects falling during the period:

Hagar Qim/Mnajdra: Monitoring by DSL and PCU staff in preparation for the temporary shelter installation. DSL collaborated with a foreign scientific team from the University of Barcelona to carry out a seasonal biological survey of the sites to monitor selected organisms, including vascular plants, bryophytes, algae, lichens and other cyanoprokaryota during the seasonal surveys. A report summarising the findings from this survey was finalised. PCU was also involved in the planning process for the installation of a 10m mast for wind speed/direction monitoring and the development of a pilot study for pollution monitoring, as well as in the drafting of recommendations for the installation of wind deflectors around the sheltered site.

Hal Saflieni Hypogeum: Scientists from DSL and PCU were continuously involved in monitoring the site and providing condition assessment reports. The Hypogeum Task Group contributed to the discussion of several issues directly related to the conservation of this site, as well as to the planning of appropriate immediate and long term conservation measures. DSL also sought to ensure that health and safety measures related to medical aspects in particular are enforced, in close collaboration with scientists from other laboratories. Microbiological testing was carried out following a claim by one of the staff members of an allergic reaction possibly caused by bacteria on railings within the site.

Egyptian Mummy Project: Co-ordination of the Egyptian Mummy Research Project. DSL was involved in the scientific analysis to obtain as much information as possible about the mummy and external sarcophagus and their current state of preservation. This included scientific analysis for the identification of the sarcophagus' wood and other remaining constituent materials, analysis of the paint on the surface of the sarcophagus, DNA analysis to determine gender, mitochondrial DNA patterns, etc, pathological and anatomical studies using x-ray technology and computer tomography (CT) scanning

techniques, and dermato-histological studies of remaining preserved soft tissue, radiocarbon dating, etc; in collaboration with Leibniz Labor, Germany, MLS BioDNA, Da Vinci Hospital, the principal curator of the NMNH and others.

Integrated Pest Management Strategy: Drafting of guidelines and procedures required for the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy within all HM museums and sites. A presentation (together with the principal curator of the NMNH) was given to all curatorial and conservation staff on HM's IPM Strategy Programme, during which guidelines and procedures required for its implementation were handed out.

Disinfestation Chamber: After the acquisition of vacuum metallising equipment by HM following DSL's recommendations, upgrading/refurbishment works commenced and appropriate methodologies for its use as a disinfestation chamber were established following meetings with various experts in London and others who visited Malta in 2008. Further research was also carried out in relation to the final system to be developed, as well as on methodologies to be applied for proper disinfestation of various insect species. It was decided that HM should adopt a unique 'all-in-one' system that will provide more than one method for disinfestation.

Upgrading of Scientific Equipment: To ensure that project management procedures are inspired by international good practice, a project to upgrade all scientific equipment at DSL, and to provide appropriate training courses to all staff, was initiated. Upgrades were completed for the SEM/EDS and optical microscopes. Related to this, DSL also brought in a new system of documenting and archiving vital information obtained from analytical studies. Separate lab proformas for instrumental analysis, sampling, sample examination, etc were refined. The format of these was updated so as to include all the information/data necessary for any future

reference or test reproduction, in line with requirements for accredited laboratories.

Environmental Monitoring: Continuous environmental monitoring and data downloading/analysis were conducted within various sites, including Haġar Qim, Mnajdra, Hypogeum, Tarxien Temples, NMA, Domus Romana, the Notarial Archives and the MMM.

Other activities related to environmental monitoring included the following: On spot environmental monitoring and reports on the analysis of the environmental trends monitored at Hypogeum and the Notarial Archives; the installation of soil moisture apparatus including a micro station in support for continued soil/lichen research study at Mnajdra; checking of Mnajdra infill gauges; installation of data loggers, diffusion tubes and insect traps at the MMM (UCL project); fault finding and repair of communication cable between modem and Haġar Qim's weather station (Babuć); management of the installation of a weather station at Ġgantija including remote sensing for the retrieval of data from site; and the launch of a pilot study for pollution monitoring at Haġar Qim.

Underground sites: Testing of various materials/substances to be used at such sites, in particular the testing of various lighting units so as to compile a list of recommendations and to provide a guide to staff and others so as to help guarantee that preventive conservation measures in these sensitive sites are ensured. Biologists were also involved in long-term research programmes for condition assessment/surveys and the biological analysis of Abbatija tad-Dejr and SPC.

Other initiatives in which regard HM sites and collections in which this department was involved include the following: drawing up of a proposal with recommendations for the reserve collection and storage facilities at the NMFA; the study of various artefacts from the NMA (e.g., gold ring, Phoenician sculpture, indulgence

plaque, copper coins, etc); the analysis of gold leaf/guild of various armour to be exhibited abroad and the inspection of fungal stains on weapon artefacts on display at the Palace Armoury; the analysis of eighteenth-century costume buttons at the Inquisitor's Palace; water analysis to identify the source of a water infiltration and metallographic studies on metal objects within a recently discovered area at the MMM; analysis of a fragment from a Chinese vase and of other artefacts for identification of biological contamination; collaboration with conservators in a study to determine the corrosive effects on various metals following phosphine fumigation; testing of various herbicides/pesticides used within HM's sites; and sampling and analysis of biological growth and some non-biological fragments in the lunette/cantiere of the Jesuits Church, Valletta. This study led to the joint presentation of a poster at the XXIV° *Convegno Internazionale Scienza e Beni Culturali* held in Bressanone, Italy. XRD Databases on diffraction spectra for local masonry materials, as well as different types of wood, are also being created.

The department also provided its services to third parties or for artefacts not pertaining to the national collections. These projects included sampling and salt analysis of stone core samples taken from the badly deteriorated altar at St Agatha's Chapel, Rabat; environmental monitoring programme and the compiling of reports with conservation recommendations for the safeguarding of the Notarial Archives and the National Library; analysis of various fragments from the 'Madonna ta' Filfla' painting; pigment analysis to confirm authenticity of the St Ursula painting; a short study to determine the original colouration of the Villa Bighi apertures; and a microscopical analysis of mortar samples from the Żejtun Oratory.

Other work for third parties included various requests for analysis by many companies, including MEPA, Baxter, AP, Methode Electronics Malta Ltd., Hetronic Malta Ltd., ST

Microelectronics, Amino Chemicals, IMA Engineering Services Ltd., UOM, and others. Discussions also took place to determine the best ways of utilising facilities and equipment within DSL. A recommendation that HM takes seriously into consideration acquiring accreditation/certification was put forward, as this would augment HM's public ratings and thus enable it to compete more effectively for external projects.

Research Programmes: DSL and PCU were also involved in proposing and initiating the development of research programmes to be carried out in collaboration with other members of the Conservation Division. This also includes two studies which were put forward to the Research Support Adjudicating Committee, such as that involving the DNA profiling of human archaeological remains in Malta with a view to compare the results with the genetic profile sampling from the 'modern' Maltese population.

Training Programmes: Organisation of relevant training courses in scientific methodologies for all staff, including courses related to the use of newly upgraded instruments, practical courses on the proper use of various microscopes for all scientific and conservation staff, and a hands-on course on canvas painting manufacturing techniques organised for DSL staff.

IAEA: DSL was 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 relation to the IAEA, this department has also been working over the past year to identify ways in which to acquire funding for the purchase of XRF equipment and appropriate training through a possible collaboration with IAEA's regional technical cooperation programme. A presentation related to the current QA/QC situation in Malta, with particular reference to conservation science laboratories was given at a workshop in Demokritos, Greece in 13-17 October 2008.

Student Internships and Lecturing Duties: DSL and PCU staff managed and closely supervised four MCAST intern students, as well as other students from the UOM. DSL 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. DSL staff was also heavily involved in lecturing students within ICMCH's B.Cons.(Hons) programme. During the first part of this year, a final-year B.Cons.(Hons) undergraduate as well as a final-year B.Sc.(Hons) student in Biology and Chemistry made use of the laboratory facilities as part of their dissertation projects and received supervision from DSL staff. Scientists also assisted various Master's students in their practicum and dissertation studies.

Conferences and Papers: DSL staff members were involved in the preparation of a number of papers and presentations at various international conferences and meetings, including:

- Art 08 Conference, Israel;
- International Workshop 'Characterisation of organic materials (binding media, varnishes, pigments) in paint cross-sections' - University of Bologna, Italy; and
- 3 CROSSLIFE Workshops on Changes in Work and Education: Perspectives on Working Life – London, UK; Tampere, Finland, and Malta.
- XXIV^o Convegno Internazionale Scienza e Beni Culturali 2008 – Bressanone, Italy;
- Stone 2008 11th International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone – Torun, Poland.
- International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Conference IBBS-14, Sicily.

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Regional Workshop on 'Harmonisation Procedures related to Nuclear Analytical Techniques for

Characterisation and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Artefacts – Athens, Greece

the identification of the digitisation standards for HM's collections and associated equipment.

Documentation Department

In January 2008, a new manager (Conservation Architect) and three new staff members joined the Documentation Division, of whom two resigned to return to their previous posts at MEPA. David Zahra (Manager) has also been appointed ERDF Project Manager (within HM). Albert Zammit's probation period has expired and his contract renewed. Saviour Delia's probation period as Senior Documentalist has also expired and he has also been confirmed. Presently the team consists of a Senior Documentalist, two Documentalists and a former PBS employee. The handing-over (manager) process is currently underway with Noel Zammit, Manager IT.

During the year, it was felt that the traditional role associated with the Documentation Division was changing to focus on digitisation. A 'status and vision' report, outlining the necessary resources, both in terms of human resources and equipment, including the associated budgets, to ensure the effective 'digitisation' as per international standards, was prepared and submitted. After an assessment of the available human resources in January, a training programme was devised and is currently being implemented. Due to the particular mix of skills required by the Documentalist, course content for a vocational course in Documentation leading to a Diploma is currently being drawn up with ICMCH (and eventually concluded with MCAST).

The department was actively involved in the preparation of the Collections Management System and Image Management System tender document/s within the Standards Committee (Collections Management and ICT), including

One of the main roles of the Documentation Department is to provide support services, mainly to conservators and curators, in the recording of artefacts (and operations) during the various phases of conservation/restoration projects and for cataloguing:

- photographic documentation - graffiti and general at SPC, the paintings and objects at the NMFA for SmartMuseum project, objects in various collections for Michael+, the Ganado Maps Collection, various objects at NMA, NWM artefacts, the Palace chandeliers, objects at NMHM for Sterna project, various objects undergoing restoration at Bigli, new acquisitions, etc.
- general/event photography - opening of the Egyptian Mummy sarcophagus, Sundays with HM, the Mercator Conference, fixing of tapestries at Palace and photographs of venues offered by HM for functions and events
- rectified photography followed by line drawings of cannon at the MMM
- video footage of wind surveys at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra
- X-ray radiography of the Egyptian Mummy, wall paintings in the Paladini Chapel, as well as coins and other objects currently undergoing restoration, etc.
- post-processing of the data gathered during the above mentioned campaigns as well as the organisation of all photographic documentation taken in previous years of the NMA and the Roman Domus
- digitisation of mapping exercise of the mosaics at the Roman Domus

- preparation/updating of information on surveys of the various HM sites and museums
- preparation of necessary drawings/documentation for MEPA submissions, etc.

A specification document was also prepared for the digitisation at the National Library of Malta to form the basis for the next call for ERDF funds for digitisation equipment. Other initiatives included the setting up of a

(professional) photographic studio at Bighi. Presently, all materials have been procured. Once the curtains are installed, this can start functioning. Another task was for the department to become the repository of all data, especially in relation to the restoration projects. A file structure was designed and a database was formulated to allow the cataloguing and quick search for data retrievability. This database is currently in the testing/implementation phase.



List of Acquisitions

<i>Object Type (Class)</i>	<i>Object Title</i>	<i>Acquisition Method</i>	<i>Source</i>
Painting	The death of Abel	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Saint Disma	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Spinster reading a letter	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Self portrait of Lazzaro Pisani	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Portrait of the wife of Lazzaro Pisani	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Portrait of the son of Lazzaro Pisani, Robbie Pisani	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Portrait of the daughter of Lazzaro Pisani, Mary Pisani, the sister of Maria Rosaria	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Portrait of Mrs Gauci, the mother of Mons Paolo Gauci	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	Portrait of Lady Edeline Strickland	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	A small portrait of the Knight Pietro Paolo Bonici Mompalao	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Painting	The Virgin of Sorrows holding Jesus Christ	Bequest	Ms Maria Rosaria Pisani
Drawing	The Opera House	Purchase	Belgravia Auction Gallery
Painting	Venice	Purchase	Belgravia Auction Gallery
Silverware	Maltese silver sugar bowl and cover, profusely chased with flowers and foliage on matted ground, the lid with bud finial on three hoof feet.	Purchase	Belgravia Auction Gallery
Drawing	Christ Driving the Merchants from the Temple	Purchase	Belgravia Auction Gallery
Painting	A female saint (St	Purchase	Belgravia

	Ursula) holding the arrow of her martyrdom		Auction Gallery
Drawing		Donation	Mr Franco Navarro
Painting	Caos	Donation	Mr Anthony P Vella
Painting	Path to Remoteness	Donation	Mr Daniel Spiteri
Apparatus	Wax Factory Item. Rotating, wood and iron apparatus	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Apparatus	Wax Factory Item. Rotating, wood and iron apparatus with adjustable height	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Apparatus	Wax Factory Item. Circular, wood and iron apparatus	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Apparatus	Wax Factory Item. Wooden, 'frieze-like' apparatus with iron hooks	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Ladder	Wax Factory Item. Wooden ladder	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Wooden block	Wax Factory Item. Wooden block	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Vessels	Wax Factory Items. 4 round, 'funnel-shaped' metal containers	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Vessels	Wax Factory Items. 6 rectangular metal containers	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Cupboard	Wax Factory Item. Large wooden cupboard	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Drawers	Wax Factory Items. 4 large wooden drawers	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Candles	Wax Factory Items. 20+ large, altar and processional candles, including a decorated candle	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Moulds	Wax Factory Items. 20+ wooden candle casts	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Tripods	Wax Factory Items. 5 metal tripods	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Stands	Wax Factory Items. 2 metal stands	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Wax	Wax Factory Items. 7½ casts of extra, lesser-quality wax	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech

Moulds	Wax Factory Items. 2 oval, stone moulds for extra, lesser-quality wax	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Box and Wicks	Wax Factory Items. Large box with candle wicks	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Rolling pin	Wax Factory Item. Wooden rolling pin	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Marble surfaces	Wax Factory Items. 2 marble surfaces	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Apparatus	Wax Factory Items. Stone structure and stone roller	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Scales	Wax Factory Item. Large metal scales	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Weights	Wax Factory Items. Complete set of 10 weights	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Weights	Wax Factory Items. 4 weights	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Sieves	Wax Factory Items. 5 metal sieves	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Saucepan	Wax Factory Item. Metal saucepan	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Funnels	Wax Factory Items. 2 metal funnels	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Funnel	Wax Factory Item. Enamel funnel	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Soldering irons	Wax Factory Items. 2 metal soldering irons	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
File	Wax Factory Item. Metal file	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Candle-dippers	Wax Factory Items. 17 wooden candle- dippers	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Vessels	Wax Factory Items. 3 round, medium- sized metal containers	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Table	Wax Factory Item. Wooden table	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Chest	Wax Factory Item. Wooden chest	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Frames and Prints	Wax Factory Items. 15 framed pictures of various subjects, mostly religious	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Print	Wax Factory Item. Unframed picture of the Virgin attached to a wooden 'retablo'	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Print	Wax Factory Item. Picture of the	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech

	Virgin, bearing the print 'Ja Maria Regina tal-qlub, zomm f'idejk il-qlub tal-Maltin kollha'		
Frame and Print	Wax Factory Item. Framed obituary of Mikiel Tabone, owner of the wax factory	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Crates and Bottles	Wax Factory Items. 2 wooden bottle crates and glass bottles	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Jerry-can	Wax Factory Item. Metal jerry-can	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Stove	Wax Factory Item. Small, metal stove	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Box and Switches and Fuse boxes and Wall sockets and Bicycle bells	Wax Factory Item. Metal box containing old switches, fuse boxes, wall sockets and bicycle bells	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Box and Objects and Mould	Wax Factory Item. Metal box containing various metal objects, including a mould	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Box and Fishing implements	Wax Factory Item. Metal box containing various fishing implements	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Box and Medicine and Fishing hooks	Wax Factory Item. Metal box containing various medicines and fishing hooks	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Moulds	Wax Factory Items. 2 stone moulds	Purchase	Ms Josephine Grech
Can	Large aluminium can	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Can	Blue enamel can	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Cobbler's shoe vice	Cast iron portable cobbler's shoe vice	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Petard launchers	3 metal petard launchers	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Magazine	Malta Review Special Issue, Malta Independence 1964	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Ir-Review, 7 ta' Ottubru 1964, Nru 298	Donation	Mr George John Vella

Magazine	Ir-Review, 14 ta' Ottubru 1964, Nru 299	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Hat	Gentlemen's straw hat	Donation	Mr Kenneth Vassallo
Coat	Priest's coat	Donation	Mr Kenneth Vassallo
Cassock	Priest's informal cassock – <i>Suttana ta' Gewwa</i>	Donation	Mr Kenneth Vassallo
Magazine	Malta Review Special Issue, Malta Independence 21st September 1964	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Malta Today, Volume IV, No 8, August 1969	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Photographic print		Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Il-Kunsill Tieghek, 1993, Nru 22	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Ir-Review, 7 ta' Ottubru, 1964 Nru 298	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Ir-Review, 14 ta' Ottubru, 1964 Nru 299	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Magazine	Ir-Review, 11 ta' Novembru, 1967 Nru 543	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Radio	Crystal Radio	Donation	Mr George John Vella
Stamps	3 6p Malta National Insurance stamps	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb,
Frame and Oleograph	Framed oleograph mounted on crimson velvet, depicting Jesus of Nazareth. It is charged with gilded symbols of the Death and Passion of Jesus Christ	Donation	Messrs Anthony Mule Stagno
Album and Photographic prints	Album of photographs taken in Malta	Donation	Ms Ethel Ward
Manuscript	Recit De Ses 2 Voyages A Malte	Donation	Mr Henri Poussielgue
Bird	Stuffed <i>Gawwija</i> bird	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Bird	Stuffed <i>Bukkacc</i> bird	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Oil lamp	Wall-hanging oil lamp	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Tumbler	Grants Whisky glass tumbler	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti

Jug	Deward's Whisky ceramic jug	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Primus	Royal Kempen enamel two-wick Primus	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Harpoon	Iron sport fishing harpoon	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Cord	Length of sport fishing cord	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Sail	Sailing fregatina jib sail	Donation	Messrs Joseph Magro Conti
Brochure	Malta G C Island of Sun and Smiles	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Brochure	'Malta has so much to offer...'	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	1936 Naval Warfare	Donation	Ms Sarah Pule'
Book	Jane's Fighting Ships 1960-61	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Book	Jane's All The World's Fighting Aircraft 1961-62 (Including FAA)	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Book	The Campaigns Of The Pacific War, 1946 US Navy	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Book	The War at Sea II 1956	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Book	Greek Literature, 1948	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Book	9 Volumes, 1948-1955, Office of the Chief of Military History – Department of the Army	Donation	Dr Karl Mifsud Bonnici
Signs	2 Pepsi Cola enamel signs	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Tin	Large Coca Cola Tin	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Primus	Incomplete enamel Primus	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Cannon ball	Cannon ball	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Spade	Coal spade	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottle	Smirnoff Vodka glass bottle	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottle	Fanta glass bottle	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottle	Miranda glass bottle	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat

Bottle	Canada Dry glass bottle	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottle	Hi Spot glass bottle	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottles	2 Schweppes glass bottles	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Bottles	2 7-Up glass bottles	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Can	Petrol can	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Towing Hook	Vehicle towing hook	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Burner	Portable cooking gas burner	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Oil lamp	Home made metal oil lamp	Donation	Ms Maria Muscat
Ensign	WWII White Ensign	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Italian flag (false colours)	1942 Italian	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Photographic print	3 wartime photographs	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Drawing	2 watercolour views of Malta	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Newspapers, Cuttings and Documents	Selection of wartime newspapers clippings and documents	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Cap, Badge and Band	RNVR officer's cap, badge and band	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Badge	Wartime CNVR marine plywood ship's badge	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Badge	Embroidered CNVR badge	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Newspaper	A Leaf Upon The Sea: A Small Ship in the Mediterranean	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Newspaper	The Epic of Malta	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Newspaper	Hell Island: Canadian Pilots and the 1942 Air Battle For Malta	Donation	Mr F Martin Aller-Stead
Painting	The Ferry Landing	Purchase	Belgravia Auction Gallery
Letter		Purchase	Mr James Wilberforce
Roundel		Donation	Mr Daniel Cilia
Flintlock		Transfer	From MFA to ARM

Book	Hutchinson's Pictorial History of the War	Donation	Messrs John Perrett
Book	Douglas Bader Fight for the Sky	Donation	Messrs John Perrett
Book	Volume 1 - The World of Wonder - 10,000 Things Every Child Should Know	Donation	Messrs John Perrett
Book	2nd Volume - New Popular Educator	Donation	Messrs John Perrett
Sun glasses	Pilot's sun glasses	Donation	Messrs John Perrett
Bomb	Second World War bomb	Donation	Mr Lino Debono
Painting	Portrait of Sir Winston Churchill	Donation	Mr Alfred Cassar
Mortar Range Finder	Austrian World War I Mortar Range Finder (serial No 5435) in original wooden box	Donation	Mr Albert Mc Charthy
Parachute	Parachute from WW II German aerial mine	Donation	NWMA
Net	British army mosquito net	Donation	NWMA
Jacket, Trousers and Badge	Number one WW II Luftwaffe Oberstleutnant jacket and trousers with pilot's badge and 3rd class wound badge	Donation	NWMA
Suitcase	Suitcase belonging to Carmel Pantalleresco HMS St Angelo	Donation	NWMA
Jerry Can	Jerry can	Donation	NWMA
Visor Cap	Air Commodore Hall's visor cap	Donation	NWMA
Pick Axes, Shovels and spade	4 large British Army pick-axes, 2 small ?, 2 shovels and 1 spade for military vehicles	Donation	NWMA
Paintings	68 framed paintings of Commanders-in-Chief Mediterranean Station Malta (1799-1979) reproduced from originals	Donation	NWMA

Letters	Transcript of war letters	Donation	Ms Lynn Trout
Pamphlets	Collection of 34 anti-Italian and German propaganda pamphlets written in Maltese	Donation	Sr Daniela Micallef
Photographic print	Grand Harbour - Valletta	Donation	Mr David Woodcock
Photographic print	Grand Harbour - Valletta	Donation	Mr David Woodcock
Book	L'Histoire de l'Ordre de Malte	Transfer	From OPM to MMM
Photographic print		Donation	Ms Nancy Gulia
Manuscript	Late Hon Justice Dr Wallace Gulia	Donation	Ms Nancy Gulia
Print	Late Hon Justice Dr Wallace Gulia	Donation	Ms Nancy Gulia
Book	The Shiphunters	Donation	Mr Geoff White
Facsimile	Supplements to Purnell's History of the Second World War: The War Papers	Donation	Mr Michael King
Newspaper	Sunday Express, 9 June 1946	Donation	Mr Michael King
Newspaper	The Royal Papers, Part 1	Donation	Mr Michael King
Book	History of The Second World War, Volumes 1 to 6	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - The First War Planes	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - 1939 - 1945 War Planes	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - Bombers 1939-1945	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - German Secret Weapons	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - Weapons of War	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - The Big	Donation	Mr Michael King

	Guns (Artillery 1914-1918)		
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - Infantry at War (1939-1945)	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - The First Submarines	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - The Tank Story	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special -Warships of the First World War	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special -Warships of the Second World War	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special -Weapons and Uniforms of the USSR	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special -Heraldry of War-Medals Badges and Uniforms	Donation	Mr Michael King
Magazine	Purnell's History of the World Wars Special - Weapons of the 1973 Israeli Arab War	Donation	Mr Michael King
Coloured prints		Transfer	From OPM to MFA
Book	World of Wildlife Special - Killer Shark! (The biology and behaviour of maneating sharks)	Donation	Mr Michael King
Postcards	Set of 12 coloured Malta postcards	Donation	Mr Barry Dymock
Ticket	Dirty Dick's Bar ticket	Donation	Mr Barry Dymock
Envelope	Envelope addressed to the late Prime Minister of Malta The Hon Dr George	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti

	Borg Olivier		
Invitation	Invitation to the Hon Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier from Rear Admiral and Mrs R Amom	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Invitation	Invitation to the Hon Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier from the German Ambassador to attend reception on board German Research Vessel "Meteor"	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Uniform	No 5 Lt Cdr Winter uniform (jacket and trousers)	Donation	Lt Cdr Andrew Stillwell-Cox
Booklet		Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Handbag	Leather handbag	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Hat-case	Hat-case	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Feathers	Feather-fan and other loose feathers	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Ribbon	Nylon ribbon	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Ribbon	2 machine-made lace ribbons	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Embroidery	5 French machine-made embroidery of letter 'B'	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Case and Clasps and Beads and Buttons	Case with clasps, beads and buttons	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Blouse	White lady's blouse trimmed with bobbin lace	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Blouse	2 white machine-made lace blouses for girls	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Blouse	White lady's blouse trimmed with machine-made lace	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Band	Swaddling band - <i>fisqijja</i>	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Scarf	Silk scarf	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Cloth	White embroidered cloth	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Dress	Black lady's evening dress	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Cloth	Table-cloth	Donation	Dr Martina

			Caruana
Fabric	2 pieces of fabric	Donation	Dr Martina Caruana
Vests	2 male summer under-vests	Donation	Ms Josette Ellul
Pants	2 male cotton and wool under-pants	Donation	Ms Josette Ellul
Photographic print	Photograph of the blessing of the Birkirkara great bell.	Donation	Mr John Mary Bonello
Lace	1 length of hand made Malta lace	Donation	Mrs Ruth McGough
Painting	Valletta Drear	Donation	Mrs Narinder Coates
Drawing	G Borg Tobacco	Donation	Mr Lionel Coates
Silver copy of painting by Mattia Preti	Il Cristo Fulminante	Transfer	From HM Chairman Office to NMFA
Drawing	Olive Sketch 3	Donation	Ms Jeni Caruana
Apparatus	Set of tools formerly pertaining to the late sculptor George Borg	Donation	Mr Joe Calleja
Apparatus	Fragment of a cooking stove	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Medicine clear glass bottle	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Medicine tinted-brown glass bottle	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Fragment of green-glass stand of a kerosene lamp and 2 small separate fragments	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Small clear glass ink bottle	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Small cylinder metal container highly corroded	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Brylcreem hair lotion clear-glass bottle with metal cap	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Clear-glass bottle Scotts Emulsion Cod Liver Oil with Lime and Soda	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	2 green-glass wine bottles	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Bottle	Decorated clear perfume bottle	Donation	Mr James Aquilina

Mirror	Fragment of a mirror	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Comb	Black small comb	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Comb	Fragment of cream colour comb	Donation	Mr James Aquilina
Journal	13 copies	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Journal	3 copies	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Photographic print	Black and white photograph of Mons Sir Michael Gonzi, Archbishop of Malta, inspecting Maltese Port Division at HMS St Angelo, June 1962	Donation	Anonymous
Postcard	Postcard of White Star Line (SS "ALBERTIC")	Donation	Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez
Business Card	Business Card of Cordina Steamship & Airline Coy (Malta) Ltd	Donation	Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez
Stone Lintel	Stone lintel bearing maritime graffiti	Donation	Mr Reno Schembri, Albatross
Springers	2 Springers bearing maritime graffiti	Donation	Mr Reno Schembri
Engraving	Steel engraving	Donation	Mr Brian Adams
Postcard	Monochrome postcard	Donation	Mr Brian Adams
Photographs	9 snap shots representing Interior Social Club 1945, Our Stage 1945 – Recreation/Social Club, Tennis Court Stage 1945, S2 Ward 1943, Victory Illuminations Bighi 1946 and 3 external views of Bighi Hospital	Donation	Mr Brian Adams
Photographs	4 copies of photographs representing View of Grand Harbour from Barakka Gardens, RN Sailors landing at Valletta Marina, and Aircraft Carrier	Donation	Mr Brian Adams

	entering Grand Harbour		
Model	Malta stone model of a castle	Donation	Mr Alfred Abela
Print	St Philip	Transfer	From INQ to MFA
Print		Transfer	From INQ to MFA
Epaulettes	Pair of Braided Royal Navy officer's dress epaulettes	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	Royal Navy officer's cap badge	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	Royal Yacht embroidered badge	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Shoulder flash	Royal Yacht shoulder flash	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	Leading Seaman badge	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	Leading Stoker badge	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badges	Pair of Chief Stoker badges	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badges	Pair of Chief Mechanician badges	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Shoulder flash	Royal Corps of Transport Fleet shoulder flash	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Chevrons	2 Naval good conduct and seniority gold lace chevrons	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	The King's Badge in original box	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badges	Collection of 13 Dockyard Police/ Admiralty Constabulary badges	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Badge	Russian Merchant Marine cap badge (sailor)	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Cloth badge	Martini Middle Sea Racecloth badge	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Tags	3 Middle Sea Race tags	Donation	Capt Adrian Strickland
Flag	Silk embroidered standard	Donation	Mr David Cassar
Flag-pole finial	Flag-pole finial	Donation	Mr David Cassar
Model	An architectural scale model of Grand Harbour and Marsamxett	Donation	Mr Christian Zammit

Harbour			
Hat	Priest's hat	Donation	Rev Can Joseph Abela
Ticket	Bus ticket issued by Gasan Enterprises of Sliema	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Robe	Robe of a <i>Reffiegh</i>	Donation	Mr Angelo Ellul
Book	Wonders of Italy	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Drawing	Għajn Tuffieħa	Donation	Ms Anna Dumicz
Drawing	St Francis Square Victoria, Gozo	Donation	Ms Anna Dumicz
Print		Exchange	Dr Albert Ganado
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Coin	Coins of the Order of St John	Donation	BOV
Periodical	The War Illustrated No 122	Donation	Mr Brian Smith
Periodical	The War Illustrated No 126	Donation	Mr Brian Smith
Periodical	The War Illustrated No 131	Donation	Mr Brian Smith
Book	Santa Venera u r-Rahal Tagħha: Storja u Devozzjoni	Donation	Mr Mario Coleiro, c/o HM
Book	Cursus Philosophiae – Volumen Primum	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Cursus Philosophiae – Volumen Alterum	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Summarium Iurium et Officiorum Parochorum	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Il Cuore immacolato di Maria	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	La Scienza Divina	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti

Book	La Missione Al Popolo	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	The Fullness of Sacrifice	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Bejn in-nar u d-dawl Il-Hajja ta' San Mikiel tal-Qaddisin Kollha (1591-1625)	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Sena Liturgika 2002-2003	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book		Donation	Mr Joseph Deguara
Book	Conservation of plastics: materials science, degradation and preservation	Donation	Mr Felix Camilleri,
Vase	Large Chinese porcelain vase	Purchase	Mary Attard Portughes
Painting	Azure Window, Gozo	Donation	Ms Anastasia Ponyatovskaya
Uniforms	2 RMA ceremonial uniforms	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Boots	Pair of boots	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Belt	Leather belt	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Shoulder titles	4 RMA shoulder titles	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Cap	RMA cap	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Buttons	42 and 22 RM buttons	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Collar patches	6 Malta Cross RMA patches	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Collar patches	14 RMA collar patches	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Cap crowns	4 Cap crowns	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Buckles	6 Buckles	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Cap badges	RMA cap badges	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Insignia	3 RMA bombardier insignia	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Epaulette stars	28 epaulette stars	Donation	Major Francis X Naudi
Cart	Horse drawn cart - <i>Karrettun tal-molol</i>	Donation	Joseph Zahra
Album	History: Austria-Hungary Empire up to WWI	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	History: German Empire up to WWI	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	History: Polish & Russian regalia and	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes

	decorations		
Album	History: USA and decorations	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	History: Malta personalities	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc Order of St John	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of ships' images	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of ships' images	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of British Naval ships	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of British Naval ships	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of British Naval ships	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc of British Naval ships	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Msc British Navy	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Album	Album cover containing copies of : The King's Army, The King's Navy, The King's Air Force	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Photographic slides	Collection of slides largely of maritime interest	Donation	Mary Attard Portughes
Drawing	HMS Vanguard	Purchase	Mary Attard Portughes
Books		Purchase	Mary Attard Portughes
Painting	End of the Show: Unseen Sadness	Donation	Priscilla Ainhua Griscti
Painting	Doom's Trump 3	Donation	Anthony Catania
Cloth	WWII sealed packed bandage	Donation	Dr Mario Tabone
Painting	Female figures in window, trunk, striped towel	Donation	The Chairman, The Gollcher Foundation
Hour glasses	2 brass hour glasses	Donation	Graham Elitt
Book	Naval Electrical Department, Admiralty Examples in Electrical Calculations	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Radio Received Servicing and Maintenance	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti
Book	Foundations of Wireless	Donation	Mr Emmanuel Magro Conti

Ticket	First class ticket of MV Crested Eagle (Malta - Gozo)	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Painting		Donation	Mr Louis Cassar
Painting		Donation	Mr Ronald Knight
Painting		Donation	Mr George Preca
Print	Holy Picture representing Jesus of Prague	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Print	Holy Picture representing Sacred Heart of Jesus	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Book	The War Illustrated Volume 1 - 5	Donation	Ms Marie Mifsud
Book	The War Illustrated Volume 6	Donation	Ms Marie Mifsud
Book	The War Illustrated Volume 8 - 8	Donation	Ms Marie Mifsud
Book	Hutchinson's Pictorial History of the War 3 - 23	Donation	Ms Marie Mifsud
Postcards	50 Pre-war postcards of Italian Monuments and Sites	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Silverware	Fine Maltese silver filigree tray	Donation	Mr Kevin Attard
Jewelry	Contemporary jewelry in silver chain and pearls	Donation	Mr Kevin Attard
	Stoneware Ceramic sculpture	Donation	Ms Julie Apap
Silverware	2 crafted silver filigree Maltese crosses	Donation	Mr Kevin Attard
Photographic prints	6 pre-war Malta photos of Maritime interest, in old KODAK box	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Scales	Scale – <i>keffa</i> for weighing babies	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Cards	2 Remembrance cards commemorating Tancredi Gouder and Comm. Prof. Dott. Vincenzo Laurenza	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Book	Bank Pass	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
	Bonds, Security Invoices, Coupons, etc	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb

Placard	Society of Christian Doctrine (MUSEUM) placard	Donation	Mr George Agius
Cribs	2 Miniature Cribs	Donation	Mr Peter Abdilla
Cribs	512 Miniature cribs	Donation	Mssrs Albert and Lina McCarthy
Documents	2 documents	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
Bomb	Fragment of a bomb	Donation	Ms Cecilia Xuereb
	Shell Pendant	Transfer	GMA
	Shell Pendant	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Shell and Bead	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Pierced bivalve shells from necklace. Rock cut tomb	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Shell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Shell from bone	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell from bone	Transfer	GMA
	5 shell beads & one shell from tomb 2 sieve	Transfer	GMA
	Shell pendant	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Shell	Transfer	GMA
	Seashell	Transfer	GMA
	Small shell bead	Transfer	GMA
	Shell bead	Transfer	GMA
	6 Shell beads Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA
	2 shell beads Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA
	Shell bead	Transfer	GMA
	Two shell beads from Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA
	14 shell beads + 2 fragments	Transfer	GMA
	2 shell beads Tomb	Transfer	GMA

2			
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
Beads - shell	Transfer	GMA	
Ceramic Bead	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
2 shell beads from Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
Oval shell bead for Tomb 2	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead	Transfer	GMA	
Spoon shaped pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Conch shell	Transfer	GMA	
Shell scoop	Transfer	GMA	
Ceramic figurines	Transfer	GMA	
Ceramic figurines	Transfer	GMA	
Ceramic Head	Transfer	GMA	
Shell bead from bone	Transfer	GMA	
Pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Green stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Bone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Green stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Stone fragment	Transfer	GMA	
Shell-worked	Transfer	GMA	
2 bone figurines	Transfer	GMA	
Greenstone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Bone pendant	Transfer	GMA	
Ceramic cup	Transfer	GMA	
Sherd	Transfer		
Sherd	Transfer		
Sherd	Transfer		
Sherd	Transfer		
Sherd	Transfer		

	Sherd	Transfer	
	Sherd	Transfer	
	4 Taurodont molars	Transfer	NMNH
	Fragmented left lower jaw with 3 molars in situ belonging to Myoxus species	Transfer	NMNH
	Fragmented scapula	Transfer	NMNH
	2 smaller bones (phalanx and fragmented bone)	Transfer	NMNH
Painting	The Iceberg	Transfer	From Private Collection to NMFA
Painting	St John the Evangelist at Patmos	Transfer	From Auberge d' Aragón to NMFA
Painting	Woman holding grapes	Transfer	From former Minister's Office at Ministry of Education to NMFA
Painting	Self Portrait with Red Tie	Transfer	From Maltese Embassy in Paris to NMFA
Painting	Self Portrait with Hat	Transfer	From Maltese Embassy in Paris to NMFA
Painting	Portrait of a Lady	Transfer	From Maltese Embassy in Paris to NMFA
Painting	Bozzetto of Violette Scicluna	Transfer	From Maltese Embassy in Paris to NMFA
Painting	Bust-length Portrait of Miriam Cassar Torreggiani	Transfer	From Maltese Embassy in Paris to NMFA
Painting	Martyrdom of St Catherine of Alexandria	Temporary Transfer	From St Catherine of Italy Church to NMFA
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Teal	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife

Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Hobby	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Hobby	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Black-headed Gull	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Black-headed Gull	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Moorhen	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Alpine Swift	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	White Wagtail	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Robin	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Stonechat	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Starling	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Starling	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Songthrush	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Spanish Sparrow	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Little Egret	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Purple Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Red-footed Falcon	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Purple Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Lesser Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Lesser Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Birdlife

Bird	Songthrush	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Starling	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Starling	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Great Crested Grebe	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Little Bittern	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Squacco Heron	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	2 Night Heron	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	3 Teal	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	2 Garganey	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Mallard	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Montagu's Harrier	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	2 Lesser Kestrel	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Common Coot	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Moorhen	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Common Snipe	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Woodcock	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Greenshank	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Common Redshank	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	2 Northern Lapwing	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Pomarine Skua	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Mediterranean Gull	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Black Tern	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	2 Short-eared Owl	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Common Kingfisher	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Hoopoe	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	Golden Oriole	Donation	Ms Cardona
Bird	4 Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	2 Little Egret	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Night Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	2 Purple Heron	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	3 Red-footed Falcon	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Common Kestrel	Donation	Birdlife
Bird	Montagu's Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Yellow-legged Gull	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Bustard	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Tree Sparrow	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Weasel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Pygmy Cormorant	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Bittern	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black Kite	Donation	Police/MEPA

Bird	Collared Dove	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Hobby	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Common Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Lesser Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Short-toed Eagle	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	4 Bee-eater	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Wood Lark	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Dotterel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Black-winged Stilt	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Wood Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Pomarine Skua	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Yellow-legged Gull	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Whiskered Tern	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Corncrake	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Blue Rock Thrush	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Nightjar	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Short-eared Owl	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Weasel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Pallid Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Common Snipe	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Hoopoe	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Marsh Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black-necked Grebe	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Yelkouan Shearwater	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Great Cormorant	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Grey Heron	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Egret	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Purple Heron	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Night Heron	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	4 Little Bittern	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Wigeon	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Shoveler	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Garganey	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Ferruginous Duck	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Honey Buzzard	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Montagu's Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Marsh Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black-Shouldered Kite	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Lesser Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Common Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Red-footed Falcon	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Hobby	Donation	Police/MEPA

Bird	Sparrowhawk	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Corn Crane	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Green Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Little Stint	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black-winged Stilt	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Spur-winged Plover 1	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Ringed Plover	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Greenshank	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Slender-billed Gull	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Gull	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Short-eared Owl	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Scops Owl	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Namaqua Dove	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Collared Dove	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Kingfisher	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 European Nightjar	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Egyptian Nightjar	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Common Cuckoo	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Senegal Coucal	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Little Green Bee-eater	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Common Swift	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Barn Swallow	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Red-rumped Swallow	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	House Martin	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	White Wagtail	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Yellow Wagtail	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Grey Wagtail	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Tawny Pipit	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Tree Pipit	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Rufous Nightingale	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black Redstart	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Stonechat	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Wood Warbler	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Collared Flycatcher	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Golden Oriole	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Great Grey Shrike	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Rook	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Hooded Crow	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Passer sp.	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Snow Bunting	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Domestic Pigeons	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Police/MEPA

Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Marsh Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	10 Night Heron	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	4 Short-eared Owl	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	3 Common Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Cuckoo	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Nightjar	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Wood Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Green Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Weasel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Black-necked Grebe	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Purple Heron	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Little Bittern	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Honey Buzzard	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Marsh Harrier	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Hobby	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Sparrowhawk	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Ringed Plover	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Little Crane	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Spotted Crane	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Common Kestrel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Dotterel	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Green Sandpiper	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Short-eared Owl	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Common Nightjar	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Common Cuckoo	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	2 Golden Oriole	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Robin	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Great Grey Shrike	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	7 Cory's Shearwater	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Eurasian Bittern	Donation	Police/MEPA
Bird	Greater Flamingo	Donation	Police/MEPA
Dog	St Bernard	Donation	Heirs of Mr Anthony Sammut
Dog	Corgi	Donation	Heirs of Mr Anthony Sammut
Beetles	1500+ beetles	Donation	Mr Henry Borg Barthet
Moths and Insects	100 moths and insects	Donation	Mr Paul Sammut
Magazines	18 issues of National Geographic	Donation	Mr George Bezzina
Books	30 issues of National	Donation	Mr Henry Borg Barthet

	Geographic		
Books	Set of Encyclopedia on Birds	Donation	Mr Henry Borg Barthet
Potter's wheel	Potter's wheel belonging to Karmnu Sacco (1877-1965) of Victoria, Gozo	Donation	Carmel Sacco, grandson of Karmnu Sacco
Bowl	Small earthenware bowl made by Karmnu Sacco	Donation	Carmel Sacco
Oil-lamps	5 traditional oil-lamps made by Karmnu Sacco	Donation	Carmel Sacco
Dough-maker	20 th century dough-maker	Purchase	Ms Carmen Grima



HM Exhibitions

1 October 2007 – 31 December 2008

During the last three months of 2007 and 2008, HM was involved in seventy-five exhibitions held in eight different countries: Malta, Italy, France, Austria, Belgium, USA, Netherlands and Spain. Twenty-seven exhibitions were organised by HM, fourteen of which were organised in collaboration with other entities. HM participated in eight exhibitions and hosted forty exhibitions in five of its venues.

Exhibitions organised by HM

22 June 2007 – 31 December 2008

World Heritage: Humanity's Gift to the Future – Long term exhibition produced by UNESCO and organised by HM at the Lobby of the NMA as part of the public information and consultation campaign on the Management Plans for the Megalithic Temples of Malta.

27 July 2007 – 30 December 2007

Malta's Mediterranean Trilogy: Bread, Oil and Wine – Exhibition organised as part of EU programme Trimed at Ta' Kola Windmill, Xaghra, Gozo.

6 December 2007 – 13 January 2008

Miniature Nativity Scenes: A Multicultural Christmas – Exhibition of unique nativity scenes from all over the world at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa.

15 December 2007 – 4 January 2008

American Prints – Exhibition of prints donated by Mr Martin Karlin from the USA at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

15 January – 25 March 2008

The Maria Pisani Bequest – Exhibition of paintings by Lazzaro Pisani at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA, on the occasion of their donation to HM by Maria Pisani.

28 January – 15 March 2008

American Prints - Exhibition of prints donated by Mr Martin Karlin from the USA at the HM Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, The Citadel, Gozo.

13 February – 24 February 2008

5,000 Years of Romance - Exhibition of a five thousand year old terracotta figurine depicting an embracing couple at the Lobby of the NMA, on the occasion of Valentine's Day.

29 February 2008

Passio et Resurrectio: The Cult of Christ's Passion and Resurrection from Lent to Pentecost – Permanent exhibition at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa, that traces the development of the cult of Christ's Passion and Resurrection in Malta and its related traditions.

16 June – 12 September 2008

Views of Gozo (1800-1940) in the National Collection - Exhibition of paintings from the National Collection depicting views of Gozo through the ages, at the HM Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, The Citadel, Gozo.

2 August – 7 September 2008

Bichi: Views from the Villa – Exhibition curated by Dott. Claude Busuttil at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

4 October – 5 October 2008

Sacred Silver – Exhibition of religious silver artefacts from the National Collection at the Tal-Pilar Church, Valletta, on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

13 December 2008

The Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Christmas - Permanent exhibition at the

Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa, that traces the development of the cult of the birth of Christ in Malta and its related traditions and miniature cribs from around the world donated by Albert McCarthy.

15 December 2008 – 23 January 2009

Batik, Mosaic, Photography & Paintings – Exhibition of works of art donated by foreign artists who exhibited their art at a HM venue, at the HM Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, The Citadel, Gozo.

Exhibitions organised in collaboration with others

15 June – 18 November 2007

Voyage & Voir: Travellers of the Grand Tour – International Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Comune Palazzolo Acreide as part of EU programme Interreg IIIA Italia – Malta at the Ground Floor Galleries, Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa.

11 August – 30 November 2007

Antonio Sciortino in Gozo – Exhibition organised at the Exhibition Hall, Ministry of Gozo, Victoria Gozo, in collaboration with the Gozo Council on the 60th Anniversary of the artist's death.

30 September – 2 December 2007

Caravaggio: L'Immagine del Divino, Esperienza ta' Darba – A Unique Experience – International exhibition organised by HM and Romartificio Eventi d'Arte at the Salon, NMA with the collaboration of the Government of Malta, Renaissance Productions Ltd and Superintendenza Speciale per il Polo Museale Romano, with the active sponsorship of the National Lotteries Good Causes Fund, MTA, HSBC (Malta) plc and Air Malta, and the support of the Malta Financial Services Authority, GO, Borza ta' Malta and Alarm Tech.

1 October – 7 December 2007

Fr Emmanuel Magri SJ: Jesuit, Ethnographer, Archaeologist and his relation with Gozo – Exhibition organised at HM Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, The Citadel, Gozo, in collaboration with the Maltese Jesuit Province on the centenary of his death.

6 October – 3 November 2007

Maltese Abstract Paintings from the National Collection – Exhibition organised at the Ministry for Tourism and Culture – Auberge d'Italie, Valletta in collaboration with the Ministry for Tourism and Culture on the occasion of the 2007 Notte Bianca.

13 March – 13 June 2008

Antonio Sciortino: A Maltese 20th Century Sculptor – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Ajuntamento de València at the Casa Museo Benlliure, Valencia, Spain.

26 April – 26 May 2008

The Lazzaro Pisani (1854-1932) and Giuseppe Briffa (1901-1987) Bequest Collection – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Gozo Cultural Council at the Exhibition Hall, Ministry for Gozo, Victoria Gozo on the occasion of the Gozo 1,2,3,4 event.

26 April – 30 May 2008

Views of Gozo (1800-1940) in the National Collection – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Gozo Cultural Council at the Upper Hall, Banca Giuratale, Victoria Gozo on the occasion of the Gozo 1,2,3,4 event.

12 June – 12 October 2008

Malta: Prehistory and Temples – Exhibition organised in collaboration with and hosted at the MARQ (Museo Arqueologico Provincial de Alicante), Alicante, Spain.

4 October – 5 October 2008

Ganado Map Collection – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the OPM at the Auberge de



Castille, Valletta, on the occasion of the 2008 Notte Bianca.

4 October – 5 October 2008

Views of Gozo (1800-1940) in the National Collection - Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at the Pardo Hall, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Valletta, on the occasion of the 2008 Notte Bianca.

20 October 2008 – 11 January 2009

Between the Battle Sword and the Cross: Masterpieces from the Armoury of Malta – International exhibition organised in collaboration with the Musée de l'Armée and the support of the MTA and the Maltese Embassy in Paris at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris France, on the occasion of the French EU Presidency.

22 October – 24 October 2008

Artefacts from Tal-Liedna Punic Tombs – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Fgura Local Council at the Fgura Primary School, on the occasion of Jum il-Fgura 2008.

6 December 2008 – 11 January 2009

The Victor Pasmore in Malta Exhibition – Exhibition organised in collaboration with the MCCA at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA, on the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth and the 10th anniversary from his death.

Exhibitions in which HM participated

30 March – 4 November 2007

With Holy Sword – The Crusaders: Pilgrims, Warriors, Adventurers – International Exhibition organised by Schallaburg Kulturbetriebsges.m.b.H. at the International Exhibitions Centre, Schallaburg Castle, Schallaburg, Austria.

3 October 2007 – 20 January 2008

The Grand Atelier: Pathways of Art in Europe (V-XVIII Centuries) – International exhibition organised by Europalia International at the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium, on the occasion of the Europalia Festival.

11 October– 16 December 2007

Caravaggio and Paintings of Realism in Malta – Exhibition organised by the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation at St John's Co-Cathedral Annex, Valletta.

15 October 2007 – 6 January 2008

Threads of Splendour: Tapestry in the Baroque – International exhibition organised by and hosted at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA.

25 January – 3 May 2008

Agata Santa: Storia, arte, devozione – International exhibition organised by and hosted at the Museo Diocesano, Catania, Italy.

26 April – 14 September 2008

Painted with Passion: Masterpieces of the Golden Age – International exhibition organised by and hosted at the Museum Catharijnconvent, Utrecht, Netherlands.

3 – 20 July 2008

Antique Chinese Ceramics – International exhibition organised by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa.

27 September 2008 – 5 October 2008

Ad Gaudem Dei – Exhibition organised by the Confraternity of the Holy Sacrament of Tarxien at Dar Nazaret, Tarxien, on the occasion of the 2008-09 Pauline Year and the 5th Anniversary of the Papal Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*.



Exhibitions hosted by HM

7 September – 2 October 2007

Bodies' – Contemporary art exhibition of drawings by Jesmond Vassallo, Gilbert Calleja and Robert Zahra at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

5 October – 26 October 2007

The Cave of Centaurs – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Anthony Catania at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

5 October – 4 November 2007

Etcetera, perche la minestra si fredda – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Franco Navarro at HM Head Office, Valletta.

2 November – 2 December 2007

a white chapel for a white dance – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

12 November – 23 November 2007

It's Fashion, It's Art, It's Maria – Photographic exhibition at HM Head Office, Valletta, organised by Maria Fleri Soler on her 35 years fashion dossier.

30 November 2007 – 6 January 2008

Transcendence: material, colori e rilievi – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Anthony P. Vella at HM Head Office, Valletta.

5 December 2007 – 22 January 2008

Roots of an Island – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Christopher Saliba at the Loggia, NMFA.

11 January – 17 February 2008

The Gentle Kiss of Existence – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Daniel Spiteri at HM Head Office, Valletta.

26 January – 4 March 2008

Contours – Contemporary art exhibition of ceramics by Charlot Cassar at the Loggia, NMFA.

23 February – 13 April 2008

Boats, Balconies and Buildings – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings and watercolours by Lionel Coates and Narinder Coates at HM Head Office, Valletta.

7 March – 15 April 2008

Watch – Contemporary art exhibition of an installation produced through the collaboration between Vince Briffa (Malta) Ken G. Hay & Seetha A. (Moorland Productions, UK) and J. Michael Anderson (UK) at the Loggia, NMFA.

29 March – 4 May 2008

Visage – Contemporary art exhibition of drawings, etchings, paintings and sculpture by Jesmond Vassallo and Francesco Astiaso Garcia at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

11 April – 25 April 2008

Mirror of Life – Collective contemporary art exhibition of paintings at the NMNH.

19 April – 18 May 2008

Treescapes ... Lifescapes – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Jeni Caruana at HM Head Office, Valletta.

19 April – 18 May 2008

Ix- u Jien – Contemporary art exhibition of drawings and paintings by Dustin Cauchi at the Loggia, NMFA.

10 May – 8 June 2008

Mikrokosmos – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Helga Portanier at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

24 May – 8 June 2008

Silence – Contemporary art exhibition of photos by Lia Salie at the Loggia, NMFA.

26 May – 22 June 2008

Into my Imagination – Exhibition of photographs by Joe Camilleri at HM Head Office, Valletta, on the occasion of their donation to HM.

14 June – 27 July 2008

Silk Batik from South East Asia: Sarkasi Said – Contemporary art exhibition of batik artworks from Singapore by Sarkasi Said at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

14 June – 6 July 2008

Good Vibrations – Contemporary art exhibition of watercolours by Paul Caruana at the Loggia, NMFA.

20 June – 26 July 2008

Mile of Paper – Contemporary art exhibition of a bookart installation at the Painting Galleries,



NMFA, by the MA / MFA student artists and tutors of the Fine Arts master programmes at the University College for the Creative Arts, Kent UK.

20 June – 5 July 2008

tourism.com – Contemporary art exhibition of a joint video installation by Ruth Bianco and Richard Davies at the Loggia, NMFA.

24 June – 27 July 2008

Portrayals – Contemporary art exhibition of drawings and paintings by Anna Dumicz at HM Head Office, Valletta.

28 June – 27 July 2008

Autofictions – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Axel Plöger at the Lower Courtyard, NMNH.

12 July – 17 August 2008

Anima di Pietroburgo – Contemporary art exhibition of photos by Kenneth Scicluna at the Loggia, NMFA.

1 August – 5 October 2008

Anima del Circo – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Priscilla Ainhua Griscti at the Ground Floor Galleries, MMM.

2 August – 31 August 2008

Malta in Fantasy – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings and watercolours by Anastasia Ponvatovskaya at HM Head Office, Valletta.

11 August – 14 September 2008

Good Vibrations – Contemporary art exhibition of watercolours by Paul Caruana at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa.

6 September – 19 October 2008

The Piper's Requiem – Contemporary art exhibition of drawings and paintings by Anthony Catania at HM Head Office, Valletta.

13 September – 12 October 2008

Soul and Spirit Creations – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings, mosaics and jewelry by Imre Kohan and Masha Kohan at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

2 October – 2 November 2008

Anima: the Soul Within – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings and sculptures by

Antonio Mifsud at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa.

10 October – 21 November 2008

girl; interviewed – Contemporary art exhibition of photos and graphic design by Kenneth Borg and Paul Mizzi at the Ground Floor Galleries, MMM.

17 October – 9 November 2008

Silverpoint – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings and works on paper using silverpoint technique by Victor Koulbak at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

26 October – 8 December 2008

Out of the Fire – Contemporary art collective exhibition of ceramics by Zell Osborne, Talia Maggi, Julie Apap, Barbara Attard Pettett, Deborah Marmara, Rosella Schembri and Sue Mifsud at HM Head Office, Valletta.

1 November – 30 November 2008

Angels Fall First – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Anne Nightingale at Tal-Pilar Church, Valletta.

8 November – 14 December 2008

Diaries of Existence – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Mark Sagona at the Loggia, NMFA.

15 November – 2 December 2008

Paintings – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by John Grima at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

13 December 2008 – 1 February 2009

From Within 2008 – Contemporary art collective exhibition by HM's members of staff at HM Head Office, Valletta.

19 December – 6 January 2008

Gloria in Excelsis Deo – Exhibition of Cribs and Bambini by Austin Galea and Justin Scicluna at the Inquisitor's Palace, Vittoriosa, on the occasion of the Birgu by Christmas Light event.

20 December 2008 – 30 January 2009

Strange Cargo – Contemporary art exhibition of paintings by Isabelle Borg at the Loggia, NMFA.

Visitors Statistics

<i>Site/Museum</i>	<i>Paying Visitors October 2007-December2008</i>	<i>Paying Visitors January 2008-December 2008</i>
Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum	67,243	56,754
Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples	91,033	76,667
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	32,063	25,760
Inquisitor's Palace	48,558	39,643
Malta Maritime Museum	21,119	17,075
Domvs Romana	29,442	23,581
National Museum of Archaeology	125,532	88,737
National Museum of Fine Arts	20,969	17,550
National Museum of Natural History	19,725	16,337
National War Museum	8,338	NIL
Palace Armoury	108,163	90,642
St. Paul's Catacombs	90,184	71,461
State Rooms	207,862	173,318
Tarxien Temples	155,862	125,881
Folklore Museum	9,859	7,328
Ġgantija Temples	238,811	196,460
Museum of Archaeology	15,580	12,256
Natural Science Museum	7,207	5,133
Ta' Kola Windmill	8,050	6,553
The Old Prisons	19,144	15,778
Ta' Hagrat Temples	413	399
Skorba Temples	323	306
TOTAL	1,325,479	1,067,619



HERITAGE MALTA

**Annual Report and Consolidated Financial
Statements**

31 December 2008

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Directors' report

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2008.

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. It also includes the Conservation Division, the main activity of which 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 Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (formerly the Ministry of Tourism and Culture). In 2008 €2,795,000 (2007: €3,834,149) was allocated to meet Heritage Malta's administrative expenditure for the calendar year from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 under Recurrent Vote 32, item 6031.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote V in the Government's financial estimates of 2008 covering the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. These include €699,000 (2007: €465,875) relating to improvements at Museums and historical sites, and restoration works under item 7033. No allocation of funds (2007: €11,646) for surveillance, security and automated ticketing system under item 7034 was made in 2008.

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 of 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.

Change in accounting reference date

The Agency's financial period has been changed to 31 December. Accordingly, these financial statements represent the period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 whilst comparative figures cover transactions for the year 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007.

Review of operations

This year Heritage Malta switched from a September financial year to a December financial year end, which means that this year's financial statements present results for 15 months compared to 12 months' comparatives. During the financial year Heritage Malta experienced a deficit of €3m, after a depreciation charge of €920k. This is in large part due to the reduction in effective government subvention in the previous year. The Agency generated revenue of €4.835m from operations, a slight decrease from last year due to several one off events in 2007. Accumulated losses stood at €2m.

While the Agency tried to cut costs and generate more revenue the deficit created by the 2007 reduction in subvention is not one it can come out from without additional Government intervention.

Directors' report – continued

Review of operations

The highest line item costs are wages and salaries, rent, security and utilities. The greatest increase was in security costs due to actual increase in the number of security personnel hired as the need increases. Other costs including salaries have remained consistent. There were one time costs associated with exhibitions as explained earlier which also generated one time revenues.

While the current financial situation looks bleak, going forward the picture is a more positive. Heritage Malta will generate enough revenue this year, which together with the €3.3m Government subvention (c. €500k higher than the subvention of last year) should be enough to cover this year's expenses and will generate even more in the coming years barring drops in visitors greater than those predicted thus far. The predicted increase in self-generated revenue is primarily due to the increase in ticket prices and increase business activity. This enable us to strengthen our operation and perform more work where needed. It does however require a one-time infusion to correct the current situation and give us a tabula rasa from which to proceed.

During the year in review work continued on the National War Museum, the National Museum of Archaeology, The Malta Maritime Museum, Ggantija, the ERDF Project at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra and several other minor projects.

Besides increasing its revenue steadily in 2010 and beyond, Heritage Malta is also aiming for substantial increases in visitors, sales of peripheral products and business activity. It plans to continue a major program of upgrading most of its sites. The budget is built with an assumed drop of 15% in visitors to account for the forecasted drop in tourist arrivals (and therefore visitors at Museums and sites).

In 2009 the National War Museum will re-open and the Hagar Qim Visitor Centre will be inaugurated. Besides increasing revenue these projects are also enhancing the product on offer by the National Agency. The shelters erected over Hagar Qim and Mnajdra will fulfil another important role of The National Agency – that of “protecting those elements of Cultural Heritage entrusted to its care”.

Throughout the year, the Agency continued tapping more private funding towards the upkeep and restoration of sites. Patrons continue providing financial support to Heritage Malta and private contributions are constantly sought to complement Government's annual funding to the Agency. Funding from EU projects has also been very successful and we plan to continue pursuing such funds aggressively.

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 period ended 31 December 2008 are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 106.

Directors' report - continued

Directors

The directors of Heritage Malta who held office until 1 August 2008 were:

Dr Mario Tabone
Ms Simone Mizzi
Mons John Azzopardi
Mr Mario Farrugia
Ms Cynthia de Giorgio
Prof Alfred Vella

As from 1 August 2008, the following directors were appointed:

Mr Joseph Said – Chairman
Ms Isabel Vella – Deputy Chairman
Ms Evelyn Baluci
Ms Norma Camilleri
Ms Marika Grech
Mr Bryan Magro
Mr Martin Mercieca
Prof Anthony Bonanno
Mr John Cremona

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.

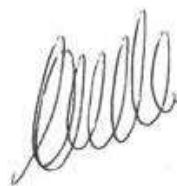
Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

On behalf of the board



Mr Joseph Said
Chairman



Ms Isabel Vella
Deputy Chairman

Registered office
Heritage Malta
Old University Buildings
Merchants Street
Valletta
Malta

17 June 2009

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 reporting 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

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Heritage Malta on pages 106 to 125 which comprise the statements of financial position as at 31 December 2008 and the income and expenditure accounts, statements of changes in accumulated funds and statements of cash flows for the period 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 103, 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.

Independent auditor's report - continued

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group and Agency as at 31 December 2008, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period 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.

Emphasis of matter

Without qualifying our opinion we draw your attention to accounting policy note 1 in the financial statements which indicates that the Agency incurred a deficit of €3,077,362 during the period ended 31 December 2008 and that, as at that date the Agency's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by €607,313. Accumulated losses as at that date amounted to €2,028,650. The Agency plans to fund this shortfall by generating additional revenue and by successfully implementing cost containment measures. Failure to secure these revenue streams and to contain costs to the required level would mean that the Agency would need the support of Government to be able to meet its liabilities. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result from the failure to generate these revenue streams or, eventually, to obtain Government's support.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

167 Merchants Street
Valletta
Malta



Simon Flynn
Partner

17 June 2009

Income and expenditure accounts

	Notes	Consolidated		Agency	
		Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure	2	3,895,241	2,040,710	3,895,241	2,040,710
Income from operations	3	4,835,146	4,258,414	4,717,114	4,155,242
Funds available for recurrent expenditure		8,730,387	6,299,124	8,612,355	6,195,952
Recurrent operational expenditure	4	(10,952,050)	(7,742,128)	(10,843,564)	(7,742,128)
Recurrent administrative expenditure	4	(857,766)	(320,650)	(850,297)	(221,770)
Deficit on recurrent expenditure before interest		(3,079,429)	(1,763,654)	(3,081,506)	(1,767,946)
Finance income	6	6,819	6,986	4,144	6,478
Deficit before income tax		(3,072,610)	(1,756,668)	(3,077,362)	(1,761,468)
Tax expense		(1,388)	(601)	-	-
Deficit for the financial period/year		(3,073,998)	(1,757,269)	(3,077,362)	(1,761,468)

The notes on pages 110 to 125 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of financial position

		Consolidated		Agency	
	Notes	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €
ASSETS					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,561,744	3,598,428	3,561,744	3,598,428
Investments in subsidiaries	10	-	-	4,959	4,959
Total non-current assets		3,561,744	3,598,428	3,566,703	3,603,387
Current assets					
Inventories	11	32,508	30,717	32,508	30,717
Trade and other receivables	12	347,509	1,476,033	445,893	1,575,227
Cash and cash equivalents	17	1,394,840	1,675,805	1,279,799	1,563,101
Total current assets		1,774,857	3,182,555	1,758,200	3,169,045
Total assets		5,336,601	6,780,983	5,324,903	6,772,432
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES					
Reserves					
Specific endowment funds	14	1,151,607	1,005,958	1,151,607	1,005,958
Accumulated fund					
- Capital vote		3,836,433	3,538,675	3,836,433	3,538,675
- Recurrent vote and operating activities		(2,023,452)	167,571	(2,028,650)	165,737
Total reserves		2,964,588	4,712,204	2,959,390	4,710,370
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	13	2,371,034	2,068,255	2,365,513	2,062,062
Taxation		979	524	-	-
Total liabilities		2,372,013	2,068,779	2,365,513	2,062,062
Total reserves and liabilities		5,336,601	6,780,983	5,324,903	6,772,432

The notes on pages 110 to 125 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 106 to 125 were authorised for issue by the board on 17 June 2009 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr Joseph Said
Chairman



Ms Isabel Vella
Deputy Chairman

Statements of changes in accumulated fund

	Notes	Recurrent vote & operating activities €	Capital vote €	Accumulated Fund €
Consolidated				
Balance at 1 October 2006		1,402,795	3,688,689	5,091,484
Deficit for the financial year		(1,757,269)	-	(1,757,269)
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	369,974	369,974
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		594,493	(594,493)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		82,520	(82,520)	-
Transfer of depreciation to specific endowment funds		2,057	-	2,057
Expenditure from ex-MCR Vote		(157,025)	157,025	-
Balance at 30 September 2007		167,571	3,538,675	3,706,246
Balance at 1 October 2007		167,571	3,538,675	3,706,246
Deficit for the financial period		(3,073,998)	-	(3,073,998)
Capital subvention for the period	15	-	1,180,733	1,180,733
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		820,249	(820,249)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		62,726	(62,726)	-
Balance at 31 December 2008		(2,023,452)	3,836,433	1,812,981
Agency				
Balance at 1 October 2006		1,405,160	3,688,689	5,093,849
Deficit for the financial year		(1,761,468)	-	(1,761,468)
Capital subvention for the year	15	-	369,974	369,974
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		594,493	(594,493)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		82,520	(82,520)	-
Transfer of depreciation to specific endowment funds		2,057	-	2,057
Expenditure from EX-MCR Vote		(157,025)	157,025	-
Balance at 30 September 2007		165,737	3,538,675	3,704,412
Balance at 1 October 2007		165,737	3,538,675	3,704,412
Deficit for the financial period		(3,077,362)	-	(3,077,362)
Capital subvention for the period	15	-	1,180,733	1,180,733
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote		820,249	(820,249)	-
Transfer of acquisitions purchased		62,726	(62,726)	-
Balance at 31 December 2008		(2,028,650)	3,836,433	1,807,783

The notes on pages 110 to 125 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of cash flows

	Notes	Consolidated		Agency	
		Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash used in operations	16	(729,620)	(382,891)	(730,215)	(432,700)
Interest received	6	6,819	6,986	4,144	6,478
Tax paid		(933)	(77)	-	-
Net cash used in from operating activities		(723,734)	(375,982)	(726,071)	(426,222)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	9	(883,613)	(745,285)	(883,613)	(745,285)
Net cash used in investing activities		(883,613)	(745,285)	(883,613)	(745,285)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Capital subvention from Government	15	1,180,733	369,974	1,180,733	369,974
Specific endowment funds	14	145,649	223,802	145,649	223,802
Net cash generated from financing activities		1,326,382	593,776	1,326,382	593,776
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(280,965)	(527,491)	(283,302)	(577,731)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		1,675,805	2,203,296	1,563,101	2,140,832
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	17	1,394,840	1,675,805	1,279,799	1,563,101

The notes on pages 110 to 125 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

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 2008

In 2008, the Agency adopted new standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards that are mandatory for the Agency's accounting period beginning on 1 October 2007. The adoption of these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs did not result in substantial changes to the Agency's accounting policies. IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures, and the complementary Amendment to IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements – Capital Disclosures, introduce new disclosures relating to financial instruments and capital, but do not have any impact on the classification and measurement of the Agency's financial instruments and capital.

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 but are mandatory for accounting periods beginning after 1 October 2007. The Agency has not early adopted these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs and the Agency's directors are of the opinion that there are no requirements that will have a possible significant impact on the Group's 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 Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (formerly the Ministry for Tourism and Culture). In 2008 €2,795,000 (2007: €3,834,148) was allocated to meet Heritage Malta's administrative expenditure for the calendar year from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 under Recurrent Vote 32, item 6031.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote V in the Government's financial estimates of 2008 covering the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. These include €699,000 (2007: €465,875) relating to improvements at Museums and historical sites and restoration works under item 7033. In 2007 an allocation of €11,647 had been made for surveillance, security and automated ticketing system under item 7034.

During the period the Agency incurred a deficit of €3,077,362 and at 31 December 2008 its current liabilities exceeded its current assets by €607,313. Accumulated losses as at that date amounted to €2,028,650. These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis that assumes that the Agency will continue in operational existence in the foreseeable future. The validity of this assumption depends on the Agency generating additional revenue and successfully implementing cost containment measures. Failure to achieve these targets to the required extent would mean that the Agency would need the support of Government to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The directors are committed to implement the revenue generating and cost containment measures that are required but realise that the successful outcome of their actions is subject to uncertainty because of factors beyond their control, such as the level of tourist arrivals for the year. The directors are however confident that Government will support the Agency by making up for an eventual shortfall in cash generated.

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-entity 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 10.

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 income from operations. 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 on accruals basis.

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 euro, which is the Agency's functional and presentation currency.

Malta adopted the euro as its national currency on 1 January 2008. This date fell within the Agency's financial reporting period. On this date the Agency's functional currency was changed from Maltese lira to euro. Consequently, the results and financial position of the Agency were translated at the Irrevocably Fixed Conversion Rate of €1: Lm0.429300 as at that date. The financial statements are presented in euro, which is the Agency's 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. 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 office equipment	12.5 – 25
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10 - 12.5
Ticketing system	15
Motor vehicle	25

6. Property, plant and equipment - continued

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 Agency 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. 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.

9. Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories 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 inventories 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.

10. Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables 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 and other receivables 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

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:

	Consolidated & Agency			
	Total vote 2008 €	Amount attributable to reporting period 2008 €	Total vote 2007 €	Amount attributable to reporting period 2007 €
Subvention received from consolidated fund for Heritage Malta:				
- 2007	3,834,149	958,537	3,940,918	878,267
- 2008	2,795,000	2,795,000	3,834,149	2,875,611
Additional amount received in kind, by way of payment by Government, of expenses on behalf of the Agency	-	141,704	-	150,331
Subvention re prior years withdrawn	-	-	-	(1,863,499)
	6,629,149	3,895,241	7,775,067	2,040,710

3. Income from operations

The income from operations was generated locally from entrance fees and other ancillary services.

4. Expenses by nature

	Consolidated		Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Employee benefit expenses (Note 5)	6,621,654	5,116,486	6,513,168	5,027,970
Depreciation of tangible assets (Note 9)	920,297	601,824	920,297	601,824
Rent	293,946	273,480	293,946	273,480
Other expenses	3,787,831	2,041,964	3,780,323	2,031,600
Increase in provision for impairment of receivables	186,088	29,024	186,127	29,024
	11,809,816	8,062,778	11,693,861	7,963,898

Auditors' remuneration for the current period amounted to €3,494 for the Agency and €466 for the subsidiary undertaking respectively (2007: €3,494 and €466) .

5. Employee benefit expenses

	Consolidated		Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Wages and salaries, paid by Government on behalf of the Agency	141,704	150,330	141,704	150,330
Wages and salaries, paid directly	6,005,985	4,623,599	6,005,985	4,623,599
Social security costs	473,965	342,557	473,965	342,557
	6,621,654	5,116,486	6,621,654	5,116,486
Wages and salaries recharged to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	(108,486)	(88,516)
	6,621,654	5,116,486	6,513,168	5,027,970

5. Employee benefit expense - continued

The average number of persons employed by Heritage Malta during the period was as follows:

	Consolidated & Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008	Year ended 30 September 2007
Operations	237	235
Administration	61	61
	298	296

6. Finance income

	Consolidated		Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Bank interest	6,819	6,986	4,144	6,478

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	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Fees	37,645	39,133

9. Property, plant and equipment

Consolidated and Agency

	Infrastructural improvements €	Plant & equipment €	Computer hardware & office equipment €	Furniture fixtures & fittings €	Ticketing system €	Total €
At 30 September 2006						
Cost or valuation	1,750,590	1,974,372	321,523	1,357,358	474,640	5,878,483
Accumulated depreciation	(457,678)	(1,018,300)	(217,545)	(551,579)	(178,414)	(2,423,516)
Net book amount	1,292,912	956,072	103,978	805,779	296,226	3,454,967
Year ended 30 September 2007						
Opening net book amount	1,292,912	956,072	103,978	805,779	296,226	3,454,967
Additions	177,708	158,619	98,612	307,461	2,885	745,285
Depreciation charge	(125,883)	(212,935)	(62,497)	(129,062)	(71,447)	(601,824)
Closing net book amount	1,344,737	901,756	140,093	984,178	227,664	3,598,428
At 30 September 2007						
Cost or valuation	1,928,298	2,132,991	420,135	1,664,819	477,525	6,623,768
Accumulated depreciation	(583,561)	(1,231,235)	(280,042)	(680,641)	(249,861)	(3,025,340)
Net book amount	1,344,737	901,756	140,093	984,178	227,664	3,598,428
Period ended 31 December 2008						
Opening net book amount	1,344,737	901,756	140,093	984,178	227,664	3,598,428
Additions	569,648	138,850	29,041	146,074	-	883,613
Depreciation charge	(176,481)	(287,159)	(57,969)	(171,024)	(227,664)	(920,297)
Closing net book amount	1,737,904	753,447	111,165	959,228	-	3,561,744
At 31 December 2008						
Cost or valuation	2,497,946	2,271,841	449,176	1,810,893	477,525	7,507,381
Accumulated depreciation	(760,042)	(1,518,394)	(338,011)	(851,665)	(477,525)	(3,945,637)
Net book amount	1,737,904	753,447	111,165	959,228	-	3,561,744

10. Investment in subsidiary

	Agency
	€
Periods ended 31 December 2008 and 30 September 2007	
Opening and closing net book amount	4,959
At 31 December 2008 and 30 September 2007	
Cost and net book amount	4,959

10. Investment in subsidiary - continued

The subsidiary undertaking at 31 December 2008 and 30 September 2007 is shown below:

Agency	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. Inventories

	Consolidated & Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €
Publications held for sale	32,508	30,717

12. Trade and other receivables

	Consolidated		Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €
Amounts falling due within one year				
Trade receivables – gross	524,419	537,992	514,067	457,543
Provision for impairment	(255,771)	(69,683)	(255,521)	(69,394)
Trade receivables – net	268,648	468,309	258,546	388,149
Prepayments and accrued income	24,293	463,478	24,293	463,478
Deferred expenditure	52,306	43,743	52,306	43,743
Amount owed by related undertakings	-	-	108,486	179,355
Amounts owed by Government	-	257,396	-	257,396
Other receivables	2,262	243,107	2,262	243,106
	347,509	1,476,033	445,893	1,575,227

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 payables

	Consolidated		Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008	As at 30 September 2007	As at 31 December 2008	As at 30 September 2007
	€	€	€	€
Amounts falling due within one year				
Trade payables	934,213	910,853	934,213	910,853
Indirect taxes and social security	746,120	108,209	741,181	103,180
Amounts owed to Government	-	230,607	-	230,607
Accruals and deferred income	690,701	818,586	690,119	817,422
	2,371,034	2,068,255	2,365,513	2,062,062

14. Specific endowment funds

	Consolidated & Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008	As at 30 September 2007
	€	€
Non – EU		
Restricted funds – Farsons Foundation	3,319	1,561
Restricted funds – MTA Roman Domus	9,317	9,317
Restricted funds – BOV Tarxien Temples	259,524	261,120
Restricted funds – Research Fund	16,200	19,217
Restricted funds – Mizzi Foundation	4,746	6,988
Restricted funds – Vodafone Malta Limited	84,834	83,487
Restricted funds – HSBC Malta plc	80,998	46,035
Restricted funds – HSBC Hypogeum Hilton	29,152	28,931
Restricted funds – HSBC SPC Radisson	46,877	36,483
Restricted funds – HSBC Mnajdra San Gorg	2,613	2,614
Restricted funds – HSBC Hagar Qim Intercontinental	12,717	8,928
Restricted funds – HSBC Vilhena Xara Palace	4,254	2,113
Restricted funds – HSBC SPC Golden Sands	6,563	4,985
Restricted funds – HSBC SPC Coastline	267	-
Restricted funds – HSBC Ta' Kola Windmill	93	-
Restricted funds – Maltacom Ganado Maps	2,760	8,724
Restricted funds – World Monuments Funds – Mnajdra	-	23,629
Restricted funds – Domus Romana Mosaics	5,829	4,875
Restricted funds – Aurora Trust Scholars	2,329	2,329
Restricted funds – Abattija tad-Dejr – Din l-Art Helwa	3,513	4,659
Restricted funds – Palace Armoury – Gasan Mamo Insurance	32,239	22,770
Restricted funds – Strickland Foundation	-	4,659
Restricted funds – Educational – Gasan Mamo	1,368	-
	609,512	583,424

14. Specific endowment funds - continued

	Consolidated & Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €
EU		
Restricted funds – Cart Ruts	113,580	100,342
Restricted funds – ECPL Ldv Pilot Project	185,216	160,040
Restricted funds – Masths Ldv Mobility	-	13,718
Restricted funds – Eurorestor Ldv Mobility	-	16,124
Restricted funds – Swap Ldv Mobility	-	16,960
Restricted funds – Intact Ldv Mobility	-	15,399
Restricted funds – Promet	52,121	62,171
Restricted funds – Michael Plus Project	88,878	37,780
Restricted funds – MM4ALL	12,658	-
Restricted funds – Sterna	22,002	-
Restricted funds – Smart Museum	67,640	-
	542,095	422,534
	1,151,607	1,005,958

Endowment funds are derived from gifts and donations to Heritage Malta and can only be used for specific purposes. Depreciation on property, plant and equipment funded by these funds amounting to €9,539 has been transferred from the recurrent vote and charged to the respective fund.

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 period were:

	Consolidated & Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Subvention received from consolidated fund under Capital Vote III, item 7033 in respect of improvements at Museums and historical sites, and restoration work	1,180,733	369,974
	1,180,733	369,974

16. Cash used in operations

Reconciliation of deficit on recurrent expenditure to cash used in operations:

	Consolidated		Agency	
	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €	Period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2008 €	Year ended 30 September 2007 €
Deficit on recurrent expenditure	(3,079,429)	(1,763,654)	(3,081,506)	(1,767,946)
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation (Note 9)	920,297	601,824	920,297	601,824
Provision for impairment of receivables (Note 12)	186,088	29,024	186,127	29,024
Changes in working capital:				
Inventories	(1,791)	445	(1,791)	445
Trade and other receivables	942,436	382,014	943,207	334,859
Trade and other payables	302,779	367,456	303,451	369,094
Cash used in operations	(729,620)	(382,891)	(730,215)	(432,700)

17. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, the period-end cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	Consolidated		Agency	
	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €	As at 31 December 2008 €	As at 30 September 2007 €
Cash at bank and in hand	1,394,840	1,675,805	1,279,799	1,563,101

Included with cash at bank and in hand is an amount of €994,292 (2007: €737,449) in respect of the Specific Endowment Funds disclosed in note 14.

18. 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).

Moreover at year-end the Agency was committed to co-fund works carried out at Tarxien Temples amounting to €41,000.

19. Financial risk management

Financial risk factors

The Group's activities potentially expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including currency risk, fair value interest rate risk, cash flow interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance. The Group did not make use of derivative financial instruments to hedge certain risk exposures during the current and preceding financial years.

The Board provides principles for overall risk management, as well as policies covering risks referred to above and specific areas such as investment of excess liquidity.

(a) Market risk

(i) Foreign exchange risk

The Group's operating revenues, operating expenditure and financing are mainly denominated in euro. Accordingly, the Group's exposure to foreign exchange risk is not significant and a sensitivity analysis for foreign exchange risk disclosing how surplus or deficit and equity would have been affected by changes in foreign exchange rates that were reasonably possible at the balance sheet date is not deemed necessary.

(ii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

As the Group has no significant interest-bearing assets, the Group's income and operating cash flows are not dependent of changes in market interest rates. The Group's interest rate risk arises from long-term borrowings. Borrowings issued at variable rates, comprising bank borrowings, expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk. Management monitors the level of floating rate borrowings as a measure of cash flow risk taken on. The Group had no borrowings at year-end.

Based on the above, management considers the potential impact on surplus or deficit of a defined interest rate shift that is reasonably possible at the reporting date to be immaterial.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks, as well as credit exposures to customers, including outstanding receivables and committed transactions. The Group's exposures to credit risk are analysed as follows:

	As at 31 December 2008 €'000	As at 30 September 2007 €'000
Trade and other receivables (Note 12)	348	1,477
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 17)	1,395	1,675

19. Financial risk management - continued

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date in respect of the financial assets mentioned above is disclosed in the respective notes to the financial statements. The Group does not hold any collateral as security in this respect.

The Group banks only with financial institutions with high quality standing or rating.

The Group has no significant concentration of credit risk with respect to trade receivables in view of the large number of customers comprising its trade debtor base. The Group assesses the credit quality of its customers taking into account financial position, past experience and other factors. It has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are effected to customers with an appropriate credit history. The Group monitors the performance of these financial assets on a regular basis to identify incurred collection losses which are inherent in the Group's receivables taking into account historical experience in collection of accounts receivable.

The Group manages credit limits and exposures actively in a practicable manner such that there are no material past due amounts receivable from customers as at the reporting date.

(c) Liquidity risk

The Group is exposed to liquidity risk in relation to meeting future obligations associated with its financial liabilities, which comprise principally trade and other payables (refer to Note 13). Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash and committed credit lines to ensure the availability of an adequate amount of funding to meet the Group's obligations.

Management monitors liquidity risk by means of cash flow forecasts on the basis of expected cash flows over a twelve month period and ensures that no additional financing facilities are expected to be required over the coming period. The Group's liquidity risk is not deemed material in view of the matching of cash inflows and outflows arising from expected maturities of financial instruments. The carrying amounts of the Group's assets and liabilities are analysed into relevant maturity grouping based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date in the respective notes to the financial statements.

(d) Fair values

At 31 December 2008 and 30 September 2007 the carrying amounts of cash at bank, debtors, creditors and accrued expenses approximated their fair values in view of the nature of the instruments or their short-term maturity.

20. 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.

21. Statutory information

Heritage Malta is a body corporate set up by the enactment of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002.

22. Comparative information

All comparative financial information has been converted into euro using the Irrevocably Fixed Conversion Rate of €1: Lm0.429300. This change in comparative presentation has been made for information purposes only. Comparative figures disclosed in the main components of these financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year's disclosure format for the purpose of fairer presentation.



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