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Heritage Malta

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Foreword

2021 proved to be extra-ordinary. Surely enough, though, Heritage Malta rose to the occasion. The non-negligible and persistent financial challenges brought about by the pandemic had little effect, if any at all, on the Agency's appetite and drive to valorise, democratise and promote the heritage resources in its care. On the contrary, it intensified the ambitious programme of conservation and restoration works, sustained the enrichment of the national inventory with the acquisition of significant assets, and embraced innovative genres of interaction with diverse audiences. During the year under review, Heritage Malta also spearheaded the continuous assessment and fine-tuning of its organisational set up and modus operandi to ensure the fulfilment of its statutory obligations and bolster its role as leading player in the local heritage scene.

The opening section of this report provides a comprehensive overview of the breadth, variety and complexity of the long list of infrastructural projects initiated, partially implemented or concluded during 2021. Their successful execution required meticulous preparations, effective synergy between a multitude of professionals and stakeholders, and painstaking operations on site. Clearly, these projects would not have been financially feasible had Heritage Malta adopted a less proactive stance with respect to the exploitation of local and international funding opportunities. Equally notable is the roll of projects undertaken by the highly specialised conservation arm. Indeed, hundreds of objets d'art and artefacts of varying materials have been granted a new lease of life.

Research is key to best practice and the enhancement of the services on offer. Given the Agency's portfolio, research interests are multifaceted and intrinsically interdisciplinary. More importantly, no quest is ever fully exhausted as new discoveries and methodologies unavoidably trigger fresh pursuits. This is particularly true of collection and site management where the ongoing technological advances are stimulating quantum leaps in the collation, processing and dissemination of knowledge. While contributing towards the formulation of a more effective and sustainable strategy for the safeguarding and enjoyment of the same heritage assets, the respective research programmes inspire and guide the Agency's busy outreach programme. Temporary exhibitions were staged locally and abroad following the progressive easing of the pandemic restrictions. Concurrently, the drastically reduced schedule of onsite activities was amply compensated for by virtual sessions and online didactic resources. An impressive, record number of publications covering 8000 years of history was likewise produced.

Admissions registered significant increases over 2020, though nowhere near pre-pandemic levels. Nonetheless, the experiences on offer have been markedly enhanced. Permanent displays are increasingly more engaging and edutaining, while a more visitor-centric approach has been adopted. Heritage Malta remains fully committed to safeguard our communal identity and to ensure its enjoyment by present and future generations.

Noel Zammit
Chief Executive Officer

CAPITAL WORKS

Cottonera Region

Following the approval of the Cottonera Strategy prepared by the Agency, subsequent to the issuance of the vision for the area by the central government, the Agency prioritised the various aspects of the vision and started to establish a way forward in its implementation.

The restoration works on the back façade of the **Inquisitor's Palace** continued through phase 3 - the final phase will spill into 2022. Works included structural consolidation, cleaning, plastic repair of the masonry fabric, pointing and the inevitable replacement of heavily deteriorated stonework. Following last year's removal of the armoured cable and the re-routing of power and light in the prison corridor leading to the *scale segrete*, the masonry behind the redundant switchboard (adjacent to the Tourist Information Office) was restored. Another distribution board was fixed next to the Cardinals' Hall on the third floor, and the garden well-head was rebuilt following last year's cleaning exercise.

Part of the wooden roofing of the display area in the Pannellini Quarters had to be replaced following damage caused by dry rot generated from water ingress and insect infestation. The infected wooden planks were substituted, and waterproofing secured through the traditional 'deffun' method. Other works included repairs in the waterproofing membrane at roof level, plastering and repainting in the reception area, reconditioning and repainting of doors within the prison complex and the windows in the Costumes quarantine and ethnography reserve area. A tender for the restoration of the interiors of the Palace is also currently being drafted.

Resources were also dedicated towards the upkeep of the **Birgu Armoury**, namely the upper floor and courtyard which fall under the direct responsibility of HM. This included thorough cleaning of the roof from all the debris and overgrowth which was blocking some of the rainwater downpipes, the cleaning of all internal spaces, and the regular clearing of the courtyard from overgrowth.

On the other hand, the project at the **Malta Maritime Museum**, after completion of the phases funded via the EEA mechanism, shall continue to be implemented via local funds. In the meantime, the restoration works on all external timber apertures are progressing as per programme of works and nearing completion. The procurement of an integrated design team for the subsequent stages of the project is also underway. Furthermore, as part of the restoration of the building, the planning permit was approved to reinstate parts of the original yards and terrace along St Lawrence Street, which had been backfilled in the 1950s. Preparatory works are also underway to commence with the restoration of the internal fabric of the ground floor spaces and clock tower, which are not part of the EEA project. All internal doors of the St Angelo Hall were restored. A number of display cabinets to showcase the Taste History related artefacts were also constructed and now form part of the dining room furniture. The ongoing works have uncovered new spaces and re-instituted spaces previously inaccessible. This has now triggered an opportunity for the curatorial staff to re-

evaluate the masterplan of the museum since new opportunities have been created.

At **Fort St Angelo** regular maintenance, as per established maintenance plan and schedules, proceeded throughout the year. Parts of the external architectural lighting circuits and fittings had to be replaced due to their deterioration in such a severe exposed environment. A new limestone fireplace was also manufactured internally and installed in the Officers Lounge. Work on the microblasting of Cavalier guns' bases and racers are planned to start in January 2022.

Works at the Malta Maritime Museum

Works at the Malta Maritime Museum

Valletta Region

A number of [internal] working groups were set up to plan the various projects forming part of the **Valletta Vision** which the Agency had prepared for all its sites in Valletta, approved in 2019. These were presented in view of securing the required funding to consolidate their project proposals for the following sites:

1. the Auberge de Provence (National Museum of Archaeology),
2. the Main Guard,
3. the complex at Biagio steps (presently the Fortress Interpretation Centre), and
4. the underground spaces to be opened to the public.

Works started according to the project plans. At the **National Museum of Archaeology**, the works focused on drafting a design brief for an international design competition for the entire site/museums and the architectural surveying of the entire complex, including annexed areas such as 138 and 139 Melita Street and the properties on Cart Street, for the same scope. In the meantime, based on extensive archival research, site investigations continued, in order to establish the existence, or otherwise, of certain architectural features shown in the historic drawings/photos/documents.

Works concerning **Underground Valletta** continued. These included the finalisation of the automated glazed entrances, the installation of the shelter over the entrance at Misraħ San Ġwann, the installation of handrails, walkways and a water pump against flooding, the finalisation of safety measures in passage ways to enable the opening of the site to the public. A locker room and safety equipment have been set up at the National Museum of Archaeology to manage the tours. This site was officially launched on 3 November, with the first tour taking place the following Sunday. Comprising of underground water systems and World War II shelters, Underground Valletta is a novel addition to HM's sites and has generated keen interest from the general public. Two tours were planned for every Wednesday and Sunday, but the demand meant that they had to be increased to four tours each time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. Works on the immersive aspect of this project will proceed to 2022.

Although a tender to engage an integrated design team for the complex at **Biagio steps** (presently the Fortress Interpretation Centre) to be transformed into an interpretation centre for Valletta has been drafted, this is not yet published until the funds are allocated for this project. On the other hand, such an integrated design team was engaged for the **Main Guard** via a tendering process, and the design is now in its initial stages.

Works at the **Grand Master's Palace**, the Agency's largest project ever undertaken, with an investment of circa €28M, €10M of which are co-financed via the ERDF funding mechanism, continued with a steady pace. Apart from the restoration works on the external masonry fabric and structural repairs/waterproofing of the roofs, the works have now focused on the installation of the required services within the various areas. This was followed by the restoration of the

interiors of the State Rooms, focusing on the ornate timber soffits, fresco and decorated wall surfaces and the marble flooring. In 2022, the works shall now also be very intensive in the areas earmarked to accommodate the Offices of the President, at second and third floor levels, partly overlying the main grand staircase.

Following the completion of works on the roofs (timber beams and roofing slabs (xorok) together with the concrete roof over the above-mentioned traditional roof were completed in summer 2020), work on installing the Nasoni soffit back in its place was commenced. Two corridors (Chapel and Short) and the Uccelliera soffits were installed by end 2021. Restoration also included the decorated pilasters and one-tone coloured walls. Through research on the walls themselves, a final decision was reached to paint the bare one-tone walls in terracotta, after the original scheme used by Nasoni.

In order to install the new electrical system and restore the very marble flooring, most of the marble flooring in both the Chapel and Armoury corridors was taken out, including the main staircase lobby, following the required mapping and numbering. The cleaning and repairing of any broken original marble components followed. Careful research and investigation of the original 1866 contracts and plans/designs by Ditta Darmanin revealed that the red 'marble' components were in fact "baked Maltese hardstone". A similar experiment was therefore conducted and indeed at certain high temperatures these slabs turned into red. It was, therefore, decided that all past interventions using several red hue marble, instead of these baked hard stone slabs, these were replaced by newly 'baked red marble'. All the above-mentioned areas were re-installed by the end of the year. The only remaining corridor to be restored is the Short corridor.

The design and fabrication of several missing plant pot corbels (saljaturi) in the corridors was also concluded. One such corbel was missing from both the Short and Armoury corridors, while eleven were missing in the Chapel corridor. From a mid-19th-century plan it was noted that in the latter corridor, bedrooms were installed along six of the bays, and these corbels had to be hacked out to make more room.

Historical research was continued on Casa Eusthacio del Monte – one of the very first houses to be built in Valletta which also acted as the temporary Grand Master's Palace during the very early stages of the new city of Valletta. Subsequently, it was amalgamated with the first Auberge d'Italie and other purposely built buildings to form the present Grand Master's Palace. Various accretions were demolished at the former Attorney General's office area at ground floor level. The same approach was used regarding the two-floor high accretion on Prince Alfred's Courtyard, which was demolished. Restoration work on the original façade is practically complete. Several toilets and partition walls were also demolished in the Orangerie, thus, finally it became entirely legible. Works came to a halt following archaeological findings, namely the remains of the Nymphaeum. Investigations are in progress.

Practically all wooden apertures are also being restored. The ground floor windows overlooking St George's Square and Old Theatre Street were completed. Some date to the Victorian period while others are post-WWII. Work included the replacement and manufacture of new hardware components, such as hinges and bolts. Also, restoration of twenty large windows including their louvers commenced during the year at the Piano Nobile level overlooking Neptune's Courtyard. The windows date to the early 18th century and some still have the original float glass, full of imperfections and various widths. The louvers seem to date to the early 19th century. Several replacements of hardware had to be manufactured to match the original.

The installation of new electrical, air conditioning and dehumidification systems once again proved highly problematic. By the end of 2021, the Pages and Ambassadors' rooms had the infrastructure installed. In order to do so, the mahogany skirting under the damask hangings were removed so that the electrical cable trays could be installed. All along the walls of each room, a trench had to be dug out to accommodate the services. The marble floor in these areas was mapped, numbered, taken out, cleaned and re-laid following the laying of the conduit. The mahogany skirting was deemed not appropriate to be re-installed, since apart from various modifications to the height, it was also punctured haphazardly all along to accommodate 13 Amp sockets and other devices, some defunct, such as cable radio. A new skirting in mahogany was designed, including the reclaimed and enlarged gilt beadings.

The proposed Papal visit, followed by that of the President of Ireland, towards the end of the year did not materialise because of various factors, including COVID-19. The Pages' and Ambassadors' rooms were fully refurbished for the purpose. The said rooms were still used for the events commemorating Republic Day on 13 December and for the official greetings to the President on 18 December. Several rooms within the Office of the President of the Republic had their damask taken off so that the walls could be investigated. Some stretches of the flooring were also taken out so that the beams and roofing structures underneath could be inspected. Several *tasselli* were also opened on the painted surfaces of the walls of these rooms. One room, identified to be the long-lost chapel of the winter quarters, was found to be decorated and was whitewashed all over, eventually to be restored. New balustrades were installed in three windows overlooking Prince Alfred's Courtyard. The President of Malta visited the Palace three times to observe ongoing works.

The continuous maintenance/restoration and upgrading of the structures at **Fort St Elmo** continued. Works included the regular maintenance of all roofs by 'deffun' or liquid membrane, installation of various water gutters, floor lights and repair of downpipes and various other equipment. Works also continued in the upper level of the Cavalier. These included works in the restoration of the ramp and foundation levels of the former lighthouse. Structural repairs and interventions were carried in various areas/buildings. Extensive cleaning was carried out at the Lazarus bastion underground magazines, while Ambjent Malta assisted with the cleaning of the ditch from excessive vegetation. Snagging and maintenance works are ongoing in **MUŻA**. Furthermore, following the completion of the paving works in Pjazza De Valette, works have now shifted to the restoration of the fabric

of the former Jobs Plus offices, located under the Camerone area, with access from Zachary Street and linked via a staircase to the ground floor level. This drastically improves the potential at basement level and works are also being planned to further upgrade the visitor experience. In November, a heavy downpour of rain resulted in partial flooding of the second-floor corridor next to the conference room, causing ingress in the gallery room underneath. No works of art were affected or damaged, yet the matter was raised again with urgency. Mitigation measures should be in place early 2022.

Maintenance works also took place at the Church of **Our Lady of Pilar**. This included the installation of a new sanitary facility, regular cleaning and inspections in preparation for rental events, and other initiatives. Discussions are underway with GHRC and with the Ministry of Justice and Governance for the transfer of spaces adjacent to the Sacristy, to be able to implement some further site facilities.

A working committee was set up for the management of works at **Villa Guardamangia** and the carrying out of preparatory work for an ERDF proposal for the restoration and rehabilitation of the site, as well as the implementation of an engaging visitor experience. A structural survey to assess the condition of the walls surrounding the villa's garden was undertaken, and a large underground cistern was discovered in part of the garden. This led to the need of a GPR survey for the whole site in order to ensure whether there are any other underground features. A well shaft in the garage, which was partly filled with inert waste and debris, was cleaned up. Most of the timber beams supporting the roofs of the villa have been assessed in preparation for the planned restoration works. In the meantime, a team of conservators are uncovering painted wall decorations on the internal walls.

Works at **Villa Frère** continued in earnest. Further to the planning approval of various restoration works, the reconstruction of collapsed ceilings at Villa Hay was initiated in autumn. Other minor interventions around the gardens, the Gardener's Cottage and perimeter walls were always ongoing. On another front, various representations and appeals were filed by Friends of Villa Frère and HM in a bid to protect the context of Villa Frère from adverse development planning applications, with some of them having favourable decisions taken, while others are still in progress.

Underground Valletta

Grand Master's Palace

Works at Fort St Elmo

Works at Villa Guardamangia

South Region

The working group which was set up for **Għar Dalam Park** also continued with its work to further develop the project in view of lodging an ERDF project proposal for the 2021-27 period, for the implementation of the master plan [and interpretation strategy] for all the sites managed by the Agency in the Wied Dalam area. A development brief is being prepared for a new visitor centre for the park, and land surveys have also been carried out on the area in which this new facility is being planned. A development application has been submitted for the restoration of rubble walls and fencing around Ta' Kaċċatura archaeological site. New land has also been acquired by HM in the Borġ in-Nadur area to consolidate the archaeological experience in this section of the park. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with PARKS Malta in order to assist HM with the restoration and rehabilitation of Wied Dalam and the new land at Borġ in-Nadur. In the meantime, discussions with ENEMED are also underway to integrate their Għar Dalam plant as part of the park experience.

A small area next to the pathway leading to the cave was paved with green paving, to determine whether this paving is suitable for Għar Dalam. This type of paving allows vegetation to grow through it. If found to be suitable, the cement paving will be replaced with the green paving. A tree nursery was set up on the roof of the office block and was rendered safe by means of a key clamp railing and an access stair. Benches and shelves were installed around the whole area to create space for the pots. Several trees and other plants from the nursery have already been planted at Għar Dalam and other HM sites. Landscaping work was carried out on the side of the valley at the area in front of the cave. The work consisted in the building of two dry stone walls which will retain the soil and prevent erosion. Several trees, shrubs and other vegetation were planted in the area to improve the natural habitat and prevent soil erosion. Two wooden picnic tables were installed in the area close to the cave. The benches are providing more space for visitors from where they can relax and enjoy views of the surroundings. Landscaping was also carried out in the front garden and Ġnien Dinja Waħda, creating footpaths, removal of invasive species, assembling wooden benches, as well as three inter-connected ponds to function as a semi-natural freshwater ecosystem for educational purposes.

The planning permit for the replacement of the security huts and the reconstruction of the passageway between **Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra**, which falls within a Natura 2000 site, has been issued and the works are planned to commence in the second half of 2022. Works also include the restoration of collapsed rubble walls around the perimeter of Ħaġar Qim and at Mnajdra, and the perimeter walls around the park. The rubble walls around the picnic area and along the pathway between Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra were repaired. A collaboration was made with Ambjent Malta rangers where invasive species were removed from the Natura 2000 area within the archaeological park. Furthermore, a thorough condition assessment was carried out for the protective shelters, installed in 2009. Its conclusions are currently being assessed to establish a way forward for their maintenance and repairs.

Maintenance on the protective shelter at **Tarxien Temples** was carried out by the contractor, this being part of the 10-year plan and relative guarantees included with the original works contract. During COVID-19 closure, maintenance work was carried out on the visitor centre and related services. Regular site upkeep, such as walkway repairs and the removal of invasive species from the site, was also conducted. A drip irrigation system was installed, and 30 plants from three indigenous species were planted in a designated future picnic area. The preparatory phases for the issuance of a tender to reconstruct the perimeter walls are also underway in view of executing the works in 2021.

Work at the **Hypogeum** mainly included the sustainment of the massive investment carried out via the EEA funding mechanism and completed in 2016. These works focus on the maintenance of the environmental control system which is critical in the conservation and preservation of this unique site. Pending snags/actions are also currently being planned/executed. The project to pedestrianise the road leading to the site's entrance, is also underway, with works planned to be completed in 2022. This area will provide a more fitting approach to the World Heritage Site, as well as seating areas for visitors and locals alike. A risk assessment for the site was carried out and a procurement process conducted to install more permanent anti-slip solutions for the site.

Electricity and mains water supply have been introduced at **Fort Delimara**, and PVC sleeves for ICT were prepared when the road leading to the fort was being resurfaced by Infrastructure Malta. The security and intrusion system around the fort is being upgraded and internal lighting has been introduced in part of the fort. A modern structure, which was built on one of the barrack buildings in the parade ground at the time when the fort was used as a farm, will soon be removed. A memorandum of understanding was signed with PARKS Malta to assist HM with the cleaning and landscaping maintenance of the ditch at the fort.

Following the archaeological excavations carried out in the past months at **Tas-Silġ**, and the important unearthed discoveries, a new concept and design has been prepared for the visitor's centre of this site. This is complemented with the introduction of a walkway and a circulation route for visitors. A detailed topographical and archaeological survey is being prepared in order to prepare the necessary drawings of this proposal for eventual submission of a planning application. The management plan for this site is also being finalised.

Ġnien Dinja Waħda

Borġ in-Nadur

Works at Ħaġar Qim Park

Fort Dellimara

North Region

The project at **San Pawl Milqi** focused on the design of the first phases of the implementation of the management plan. A design was prepared to provide accessibility to the Chapel and Sacristy, and the reinstatement of the parvis. A design was also prepared to replace the existing rooms previously built by the 'Missione'. This masterplan was discussed with the relevant stakeholders, mainly the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Planning Authority. A full development application was submitted accordingly as the process is ongoing. Preparations are also ongoing to remove electricity cables currently attached to the external wall on the Chapel's rear.

Works at the **Domvs Romana** mainly focused on maintaining the site, upgrading the waterproofing system and the water run-off management system from the roofs. Furthermore, the studies and design to reinstate the skylight over the Peristyle have continued. This skylight is relevant in interpreting the original architecture of the Domvs but nonetheless poses certain environmental considerations. Currently, research is being undertaken to identify the glazing to be installed to ensure no adverse effects on the mosaic flooring from natural light exposure. The rear and side façades of the structure were given a facelift with the manufacture and installation of three new doors and two new window apertures on the same style as those originally installed back in 1882. Works were also carried out by Infrastructure Malta on the pavements around the Domvs as part of the upgrade along Gheriexem Road. This produced some problems of water infiltrations and considerable vibrations within the showcases. As such, two showcases were emptied of their contents until works were finalised, while meetings are being held with Infrastructure Malta to mitigate the structural issues. Changes were made to the internal electrical system to allow the lights in the different areas to be turned on and off separately and, consequently, reduce electrical consumption. This lighting improvement was complemented by the re-organisation of the light fittings and fire alarms in the staff kitchen, staff toilet and punch clock areas, following the removal of their soffits. In the meantime, preparations are also under way with respect to a number of other short- or medium-term initiatives. These include WIFI installation at the reception area, design and installation of a new skylight over the peristyle, procurement and installation of an HVAC system to better preserve the site, and replacement of the current CCTV system.

The works at the **Ta' Bistra Catacombs** were mainly focused on the maintenance of the site and the repair of collapsed rubble walls. A gate was installed to enclose the field in preparation for tree planting. The main work was the part replacement and rebuilding of the 'tunnel's' boundary wall to protect third party interests as per PA222/20. Works on this party wall started in July by third party contractors.

In collaboration with the Works Department, repair and restoration works of the main timber door to the front courtyard of the **National Museum of Natural History** commenced. A tender was also issued for the repair and restoration of the internal courtyard over the Mdina Dungeons. Apart from regular maintenance, the restrooms area was whitewashed, and pointing and minor

restoration works on the main façade continued. One of the internal rooms was secured so that Infrastructure Malta can set up a new lighting system for the entire city. The MTA office inside the Torre dello Standardo is still being refurbished and will not be ready before summer 2022. Therefore, MTA personnel are still using the third alcove next to the reception area to disseminate information to tourists.

Work continued on the ramp being planned to provide access to a number of garages on one side of **Abbatija tad-Dejr** as per PA804/13. Following the studies carried out in 2020, construction works finally started in 2021 and the ramp is now finalised, except for its connection with the existing road and its asphalt. Such works should be concluded in 2022 so that HM can start identifying the best possible use of the underlying area, which will remain under the care of the Agency. Other minor works included the removal of large (non-archaeological) stones from the site, and other materials that could pose a hazard to visitors. New lights were also installed along the perimeter wall to ensure that the site is well lit during night-time and minimise the possibility of fly-tipping within our grounds.

The works at the **St Paul's Catacombs** mainly focused on the maintenance of the site, mostly a complete maintenance programme on the underground walkways, repairs to the CCTV system (which will continue into 2022), and the purchase of a new guard patrol system.

The environmental management of the **Bidnija Olive Grove** continued throughout the year through the trimming of grass to prevent fire hazards and the maintenance management, with the assistance of Ambjent Malta, of the dead twigs and branches from the olive trees which were pruned in line with the environmental permit issued by ERA. Discussions are well under way to install a proper irrigation system so that the trees, both old and new, could be watered, particularly during the summer months. The planning application for the restoration of the rubble walls was submitted and approved. Tender documents are being prepared with a view of starting restoration works in the area by the end of 2022. HM has started to stock-pile rubble in preparation of this process.

Works on site at **Ta' Mintna Catacombs** were limited to the installation of a forex panel by the gate to minimise the ingress of rubbish, regular inspections and the occasional pumping of water. The latter is becoming a recurrent issue with rain water (and occasionally water leaks) regularly making its way to the underground chambers. During the past two years, it was also noted that the wide pavement above the hypogea was increasingly being used by parked vehicles, with increased pressure on the fissured bedrock into which the site is dug. Discussions were thus started with the Mqabba Local Council to check whether this area can be closed off by the installation of bollards, large planters or both. All the relative documentation has already been submitted to the Local Council and a decision is expected in the coming months. The **Salina and St Augustine's Catacombs** were the most inactive. The sites received regular maintenance, cleaning, and pest control. Works at **Ras ir-Raħeb** were also minimal. Apart from regular visits to ensure the site's safety, arrangements were made with the Malta Climbing

Bidnija Olive Grove

Bidnija Olive Grove signing

Abbatija tad-Dejr

Works at the National Museum of Natural Histrory

Club, so that several safety climbing hooks could be installed to replace old broken ones. These were installed but unfortunately broken soon after by unknown individuals.

To further protect the **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths**, plans are under way to have the current boundary fence replaced by a more secure but less visually intrusive one. Permit applications are being prepared to be eventually submitted to the Planning Authority. The demolition of the farmhouse at Tas-Silġ prompted the Agency to design new plans for the site. These were completed and will soon be presented to the relative stakeholders. The site had also been integrated with the plans for the Għar Dalam Park project, funding for which will be sought from the EU.

Tas-Silġ archaeological remains

Gozo Region

The Agency supported the Ministry for Gozo by carrying out the entire installation phase of the new mechanism of the **Xewkija Windmill**. The windmill project, partly ERDF funded, is now completed.

At **Ġgantija Temples**, works focused on the design of the reconstruction of the Prehistoric Huts. This process, part of a full development application to the Planning Authority, involved extensive discussions with the relevant stakeholders, mainly the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, to ensure that this research project presents the most 'authentic' interpretation of such structures to visitors. This permit was issued, and works shall commence in 2022.

In January, a planting layout was submitted by Ambjent Malta for reference purposes. This followed an actual planting exercise of indigenous plants in the landscaped areas that was completed in December 2020, following the signing of an agreement between the two entities. The visitor recreational space project proposed within the archaeological park at **Ġgantija Temples** in 2020 resumed in 2021. The landscape designer and architect were asked to revise their fees for project implementation after removal of some elements from the overall design. An onsite meeting with the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage was held in May to explain the rationale of this project. HM is awaiting approval from the Department of Contracts to carry on with the engagement of the landscape designer and architect.

During the first half of the year, a team of skilled workers on loan from MTA continued with the restoration of rubble walls in the Ġgantija Heritage Park. This year's focus was on the boundary walls next to the site irrigation tanks, as well as a boundary wall with third party leased lands close to the Interpretation Centre. During March, the Ġgantija Finds Hut was cleared from all gardening equipment and is now under curatorial responsibility.

A working group has been set up to prepare a consolidated plan and vision for the experience of visitors to the Agency's sites in the **Ċittadella**, including the sites of the Old Prison, Casa Bondi, the Gran Castello Historic House and the sites presently occupied by the Gozo Nature Museum and the Gozo Area Office. The group is expected to present its conclusions in 2022.

Nonetheless, works still proceeded at the **Gran Castello Historic House**, mainly focused on the re-design of the visitor route to create a better reception area and potentially other commercial activity, to better sustain the museum. The Planning Authority granted permission for the reopening of an original doorway giving access to the museum from Triq Żenqa. PA 02622/21 was granted on 22 November. This will be followed by a second permit to provide access to the courtyard and the improvement of the visitor ancillary facilities on site. Additional lighting was installed in the mill-room. The previous 'fishing' display was taken down as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of the museum into a historic house. The same room was converted into a multi-purpose space, doubling up as an office/activity room. Pointing of the external walls and

replacement of a number of deteriorated stones on the mill-room's roof top were completed in March. Gardening initiatives were undertaken during COVID-19 closure. The northern house terrace door was replaced with a new door. Several window apertures were installed with mosquito netting.

At the **Gozo Museum of Archaeology**, fresh cracks were noticed in the main hall and adjacent rooms on the first floor. These, however, seem stable and no interventions are needed at the moment. Maintenance work was carried out on several timber apertures of the museum, including the roof top store and the façade apertures on the first floor. Plastering and paintwork in the interior of the museum were carried out during October and November.

At the **Old Prison**, pointing works on the external staircase, adjacent roofed corridor and rear wall were carried out during March and April. The flagstone floors were also given due attention, with pointing being carried out on any open fissures. The old lighting fixtures were replaced with more focused lighting to provide better ambience in the prison cells and bring out the graffiti and other interesting features. Maintenance to the original prison cell doors was carried out during spring. Other paintwork included the iron grid covering the well, the gate at the back of the rear corridor and the window grilles at the Gozo Law Courts overlooking the Old Prison internal courtyard.

The Agency is also liaising with the Ministry for Gozo for the establishment of a **Gozo Museum** which shall be operated by the Agency. This project is funded through national funds. Representatives of HM monitor the site progress and procurement processes, and provide all information for the interpretation. Perit Anthony Galea from the Projects Office joined the Gozo Museum team as supporting staff. The civil works on site are now nearing completion and finishes are due to commence in early 2022. Max Fordham consultants (UK-based) were selected to provide an environmental strategy for the Gozo Museum. They presented their strategy on 29 January. During February and March, the ELV and Fire plans were studied in detail and feedback provided accordingly. The French museum designer entrusted with the design of the museum displays – Adrien Gardère – visited Gozo in March. He delivered a presentation for the museum reception, gift shop and café at the Ministry for Gozo. HM is proposing that the concept of the café be developed in parallel with the Taste History concept. Technical data, regarding heavy artefacts to be displayed in the Gozo Museum, was provided to the architectural designers in May. A justification document for the need of HVACs, blinds and a fully functional cafeteria, was prepared in June and forwarded to MGOZ for additional funding to be sought. An onsite meeting regarding turnstiles at the museum entrance was held in July. Other discussions were held regarding the cleaning of the ancient quarry, when the civil works are complete, and the day-to-day upkeep of the same quarry. A document was forwarded to MGOZ. The lighting designer selected to work on the Gozo Museum project, Franck Franjou, gave a presentation at the Ministry for Gozo on 20 October. The lighting tender will be published next year.

National Monuments

The testing and consolidation works of the **Memorial Bell** monument in the Grand Harbour have been completed and a planning application to execute the works submitted for the project to proceed in 2022.

The public call for proposals for a monument to be erected in honour of Prof. **Oliver Friggieri** was awarded to artist John Grima in January. Although hampered by the pandemic, works are well in progress. The statue was sent to the foundry in October and should arrive in Malta in early 2022.

Following the issuance of the planning permit, the transplanting of the vegetation/trees shall be undertaken to enable the continuation of the civil and installation works of the monument. Ficus trees have been pruned and transplanted nearby, while olive trees have been pruned and transplanted at Ta' Bistra Catacombs in Mosta. An electricity pole on site has also been relocated.

Works at the new Gozo Museum

EU Co-Funded Projects

The works on the €10m **ERDF 05.016 – The Grand Master's Palace Regeneration Project** proceeded steadily during 2021. The restoration on the walls and soffits of three of the corridors at Piano Nobile level are completed and works in the Uccelliera are proceeding at a steady pace. The works on the marble floors of the same corridors are also at an advanced stage. All restoration works in the corridors shall be completed in the first half of 2022. Restoration works in the other areas, including the Casa del Monte, Orangerie and Armoury are also at an advanced stage. In the meantime, the first fix of the services is also nearline completion in all areas, including the State Rooms. Works have now started on the elements forming part of the interpretation and display, as well as the audio-visuals, which are due for completion in the second half of 2022.

The CT3029/19 civil works tender forming part of **The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage** is in a very advanced stage. The main contractor asked for extension of time to contract because of unforeseen and unforeseeable delays during 2020 and earlier this year. This now brought the completion date to June 2022. To date most reconstruction, restoration and masonry building works, including roofing works, are over 80% done. This includes the reinstatement of the finished floor levels with flagstone flooring as original. The silo reconstruction has one masonry vault complete and the space at ground floor level linked again. The 1990s main staircase area was also demolished and is undergoing stone replacement and restoration works. The space is being prepared to have the old staircase reconstructed, thus reverting to the ground floor design of 1842. The large silo area that will accommodate the hanging steel structures is likewise nearing completion. The other areas, comprising the internal courtyard, ancillary storage areas and boat restoration and storage facility (at two levels), are also virtually completed.

The steel structures are in their production stage with construction drawings for the steel floor structure, the steel staircase and other supporting structures now completed. The re-roofing of the exhibition space at the upper level with a completely new timber beam and stone slab structure, that is both insulated and waterproofed, is also over 80% done even though the extreme recent weather has slowed down the process. A timely measure to temporarily roof over all the open work site areas in the museum also paid off as the building was thoroughly dried in the hot summer months and preserved in this state even during the winter months. The existing museum space will be increased by 250% once the civil and finishing works are completed.

As for the digitisation aspect of the project, this is now an established Department. All staff had been employed and engaged and all the main equipment procured, including the Collections Management System. The unit has offices both in HM Head Office and at the museum on site.

The ongoing EEA Norway Grants project has enabled the Digitisation Department to acquire a significant amount of state-of-the-art digitisation hardware and software, the setting up of a fully equipped computer training room, an increase in staff and their training. It has also enabled

a significant increase in the range and quality of digitisation projects that the Department can provide. The main capture methods being undertaken are through Photography, Archive Scanner, and 3D Scanning and Photogrammetry. By November, over 4,800 artefacts have been digitised as part of the EEA project, well in advance of the 3,000 objects required for the project target.

In line with the requirements of the grant, the primary focus of the Department has been the Malta Maritime Museum. A substantial number of artefacts from the museum collections were digitally captured, exceeding by almost double the target quota of the project. This programme has been planned carefully to establish workflows to select suitable artefacts, determine the optimum acquisition methodologies, and establish a comprehensive set of cataloguing metadata fields. The digitised assets of the museum will be the first data set to be imported and set up within the newly acquired Collection Management System. This work is being undertaken in line with the International Museum Ethics and Standards, namely **Spectrum 5.0**, which is being used as the backbone of the Collections Management System scheduled for adoption in 2022.

Spectrum, the UK Collection Management Standard now adopted throughout the world, gives tried-and-tested advice on how museums manage their collections. The first step was drafting two documents: a Draft for Standards, and the Spectrum Procedure for Inventorying. Using these as a framework, problems were identified within the existing structure of the museum inventory and catalogue system, and finding solutions with methodologies and implementation strategies. Curators embarked on the compilation of a Draft for Standards document, which includes establishing and rationalising the museum's new inventory number (retaining the previously designated EEA number as a secondary number), determining object categories and terminology controls. This enabled the recording of artefacts being digitised as part of the EEA project in more detail, with a coherent rationale. Simultaneously, the Spectrum Procedure for Inventorying was developed. This involved identifying the core administrative fields used throughout HM for records' management and artefact administration, and establishing a list of tasks that need to be completed for the museum's collections to be Spectrum compliant to inventory level. The next phase will be to develop the Spectrum Procedure for Cataloguing, for which the Draft Standards' document will also contribute significantly.

The selection of museum objects and archival material to be digitised are being organised in line with the Museum Interpretation Strategy groupings, following Maltese and Mediterranean maritime narratives that consider historical, economic and social viewpoints. Continuing from the items digitised in 2020 (including models of traditional Maltese boats, sailor's personal artefacts and artworks), 2021 saw many new objects and categories comprehensively identified, researched and digitised. This has set in motion their structuring as a collection and their cataloguing. These categories are primarily tools, ship models, archival material (including the photographic collection), paintings and statues, badges, archaeological material (the Rock Gate Cemetery), navigational instruments, artillery and textiles.

Owing to the significant dockyard-related material held by museum, including an extensive paper archive, the Department recorded audio interviews with over 100 ex-dockyard workers about their skills and memories. This milestone figure for the **Malta Dockyard Project** was achieved in December. The trades documented through these interviews include: electrical and engine fitters, shipwrights and shipbuilders, welder burners, pipe workers, painters and grit blasters, joiners and woodworkers, and yacht and boat builders. Interviews were also captured with other individuals whose trades in shipyards are practically obsolete today. These include: founders, patternmakers, blacksmiths, textile workers and masons. Additional interviews also included a laboratory technician and a shorthand typist. Two interviews were recorded virtually with interviewees residing in Canada and Australia. All audio recordings will be searchable using tags and made available to the public via the virtual museum website. The interviews carried out with dockyard employees yielded a substantial amount of personal material, such as ledgers, notebooks, photographs, deeds of apprenticeship documents, apprentice exam papers, etc,. which documented this community's social history. These items were scanned at high resolution. The original items were loaned to HM to be scanned and catalogued accordingly, with the digital images being formally donated to HM. These images will be made available through the CMS, clearly marked that HM only has the digital version of these artefacts.

The EEA Norway Grant Project is being communicated to the public through the project's **social media pages**: the Facebook page Malta Maritime Museum Norway Grant (www.facebook.com/HeritageMaltaMMMProject), and the Instagram account EEA Malta Maritime Museum (instagram.com/eeamaltamaritimemuseum). Posts are uploaded almost daily with newly digitised artefacts, relevant contextual information and updates on the project's development. A good following has been built in these groups. A series of ten short documentary episodes called "Mewweġ" covering the restoration project of the Dgħajsa tal-Latini were produced and shared on the Facebook page, attracting very positive feedback.

The **EEA Norway Grants website** was launched in April, acting as the main landing site for information about the project and its outputs, including the civil works, the digitisation programme, and information on how to join the project as an intern: https://norwaygrantsmmm.eu

ERDF 05.019: MUŻA – The National Community Art Museum: works mainly concentrated on the handing-over documentation, maintenance, snagging and closing off certain details of the MUŻA EU-funded elements.

Malta Maritime Museum

CONSERVATION

Paintings, Polychrome Sculpture and Wood

The documentation, conservation and restoration of all wall paintings in the Officers Mess' at the **Main Guard** has been completed. Interventions are now being carried out on the walls of the adjacent rooms, where new interesting findings are being unveiled, including a townscape by a Maltese hand, J. R. Vella. Interventions in the adjacent rooms include photographic documentation (normal light, raking light, UV light), mapping of the state of conservation, basic historical research and compilation of reports pertaining to each painting. The paintings, which were brought to light after removing several paint layers off the wall, are being conserved. This includes the removal of cement infills, consolidation of detachments, delamination and flaking, removal of the non-original varnish layer and retouching/overpainting (old interventions), infilling of losses, levelling of infills, and retouching using the puntini technique.

The conservation and restoration of the north wall of the **Gran Salon** at the **National Museum of Archaeology** is close to completion and the section of the panel over the main door is in its final conservation phase. There were several complications that arose during the restoration, and therefore, the conservation methodology had to be altered a few times. The presence of a large quantity of salts in the substrate caused severe powdering and liftings of the paint layer, mostly at the top area, which required the use of a different consolidant in spray form. An orange stucco/paint layer had been applied as a past intervention over the original background and around the design. This had to be removed mechanically and proved to be challenging, since it was a stronger material than the original layers, making it harder to remove without affecting the original paint.

During the intervention on the panel, next to the main door, a historic decoration was found inside the arch. This was first observed with an endoscope, before removing further joints and stones. Due to this discovery, time was spent to remove soil, pointing, stones and infill material to observe the paintings inside the arch and their extent. The painting's surface was cleaned from soot, dirt, mortar and soil to uncover the decoration, which predates the early 19th century and was probably covered with the current one. The painting looks very promising and is showing part of a hand holding a trident, an image one usually associates with a figure inspired from mythology. The rest of the painting is currently behind the fireplace shaft and the rest of the arch. This painting is, to date, the only surviving element which has potential to reveal information about the decorative scheme of the Gran Salon, preceding the early 19th-century redecoration of this important ceremonial space. A method statement is being drafted to establish a procedure with which to proceed to expose more of this inner painting. The panel over the balcony door of the south wall, facing the main doorway, is in progress. In the past, it suffered from major water infiltration and has quite a few structural cracks. Bank of Valletta have extended their sponsorship for a further two years towards this project.

Weekly on-site meetings were held at the **Grand Master's Palace** regarding the conservation/restoration interventions being done by the contractor, to ensure that all work is carried

out to HM's satisfaction. Interventions on the wall decorations of two corridors, the canvas lunettes and the Nasoni soffits are near completion. Conservators also conducted a large number of on-site paint removal tests to uncover the underlying original schemes in various locations at the Grand Master's Palace, and have recently commenced the same exercise at **Villa Guardamangia**.

The Departments were also actively involved in the monitoring of artefacts in connection with environmental issues at **MUŻA**. Routine monthly condition assessment, together with surface cleaning of all the artefacts on display, were affected all year round as necessary.

The following is a list of paintings with their decorative frames completed or in progress during the course of this year.

- *Portrait of Gioacchino Trigance*, attributed to Francesco Zahra, framed canvas painting, HM16/62/2020, Object: 51091, Ref GMP/P032, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Madonna and Child*, style of Botticelli, unframed panel painting, HM16/57/2015, Object: 60181, Ref 083-4, MUŻA.
- *The Virgin Annunciate*, artist unknown (17th century, Italian), HM16/128/2020, Object: 51188, Ref: FAS/P/178, MUŻA.
- *Il Grano d'Oltre Mare*, A. Barrera, HM16/65/2019, framed canvas painting, MUŻA.
- *Portrait of Melchiorre Gafà*, framed canvas painting, HM16/92/2020, Old University Campus.
- *Member of the Order*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/64/2020, 51093, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Portrait of Pope Benedict XIV*, framed canvas painting, HM16/68/2020, Object: 51097, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Noble Gentleman*, framed canvas painting, HM16/37/2020, Object: 79567, Gozo Museum.
- *Still Life with Flowers*, HM16/49/2020, Object: 51084, Ref SA238, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Surgeon Gabriel Henin*, unframed canvas painting, attributed to Francesco Zahra, HM16/95/2020, 51148, FAS/P/948, Ministry of Health.
- *Noble Woman Holding Flower*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/36/2020, 79566, Gran Castello Historic House, Gozo.
- *Portrait of Grand Master Wignacourt*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/44/2019, Object: 61951, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Karozzella*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/44/2021, object 66449, British High Commission, London.
- *Luzzu*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/44/2021, object 66450, British High Commission, London.
- *Harbour Scene*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/44/2021, object 66444, British High Commission, London.
- *Neapolitan Still Life with Flowers*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/52/2020, Object 64581, Ref FAS/P/1680, Grand Master's Palace.

- *Neapolitan Still Life Flowers*, framed canvas painting, unknown artist, HM16/53/2020, Object 51099, Ref FAS/P/1560, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Portrait of a Woman* – follower of Van Scorel, HM16/30/2019, Object No: 61872, Ref No: 137-8, MUŻA.
- Decorative wooden strips used for tapestries in Tapestry Chamber, Grand Master's Palace.
- Reconstruction of the missing parts of the Nasoni soffit panels, Grand Master's Palace.
- *Still-life*, with fruits and game, style of Giuseppe Recco, from Inquisitor's Palace, HM16/04/2020, 63324 – in progress.
- *St Jerome*, probably by José Ribera's workshop, HM16/57/2020, Object: 51088, framed canvas painting, Grand Master's Palace – in progress.
- *Hunting Scene*, HM16/58/2020, Object: 62635, Grand Master's Palace, Ref: FAS/P/361 – in progress.
- *Pope Clement XIV*, oval framed canvas painting, unknown artist, from the Grand Master's Palace, HM16/54/2020, 51086, Ref No: GMP/P082 – in progress.

Apart from the above, the following works by Giorgio Preca from the Preca family private collection were also conserved in connection with the **Giorgio Preca Exhibition**:

- *Aliens on the Boat*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Aliens and Whale*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Aliens on the Road to the Volcano*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Sunset in an Alien Landscape*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Flying Dragons*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Aliens Family on the Isle*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *San Pietro*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Villette*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Tappeto verde*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Young Boy reading in Armchair*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Red table with Bust*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Bowl with white amphora*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Bust with bowl and soup boat*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Bowl and glasses with painting*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Coffee pot with sugar bowl*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Red figure with dove and blue shell*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Red Figure with Flying dove*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Violet Figure with Bottle and Blue vase*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Bust with Amphora and Soup boat*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *White Table with bowl*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Dynamic eyes*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Figure abstraction*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Moving Spheres*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.

- *Abstract 1*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Abstract 2*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Self-Portrait*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.
- *Portrait of Toussant Busuttil*, unframed canvas painting, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/50/2021.

Works on **wooden artefacts** include the following:

- Repair and re-gilding of a decorative oval frame of the portrait of King George III, unknown artist, HM16/72/2014, Object: 643551.
- Cotton scale and wicker, HM16/122/2020, Object: 79602, Ref: G/ETHN/WIC/7, Gozo Museum.
- Lot of five ethnographic items, HM16/75/2020, Object and Ref: various, Gozo Museum.
- Large lace pillow with stand, HM16/76/2020, Object: 79570, Ref: ETHN/W/61, Gozo Museum.
- Decorative frame of Tobias and the Angel, Giuseppe Calleja – HM16/66/2021, Object: 51290, panel painting, MUŻA.
- Decorative frame of Street Scene, Giuseppe De Nittis – HM16/65/2021, Object 51268, canvas painting, MUŻA.
- Manufacturing of new stretcher frames for various paintings.
- Showcase, HM16/22/2014, 64262, wooden polychromed enclosure Inquisitor's Palace.
- Wall table Gualtieri sotto specchio, HM16/77/2020, 72335, polychromed wooden table, Inquisitor's Palace, is in progress.

The Department also conserved the framed canvas painting San Giovannino alla Sorgente, attributed to Caravaggio, Obj. No: N/A, HM16/49/2021, private collection, to be exhibited shortly at MUŻA, and a polychromed papier-mâché crucifix by unknown artist, from the Police Depot Museum.

Conservation intervention at the Paintings, Polychrome Sculpture and Wood Laboratory

Textiles, Books and Paper Department

The main focus of this year was the conservation of the major uniform/textile collections, especially those of the Malta Maritime Museum, the Inquisitor's Palace and the Gozo Museum, apart from other related requirements from other museums as listed below.

- Bodice, ETHN/F/151, MUŻA, HM16.15.2021, 50921.
- Armorial tapestry 2, Grand Master's Palace, HM16.89.2021.
- Armorial tapestry 1, Grand Master's Palace, HM16.89.2021.
- Female under top, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79232.
- Female under skirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79233.
- Female under dress, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79234.
- Male under shirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79235.
- Female blouse, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79236.
- Female skirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79237.
- Male trousers, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79238.
- Ħorġa, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79239.
- Terħa, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79240.
- Female bodice, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79242.
- Pair of socks, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79241.
- Male waistcoat, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79243.
- Female apron, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79244.
- Female blouse, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79245.
- Female dress, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79246.
- Towel, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79247.
- Cloth, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79248.
- Length of fabric, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79249.
- Printed cotton sorra with skeins, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79250.
- Sack i, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79251.
- Sack ii, Gozo Museum, HM16.28.2019, 79252.
- Apron, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79454.
- Skirts, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79443-52.
- Jacket, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79436.
- Sleeves, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79422-32.
- Waistcoat, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79365.
- Skirts, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79361-64.
- Dress, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79360.
- Skirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79358.
- Poncho, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79343.
- Jackets, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79335-42.
- Shirts, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79330-34.
- Underskirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79329.

- Shirts, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79327-28.
- Underskirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79326.
- Skirt, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79298.
- Blouse, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79297.
- Dresses, Gozo Museum, HM16.116.2019, 79288-96.
- Large Gozo sail, Gozo Museum, HM16.43.2020, 79568.
- Carriage, Gozo Museum, HM16.47.2020, 79560.
- Wicker baskets, Gozo Museum, HM16.73.2020, 79572-76.
- Harness, Gozo Museum, HM16.74.2020, 79578.
- Harness, Gozo Museum, HM16.74.2020, 79281.
- Wicker basket used by anglers, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 20127.
- Angler's belt, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 79596.
- Rope with hook used by cliff anglers, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 79595.
- Rope used by cliff anglers, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 79594.
- Embroidered priest's shoes, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 79559.
- Leather male sandals, Gozo Museum, HM16.99.2020, 62561.
- Ceremonial axe box, Gozo Museum, HM16.102.2020, 79283.
- Cotton scales, Gozo Museum, HM16.122.2020, 79602.
- Fishing cork line and glass ball, Gozo Museum, HM16.131.2020, 20126.
- Wicker basket, Gozo Museum, HM16.131.2020, 17914.
- Fishing line in wicker basket, Gozo Museum, HM16.131.2020, 17913.
- Priest's alb, Gozo Museum, HM16.48.2021, 79606.
- Black lace shawl, Gozo Museum, HM16.48.2021, 79713.
- Small sieve, Gozo Museum, HM16.81.2021, 79811.
- Mattress, Gozo Museum, HM16.82.2021, 79756.
- Two woollen blankets, Gozo Museum, HM16.91.2021, 79694.
- T-shirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72647.
- Ġhonnella, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72672.
- Gloves, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72677 i-ii.
- Scarf, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72677 iii.
- Bedspread, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72864.
- Tie, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72729.
- Tie, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72718.
- Sweater, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72719.
- Tie, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72759 i-ii.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72760 i-iii.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72761 i-ii.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72761 iii.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72762 i.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72762 ii.
- Ġhonnella, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72866.
- Ties, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 i-ii.

- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 iii-iv.
- Belt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 v.
- Shirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 vi.
- Polo shirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 vii.
- Jersey, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72868 viii.
- Skirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72869 i.
- Veil, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72869 ii.
- Napkin, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72869 iii.
- Apron, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.52.2021, 72869 iv.
- Frock coat, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 72011.
- Breeches, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79875.
- Waistcoat, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79876.
- Trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79877.
- Sash, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79878.
- Shirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79879.
- Underpants, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79880.
- Cap, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79881.
- Bodice, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 72010.
- Skirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 72077.
- Scarf, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.90.2021, 79883.
- Brown fox fur, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72315.
- Black mustelid fur collar, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72316.
- Baby girl's dress, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72561.
- Baby girl's dress, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72562.
- Baby christening dress, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72563.
- Għonnella, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72574.
- Għenienel, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72574.
- Għonnella, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72536.
- Limerick lace border for surplice, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72445.
- Maltese lace border for surplice, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72445.
- Christening gown, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72518.
- Christening gown and underskirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72575i-ii.
- Holy Communion dress and veil, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72576i-ii.
- Holy Communion jacket and trousers, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72577i-ii.
- 1917 wedding blouse, skirt, material for għonnella, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72532i-iv.
- Cloth (sorra), Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021,72532v.
- Women's undergarments, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72451.
- 1904 wedding dress - blouse and skirt, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72529i-ii.
- 1904 M waistcoat, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72530.
- 1905 M waistcoat, Inquisitor's Palace, HM16.27.2021, 72531.
- RAF ensign flown from St Lucian's tower - March 1979, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 211.
- British Army Battledress, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 1319.

- British Army Battledress jacket, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3891.
- RAF pair of trousers, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3892.
- Black suit, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3893.
- Navy waistcoat and pair of trousers, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3894.
- Blue Army jacket belonging to Vella Bonavita, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3895.
- Blue faldar, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3896.
- Khaki tunic and trousers, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3897.
- RN Rating Blue Jacket & Pair of trousers, National War Museum, HM16.67.2021, 3898.
- George medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence medal awarded to Carmel Caruana complete with photo, National War Museum, HM16.231.2021, 63761.
- QARNNS uniforms, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55066.
- Royal Navy Cook dress uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55067.
- Royal Navy Warrant Officer uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55068.
- Royal Navy Commodore summer and winter uniforms, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55069.
- Royal Marines Brigadier-General uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55070.
- Royal Marines Captain uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55071.
- Royal Marines Brigadier-General tropical uniform (plus extras), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55072.
- Royal Navy Ratings shirts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55073.
- Royal Navy Ratings collars, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55074.
- Female bathing suit, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55075.
- Royal Navy Vice Admiral uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55076.
- Royal Navy Rear-Admiral dress uniforms, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55077.
- Royal Navy Cook Dress uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55078.
- Royal Navy WRNS Second Officer uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55079.
- Royal Navy Lieutenant-Commander Mess uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55080.
- Royal Navy WRNS writer uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55081.
- Male Ratings trousers/Female WRNS collars, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55082.
- Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55083.
- Royal Navy Reserve Sub-Lieutenant uniform (post-war), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55084.
- Black suit, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55085.
- Black suit, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55086.
- Royal Navy Reserve Lieutenant uniform (Post-war), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55087.
- Royal Navy Lieutenant uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55088.
- Blue trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55089.
- Blue unmarked jacket (maybe RM), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55090.
- Royal Navy Cook Dress Jacket, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55091.
- Arctic suit, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55092.
- Raincoat, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55093.

- Veteran shirt and ties, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55094.
- Naval shorts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55095.
- RCEME Captain's Dress uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55096.
- RCN Diver's dress uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55097.
- RN Lieutenant Commander's uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55098.
- RN Naval Jacket (Lieutenant Paymaster?), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55099.
- Naval Trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55100.
- Admiral Cecil's Evening Mess undress, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55101.
- Steward's jacket, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55102.
- Naval Serge Officer's work uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55103.
- Three woollen pullovers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55104.
- Female Naval Uniforms (winter/summer), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55105.
- Black Naval Jacket, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55106.
- Malta Marine Police Coat, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55107.
- RN black suit, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55108.
- Naval Captain's jacket, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55109.
- Naval working shirt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55110.
- Naval working shirt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55111.
- Naval Rating winter uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55112.
- Naval working shirt and collar, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55113.
- Naval Sea Cadet uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55114.
- Naval uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55115.
- Naval coat, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55116.
- Naval jacket and trousers (Italian?), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55117.
- Italian Naval uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55118.
- Naval Uniform (Italian?), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55119.
- Merchant Navy naval uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55120.
- Merchant Navy Chief Officer uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55121.
- Black trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55122.
- Blue Ratings trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.16.2021, 55123.
- Ellerman flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50275.
- White ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50276.
- Order of St John flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50277.
- British Union flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50278.
- Port Adelaide flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50279.
- Italian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50280.
- Spanish flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50281.
- Cunard flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50282.
- Italian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50283.
- Maltese Cross flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50284.
- Union Jack, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50285.
- Red/white Crown pennant, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50286.

- Belgian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50287.
- Maltese flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50288.
- White ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50289.
- Maltese flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50290.
- Red Cross flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50291.
- Maltese Naval Jack, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50292.
- Canadian Red ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50293.
- US National flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50294.
- Black Anchor flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50295.
- Rear-Admiral flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50296.
- San Lucian Oil Company flag, Malta Maritime Museum, 50297, HM16.35.2021, 50297.
- Navy, Army, Air Force Ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50298.
- New Zealand flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50299.
- Italian Navy ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50300.
- Open UAP flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50301.
- Italian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50302.
- Norwegian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50303.
- Blue ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50304.
- Italian Naval ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50305.
- Red and white flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50306.
- Safety First flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50307.
- Danish flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50308.
- Australian White ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50309.
- Safety First flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50310.
- International Code flag for 'G', Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50311.
- Swedish flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50312.
- Norwegian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50313.
- Blue ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50314.
- New Zealand flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50315.
- Dutch flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50316.
- Safety First flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50317.
- Ukrainian flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50318.
- Cypriot flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50319.
- Lega Navale Italiana pennant, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50320.
- Jugoslav flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50321.
- Turkish flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50322.
- Task Force insignia, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50323.
- Maltese Mercantile ensign, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50324.
- Rear-Admiral flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50325.
- Union Jack, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50326.
- WW1 Kriegsmarine flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50327.
- International Code flag for 'U', HM16.35.2021, 50328

- Set of eight international code flags (Letters A,B,C,E,F,M,P,X), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 50329.
- Black and yellow pennant, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81548.
- German flag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81549.
- Set of two semaphore flags, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81550.
- Regatta Palju, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81551.
- Regatta Palju, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81552.
- Regatta Palju, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.35.2021, 81553.
- Two sets of white Steward uniforms, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81554.
- AFM Maritime Squadron T-shirt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81555.
- Six pairs of socks, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81556.
- One White Long Shirt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81557.
- AFM Maritime Squadron T-shirt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81558.
- One blue and white striped pyjama trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81559.
- Three white bermudas, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81560.
- One British Admiralty mail bag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81561.
- White undergarments, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81562.
- Two sets of blue shirts and trousers, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81563.
- Two white naval jackets, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81564.
- Four white evening shirts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81565.
- Malta Inspector of Customs uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81566.
- One winter Leading Seaman uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81567.
- One winter Petty Officer uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81568.
- One navy blue Lieutenant Commander uniform, HM16.36.2021, 81569.
- One RAF uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81570.
- Summer Leading Seaman and PO uniforms, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81571.
- Naval uniform, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81572.
- Small brown suitcase, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81573.
- Unknown accessories, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81574.
- Unknown accessories, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81575.
- Large green canvas bag, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81576.
- One green Bergen-type backpack, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81577.
- Frejgatina sail, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81578.
- Two naval belts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81579.
- Two naval belts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81580.
- Two belts, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81581.
- One belt, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81582.
- Two sets of suspenders, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81583.
- Gala accessories, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81584.
- Jumpers and socks, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81585.
- Sub lieutenant greatcoat epaulettes and Sub Lt. tabs, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81586.

- Epaulettes, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81587.
- Vice-Admiral epaulettes, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81588.
- Vice-Admiral tabs, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81589.
- White collar tabs (midshipman?), Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81590.
- One admiral epaulette, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81591.
- Silver badges, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81592.
- Naval cap ribbon, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.36.2021, 81593-608.

Moreover, two historic carpets from Villa Guardamangia were cleaned and conserved and brought to the textile lab at Bighi for safe storage, while project numbers still have to be issued for the following items: 81610-748.

The following projects concerning flat works were completed or are in progress at the **Books and Paper Laboratory**:

- Two watercolour paintings from the British High Commission, London, HM16.45.2021, 66434-35.
- School of Art painting on paper, HM16.72.2020.
- Government Gazette 1828, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.39.2019, 61918.
- Codice De Rohan, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.117.2019, 63305.
- De Rohan portrait, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.117.2019, 63305.
- Warrant of a captain, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.118.2019, 63306.
- Photographic album of Malta c.1918, Malta Maritime Museum, HM16.11.2021, 55035.
- Domus drawing, National Museum of Archaeology, HM16.3.2021, 54995.
- Mosaic drawing mythological scene, National Museum of Archaeology, HM16.3.2021, 54996.
- Mosaic drawing columns, National Museum of Archaeology, HM16.3.2021, 54997.
- Domus drawing, National Museum of Archaeology, HM16.3.2021, 54998.
- Memorial Plaque - Carmelo Saliba, National War Museum, HM16.123.2020, 51106.
- Two British medals and a framed photo of Giovanni Tanti, National War Museum, HM16.124.2020, 54920.
- War medals, National War Museum, HM16.12.2021, 55036, 55048, 50801.
- Remounting of frames damaged by water, Gozo Museum, HM16.88.2019, 62028-29, 62631, 62633.
- View of Three Cities, Gozo Museum, HM16.30.2020, 50262.
- Leather box of ceremonial axe, Gozo Museum, HM16.102.2020, 79283.
- Miniature drawing of a couple on a boat, Gozo Museum, HM16.133.2020, 54945.
- 1870 Publication by A. L. Adams - Notes of a Naturalist in the Nile Valley and Malta, Gozo Museum, HM16.20.2021, 62380.
- Lingua Punica -1750 by De Soldanis, Gozo Museum, HM16.21.2021, 61836.
- 1886 Silver Medal Award Certificate, Gozo Museum, HM16.22.2021, 79605.
- Business Card - Nicola Bugeja (Lace Merchant), Gozo Museum, HM16.23.2021, 79714.

- Gozo Map, Gozo Museum, HM16.61.2021, 66561.
- Male nude removal from frame, MUŻA, HM16.48.2018, 61567.
- Nude Studies, MUŻA, HM16.48.2018, 61569.
- Cremona for framing, HM16.73.2018, 61613.
- Muses, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62009.
- Allegory of Malta, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62010
- Symbolic representation of Eucharistic Congress 1913, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62011.
- Figure of Mars, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62012.
- Monument to Lord Chatham, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62013.
- Figure of Charity, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62014.
- Frontispiece with Wignacourt coat of arms, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62015.
- Portrait of Alexander Ball, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62016.
- Frontispiece with GM Cotoner coat-of-arms, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62017.
- Representation of two coat-of-arms, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62018.
- Representation of two coat-of-arms, MUŻA, HM16.77.2019, 62019.
- *Strade Levante* Ducros, MUŻA, HM16.28.2020, 50261.
- Ducros, MUŻA, HM16.30.2020, 50262.
- Anna Miggiani – Abstraction, MUŻA, HM16.38.2020, 51077.
- Print of GM de Valette, MUŻA, HM16.103.2020, 53483
- Framing and re-mounting De Valette, MUŻA, HM16.103.2020, 53483.
- *View of Grand Harbour*, MUŻA, HM16.125.2020, 61100
- *Waterfall at Tivoli*, MUŻA, HM16.126.2020, 54923.
- Frontispiece for Codice de Rohan, MUŻA, HM16.127.2020, 54778.
- Miniature Salvatore Busuttil – plan chest C3, MUŻA, HM 16.133.2020, 22563-64.
- *Journey to the South*, painting in a suitcase by Isabelle Borg, MUŻA, HM16.37.2021, 54744.
- Mounts for drawings by Giorgio Preca Aliens I-VI, HM16.50.2021.
- Removal of Rediffusion tickets stuck to the wall at Villa Guardamangia.

Conservation intervention at the Stone, Ceramics, Metal, Glass and Underwater Department Laboratory

Stone, Ceramics, Metal, Glass and Underwater Department

The Objects Department continued with the process of conservation of items from the National Collection. The major priority still was the conservation of arms and armour of the Palace Armoury. Another priority was the condition assessments of the megalithic temples, which require continuous attention due to their nature and the environments they are in. The Gozo Museum Collection was also a focus of attention.

Various swords, rapiers, breastplates, backplates, shields and other pieces were among the items conserved, along with various suits of armour. Another very delicate piece, work on which continued from last year is the 1602 garde des reins belonging to Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt. This project has now been concluded most satisfactorily. Another important concluded project concerned the bronze statue and stone pedestal of the Neptune statue in the central courtyard at the Grand Master's Palace. Works included cleaning previous interventions, corrosion and surface deposits, followed by the application of several conservation grade coatings to protect the pedestal from environmental conditions. The pedestal was also structurally maintained before the statue was put back in its place.

The ongoing conservation of the megalithic temples involves mainly pointing of cracks, filling in and reconstruction using the plastic repair technique, removal of cement mortars where applicable and the application of the black lime technique. The focus this year was mainly on the Ħaġar Qim Temples and Ġgantija Temples. Another ongoing project regarding the temples is the conservation assessments. This year Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples were assessed. Assessment involves the identification of deterioration phenomena and its location for each megalith. This exercise will aid to prioritise all the conservation works being done at the temples.
Early in the year, the team also worked on the Globigerina Limestone tombstone of Mikiel Anton Vassalli, known as the father of the Maltese language, located at the Msida Bastions Cemetery. The conservators had the opportunity to conserve three large monuments: Dun Karm Psaila (Floriana), Anton Buttigieg (Ħamrun) and Sir Henry Hotham (Upper Barrakka). Another related ongoing project is that of the Maglio Gardens in Floriana, which contains nine monuments commemorating Maltese politicians and nobles. The bronze busts of Sir Luigi Preziosi and Giovanni di Nicolo Pappaffy were conserved this year.

This year the team started to conserve the large collection of the Gozo Museum. The collection has many items, such as amphorae (brought up from ancient shipwrecks), folklore items consisting mainly in various tools, pottery, glass and stone. To date, over 30 objects have been concluded. The project is ongoing.

One interesting project was the collection of eleven maiolica vases previously owned by Giorgio Preca (1909-84). The Department also had the opportunity to make a few replicas for display. A fireplace of local Globigerina Limestone was made for Fort St Angelo, while a set of four French empire late 18th- and early 19th-century appliqués/scones were reconstructed to decorate a

secondary room in the Palace State rooms. Five English-period fire posts, located at Fort St Elmo, are also currently being restored.
Another interesting project was the reburial of the Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths. Following long consideration, it was decided that this was the best solution for the site and its preservation. The floors were lined with geotextile and covered with foreign coarse gravel. The process aids to drain out water and keep the micro climate of the mosaics and plaster works stable. The complex was partially backfilled in June to slow down the fast deterioration rate of the very delicate mosaic and tile flooring, until a full regeneration project is implemented.

Until September, the Objects Conservation Lab was also responsible for the conservation of objects retrieved from underwater. One of the targets of this year was to establish a conservation lab specifically set up for this purpose. On 4 May the Conservation Lab for Underwater Archaeology started to function as such. Then, this lab started to be autonomously led by a Senior Conservator as from 28 September. Nevertheless, the two labs function as a multidisciplinary team together with other conservation labs. The artefacts that were recovered from the sea were all desalinated, stabilised and restored/conserved. Some of the artefacts conserved for the year consists of two WWII aircraft machine guns, station pointer, maiolica jars, two WWII ship lanterns and aircraft propellers.

The list of main completed projects includes the following:

- HM16/93/2019 – Wignacourt parade armour (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/111/2019 – Nettuno Pedestal (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/112/20198 – Set of eight new French empire appliqués (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/36/2019 – Collection of 100+ items from the new Gozo Museum (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/01/2021 – 25 morion helmets (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/132/2020 – 58 rapiers (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/09/2021 – Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths reburial (Roman Baths)
- HM16/102/2020 – Ceremonial axe (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/08/2021 – Tombstone of Mikiel Anton Vassalli (Msida Bastions)
- HNM16/12/2021 – WWII medals (Fort St Angelo)
- HM16/1/2021 – Morions (22 cabaset and 12 burgonet) (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/18/2021 – Skull (SPC)
- HM16/14/2021 – 36 pieces of armour (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/28/2021 – 35 peaked morions (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/37/2019 – Ongoing conservation at Ħaġar Qim Temples
- HM16/36/2019 – Ongoing conservation at Ġgantija Temples
- HM16/30/2021 – Eleven maiolica jars – Preca collection (MUŻA)
- HM16/50/2021 – Six vases Preca collection (private collection)
- HM16/17/20215 – Quarry tools (Gozo museum)
- HM16/32/2021 – Model of the War Memorial by Louis Naudi (NWM)
- HM16/41/2021 – Blue ceramic vase (MUŻA)
- HM16/64/2021 – Sir Henry Hotham monument (Upper Barrakka, Valletta)

- HM16/68/2021 – Il-Mall Monuments (Floriana)
- HM16/99/2021 – Collection of 30+ plaster casts (MUŻA)
- HM16/54/2021 – Anton Buttigieg monument (Ħamrun)
- HM16/79/2021 – Coin & steel plate (Auberge d'Aragon)
- HM16/121/2020 – Pipe sculpture (Mediterranea) (OPM)
- HM16/63/2021 – Dun Karm Psaila monument (Floriana)
- HM16/83/2021 – Cleaning of Antonio Sciortino's Speed in bronze (MUŻA)
- HM16/102/2021 – Graphic documentation (St Paul's Catacombs)
- HM16/60/2021 – Five fire points (Fort St Elmo)
- HM16/22/2021 – 1886 silver medal award
- Hm16/86/2021 – Two medieval stones (from Sannat Local Council)
- Hm16/83/2021 – Cleaning of Antonio Sciortino Speed (MUŻA)
- HM16/104/2021 – New fireplace (Fort St Angelo)
- HM16/105/2021 – Removal of ceramic tiles, fireplaces, marble floors (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/30/2021 – Bombola from the Gerace maiolica collection
- HM16/50/2021 – Two-handled jar used for still life paintings by Giorgio Preca
- HM16/69/2021 – 17th-century maiolica plate

List of items from underwater which have been conserved:

- HM16/50/2019 – HMS Oakley bell
- Hm16/52/2019 – Ammo cartridge
- Hm16/52/2019 – Machine gun 50 calibre
- HM16/54/2019 - Machine gun Vicker
- HM16/51/2019 – Part of bell
- HM16/43/2021 – Station pointer
- HM16/74/2019 – Propeller blades and mechanism of a Sunderland aeroplane
- HM16/27/2019 – S.S. Ohio porthole
- HM16/53/2019 – Side lantern Starboard
- HM16/53/2019 – Lantern manufactured by Bulpitt Ltd
- HM16/27/2019 – MV Moor Ship wheel

New equipment at the Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL)

Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL)

DSL continued in its role of taking on projects in support of the curatorial and conservation Departments, as well as continuing the procurement plan for analytical system upgrades.

The procurement plan continued with the successful implementation of the Hand-Held X-ray Fluorescence (HHXRF) and Micro-X-ray Diffraction (µXRD) projects. The latter two systems were procured via an IAEA-HM co-financed initiative in which the IAEA procured on the State's behalf. Bruker offered the supply of a Tracer 5 I HHXRF and Panalytical an Empyrean µXRD. Delivery and training for the HHXRF and the µXRD system took place during the year. Both systems started being used in projects, assisting DSL staff reach complex places for non-invasive pigment work (HHXRF) and applying micro analytical work (less sample) when it comes to diffraction analysis. The latter also aids the analysis of mortars and masonry at large. A Water Purification system was also procured since the old one at DSL failed to render ultra-pure water needed for analysis and reagent preparation.

DSL continued with its MAT1001 IAEA project implementation, lengthened by the COVID-19 pandemic impact. Project management and implementation of procured systems via the co-financing agreement saw the end to the major procurement of 2021. Both tenders included training, which staff followed, for the efficient use and care of systems. However, X-radiography training for personnel certification hit a snag. As DSL staff continued working on the online training modules, it transpired that the interpretation segment did not consist of any cultural heritage application, going against the outcome of the project. The DSL Manager, who is also national counterpart of IAEA cultural heritage science application, reported this to the IAEA who organised a meeting with the supplier for a breakthrough in an otherwise difficult situation, seeing this was one of the laboratory's major outcomes for this year. Unbeknown to all, the US partner failed to mention that they were developing a CH online radiography training tool via another IAEA programme. They stated that this was their basis for the Malta certification mechanism. However, due to legalities this training tool failed to materialise, leaving him with the only option to report to the IAEA. Rather than doing this, he submitted DSL staff to a training course fully based on welding and defects in industrial metals. To date, this company has not offered a resolution. DSL is in constant communication with the IAEA to identify another route to certification.

Separate from this, DSL has been chosen to host an international training course in cultural heritage radiography. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions permitting, this event should take place early in 2022. This is testament of DSL's technical growth, not only in providing services but now seen as advanced enough to provide training to those starting off their careers or venturing into this domain of application.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public engagement opportunities were very limited. MCAST chose scientist Roslyn DeBattista to take part in their promotion of career development by showcasing various scientific applications in industry. A similar activity with Ms DeBattista also

took place at MCST, once again to promote industrial applications of science. Two Ask a Heritage Scientist virtual sessions were held with college students to explore the world of science applied to the preservation of cultural heritage objects. Several case studies were presented. 2021 also saw DSL being filmed for the programme 'il-Barokk'. Via this programme, different facets of application will be shown on TV in 2022. Finally, DSL was invited to present at the European Cathedrals Malta Conference, held in Valletta in July. A paper titled 'Science in conservation and prevention strategies: case studies and considerations' was published in the resultant proceedings. DSL was also involved in the drawing up of Malta's Archaeology Manual. DSL's particular input was related to chemical analysis of objects and their respective methodologies (from an archaeological sample requirement perspective).

Since 2016, DSL has been working on having a Lab Information Management System (LIMS) to improve workload efficiency as well as to maintain and initiate a quality assurance mechanism for its projects. This is also fuelled by the recent JIRA implementation which does a partial 5-10% job of what a LIMS would do for a lab. The year 2021 saw the DSL and IT meet several stakeholders as part of a market research exercise. In 2022, this latter part will be concluded, and findings presented to the Agency.

During the year, DSL concluded a total of 52 projects; 30 HM projects and 22 external projects. Some projects, as per agreements made, had their fees waived. Due to DSL's schedule being full for several months, some private work requests were rejected. Thirty-six pending projects will be transferred to 2022. External projects brought an income of €27,455 (excl of VAT). The current secured open external projects load will bring in an additional income of over €10,000 (excl of VAT).

Conservation intervention at the Stone, Ceramics, Metal, Glass and Underwater Department Laboratory

Preventive Conservation Unit

The Unit continued its work to care for objects and their respective preservation. Once again, particular focus was on MUŻA, specifically daily monitoring of environmental conditions and tweaking of temperature. Instructions were provided regarding the setting, moving, removing of dehumidifiers depending on the environmental conditions within the galleries. Independent data loggers were installed to monitor particular areas in the galleries and the library, to monitor if there are any environmental pockets within the plan chest which might be causing mould growth. Yearly data graphs have been created to calculate absolute humidity for all the galleries in order to be able to understand the seasonal environmental changes. Data loggers are also being used to monitor the environmental conditions in the former Jobs Plus premises. The aim is to gather at least a whole year of data in order to understand the environmental conditions within this site.

Several meetings on the environmental requirements of the Gozo Museum were held. Monitoring of particular galleries in the current Gozo museums is taking place in order to be able to acclimatise artefacts prior to placing them in their new environment, once the building is complete. A similar exercise is also being undertaken at the Grand Master's Palace, where the Unit was involved in presenting environmental requirements for the Palace and establishing the number of sensors required and changing of sensor positions depending on positioning of dehumidifiers and air conditioners. A whole year of data was also collected from Villa Guardamangia and forwarded to University College London since they are currently studying the site to provide any recommendations.

Monitoring the Gran Salon at the **National Museum of Archaeology** to understand the environmental changes within this room has continued. This data will help when deciding what is

Conservation intervention at the Textiles, Books and Paper Laboratories

needed in order to keep this hall stable once the conservation-restoration project is concluded. Considering the future refurbishment project at the museum, data is being collected in order to understand what needs must be met. The glass plate negative digitising project is also still ongoing. Glass plates are being cleaned, scanned and housed in protective four-flap envelops. They are being packed in storage boxes and placed on the metal shelving of the Fototeka.

Monitoring through data loggers has commenced at the **Malta Maritime Museum**. The glass plate negative Drydocks collection, and the rest of the glass plate negatives found in the museum are currently being packed and transferred to the National Museum of Archaeology, where they are being cleaned and scanned. Over 3000 glass plate negatives have been packed and transferred so far. Data loggers have been placed within the visitor centre of **St Paul's Catacombs** to monitor the environment. Lux and UV readings have also been taken within the catacombs in order to establish if these are within limits or not. Environmental monitoring data was also downloaded from Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien Temples, Għar Dalam, the Hypogeum, the Inquisitor's Palace and the crypt of Fort St Angelo, providing data and recommendations as requested. A data logger to monitor temperature and relative humidity was also provided to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage at the tomb of **Għajn Klieb** during excavation. A report was also compiled.

Glass negative from the National Museum of Archaeology Fototeka

Conservation intervention at the Stone, Ceramics, Metal, Glass and Underwater Department Laboratory

Conservation intervention at the Textiles, Books and Paper Laboratories

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

A considerable number of cultural heritage items and natural history specimens were acquired for the National Collection during the year. A full list (including purchases, donations and transfers) can be found in **Appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5** respectively.

HM, through the COO, is actively participating in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Board responsible for nominations to UNESCO. It was an important player in the events leading to the official nomination of 'Għana: a Maltese Folksong Tradition' as Malta's second inscription in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The nomination was formally approved by UNESCO in December. The COO has also been appointed Chairman of the UNESCO World Heritage Applications Steering Committee.

In total 214 donations (including hundreds of items) were registered during the year, apart from around five hundred specimens. Worthy of particular mention are certainly Sir Maurice Dorman's full-dress uniform donated by his daughter Joanna Oswin, a letter dated 1802 referring to Gaetano Mannarino by Mr C. Mercieca, extensive entomological collections by Mr Paul Sammut, and a considerable number of face masks donated by various local institutions and individuals.

Moreover, the Agency also invested in the National Collection through the direct purchase of several objects. Sixty-seven purchases were registered, the most significant of which are certainly the autograph still-life painting by Francesco Noletti 'il Maltese', which was still missing from the National Collection for MUŻA, two portrait paintings of consultors of the Holy Office for the Inquisitor's Palace, a pair of paintings 'View of Marsamxett' and 'Grand Master Pinto taking possession of the fleet – 1741' for the Malta Maritime Museum, and a portrait painting of Fra Fabrizio Ruffo in armour, an 18th-century side table, candelabra, a pair of blackamoors, and carteglorie for the Grand Master's Palace, and a collection of eleven early modern firearms for the Palace Armoury. Twenty other artworks were purchased by various ministries.

Apart from the above, maximum use was once more made of the budget allocation for **Modern and Contemporary Art Acquisitions** (€100,000) through the Contemporary Fund Line Vote 5557. This entails a detailed process of research and external consultation leading to a short-listing exercise of artists and art works, contacting artists or artists' families to select works, discuss prices and prepare all corresponding paperwork. Following this, works are collected, recorded and sent for conservation assessments before storage. Twenty-three works of art were acquired, the full list of which is found in **Appendix 2**.

The acquisition of artworks and other objects of interest for the **Gozo Museum** through Line Vote 5824 took place throughout the year. The Line Vote is administered by the Ministry for Gozo, but works are purchased following recommendations by HM. Thirteen acquisitions were registered, including the watercolour 'View of Rabbato' by Edward Lear, and the publication *Della Descrittione di Malta* by Giovanni Francesco Abela. The acquired works are listed in **Appendix 4**.

The Collections Management Department continued with its incessant work to catalogue extant collections and newly acquired objects (transfers, donations and purchases), updating of inventories of long-term loaned artefacts in public buildings, checking their state of conservation, and providing artworks as required where possible according to requests. Following the previous years' exercise of the inventorisation and cataloguing of all objects in ministries and various Government offices, during the year under review an effort was made to maintain updated records of such inventories through liaison with the public officers responsible within the relevant Departments. Several ministries are in fact following the correct procedure and have been notified, sometimes in advance, of the purchasing of new works of art or transfer of artefacts already registered in the National Collection.

Apart from the above, site visits for inventory checks were carried out at the Office of the Ombudsman, the House of Catalunya, Casa Gaspe, Auberge D'Aragon, Palazzo Ferreria and the Ministry of Tourism. These inventory checks were carried out in corroboration with the relevant ministry staff and the ministry's own inventory. In the offices of the Principal Permanent Secretary, newly acquired artworks were registered and all artworks were captioned and labelled as belonging to the National Collection. As similar captioning and labelling exercise was done at the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change and Planning. The inventories at the Grand Master's Palace, San Anton and Verdala are also being reviewed and updated.

On the other hand, several site visits were held at the Police General Headquarters in Floriana following a request from the Commissioner to transfer all artefacts at the police museum to HM. Instead of dismantling the museum, HM redistributed the most important artefacts through the police depot, thus keeping them in their rightful context, and transferred only those items directly relevant to the national collections and which could be exhibited in various museums. Only a review of the old arms in police custody is pending.

Due to COVID-19, extensive work was carried out remotely, mostly focusing on the updating of various databases and concerning thousands of objects. A review of the Object Entry Forms created at the Inquisitor's Palace from 2011 to date was concluded, and some 7000 objects from the Palace Armoury were documented and tagged.

Various requests were received from entities for long-term loans of paintings to embellish various government offices. To this effect, the Collections Management Unit usually identifies a number of suitable paintings from its Reserve Collection and proposes accordingly. However, due to the very limited availability of such paintings, and following the issue of a new policy regarding items of the National Collection in the various ministries, as from this year reproductions of artworks belonging to the National Collection are offered as an alternative. Once the artwork/s have been identified, the relevant copy/ies are made and delivered by HM. The costs of such reproductions are borne by the relevant ministry.

Moreover, a total of 119 conservation projects were registered. These included the conservation of 726 artefacts, while an internal course was organised on the labelling of artefacts and the compiling of the Object Entry Form and the Conservation Project Request Form.

A large number of stone sculptures kept at Bighi have been transferred to the basement of the **National Museum of Archaeology**. Several artefacts were also transferred to Gozo for the eventual display at the Gozo Museum. Work continued on the reorganisation of the reserve collections, especially during COVID-19 closures. All glass negatives which were housed at the museum have been scanned. Furthermore, 1300 out of the approximately 8000 glass negatives previously kept at the Malta Maritime Museum have also been scanned. Research engaged in 2020 on the Auberge de Provence primarily covered the architectural and archival studies of the building. Studies were expanded to include investigations on the archaeology of the building. The research was further elaborated into a digital model of the building for illustrative and digital purposes which will be utilised for publications, features and future research. Prof. Maarten Raven from the Riksmuseum Van Oudheden in Leiden has visited in October to study the Egyptian collection. This study will lead to a publication and possibly a temporary exhibition in the future.

The study of the 11th- and 12th-century ceramic assemblage from the excavation at Mesquita Square, Mdina (MSQ1998), was continued with the documentation (photography and drawing) and detailed inventory of the glazed and cooking wares. The material had been excavated by the Museums Department in 1998 and was transferred from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to the museum in 2020 for study purposes. The study of an important collection of 17th- and 18th-century fine ceramics found during the 1965 demolition of the Auberge d'Auvergne, Valletta (VLT1965), was also continued. Extensive archival research has been undertaken in various sources at the Bibliotheca, with the aim of reconstructing historical aspects relating to these ceramics and to the properties in which they were kept. A detailed study on the results of this investigation was prepared and presented to an international audience by the principal curators during the Storie-di-Ceramiche 8 conference at Pisa on 11 June and submitted an essay for inclusion in the Acts of the same conference. A paper on a heraldic maiolica plate from this collection was prepared for HM's biannual bulletin,Tesseræ.

An intensive investigation was carried out within the basements of the **Auberge d'Aragon**, centred on a large 18th-century oven complex uncovered during the 2019 restoration works. A preliminary structural and archival assessment of the feature was carried out, followed by the excavation of three exploratory trenches in the room in front of the oven. The investigation established that an intact stratigraphy existed in this area, consisting of British period structural alterations covering extensive 18th-century structural remains, and evidence of older features beneath the 18th-century floor. The ceramics recovered by the Superintendence during the 2019 restoration intervention were also studied as part of this investigation. The study and cataloguing of the archaeological materials in storage at the Inquisitor's Palace has proceeded. Most of the work was concentrated on the post-excavation cleaning, labelling and sorting of the materials from the 2020 investigation of the two garden

wells. The materials have been grouped on the new shelving system according to the year of intervention for easier reference.

Research on the **Grand Master's Palace** expanded exponentially. The information uncovered on the earliest phase of the palace has led to several archaeological excavations being carried out to better understand the development of the palace. As part of the ongoing restoration project, excavations were concluded in the Armoury, State Rooms, Orangerie and the Del Monte wing. A short study presenting new information on the development of the façade of the Del Monte house was also prepared for publication in Tesseræ. With respect to the Armoury, a trench was dug across half of its width to examine the underlying roofing system and the nature of the structural fills. The investigation clearly exposed the late 16th-century roofing system and established that the fill was still largely untouched since the early 17th century. An interesting late Renaissance assemblage was also obtained, including fine ceramics, local coarse wares, some glass, metal and a large quantity of organics.

The principal curator also participated in other tasks: assisted the Superintendence in an emergency excavation of an Arab period stratigraphy, discovered at a building site in Triq Għajn Qatet, Rabat, and provided dating advice and a brief technical report on the discovery; prepared a proposal with Dr Maxine Anastasi of the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta for the petrographic study of a selection of locally produced medieval cooking ware fabrics, funded by the University; assessed a selection of highly fragmented stone flower-pot holders (gastri) at Argotti Gardens, Floriana and identified some partially re-constructible pieces, together with a selection of the various typologies; recovered and studied a small collection of late Victorian stoneware plates discovered in an underground tunnel in the gardens of Villa Guardamangia; discussed historical ceramics with colleagues of the Museo della Ceramica during a trip to Seminara, Calabria; co-authored with Brunella Bruno as essay on 'Byzantine Malta' in the anthology Companion on Byzantine Italy (Brill Publishers); and presented an online lecture for Istituto Italiano di Cultura on 27 April, on the Byzantine phase of use of the site of Tas-Silġ. The curator was also invited to be one of the speakers at the Second Symposium organised by the Office of the President for the Presidency Culture Symposia Series focusing on the Sovereign Order of Malta. The study presented was 'Forging an Architecture of Diplomacy: the foundation and building of Valletta', which shall be published in 2022.

In January the condition assessment of **Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra** was completed. Fotoweb is currently being used as a repository for all condition assessment photos with the intention of these being integrated in the new CMS in 2022. Conservation works at Ħaġar Qim will be continued in 2022, when works will also be commenced on Mnajdra. Before and after conservation photos were taken and uploaded on fotoweb to document the interventions done on the megaliths. As part of the yearly maintenance of the sites, accumulated dust and debris were cleared from both Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra. Together with the Digitisation Department, the viewshed of the sites was documented to aid in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development in the vicinity.

The collaboration between the Prehistoric Sites Department and the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment continued with the installation of specialised monitoring equipment and further studies into the role of the protective shelters in the preservation of the sites. The archaeological stores at Ħaġar Qim were inventoried to help with the location of artefacts for post-excavation purposes. Two internal team-building activities were organised in November at the Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological park, during which pottery sherds from Tarxien Temples were washed and sorted, and a pathway was rehabilitated back to the surrounding garrigue landscape. An audioguide for children, in the form of a downloadable App was developed and launched in November.

Regular maintenance by the responsible contractor was conducted on the environmental monitoring system at **Tarxien Temples**. This system is vital in determining the long-term effects the protective shelter has on the archaeological remains. Spherical stones found 75m NW of the Ħal Saflieni were transferred on site in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. These will be integrated within the interpretation related to other sites of archaeological interest in the area. Together with the Digitisation Department, the viewshed of the site was documented to aid in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development in the vicinity. Post-excavation on the material collected from the excavations for the foundations of the protective shelter was commenced as part of an HM team-building activity. Additional panels aimed at presenting information about the Bronze Age are currently being designed. A new sensory interpretation tool, which is a first for the Maltese islands, has been ordered and will be evaluated on-site.

The programme of works submitted to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regarding **Borġ in-Nadur** was approved in January and started being implemented. Accretions that had accumulated over the years were removed. This included a rubble heap that had been deposited by Margaret Murray during the original excavations in the 1920s, as well as accumulated debris along the site façade. In summer, an extensive grass fire affected the newly-acquired lands. CPD were called in to extinguish the flames. This fire occurred on the hottest day of the year, but also on the day after the neighbouring village feast, thus leaving its cause unsolved. Most importantly, HM purchased a large tract of land that includes the Bronze Age village and parts of the Bronze Age wall on the North West side of the promontory. This acquisition, which has transformed the site into an extensive complex, will ensure the preservation of the archaeological remains in the area and presents the opportunity for developing multiple experiences at the site. A field walking exercise was conducted by members of the Department in order to familiarise themselves with the newly acquired area, document the type and location of vegetation and archaeological remains present, and take note of issues and opportunities for its management. The results of this survey were digitised through a GIS system. A management plan to guide the management and preservation of the Borġ in-Nadur complex was drafted. A proposal was also made, and specific areas identified, in order to turn Borġ in-Nadur into the first purposely-designed experimental archaeology location in Malta. Interpretation panels were developed for the site and will be installed in 2022. These will replace the on-site gallery sheets that have become outdated due to the conservation works that were carried out this year. The interpretation themes to be presented

at Borġ in-Nadur, as part of the Għar Dalam Park Project, were developed and discussions on their implementation strategy are ongoing.

Interpretation panels were designed, produced and installed at **Kordin III Temples**. These panels will help visitors understand the context, history and the different features of this megalithic site. Together with the Digitisation Department, the viewshed of the site was documented to aid in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development in the vicinity. Excavations at the **Xagħra Circle** resumed in May. Following the excavation, discussions ensued with HM and Superintendence's osteologists to refine the excavation methodology for upcoming seasons, addressing research questions that are arising from the project. A preliminary report on the observations made during the excavation was drawn up and will be discussed with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in 2022 with the aim of resuming excavations in May of that same year. Post-excavation of all material excavated during this season was concluded. Preliminary visual analysis of ceramic material was also carried out.

Collaboration with St Martin's Institute for the development of a virtual tour of the **Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum** continued. The Institute is continuing its work in developing further the virtual tour of the site and including more interactive capabilities within the tour. The Department provided further input for 'dark tourism' events. A specific tour is proposed for the Hypogeum and has been included in the calendar of events for 2022. A member of the Department participated in a conference on conservation strategies, presenting the recent project at the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum as a case study. The paper was published in the conference proceedings. Members of the Department also participated in a COST Action Webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on underground heritage sites. Results presented in this webinar, together with analysis of environmental data, will be presented for publication in 2022.

Air sampling, pest control and environmental monitoring continued throughout the year. Earthworm casts were once again cleared from the Middle Level, with the assistance of colleagues from the National Museum of Natural History. The situation continues to be monitored visually. A draft Management Plan for the Hypogeum was concluded and submitted for internal review. Black alterations were observed on a pillar in area 15 within the Middle Level. Samples were first collected by a biologist from the National Museum of Natural History, to try to determine the nature of this alteration. Following this, the area was documented by the Diagnostic Science Laboratories and three sample areas were cleaned by members of the Conservation Department. The area will be completely cleaned following analysis of the test areas by DSL.

In October, an incident occured at **Skorba** whereby a vehicle reversed into a megalith that forms part of the remains outside the fence. The megalith toppled over and a report was made to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and to the police. Following their investigations, HM has now been given the go-ahead to reinstate the megalith to its original position. This work is planned for 2022. The entrance to the western structure at Skorba was cleaned from accumulated soil and debris to make rock-cut features more visible to visitors. The viewshed of the site was

documented to aid in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development in the vicinity. Interpretation panels at Skorba were revised and reprinted. The Department is also looking into the possibility of purchasing a plot of land adjacent to Ta' Ħaġrat which will facilitate the management and introduction of interpretation facilities for the site. The Department continued to follow an appeal for the sanctioning of a scrapyard 60 metres away from **Ta' Ħaġrat**, on an Outside Development Zone. The appeal for this permit was refused. The Department also continued to give its feedback on several applications within the buffer zone for Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba, and is following closely these applications, in particular one for a solar farm which would have adverse effects on rainwater catchment at Ta' Ħaġrat.

The Prehistoric Sites Department submitted two surveys as requested by the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre**, one on Visitor Centres and another on the impact of COVID-19 closures on World Heritage Sites. An update report for the Megalithic Temples of Malta was also submitted to the World Heritage Centre, while a member of the Department participated in a training course on Interpretation for World Heritage Sites, sponsored by the UNESCO Venice Office. The course consisted of online lectures and an in-person training course in Kotor, Montenegro. The in-person part of the course could not be followed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but where possible, the course was followed online.

HM, through the Prehistoric Sites Department and the Gozo curatorial team, continues to be regularly consulted by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage on planning applications for proposed development in the buffer zones of the prehistoric sites that it manages. Some planning approvals in past years, against the SCH's advice, are resulting in a precedent for current applications which would deteriorate the complex's vistas and alienate it from its landscape context even further. The Department's database for these applications is being constantly updated where all building permits within the buffer zones of prehistoric sites in both Malta and Gozo are being documented. In addition, the holistic approach to the management of these applications as well as the preservation of the views and vistas of World Heritage Sites is being discussed with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

The Prehistoric Sites Department is representing HM in the **CORALLO Project** - Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations. This is funded through Interreg V-A Italia Malta and is expected to span from December 2021 to May 2023. This project aims to introduce interpretation measures and educational facilities in order to inform visitors on the importance and vulnerability of Natura 2000 ecological sites. Project Partners include the University of Malta (Lead Partner), ERA, Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente – Sicilia (ARPA), Università di Palermo (UNIPA), Consorzio Plemmirio (Syracuse) and Consorzio di Ricerca per lo Sviluppo di Sistemi Innovativi Agroambientali (CORISSIA). This project is expected to introduce interpretation facilities with information on Natura 2000 site values at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra, the Natural History Museum, Maritime Museum and Għar Dalam Cave and Museum. In May, HM hosted the first CORALLO stakeholder meeting and members of the Prehistoric Sites Department participated in the second Steering Committee Meeting in December. The Malta Blue Wonders

exhibition, focusing on marine life and one of the deliverables of the CORALLO project, was also held in the Ochre Hall from August until end October. In addition, the Department led the purchase of project banners for all partners, is leading the procurement of the services related to the development of an implementation plan for local partners, and in 2022 will lead the procurement of mobile and non-mobile interpretation facilities.

The Department continued contributing to the generation of research with regards to the Megalithic Temples of Malta. In addition to supporting independent researchers, members of the Department also participated in the production of peer-reviewed publications, including a peer-reviewed paper regarding the effects of COVID-19 closures on the Megalithic Temples of Malta. All the social media pages were kept continuously updated with the latest developments. The Department also contributed to the development of a manual for field archaeologists, which is being developed in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the University of Malta. Members of the Prehistoric Sites Department contributed to excavations being carried in sites for which the Department shares responsibility. At Tas-Silġ, excavations uncovered a previously unknown prehistoric structure. The excavation at this site was part of a joint project between HM and the University of Malta, and also served as training for archaeology students. At Xrobb l-Għaġin, members of the Department, together with the HM Field Team, started to uncover the megalithic remains which are currently threatened by erosion.

A digitisation exercise of the **Gozo Collections** commenced in December 2020 and resumed during 2021. The entire permanent display collection of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology was digitised. Several high-resolution images were taken of every artefact from various angles. These images were then uploaded to Fotoware – a web-based database. This exercise now enables curators and researchers to access very high-quality images for various uses. The total number of artefacts photographed was 586; the total number of photos taken was 5232; the total number of photos uploaded to Fotoware was 4725. Metadata was inputted in Fotoware for each artefact in the Archaeological Collection. Metadata for the rest of the artefacts will follow next year.

During summer, digitisation continued on other collections in Gozo. These included exhibits forming part of the Phoenician Shipwreck temporary exhibition; prehistoric ceramics in the Gozo Archaeological Reserve Collection; prehistoric ceramics from the National Museum of Archaeology reserve collection selected for the Gozo Museum; the Fossil Collection, the Insect Collections and a small collection of birds from the Gozo Nature Museum; various artefacts destined for the Gozo Museum, including artworks and ethnographic items. A total of 287 items were photographed. Following the digitisation exercise, any archaeological artefacts not yet inked with their respective catalogue numbers, were inked successfully. New catalogue numbers were assigned wherever these were missing. The aim behind this laborious task was to ensure that catalogue numbers are clearly marked on the respective artefacts, and to have the entire Archaeological Collection properly inventoried. In March, detailed information on the 1912 discovery of the burial at Santa Marija Bay on Comino was provided to MTA to facilitate the

provision of a brochure that will publicise the recent scientific studies on the skull, and the results achieved. This project was financially supported by MTA.

During the first six months of the year, the Gozo Textiles Collection was also organised and catalogued in its entirety, in liaison with the Ethnography Section. Over 235 textile items were photographed and catalogued. In parallel to this, the other half of the Textile Collection, which is currently stored at the Textiles Lab in Bighi, was organised in special boxes, and each box tagged with the contents. Sofia Almagro Carrasco, reading for a Masters' degree in Heritage, Education and Museums, at the University of Murcia, Spain, visited the traditional musical instruments display at the Gran Castello Historic House in mid-May. She conducted an interview with the curator as part of her ongoing research on Maltese musical folklore.

At the **Gran Castello Historic House**, a de-husking machine and vegetable grader were removed from the permanent display and transferred to HM's Reserve Collections in Qormi for storage. Parts of the permanent display were reorganised to make room for newly-acquired furniture. The 'pottery' room is now being converted into a study that will complement the historic house concept. An onsite meeting was held with local weaver Alda Bugeja to discuss the manufacture of traditional hand-woven curtains for the display in the historic house set-up. These curtains were manufactured during the year and hung in October. During the same month, the peasant costumes display cases were removed and the textiles taken to Bighi for cleaning and consequent storage. The room is now being rehabilitated into a children's bedroom. In November, a painting depicting the Holy Family was transferred from MUŻA Reserve Collection to the Gran Castello Historic House to hang permanently in one of the bedrooms. As part of the ongoing Integrated Pest Management exercise, additional insect traps were placed in another two rooms on the ground floor of the southern house. An old mattress filled with sheep's wool was sent to Salvarti Co. Ltd for anoxia treatment in June. It now forms part of the children's bedroom setup in the previous 'peasant costumes' room.

In September, 360° photography of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology and the Gozo Nature Museum was carried out, while 3D scanning on a selection of artefacts from the Gozo Collections was done. These consisted of eleven artefacts from the Archaeological Collection, seven specimens from the Natural History Collection, and eight artefacts from the Ethnographic Collection. On 23 September, a selection of stone objects from the sanctuary site of Ras il-Wardija, limits of Ta' Kerċem, currently in storage, were documented via photogrammetry. This formed part of an ongoing joint project between HM, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali of La Sapienza University in Rome.

Research linked with the **Gozo Museum** project was ongoing throughout the year. The curatorial team worked on an interpretation plan throughout the visitor experience in the new museum, and started preparing interpretive text and captions for the display. The text is being prepared in both Maltese and English. This exercise also involved several visits to various reserve collections to finalise the selection of artefacts for display. Most work related to conservation was carried out

in preparation for the Gozo Museum. A preventive conservation exercise in several Gozo sites was launched on 19 April, following discussions with the Preventive Conservation Unit. Eight data loggers were placed in various Citadel sites and reserve collections to collect temperature and humidity readings daily. Data is downloaded every two months and sent to DSL for mapping and interpretation. This exercise will help inform the various climates in which artefacts are currently stored or displayed, before they are moved to the Gozo Museum.

A major restoration project that continued from the previous year was the restoration of the 19th-century carriage belonging to the Bishop of Gozo. The carriage was transferred to the chosen upholsterer's workshop in February. Detailed discussions with HM's textiles conservator, senior curator and the upholsterer took place in order to save part of the original upholstery that was best preserved. The remaining areas were upholstered anew, but the original stuffing was maintained and covered with new damask fabric. One of the door handles was missing and a replica was reproduced by a local ironmonger in April. Upholstery included the carpet on the interior, the carpeting of the collapsible steps, as well as the driver's seat in real leather and the cover for the same seat. The original 19th-century roller blind mechanism on the interior was restored to make it functional. Upholstery works were completed in October. On 15 November, the carriage was transported to the Ex-War Museum, Fort St Elmo, for temporary storage until the Gozo Museum premises are ready to receive it. Remaining works will be carried out next year. These include assembling of wheels, painting of new wood inserts and some retouching.

The Principal Curator responsible for the **Ġgantija Temples** participated in a Pilot Regional Course on Interpretative Planning at World Heritage Properties in Europe. In May, she followed online lectures provided by Interpret-Europe covering the basis of course and charters, standards and principles of interpretation. Four task-based pre-course assignments linked to the four qualities of heritage interpretation: experience, participation, meaning and stewardship, were prepared. In October, the candidates followed part of the course which was followed online, since COVID-19 restrictions created difficulties to organise travel to Montenegro, where the hands-on course actually took place. Preparatory work continued on the Domestic Huts project proposed for the Ġgantija Heritage Park. In January, the Projects Office finalised the Works Method Statement and 3D renderings with curatorial assistance. A presentation was delivered during the PA Board formal hearing in April. PA 01641/20 was granted permission on 15 April. Realisation of the project will resume next year. Ongoing conservation work included the application of limewash in several areas of both temples. During August, a report covering all conservation-related matters from 2015 to 2021 was compiled and submitted to the UNESCO National Commission. A set of readings recorded by the movement sensors on the façade of the South Temple was taken at the end of October. This is part of a UNESCO-funded project 'Studies for Stabilising the Façade of Ġgantija Temples – Phase 1 – Movement Sensors'. An article was submitted to the Xagħra parish magazine on Prince Philip's 2005 visit to Ġgantija. A short feature was filmed with the Principal Curator at Ġgantija on 11 October in connection with UNESCO's 75th anniversary.

One of the bedrooms displays at **Ta' Kola Windmill** was complemented through a donation of an enamel wash set comprising of a wash-basin, pitcher and stand. Two elephant tusks and an amphora handle, retrieved from the seabed in 1975 and currently in the Gozo Reserve Collection, were transferred to the underwater conservation lab in Bighi in November to undergo a series of scientific studies.

Research on **Fort Delimara** continued. More historical documents were transcribed for easier use in future. The site suffered no intrusions or vandalism during the period under review. However, the police reports lodged in 2020 are still open and unsolved. Interpretation around **Fort St Elmo** was augmented by a memorial to soldiers within the church of St Anne, featuring various medals and other exhibits donated to the museum. Original and reconstructed parts of windows and panels were re-fixed at the HFC. Text and images were submitted for interpretation provision within the gunpowder magazine at Parade Ground and Abercrombie bastion gun turrets. Research on the site's history has been ongoing. In relation to the trip to the National Archives UK in 2019, transcripts of documents were done to facilitate future research. The two inventories on historical maps and images were updated and to date these comprise 349 and 172 files respectively. The Fort's Facebook page was kept continuously updated and has increased the number of followers. Research on **Fort St Angelo**'s history was continued. More transcripts of original documents researched at the National Archives UK were procured. Concurrently, the historical maps' inventory of the site increased for a total of 731 maps. More research at the latter is envisaged for the coming months. The inventory of historical images of the site was also increased to a total of 1,155. Furthermore, preparations are under way to augment the visitors' experience through the installation of a new screen in the oubliette and the writing of a site guidebook. The Fort's Facebook page was kept continuously updated and has increased the number of followers.

The curatorial team at the **National Museum of Natural History** continued with the re-organisation and conservation of the old collections as well as cataloguing the new material received throughout the year. The senior curator continued to provide curatorial support on the ESPLORA NATURA project.

Forty specimens of the Constantine Mifsud Echinoderm Collection were moved to more appropriate fluid preservation containers. Thomas Cassar's fluid preserved specimens were also transferred to more appropriate fluid preservation containers. Thirty (dried) specimens from the Constantine Mifsud Collection and Argotti Collection were rehoused in museum standard boxes. Carmelo Briffa's Algal Collection was catalogued and digitised.

Around 20% of the Mary Attard Entomological Collection have been digitised and inputted in the database. Butterflies of Malta were gathered and sorted taxonomically from various boxes in PEL cases. Merging and taxonomically sorting of entomological collections including those of Carmelo De Lucca, Guido Lanfranco, Marius Zammit and others from old cabinets to new ones.

With respect to Palaeontology, Dr Hans Friedrich's fossil collection has been digitised, while a collection of Tertiary fossils and Quaternary Bone material confiscated by the police in 2003, have been transferred to the museum by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in November. Specimens are being digitised and incorporated in the collections' inventory.

The Bird Collection continues to grow at a steady pace, with more than 8,000 stuffed birds catalogued. The collection (up to 2020) has all been digitised and work will continue on the newly acquired material. Further to this, another collection (258 stuffed and mounted specimens) has been offered to the museum in December and transfer will take place in early January. The quarantine rooms were filled with four large consignments of confiscated specimens. Once sentence is passed by the Law Courts, the confiscated specimens (birds) will be incorporated into the main collection.

The four volunteers specialising on Conchology continued to add new material and are compiling a list of all the donators/collectors whose names appear on the museum specimens, for eventual publication. On the other hand, all Mammal specimens were transferred to the middle floor in a more stable environment. Most specimens were cleaned and prepared for a new display.

Research projects continued. In June, the Senior Curator was invited to take part in a one-week field trip to Lampedusa in collaboration with the University of Malta (Earth Systems) and the University of Palermo. A census on the breeding pelagic seabirds of Lampedusa and Lampione was carried out, as well as assisting in the compilation of data on the endemic Orthopterid Pamphagus ortolaniae, an endemic cricket. In September he also accompanied a group of BSc and MSc students from the University of Malta (Earth Systems) on a field trip to Iceland and provided ornithological guidance to the students during and after their field work. An investigation on the origin and dating of the two Taroudant molars (GHD001 and GHD002) was initiated in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of London, the University of Malta and various other collaborators.

The monitoring of the breeding bird populations within the museum building proceeded regularly. Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius with only one brood of two chicks ringed, the two fledglings were fixed with a radio tag to monitor their post-fledging movements. This radio tagging formed part of an MSc student's dissertation. The usual pair of Mediterranean Flycatcher Muscicapa thyrrenica attempted nesting once again inside the museum, but due to continuous disturbance they abandoned the nest, which was built inside the first chandelier in the museum landing.

The **Integrated Pest Management** group is drafting policies on food and plants in museums and presented a lecture on pest identification and general instructions for the National Libraries. Apart from setting traps and keeping logs at the National Museum of Natural History, the following issues were tackled: localised presence of spider beetles at the Inquisitor's Palace (IPM_0004INQ); trap setting and periodical checking of quarantine book material to be placed in shelves at MUŻA Library (IPM_0005 MUŻA); trap changes, logging of data, and condition

assessment of artworks every two months at MUŻA (IPM_0007MUŻA); log of data collection on trap catches at the Gran Castello (IPM_0008GFM_Gozo); log of trap catches and addition of Paradichlorobenzene as deterrent in carriage showcase at the Palace Armoury (IPM_0010TPA). Ant samples were also taken from catacombs 16 and 19 of St Paul's Catacombs for identification (IPM_0011SPC). Museum staff were instructed to clean passageways periodically to remove accumulated dust and apply pesticide to lessen the infestation. Catacombs 16 and 17 were also inspected for root penetration. Furthermore, identification of black alteration (mould) and monitoring of worm population at the Hypogeum was also followed, and photographic documentation of biological alterations at Ta' Bistra Catacombs.

The biological/environmental studies at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples continued. These included seasonal vegetation survey of flora; photography of communities at Mnajdra; periodical meetings with the Faculty of Built Heritage of the University on temples' shelter evaluation; and sampling of dusted material on slides and brush for microscopic investigations in the near future. Trial cameras were installed at Ħaġar Qim to monitor faunal night activity. Mnajdra is planned to commence next year.

The curatorial staff authored the following publications:

- Massa, B., Borg, J.J., & Tagliavia, M. (2021). Some remarks on Passer italiae-like of south Italy, Sicily and Malta. *Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia Research in Ornithology*. Milano doi:10.4081/rio.2022.537.

- Popof, N., Gaget, E., Béchet, A., Dami, L., Defos du Rau, P., Geijzendorfer, I. Guelmami, A., Mondain Monval, J-Y., Perennou, C., Suet, M. Verniest, F., Deschamps, C., Taylor, N.G., Azafzaf, H., Bendjedda, N., Bino, T., Borg, J.J., Božič, L., Dakki, M., Encarnação, V., Erciyas Yavuz, K., Etayeb, K., Gaudard, C., Hatzofe, O., Langendoen, T., Ieronymidou, C., Mikuska, T., Molina, B., Petkov, N., Portolou, D., Qaneer, T., Sayoud, S., Šćiban, M., Topić, G.,Uzunova, D., Vine, G., Vizi, A., Zenatello, M., Abdou, W., Galewsk, T. (2021). Gap analysis of the Ramsar site network at 50: over 150 important Mediterranean sites for wintering waterbirds omitted. *Biodiversity and Conservation Springer*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-021 02236-1.

- Sammut, P., Borg, J.J., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. (2021). Note on the correct identity of a Nola Leach Species (Lepidoptera Noctuoidea Nolidae) from Malta. *Naturalista Siciliano* S. IV, XLV (1-2), 2021: 91-93.

Several University and MCAST students were given access to the museum collections and library. Ms Rochelle Lorraine Xerri MA (Archaeology) familiarised herself with the Quaternary Micro-mammals and was guided on the diagnostic features for the correct identification of various species of rodents. Mr Jerome Douglas MA (Archaeology) is working on the digitisation of diagnostic bone features in sheep and goats. Ms Jessica Fenech (MCAST) Higher Diploma,

inspected specimens for the museum collections (freezers) for any plastic ingestion in seabirds. Two BSc students from the Institute of Earth Systems, Eric Catania and Clayton Zammit, carried out a project on setting up a new Mammal Display, under the supervision of the Senior Curator and their lecturer, Dr Belinda Gambin.

The library has been reorganised with the help of students. Volumes are continuously incoming, especially from BirdLife Malta and from private donations such as those by the family of the late Joe Sultana of Xagħra, Gozo. The museum's social media pages were regularly updated with developments on the collections, Maltese naturalists and related matters.

Prof. Saviour Formosa offered and carried out a complete 3D scan of Għar Dalam, as well as drone filming inside the cave free of charge. The finished projection, using the latest state of the art viewing equipment was presented in October. No new information had to be reported to ERA on the Natura 2000 Site and Conservation Order. A number of panels were designed and put in place in various parts of the site to provide information to visitors about the various items of interest within the site and in the areas which are designated to become a Heritage Park. The general public was kept informed on the ongoing works at the site and snippets of general interest on the cave and its deposits through the official social media pages, which have increased readership.

Work on **Ġnien Dinja Waħda** was concluded. It consisted of planting more indigenous plants and indigenous aquatic vegetation, the creation of a footpath, and building a semi-circular seating area using Eucalyptus tree trunks. The garden, including the ponds, was inaugurated on 22 October with an education event for a class of Year 6 students from St Nicholas College Birżebbuġa Primary who took part in an education session in the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Education. Following the official launching, Year 6 pupils were offered a curriculum-based education programme which was held twice a week. The programme was overbooked, and a decision was taken to continue offering this programme in 2022.

A survey of the moth species at Għar Dalam was started. Moths were attracted to the trap using a black light bulb which was set to switch on after dusk. The moths were collected in the morning, photographed, identified and released in the same locality. The trap was set up 23 times in Għar Dalam between July and November, with 57 species captured, and seven times in St Julians close to Balluta valley, with 34 species being captured and identified. This was done so that changes in the composition and number of species of the two sites can be compared so as to determine whether the changes are due to local or wider changes. Identification of specimens was carried out by museum volunteer and foremost lepidopterologist Mr Paul Sammut. Work also started on a vegetation survey of the Għar Dalam and Ta' Kaċċatura area. The survey will help determine botanical hot spots that need conservation as well as other areas that are degraded and will require action to improve them.

The curatorial support continued with the provision of support to all HM sites with regards to floral aspects. This has included pruning and watering advice for trees at the Inquisitor's Palace, applying for permits to plant eight trees in the park and prune a carob tree at Ħaġar Qim, application for permits for removal of several invasive and ornamental species, from the ditch, as well as removal of some indigenous trees and shrubs that are damaging the fortifications of Fort St Elmo, permits for pruning of trees around apiary and tower so that works on the structures may commence at Għar Dalam. He also started the 'Tree Care Specialist' course with MCAST, to further his knowledge in the subject and to be able to do the necessay works on protected trees as required by ERA regulations.

An MOU for the upkeep and uses of the 'central field' at **Ta' Bistra Catacombs** was finalised with Birdlife Malta in October. This meant that Birdlife could start cleaning and cut the grass in the area meant to accommodate the path. The area will mostly be taken up by trees, which are being planted according to a pre-established plan, starting with several mature olive trees that will be transplanted from Floriana. The eventual use of the area by Birdlife for its educational activities is in line with the Agency's policy to diversify the use of this site away from normal visits.

The Community Garden concept at the **Abbatija Tad-Dejr Catacombs** continued successfully, to the extent that the current contracts were renewed for a two-year period. The model also became a point of reference for other agencies such as Ambjent Malta, who are now also seeking to implement a similar concept to their sites. The site, in general, needs further studies. It is thus, that works on Prof. Davide Tanasi's Shohet Scholarship project 'The Digital Afterlife of the Catacombs of Abbatija tad-Dejr, Rabat' was continued this year. Although the current pandemic made works on this project somewhat difficult, a GPR study of most of the overlying garden and surrounding roads was carried out in July. The preliminary results of this study are very encouraging, and should allow us to identify targeted areas of investigation in future. Work also continued on the creation of a 3D model of these catacombs, the raw data of which was taken in 2019. This is in its final phases and should be made available to the public in the coming months.

In a bid to improve people's understanding of the site, the interpretation was improved. A set of small panels was designed and printed. Originally used during open days, most will now be installed on a set of large stone stands brought over from storage at the National Museum of Archaeology. HM also created a virtual tour so that visitors could still digitally access the site from the comfort of home. Finally, copies of some photos published in newspapers by Sir Upton Way were obtained from the National Library and added to our archives.

Besides being part of the European Heritage Days, **St Augustine's Catacombs** did not see much activity this year. It was noted that some of the bones in the tombs had been moved after the open day. Discussions are therefore currently underway with conservators and osteologist to identify the best solution for their preservation.

The highlight for **St Paul's Catacombs** was the masterclass on the facial reconstruction of one of the skulls discovered beneath the Visitor Centre. Dubbed 'Elsa', this facial reconstruction was created by a multidisciplinary team, namely osteo-archaeologist Michelle Padovani and forensic anthropologists Roberto Miccichè and Daniele Di Lorenzo. Plans are now almost complete to change the display of the whole skeleton so that the skull, the reconstruction and a short video can all be presented to visitors in a coherent manner. Concurrently, data for other new displays and information panels was submitted for design. These included sections on the death masks, Lemuria and the story of bones. After last year's effort to finalise the long audio guide script, this was translated in the main languages and recorded. Due to the restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the normal hand-held units have not been installed yet. Instead, a slightly shorter version of the guide was put on an app, that will be available for download directly on visitors' phones as soon as the necessary signage is installed. Concurrently, a children's version of the same audio guide is in process.

The conservation of the site's various assets continues to remain a priority. The process of altering the lighting system within the hypogea was finished in the first quarter of the year. However, some issues re-emerged and are being checked again. Meanwhile, scientists carried out tests on the PAR levels of the lighting system. Consequently, all the lights within the hypogea were fitted with orange filters to bring the readings to the desired levels. This is an ongoing process that will need to be adjusted periodically. It is also running parallel with the state-of-conservation report started last year and now in the process of being concluded.

In addition, St Paul's Catacombs and San Pawl Milqi have been selected for a trial project called 'Green Hub' in an attempt to give an ecological contribution to the area. Through this project, grass within the site will be left to grow freely so that it can create a biological and pollination hub. Apart from increasing the 'green' spaces in the area, it is hoped this will also aid increasing biodiversity, while the creation of a thick biological crust will limit water ingress in the hypogea.

San Pawl Milqi still requires upgrading to provide better accessibility, understanding, and valorisation. The new designs are intended to provide visitors to the site with better access, interpretation facilities (including information about the Pauline cult associated with the site), hands-on experiences, and a small permanent display featuring key artefacts found during excavations on site.

A small water trough, originally located along the perimeter fence and later taken for safekeeping at the National Museum of Natural History, was reinstalled beside the small gate leading to the back ruins of the **Domvs Romana**. Moreover, preparation for the permanent display of the dough found at Ta' Ġawhar tower has reached its final stages after having undergone a number of scientific studies. Likewise, preparations are also in an advanced stage for the setting up of an audio-visual featuring an interview with Mrs Lina Cardona, who spent her childhood at the Domvs after her father obtained permission to relocate his family there during World War II, when he

Ghajn Tuffieha Roman Baths

was custodian of St Paul's Catacombs. The 'Nanna Lina' interpretation (as it has been termed) will ensure a better understanding of the Domvs in its role as a museum back then. This is part of the reorganisation of the interpretation around the reception walls, part of which concerning the use of the Museum since 1882, has already been installed. This year marked 140 years since the site was discovered and excavated. To mark this anniversary, HM produced eight small episodes on different aspects of the domus, which brought together numerous professionals on the various subjects in question.

Following two years of discussions, the creation of an official checklist and a clear methodology in preparation for backfilling, the natatio and adjacent trench at the **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths** had been temporarily backfilled with positive results in 2019. A new but broadly similar methodology was then laid out to temporarily backfill the remaining sensitive areas, particularly the mosaic and tile pavements in an attempt to slow down their deterioration until the site could be properly conserved and managed. As an initial stage, all the unstable and fragile areas or individual features were consolidated by conservators. Following this, in June such features were covered with successive layers of distinct gravels alternating with layers of geotextile to ensure not only full protection of the features beneath, but also clear identification of the materials used, and reversibility of the process employed should the covering material need to be removed anytime in the future. The general public was duly informed of the need and importance of this measure to safeguard what remains of the site for future generations. It was also stressed that this was a temporary measure that could be reversed any time without causing any damage to the buried remains. Moreover, a high-quality 3D model of the entire site was produced prior to the laying of the backfill so that, eventually, the public may still visit the site digitally. Meanwhile, Golden Island Ltd secured permission to extend its bee-rearing operations at this site. The hives were installed in September.

Works on **Bidnija olive grove** and ancient remains have progressed steadily. The archaeological team (University, HM, Superintendence) has met twice this year to discuss the methodology and areas to be excavated, which is planned to start in July 2022. Research is crucial for this site, including history, characteristics, propagation techniques and the landscape ecology of the area. The DNA and Polyphenol analysis being carried out by Dr Marion Zammit Mangion of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Malta are still underway, but preliminary results are showing great promise. HM also secured a sponsorship by the Melita Foundation for the continuation of the Remote Sensing exercise to complement that carried out by the University of Malta a few years back. Studies through this sponsorship also include Carbon dating and tree-ring analysis. These works are mostly concluded, and the official results should be received in early 2022. A plan was formulated with Ambjent Malta to start pruning the ancient olives and another twenty or so trees in the area, and the removal of some Pistacia trees that are rubbing and competing with the Bidni olives. Applications which included pruning guidelines and compensatory planting plans were submitted to ERA and approved. All the dead wood was removed from the trees and chipped to create mulch with the assistance of Ambjent Malta. The remaining pruning of the living wood will be started early next year.

The Management/Conservation brief for the site was also finalised by Ambjent Malta, while discussions have started with the CPD for an emergency fire plan. Finally, the tenancy agreements have been finalised with all tenants, including a new one that was discovered along the way.

Works at **Tas-Silġ** have progressed significantly, in line with the Management Brief for the site, which was submitted and approved in 2021. The excavations held in conjunction with the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta continued throughout July/August. These have uncovered the remaining foundations of the Roman temple within the site and, most importantly, the curved walls of a prehistoric apsidal structure. Traces of these walls have been uncovered in two trenches within and outside the original farmhouse footprint. These structures are being considered of great importance to local archaeology and permits have been acquired by the Superintendence to remove part of the Roman cocciopesto covering this structure and join the two trenches together. The primary aim is to identify the temple's orientation. This work is scheduled to be completed by April 2022. The location of this structure makes it probable that it continues beneath the road, the removal of which remains a top priority for the Agency. A GPR survey was conducted along most of the road between the site's two areas. The cisterns, known to continue beneath the road, were also inspected again this year, with new footage acquired. Now that the Management Brief has been finalised, the first stages of its implementation have been commenced, starting with a full topographic and digital survey of the site. This project is currently underway and should be finalised in 2022.

Although not one of the Agency's sites, the section was also heavily involved, together with the Gozo Section and the Superintendence, in discussions with the Missione Archeologica dell'Universita della Sapienza on its project called 'On guard of the Mediterranean. Sapienza Archaeological Mission at Gozo - Ras il-Wardija Project'. A short MOU is currently being finalised between the three entities.

HM's **Archaeological Field Team** continued to grow this year, with the addition of a third archaeologist. Undoubtedly, the major project being implemented is that of **Xrobb l-Għaġin Temple**, which seeks to investigate the remains of a temple excavated in 1911 with the aim of documenting it, removing and rebuilding any surviving structures before the cliff, onto which they're built, collapses into the sea. Following the long list of studies carried out last year, 2021 was mostly dedicated to the logistical works to start excavating two trial trenches. The main stumbling block was to define a methodology for the construction of a platform, supported on piles, to ensure that the tower crane to which the archaeologists need to be tied to, was on solid ground. This was finalised in September and it was thus possible to start the excavation of two long trial trenches aimed at identifying the remains of the temple. These were excavated in the course of a 7-week season, supported by the archaeologists of the Prehistoric Sites Department, and were successful in identifying the remains of significant structures. Although these remains are consistent with prehistoric buildings in Malta, it is currently very difficult to identify which area of the temple excavated 110 years ago has been uncovered. Meanwhile, significant effort was dedicated to the contract for the restoration of the new substation structure. Unfortunately, after months of relative inactivity, the chosen contractor was unable to continue, and the contract was

amicably terminated. Alternatives are currently being sought. Discussions with Nature Trust for the creation of an interpretation area about the temple were also held.

The team was also entrusted with the preliminary works for the site at **Ta' Qali**, earmarked to become the Agency's main office. Although the team's role is mainly archaeological, works on this site including the supervision of cleaning operations, demolition of part of the structure on site, cutting of trees and removal of more than five tonnes of asbestos-polluted materials. The team was also responsible for the site's alignment and surveying, an extensive remote sensing exercise, and the creation of a 3D model. All works are temporarily on hold; trial trenches can be excavated once the final reporting for the remote sensing is submitted.

During the course of the year, the team was invited by the Superintendence to collaborate in the excavation of an undisturbed Phoenician tomb, discovered at **Għajn Klieb** almost twenty years ago. This was a most exciting project that led to the retrieval of unique data. Collaboration projects such as this are surely the way forward to ensure that data is extensively and properly collected and studied. Post-excavation studies are still underway but are surely to shed new light on the early Phoenician Period.

Apart from the relatively large-scale projects mentioned above, the team was also involved in other work, mainly:

- Excavation, surveying, photogrammetry, osteological studies at the Xagħra Circle;
- Detailed photogrammetric survey of the Roman Baths;
- Surveying and photogrammetry for the trenches being excavated at the Grand Master's Palace;
- Photogrammetry and remote sensing at Villa Guardamangia and the Grand Master's Palace;
- Submitted request to excavate a number of trial trenches in front of Għar Dalam cave;
- Played an active role in the drafting of the Malta Archaeological Manual;
- Created database of material, fixing of storage and identifying bones with potential for further scientific analysis at the National Museum of Archaeology;
- Continued post-excavation works for past excavations.

The **Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit** used the lull in tourist activity to explore and document numerous sites which may be considered as candidates to opening to the public in the future. This proactive approach ensures that the UCHU is ready for upturns in visiting diving activities. However, one new site was still opened this year: the Martin Maryland bomber, a British World War II aircraft wreck site. Documentation for the opening of the Maryland site was prepared. This document is a depository of all information relevant to the site, inclusive of its archaeological, historical, natural, and socio-economic value. The process of site valorisation has begun. The Maryland bomber was also launched on the virtual museum Underwater Malta – ensuring that all members of the public can explore the aircraft, not just the diving community. Moreover, three more sites were added to the Underwater Malta platform www.underwatermalta.org, the Maryland bomber, HMS Southwold, and HMS Hellespont. The Underwater Malta virtual

museum was shortlisted for the European Heritage in Motion awards. Heritage in Motion is a multimedia competition for the creators and users of films, games, apps and websites on themes related to Europe's heritage, cultural and natural, tangible and intangible. The awards have a long tradition in celebrating the best examples of innovative multimedia and digital projects on cultural heritage in Europe. https://heritageinmotion.eu/blogpost/finalists-2021-announced

Following the creation of the Xlendi Underwater Archaeological Park in 2020, the first season of fieldwork was initiated on the Tower Wreck Project in summer. The aim was to establish methodological approaches that are achievable for the large-scale documentation of the site. An area of 4000m² was successfully surveyed in high resolution. A 360° video footage of the site was shot. Details for the installation of the CCTV system were finalised and quotations received. Planning for the displays in the Xlendi Tower were also prepared. The UCHU team formed part of the surface and diving support teams during the five-week Phoenician Shipwreck Project. A series of meetings were also held regarding the proposed Phoenician Shipwreck Museum in Gozo.

Further to last year's position paper on the matter, the signing and ratification of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage by Malta was officially announced in April. Planning and logistics for the Under the Mediterranean II Conference, to be held in Malta in April 2022, in collaboration with the University of Malta and Honor Frost Foundation, is well under way. The ghost gear removal project initiated in 2020 was continued this year – HMS Southwold and HMS Nasturtium were cleared of a large quantity of nets endangering marine life and divers. The Unit also assisted the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in an underwater excavation at Marsaskala in February, and conclusively identified the British submarine HMS Urge in April. The site was recorded in 3D and a commemorative event is being planned for April 2022, marking the 80th anniversary of the submarine's demise.

The curatorial staff authored the following publications:

- Gambin, T.; Hyttinen, K.; Sausmekat, M.; Wood, J., *Making the Invisible Visible: Underwater Malta—A Virtual Museum for Submerged Cultural Heritage, Remote Sens*, 2021, 13, 1558.
- Gambin, T.; Bravo-Morata Rodríguez, A.; Sausmekat, M., *From Discovery to Public Consumption: The Process of Mapping and Evaluating Underwater Cultural Heritage in Malta*, Heritage 2021, 4, 2732–45.
- Gambin, T.; Sausmekat, M.; Kovacevic, D., *The Innovative and State of the Art Public Access Management of Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage*, Heritage 2021, 4, 3365-81.
- Gambin, T., Douglas, G., Sausmekat, M., 'A report on the magnetometer survey results off the north-eastern coast of Malta 2010-2014: Mellieħa Bay, Salina Bay, and St Paul's Bay, *Malta Archaeological Review*, 12: 1-18.
- A Digital Dive: Sharing the Secrets of a 2.700-year-old Phoenician shipwreck, *Current World Archaeology*.

With respect to outreach, a paper on the innovative public access system implemented in Malta

was also presented during the Blue Growth II Conference in May, a masterclass on maritime archaeology was delivered online by Prof. Gambin, a maritime archaeology school was organised with the HM Student Passport Summer scheme, UCHU personnel travelled to Split, Croatia, in order to deliver lectures and workshops on the management of underwater cultural heritage within the SEA-EU alliance exchange, and a 360 immersive experience was also held in Gozo as a pilot project for a broader outreach campaign. Various meetings on the possibility of participating in international fairs next year led to an invitation from MTA to participate in the Boot International Fair in Dusseldorf in January 2022. The general public was kept constantly updated on underwater activities through social media, and site cards have been produced and distributed to dive centres registered with HM to provide more information to visiting divers.

Objects from the 2019 Salina Bay excavation and a large ceramic vessel from deep water wreck were transferred from the University of Malta to the underwater conservation lab. The conservation of the brass navigation object raised from HMS Nasturtium is in process.

More works of art were placed in storage in the Reserve Collection at **MUŻA**, including paintings and sculpture. A number of works, currently in the second-floor corridors, still need to be placed in the Reserve Collection, but this exercise has practically been completed. Locations of artworks are being recorded in the MUŻA database. Defects or omissions in the inventory, brought to light through this exercise, were addressed.

Significant strides forward were made in the gallery displays, with the near completion of all the captions and other improvements. Research was carried out for the 'Beauty and Purpose' showcase in the Mediterranean Gallery in order to establish its contents, which will focus on jewellery and personal accessories worn and used by men and women in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Research was also carried out to establish the correct selection of tableware in the showcases of 'Gate to Europe', 'Style for Status' and 'A Noble Space' in the Europe Galleries. The 'At the Service of Empire' Room (Empire Galleries) has been enhanced by the addition of portrait busts of the British Royal Family (Lord Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Princess Elisabeth II, Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles as a young boy, George VI) and of Winston Churchill by the Maltese sculptor, Vincent Apap. These were included in order to convey the idea of the power of the British Crown that held sway over Malta as Fortress Colony throughout the 19th and 20th centuries till Independence in 1964. The Portrait Bust of Churchill reminds the visitor about Malta's significant role during the World War II in ensuring that British Imperial interests were securely safeguarded.

The thirteen canvas and panel paintings that were on display in the 'Masterpieces at MUŻA' Exhibition were hung in the galleries to be part of the permanent display on a long-term loan. Addition of paintings by Italian artists from the O. Gollcher donation and the Chev. Edward Caruana Dingli Bequest in the 'From Tradition to Self-Expression' Room (The Artist Galleries). Some of the artists displayed, such as Alberto Carosi, Filiberto Carosi and Carlo Romagnoli formed part of the group 'il XXV della Campagna Romana', active in the 1920s and 1930s.

They painted en plein air landscapes and genre scenes exhibiting in Malta through their friend Gollcher. Their influence from Impressionism is shown by exhibiting them next to two earlier works by Giuseppe De Nittis, who frequented the French Impressionists in Paris.
Addition of background images (kindly provided by Mr Gerald Bugeja) in the 'Antonio Sciortino: A Maltese Artist in Rome' (The Artist Galleries), one showing a large-scale model of the 'Kristu Re' in Sciortino's studio which was placed behind the model of a lighthouse, and one showing the monument of the Great Siege which was placed behind the busts of female figures. Other smaller blow-ups were placed in showcases. The anti-theft sensors provided by Fortecho were assigned to paintings around the museum according to size and importance. Additional sensors will be purchased, and the system tested before full implementation.

During the last quarter, HM's Executive Director and Senior Management invited curators to study and consider some general improvements to the MUŻA experience. These include a fixed visitor flow, and general improvements in the public areas with more emphasis on didactics, community-oriented self-expression and engagement tools, as well as children's educational facilities. This shall also consider improvements in the courtyard and the upper floor. Several discussions are in progress.

The curatorial team has collaborated with the MUŻA Restaurant and provided visual and textual material for the various menus and posters that the latter issues throughout the year, e.g. for Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas periods, etc,. as well as for live-music entertainment events held in the summer months. Curators also contributed to three Artpaper articles covering a variety of topics. Social media posts to advertise events and exhibitions at MUŻA, as well as to bring various aspects of the National Collection to the attention of the general public, were created throughout the whole year. A website for the museum: www.muza.mt, was created, the content written by the curatorial team and development by the Digitisation Department. The website was launched in November.

The curatorial team has been collaborating with DSL and paintings' conservators to analyse a 17th-century Dutch painting of a head of an old man, possibly from the workshop of Rembrandt. Scientific technical photography includes raking light and infra-red. The project will continue following removal of varnish by the paintings conservation lab.

A specific session on labelling artefacts was held at MUŻA in August. A new system was agreed upon using archival grade paper, printed with a laser printer, and glued to artefacts using Tylose. This will be used for all works of art, apart from those which are sensitive to water, for which Paraloid B72 is to be used as an adhesive. The plan chests with unframed works on paper have remained in the library where the environment is stable and easier to control. A large number of prints and drawings which had empty inventory cards, or which did not have inventory cards, were inventoried, registered and assigned object numbers.

The MUŻA library is difficult to use due to the plan chests having been placed in the room. Many

books were put in boxes and shelves stacked on each other to make room. The shelves have been covered with drapery in case any mould spores from the plan chests are released into the air. This makes finding and accessing books very difficult. It also prevents the team from starting the organisation and cataloguing of the library which is much needed. Several books have been donated or added to the library. A subscription for the journal 'Master Drawings' was made and renewed. Books that were placed in crates and sealed because they showed signs of pest damage were monitored throughout the year. Two crates which had active infestation were sent for anoxia treatment. Pest traps were placed on all library shelves, but no signs of infestation were found. Blue storage boxes containing manuscript and printed documents that were digitised by the Malta Study Center, HMML in 2017, were checked to audit their contents.

Panel and canvas paintings, works on paper, prints and photographs on display continued to be monitored monthly for signs of mould attack. Some works of art across the four galleries received basic repair on site, while others requiring a more in-depth treatment were transferred to the conservation labs. Sculpture that required basic cleaning was cleaned on site, including a portrait bust of Dun Karm Psaila by George Borg.

In line with the methods employed last year, regular monitoring of the environmental conditions, was ongoing daily, complimented with a monthly inspection by an interdisciplinary team. This ran parallel to great efforts to attest for the full potential of the current environmental control infrastructure and implement permanent solutions – an excercise which started last year and which registered more results this year. Approximately eighty dehumidifiers were placed throughout the museum galleries and second floor. These are emptied four times a day. The Preventive Conservation Department monitors the humidity and temperature in the galleries daily. The air conditioners and dehumidifiers are switched on or off and settings changed according to the levels of Relative Humidity.

In summer, Recowatt, a company fully independent from any of the design and implementation of the MUŻA project, was commissioned to carry out studies on the current environmental systems and do the necessary tests. In October, Recowatt presented its results and suggestions, which included: sealing of all air vents in the galleries and Camerone; partitioning of the building where feasible; sealing all the glass doors, especially those not necessary for access; further study into the drawings of the current AC units to consider and provide suggestions for the seperation of units; consider the feasibility of a heat recovery system; provision of recommendations phasing the necessary action required by priority. In November, all the vents in the museum which were part of the fresh air system have been closed. This has led to a huge amelioration of the environmental conditions in the galleries as relative humidity is much more stable. Later in the month, a large dehumidifier was installed in the Camerone on ground floor to replace the smaller domestic ones. Another large dehumidifier was placed in the Preti hall in December. The room is being monitored.

Following a discovery of two works on paper with mould in the plan chests drawers, an extensive random check of the contents of the plan chests was carried out in February. It was determined

that a mould infestation was present, spread throughout various drawers, some of which was reactivation of past infestation but most of which was new infestation. The works found with mould were taken to the Reserve Collection, second room, upper level for the mould to dry out. All the plan chests were moved from their former location (mezzanine above the staff room) to the more stable environment in the Library to halt and mitigate the fluctuating relative humidity problem. The plan chests were checked every month and works found with mould were placed in the upper section of the Reserve Collection to allow for the mould to dry out. These were also checked monthly.

All artworks pertaining to the National Collection along with their respective documentation are being digitised to preserve and make the collection more accessible to a wider audience. The work involved:

- 'Inventory for Special Item' cards are being scanned along with their metadata placed onto shared excel sheets titled 'MUŻA Artworks Database' (for artworks currently in the MUŻA reserve collection and displayed within the museum) and 'HM Fine Art Database' (for artworks not housed at MUŻA but falling within MUŻA's collection).
- The 'Inventory for Special Item' cards and the excel sheets containing all metadata are being divided according to the artwork's 'Item' listed also on the card itself (e.g.: Painting, Etching, Lithograph, Photograph, Ceramic, Sculpture, etc);
- During COVID-19 closures Front of House personnel scanned the cards whilst MUŻA Coordinators inputted metadata onto the excel sheets accordingly.
- During summer, interns from the Digitisation Department digitised works on paper from the plan chests. These have been uploaded on Fotoware.
- Ivann Borg from the Exhibitions and Design team is creating a 3D rendering of the museum; the render of the ground floor galleries is ready. This project will allow the trying of different display arrangements digitally before implementation to reduce handling.
- Almost all new acquisitions of 2021 were photographed and metadata entered on Fotoware.
- The Digitisation room, which will also serve as a first aid room for conservators, has been set up on the second floor.
- The loaned paintings exhibited in the 'Masterpieces at MUŻA' exhibition were digitised in ultra-high resolution using a Gigapan camera
- The loaned paintings and respective documentation for the Giorgio Preca exhibition were digitised
- Metadata of approximately 160 prints and drawings that were digitised by HMML in 2017 has been entered in Fotoware and on inventory cards following research. This includes drawings by Mattia Preti and Antoine Favray.
- Overall, approximately 500 photos of artworks on Fotoware now have metadata.

Research has been conducted on the following topics:

- Maiolica pharmacy jars currently housed at MUŻA and on loan to other sites, to fill gaps in our metadata, to create consistency in our research and for an eventual publication.

- 17th-century Dutch paintings in the MUŻA collection was carried out and resulted in new attributions and better understanding of the context of such paintings. The research was presented during a Masterclass on 20 October.
- Jewellery and personal accessories, including pocket watches and snuff boxes, regarding artworks chosen for the showcase in Mediterranean – Beauty and Purpose.
- Claudia Garradas, former Malta Study Center, HMML, now at the Malta Maritime Museum, carried out research on the printed book 'Tratado das Cores'. This is a rare 18th-century publication with few known copies, one of which is at MUŻA. She presented her research during a Masterclass on 29 September.
- Research on prints and drawings digitised by HMML continued and metadata was compiled in Fotoware and on inventory cards.
- Research on 19th-century prints and drawings from plan chest C was carried out to compile inventory cards.
- Material related to the Giovanni Francesco Camocio Map Series was verified and consolidated for official entry into the Google Arts & Culture as entered in the UNESCO International Memory of the World Register.
- Further collaboration with the Malta Map Society to enhance knowledge on the Cartographic Collection.

- Continuation of collaboration with the University of Malta's Geography Department to bring the Cartographic Collection to a broader academic audience. Research on maritime maps and De Palmeus maps in the MUŻA collection was carried out for the prospective SEA-EU project.
- Collaboration with the Department of Conservation & Built Heritage and the Valletta Local Council on I-ACCESS project to create 3-D tactile models of the Carapecchia arch in the courtyard, the central decorative marble ensemble of the façade of the Auberge d'Italie, and the area around the museum. These will be placed in public spaces of the museum as interpretation for the visually impaired.
- An application for an exhibition and publication on our collection of Old Master Drawings was submitted to the Getty Paper Project initiative in February. This proposal was not accepted, and the outcome was communicated in May. Following feedback from the Getty Foundation, a new application for a digital project to develop an educational microsite on our Old Master drawings was submitted on 1 December. Outcome will be communicated in May 2022.
- Research was carried out on making the museum autism-friendly. This includes making the first drafts of a visual story and sensory map which involved online training.
- Martin Royalton Kisch, former Curator of Dutch and Flemish Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, was consulted on the 17th-century Dutch painting of a head of an old man possibly from the workshop of Rembrandt, who analysed the work, confirmed the possible origin and discussed the work with other Dutch paintings and Rembrandt experts who concurred. He also examined our collection of Dutch, Flemish and French old Master drawings and gave good insight.

- Dott.ssa Vita Segreto, Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma, was assisted with her research on Filippo Paladini. She also analysed the collection of old master drawings, giving possible new attributions to Stefano Pieri/Giovanni Battista Naldini and Giovanni Balducci.
- Through Martin Royalton-Kisch, an introduction was made with Alastair Laing, former Curator of Pictures and Sculpture for the National Trust, UK, who gave his opinions on the two paintings and two drawings attributed to Francois Boucher in our collection.
- Dr John Marciari, Head of the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Morgan Library and Museum, New York, was contacted to give his insight on our drawing of an academic male nude by Guercino. He remarked that it was a phenomenal drawing, quite rare and unknown. He discussed the work with Prof. David M. Stone who is a leading expert on Guercino, and who is currently in contact with MUŻA curators.
- With Dott. Monica Demarco, following the loan of eleven maiolica vessels to the Museo delle Ceramiche di Calabria in Seminara for 'La Maiolica Secentesca di Gerace Riscoperta', there is mutual agreement for collaboration in establishing a working group for the study of the maiolica pharmacy jars in the National Collection. This significant exhibition has been instrumental in identifying some of the workshops behind maiolica pieces housed at MUŻA, making it evident that further research is needed.
- An application for an 'Oral History Project' was submitted to the 'Melita Foundation' to create a 3-year project focusing on research, recordings and footage of current artists. The proposal was accepted but only a fraction of the requested budget was provided. Therefore, the project had to be shelved until a better budget is available for the project's implementation and success.

Internal funds were this year channelled towards the very important purchase of an autograph work by Francesco Noletti, il Maltese, which was still missing from the National Collection.

Artist	Francesco Noletti, 'il Maltese'
Title	Still Life with a Boar (having a partially legible inscription 'Maltese' at the lower right corner)
Medium	Oil on canvas
Size	133 x 95.5cm
Provenance	a prestigious connoisseur's Cabinet, France
Auction	Sotheby's Paris – Tableaux Dessins Sculptures 1300-1900, Session 1, 15 June 2021, Lot 33
Price	€131,200

Francesco Noletti, il Maltese, is an important artist as he is the only known Maltese painter to establish himself among the best still-life artists of Baroque Rome. Despite being active mainly in Rome, he was known as 'il Maltese' – and this is, among other things, attested in this artwork by the inscription (rather than a signature) in the lower right corner of the painting – a rare occurrence which makes it even more relevant for Malta. His works are increasingly featuring in various museums, including the Louvre and the State Hermitage Museum, but an autograph

work by Noletti was still missing from the National Collection. Still Life with a Boar is a major piece, no just for its size (a remarkable 133x95cm) but also for the choice of the subject. For it is a rare instance whereby Noletti makes a direct reference to hunting in his richly textured still-life works – this is attested mainly by the boar – a priced trophy in 17th-century hunting. The work in question was probably commissioned for a hunting lodge or a palace beyond urban centres and in proximity of hunting activity.

A donation of a number of large bound volumes of wheat importation records of the mid-19th century was presented by Mr Joseph Gauci to the **Malta Maritime Museum**, while fishing paraphernalia was collected from Marsaxlokk. They will be put on inventory in 2022. The late Mr Paul Cilia donated a number of photographs pertaining to his 50+ years career and the Dockyard, and a collection of 20th-century documents shedding light on the unionisation of the Maltese dockyards was also retrieved from the GWU. A small temporary display was setup at the OPM dedicated to Felice Cutajar – the secretary of Sir Alexander Ball. It included an early 19th-century desk with Royal Navy markings and a portable writing desk. The St Joseph Qala ex-voto was transferred to Gozo in view of its provenance and subject matter being pertinent to the Gozo Museum.

The c.5000 glass negative collection is being catalogued and moved to the National Museum of Archaeology. The photographic collection is also being reorganised. Several photo albums, photo collections or individual photos, ranging from 1916 to 1946, are being digitised and catalogued and their metadata compiled, thus facilitating their use for researchers. An extensive exercise to update the inventory, even digitally, has been undertaken, keeping in consideration that the museum will serve as a pilot project for the implementation of the Collections Management System, a draft document has been produced as guidelines. All the Rock Gate cemetery items were catalogued and digitised, and the project to catalogue the over 300 uniforms was concluded. The uniform collection is now being cleaned and prepared for storage and possibly eventual display.

In August, the Senior Curator was contacted by the executor of the will of the late (Hon) Dr Jimmy Farrugia, since a number of items from the former's collection had been earmarked for the museum. The Senior Curator was also asked to assist in the overall assessment of one of the biggest collections ever assembled in Malta. In December, a formal agreement was signed by both parties. Advice was also given to the AFM Maritime Squadron regarding the launching of a new patrol boat.

Due to the current restoration works at the museum, the workshop continued to operate from a temporary area. This has delayed the major works that remain on the Kajjik restoration programme, and only minor work could be performed. Consequently, work shifted to other key wooden items within the collection. A set of two Dockyard sail maker's benches used for sails production have been completely restored. The latter had been salvaged in 2014 and formed part of the Georgian sail loft at dock one in Bormla. Six captain's chairs were repaired, waxed and covered for storing

Still Life with a Boar by Francesco Noletti

Grand Master Pinto taking possession of the fleet – 1741

again. A boathouse carpenter's bench was restored to eventually form part of the Dockyard display. A naval hospital medical trolley was restored and now kept in the Reserve Collection.

The renowned model company Billing Boats has kindly donated missing accessories and parts to finally complete the MV Calypso model restored last year. The missing items, the two-man submarine and the small Hugh 300 Helicopter, were important to add the proper visual interpretation of the legendary Cousteau ship. The model is now complete with all details. This project was co-ordinated with the Cousteau Foundation, owners of the model. The models of the GM Manoel de Vilhena ceremonial barge, the Dgħajsa tal-Latini Maria Grazia and the Bucentaur model were moved out of their showcases to undergo systematic cleaning. Minor restoration was conducted on the wooden components of the models.

The large collection of 1/1250 miniatures donated by the late Col. Mc Groves was re-organised and stored in new museum quality cabinets. The collection amounts to over 600 items comprising merchant, cruise liners and royal naval ships. They were all cleaned, repaired where necessary, and re-catalogued in detail. The ships representing WWII Malta convoys, including all Allied vessels involved in Operation Pedestal, were organised into specific forces involved in the operation. The diorama project of the Għargħar Battery continued in earnest. All the sculpting of the figurines is now complete. Before priming, the miniature sculpts were digitally documented. The final layout of the diorama was agreed upon and every item was undercoated in the zenithal lighting technique in preparation for painting. The keeper of models is also currently restoring a cardboard model of the Vittoriosa Clock Tower from the Inquisitor's Palace. The collection of military architecture models displayed at the Fortress Builders Centre were assessed for damage and given attention.

In June, a new boat builder joined the boat restoration workshop, mostly to spearhead the Tal-Latini project. Although the requirements were many, the first few months have yielded most encouraging results. The boat is in dry storage at Bighi. All modern accretions have been removed from the boat. Some have been disposed of, while others put in storage. A workshop which was set up at ground floor in Bighi also functions as a dry storage store for components which were painted/oiled or restored. The ballast tanks have been put inside the hull to stabilise the boat. Hydraulic jacks, salvaged from the Dockyard in 2010, have been utilised to restore the original lines of the hull, which has been raised by at least 10 inches all round. A large tree trunk which was acquired has been shaped out and is nearly ready to be installed for the keel of the boat.

Research into the historic documentation on the **Inquisitor's Palace** continued, particularly through the inventories - so rich in shedding light into life within palace walls. Equally important is the ever-exciting analysis, cataloguing and conservation works of deposits which have been recovered from the prison cess-pit and respective courtyard in 1998, as well as the works carried out in 2002 in a torture chamber, the adjacent prison cells in 2016 and 2017, and the garden shaft in 2020. To this, one must add the potentially intriguing excavations that have been identified but still need to be tapped once the ongoing cataloguing is final. An important achievement in this

direction was the reorganisation of all the recovered deposits in a purposely dedicated room at upper floor.

A documentation project to capture recollections linked to the Palace is being spearheaded by the curatorial supports. This has mainly focused on the post-war years during which the Palace was used as an interim-church and convent by the Dominican community, but has also documented various aspects of its recent museum story. This ran parallel with a research project within the archives of the Dominican Priory in Birgu, with the intention of setting up a small exhibition which did not materialise by 2021.

Important artefacts were secured through purchases and donations. Most remarkable for the history of the Palace is a 1785 Inquisitorial Edict on the Reverenda Fabbrica di San Pietro. Also worthy of note is the acquisition of a late 18th- or possibly early 19th-century billiard table in 18th century style from Palazzo Lezze in Venice in December. It is in line with the listing of a billiard table in the 1798 inventory, and by far, the closest we came across from similar opportunities examined in past years. The table needs further study, and it is for this reason that this will be recorded along with the 2021 accessions. Hopefully, an exciting project will see to its restoration and reconditioning in the forseeable future.

Following a first year of familiarisation with the Agency, the **national textile collection** has regained significant impetus spearheaded by the new curator, who focused on the augmentation and valorisation of this understudied collection. A new storage area, including the quarantine section for costumes and textiles, was set up. The library classification in Dewey Decimal Classification is running parallel to growth of the costumes and textiles library with the accessioning of books, gathering of journals, and newspaper articles, University dissertations and MCAST Level 6 assignments in hard or soft copy.

Significant progress was also registered in the cataloguing of Maltese lace designs at the National Library. A full report of ongoing work including photos is constantly being updated. Other research initiatives, included documentation and oral histories on the history of the national textiles collection, Maltese lace designs with special reference to the 'Gerada Collection', and manufacturing techniques for the ġonnella. The curator of costumes has also contributed with short articles namely:

- 'The COVID-19 face masks in Heritage Malta's National Textiles Collection/Maskri tal-COVID-19 fil-National Textile Collection, Heritage Malta', in *Is-Seħer tal-Bizzilla*, Issue 73, Spring 2021

- 'International Lace Day 2021/Il-Jum Dinji tal-Bizzilla 2021', in Is-Seħer tal-Bizzilla, Issue 74, Autumn 2021

- 'Face masks with Maltese Lace in the National Textiles Collection/Masques avec Dentelle

Maltaise à la Collection Nationale des Textiles', in *OIDFA Bulletin* 2/2021

- The National Textile Collection also featured on an article by Brincat Anna, 'My face mask donation to Heritage Malta's National Textiles Collection/Donazzjoni tal-Maskra tiegħi lin-National Textiles Collection', in *Is-Seħer tal-Bizzilla*, Issue 73, Spring 2021.

The Department has also contributed in the publication of a series of typical recipes, the first volume of which, by the name of 'Flavours of Spring', was published earlier this year. Other collaborations were various, including projects with the Malta Tourism Authority (German TV channel VOX filming għonnella and lacemaking for a Travel Show about Malta), Valletta Cultural Agency (10-11 September - 'Agħti Widen' production by Ruben Zahra and the Malta Philarmonic Orchestra at PjazzaTeatru Rjal combining music and videography with crafts such as lace), and Malta Crafts (with a Maltese lace workshop delivered during Artiġja Festival held at MUŻA on 5 November). A number of meetings were held with the Department of Fashion and Textiles to discuss the possibility of collaborating to place the National Textiles Collection for study and research at secondary level as part of Secondary Education Certificate and Secondary Education Applied Certificate curriculum. Moroever, following a number of meetings with Dr Rachel Radmilli (Department of Management [FEMA] University of Malta) and the Cultural Directorate it was agreed to assist for the inclusion of 'Maltese Lace - An Intangible Cultural Heritage' on the UNESCO World Heritage list of Intangible Heritage. Annamaria Gatt will be spearheading the process on a personal level.

This year also registered a significant number of accessions for the textile collection. This included the purchase of 18th-century waistcoats, bodices and skirt, donations of hats and a myriad of institutional face masks, 19th- and 20th-century underdresses, blouses and a mourning dress, various doilies, some in lace. Truly remarkable was a donation and purchase from Gabrielle de Trafford. This included a 1960s pink Indian tunic belonging to Elizabeth Holmes, a square ecru Maltese lace coffee table tablecloth, a large round ecru Maltese lace doilie with the George cross motif in the centre and another Maltese lace ecru table cloth, among others. Further to the accessions made last year, we also secured more designs, including embroidery original designs and lace patterns by designer Carmel Gerada, along with printing block of his, the Gerada embossed stamp and his drawing tools.

In line with the new remit given to the curator, that of 'Curator Industrial and Transport Vehicles', the curator focused mostly on the relocation of the vehicles and the **industrial heritage** collections (along the many other depositories from other curatorial sections) from the stores in Qormi which had to be vacated, to the new stores in Ħal Far. This included planning and all the logistical work for shelving and transportation. All vehicles in reserve, including the buses are now in Ħal Far. Moreover, the industrial heritage and ethnography study collections have also been securely transferred to the new premises. This was a most useful excercise on many accounts, since it improved upon storage methods and organisation of the collection.

Considerations are also underway towards a better use of **Tal-Pilar Church**. Statues and furniture pieces pertaining to the Church, temporarily stored at Bighi, were superficially cleaned and re-instated in the Church. No progress was registered on the restoration of the Church's paintings, however, research is yielding interesting information on the history of the Church's present collections and the whereabouts of others which were transferred to other locations along the years.

With respect to the **National War Museum**, the Memorial in remembrance of all the fallen was set up in the Church of St Anne facing the parade ground of Fort St Elmo. All the sets of medals and other artefacts that were exhibited at the former museum were re-assembled and conserved as required, and medals sorted according to status, being either the person civilian or serviceman/servicewoman. Several models, Rolls of Honour, plaques commemorating servicemen and civilians of other nations contributing for the defence of Malta, and other related items were put on exhibit.

Apart from extensive work on the reorganisation of the Reserve Collection in general, a number of shelves were manufactured in-house for the proper storage of the boxed and hanging uniform collection. Members of the Malta Aviation Museum Foundation started analysing and measuring all parts of the Gloster Sea Gladiator N5520 'FAITH' in order to build a replica of N5519 'CHARITY'. One has to bear in mind that the fuselage of FAITH is the only Sea Gladiator that had survived the war and is, therefore, an incredibly important relic symbolising Malta's resistance.

Considerable research was conducted on different aspects of Malta's military history, including the social aspect. Research at the National Library included the topics of coastal fortification and Maltese militias. Research at the Archbishop Archives focused on pastoral letters of 1935-45 and pastoral visits to the Mellieħa Marian Sanctuary. Police occurrences, circulars and wartime CID reports, which have abundant details on any aspect of civilian and servicemen daily life, were tackled at the Police Headquarters Archives. The Public Works Archives yielded information on war damage, pillboxes and shelters, while the National Archives in Malta and Gozo shed important light on LGO documents, despatches, and purchase of land by the War Department to construct fortifications. Public deeds are being investigated through the Notarial Archives.

Work on the official guidebook of the National War Museum is well underway. Numerous features were also published by the curator in the local newspapers. Topics covered included a series of three articles about the April Blitz; the attack on Mellieħa and Għadira Camp of 25 April 1942; the Italian seaborne attack on Grand Harbour of 26 July 1941; the huge losses of Axis convoys, defending St Paul's Bay and the construction of pillboxes; etc. Another contribution titled 'WWII Festivities: 75th Anniversary in Europe and Malta' was published in the HM journal Tesseræ, while 'Grand Master Pinto's dream of a Corsican Kingdom' was published on the Sacra Militia: The Journal of the History of the Order of St John.

During the past year, the following works linked to the transfer of the **Palace Armoury** and the collection from the Ground Floor display halls to the Piano Nobile have been carried out and

finalised. The two reserve collections, containing mostly issue armour and rapiers, have been transferred from the ground floor to Room 159, annexed to the Armoury Hall on the Piano Nobile. This room, which is both a laboratory and storage, has been refurbished and divided into two with an intermediary upper floor made of an iron structure. This was mainly done to contain the packed artefacts for temporary storage in the interim period while the display cases are being refurbished. The curator's office and its archive content have also been moved upstairs to a room close to the reserve collection and laboratory. The library has been also transported to a corridor area into old bookcases removed from the Attorney General offices. The area designated for the library is also annexed to the curator's office. During such time, the catalogue of the library has been updated.

The old workshop used by Michael Stroud that had been set up at the Malta Maritime Museum, together with several Armoury pieces stored there, was removed and transferred back to the Armoury. The inventory, tagging and cataloguing of all the artefacts in the collection has been completed. After taking over the previous Attorney General offices, all books and other items that were left behind were cleared. Most of the books were sorted and distributed among various museums depending on their subject matter. Other irrelevant material was destroyed. The old arms trophies from the former Palace Armoury display were documented and tagged for inventory purposes. Stock of the extant trophies was taken and compared with existing pre-1974 photographs of the Armoury. New ones were designed and paired with existing ones, and the weapons necessary to compose such trophies were chosen.

In summer, when the Edmond showcases were removed to the weapons' hall for refurbishment, a temporary exhibition with select pieces from the Palace Armoury Collection was set up in the Armour Hall. Iron showcases, imitating the Edmond type, were reconditioned and used for the display. In the meantime, the artefacts in the weapons hall and the armour pieces found in the wall showcases in the Armour Hall were all inventoried, packed and stored in preparation for display. Old damaged wood mannequins have been remounted, repaired and painted, ready for the issue armour to be set up in the Palace corridors and the Armoury. Trophies of armour have been transferred to the Armoury from San Anton and Verdala Palaces and replaced with replica armour and antique prop trophies. Since most of the issue armour coming from storage intended to go on display in the Armoury will still not be fully conserved, temporary cleaning is being carried out by removing loose grease, rust and dirt and applied with oil. This is just a temporary solution since their aesthetic appearance still leaves much to be desired. Furthermore, pieces from Japanese armour suits have been sorted and identified, and discussions are in hand with the Ambassador of Malta to Japan in preparation for transportation to Japan for conservation in a specialised workshop.

Sessions were held at MUŻA and the National Museum of Archaeology to identify artefacts and paintings for the future display at both the Grand Master's Palace and Armoury. Various paintings at the Auberge d'Aragon have been transferred and replaced with furniture and paintings of Grand Masters, formerly at the Dragonara Palace.

A number of important new acquisitions were recorded. Eleven firearms were purchased from the Ori Saitta Collection in Messina, a swivel-gun powder cartridge with the coat of arms of Grand Master L'Isle Adam was also purchased; a Burgonet Helmet; two brass-hilted hangers and two small swords were acquired from the Paul Zammit collection, while a pair of tinplate souvenir figures of knights in armour representing Grand Masters De Valette and L'Isle Adam have been donated.

During the British period, practically every original wooden haft of the polearm collection was crudely replaced with ill-fitting, historically inaccurate, low-quality, and perishable wood, thus unfortunately diminishing both the historical and aesthetical value of the said collection. Research on historical haft type/shape, dimensions and material, was undertaken and historically accurate replicas of said polearm hafts were thus produced anew. In total, 419 hafts made of ash wood, of various cross-sections, lengths, and thicknesses, and finished with wood stain, were manufactured by Azzopardi Woodworks of Żebbuġ, Malta. Azzopardi Woodworks was also tasked with fitting the replica hafts to original polearm heads according to specific instructions by curatorial staff. A comprehensive inventory of polearms was also done, followed by a datasheet of all the required dimensions.

The Armoury Collection contains six rare early 17th-century wall-mounted falconets, probably of German make. Considering the rarity of these falconets, they will be displayed in a more prominent place within the new armoury setup. As none of the original carriages survive, it was deemed appropriate to manufacture historically accurate replicas to facilitate the interpretation of these cannon. Research was thus undertaken to determine carriage designs based on extant examples in foreign museums. For each type 1:1 drawings, templates and photographs were supplied to Azzopardi Woodworks. The final set of carriages were finished by November. Three different design types were adopted as follows:

- Falconet gun carriage type 1: heavy bevelled edges and exterior axel & wooden wheels, length 238cm, average thickness 20cm square, quantity 1.

- Falconet gun carriage type 2: bevelled edges and encased axel & wooden wheels, length 243cm, average thickness 18cm square, quantity 2.

- Falconet gun carriage type 3: shallow bevelled edges and encased axel & wooden wheels, length: 234cm, average thickness 22cm square, quantity 3.

In the meantime, although work has been hindered by the lack of metal conservators, conservation work on items from the Palace Armoury is in progress at the Objects Conservation Laboratory at Bighi, with priority being given to decorated armour from the showcase display.

This year was once again characterized by an effort to clear the **Grand Master's Palace** from various types of excess material accumulated through decades, even though not as much as

Selection of Early Modern firearms

last year. Work continued on the removal of a number of items, paintings and furniture pieces from their respective rooms, such as damask curtains, valances, etc. The tapestry room was prepared and set as a storage area for paintings and furniture. Smaller items were stored into another strong room. The former NWM was again used for the storage of less important items which will be returned to the GMP when opportune. This year, the larger items, as in paintings and furniture, had to be moved around from their storage countless times for various reasons, including the above-mentioned state visits and contractors' eleventh-hour necessities. Apart from some inevitable minor damages to said artefacts, this also resulted in a great loss of time. The corridor bronze sconces have been removed in preparation for rewiring and setup. The two ceiling paintings from the chaplain's quarters, forming the soffit, were dismantled. The remaining fragments of the Meridian line, intended to be set up once again in the Throne Room, were re-assembled.

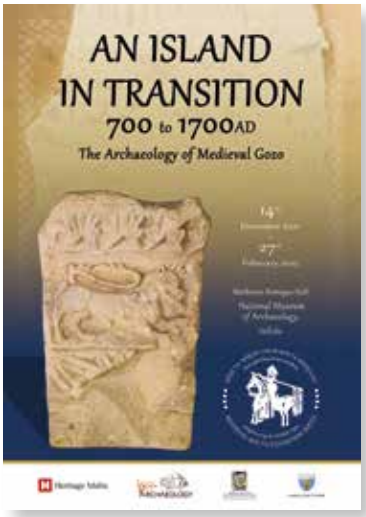
Restoration works on Neptune's statue were concluded and the historic statue was re-installed on its pedestal in June. A good number of paintings were restored, and others commenced in preparation for eventual display. These were mainly portrait paintings of Knights of the Order of St John, still-lifes and landscapes. Eleven of the nineteen 18th-century lunette paintings, depicting salient Order of St John naval engagements against Ottoman and Barbary Coast naval units, were installed in November. Some had transport damage which will be addressed in 2022. The Perez d'Aleccio paintings' documentation by the University of Malta is still ongoing.

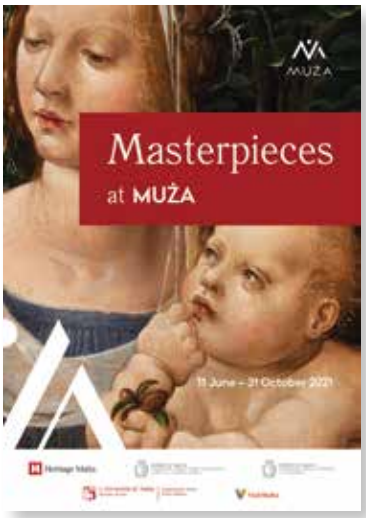
A good number of transfers were made from several places, including museums and ministries, notably from MUŻA, Auberge d'Aragon and San Anton Palace. On most occasions such transfers require a lot of work, since substitutes of required art works have to be identified prior to the actual transfer. Other notable items were purchased, including a pair of French bronze Louis XV appliqués for the corridors, a set of four period French Neo-classical bronze candelabra for the St Michael and St George Hall, a set of silver Carte Glorie for the main chapel, and a pair of Roman baroque Blackamoor torchière figures for the corridors. A most interesting full-length portrait of Prior Ruffo was purchased for the Armoury. The star item of all purchases was a side table – the only missing one from an original set of eight 18th-century side tables for the Tapestry Room.

Since the current works at the Grand Master's Palace, few if any initiatives could be taken to address **San Anton and Verdala Palaces**. The only works that could be carried out in both locations were the transfer and replacement of a biblical painting with a Pinto portrait and a set of four crystal appliqués were removed from San Anton to be included with the large set of appliqués lighting of the corridors at the Grand Master's Palace. Eight French Louis XV bronze appliqués were installed at Verdala Palace.

Conservation of Neptune's bronze statue

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS





Exhibitions

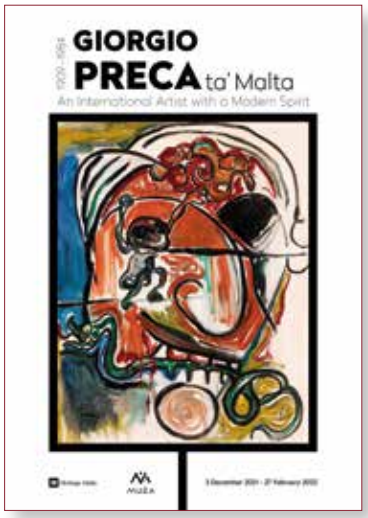
Several exhibitions planned for this year once again had to be postponed or were in some way or other disrupted due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, a good number of exhibitions were still held as follows.

An Island in Transition 700 to 1700 AD. The Archaeology of Medieval Gozo was inaugurated at the National Museum of Archaeology on 14 December and is open to the public without charge till the end of February 2022. This is the second exhibition in the 'Medieval Malta Exhibition Series', and it provides an overview of the medieval heritage of Gozo as seen from an archaeological perspective. The exhibition explores in a novel manner four themes, related to Gozo's medieval and later history, through archaeological materials which had never been exhibited before, focusing on international commerce, artistic production, rural settlement and the local ceramic industry. The exhibition is the result of a cooperation with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Sannat Local Council. An exhibition booklet has also been published. The exhibition included an accompanying booklet, and will also be set up in Gozo later in 2022.

The exhibition **Alien headaches? The Hypogeum skulls enigma** at the National Museum of Archaeology had to close on 30 April, however, it was extended until the end of November since the public did not have enough opportunity to visit because of the pandemic.

Masterpieces at MUŻA was held at the Camerone of MUŻA from 11 June to 31 October, when they were integrated in the MUŻA permanent display. It featured thirteen Old Master paintings from an international private collection that have been loaned on a long-term basis. These remarkable artworks from the late 15th to the mid-18th centuries were displayed in five sections, namely Facing Portraits, Mother and Child, Passion and Devotion, The Greek Myth in Art, and Destructive Nature. Besides showcasing remarkable artworks, this exhibition also offered the opportunity to engage with art notions such as authorship, composition, line, colour, light, symbolism and context. This exhibition took accessibility to another level, providing a unique opportunity

to appreciate thirteen remarkable artworks which have not been publicly exhibited in decades. Further to the various online initiatives, special behind the scenes and curatorial tours were delivered to the Friends of MUŻA, HM members and to the general public throughout the exhibition. The exhibition included a richly illustrated catalogue.



Giorgio Preca ta' Malta – An International Artist with a Modern Spirit was curated in-house and held at the Camerone of MUŻA from 3 December to 27 February 2022. Preca's works were brought over to Malta from Rome, on loan from the artist's family. The exhibition presents works which have been exhibited internationally, and Preca's self-portrait which HM acquired in 2019. Preca was an outstanding Maltese artist, considered by many post-war artists as one of the finest local exponents of modern art, if not the best among them. He spent a good part of his life in Rome and attracted attention from international entities. Throughout his career, he was ready to take risks and present his individual artistic language even if the public in Malta was many a time not ready for such innovation. The visitor is first taken into a prologue, to understand the context and the relevance of this artist, culminating in Preca's self-portrait. The visitor is also immersed in a unique audio-visual voyage and can sit down in the studio, with Preca's still life paintings, which also include the original objects that inspired him and his works. The exhibition is also spread out within the galleries, creating a dialogue between this artist's work and the National Collection on display. The exhibition included a richly illustrated catalogue.

Uncovering Transition was curated in-house and held at the ground floor corridors of MUŻA from 17 September to 14 November. It featured photographs shot during works transforming the Auberge d'Italie into a museum, during which new layers and spaces were discovered. This conversion was, therefore, documented from an artistic perspective, following a public call.

Among other local exhibitions, HM also participated in two exhibitions organised by Il-Ħaġar, Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre, Victoria, Gozo, namely 'Emvin Cremona 1919-1987' (27 June-28 August), and 'Vincenzo Bonello 130th anniversary 1891-1969' (3 September-12 October).

Moreover, following the first public call for exhibition proposals, the following exhibitions were also held at MUŻA:

- 'Homebody', exhibition by Maria Borg between 22 January till 21 February in the Community Space.

- 'Light is Time Thinking about Itself', exhibition by Antje Liemann and curated by Margerita Pulè between 5 March till 11 April in the Community Space. This exhibition had to be moved to 13 August and 5 September due to COVID-19 pandemic temporary museum closure.

- 'Ochra et Nigreos', residency by Joyce Camilleri from 23 April to 30 May in the Community Space.

- 'No Ordinary Terrain', exhibition by temporary artist collective Sandra Zaffarese, Aaron Bezzina, Keit Bonnici and Tom Van Malderen from 3 July to 1 August in the Community Space and Corridors.

- 'Hold on to the air in your pockets', residency by Aidan Celeste and Johannes Buch between 12 November and 9 January 2022 in the Community Space.

- 'AKKA', exhibition by Steven Risiott and Patricia Risiott obo A Collective between 10 December and 16 January 2022 in the Corridors.

In connection with the above, following the second public call for temporary exhibitions and artist-in-residence at MUŻA, which was issued in October 2020 and closed in March 2021, 37 applications were submitted through the online application form. A total of seventeen exhibitions and two residencies were selected to form part of the 2021-23 creative calendar, utilising spaces such as the Camerone, Community Space and Corridors.

Exhibitions Abroad

Although some of the exhibitions in which HM was due to participate in, through the loan of artefacts were postponed, others still managed to take place in periods of respite from the pandemic. The most important was certainly the exhibition Tempels van Malta, which ran from 8 April until 29 August at the National Museum of Antiquities in the Netherlands – the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in the city of Leiden. HM has sent over circa eighty artefacts and six temple models for this exhibition, offering an excellent cross-section of the Maltese prehistoric period, which dates to 3600-2500 BC. The display includes parts of temple decorations, tools, decorated pottery and jewellery. A two-centimetre-high sculpture found at Tarxien Temples, representing two figures in a loving embrace, was also flown over. This exhibition is one of the outcomes of a memorandum of understanding between HM and the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, covering a two-year period. Visitors of the Dutch museum have already been given an anticipatory foretaste of Malta's prehistory through another exhibition born out of this collaboration. The first exhibition, featuring photographs of Maltese megalithic temples, was held between October 2020 and March 2021. A publication with the same title of the exhibition co-authored by the senior curator was produced and sold out during the exhibition itself. HM also participated in the following:

- An embossed bone was loaned to the Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi di Siracusa, Sicily, for the exhibition 'Castelluccio, Ambiente, Commercio e Simboli nella Sicilia Sud Orientale', from 18 December to 28 February 2022.

- 'The Risen Christ Embracing the Cross' by Guido Reni featured in the exhibition 'Dante–La Visione dell'Arte' organised by the renowned Uffizi Galleries and the Fondazione Cassa dei Risparmi of Forlì, in collaboration with the municipality of Forlì, on the seventh centenary of Dante's death, at the Museo San Domenico in Forlì, from 1 April to 11 July.

- Eleven maiolica jars were loaned for the exhibition 'Da Venezia alla Calabria: La Maiolica Secentesca di Gerace Riscoperta' held at the Museo delle Ceramiche di Calabria in Seminara, Italy, from 25 June to 31 October.

- 'Judith and Holofernes' by Valentin de Boulogne is participating in the exhibition 'Caravaggio e Artemisia: la sfida di Giuditta. Violenza e seduzione nella pittura tra Cinquecento e Seicento' at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Antica, Palazzo Barberini, Rome, from 22 November to 27 March 2022.

- Two paintings by 18th-century Mexican artist Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz were loaned to the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain, for the exhibition 'Tornaviaje: Iberoamerican art in Spain', from 5 October to 13 February 2022.

- A replica of the Majmuna Stone is being exhibited at the Dubai Expo 2020, in Dubai, from 7 December to 1 March 2022.

Events

Most of the events programmed for this year were also postponed or disrupted, mostly with the exception of those held in summer. Nonetheless, while some had to be cancelled outright, the shift to online platforms ensured that some others could still be held virtually, especially webinars, masterclasses and children's programmes, which still ensured a very encouraging following. Worthy of mention in this respect are three Dark Tourism webinars which focused on Rabat and Mdina, Judicial Hanging, and Il-Mewt respectively. The webinar also included a short Q&A session during which the public could engage with curators. The full list of events which the Agency organised, hosted or participated in can be found in Appendix I. All events which took place on site were held in adherence with the Health Authorities' instructions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several open days were still organised, including two absolute firsts and very successful ones at the Main Guard in October and Villa Guardamangia in December. Another well attended open day which provided the public with an update on the works in progress was held at the Grand Master's Palace in December. An open day was organised at San Pawl Milqi in collaboration with Golden Island Ltd in February, followed with another event entitled 'Meet the bees' on 25 September. The annual open day with reduced fee, which also included mass at the Chapel of the Nativity of the Virgin and a commemoration at the Great Siege monument, was held at Fort St Angelo on 8 September. The open days organised at Villa Frère also attracted an increasing number of people. Two open days were organised at the Abbatija tad-Dejr 16 March and on 2 October when, together with St Augustine Catacombs, it was opened as part of the European Heritage Days. A curator's tour of Ta' Ħaġrat and a lecture on life in the Neolithic for senior citizens were also held in October as part of the same initiative, together with a children's workshop named 'Pigments and Patterns' at Ġgantija, which included two sessions focusing on painting and clay delivered by Gozitan artist Victor Agius.

Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra were opened to the public for the observation of the Equinox and Solstice sunrise in June, September and December, while in October the Malta Maritime Museum setup and delivered an historic dinner commemorating the Maltese role in the Austro-Turkish war of 1730 at the Maltese Embassy in Vienna. The recent acquisition of a Dutch edition of Antonino Saliba's map of the universe served as a source of artistic inspiration for a contemporary dance production by ŻfinMalta, the national dance agency. The dance took place at Teatru Aurora on 2 October. A press release and news feature about this prestigious acquisition for the Gozo Museum collection were also produced.

Open day at the Main Guard

EDUCATION, PUBLISHING & OUTREACH

This year saw a different type of programme being offered by the Education and Outreach Team. Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions imposed, programmes that were usually delivered physically in sites and museums had to be adapted and delivered virtually via the TEAMS and Zoom platforms. As usual, the focus of these activities is one based on the Outcomes and Outputs of the National Curriculum Framework. The virtual thematic activities were of 45 minutes each (the duration of one lesson), and included a talk, the showing of a brief documentary prepared by the education team, and an activity the students could subsequently do in class or at home. Due to the brief duration of each activity, and the fact that through the virtual world more students can be reached at once, this year more students were reached than what is possible when holding the thematic activities physically in sites or museums. In total 93 sessions were delivered virtually, with 128 classes reached.

The scholastic year 2021/2022 saw a tentative return to thematic activities being held in museums. This was done while following the public health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education. A new thematic programme was offered at 'Għar Dalam – Ġnien Dinja Waħda' aimed at Year 6 students and focusing on Għar Dalam as a natural habitat. Due to this being a new programme, and to encourage attendance, free transport was offered to all those who booked the activity. This activity was delivered twelve times and was fully booked. The other thematic programme offered was the 'Il-Malti fl-Istorja' at the Inquisitor's Palace, in collaboration with the Maltese Department. The latter was however tweaked to remove the hands-on parts. This activity was delivered five times. Thematic activities that started being delivered online towards the end of the scholastic year 2020/21 continued being offered. These proved to be very popular in fact more were added. In all seven different ones started being offered, as follows: Ask the Conservator; Ask the Curator; Ask the Scientist; Neolithic Life; Neolithic Art; World War II; Classic Architecture; Arms and Armour (Knights' Period). These were all delivered online. An interesting online lecture about Jean de Valette was also organised with the Education and Outreach Manager of the Museum of the Order of St John in London. During this activity items belonging to De Valette and usually kept in storage were shown to the History option students who attended this lecture.

An audio guide targeted at children was also launched this year. This audio guide takes students on a tour of Ħaġar Qim Visitor Centre, Ħaġar Qim Temples and Mnajdra Temples, and was written specifically for them with the aim of providing these young visitors with correct and targeted information. Through the latter, students visiting the sites, both as part of a class outing and together with their guardians, will be able to tap this resource. Since the guide is downloadable, students can also listen to it once they leave the site. The guide is available in Maltese and English.

As usual, a number of activities organised by various Departments within the Ministry of Education were also hosted in HM sites and museums. Collaborations with the Mathematics Department, the National Literacy Agency, the Maltese Department, the Art Department and the History Department were strengthened, and plans are being drafted for the next scholastic terms in the hope that things get back to normal as soon as possible.

A series of short features #teensask were prepared for the Masterpieces exhibition at MUŻA. During these features, teenagers took on the role of cultural journalists and interviewed the professionals who set up the exhibition. Two more educational features, one about the silverpoint technique and the other about velatura technique were also prepared as part of the outreach programme for this exhibition. A 20-minute feature about pandemics was also produced and published together with the archivist as part of our outreach programme. A number of lesson-plans covering art, geography and history are also being prepared for primary, intermediate and secondary schools to be used by teachers as resources prior to visiting museums. Online programmes on Neolithic life and WWII were delivered to Skola Sajf students during 28 sessions.

The **HM Student Passport Scheme** was continued and was offered to the students who started Year 1. This Summer Programme was run for the third time. The programme ran from July till September and offered students talks and activities delivered online. As part of the programme a course on the history of Malta was offered over eight one-hour long sessions. The sessions including an animation about different events from the history of Malta followed by a discussion with curators and question-and-answers sessions. The rest of the sessions involved a brief documentary produced by the staff of the Education team followed by a hands-on session and a question-and-answer slot. Once again, this programme proved to be popular and the majority of tickets were sold almost immediately. On 18 September Villa Frère was opened to students who obtained a VISA as part of the student passport scheme. Moreover, craft activities linked to museums and sites are also being filmed and uploaded on social media. Students who make these crafts and show them at the reception of the related museum are being given a small gift upon entry. This activity is to encourage students to use their passports more.

Students from the Junior College and the University of Malta will from this year also be able to benefit from the Student Passport Programme. Despite all the problematic circumstances, this scheme has proved to be once again successful, with around 13,000 child admissions together with some 14,000 accompanying adults.

Unfortunately, the activities planned for the **HM Senior Passport Holders** had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. Only one was held on 9 December at the Inquisitor's Palace; the activity centred around traditional Christmas food, with the participants being invited to make and taste the traditional pudding. In any case, this scheme was still very popular, with around 5,000 seniors and 500 accompanying children visiting museums.

During the year, due to the cancellation of activities as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, more time could be dedicated to **improving accessibility to sites and museums**, as follows:

Visually Impaired – together with the Department of Translation from the University of Malta, a few artefacts from the National Museum of Archaeology were audio described in Maltese and English, together with a version specifically directed at children. These files will soon be made available on the website. Such work is ongoing, with more artefacts in the pipeline. A Touch Tour

activity was also organised with the Visual-Non-Visual society on 3 December, when members of this society were taken around St Paul's Catacombs and allowed to touch and feel the fabric of the tombs. This activity was followed by another hands-on part, where the participants were given replicas of objects typically found in catacombs, so that they could feel them.

Hearing Impaired – together with the Speech and Language Department, fifteen short audio visuals from the National Museum of Archaeology were recorded in sign language. These audio visuals will be available on the website. Work for more audio-visuals to be recorded is being planned together with several sign language tours.

Autism Spectrum Disorder – together with Prisms, and as part of an EU-funded project, two museums (the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History) were chosen as pilot studies with the aim of making museums friendly to people on the autism spectrum. For both museums, a Sensory Map and a Social Story were developed with the aim of preparing people and/or guardians of children on the ASD better prepare for their visit. An autism friendly hour is also being dedicated during the museums' opening hours, during which sensory stimulus is lessened so that the museums are less overwhelming. A training session was held in collaboration with Prisms, when staff from both museums were introduced on how to help people on the autism spectrum who visit museums.

Other audiences targeted with the aim of making sites and museums more accessible are the 'I Belong group', a series of familiarisation visits for groups of foreigners who have permanently moved to Malta coordinated in collaboration with the University of Malta (10 sites visited, 518 participants) and the Caritas Inmate Programme, a programme aimed at introducing culture to inmates.

A series of events targeting families and the general public were also organised – a full list can be found in Appendix 1: Calendar of Events.

Activity for the Visually Impaired

Activity for the Visually Impaired

Autism Spectrum Disorder friendly ambience

Selection of Heritage Malta publications

Publications

The publishing arm of the agency continued to build on the achievements of recent years in order to increase awareness and accessibility of the assets in its care, enhance its corporate image and produce quality didactic resources for children. The complete list of titles published during the year under review were the following:

Books

1. Tesseræ 11 (Autumn 2020); ISBN: 978-99932-57-82-0
2. Life with Antonino (Fun-Activity-Story Book - 2); ISBN: 978-99932-57-83-7
3. Masterpieces at MUŻA; ISBN: 978-99932-57-84-4, Hardback
   Masterpieces at MUŻA; ISBN: 978-99932-57-85-1, Paperback
4. Humillima Civitas Vallettae (e-book version)
5. Maltese Lace
6. Roman Architecture in Malta (HM Monographs - 2); ISBN: 978-99932-57-86-8
7. Treasures of Gozo; ISBN: 978-99932-57-87-5
8. Life with Artie (Fun-Activity-Story Book - 3); ISBN: 978-99932-57-88-2
9. Flavours of Spring (Traditional Cuisine Series – 1); ISBN: 978-99932-57-89-9
10. Storja tal-Ilsien u l-Letteratura Maltija, Kronoloġija; ISBN: 978-99932-57-90-5
11. Conserving Art, a selection of good causes; ISBN: 978-99932-57-91-2
12. An Island in Transition, 700 to 1700 AD (Medieval Malta Exh. Series - 2); ISBN: 978-99932-57-92-9
13. Giorgio Preca ta' Malta, 1909-1984; ISBN: 978-99932-57-93-6, Hardback
    Giorgio Preca ta' Malta, 1909-1984; ISBN: 978-99932-57-94-3, Paperback
14. Swords of the Religion (HM Monographs - 3); ISBN: 978-99932-57-95-0
15. Life with Hugo (Fun-Activity-Story Book - 4); ISBN: 978-99932-57-96-7

Brochures & Promotional Bookmarks

16. Homebody (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 2)
17. Light is Time Thinking about itself (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 3)
18. Ochra et Nigreos (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 4)
19. Masterpieces at MUŻA, x3 runs (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 5)
20. No Ordinary Terrain (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 6)
21. Uncovering Transition (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 7)
22. Hold on to the Air in Your Pockets (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 8)
23. Inquisitor's Palace Cookalong Recipe Card - 9
24. Giorgio Preca Exhibition Promotional Bookmark
25. Giorgio Preca Exhibition Die Cut Brochure - 9
26. AKKA (Die Cut MUŻA Exhibition Brochure - 10)
27. The Heritage Malta Passport (promotional brochure)

Merchandise

28. Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum (Sticky Notes - 1)
29. Prehistoric Enigmas (Die Cut Bookmark Series - 6)
30. Tesseræ 1-10 Slipcase
31. Falconet Cannon on Field Carriage (Ruler -1)
32. Pleistocene Animals (Ruler - 2)
33. Rolling Waves (Ruler - 3)
34. Neolithic Animals (Ruler - 4)
35. Megalithic Temples of Malta (Pencil - 1)
36. Phoenician Malta (Pencil - 2)
37. Aragonese Malta (Pencil - 3)
38. Knights of Malta (Pencil - 4)
39. Pan and Syrinx (Hardcover A5 Sketchbook - 1)
40. Madonna and Child (Hardcover A5 Sketchbook - 2)
41. Vue d'un reste Edifice antique (Hardcover A5 Sketchbook - 3)
42. Figure antique incrustee dans la Roche (Hardcover A5 Sketchbook - 4)
43. Portrait of a Young Woman (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket- 1, x3 sizes)
44. Portrait of Pietro Soderini (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 2, x3 sizes)
45. Madonna and Child 1 (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 3, x3 sizes)
46. Madonna and Child 2 (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 4 x3 sizes)
47. Madonna of Divine Love (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 5, x3 sizes)
48. Madonna and Child 3 (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 6, x3 sizes)
49. Ecce Homo (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 7, x3 sizes)
50. St John the Baptist 1 (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 8, x3 sizes)
51. St John the Baptist 2 (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 9, x3 sizes)
52. Crucifixion (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 10, x3 sizes)
53. Leda and the Swan (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 11, x3 sizes)
54. Pan and Syrinx (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 12, x3 sizes)
55. The Tempest (Fine Art Print + accompanying Jacket - 13, x3 sizes)
56. Malta's Fortress Par Excellence (Hardback A5 Notebook - 1)
57. Agile Nocturnal Flyer (Hardback A5 Notebook - 2)
58. Portrait of a Young Roman Lady (Hardback A5 Notebook - 3)
59. An 18th-Century Landmark (Hardback A5 Notebook - 4)
60. 2 Mils (Tote Bag – 1)
61. Ħaġar Qim Statuette (Tote Bag – 2)
62. Prehistoric Statuary (Branded Box - 1)
63. Faith – Hope – Charity (Baseball Cap - 1)
64. Malta 1942 (Baseball Cap - 2)
65. Giorgio Preca (Short-Sleeve T-Shirt - 1)
66. Prehistoric Malta (Short-Sleeve T-Shirt - 2)
67. Knights of Malta (Short Sleeve T-Shirt - 3)
68. Second Siege of Malta (Short Sleeve T-Shirt - 4)

69. Natural Heritage of Malta (Short Sleeve T-Shirt - 5)
70. Giorgio Preca (Hardback A5 Bullet Journal - 1)
71. Ġgantija Temples (Hardback A5 Bullet Journal - 2)
72. UCHU (Hardback A5 Bullet Journal - 3)
73. Mdina (Hardback A5 Bullet Journal - 4)
74. A place without history is like a person without identity (Tote Bag – 3)
75. Shell & Slide Box 1 (Branded Box - 2)
76. Shell & Slide Box 2 (Branded Box - 3)
77. Shell & Slide Box 3 (Branded Box - 4)
78. Shell & Slide Box 4 (Branded Box - 5)

Didactic Posters

79. Temple Period – Overview (04.01.2021)
80. Temple Period – Ġgantija Temples (11.01.2021)
81. Temple Period – Ta' Ħaġrat Temples (18.01.2021)
82. Temple Period – Skorba Temples (25.01.2021)
83. Temple Period – Tarxien Temples (01.02.2021)
84. Temple Period – Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum (08.02.2021)
85. Temple Period – Ħaġar Qim Temples (15.02.2021)
86. Temple Period – Mnajdra Temples (22.02.2021)
87. Medieval Malta – Overview (06.12.2021)
88. Medieval Malta: Aragonese Period – Rural Settlements (24.05.2021)
89. Medieval Malta: Aragonese Period – Defence (03.06.2021)
90. Medieval Malta: Aragonese Period – Chapels (25.06.2021)
91. Medieval Malta: Strongholds & Settlements – Mdina & Rabat (20.12.2021)
92. Medieval Malta: Strongholds & Settlements – Ċittadella & Rabat (13.12.2021)
93. Medieval Malta: Strongholds & Settlements – Castrum Maris & Birgu (27.12.2021)
94. Langues of the Order (24.05.2021)
95. Knights' Buildings in Valletta – Magistral Palace (03.05.2021)
96. Knights' Buildings in Valletta – Conventual Church (10.05.2021)
97. Knights' Buildings in Valletta – Sacra Infermeria (17.05.2021)
98. Knights' Buildings in Valletta – Manoel Theatre (24.05.2021)
99. Knights' Buildings in Valletta – Auberge de Baviere (31.05.2021)
100. French landing in Malta, June 1798 (14.07.2021)
101. Currency & Coinage – English Pound (29.04.2021)
102. Currency & Coinage – Maltese Lira (11.01.2021)
103. The Portal, 03.06.1903 – Maltese lose majority in Legislative Council… (16.04.2021)
104. The Portal, 22.04.1909 – Hospital for tuberculosis patients… (08.03.2021)
105. The Portal, 27.04.1913 – The Eucharistic Congress comes to a close… (05.07.2021)
106. The Portal, 27.09.1918 – Outbreak of Spanish flu in Malta… (08.03.2021)
107. The Portal, 23.06.1920 – Cottonera Military Hospital closed down…
108. The Portal, 01.11.1921 – Maltese to administer own Internal Affairs… (01.11.2021)

109. The Portal, 15.12.1929 – The Tram service terminates today… (13.04.2021)
110. The Portal, 05.04.1930 – New General Hospital at Gwardamanġa… (05.04.2021)
111. The Portal, 02.11.1933 – Self-Government Constitution suspended… (16.04.2021)
112. The Portal, 31.03.1931 – The Train Service comes to an end… (21.04.2021)
113. The Portal, 11.05.1938 – The opening of the Milk Centre… (08.03.2021)
114. The Portal, 07.04.1942 – The Royal Opera House is heavily damaged…
115. The Portal, 15.11.1942 – First cases of Polio registered in Malta… (08.03.2021)
116. The Portal, 01.02.1946 – Education is now Compulsory…
117. The Portal, 25.10.1947 – A new Constitution after the War… (08.11.2021)
118. The Portal, 13.02.1956 – Integration Referendum Results are out… (23.04.2021)
119. The Portal, 28.04.1958 – General Workers Union calls a General Strike… (23.04.2021)
120. The Portal, 31.08.1959 – The demise of the Grand Harbour Ferry Service… (21.04.2021)
121. The Portal, 01.10.1959 – New Grammar School inaugurated (20.07.2021)
122. The Portal, 24.07.1960 – A Radio Message from the Pope to the Maltese (12.07.2021)
123. The Portal, 24.10.1961 – The March towards Independence continues… (05.05.2021)
124. The Portal, 01.06.1962 – Archbishop Gonzi blesses new Lyceum… (14.06.2021)
125. The Portal, 24.11.1968 – New Campus inaugurated in Msida… (14.06.2021)
126. The Portal, 31.01.1967 – King George V Hospital to cease operating… (05.04.2021)
127. The Portal, 02.12.1970 – Royal Naval Medical Services at Mtarfa… (05.04.2021)
128. The Portal, 07.12.1972 – New trade school inaugurated in Santa Venera… (25.06.2021)
129. The Portal, 01.02.1973 – The Valletta Lift is used for the last time… (13.04.2021)
130. The Portal, 19.04.1973 – The Armed Forces of Malta are established…
131. The Portal, 04.12.1973 – The Gozo Civic Council is dissolved… (05.05.2021)
132. The Portal, 31.05.1975 – Inauguration of new hospital in Gozo… (05.04.2021)
133. The Portal, 14.11.1977 – Bus owners merge into one company… (30.04.2021)
134. The Portal, 29.01.1987 – Electoral Act emended unanimously… (05.05.2021)
135. The Portal, 27.05.1990 – The Pope among us for the first time… (19.07.2021)
136. The Portal, 28.11.1993 – The first Local Council elections… (15.11.2021)
137. The Portal, 04.05.1996 - UoM Gozo Centre inaugurated in Xewkija… (14.06.2021)
138. The Portal, 13 .12.1999 – Open day held today on Ta' Pinu Ferry … (30.04.2021)
139. The Portal, 15.01.2000 – New Responsibilities for the CPD…
140. The Portal, 09.03.2003 – Malta votes in favour of the European Union…
141. The Portal, 12.06.2004 – Malta elects MEPs for the first time… (22.11.2021)
142. The Portal, 02.12.2005 – Sea Malta Company Limited Liquidated…
143. The Portal, 03 .06.2007 – Canonization of Dun Ġorġ Preca… (26.07.2021),
144. The Portal, 01.01. 2008 – The Maltese Lira to be replaced by the Euro… (05.05.2021)
145. The Portal, 05.03.2018 – Youths in Malta can now vote at the age of 16… (29.11.2021)
146. Traditions: Carnival, Lent & Holy Week – Carnival (01.03.2021)
147. Traditions: Carnival, Lent & Holy Week – Lent (08.03.2021)
148. Traditions: Carnival, Lent & Holy Week – Holy Week (15.03.2021)
149. Traditions: Carnival, Lent & Holy Week – Good Friday Processions (22.03.2021)
150. Traditions: Carnival, Lent & Holy Week – Easter Celebrations (29.03.2021)

151. Traditions: Flavours of Spring – Widow's Soup (05.042021)
152. Traditions: Flavours of Spring – Cheeselet's Ftira (12.04.2021)
153. Traditions: Flavours of Spring – Roast Lamb (19.04.2021)
154. Traditions: Flavours of Spring – Almond Cookies (26.04.2021)
155. Traditions: Flavours of Autumn – Pumpkin Pie (04.10.2021)
156. Traditions: Flavours of Autumn – Spaghetti with Rabbit Sauce (11.10.2021)
157. Traditions: Flavours of Autumn – Kawlata (18.10.2021)
158. Traditions: Flavours of Autumn – November Bones (25.10.2021)
159. Crafts: Lace – Characteristics (07.06.2021)
160. Crafts: Lace – Manufacturing Techniques (14.06.2021)
161. Crafts: Lace – Popular Motifs (21.06.2021)
162. Crafts: Lace – Stitches in Maltese Lace (28.06.2021)
163. Portrait Gallery: Artists – Melchiore Cafa (06.09.2021)
164. Portrait Gallery: Artists – Emvin Cremona (13.09.2021)
165. Portrait Gallery: Artists – Antonio Sciortino (20.09.2021)
166. Portrait Gallery: Artists – Antoine Camilleri (27.09.2021)
167. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Joseph Howard, 1921-1923… (24.05. 2021)
168. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Francesco Buhagiar, 1923-1924… (24.05.2021)
169. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Ugo Pascuale Mifsud, 1924-1927 & 1932-1933… (01.062021)
170. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Gerald Strickland, 1927-1932… (01.06. 2021)
171. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Paul Boffa, 1947-1950… (18.06.2021)
172. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Enrico Mizzi, 1950 … (30.06.2021)
173. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – George Borg Olivier, 1950-1955, 1962-1971… (14.072021)
174. Portrait Gallery: Prime Ministers – Dominic Mintoff, 1955-1958, 1971-1984… (22.07.2021)
175. Portrait Gallery: Presidents of the Republic – Anthony Mamo, 1974-1976 (30.082021)
176. Portrait Gallery: Presidents of the Republic – Anton Buttigieg. 1976-1981 (30.08.2021)
177. Portrait Gallery: Presidents of the Republic – Agatha Barbara, 1982-1987 (30.08.2021)
178. Portrait Gallery: Presidents of the Republic – Ċensu Tabone, 1989-1994 (30.08.2021)
179. Portrait Gallery: Founders – St George Preca 1880-1962 (16.12.2021)
180. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Mgr Giuseppe de Piro, 1877-1933 (16.12.2021)
181. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Madre Margerita Debrincat, 1862-1952 (16.12.2021)
182. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Giuseppina Curmi, 1864-1931 (16.12.2021)
183. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Karolina Cauchi, 1824-1913 (16.12.2021)
184. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Mgr Sidor Formosa, 1851-1931 (16.12.2021)
185. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Tereża Nuzzo, 1851-1923 (16.12.2021)
186. Portrait Gallery: Founders – Mgr Salv Grima, 1909-1990 (16.12.2021)
187. Flora & Fauna: Il-Merill (02.08.2021)
188. Flora & Fauna: Widnet il-Baħar (09.08.2021)
189. Flora & Fauna: Is-Siġra tal-Għargħar (16.08.2021)
190. Flora & Fauna: Il-Bużaqq (23.08.2021)
191. Flora & Fauna: Il-Qabru (30.08.2021)

OTHER CORPORATE

This was another challenging year for the **Human Resources Department**. It continued to strengthen its resources by providing the required training, assistance and support to all HM staff and by focusing on its main objectives. The priority was to give full support to staff to motivate and encourage them to perform better in stressful situations. The Department also continued to work on the Collective Agreement; training and continuous professional development, staff engagement and incentives, recruitment, and updating or introducing new policies and procedures. It also assisted with the issues related to the pandemic by monitoring and supporting staff, taking all the necessary precautionary measures, and working closely with the contact tracing team. The negotiations with IRU and the GWU regarding the Collective Agreement continued throughout the year, and in December an agreed version was sent to the GWU to discuss the content with its members.

HM is currently employing 313 full-time employees, eleven apprentices and sixteen employees on loan. Thirty-six internal promotions were issued, varying from managers to different posts in different collective agreement grades. On the other hand, nineteen employees left the agency for various reasons; eleven resigned and eight retired. A total of 2,048 instances were reported absent due to sickness by various employees. The highest rate of absenteeism was recorded in June, August and May, while the lowest rate was in January and February. This year HM was allocated four new posts and brought forward nine posts, including spill overs of last year's entitlement and resignations.

HM, in collaboration with other institutions, offered different work placements to different students in various areas. These were possible through the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) where students following the courses of tour guides and the Diploma in Travel and Tourism were offered placements to help with the manning of reception and custodian duties in various sites and museums. Five students benefitted from this scheme. Other work placements were possible in collaboration with Jobs Plus through the Work Exposure Scheme and the Traineeship scheme. In both schemes, students were offered different placements such as front liners, clerical jobs in procurement and finance offices, photography placements in the digitisation unit, draftspersons in the project's office and data collection. A record of 48 students benefitted from these two schemes. Other placements were possible thanks to the collaboration with MEDE, involving sixth form students who were given a number of hours in a limited period. Placements varied from custodian duties, processing senior passport applications, and helping curators. Six students participated through this scheme. A placement was also offered to ten students through the MITA student placement programme at the IT and Digitisation Departments. HM also collaborated with Aġenzija Sapport through the INK project by providing job placements for three beneficiaries for up to twenty hours per week for a period ranging from twelve to a maximum of twenty weeks.

HM continued to strengthen its collaboration with MCAST regarding the apprenticeship scheme. The Agency employed nine new students from courses including masonry restoration, Advanced Diploma in cultural skills, marketing, and fashion & retail. Currently, active apprenticeships stand at eleven students while eight others ended their apprenticeship since they conducted successfully their academic course at MCAST.

The Agency strongly believes in keeping staff updated with the latest developments and thus continuously invests in in-house training and refresher courses. Internal training focused on guided tours, workshops on collections management and conservation projects; refresher training on how to handle artefacts, and on ICT systems and troubleshooting. An induction course for new recruits spread over five working days was held in January. Other induction courses had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Orientation sessions were held instead. HM also supported over 25 members of staff who expressed their wish to engage in continuous professional development (CPD), such as courses, seminars, webinars, conferences, lectures, etc. Themes varies from conservation to finance and social inclusion. The Agency also issued sponsorships to eighteen staff members to be able to follow specific courses related to their duties.

Training was also provided in collaboration with third parties, including courses on digital titrator for conservators, nautical and diving licences, 3D handheld scanners, drone A1/A3 licences, international tax law provisions in the Income Tax Act, and safe food handling and food and beverage service etiquette course. Other training provided by third parties via webinars and conferences included the following topics:

- Art, museum and digital cultures
- European Cathedrals Malta Conference
- Human resources
- ICON textiles conference
- Curation and conservation: dress and textiles in museums
- Modern conservation, modern constraints, modern conveniences
- Case Studies in ceramics, glass, and stained-glass conservation
- ICON Annual Lecture: A mysterious past: conservation of artefacts raised from the wrecks of Sir John Franklin's fateful 1845 expedition
- Retouching of cultural heritage

HM, in collaboration with the Institute for Public Services, has again provided different training courses aimed mainly for frontlines and the projects Department. Training included customer care and projects and presentations. Fifty staff were trained, the majority of whom scored excellent marks. Other training included green public procurement, overview of EU funds, basic office and email writing, and health and safety. First aid courses were also offered in collaboration with Jobs Plus and the MTA. In collaboration with PRISMS, the Agency also provided workshops on autism so that curatorial, visitor services and outreach staff are aware of this condition since HM will shortly be launching autism hours in two of its national museums.

Team building activities were also organised in order to mitigate the lack of integration, especially because of remote working. A day out of the office was organised where staff were able to visit four closed sites mainly – Bidnija, Villa Guardamangia, Villa Frère, Abbatija tad-Dejr, closing with a brainstorming session and refreshments. A good number of social events were also organised by

the Sports and Social Committee in order to build relationships between the employees, acquire new skills, stimulate the mind, increase motivation, understand different perspectives, and the possibility to engage other cultures. The plan for 2021 had to change again due to the restrictions issued for COVID-19 pandemic. Only two dress-down days were organised, one in aid of Dar Tereża Spinelli on Women's Day, and another for pink October. The committee also organised one 'meet and eat' and an end-of-summer party, while in December it organised a Christmas gathering in every region, with all regions connected through Zoom. Funds were raised in aid of two members of staff who were passing through particularly challenging times. A good number of team building activities were also organised. All necessary precautionary measures were in place during all activities.

The Visitor Services Department has consolidated the use of the Intranet, whereby most of the resources were transferred to this tool for sharing resources and information. The main resource of the Department is the Front of House Manual, and the entire document was uploaded, making it easier for all to access. The following procedures were also added/updated to the manual:

- BOV HM membership Card
- Waste Collection Data Sheet
- I See Malta Discount Card
- Showshappening Procedure
- Cloudigo App Discount Scheme
- Underground Valletta Tickets Procedure
- End of Day Report – Deposits Section
- Malta Discount Card
- Admissions and Fees Structure
- Educational Activities and Thematic Events
- CPD Pass Procedure

The Admissions and Sales Report was introduced in July 2020 and the Site Executives are still compiling this report on a weekly basis. This year Site Executives were also given shop target, based on the average spent per person, per region. It was decided that this should also be included in the admissions and sales report. These statistics are gathered on a quarterly basis. Audits continued throughout January and February, but due to COVID-19 they were put on hold and re-introduced later in the year. Site Executives were also instructed to check the petty cash found onsite during the audits. All HM shops also started being audited on a monthly basis as from September.

All the MTA Quality Assurance Awards achieved in 2020 were once again confirmed this year, with the further addition of MUŻA in October, while Għar Dalam is still pending the conclusion of first aid and firefighting courses by the staff, which will be carried out in January 2022.

This year the IT Department embarked on numerous projects to upgrade the current infrastructure, mostly at the Head Office but also in other sites and museums.

The major rehaul at Head Office included the three pillars: network, servers, and storage. Starting with the network, all the switches have been replaced to a faster and more reliable model. The uplink was also upgraded to fibre in some areas such that we are 10G ready. A new set of fibres were passed to connect the two blocks together, delivering higher speed and better connectivity to the digitisation Department. We are concluding the full restructuring of networking infrastructure with the acquisition of 10G aggregator switches such that the main communication is done on a bandwidth which is much larger. Linked with network, the brain of the IT infrastructure had to be upgraded as well and this led to the setting up of a second server room acting primarily as the backup server in case of a problem in the primary. This was complimented with the acquisition and installation of a software which allows high availability so that the core service can be run automatically on any server, as the space allows. This allows for further load balancing and redundancy preparedness. To compliment this, three new servers were acquired, together with a Storage Area Network (SAN). The space will grow as needed, together with a new backup to keep a safe copy of the SAN. An asynchronous copy will be kept on one of the current NAS in future. Finally, the Head Office received a new PABX system which ushered telephony to a major upgrade.

Furthermore, all Malta and Gozo points of sale were joined to the new Heritage domain created in 2020 to have more accountability and security. Multiple sites were converted to one printer-based system so that clutter and maintenance is reduced. Upgrade at St Elmo included network, CCTV, pillars, fibre and audio-visuals. This was a very long task due to the harsh conditions of the site. New network and CCTV were installed at St Paul's Catacombs and Għar Dalam, apart from the full ongoing work at the Grand Master's Palace. Finally, JIRA was adopted as the Agency's main project management tool.

The Marketing and Communications Department focused on consolidating and improving HM's media presence. This was mainly achieved by promoting public and virtual events that were organised or supported by the Agency.

The agency's main website continues to be a focal point to the different audiences accessing the site. During the year 1,743,557 page views were registered, with the 'Museums and Sites Section (196,850 page views) and 'Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum' (116,373 page views) being the most popular.

Top 10 'Sites and Museums' pages visited on heritagemalta.org:

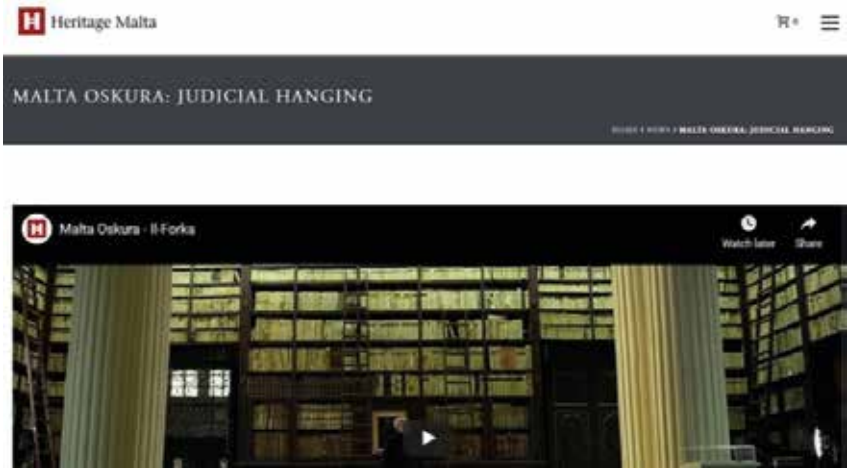
Pages	Page Views
Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum	116,373
National War Museum	42,417
MUŻA	36,629
Ħaġar Qim	36,079
National Museum of Archaeology	35,302
Għar Dalam	32,646
Ġgantija Temples	32,067
St Paul's Catacombs	31,678
Tarxien Temples	26,327
Palace State Rooms	22,731

Less than half of the viewership comes from Malta (48.97%). Other views come from UK (9.74%), USA (6.80%), Germany (3.87%), France (3.75%), Italy (3.19%), the Netherlands (2.39%), Poland (2.28%), Spain (2.22%) and Belgium (1.37%).

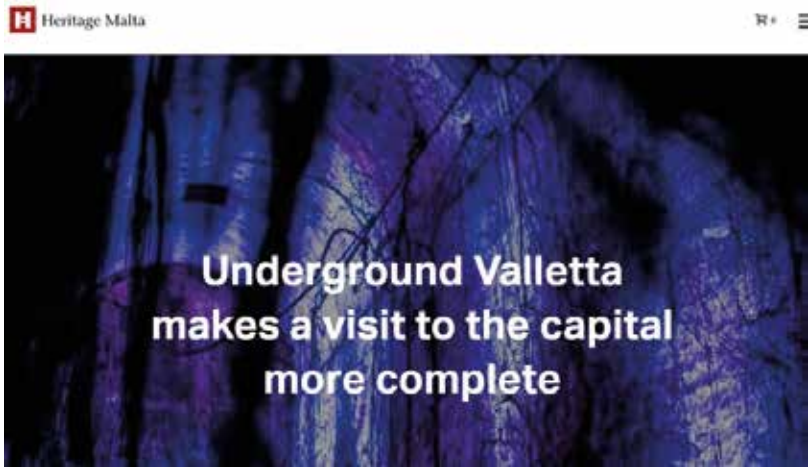
The 'News' section heritagemalta.org/news is one of the main tools being used to promote new initiatives undertaken by the Agency. These are the top five news items that generated the most interest:

5,653 Page Views

5,407 Page Views

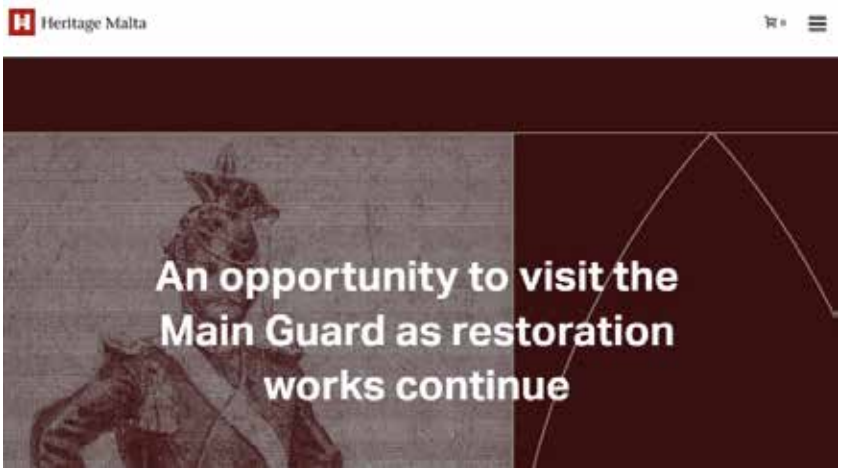


5,389 Page Views



5,159 Page Views

3,701 Page Views



The Agency's website, www.heritagemalta.org was temporarily substituting physical visits to museums and sites, which closed for a month (10th March–11th April 2021), following the announcement of mitigation measures against COVID-19.

As the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage, part of HM's mission is to ensure accessibility to our cultural patrimony. As we did last year, we fulfilled this mission by providing virtual accessibility through our website and social media platforms. The website offers tailor-made experiences, aiming to meet the interests and needs of various audiences. The museums' section, for instance, offers virtual tours, information and photographs of the selected sites. Other virtual experiences offer insight into photographic collections, classical sculpture, ongoing restorations at Villa Guardamangia, and more.

HM's YouTube channel is also a treasure trove of productions, updated frequently with new audiovisual. These covered mainly HM press conferences, new initiatives announced by the Agency and masterclasses. One of the masterclasses, entitled 'Staring the Past in the Eyes: Discovery and Research on a Skull from St Paul's Catacombs', was a big hit and was watched by more than 26,000 viewers. This initiative was reported extensively by local media, including a front-page story on the Times of Malta on 15 April.

HM's brand activities are more noticeable when using social media marketing. Although Facebook remains the social media platform of choice by local audiences, Instagram continues to pick up in terms of numbers and interaction. The number of likes (followers) on Facebook is steadily increasing as can be seen here:

Year	Page Views
2018	21,115
2019	25,179
2020	32,396
2021	37,008

An audiovisual production about the newly-launched HM site, Underground Valletta, was the topmost viewed feature on the Agency's Facebook page. This production, which generated more than 30,400 views, sheds light on the different uses of the passageways beneath Valletta along the centuries, while encouraging the audience to visit and admire the marvellous engineering entailed in the construction of this city. The same audiovisual production was aired on Television Malta and shared on HM's YouTube channel.

Two well-known local influencers were contracted to increase engagement with our social media, boost followers and help promote two separate HM initiatives. A parent and tour guide with a following of 11.1K on Instagram recreated three recipes for busy people with children, and shared them as stories on her social media page. The recipes were taken from the recent HM publication and seasonal cookbook *Flavours of Spring* with the scope of increasing sales. There were 400 direct engagements with her posts, and 265 respondents entered a give-away competition to win a copy of the recipe book and two free Underground Valletta tickets.

Another well known local content creator, an influencer and Vibe FM DJ with a following of 10.5k, was contracted to help launch and maintain interest in the Giorgio Preca exhibition. Two video features were filmed on location at Bighi and also at MUŻA, with the influencer introducing the relatively unknown Giorgio Preca to the Maltese public and explaining the importance of the artist's legacy for the history of Maltese art. This content was shared on HM's social media and YouTube channel, together with content created and shared on the influencer's own portals.

From a conventional media perspective, the Agency has resorted to different modes of conveying the message. A total of **77 press releases** were issued, **85 appearances** were registered on television programmes, **22 interviews** were conducted on radio programmes, **33 articles** were published in magazines, **435 articles were published online** (mainly on tvm.com.mt, timesofmalta.com, maltatoday.com.mt, independent.com.mt, one.com.mt, netnews.com.mt and illum.com.mt) and 13 press conferences were held. HM was mentioned in 269 articles in local and foreign newspapers.

The Communications and Marketing Department and the Digitisation Unit produced three webinars in a series entitled 'Malta Oskura'. The concept behind this series was to present the public with a 30-minute documentary about some of the gruesome aspects of Malta's history, followed each time by a question and answer session with an expert on the respective topic. The subjects tackled in the three webinars were obscure tales about Mdina and Rabat, the history of judicial hanging in Malta, and how death was perceived through the ages by these islands'

inhabitants. All three episodes of 'Malta Oskura' were extensively researched, provided a unique audiovisual experience for participants and proved to be very successful. In the current situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, such online initiatives are an alternative means for HM to reach out to the public, interact with its audiences and generate interest in our history and culture, which are thus made accessible virtually.

Following the debut of 'Masterpieces at MUŻA' in June, **thousands** flocked to the capital, making the most of this rare opportunity to feast their eyes on these masterpieces, the majority of which had been out of the public eye for decades. A survey commissioned by HM involving 400 participants, was conducted during autumn, gauging the public's response to the exhibition of artworks ranging from the late 15th to the mid-18th centuries. Among the many questions posed, respondents were asked to identify the **three paintings** on display they liked best. The top three **most popular artworks voted for were** the large, impressive oil and tempera on canvas of '**Leda and the Swan**' (16th century) after Michelangelo Buonarroti in first place, '**The Tempest**' (1751) by consummate landscape painter Claude-Joseph Vernet in second, and in third place the tondo '**Madonna and Child with the young St John the Baptist and an Angel in a Landscape**' (late 15th/early 16th century) - a collaboration between Maestro Tommaso and his mentor Lorenzo di Credi. The results of the survey were used in social media posts and via the HM website to encourage viewing of the exhibition during its final weeks, to promote the sale of a curated tour of the exhibition on 30 and 31 October and additionally, the sale of fine art prints of the thirteen masterpieces.

HM consolidated its presence abroad through various initiatives. One of the most noteworthy foreign events during the year was held in Leiden (the Netherlands). The event was an exhibition showcasing several artefacts from Malta's rich prehistoric period. It was held between the end of May and the end of October at the National Museum of Antiquities of the Netherlands – the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, attracting more than 75,000 visitors. The Communications and Marketing Department produced a feature on this exhibition.

HM has also provided itineraries for five heritage trails that the public is able to enjoy as part of the 'Smiles with Miles' initiative. This was launched and promoted by Dr Lydia Abela as a national effort to increase awareness and help mental health projects among adolescents. These heritage trails are an ideal way to marry historical and cultural heritage with the enjoyment of the natural landscape of our country, while also contributing to a noble cause. The heritage trails that pass by HM sites also offer the opportunity to use the Agency's passports for students and seniors to visit these sites free of charge.

HM gave the public the opportunity to visit the Main Guard and the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, where restoration and conservation works are currently ongoing. Both open days were promoted extensively on various platforms. Television Malta gave exposure to both initiatives on the 20.00 news bulletin.

On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the Domvs Romana's accidental discovery, the Communications and Marketing Department, in collaboration with the Digitisation Department, scripted and produced a series of eight documentaries commemorating the history of this unique ancient Roman townhouse. Each episode focused on a particular topic, including the early excavations in 1881 and 1920; the statuary of the Imperial Claudian family; the smaller houses located at the rear of the Domvs; everyday domestic life in ancient Roman Malta; the Muslim cemetery; and The Melite Civitas Romana international excavation project, featuring a live 3-D modelling of the site, the first of its kind in Malta. The series was uploaded to HM's YouTube channel, and shared in weekly installments on HM's social media as well as on Television Malta (TVM) during autumn.

HM produced *L-Ittra ta' Napuljun*, a documentary created with the support of historians, military experts, linguists and curators who discussed the unique document that kickstarted the French rule in Malta. The letter in question was sent to General Louis Desaix by Napoleon Bonaparte, who instructed him to gather the remnants of the papal fleet and make haste for the seas round Syracuse or any ideal area that would make the invasion of Malta possible. The 30-minute documentary was aired by the national broadcaster TVM on 20 May. It was also premiered on HM's Facebook page on 10 June, exactly 233 years to the day when the French started to land their forces at four different locations on the Maltese islands.

The Department also promoted the launch of 'Ġnien Dinja Waħda', a newly-opened garden at the prehistoric site of Għar Dalam. The area is providing space on site for use by visitors of all ages, with particular emphasis on Year Six students who may participate in an educational programme designed specifically for them.

In collaboration with SMOM, the agreement with HM was renewed for three years on 30 September, whereby **Upper Fort St Angelo** is available to all visitors at the Fort. In this regard, the entrance tickets price was revised to €10 Adults, €6 Seniors & Students, €4 Children. SMOM receives a share (€1 Adults, €0.50 Seniors & Students, €0.50 Children) of the entrance ticket as per agreement. It is both parties' intention to collaborate in order to open the crypt and the Magistral Palace at Upper St Angelo to the public in the future.

The **Digitisation Department** was expanded and reorganised, with almost all members of the unit being new employees to the Agency. As such, it was deemed important to reach out to other Departments to find out what services we can offer. This is important, as the Department is primarily a service Department which needs to work with all units of the Agency. To facilitate this more generally, during the past year various collaboration projects with different Departments were carried out, including the development of two sets of Sensory Maps and Social Stories for the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History (with the Education Department), the editing of 360-degree underwater footage shot by the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit into a virtual reality experience, the production of short features in collaboration with the Conservation Departments, and many others.

An internal research working group has been active to share latest research projects undertaken by members of the group and to share knowledge and resources. The group comprises representatives from DSL, UCHU, Archaeology, and Digitisation. It established an inventory of equipment that each of the represented Departments possess to raise awareness of the technologies and expertise available within HM. The working group is also planning to collaborate on a research and documentation project that will encompass the expertise of all parties. It has been suggested that the archaeological work being undertaken at Xrobb l-Għaġin would prove a perfect case study to involve each Department. The resulting research can be outputted as a feature documentary and as an academic publication, documenting the excavation and relocation of this significant site – the first process of its kind in Malta.

The Department offers a variety of services to all HM, including photography, videography, archival flat scanning, 3D scanning, laser scanning, photogrammetry, drone photography, virtual tours, 3D printing and website development. As a service Department, it works hand in hand and produces material for all Departments, sites and museums within HM. All the social media features, webinars, and masterclasses that are posted on HM's social media platforms are produced in-house. Fifteen stand-alone 30-40 minutes long productions in the form of documentaries, masterclasses and webinars were produced. Forty-four other short features were produced to accompany press releases, book launches and other initiatives. Numerous exhibitions were documented through photography. Much of the high-resolution photography captured for these installations often acted as base content for other teams at the Digitisation Department to work upon for 3D renderings and video editing work.

A programme of photography at the Archaeology Museum and Historic House in Gozo supports a project to digitise and catalogue all artefacts within the collections. A dedicated digitisation setup was installed on site to undertake this project. A total of 5451 artefacts have been digitised and inventoried so far. With respect to MUŻA, there are currently 7597 assets in the current Digital Asset Management System: Fotoware, all of which are catalogued and tagged with metadata accordingly. This makes MUŻA one of the foremost museums with an accessible catalogue. A darkroom has been set up where objects can be photographed in a consistent manner. 1800+ flatworks have been digitised to include relevant metadata. The Gigapan high resolution photographic capture tool has been used in numerous situations. This device gives us the ability to digitise paintings and objects in ultra-high resolution. Although it is a much slower method than standard photography, the results are proof of its value.

A permanent digitisation setup has also been installed at the National Museum of Archaeology. Image capturing carried out include two-dimensional imaging of glass plates, film negatives, objects such as prehistoric sculptures and pottery, flatworks including large architectural drawing plans, flat pottery and printed photographs. The museum spaces, display units and artefacts of the Fortifications Interpretation Centre were photographed and catalogued, including photography

and text transcription of all information panels, photography of all models and museum spaces from different perspectives, photography and cataloguing of tools and artefacts.

Photography has been carried out for most sites and museums and the conservation Departments. These images have been uploaded to Fotoware's 'HM Sites' archive, which now comprises more than 95,000 digital assets.

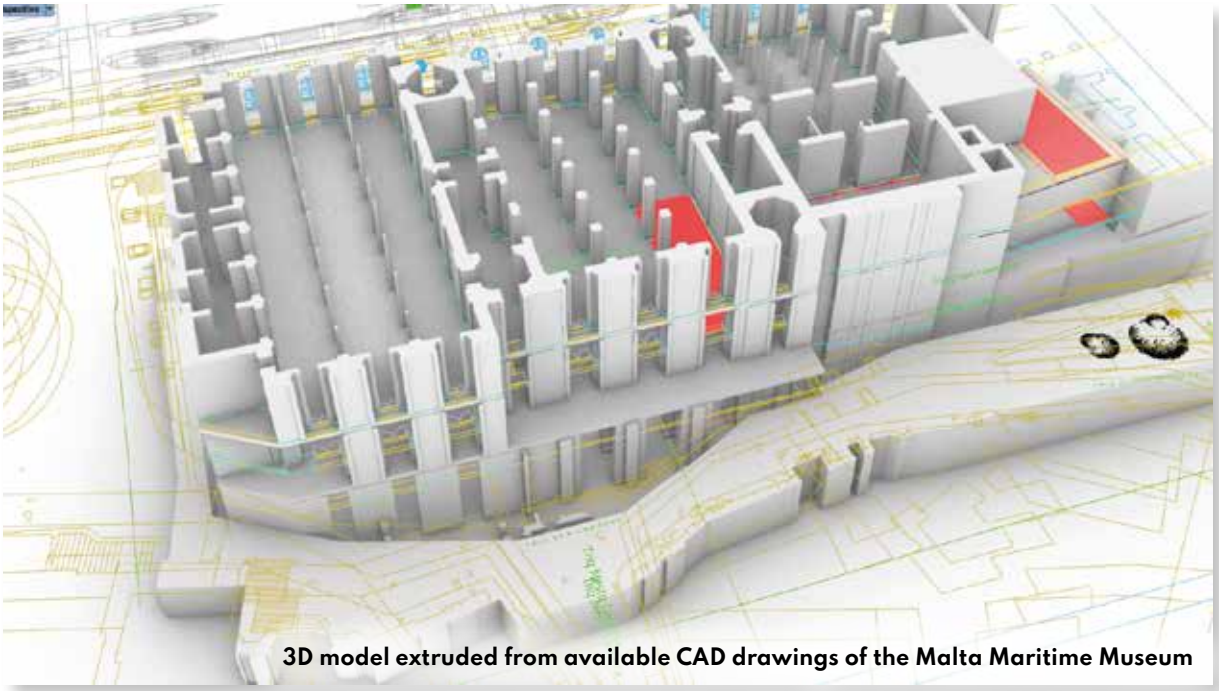
The Multimedia Team within the Department has acquired digital representations of artefacts and sites, and developed a number of projects with those digital assets. This process includes interpreting cultural heritage with the aim of developing new methods of interaction between audiences and cultural heritage venues and exhibitions. The team scanned a large number of artefacts using both photogrammetry and laser scanning, depending on the properties of the object. Photogrammetry is best applied to larger objects, although it requires a significant amount of post-processing. Laser scanning is a faster methodology both in acquisition and in post-processing and produces very high-resolution results. This methodology is normally applied to objects that are difficult to scan with a hand-held laser scanner. However, most of the artefacts that were scanned this year were carried out with this laser scanning. Post-processing is required for all scans. The team was able to capture, document and post-process over 368 items to date.

The team also developed a range of projects, including 360° virtual tours, games, graphic design, and exhibitions. Worthy of particular mention are the VR recreation of an air raid on Fort St Elmo during WWII for the University Freshers' Week, the development of an interactive floor for the Giorgio Preca exhibition, laser scanning and 3D printing of the portal of Tarxien Temples, a VR tour for Underground Valletta, a 3D model of Fort St Angelo using aerial photogrammetry taken with the drone camera, and various other 360° tours of Masterpieces at MUŻA, Ġgantija, Gozo Archaeology Museum, Gozo Nature Museum, Hypogeum Skulls exhibition, Giorgio Preca exhibition, Ħagar Qim, Mnajdra Temples, Tarxien Temples, Kordin Temples, Skorba, Our Lady of Victory Church, Ta' Ħaġrat, Grand Harbour Tour, and the underwater experience.

The Multimedia Team also began developing projects with Architectural Visualisation, specifically concerning Villa Guardamangia and the Malta Maritime Museum. The former created a visualisation of the villa as it was during Princess Elizabeth's time of residence in Malta. A video flythrough was created from the environment and the 3D model was applied to a VR experience allowing viewers to move through the villa at their own pace.

For the visualisation of the Malta Maritime Museum Project, a different methodology was used. Since CAD drawings were available, these were utilised to construct architecturally accurate 3D models of the new interior and interventions. The model allows the public to comprehensively visualise the completed project.

Villa Guradamangia's birds-eye view of the rendered model with textures



3D model extruded from available CAD drawings of the Malta Maritime Museum

The Web Development Team within the same Department responded to a total of 99 requests, ensuring the smooth running of HM's online presence. Three major websites were developed, namely: Norway Grants https://norwaygrantsmmm.eu/; MUŻA Masterpieces https://MUŻA.mt/archive/; and Exclusive Venues https://exclusivevenues.mt/homepage/. The team also developed a temporary membership system for Heritage Malta's existing web-shop until a new system was put in place.

The Department also purchased a Reflectance Transformation Imaging dome (RTI) - the Bronclor Scope D50 UV/IR, related RTI software (Authentica by Truvis) and a customised Nikon Z-II DSLR camera. It is a portable RTI system including a transportation case, batteries and accessories for quick deployment on location, both indoors or outdoors. This system is particularly useful for multispectral analysis, which offers many possibilities to work with material or chemical compounds that are reactive to UV/IR wavelengths, revealing details (such as traces of colour) which otherwise could not be seen.

This year, staff attended a range of courses and seminars to further their knowledge. Continuous professional development is a must since the fields of multimedia are evolving at an increasingly rapid pace. In September, staff attended the Murcia Underground for Value training workshop in Spain, while in December staff also attended the online Museum Next seminar for Digital Exhibitions. The team also furthered its skills in coding and project management by attending a number of online courses, including Three.js (supplied by threejs-journey.com), Digital Project Management, and JavaScript for Designers (both supplied by www.superhi.com). These short remote-learning courses provided a practical way for the Multimedia Team to understand latest developments in those fields which are particularly relevant to their daily workflows for website building and digital project management. The Department is also working toward becoming ISO certified, to conform to the highest levels of international quality standards.

The Department employed 26 interns, all of whom were involved in contributing to the activities of the EEA project and the general digitisation activities of HM. The applicants were undergraduate and masters students from the University of Malta and MCAST's Art and Design Institute undertaking various courses, including digital art, photography, content writing, digital games, graphic design, architecture, structural engineering, history, history of art, and archaeology. They were given various tasks at the Maritime Museum and within the Department, including researching and compiling metadata for artefacts, inventorying the dockyard collection, scanning photographs, ephemera and documents from the dockyard, photographing and editing images of artefacts, filming and editing video projects for webinars and masterclasses, graphic design work for print and web, developing a 3D VR game, architectural visualisation, photogrammetry, and laser scanning of artefacts. The internships were a great success, with clear benefits achieved both for the students and for the Department.

The Department has also been involved in four significant EU projects, leading one and participating in three.

COST: The European Cooperation of Science and Technology

It submitted its own COST project relating to the digitisation of maritime cultural heritage, developed in collaboration with the UCHU, with 30 partners on board from across Europe, the Levant, North Africa and East Asia. The main objectives are to share knowledge and good practice on 3D scanning and modelling artefacts, exploring the range of technologies used to monitor and evaluate underwater heritage sites, defining use scenarios to apply these technologies and methodologies, collecting and digitising intangible cultural heritage and relating it to maritime cultural heritage, and developing a cross discipline vocabulary of maritime cultural heritage terminology. If successful, this application will place HM at the centre of a wide network of academics, scientists, curators and cultural heritage workers in the field of maritime cultural heritage, 3D scanning technology and underwater cultural heritage management. The outcome of this proposal will be communicated in April 2022. The Department also participated in three European projects.

MyMuse - Multipla**Y**er of digital experiences to improve the fruition, accessibility and resilience of **MUSE**ums (HORIZON Projects). This consortium comprises the Links Foundation (Italy), Politecnico di Torino (Italy), HM (Malta), Altheria (Belgium) and Alpha Consulting (Italy). This project's goal is to address the problems faced by museums and cultural organisations hit by the COVID-19 crisis, and how this crisis has sped up the digital transformation of the sector.

The second project (HORIZON Europe) engages primarily with the **effects of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage**. It involves people and organisations involved in coastal and maritime regions, and underwater heritage. It aims to address innovative and sustainable approaches to protecting cultural heritage from climate change, natural hazards, environmental pollution, and anthropogenic threats. The application will be submitted in April 2022.

The third project (Creative Europe Programme) is **ArtStreet** - Mural Art-Centred Platform and Artificial Intelligence Technologies for Strengthening the Transnational Creation, Circulation and Exploitation of European Urban Mural Art. The project team is comprised of SHENKAR, CUX, UPAT, EDEN, CYENS and HM. The objectives are to facilitate collaboration between mural artists and other complementary artists with citizens, with the aim to evolve mural art work from two-dimensions to more enriched experiences using new multimedia technologies. This involves cataloguing mural art projects across Europe, implement artificial intelligence-driven technology to support the exploration and implementation of mural arts in various stages of development, and explore how artists can promote their work through the Art-Street platform.

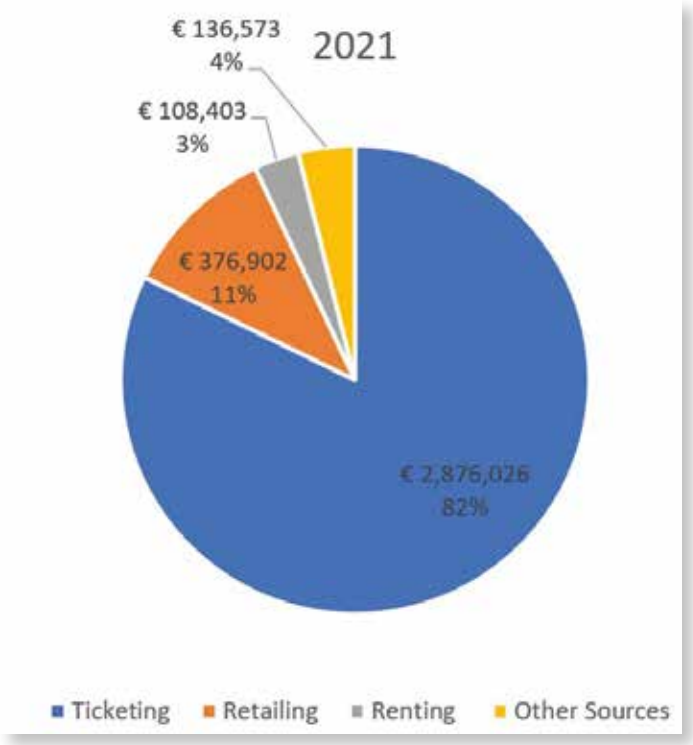
The first year of the **Business Development Department** was characterised by three main challenges: to learn and integrate its operation with the existing Agency setup, define and classify

revenue streams, and develop practices for the short term and strategies for long-term revenue generation. The Department categorised the Agency's revenue generation into five categories: ticketing, retailing, renting, sponsorships, and other revenue sources (including Taste History, digitisation, heraldry, restoration DSL, and others).

Firstly, the Department targeted inbound tourism regarding ticketing. Thanks to resources provided by MCAST, the Department managed to reach a good number of hotels, while setting up the way forward for a long-term affiliation. The number of revenue-sharing agreements was increased through improved communication with tour operators, tour leaders, and DMCs.

With respect to retailing, for the first time shop targets were based on average spent per person rather than a total monthly target. This new approach made a considerable impact on revenue when considering the number of visitors during the year. A collective effort was undertaken to improve the overall operations of the museum shops. The same approach was used to populate the online shop with more categories and products. A more inclusive approach was used for product development, while centralising design and production. An agreement was reached with major distributors such as Miller and BDL.

A major effort was made to develop awareness of the Agency's spaces for occasional renting with all relevant stakeholders, filmmakers, producers, wedding organizers, DMCs, etc. Facilities are being improved, while occasional renting was centralised. Demand is on the increase. The first wedding Expo was organised and another one on a larger scale was missed because of bad weather.

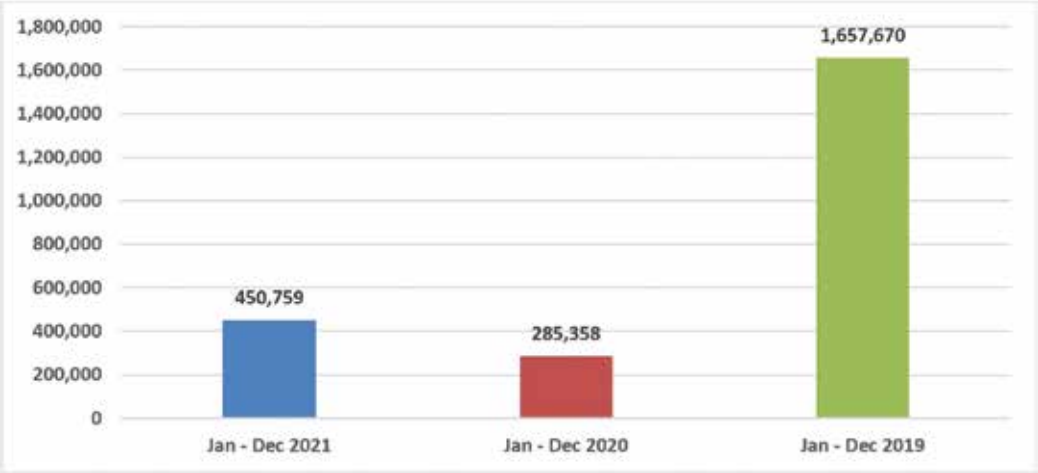


Several attempts were made to attract sponsorships. While these met moderate success, a more solid structure needs to be set to attract more funds from third parties. The Department also increased its efforts to promote the Agency's services to third parties while encouraging other internal sections to possibly develop new ones.

VISITOR STATISTICS

Paying Visitors

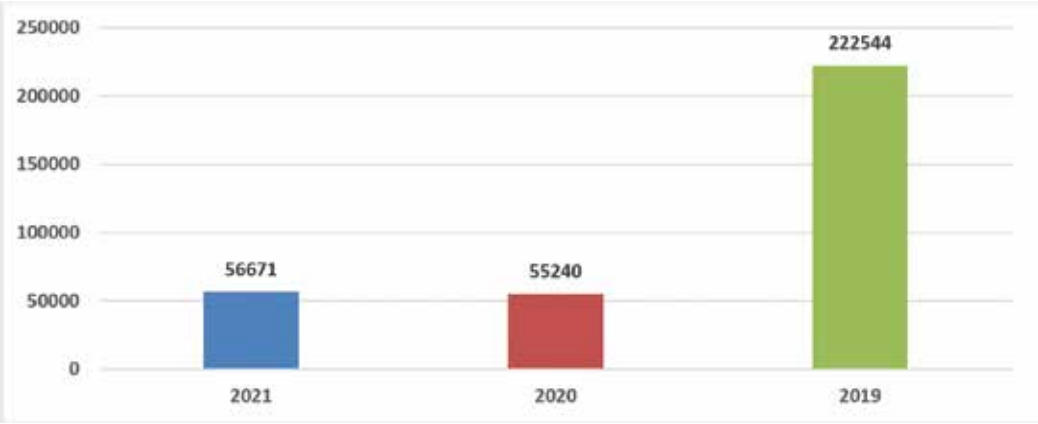
In 2021, HM increased its number of visitors by 57.8% over the previous year. In numerical terms, this means a notable increase of 165,401, but the number of paying entrances remain far less than pre COVID-19 levels. During the last three years the number of paying admissions stood at 450,759 in 2021, 285,358 in 2020 & 1,657,670 in 2019. Between March and May 2021, HM sites/museums had to close to the public due to a spike in the number of COVID-19 infections. Refer to Graph 1.



Graph 1: Paying admissions 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Non-paying visitors

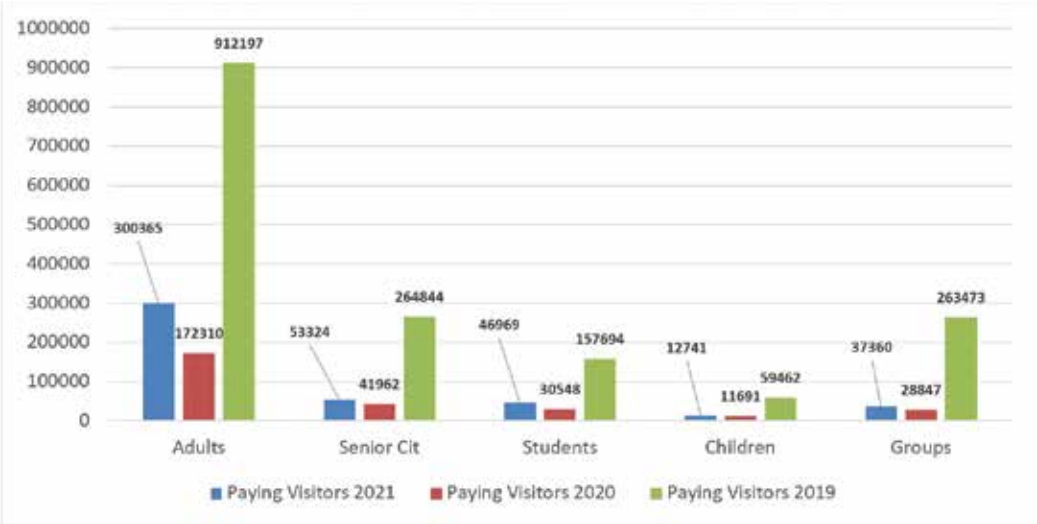
The number of non-paying visitors remained practically the same as in previous years albeit a trivial increase was noted. Non-paying admissions have gone up from 55,240 in 2020 to 56,671 in 2021. Annually, the student passport scheme lured over 28,000 visitors. Moreover, the senior passport scheme attracted over 5,400 visitors. Refer to Graph 2.



Graph 2: Non–Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

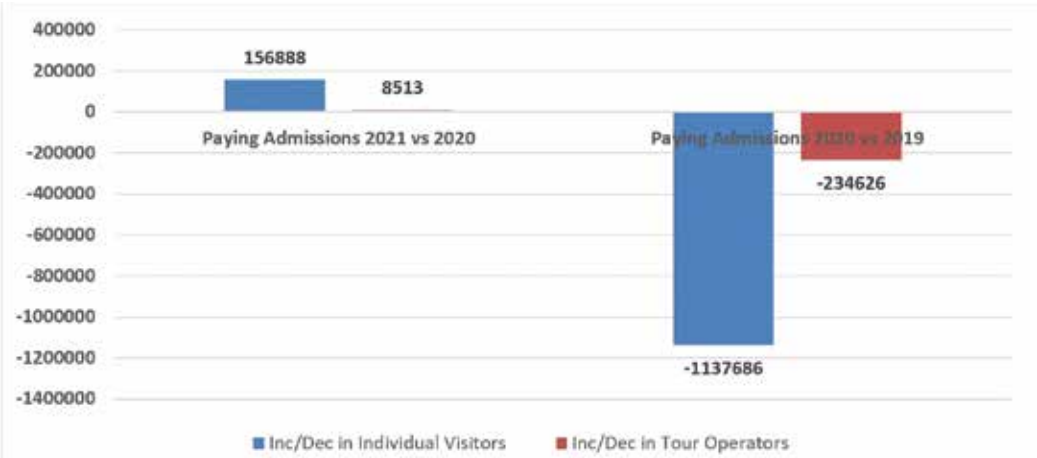
Market Segmentation: Individual and Tour Operator admissions

A closer analysis reveals that all categories of paying visitors soared by an average of 46.5% when compared to 2020. The sharpest increase was registered in the adult category, an increase of 74%. Another substantial increase was registered among the student categories: 53.75%. Tour operators and seniors recorded an annual increase of 29.5% and 27% respectively. Compared to last year, the child category increased by 8.98%. Refer to Graph 3.



Graph 3: Changes in the number of paying admissions by categories 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

The number of individual visitors increased by 156,888, while tour operators experienced a slight increase of 8,513. Meanwhile, in 2020 individual paying admissions unprecedently decreased by -1,137,686 while tour operators dwindled by -234,626. Refer to Graph 4.

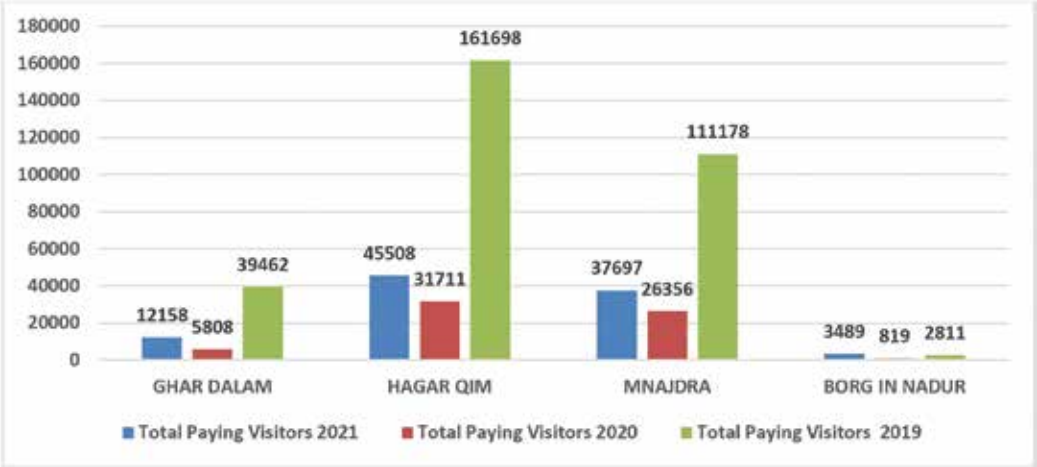


Graph 4: Changes in the number of paying admissions split by individual categories and tour operators between 2021 vs 2019; 2020 vs 2019

Paying Admissions by Regions 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Southern Region

Paying visitors in the Southern Region increased from 64,694 to 98,852 visitors, an increase of 52.7%. Admissions at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples rose by 25,000. Between 2020 and 2021, Ġhar Dalam doubled its visitors. Interestingly, the number of paying visitors at Borġ in-Nadur for 2021 exceeded those registered prior to COVID 19. Refer to Graph 5 and Annex 1.



Graph 5: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Southern Region

Paola/Tarxien and Vittoriosa Region

Both the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo bolstered their paying admissions by 109.8% and 92.7% respectively. Tarxien Temples saw an increase of 8,000 visitors. Meanwhile, the Hypogeum sustained an increase of 23.48%. The Malta Maritime Museum closed its doors to the public on March 2020 due to structural works remaining closed during this year. Refer to Graph 6 and Annex 1.

Graph 6: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Paola, Tarxien and Vittoriosa area

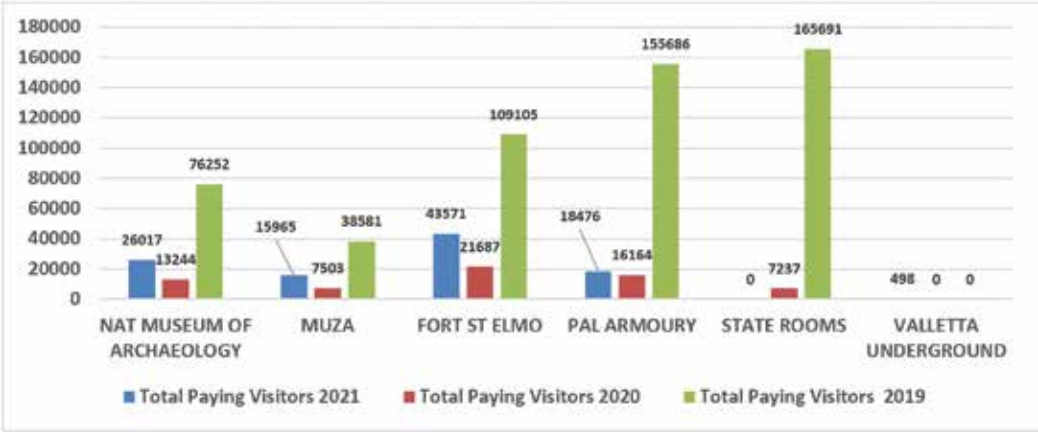
Rabat Region

Numerically, St Paul Catacombs registered the boldest increase in the number of paying visitors. Equated to 2020, visitors increased by 17,414 admissions, an increase of 81%. The Domvs Romana recorded an increase of almost 4,500 visitors. Meanwhile, the National Museum of Natural History logged an increase of 6,000 paying visitors. However, it is important to note that from March to December 2020 the National Museum of Natural History was closed due to major renovation works and re-opened on 9 January 2021. Refer to Graph 7 and Annex 1.

Graph 7: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Rabat Region

Valletta Region

Fort St Elmo emerged strongest among all Valletta sites. Paying visitors shot up from 21,000 in 2020 to 43,000. Another staggering increase was registered at the National Museum of Archaeology: from 13,000 in 2020 to 26,000 in 2021. MUŻA followed an upward trend too, with an additional 8,000 visitors. The Palace Armoury recorded a mild increase over the previous year. In November, HM opened the Valletta Underground Cisterns. In the first two months since its opening, almost 500 visitors were lured. Refer to Graph 8 and Annex 1.



Graph 8: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Valletta Region

Gozo Sites

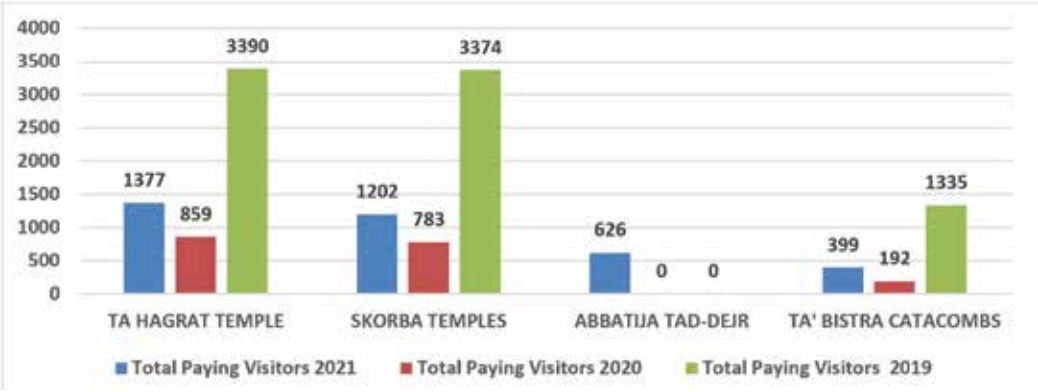
Ġgantija Temples recorded the biggest growth in the number of paying admissions. When compared to previous year, Ġgantija admissions went up by 15,000 visitors, 37,253 visitors in 2020 to 52,650 visitors in 2021. Likewise, Ta' Kola Windmill saw a 60.39% increase. Refer to Graph 9 and Annex 1.

Museums in the Citadel have ended in a positive territory. Citadel sites increased the number of visitors by 58% when compared to last year. The Gozo Old Prisons Museum recorded the notable increase. Good results were also obtained at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology and the Gran Castello Historic House, an increase of 68.10% and 56.62% respectively. The Gozo Nature Museum logged a modest increase. Refer to Graph 9 and Annex 1.

Graph 9: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Xaghra Region and Cittadella sites

Small Sites

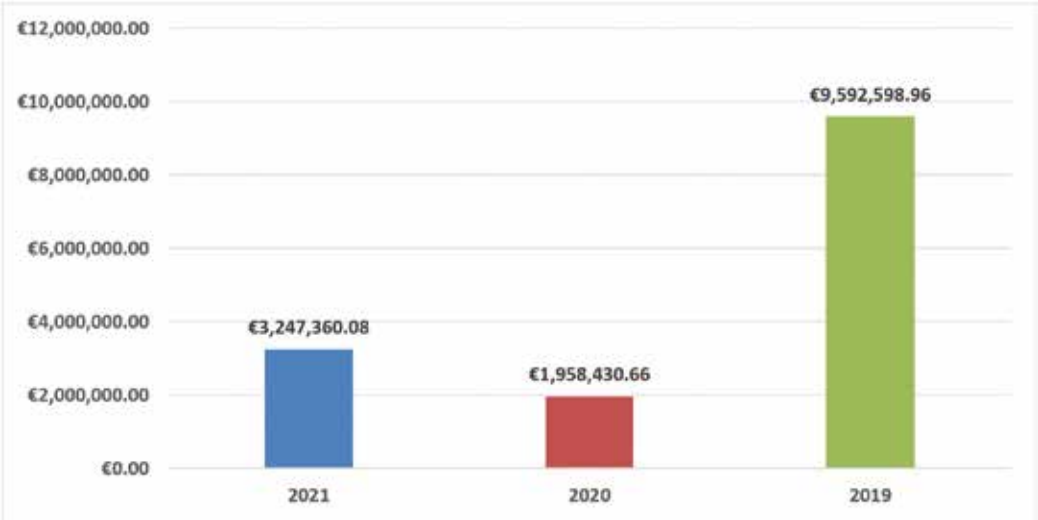
Skorba and Ta' Ħaġrat Temples recorded gains on a smaller scale. Together, both hosted over 2,500 paying visitors, an increase of 930 visitors over the previous year. Ta' Bistra catacombs was closed throughout the year. However, 399 visitors visited the site during an open day. A similar event was held at Abbatija tad-Dejr. Total visitors amounted to 626. Refer to Graph 10 and Annex 1.



Graph 10: Paying visitors 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 – Small Sites

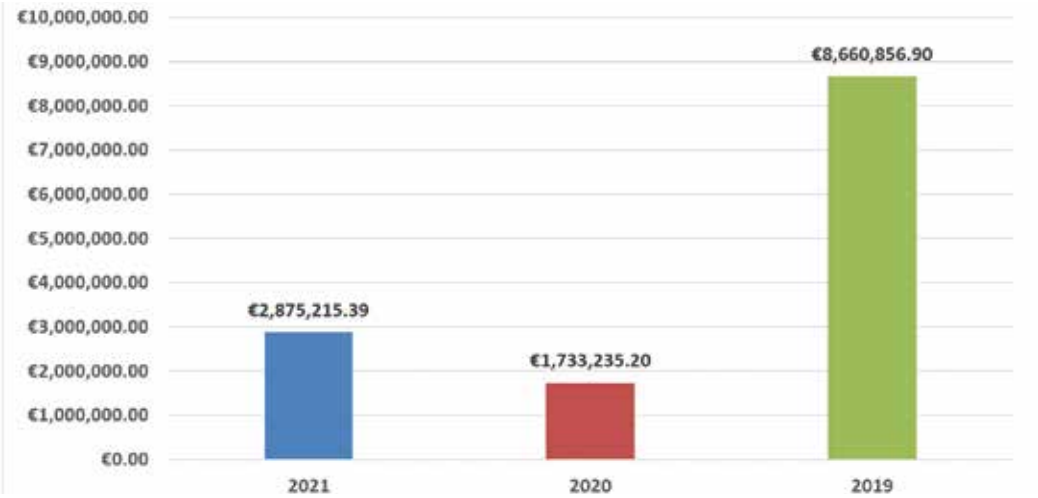
Revenue

As at 31 December HM's financial income soared by 65.7%. The Agency managed to increase its revenue from €1.9 million in 2020 to €3.2 million in 2021. Nonetheless, revenue generated in the last two years is far below pre COVID-19 levels. As at 31 December 2019, the total revenue amounted to €9.5 million. The total revenue generated in 2021 therefore represents a decrease of -66.14% when compared to 2019 levels. Refer to Graph 11.



Graph 11: Revenue 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Entrance fees comprise 87.5% of the main four revenue streams. This is the biggest revenue inflow for HM. In 2021, entrance fees totalled €2.8 million, while in 2020 tickets sold totalled €1.7 million, a surge of 64.7%. Prior to the pandemic HM generated around €8.6 million worth of ticket sales. Refer to Graph 12.

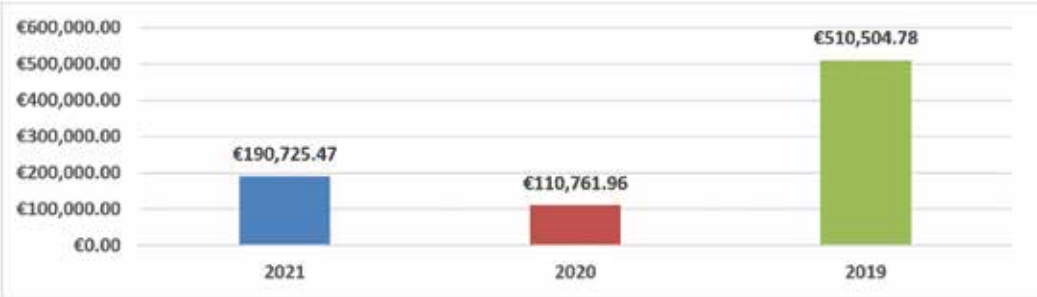


Graph 12: Revenue 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Revenue from the sale of publications represent 3.5% of the total income, an increase of 52.87%. In numerical terms, the increase equates to €46,000 as the sales went up from €87,460.40c to €133,809.65c. Compared to 2019, publication sales in 2021 dwindled by -5.06%. Refer to Graph 13.

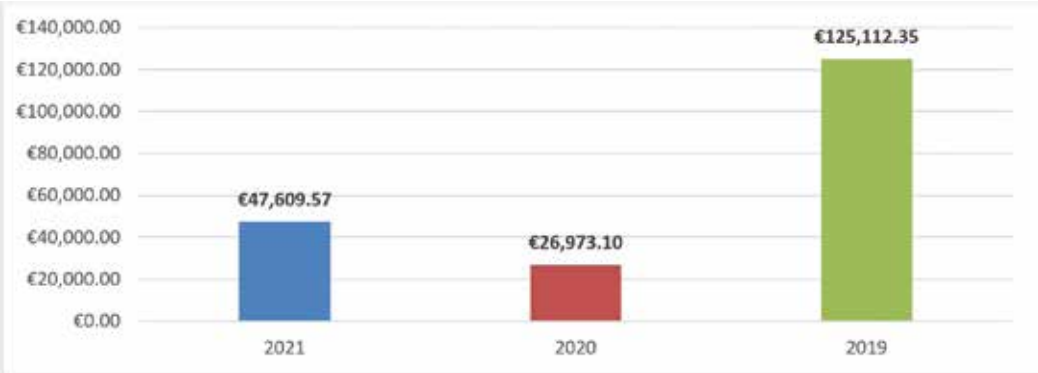
Graph 13: Revenue from publications 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Merchandise sales followed a similar pattern. In 2019 these amounted to €510,504. The following year sales went down by -78.4% due to COVID-19. However, in 2021 sales increased by €80,000, representing an increase of 72.7% over last year. Inflow of merchandise sales comprise 5.84% of the total revenue streams. Refer to Graph 14.



Graph 14: Revenue from merchandise 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

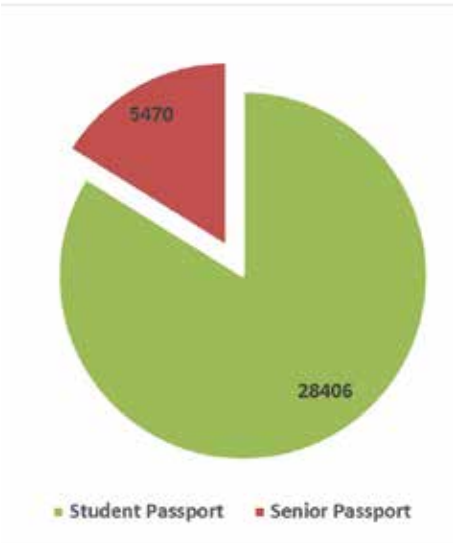
Sales of food in 2021 embodied the smallest fraction of revenue streams. It represented a meagre 1.4% of the total sales. Food sales endured a sharp rise of 76.5%. Sales went up from €26,000 in 2020 to €47,000 in 2021. Refer to Graph 15.



Graph 15: Revenue from food sales 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

The Passport Schemes

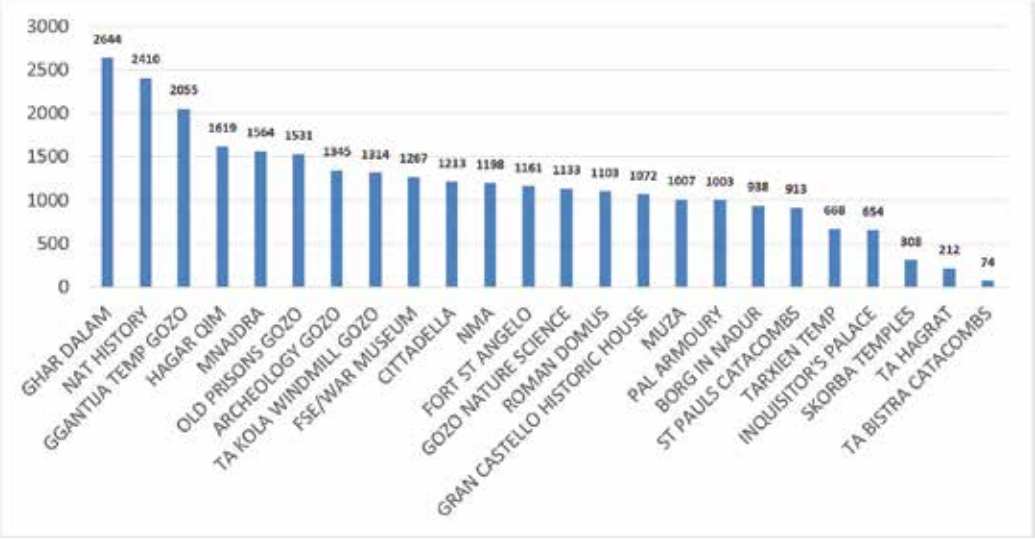
Both passport schemes attracted a total of 33,876 visitors with 16.10% being utilised by the senior passport, while 83.9% by students. Refer to Graph 16.



Graph 16: Share of visits split between student and senior passport

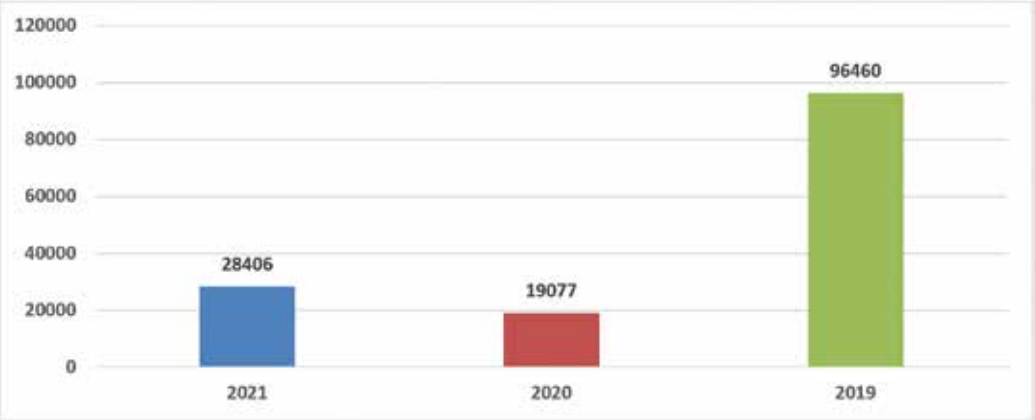
The Student Passport

The number of entries using the student passport schemes exceeded an audience of 28,000 visitors during 2021. Ġhar Dalam, the National Museum of Natural History, Ġgantija Temples, Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra Temples were the five most popular sites. Refer to Graph 17.



Graph 17: Visitors using the student passport in 2021

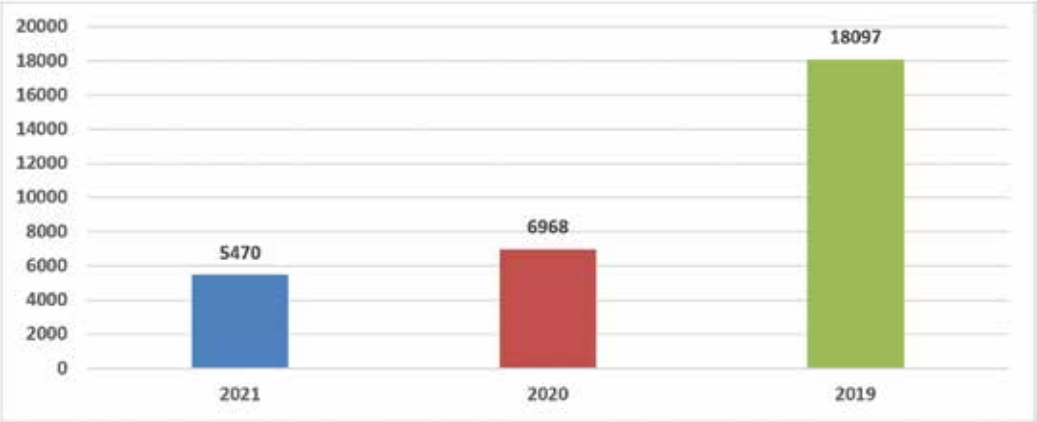
The total number of student passport users in 2021 recorded a 47% increase over 2020. In numerical terms the increase is equivalent to 9,300 visitors. Related to 2019, visitors using the student passport have dwindled by -80.2% in 2020 and -70.8% in 2021. The number of visits using the passport scheme stood at 96,460 in 2019, 19,077 in 2020 and 28,406 in 2021. Refer to Graph 18.



Graph 18: Number of visitors using the student passport 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

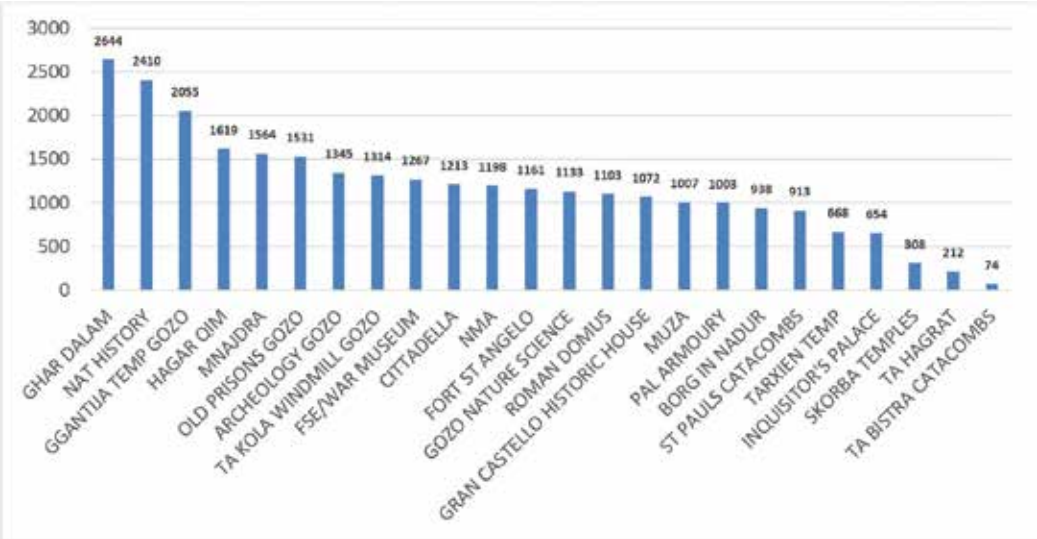
The Senior Passport

In 2021, the number of visitors using the senior passport scheme equated to 5,400. The admissions generated from the use of the senior passport scheme continued to plummet by -21.49%. When comparing to 2020 and 2019, the number of visits by senior passport holders fell by -61.49%. Visitors dwindled from 18,097 in 2019 to 6,968 in 2020 and to 5,470 in 2021. Refer to Graph 19.



Graph 19: Number of visitors using the senior passport 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

MUŻA, Ħaġar Qim Temples, Fort St Angelo, the National Museum of Natural History and the Palace Armoury were the most visited five sites by senior passport holders. On the other hand, the Gozo Nature Museum, Tarxien Temples, Ta' Ħaġrat, Ta' Skorba and Ta' Bistra Catacombs were the least visited. Refer to Graph 20.



Graph 20: Number of visitors using the student passport in 2021

Annex 1

SOUTHERN AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
GĦAR DALAM	12158	5808	39462
ĦAĠAR QIM	45508	31711	161698
MNAJDRA	37697	26356	111178
BORĠ IN-NADUR	3489	819	2811

PAOLA & TARXIEN AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
HYPOGEUM	16987	13757	32582
TARXIEN TEMPLES	20940	12764	69087

VITTORIOSA AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
INQUISITOR'S PALACE	14776	7057	38626
MARITIME MUSEUM	0	3186	21459
FORT ST ANGELO	22575	11729	58351

RABAT AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
DOMVS ROMANA	10803	6358	33323
NATURAL HISTORY	9586	3339	19848
ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS	38691	21277	121321

VALLETTA AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY	26017	13244	76252
MUŻA	15965	7503	38581
FORT ST ELMO	43571	21687	109105
PALACE ARMOURY	18476	16164	155686
STATE ROOMS	0	7237	165691
VALLETTA UNDERGROUND	498	0	0
FORTRESS BUILDERS	0	827	1832

GOZO	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
ĠGANTIJA TEMPLES	52650	37253	196472
TA' KOLA WINDMILL	9573	5968	37087
GRAN CASTELLO HISTORIC HOUSE	10277	6559	32214
ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM	11813	7027	39331
NATURE MUSEUM	7987	6091	33155
OLD PRISONS	16776	9803	54419

SMALL SITES	Total Paying Visitors 2021	Total Paying Visitors 2020	Total Paying Visitors 2019
TA' ĦAĠRAT TEMPLE	1377	859	3390
SKORBA TEMPLES	1202	783	3374
ABBATIJA TAD-DEJR	626	0	0
TA' BISTRA CATACOMBS	399	192	1335

APPENDIX I

EVENTS CALENDAR 2021

Exhibitions Hosted by Heritage Malta

22 January – 21 February: **Homebody/Touch Me**, by Maria Borg at the Community Space, MUŻA.

22 April – 30 May: **Ochra et Nigreos**, by Joyce Camilleri, at the Community Space, MUŻA.

24 June – 11 August: **Appropriation of Land**, at the Community Corridor, MUŻA.

3 July – 1 August: **No ordinary terrain**, collective exhibition by Sandra Zaffarese, Aaron Bezzina, Keit Bonnici and Tom van Malderen, at the Community Space, MUŻA.

13 August – 5 September: **Light is time thinking about itself**, by Antje Lieman, at the Community Space, MUŻA.

20 August – 31 October: **Malta's Blue Wonders**, organised by ERA as part of the CORALLO project, at Ħaġar Qim visitor centre.

12 November – 9 January 2022: **Hold on to the air in your pockets**, by Aidan Celeste and Johannes Buch, at the Community Space, MUŻA.

3 December – 9 January 2022: **Patrick Dalli, the Journey**, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology, organised by the Valletta Cultural Agency.

10 December – 16 January 2022: **AKKA**, collective exhibition by Steven Risiott and Patricia Risiott, at the corridors, MUŻA.

Exhibitions Organised by Heritage Malta

11 December 2020 – 10 January: **Step into MUŻA**, digital exhibition of animated paintings at MUŻA's courtyard.

21 December 2020 – 31 October: **Alien headaches? The hypogeum skulls enigma**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

11 June – 31 October: **Masterpieces at MUŻA**, thirteen old master paintings from an international private collection on display at MUŻA on a long-loan basis.

17 September – 14 November: **Uncovering transition**, exhibition of fourteen photographs by seven photographic artists documenting works as part of the MUŻA project, at MUŻA's ground floor corridor.

3 December – 27 February 2022: **Giorgio Preca ta' Malta (1909-1984): An International Artist with a Modern Spirit**, at MUŻA.

14 December – 27 February 2022: **An Island in Transition 700 – 1700AD. The Archaeology of Medieval Gozo**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

Exhibitions in Collaboration with Others

1 January – 1 August: **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo** – an exhibition highlighting discoveries from this site, at the Gozo Area Office exhibition hall, the Citadel, Gozo, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, the Malta International Airport and the Honor Frost Foundation.

5 June – 31 October: **Temples of Malta**, an exhibition of more than 90 artefacts and models at the Rijksmuseum of Leiden, the Netherlands, with the support of the Malta Tourism Authority and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Malta.

16 August – 31 December: **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo** – an exhibition highlighting discoveries from this site, at the Malta National Aquarium, Qawra, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, the Malta International Airport and the Honor Frost Foundation.

13 – 31 October: **Dun Karm Psaila: 150th anniversary from his birth**, in collaboration with Festivals Malta, at MUŻA.

Exhibitions in which Heritage Malta Participated

1 April – 11 July: Dante – **La Visione dell'Arte**, organised by the Uffizi Galleries and the Fondazione Cassa dei Risparmi of Forlì, in collaboration with the municipality of Forlì, on the seventh centenary of Dante's death, at the Musei San Domenico in Forlì.

25 June – 31 October: **From Venice to Calabria: the 17th-century maiolica of Gerace rediscovered**, at the Museo delle Ceramiche di Calabria, Italy.

27 June – 28 August: **Emvin Cremona 1919-1987**, at Il-Ħaġar, Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre, Victoria, Gozo.

3 September – 12 October: **Vincenzo Bonello 130th anniversary 1891-1969**, at Il-Ħaġar, Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre, Victoria, Gozo.

5 October – 13 February 2022: **Tornaviaje. Iberoamerican art in Spain**, at the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

1 – 17 October: **Mater Nostra**, organised by Grupp Armar Marija Assunta, Mosta.

22 November: **La Giuditta di Caravaggio e i suoi Interpreti**, at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Antica, Palazzo Barberini, Rome, 22 November – 22 February 2022.

18 December – 28 February 2022: **Castelluccio, Ambiente, Commercio e Simboli nella Sicilia Sud Orientale**, at the Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi, Siracusa, Sicily.

14 December 2021 – 17 January 2022: **The Streak, An Isabelle Borg Retrospective**, at the Centre for Creativity, St James Cavalier, Valletta.

7 December – 1 March 2022: **Exhibition of a replica of the Majmuna Stone** at the Dubai Expo 2020.

Lectures organised or Hosted by Heritage Malta

20 January: **Pioneers of modern art in Malta**, masterclass by Joseph Paul Cassar, livestream on Facebook.

6 February: **Malta oskura – Rabat and Mdina**, webinar / virtual tour.

24 February: **Modern sensibilities in Maltese art**, masterclass by Joseph Paul Cassar, livestream on Facebook.

1 March: **HM's adaptation to COVID through digitisation**, by Tony Cassar during the webinar on 'Communicating Heritage: From Scientific Dissemination to Story Telling', organised by Centre for Heritage and Territory Studies of the European University of Rome.

9 March: **Mammals in Malta – from the Ice Age to the Present**, masterclass by the Senior Curator of Natural History John J. Borg, livestream on Facebook.

8 April: **Plagues, Pandemics, Prevention and Mitigation – A Recurring History**, streamed on Facebook.

13, 15 April: **Judicial hanging in Malta**, webinar in the 'Malta Oskura' series.

21 April: **Staring the Past in the Eyes: Discovery and Research on a Skull from St Paul's Catacombs**, masterclass by Senior Curator David Cardona and others, livestream on Facebook.

4 May: **Evolution of heraldry in Malta and Europe**, masterclass by the Chief Herald of Arms of Malta Dr Charles Grech, livestream on Facebook.

26 May: **A bird's-eye view on migration**, masterclass by the Senior Curator of Natural History John J. Borg, livestream on Facebook.

27 May: **Honey in 17th- and 18th-century Malta**, webinar as part of the Inquisitor's Historic Cookalong Sessions in collaboration with Taste History.

24 June: **Underwater Archaeological Sites**, masterclass about maritime archaeology in Malta in the 21st century, by Prof. Timmy Gambin, Head Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, livestream on Facebook.

1 July: **The future is behind us: Navigating history in virtual reality**, online event on Facebook.

29 September: **Discover the world of colour** through the eyes of a Portuguese knight in 18th-century Malta, masterclass by Cláudia Garradas at MUŻA's Conference Hall.

20 October: **Art Up Close: New Insights on Northern European artworks in the MUŻA collection** – the 17th-century Netherlandish works, masterclass by Krystle Attard Trevisan, at MUŻA.

23-24 October: **Military wall paintings at the Main Guard**, by Denis Darmanin, at the Main Guard.

22 November: **Maltese terms in costumes and textiles**, online lecture by Annamaria Gatt in the 'Tradizzjoni Orali' series held by the Dipartiment tal-Malti.

30 November: **Malta Oskura: Il-Mewt** – third webinar in the 'Malta Oskura' series.

1 December: **Art Up Close: Giuseppe Calì (1846-1930)**: Romanticism between verismo and the eclectic, by Dr Mark Sagona, at MUŻA, in collaboration with the University of Malta's Department of Art and Art History.

14 December: **Auberge de Provence, Discoveries, observations and new considerations from an archaeological perspective**, by Christian Mifsud at the National Museum of Archaeology.

Open Day at Villa Guradamangia

Events Organised by Heritage Malta

9 January: Tour focusing on **education programmes and strategies** for university science students, at MUŻA.

16 January: Tour focusing on **education programmes and strategies** for university science students, at Fort St Elmo.

28 January: Live stream to commemorate **Holocaust Memorial Day** for students from St Augustine and Stella Maris College.

5 February: Online book launch of **The Maltese Archipelago at the Dawn of History** on HM's Facebook page.

10 February: **Special opening** of the Domvs Romana, St Paul's Catacombs, the National Museum of Natural History, Għar Dalam, Ġgantija Temples and San Pawl Milqi, on the occasion of the feast of St Paul.

15-16 February: **Special opening** of all Citadel museums and Kordin Temples for the Carnival holidays.

22, 23, 26 February: **Ask the conservator** – online session for students at the Visual Performing Arts School.

26 February: **Ask the curator** – online session for students at St Augustine's College.

2 March: **Ask the conservator** – online session for students at the Visual Performing Arts School.

4 March: **Ask the curator** – online session for students at St Augustine's College.

5 March: **Ask the conservator** – online session for students at the Visual Performing Arts School.

5, 9 March: Online session on the **Gran Castello Historic House** for students at St Thomas More Fgura Primary.

11 March: **Ask the curator** – online session for students at St Augustine's College.

17 March: **Ask the scientist** – online session for Junior College students.

20, 21 March: **Spring Equinox** guided tours at the prehistoric complex of Mnajdra.

22 March: Online session on the **Gran Castello Historic House** for students at St Francis School Birkirkara.

14 April: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St Francis School Birkirkara.

16 April: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St Benedict College Birkirkara.

20 April: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Laura Vicuna School, Għasri.

21-23 April: **Virtual tour of the Inquisitor's Palace** for students of the ITS.

22 April: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St George Preca College Ħamrun.

28 April: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Xagħra Primary School Gozo.

4,6 May: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St Thomas More College Fgura.

10 May: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Maria Regina College Mellieħa.

12 May: Online session on the **World War II** for students at St George Preca College Valletta.

14, 18 May: Online session on the **World War II** for students at St Catherine's School Pembroke.

16 May: **Open day at the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs**.

17 May: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St Monica School Birkirkara.

28 May: Online session on the **World War II** for students at Xagħra Primary School Gozo.

28 May: **Virtual tour of Għar Dalam** for students of the ITS.

30 May: **Open Day at Ta' Bistra Catacombs.**

1 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Maria Regina College Għargħur.

2 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Paola Primary.

3 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Xagħra Primary Gozo.

4 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Pembroke Primary.

4 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Siġġiewi Primary.

8 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at Ħamrun Primary.

9-11, 16 June: Online session on **Neolithic Life** for students at St Francis School Birkirkara.

17 June: Online session on the **Hypogeum** for students at St Dorothy's School Sliema.

18 June: Informal question and answer session '**Ask the curator**' with the Senior Curator of the National Museum of Archaeology, to mark European Archaeology Days.

20 June: Online session on Neolithic Life for students at St Albert the Great College Valletta.

20 June: Special opening and **guided tours of St Augustine's Catacombs**, to mark European Archaeology Days.

19-21 June: Guided tours at Mnajdra and Ħaġar Qim Temples on the occasion of the **summer solstice**, to mark European Archaeology Days.

29 June: **Special opening of MUŻA and the National Museum of Archaeology** on the occasion of the Feast of St Peter and St Paul.

1 July: Official ratification of the **2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage**, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

2 July: Online **presentation on the Hypogeum** for the Office of the Commissioner for Children, for the Enya Forum.

6 July: **Leħħiet – Il-Preistorja**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

8 July: **Ħajt, drapp u buttuni**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

10, 17, 24 July: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Fort St Elmo.

10, 31 July: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Fort St Angelo.

11 July: Guided tours of the national costume collection and lace craft demonstrations on the occasion of **International Lace Day**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

14 July: **Fortifications harbour cruise**, around Marsamxett and the Grand Harbour, explaining the development of fortifications along the centuries.

17, 24 July: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to the National Museum of Archaeology.

20 July: **Leħħiet – Il-Feniċi**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

26 July: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Marsascala.

24, 31 July: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to St Paul's Catacombs.

26 July: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Mġarr.

27 July: **Tpinġija f'Mitt Biċċa**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

31 July: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to the Inquisitor's Palace, MUŻA, the National Museum of Natural History, and the Domvs Romana.

2 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Mosta.

3 August: **Leħħiet – Ir-Rumani**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

4 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Mellieħa.

5 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Mqabba.

7 August: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Fort St Angelo, MUŻA, and the Inquisitor's Palace.

7, 14, 21, 28 August: **Extended opening hours at MUŻA**, from 5pm to 10pm to extend access to the Masterpieces at MUŻA exhibition.

9 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Naxxar.

14 August: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to the Old Prisons and the Gran Castello Historic House, Gozo.

17 August: **Leħħiet – Il-Medjuevu**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

19 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Paola.

20 August: **Under the Sea**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

21, 28 August: **guided tour on boat around Filfla** highlighting historical and natural facts of this nature reserve.

23 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf Qawra.

24 August: **Crests and Coat of Arms**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

26 August: Online **session on Neolithic life** for Skola Sajf San Ġwann.

28 August: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to the Inquisitor's Palace.

31 August: **Leħħiet – Il-Kavallieri**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

7 September: **Leħħiet – Il-Franċiżi**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

8 September: **Open day at Fort St Angelo**, with reduced admission, including mass at the Chapel of the Nativity, on the occasion of Victory Day.

11 September: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to the National Museum of Archaeology and Fort St Elmo.

14 September: **Sal-Unjoni Ewropeja**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

18 September: **Guided tour at Villa Frère**, part of the HM Passport Visa activities.

20 September: **Pitturi li Jinkitbu**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

21 September: **Competitions Awards event**, online session as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

21 September: **Caritas Inmate programme** – guided tour of Fort St Elmo.

21 September: **Special opening** of Fort St Angelo, the National Museum of Archaeology, St Paul's Catacombs and the Palace Armoury on the occasion of Independence Day.

21, 22 September: **Autumn Equinox guided tours, including the Natura 2000 site**, at the prehistoric complex of Mnajdra.

25 September: Meet the Bees - **Guided tours and honey-tasting session** at the apiaries of San Pawl Milqi, exclusive for HM members.

2 October: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Fort St Elmo and the National Museum of Archaeology.

9 October: **Guided visit for the Caritas Inmates Programme**, at Fort St Angelo.

16 October: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to MUŻA.

18 October: **Online lesson on properties and design of armour** of the Knights' period for students of Floriana Primary School.

19 October: **Online lesson on the World War II** for students at Floriana Primary School.

21 October: **Presentation of official coat of arms to Archbishop Scicluna**, at the Curia, Floriana.

21 October: **Guided tours of Fort St Elmo and the Inquisitor's Palace** for Erasmus students at San Miguel Resource Centre.

22 October: **Official inauguration of Ġnien Dinja Waħda** at Għar Dalam with children from Birżebbuġa Primary School.

23 October: Exclusive **curator's tour of the Masterpieces at MUŻA** exhibition for Heritage Malta members, at MUŻA.

23-24 October: **Open weekend at the Main Guard**, viewing of ongoing conservation works for the general public.

25, 29 October: **Online lesson on Classical architecture** for students at Floriana Primary School.

26, 29 October: **Online lesson on Neolithic art** for students at the Malta Visual and Performing Arts.

27 October: **Online lesson on World War II** for students at Floriana Primary School.

3 November: **Official inauguration of Underground Valletta** by the Minister for National Heritage.

4 November: **Online lesson on properties and design of armour** of the Knights' period for students at Marsaxlokk Primary School.

5 November: **Online lesson on Classical Architecture** for students at Marsaxlokk Primary School.

5, 8, 12 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Marsaxlokk Primary School.

9, 16 November: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students at Cospicua Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

10, 12 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Floriana Primary School.

11 November: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students at Gudja Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

12 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Xgħajra Primary School.

15 November: **Online lesson on the World War II** for students at Marsaxlokk Primary School.

15 November: **Malti fl-Istorja programme** for students at Cospicua Middle School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

17 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Cospicua Primary School.

17 November: **Online lesson on Neolithic Art** for students at the Malta Visual and Performing Arts.

18 November: **Historic cook-along session on eggs in 17th- and 18th-century Malta** – a meringue recipe, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19 November: **Online lesson on World War II** for students at Żejtun Secondary School.

20 November: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Fort St Elmo and the National Museum of Archaeology.

22 November: **Malti fl-Istorja programme** for students at Ħandaq Middle School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

23 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Dingli Secondary School.

23 November: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students of Xgħajra Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

19, 24 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Gżira Stella Maris School.

24 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Xagħra Gozo Primary School.

24, 26, 29 November: **Online lesson on Classical Architecture** for students at Ħandaq Secondary School.

26 November: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at St Albert the Great College.

26 November: **Online lesson on World War II** for students at Żejtun Secondary School.

26 November: **Presentation of official coat of arms to the Bishop of Gozo**, at the Curia, Victoria, Gozo.

26 November: **Official launch of the publication Roman Architecture in Malta**, at the Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

30 November: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students of Birżebbuġa Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

1 December: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Dingli Secondary School.

2 December: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme for students** of St Paul's Bay Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

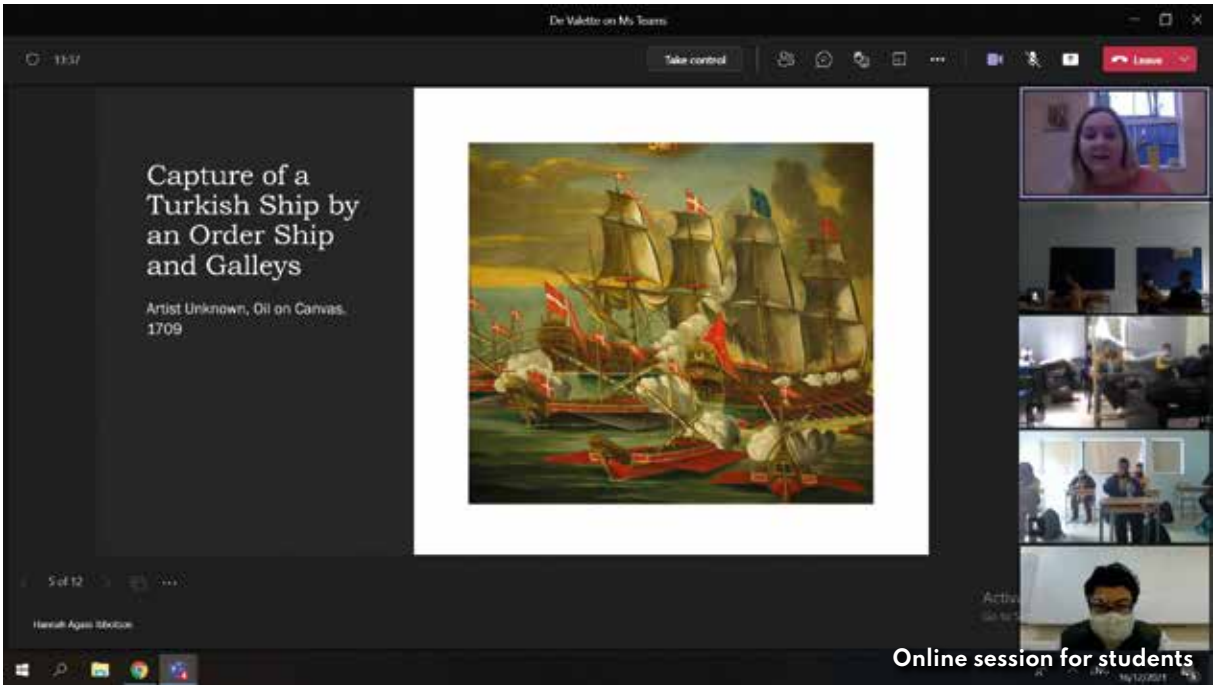
3 December: **Online session on Neolithic Life** for students at Victoria Primary School.

5 December: **Open day to view project progress** at the Grand Master's Palace.

6 December: **Malti fl-Istorja programme** for students of Birkirkara Ta' Paris Middle School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7, 9, 14 December: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students of Naxxar Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

9 December: **Christmas food activity** for senior citizens, at the Inquisitor's Palace.



Online session for students

10 December: **Online lesson on properties and design of armour** of the Knights' period for students at St Albert the Great College.

11 December: **Exclusive tours of Underground Valletta** to HM members.

11, 18 December: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to St Paul's Catacombs and the National Museum of Natural History.

12 December: **Open day with military re-enactments**, with reduced admission, at Fort St Angelo.

13 December: **Open day at the Church of Our Lady of the Pillar**.

15 December: **Online lesson on World War II** for students at Żejtun Secondary School.

15 December: **Online session on Classical Architecture** for students at Ħandaq Secondary School.

16 December: **Ġnien Dinja Waħda programme** for students of Birżebbuġa Primary School, at Għar Dalam.

19 December: **Open day with guided tours** to view the condition of the property, at Villa Guardamangia.

19-21 December: **Winter Solstice** guided tours at Mnajdra Temples.

29 December: **Storytelling Session to HM Student Passport holders**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

Events in which Heritage Malta participated

5 June: Demonstration sessions to students participating in **X'tixtieq issir la tikber?** As part of the Public Service Week, at MUŻA, Bighi Conservations Laboratories, and Gozo Area Office.

11 November: **Hundred years of parliament** – an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary from the granting of self-government to Malta, at the Parliament, Valletta.

Events organised in collaboration with others

7 January: **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Bidnija olive grove**, in collaboration with Ambjent Malta, at the Environment Ministry, Casa Leoni.

12 January: **Laying of flowers on the grave of John Hookham Frère** and Mikiel Anton Vassalli at the Garden of Rest, Msida, in collaborations with the Friends of Villa Frère.

8 February: **Fieldwork on costumes and textiles** for second year MCAST students in Cultural Heritage Skills, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19, 26 February: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – MUŻA. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

12 March: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – MUŻA. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

29 April: **Workshop on basic stiches of Maltese lace** for third year MCAST students in Cultural Heritage Skills, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

30 April: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – Inquisitor's Palace. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

7 May: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – Inquisitor's Palace. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

14 May: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – Inquisitor's Palace. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

20 May: **Official launch of the CORALLO project** within the Interreg Italia-Malta Programme 2014-2020, in collaboration with ERA and the University of Malta, at the Ochre Hall, Ħaġar Qim Visitor Centre.

21 May: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – Inquisitor's Palace. Online session in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

6 June: **Open Day at Villa Frère**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frère.

13 June: **Open Day at Villa Frère** on the occasion of the 8th anniversary from the setting up of Friends of Villa Frère.

24 June: Official **inauguration of HM's Digitisation Unit**, through Norway Funds, in collaboration with the Funds and Programmes Division.

4 July: **Open evening at Villa Frère**, against a donation of €5 for adults, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frère.

28 September: Official launch of **University students' card** for HM museums, in collaboration with the University of Malta, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

28 September: Official launch of five heritage trails for the initiative **Smiles with Miles**, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, at St Paul's Catacombs.

1 October: **Guided tours at Ta' Ħaġrat for senior citizens**, followed by a talk on daily life in the Neolithic period, and the community's involvement in the excavation of the site, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days, in collaboration with the Mġarr Local Council and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

2 October: special opening at a reduced price of **St Augustine's and Abbatija tad-Dejr** Catacombs, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days, in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

2 October: **Pigment and Patterns: Artistic Creativity in Prehistory** – workshop for teenagers by local artist Victor Agius, at Ġgantija Temples, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days, in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

3 October: **Open day with guided tours at HM conservation laboratories** in Bighi, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days, in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

10 October: **Open day at Villa Frère gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frère.

7 November: **Open day at Villa Frère gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frère.

3 November: Official launch of the publication ***Conserving Art: a selection of good causes*** by the Good Causes Fund, in collaboration with the Ministry for Finance, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry, and the Ministry for National Heritage.

16 November: Official signing of the renewal of the **management agreement of Fort St Angelo** between HM and the Sovereign Military Order of St John, at Fort St Angelo.

24 November: **Onsite lecture on costumes** for second year MCAST students in Fashion, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

24 November: **Official launch of the Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra children's audio guide**, in collaboration with the Mqabba Primary School, at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra.

1 December: **Workshop on costumes and textiles** for first year MCAST students in Cultural Heritage Skills, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 December: **Romans and the Catacombs**, tour and activity at St Paul's Catacombs, in collaboration with the Visual-non-Visual Society.

5 December: **Open day at Villa Frère**, against a donation of €5 for adults, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

16 December: **Online activity on Grand Master Jean de Valette** for students at St Augustine's School, in collaboration with the Museum of the Order of St John in London.

20 December: **One-day online conference** on the 'Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage', organised by the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit in collaboration with UNESCO.

Events hosted by Heritage Malta

17 June: **Presentation of conservation warrants** by the Warrants Board, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

27-28 August: **Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival**, organised by the Arts Council Malta, at Fort St Elmo.

16 September: **Official launch of Luigi Maria Ugolini's multi-volume publication** on prehistoric Malta by Midsea Books, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

28 September: Official launch of the **National Cultural Policy** by the Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government, at the National Museum of Natural History.

13 October: Commemorative evening on the occasion of the **150th anniversary from the birth of Dun Karm Psaila**, organised by the Kumitat Festi Nazzjonali, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

15, 20 October: **University of Malta Museology course lectures** at Għar Dalam and Ħaġar Qim.

5 November: **University of Malta Museology course lectures** at the Domvs Romana.

18 November: **Earth Observation for Heritage Building Conservation and Sustainability**, seminar by the University of Malta, MCST and the National Space Fund, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

3, 6, 7 December: **STEM debate on science and mathematics** for primary and secondary schools, at MUŻA.

5 December: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

Official launch of Luigi Maria Ugolini's multi-volume publication

APPENDICES II - V

ACQUISITIONS

Appendix II

Purchase of Modern and Contemporary Artworks (Vote 5557)

Artist	Title of work	Price in €
Oliver Agius	*Harbour Scene*	€3,500
Debbie Caruana Dingli	*Crooks all around*	€3,000
	Rosa	€2,000
	The Garden Party	€4,000
Jesmond Vassallo	*'Lily' Susanna and the Elders*	€680
	Venus of Nantes	€680
	Rdum il-Qawwi	€500
	Eugenic landscape	€800
	Bodies I	€5,500
Emvin Cremona	*Virgin Mary*	€8,000
	Study for a skull	€2,000
	Stamp process drawing and bozzetto	€2,000
	Scene of Malta etching	€3,000
	Bozzetto Parish Church St Julians	€15,000
Kurt Arrigo	*Fastnet*	€1,492.70
	Free flow	€1,492.70
	Sea Horse	€1,492.70
	Take down	€1,492.70
	The Bond	€1,492.70
Frank Portelli	*Neptune, Mermaids and Marine Horses*	€6,000
Ġanni Bonnici	*Il-Ġerrej – The Jockey*	€30,000
John Grima	*Beyond Space 10*	€5,300
	Crucifix	€2,360

Appendix III

Acquisition of Natural History Specimens

This was another very fruitful year, with several donations presented to the museum, as follows:

In May, Ms Maria Spiteri of Xemxija donated a lot of marine specimens, mainly sea urchins and mollusca (still to be identified and catalogued), while the following month Ms Joanne Portelli of Qawra donated four large glass-topped boxes containing her collection of butterflies and moths, as well as several books and her collecting and setting equipment.

Part of the late Carmelo Briffa (Sliema) collection was donated to the museum in August; other specimens were donated to the Argotti Botanical Gardens and the University Biology Museum. The collection was donated by Mr Briffa's daughters through Mr Stephen Mifsud (botanist). Specimens still have to be examined and catalogued.

A large collection of books and personal notes on various topics (cultural, political, natural, etc.) from the late Paul Cilia library (Tal-Virtù) was presented by his family in September, followed by a collection of journals by the Royal Geological Society donated by Dr Hans Freidrich of Gozo. A kangaroo-hide purse and one large paper wasp nest were donated by Ms Carmen Tanti of St Julian's in September and October respectively.

Mr Aldo Catania of Żebbuġ donated a 'lot' of the endemic land snail Lampedusa lopadusae from the island of Lampedusa in October, and Prof. Louis F. Cassar of Naxxar donated an old bird spring-trap of the type used in northern Italy in the same month.

A framed 'First Print' of an original painting on Maltese Quaternary Fauna by American Artist Bob Nichols, commissioned by Mr Michael Gatt of Rabat and presented to the museum by the latter in November, followed by two books on herbs and herbal remedies by Ms Annamaria Gatt of Rabat. The same month also saw the donation of two fossil shark teeth, one tooth of an Isurus hastalis and one belonging to a Charcarocles megalodon by Mr Constantine Mifsud of Rabat, and a collection of fossils, rocks and minerals (still to be identified) by Mr Tony Meli.

Moreover, the following donations were also added to the collections:

Mr Paul Sammut of Rabat Malta, forty-five pinned and mounted insects in January.

Gastopacha quercifolia	8	Rhinoceros Beetle	3
Lasiocampa trifolii	4	Various beetles/wasps	9
Gryllus bimaculatus	1	Gastopacha quercifolia	1
Cicada barbara	1	Lasiocampa trifolii	4
Lasiocampa quercus	1	Spodoptera littoralis	2
Diloba caeruleochephala	6	Agrochola lycnidis	3
Agrotis lychnidis	1	Xestia xanthographa	1

Mr Thomas Cassar of Żebbuġ, Malta donated twelve specimens (reptiles, mammal and fish) preserved in jars in January.

Telescopus fallax	1	Suncus etruscus	1
Synodius saurus	1	fish sp.	1
Suncus etruscus	1	Podarcis filfolensis maltensis	1
Zamenis situla	1	Zamenis situla	1
Xyrichtys rovacula	1	Zamenis situla	1
Hemidactylus turcicus	1	Podarcis filfolensis maltensis	1

Mr Joseph Gatt donated twenty-six stuffed and mounted birds in January.

Pernis apivorus	6	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	1
Falco tinnunculus	1	Cuculus canorus	2
Asio flammaeus	1	Fieldfare	1
Scolopax rusticola	1	Songthrush/Mistle	1
Gallinago gallinago	1	Charadrius dubius	1
Podiceps nigricollis	1	Fulica atra	1
Upupa epops	1	Apus melba	1
Chroicocephalus genei	1	Anas platyrhynchos	1
Sterna snadvicensis	1	Anas querquedula	2
Caprimulgus eauropaeus	1		

Ms Mary Attard of Attard donated eleven stuffed and mounted birds and one stuffed shark in January.

Ardea purpurea	1	Limosa limosa	1
Scolopax rusticola	1	Oriolus oriolus	2
Philomachus pugnax	2	Vanellus vanellus	1
Sturnus vulgaris	1	Testudo graeca	1
Merops apiaster	1	"dogfish" sp?	1

Mr Paul Sammut's second donation of prepared entomological specimens in February.

Hyles livornica	10
Coclimorpha decolorella	1
Evergestis isatidalis	1

Mr Julian Pace of San Ġwann donated fifty-nine stuffed and mounted birds in March.

Coturnix coturnix	1	Falco tinnunculus	3
Anas crecca	1	Falco subbuteo	2
Anas platyrhynchos	1	Pluvialis apricaria	1
Tadorna tadorna	1	Vanellus vanellus	1
Alopochen aegyptiaca	1	Philomachus pugnax	2
Podiceps nigricollis	2	Scolopax rusticola	1
Botaurus stellaris	2	Gallinago gallinago	1
Ixobrychus minutus	1	Croicocephalus ridibundus	1
Ardea purpurea	1	Chlidonias hybrida	1
Ardea cinereal	1	Asio flammaeus	2
Nycticorax nyctricorax	1	Caprimulgus europaeus	1
Phalacrocorax carbo	1	Cuculus canorus	2
Phoenicopterus roseus	1	Clamator glandarius	1
Platalea leucorodia	1	Upupa epops	1
Grus grus	1	Alcedo atthis	1
Fulica atra	1	Merops apiaster	3
Gallinula chloropus	1	Apus melba	1
Circus pygargus	1	Motacilla alba	1
Circus aeruginosus	2	Turdus iliacus	1
Circus macrourus	1	Turdus pilaris	1

Pernis apivorus	1	Turdus philomelos	1
Accipiter nisus	1	Monticola saxatilis	1
Turdus viscivorus	1	Oriolus oriolus	1
Turdus merula	1	Sturnus vulgaris	1

Third entomological donation by Mr Paul Sammut of Rabat in April consisted of the following insects:

Gastopacha quercifolia	10
Epirrhoe alternata	4
Eucosma cana	1
Crocidosema plebejana	2
Aethis deaturana	1
Cacoecimorpha pronuba	1
Cornifrons ulceropalis	3
Nomophila noctuella	2

A further two entomological donations (4th and 5th) by Mr Paul Sammut of Rabat were presented in May:

Lot A		Lot B	
Noctua pronuba	3	Noctua pronuba	6
Abrostola triplasia	2	Aethis deaurana	2
Cnephasia gueneana	1	Crocidosema plebejana	1
Crocidosema plebejana	1	Eucosma cana	3
Ochropleura leucogaster	4	Lamoria anella	1
Hoplodrina ambuiga	2	Epirrhoe alternata	1
Tyta loctuosa	1	Abrostola triplasia	1
Cornifrons ulceropalis	1	Hoplodrina ambuiga	2
Thysanoplusia orichaloea	1	Mythimna sicula	9
Mythimna sicula	6		
Anarta trifolii	1		
Trichoplusia orichaloea	2		

Another collection of set entomological specimens by Mr Paul Sammut (6th donation in 2021) in June:

Gastopacha quercifolia	6
Agroti ipsilon	1
Thysanoplusia orichaloea	1
Abrostola triplasia	1
Tyta loctuosa	1
Beetles var sp.	14
Unid species	1

Mr George Farrugia's bird collection, totalling forty-three specimens, was presented by his daughter Mrs J. Camilleri in August.

Calonectris diomedea	1	Falco subbuteo	1
Puffinus yelkouan	1	Falco tinnunculus	2
Aythya nyroca	1	Falco naumanni	1
Anas platyrhynchos	1	Porzana parva	1
Anas clypeata	1	Galliunula chloropus	1
Anas querquedula	2	Fulica atra	1
Anas crecca	2	Himantopus himantopus	1
Tadorna tadorna	1	Recurvirostra avosetta	1
Aix galericulata	1	Numenius arquata	1
Anas acuta	1	Limosa limosa	1
Anas penelope	1	Philomachus pugnax	2
Mergus serrator	1	Calidris canutus	1
Podiceps cristatus	1	Tringa ochropus	1
Podiceps nigricollis	3	Tringa glareola	2
Phalacrocorax carbo	1	Actitis hypolaucos	1
Ardeola ralloides	2	Pluvialis apricaria	2
Ixobrychus minutus	1	Pluvialis squatarola	2
Egretta garzetta	1	Charadrius morinellus	1
Plegadis falcinellus	1	Charadrius dubius	1
Nycticorax nycticorax	1	Charadrius hiaticula	1
Pandion haliaetus	1	Arenaria interpres	2
Circus aeruginosus	2	Calidris ferruginea	3
Pernis apivorus	1	Tringa totanus	1

Falco vespertinus	3	Tringa erythropus	1
Vanellus vanellus	1	Otus scops	1
Lymnocryptes minimus	1	Caprimulgus earupaeus	1
Gallinago gallinago	1	Apus melba	1
Scolopax rusticola	1	Alcedo atthis	2
Haematopus ostralegus	1	Merops apiaster	2
Burhinus oedicnemus	2	Coracias garrulus	2
Chroicocephalus genei	1	Upupa epops	1
Larus melanocephalus	1	Jynx toquilla	1
Hydrocoloeus minutus	1	Anthus campestris	1
Larus michahellis	1	Turdus philomelos	2
Larus fuscus	1	Turdus iliacus	1
Hydroprogne caspia	1	Turdus pilaris	1
Sterna snadvicensis	1	Monticola solitarius	1
Chlidonias niger	2	Monticola saxatilis	1
Streptopelia turtur	1	Oriolus oriolus	2
Cuculus canorus	2	Lanius senator	1
Asio otus	1	Sturnus vulgaris	2
Asio flammaeus	1		

Mrs Marika Caruana of Dingli donated three stuffed and mounted birds from her late father's collection in August.

Grus grus	1
Larus michahellis	1
Nycticorax nycticorax	1

Another collection of fifty-six stuffed and mounted birds donated by the family of Mr George Agius of Naxxar in October.

Anas penelope	2	Ardea purpurea	2
Anas crecca	2	Ardea cinerea	1
Anas acuta	1	Egretta garzetta	1
Anas clypeata	1	Ardeola ralloides	1
Tadorna tadorna	1	Nycticorax nycticorax	1
Coturnix coturnix	1	Pernis apivorus	4
Podiceps nigricollis	1	Circus aeruginosus	1

Calonectris diomedea	1	Falco tinnunculus	2
Falco naumanni	1	Apus melba	2
Gallinula chloropus	1	Columba livia (domestic)	1
Vanellus vanellus	1	Streptopelia turtur (albino)	1
Pluvialis apricaria	1	Corachias garrulus	1
Charadrius morinellus	1	Cuculus canorus	2
Philomachus pugnax	1	Turdus merula	4
Tringa ochropus	1	Turdus pilaris	1
Gallinago gallinago	1	Monticola solitarius	1
Scolopax rusticola	2	Monticola saxatilis	1
Chroicocephalus ridibundus	1	Sturnus vulgaris	1
Chlidonias leucopterus	1	Oriolus oriolus	1
Asio flammaeus	1	Carduelis chloris	1
Otus scops	1	Emberiza hortulana	1
Caprimulgus earopaeus	1		

The Senior Curator donated three samples of volcanic ash collected in Malta following eruptions by Mt Etna in 2002 in November.

Volcanic Ash from the 30.10.2002 Etna Eruption collected from Mdina
Volcanic Ash from the 27.10.2002 Etna Eruption collected from Rabat
Volcanic Ash from the 27.10.2002 Etna Eruption collected from Mdina

Mr Paul Sammut's 7th donation, apart from moths and beetles, included two dead reptiles for the wet collection in November.

Tysanoplusia orichalcea	28	Leucania loreyi	1
Hyles livornica	1	Maradana vidualis	5
Gastopacha quercifolia	2	Assorted`	8
Pleoropyta ruralis	1	Hyles livornica	3
Pseudozarba bipartita	1	Gastopacha quercifolia	1
Agrotis lata	2	Tarnetula mauretanica	1
Nyctobria seguna	1	Hierophys viridiflavus	1
Mythimna unipuncta	1		

Appendix IV

Purchase of items for the Gozo Museum (Line Vote 5824)

Object Type	Object ID	Title	Author	Date	Supplier	Price in € (excl. taxes/ shipping)
Textile	79713	A rare black lace shawl in Gozo lace	n/a	mid-19th c.	Joseph Mario Vella, Victoria	700.00
Rare pamphlet	79715	Conferenza li ghamel fis-sa-la ta l'Esibizio-ni Agricolo-Industriali ta Ghaudex	Prof. D. Angelo Candèo	1904	Prof. William Zammit, Żabbar	125.00
Engraved plate	79785	Engraved metal plate representing Maltese prehistory	Julian Trevelyan (1910-1988)	1970	Prof. Richard England, St Julian's	5,500.00
Watercolour painting	79844	Trevelyan with dog	Mary Fedden (1915-2012)	1988	Lyon & Turnbull, London	3,800 GBP
Manuscript	79786	1921-22 Wine sales register	Belonged to a wine merchant from Victoria, Gozo	1921-22	Anthony Zarb Dimech, St Julian's	200.00
Watercolour painting	79901	View of Rabbato, Gozo	Edward Lear (1812-1888)	1866	Christie's, London	13,000 GBP
Print	79902	Plans des Isles de Malte, du Cuming et du Goze	Jean Houel (1735-1813)	1782	eBay	1,400.00

Rare book	79903	La Sicilia in Prospettiva, Parte Seconda	Giovanni Andrea Massa?	1709	Amazon.it	1,650.50
Rare pamphlet	79908	Bizzilli li jinhadmu f'Ghaudex u f'Malta	Dun Ġużepp Diacono (1847-1924)	1920	Prof. William Zammit, Żabbar	350.00
Gazette	79906	Lehen Ghawdex	The Gozo Party Gazette	1947	Belgravia Auction Gallery, St Julian's	70.00
Print	79907	View of the Mushroom Shelf or Rock	James (?) Merigot (1760-1824)	1804	Vassallo Auctioneers	240.00
Print	79909	The Giants Tower	Attr. to James (?) Merigot (1760-1824)	1804	Vassallo Auctioneers	240.00
Rare book	79910	Della Descrittione di Malta	Giovanni Francesco Abela (1582-1655)	1647	Bado e Mart, Padova	7,000.00

View of Rabbato, Gozo by Edward Lear

Appendix V

Acquisition of Cultural Heritage Items

I. Purchases

Seller	Object No.	Description	Price €	Collection
R & J Gingell Littlejohn Auctioneers	79698	18th-century Maltese hall coffer	1,377	Gozo Ethnography
Obelisk Auctions	79747-48	Early 18th-century wooden cabinet with late 19th-/early 20th-century wooden support	5,000	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Jason Galea	79749-50	Two framed mirrors	120	Gozo Ethnography
Prof. William Zammit	79753	Temi Minori Maltesi (1946) publication by Sir Arturo Mercieca	80	Gozo Ethnography
Prof. William Zammit	79752	Taghlim fuk il hajja (1901) publication by Temi Zammit	90	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Josef Debattista	79754-55	Two small wicker baskets	50	Gozo Ethnography
Charles Borg Antique Shop	79758	Early 20th-century traditional lace Pillow	7	Gozo Ethnography
Belgravia Auction Gallery	79787	19th-century small wooden chest on bun feet	127	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Raymond Caruana	79911	Antique leather sieve used to sift wheat	50	Gozo Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72679	19th-century gold embroidered silk purificator and chalice veil	250	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72893	18th-century portrait of Holy Office Consultor Don Iosef Mattheus Azzopardi Barbara	5,400	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72872	18th-century portrait of Holy Office consultor Don Antonius Azzopardi Barbara	5,117	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72894	19th-century black silk skirt	160	Ethnography

Vassallo Auctioneers	72895	18th-century red gentleman's waistcoat	210	Ethnography
Mr Dylan Cachia	72726	Collection of eleven books	20	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72896	18th-century bodice and skirt	190	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72897	18th-century damask child's bodice	210	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72898	18th-century Maltese long case clock	2,542	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72901	Three 19th-century metal pots with stand	250	Ethnography
Vassallo Auctioneers	72899	Document - 1785 Inquisitorial edict	400	Ethnography
Mr Johan Calamatta	72903, 72904	Nine bars of Key soap and one bar of Tiger soap	30	Ethnography
Ms Gabrielle De Trafford	72930	Maltese Ecru table cloth	100	Ethnography
Charles Miller LTD	66459	Ship's badge HMS Magpie	£450	Villa Guardamangia
eBay - Papergoy	66604	The Illustrated London News, 17 December 1949	47	Villa Guardamangia
Vassallo Auctions	66618	Delia 1950s Tudor style furniture (set of four chairs)	858	Villa Guardamangia
eBay, Germany		Queen Elizabeth painting	800	Villa Guardamangia
Sotheby	66575	17th-century painting - *Still life with a Boar* by 'Il Maltese'	131,200	MUŻA
Mr G Bonnici	66621	*Harbour Scene*, painting by Oliver Friggieri	3,500	MUŻA
Ms Debbie Caruana Dingli	66622-27	Six oil paintings by Debbie Caruana Dingli	9,000	MUŻA
Belgravia Auction Gallery	79788	*Holy Family with St Joachim and St Anne*, oil painting, 18th- century Maltese school	1006	Gozo Ethnography
Stamperia Stampe Antiche	79905	*Vue du Chateau et du Faubourg*, 1834 print of the Citadel	28	Gozo Museum

Mr Albert Petrocochino	66743, 66578	Maltese 18th-century Rococo style table and oil on canvas portrait painting of the Knight Fra Fabrizio Ruffo di Bagnara	24,000	Grand Master's Palace
The Empire Co. Ltd	96258	Gilt bronze candelabra	9,882	Grand Master's Palace
Obelisk Auctions	96259	Carteglorie Romane, silver, 1692-1773	4,070	Grand Master's Palace
R. Alecio	96260	Glass tumbler with gilt rim and gilt crest of GM De Rohan	875	Grand Master's Palace
Pandolfini Casa d'Aste	96262	Pair of Venetian blackamoor figures	10,000	Grand Master's Palace
Rev. J. Calleja	66620	16th-century bronze mortar	6,500	Palace Armoury
DuMouchelles Auctions	96261	17th-/18th-century Maltese school oil on canvas	6,645	Grand Master's Palace
Ms Joanna Oswin	67022	Inlaid marble table with Malta Independence coat of arms, formerly of Sir Maurice Dorman	8,000	Grand Master's Palace
Dott. Ori Saitta Collection, Messina	96247-57	Collection of eleven early modern firearms	50,000	Palace Armoury
Pandolfini Aste	66576-7	Two paintings of view of Marsamxett and *Il Possesso of the fleet* by Grand Master Pinto 1741	200,000	Malta Maritime Museum
E. Vella	66633	19th-century coffer portraying Senglea Point	800	Malta Maritime Museum
J. Saliba	66634-66640	Two portraits, two swords, one portolan, one hand fan, one stiletto	8,500	Malta Maritime Museum
Vassallo Auctions	66619	19th-century watercolour	368	Fort St Elmo
Prof. William Zammit	n/a	Photograph of excavations at Tas-Silġ	50	National Museum of Archaeology

Purchases by Government Entities

Artist	Object No.	Description	Price in €	Location
V. Agius	50270-73	Three paintings and a sculpture	3800	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Mr Ġanni Pace	66641 -43	Unity sculpture, Motherhood sculpture, and Fantasy Dream sculpture	5750	Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government
Ms Joyce Camilleri	66647	Abiit, mixed media	975	MFER
Mr Anthony Patrick Vella	66744, 66745	Quadriptych and triptych deep edge canvas paintings	3,297	OPM
Ms Maria Galea	66979-86	Eight paintings, mixed media	3,420	Ministry for Education
Ms Josephine Casha	55135, 54943, 54944	*Madonna at all times*, *Before her wedding*, and *Abortion*, paintings	2,950	Ministry for Justice

Inlaid marble table with Malta Independence coat of arms, formerly of Sir Maurice Dorman

II. Donations

Donor	Object No.	Object description	Collection
Mr Muscat and Ms Cumbo	72573	Nine white and cream coloured handkerchiefs	Ethnography
Ms Marthese Cassar and Mr Brian Muscat	72583	Sezzjoni Żgħażagħ Palmisti Sannat face masks	Ethnography
Mr Anthony Spagnol	72584	Għaqda tal-Armar 25 ta' Novembru Żejtun face mask	Ethnography
Mr Anthony Spagnol	72585	Parroċċa Żejtun face mask	Ethnography
Mr Jean Grima	72586	Labonski Carnival Company face mask	Ethnography
Mr Saviour Borg	72587	Fontana face mask	Ethnography
Dr Joanna Spiteri	72477	Broadcasting Authority face mask	Ethnography
Ms Stephanie Cassar	72619	Energy and Water Agency face mask	Ethnography
Mr Paul Mamo	72620	Face mask with the Reġjun Tramuntana logo	Ethnography
Mr Dennis Buttigieg	72621	Two face masks with Saving our Blue logo	Ethnography
Mr Dennis Buttigieg	72622	Four face masks with Planning Authority logo	Ethnography
Ms Claudette Fenech	72623	Two Paradise Bay Hotel face masks	Ethnography
Mr Anthony Cesare	72624	Two Social Justice Ministry face masks	Ethnography
Mr Dennis Buttigieg	72625	Two face masks with the environment ministry emblem	Ethnography
Mr John J. Borg	72626	Face mask with Birdlife Malta logo	Ethnography
Mr Julian Tabone	72630	Two face masks with MFED logo and Two face masks with the MEDE logo	Ethnography
Mr Julian Tabone	72631	Two face masks with the logo of the National Literacy Agency	Ethnography
Mr Julian Tabone	72632	Four face masks with the text 'time to move' of Aġenzija Żgħażagħ	Ethnography
Mr Julian Tabone	72633	Two facemasks with the UM logo	Ethnography
Mr Julian Tabone	72634	Four facemasks with the text ELT	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72641	Face mask with the logo '75 Years Vassallo Group'	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72642	Face masks with the logo 'Vassallo Joiners since 1974'	Ethnography

Mr Pio Vassallo	72643	Face masks with the logo 'Vassallo Steel since 1974'	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72644	Face masks with the logo and text 'Learning Works Committed to Excellence'	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72645	Face masks with the logo Vassallo Group Realty	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72647	T-shirt with the logo of the Arkati Foundation	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72648	Shopping bag with the logo Vassallo Group since 1946	Ethnography
Mr Ivan Delia	72646	Face mask with the emblem De Paule Band Club	Ethnography
Ms Anna Brincat	72649	Face mask with Maltese lace Maltese cross motif	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72636, 72613, 72609	One visor and face mask, two ceramic coasters and one luzzu frame	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72659	Business card of Aġenzija Sapport	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72660	Highlighter Tabs with the Aġenzija Sapport logo	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72661	Four biros with Agenzija Sapport logo	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72662	Highlighter with Agenzija Sapport logo	Ethnography
Ms Ruth Rose Sciberras	72663	Pencil with Aġenzija Sapport logo	Ethnography
Mr Angelo Xuereb	72635	Face mask with AX Group logo	Ethnography
Fr Martin Micallef	72627	Ten face masks, two with Dar tal-Providenza logo	Ethnography
Ms Rita Vella Oldham	72628, 72629	1950s pair of toddler shoes, and a round children's bag	Ethnography
Mr Mario Fenech	72637, 72638	Two face masks with Sliema local council logo and Sliema Wanderers logo	Ethnography
Mr Stephen Buhagiar	72639	Face mask with the coronation crown of the Sacro Cuor	Ethnography
Mr Anthony Ellul	72650	Face mask with Café Cuba logo	Ethnography

Ms J. Galea	72651, 72652	Eight adult face masks and eight children's face masks with MICAS logo	Ethnography
Mr Jonathan Elsworth	72653	Face mask with Birgu Local Council logo	Ethnography
Ms Mary Galea	72654	Face mask with the Maltese flag and text 'support Malta front liners'	Ethnography
Mr Nathan Buttigieg	72655	Face mask with the emblem Soċjetà Mużikali La Stella Levantina - Banda Santa Marija	Ethnography
Dr Frank Farrugia	72656	Face mask with Maltese flag and text 'I Malta' and 'Dar Bjorn'	Ethnography
Rev. Prior Aaron Zahra	72657	Two face masks with the logo 800 San Duminku 1221 il-Birgu 2021	Ethnography
Mr Frans A. Attard	72658	Green and white striped cotton face mask	Ethnography
Ms Annamaria Gatt	72688-72690	Embroidery original designs (letters, ribbon designs)	Ethnography
Ms Annamaria Gatt	72691	Design of embroidery for a blouse (designer unknown)	Ethnography
Mr K. Scerri	72692	Blue biro with the text and logo of 'The Maltese Emergency nurses'	Ethnography
Ms Vanessa Ciantar	72693	Three postal cards (Madonna, Angel and Jesus Christ)	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72694	Reusable glass with Vassallo group logo	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72695	Black pen with Vassallo group logo	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72696	Black pencil with Vassallo group logo	Ethnography
Mr Pio Vassallo	72697	Envelope and two blank office papers with Vassallo group logo	Ethnography
Ms Josette Ellul	72664	Face mask of the AUM	Ethnography
Mr Mario Coleiro	72665	Face mask with logo of WeMedia	Ethnography
Mr Mario Coleiro	72667	Three face masks with Kumitat Festi Esterni Sta Venera, PX and RHO words	Ethnography
Kap. Kan. Simon M. Cachia	72668	Face mask with Fontana Parish logo	Ethnography
Mr Dennis Buttigieg	72669	Two face masks with ClimateOn logo	Ethnography
Ms A. Farrugia	50266	Book Curci, Santi Evangeli	Ethnography
Ms Rita Sammut	72666	19th-century bathtub	Ethnography

Mr Mario Coleiro	72698	Travelling case with A.T. printed on it	Ethnography
Mr J. Baldacchino	72674	Two face masks with the 'National Archives of Malta' logo	Ethnography
Ms Anna Farrugia	72673	Light blue Aida 14 count with white Maltese cross stitch	Ethnography
Ms Nicola Montesin	72675	Bride face mask	Ethnography
Ms Marica Mifsud	72676	Face mask with Attard Local Council logo	Ethnography
Mr John Sant	72685	Wooden egg incubator	Ethnography
Mr John Sant	72686	1958 teaching implement	Ethnography
Ms Maryrose Cachia	72672	Black silk ġhonnella	Ethnography
Mr Michael Gatt	72677	Pair of black and white woollen gloves and a red woollen scarf with Valletta18 logo	Ethnography
Ms Alison Bone	72678	Face mask with Valletta Cultural Agency logo	Ethnography
Mr Hugo Agius Muscat & Ms L. Cumbo	72680	Seven medals, fifteen badges, eight pins and three tie clips	Ethnography
Mr Paul Mamo	72640	Face mask with Dingli Local Council emblem	Ethnography
Ms Antoinette Grixti	72671	Face mask from old communion dress	Ethnography
Ms Jessica Galea	72682	Two sets of three facemasks 5-8 years	Ethnography
Ms Jessica Galea	72683	Two sets of three facemasks 9-12 years	Ethnography
Ms Jessica Galea	72684	Two sets of three facemasks 13-16 years	Ethnography
Mr Sean Borg	72670	Black face mask and sash for no seating with Manuel Theatre emblem	Ethnography
Mr Mario Fenech	72700	Face mask with Calypso Radio logo	Ethnography
Mr Mario Fenech	72701	Face mask with Soċjetà Filarmonika Sliema logo	Ethnography
Unknown	72722	Set of four dogtags from the 1920s	Ethnography
Unknown	72723	Tram driver badge from 1906	Ethnography
Ms Maria Debattista	72724-25	164 Maltese lace bobbins and three lace patterns	Ethnography
Ms Carmen Ogilvie-Galea	72702	Two sets of two face masks with the Ministeru ġhal Ġhawdex logo	Ethnography

Ms Carmen Ogilvie-Galea	72703	Two face masks with Gozo stay safe logo	Ethnography
Ms Carmen Ogilvie-Galea	72704	Two face masks with Gozo Channel logo	Ethnography
Mr H. A. Muscat and L. Cumbo	72705	Framed D.O.M	Ethnography
Mr H. A. Muscat and L. Cumbo	72706	Seven Maltese learning books	Ethnography
Mr Patrick Micallef	72720	Plumber tools made of metal	Ethnography
Mr Patrick Micallef	72721	Plumber tools made of wood	Ethnography
Ms Josette Sacco	72681	Twelve post war ladies' hats (1940s-50s)	Ethnography
Mr Tonio Cauchi	72729	Blue tie with Maltese crosses part of Museums Department uniform	Ethnography
Mr Tonio Cauchi	72730	Museum Department identification tag	Ethnography
Mr Tonio Cauchi	72718	Maroon tie with HM logo	Ethnography
Mr Tonio Cauchi	72719	Maroon V-neck sweater with HM logo	Ethnography
Ms Jessica Galea	72749	Calico cotton bag with MICAS logo	Ethnography
Unknown	72751	Picture frame with embroidered 'verbum dei caro factum est et Iesus vocatum est'	Ethnography
Mr N. Fabri	72752	Face mask with Banielo Castriota coat of arms	Ethnography
Unknown	72753	Clutch bag with floral beading	Ethnography
Ms Filomena Navarro	72754	Face mask with Zammit butcher's logo	Ethnography
Ms Filomena Navarro	72755	Souvenir scarf of the British Royal wedding 1981	Ethnography
Mr John J. Borg	72756	Six coasters with Maltese lace motifs	Ethnography
Unknown	72757	Two scapulars with felt and printed silk of Our Lady of Mt Carmel	Ethnography
Mr M. Said	72759	Two blue ties with red and white stripes and white Maltese crosses (part of Museum Department uniform)	Ethnography
Mr M. Said	72760	Three grey trousers, Heritage Malta's uniform clubclass corporate clothing brand	Ethnography
Mr M. Said	72761	Three grey trousers, HM's uniform clubclass corporate clothing brand	Ethnography

Mr M. Said	72762	Two grey trousers, HM uniform, Lavetto and D. Braco brand	Ethnography
Ms D. Vella	72758	Twenty-one different sized jewellery boxes	Ethnography
Ms Cynthia Psaila	72707-17, 72847-64, 72867	A collection of 74 items including doilies, clothes and a book	Ethnography
Mr Albert Marshall	72763-72767	Four face masks, two calico bags, two coasters, water bottle and a cup	Ethnography
Ms S. Cachia	72768	Malta weave cloth (tan-newl)	Ethnography
Mr Stefan Gauci	72866	Black silk għonnella	Ethnography
Mr I. Ellul and Ms R.A. Ellul	72868	Boy's Junior Lyceum uniform	Ethnography
Mr I. Ellul and Ms R.A. Ellul	72869	Girl's Junior Lyceum uniform	Ethnography
Ms R. Agius	72870	Face mask with Maltese Lace motifs	Ethnography
Mr D. Cachia	72900	Bronze coin	Ethnography
Rev. Can. Louis Suban	72731	1890s Victorian petticoat and nightdress	Ethnography
Ms Annamaria Gatt	72876	Two facemasks with Airbaltic logo	Ethnography
Ms Carmen Tanti	72733	Two skirts, one trouser, two shirts with HM embroidery, and one blazer	Ethnography
Ms Josette Ellul	72734	Holy Communion boy's satin sash	Ethnography
Ms Joanne Grech Bianco	72735	V-neck female sweater with HM logo	Ethnography
Unknown	72739, 72740	One small cross stitch and one embroidered sampler	Ethnography
Ms Moira Portelli	72741	Two muslin cotton tea cosy	Ethnography
Ms Rita Grech	72738	Two synthetic leather bags	Ethnography
Ms Rita Grech	72737	Floriana Primary School uniform	Ethnography
Ms Moira Portelli	72902	Ceramic new slipper bed pan	Ethnography
Mr John J. Borg	72742	Two ties (Museum Department uniform)	Ethnography
Mr Ninu Borg	72532	Black wedding dress, fabrics for għonnella and calico fabric	Ethnography
Mr Mario Coleiro	72744	Three white three quarter surplices (spellizzi) - ecclesiastical vestment	Ethnography
Ms Josette Ellul	72748	Red HM scarf with logo	Ethnography
Ms Tania Apap	72743	One table cloth and five handkerchiefs	Ethnography
Ms Annamaria Gatt	72926	1960s double bed blanket	Ethnography

Unknown	72928	Sports scarf	Ethnography
Ms Annamaria Gatt	72927	Two hand knit lacy tops, cotton thread and book	Ethnography
Ms J. Sacco	72875	Facemask with pearl beads	Ethnography
Dr. J. Borg	72747	Thirty-five different coloured ties	Ethnography
Arc. Michael Curmi	72736	Facemask with elastics	Ethnography
Ms Josette Ellul	72865	Marching band cap	Ethnography
Ms Miriam De Raffaele and Ms L. Agius Dimech	72745, 72871	Seven nightdresses and two petticoats	Ethnography
Ms Sara Bianchi	72750	Face mask with the Academy of Dance Arts logo	Ethnography
Ms Maria Mizzi	72874	Face mask with Maltese lace motif	Ethnography
Jerosolimitan Nuns	72877	White cotton underskirt	Ethnography
Ms Anita Aquilina	72906	1940s/50s gynaecologist examination chair	Ethnography
Ms Anne Borg	72909, 73021	Gerada printing block and Gerada's embossing stamp	Ethnography
Ms Geraldine Rizzo	72910	Sickle	Ethnography
Ms Rita Sammut	72746, 72878-85, 72787, 72917-29	Thirty-five items of clothing	Ethnography
Ms Anne Borg	73022-27, 73029-33	Collection of twenty-seven mathematical and drawing tools	Ethnography
Ms Anne Borg	72937-73020	A complete collection of embroidery and Maltese lace design by Carmel Gerada	Ethnography
Ms Antida Sharma	72907	Photo of Mr Saviour Bonnici who drowned and died in c. 1920s	Ethnography
Ms Antida Sharma	72908	Ration book	Ethnography
Ms Rita Sammut	72911-13	1880s spectacles, cello tape with branded address, and a 1960s net shopping bag	Ethnography
Mr Carl Cremona	73034	Torn belonging to Frans Cremona also known as 'Ċikku il-lamaċċa'	Ethnography
Ms Gabrielle De Trafford	72931-35	Tie and a tunic, ecru table cloth, ecru lace doily, and four handkerchiefs	Ethnography

Unknown	72727-28	Kerosene stove spiritiera and ten enamel plates	Ethnography
Ms Sandra Mizzi	79696	*Il Mare di Malta*, 1980 publication by Anton Buttigieg	Gozo Ethnography
Mr John Sant	72687	Foundry bellows	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Miralda Portelli	79697	Silicone baby navel belt	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Simon Ellul Sullivan	79716	Gayliton coin	Gozo Archaeology
Mr Kurt Cassar	79717, 79719-27	Lot of ten mostly religious 19th- / early 20th-century books	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Phyllis Debono	79718, 79728-46	Lot of thirty-one items including ceramic kitchenware and other plastic items	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Anthony Spiteri	79751	Antique mercantile/factory scales in solid iron	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Tonya Lehtinen	79759-78	Lot of twenty textile items including infant clothes	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Antonia Sammut	79779-84	Nine items including ceramic pots, bobbin winder, spindle and grain measure	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Mary Mercieca	79839	Our Lady of Mount Carmel with Souls in Purgatory, print	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Mary Mercieca	79840	Our Lady with saints and angels, print	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Mary Mercieca	79841	Holy Confirmation certificate of Rosa Mercieca	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Mary Mercieca	79842	Certification of Merit for charity work related to the Holy Land by a Franciscan Order	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Joseph Galea	79884-92	Lot of ten ceramic wares	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Joseph Galea	79893-95	Lot of enamel ware consisting of washing set, basin and soap dish	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Joseph Galea	79896-900	Lot of five enamel ware, soap dish, bucket lid	Gozo Ethnography
Ms Lisa Bowker	79912	Wooden showcase with glass panels	Gozo Ethnography

Ms Lisa Bowker	79913	Traditional wooden 'lavaman' with marble top, mirror and tile splashback	Gozo Ethnography
Mr Mario Coleiro	66456	Two side plates showing Queen Elizabeth II	Villa Guardamangia
Mr Mario Coleiro	66457	Silver Jubilee commemorative plate dated 1935	Villa Guardamangia
Mr Mario Coleiro	66461	Glass tray commemorating the coronation of King George VI	Villa Guardamangia
Retrieved from Villa Guardamangia	66497	Ceramic tray with floral design	Villa Guardamangia
Retrieved from Villa Guardamangia	66498	Small enamel potty	Villa Guardamangia
Retrieved from Villa Guardamangia	66499	Three oval dishes marked 'J. P. Schembri'	Villa Guardamangia
Fr Geoffrey G. Attard	66605-17	Thirteen magazines related to the Royal family	Villa Guardamangia
Fr Geoffrey G. Attard	66730	Set of eight mugs related to the Royal Family	Villa Guardamangia
Mr Michael Bugelli	55028	Malta post commemorative envelope and stamp	Fort St Angelo
Mr Michael Bugelli	55029	Set of nine different old stamps of Malta, some featuring Fort St Angelo, 1930s–1950s	Fort St Angelo
Ms M. T. Borg	55035	Photographic album Malta c.1918	Malta Maritime Museum
Mr Herbert and Carmen Azzopardi	67056	Wooden model of a gig	Malta Maritime Museum
Mr Herbert and Carmen Azzopardi	67957	Wooden model of a dgħajsa tal-pass	Malta Maritime Museum
Ms A. Farrugia	50267	Publication *La Guerra fra la Russia e il Giappone*	National War Museum
Ms A. Farrugia	50268	Book *Il Guerra tad-Dinja*, 4 volumes by A. Aquilina	National War Museum
Ms M. Borg	81609	German POW made stone jewellery box	National War Museum
Mr C. Cassar	66559	Extendible military bed	National War Museum
Capt. G. J. Cassar	66560	WWII artefacts made by Dr Carmelo Cassar (Bru)	National War Museum

Mr Chris Mercieca	66523	Original letter referring to Gaetano Mannarino	National War Museum
Mr G. Sammut	66567-74, 72888-92	Stretcher, weighing scale, ceramic jar, three helmets, two water bottles, stone deffun, two cana, two mallets	National War Museum/Gozo Ethnography
Mr A. Phillips obo Mr L. Philips	66644-45	Times of Malta newspaper and a set of four photographs	National War Museum
Ms L. Grech Mahoney	96277-78	Two tin statues representing Grand Masters De Valette and L'Isle Adam	Palace Armoury
Mr N. Baldacchino	67007-08	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #1 & #2	MUŻA
Mr J. Smith	67009-10	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #3 & #4	MUŻA
Mr F. Grimm	67011-12	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #5 & #6	MUŻA
Mr S. Vella	67013-14	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #7 & #8	MUŻA
Mr R. Tacsum	67015-16	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #9 & #10	MUŻA
Mr R. Portelli	67017-18	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #11 & #12	MUŻA
Ms T. Debono	67019-20	Two photos, Uncovering Transition #13 & #14	MUŻA
Ms Debbie Caruana Dingli		Landscape, painting by Robert Caruana Dingli	MUŻA
Ms Maria Borg		*Bra*, painting by Maria Borg	MUŻA
Ms Joyce Camilleri		*Insignis (Unborn)*, by Joyce Camilleri	MUŻA
Mr Antje Liemann		*Vanitas with Lobster* by Antje Liemann	MUŻA
Sandra Zaffarese, Aaron Bezzina, Keit Bonnici, Tom van Malderen		Ħajt tas-Sejjieħ (showpiece) – two frames with b&w pictures and separate third frame	MUŻA
Ms Angela Mamo	67023	Fourteen prints of Grand Masters	Collections Management Unit
Ms Joanna Oswin	66648-50	Sir Maurice Doorman's full uniform, two swords, a full ceremonial flag and a framed photo	Grand Master's Palace
Ms Joanna Oswin	67024	Three empty medal boxes, formerly of Sir Maurice Dorman	Grand Master's Palace

Uncovering Transition exhibition (Photo by Therese Debono)

Selection of facemasks donated to the National Collection

Gilt bronze candelabrum

Glass tumbler with gilt rim and gilt crest of Grand Master De Rohan

18th-century portrait of Holy Office Consultor Don Iosef Mattheus Azzopardi Barbara

HMS *Magpie* ship crest

Selection of stuffed birds acquired during 2021

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Directors' Report

The Board presents their report and the audited financial statements of Heritage Malta ("the Agency") and consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Principal activities

Heritage Malta was set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002 and entrusted with the management of national museums and heritage sites and their collections in Malta and Gozo - including seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Agency is responsible for ensuring that those elements of cultural heritage entrusted to it are protected and made accessible to the public as well as conserving and restoring cultural property within its portfolio. It also provides training in conservation, education, research and consultation. It strives to create public awareness through displays, exhibition, thematic events, public relations and other initiatives.

Review of operations

The COVID-19 pandemic has developed rapidly in 2020 and the measurements taken by the authorities to contain the virus has severely impacted negatively the tourism sector. Heritage Malta's business model relies heavily on the number of inbound tourism which represent its largest source of revenue through admission fees to museums, historical sites and museum shops. During the year ended 31 December 2021, re-opening of the museums and sites resulted in revenue from entrance fees increase to €2,875,215 (2020: €1,730,651), however due to lack of tourists revenue remained low compared to pre-pandemic levels (2019: €8,665,274).

The Agency received Government subvention for recurrent expenditure in terms with Government Budget 2021. Due to the significant decrease in revenue, as explained above, which impacted also negatively the liquidity of Heritage Malta, the Government injected extra subventions to mitigate some of the impact on the Agency's results and liquidity. Further financial assistance from the Government are being discussed with the Ministry for the National Heritage, The Arts and Local Council until the situation improves.

During Covid-19 pandemic the Agency has analysed its recurrent cost structure and reduced its costs wherever possible. Moreover, the agency focused its resources on the upkeep and improvements of its museums and sites, invested more in digital technology and online presence, increased remote working, and also introduced an online shop to reach customers during this pandemic.

Financial allocation

The Agency finances its operations through revenues, mainly from admission fees to museums and sites, and also from a Government subvention. The net revenue generated from admission fees by the Agency in 2021 amounted to €2,875,215 (2020: €1,730,651).

A government subvention of €12,141,594 (2020: €12,798,270) was received to meet the Agency's administrative expenditure for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

Furthermore, an amount of €361,693 (2020: €617,536) is paid to Government as rent on various sites and premises occupied by Heritage Malta. The difference in the rent for the year ending 2021 and year ending 2020 is related to the fact that in 2020 the rent paid to Lands include arrears of prior years amounting to €137,012 for Fort. St. Angelo, €54,820 for MUZA and €54,624 for Palace State Rooms. Following the changes in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002, Heritage Malta is to enter into Site Entrustments Agreements with the Department of Lands for the management of all the Museums and Historical sites under its remit. The Agency is to proceed with these agreements during the year 2022.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote XIV in the Government's financial estimates of 2021 covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. These include €1,876,063 (2020: €1,060,611) relating to improvements at museums and historical sites under Vote 7033. Additional funds amounting to €1,000,000 (2020: 1,099,999) for the restoration of Grand Master's Palace under Vote 7965. Other funds were allocated for the acquisition of the Maltese artwork, national monuments and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit.

The Agency's subsidiary, Heritage Malta Services Limited (C 31260), serves as its commercial arm for activities. Its main activities include the hiring out of venues for functions, promoting a patrons program and other day-to-day revenue generating operations. The net revenue generated through Heritage Malta Services Limited amounted to €257,934 (2020: €252,886).

Results

The Agency and the Group registered a deficit for the year of €1,414,283 (2020: €1,798,426) and €1,358,215 (2020:€1,740,774) respectively.

Directors

The following are the details of individuals who have served as Directors of the Agency during the year under review and up to date of authorisation of these financial statements:

Mr. Anthony Scicluna - Chairman
Dr. Graham Busuttil - Vice-Chairman
Mr. Mario Cutajar
Prof. Joann Cassar
Mr. Ayrton Mifsud
Mr. Roderick Portelli
Dr. Gerald Montanaro Gauci
Ms. Leanne Abela Grech
Mr. Stephen Sultana

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.

Secretary

The following are the details of individual who has served as the Secretary to the Board of Directors: Dr Elaine Degiorgio

Auditors

Capstone Assurance Ltd, Registered Auditors, have expressed their willingness to continue in office and a resolution for their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board on 20 May 2022.

Mr Anthony Scicluna
Chairman

Dr Graham Busuttil
Vice Chairman

Registered address:

Heritage Malta Head Office,
Ex Royal Naval Hospital, Marine Street,
Kalkara, KRR 1524,
Malta

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors' of the Agency are required by the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002 to prepare the annual financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Agency at the end of each financial period and of its profit or loss for that period. In preparation of the annual financial statements, the Directors' are required to:

- Select and apply appropriate accounting policies;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU; and
- Prepare the annual financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Agency and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. The Directors are also responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal control is in operation to provide them with reasonable assurance that the assets of the Agency are being properly safeguarded and that fraud and other irregularities will be prevented or detected.

The financial statements of Heritage Malta for the year ended 31 December 2021 are included in the Annual Report 2021, which is published in hard-copy printed from and may be available in soft copy on the Heritage Malta's website. The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Annual Report on the website in view of their responsibility for the controls over, and the security of, the website. Access to information published on the Agency's website is available in other countries and jurisdictions, where legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from requirements or practice in Malta.

Income and Expenditure Accounts

		Consolidated		Agency	
		2021	2020	**2021**	2020
	Notes	**€**	€	**€**	€
Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure	4	**12,141,594**	12,798,270	**12,141,594**	12,798,270
Income from operations	5	**4,044,001**	2,525,843	**3,786,067**	2,272,957
Funds available for recurrent expenditure		**16,185,595**	15,324,113	**15,927,661**	15,071,227
Staff costs	6	**(9,767,208)**	(9,056,384)	**(9,688,617)**	(8,984,869)
Other recurrent operational expenditure		**(6,984,028)**	(6,292,721)	**(6,939,412)**	(6,242,889)
Recurrent administrative expenditure		**(665,056)**	(1,613,959)	**(617,379)**	(1,571,870)
Finance costs	7	**(97,952)**	(70,025)	**(97,952)**	(70,025)
Finance income	7	**1,416**	8	**1,416**	-
Deficit before taxation	8	**(1,327,233)**	(1,708,968)	**(1,414,283)**	(1,798,426)
Taxation	9	**(30,982)**	(31,806)	**-**	-
Deficit for the financial year		**(1,358,215)**	(1,740,774)	**(1,414,283)**	(1,798,426)

There were no transactions to be reported as 'Other Comprehensive Income' during the year.

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	Consolidated 2021 €	Consolidated 2020 €	Agency 2021 €	Agency 2020 €
ASSETS					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	10	**25,884,629**	21,074,571	**25,803,598**	21,053,727
Investment in subsidiary	11	**-**	-	**4,959**	4,959
Total non-current assets		**25,884,629**	21,074,571	**25,808,557**	21,058,686
Current assets					
Inventories	12	**641,951**	663,397	**641,951**	663,397
Trade and other receivables	13	**2,062,506**	3,255,531	**1,951,613**	3,108,478
Current tax receivable		**1,486**	1,486	**-**	-
Cash and cash equivalents	14	**2,939,136**	4,660,730	**2,567,774**	4,303,244
Total current assets		**5,645,079**	8,581,144	**5,161,338**	8,075,119
TOTAL ASSETS		**31,529,708**	29,655,715	**30,969,895**	29,133,805
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES					
Reserves					
Capital vote		**18,758,615**	16,905,356	**18,758,615**	16,905,356
Recurrent vote and operating activities		**(277,774)**	270,589	**(675,012)**	(70,281)
Total reserves		**18,480,841**	17,175,945	**18,083,603**	16,835,075
Liabilities					
Non-current liabilities					
Deferred income	16	**6,560,219**	4,497,001	**6,560,219**	4,497,001
Lease liability	17	**919,819**	259,959	**919,819**	259,959
Specific endowment funds	18	**881,827**	868,210	**881,827**	868,210
Total non-current liabilities		**8,361,865**	5,625,170	**8,361,865**	5,625,170
Current liabilities					
Lease liability	17	**202,257**	161,899	**202,257**	161,899
Provisions	19	**1,187,294**	1,117,294	**1,187,294**	1,117,294
Specific endowment funds	18	**66,081**	120,365	**66,081**	120,365
Current tax payable		**5,619**	15,832	**-**	-
Trade and other payables	20	**3,225,751**	5,439,210	**3,068,795**	5,274,002
Total current liabilities		**4,687,002**	6,854,600	**4,524,427**	6,673,560
Total liabilities		**13,048,867**	12,479,770	**12,886,292**	12,298,730
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		**31,529,708**	29,655,715	**30,969,895**	29,133,805

Mr Anthony Scicluna
Chairman

Dr Graham Busuttil
Vice Chairman

Statement of Changes in Equity

Agency

	Capital Vote	Recurrent vote and operating activities	Accumulated fund
	€	€	€
Balance as at 01 January 2020	11,848,459	1,051,475	12,899,934
Deficit for the year	-	(1,798,426)	(1,798,426)
Capital subvention for the year (note 15)	5,733,567	-	5,733,567
Transfer of depreciation from capital vote	(676,670)	676,670	-
Balance as at 31 December 2020	**16,905,356**	**(70,281)**	**16,835,075**
Balance as at 01 January 2021	**16,905,356**	**(70,281)**	**16,835,075**
Deficit for the year	**-**	**(1,414,283)**	**(1,414,283)**
Capital subvention for the year (note 15)	**2,662,811**	**-**	**2,662,811**
Transfer of depreciation from capital vote	**(809,552)**	**809,552**	**-**
Balance as at 31 December 2021	**18,758,615**	**(675,012)**	**18,083,603**

Consolidated

	Capital Vote	Recurrent vote and operating activities	Accumulated fund
	€	€	€
Balance as at 01 January 2020	11,848,459	1,334,694	13,183,153
Deficit for the year	-	(1,740,774)	(1,740,774)
Capital subvention for the year (note 15)	5,733,567	-	5,733,567
Transfer of depreciation from capital vote	(676,670)	676,670	-
Balance as at 31 December 2020	**16,905,356**	**270,589**	**17,175,945**
Balance as at 01 January 2021	**16,905,356**	**270,589**	**17,175,945**
Deficit for the year	**-**	**(1,358,215)**	**(1,358,215)**
Capital subvention for the year (note 15)	**2,662,811**	**-**	**2,662,811**
Transfer of depreciation from capital vote	**(809,552)**	**809,552**	**-**
Balance as at 31 December 2021	**18,758,615**	**(277,774)**	**18,480,841**

Statement of Cash Flows

		Consolidated		Agency	
		2021	2020	**2021**	2020
	Note	**€**	€	**€**	€
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Deficit for the year before taxation	8	**(1,327,233)**	(1,708,968)	**(1,414,283)**	(1,798,426)
Adjustments for:					
Depreciation	10	**1,353,063**	1,098,038	**1,340,316**	1,094,348
Interest income	7	**(1,416)**	(8)	**(1,416)**	-
Interest expense	7	**53,344**	30,911	**53,344**	30,911
Provisions	19	**70,000**	1,117,294	**70,000**	1,117,294
Deficit from operations		**147,758**	537,267	**47,961**	444,127
Change in inventories	12	**21,446**	(19,326)	**21,446**	(19,325)
Change in trade and other receivables	13	**1,194,396**	(2,250,387)	**1,156,736**	(2,245,325)
Change in trade and other payables	20	**(2,213,459)**	3,464,587	**(2,205,207)**	3,454,433
Income tax paid		**(41,195)**	(41,853)	**-**	-
Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities		**(891,054)**	1,690,288	**(979,064)**	1,633,910
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Additions to property, plant and equipment	10	**(5,135,757)**	(10,960,911)	**(5,062,823)**	(10,959,292)
Interests received		**1,416**	8	**1,416**	-
Acquisition of subsidiary		**(1,200)**	-	**-**	-
Net cash flows used in investing activities		**(5,135,541)**	(10,960,903)	**(5,061,407)**	(10,959,292)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Capital subvention from government	15	**2,662,940**	5,733,567	**2,662,940**	5,733,567
Specific endowment funds	18	**(40,667)**	306,627	**(40,667)**	306,627
Lease liability repayments	17	**(380,490)**	(227,268)	**(380,490)**	(227,268)
ERDF/EEA and Norway grants	16	**2,063,218**	4,497,001	**2,063,218**	4,497,001
Net cash flows from financing activities		**4,305,001**	10,309,927	**4,305,001**	10,309,927
Net cash (used in)/from cash and cash equivalents		**(1,721,594)**	1,039,312	**(1,735,470)**	984,545
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**4,660,730**	3,621,418	**4,303,244**	3,318,699
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	14	**2,939,136**	**4,660,730**	**2,567,774**	**4,303,244**