The purpose of this paper is to examine briefly the provenance of some 265 paintings, at present, on permanent display at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. I have, therefore, excluded all the paintings in the reserve collection and those in the Contemporary Art Section (the majority of the latter were acquired direct from the artists) and, as a matter of fact, all other exhibits which are not paintings. To investigate this matter I have consulted original Registers of Acquisitions, official publications (such as Annual Reports) and other relevant sources (1). I have, unfortunately, been unsuccessful in tracing inventories or catalogues of the contents in the various Palaces of the Order contemporary with the occupation of the Knights. These certainly did exist as proved by the reference to a ‘Libro di Stato — Stato di Palazzo’ (2), in Grand Master Despuig’s spoglio (3), which appears to have contained a detailed inventory of all items and furnishings in the Magisterial Palace.

Sometimes, in so far as paintings are concerned, records tend to be rather laconic, generic and imprecise; descriptions such as A Portrait and A Landscape are, unless supported by further informations, of no help. In Grand Master Carafa’s will (4) we find the following: “... Dipiu vuole che il Ritratto di S. Domenico in Soriano con altri piccoli quadretti di sua divotione restino dentro la Cappella di Palazzo.” Who can identify these “piccoli quadretti” from the above information? In Grand Master Pinto’s spoglio we read the following entry: “Cento trenta otto quadri, diversi, secondo sono descritti e specificati nell’inventario di detti Spoglio, stimati dal Pittore Favray s. 3,032...” (5). Unfortunately the said inventory compiled by Favray is missing from the relative volume. Changes in attributions and the fact that paintings are movable objects contribute in further complicating the problem of identifying paintings and establishing their provenance. For instance most of those belonging to Government have, since at least 1798, been doing the rounds of the various departmental offices, official residences etc. The Malta Times of the 18th June, 1863

(1) My thanks and gratitude are due, for their assistance and help, to the following gentlemen: The Rev. Fr. Marius Zerafa, Director of the Museums Dept.; Dr. Tancred Gouda, Curator of Archaeology; Mr. Emmanuel Borg; Dr. John A. Cauchi, former Curator Fine Arts; The Rev. Canon John Amopardi, Curator Cathedral Museum Mdina; Mr. Gatt, former Curator St. John’s Museum Valletta.

(2) N.L. ARCH. 925 f. 121.

(3) The Spoglio was the division of the property of a member of the Order of St. John after his demise.

(4) N.L. ARCH. 925 f. 3v.

(5) N.L. ARCH. 925 f. 135v.
reported that during the governorship of Sir Thomas Maitland (1813-1824) "several valuable ancient pictures" belonging to Malta were sent over to Corfu to furnish the Governor's Palace there. Having considered the above it becomes understandable why tracing the original provenance of paintings is not always an easy task and is, in fact, full of pitfalls and cul-de-sacs.

Blanche Lintern Simmons, in the second edition (1865) of her Description of the Governor's Palaces in Malta has this to say: "Persons now living have heard from eye-witnesses descriptions of pictures being lowered from the Palace windows into Strada Vescovo, in the time of the French." The newspaper L'Ordine on the 28th August, 1856, denounced to its readers the private sale, for a mere pittance, of some 36 paintings of the Neapolitan School which had been lying neglected at the Palace. It is rumoured that almost the entire contents of the Knights' Auberges were sold by auction during the early Colonial period and that certain people, who should have known better, did not refrain from helping themselves (6). Notwithstanding depredations and losses there still remained in Government hands a considerable picture collection many of which formed the nucleus round which developed the Fine Arts Museum. In fact, derivative from Government property there are displayed no less than 47 paintings in our Museum. Christ holding the Cross by Guido Reni and An Illuminator of Books by William Key are two masterpieces that formerly graced the walls of the Magisterial Palace in Valletta whilst Preti's Baptism of Christ and The Incredulity of St. Thomas were once at the Asilo or Foundling Hospital.

A small group of 7 paintings were transferred to the Museums Dept., from Chapels and Churches of the Order. The small diptych with Our Lady and the Apostles, attributed to the circle of the Lorenzetti, comes from the Chapel at Fort Ricasoli. Antonello Riccio's Madonna of the Fleet, an ex voto of the Battle of Lepanto, belonged to Sarria Church at Floriana. An eighth canvas, attributed to the circle of the Lorenzetti, was acquired by purchase from St. Francis Church in Valletta.

Though handicapped by limited funds many items have been acquired by purchase since the inception of the Valletta Museum, as it was then called, in 1903 and especially since the formation of the Fine Arts Section that resulted from the reorganisation of 1922. The greater majority of the paintings exhibited, numbering 122, were purchased, at one time or other, by the Section's purchase since the inception of the Valletta Museum, as it was then called, from St. Francis Church in Valletta.

Foreign Donors are few but their gifts are, none the less, remarkable. In 1928 the famous Art Critic and Historian Roberto Longhi presented the Fine Arts Section the small but beautiful Monn in Meditation by Magnasco. The set of Malta Views by the Swiss painter Louis du Cros was donated, in 1946, by the National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain. In the early 1960s Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York gave the Museum, from her late brother's collection, five important paintings that included The Altarly of Antwerp by Theodor Van Thulden and Domenico di Michelino's Madonna and Saints.

The paintings at the National Museum of Fine Arts form an intrinsic part of our cultural heritage. It is a precious patrimony that certainly deserves all our attention and care. To some it may appear modest because it lacks the glamour and fame of the great European and American Art Galleries and Museums. However, our collection is undoubtedly of a high standard as is attested to by so many discerning visitors. Let us hope that in future, as in the past, our National Picture Collection will continue to grow, in quantity and above all in quality, for the enjoyment of the public and the cultural enrichment of our country.
APPENDIX

The following abbreviations are used in the appendices.

Mus. Dept.: Museum Department.
P.A.V.: Palace Archives, Valletta.
A.C.M.: Archives Cathedral Museum.
Reg.: Register.
Ms.: Manuscript.
Typs.: Typewritten.
pp.: Pages.
Cat.: Catalogue.

1. DEPOSITION; Workshop of G. B. Trotti (1555-1619); Oils on Canvas; 83cm x 100cm.

2. THE FLAGELLATION AND OTHER SCENES; Sch. of the Marche mid XIV cent.; Tempera on Panel; 106cm x 93cm; From Count Messina Collection; Presented by Comm. Augusto Lurati of San Remo in 1928-29.

3. LANDSCAPE; Moncheron late XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 79cm x 65.5cm; Signed "G. Moncheron" and dated 1680; From Countess Messina Collection; Presented on the 8th July, 1931.

4. PORTRAIT OF A KNIGHT IN RED COAT; Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 61.5cm x 76.5cm.

5. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC OF THE ORDER; Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 92cm x 114cm.

6. BIRD’S EYE VIEW OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS; Style of Didier Baez early XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 108cm x 93cm.

7. BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN; Mathias Stomer (c.1600-50); Oils on Canvas; 194cm x 103cm.

8. BIBLICAL SUBJECT; Mathias Stomer (c.1600-50); Oils on Canvas; 197cm x 144cm; Preseated by Comm. Augusto Lurati of San Remo in 1928-29.

9. MADONNA AND SAINTS; Tuscan Sch. end XIV cent.; Tempera on Panel; 76cm x 65.5cm; Signed & dated 1680; From Countess Messina Collection; Presented on the 17th July, 1930.

10. MADONNA AND CHILD; Carlo Maratta (1625-1719); Oils on Canvas; 111cm x 146cm.

11. BEHEADING OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE; Mathias Stomer (c.1600-50); Oils on Canvas; 194cm x 103cm; Preseated by Comm. Augusto Lurati of San Remo in 1928-29.

12. PORTRAIT OF A KNIGHT IN RED COAT; Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 61.5cm x 76.5cm.

13. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC OF THE ORDER; Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 92cm x 114cm.

14. BIRD’S EYE VIEW OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS; Style of Didier Baez early XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 108cm x 93cm.

15. MADONNA AND SAINTS; Tuscan Sch. end XIV cent.; Tempera on Panel; 76cm x 65.5cm; Signed & dated 1680; From Countess Messina Collection; Presented on the 17th July, 1930.
I. MADONNA AND CHILD; 2. THE APOSTLES; Circle of Lorenzo Monaco (XIV cent.); Tempera on Panel; each 24cm x 38cm; From the Sacristy of the Church of the Order of St. John.


2. NEPTUNE'S FOUNTAIN, VALLETTA; Louis Du Cros (1748-1810); Oils on Paper pasted on to Canvas; 146cm x 113cm; Donated by the Trustees National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain on 25th May, 1946.


3. HOLY FAMILY; Florentine Sch. XVI cent.; Oils on Panel; 100cm x 133cm; Donated by the Trustees National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain on 23rd May, 1946.


5. Our Lady of Graces, Valletta; Louis Du Cros (1647-1716); Oils on Canvas; 147cm x 113cm; Donated by Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York in 1965.


6. ALLEGORY OF THE CITY OF ANTWERP; Theodor Van Thulden (1606-69); Oils on Canvas; 184cm x 122cm; Donated by the Trustees National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain on 23rd May, 1946.


7. ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI; Lorenzo De Caro (mid XVIII cent.); Oils on Canvas; 114cm x 86cm; Donated by Mr. and Mrs. P.P. G.R. and P.G.R. on 25th May, 1946.


D. DONATIONS FROM ABROAD

1. MONK IN MEDITATION; Alessandro Magnasco (1667-1749); Oils on Canvas; 28cm x 30cm; Donated by Prof. Roberto Longhi of Rome on the 24th December, 1928.


2. ST. JOHN THE ALMONER; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 144cm x 210cm; From the Sacristy of Sarria Church, Floriana; Transfered to the Museum on 23rd May, 1946.


3. VALLLETTA VIEW WITH PORTA DEL MONTE; Louis Du Cros (1748-1810); Oils on Paper pasted on to Canvas; 151cm x 180cm; Donated by the Trustees National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain on 23rd May, 1946.


4. VIEW OF THE THREE CITIES FROM VALLETTA; Louis Du Cros (1748-1810); Oils on Paper pasted on to Canvas; 164cm x 262cm; Donated by the Trustees National Art Collecting Fund of Great Britain on 23rd May, 1946.


5. VIEW OF THE CITY OF ANTWERP; Theodor Van Thulden (1606-69); Oils on Canvas; 34cm x 22cm; Donated by Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York in 1965.


6. ALLEGORY OF THE CITY OF ANTWERP; Theodor Van Thulden (1606-69); Oils on Canvas; 34cm x 22cm; Donated by Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York in 1965.


E. DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FROM MALTA

1. PORTRAIT OF G.M. EMM. PINTO; Anonymous XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 71cm x 95cm (eypitop); Miss Agnesse Schermi Request, 10th June, 1917.

Refts.: Mus. Dept., Reg. L.O.P.L.M.
2. PORTRAIT OF G.M. DE ROHAN; Ann XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 76cm x 100cm (triple); Miss Agnes Schmitt Bequest, 10th June, 1917.

3. PORTRAIT OF G.M. DE ROHAN; Ann XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 73cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

4. PORTRAIT OF G.M. DE ROHAN; Ann XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 73cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

5. VILLAGE VIEW; Filiberto Corelli (XX cent.); Signed, dated 1921 (?); Oils on Hardboard; 44cm x 50cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

6. MOUNTAIN KITCHEN; Carlo Romagnoli (XX cent.); Signed, dated 1923; Oils on Hardboard; 44cm x 50cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

7. LANDSCAPE; Oratorio Amato (XX cent.); Signed; Oils on Panel; 40cm x 29cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

8. STUDY OF A HEAD (ITALIAN SOLDIER). A. Tommasi (early XX cent.); Signed & dated 1918; Oils on Canvas; 30cm x 30cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

9. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 35cm x 90cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

10. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 35cm x 90cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

11. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 35cm x 90cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

12. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

13. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

14. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

15. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

16. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

17. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

18. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.

19. PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN; Antonio Barrers (d.1907); Signed & dated 1912; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 25cm; Donated by Chev. O.F. Gollcher on the 31st January, 1928.
23. MADONNA AND CHILD; Italian Sch. XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 65cm x 76cm; Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli Bequest, 14th August, 1950.


24. VILLA CATERNIA; Onoran Carlini (1848-1939); Signed; Water Colour; 64cm x 87cm; Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli Bequest, 14th August, 1950.


25. A LADY; Adele De Paola (1869-1939); Signed & dated 1922; Oils on Canvas; 66cm x 42cm; Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli Bequest, 14th August, 1950.

Exhibition: 1916 - Malta Art Amateur Association; Auberge d'Italie, Valletta.

26. A MAN; J. Grima (1870-1931); Signed; Oil on Cardboard; 93cm x 71cm; Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli Bequest, 14th August, 1951.


27. PORTRAIT OF SALVATORE BORG; Ralfalc Caruana (1820-1886); signed; Oils on Canvas; 126cm x 64cm; Chev. Ed. Caruana Dingli Bequest, 14th August, 1950.


28. PORTRAIT OF A MAN WITH A LETTER; Neapolitan School XIX cent.; Oils on Canvas; 65cm x 56cm; Anon. Donor, 1950.


29. MATER DEI; Italian Sch. XVI cent.; Oils on Panel; 78cm x 59cm; Mrs. H. E. Griffie Williams Bequest, 1961.


30. MABAMNETT HABBOU; T.L. Henassou (1780-1850); Oils on Canvas; 119cm x 82cm; Mrs. H. E. Griffie Williams Bequest, 1961.

47. ADAM AND EVE; Venetian School XVII cce; Oils on Canvas; 94cm x 52cm; Mr. & Mrs. Ugo Muscat-Azzopardi Bequest (deed 1970, effective 1972).
Ref.: Mus. Dept., File 60/71.
48. FIRE ON THE TIBER; Claude Joseph Vernet (1714-89); Signed; Oils on Canvas; 136cm x 92cm; Mr. & Mrs. Ugo Muscat-Azzopardi Bequest (deed 1970, effective 1975).
49. HISTORICAL SUBJECT; Salumero Gaffiero (active 1792); Name of artist & date 1792 on back of canvas; Oils on Canvas 46cm x 35cm; Mr. & Mrs. Ugo Muscat-Azzopardi Bequest (deed 1970, effective 1972).
Ref.: Mus. Dept. File 60/71.
50. HISTORICAL SUBJECT; Salumero Gaffiero (act. 1792); Name of artist and date on back of canvas; Oils on canvas; 45cm x 34cm; Mr. and Mrs. Ugo Muscat Azzopardi Bequest (deed 1970, effective 1972).
Ref.: I, Dimech. La pittura di Giuseppe Cali nelle Cheies dei Frati Minor Conventuali a Malta (1940); Cat. M.A.A. No. 139.
1. PORTRAIT OF CARDINAL PORTOCARRERO; Antoine Favray (1706-98); dated 1706; Oils on Canvas; 81cm x 103.5cm.
Exhibitions: 1961 - "Matti, Huit Siecles d'Histoire", Versailles, France. N.B.: Portocarrero was a great benefactor of our National Library. His portrait was replaced by a copy expressly made by the Museums Dept.
(From the Old Promises of the University of Malta in Valletta)
1. PORTRAIT OF GIUSEPPE CALI; Ed. Caruana Dingli (1876-1950); Signed & dated 1918; Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 52cm.
Exhibition: 1930 - "Malta Art Amateur Association", Auberge d'Italia, Valletta. N.B.: Caruana Dingli was a pupil of Cali. The painting bears the inscription In Omaggio.
Ref.: I, Dimech. La pittura di Giuseppe Cali nelle Cheies dei Frati Minor Conventuali a Malta (1940); Cat. M.A.A. No. 139.
2. PORTRAIT OF G.M. EMM. PINTO; School of Favray (1706-98); Oils on Canvas; 71.5cm x 86.3cm.
Ref.: Heritage Vol. 3 p.870.
3. PORTRAIT OF G.M. EMM. PINTO; School of Favray (1706-98); Oils on Canvas; 60cm x 84cm.
(From the Orphans' Asylum, Valletta)
1. INCREDIULITY OF ST. THOMAS; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 173cm x 129cm; Transferred 1923-24.
2. BAPTISM OF CHRIST; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 193cm x 143cm; Transferred 1923-24.
3. CHRIST AT THE PILAR; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 305cm x 156cm; Transferred to the Museum c.1964.
4. MADONNA AND CHILD WITH INFANT BAPTIST; Sebastiano Conca (1680-1764).
G. FROM THE PALACE COLLECTION

1. SOPHONISBA; Filippo Gherardo (1643-1704)/Giovanni Coli (1636-85); Oils on Canvas; 73cm x 49cm; I presume this picture to be from the Palace Collection.

N.B. This painting was originally the property of Fra Mario Ricli (d. 1712). This is corroborated by Rich's personal red wax seal and initials on the back of the painting and by his will dated 18th April, 1707 in which there is a full description of the subject in verse, 21. According to the said will Rich bequeathed this painting to the then Comm. Mario Antonio Zondadari as a momento 'in memoria'.

Ref.: N.L. Ms. ARCH 911 Vol. 7 No. 23.

2. VENUS AND ADONIS: Pietro Liberi (1614-1687); Oils on Canvas; 111.5cm x 112cm.

N.B. In old catalogues described as 'Time Unveiling Truth'.


3. FLOWERS IN A VASE; Venetian School XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 96cm x 72cm.

Ref.: Lintorn Simmons (1895) p.153 No. 182.

4. DRUNKENNES OF NOAH; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 190cm x 164cm.


5. MARTYRDOM OF ST. CATHERINE; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 258cm x 234cm.


6. LOT AND HIS DAUGHTERS; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 190cm x 56cm.


7. YOUNG ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE HABIT OF THE ORDER; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 77cm x 92cm.


8. JUDITH SHOWING THE HEAD OF HOLOFERNES TO THE BETHULLANS; Mattia Preti (1613-99); Oils on Canvas; 223cm x 212cm; Transferred to the Museum on 5th October, 1930.


9. PORTRAIT OF G.M. DE ROHAH WITH PAGES; Antoine Favray (1706-98); Signed & dated 1776; Oils on Canvas; 171cm x 261cm.

N.B. This portrait may be the one seen at the Auberge d'Allemagne during his stay in Malta.

Ref.: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms. I. No. 148; Housl (1783) Vol 4 p.106; Lintorn Simmons (1895) p.130 No. 70; Scicluna (1955) plate XLVII.
21. DANCING PUTTI; Johan Rottenhammer (1644-1626); Oils on Copper; 28cm x 35cm; Transferred on 3rd January, 1950.


22. ECCE HOMU; Santo Zanuna (1564-1638); Oils on Canvas; 80cm x 106cm.


23. LANDSCAPE; Italian Sch. XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 97cm x 128cm.

24. VIEW WITH A LAKE; Micro Spadaro (1612-1749); Oils on Canvas: 96cm x 74cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.143 No. 118.

25. CHRIST HOLDING THE CROSS; Guido Reni (1575-1642); Oils on Canvas: 128cm x 226cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.150 No.155.

26. HOLY FAMILY IN LANDSCAPE; Circle of Masolelletta (1575-1655); Oils on Canvas; 163 .5cm x 226cm.


27. PORTRAIT OF G.M. ALFRED DE WIGNACOURT; Cassarino (?) (XVI cent.); Oils on Canvas; 90cm x 61cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.150 No.158.

28. DANCING PUTTI; Flemish Sch. XVII; Oils on Canvas; 51cm x 64cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.129 No.65.

29. ST. SEBASTIAN; Italian Sch XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 75.5cm x 102cm.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.4; Linton Simmons (1895) p.136 No.103.

30. ST. SEBASTIAN; Italian School XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 75.5cm x 102cm; Transferred on 3rd January, 1950.

N.B. On the back of the canvas are two sets of red wax seals. The first set of seals are illegible and consist of an impression of the emblem of Fra Pietro Viani, Grand Prior of St. John from 1668 to 1700. The second set is not so well legible and preserved and the identity of the personage is still unknown to me though there is no doubt that he was a member of the Order. On the frame is a faint and mostly illegible inscription in a very old handwriting. Here the date 1694 is quite distinct.

Refs: Mus. Dept., Reg. G.C.A.S. f.183 No.2138; P.A.V. File-Transfer of furniture etc.; Linton Simmons (1895) p.128 No. 98; A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.70.

31. ARCHITECTURAL FANTASY WITH MARTYRDOM OF A SAINT; Monni Desiderio (c. 1593-1644); Oils on Canvas; 98cm x 73cm.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.67; Mayo (1981) p.35.

32. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Carlo Antonio Tavela (1668-1738); Oils on Canvas; 8cm x 96cm; Transferred on 5th October, 1950.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.64; Mayo (1981) p.39.

33. MADONNA AND CHILD WITH ST. JOHN; Francesco Trevisani (1656-1729); Oils on Canvas; 8cm x 96cm; Transferred on 5th October, 1950.


34. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Carlo Antonio Tavela (1668-1738); Oils on Canvas; 154cm x 103cm.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.35.

35. ARCHITECTURAL FANTASY WITH MARTYRDOM OF A SAINT; Monni Desiderio (c. 1593-1644); Oils on Canvas; 96cm x 73cm.

Refs: P.A.V. File-Transfer of Furniture etc.; Linton Simmons (1895) p.127 No.44; A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.35.

36. ARCHITECTURAL FANTASY WITH MARTYRDOM OF A SAINT; Monni Desiderio (c. 1593-1644); Oils on Canvas; 96cm x 73cm.

Refs: P.A.V. File-Transfer of Furniture etc.; Linton Simmons (1895) p.127 No.44; A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.36.

37. LANDSCAPE; Italian Sch. XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 97cm x 128cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.150 No.155.

38. CAPRICE; Hubert Robert (1732-1808); Oils on Canvas; 62cm x 75cm.

N.B. On the back of the canvas is a paper with a note in French. According to it this picture was executed in Rome by Robert in 1765 for the Buonfil de Brunei, ambassador of the Order to the Holy See.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.46; Mayo (1981) p.35.

39. CAPRICE; Hubert Robert (1732-1808); Signed & dated 1799; Oils on Canvas; 64cm x 73cm.

Refs: Linton Simmons (1895) p.136 No.103.

40. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Carlo Antonio Tavela (1668-1738); Oils on Canvas; 153cm x 102cm.


41. MADONNA AND CHILD WITH ST. JOHN; Francesco Trevisani (1656-1729); Oils on Canvas; 8cm x 96cm; Transferred on 5th October, 1950.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.96; Mus. Dept., Reg. G.C.A.S. f.183 No.2138; P.A.V. File-Transfer of furniture etc.; Linton Simmons (1895) p.147 No.144.

42. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Carlo Antonio Tavela (1668-1738); Oils on Canvas; 153cm x 102cm.


43. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Carlo Antonio Tavela (1668-1738); Oils on Canvas; 153cm x 102cm.


44. ALLEGORY OF MALTA; Francesco de Man (1696-1782); Signed & dated 1747; Oils on Canvas; 8cm x 96cm.


45. ALLEGORY OF MALTA; Francesco de Man (1696-1782); Signed & dated 1747; Oils on Canvas; 8cm x 96cm.

N.B. Pendant to No.39.


46. LANDSCAPE; Italian Sch. XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 97cm x 128cm.


H. PULCHERIA ABD

1. VIEW OF MANOEL ISLAND; Giorgio Puglicino (c.1780-c.1838); Oils on Canvas; 109cm x 70cm; Purchased in London on the 28th March, 1912.


2. H.M.S ALFRED LEAVING GRAND HARBOUR; Giovanni Schiavon (1794-1882); Oils on Canvas; 51cm x 62cm; Transferred on 3rd January, 1950.

Refs: A.C.M. ART. REF. LIBR. Ms.1 No.4; Linton Simmons (1895) p.136 No.103.
Oils on Canvas; 65cm x 44cm; Purchased from the Parker Gallery of London on the 6th May, 1932.


8. HOLY FAMILY; Francesco Grandi (1831-91); Oils on Canvas; 49cm x 39cm; Purchased from the Parker Gallery of London.


9. BIRD'S-EYE-VIEW OF VALETTA AND ENVIRONS (XVIII CENT.); Oils on Canvas; 49cm x 35cm; Purchased from the Parker Gallery of London.

N.B. Pasted on to the back of the frame is the Parker Gallery business card.

Rejs.: 1970 - "XIII Council of Europe Exhibition", Valletta.


1. PURCHASED LOCALLY

1. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; Francesco Zahra (1760-78); Oils on Canvas; 79cm x 104cm; Purchased in 1929-30.


2. PORTRAIT OF A CHILD; Santi di Tito (!) (1536-1603); Oils on Canvas; 26cm x 36cm; Purchased 1923-26.


3. LANDSCAPE; Flemish School early XVII cent.; Oils on Panel; 60cm x 47cm; Purchased from the Messina Collection in June, 1925.


4. LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURES; Savalatore Rosa (1615-73); Oils on Canvas; 49cm x 66cm; Purchased from the Messina Collection in June, 1925.


5. G. GHISSELLIN; Circle of H. T. (1498-1574); Oils on Panel; 60cm x 47cm; Purchased in 1926.


6. THE PENITENCE MAGDALEN; Circle of Hoamackert (1498-1574); Oils on Panel; 106cm x 73cm; Purchased in 1916.


7. TRIUMPH OF DAVID; Leonard Boamer (1595-1674); Oils on Panel; 64cm x 73cm; Purchased 1927-28.


8. GLOURY OF ST. ANTHONY; Mattia Preti (1613-79); Oils on Canvas; Purchased from St. Francis Church, Valletta, 1927-28.


9. HERBEIUS; El G. CHANO D'OULTEMARE; Antonio Berni (1467); Signed & dated 1928; Purchased 1927-28.


10. SELFR PORTRAIT; Giuseppe Grech (1575-87); Oils on Canvas; 29cm x 36cm; Purchased 1927-28.


11. AN ECCLESIASTIC (PRIOR LUDOVICO MAINARDI 1758-85); Antoine Favray (1695-1756); Oils on Canvas; 60cm x 45cm; Purchased in 1927-28.


12. A MAN IN ARMOUR; Domenico Tintoretto (1560-1635); Oils on Canvas; 63cm x 75cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection in 1929.

13. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; Bernardino Strozzi (1581-1645); Oil on Canvas; 57cm x 72cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection in December of 1929.


21. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC; Stefano Erardi (1630-1716): Oils on Canvas, 117cm x 88cm; Purchased from the Collection of Sir Adrian Dingli on the 24th May, 1930.


N.B. The Palace facade is here seen before the alterations carried out during the Grandmastership of Pinto.


15. PIAZZA SAN GIORGI; Anon. Late XVII-Early XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas:

Purchased from Mr. F.S. Gera on the 7th December, 1931.

Rejs.: the 27th April, 1931.

12. THE VISITATION; Pietro Paolo Caruana (1794-1852); Oils on Canvas; 40cm x 50cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 8th November, 1929.

Exhibition: 1960—"Pietadue Centenary Exhibition", Catholic Institute, Floriana.


15. INTERIOR OF ST JOHN'S (unfinished); Michele Bellanti (1807-1833); Oils on Canvas; 36cm x 45cm; Purchased on the 23rd December, 1931.


15. STILL LIFE WITH PIGEONS; G.A. Cassani (c.1658-1720); Oils on Canvas; 49cm x 64cm; Purchased from the Thy Collection on the 6th March, 1931.


27. BIBLICAL SUBJECT; Lambert Lombard (c.1506-1566); Oils on Panel; University of Malta.

Purchased from Prof. A. Portelli Carbone on the 9th May, 1932.


22. ST. MARY MOUNT; Mattia Preti (1613-1699); Oils on Canvas; 66cm x 80cm; Purchased from Mrs. Gatt of 87 Miratore Str. Vittoriosa on the 2nd May 1932.


19. LANDSCAPE; Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (1727-1804); Oil on Canvas; 92cm x 103cm; Purchased from the Collection of Sir Adrian Dingli on the 24th May, 1930.


N.B. Though purchased from Mrs. Gatt this canvas was in the Collection of Canon Polito of Vittoriosa in 1932.


30. A BEGGAR; Neapolitan Sch XVII cent; Oils on Canvas; 71cm x 96cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 23rd March, 1932.


16. VIEW OF THE FACADE OF ST. JOHN'S; Anon XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas:

56cm x 45cm; Purchased on the 23rd March, 1931.


26. INTERIOR OF ST JOHN'S (unfinished); Michele Bellanti (1807-1833); Oils on Canvas; 44cm x 66cm; Purchased from the Collection of Sir Adrian Dingli on the 23rd March, 1932.


11. PORTRAIT OF G.M. XIMENEZ; Anon. XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 52.5cm x 68.5cm; Purchased from the They Collection on the 6th March, 1931.


13. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; Giorgio Bona via XIX cent.; Oils on Canvas; 38cm x 47cm; Purchased from the Collection of Sir Adrian Dingli on the 24th May, 1930.


14. ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA; Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (1727-1804); Oil on Canvas; 92cm x 119cm; Purchased from the Collection of Sir Adrian Dingli on the 24th May, 1930.


22. ST. HELENA (Invention of the Holy Cross); Michele Bellanti (1807-1833); Signed & dated 1832; Oil on Panel; 93cm x 50cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 27th April, 1931.


23. THE VISITATION; Pietro Paolo Caruana (1794-1852); Oil on Canvas; 40cm x 52cm; Purchased from Mr. F.S. Gera on the 7th December, 1931.


1970—"XIII Council of Europe Exhibition", Valletta.


13. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; Giorgio Bona via XIX cent.; Oils on Canvas; 38cm x 47cm; Purchased from Prof. A. Portelli Carbone on the 9th May, 1932.
58. MARTYRDOM OF ST. LAWRENCE; Venetian School XVI cent.; Oils on Panel; 65cm x 70cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 4th December, 1956.

59. HERACLITUS! (in old records "St. Peter"); Neapolitan School XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 55cm x 72cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 4th December, 1946.

60. CHRIST BEARING THE CROSS; North Italian School XVI cent.; Oils on Panel; 42cm x 67cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 5th September, 1947.

61. ST. JEROME; Venetian School XVI cent. Oils on Canvas; 55cm x 61cm; Purchased from the Bellanti Collection on the 7th February, 1947.

62. HEAD OF A FEMALE SAINT; Spanish School XVI cent.; Oils on Canvas; 22cm x 31cm; Purchased on the 6th May, 1952.

63. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC (Bishop Cannaves ?); Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 42cm x 34cm; Purchased from Mr. J. Francia on the 18th February, 1959.

64. ST. JOHN PREACHING IN THE WILDERNESS; Giovanni Baldinucci (c.1560-1603); Signed & dated 1691; Oils on Canvas; 55cm x 72cm; Purchased from Mr. G.M. Beck on the 18th September, 1954.

65. BATTLE PIECE; Francesco Simonetti (1686-1753); Oils on Canvas; 61cm x 35.5cm; Purchased from Mr. P. Vassallo in February, 1960.

66. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC (Bishop Cannaves ?); Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 72cm x 98cm; Purchased on the 21st August, 1946.

67. ASSISTING THE PLAGUE STRICKEN; Pietro Paolo Caruana (1794-1852); Oils on Canvas; 22cm x 31cm; Purchased on the 21st August, 1957.

68. THE MOOR OF VENICE; Giuseppe Call (1846-1930); Signed & dated 1891; Oils on Canvas; 75cm x 99cm; Purchased on the 29th September, 1952.

69. A SAINT IN ECSTASY; Uulognesc School XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 34cm x 46cm; Purchased on the 21st May, 1957.

70. ST. JEROME; Venetian School XVI cent. Oil* on Canvas; 55cm x 72cm; Purchased from Mr. J.P. Galea on the 4th February, 1955.

71. THE TRAGIC FANTASY; Giovanni Olea (1663-1731); Oils on Canvas; 41cm x 56cm; Purchased from Mr. J.J. Galea on the 4th February, 1955.

72. A SAINT IN ECSTASY; Giovanni Olea (1663-1731); Oils on Canvas; 34cm x 46cm; Purchased on the 21st May, 1957.

73. HEAD OF A FEMALE SAINT; Spanish School XVI cent.; Oils on Canvas; 22cm x 31cm; Purchased on the 21st August, 1957.

74. CRUCIFIXION; Florentine, end XIV; Tempera on Panel; 46cm x 86cm; Purchased in 1955-56.

75. CRUCIFIXION; Florentine, end XIV; Tempera on Panel; 46cm x 86cm; Purchased in 1955-56.

76. TRIP OF FAITH; Giovanni Olea (1663-1731); Oils on Canvas; 41cm x 56cm; Purchased from Mr. J.J. Galea on the 4th February, 1955.

77. CRUCIFIXION; Florentine, end XIV; Tempera on Panel; 46cm x 86cm; Purchased in 1955-56.

78. THE TRAGIC FANTASY; Giovanni Olea (1663-1731); Oils on Canvas; 34cm x 46cm; Purchased on the 21st May, 1957.

79. THE MOOR OF VENICE; Giuseppe Call (1846-1930); Signed & dated 1891; Oils on Canvas; 75cm x 99cm; Purchased on the 29th September, 1952.

80. HOLY FAMILY; French School XVIII cent.; Oils on Slate; 53cm x 67cm; Purchased on the 29th September, 1952.

81. MADONNA; Tommaso Minardi (1789-1871); Signed & dated 1862; Oils on Panel; 56cm x 70cm; Purchased from the Noble Salvino Testaferrata Moron; Viaui on the 21st April, 1957.
Ref.: Mus. Dept. Reg. O.A.M.A.

82. STREET SCENES; Giuseppe De Nittis (1846-84); Signed; Oils on Panel; 39.5cm x 49.5cm; Purchased from Mr. M. Cassar on the 21st March, 1955.
Ref.: Mus. Dept. Reg. O.A.M.A.

83. STREET SCENES; Giuseppe De Nittis (1846-84); Signed; Oils on Panel; 39.5cm x 49.5cm; Purchased from Mr. M. Cassar on the 21st March, 1955.
Ref.: Mus. Dept. Reg. O.A.M.A.

84. STREET SCENES; Giuseppe De Nittis (1846-84); Signed; Oils on Panel; 39.5cm x 49.5cm; Purchased from Mr. M. Cassar on the 21st March, 1955.
Ref.: Mus. Dept. Reg. O.A.M.A.
87. ANNUNCIATION; Gio. Domenico Lombardi (1682-1752); Oils on Canvas; 37cm x 51cm; Purchased from Mr. F. Borg of Attard in 1960.

Exhibition: 1960-"Papaline Centenary Exhibition", Catholic Institute, Floriana.


88. SELF PORTRAIT; Francesco Zarda (1710-1773); Oils on Canvas; 96cm x 94cm; Purchased from T. Vassallo on the 20th November 1960.


89. MATER DOLOROSA; Giuseppe Call (1846-1930); Signed ft dated 1891; Oils on Card- board; 39cm x 29cm; Purchased from T. Vassallo on the 20th November, 1960.


90. TRIPHYL OF DAVID; Palma il Giovane (1556-1628); Oils on Canvas; 156cm x 88cm; Purchased in 1961.


91. A BEGGAR; Neapolitan School XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 76cm x 97cm; Purchased from Mr. C. Camilleri on the 26th April, 1961.


92. CAPRICE; Antonio Joli (1700-77); Oils on Canvas; 50cm x 61cm; Purchased from Mr. P. Vassallo (?).


93. HOLY FAMILY; Anon XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 62cm x 82cm; Purchased in 1927-28.

Ref.: Anon. XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 62cm x 82cm; Purchased in 1927-28.

94. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; E. Caruana Dingli (1876-1950); Signed; Oils on Canvas: 60cm x 82cm; Purchased from Mr. P. Vassallo (?).


95. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC (BISHOP VINCENZO LABINI 1780-1807): E. Caruana Dingli (1876-1950); Oils on Canvas; 60cm x 82cm; Purchased in 1927-28.


APPENDIX

Bibliography


Ferri (1860): A. Ferri, "DESCRIPTION DES PALAIS DU GOUVERNEMENT A MALTE".

Lintorn Simmons (1855): Blanche Lintorn Simmons, "Description of the Governor's Palaces in Malta" (1855).

Hoestel (1877): Jean Houel, "Voyage Pittoresque des Isles de Sicile de Lipari et de Malte et de Malte" (1877).

Anderson (1802): Aeneas Anderson, "Description of the Governor's Palaces in Malta" (1802).

Marian (1929): Valerio Marianelli, "Malta Pitti a Malta" (1929).


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102. STIL LIFE; II Maltese; Oils on Canvas; 98cm x 136cm; Purchased from the Apap Bologna Sale on the 26th January, 1964.

103. BENEDIZIONE; Willie Apap (1918-1970); Oils on Canvas; Signed & dated 1966; 86cm x 112cm; Purchased on the 25th September, 1968.

104. PORTRAIT OF HENRI DE CHALVET; Anon. XVII cent.; Dated 1746; Oils on Canvas; 143cm x 208.5cm; Purchased from Mrs. N. Tuglich on the 18th August, 1967.

105. ALLEGORY OF LOVE; Filippo Falciatore XVII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 6.5cm x 76cm; Purchased from the Camilleri-Wettiniger families on the 2nd April, 1968.

106. MADONNA WITH ST. DOMINIC; Grani Vella (1885-1977); Signed; Oils on Canvas; 34.5cm x 43.5cm; Purchased from T. Vassallo on the 28th April, 1961.

107. PORTRAIT OF JEAN DE FRENOT; Jacob Van Leeuwen (1644-70); Signed & dated 1667(?); Oils on Canvas; 144cm x 208cm; Purchased on the 7th November, 1958.

108. MADONNA CARRIED UNTO HAVEN; Umbrian end XV (1) cent.; Tempera on Panel; 46cm x 56cm; Purchased .........

109. PASTORAL SCENE; Francois Boucher (1703-70); Oils on Canvas; 132.5cm x 94cm; Purchased from Mr. L. Farrugia

110. PORTRAIT OF A LADY; E. Caruana Dingli (1876-1950); Signed; Oils on Canvas; 50cm x 61cm; Purchased from Mr. F. Vassallo (?).

111. BOSCHETTO PAIR; E. Caruana Dingli (1876-1950); Oils on Cardboard; 60cm x 46cm; Purchased from Mr. F. Vassallo (?).

112. PORTRAIT OF AN ECCLESIASTIC (BISHOP VINCENZO LABINI 1780-1807); Anon. XVIII cent.; Oils on Canvas; 62cm x 82cm; Purchased in 1927-28.

APPENDIX

Bibliography

Ferris (1866): A. Ferris, Descrizione delle Chiese..... (1866).
Lintorn Simmons (1895): Blanche Lintorn Simmons Description of the Governor's Palaces in Malta (1895).
Houel (1787): Jean Houel, Voyage Pictoresque des Isles de Sicile de Lipari et de Malta (1787).

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