



**THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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# 1

## *Legal and Policy Issues*



### **1.1 Core Functions**

The core business of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage as set by the Cultural Heritage Act 2002 includes the following functions:

- Heritage Data Management and Processing: national heritage databases, national inventory of cultural heritage assets, museums and sites, clean storage/archiving of documents and artefacts, data provision to the general public.
- Planning development issues: field evaluations, planning process consultations, recommendations for scheduling, Environmental Impact Assessments, Appeals Board.
- Museums and Sites Monitoring: assessment, auditing, guardianship.
- Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution: all aspects of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.
- Movement of Cultural Goods: import/export, Customs, border control, EU regulations.
- Heritage Data-Capture: field work, excavation, evaluation of art objects, collections, documentation and other, covering all territory including territorial waters.
- International Commitments: UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Union, European and Euro-Med partnership, bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations.
- Communication and Outreach: press, public relations, education, Local Councils, schools, publication programme.
- National Forum: compilation and upgrade of the State of the Heritage Report.
- Policy Development: policy, standards, guidelines, regulations, heritage management plans, advice to Government on heritage matters.

### **The National Cultural Heritage Inventory**



#### **1.1 Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS)**

A number of data capture initiatives have been started in the course of 2008 aimed at collecting information relating to key cultural heritage assets. This information is being collected in line with the technical parameters set by CHIMS – the data management system owned by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage since 2007.

Further data sets relating to cultural heritage assets are also being developed as a result of other research or surveillance projects. These are described separately under Sections 3 and 6 of this report.

However in 2008 no add new records were imputed within CHIMS. Data management initiatives started by the Superintendence could not be completed due to the limited human resources employed within the organisation.

Additionally the Superintendence encountered problems when trying to set up data-sharing and networking agreements with other public entities. Such inter-departmental collaborations are important in allowing the migration of already existent cultural heritage data into the new national database as required by the Cultural Heritage Act.



### 2.1 Malta Environment and Planning Authority: Consultation on Development Applications

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage carried out an internal review of all the cases it had handled relating to land use and development over the period 2006-2008. The object of the review was to better characterise this important sector, establish key trends and define ways of improving the organisation's performance in the coming years. Some of the results of the internal audit are illustrated below in Tables 1 and 2.

A significant trend detected by this exercise is the drop in the number of consultation letters received by the Superintendence from MEPA over the three year period under review. In 2006 the number of consultation letters by MEPA stood at 350, but dropped to 74 by 2008.

At the same time however, the Superintendence registered a significant increase in cases that it had to investigate outside the mainstream MEPA consultation process. In real terms the case load of the Superintendence has not decreased, but has changed in character.

The review suggest that during the last few years the general patterns of land use issues requiring investigation by the Superintendence have gradually shifted. Though MEPA consultations have decreased in number, lengthy investigation requiring inspections, monitoring and fieldwork have increased.

**Table 1 – Land Use Cases handled by SCH 2006-08**

	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total number of new land use cases handled by SCH per year</b>	393	198	162
<b>Consultation letters received from MEPA</b>	350	138	74
<b>Development cases handled by SCH with no MEPA consultation letter</b>	44	60	88

Table 2 illustrates the incidence of development cases which were government related (including local government initiatives), or which involved some form of EU funding. These figures show the important role of publicly funded development in the broader land use picture and its impact on cultural heritage assets.

<b>Table 2</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Total number of cases with EU- or government-related development</b>	76	46	35
<b>Consultation letters received from MEPA i.c.w. EU funding or Government-related cases</b>	66	37	20
<b>Development cases handled by SCH with EU or Government-related / no MEPA consultation sent</b>	10	9	15

Furthermore a total of 66 archaeological monitoring briefs were issued by the Superintendence in the course of 2008 alone. This figure indicates that monitoring cases constitute approximately a third of the entire workload of the Superintendence relating to land use. This is a very positive development, especially when compared to the 50 monitoring cases registered in 2006 (only about an eighth of the total number of land use cases handled). This trend towards increased monitoring of land development cases is illustrated in Table 3.

<b>Table 3</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Number of Monitoring Briefs issued by SCH annually</b>	50	40	66

## **2.2 Awtorita` Dwar it-Trasport: Applications for Road-works**

During 2008, the Superintendence also received approximately 70 consultations from the Awtorita` dwar it-Trasport. These applications concerned road works and related infrastructural development. These cases were investigated individually, at times with inspections, because of possible impacts on cultural heritage. Where necessary, permits were issued subject to conditions of the Superintendence.

## **2.3 Major Land Use Cases – 2008**

**Dock No 1 Project, Cospicua** – The Superintendence assessed the Environmental Impact Assessment that was drawn up in connection with the proposed project. The Superintendence also made submissions on negative impacts the development may have on the cultural heritage aspects of this historical area, including the conservation of the industrial heritage at this site and the aesthetic impact on the fortifications. Guidelines were issued for more exhaustive data capture to adequately inform the project designers and protect the cultural heritage.

**Smart City Project, Ricasoli** – The Superintendence assessed the Environmental Impact Assessment drawn up in connection with the proposed project. In co-operation with MEPA and the Superintendent of Fortifications, the Superintendence made a strong recommendation for the protection and preservation of St Peter's Anti-Aircraft battery, which is an important World War II monument.

**San Niklaw Airfield, Siggiewi** – The Superintendence drafted terms of reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment and subsequently assessed the proposed developments in the light of the document. The Superintendence highlighted the extensive nature of the airfield installation, recommending the protection of this significant historical monument from the World War II and the Cold War periods. The Superintendence recommended that the proposed development should include the protection of the existing military features and their transformation into a heritage park.

**St James Hospital, Bulebel** – Archaeological monitoring of development works at the St James Hospital site in Bulebel led to the identification of a cluster of ancient rock-cut tombs. The Superintendence intervened in terms of legislation and imposed on the developer the carrying out of an extensive archaeological investigation of the entire footprint of the development. The aim of the investigation is to establish the real extent of these remains and to establish their state of conservation. The investigation was still ongoing at the end of 2008.

**Parking under St George's Square, Valletta** – The Superintendence has reviewed this development proposal and has drawn attention to a number of potential cultural heritage impacts at this site. The Superintendence, in collaboration with Works Division also prepared an archaeological and monitoring brief for a cultural heritage evaluation exercise to be carried out at this location in the course of 2009.

**Saint John's Co-Cathedral Project, Valletta** – The Superintendence has submitted its comments regarding the initial proposals for the development of new museum facilities linked to the St John's Co-Cathedral complex. The Superintendence has proceeded to liaise with stakeholders, giving guidance on data capture that will inform the planning process.

**Sliema Streetscapes** – The Superintendence intervened in two separate cases in relation to development applications impacting traditional streetscapes in the Sliema Urban Conservation Areas. The first case regarded the protection of two historical houses sited in Dingli Street, one of which was the work of the prominent early 20<sup>th</sup> Century architect Vincenti. The second case involved the conservation of a significant streetscape at Windsor Terrace, which is notable for the harmony of its design.

**Enemalta Site, Xewkija** – The Superintendence intervened to investigate and protect an ancient Roman cistern uncovered by development works on an extensive Enemalta project in the Hamrija district, Xewkija. The Superintendence requested the developer to redesign the project and also issued a monitoring brief to cover all further works on site. Documentation and investigation of these features is also being undertaken.



### 3.1 Major Cases

#### 3.1.1 Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park Project

##### Visitor Centre Site – Archaeological Excavations

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage followed closely the construction of the Visitor Centre building at the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park. A monitoring brief was imposed on the early stages of the construction which involved the stripping of the asphalted surface and the uncovering of the underlying bedrock. Most of the footprint of the Centre was found to have been heavily disturbed. However a cluster of three small rock-cut hollows of probable ancient date were discovered, documented and were then protected from subsequent construction.

The Superintendence also requested Heritage Malta to drastically minimise the extent of rock-cutting required for the construction of the Visitor Centre foundations. The designs for the Centre were in fact changed to address this concern.

##### Surveillance of the Installation of the Temporary Protective Shelters

The Superintendence was also heavily involved in the surveillance and monitoring of construction works for the Temporary Protective Shelters over the monuments at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra.

Archaeological investigations – Investigations started under the direction of the Superintendence late in 2007 to assess the possible archaeological impacts of the two shelters at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra. By February 2008 sufficient information was available to prepare a detailed impact assessment statement. It was by then clear that significant archaeological evidence was going to be irreversibly impacted by the anchorage systems of the two shelters.

At Hagar Qim an extensive, previously undocumented system of post holes, rock-cut trenches and levelled surfaces were found to extend right round the main megalithic structure. A



large circular rock-cut feature of unknown function, but still containing prehistoric strata was also identified to the North of the main temple.

At Mnajdra the investigation uncovered evidence for extensive ancient quarrying as well as prehistoric stratigraphic sequences were at various points around the main monumental complex. Remains of a probable prehistoric terrace were also identified to the South of the temple.

In view of these discoveries the Superintendence instructed Heritage Malta to redesign the anchoring methodology for both protective shelters. A long process of redesign of the anchoring systems followed resulting in a new, physically less damaging system than that originally proposed by Heritage Malta. Different mitigation measures were adopted to reduce the extent of irreversible damage caused by the shelter foundations.

### **3.1.2 Ta' Bistra Catacombs - Infrastructural Works**

The Superintendence reviewed various proposals by Heritage Malta to carry out works in the area of Ta' Bistra. The works included the restoration and alterations to the old farmhouse structure located within the footprint of the site. The works were part of a plan to transform the farmhouse into a Visitors Centre. The Superintendence imposed a Monitoring Brief on all excavation works at this site, including the construction of a lift shaft, the introduction of services and the installation of an electrode.

In the course of the monitoring an area of ancient quarrying was discovered at the planned location of the lift shaft. The quarrying was found to be sealed under a layer containing Early Roman ceramics. The feature was investigated under the direction of the Superintendence and measures were taken by Heritage Malta to preserve these remains.

Proposed Fence – The Superintendence has also submitted feedback to MEPA and to Heritage Malta with respect to a development application for the construction of an enclosure at ta' Bistra. An archaeological evaluation of the proposed enclosure is necessary to avoid negative archaeological impacts on the site.

### **3.1.3 Ta' Hagrah Temples, Mgarr - Expropriation Procedures**

In 2007 both the Superintendence and Heritage Malta had expressed their objection to the proposed development of the strip of land lying directly to the North of the World Heritage

monument of ta' Hagraat. This notwithstanding, development permits were granted in early 2008 for two adjacent properties within that strip of land.

In view of the possible threat to the site of ta' Hagraat the Superintendence favoured the expropriation of the strip of land in question and its amalgamation into the enclosed archaeological area surrounding the temple site. A request for the expropriation of the site was then made by Heritage Malta. Funds for completing the expropriation have been voted in the course of 2009.

#### **3.1.4 Sqaq Sardinja, Tarxien – Expropriation Procedures**

The Superintendence initiated expropriation procedures for a property located at Triq N.Tagliaferro, Tarxien. The area was formerly known as Sqaq Sardinia and has been documented since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century as being the site of a megalithic monument. In the course of the 1970s the area was allowed to be buried under a block of newly constructed residential units. Following the demolition of one of these units, parts of a megalithic structure started emerging. The Superintendence intervened and initiated an archaeological evaluation of the site. This exercise established that the remains consisted of a Neolithic megalithic structure, with a later Bronze Age occupation phase. These remains could be positively identified as being part of the Sqaq Sardinia archaeological site. This new site lies just over a hundred meters from the Tarxien temple complex.

In view of the intrinsic importance of these remains and its association with the World Heritage Monument of Tarxien Temples it was decided to initiate expropriation procedures in order to preserve access to the site and to ensure its physical preservation.

#### **3.1.5 New ERDF Projects proposed by Heritage Malta**

In December 2008 the Superintendence was presented by Heritage Malta with three outline proposals which were meant to be funded in the coming years from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The projects consist of the following:

- Construction of a Visitors Centre, a Museum and the visitor trails at Ggantija.
- Installation of a temporary protective shelter over Tarxien Temples.
- Creation of a Visitors Centre and other facilities at St Paul's Catacombs, Rabat.

The Superintendence started the review of these proposals.

### **3.1.6 Grandmasters Palace, Valletta - Paladini Chapel**

The Superintendence reviewed a proposal by Works Division to restore the doorway to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Verdala Chapel within the Grandmasters Palace in Valletta (also referred to as the Paladini Chapel). The restoration required the removal of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century infill wall which had entirely obscured the original doorway to the Chapel. The Superintendence approved the proposal, judging it to be an important step forward in the appreciation of this important Manierist masterpiece. The Superintendence also proposed that the original maiolica floor tiles of the Chapel should be re-instated.

### **3.1.7 Cittadella Master Plan**

The Superintendence assisted the Ministry for Gozo in drafting the tender document for the preparation of a Master Plan for the Cittadella. A policy decision was taken to use CHIMS as the database for the inputting of all data relating to the cultural heritage assets of the Cittadella area. Specifications have been drafted into the tender document to ensure that the data collected as part of the Master Plan exercise will be compatible with CHIMS. The Cittadella Master Plan will be funded through EU Structural Funding programs.



### 4.1 Major Cases

- **Rural Caves in Nadur, Gozo**

The Superintendence intervened in July 2006 to stop works that were reportedly causing damage to caves in Nadur and had sought the assistance of the Police in safeguarding them. These caves had been identified by the Superintendence as having cultural heritage value and steps were taken for their physical preservation. In the course of 2008, officers of the Superintendence were called to testify in a related court case.

- **Landscape at Tar-Raghad, Mgarr**

In 2007 the Superintendence had asked for the intervention of the Police after an unauthorised development had impacted on the cultural heritage landscape at Tar-Raghad, Mgarr. The Police have since initiated criminal action and the Superintendence is testifying in this ongoing court case.

- **Illegal Removal of Victorian Milestone**

In 2007 the Police succeeded in recovering a milestone dating to the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century from a private residence. The milestone appears to have originally stood on the inside of Porte de Bombes in Floriana. Criminal proceedings have been initiated and the Superintendence has been requested to testify in this case, which is still ongoing.



### **5.1 Export or Movement of Cultural Goods**

In 2008 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulated the export and movement of cultural goods moving between EU Member States, as well as from or to third party States. The Superintendence monitored and regulated approximately 725 cases of export of personal Items from Malta.

### **5.2 Temporary Movement of Cultural Goods**

In line with its obligations under the Cultural Heritage Act, the Superintendence has also reviewed and regulated a number of applications for the temporary export of cultural goods out of the Maltese territory for purposes of restoration, exhibition or for other cultural and social purposes. The main cases handled in 2008 are listed below.

Exhibition "Agata Santa: Storia, Arte, Devozione" - Museo Diocesiano di Catania, Catania;

Exhibition "Antonio Sciortino: A Maltese 20th Century Sculptor" Casa Museo Benlliure, Valencia;

Temporary Movement of Cultural Items i.c.w. Exhibition at European Central Bank, Frankfurt;

Temporary export of Painting of St. George by St. John Co-Cathedral Foundation for exhibition purposes;

Temporary Movement of Cultural Items i.c.w. Exhibition "Painted with Passion: Masterpieces from the Golden Age" - Museum Catharijne Convent, Utrecht;

Exhibition "Malta, Prehistory and Temples" MARQ - Museo Arqueologico de Alicante, Alicante;

Temporary Export of Historic Reliquary of St Paul to Australia on the occasion of the 2008 papal visit;

Exhibition - Entre le Glaive et la Croix, Chefs d'Oeuvres de l'Aurmerie de Malte - Musee de l'Armee, Paris.



### 6.0 Major Fieldwork Cases

In 2008 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage carried out approximately 25 fieldwork investigations, both on land and at sea. The main initiatives are described below, although a number of fieldwork interventions have already been described under Sections 2 and 3 of this Report.

#### 6.1 Research Initiatives

##### **Mgarr ix-Xini Regional Park – Sannat and Xewkija**

The Superintendence continued for the fourth year its collaboration with the Local Councils of Sannat and Xewkija in the development of the Mgarr ix-Xini Regional Park initiative. The scope of the collaboration is to develop archaeological information on the valley system of Mgarr ix-Xini. In 2008 two separate fieldwork initiatives were carried out under this collaboration agreement.

- **Excavations at Tal-Knisja**

The archaeological survey of the valley by the Superintendence was continued in 2008 with the excavation of two stratigraphic trenches in a terraced field sited in the area known as Tal-Knisja. The year before, an ancient stone-cut wine press had been identified and documented in the immediate vicinity of the terraced field. The 2008 excavation identified a concentration of mainly Punic pottery in the lowermost fill of the terraced field. This is a significant discovery, documenting for the first time in Malta the creation of agricultural fields from as early as the Punic period.

- **Excavations at Ghar ix-Xih – Season 4**

The Superintendence also participated with the Department of Archaeology of the University of Malta in the 4<sup>th</sup> Season of the Ghar ix-Xih excavations. Work concentrated on the investigation of the Late Hellenistic stratigraphy of the site. Some of the older occupation strata consisting of beaten earth

and traces of hearths have been investigated. These seem to date to the around the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC.

Additionally to the excavation at Ghar ix-Xih a number of specialist studies have been carried out both on site and at post excavation stage, including:

A Ground Penetrating Survey of the site was carried out by personnel from Ghent University as part of the Malta Survey Project.

An examination of the site and the faunal remains from the excavation was carried out by Prof. Clive Finlayson as part of the Superintendence collaboration program with the Gibraltar Museum.

Examination and inventory of the ceramics recovered in the course of the excavation has been continued by Dr. Alessandro Quercia within the broader remit of the SCH Post Excavation program.

### **Malta Survey Project – Season 1**

A research collaboration has been signed between the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Department of Archaeology of the University of Ghent and the Department of Archaeology of the University of Malta. The aim of the collaboration is to carry out joint, multi-disciplinary studies of the Maltese rural landscape with particular emphasis on the Punic periods. This project is expected to run till 2011 and is entirely funded by the Fund for Scientific Research of Flanders (Belgium: FWO Vlaanderen G.0162.06N).

In 2008 work focused on the carrying out of preparatory work and pilot studies in the field. A Ground Penetrating Radar team has tested the equipment on a number of different archaeological sites. A pilot field survey was also carried out in the area around Bidni, west of Burmarrad. Although the main objective of the project is to document the Punic rural landscape, evidence for later historical periods have also been recovered and documented. Furthermore an extensive desk top research has been initiated with the object of building up a database of information and a base plan that will be required in the later phases of the project. All cultural heritage data collected in the course of this project will be inputted into CHIMS.

### **Quaternary Survey with the Gibraltar Museum**

A joint survey exercise between the Superintendence and the Gibraltar Museum has been carried out in 2008 aimed at establishing a preliminary assessment of Malta's Quaternary Landscape heritage. Superintendence officers worked with a three-person team from the Gibraltar Museum which was headed by Prof. Clive Finlayson. The survey inspected both terrestrial and marine landscapes on both Malta and Gozo. The Gibraltar Museum has extensive experience in the study of

Mediterranean paleo-environments, particularly in relation to early hominid landscapes.

### **Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta**

A research permit was issued by the Superintendence to the Missione Archaeologica Italiana a Malta to continue its studies and investigations in relation to the site of the ancient Temple of Astarte at Tas-Silg. Work in 2008 included archaeological investigation of the prehistoric remains at Tas-Silg, as well as study of the materials recovered in earlier seasons of work from the same site.

### **Geological Investigation at Delimara, Marsaxlokk – Season 2**

A research permit was issued by the Superintendence to the Dipartimento di Scienza della Terra of the Università degli Studi di Siena for the carrying out of geo-stratigraphic and sedimentological observations of the limestone sequences of the Dellimara peninsula. In particular the study is focusing on the Miocene sediments of the Middle-Upper Globigerina Limestone sequence. The research aims to collect information regarding these sediments from a biostratigraphic, chronostratigraphic, paleomagnetic, paleoclimatic, and paleoceanographic point of view.

### **Collaboration with Post-Graduate Students**

The Superintendence has assisted a number of post-graduate level students in their research programs relating to various aspects of Malta's cultural heritage resources. The Superintendence assisted these students in the development of their research programs, in the identification of appropriate material samples and by issuing permits with for the analysis movement of the samples to overseas laboratory facilities.

The studies receiving assistance from the Superintendence in 2008 were the following:

- Ancient DNA Research – A doctorate level research by Josef Caruana at the University of Manchester (UK) involving the sampling and analysis of aDNA remains from two Late Roman funerary sites in Malta.
- Characterisation Study of Prehistoric Ochre – A doctorate level research by Nicola Attard Montalto at Cranfield University (UK) involving the sampling and chemical characterisation involving samples of ochre recovered from prehistoric artefacts from various Maltese sites.
- Characterisation Study of Roman Mortars – A pre-masters scientific research by Ruby Jean Cutajar at the Institute du Physique du Globe de Strasbourg (France) involving the characterisation of a number of mortar and mosaic tesserae samples from the site of the Roman Baths at Ghajn Tuffieha.



### **SCH Post-Excavation Program**

The Superintendence continued promoting its program of Post-Excavation analysis of all the archaeological interventions it has carried out since 2003, as well as the interventions carried out by the Museums Department since 1990. The various initiatives carried out in 2008 included:

- Study by Dr. Brunella Bruno of the Sovrintendenza per I Beni Archeologici del Veneto, involving the survey and analysis of Roman and Byzantine amphora assemblages from a number of sites including the excavations at Barrani of 1993, Zebbieh 2006, Ta Qali 2007 and Mdina 2008.
- Study by Dr. Alessandro Quercia involving the study and analysis of Punic and Early Roman ceramic assemblages from various archaeological interventions, including Zebbieh 2006, Ta' Qali 2007, Ghar ix-Xih and Tal-Knisja 2008.
- Inventory and osteological analysis by Charles Mifsud of human skeletal remains from various funerary sites excavated since 1990 and including the ancient tomb sites at Mtarfa (1990), Hal Far (1990), Bidnija (1991) and Ta' Mlit (1992).
- An audit and catalogue of ancient materials and documentation held by the Superintendence relating to archaeological activities carried out in Malta from 1990 to the present.
- The Superintendence also received extensive voluntary assistance by private individuals and researchers in post-excavation activities including the cleaning and inking of materials, and in related illustration and inventory work.

### **6.2 Interventions Related to Land Development**

A number of significant archaeological interventions were directed by the Superintendence following unexpected discoveries during land development projects or else in the course of ongoing archaeological monitoring briefs. Some of the major cases in 2008 were the following:

#### **Tal-Mejtin Cemetery – Hal Luqa**

Monitoring of excavation works for the new extension to the Luqa Cemetery exposed a cluster of five rock-cut silo pits. The pits had been re-utilised as water cisterns in relatively modern times and their original fill was found to be missing. This cluster belongs to a much larger group of silo pits documented in the area of Tal-Mejtin, which have been dated to the Early Bronze Age.

#### **Mdina Bastions – Mdina**

Following the uncovering of a stretch of masonry during restoration works by Works Division beneath the eastern bastions of Mdina, the Superintendence started an extensive archaeological investigation of the area. Two sets of medieval fortifications were uncovered including a *talus* structure dating to around the 10<sup>th</sup> Cent. AD and the foundations of a later circular tower dating to around th 15<sup>th</sup> Cent. AD.

#### **Tal-Mintna – Mqabba**

Monitored clearance of a garden and a modern structure revealed a cluster of rock-cut features. The oldest features identified consisted of two funerary chambers belonging to a small Late Roman catacomb and six semi-spherical pits which have been tentatively interpreted as ancient vats.

#### **Site at Triq San Pawl – Rabat**

Following the issue of a development permit at this site in Rabat, the Superintendence started an archaeological evaluation of the area. The investigation was still ongoing by the end of the year. It is however apparent that the area contains a complex of classical and medieval stratigraphic remains belonging to the ancient city of Melita.

#### **Site at Vjal il-Bon Pastur – Balzan**

Monitoring of construction works led to the identification of traces of a probable Roman structure as well as a possible truncated silo pit and vine trenches. All the remains were found associated with ceramics dating to around the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 1<sup>st</sup> Cent AD. These remains indicate the presence of a previously undocumented early Roman rural settlement in the area.

#### **Site next to Parish Church – Kercem**

A rock cut chamber with human bones was discovered during construction of a new annex to the Kercem parish church complex. A preliminary investigation by the Superintendence of this feature established that it consisted of a Neolithic shaft and chamber burial, probably comparable to the Xemxija-grave type. The Superintendence in collaboration with the Kercem parish took steps to ensure that this feature is preserved and will be available for future more detailed investigations.

#### **Site at Forman Str. – Victoria, Gozo**

An archaeological evaluation of a site at Forman Street led to the identification of a deep pit cut into the clay slopes of the Cittadella hill. The pit was filled with ashy earth dumps containing Roman Imperial period pottery as well as burnt bricks and stone. Both the clay pit and the fills seem to be associated with a ceramic kiln site located in the vicinity of the present investigation.

### **6.3 List of Approved Archaeological Monitors**

The Superintendence regularly reviews the list of persons who are approved to carry out archaeological monitoring, and updates the list on its website. By end of 2008 the number of archaeological monitors so approved by the Superintendence had increased to up to 15 monitors.



### **7.1 European Union**

#### **7.1.1 15th Meeting of the Committee on the Export and Return of Cultural Goods (European Commission)**

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage attended this meeting which was held in Brussels, as part of its duties with respect to the regulation of movement of cultural goods between member states of the European Union. In the course of the meeting the Commission presented the national delegations with the current state of play with respect to the application of EU Directive 93/7 on the Return of Cultural Objects Unlawfully Removed from Member States. Different initiatives were also discussed to improve the effectiveness of the directive and the degree of protection afforded to cultural heritage properties moving between member states.

### **7.2 Council of Europe**

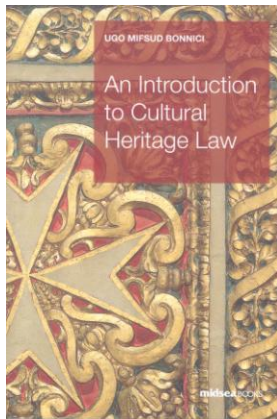
#### **2.2.1 Council of Europe's 1st Plenary Session of the Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP)**

The Superintendence attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session of the CDPATEP in Strasbourg as a representative of the Ministry for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. This was the first meeting of this Committee, following the amalgamation of the former Committee for Cultural Heritage with the one for Environment and Landscape. The new, unified committee is now responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the European Conventions on Architecture, Archaeology and Landscape, as

well as the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.

### **7.2.2 13th International Heritage Photographic Experience**

The Superintendence participated in the 13th International Heritage Photographic Experience (IHPE) organised by Museo de Catalunya on behalf of the Council of Europe. The main European event was held in Strasbourg at the Palais de l'Europe and consisted of an exhibition of photography from 45 different countries on the subject of Monuments and Landscapes. Malta participated with the works of two young photographers whose works have been published in IHPE 08 Catalogue, together with the images from the other international competitors.



### 8.1 FASTI Online

The Superintendence has further developed its 2007 collaboration agreement with the International Association for Classical Archaeology (AIAC) for the on-line dissemination of information on Maltese archaeology. As per agreement the Superintendence has organised by the end of 2008 the inputting of 22 records describing as many archaeological interventions in Malta dating from 1990 to the present.

The information has been inputted onto the FASTI Online website which is a web-based GIS database developed by the AIAC with the support of the Packard Humanities Institute. FASTI presents an extensive coverage of current and recent excavations from Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Morocco, Romania and Serbia. There is no chronological limitation to the sites listed, which range from the Upper Palaeolithic to the nineteenth century. The address of the FASTI site is: [www.fastionline.org](http://www.fastionline.org)

### 8.2 Outreach Events

#### 8.2.1 Local Competition for the 13<sup>th</sup> International Heritage Photographic Experience (IHPE)

The Superintendence organised a local photographic competition open to all students and youth organisations up to the age of 20. The objective of the competition was to select the best works to represent Malta in Strasbourg on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> IHPE hosted by the Council of Europe in December 2008. The subject of the competition was 'Maltese

Cultural Heritage, Monuments and Landscapes'. Various schools as well as Scout groups participated in this year's competition. The judges selected three winning photos, of which the first and second represented Malta in IHPE 2008.

### **8.2.2 AIAC 2008 Congress Poster Session - Rome**

The Superintendence participated in the Poster Session of the 2008 Congress of the International Association of Classical Archaeologists which was organised in Rome in September 2008. The Superintendence presented two posters to the event. The first poster dealt with the Mgarr ix-Xini Landscape Project with particular emphasis on the evidence of the wine presses identified in that location. The second poster illustrated some of the results of the 2007 excavations of the rural classical settlement of Ta' Qali.

## **8.3 Publications**

In 2008 the Superintendence participated in two major publications on Maltese and Mediterranean cultural heritage topics.

- Sophia Antoniadou and Anthony Pace, **Mediterranean Crossroads**, Pierides Foundation

This volume was published within the framework of the project "Crossings: Movements of People and Movement of Culture: Changes in the Mediterranean from Ancient to Modern Times", which is supported by the European Union framework programme 'CULTURE 2000'.

The volume contains the proceedings of a conference held in Athens in 2005 entitled 'Mediterranean Crossroads' and brings together 30 papers on the prehistory, history and heritage management of the Mediterranean, including a number of papers specifically dedicated to various aspects of the Maltese heritage.

- Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, **An Introduction to Cultural Heritage Law**, Midsea Books

This study by H.E. the President Emeritus Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici brings together Malta's national legislation relevant to cultural heritage matters. It also reviews a wide range of international Treaties, Charters and Conventions which also contribute to the governance of this subject. This is a key reference work for all those involved in the subject of Maltese cultural heritage management. This publication was jointly funded by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta.



### **9.1 National Forum and State of the Heritage Report 2008**

A policy decision was taken to hold the National Forum at the beginning of each year rather than at its end, as had been the case so far. The State of the Heritage Report for 2008 will therefore be issued by the Superintendence in early 2009.

The change in date will allow the State of the Heritage Report to provide a full retrospective of developments in the course of any given year. This is a significant improvement on previous Reports which could only provide a limited coverage of developments.

In particular the need to publish the Report by the month of November of the same year being reviewed resulted in missing information for the last three-month period of that year. This was a serious concern for the Superintendence during the drafting process of the report.

Following the change in the date of presentation, the Report for 2008 will now include a review of the entire year.

The Report for 2008 will also be systematically compare current figures with data-sets from 2006 and 2007. This will allow local trends in cultural heritage management to be better defined and analysed.



### 10. Coordination with other Regulatory Bodies



The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is engaged in an ongoing processes of consultation with Government and with other regulatory bodies. A significant part of this process is its participation in a number of standing committees aimed at coordination between different stakeholders in the cultural heritage and related sectors. These bodies include the following:

- **Committee of Guarantee**

This committee's main role is to provide advice to the Minister responsible for Culture on matters arising from the application of the Cultural Heritage Act. It also has an important role in helping coordination between different stakeholders in the cultural heritage sector. The Superintendent of Cultural Heritage is an ex-officio member of the Committee of Guarantee.

- **National Archives Council**

The Council has an important role both in providing advice to the Minister responsible for Archives and in coordinating actions by different entities interested by the Archives sector. The Superintendent of Cultural Heritage is an ex-officio member of the National Archives Council.

- **Heritage Advisory Committee - Cultural Heritage Panel**

The Committee is an internal advisory body to the Planning Directorate on development planning applications impacting on cultural heritage assets. The Superintendence has an observer status on the Committee.

### **11. Collective Agreement**

In 2008 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage concluded a Collective Agreement with the trade union representing its staff. The signing of the Agreement required a prolonged process of negotiation between all the interested parties. The Collective Agreement has resulted in the creation of Superintendence specific posts both at a Middle Management and at an Executive level. This is an important development in the process of organisation reform of the Superintendence.

### **11. Superintendence Premises**

- **173, St. Christopher Street, Valletta**

The Superintendence has acquired new premises at St. Christopher Street (Valletta) for its new head office, in replacement of its former address in Melita Street. Besides the office space, the new premises will allow the Superintendence to improve its archiving, research and visitor reception logistics. The move to the new premises was completed by late December 2008.

- **Clean Storage Facility at St. Clement Bastion, Cottonera**

The Superintendence has started a program of improving the archaeological clean storage facility it manages within St. Clement Bastion. New spaces are being added to the storage area and the internal logistics of the facility are being entirely reviewed. This program of works is being done in part through a collaboration agreement reached between the Superintendence and the Foundation for Tomorrow Schools.