FR EMMANUEL MAGRI AND THE ANTIQUITIES OF GOZO

Anton Bugeja*

As the cultural society in the Maltese Islands commemorated the centenary from the death of Fr Emmanuel Magri (1851-1907), questions on the whereabouts of his lost archaeological notes resurfaced. Until such research will hopefully be rewarded by success, the work carried out by Salvu Mallia in compiling Magri’s correspondence through seminal publications’ goes far to provide a summary of the corpus of knowledge known on this pioneer Jesuit priest. The progress registered through the publication of documents preserved in the British Museum, concerning correspondence exchanged between Magri and E.A. Wallis Budge, fits within the framework provided by Mallia, adding to it the insights and conclusions of a graduate archaeologist.2 This paper attempts to summarily reassess Magri’s work and add to the above contributions, particularly in matters that concern the island of Gozo.

As prefect and procurator of the Gozo seminary (1892-1898) and spending his last years on this island, Magri’s aptitude for fieldwork in archaeology and folklore ensured that he left behind a significant legacy on relevant aspects of Gozitan culture. Active around the turn of the twentieth century, at a time which bridges the new and the old for archaeology in the island’s history, Magri’s methods left indelible marks that broke new ground in the investigative fields in which he was involved. His wide and

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unfailing interest in ethnology, archaeology, topography, language and folklore brought developments in each one of these subjects through insights gained in the other spheres of knowledge. Thus from the folktales of giants and the golden calf, Magri identified sites of archaeological importance in Gozo, recording in the process a fast disappearing legacy of oral tradition, immortalised in a small but important number of folklore publications.

His methods were pioneering in more than one way. Highly critical of past and contemporary excavations which had ignored ‘the most elementary principles in digging and disposing of artefacts’, 7 he maintained high standards of practice in many of his works. Unlike most of his predecessors, he gave particular importance to the contents of archaeological deposits, sifting earth within an oven at the ruins opposite the Bishop’s Palace in Gozo in the hope of gaining further knowledge on the site. Here, he even studied ‘the earth under the large blocks’, indeed an early attempt at analysing foundation deposits on the islands. At the Xewkija megalithic remains, pressed for time by impending agricultural and construction activity, Magri used ‘trial pits’ to study this important site. Indeed, at the time, this was a rare use of such a method, an early exercise in what today we call rescue archaeology. Like Antonio Annetto Caruana before him, Magri was desirous of restoring ancient remains, as suggested by his correspondence with the government on the Borg l-Imramma remains. 8 Magri’s sources of information were various; he contacted the British Museum as he did not have ‘the necessary modern publications for reference’ 9 and quoted recent publications in his first report on the excavations at Xewkija. 7 Although he sought the most advanced and recent academic literature, he did not dismiss the wisdom of the country peasant, noting and giving importance to the finds of Francis Ciantar, the tenant of the Xewkija ruins, in assessing remains present at this site.

Magri’s donation to the Museum on display
Further insight into Magri’s work can now be gained through an inventory of the items on display at the Museum in the early twentieth century. 8

Although the document is undated, it certainly post-dates August 1906. 9

With an inventory of the Gabinetto delle Antichità dating to 1883 untraced, 10 this document, now preserved at the National Archives of Malta (hereafter NAM), complements another inventory made of the Public Library’s antiquarian collection in August 1903, 11 both manuscripts providing the only known comprehensive tangible record of the changes witnessed by the country’s ‘national’ collection through the establishment of the Museum Department.

Some of the material listed is clearly linked to Magri who, in some cases, is further recorded as the discoverer or as the person presenting the objects to the Museum. Comparing these attributions to comments made in the Museum Annual Reports reveals that Magri’s connection has, in a number of cases, to be treated with caution 12 but in general the entries in the inventory correlate well with an as yet unpublished document brought to the attention of the present author by Brother Josef Briffa.

The Museum inventory adds on to what is already known about Magri through his correspondence, particularly in aspects concerning the Jesuit’s pioneering archaeological methodology. While the display of fragments was rare in the Gabinetto delle Antichità – mostly related to identifiable or important items – fragments are numerous in the material on display at the Museum linked to Magri just a few years later. While this pattern is already visible by 1904, 13 Magri provides a contribution which is unprecedented in scale, consistently collecting from archaeological sites clay, pottery fragments, stucco, stones, pebbles, glass, metal, coins, bone, and shell. Indeed, Magri’s work represents a turning point in Maltese archaeology. Beyond interest in architectural details and prestigious finds that had

of archaeological interest arranged by Professor George Camilleri, who was kind enough to bring them to the attention of the present author.

9. Material from Hagar Qim is recorded as presented by Magri on 28 August 1906.
10. NAM, CSG01-1587/6 boards (12 x. 1897).
12. While the inventory records that Magri donated items from Il-Hagar Qim and Habel tal-Bir, the Museum Annual Reports (MAR) record that these were donated by Mr. Paul Pisani and Rev. Cassar respectively. See MAR 1896, 2. In these cases Magri was probably the person responsible for the excavations while the persons listed in the MAR are the owners of the site. The present author is grateful to Brother Josef Briffa for the latter explanation.
characterised the work of previous scholars, Magri gives equal attention to items, no matter how fragmentary, found during excavations. The rubbish that had been considered as an encumbrance within ancient remains was to become, starting with Magri, an important source of evidence in reconstructing the date and function of an archaeological site.

**Magri and archaeological sites in Gozo**

The Museum inventory also provides us with an opportunity to add on to the number of sites already known to have been discovered or explored by Magri in Gozo (Plate 1).

Indeed Magri documented the various remains at Ta’ Ċenċ, noted the presence of a megalithic wall in the area, discovered two dolmens, and brought the temple remains of Borg l-Imramma to the attention of Albert Mayr. Magri was also responsible for the only known excavations of the temple at Xewkija and made interesting observations on the megalithic ruins at l-Imrejsbiet and Tal-Qiglans. He appears to have at least collected some potsherds from Ggantija and is today acknowledged to be one of the first twentieth century scholars to note the megalithic remains at Santa Verna.

![Plate 1. Sites in Gozo linked to Magri](image)

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14. Namely *il-Duru tat-Mara* and *il-Duru tat-Xaghra l-Kbir*.

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(Ġużuq Lukin). Magri also attempted to have marble fluted shafts removed from the Mgarr Harbour to a safer place of preservation.

The location and nature of a number of other sites, mentioned by Magri, remain largely unknown. Indeed, on more than one occasion, Magri’s comments are the only known reference of the site. No trace appears to remain of il-Ggantija tal-Zebbug, while the whereabouts of the megalithic buildings at Tal-Hewwa in Kerċem remain unknown. While identifying an ‘elliptical structure between the site of the ancient Church of St. Anthony and the Giants’ Tower’ with the Broktoff Circle should be done with caution, no further information has been found on megaliths arranged in the typical temple period ‘headers and stretchers’ at Tal-Gorf.

Magri also contributed to a number of Phoenician and Roman sites in Gozo. He explored two ancient houses in Rabat, namely those of Ta’ Għammieja and Ta’ Haggarija, and also collected pottery from ix-Xaquqija in the limits of Gharb. He even called for the preservation of a ‘Phoenician’ house discovered at Kerċem but the site was destroyed by the owner, a misfortune that paved the way to the enactment of a long desired law that would protect the islands’ antiquities.

Magri was also involved in the exploration of tombs. At Rabat he called for the preservation of Ghar Ġerduf and explored tombs at l-Abbatjta tal-Saqi and Għajn Qasit Street, donating a complete set of tomb furniture from the latter site. He also explored tombs at Għajnsieliem and Nadur and also mentions a large souterrain at Ġnien Qassim in Xaghra, but the dating and function of this site remains unknown.

**Report on the preservation of Gozo’s antiquities**

Further information on Magri’s work in Gozo can now also be gleaned through ten out of eleven pages of a short report and a number of photographs presently preserved at the library of the National Museum of Archaeology in

15. Mallia 1985, 161. A photograph revealing the probable site containing the marble shafts has recently been found by Mr David Cardona at the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta.

16. Some of these sites listed in MAR 1906 may have since been destroyed.

17. Megalithic ruins were described in an enclosure behind the Zebbug (Gozo) Church in the second half of the nineteenth century. Cf. G. Galea, *The Works of Art in the Churches of Malta and the Governor’s Palace, Valletta*. Malta 1881, 154.

18. Also known as the Xaghra Stone Circle or the Għajn Stone Circle.

19. This is because a number of stone circles have been documented in this area. See R.N. Bradley, *Malta and the Mediterranean Race*. London 1912, 67-68.

20. Mallia 1985, 158.

21. The site has for years been identified with an underground space in Xaghra by Mr Joseph M. Attard Tabone. Following the discovery of a rare species of bats, measures have been taken by MEPA
Valletta. The report, considered 'missing' until recently, briefly describes a number of antiquities in Gozo, giving details — when available — of their ownership, and forwarding concrete proposals for their preservation. It is almost certain that this report was part of the correspondence exchanged between Magri and the Chief Secretary to Government which, at an unknown date, became part of the collection at the National Museum of Archaeology. Later, it was dismantled and different parts were used as an information resource for the files related to the List of Ancient Monuments in Gozo drawn up in the post World War II period. Some of the photographs included in the files were reproduced in an article by Tancred Goudier on the megalithic temples of Borg I-Imramma in the late seventies. From notes, made by the Superintendent of Public Works, present in the 'original' file, it appears that only the page in Magri's report concerning Ghar Gerduf has still to be retraced.

Undoubtedly, some of the photographs accompanying Magri's work formerly belonged to the original report. At least seven photographs, still in the relevant files at the National Museum, preserve handwriting on their back similar to that used by Magri in his report, as well as a coloured pencil mark similar to that noted on Magri's essay on the Muara temple, recently retraced at the Jesuit archives in Palermo. With crisp sharp detail and a glossy finish, the seven photographs (each measuring 21 by 29 cm) appear to originate from the set supplied by Magri. A further two photographs, with a matt finish and text in one of the lower corners, containing phrases comparable to those in Magri's report, are probably the remaining 'missing' photographs but, since there is no text written on either back, this attribution should be done with caution.

Referring once more to the report, Magri's work is a splendid testimony to his desire to protect Gozitan antiquities. His account was a reaction to the contemporary destruction of monuments which was depriving the island from its unique monuments. His plea for preservation was driven by a sense of urgency as in the case of the impending destruction that threatened the remains at Ta' Sansa (plate 2) and the megalithic wall at Ta' Cenc. Against all odds, as at L-Imrejsbiet (plate 3, p. 38), he ingeniously devised provisional measures, but called for government help as he was fully aware that 'temporary respite cannot be relied upon'. Details given by Magri on ownership and land tenure indicate that he had already considered practical

Plate 2. Il-Gebha ta' Sansa. Photo by Fr E. Magri (Courtesy: Heritage Malta).

30. These details help distinguish the photographs originally accompanying Magri's report from others which were probably added to the files later.

31. In his report, Magri comments that, probably, there are only two dolmens in Gozo.
issues to bring about the necessary changes. Furthermore, the pages of the report also disclose that, unlike previous efforts by others at the end of the nineteenth century, Magri was willing to bring about change by discussion and personal influence. Indeed, he was willing to seek the permission of the lessee or tenant in his actions and consider their point of view on land use. Magri was also ready to use the church’s influence to reach his objectives. Nevertheless, he remained realistic and suggested a law for the protection of antiquities for cases where negotiation would fail. A request to secure Gerard Baldwin Brown’s work on the subject is witness to Magri’s drive to provide suitable legislation which would be informed by experience registered in the field internationally during the previous decades.

The report also provides insights on the ways contemplated to preserve Gozo’s ancient remains. Magri proposed making a plan to record megaliths at Ta’ Ċenċ and used Mayr’s plan of Borg l-Imramma as a template for his tracing of this megalithic site. Surrounding the archaeological remains by a wall and fixing notice boards revived plans proposed in the 1880s for the protection of Maltese antiquities, while raising fallen megaliths to their original position was also proposed by Magri, thus continuing the tradition to resort to anastylosis employed by Caruana at Haġar Qim.

Spin-offs from Magri’s work; megalithic remains near dolmens...

Beyond the value to archaeological historiography, newly-retraced documents may also be used to throw light on the interpretation of ancient remains. Indeed, Magri’s report appears to contain the only reference to two small menhirs near the site of Ta’ Sansu, a detail missed by Caruana when the latter gave the first account of the site. Since then megaliths have often been documented near dolmens but Magri’s mention of two menhirs, probably referring to upright stones, appears to be unique. Magri’s comments on a megalithic wall at Ta’ Ċenċ in section V of his report are even more intriguing, as it can be considered to be the first mention of what today appears to be an overlooked prehistoric phenomenon. Browsing the archaeological literature, one is immediately struck by the relatively frequent documentation of megalithic walling close to dolmens. The present author is not referring here to the mention of enigmatic megalithic remains or otherwise found close to dolmens as documented near Wied żużuber and Nadur dolmens in Malta, but rather to the presence of megalithic walling close to the dolmens. In the account describing a dolmen at Tal-Bidnija (Żabbar), mention is made of a megalithic wall, double in some points, and south of the dolmen. At Wied Mozbol, where Evans excavated one of three cairns, assigning it to the Tarxien Cemetery phase of the Bronze Age, parts of a megalithic wall have long been known to exist, partially separating the area from the adjacent ground. As the megalithic walling does not totally enclose the area containing the dolmens, it is difficult today to assign a defensive purpose to such megalithic walls as proposed by Magri, even though their preservation in Wied Mozbol compares well with what today remains of the Bronze Age defence wall to the settlements at

32. G. Baldwin Brown, The Care of Ancient Monuments, Cambridge 1905. No correspondence between Magri and Baldwin Brown has been found at the Edinburgh University Library; e-mail communication to the author by Ann Henderson on 16 May 2007.
34. Two tracings of Borg l-Imramma by Magri are known to the author. One is preserved at the National Museum of Archaeology (see footnote 67 infra) whilst the second is found in CSG02-2819/M/II.17.xii.1905.
36. See Appendix 2 infra.
38. Today the remains at Ta’ Sansu are considered to be those of a dolmen but, in the past, they were considered to be remains resembling those of a broken menhir, Caruana, 142.
40. MAR 1914-15, ii.
41. Evans, 193-194.
42. MAR 1927-28, iv.
Wardija ta’ San Gorg, Ras il-Gebel and Qala hill in Malta. Short of further work on the relevant sites, if the megalithic walls are contemporaneous to the dolmens, one may conjecture that the megalithic walling close to these dolmens may well have been an attempt to define, enclose or identify a space with special significance around the dolmens, enhancing the monumental or burial function of the latter structures.

…and the chieftain’s tomb

Magri’s comments on L-Imrejsbiet provide evidence for the presence of a burial under a torba floor within the remains. While the discovery of human remains at Santa Verna and Hagar Qim have been dismissed as post-dating the Temple period, underground burial sites (such as the Hypogeum and the Brochtaroff Stone Circle) have been identified where human skeletal finds were found associated with megalithic monuments. If Magri’s comment is correct, it is tempting to forward a similar conclusion to the remains at L-Imrejsbiet which appear to be the last remains of a stone circle. Whatever the case, this site still requires excavations to confirm its prehistoric nature and it is high time to repeat Magri’s plea for its preservation, particularly as this site has suffered damage over the past few years.

Conclusion

Through the above, one is immediately struck by Magri’s work to study, explore and protect Gozo’s antiquities. In an island where the paucity of reporting of archaeological sites is often regretted, with his contribution, discovery or call for preservation of over twenty sites, Fr Emmanuel Magri (plate 4, p. 48) emerges as one of the leading contributors to Gozo’s archaeological heritage.

Acknowledgments

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43. See Appendix 2 infra.
From the Xewchia Temple, Gozo Fr Magri
A quantity of fragments of pottery

[3]

J.K.L.
From the ruins of a megalithic Temple at Xewchia, Gozo discovered 1904 Fr Magri
A quantity of fragments of pottery

From the Floriana Glacis on new road leading to Marsamxett found in 1902
Fr Magri
1 fragment of handle with mark

From l’Abatia ta l’iskof (Fr Magri)
1 broken small jug

From ancient tombs in Malta El-Ghammariet OR El-Ghamiariet Father Magri
Some stucco

From Ix-Xakkufija Gozo Fr Magri
2 fragments of reddish pottery

From Haggarija Mansion No 2 Rabat Gozo, Fr Magri
1 Fragment of earthenware jar with red design, 1 Fragment of earthenware jar with mark on handle, 5 Fragments of earthenware jars, 1 coin

[4]
1 facsimile (plaster) of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 facsimile (plaster) of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 facsimile (plaster) of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 facsimile (plaster) of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 photo

51. MAR 1907, 1.
52. See NAM, CSG02-531/M (26 iv. 1903); NAM, CSG02-640/M (22 v. 1903); NAM, CSG02-83/M (25.1.1904). Together with cart-ruts documented close to Ponta Ralde (MAR 1927-28, v; vi) and pottery found on the site of the Phoenician hotel, these references are a rare documentation of the antiquities that were to be found at Valletta and Floriana, before being destroyed by intensive urban development.
53. This site is described as close to Ta’ l-Ibra in Rabat (MAR 1906, 2).
54. Probably identical to the site listed as Għawwarrijet which, together with other sites at Mosta, was investigated by Magri in what appears to be his earliest archaeological work. See Mallia 1985, 145.
55. MAR 1907, 1.

FR EMMANUEL MAGRI AND THE ANTIQUITIES OF GOZO

of same, 1 stone facsimile of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 stone facsimile of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri, 1 stone facsimile of Phoenician inscription by Fr Magri

[5]

M.N.
Found in a tomb in the field il Qortin, Nadur, Gozo Fr Magri
8 different size jugs, 2 jugs, 3 plates, 1 clay dish, 4 fragments of plates

From Haggarija Rabat Gozo 1905 presented by Fr Magri
3 large tiles, 1 fragment of coloured pottery, 2 pebbles, 1 round stone, 1 small plate, 1 lamp holder broken, 3 horns, 2 teets, 1 coin, 1 clay head, 2 half-oral clay, 1 fragments of clay, 2 fragments of coloured glass, 1 fragment of metal, 1 fragment of varnished clay

[6]

M.N.
Found at Ghain Katet Street Rabat Gozo Fr Magri
2 clay plates, 1 broken jug, fragments of pottery, fragments of bones, fragments of snails, cinerary urn

From Habel tal Bur district of Ghain Siellem Fr Magri
2 broken jugs, 1 broken amphora, 4 plates, 2 cups, 1 cup with two handles, fragments of pottery, fragments of metal, fragments of glass

[7]

O.P.
Found at Ghain Katet Street, Rabat Gozo 1905 Fr Magri
2 glass unguent jars, 1 cinerary urn, 1 clay mask, 12 cups, 1 small clay cover, 2 clay lamps broken, 1 cup broken, 1 clay lamp, 1 round fragment of clay, 14 fragments of metal (mirrors), 7 fragments of glass ornaments, 2 fragments of clay

56. The MAR (1906, 2) records that Magri had obtained an ectype of the Phoenician pillar with the bilingual inscription (No.122, Corpus Inscriptionum Semit) presented to Louis XVI of France by Grand Master De Rohan in 1780 and ectypes of the inscriptions C.I.S. 124, 123 and 132. These were obtained free of charge.
57. The MAR (1905, 2) states that the finds were made by Magri.
58. MAR 1905, 2, Kitchen and Scullery ware of the Phoenician and Roman type found at Haggarija are recorded as given by Fr M. A. Galea in 1905/1906 (MAR 1906, 2) and later by Magri (MAR 1907, 1).
59. The finds were donated to the Museum by Rev. F. Cassar. MAR 1906, 2.
60. The donation given by Magri is described as a ‘complete set of furniture of a tomb-cave’. MAR 1906, 2.
cup, 4 fragments of metal ornaments, 1 iron nail, 2 ivory implements, 4 fragments of glass long pins, 7 coins

**Found in a tomb ta Ħedewarb**, Rabat Notabile presented by Fr. Magri
Clay plates -3, Reddish clay dish-1, Reddish clay cups-3, Reddish clay lamps-3, Reddish clay unguent jars-7, Shell

[10]
Q.R.
Tomb Furniture from Malta62 28/8/1906 presented by Fr Magri
6 clay lamps, 4 jugs, 2 jugs, 2 cups, 4 cups, 1 plate, 3 unguent jars, 3 clay figurines (ushapti figure)

[14]
V.
Found in a tomb cave in the field Tal-Ibrag, Rabat Gozo 1887 presented by Fr Magri
17 beads, 1 small marble, 1 small scarab, 2 amulets, 2 metal rings, 1 metal crescent moon, 1 round ivory piece, 4 round metal pieces, 1 metal ornament, 2 fragments of ornament

**Found in a tomb cave in the field Tal-Ibrag, Rabat Gozo 1887 presented by Fr Magri**
17 metal rings, 1 fragment of metal lid, 1 metal broken cup, 1 metal round piece

**Found in a tomb cave in the field Tal-Ibrag, Rabat Gozo 1887 presented by Fr Magri**
11 metal rings, 12 fragments of metal rings, 1 metal piece (mirror), 1 broken metal bracelet, 2 metal crescent moon, 1 round metal piece, 1 fragment of metal, 2 metal implements or ornaments broken

[20]
Long hall around the wall
Photo of an idol-original preserved at Gozo Seminary presented by Fr Magri

61. The exact location of this site has not been found but it could be an erroneous reference to Ta’ Ħadana. Rev. Mgr. Giov. Azzopardi’s help is acknowledged for his help on this attribution.
62. These could form part of the “other objects found in Gozo and Malta” recorded in MAR 1907, 1.
63. The donation of the items found at Tal-Ibrag by Magri is curious as he is not recorded as having stayed for long in Gozo in 1887. G. Mifsud Chleap, Manuel Magri Birejiej Masrietjetten, Malta 1994, 314. Irrespective of who was the true donor of these interesting groups of pottery, these could well be the pottery coming from tombs at Tal-Ibrag documented as ‘riffed long ago’ by Camara in 1888. For details see NAM, CSG01-1684/1888.

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**Appendix 2**

The Report at the National Museum of Archaeology64

[Page 1]65
Sec. I. “Il-Ġebla tas-Saastnu”
A huge Menhir, resting on two stones in the district of Gnejn Emri, Xaghra. Two smaller menhirs existed a short time ago at about two yards distance from it towards the North. They were broken to pieces for building purposes. The same fate may await the larger block.
There is no other like it in Gozo.
The small field adjoining may be got on lease by the government for a rent ranging roughly from about £5 to £8 a year.
This field is held on long lease by John Camilleri “tal Basli” of Xaghra.

[Page 2 remains to be traced]

[Page 3]66
Sec. III. “Id-Dura tal-Mara.”
A Dolmen on Ta’ Ċenċ Hill, district of Ta’ Sannat.
Most likely there are only two dolmens in Gozo.
The site belongs to St. Paul’s Grotto, Malta, administered by the Government and given on perpetual lease, at present held by Miss Farrugia Bugaje of Valletta, under the care of judge Anthony Micallef.
This Dolmen may, wit [sic] the permission of the lessee, be surrounded by a low wall and a notice board be posted up to the effect that no one is allowed to brake [sic] or remove the stones from their position.
If a ban to the effect is proclaimed by the Parish Priest of Sannat, and the tenants are duly warned, no one will interfere wit [sic] the stones.

64. When consulted for this study, the pages of the report have been found in a box file labelled ‘GĦAQUA Santa Verna Gran Castello Minor Gozo Sites.’ The author is grateful to Heritage Malta for permission to reproduce the text and photographs. The help of Mr. Sharon Sultana and Ms. Vanessa O’Connor is particularly appreciated.
66. Section III (pages 3 and 4 of Magri’s report) has been found in file ‘Dolmen (Id-dura tal-mara) Ta’ Ċenċ Gozo’. The file contains photo no. 8 showing Id-Dura tal-Mara and photo no. 9, Id-Dura tax-Xaghra i-Kbira by Magri.
Sec. IV. “Id-Dura tax-Xaghra l-Kbir.”
A Dolmen on the Ta’ Ċenċ hill.
The same observations as in Sec. III should be applied to it.
I venture to say that neither the leasee

[Page 4]
nor the tenants will ask compensation for allowing a dry wall to be raised round the ruins, as the latter are situated on barren ground.

[Page 5]67
Sec. V. A line of large blocks on the crest of “Ta’ Ċenċ” Hill overlooking Xewkija.
These megalithic blocks appear to have been raised for the purposes of defense.
Several of them show evident traces of cleavage without metal tools; they would appear consequently to belong to a very remote antiquity and ought to be saved from destruction.
They are in danger of being broken up and removed.
The leasee could be asked to allow a notice board to be posted up and to warn the tenants. A ban to the effect could also be proclaimed.

Sec. VI. Large blocks at right angle to the line in Sec. V.

Same remarks as in Sec. V.
Some of the blocks may be raised in position at the expense of the Government.
In the fields beyond this line there is a double line of smaller blocks lying flat on the ground.

[Page 6]
These blocks could, with the permission of the leasee and tenant, be raised up in position. Then it will be easy to make a general plan of the whole line of prehistoric defense, protecting the hill from an attack by Mgiarri x-Xini and its valley.

[Page 7]68
Sec. VII. “Li-Mrejšbet”

A Chieftain’s tomb in the district of Tal-Qiggin. Ghajn Sielem, unique of its kind in Gozo, and most likely also in Malta.

67. Sections V and VI (pages 5 and 6 of Magri’s report) and a traced plan of Borg l-Imnarrma have been found in file “Ta Ċenċ Sunnat Muns Nos 6, 7 & 8”.
68. Section VII (page 7 and 8 of Magri’s report) has been found in file “Megalithic remains—Għajn Sielem Mrejšbet Muns. No. 17”. The file contains photo no. 1 (or ??) by Magri showing I-Mrejšbet.

Plate 4: Fr. Emmanuel Magri S.J. (1851-1907) [courtesy: Jesuit Province, Malta]
Government. By a law of the sort these ruins and the following (Sec. VIII), would, at least,

[Page 8]
remain in their present state. Meanwhile the ruins could be got on temporary or short lease for a trifling yearly rent.

[Page 9] 
Sec. VIII (Nos. VIII & IX)
Ruins of "Tal Qighan" Megalithic Temple.

These ruins are situated close to "Borg il-Gharib" road, district of "Ghajn Tielem". They occupy a very large space and have never been explored; at least, one wall of the original building is buried under the soil. The blocks are exposed to the danger of being broken for building or other purposes. The tenement belongs to the pious Institution of Notabile, Malta, of which Count Caruana Gatto is the administrator.

[Page 10 is blank]

[Page 11]
X. A Law for the Protection or Care of Ancient Monuments and Objects of Art.

The reckless destruction of Antiquities in these islands, or their exportation suggest the necessity of some provision on the part of the government. The general lines of such provision might be the following:—

Note. I beg to put off for a short time the submitting of my observations on the this subject pending the arrival from London of the latest [sic] work on the Care of Ancient Monuments by G. Baldwin Brown, the Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art in the University of Edinburgh.

E Magri s.j.

69. Section VIII and Section X (page 9 to 11 of Magri’s report) have been traced in file ‘Megalithic remains – Ghajn Tielem Borg il-Gharib Gozo Mon. No. 16’. The file contains photo no. 2 by Magri showing Borg il-Gharib. Section IX in the original text appears to have been omitted.