
Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum at the “*Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*”

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Latest news:

Intercultural scholastic activity at the Museum of SBF



On the 30th December a special event took place at the museum, involving 21 children and 4 teachers from two of the primary schools in Jerusalem that work to organise meetings among members of different cultural and religious groups at the Holy City.

Some of the children belonged to a Jewish school (*Argentina school*) and the rest to an Arab school (*Ahmad Samad*). Even the teachers that were with them came from these two institutions. For nearly an hour, our little visitors were free to get close to the archaeological items that are exposed in order to get inspiration from them and make some sketches – some were very artistic and some were full of fantasy – At a later stage there was a very special theatrical performance. Two of the teachers impersonated – also with their costumes – two of the most famous characters in both the Arab and Jewish culture:

Abu al-Fida and Maimonide. The children who were seated at the impressive stage of the old Franciscan Pharmacy paid close attention to what their teachers said. The place had not been chosen by chance: after looking at the

numerous captions on the many vases at the Pharmacy, it is obvious how important an influence traditional Oriental medicine—both Jewish and Arab— had on occidental medicine. This very fact constitutes in itself a very important lesson regarding the opportunities of integration among different cultures.

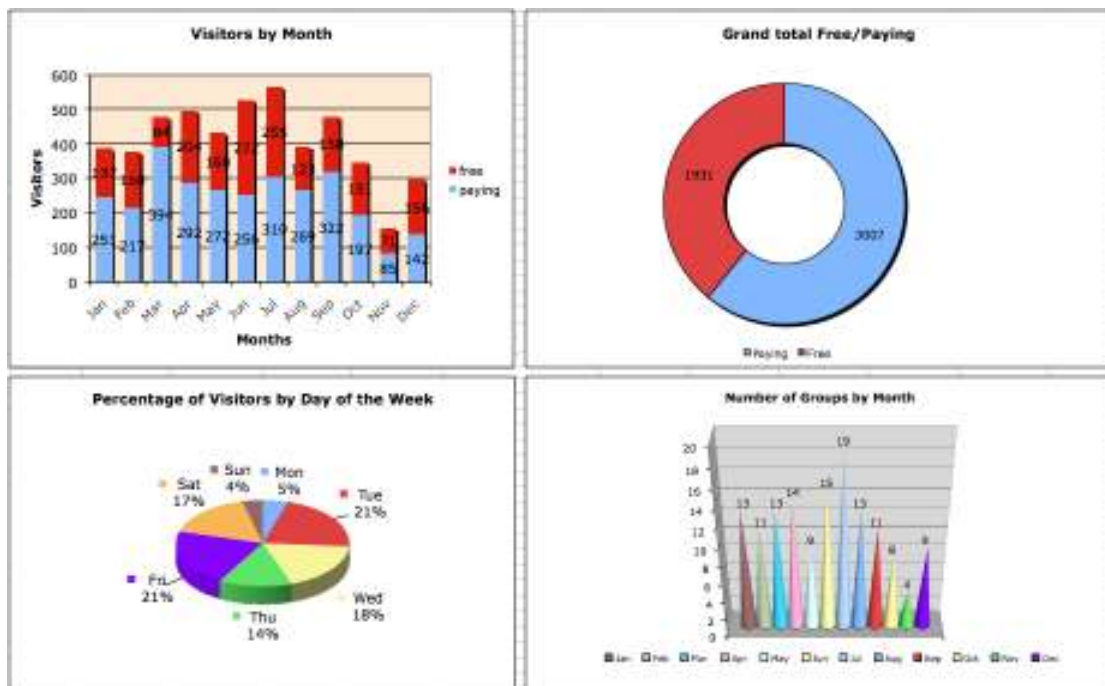


The group of children paying attention to the performance

Statistics of the visits to the Museum for 2012

Again this year, we have tried to keep an adequate collection of statistical data regarding the visitors. The reception was mainly operated by volunteers, who made sure the place was open five days a week (from Tuesday to Saturday), six hours a day (from 9.00 till 13.00 and from 14.00 to 16.00).

From the details we collected, it turns out we received a total number of 4938 visitors, including 139 groups and individual visitors. The month that enjoyed the highest number of visitors was July (565 visitors). We are really grateful to have counted with the presence of many alumni of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, as well as tourist guides or pilgrimage leaders, many of which had taken part in training courses run by our teachers in the past. Obviously we hope that, with the help of this ongoing reburishment project taking place at the museum, we can create the conditions to relaunch an institution that is appreciated by everyone and so inspirational.



Statistical charts showing visitors in 2012

Scientific Activity Section:

Restoration of the mantle of Magdalene in the Papier-Mâché artwork by Sacquegna

Restorers Luigi Miranda and Fernando Harris Reyes have finished their placement in Jerusalem, where they have been heavily involved with the Ommayadi mosaics on the Dome of the Rock. They often spent their free time giving us a hand in the maintenance of the objects in the museum that needed urgent restoration.

Before they left, they spent their last few days repairing a tri-dimensional altarpiece of papier-mâché made by the sculptor from Lecce Salvatore Sacquegna in 1914 and preserved at the Sanctuary of the Condemnation. The artwork was showing some wear and tear but it had also been further damaged on the accessible parts by the excesses of the visitors. The different stages of the restoration process were the removal of some parts due to their inadequate nature, the stabilisation, cleaning, plastering and plastic and chromatic reintegration. For now, this was just an emergency intervention as, during the course of the work, it became obvious that there was a clear need to carry out some general work on the artwork in general, which will have to be carried out at some point in the future.



The restorers at work