

GOZO LACE

Again on the Maltese Pillow

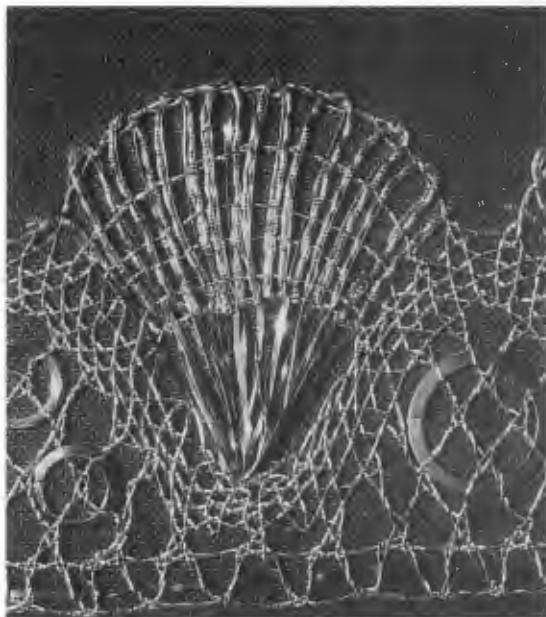
The lace making programme at the University Gozo Centre, organised a course in *Gold Lace* during May 1999. It covered eighteen hours of tuition, and was co-ordinated by Mariet and Wim Haarmann from the Netherlands. Eighteen lace-makers attended the course and were satisfied with their achievements. This course was meant to introduce the metal thread lace.

Although there used to be a considerable amount of gold lace made in the past by the Maltese lace makers, the craft has now completely disappeared. A lot of gold lace trimmings and ornaments can still be seen in our churches decorating the altar cloths and sacred vestments displayed mainly during *festa* time.

It was good to have the techniques of metal lace re-introduced in our country. The patterns of the gold lace in our churches seem to be the same as those in the samples used by Mariet for the course. Gold lace was once worked as complimentary to Gold Embroidery. The latter still thrives in some convents or small establishments.

The organiser of the lace making programme at the Gozo

Centre must be congratulated for establishing this centre of study and research in the traditional types of laces, and for reviving the lost art and techniques.



library of the same school. When this project is ready and fully implemented, the Qala Primary School will be a model to other Gozitan schools.

In the meantime, another detailed report is being drawn up for the upgrading of the Institute for Tourism Studies premises in Qala as well as the upgrading of the existing courses of the same Institute. This project will be divided

into two phases, and one of these phases will be implemented by the end of this year. The first phase will include the upgrading of the kitchen and restaurant area to meet the tourist industry requirements, and the second phase will include the embellishment of the two storey hostel as part of the same campus of the I.T.S. This hostel will also be used by the ITS students to carry out their practical lessons.