

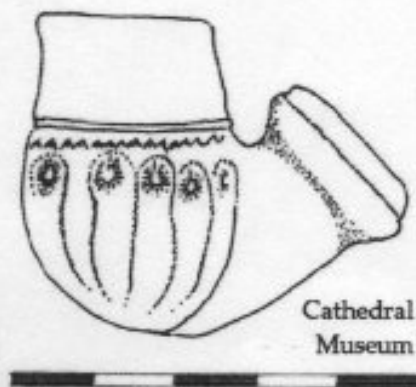
PRIESTS' PIPES

Many people in the Maltese islands have been associated with, even addicted to, their pipes.

In *Religion and Politics in a Crown Colony* (Valletta, 1985) Fr Joseph Bezzina states 'In 1801 priests, 'due to their state and dignity', were forbidden by the Bishop to smoke in public.



Figure 1 (left) The 'Country Priest in Undress' by the Danish artist de Brocktorff, active Malta 1810-1850, is not setting a good example to a younger generation.



However, tastes change. George Azzopardi, Curator at the Ethnology Museum, pointed out that a display cabinet at the Cathedral Museum in Gozo, the effects of Gaetano Paciferno (Bishop of Malta and Gozo 1857-1864), contains an early 19th century *pipa tal-qasba*. Figure 2 (above right).



Figure 3 (left) A pipe fragment was also found beneath the sacristy of the Citadel Cathedral, Gozo.