



MELITENSIA

THE MALTA STUDY CENTER AT THE HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Fall 2013

The Latin word Melitensia denotes "things pertaining to Malta," and it is most frequently used in the world of rare books and manuscripts to describe written collections of the history and culture of the island of Malta.

This newsletter reports the activities of the Malta Study Center, and features information about the history of the Knights of Malta and the history and culture of the country of Malta itself.

We welcome your comments and your communication about others who might share an interest in this core program of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

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Right: Msgr. John Azzopardi, Fr. Columba, OSB, Stewart, Theresa Vann, and Joseph S. Micallef at the Cathedral Archives in Malta, June 10, 2013. Note the marble plaques on the wall commemorating the beginning of the microfilm project.

40th Anniversary of the Malta Study Center Part II: 21st-Century Preservation Techniques

The last issue of *Melitensia* told the story of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library's (HMML) mission to microfilm endangered manuscripts in Malta. Between 1973 and 1999, HMML's Malta Study Center microfilmed more than 16,000 documents, registers, books, and other historical papers housed in 53 collections on the islands of Malta and Gozo. The project included major collections such as the Archives of the Knights of Malta (National Library of Malta) and the Archives of the Inquisition of Malta (Cathedral Museum, Mdina). In addition, the Mdina Cathedral Museum Microfilming project, under the direction of Fr. John Azzopardi, had patiently microfilmed numerous small collections of documents stashed in parish churches, convents, and private collections throughout the country. As a result, the project was unprecedented for its time because it included the historical record of ordinary people who are usually lost from history. The project organized, categorized, and photographed the documents of an entire Mediterranean community who lived in the 15th-18th centuries, with some documents dating back to the 12th century and others from the 19th and 20th.

The project had taken years of dedicated work and the support of generous donors to create the largest single repository of Maltese historical documents in the world. The collection was worthless, however, if no one knew where it was or what was in it. The microfilm project represented the first time that anyone had listed the contents of Malta's archives, an incredible achievement even if the materials were not yet completely sorted or classified. The challenge was to publish this information quickly in a format that could be easily updated and accessible to researchers in Malta and throughout the world. HMML turned to the Internet to create a virtual Malta Study Center that could serve an international clientele and, in 1995, the Library hired Theresa Vann to catalog the collection and put it online.



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Vann set up the Malta Study Center website and posted preliminary descriptions of the archives by September 1995. The virtual Malta Study Center received immediate feedback from users around the world. One of the first was Fr. Azzopardi, who emailed Vann to clarify the classification schema of Malta's small archives. The virtual Malta Study Center thrived in this new environment, created by the rapid and widespread changes in information technology that have taken place in the past twenty years. Vann produced archival descriptions and catalogs that anyone in the world with an Internet connection could access. And many people did—far more researchers visited the virtual Center than the actual one at HMML. But they missed out on the full benefit of the Malta Study Center's collections, which, in addition to the microfilms, contained an ever-increasing collection of published books and materials about Malta and the Knights of Malta (also known as the Order of the Hospital).

HMML's decision to change from microfilm to digital technology in 2003 changed how the Library served its patrons—including the Malta Study Center. HMML's first digital manuscript project started in April of that year, just as the Iraq War was reaching its climax in Baghdad. That pioneer project was at the Monastery and University of Our Lady of Balamand, near Tripoli in northern Lebanon. Having seen their most valuable manuscripts disappear during the Lebanese civil war of 1975-1991, the monks readily understood the importance of HMML's work and were eager to be HMML's first partner in the region. After Fra' Andrew Bertie, Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta visited HMML in October 2003 and saw the work of the Center, negotiations began to form a partnership with the Magistral Archives and Library of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in Rome. The Center used HMML's successful model for digitizing to begin its first digital project at the Magistral Library in 2005.



Two things happened in 2004 that changed the direction of the Malta Study Center. First, a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities led to the creation of a permanent endowment for the Center. This permitted, for the first time, long-range planning, including undertaking new digital preservation projects in Malta and putting the Center's rare book collection on the Internet. The

Above: The Malta Study Center's first Home Page, 1995.

Right: The current Malta Study Center website page, now part of www.hmml.org.



successful completion of the NEH Challenge Grant has opened up many opportunities for the Center. In addition to establishing digital projects, the endowment supports collection development, exhibits, public events, and scholarly outreach. All this extends the reach of the Center and continues to make it one of the most important resources for Maltese (and Mediterranean) culture outside of Malta itself.

Also in 2004, the Center's curator, Theresa Vann, received a Fulbright to teach library and information technology at the University of Malta. There she began to explore the possibilities of returning to Malta to digitize collections that had been inaccessible during the microfilm project, particularly the law courts of the Knights and the notarial archives. She also formed networks with a new generation of Maltese archival partners. The Center formed long-term partnerships with the National Archives of Malta in 2007 and the Notarial Archives of Malta in 2010, in which the parties share cataloging, digital imaging, and technical expertise.

In 2010, an advisory group called the "Friends of the Malta Study Center" was created to review the Center's progress in fulfilling the goals it outlined during the endowment drive: to preserve the history of Malta and make it accessible to the public.

The Center's work is far from completed. On June 20, 2013, the photography studio at the National Archives of Malta shipped its one-millionth digital image to HMML. The image depicts a folium from an early 18th-century volume of the Acts of the Magna Curia Castellania, a



Above: Delegates to the 41st Citra Conference in Malta, 2009, inspect the Center's digitization equipment in the Banca Giuratale, National Archives of Malta. Noel d'Anastas stands in the background. (CITRA – International Conference of the Round Table on Archives)

secular tribunal that the Knights of Malta established in 1543 to hear civil and criminal cases involving their Maltese subjects. The studio began digitizing the 1,411 volumes of the Acta and its 25-volume index in 2007. It will finish photographing the remaining 510 volumes within the next two years, at which point the studio will begin work on a new series from the law courts of the Knights. The studio at the Notarial Archives began digitizing 1,335 16th-century notarial registers in 2010, and still has a ways to go. And HMML is creating vHMML, a virtual Library to serve manuscript researchers, students, and teachers. The Center will host online studies and projects through vHMML, extending its reach far beyond Collegetteville.





900 YEARS OF FAITH IN ACTION: 1113-2013, THE BULL OF PASCAL II

View the online exhibit at melitensia.blogspot.com

Malta Study Center Curates National Exhibit

February 15, 2013, marked the 900th anniversary of the papal bull "*Pie postulatio voluntatis*," which is one of the foundation documents of the Order of Malta. Pope Pascal II granted the bull to Gerard, the founder of the Order of the Hospital, on February 15, 1113. The title "*Pie postulatio voluntatis*," is taken from the first three words of the bull. The Latin phrase translates as "A voluntary petition made with devotion." Pascal granted Gerard's petition by placing the hospital under papal protection, confirming its property rights, and granting it the privilege of electing its superiors without interference from local kings and bishops.

Under papal protection, Gerard's hospital in Jerusalem developed into the international Order of the Hospital, which then evolved into a military religious order that ruled over Rhodes (1310-1522) and Malta (1530-1798). Today's Order, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, focuses solely upon the original hospitaller mission. Its 13,500 world-wide members are engaged in humanitarian and relief work in more than 120 countries around the world.

On February 7, 2013, 5,000 members and volunteers of the Order of Malta from all over the world met in Rome at a two-day International Conference to commemorate its history, examine its present, and to define its future. They concluded the Conference with a solemn Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on February 9 and an address by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Order of Malta recognizes that its history forms an essential part of its religious identity and mission. To commemorate the 900th anniversary, it created a traveling photographic exhibition, "Order of Malta: 900 years in the service of the poor and the sick," for celebrations around the world. To augment this display, the Western

Association of the Order of Malta asked Theresa Vann, curator of the Malta Study Center, to create an exhibit for its celebrations that would focus on the experiences of the Hospitallers in the year 1113. Vann, working with HMML graphic designer Rachael Witt, created the exhibit "900 Years of Faith in Action: 1113-2013, The Bull of Pascal II." The exhibit consisted of ten panels interpreting the bull's history, and used images from the Malta Study Center's collection. The exhibit's centerpiece was a full-sized replica of Pascal's original bull provided by the National Library of Malta.

The Western Association invited Vann and HMML Development Director Erin Lonergan to attend their celebration of the 900th Anniversary on February 15, 2013, held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, and on February 16 at the Olympic Club, San Francisco. Two Friends of the Malta Study Center, Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB, and HMML Lifetime Board member Nicky Carpenter, DM, also attended. Fr. Eric, as chaplain to the Western Association, was a concelebrant and a speaker. Both events included a Mass, social, and formal dinner.

"900 Years of Faith in Action: 1113-2013, The Bull of Pascal II," has been displayed throughout the year:

- February 15-March 15, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles
- February 16, The Olympic Club, San Francisco
- May 9- June 9, Waldo Library, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
- May 18, Order of Malta's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, NYC
- June 23, American Association, Order of Malta, 900-Year Anniversary Mass, Stamford, CT
- May 25-July 7, Basilica of St. Mary's, Minneapolis
- September 8-October 8, Alcuin Library, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
- Online at melitensia.blogspot.com

The Malta Study Center recently acquired four 18th-century printed works to add to its collection of rare Melitensia: José Anastasio de Figueiredo Ribeiro, *Historia da Ordem do Hospital, Hoje de Malta, e Dos Senhores Grão-Priores della em Portugal* (Lisbon, 1793). See photo.

This is the first edition of Ribeiro's *Nova historia da Militar Ordem de Malta* (Lisbon, 1800). Ribeiro's work is an important addition to the collection because it is based upon documentary evidence from the Portuguese Priory of the Order of Malta.

The remaining works are pamphlets, ephemera that usually do not survive as well as bound books. Like modern journals and magazines, these pamphlets report news and opinion of contemporary events. They are:

1) Fr. Caetano, *Relação fidelíssima das continuas vexações, e grandes tyrannias, roubes, e tormentos, que continuamente padecem os Religiozos de Nosso Padre S. Francisco em Jerusalem, e Conventos pertencentes a Terra Santa, de que elles fãõ guardias, e defensores: Continuão-se todos os successo acontecidos desde a ultima Relação do anno de 1758 até o presente de mil settecentos sessenta e dos*. Lisbon, 1763.

[A truthful account of the continuing vexations, and great tyrannies, robberies, and tormentos, that the religious of Our Father Saint Francis continually suffer in Jerusalem and in their convents in the Holy Land, which they guard and protect. A continuation of all that happened since the last account of 1758 until 1762.]

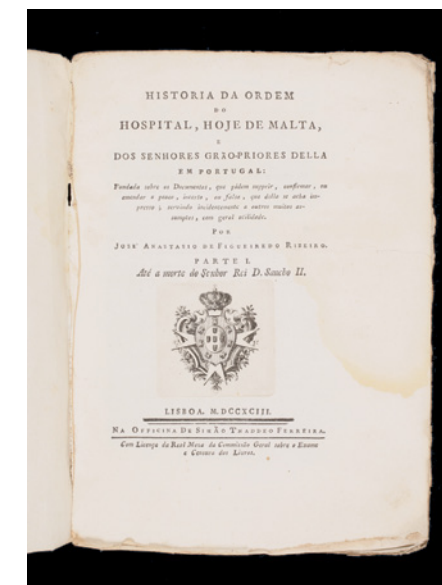
The previous "Relação" narrated how the Ottoman authorities had permitted the Greek Orthodox clergy to take over the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and evict the Franciscans. This "Relação" describes how the Ottomans accused the Franciscans in the Holy Land of accepting aid from the Knights of Malta.

2) Fr. Manoel de Figueiredo, *Oração Funebre, nas solennes exequias que na Matriz de Campo-Maior em 17 de Março de 1737 mandou fazer ao serenissimo senhor Fr. D. Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, Principe Soberano de Malta, e Goso, e Graõ Mestre da Preclarissima militar Religião de S. João do Hospital*. Lisbon, 1738.

The funeral oration delivered at the funeral of Antonio Manoel de Vihena, a Portuguese Grand Master who died in 1736.

3) José Freire de Monterroyo Mascarenhas, *Relaçam da victoria alcançada contra os argelinos nos mares de Barbaria, pela esquadra das galés da Sagrada Religiam de S. Joam de Hierusalem, commandada pelo general dellas o balio d. Francisco Parisio em 15. do mez de mayo do prezente anno*. Lisbon, 1752.

[Relation of a victory achieved over the Algerians in the seas of Barbary by the galley squadron of the Holy Religion of St. John of Jerusalem, under the command of the Bailiff Don Francisco Parisio on May 15 of this year.]



Other acquisitions:

- Aquilina, George. *The Jerosolimitan nuns: the Church and Monastery of Saint Ursula, Valletta, Malta*. [Malta]: Malta Institute of Cultural Studies (MIOCS), 2011.
- Azzopardi, John. *Pauline Malta: the formation of a nation's identity*. Rabat, Malta: Fondazzjoni Patri Martin Caruana, O.P. in association with the Wignacourt Museum, 2010.
- Cini, Charles. *The maritime history Malta: the first millennia*. [Sliema, Malta]; [Valletta, Malta]: Salesians Don Bosco; Heritage Malta, 2011.
- Demel, Bernhard. *820 Jahre Deutscher Orden 1190 - 2010*; [fünf Referate über eine lange Geschichte in Europa]. Wien: Demel, 2011.
- Demurger, Alain. *Les hospitaliers: de Jérusalem à Rhodes, 1050-1317*. Paris: Tallandier, 2013.
- Klement, Katja. *Gottes Gastgeber Die Ritter des Hospitals von Jerusalem. Die vatikanische Handschrift Vat. Lat. 4852*. Norderstedt: Books on Demand, 2010. <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:101:1-201009186011>.
- Sciberras, Keith. *Baroque painting in Malta*. Valletta, Malta: Midsea Books, 2009.

HMML Donors and Friends Travel to Malta

Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, executive director of HMML, hosted a lively group of 38 members of HMML's Millennium Club and Legacy Society on a week-long trip to Malta in June 2013. They first stayed at the elegant Phoenicia Hotel in Valletta, the capital of Malta, and later transferred to the Radisson Golden Bay Resort to enjoy swimming in the azure Mediterranean Sea. The itinerary included visits to Malta's museums, temples, and several of the libraries and archives where the Malta Study Center has worked or is working.

Mr. Charles Farrugia, the Director of the National Archives of Malta, welcomed the group to the archives' main office at the former Sancto Spirito Hospital in Rabat. There they saw the preservation laboratory and the re-created 19th-century pharmacy. The Malta Study Center is currently digitizing the archives of the law courts of the Knights, which the National Archives holds at the Banca Giuratale in Mdina. Msgr. John Azzopardi, the Center's former field director, led them through the Wignacourt and Cathedral Museums, and showed them a display in the entry hall of the Cathedral Archives.

Dr. Maroma Camilleri welcomed them to the National Library of Malta, where the Center had microfilmed the Archives of the Order of Malta. There the group saw in person the 900-year-old papal bull, *Pie postulatio voluntatis*, which had gone on display in the exhibit "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum, 1113 – 2013" on June 8. In Gozo Fr. Joseph Bettsina, the National Archivist of

Gozo, welcomed them to the Gozitan section of the National Archives, where he showed the Giuliana Masini, 88 manuscripts that registered all the births, marriages, and deaths in Gozo between 1554 and 1930. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the group's meeting with the American Ambassador to Malta, the Honorable Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, who described the role American diplomats play in the Mediterranean region today. Joseph S. Micallef, KM, Malta's Honorary Consul General in St. Paul, a Founder Emeritus of the HMML Board of Overseers, and Chairman of the Friends of the Malta Study Center, facilitated the meeting with Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley. Afterward, he spoke to the group about his experiences as a child during the horrific aerial bombardment of Malta during World War II.

For more information about travel opportunities with HMML, please contact Linda Orzechowski at 320-363-3514 or lorzechowsk@hmml.org. You can also visit our website at www.hmml.org.



Above: The American Ambassador to Malta, the Honorable Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, speaking to HMML's Millennium Club at the Phoenicia Hotel, Malta.



Above: Members of HMML's Millennium Club and Legacy Society with Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB, in Malta, June 2013.



Opening of the Center's Curated Exhibit

The opening of the exhibit "900 Years of Faith in Action: 1113-2013, The Bull of Pascal II," at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, February 15, 2013. From left to right: Jeffrey Littell, KM; Theresa Vann, PhD; John Dunlap, KM, and member of the Sovereign Council; Marchese Gian Luca Chiavari, KM, and Receiver of the Common Treasure; and Antonio Sanchez-Corea, KM, member of the Sovereign Council.

Theresa Vann Gift

Theresa Vann gave 30 volumes from the E. J. Brill series *History of Warfare* to HMML and Alcuin Library. The books, published between 2002 and 2007, cover the history of warfare from ancient times to the present in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. For a complete list, visit melitensia.blogspot.com.



Medieval Congress Featured Anniversary

The participants in the panels "The Nine-Hundredth Anniversary of the Hospital: Hospitaller Rules and Statutes," held at the International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 12, 2013. Top row, from left to right: Jochen Burgtorf, Philip Handyside, Jyri Hasecker. Bottom row: Christie Majoros, Helen Nicholson, Theresa Vann, and Betty Binysh.

New Online Resources

The Archives of the Archdiocese of Malta has been digitizing the microfilms that the Malta Study Center made of their collections. In those cases where the microfilms are not available, the project has digitized the volumes themselves. These are available online at archives.maltadiocese.org. Researchers must register with the website to view low-resolution PDFs of the manuscripts. Registration is free and the website is continually updated. Some of the collections currently available are:

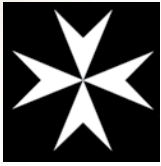
- The Parish Archives of Malta
- AAM Acta Civilia
- AAM Benefici
- AAM Brevia et Constitutiones Apostolicae
- AAM Cabreo
- AAM Registrum Edictorum
- AAM Registrum Supplicationum
- AAM Status Animarum
- AAM Visitationes Pastorales



Diplomatic Reception Held in May

His Excellency, The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, and Ambassador Robert L. Shafer, the Order of Malta's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, at the diplomatic reception honoring 900 years of sovereignty hosted by the Order's U.N. Mission on May 17, 2013.

Find more news at www.hmml.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HMML.MSC.



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Left: A photo of St. Paul's Bay on the island of Malta, taken during HMML's trip there in June. According to the Bible, Saint Paul was shipwrecked on an island during his voyage from Caesarea to Rome, which many scholars have now identified as Malta. The Maltese people believe it was Saint Paul who laid the foundations of Christianity on the island.

FRIENDS OF THE MALTA STUDY CENTER

The Friends of the Malta Study Center is an advisory group that meets annually and establishes mission and vision, provides oversight in financial matters, and ensures that the organization has the financial resources it needs to do its work.

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