

MELITENSIA

Fall 2019

A Newsletter of the Malta Study Center



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



THE MALTA STUDY CENTER *at the* HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Dear Melitensians,

While the Malta Study Center's primary mission remains the digital preservation of Malta's and the Order of Malta's manuscript and archival heritage, no less important to this mission is the careful cataloging of these documents to create access for scholars to study these historical records. Cataloging these manuscripts proves challenging, as many of the names, titles, and even the provenance of the documents remain clouded in the mists of history due to the movement of manuscripts across time and space.

Starting in 2016 and for the first time in its history, the Center began updating, correcting, and newly cataloging its massive microfilm and digital manuscript collection using modern DCRM and DACS standards to make these collections available in HMML's new online database, vHMML Reading Room. More than 19,000 microfilm and digital manuscript records have been added to the database over the last three and a half years, many with updated or new records. Although the process is far from complete, our efforts are helping to create accurate records that make use of modern technology to improve how scholars discover information.

Over the next year, we hope to complete the preliminary cataloging of the Center's microfilm and digital collections in vHMML. With the support of new partners and friends, such as the RENOWN Project at the Université Côte d'Azur, we can begin improving the records to help scholars discover the richness of Maltese history.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel K. Gullo
Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center



Above: Dun Gwann Azzopardi, Archivist of the Cathedral Archives, and Cláudia Garradas, Site Director of the Malta Study Center, at the Cathedral Archives, Mdina.

*On the cover: Engraving of Fra' Jean-Philippe d'Orléans (1702-1748) from René Aubert de Vertot, *History of the Knights of Malta*. London: Printed for G. Strahan, etc..., 1728.*

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Daniel K. Gullo, editor and writer

Rachael Witt, graphic designer

Wayne Torborg, imaging

Rengel Printing, printer

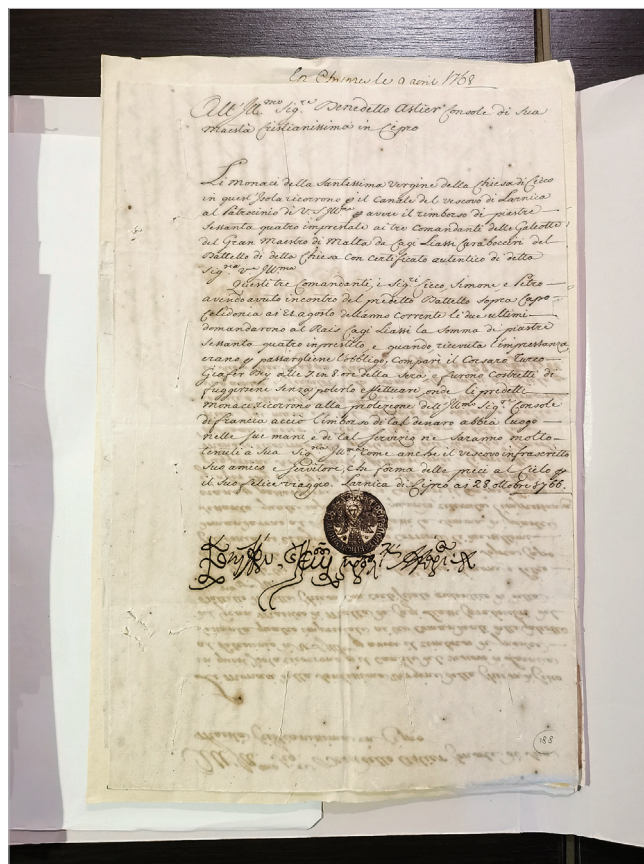
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Where We're Working: The Cathedral Archives, Mdina

The Malta Study Center signed an agreement with the Cathedral Archives in Mdina to digitize the important *Lettere consolari* fonds, which contain the correspondence of the French *chargé d'affaires du Roi* of Malta dating from 1664-1807. The collection is divided into 33 boxes and includes diplomatic correspondence from individuals, the king, and other embassies and consulates located in the Mediterranean and Europe. The letters have a broad range of topics, including affairs in France, the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, shipping, trade, slavery, and the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

The *chargé d'affaires* was chosen by the king of France from one of the knights of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem belonging to one of the three *langues* of the Order in France. Although a knight of the Order, the *chargé d'affaires* was expected to represent the interest of the king of France to the Grand Master of the Order of Saint John, as well as to facilitate relations between the Grand Master, French knights, and other diplomatic interests within France of concern to the Order.

The digitization of these fonds forms part of the international digitization project, *France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815*, funded by a grant from the Cherbec Advancement Foundation.



Above: Letter to Benoît Astier, consul of Cyprus, Lanarca, 1766 October 28. *Lettere consolari* fonds, Cathedral Archives, Mdina.



Above: Volumes 9, 10, and 11 of the *Lettere consolari* fonds, Cathedral Archives, Mdina.

Left: Wax seal of the Consulate of Sidon (Lebanon). *Lettere consolari* fonds, Cathedral Archives, Mdina.

Center Sponsors Conference on Mediterranean Violence, Toronto

In partnership with the Mediterranean Seminar and the University of Toronto, the Malta Study Center sponsored a fall seminar on Violence and the Mediterranean at the University of Toronto on October 3-4, 2019. The two-day event featured individual papers and roundtables discussing how the Mediterranean lends itself to the comparative exploration of violence within Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities as a culturally specific form of social discourse as expressed, for instance, in class conflict and social rebellion, feuds, and violence related to gendered notions of honor and shame. Dr. Emanuel Buttigieg of the University of Malta delivered the keynote address, “Blood of God! Bowels of God!': Violence and the Order of Malta,” focusing on the role of gender, violence, and masculinity in the Order of Malta. Dr. Daniel Gullo led a roundtable on Mediterranean research opportunities at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Right: Dr. Emanuel Buttigieg visiting the Thomas Fischer Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto.



Curator and Archivist Present at the Malta Map Society

As part of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Malta Map Society, Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Valeria Vanesio of the Malta Study Center presented two papers at the Casino Maltese on October 30, 2019 in Valletta. Dr. Gullo presented the paper, “Mapping Maltese Slavery in the Early 18th Century: Records from the Archives of the Confraternity of Charity,” describing the efforts of the Maltese confraternity to redeem slaves from across the Mediterranean based on the archival records recently digitized by the Malta Study Center.



Dr. Vanesio delivered, “The Cabrei of the Langue of Italy: Understanding Archival Description as a Resource for Cartographers and Geographers,” showing how these important archival sources contain rich geographic and cartographic evidence. The evening paid tribute to Dr. Albert Ganado, President of the Malta Map Society, for his lifetime of service to Maltese cartographic history.

Left: Dr. Daniel K. Gullo, Dr. Valeria Vanesio, and Dr. Albert Ganado at the Casino Maltese, Valletta.

Manuscript Acquired by the Malta Study Center

This year the Malta Study Center acquired an important manuscript about the Order of St. Stephen founded by the Medici family. The manuscript was created in response to a ceremony held at the Medici villa of Pratolino in the presence of Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici on August 13, 1589, when Giuliano di Piero Ricasoli, a Florentine patrician, became a knight of the Order of St. Stephen. This was just the first step in the career of Ricasoli as member of the military order established by Cosimo I de' Medici (1519-1574) in 1561. With his political and diplomatic career gaining momentum, Ricasoli decided to negotiate his admission to the Order by investing a considerable portion of his family's patrimony to fund the creation of a new priory, of which he and his direct descendants would have been priors in perpetuity. Initially, the Medici family wanted to use Ricasoli's endowment to establish a priory in Milan, outside of Tuscany. However, Ferdinando de' Medici eventually decided to use the endowment as the foundation of the new priory of Florence.

This was a major bequest on Ferdinando's behalf, as well as a major declaration of trust towards Giuliano and the Ricasoli family, since any prior of Florence would effectively preside over the largest and wealthiest chapter of the Order of St. Stephen. The manuscript, issued by the Grand Duke, also instituted the primacy of the Priory of Florence when the priory was established on November 8, 1589. It specifies that in all matters military, administrative, ceremonial and legal pertaining to the Order, the prior of Florence would rank immediately after the Order's senior members, or *otto graduati* - that is the Grand Commander, the Grand Constable, the Admiral, the Grand Prior of the Convent, the Grand Chancellor, the Treasurer-General, the Registrar-General and the Buonuomo of the Hospital. Unfortunately, Giuliano Ricasoli did not have the chance to put his new dignity to good use, as the newly appointed prior of Florence died suddenly of an illness in Florence on June 24, 1590.

- Dr. Maurizio Arfaioi, The Medici Archive Project



Above: Privilege of Ferdinando I, Grand-Duke of Tuscany, concerning the foundation of the Priory of Florence of the Sacro militare ordine di Santo Stefano papa e martire, 1589 November 8. HMML Project number HMML 00452.

Lea Bergquist, Student Intern at the Malta Study Center

Lea Bergquist conducted a semester-long student internship in museum communications under the direction of Dr. Daniel Gullo. Lea, a student at St. Cloud State University, is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design with a minor in Mass Communications. “Before working at HMML’s Malta Study Center,” said Lea, “I had visited the library once and was excited to learn more about how museums approached communications and marketing. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Gullo and the other staff members of HMML and was able to design different types of digital and printed pieces, including publications, banners, and illustrated icons. It was invaluable to work in a professional setting and communicate with other organizations and companies to create a finished product.” Lea is set to graduate in the spring of 2020 and hopes to begin a career as a graphic designer in a design firm or agency.

Right: Lea Bergquist, student intern from St. Cloud State University.



Center Participates in the RENOWN Conference, Nice (France)

Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Valeria Vanesio participated in the two-day international conference *Relationships, Nobles, Orders, Networks Europe and Mediterranean* held on October 24-25, 2019, at the Université Côte d’Azur in Nice, France. The conference was organized under the auspices of the RENOWN Project and its directors, Drs. Anne Brogini, Charles Bouveyron, German Butaud, Maria Ghazali, and Jean-Pierre Pantalacci. Papers on the study of European and Mediterranean nobility and their family networks in relationship to the military religious orders were delivered at the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine. Dr. Gullo discussed the importance of metadata authority control for modern databases, such as vHMML Reading Room, to link noble families and identify people, while Dr. Vanesio described the importance of archival procedure for understanding proofs of nobility and authenticating the records as legal documents.

Right: Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Valeria Vanesio at the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine at the Université Côte d’Azur.



News and Events at the Malta Study Center

Friends of the Malta Study Center Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Malta Study Center held their annual meeting at Saint John's University on September 22-23, 2019. Chair Joseph S. Micallef, KMOB UOM and current Friends welcomed Lyndel King as an ex-officio member to the Friends in her role as Chair of HMML's Board of Overseers. The Friends also said thank you to Ambassador Robert Shafer, who retired from the Friends after serving as a founding member of the group. During this year's meeting, the Friends also celebrated Ambassador Shafer for receiving the Colman J. Barry Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion and Society. The award, presented by SJU's Interim-President Dr. Eugene McAllister, acknowledged Ambassador Shafer's lifelong contribution to the humanities, service to the poor, support for education, and efforts supporting international peace.



From left to right: Ambassador Robert Shafer, KM; Dr. Valeria Vanesio; Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB; Lyndel King; Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB; Robert Weyerhaeuser; Lucy Jones; Dr. Daniel Gullo; Joseph S. Micallef, KMOB, UOM; Fra' Thomas Mulligan.

Site Director Interviewed on University of Malta Campus Radio

Cláudia Garradas appeared on the Maltese radio show *Storja-Oggett (An Object, and a Story)* hosted by Dr. Emanuel Buttigieg of the University of Malta and Liam Gauci of the Malta Maritime Museum. The show is broadcast on University of Malta CampusFM radio 103.7. Garradas discussed the *Tratado das Cores* (Malta: 1787) written by the Portuguese knight of the Order of Malta, João Diogo de Carvalho e Sampaio. Carvalho e Sampaio's work was digitized by the Malta Study Center as part of the digital preservation project at MUŻA-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti in 2017, a project funded in part by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. The program aired twice in December and can be found as a downloadable webcast on the CampusFM website.

Malta Study Center Sponsors Session at the International Congress on the Enlightenment

The Malta Study Center sponsored a session at the 15th International Congress on the Enlightenment organized by the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and held in Edinburgh, Scotland, July 14-19, 2019. The session, *The French Occupation of Malta, 1798-1800: New Evidence, New Approaches*, featured three papers by international scholars, including Dr. Steven Gill, who spoke on Sir Alexander Ball's diary of the French occupation of Malta, Dr. Valeria Vanesio, who described the post-occupation history of the Archives of the Order of Malta, and Fleur Brincat, who re-examined the role of the French knights of the Order of Malta in the capitulation of 1798. The session was organized by Dr. Daniel Gullo and chaired by Cláudia Garradas.



The Malta Study Center
Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
Saint John's University
2835 Abbey Plaza | PO Box 7300
Collegeville, MN 56321-7300
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Friends of the Malta Study Center

The Friends of the Malta Study Center is an advisory group that meets annually to support the mission and vision of the Center. The Friends provide oversight in financial matters and ensure that the organization has the resources it needs to fulfill its cultural preservation mission.

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Valletta, Malta

Michael K. Grace Esq. KM

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Fr. Eric Hollas OSB

Collegeville, MN

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Robert Weyerhaeuser

Kingston, Massachusetts

Ex-officio members

Lyndel King

Chair, HMML Board of Overseers

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Daniel K. Gullo

Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the

Malta Study Center

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

Saint John's University

Collegeville, Minnesota

Fr. Columba Stewart OSB

Executive Director

Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

Saint John's University

Collegeville, Minnesota