

# MELITENSIA

Fall 2018

*A Newsletter of the Malta Study Center*



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

Dear Melitensians,

In 2018, the Malta Study Center was privileged to celebrate Valletta as the European Capital of Culture. Looking back, our two exhibitions of Stephen Busuttil's photography in Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis provided a singular opportunity for the Center to be part of the larger celebration of Maltese culture outside of our traditional focus on manuscript preservation. Our collaboration with the Maltese heritage sector continues to grow, and we thank our partners at the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, Heritage Malta, the National Archives of Malta, and the Cathedral Archives of Mdina for inviting us to participate in these important events honoring over 400 years of Valletta's history.

2019 will bring a new chapter to the history of the Center as we undertake a five-year project, *France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815*, thanks to a generous grant from the Cherbec Advancement Foundation. The Center will begin digitizing and cataloging records in three different countries and at least ten different repositories to preserve and study this important period of history, which includes the expulsion of the Order of Malta from the island in 1798, the French period from 1798-1800, and the creation of a British colony that would last until 1964. The next five years will bring new projects and new insights into Maltese, French and British history.

As always, I want to thank the Friends of the Malta Study Center (the Center's advisory group) and Chair Joseph Micallef KMOB UOM, for their continued support during the Center's very productive year at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Sincerely,

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



*Above: National Archives of Malta, Mdina,  
Officium Bullae Sanctissimae Crociatae fonds.*

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*On the cover: "Induction of Grand Master António Manoel de Vilhena into the Confraternity of Charity (1730)." Archives of the Confraternity of Charity, Valletta. Minuti, vol. 9, insert between fol. 135v-136r. HMML project number KKM 00102.*

## MELITENSIA

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## Where We're Working: The National Archives of Malta, Mdina

The Malta Study Center signed an agreement with the National Archives of Malta to digitize five important fonds covering the military and legal history of Malta and the Order of Malta. 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. The project helps complete the digitization of records related to the *Epoca Gallica* (EGA) fonds, the tribunals of the French period (1798-1800) digitized by the Malta Study Center in 2015.

The digitization project includes the *Tribunal Segnatura Justitiae* (TSJ) fonds, which contain trial records from 1799-1800. Of particular note are the *Tribunal Debitorum Religiosorum* (TDR) fonds, a tribunal whose records date from 1776-1798. This tribunal was instituted specifically to deal with cases related to debts with or against the Knights of Malta just prior to the French occupation in 1798. The important *Officium Syndicatus Congregationis Munium et Belli* (OMB) was instituted to raise funds for the defense of the island and for the upkeep of the walls. These fonds allow scholars to assess the defenses of the island in 1798.

Two other collections will be digitized as part of this project. These include the *Curiae Episcopalis et Provicarialis Notabilis Civitatis* (CAN) fonds. These important volumes were separated from the main collection held at the Cathedral Archives in Mdina. The project will conclude with the *Officium Bullae Sanctissimae Crociatae* (OBC) fonds, which detail the church's role in financing military operations of the Order of Malta against the Ottomans and North African states.



Above: "Building plan (1764)," National Archives of Malta, Mdina, *Curia Episcopalis et Provicarialis Notabilis Civitas* fonds, vol. 5, fol. 339v.



Above: National Archives of Malta, Mdina, *Officium Bullae Sanctissimae Crociatae* fonds, vol. 11, 1795.

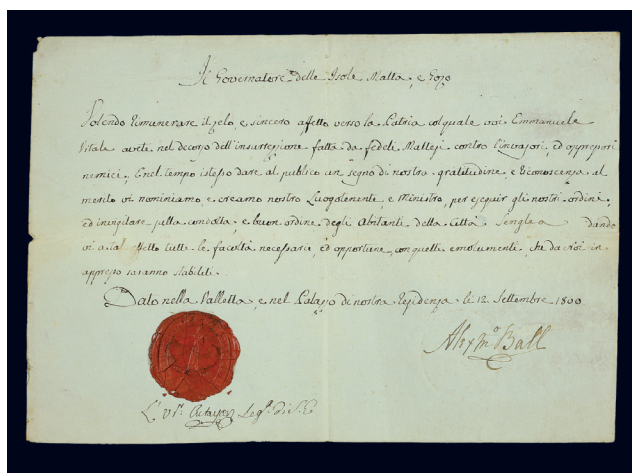


Left: "Seal of Grand Master Jean l'Evesque de la Cassière (1579)," National Archives of Malta, Mdina, *Curia Episcopalis et Provicarialis Notabilis Civitas* fonds, vol. 1, fol. 12v.

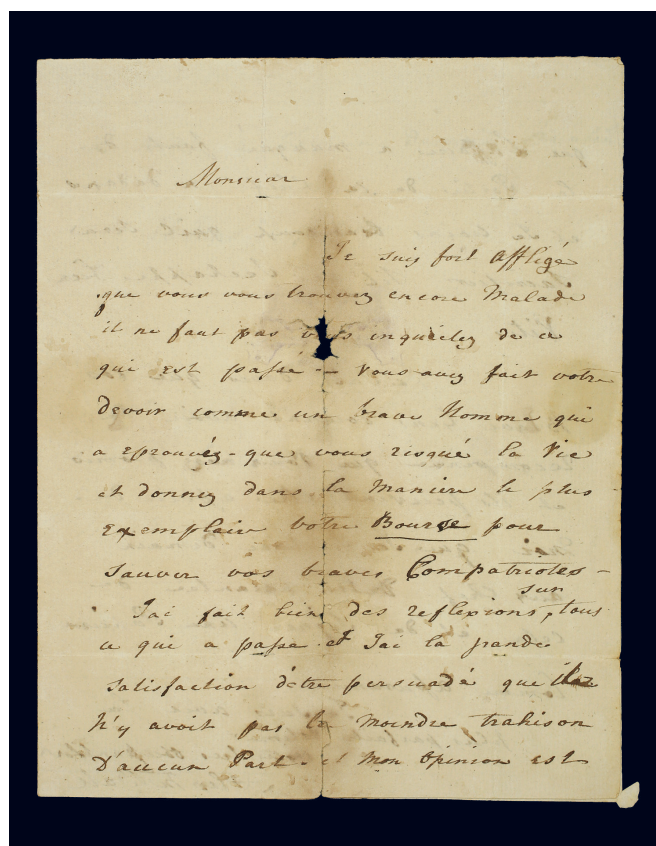


## Newly Digitized Manuscripts of Rear Admiral Alexander Ball in Malta

The manuscript collection at MUŻA-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti contains an array of documents in English, Italian, and French, with many attributed to Sir Alexander Ball, a rear admiral of the British navy and member of Lord Horatio Nelson's inner circle, who was entrusted with directing the blockade of Malta against the French (1798–1800) and thereafter serving as its first governor (1802–1809). These documents offer a glimpse into Ball's military and diplomatic roles when liberating Malta from French control and subsequently governing the island until its political status could be settled. During the blockade, Ball was responsible for synchronizing the tactics of British and allied forces with those of the Maltese insurgents. In his letter to Vincenzo Borg dated 14 January 1799, Ball communicated his respect for and encouragement to individual leaders of the insurgency as a means to develop an effective, professional rapport with the Maltese. Documents such as this provide evidence of Ball's efforts at entreating the local population in order to further Britain's objectives in Malta.



Above: "Sir Alexander Ball's Appointment of Emmanuele Vitale as Lieutenant and Minister of the City of Senglea, Malta, for his Service in Defense of Malta, 1800 September 12." MUŻA-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, Valletta, Malta 43887-8. HMML project number HMZA 01466.



British possession of Malta was deemed integral for tipping the balance of power away from the French Republic and for maintaining a dominant presence in Mediterranean. Regardless of the centuries of unpopular rule by the Order of St. John and the upheavals of the French occupation, orienting the Maltese to British rule would still be a daunting task. Ball appointed prominent Maltese figures that had led the insurgency to positions of authority to ensure an efficient transition of power from French to British overlordship, as in the appointment of Emmanuele Vitale as lieutenant and minister of Senglea. These documents illuminate the efforts of a British naval commander who, on behalf of his nation, worked to establish supremacy over a newly gained imperial possession without alienating the inhabitants or subjecting them to an unpopular foreign occupation.

- Dr. Steven Gill

Left: "Letter from Sir Alexander Ball to Vincenzo Maria Borg, Gharghar Battery (San Gwann, Malta), 1799 January 14." MUŻA-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, Valletta, Malta 43819-20. HMML project number HMZA 01479.



## *Mediterranean Travel Exhibition Held at HMML*

The Malta Study Center opened the exhibition *Mediterranean Travel: People, Places, Encounters* during the summer of 2018. Drawing on HMML's diverse digital and physical manuscript and rare book collections, the exhibition provided insights into the history of mapmaking, navigation, pilgrimage, travel and war as spatial encounters transforming the early modern Mediterranean.

More than travel narratives and journals, *Mediterranean Travel* developed a narrative that views travel through various human activities, including migration, slavery, military campaigns, exploration, and trade. Examples of Mediterranean maps were featured in the exhibition, showing how early mapmakers created imaginary spaces as they attempted to explain the sea and its peoples to their readers.



*Above: Panels and rare books from the Malta Study Center Collection and HMML Rare Book Collection in HMML's Reading Room.*



*Above: Photograph of the rare books from the Malta Study Center Collection and HMML Rare Book Collection on display during the *Mediterranean Travel* exhibition.*

The exhibition ran from June 12-August 15, 2018 and was designed in conjunction with the 2018 NEH Summer Institute, *Thresholds of Change: Modernity and Transformation in the Mediterranean 1400-1700*. The Institute and exhibition were created to help present and future higher education instructors of humanities (history, languages, and literature), as well as art, geography, and environmental studies, to gain insights from the Mediterranean past for use in undergraduate surveys or topical courses.



*Above: Johann Ludwig Lindhammer, *Der von dem h. Evangelisten Luca beschriebenen Apostelgeschichte ausführliche Erklärung und Anwendung* (Halle: Waisenhaus, 1725).*



## New Rare Book and Manuscript Acquisitions

“Instruzione alli commissari per ricevere l’informazioni e compilare validamente i processi delli miglioramenti delle dignità, comende, e membri del sacro Ordine Gerosolimitano, 1745.” Manuscript on paper.

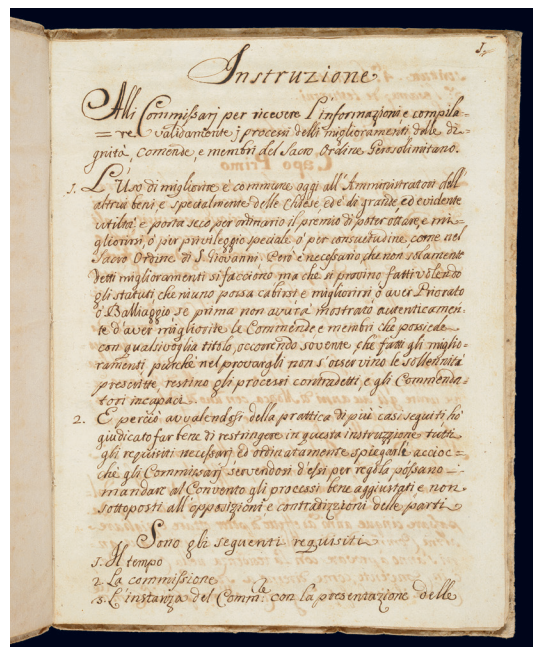
Brancaccio, Lelio. *I Carichi Militari di Fra’ Lelio Brancaccio Cavalier’ Hierosolomitano del Consiglio Collaterale per S.M. Cattolica nel Regno di Napoli e Svo Maestro di Campo e Consiglier di Guerra ne gli Stati di Fiandra*. Milan: Giovanni Battista Bidelli, 1620.

*Ruolo delli Cavalieri, Cappellani Conventuali, e Serventi d’Armi Ricevuti nella Veneranda Lingua d’Italia della Sagra Religione Gerosolimitana, e Distinti nelli Rispettivi Priorati*. Malta: Carlo Giovanni Mallia, 1789.

Sansovino, Francesco. *Origine de Cavalieri di Francesco Sansovino, nella Quale si Tratta l’inuentione, l’ordine, & la dichiarazione della Caualeria di Collana, di Croce, & di Sprone*. Venice: Camillo Borgominieri and Rutilio Borgominieri, 1566.

*Right: “Instruzione alli commissari per ricevere l’informazioni e compilare validamente i processi delli miglioramenti delle dignità, comende, e membri del sacro Ordine Gerosolimitano, 1745.”*  
HMML project number HMML 00436.

*Statviti dell’Ordine de’ Cavalieri di S.to Stefano Ristampati con l’Addizioni ordinate in tempo de’ Seren.mi Cosimo II e Ferdinando II Gran’ Duchi di Toscana e Gran Maestri*. Florence: Francesco Onofri, 1665.



## Valletta Exhibition Held at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

In celebration of Valletta as the 2018 European Capital of Culture, the Malta Study Center organized the photographic exhibition *Valletta belt u poplu/Valletta city and people* by photographer Stephen Busuttil at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis. The exhibition was held at the John XXIII Gallery and Teresa of Calcutta Hall from August 23 until September 30, 2018.

In *Valletta belt u poplu*, Mr. Busuttil created a ten-year photographic retrospective of Valletta, depicting how the Maltese capital has changed religiously, culturally, and socially in response to unprecedented globalization over the last decade. The retrospective included photographs from his initial award-winning study of Valletta in 2008: a twenty-four-hour photographic journey in the city, where one photo was taken each hour to document the city’s life. The 2008 photographs were combined with new images taken during Valletta’s celebration as European Capital of Culture in 2018.



*Above: Visitor admiring the exhibition Valletta belt u poplu/Valletta city and people in the John XXIII Gallery at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis.*



## *News and Events from 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 23 and 24, 2018. During the meeting, Chair Joseph S. Micallef, KMOB UOM and current Friends welcomed Dr. Michael Camilleri as a new member to the group. Dr. Michael Camilleri comes to the Friends via Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Among his numerous awards, Dr. Camilleri received an honorary doctorate from the University of Malta.

During this year's meeting, the Friends reviewed the digitization efforts in Malta and discussed the importance of increasing the Malta Study Center's online presence through digital initiatives, including vHMML Reading Room. Discussions at the meeting also included remarks on Joseph Micallef's visit to Malta in February, 2018, where he provided the introductory remarks celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Cathedral Archives. The Friends discussed new ways to expand outreach, including exhibitions and public lectures, that would increase awareness of the Center's activities to preserve the heritage of the Order of Malta and the Maltese people.



*From left to right: Annual meeting with The Friends of the Malta Study Center in HMML's renovated reading room. Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB; Robert Weyerhaeuser; Edmund Luzine, Jr., KM; Michael Grace, KM; Ambassador Robert Shafer, KM; Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB; Albert Colianni, Jr.; Joseph S. Micallef, KMOB, UOM; Lucy R. Jones; Dr. Daniel K. Gullo; Fra' Thomas Mulligan, KJ.*

### **Workshop at the Mediterranean Seminar, *Margins of the Mediterranean***

Dr. Gullo participated in the workshop panel, "The Margins of Mediterranean Studies" at the fall meeting of the Mediterranean Seminar, *Margins of the Mediterranean*, held at the University of Michigan on October 26-27, 2018. Dr. Gullo's intervention discussed how the Archive of the Confraternity of Charity in Valletta, Malta, supported the legal structures that maintained the authority of larger powers through its willingness to recognize their legal documents. In so doing, the archive claimed a place in the center of international law by preserving records originating from larger institutions. The gathering of local and international records in the same archive helped foster a common Mediterranean legal tradition irrespective of national borders and jurisdictions.

### **Curator Presents at the 2018 LITA Forum**

On November 10, Dr. Gullo, along with John Meyerhofer, Systems Librarian of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, and Bryan Lor of Solutions Design Group, presented the session "Curated Metadata and Digital Humanities: Using JSON Exports to Reimagine Data Access for Online Catalogs in vHMML" at the annual Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) Forum in Minneapolis, MN. The session discussed and demonstrated the implementation of vHMML's new Data Portal, the underlying technical aspects of harvesting and exporting the metadata from the database, and how vHMML's Data Portal reimagines the online catalog as a research technology for scholars. The presentation also included a demonstration of vHMML Digital Humanities' website, [www.vhmmldh.org](http://www.vhmmldh.org). This website offers an introduction on how to use vHMML Data Portal to construct digital humanities projects.





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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.

### **Dr. Michael Camilleri**

*Rochester, Minnesota*

### **Dr. Philip Farrugia Randon KM**

*Valletta, Malta*

### **Michael K. Grace Esq. KM**

*Pasadena, California*

### **Fr. Eric Hollas OSB**

*Collegeville, MN*

### **Lucy R. Jones**

*Wayzata, Minnesota*

### **Steven Kennedy KM**

*Medina, Minnesota*

### **Edmund L. Luzine, Jr. KM**

*McLean, Virginia*

### **Joseph S. Micallef KMOB, UOM**

*Committee Chair*

*Saint Paul, Minnesota*

### **Fra' Thomas Mulligan KJ**

*Lincolnwood, Illinois*

### **Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau KJ**

*Paris, France*

### **Robert Shafer KM**

*New York, New York*

### **Fra' Nicola Tegoni Esq. KJ**

*New York, New York*

### **Robert Weyerhaeuser**

*Kingston, Massachusetts*

### *Ex-officio members*

### **Albert Colianni, Jr.**

*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*