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Raymond Scicluna  
Skrivan tal-Kamra

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016**





**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2016**

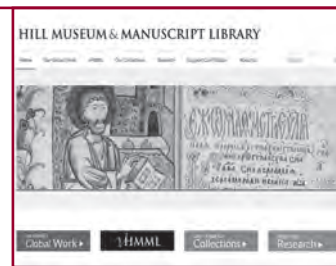
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# MEMBER OF



**ACARM**  
Association of Commonwealth  
Archivists and Records Managers

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## *Images on the cover:*

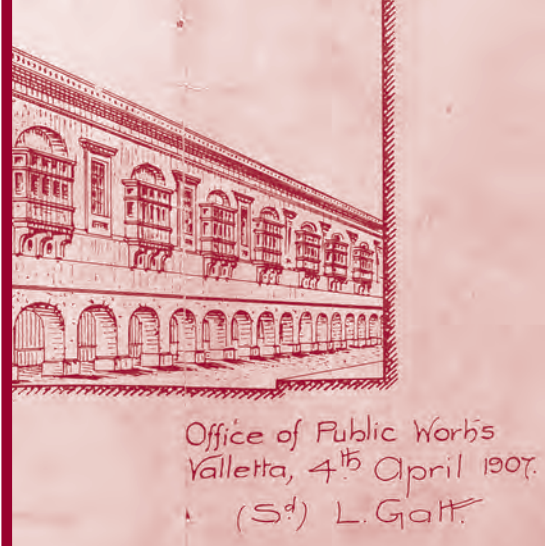
**Front** - General Election 1950. Arrival of ballot boxes at the Floriana Government School for counting, 5th September 1950. (National Archives of Malta: Memorja, Tony Terribile Collection)

**Back** - Progressive Constitutional Party supporters preparing for a carcade during the 1962 electoral campaign. National Archives of Malta: Memorja, May Agius Bequest.

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Mr Joe Church, on behalf on the Electoral Commission, depositing the Electoral Office's Records at the National Archives, 7 October 2016. 2017 is the 70th anniversary since the introduction of universal suffrage in Malta, see page 40.





“

The mission of  
the National Archives  
is to preserve  
the collective memory  
of the Maltese nation  
through the protection  
and accessibility  
of all public archives...

”

The National Archives Act



## FOREWORD

**I**t is time to take stock of another year of service to the community by the National Archives. This annual publication is a tool of accountability and is presented to Parliament in line with the provisions of the National Archives Act (Cap. 477 of the Laws of Malta). Apart from the legal obligation, it is also an archival tool by means of which we stop from our daily tasks, compile data and give a full and detailed account of our actions, decisions and the way we spent public money. It is also the time where certain trends are noticed. The list of accessions is gradually recording more digital material reaching our repositories. This year alone we received 600 Gb of data from one collection – the bell ringing collection presented by Rayden Mizzi. These shifts are most welcome and expected but bring also with them a lot of restructuring in the way we think, plan and implement policies and procedures.

It is also partially for this reason that during the last year we have focused a lot on the National Memory Project. Extensive strategic thinking and several meetings with stake holders had to be carried out to restructure the project inaugurated in 2004 and expand it both conceptually and logistically. Guided by two electoral proposals aimed at creating a new synergy between the different stakeholders managing memory data and by the specific proposal to set up a national oral archive we came up with the idea of a newly branded and structured project: MEMORJA.

My team developed the model for our digital storage facilities in order to enhance digital curation potential and also prepare for the big challenges of the digital disruption. As the national entity responsible to preserve and protect the collective memory of the Maltese nation we cannot end up hoarders of

memorabilia. We need to accession material in line with well taught and structured collecting policies. We need to preserve in line with international standards and not in line with sectoral agendas. Furthermore, we need to provide access to all not only for current patrons but safeguard the same levels of access to future generations.

I am proud that we will end 2016 with a much stronger infrastructure, especially with regards to human resources. During the last six months of the year we carried out a process of recruitment and six new employees will join our team during the first weeks of the New Year. Such a strengthening of our HR will be a first not only for the national archives but also for the whole local archives sector.

During 2017 we plan to invest further in training, support the newly appointed National Archives Council in its identified targets and continue with the plea for a new national archives building. The upcoming year will also bring on our country the challenge of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the EU. As national archives we will be very active in the coordination and chairmanship of archives related fora. We have prepared a rich programme, not only in terms of events but also content-wise and in terms of agendas and participants. As in 2009 when we successfully hosted the CITRA, we are sure that once more during 2017 Malta will provide the European archives community with the opportunity to discuss and propose tangible solutions to address the challenges of the sector.

**Dr Charles J. Farrugia**  
*National Archivist and CEO*

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*Photo above: Dr Charles J. Farrugia (left) hosting Dr Roger Vella Bonavita at the National Archives during a recent visit in Malta, 1 September 2016. Dr Vella Bonavita was a protagonist in the conference 'Maltese Archives. What future?' (March 1971), a seminal conference in the development of archives in Malta.*



# CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGEMENT UNIT

**T**his unit is responsible for the management of human resources and procurement. Apart from the daily administration and management of the Head Office in Rabat, the unit has five further functions.

- HR-related administration involves the planning and processing of leave entitlement and leave records, roster planning, retirements and new engagements. Recruitment process of new employees and staff development are further responsibilities of the Corporate Services Management Unit. This unit participated in the negotiation with the Union Haddiema Magħqudin that had commenced earlier this year, for a new collective agreement for the years 2016-2019.
- The drafting, monitoring and execution of policies related to HR and administration fall also within the remit of this unit. This unit is also entrusted with a coordinating role in the management of Parliamentary Questions (PQs). During 2016, the unit dealt with 25 PQs.
- Procurement is an important function that this unit manages. Tender procedures for large purchases are undertaken by this unit. Other relatively small purchases of goods and services require calls for quotations and the unit has the task of ascertaining that the best quality is being obtained at the best possible price.
- The coordination of structural and other maintenance works that have to be done regularly in all of the four premises currently leased to the National Archives of Malta, ie the Santo Spirito Hospital, the Banca Giuratale at Imdina, the depository at the Ospizio in Floriana and the Hal Far depository.

- This unit is also responsible for the compilation of reports, including HR-related reports, as requested by various government authorities and ministries, and overall day-to-day running of the premises, like management of cleaning services, etc.

## ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

### Staff training

Staff training during the year included the participation by various staff members in general and specialised training sessions, as well as attendance of international meetings and conferences tied with the institution's commitment in the international fora. Staff from the Administration Section attended CDRT organised courses on the use of the Electronic Public Procurement as well as courses on Public Procurement in view of changes to the regulations effected during this same year under review. A theoretical and practical course in basic fire fighting techniques was carried out by the Civil Protection Department for all members of the staff at the National Archives Head Office.

### Tenders

During 2016, two tenders were issued. One involved a call for shelving for the Ospizio building in Floriana and another call was published for the restoration of the back façade of the Santo Spirito building. Both calls were successfully concluded. The shelving at the Ospizio was installed by the end of July and documents were transported to this new repository.

*Photo above: Staff members of the National Archives during a fire training session. 19 May 2016*

### **Maintenance of buildings and other projects**

Maintenance works were carried out in various sites. At the Banca Giuratale in Mdina, the strengthening of wooden beams was carried out by employees of the Ministry for Education and Employment's Technical Services Branch, who were assigned to the National Archives, under the direction and supervision of a Heritage Malta architect, specialised in conservation. Work was also carried out to further strengthen security at the Ospizio in Floriana by the installation of five heavy duty steel doors leading to rooms that had been allocated for the new shelving. These rooms were also cleared of debris that had accumulated before being assigned to NAM.

Further works were carried out at Santo Spirito by the NAM maintenance person. These included the repainting of the entrance hall, yard and tunnel leading to the yard. A room at the entrance was refurbished to serve as an additional office for new personnel. In order to try to control and diminish a persistent problem, pigeon roosting deterrents were fixed at strategic locations. Repair and renovation works were also carried out to some of the apertures at Santo Spirito.

New apertures were installed in two rooms at Santo Spirito while additional shelving was installed at the same premises, intended as an extension to the repository of private donations. Works were carried out on various



*H.E. The President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and the National Archives Staff. 2nd August 2016.*

damaged parts of the waterproofing membrane which covers all properties. New fire extinguishers were procured, as well as additional furniture. A new light table was installed and a Conservation Pencil were acquired for the Conservation Laboratory. Furthermore at the Santo Spirito building (Administration Block) a three phase electrical supply main was installed. The exhibition boards at the Legal Documentation Section in Mdina were also renovated.

### **Team-building**

As part of the entity's team-building efforts, for the second consecutive year, in collaboration with Heritage Malta, a social outing was held for staff and volunteers accompanied by their families. Staff was invited for a guided tour around the restored Fort St Angelo. The event was another activity that contributed to "getting to know" fellow colleagues and their families.

*Staff, volunteers and their families at Fort St Angelo, 15 May 2016.*





# RECORDS MANAGEMENT

## ONSITE INSPECTIONS

**D**uring 2016, the Records Management Unit (RMU) performed a number of visits and inspections to the records repositories of various public entities, departments and ministries. The main objectives of these inspections and visits are to identify historical records and to manage their transfer to the National Archives, give consultation on good records management practices and start the procedure for the implementation of an official retention policy that is endorsed by the National Archives under the provisions of the National Archives Act (Cap 477). *See table for the full list of entities that were supported by the Records Management Unit during the year under review.*

## RETENTION POLICIES AND APPRAISAL OF RECORDS

Appraisal of public records is one of the most important elements of records management. It allows public institutions to alleviate the problem of space and also focus their energy and resources on records that are deemed to have enduring historical value. The best practice for a proper appraisal system is to implement a retention policy for all the records that are created by the institution. Before implementation, the policy must be approved by the National Archives so that records of historical value can be identified and transferred to the National Archives when their retention period expires. Other records which are no longer significant and have no enduring historical value can be destroyed in line with the National Archives Act (Cap 477).

During 2016 the National Archives and the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) agreed on and signed a retention policy for the records created by the latter. Since some of the Armed Forces of Malta records contain personal information, discussions were also held with the Data Protection Commissioner for his

endorsement of this policy. Discussions are currently being held by the RMU for the formulation of retention policies with a number of other entities. Such entities include the Malta Gaming Authority, the Electoral Office and the Student Services Department.

## PROCESSING OF HISTORICAL RECORDS STILL HELD BY PUBLIC ENTITIES

When historical records are identified, the originating office is instructed on a way forward for the preparation for the transfer of such records to the National Archives. The preparations include sorting, finding the original order, cleaning if necessary, placing into archival quality boxes and listing. In cases where the records have traces of pest contamination, the records are to be professionally treated before being transferred. The treatment process is done with the qualified guidance and under the supervision of the NAM Conservators.

## ACCESSIONS

During the year under review the National Archives, through the work of the RMU, continued accessing public records that are deemed to have enduring historical value. Most of the accessions occurred after the respective repositories were visited by the RMU and the value of these records was assessed. The major accessions of public records during 2016 include the historical records of the Electoral Office, the 2005 and 2011 Census records, the Monte di Pietà and the historical files of the Office of the President of the Republic. In the case of the records of the Electoral Office, these were immediately opened for research since the originating office has performed all the steps listed in the archival process. In 2016 the RMU was also called in to recover the records of the Malta Shipbuilding. Historical Shipbuilding records were

identified and arrangements were made to transfer them to the National Archives for permanent preservation.

Apart from public records, the accession list for 2016 includes a good number of private deposits. These deposits consist of records donated to the National Archives by private individuals. The listed accessions include photographs, audio-visual recordings and personal papers of prominent figures. Among the 2016 accessions there are the digital recordings of bells

from all over the Maltese islands, the personal records of Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and a digital copy of the works of Salvu Scerri who worked as a graphic designer in the post WWII period till the 1970s. The 2016 private accessions include the digitisation of the photographic archive held by the Malta Aviation Museum. This is an ongoing process and involves the digitisation of the photographs on site by an officer of the National Archives.

Accession Ref	Contents	Extent
2016-01	Private Deposit by Joseph L. Vella - Digital images of village feasts and national celebrations	60 images (165 MB)
2016-02	National Library - Original letters out from the Chief Secretary to the Governor (1819-1837)	9 letters
2016-03	Director Alberto Miceli Farrugia - MEPA Report - Dock 1 Feature data capture (2010)	1 volume
2016-04	Heritage Malta - Plans of the House of Representatives (1970s)	2 plans
2016-05	Private Deposit by donation by Bridgette Scicluna - Personal notes of ex-Chief Health Inspector, Joseph Scicluna (1960s)	1 box
2016-06	National Statistics Office (NSO) 2011 National Census Returns	182m of shelving
2016-07	Private Deposit by Frans Buttigieg - Digital Images of Good Friday Procession (ca. 1930s/1940s)	7 digital images (437 MB)
2016-08	Private Deposit by the Malta Aviation Museum - Digital copies of the photographic collection held at the Aviation Museum	4,184 images (77.8 GB)
2016-09	Private Deposit by the Malta Esperanto-Societo - Records of the Malta Esperanto-Societo	0.5m of shelving
2016-10	Ministry for Energy and Health - Department of Health General Records (1938-1945)	109 boxes (16m of shelving)
2016-11	Private Deposit by Mario V. Gauci	3 large photographs
2016-12	Private papers and Photographs of Prime Minister Dom Mintoff	ca. 30m of shelving
2016-13	Notarial Archives Resources Council - Correspondence volume of the Chief Secretary to Government (1818-1819)	1 volume
2016-14	National Statistics Office (NSO) - 2005 National Census Returns	145m of shelving
2016-15	Private Deposit by Joseph Scerri and Marco Scerri - Salvu Scerri Graphic Designs (1950s-1970s)	139 digital images (8.01 GB)
2016-16	Private Deposit by Fr Charles Cini - Photpgraphs and documents (1930s-1950s)	7 photographs and a number of loose documents
2016-17	Private Deposit by Charles Spiteri - Personal and family photographs (1940s-1980s)	121 photographs + 3 tickets
2016-18	Private Deposit by George Azzopardi - Vintage postcards, 1 Aerial photo and 1 ration clothing book (1940s)	4 postcards, 1 photo and 1 booklet
2016-19	Private Deposit by Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna - Dockyard plans and booklet (1900-1963)	4 plans and 1 booklet
2016-20	Għaxaq Primary School - Student Admission Registers (1905-1998)	2 volumes
2016-21	St Paul's Bay Primary School - Admission, Attendance registers and Log Books (1914-2004)	43 volumes
2016-22	Private Deposit by Max Farrugia - Photograph of the staff of the Santo Spirito Hospital (ca. 1950)	1 photograph
2016-23	Heritage Malta - Photographs & Plans in connection with the development of Government Housing (1970s)	32 photos, 11 plans and 1 file

2016-24	Private Deposit by Michael Bonnici - Development Brief for fort St Elmo & Environs (1997)	1 volume
2016-25	Identity Malta - Immigration Records (1968-1970s)	ca. 2m of shelving
2016-26	Private Deposit by Ivan Ellul - Digital images of flyers/posters for metal, punk and rock music events (1990s-2010s)	77 images (1.59 GB)
2016-27	Private Deposit by Joseph Scerri - Video projection tapes	4 reels
2016-28	Private Deposit by Tunin' Entertainment (Kris Spiteri) - Kafena: Lukanda Propaganda (Music Album) (2015)	1 audio CD
2016-29	Private Deposit by the Jameson's family - Photographs of the Jameson Family	37 loose photographs and two photo albums
2016-30	Private Deposit by the Agius Family - Photographs and personal papers of Emmanuel Agius, Arcangelo Agius, Joseph Agius and May Agius	2 boxes
2016-31	Private Deposit by the Spanish Maltese Cultural Centre - Official records of the Spanish Maltese Cultural Centre (1984-ca.2008)	2 metres of shelving
2016-32	Private Deposit by the National War Museum Association - Official records of the National War Museum Association (1974 - 2016)	2 boxes
2016-33	Private Deposit by Richard S. Cumbo - Records from the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (ca. 1950s - 2016)	loose and stapled sheets (1 A4 envelope)
2016-34	Private Deposit by the Forum Komunita` Bormliža (Yana Mintoff Blant) - Interviews: Minn Fomm il-Bormliži	1 DVD
2016-35	Electoral Office - General Files of the Electoral Office (1944-1964)	52 boxes (1193 Files) - 8 metres of shelving
2016-36	Malta Industrial Parks - Records of the Malta Shipbuilding	ca. 50m of shelving
2016-37	National Audit Office - Instructions for keeping the Malta Public Accounts (1839-1847)	1 volume
2016-38	National Audit Office - The Government of Malta and The Malta Railway Company Ltd - Concession for Railways in the Island of Malta (1880)	1 envelope with a volume and loose sheets
2016-39	Inland Revenue Department - Monte di Pieta registers (ca.1750-1900s)	185 volumes ca. 30 meters of shelving
2016-40	Private Deposit by John Balardi - Photographic book and photos of Hamrun and its people (2016)	1 volume and 5000 digital images
2016-41	Private Deposit by George Borg - Letter of appointment of Pupil Teacher (1925)	1 sheet
2016-42	Private Deposit by Rayden Mizzi - Bells' digital recordings (2000s)	ca. 3600 recordings (600GB)
2016-43	Private Deposit by Eman Bonnici - Funeral and memory cards	40,000 cards
2016-44	Privat Deposit by Josph Amodio - Destination Malta - promotional footage and various music recordings	1 VHS and 4 CDs
2016-45	Office of the President of the Republic - Records of the Office of the President and Governor General	ca. 10 meters of shelving
2016-46	Private Deposit by Michael & Pauline Ellul - Perit Michael Ellul private papers (ca. 1950-2012)	3 meters of shelving
2016-47	Private Deposit by the Dr Mark Agius - Joseph Agius private papers (scrapbooks)	1m of shelving
2016-48	Electoral Office - Electoral Office General Files (1964-1975)	5 meters of shelving
2016-49	Commerce Department - Personal files	3 archival boxes (0.5 meters of shelving)
2016-50	Economic Policy Department - Statistical Reports (1970s-1980s)	3 meters of shelving
2016-51	Malta Shipyards Ltd - Malta Shipyards Records; financial controller's office (1970s-2002s)	25 meters of shelving

### Public Entities supported by the Records Management Unit

Addolorata Cemetery	Armed Forces of Malta
Commerce Department	Department for Local Government
Department of Probation and Parole	Directorate for Environmental Health
Economic Policy Department	Electoral Office
Hamrun Local Council	Heritage Malta
Identity Malta	Identity Malta - Passport Office
Law Courts	Malta Air Traffic Services
Malta Enterprise	Malta Gaming Authority
Malta Industrial Parks	Malta Shipyards Ltd
Malta Tourism Authority	Mater Dei Hospital
Medical Council	Ministry for Education and Employment
Ministry For Energy and Health	Ministry for the Family & Social Solidarity
Ministry of Finance	National Audit Office
National Blood Transfusion Unit	National Statistics Office
Office of the Attorney General	Office of the President of the Republic
Office of the Prime Minister	Planning Authority
Public Service Commission	Social Work Service - Education Psycho-Social Services
Sportsmalta	Student Services Department
Transport Malta - Civil Aviation Directorate	Transport Malta - Roads and Infrastructure Directorate
Wild Birds Regulation Unit	

### Private Entities supported by the Records Management Unit

Spanish Maltese Cultural Centre
Socjeta Filarmonika Pinto - Banda San Sebastjan Hal Qormi
Union Haddiema Magħqudin (UHM)
Malta Aviation Museum
Richard Ellis Archive

*Records prepared for transfer to Ospizju Repository.*



## THE RECORDS OFFICERS FORUM

In 2016, the first batch of Records Officers were appointed at ministry level within six different ministries. The ministries that now have a professional records officer are the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE), the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government (MJCL), the Ministry for Gozo (MGOZ) and the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure (MTI).

Following their appointment, the need for a permanent structure aimed at coordinating the Records Officers was felt. This idea, following the approval by the Principal Permanent Secretary, developed into the creation of the Forum of Records Officers. Work started on explaining the duties of these officers to the various Ministries and to the officers' colleagues. An invitation for the first meeting of the Forum was sent to the Permanent Secretary and the Director for Corporate Services of each respective Ministry or their representative.

The first meeting of the Forum was held on the 22 November 2016 and was hosted at the National Archives' main office.

The participants assisted to presentations by the National Archivist and the staff of the Records Management Unit (RMU) within the National Archives.

The forum was divided in two parts. The first part consisted of a presentation by the National Archivist to the Ministry representatives and the second consisted of a presentation by the RMU staff to newly appointed records officers.

During his presentation, Dr Charles Farrugia, the National Archivist explained that this was a landmark in public administration and in line with the requirements of the National Archives Legislation (Cap 477). To date, there have been three calls for Records Officers and this was the first batch to graduate so far. Dr Farrugia

went over the job description and commented that the records officers needed time to adjust themselves to their new position and that they also needed to be provided with resources and support. Following the presentation, a discussion was held where the participants asked questions to clear any issues that were pending regarding the duties and responsibilities they are expected to attend to.

Representing the Ministries were Michael Ferry for OPM, Frankie Mercieca for MJCL, Chris Magri and Maryanne Debono for MTI, Maria Galea and Mary Scicluna for MEDE and Carmen Ogilvie Galea for the Ministry for Gozo. Ivan Ellul and Peter Vella from the NAM Records Management Unit were also present.

The second part of the forum was intended mainly for the newly appointed records officers themselves, but it was also open to the Ministry representatives. A presentation was given by the NAM Records Management's officers, Ivan Ellul and Peter Vella in which an account was given of the work that has already been done vis-à-vis the records created under the umbrella of the concerned ministries. The ministry records officers were also given an overview of their duties and responsibilities and a way forward on how to start their operations. An open discussion followed the presentation during which the records officers cleared any issues they had. It was agreed that the first task of every records officer is to compile an organogram of their Ministry and their points of contact.

The participants at the second part of the meeting were Mariella Galea (MJCL), Mary Anne Farrugia (MEDE), Anna Farrugia (MTI), Mariella Grech (OPM), Carmen Ogilvie Galea (Min. for Gozo) and Joseph Grima (Min. for Gozo). The National Archivist, Dr Charles Farrugia was also present during the session and gave his contribution during the presentation and discussion.



*Meeting of the Records Officers Forum, 22 November 2016*

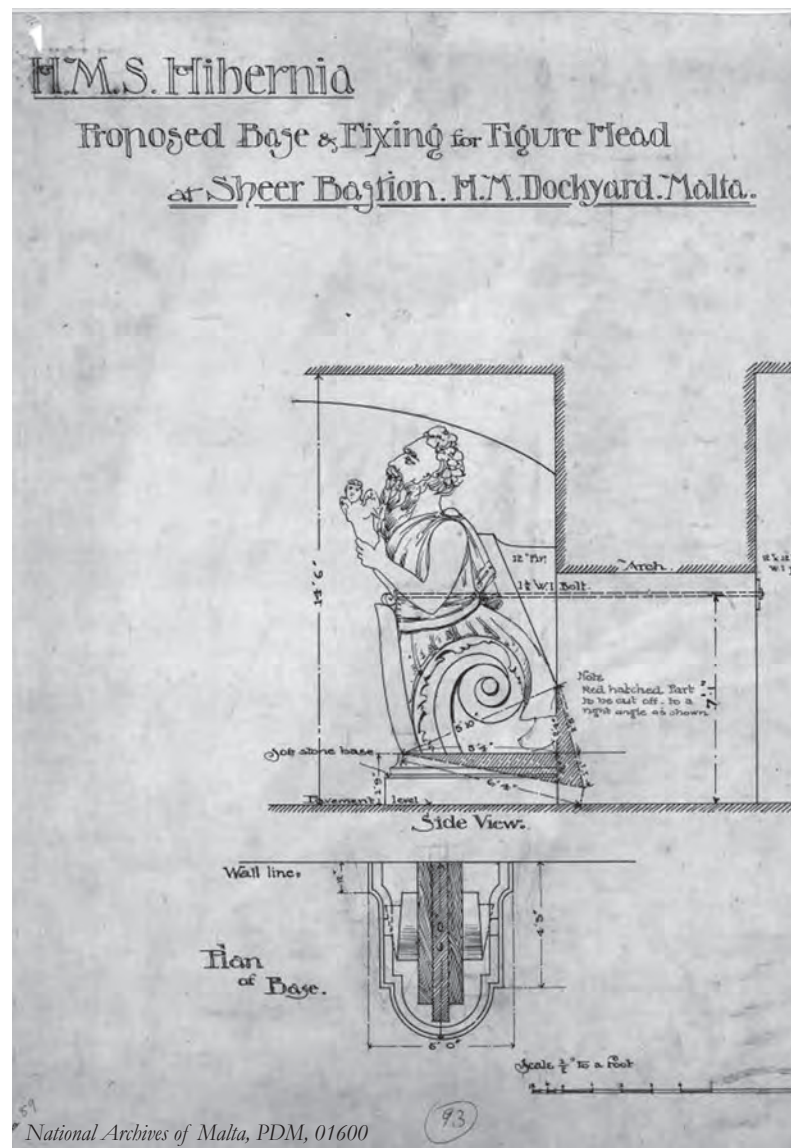


# ARCHIVES PROCESSING

The year 2016 was another challenging year for the Archives Processing Unit. The aim of this section is to ensure that records of national significance are secured, described and preserved, thus making them accessible to all those who want to conduct research on them. Once the records reach the National Archives, we ensure that there is the appropriate storage needed. Also, preliminary preservation measures take place in order to facilitate their long term upkeep. Plans are in place to strengthen the human resources component of this section in order for a retro-conversion of older catalogues into ISAD(G) compliant tools. We are also aiming on strengthening the cataloguing component for the back end of the project Memorja.

## INTERNSHIPS

During 2016, the National Archives continued its contact with the local schools, colleges and foreign agencies to offer a variety of opportunities in the form of internships. The types of tasks performed during these internships vary from administrative to archival skills, including electronic data management. Students are always exposed to the documents so that they could familiarise themselves with the various records kept at the Archives. This is not an easy process, however with the guidance of a supervisor they could learn how to clean, sort and re-box documents. These records were received from various Departments, Ministries and other public institutions as well as from private collections. This process serves as an induction to archival methodological skills which will help them in their future research.



<b>Internships held at the National Archives</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Organising Institution</b>	<b>Number of students/hrs.</b>	<b>Type of training</b>
Systems of Knowledge	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary	6/140	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input
Systems of Knowledge	Junior College	6/120	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing, data input, conservation laboratory
Systems of Knowledge	St Theresa College	2/30	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input
Systems of Knowledge	St Martin College	1/20	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input
Media & Knowledge Science	University of Malta	1/100	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input
Lithuanian students	EPMC Institute	2/120	Sorting & Re-boxing Emigration Records
Italian students	Various entities	4/457	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
Slovenian students	High School of Economics	2/80	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
<b>24 internships covering a total of 3,968 hours.</b>			

### **SORTING / CATALOGUING**

Work on cataloguing projects, aided by a number of students and volunteers is a constant business function of the Archives Processing Section. The cataloguing process on an extensive number of fonds have been ongoing for several years. The Despatches from and to the Secretary of State in the UK is one of the most important fonds. This collection is being inputted in a database by Architect Michael Ellul. Another project

which is nearly reaching its end is the sorting and re-boxing of the Emigration Records, dated 1948-1978. When it comes to files from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), we are nearing the completion of proof reading of the compiled catalogues for the period covering 1951 to 1961. Meanwhile work is at hand on the cataloguing of the Education Department fonds for the years 1934 to 1945.

<b>Reorganisation and Relocation of Documents</b>	
<b>Fonds</b>	<b>No of Volumes/ boxes / plans / unit / vol</b>
Passage Assistance Records (PAR)	296 boxes + 35 large format bundles
Treasury Records (1833-1963)	21 boxes
Electoral Office Records (1939-1964)	52 boxes
Head of Ministry petitions (1921-1934)	39 boxes
Building Notices (1880-1959)	24 boxes
Air Raid Precautions	16 boxes
Education Department (1963-1965)	434 boxes
<b>Sorting, Cleaning and Reboxing of Documents</b>	
<b>Fonds</b>	<b>No of Boxes / Bundles</b>
Treasury Records (1833-1963)	16 bundles
Passage Assistance Records (PAR) sorted by date, Air and Ship	35 Large format /112 standard bundles



## **DIGITISATION**

The digitisation priorities continued to focus on documents that are slightly damaged and volumes that have a tight spine. This leads to the document's preservation by minimising the handling during research. In 2016, an overhead scanner for digitisation

of these types of documents was procured to be used by the staff of the reading room. This scanner is connected directly to the photocopier to print the documents while storing the images. Part of the 1920 passport applications missing in our digital collection have been digitised during 2016 using this scanner.

<b>Digitisation</b>	
<b>Fonds</b>	<b>No of images</b>
Photographic collection	45
Documents (GOV, CSG, ARP, Army, etc.)	2,236
Customs and Passport applications	586
Architectural Drawings	212

<b>Cataloguing</b>	
<b>Fonds</b>	<b>No. of Entries</b>
Governor's Despatches from (GOV)	2,970
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	1,938
Education files Database (EDU02)	866
Newspaper Cuttings Database	162

## THE MAP ROOM

During 2016, the Map Room's efforts consisted mainly in the continuation of the scanning and inputting into the Database (PDM) of the Record Plans from the Ordnance Department. These digitised images will be made available online in future.

The latest completed collection (from the aforementioned Ordnance Department Record Plans) added to the PDM were the hundreds of plans of Fort St Angelo. These were inputted into the database after being sorted, necessary conservation works were undertaken and then scanned into digitised format. Some of these plans are over a hundred years old.

Apart from the database digitising work, many other scans were made from Fonds, such as CSG, PWD, Police Files, LGO, Agricultural Land Registry plans etc. Other interesting digitising projects were those such as the 'Dom Mintoff' and 'Said' private collections.

The number of researchers and students that made use or visited the Map Room in 2016 was of 143 (107 researchers and 36 students). Digitised images ordered by these researchers were numbered 324. The total amount of scanned images during 2016 was of 2,575. In view of long-term preservation and the multitude of future uses these images might be required for, most of them are scanned at a very high resolution (1000dpi).

Digitisation in the Map Room	
Fonds	No of images
Plans scanned and inputted into Database (PDM)	1850
Other scanned images (CSG, Police, PWD, Agri. Lands Registry Plans, LGO)	147
Passports Applications	149
The Dom Mintoff Private Collection (1000dpi):	55
The Said Photographic Collection	52
Others	322
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,575</b>

*Lenka Burková, from the Czech Republic, with Ruth Buggeja*



“ I would like to share my views about my work experience at the National Archives of Malta where I was on a three-month internship programme. Coming to Malta from the Czech Republic, this was a great opportunity to gain some foreign work experience and improve my English language skills. I was always interested in books and history and so, working in archives was the best choice for me. There, I worked there as an office assistant carrying out different duties such as data input, sorting, labelling and re-boxing of files. I also helped in customer care (digitization of old documents and research). All of this gave me the opportunity to get to know the archives' operations. I also had opportunity to make new friends and to work with other students from different countries and so I could improve my language skills. The colleagues at the archives were very friendly, helpful and always nice to me. I worked mostly at Rabat but I also had the chance to work at the Mdina repository as well. This widened my work experience and made me a more flexible worker. I am very glad that I was part of archives for a few months and I have pleasant memories of this time. I really enjoyed my time at the National Archives and staying in Malta in general. ”

*Lenka Burková*



# CONSERVATION LABORATORY

The same work approach as in previous years was applied during the year 2016, with work continuing on the long term project of documents from the Magna Curia Castellania (MCC) and other conservation jobs performed as required from various other fonds and private collections. Sixty bundles dating back from 1719 to 1721 from the MCC collection were processed; this involved the full restoration of 946 folios. Treatment of material from other collections involved twenty conservation jobs from nine different fonds, namely: CSG, GOV, PWD, CUS, AGR, MDP, ARP, POL and PDM. Nine of these interventions were performed after notification from the reading room through the Damage Notification Scheme whereby prioritisation of work is given to those items being used by researchers that would need urgent treatment. Two jobs were assigned to the Conservation Laboratory from private collections. A photographic album dating back to 1900-01, which forms part of the A.G. Jameson private depository, was also treated. Another conservation job of national importance was carried out on 34 political cartoons from the Dom Mintoff private collection. The work involved de-framing the items, cleaning and performing any interventions as needed and reframing in the same frame with conservation board as backing. These cartoons were used in an exhibition which was set up at the Banca Giuratale in Mdina to mark the 100 anniversary of Prime Minister Dom Mintoff's birth in August. Work on two exhibitions consisted of preparing captions, mounting, and setting up exhibits of 'The Calm before the Storm' and preparing of captions for the 'Magical Mintoff' cartoons exhibition.

## THE CONSOLATO DEL MARE PROJECT

Work on Phase One of the *Consolato del Mare* Preservation Project was concluded in May. The work on this part of the project, done by Ms Irene Sestili under the direct supervision of the Conservation Laboratory, was mainly

aimed at the general preservation of the collection and involved the removal of all old wrappers, dry cleaning, sorting in chronological order, pagination and enclosing all items in archival quality light covers and boxes. A detailed Condition Survey was also concluded in this period. Since more funds were available an extension of phase one was initiated that involved the cataloguing of a section of the collection.

## INSPECTIONS REGARDING CONDITION REPORTS

Two inspections were held at the Monte di Pietà in Valletta and the Addolorata Cemetery to evaluate and prepare condition reports on volumes before these were transferred to the National Archives. These inspections are very important as the volumes are assessed for any biological activity and in case this is positive, the material is sent for treatment before being transferred to the repositories of the National Archives. In this way, non-contamination of the holdings at the Archives is insured.

## STUDENT PLACEMENTS

During 2016, 19 students carried out their work placement with the Conservation Laboratory. These students came from the University of Malta, Junior College, Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School and other foreign institutions. As is the norm, all students starting their work placement were introduced to the archival world by a power point presentation on *Safe Handling of Archival Materials*. The work assigned to these students was mainly focused on two on-going projects: - items from the Prints, Drawings and Map collection (PDM); which work mainly consisted of dry cleaning and repairing tears and splits on more than 80 architectural drawings. The other job assigned to students was the preservation of Police Records dating between 1957 and 1960. These documents contain

metal fixtures that are causing rust damage to the surface of the paper and which are being removed and replaced with plastic coated metal clips or treasury tags with plastic ends. The work mainly consisted in the removal of all metal fixtures affixed to the documents, dry surface cleaning and re-boxing in archival quality boxes. A Career Exposure Week was organised for students from the St. Theresa Secondary School in Mriehel. Throughout this week, four students had the opportunity to spend some hours gaining work experience and doing hands-on work at the Conservation Laboratory

Throughout 2016, a total of 14 visits were held at the Conservation Laboratory with the participation of around 200 persons. These came from various institutions and associations, different faculties from the University of Malta, the Junior College, the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, various local Secondary Schools, the American Cultural Attaché, members of the Sliema Franciscan community, the British Residents Association, personnel from the administration of the HMML project and several lecturers from foreign universities.



## **PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND SEMINARS**

On the 15 and 16 June, Mario V. Gauci participated in the Eighth meeting of the European Heads of Conservation (EHC) held in The Hague, Netherlands. The subject of discussion was *The Changing Role of Conservation related to Digitisation*. Participants came from fourteen countries and prepared presentations of the impact that digitisation has on the work of conservators at their various institutions. Simon P. Dimech participated in a one day seminar held at the Vatican Library on the 11 of October. The subject of this seminar was *The Preservation and Conservation of Japanese Archival Documents in the Vatican Library*. This participation was made possible through a sponsorship by the Friends of the National Archives of Malta.

On 15 November both conservators appeared in a TV programm ‘Twelve 2 Three’ presented by Antonella Vassallo. The presentation, which discussed work at the Conservation Laboratory was part of a weekly slot that the National Archives has on this programm.

*Conservation and restoration procedures explained to students (top photo) and members of the British Residents Association (left photo).*



## PUBLIC SERVICES

The Public Services Unit is committed to ensure high level standards with regards to customer service offered to the public. Increased activity was registered in the three Reading Rooms at Rabat, Mdina and Victoria, Gozo during 2016. These Reading Rooms are open six days a week for the public with one full day operating a late-night opening policy.

The National Archives strives for excellence in its delivery of services and facilitates access to its records, including reference and digitisation services, exhibitions, publications and on-line access. Our customer care continuously receives local and foreign queries. Most of the foreign requests are related to genealogical searches. On-site services are supported through a series of databases available in the main reading room. Gradual additions of digital material, especially from the maps and large format material are made regularly on the reading room terminals. During the year under review, there has been an ongoing process to put online thousands of records in the Archives Portal Europe.

Our main aim is to continue to strengthen this online interaction with the public.

### THE AGRICULTURE RECORDS

One of the challenges the Public Services section faced during the last two years was the accession of the Agricultural Land Registry records, formerly housed at the Agricultural Research and Development Centre in Ghammieri. These were transferred to the National Archives Head Office on 6 March 2015 and were opened for research two months later, on 1 May 2015.

When compared to last year, there was a higher demand for agricultural records during this year. In fact, this year we received 86 applications, while in 2015 we had received 56 applications. However, it is essential to point out that these figures only take

in consideration the filled-in applications and not all the requests we received throughout this year, given that the applicants requesting the information were either landlords (owners) or land tenants (farmers) in possession of the required documentation, and thus were eligible to apply.

The nature of the requests received throughout this year were more or less the same as those of last year i.e. land owners requesting information about who is registered as farmer of the land they own. In most cases farmers wanted to confirm if they are registered as farmers of the plots indicated by them on the application or otherwise to ascertain which plots of land are registered in their name or on members of their family, including the size of the respective plots. We also received applications from farmers who wanted to know who is listed as owner of the plot/s of land they work. Others, who are also owners of the land they work, wanted to confirm who is listed as landlord of the land in question.

In the last couple of months, we also received new types of requests from land owners who wanted to know who were the former landlords and land tenants of the plots they own, including their house/farmhouse addresses. However, house or farmhouse addresses are only provided to the land owner.

Interested applicants are also informed that if the plot/s of land indicated by them is/are not registered in their name or do not appear to have any connection whatsoever with their family, information on third parties cannot be provided due to data protection considerations.

There are a number of conditions for the processing of these requests. In the case that the applicant is the landlord i.e. the land owner, he/she should bring the contract of the land which states that the applicant is

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*Photo above: Archival records being shown to cardiac surgeons and cardiologists participating in the annual general meeting of the Maltese Cardiac Society, held at head office of the National Archives. 5 May 2016.*

the owner, while in the case that the applicant is the land tenant i.e. the farmer, a copy of the farmer's registration card (the FRC) is to be presented alongside other documents stated on the application form.

Apart from the documentation related to the land in question, applicants are requested to present a copy of their Identity Card. In the event that the applicant is requesting the information on behalf of another person, he/she is required to bring also a copy of the other person's Identity Card.

### CUSTOMER CARE

Apart from the researchers who visit the National Archives Head Office and make research themselves,

we also receive a number of e-mail requests via the customer care address from people who either reside abroad or cannot carry the research themselves. In such cases, staff members have to carry the research on their behalf against payment. The first half hour of research is free of charge; a fee is charged per volume, depending on the type of record consulted.

Lately, the interest in archives has increased resulting in more demands from the public. This is evident from the number of e-mail requests received this year as compared to those received last year. During 2016, we received circa 450 customer care requests via the customer care e-mail address, compared to the 341 e-mail requests received in 2015.

Research at Head Office, Rabat			
Month	Researchers	Items consulted	Total hours
January	106	171	200
February	133	364	275
March	129	311	258
April	197	306	449
May	176	452	384
June	116	325	224
July	116	149	240
August	146	348	356
September	179	445	410
October	170	414	347
November	138	215	274
December	156	283	325
<b>Total</b>	<b>1762</b>	<b>3783</b>	<b>3742</b>

Research at Legal Documentation Section, Mdina			
Month	Researchers	Items consulted	Total hours
January	18	5	92
February	23	8	110
March	23	15	104
April	26	44	103
May	10	7	19
June	10	24	26
July	19	28	85
August	25	15	82
September	25	31	94
October	6	6	13
November	7	15	15
December	9	27	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>759</b>

The majority of e-mail requests were received from foreigners. Requests varied; however the most common type of requests were for passport applications to trace ancestors and for relatives' army personnel records. There were also a considerable amount of requests for the customs lists of arrivals and departures of passengers. Even though these were the most popular areas during this year, there were also a number of requests for birth and death records (most of which are not held by the National Archives), and a few others asked about the medals obtained by their relatives during their service with the army in Malta. Requests for prison records were also popular.

Requests for passport applications and ex-servicemen

records were popular among Maltese researchers, even though the majority of requests were for old photos and plans of specific areas in Malta. Building notices were also highly demanded throughout this year. There were also a few demands for court cases investigations and school records, and few queries for hospital and police records.

Apart from the requests for research, like every other year, we received a number of requests for internships by Erasmus students and requests by Junior College and Higher Secondary students to carry out their SOK project at the National Archives. Requests for school visits and voluntary work experiences were also received.

<b>School / Cultural visits:</b>			
<b>Date of visit</b>	<b>Name of organisation</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location of activity</b>
11/01/2016	Masters in Cultural Management	9	Head Office
19/01/2016	Franciscan Friars, Rabat	6	Head Office
28/01/2016	Head Office Staff	9	Banca Giuratale
25/02/2016	St Benedetto School	28	Head Office
10/03/2016	MA in Documentary Heritage and Melitensia	10	Head Office
11/03/2016	Public Administration	26	Head Office
02/04/2016	Għaqda Qarrejja tal-Provi	18	Head Office
22/04/2016	Attard Ladies Cultural Club	25	Head Office
05/05/2016	Spanish Institute	6	Head Office
06/05/2016	Giovanni Curmi Higher School	19	Head Office
12/05/2016	Maltese Canadian Federation	3	Head Office
14/05/2016	Faculty of Arts, BA (Hons) Arts	5	Head Office
25/05/2016	Dr Elizabeth M Williams	1	Head Office
03/06/2016	MCAST – Course on Documentation Principles	4	Head Office
09/06/2016	British Residents Association	20	Head Office
19/10/2016	St Martin's School	28	Head Office
10/11/2016	Żejtun Secondary School	36	Head Office
05/12/2016	Department of Archaeology, University of Malta	4	Head Office

*Dr. William Zammit delivering the annual public lecture 'The Collection of Malta-Related Visual Material in the Vatican Archives'. 10 October 2016*



Although e-mail requests form a significant part of the customer care service, customer service is primarily centered around the 'on-site' visitors and researchers who visit the archives in person on a daily basis. As with e-mail requests, the larger percentage of requests was divided between passport applications, ex-servicemen records and building notices. Passage Assistance Records, more commonly known as emigration records, were also highly asked for during this year, with a total of 43 applications received, of which 21

were from Maltese residents while the remaining 22 were from Gozitan residents.

Maltese citizens, entitled to receive an Australian pension are assisted in tracing the records necessary for their pension application at the National Archives Head Office and at the Gozo Section in Victoria. Gozitan residents receive the information by post, while Maltese residents may collect it from the National Archives Head Office on the same day of the application.

<b>Facebook (2016 Uploads)</b>					
Photos 468	Videos 12	Notes 2	Events 6	Followers 3,829	
<b>Flickr</b>					
Photos 294	Uploads 49	Views 302,078	Albums 21	Following 66	Followers 135
<b>Twitter</b>					
Tweets 36	Tweets 2	Following 84	Followers 71		
<b>Issuu Online Library</b>					
Publications 48	Uploads 5	Followers 25	Impressions 56,113	Reads 8,048	
<b>YouTube</b>					
Videos 15	Uploads 4	Subscribers 36	Views 5,457		

### **OUTREACH EVENTS**

A number of important events were organised to emphasise the significance of archival records and the vital role of the National Archives of Malta. Amongst these there were public lectures, seminars, exhibitions and a strong presence in the media. Worth of particular

note during the year under review there was the inauguration of the 'Magic Mintoff Exhibition', the National Archives Forum, the Annual Public Lecture 'The Collection of Malta-Related Visual Material in the Vatican Archives' delivered by Dr William Zammit on 10 October 2016.

<b>The National Archives in the media</b>	
<b>Programme or event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Interview for <i>Malta u l' Hinn Minnha</i>	7 January 2016
Interview on <i>Xi Qrajt Dan l-Abbar</i> at the National Library	19 January 2016
Magical Mintoff exhibition – various stations	1 August 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: National Forum	4 October 2016
National Forum on Archives – various stations	5 October 2016
Electoral Commission Press Conference	7 October 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: Banca Giuratale Section	11 October 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: National Archives Gozo Section	18 October 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini records	25 October 2016
TVM news feature – International Audio-Visuals Day	27 October 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: <i>Consolato del Mare</i> Project	8 November 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: Conservation Laboratory	15 November 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: Charles Camilleri Music	22 November 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: Records dealing with food	28 November 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: The ARKIVJU journal	6 December 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: The Medical Council records	13 December 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: The Pharmacy Museum	20 December 2016
Twelve 2 Three Programme – Topic: The People of Malta collaboration	27 December 2016



Esc. Originale  
 { Giovanni Giuducci Consolare -  
 Copia Estratta ad litteram dall'originale esistente  
 in filza disersionem negli atti di questo Consolato  
 di S. M. Britannica in suo li. 11. Singno 1811.  
 Giovanni Giuducci Consolare

## LEGAL DOCUMENTATION SECTION

### RESEARCH AND READING ROOM SERVICES

An increase in research hours was registered at the Legal Documentation Section during 2016. As of January 2016, the number of scholars and researchers visiting the Legal Documentation Section at Mdina was 192, consulting 225 volumes and spending around 743 hours of research, mainly on Monday's long opening hours. During the year under review, hours of research had an increase of 27 % and 36% from the previous two years respectively.

The records of the *Acta Originalia* of the *Consolato del Mare*, *Officium Commissariorum Delegatorum et Domorum* and those belonging to the series of the *Magna Curia Castellania* such as the *Libri dei Carcerati* and *Registrum Actorum Criminalium* were the most requested records by researchers in the past year.

### SORTING / CATALOGUING

Last year, the Banca Giuratale concentrated more on important material which was previously archived in stacks of bundles. This material has been cleaned and placed in archival boxes. This task includes 14 metres of shelving of the *Concorsi*, *Libelli* and *Deroghe* files and 65 metres of items of the *Consolato del Mare* records.

The volumes of the Criminal Court (1814-1899) are now being catalogued, thanks also to the participation of several interships by several Maltese and foreign students pursuing their *practicum* at the Banca Giuratale. Ms Nicole-Marie Zerafa has been a regular volunteer at the Mdina Section, working on the reboxing of documents and cataloguing.

### WORKPLACE

During summer 2016, Lenka Burkova from the Czech Republic, as well as Sarah Asti and Carla Minasi from Italy, received hands-on training on the records of the First Hall Court. Practical sessions, mainly on the cleaning and reboxing of documents were conducted by Abigail Zarb and Anthea Mamo from St Theresa College, Kylie Brincat and Bernice Vassallo from the Junior College and James Pio Aquilina who is a 1<sup>st</sup> year student reading for a qualification at the Faculty of Media Knowledge Sciences at the University of Malta.

### THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONSOLATO DEL MARE PRESERVATION PROJECT

The first phase of the *Consolato del Mare* Preservation Project, which kicked off in summer 2015 came to an end in December 2016. Phase One included several interventions which included the removal of supporting wrappers and poor quality boards from the bundles and volumes; the sorting of documents in their chronological sequence, pagination, dry cleaning of the collection and the compilation of a detailed condition survey to determine the type and amount of damage present in the collection; the wrapping of non-bound bundles in archival quality light board and the housing of all items in archival quality boxes with a pH value of 7.55. About 65 metres of shelving comprising the *Consolato del Mare* records have now been preserved in archival quality boxes.

The first phase also included the compilation of an index and a catalogue of the *Testimonialia*, which in the next few months will be available on-line for consultation.

Photo above: National Archives of Malta, *Consolato del Mare* Bdl.7, *Testimoniale con Atti*-(TA.5.70) 1811.

## IN-HOUSE DIGITISATION PROJECTS

As part of the digitisation service at the Legal Documents Section at Mdina, we managed to digitise 6GB of Prof. Charles Camilleri Music Collection. Also in-house service included 5GB of requested digital images of the legal documents.

## VHMML READING ROOM

On August 2016, The Malta Study Center and the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library announced the launching of the vHMML Reading Room, which provides access to digitised manuscripts and improved cataloguing.

vHMML Reading Room is an on-going project. The Malta Study Center collection has about 200 records in the system, but these have very little metadata at the moment, mainly city, library and shelf mark providing. HMML are still constructing the archival catalogue database.

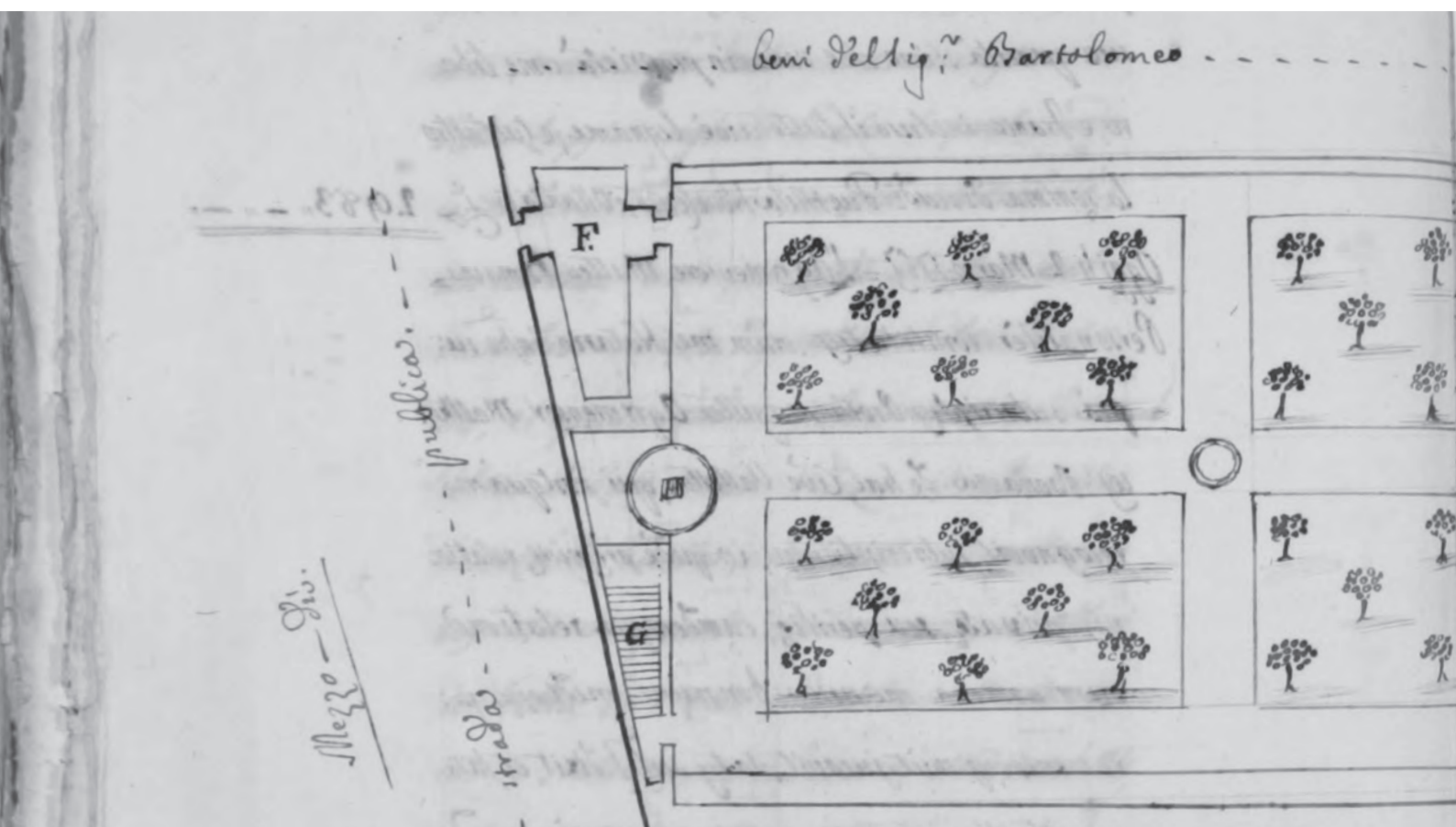
On vHMML Reading Room platform, one has the facility to browse to the *Officium Civile Sacrae Inquisitionis (OSI)* Fond detailing the civil legal proceedings related to the Roman Inquisition in Malta and the unique volume of original acts of the *Tribunal Fabricae Sancti Petri de Urbe*. These volumes were digitised in 2015, after the completion of the digitisation project of the *Magna Curia Castellania Acta Originalia*, the three metres of the records of the *Epoca Gallica*, followed by the digitisation of 25 boxes of miscellaneous records belonging to the various Tribunals pertaining to the French Period; and the volumes of *Sacra Audientia* dated 1538-1788.

The Reading Room is continually being updated, with changes occurring daily as more images become available and new collections are uploaded. vHMML Reading Room was made possible by grants from the Henry Luce Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Arcadia, and generous individuals. Researchers can access the portal <https://www.vhmml.org>.

## A SHOWCASE FOR TOURIST AND EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTION

Besides the preservation and the accessibility of legal documents, the Banca Giuratale presents an outstanding showcase for educational and a tourist attraction through the National Memory Project and the National Portrait Archive.

During the month of August 2016, the National Archives, in collaboration with the Mintoff Family, exhibited 32 cartoons to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister Dom Mintoff (1916-2012). The exhibition was called 'Magical Mintoff' inspired by one of the exhibits, a cartoon depicting Mr Mintoff as a magician. The cartoons were collected and framed by Mr Mintoff himself. Twenty-nine of the cartoons, by 17 different cartoonists, were published in the British press, while the remaining three came from *The Sunday Times of Malta* and the *Times of Malta*. The earliest dates back to 1956. The cartoons chart the political evolution of the man who was once revered by Labour Party supporters: on display are his efforts towards integration with the UK, his fallout with the British government in the early 1970s and his final days in Parliament in 1998.



For these last eight consecutive years, the Banca Giuratale has been participating in the Medieval Mdina Festival held during the month of April. This year this was held between the 23rd and 24th of the month. For this event, the National Memory Project was enriched with a visual perspective of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in Malta which were held between the 5th and 12th May 1935. This photographic exhibition entitled 'The Calm before the Storm,' curated by Kevin Casha, combines the art of photography with political and social history of the Maltese Islands. The exhibition was a product of some of the work that has already been accomplished by the National Picture Archive.

During 2016, secondary grade students from Verdala International School had the opportunity to visit the Banca Giuratale and have a close glimpse at several volumes. Undergraduate students from the Faculties of Arts, Laws, Media and Knowledge Science and other interdisciplinary Institutes and Centres, including post graduate students reading for Maltese Culture and Identity Studies were given a presentation and a comprehensive tour around the Archives.

### **PROF. CHARLES CAMILLERI MUSIC COLLECTION**

The music scores belonging to Prof. Charles Camilleri, which are deposited at the Banca Giuratale were performed locally and abroad in various concerts.

On 26th and 27th February, 2016, the Cracow Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Mro.

Brian Schembri performed the 'New Idea Symphony.' The programme included works by Modest Mussorgsky, Jean Sibelius and Wojciech Kilar.

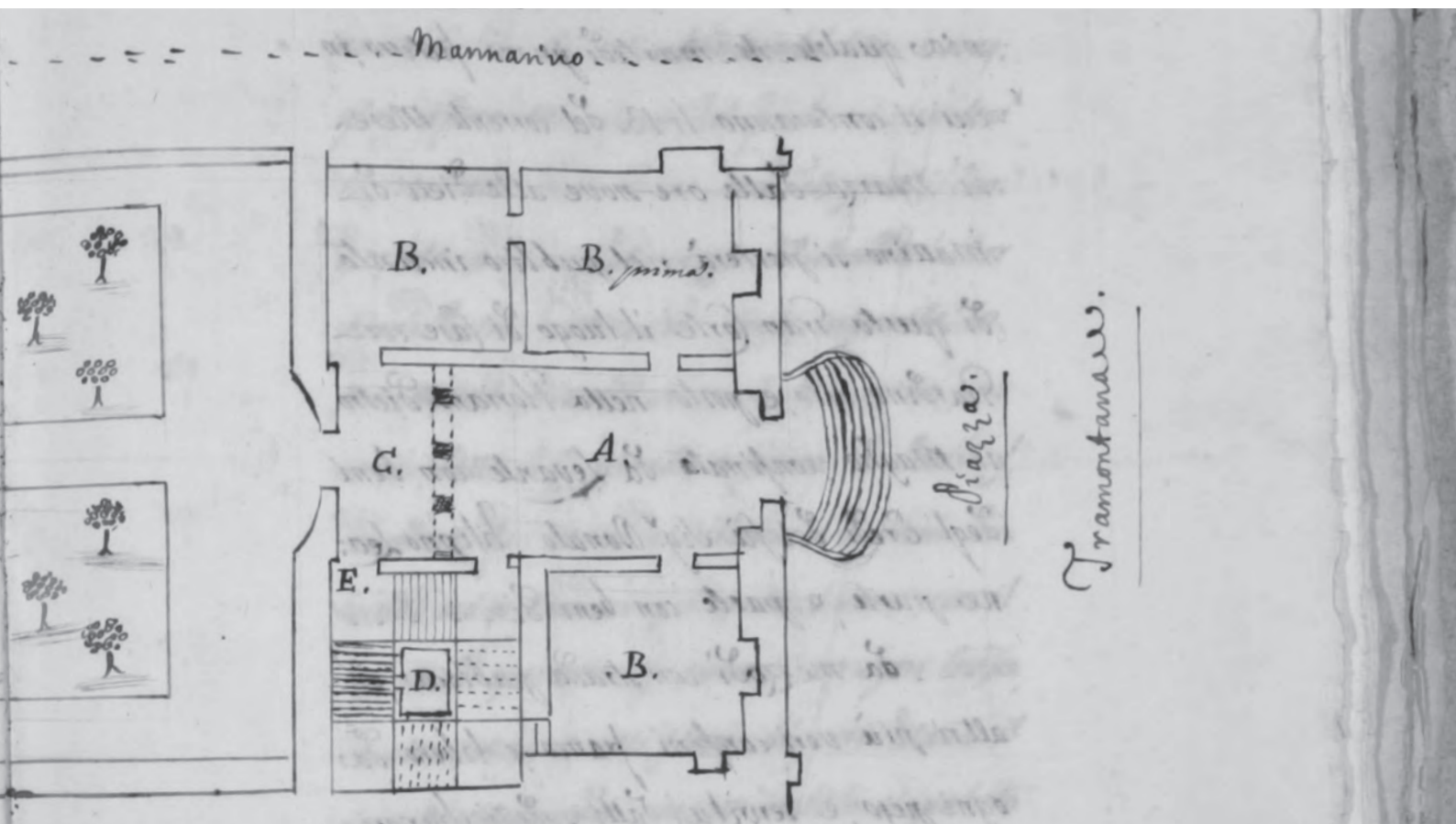
'Summer Nights in Malta' Concertino for two pianos and orchestra was performed during a live national broadcast at Radio Hall in Bucharest, Romania on 11th November 2016 with fellow pianist Sergiu Tuhutziu and Romanian National Broadcasting Orchestra.

On the 18 September 2016, the band of the Armed Forces of Malta performed a concert in Gozo to commemorate the Independence of Malta. The program included Charles Camilleri's Overture from the Knights of Malta Ballet Suite, arranged for band by Mro. Victor Zammit.

### **OUTREACH PROGRAMMES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

During 2016, the Legal Documentation Section and the National Memory Project undertook a series of outreach activities with the aim to inform and educate the public about the nature of archival materials and archival work and to bring about interest in the archives and encourage research. The National Archives were invited to be an integral part of the guests on the 'Twelve 2 Three' TV daily program aired by the Public Broadcasting Service. The themes discussed were the various legal documentation at the Banca Giuratale, the preservation project of the *Consolato del Mare*, and the music collection of Prof. Charles Camilleri and the memorabilia of Maltese international renowned tenor, Paul Asciak.

*National Archives of Malta, Consolato del Mare AO Bdl.17.5 1803. Pianta del Casino con Giardino posto nella piazza, The Mall at Floriana.*



# MAP OF GOZO.

SHOWING BY RED DOTTED LINES THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SINGLE PARISHES  
OR OF PARISHES GROUPED TOGETHER, FOR PURPOSES OF ACCOUNTS.



The NAG is the public record office for the documentation produced and received by past and present Government departments and establishments of the islands of Gozo and Comino. The Assistant National Archivist and his assistants carry out a fourfold task.

- 1) First and foremost is the management of the archives – an indispensable task for the preservation of the national memory of the Maltese nation.
- 2) Visits to Government establishments were made to make an appraisal of the documents preserved therein. During the year in question, on-the-spot checks were carried out, including at the offices of the San Lawrenz Primary School. As a result, (1) a large number of registers has been transferred from the Law Courts directly to the NAG DEPOSIT 01 at Għarb due to lack of space at the NAG Victoria; (2) the Notarial registers preserved in the inadequate storage at the Ministry for Gozo will – in agreement with the Ministry for Gozo – be taken to the NAG DEPOSIT 02 under the joint management of the Notarial Archives and the NAG; (3) the Għarb deposit has been weeded and important documents, mostly plans and maps, have been duly classified; and (4) a sizable amount of registers from the Għarb and San Lawrenz Primary Schools has also been transferred and catalogued.
- 3) the cataloguing of documents transferred to the NAG. The help offered by Toni Calleja, a retired Archives Assistant, in the cataloguing of the plans and maps retrieved from the Għarb deposit must be acknowledged.
- 4) making the general public aware of the written heritage at the NAG. This is done through (1) an annual exhibition; (2) the monthly publication of a

document from the registers of the *Universitas*, the oldest section of the NAG, serialised in the monthly magazine *Il-Hajja f'Għawdex* (up to December 2016, 248 documents were transcribed, translated and published with an explanation); and (3) public relations programmes. The Gozo Section of the NAM took part in the programme *Għawdex illum*, aired four times on TVM and TVM2 in the last week of October on the occasion of the annual exhibition. The same exhibition also featured in a 90-second slot on the evening news of TVM on Monday, 17 October 2016. On 18 October 2016, it also participated in the live programme *Twelve 2 Three* on TVM.

## FONDS

Up to 31 December 2016, the NAG held fonds from twenty-eight different entities each of which is subdivided to reflect the diverse activity carried out by the entity that created the fond. A new fond CR – Cremona Collection was added during the year in question.

## DIGITAL FONDS

In the year 2014, the NAG introduced the digital fonds division, which includes documents that are *either* available only in digital format *or* are digitised images of documents held at the NAG, in which case the digital format carries the same code of the respective fonds. This division has been temporarily divided into the following sections with the number of items in parenthesis:

- AD-CD Archives Digital ▪ CDs-General (51 of which 6 in 2016) items of a general nature

Photo above: Gozo Plan prepared by the Public Works Department in 1907. National Archives of Malta, PDM 50039.

- **AD-DVD Archives Digital ▪ DVDs–General** (11)  
items with film footage of a general nature
- **GL Ġurdan Lighthouse** (90)
  - **Log Books Ġurdan Lighthouse**
  - **Air Ministry** • Meteorological Office
  - Eye observation of pressure, temperature, cloud, weather, visibility
- **MG Ministry for Gozo ▪ Chronological** (22)  
Photographic chronology (10 Sep 2004 to 04 Mar 2008)
- **PA Photographs** (38 of which **2** in **2016**)  
Gozo Historic photographs
- **PG Press Gozo** (01)  
Detailed chronology of both the printed and the online news items related to Gozo (14 Mar 2008 to 31 Jan 2013)
- **UG Universitas Gaudisii**  
The UG fond made up of 305 volumes has been completely digitized – a total of 197,822 images.

## NEW DEPOSITS

The acquisition of NAG DEPOSIT 02 was an important addition to NAG DEPOSIT 01 as it makes it possible for the NAG to accept further deposits from Government Departments. Some of the following new deposits are the result of internal growth of existing sections, or the reshuffling of existing fonds, or the cataloguing of documents already deposited at the NAG. During the year 2016, the NAG was enriched with items in various fonds. The Cremona Collection (71 vols) was created through a donation of Maria Mifsud-Bonnici, wife of Chief Justice Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici. It consists of 71 volumes belonging to her grandfather and father, Paolo and Giuseppe Cremona.

During 2016, a total of 810 volumes/items were catalogued and deposited at the NAG. This is almost three times more than previous years: 282 (2015) and 122 (2014). More volumes/items were transferred to the NAG but a number are still in the process of being catalogued. One new fond and seven new sections were created during the year.

## DONATIONS

The most important donation was that of Maria Mifsud-Bonnici, mentioned above. Dr George Azzopardi of Ta' Sannat proceeded to donate old photos and old

postcards of Gozo that he purposely purchased for the NAG; and Charles Bezzina enriched the section related to the World Wars in Gozo, created through his donations, by more photos.

## RESEARCHERS AND ACCESSIONS

The number of researchers at the NAG during 2016 was 629, an increase of over 6% over the previous year: 592 (2015). The number of research hours amounted to 640 and the number of items consulted amounted to 860. This steady interest in the NAG is especially due to the awareness in its contents by a number of public relations exercises and by the annual exhibition. The latter attracts a considerable number of visitors that would otherwise not set foot in the NAG. The amount of volumes handled throughout the year amounts to about 5% of the NAG holdings. It must be noted that holdings are on a constant increase.

During 2016, the GM-Ġuljana Masini fond proved to be the most popular for the fourth consecutive year; followed by the PD-Police Department and the MH-Medical and Health fonds.

## DIGITAL LABORATORY

The process of digitization of documents at the NAG was initiated on 26 February 2013. The digitisation of the whole Ġurdan Lighthouse fond was concluded and images have been refined to be uploaded on the APEF portal. The digitization of Medical and Health Building plans and permits has now been taken in hand. This process is slow as documents and plans are very uneven. Simultaneously, many images of other items were digitized at the request of researchers.

## GROUP VISITS

The number of group visits to the NAG continued to increase during 2016.

- 80 from the Sacred Heart Seminary Secondary School were shown around;
- 18 history students from the Sir Mikelang Refalo Post-Secondary School paid a long visit;
- forty-eight (48) students from the Sacred Heart Seminary Secondary School visited in two groups;
- 23 students of Landscape Architecture from Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Dessau-Roßlau und Köthen (Anhalt) were given a lecture on documents at the NAG related to their studies;
- 15 new history students from the Sir Mikelang Refalo Post-Secondary School paid a visit during which the prospect of taking up studies in archival science was explained to them.

## THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION

On the occasion of the twenty seventh anniversary of the opening of the National Archives, and coinciding with the Archives Awareness Week, the NAG mounted the exhibition *Historical Niches of Gozo*. A catalogue was drawn up of all the niches of Gozo, amounting to around three hundred. This catalogue entailed three stages: (1) the compilation of a list of niches in the hamlets and villages of Gozo; (2) the gathering of basic information on each and (3) the shooting of a professional photograph of each niche and its editing. The catalogue will be preserved at the NAG and might be published eventually.

The exhibition – the fifteenth to be organised by the NAG – concentrated on the historical niches scattered throughout the city, the villages, and the hamlets of Gozo. A total of fifty-four niches were exhibited – three each from each village and hamlet. The history of the majority is unknown, but a number are well-documented in the holdings of the NAG and other archives. All the photos were taken by Paul Falzon, a member of the staff, and at the end of the exhibition

they were deposited in the Photography Section of the NAG to serve as a record for the future.

The star exhibit was the painting of *Nuestra Señora de la Soledad* (dated 1559) that was formerly venerated in a niche next to the entrance to the Ċittadella, the oldest documented niche in Gozo. The painting, now at the Cathedral Museum, was exhibited courtesy of the Gozo Cathedral Chapter.

## CONCLUSION

The year 2016 marked the twenty-seventh anniversary of the official inauguration of the NAG. Throughout the years, the NAG has without doubt fulfilled its role of preserving the documentation produced and received by past and present Government departments and establishments on the islands of Gozo and Comino and in safeguarding the collective memory of the Maltese nation of which Gozo forms part.

The conservation of the volumes of the *Universitas Gaudisii* remains a *desideratum*. Significant funds are needed for their restoration.

Research carried out at Gozo Section			
Month	Researchers	Items consulted	Total hours
January	036	046	078
February	025	028	046
March	031	039	052
April	119	031	060
May	051	034	081
June	036	043	042
July	046	094	084
August	057	095	102
September	039	057	064
October	117	099	140
November	055	047	060
December	017	027	051
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>860</b>



# THE NATIONAL MEMORY PROJECT

## MEMORJA

In line with its mission entrusted to it by its legal foundation, the National Archives is continuously seeking to serve as the national focus for the preservation and accessibility of the national memory, to provide professional archival guidance in this regards and to manage a showcase of the richness of Maltese identity.

The National Memory Project has been launched by the National Archives in 2004 as a platform for several initiatives, undertaken by both individuals as well as institutions, to preserve and disseminate the Maltese national memory. By definition, public memory is not a single entity's monopoly and thus the National Archives espouses the long-term vision to develop this repository into an active and interactive centre together with other players.

The Ministry for Education and Employment has assigned the National Archives of Malta with the task to implement Electoral Measure 13.031, leading to a consolidation process whereby material from the National Archives, the National Library and other entities (such as the DOI and PBS) may be publicly available, and Electoral Measure 13.032, envisaging the creation of a national oral history archive.

During 2016, work started on the setting up of the Oral, Sound and Visual Archive (Arkivju Orali u Awdjoviziv) within the National Archives, while the National Memory Portal is being developed as the platform to carry out these two electoral manifesto commitments.

Extensive work is being undertaken to bring stakeholders on board, to gather and organise the archival material as well as to develop the electronic data storage facilities and other components of the IT platform. Over the period under review, the mapping

of the hardware and software requirements has been concluded; data gathering gained momentum and data ingestion continued.

Our relationship with the Public Memory Archive within the University of Malta, with whom a collaboration agreement was concluded on 19 May 2014 is proving to be a key development. In virtue of this agreement, the National Archives and the Public Memory Archive started collaborating in the development of research in public memory as well as the archiving, preservation and dissemination of the results with the goal of establishing and running jointly a public memory oral history archive within the National Archives.

A strategic plan for the establishment and running of the Oral, Sound and Visual Archive has been developed with the assistance of Prof. John Chircop, the founder and the head of the Public Memory Archive within the University of Malta.

Our main objective is to employ cutting edge research, methodologies, theoretical and archival approaches, as well as state of the art techniques/IT, to collect, record, transcribe, preserve, and make available for research, interpretation, and educational reasons, and divulgate to the general public – through museums, schools and community spaces – community / shared and individual memories, oral history / traditions knowledge and experiences.

We are trying to lure the public, groups and individuals, as well as voluntary associations to record their experiences professionally or/and to deposit their (written or visual) biographies, oral/sound recordings and written material as well as family records, photos, copies of artefacts (so-called ephemera) in this archive.

Several recorded oral interviews from the hundreds

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*Photo above: Detail from a photo of a group of Maltese poor children who were entertained as part of King George V's Silver Jubilee festivities, May 1935. National Archives of Malta: Memorja, Photographic Collection 2100.*

already housed by the Public Memory Archive were analysed by IT persons and archivists from the National Archives to integrate them and the created metadata with the National Memory project in a seamless manner. The diversity of the arefacts and ephemera accompany each interview presents a particular challenge in this regard.

Aware that such a project cannot be carried out effectively without a huge investment in human resources, requests were made to increase the complement of the archives and recruit persons with specialisation in archives or cultural memory management. Following the necessary government approvals a process of calls for applications was publicly advertised. The new posts are those of Administrator, one Assistant Archivist, and three Archives Assistants all focused on the National Memory Project. Results were published in December 2016 and recruitment and specialised induction training will start in January 2017.

As much as human resources are important, we are aware that we need to strengthen our IT potential. We need to upgrade the current storage capacity to a more robust server system with the necessary redundancy and replication facilities. The tender for such a platform was also published in December 2016. It is hoped that the necessary adjudicating and award be finalised by the first quarter of 2017. In the meantime, staff are already using AtoM to catalogue collections that will be linked to the portal of the national memory.

Following extensive thinking, brainstorming and consultation the national memory project has been renamed MEMORJA and a branding process is currently undergoing. We are positive that 2017 will see to the synergies necessary between the HR, IT, archival and public engagement components that will make MEMORJA a first for Malta.

### **THE EXHIBITION MAGICAL MINTOFF, 1-14 AUGUST 2016**

In collaboration with the Mintoff family, the National Archives organised an exhibition of newspaper cartoons from Dom Mintoff's private collection to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the former Prime Minister's birth.

The exhibition, inaugurated by the President of Malta, featured 32 cartoons collected and framed by Mr Mintoff himself. Twenty-nine of the cartoons, by 17 different cartoonists, were published in the British press, while the remaining three came from *The Sunday Times of Malta* and the *Times of Malta*. The earliest dates back to 1956.

The cartoons charted Mr Mintoff's political evolution, from his efforts towards integration with the



UK, his fallout with the British government in the early 1970s and his final days in Parliament in 1998.

### **THE GREAT BOOK OF MALTA, HAMRUN**

The first volume of *The Great Book of Malta, Hamrun*, together with 5,000 photos shot during its production, has been deposited at the National Archives by John Baraldi, the co-ordinator of this project.

This grand book, leather bound (29.7 x 42.0cm), with 100 pages of photos taken over six months by mostly young photographers, has been intended as a portrait of a community with photos taken from every part of Hamrun as well as street scenes.

It is a celebration of the ordinary life within this locality, street by street as well as an attempt to capture the soul of the town. Portraits of hairdressers, upholsterers, greengrocers, band clubs, ironmongers, corner shops, bakers, tailors, shoemakers, tattoo artists,



*A Maltese family being interviewed at home by a US broadcaster about the CARE assistance programme, c. 1955. CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, originally Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) was set up at the end of World War II by US charities to provide food and relief supplies with packages containing staples such as butter, dried milk and canned meat. (Photo, National Archives of Malta: Memorja, Mintoff Collection)*

buthcers, pigeon fanciers, horse owners, office workers, mechanics, pet shops, pastizzi vendors, musicians and every persons who makes Hamrun what it is has been included.

### **THE BELLS OF MALTA, SOUNDSCAPES FOR THE NATIONAL MEMORY PROJECT**

On the occasion of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the recording of almost all bells in Malta were deposited at the National Archives of Malta.

Rayden Mizzi donated a digital copy of his recordings (audio and visual) of bells in Malta and Gozo. In this project, started in 2006, Mr Mizzi included over 3,600 recordings featuring some 1,200 different bells in 375 different locations (mostly churches but include also other venues).

The recordings feature the use of bells in several occasions within the life of the local communities, varying from the celebratory use during the annual

festive celebrations to funerals and commemoration of the deceased.

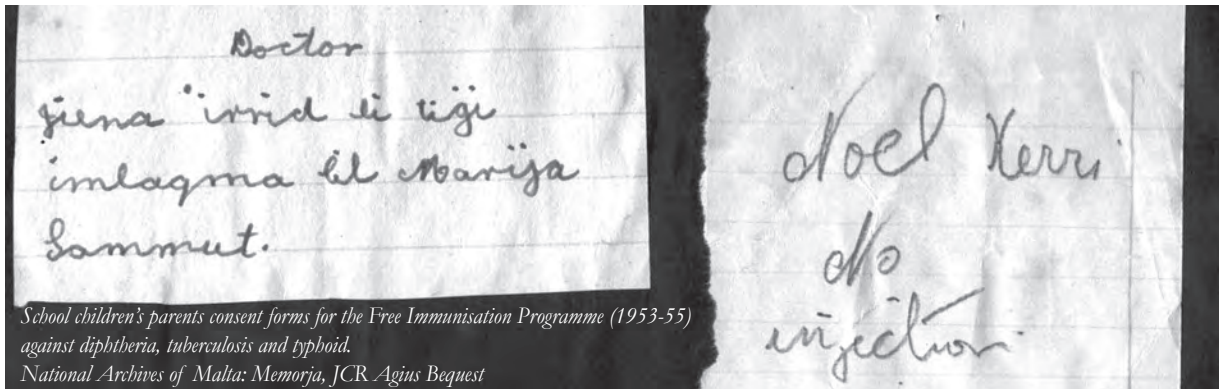
### **FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL CARDS**

Eman Bonnici donated a collection of over 40,000 funeral and memorial cards to the National Archives to be included within the National Memory Project.

Mr Bonnici has collected these cards for the last 20 years and most of their subjects are Cottonera, Żabbar and Fgura residents. The collection includes also cards printed in the late 19 century.

### **JOSEPH CR AGIUS BEQUEST**

Joseph Carmel Richard Agius lived in a time which spanned across the beginning of the 20 century till the 1980s. The son of a pharmaceutical chemist in Valletta, Joseph began work in the chemist shop before moving for a few years at sea, where he was the first ever Maltese Radio Officer. Then he moved on to work in the Health Department. Over the Second



*School children's parents consent forms for the Free Immunisation Programme (1953-55) against diphtheria, tuberculosis and typhoid.  
National Archives of Malta: Memorja, JCR Agius Bequest*

World War, he was Health Inspector in Sliema, and became the lead administrator in the T.B. Section and the Immunization Section, and also in the Propaganda section, which ran the Mobile Cinema. Eventually he moved to become Health Education Officer in the Education Department, till he retired, when he spent some years as News Editor and Book Editor at the Times Of Malta.

His son, Dr Mark Agius, donated scrapbooks that Joseph Agius had put together covering both his public and private life, including his time in the T.B. Department, where he introduced BCG vaccine into Malta with the help of Norwegian teams, and in the Propaganda Section, where he covered by filming the

first Visit of Queen Elizabeth by filming it for the Mobile Cinema.

Another scrapbook illustrates the exploits of the first ever Maltese crisis relief team for the Argostoli earthquake in 1953, which apart from Mr Agius included the surgeons P.P. Debono and Roger Parnis (this earthquake became famous later when it featured in the story of the film 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'). Other personal scrapbooks cover his courtship and marriage to Concetta ne Schembri Adami. These, dated the late 1940s, include documentation of the start of the Malta Cultural Institute and their honeymoon, with the necessary permits to enter Vienna, then occupied by the Red Army.

*A mother holding her crying child after being inoculated during the Free Immunisation Programme (1953-55) against diphtheria, tuberculosis and typhoid.  
National Archives of Malta: Memorja, JCR Agius Bequest.*





# SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

The wide embracing mission of the National Archives requires a concerted effort to safeguard the nation's memory and this requires not only the effort of the staff of the archives but of a number of stakeholders and supporting organizations. One of these organisations is the National Archives Council appointed by the Minister responsible for the national archives in line with the provisions of the National Archives Act (Cap. 477 of the Laws of Malta). The institution is also supported by the Friends of the National Archives, a non-voluntary organisation striving to promote the archival heritage under the responsibility of the institution. The efforts of these are supplemented through the generous input of a number of volunteers.

## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES COUNCIL 2016

The National Archives Council, set up in line with Article 14 of the National Archives Act, is composed of a Chairperson, the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage or his representative, the Chairperson of Heritage Malta or his representative, the National Librarian or his representative, the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister *ex officio* or his representative, a person to represent the non-governmental archives, three other persons chosen from amongst users of and familiar with archives, records management and information professions (one of whom is appointed by the Minister responsible for Gozo).

The functions assigned to the Council by the Archives Act, include:

- (a) to promote the National Archives and other record keeping entities;
- (b) to ensure and facilitate the collaboration between the different stakeholders with direct or indirect responsibility for the protection and management

- of the archives sector;
- (c) to advise the Minister on the management of archives in Malta;
- (d) to draw the attention of the Minister or of any organisation or person responsible for archives to any urgent action that may be considered necessary for the better management of archives and records;
- (e) to advise the Minister on any matter arising from the provisions of this Act and on any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Up till the 30th July 2016, the President and Members of the Council were:

### President

Dr William Zammit

### Members

Mr Anton Attard

Rev. Mgr. Gwann Azzopardi

Dr Joseph Buttigieg, Chairperson of Heritage Malta

Ms Joyce Dimech, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister

Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO

Mr Max Farrugia

Dr Anthony Pace, Superintendent of Cultural Heritage

Dr Lillian Sciberras.

After this date, the Council's term of three years expired. However, the Hon. Minister of Education and Employment, Evarist Bartolo, reconstituted the Board with the only substitution of Maroma Camilleri instead of Cheryl Falzon as a representative of the National

Librarian and CEO. This new term of the Council's office lasts till the 30 July 2019.

As in previous years, Dr Charles J. Farrugia, the National Archivist and CEO and the Rev. Mgr. Joseph Bezzina, Assistant National Archivist for Gozo have attended all Council meetings and have also supported its work by regularly updating the Council on the working of the institution. The National Archives also provides all logistical support by preparing agendas for meetings, providing the offices for its functioning and also providing secretarial support.

During 2016, the following three priorities were brought forward from the previous year during all five Council meetings held during the year in question:

- (a) the proposal for the building of a new National Archives;
- (b) the introduction of Records Officers in Public Administration in line with the provisions of the National Archives Act;
- (c) exploring possible ways on how to support private archives and private collections, and how to recover same collections.

On 5 October 2016, the Archives Forum, which is convened every two years, was held at Fort St Angelo in Vittoriosa. The attendance for this Forum was a very encouraging one. Dr Charles J. Farrugia, the National Archivist and CEO presented a paper analysing the present condition of Archives in Malta.

The Council met on 12 January, 8 March, 17 May, 19 July and 20 December 2016.

## **THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

The Friends of the National Archives (FNAM) started the year on a somewhat disappointing note following a negative reply to their earlier application for financial assistance through the Creative Communities Fund, administered by the Malta Arts Council. There were 34 submissions in all, and their project was among the final 12 that were eventually shortlisted. Unfortunately the application just managed 10th place in the final selection, with funds only being awarded to the first eight applicants. This temporary setback was however soon forgotten when in March the association was informed that the Ministry for Education and Employment had agreed to sponsor a significant sum towards the restoration and mastering of the Leli Muscat folk music tape collection. A special word of thanks goes to Hon. Evarist Bartolo for personally supporting the Association and providing the much needed financing to finalise this project. Once this collection is fully digitised, catalogued and restored, the recordings will be made accessible to the general public to make them more conscious about our rich musical heritage.

FNAM held their Annual General Meeting on 5 April at the Banca Giuratale in Mdina, which concluded with a power point presentation conducted by Mr. Noel D'Anastas and Ms. Irene Sestili, illustrating the progress achieved on the restoration project of the Consolato del Mare collection. Later on that same month, the same premises were opened by the National Archives during the Mdina Medieval Festival which was held on 23-24 April. Members of the executive committee once again offered some of their free time to support the regular employees in assisting both the general public and tourists who visit these archives on an annual basis. During this weekend affiliated members also had the opportunity to view a photographic exhibition about the Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1935, entitled "The Calm before the Storm". April too marked an important agreement reached with Book Distributors Limited for the marketing and supply of the annual academic publication, *Arkinju*, now in its 6th year. This arrangement should help FNAM influence a wider audience and hopefully expand the association's exposure.

Work on the Leli Muscat Collection continued on track with more than 200 tape reels being so far handed to the contracting agent for digitisation. Following the sponsorship by the Ministry for Education and Employment, the project can now enter another phase; when this is completed a decision will be taken on how to best portray the work on carried out on these tapes.

The Association continued with its support of the National Archives by sponsoring one of the conservators, Simon Patrick Dimech. Thanks to this initiative he was able to participate in a workshop on the *Preservation and Conservation of Japanese Archival Documents* in the Vatican Library which was held in October. That same month, FNAM members were invited to two major occasions organised by the National Archives: the National Forum on Archives, which was held at Fort St. Angelo. This event served to highlight developments in the entire Maltese archival sector during the preceding two year period. Those attending were afterwards courteously taken on a tour of the fort by an experienced guide from Heritage Malta. Then there was the Archives Awareness Week which had as its highlight the Annual Public Lecture entitled *The Collection of Malta-related visual material in the Vatican Archives*, presented by the President of the Malta National Archives Council, Dr William Zammit.

In November some members of the Friends once again helped out in the stand set up for the Malta Book Festival. This annual event is a valuable opportunity for the Association to market its mission to numerous persons who flock the Mediterranean Conference Centre during that week. It is satisfying to see that

each year a good number of visitors regularly enrol as members and even purchase the *Arkiyu* journals, thus helping to disseminate further the Association's objectives.

Despite the initial disappointment at the start of 2016, the Friends of the National Archives still continued with their endeavors to try and acquire funds for the National Archives. During the current year FNAM applied for project schemes that are issued from time to time by a number of organisations, namely the Malta Arts Council, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, and the Fund for Voluntary Organisations of the Malta Community Chest Fund. Hopefully this time round they shall be more successful. A special word of appreciation should however go to all those dedicated members who offer their voluntary services free of charge, sometimes at personal cost, year in year out.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

During the year under review work continued by our longstanding volunteers Anthony Bonello, Michael Bonnici, Mary Buttigieg, Mark Caruana and Patrick J. Micallef. Anthony Bonello started 2016 by carrying out an extensive and meticulous mapping of all the digital content amassed by the national archives during the last years as part of its business process. He also processed 57,224 images and converted them to a different format to comply with the digital archive framework of the National Archives while starting work on the data input of maps. Michael Bonnici continued with this curation of the Pharmacy Museum; Mary Buttigieg is cataloguing the Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini bequest;

Mark Caruana continued with the data input of passport applications; and Patrick J. Micallef intensified his work on the database linking diverse information about KOMR personnel. The year under review saw also four new volunteers joining our team.

Joe Meli who joined us as a new volunteer brings with him extensive experience from the shipping industry. As a first project Mr Meli was assigned work on a database listing historical articles from the local media, which articles can serve as a starting point for researchers embarking on research on specific topics.

Sandra Blake is a professionally trained British archivist who also joined our team as a volunteer and worked extensively on data input, cropping and linking of images and proof reading of catalogues and other policy documents. She converted images of the collection Giuliana Masini into HTML. She made proofreading of the Catalogue of the *Consolato del Mare*.

Norbert Gingell joined us as a volunteer during the last few months after a long career in public administration. He was assigned the task of sorting and cataloguing police files spanning the dates from the 1930s up to the 1960s. By now he has worked on circa 4000 files.

Nicole Marie Zerafa is a young University student who joined our volunteering team in February 2016. She has been assigned to our Legal Documentation Section in Mdina. Till now she has worked on updating the location register and also on the dry cleaning of items and the re-boxing of the *Concorsi*, *Libelli* and *Deroghe*. She is currently working on the index of Sentences of the Criminal Courts for the years 1817-23.

*The President of Malta H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and committee members of the Friends of the National Archives. 2 August 2016.*





# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Our international activity during 2016 varied from input in areas of conservation to digitisation, management of electronic records and EU-related meetings. Extensive work was carried out in preparation for the archives-related meetings that will be held in Malta during the Presidency of the EU. In particular participation was intensified in fora such as EURBICA, EBNA, EAG and DLM that are directly or indirectly related to the management of national archives in the European Union. What follows is summary of the main proceedings of meetings and the role our representatives played in these fora.

## **EAG/EBNA MEETINGS HELD AT THE HAGUE**

The National Archivist and CEO participated in the European Archives Group (EAG) and the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA) held between the 6 and 7 June 2016 in The Hague. The meeting took a different format than the usual formal convention of EU Directors of Archives and Experts. The group felt the need to take an informal approach and dedicate all the time available for an extensive brainstorming of the future directions the sector needs to take.

Dr Farrugia facilitated two discussions. The first was on the Research and Development agenda for the sector and the second on the Communication of the archival community with the outside world. Following intensive discussions using a number of networking skills and formats, a set of priorities were identified. These were E-Archiving, Developing Benchmarks for the Sector, The Position of Archives in Society, Research and Development, Data Protection and the Re-organisation of EAG. A number of arrangements were made for a number of participants from the group to participate in sub-groups in order for a number of policy documents to be prepared in advance of the forthcoming meeting during Malta's Presidency.

## **MEETING OF EUROPEAN HEADS OF CONSERVATION**

The Eighth Meeting for European Heads of Conservation was held in The Hague between the 15 and 16 of June 2016. Sixteen participants from twelve member states attended the meeting and the topic discussed this year was *The changing role of conservation related to digitisation*. Most of the attendants agreed that digitisation had an impact upon the conservation work at their respective institutions. Digitisation is not always possible without some form of conservation intervention and as such conservation plays an important factor in the process of digitisation. The process of digitisation, and so less demand for use of original material, may, in the future, mean less need for conservation. In conclusion, it was agreed that conservation and digitisation are interdependent.

## **DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE**

Between 29 and 30 June 2016, Rev. Dr Joseph Bezzina, Assistant National Archivist, took part in the conference *Ready to reach out: connecting cultural heritage collections and serving wider audiences* at the Europe Building, Amsterdam. During the conference 50 international speakers shed light on topics relating to: (1) engaging audiences: taking visibility and re-use as the starting point; (2) digesting digital impact: how digitisation is changing our institutions (3) the network approach: reinforcement of the digital heritage infrastructure.

On 18 September 2016, Dr Bezzina participated in a meeting at the Berlaymont, European Commission, Brussels, in connection with the setting up of the agenda of the meetings of EBNA – the European Board of National Archivists, and the EAG – European Archives Group, to be held in Malta on 27 and 28 April 2017 during the Malta presidency of the EU.

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*Photo above: EBNA/EAG meetings – Bratislava, Slovakia, 28 – 29 November 2016*

On 29 November 2016, Dr Bezzina took part in a combined meeting of the Assembly of Associates and the Governing Board of APEF – Archives Portal Europe Foundation at the Historical Building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava. The theme of the meeting was *Stitching Archives Portal Europe Foundation*. The former APEX folded in June 2015 and the Foundation has taken responsibility for the management of the portal. The meeting discussed in detail the functioning of the foundation.

### MAREGA PROJECT WORKSHOP

Simon Dimech from our Conservation team was one of the 46 participants chosen by the Selection Committee of the Marega Project to attend the first workshop on the theme. The workshop entitled *Preservation and Conservation of Japanese Archival Documents in the Vatican Library, The Marega Collection as a Case Study* was organised by the Vatican Library in collaboration with the National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan on the 5 October 2016 at the Scuola di Biblioteconomia Vaticana. In 2013 Japan's National Institutes for the Humanities and the Vatican Library began the Marega Project to survey the documents collected by Father Mario Marega (1902-1978) held at the Vatican Library. This collection contains over ten thousand documents relating to Japan's prohibition of Christianity during the Edo period (1603-1868).

The workshop consisted of a series of eight presentations by Italian and Japanese delegates namely being:- The survey methodology of Japanese Historical Documents in the Marega Project; Preservation of Historical Documents in Japan: its Theory and Practice; On *washi*; the Paper of Documents and the Paper used for Conservation; Formats and typology of Japanese Historical Documents; Current Techniques for Conservation of Archival Materials in Japan and Traditional Methods; Western Conservation Experiences with Japanese Archival Materials: The Marega Project; Introducing the Newest Salvage and Conservation Techniques Used after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami; Plan Disaster for Floods at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence.



ICA Congress and ACARM AGM, in Seoul, South Korea, 5 - 10 September

### CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR

National Archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia was invited as a speaker during the Conference and School on Authority, Provenance, Authenticity, Evidence (APAE) organised at the University of Zadar in Croatia between 25 and 28 October 2016. The Conference and School were co-organised by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Information Studies, VESTIGIA, the Manuscript Research Centre of Graz University, International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS), Croatian State Archive and Scientific Centre of Excellence for Croatian Glagolism.

Dr Farrugia's presentation was on 27 October 2017 during the session *Libraries and Archives on the International Agenda* moderated by James Lowry from the University of Liverpool. Farrugia's paper dealt with the theme *Indigenous Peoples on the National and International Agenda: Where Archives and Libraries Meet* and was co-authored and co-presented with Ana Pervan from the International Labour Organisation Library. The session also included a presentation by Dr Ephrem Ishac from the VESTIGIA Manuscript Research Center, University of Graz entitled *Manuscripts as Refugees: Losing Identity?*

### ICA CONGRESS IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Between 5 and 10 September 2016 Dr Charles J. Farrugia addressed and shared a number of meetings during the ICA Congress held in Seoul. For the third year running, as part of the New Professionals Programme, PCOM supported eight new professionals to participate at the ICA's annual membership gathering. Dr Farrugia was chosen to be one of the mentors to one of these new professionals, Annelie de Villiers who has recently finished her Masters' thesis and is in the process of applying for a PhD scholarship at Monash University, Australia. She has specialised in the archives of marginalised communities (particularly Australian Indigenous communities) and is also interested in the state of the archival profession in Australia.



EBNA/EAG meetings – The Hague, The Netherlands, 5 – 7 June 2016



*National Archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia addressing Conference and School on Authority, Provenance, Authenticity, Evidence (APAE) organised at the University of Zadar in Croatia, 25-28 October 2016.*

The week of activity in Seoul started with the chairing by Dr Farrugia of the Association of Commonwealth Archivists (ACARM) annual general meeting on 5 September 2016. This was the last meeting for Dr Farrugia at the helm of this organisation following the successful completion of two terms of four years each, the maximum allowed under the Statute of the same organisation. During the meeting the National Archivist thanked colleagues from all over the Commonwealth for the support he found throughout and augured the incumbent James Lowry for his new post. During the same meeting Dr Farrugia was re-elected on the Executive of ACARM with special responsibility for the European area of operation.

During the same day, the first meeting of the newly elected executive of EURBICA was convened. Dr Farrugia's participation was as a result of the fact that during 2016 he was elected on the Executive Board of EURICA. The strategy of the organisation for the coming years was discussed during this meeting.

On 7 September Malta's National Archivist attended the Forum of National Archivists which discussed important themes such as the new Data Protection Directive and the Group on Human Rights. On the same day Dr Farrugia attended the ICA General Assembly which approves the governance reports and documents of ICA. Another commitment on the same day was a paper he presented during the Professional Programme. Papers are selected following a competitive process whereby around 600 paper proposals were received for this year's Congress. Out of these 250 were eventually selected for inclusion in the programme. One of these was the paper entitled *Lone Rangers No More: Archival Cooperation in Transition* presented by national archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia.

During the Congress in Seoul Dr Farrugia

participated also in the Executive Board of ICA which is the highest organ trusted with the task to execute the decisions of the General Assembly. This year the Executive Board met on 9 September 2016. He also participated in this high level meeting as a representative of the European Branch of ICA, EURBICA. Another commitment for Dr Farrugia on the same day was the chairing of a session of papers during two speakers from the Philippines and Malaysia spoke about two projects focusing on the national memory and audio-visual projects of their respective institutions.

As well as the usual business, the Executive Board at its meeting in Seoul, received the final report of the review of the Branches and accepted its recommendations. The highlights of the meeting were two stimulating presentations. The first was delivered by Christine Trembleau on the implementation of the new marketing strategy in which she described the new ICA logos and the global active participation in the re-vitalised International Archives Day. The second presentation started with President David Fricker formally launching the new ICA website followed by a presentation by Marianne Deraze.

After a full week of workshops, posters, presentations and exhibitions, the ICA Congress in Seoul closed with the joint signing and release of a communique. The President of the National Archives of Korea, Mr Sang-Jin Lee and the President of the International Council on Archives, Mr David Fricker, jointly signed and released *Archives, Harmony and Friendship: Sustaining the Spirit of Seoul*.

### **DLM FORUM**

Leonard Callus participated on behalf of the National Archives of Malta in the management meeting of the Document Lifecycle Management (DLM) Forum Foundation, held at the Norwegian National Archives in Oslo between the 15 and 17 November 2016.

Created in 1994 on the basis of a European Commission working group, the DLM Forum Foundation was established to develop solutions in electronic records management and serves as a European community of public archives and other parties interested in archives, records and information management. The members of the DLM Forum Foundation meet for two days twice a year (spring and autumn) in order to exchange experiences and ideas on current trends towards establishing comprehensive information governance of digital records.

The value of information as an asset was debated. An enormous amount of data is being generated while organisations and society are hungry for information. The forum discussed how this information mass may be exploited and how can products that support both the business processes and the wider public's access to and use of government data be created highlighting the value of good governance for the long-term preservation of digital information.

The impact on archives of the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2016/679 [EU]), coming into force on 25 May 2018, was discussed. This regulation intends to strengthen and unify data protection for individuals within the European Union with the primary objective to give citizens the control of their personal data.

It was announced that the next DLM Forum members meeting will be held in Malta (11-12 May 2017) during the Maltese presidency of the European Council.

### **EBNA/EAG MEETINGS BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA, 28 – 29 NOVEMBER 2016**

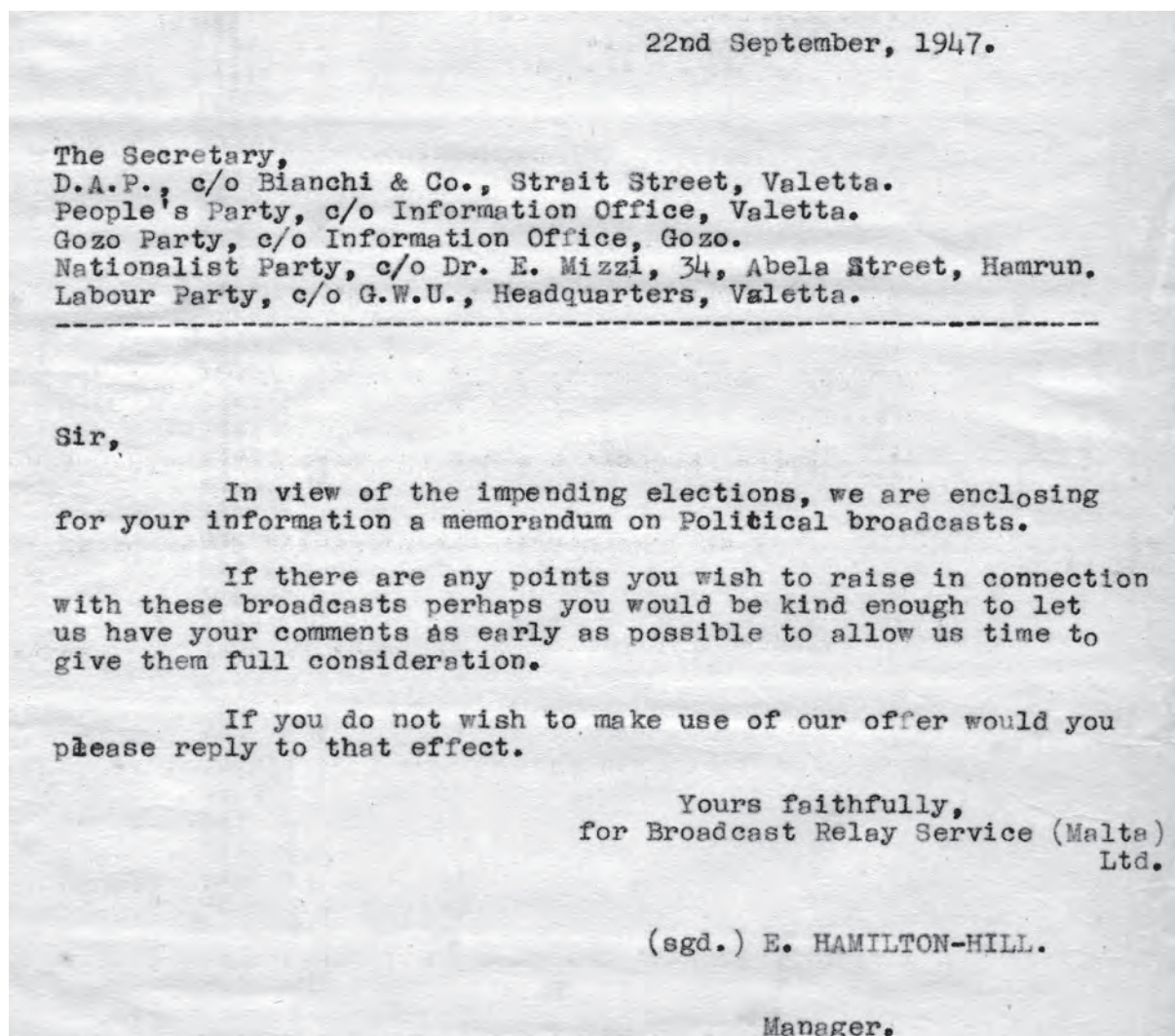
The directors of EU national archives convened in Slovakia, the country holding the Presidency of the EU for their meeting and the Experts' Group meeting. Being the meeting soon after Malta's Presidency, this event was attended by a delegation led by national archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia, Assistant National Archivist Dr Joseph Bezzina, and manager of corporate services at the national archives Joseph Scerri. Part of the meeting consisted of break out sessions focusing on a number

of topics including e-archiving and EU projects. At the end of the Slovakia meeting, Dr Farrugia presented the series of meetings that will be held in Malta during its Presidency in 2017.

These include the EBNA and EAG, the European Heads of Conservation, the DLM Forum and the EUDiA meeting. The invitation speech also showcased a video about Malta and delegates were given a pen-drive with the formal invitation and the information about the venues that will be used for the events.

### **ARCHIVES PORTAL EUROPE FOUNDATION**

On 29 November 2016, Dr Joseph Bezzina took part in a combined meeting of the Assembly of Associates and the Governing Board of APEF – Archives Portal Europe Foundation at the Historical Building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava. The theme of the meeting was *Stitching Archives Portal Europe Foundation*. The former APEX folded in June 2015 and the Foundation has taken responsibility for the management of the portal. The meeting discussed in detail the functioning of the foundation.



*As the 1947 electoral campaign heats up, the Rediffusion (the sole broadcaster in Malta) starts preparing for political broadcasts. National Archives of Malta, CSG01/7322/1947.*

Previous Jackets

MINUTES

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L.A. 15/49  
SIX FIRSTS: from Istituto Centrale di Statistica

## THE 1947 GENERAL ELECTION - 11.5.49

Joseph M. Pirotta

The MacMichael Constitution was promulgated by Letters Patent issued on 5 September 1947 reinstating self-government and paving the way for the holding of a general election. 2017 ushers the seventieth anniversary of the first election held during the post-Second World War era. It is an anniversary worth marking because of the number of firsts involved.

It was in 1947 that in accordance with the wish of the 1945 National Assembly,<sup>1</sup> universal suffrage was introduced. For the first time in Malta's history (a) voting was on a one man – one vote basis; (b) women were allowed to exercise their democratic right to vote and stand for election; (c) parties based exclusively in Gozo contested the election; (d) the Governor's Palace made the first of two attempts to influence the outcome of an election held under the MacMichael Constitution; (e) Dom Mintoff, who for the following half century was a main player in Maltese politics, contested for the first time; and, (f) the election gave Malta its first Labour Government. The foregoing list merits an examination of the social and economic conditions that formed the background to the election, of the political parties involved and what they stood for, as well as the main issues debated.

The problems facing the nation were daunting: a soaring cost of living, widespread black marketeering, a decline in the standard of living accentuated by a sharp increase in the birth rate, steadily rising unemployment, no outlet for emigration, and slow-paced reconstruction that caused the most optimistic to lose hope. As a result the prospect of an elected Maltese Administration with executive powers was widely welcomed. Five parties

contested the election: The Labour Party (PL) led by Dr, later Sir, Paul Boffa; the *Partit Nazzjonalista* (PN), led by Dr Enrico (Nerik) Mizzi; the Democratic Action Party (DAP), led by Professor Joseph Hyzler; the Gozo Party (GP), led by Dr Francis Masini; and the Jones Party (JP), led by Mr Henry Jones. For the purpose of the election Malta was divided into seven electoral divisions in Malta and one in Gozo, each returning five members to the forty-seat Legislative Assembly.

### RECONSTRUCTION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMIGRATION

National feeling in 1947 was dominated by resentment towards Britain due to its unilateral 'final settlement' regarding the cost of reconstruction and the general rundown of manpower by the armed services. The Maltese felt that Britain had reneged. The slow pace of reconstruction was a further grievance and people expected the party elected to Office to take up the matter with the British government and to implement a vigorous reconstruction programme that would provide much needed employment and help raise the standard of living.

Thousands were waiting for the opportunity to emigrate<sup>2</sup> but the Colonial Administration was unable to overcome the very real problem of securing transport to countries willing to accept Maltese migrants. The simmering anger caused by the steady rise in the cost of living resulting from the unsettled post-war conditions restricted trade, especially outside the sterling area. Consequently many essential commodities were in short supply providing perfect conditions for a flourishing

Photo above: Electoral Office file handling a request by Italian Statistics Office about the 1947 Election. National Archives of Malta ELO 22/1949.

1. For the 1945 National Assembly see, Pirotta J.M., *Fortress Colony: The Final Act 1947-1964*, Vol. I 1945-1954 (Studia Editions, Malta, 1987), pp. 63-84.
2. By the beginning of 1946, 10,425 had registered to emigrate.

black market. The issue flared up in September 1947 when subsidised essential foodstuffs rose in price by an average of 30.4% per item. Within two years, the price of bread had doubled. Further increases seemed imminent following the British Government's decision not to make further contributions towards food subsidies as from April 1947 onwards.

Thus the need to stem unemployment, to hasten reconstruction, to initiate an emigration programme and to bring down – or at least to control – galloping inflation was very real, but not divisive issues. A major highly controversial issue concerned the expansion of the Island's limited social services.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

While the provision of social services was acceptable to all shades of political opinion, the form they should take, as well as the manner in which they ought to be financed, were highly disputed. Following considerable pressure from Labour Members in the Council of Government, the Colonial Administration had finally put forward legislation to establish a Widows and Old Age Pension Scheme on a contributory basis. The plan, which envisaged benefits payable at age sixty-five, was variously received. The LP and the General Workers Union (GWU) were critical. They claimed that the money hitherto 'spent by the State on poverty relief and in the Poor House [would be saved and] become henceforth a lifetime responsibility of the workers'.<sup>3</sup> They described it as a pension which the worker would receive if he survived 'the five years of starvation on whatever subsistence he may be able to procure, if any, for himself after the normal retiring age of 60'.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, the scheme was applauded by the more conservative elements on the Island. *The Times of Malta* considered it 'a form of compulsory saving on the part of the workers',<sup>5</sup> while *The Bulletin* claimed editorially that 'the sooner social reformers understand that self-help is the most practical form of social security, the sooner shall we be enabled to introduce other similar schemes'.<sup>6</sup> The scheme was never put into practice, but the provision of social services became the central issue of the 1947 campaign.

This reflected the rapidly declining living standards which, accentuated by the consistently high birth rate, presaged a steady deterioration in the social conditions

of the masses. No political party, however, ventured to suggest any form of birth control for to do so was to antagonise the Church. When explaining one of Archbishop Gonzi's Pastoral letters Rev Ugolino Gambin wrote:

*God created marriage with a precise and determined aim in view, and this aim He showed clearly to our first parents when He told them: 'Increase and multiply and fill the earth.' Marriage, therefore, has as its primary aim the increase of humanity, and anyone who marries with the idea of weakening this aim, does not receive any sacrament.*<sup>7</sup>

Reggie Miller, the G.W.U.'s founder and General Secretary, dared to protest:

*One wonders what sort of morality makes the denouncers of scientific contraception blind to the process of mass deaths amongst our undernourished babies, born of undernourished mothers 'as a Gift' (unannounced in the Press) to dockyard underpaid fathers.*<sup>8</sup>

However, quickly made aware of the ire he had raised in clerical circles, he hastened to explain that he had been misunderstood. The respective political parties could only aspire to solving the problems raised by over-population through emigration, or by directly or indirectly subsidising those most in need. Their plans in this regard were of cardinal interest to the mass of voters.

### **THE ELECTORATE**

A political party seeking power needs to understand the composition of the electorate, as well as its demands and aspirations. In 1947 the electorate numbered 140,703, of which 45.6% were males, made up mostly of workers and the self-employed, and 54.4% of mostly unemployed females. 79,502 persons were voting for the first time.<sup>9</sup> Their collective aspiration emanated from the Island's basic need for economic survival and an improved standard of living. The campaign's bread-and-butter issues augured strong female participation and a new type of challenge to the parties. Traditionally most Maltese women had left politics to the men so many believed that in their majority they would seek voting guidance from their menfolk which, in turn, appeared to favour the Labour. The LP and the DAP tried to capitalise on the female vote by each putting forward a lady candidate. Miss Agatha Barbara,<sup>10</sup> who hailed from the working class town of Żabbar, stood in

3. *The Torch*, 22 March, 1946.

4. *The Dawn*, 3 April, 1946.

5. *Times of Malta*, 13 March, 1946.

6. *The Bulletin*, 16 March, 1946.

7. *Lehen is-Senna*, 11 May, 1946

8. *The Torch*, 2 August, 1946.

9. 61,203 were eligible to vote in 1945, while 140,705 had the right to vote in 1947.

10. Miss Barbara went on to successfully contest all subsequent general elections up to 1981. In 1982 she was nominated President of the Republic of Malta.

the LP's interests. The DAP's candidate was Miss Helen Buhagiar from Sliema.<sup>11</sup>

On 1 February 1949, the Executive Committee of the Constitutional Party (CP) announced that 'the main objective for which the Constitutional Party was formed has been achieved and consequently it has been decided that the Party should be dissolved'.<sup>12</sup> A shift in party loyalties, entrenched over the previous two decades, was certain with the CP's large pre-war following up for the taking. So it seemed was the bulk of the PN vote as by 1945 Malta's other pre-war giant was a mere shadow of its former self and despite its leader's strenuous efforts seemed heading for oblivion. The CP's dissolution and the PN's desperate fight for survival seemed likely to pave the way to a Labour victory spurring the coming together of new groupings intent on rallying ex-Stricklandians and ex-Nationalists away from Labour.

### THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

In February 1946, W.E. Griffiths, backed by both the *Times of Malta* and *The Bulletin*, urged the formation of a new party, and offered to help organize it.<sup>13</sup> It was christened the People's Party (PP), and its Executive Committee was chaired by Capt. John Formosa, a lawyer. Mr Walter Zahra, was General Secretary and editor of the party's organ, *Iz-Żerniq*,<sup>14</sup> while Griffiths was Propaganda Secretary.

The PP, which lacked a clear policy capable of attracting mass support, failed to make headway being considered as merely motivated by a desire to hamper the LP. The party attempted to don the mantle of defender of Malta's Catholic faith claiming to be 'Out to smash the communist gang which had infiltrated itself in the Labour Party to exploit the grievance of the honest Maltese worker'.<sup>15</sup> The PP's failure to attract any credible would-be candidates, the loss of its Chairman on his appointment as magistrate, and the formation of another right of-centre party, the DAP, sounded its knell. In September 1947, the PP declared that it was 'not contesting the forthcoming elections'<sup>16</sup> and was never heard of again.

### THE JONES PARTY

Mr Henry Jones, an ambitious political maverick who switched loyalties according to the prevailing circumstances, was president of a farmers' co-operative in Gozo. Jones unsuccessfully contested the 1939 Council of Government election in the PN's interests, but on Mizzi's deportation to Uganda he vainly petitioned the Colonial Secretary to appoint him to his leader's seat.<sup>17</sup> In 1945 he was an unsuccessful candidate in that year's Council of Government election. The following year he offered to join the LP as a candidate for Gozo on condition that he would be appointed Minister for Agriculture in a subsequent Labour Government. The LP refused.<sup>18</sup> He later appeared as a member of the DAP's Executive Committee,<sup>19</sup> but resigned within six months. In his resignation letter Jones claimed that he wanted to safeguard 'the interest of farmers,' who had requested him to 'form a new party to be composed of farmers.' He went on: 'It is my considered opinion that, in the coming General Elections, these same interests will be best served by the presentation of all farmer candidates'.<sup>20</sup> The DAP replied that it would not agree to 'the protection of purely sectional interests'.<sup>21</sup>

Donning the mantle of champion of Gozitan interests,<sup>22</sup> he formed the Jones Party. Jones courted Gozitans by promising to fight for farmers' rights, better facilities for fishermen, the building of schools, the introduction of electricity to all parts of Gozo, free hospitalisation, and better roads.<sup>23</sup> A party organ, *Il-Partit ta' Jones* (The Jones Party) was launched,<sup>24</sup> and Jones worked hard at spreading his message all over Gozo. Already well known on that Island, his political position was rendered stronger by the fact that his co-operative had a monopoly on the distribution of pollard. The JP campaigned exclusively in Gozo, fielding five candidates including two farmers and a fisherman. The party's challenge in Gozo could not be disregarded.

11. This was the only time that Miss Buhagiar contested. Sacco R., *L-Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali: 1849-1986* (Malta, 1986), erroneously states that three women contested.

12. *Il-Berqa*, 4 February, 1946.

13. *Times of Malta*, 19 February, 1946. Some days earlier Griffiths had been expelled from the G.W.U. following some rather virulent attacks on Reggie Miller in the Press.

14. A few issues were published, but the party relied mostly on the columns of *The Bulletin* to disseminate its views.

15. *The Bulletin*, 11 May, 1946.

16. *Times of Malta* 30 September, 1947.

17. His request was refused on the grounds that interned Members of the House of Commons did not forfeit their seats.

18. *Lehen Ghandex*, 23 August, 1947.

19. *Times of Malta*, 20 March, 1947.

20. *The Nation*, 13 September, 1947.

21. *Ibid.*

22. He had been described as 'the only Maltese to show consistent interest in Gozo.' *The Torch*, 26 July, 1947.

23. *Il-Partit ta' Jones*, 8 October, 1947 and 15 October, 1947.

24. It ceased publication once the election was over.



Instructions to the Police Officers entrusted  
with the filling in and collection of application-forms  
for the registration of female electors.

Application-forms (Forms No1B) have been drawn up in respect of every female, aged 21 years and over, registered for rations in each area. Such forms have only been completed in regard to name and address.

2. The Police Officers detailed for the filling in and collection of application-forms will be expected to carry out a house-to-house visit for the purpose of filling in all the other particulars shown on the form, viz: father's name and surname, name of husband (in the case of married women or widows), date and place of birth and parish.

3. Provided the persons concerned are British subjects of the age of 21 years and upwards, they should be asked, if present, to fill in and hand over to the Police the registration-form. In the case of illiterates the Police could fill in the form on their behalf.

4. If a person refuses to fill in the form herself, or if she happens to be absent from home, the Police Officer might fill in the form himself after obtaining all the necessary particulars. In such cases, the Police Officer will sign his name and rank in lieu of applicant's signature.

5. Should any of the premises visited be no longer occupied by the persons shown on the application-forms, steps should be taken for the registration of the female members of the new tenants provided such members have attained the age of 21 years. For this purpose a supply of blank Forms No.1 B is being forwarded to you herewith. In regard to the outgoing tenants, the Officer i/c of the District Rationing Office should be approached with a view to obtaining the new address of the persons *concerned*.

6. Full particulars should be obtained, but if the date of birth is doubtful, the age of applicant may be shown instead.

7. In order to save time the application-forms may be filled with an indelible pencil.

8. At the end of each day, all the application-forms, duly completed, are to be forwarded to me, at the above address, in one batch.

24th: January, 1947.

## THE GOZO PARTY

Some Gozitans were determined to seize the opportunity provided by the approaching election to focus attention on long-standing grievances. In April 1947, Dr Francesco Masini, a leading Gozitan lawyer, announced the formation of the GP led by himself. The Party's newspaper, *Leben Ghandex* (The Voice of Gozo), declared that Gozitans were tired of political adventurers who went to their Island at election time and then disappeared.<sup>25</sup> Gozitans demanded a say in national decisions, especially those which directly concerned them.<sup>26</sup>

Although the party tried to assuage Maltese fears by emphasising that 'it was fully aware of the fact that the interests of the nation came before those of the minority',<sup>27</sup> the possibility of five Gozo Party MP's elected on a sectarian platform posed a serious threat to the future stability of Maltese politics. In the case of a hung Parliament, the GP could bring undue pressure to bear on the party prepared to assume office. It would be well placed to wring concessions in favour of Gozo to the possible detriment of the seven other electoral divisions; or even to affect national policy well beyond its representative strength. The party fought a strenuous campaign organising meetings and conferences all over Gozo, exhorting listeners to exercise their right to vote. Its seven candidates, three lawyers, two legal procurators, an architect, and a businessman, often resorted to a narrowly parochial and *quasi* jingoistic approach, playing strongly on their listeners' sense of grievance.<sup>28</sup>

The GP's electoral programme, acknowledged the importance of agriculture and promised to safeguard the interests of farmers, build large water reservoirs, provide a veterinary surgeon in Gozo, help farmers' co-operatives, and to promote the fishing, poultry, dairy and lace-making industries. They pledged to build primary schools in every village, open a technical school and improve the medical service and public utilities. Finally, the GP affirmed its complete independence but promised that 'as long as the legitimate interests of Gozo [were] safeguarded', it would back the government in power.<sup>29</sup>

## THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY

The DAP was born on 19 March 1947 at the city residence of Jerome de Piro d'Amico, Baron of Budak. Its leader was Valletta-born Professor Joseph Hyzler, a former Nationalist member of the Legislative Assembly. The Executive Committee included Professor Victor Caruana Galizia as Vice President; Dr Giuseppe Pace as Secretary, as well as other prominent Maltese drawn from the business and professional sectors. It was commonly assumed that although Hyzler was the leader, it was Pace who provided the inspiration and located the sources of revenue that flowed fairly generously into the Party's coffers. The party published two papers, *In-Nazzjon* and *The Nation*.

Unlike the previous two parties the DAP aspired to national leadership. It had two main objectives: to prevent the pro-direct taxation LP from gaining power, and to administer the Islands either alone or in coalition with a like-minded party. Its promoters' declared that they intended 'to form a party which could, without leaning towards extremism, keep Malta united to the Empire and the Maltese united amongst themselves; to protect on the one hand the political rights and aspirations of the Maltese people and reconcile the interests and duties of all classes'.<sup>30</sup> In an outline of party policy Hyzler wrote:

*There would have to be the most careful examination of the Island's fiscal methods, and all sources of taxation, actual as well as potential, explored to ascertain which would produce the best revenue return with the least possible burden all round. Only after requisite economies have been effected would it be possible to assess the scale of taxation necessary.*<sup>31</sup>

Projecting itself as the party of sense and moderation, able to promote the interests of all classes of society, the DAP aimed to attract ex-Constitutionalists who favoured strong ties with Great Britain; Nationalists who favoured a firm assertion of Maltese rights but were worried that Mizzi's leadership of the PN precluded electoral success; Labourites who could be persuaded that the LP was falling into the hands of extremists; and the business and professional classes who felt threatened by the LP's promise of taxation reform. Dr Pace, the DAP's Secretary, invited all the

25. *The Times of Malta*, 21 April, 1947, aptly commented that the party was 'borne more by the sins of omission ... than of commission.'

26. *Leben Ghandex*, 28 June, 1947.

27. *Ibid.*

28. Some idea of this can be gauged from the following: 'The time of freedom has come. The time has come when the Gozitan people, BY MEANS OF ITS OWN SONS, WITH ITS OWN BLOOD'S BLOOD, will fight for their rights which were denied to them on numerous occasions.' *Ibid.*, 26 July, 1947.

29. *Ibid.*

30. *Times of Malta*, 20 March, 1947.

31. *Ibid.*, 1 April, 1947.

other parties to send representatives to a Round Table Conference with the intention of forming a National Government since Malta's serious economic and political plight was beyond the ability of any single party to solve. Only the PP accepted the invitation, and the idea was not pursued further.

The LP and the PN considered the DAP a serious threat. The former depicted the party as right wing, and described the members of its Executive Committee as 'hard business kings and feudal lords' who owned 'at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the movable and immovable property on the Islands.' It stressed the DAP's 'aversion to all types of social reforms, their loyalty to the doctrine of the devil take the hindmost, their urge to keep superfluous individual wealth intact'.<sup>32</sup>

Nerik Mizzi described the DAP as 'a mixed dish' harbouring 'ex-Nationalists... and ex-Constitutionalists...as well as others who were... neither goose nor gander...the common basis of their action is their fear of certain social and taxation reforms expounded by the Labour Party which might reduce or endanger their wealth ...Their programme... is exactly meant to leave room for every party member to interpret and apply the various items...according to his whims as circumstances dictate to the satisfaction of his personal and political opportunism'.<sup>33</sup>

In its electoral manifesto, 'General Welfare, and Fight Against Poverty and Communism,' the DAP said that its policy would be based on the Roman Catholic Religion and loyalty to the British Crown. The party promised to do everything in its power to 'remove all clauses or reservations' that limited the people's liberties; to build schools, expand technical education and reduce adult illiteracy; to encourage emigration; to urge the institution of the Senate; to levy direct or indirect taxes as required and on a scientific basis; and to secure the continuation of food subsidies by the British Government.<sup>34</sup>

### **THE PARTIT NAZZJONALISTA**

Dr Enrico (Nerik) Mizzi was the leader of a devastated and demoralised PN labouring under allegations of disloyalty towards the Crown. Mizzi had, as a young

man, been court-martialled on charges of sedition.<sup>35</sup> In 1940 he was interned and two years later deported to Uganda without due process of law along with forty-seven others.<sup>36</sup> Repatriated in March 1945 he resumed his political career determined to fight for his beliefs, and to resuscitate the party in spite of any obstacle that might stand in his way. He was helped in his efforts by a number of activists who included Notary George Borg Olivier, Paolo Pace, Dr Jackie Frendo Azzopardi, Dr Carmelo Caruana, Dr Guzè Maria Camilleri and Notary Rosario Frendo Randon.

Mizzi was a passionate believer in Malta's right to autonomy. Autonomy pre-supposed nationhood, and nationhood depended on identifiable elements which included race, language, culture and religion. Mizzi was convinced that Italian was an integral part of Malta's heritage and culture, provided the Island with one of the indispensable requisites of national identity, and that knowledge of the language was essential to the Maltese because of their Island's proximity to Italy. He also saw it as a bulwark against the Anglicization of Malta.

The PN's leader recognized that, at a time when the war with Italy was still too vivid in people's minds, his own and the PN's pro-Italian language attitude was a formidable handicap towards re-establishing the PN as a political force let alone achieving electoral success. Opponents found it convenient to depict Mizzi and the PN as *non grata* to the British, claiming that to vote for them was to endanger the Constitution since Mizzi would not be allowed to take office. In July 1947 the P.N. issued a weekly newspaper, *Patrial*, but relied for space also on *The Bulletin*, an independent evening paper, to propagate its views.<sup>37</sup> Gradually the P.N. made ground and by September 1947, Mizzi felt confident enough to convene the party's first post-war Congress, which met in Valletta on the twenty-first of the month.

The Congress confirmed Mizzi as party leader by acclamation. A resolution was approved which protested against the limitations imposed by the new Constitution but acknowledged that it was the only alternative to direct Colonial Office control. After the Congress endorsed the electoral programme Mizzi was

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32. *The Dawn*, 26 March, 1946. This paper interpreted the initials DAP as: 'Dejjem Ahna Pappajna' (We always had the best of everything).

33. *The Bulletin*, 5 April, 1947.

34. *Ibid.*, 17 September, 1947.

35. He was arraigned in June 1917 and charged on the first count with possession of documents the publication of which could prejudice Britain's relations with other Powers. The documents included a pamphlet published by Mizzi in Italy in 1912 entitled, *Il Convvegno di Malta, Una Nuova Soluzione della Questione Maltese*, which concerned a suggestion to cede Malta to Italy in return for Eritrea, discussed by Lord Kitchner and the Board of the Admiralty, at a meeting held in Malta; and an article entitled *Malta Italiana*, also written by Mizzi in 1912 and published in Italy. This discussed the lingual, racial, religious and sentimental ties that bound Malta to Italy. Mizzi was henceforth branded an irredentist. See also, Sammut A., *The Court Martial of Enrico Mizzi* (Midsea Books, Malta, 2005).

36. See, Farrugia M., *L-Internament u l-Eżilju Matul l-Abhar Gwerra* (Pin, Malta, 2007), and Pirotta J.M., *Enrico Mizzi's Political Integrity – Fact or Fiction?* (Proceedings of History Week, 1986).

37. *Patrial* employed a heavily Italianized orthography not the official Maltese version.

carried shoulder high through the streets of Valetta. It was the PN's first public manifestation of strength since the outbreak of war and marked the party's re-birth.

In an *Appeal to the Nation* published the previous July the PN declared its intention to secure from the UK Government a proper settlement of all that was due to Malta rather than ask for *ad hoc* grants, and to insist on a reasonable annual interest on the additional £20,000,000 voted by Westminster in final settlement of the war damage grant. The party sought reimbursement of the expenses incurred under 'War Expenditure' by the Colonial administration, and reasonable compensation for all lands and buildings retained by the Imperial Government but not needed for military purposes. The Appeal also called for the re-introduction of Italian as a compulsory subject in the secondary schools and in the University.<sup>38</sup>

The PN's election manifesto underlined the party's aspirations to Dominion Status that did not 'exclude the possibility of an Anglo-Maltese agreement to safeguard certain legitimate Imperial interests. Much less was it incompatible with the loyalty to the British Crown which the Nationalist Party had always expressed with dignity but without the least servility'. The party promised to hasten the pace of reconstruction taking into consideration the views of Cottonera's inhabitants in the re-building of the three Cities. Workers' insurance against sickness and provision in old age, workmen's dwellings, the improvement of industrial relations, and the development of trade unionism, were highlighted. The PN promised to appoint a Public Service Commission on which the Malta Civil Service Association would be represented and to investigate the conditions of work of the Police Force, of employees in the private sector, of ex-servicemen and the unemployed in general. The black market would be dealt with vigorously; the cost of living reduced through development of trade and commerce, while local industries including agriculture, fishing, the local mercantile marine and tourism, would be encouraged, Government arable land would be given out on perpetual lease. All possible economy would be made and if taxation became necessary the party would ensure that the poor would not be affected.<sup>39</sup>

## THE LP SECURES

### THE GWU'S TOTAL BACKING

Dr Paul Boffa had led the LP since 1927. Following its poor showing in the 1939 Council of Government election the party seemed heading towards oblivion. However, the creation of the GWU in 1943, the successful collaboration between party and union in the 1945 National Assembly,<sup>40</sup> the general sense of grievance among workers, and the infusion of young and energetic activists in the party, gave the LP a new lease of life. This was confirmed by the party's success in the 1945 Council Election in which it registered a five-fold increase on 1939 and enthused party workers and supporters alike.

Party and union were bound together by the presence of a significant number of members who militated simultaneously within the two organisations. Initially the GWU's leaders, particularly Miller, had looked forward to a mutually beneficial but loose association with LP that would not restrict either side's freedom of action. They failed to predict the pressure that would become unbearable as a result of the divided loyalties of the union's Council and section committee members, as the LP struggled to realise its political objectives. The GWU's ability to function as a free agent would be undermined. The 1947 election campaign provided early evidence of the difficulty that the GWU faced once the LP demanded active collaboration in an attempt to secure union members' votes.

The GWU convened a delegates' meeting on 22 July 1947 at which it stated that the union 'was ready to give its support in the election campaign to the Party or Parties who would be in favour of the larger part of [the union's] programme'.<sup>41</sup> The programme, outlined during the same meeting, called for compulsory education, the development of technical education and Ministerial control of the University; support for the agricultural, fishing and other industries; the development of harbours and beaches; the introduction of Income Tax and a tax on land values – to finance widows', orphans' and old age pensions – as well as a National Health Insurance Scheme; industrial negotiating machinery, including the right of arbitration; and the nationalisation of stone quarries and public transport.<sup>42</sup>

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38. *Times of Malta*, 29 July, 1947.

39. *Patrial*, 29 September, 1947.

40. For the two organisation's early co-operation see, Pirota J.M., *Relations between Trade Unions and Political Parties in the Immediate Post-War Years* (CMTU Youth Section, Malta, 1985. For their collaboration at the National Assembly see, Pirota J.M. (1987), *op.cit.*, pp. 65-77.

41. *The Torch*, 8 August, 1947.

42. *Ibid.*

All the above points were included in the LP's manifesto which, after describing the MacMichael Constitution as 'the minimum workable and the minimum acceptable' went on to affirm that Britain was morally obliged to 'recognize her share of responsibility in providing the economic means of support for the inhabitants of the Island Fortress'.<sup>43</sup> The LP stressed the need for industrialization and the partial conversion of the dockyard to commercial use. It promised to implement an infrastructural programme based on the provision of a modern power station, an automatic telephone system, improved drainage and irrigation. Pensionable service would be reduced to twenty-five years. St Luke's hospital would be equipped, maternity and child clinics modernised, and the nursing and midwifery professions re-organized. Reconstruction intensified with priority given to housing. The LP also declared that in all administrative and legislative measures would be in line with Catholic teaching.<sup>44</sup>

The GWU's decision to publish an election programme guaranteed that the union would become deeply embroiled in the hurly-burly of the campaign and confirmed the danger to which its earlier alliance with a political party had exposed it. As pressure mounted for an explicit declaration of support, the union convened a Delegates Conference at the Radio City Opera House, Hamrun, where Mr Nestu Laivera – union delegate and prospective LP candidate – successfully moved a motion calling for clear guidance to be issued to union members.<sup>45</sup>

Miller, unhappy about the proposed measure, pointedly took no part in a debate that he considered a foregone conclusion as borne out by his assertion that the debate was 'one of the most polished ... and useless ... in the history of the union'. Miller felt so strongly about the matter that he left the Hall 'seriously considering' submitting his resignation. Nearly three years later he publicly admitted that he had understood the long-term implications.

The union, from the political force that it had been up to that time, became a political instrument. [Laivera's motion] had contributed to this change ... from the liberty of action and reaction that belongs to a force, to the set, fixed operations of an instrument ... [The motion's supporters] were 'binding' the Union to something, to someone else, and the act of 'binding' came from the unfortunate connection of programmes. If the decision of support had been a

free one, vague and elastic, quite untrammelled by the heavy demands of defined objectives, it would have been a tolerable situation. But with the 'marriage' on programmes the Union had renounced to its freedom, and had signed a contract the observance of which lay completely beyond its control and influence, except such as could be exercised by public utterance in these columns and in town squares, a process which subsequent events proved to be generally undesirable.<sup>46</sup>

Miller re-considered his initial impulse to resign claiming that the personal attacks directed at him by the DAP Press convinced him of the need to go on. He threw himself into the fray but did not desist from warning LP speakers that they should not delude themselves into thinking that all GWU members, let alone all workers, were Labour supporters. He exhorted the LP to address the whole nation, not just the working class, in its bid to win support.<sup>47</sup> *The Torch* stressed that a Labour victory was in the union members' best interests. As polling days approached Miller appealed to the members of the lay religious organizations, Catholic Action and MUSEUM to vote Labour, asserting that this was the only way to ensure that communism would never establish itself in Malta whilst warning that workers would never get a better chance of improving their lot.<sup>48</sup>

## BRITISH INTERVENTION

The election campaign was marked by various attempts at misrepresentation and personal denigration, with the Strickland Press and the DAP newspapers in the forefront. *The Nation* and *In-Nazzjon*, portrayed Malta as in imminent danger of a communist takeover. They claimed that the 'Labour Party sought and have been promised the help of the Fabian Society' which was 'an extreme socialist organization founded to propagate the Marxist ideology'. They added: 'For that, if for no other reason, no Catholic in Malta should vote Labour'.<sup>49</sup> Dom Mintoff and Dr Arthur Colombo, two of the LP's prominent Young Turks, were depicted as communist fellow travellers, with the former constantly referred to as 'Comrade Mintoffovitch.'

Mud-throwing between the parties was par for the course as far as Maltese election campaigns were concerned, but the hidden hand of Governor Sir Francis Douglas and his immediate entourage was involved in this particular campaign in an effort to destroy Mizzi and the PN. Douglas' campaign to

43. *Times of Malta*, 11 October, 1947.

44. *Ibid.*

45. *The Torch*, 6 November, 1947.

46. *Ibid.*, 27 November, 1950.

47. *Ibid.*, 12 September, 1947.

48. *Ibid.*, 24 October, 1947.

49. *The Nation*, 25 October, 1947.

subvert Mizzi's election chances began six months prior to the promulgation of the MacMichael Constitution.<sup>50</sup> He referred the Colonial Secretary, Arthur Creech Jones, to the contents of certain captured Italian documents which had fallen into the hands of the Governor's Office during the so-called conspiracy trials.<sup>51</sup> Douglas suggested publicising the documents immediately by means of an arranged question in the House of Commons<sup>52</sup> and not 'just prior to elections.'<sup>53</sup> Knowing the resentment caused by the deportation of Maltese nationals and by the conspiracy trials, Douglas advised that it was 'highly desirable that [Mizzi] should be publicly exposed for what he was, and the veil of injured innocence torn from him...in order to demonstrate that there were in fact good reasons why he and others were interned during the war, and doubly necessary after the deplorable result of our conspiracy trials.'<sup>54</sup>

The documents referred to ostensibly showed that during talks in Rome in 1936 Mizzi had arranged for an annual subsidy of £128 to be paid by the Italian government in the form of subscriptions for the Italian language newspaper *Malta*, which Mizzi owned and edited;<sup>55</sup> for the acquisition by the Italian government of 50 shares in *Malta* costing £400;<sup>56</sup> and for the contribution of an undisclosed sum for advertisements on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Tourism.<sup>57</sup> All these payments were supposed to have been approved personally by Mussolini.<sup>58</sup>

After consulting the Foreign Office, Creech Jones informed Douglas that he felt that no action ought to be taken as this 'might possibly have the reverse effect to that intended', and might actually 'help Mizzi by giving him considerable publicity which he [was] quite astute to turn to advantage if given time to do so'. He

added that action taken might 'be held to constitute intervention by Government of Malta in electoral campaign'. Furthermore a statement about Mizzi in the House of Commons would have to open with a declaration of the documents' provenance but their authenticity was uncertain.<sup>59</sup> In any case, added the Secretary of State, 'The sums of money involved were small and no consequential action [was] intended.'<sup>60</sup> However, Douglas would not let the matter be. He insisted that Mizzi's 'pretence' that 'he was simply a Maltese nationalist' had to be destroyed, and claimed that 'Boffa, Colombo and Mintoff [had] stated privately that if they did not get a sufficient majority in the election they would join hands with Mizzi'.<sup>61</sup> The next move was quietly to brief the friendly press resulting in a virulent anti-Mizzi campaign.

The Strickland Press, which exhibited a marked DAP bias throughout the campaign, divided its attention between PN and LP. While its dailies *Il-Berqa* and the *Times of Malta* attacked both parties, the former concentrated more on the PN as it had a wider Maltese readership. *Il-Berqa* printed a series of articles titled, '*Is-Sewwa dwar Nerik Mizzi*', ('The Truth about Nerik Mizzi'),<sup>62</sup> purporting to show him as fanatically pro-Italian and thus underserving to be Malta's prime minister. A number of cartoons depicted Mizzi as obsessed with the Italian language question to the detriment of Malta's real problems. *Il-Berqa* made no mention of the alleged contents of the documents but the DAP's *In-Nazzjon* did through a scurrilous article entitled, 'Why I turned Against Mizzi', by Emmanuel Cossai, a fellow internee.<sup>63</sup> Cossai accused Mizzi of a systematic policy of self-preservation to the detriment fellow internees, and of receiving money from the Italian Fascist government for the *Malta*.<sup>64</sup>

50. For a full treatment of the whole question see, Pirota, J.M. (1986), *op.cit.* Mizzi was the Colonial Officials' resident bogey that Mintoff was to become post-1958.
51. In 1946, seventeen Maltese who had, for various reasons spent the war years in Italy, and were somehow involved with the Italian war effort, were brought under arrest to Malta and charged with high treason. In some cases the death sentence was demanded. All seventeen were found not guilty following trial by jury.
52. Douglas to Creech Jones, 1 March, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK.
53. *Ibid.*, 17 April, 1947.
54. Here Douglas was deploring the accused's acquittal. Douglas to Creech Jones, 5 May 1947. CO 158/89426, NAUK.
55. Douglas to Creech Jones, 17 April, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK. The relevant document (translated) is dated 11 January, 1938.
56. *Ibid.* The document is only alluded to in the correspondence.
57. The *Malta* did carry advertisements of Italian firms – some of which remained unpaid for – but the person responsible for their procurement was Annibale Scicluna Sorge who knew Mizzi and who worked at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Rome. Scicluna Sorge used his influential position to obtain advertisements from certain Italian firms for insertion in *Malta*, but this would not constitute either official Italian government intervention or the soliciting of such intervention by Mizzi. In fact Scicluna Sorge was reported to have expressed his incomprehension at Mizzi's refusal to accept more than the normal charge for certain advertisements that Scicluna Sorge had obtained for *Malta*. *Cit. Numru* 603C/47, Mizzi Archives.
58. Douglas to Creech Jones, 17 April, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK. The relevant document (translated) is dated 5 January, 1938.
59. Creech Jones to Douglas, 22 May, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK.
60. Creech Jones to Douglas, 9 August, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK.
61. Douglas to Creech Jones, 12 August, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK. Douglas had been advised that Mintoff and Colombo were extremists.
62. The writer used the pseudonym Sollum. *Il-Berqa*, 24 and 26 September, 1947, and 1, 4, 6, 8 11, 13 and 17 October, 1947.
63. Emmanuel Cossai had been known as a Mizzi fanatic but evidence tendered during the libel case *Mizzi vs Cossai* (Cit. Numru 603C/47, *op.cit.*), indicates that he became disenchanted with Mizzi at the latter's orderly behaviour in captivity.
64. *The Nation*, 23 August, 1947. For a detailed account of the whole episode see, Pirota J. M. (1986), *op.cit.*

STATEMENT showing, by Districts, the number of registered electors in each Electoral Division.

DISTRICT			Number of registered electors			DISTRICT			Number of registered electors		
			Males	Females	Total				Males	Females	Total
<b>FIRST ELECTORAL DIVISION</b>						<b>SECOND ELECTORAL DIVISION</b>					
<b>Section 1.</b>						<b>Section 1.</b>					
I. Valletta						I. Gzira	1313	2008	3321		
(Parish of St. Dominic's (North))	1255	1885	3140			II. Msida	1058	1291	2349		
(Parish of St. Dominic's (South))	1227	1516	2743			III. Sliema	1809	2665	4474		
(Parish of St. Paul's)	1251	1538	2789			(Parish of the Sacred Heart)	1145	1534	2679		
						(Parish of St. Gregory's)	1540	2181	3721		
II. Floriana	920	1262	2182			(Parish of Stella Maris)	1031	1590	2621		
III. Marsa	2045	2516	4561			IV. St. Julian's					
IV. Pietà	670	740	1410			<b>Totals, Section 1.</b>	<b>7896</b>	<b>11269</b>	<b>19165</b>		
<b>Totals, Section 1.</b>	<b>7368</b>	<b>9457</b>	<b>16,825</b>								
<b>Section 2.</b>						<b>Section 2.</b>					
I. Cospicua	1157	1375	2532			I. Hamrun	3140	4179	7319		
II. Kalkara	451	519	970			II. Luqa	982	1222	2204		
III. Paola	2678	3052	5730			III. Gormi	1672	1902	3574		
IV. Senglea	552	673	1225			(Parish of St. George's)	1344	1420	2764		
V. Tarxien	1420	1624	3044			(Parish of St. Sebastian's)	959	1379	2338		
VI. Vittoriosa	667	876	1543			IV. Sta. Venera					
VII. Zebbar	2217	2464	4681			<b>Totals, Section 2.</b>	<b>8097</b>	<b>10102</b>	<b>18199</b>		
<b>Totals, Section 2.</b>	<b>9142</b>	<b>10583</b>	<b>19725</b>								
<b>Section 3.</b>						<b>Section 3.</b>					
I. Riežebbuša	895	1076	1971			I. Birkirkara	3188	4159	7347		
II. Chaxxaq	505	617	1122			II. Għarġur	458	479	937		
III. Gudja	353	402	755			III. Mellieħa	982	1094	2076		
IV. Kirkop	213	243	456			IV. Mgarr	424	494	918		
V. Marsaskala	286	337	623			V. Mnata	1754	1951	3705		
VI. Marsaxlokk	289	276	565			VI. Naxxar	957	1142	2099		
VII. Mgħabba	442	485	927			VII. St. Paul's Bay	659	797	1456		
VIII. Qrendi	507	555	1062			<b>Totals, Section 3.</b>	<b>8424</b>	<b>10116</b>	<b>18540</b>		
IX. Safi	138	169	307								
X. Zejtun	2689	3027	5716			<b>Section 4.</b>					
XI. Żurrieq	1305	1411	2716			<b>GOZO.</b>					
<b>Totals, Section 3.</b>	<b>7622</b>	<b>8598</b>	<b>16220</b>			I. Victoria	1399	1380	2779		
						II. Għajnsielem	385	339	724		
<b>Section 4.</b>						III. Għarb	322	483	805		
I. Mdina	134	339	473			IV. Għasri	149	120	269		
II. Attard	459	539	998			V. Kercem	284	401	685		
III. Balzan	568	775	1283			VI. Nadur	877	1149	2026		
IV. Dingli	345	434	779			VII. Qala	404	572	976		
V. Lija	536	694	1230			VIII. San Lawrenz	132	173	305		
VI. Rabat	2558	3320	5878			IX. Sannat	353	360	713		
VII. Siggiewi	1113	1188	2301			X. Xagħra	962	928	1890		
VIII. Żebbuġ	1831	2003	3834			XI. Xewkija	641	753	1394		
<b>Totals, Section 4.</b>	<b>7484</b>	<b>9192</b>	<b>16676</b>			XII. Żebbuġ	285	240	525		
						<b>Totals, Section 4.</b>	<b>6193</b>	<b>6898</b>	<b>13091</b>		
<b>RECAPITULATION</b>											
<b>FIRST ELECTORAL DIVISION</b>						<b>SECOND ELECTORAL DIVISION</b>					
Section 1.	7368	9457	16825			Section 1.	7896	11269	19165		
Section 2.	9142	10583	19725			Section 2.	8097	10102	18199		
Section 3.	7622	8598	16220			Section 3.	8424	10116	18540		
Section 4.	7484	9192	16676			Section 4.	6193	6898	13091		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31616</b>	<b>37830</b>	<b>69446</b>			<b>Totals</b>	<b>30610</b>	<b>38385</b>	<b>68995</b>		

Mizzi promptly sued Cossai and *The Nation's* editor, J. Olivieri Munro, for libel. He explained that at the time alluded to in the documents he was no longer owner of the *Malta*. He had sold it to people who had the financial means to ensure the paper's continued publication and development into a going commercial concern, since he could afford neither the time nor the money that this required.<sup>65</sup> Mizzi had retained the editorship and responsibility for editorial policy at a monthly salary of £20. Witnesses called by Cossai contradicted his version of events in all its important elements, and although the case was still *sub judice* when Mizzi died, it seems certain that the incriminating article was primarily motivated by a sense of animus towards Mizzi.<sup>66</sup>

At Mizzi's prompting the alleged Italian Fascist subsidization of *Malta* was raised in the Italian Parliament where Demochristian Foreign Minister Sforza declared: 'I confirm that the Italian Government neither acquired the said newspaper, nor subsidized or enlisted [the services] of Dr Enrico Mizzi.'<sup>67</sup> Further evidence was furnished by the former Italian Consul in Malta, Dottor Raffaello Casertano. Contacted by Mizzi he declared in a letter that although such an intention might have existed he had never been asked to subsidize the PN. He added: 'I did not heed such authorization since I knew quite well both your sense of pride and your line of conduct which is stamped by the most rigid moral independence.'<sup>68</sup>

When Cossai's article appeared, Douglas anticipated Mizzi going to court and the likelihood that the defence would 'subpeona the Secretary to Government to produce certified copies of documents [concerning the] relationship between the *Malta* newspaper and the Italian authorities'. He therefore asked for instructions.<sup>69</sup> Following consultations between the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office,<sup>70</sup> Douglas was informed that there was 'no objection to the publication of documents connecting Mizzi with Fascism, but that it would be

preferable to avoid publication of those which connect him with *Italinita*.<sup>71</sup> So much for fair play.

## LABOUR PARTY LANDSLIDE

Voting for the 124 registered candidates took place on the 25, 26 and 27 October in an atmosphere of orderly calm.<sup>72</sup> The Labour Party won 24 seats; the *Partit Nazżjonalista* 7; the Democratic Action Party 4; Gozo Party 3 and Jones Party 2. The LP carried all seven electoral divisions in Malta, while the GP and the JP shared the Gozo seats. The GP polled 52.16% of the Gozitan vote, and the JP 34.6%. A healthy 75.42% of the electorate voted (80.6% of males and 71.13% females).<sup>73</sup> Women had flocked to exercise their new won suffrage setting a trend that never faltered. Three LP candidates, Dr Paul Boffa, Bertram Camilleri and Dr Arthur Colombo, were elected from two divisions. One of the two female candidates, Agatha Barbara, was elected on the first count with a surplus of eighty-one votes.<sup>74</sup>

LP's absolute majority sounded the knell of the GP, the JP and the DAP as they were unable effectively to influence Parliamentary decisions. Furthermore none of the three parties possessed any tradition of voter loyalty to help cushion them against poor election results. The PN had done much better than expected, the rumour of its extinction proving greatly exaggerated. Its seven seats demonstrated that the charge of pro-Italianism had already begun to weaken, and that its leader still carried the esteem of a large proportion of the electorate.

The Labour Party owed their landslide victory to the decisive support given to them by the GWU; to their superior organisation at town and village level; to their consistent emphasis on the need for social services; to the enlarged electorate; and to the party's pro-British outlook which appeared to give them a better chance of winning the U.K. government's acquiescence in tackling Malta's social and economic problems.

65. The new owners were Dr Alberto Hamilton Stilon, who bought 14/15 of the shares, and Dr Antonio Muscat who bought 1/15 share.

66. The question remained whether Stilon was a front for the Italian Government. This is very unlikely because in the contract of sale Mizzi had stipulated that, 'If for any reason, the undersigned Dr Stilon were to cease to be the owner of the newspaper, he pledges to ensure that the property of the newspaper passes into the hands of a Maltese who is fully committed to perpetuate its pure Nationalist character'. (Deed of sale of the *Malta* to Dr Alberto Hamilton Stilon, drawn up by Notary Giorgio Borg Olivier, on 15 December, 1938, making reference to the sale which had actually taken place by private agreement dated 16 February, 1937). At the time of Mizzi's death on 20 December 1950, Hamilton Stilon still owed Mizzi £428 of the £2,800 selling price. (Copy of the declaration of assets for the purpose of the Succession and Donation Duties Act.) Furthermore, Chev Vincenzo Bonello testified in Court that he was the heir to Hamilton Stilon's shares in the *Malta*. *Cit. Numru 603C/47, op. cit.* Source for all three documents, Mizzi Archives.

67. *Italian Senate Debates*, 19 March, 1949.

68. Casertano to Mizzi, 28 February, 1949. *Mizzi Archives*.

69. Douglas to Creech Jones, 25 August, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK

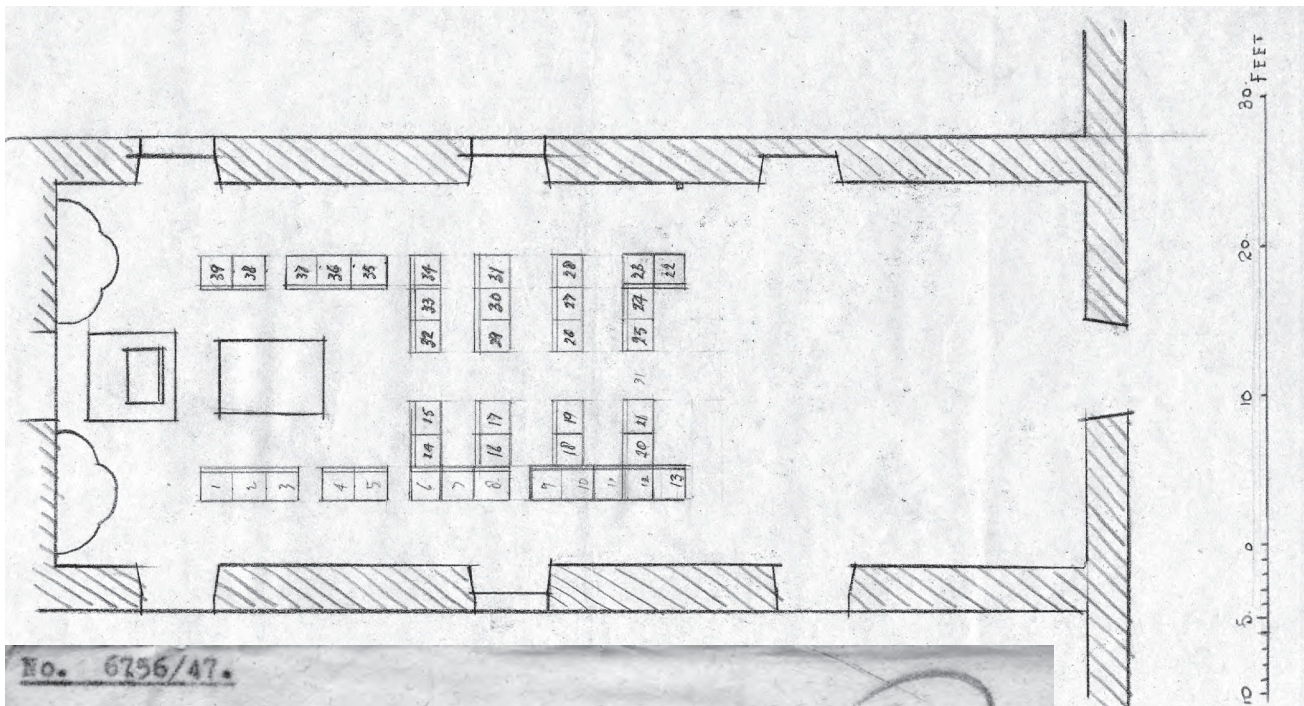
70. Fisher to Brown, 26 September, 1947 and Brown to Fisher, 6 October, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK.

71. Rees William to Douglas, 15 October, 1947. CO 158/573 89426, NAUK.

72. *Times of Malta*, 28 October, 1947.

73. *Malta Government Gazette*, 7 November, 1947.

74. *Ibid.*



No. 6756/47.

(2)

11<sup>th</sup> September, 1947.

Rector, R.U.M.  
 Librarian, R.M. Library,  
 Col. A.D.C.

It is understood that in your department there are several articles of furniture which belonged to the office of the Legislative Assembly during the years of Self-Government.

These articles are now again required by the Council Office, and you are kindly requested to return them to the Palace at once, after getting into touch with the Director of Public Works.

(S.A.) E. Umeller.  
 Secretary to Government.

(Copies to Director of Public works, )  
 Clerk of Council. )

The Public Works Department prepares the Tapestry Chamber at The Palace to house the Legislative Assembly after the 1947 general elections. The Maltese Legislative Assembly has not met since 1933 and the furniture was dispersed in various Government departments and the University, while some of it was destroyed by enemy action during WW2.  
 National Archives of Malta, CSG 01/6756/1947.



# UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
<b>Income</b>			
Government Subvention	2	550,000	450,001
Funds from the Ministry for Gozo	3	84,639	86,011
Other Income	4	14,960	12,887
<b>Total recurrent income</b>		<b>649,599</b>	<b>548,899</b>
<b>Operational Costs</b>			
Operational Costs	Stat I	(568,978)	(493,973)
Administrative Expenses	Stat II	(82,710)	(57,230)
<b>Deficit before Interest</b>		<b>(2,089)</b>	<b>(2,304)</b>
Interest receivable	7	80	63
<b>Deficit for the year</b>		<b>(2,009)</b>	<b>(2,241)</b>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	9	111,631	98,353
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	10	25,637	3,097
Cash at bank		62,511	33,387
		88,148	36,484
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>199,779</b>	<b>134,837</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Accumulated fund			
- Recurrent vote and operating activities	11	110,084	112,093
		110,084	112,093
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>			
Deferred Income		20,979	2,965
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Trade and other payables		608	2,557
Accruals, other payables and Deferred Income		68,108	17,222
	12	68,716	19,779
<b>Total Reserves and Liabilities</b>		<b>199,779</b>	<b>134,837</b>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND**

	Recurrent vote & operating activities €	Accumulated Fund €
<b>Financial period 31 December 2016</b>		
Balance at 1 January 2016	112,093	112,093
Deficit for the year	(2,009)	(2,009)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>110,084</b>	<b>110,084</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

		2016	2015
	Notes	€	€
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Deficit for the Financial Year before transfer of depreciation.		(2,009)	(2,241)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		25,998	29,172
Interest Receivable		(80)	(63)
Operating profit before working capital changes		<b>23,909</b>	<b>26,868</b>
Increase / Decrease in Debtors		(22,540)	2,947
Increase in Creditors		66,951	(10,789)
Cash generated from operations		<b>68,320</b>	<b>19,026</b>
Interest Received		80	63
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>		<b>68,400</b>	<b>19,089</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase of Tangible assets		(39,276)	(23,978)
<b>Net Cash from Investing Activities</b>		<b>(39,276)</b>	<b>(23,978)</b>
<b>Net movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>		29,124	(4,889)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the Beginning of the Year</b>		33,387	38,276
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the End of the Year</b>	13	<b>62,511</b>	<b>33,387</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

**Accounting convention and basis of preparation**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and under the historical cost convention.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Gains and losses on disposal of tangible fixed assets are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit.

Depreciation is provided for on the straight-line method in order to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful life as follows:

Improvements to Premises	15%
Passengers Lift	15%
Shelving	15%
Motor Vehicles	12.5%
Climate Control Equipment	10%
Computer Equipment	20%
Computer Software	33%
Office Equipment	10%
Furniture and Fittings	10%

**Cash and Cash equivalents**

Cash in hand and at banks and short-term deposits which are held to maturity are carried at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short-term, highly liquid investments readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flow, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and deposits at banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

**Creditors**

Amounts payable are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the company.

**2. Government Subvention**

Amounts advanced by Government for recurrent expenditure are made in the form of subventions from the Consolidated Fund in accordance with Section 20 of the National Archives Act. In accordance with the selected accounting policy, these amounts are accounted for upon an accrual basis.

### 3. Funds from Ministry for Gozo

In 2007 an agreement was reached with the Ministry for Gozo to transfer monies from its vote to the National Archives of Malta to finance the Gozo branch's employment costs and contribute towards its general and administrative running costs.

### 4. Other Income

Other income is mainly generated from photocopy services, digital images and sale of publications.

### 5. Payroll costs and personnel information

	2016	2015
	€	€
Wages and Salaries	462,476	394,321
Social Security contributions	34,062	33,760
	<u>496,538</u>	<u>428,081</u>
<b>Number of employees as at period end:</b>		
Full time	22	19
Part time	1	1
	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>

### 6. Surplus before interest

The surplus / (deficit) before interest is stated after charging:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Staff Costs (Note 5)	496,538	428,081
Depreciation of tangible assets (Note 9)	25,998	29,172
Auditors' remuneration	5,036	2,006

### 7. Interest Receivable

	2016	2015
	€	€
Bank Interest	<u>80</u>	<u>63</u>

### 8. Taxation

The National Archives of Malta is exempt from any liability for the payment of income tax in accordance with Section 13 of the National Archives Act, 2005.

## 9. Tangible fixed assets

	Improvement to Premises	Passenger Lift	Shelving	Motor Vehicles	Climate Control	Computer Equipment	Computer Software	Office Equipment	Furniture and Fittings	Fire Alarm System	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Cost</b>											
As at 01.01.2016	54,198	6,965	70,018	29,665	27,766	32,134	10,499	34,089	65,483	25,611	356,428
Additions	5,245	-	25,896	-	-	3,066	-	1,682	3,387	-	39,276
As at 31.12.2016	59,443	6,965	95,914	29,665	27,766	35,200	10,499	35,771	68,870	25,611	395,704
<b>Depreciation</b>											
As at 01.01.2016	13,611	6,965	70,018	26,021	24,641	26,376	10,499	20,283	43,863	15,798	258,075
Charge for the year	2,826	-	-	3,644	2,777	4,124	-	3,289	6,786	2,552	25,998
As at 31.12.2016	16,437	6,965	70,018	29,665	27,418	30,500	10,499	23,572	50,649	18,350	284,073
<b>Net Book Value</b>											
As at 31.12.2016	43,006	-	25,896	-	348	4,700	-	12,199	18,221	7,261	111,631

## 10. Trade and Other Receivables

	2016	2015
	€	€
Trade Receivable	426	844
Prepayments	25,211	2,253
	<u>25,637</u>	<u>3,097</u>

## 11. Accumulated Funds

### Capital Vote

The Capital Vote represents assets taken over from Government, net of depreciation.

### Recurrent vote and operating activities

The recurrent vote and operating activities represent the accumulated deficit or surplus resulting from operations.

## 12. Trade and other payables

	2016	2015
	€	€
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Payables	608	2,557
Accruals and Deferred Income	89,087	20,187
	<u>89,695</u>	<u>22,744</u>

## 13. Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and balances with banks.

## Statement I

### Operational Costs

	2016 (unaudited)	2015 (audited)
	€	€
Salaries and Social Security	496,538	428,081
Water and Electricity	7,629	6,893
Insurance	2,238	1,402
Telecom Expenses	8,721	7,120
Cleaning Expenses	15,342	9,014
Repairs office equipment	235	-
Office Expenses	5,532	5,197
Repairs and Upkeep	6,745	7,094

*Depreciation Charge:-*

Furniture and Fittings	6,786	6,564
Climate Control Equipment	2,777	2,777
Computer Equipment	4,124	6,945
Computer Software	-	262
Office equipment	3,289	3,646
Improvements to Premises	2,826	2,709
Fire Alarm System	2,552	2,561
Motor Vehicles	3,644	3,708
<b>Total Operational Costs</b>	<b>568,978</b>	<b>493,973</b>

**Statement II**  
**Administrative Expenses**

	2016	2015
	€	€
Rent	24,179	24,179
Staff related expenses	1,128	1,023
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,659	4,511
Printing, postage and stationery	9,957	7,718
Audit Fee	2,006	2,006
Professional fees	8,670	6,373
Conservation Lab Expenses and Records Management	6,870	3,497
Travelling	12,462	3,707
Subscriptions and Brochures	3,625	1,388
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,413	1,946
Bank Charges	468	416
Equipment hire	118	447
Hosting of activities	2,125	-
Advertising	-	19
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>79,680</b>	<b>57,230</b>



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