



MELITENSIA

THE MALTA STUDY CENTER AT THE HILL MONASTIC MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

SUMMER AND AUTUMN 2001

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

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

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

Guillaume Caoursin, *The Siege of Rhodes (1480)*

Theresa M. Vann

Today, we are used to the almost instantaneous transmission of news through the media of modern technology. We can get headlines on our cell phones, articles over the Internet, and live pictures on the cable networks. The in-depth coverage provided by printed newspapers may be more accurate, but in the case of fast-breaking news it can be outdated by the time the issue hits the stands.

Human beings have always adopted new technologies to get news more rapidly. One particular example occurred in the year 1480, when the printing revolution was just beginning in Western Europe. That year a Turkish fleet landed an army to besiege the Knights of the Order of St. John in their fortress city of Rhodes.

The Knights knew the Ottoman Turks were coming. Since the Ottomans captured the city of Constantinople in 1453, they had consolidated their holdings by taking Christian-held islands in the Aegean. The island of Rhodes, located just off the coastline of modern-day Turkey, was a logical target.

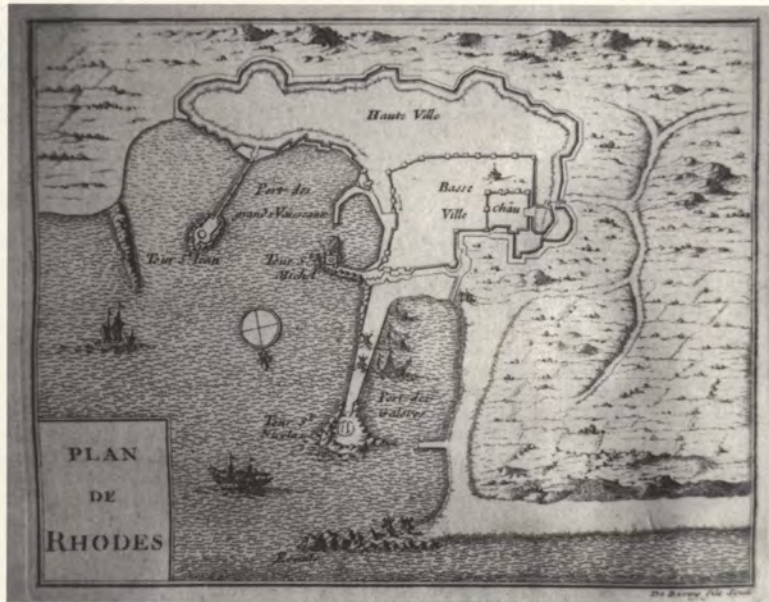
The Knights successfully resisted the siege. In order to spread the news of their victory and to garner support against the return of the Turks, the vice-

chancellor of the Order, Guillaume Caoursin, wrote the official account of the siege of Rhodes entitled *Descriptio obsidione Rhodiae* (*Description of the Siege of Rhodes*). It was first printed in Venice in 1480. Other editions rapidly appeared throughout Europe. By 1483 Caoursin's original Latin text had been translated into English, Italian, and German to gain an even wider audience.

Although Caoursin authored a fifteenth-century best seller, it is very difficult today to find a copy of his original Latin text, which has not been reprinted since 1496. Recently, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Malta Study Center of HMML was able to acquire one of the first printed editions. It consists of a short pamphlet, of no more than 18 folios. It is unillustrated, lacking the woodcuts found in later editions. A previous owner of the text made a few marginal notes and bound it with other books and pamphlets about the Knights of St. John and the island of Malta.

Caoursin did not write a day-by-day diary account of the siege, but he recorded how the Turks tried to capture the city and the measures the Knights

CONTINUED



Plan de Rhodes, from L'Abbe de Vertot, *The History of the Knights of Malta* (London, 1728)



Carte des Isles Rhodiennes, from L'Abbe de Vertot, *The History of the Knights of Malta* (London, 1728)

took to resist them. He writes one of the earliest descriptions of a civilian population enduring gunpowder bombardment. He makes clear that the Knights achieved success through superior military planning and through the cooperation of the civilian population. Since some of the translations attributed the conclusion of the siege to divine intervention, possession of the original Latin text gives important insight into the original thoughts and motivations of the Knights.

Caoursin went on to write other descriptions of major news events in Rhodes. Although modern historians treat these as chronicles, neither Caoursin nor his contemporaries considered him a chronicler. He was writing news accounts, which the Order released throughout the Christian world by the most rapid means at their disposal—the printing press.

The Knights of St. John were among the first to use the new technology of the printing press to spread news quickly throughout Europe. They realized the potential of the new technology and used it to their advantage. By the end of the 15th century, Christian rulers in western Europe acknowledged the Knights on the island of Rhodes as the defenders of Christendom and supported their mission.



Celebration of Malta Day in Minnesota - 30 September 2000

On 30 September 2000, the ambassador from Malta to the United States visited the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and attended the Malta Study Center celebration of Malta Day. Photographed in the Great Hall from left to right are: Fr. Eric Hollas, O.S.B., Executive Director of HMML; Nicky Benz Carpenter, HMML Board of Overseers Chair; Joseph S. Micallef, HMML Board of Overseers; Dr. Theresa Vann, Malta Curator; the Honorable George Saliba, Ambassador of Malta; and Msgr. John Azzopardi, Curator of the Cathedral Museum of Mdina, Malta.

Malta Luncheon

Friends of the Malta Study Center gathered on 30 September 2000 to celebrate both Malta Day and the dedication of the "Joseph S. Micallef Curatorship" of the Center. Joseph S. Micallef has a long-standing relationship with the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library. His generosity has given permanence to this curatorship, now held by Dr. Theresa Vann. Two days later, Friends of the Center assembled once again, this time as guests of the Carlson Companies at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Minneapolis. As part of the latter celebration, attendees ate a meal prepared from traditional Maltese recipes provided by Douglas and Doreen Cody of Minneapolis. *Melitensia* reprints the recipe for Minestra (Vegetable Soup).

Minestra

Ingredients:

2 marrows
 4 potatoes
 2 onions
 400g pumpkin
 1 small cabbage
 1 small cauliflower
 2 turnips
 2 tomatoes
 2 carrots
 1 teaspoon tomato puree
 200g pasta (small pasta shapes)

Method:

Chop all vegetables, place them in a pot, and add 750ml of water, tomato puree and season. Bring to the boil and let simmer until vegetables are tender. Add a knob of lard or butter. Add pasta and keep simmering until the pasta is done. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

Malta Study Center Lecture Series

Monsignor John Azzopardi, "Treasures of the Collection, Cathedral Museum, Mdina." 28 September 2000.

John Azzopardi, Curator of the Cathedral Museum in Mdina, Malta, spoke as part of the Malta Day celebrations about the highlights of the Cathedral's extensive music collection.

William Hamblin, "I Shall Purify the Land of These Two Impure Peoples': Military Orders during the Crusades." 23 March 2001.

William Hamblin, an Islamicist from the Department of History, Brigham Young University, spoke on how Arabs perceived the Christian military religious orders during the time of the crusades. Hamblin is currently preparing his talk for publication in *BYU Studies* and on the website of the Malta Study Center (see abstract).

Piers Mitchell "Evidence for the Practice of Medicine in the Crusades." 1 May 2001.

Piers Mitchell, of the Wellcome Institute of Medicine in London, visited in Collegetown on his way to the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, Michigan, to give an informal slide talk about the practice of medicine during the crusades. Mitchell, who is a practicing physician as well as a medieval historian, has participated in archaeological excavations of crusader sites. At Kalamazoo Mitchell gave a scholarly version of his Collegetown paper at the Hospitaller session co-sponsored by the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and AVISTA (Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary

Study of Medical Science, Technology, and Art.) (See abstract.)

International Medieval Congress, Western Michigan University

The Malta Study Center organized two panels at the International Medieval Congress held at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo, in May 2001. The Congress attracts more than 3000 medievalists from all over the world. The two panels were:

I. *The Religious Military Orders and Holy War.*

Panelists:

"The Knights of St. John and Their Role in the Christian Reconquest of Spain." *James J. Todesca, Armstrong Atlantic University.*

"Chimera or Ideal? The Military Orders in the Sermons and Career of Jacques de Vitry." *Jessalynn Bird, Queen's College, University of Oxford.*

"Putting Humpty Together Again: Reconstruction of the Hospitallers' Rhodian Archives." *Mark Dupuy, Clarion University.*

II. *The Medieval Hospital and Medical Practice: Bridging the Evidence.*

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Medieval Hospital and Medical Practice III: Religious Military Orders' Hospitals and Care of the Sick (co-sponsored with AVISTA, Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Science, Technology, and Art).

Panelists:

"Religious Orders and Their Cure to the Poor Sick People, Especially in the South of France, Eleventh to Fifteenth Centuries." *Daniel Le Blévec, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier.*

"The Hospital Infirmary of the Knights Templars in the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries." Piers D. Mitchell, Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine, University of London. (See Abstract in Melitensia.)

"De domo sancti Lazari milites leprosy: The Lepers in the Ideals of the Hospitaller and Military Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries." Rafaël Hyacinthe, Centre de Recherche d'archéologie médiévale de l'Université Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne).

Film Series

The Malta Study Center presented three films showing the "Lighter Side of the Middle Ages" to enthusiastic audiences at the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library. These were: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (Friday, March 2, 2001);

"Robin Hood-Men in Tights" (Friday, April 27, 2001); and "The Princess Bride" (Friday, May 11, 2001).

Curator's Activities

Theresa Vann, the Joseph S. Micallef Curator, presented a paper entitled "Fighting the Enemies of Christ: The Crusades in Spain," at the session Crusades and Crusaders I, sponsored by the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East at the 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 4, 2001. For Spring Semester 2001 she taught a graduate course at the University of Minnesota entitled "Medieval and Early Modern Malta," which drew upon the resources of the Malta Study Center.

ABSTRACT OF TALKS

"I Shall Purify the Land of These Two Impure Peoples': Arab Perspectives on the Military Orders During the Crusades." William J. Hamblin, Brigham Young University.

Based on the Qur'an, the traditional Islamic interpretation of monasticism was that it was a well-intentioned human institution, whose advocates did not always live up to its principles. It was not, however, revealed by God.

Following the Arab conquests of the seventh century, Christian monks were granted the status of a protected and tolerated minority. Although there were certainly violations of this principle, toleration of monasticism remained the norm in the Islamic world until the crusades, which brought in its wake warrior

monks coming as hostile triumphant conquerors determined to dominate Muslim peoples and holy places. Nonetheless, through the mid-eleventh century the Military Orders were not perceived by the Arabs as particular enemies of Islam; indeed, Usamah ibn Munqidh, an Arab nobleman, numbered Templars among his friends.

Rising animosity towards the Military Orders during the age of Saladin derived from three major problems: their military prowess, their unwillingness to make peace, and their spiritual pollution of Muslim holy places, specifically Jerusalem and the Dome of the Rock. When Saladin crushed the military strength of the Orders at the battle of Hattin in 1187

CONTINUED

and reconquered the holy places of Jerusalem, Arab animosity towards the Orders began to decline.

Thus, for most of the early thirteenth century, the Orders were seen as just one other player in the never-ending Machiavellian struggle for power among the various Christian and Muslim princes of Palestine. For Muslim rulers in this period, the Military Orders were no longer merely menacing enemies to be despised or attacked, but sometimes-potential allies to be cultivated.

With the rise of the Mamluk dynasty in Egypt after 1250, serious jihad against the crusaders recommenced. However, the declining Military Orders were no longer seen as a major military threat. Although the Orders were perceived as enemies to be destroyed, with the Holy Places of Jerusalem firmly in Muslim hands, they no longer represented the ideological threat they had in the age of Saladin. For the Mamluks the Military Orders were simply a military enemy to be conquered, not an ideological foe to be destroyed.

Following the expulsion of the last crusaders in 1291 the Mamluk sultans allowed the restoration of western monasticism in the Holy Land under the supervision of the Franciscans. Muslims during the Crusades had enough intercultural understanding to be able to distinguish both between eastern and western Christians, and between the various monastic orders of the West. Although the fundamental Islamic principle of tolerance for Christianity and monasticism was severely strained by two centuries of crusades, it was not entirely shattered. As the military threat of the crusades waned and Muslim control of the holy places was restored, Muslims were able to maintain a clear distinction between ordinary Christian monks, such as the Franciscans, and the knights of the Military Orders. The latter were to be driven from the Holy Land; the former could be tolerated and even cultivated.

The Hospital Infirmary of the Knights Templars in the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem during the 12th and 13th Centuries.

Piers D. Mitchell, Wellcome Center for the History of Medicine at UCL, University of London, UK.

The Order of the Temple was the largest of the military orders formed for the purpose of defending the Crusader States (1099-1291 AD) in the medieval eastern Mediterranean. They received their name from the position of their headquarters, at the south end of the site of the Temple in Jerusalem. Over time they built numerous castles and were involved in almost every major battle and campaign fought in the Crusader States over its two-hundred year existence.

As the site of the infirmary is now a Mosque, its excavation has never been undertaken, and our information comes mainly from written sources. Unlike the medico-military orders of St. John, St. Lazarus, St. Thomas of Canterbury and the Teutonic Knights, the infirmary of the Order of the Temple did not treat pilgrims or other soldiers, just sick members of its own order. This does give us a very interesting population to study, not least because of the range of weapon injuries we might expect in such an organization. The hierarchical statutes of the order are thought to be dated to around 1165. The section *The Retraits of the Infirmary Brother* gives illuminating information about the diseases, treatments and general approach found in the infirmary. While the infirmary ran the hospital, he was not a trained *medicus* and the master of the order was obliged to contract a doctor to look after the patients there. A number of statutes specifically refer to the techniques used to treat patients, which include dietary modification, bloodletting, drugs and surgery.

Details of food forbidden to the sick suggests a degree of local eastern influence upon medical practice in the infirmary, rather than a strict adherence to

European philosophy as outlined in such texts as the 12th-century *Regimen Sanitatis* of Salerno. Weapon injuries are well described in the contemporary texts and also seen in the excavation of Templar fortifications such as *Le Petit Gerin*. Those soldiers with serious wounds, especially if they became delirious, were managed in a side room near the infirmary. Delirium suggests septicemia due to infection of the wound. The texts also refer to the use of drugs, which the master of the order paid for. Surgery was practiced and there are references to cutting into mortal wounds, while bloodletting was performed on both the sick and healthy.

Infectious diseases were to be expected in this hot climate where dysentery and gastroenteritis were common due to

the flies and poor knowledge of food hygiene. Malaria is also referred to and would have been spread by mosquitoes, which bred in the many marshes by springs and rivers mentioned in the chronicles. If a member of the order developed leprosy he had to leave and join the Order of St. Lazarus, established specifically to allow those people with the disease to continue to fight with the army in battle but live in seclusion the rest of the time.

This evidence gives a fascinating picture of the suffering of crusading knights in the Order of the Temple, along with the efforts of this 12th-century infirmary to treat their diseases.

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

Music Collection, Cathedral Museum, Mdina

The Cathedral Museum of Mdina contains a rich collection of music scores, the bulk of which date between the 16th-20th centuries, although there are some older musical manuscripts among them. Music has always formed an important part of liturgy, and the Maltese church has a long tradition of musical patronage. By the 1620's Bishop Baldassare Cagliares established a musical *cappella* at the Cathedral of Mdina. The diocese commissioned works by famous Italian and Maltese composers. Other works were printed elsewhere and imported by Italian chapel masters. An estimated 30% of these scores survive only in copies on Malta.

The collection consists of antiphonals, printed works by Italian and French composers, and manuscripts by Italian and Maltese composers. The Maltese composers include: Benigno Zerafa and Francesco Azzopardi, who were both chapel masters at Mdina in the 18th century; Nicolò Isouard (a 19th-century

composer); the Vella family of composers, consisting of Giuseppe and his sons Alberto, Luigi, and Paolo (from the 19th-20th centuries); and the 20th-century composer Carmelo Pace.

The quality and the uniqueness of these musical works have attracted researchers and performers. Parts of the collection have been catalogued and include five significant publications.

John Azzopardi and Matteo Sansone, *Italian And Maltese Music In The Archives At The Cathedral Museum Of Malta*, is divided into two parts: Studies and a Handlist. The five chapters of part I describe the present state of the Music Archives of the Cathedral and its manuscripts dating from the 12th century to present times; discuss the history of the *cappella di musica* of the Cathedral; and analyze the 17th- and 18th-century contents of the archives. The detailed handlist covers the Collection of Musical Prints with its many unique copies and the Music Manuscripts which were recovered from the Cathedral Church in 1968. The 28

The Malta Study Center contains over 13,000 microfilms of archival material from the island of Malta. Every issue of Melitensia will briefly highlight one collection from the archives.

CONTINUED

pages of illustrations include the title pages of all the unique prints and the unique editions in the collection. Several transcribed documents throw new light on the history of Music in Malta. The volume (over 350 pages) forms part of the series on the music archives of the cathedral, sponsored by HMML. The other volumes study the Vella Composers (vol. 2) and the music of Carmelo Pace (vol. 3).

Other Catalogs

Franco Bruni, *The Vella composers: Dr. Giuseppe (1827-1912) and his sons Alberto (1866-1931), Luigi (1868-1950) and Paolo (1873-1948): biographical notes and a complete catalogue of their works at the Cathedral Museum, Mdina, Malta.* ([Collegeville,] Minn.: Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St. John's University; Mdina, Malta: Cathedral Museum, 1997)

Marcel De Gabriele and Georgette Caffari (with the collaboration of the composer), *Carmelo Pace, A Maltese Composer, Thematic, Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue of Works.* ([Collegeville,] Minn.: Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St. John's University; Mdina, Malta: Cathedral Museum, Foundation for the Promotion of the Music of Carmelo Pace, 1991).

Anna A. Mousu, *A catalogue of printed works by Maltese composers at the Music Library of the Cathedral Museum, Malta.* (Valletta: Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta; Mdina, Malta:

Cathedral Museum, 1988).

Franco Bruni, *Catalogue Of Music Manuscripts - Cathedral Museum, Mdina - Malta (M-MDca Mus. Ms. 1-584)* (Electronic publication, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, <http://www.hmml.org/centers/malta/cathedral/music/titlepage.html>)

Additional Reading

John Azzopardi, ed., *Nicolo Isouard de Malte.* (Mdina, Malta: Friends of the Cathedral Museum ...in association with the Alliance francaise de Malte, 1991).

Franco Bruni, *Musica Sacra a Malta. Le cappelle della cattedrale di S. Paolo e della concattedrale di S. Giovanni Battista nel XIX Secolo* (PEG, 1993).

To date the label *Inedit* has issued three volumes of the CD *Les Manuscrits de Malte.* (Distribution: Studio SM, 54 Rue Michelang - 75016 Paris).

Microfilm copies of the music collection are available from the Malta Study Center. Note that all performance rights are owned by the Cathedral Chapter of Mdina. Contact the Malta Study Center, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321. (email: hmml@csbsju.edu; fax: 320-363-3222) for microfilms. Note that the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library will not duplicate any microfilm without first obtaining permission from the library that owns the original manuscript.

Although the Malta Study Center contains the archives of the Knights of Malta from the National Library in Valletta, the Order has other archives and research centers located throughout Europe. Melitensia welcomes the opportunity to inform its readers about these other research centers and collections.

Instituto Complutense de la Orden de Malta (The Complutensian Institute of the Order of Malta) ICOMAL

On 20 December 1993, the Spanish Assembly of the Sovereign Order of Malta signed an agreement of cooperation with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM). The Complutensium is the most prestigious university in Spain, with a history of

seven centuries and more than 120,000 students. Under the terms of this agreement, the UCM created an assigned Institute under the name of the Instituto Complutense de la Orden de Malta (ICOMAL). The Institute has a board, presided over by the Grand Rector of the UCM, which contains members from both the academic world and the Order of Malta, including the president of the Spanish Assembly of the Order and the director of the Real Academia de la Historia. The well-known naval histori-

RESEARCH CENTERS

an and Knight Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion of the Sovereign Order, Don Hugo O'Donnell y Duque de Estrada, Conde de Lucena, was named director.

ICOMAL was created with a dual mission. On one part, it encourages the research and dissemination of the history of the Order of Malta within the Spanish world; the cataloguing of its heritage; the recuperation of its documental sources; and the promotion of initiatives to conserve and rehabilitate its artistic and architectural legacy. On another part, ICOMAL promotes and develops programs of medical and humanitarian assistance and organizes volunteers in collaboration with the Sovereign Order of Malta.

During its seven years of existence the Institute has sponsored and co-edited the following publications:

- *La Orden de Malta, la mar y la armada*. X Jornadas de Historia Marítima. Madrid, 1994.
- *Libro de Privilegios de la Orden de San Juan de Jerusalén en Castilla y León (Siglos XI-XV)* by Carlos de Ayala (comp.). Madrid, 1995. This book is the critical edition of the famous Libro Becerro of Consuegra, a unique manuscript codex that disappeared during the sack of the Castle of Consuegra by the French invaders in 1809. Fortunately the codex was found in the collections of the Museum of St. John in Clerkenwell, which authorized this study and edition.
- *Historia Resumida de la Orden de Malta*, by Carlos Morenés y Mariátegui. Madrid, 1995.
- *La Encomienda Hospitalaria de Mallén durante la Edad Media (Siglos XII a XV)* by Carlos Barquero Goñi. Borja, 1996.
- *Relaciones del Castellán de Amposta con la Encomienda Hospitalaria de Mallén durante la Edad Media*, by Carlos Barquero Goñi. Borja, 1998.
- *Alberite de San Juan. Patrimonio artístico religioso*, by P. L. Hernando Sebastián and J. C. Sancho Bas. Zaragoza, 1999.
- *Estatutos antiguos de la Orden de San Juan de Jerusalén* (Códice Navarro, AHN

Madrid. 1314) by R. Cierbide Martinena. Pamplan, 1999.

- *Il Jornadas de la Orden de San Juan*. Ciudad Real, 2000.

ICOMAL has created a database of books, pamphlets and printed documents referring to the Order of Malta that contains 3550 entries. Furthermore it has a photographic archive of the Order with more than 600 photographs. One of its functions is to advise both Spanish and foreign researchers.

ICOMAL has organized several congresses and journals of studies and awards an annual prize for research about the Order. It has promoted important restorations of Hospitaler monuments, such as the frescos and altar pieces of the Churches of Portomarín in Lugo and of San Miguel in Ambel (Zaragoza), the important structure of San Juan del Hospital in Valencia and the monastery of Sijena in Aragón.

In its humanitarian work, ICOMAL has developed nutritional programs to help different African hospitals and participates in the Programa de Cooperación Renal Iberoamericana, taking care of the transport of hemodialysis monitors to Latin American countries. The cultural programs as well as the humanitarian efforts are carried out in close union with the Spanish Assembly of the Order of Malta.

Contact Information:

Instituto Complutense de la Orden de Malta
Finca Más Ferré
Campus de Somosaguas
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
28223 Pozuelo (Madrid)
E-mail: CBOR49@terra.es (Subdirector)
coa@inicia.es (Director).

[Submitted by] Carlos Morenés,
Marqués de Borghetto
Knight Grand Cross of Honor and
Devotion of the SMOM
Subdirector, ICOMAL

[Translated by Theresa Vann]

Treasures from Malta
(1 October - 1 December 2000)



Maltese women wearing *faldettas* and a Maltese dog, from Louis de Boisgelin, *Ancient and Modern Malta*. 2 volumes (London, 1805).



Taking of the Bequicogia galleys of the Order, 16 January 1647. (Watercolor in the collection of the Malta Study Center.)

The Malta Study Center is one of the few libraries in the United States that actively collects books and other works on paper pertaining to the history of Malta and of the Knights of Malta. Recently, the Center displayed some of its treasures as part of the Malta Day celebrations at HMML. Exhibit highlights included:

- An album of eleven original water colors showing the Order of St. John's fleet in action against the ships of the Ottoman Turks (artist unknown; events depicted 1647-1736).
- Louis de Boisgelin, *Ancient and Modern Malta*. 2 volumes (London, 1805). Boisgelin, a knight of the Order who lived on Malta until Napoleon captured the island in 1798, wrote this profusely illustrated two-volume description of the island, its people, and its antiquities.
- Burchardo Niderstedt, *Malta vetus et nova (Malta old and new)*. (Helmstedt, 1660). This volume, one of the recent acquisitions of the Malta Study Center, is an early written description of the island of Malta.
- Circular Edict of the Roman Inquisition on Malta (Malta, 1785). The Maltese Inquisitor ordered all religious superiors on the islands of Malta and Gozo to submit to his Tribunal a detailed report on the legacies and pious dispositions made by the faithful in favor of religious entities.
- Guillelmus Caoursin, *Descriptio obsidione Rhodiae* (Venice, Erhard Ratdolt, 1480). The Center recently acquired this first-person account of the Ottoman siege of the Knights on Rhodes in 1480. See the companion article in this newsletter for more information.

Portions of the exhibit can be viewed online at:

www.hmml.org/events/Exhibit2000/treasures.html

Recent Acquisitions

P. Brune, *Histoire de l'Ordre Hospitalier du Saint-Esprit*. Paris, 1892.

Alan Friedlander, *The Hammer of the Inquisitors*. Leiden, 2000.

Eric Puddy, *A History of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in Norfolk*. Dereham, Norfolk, 1961.

G. Wettinger/ M. Fsadni. *L-Ghanja ta' Pietru Caxaru. Poezija bil-Malti Medjevali*. Malta, 1983 (Critical study of the oldest surviving poem written in Maltese).

Ph.D. Thesis Received

Lisa Diane Collamore, *Aquitainian Collections of Office Chants: A Comparative Survey*. Catholic University of America, 2000. (Collection: Mdina, Malta, Cathedral Museum, A and B)

Mark Stephen Dupuy, *Ships, Souls, and the Administration of the Knights of St. John in the Fourteenth Century*. Louisiana State University, 2000. (Collection: Archives of the Knights of Malta, *Liber bullarum*.)

Publications Received

Butler, Lionel Harry. *The Siege of Rhodes, 1480*. (London, n.d.). Gift of the Museum and Library of the Order of St. John, Clerkenwell.

Maria Starnawska, *Między Jerozolimą a Łukowem. Zakony krzyżowe na ziemiach polskich w średniowieczu*. Warszawa, 1999. Gift of the author

Maria Starnawska, "Formularz-Epistolariusz Joannitów Strzegomskich z Końca xv Wieku," in *Aetos media. Aetos moderna*. (Warszawa, 2000). Offprint.

Maria Starnawska, "Pięczęie Zakonów Krzyżowych na Ziemiach

Polskich w Średniowieczu Jako Źródło do ich Dziejów Perspektywy Badawcze," in *Pięczęć w Polsce Średniowiecznej i Nowożytnej*, ed. Piotra Dymmela (Lublin 1998). Offprint

Maria Starnawska, "Rola Polskich Zakonów Krzyżowych w Ruchu Pielgrzymkowym," *Poznańskie Towarzystwo rzyjaciół Nauk* 110 (1992): 109-115. Offprint

Maria Starnawska, "Die mittelalterliche Bibliothek der Johanniter in Breslau," *Ordines Militares Colloquia Torunensia Historica* 7 (1993): 241-52. Offprint.

Maria Starnawska, "Crusade Orders on Polish Lands during the Middle Ages. Adaption in a Peripheral Environment," *Quaestiones Medii Aevi Novae* 2 (1997): 121-42.

You Can Help Our Mission

As a privately endowed, independent research library and cultural center, HMML depends on the support of library patrons to maintain and advance the Malta Study Center. We invite your support of our work to preserve the legacy of the Maltese archives by making a gift to the Malta Study Center Annual Fund, by establishing or augmenting a memorial book fund, or through direct capital gifts to the Center. Your investment will ensure the development of a growing network of financial support for the programs and activities of the Malta Study Center. In addition to a cash gift, planned gifts involving securities, trusts or real property offer you the opportunity to establish a lasting endowment in support of the Malta Study Center. At the same time you will enhance your own financial well-being through distinct tax advantages. For more information about gifting options that are most convenient or appropriate for you, please contact the HMML Development Office at (320) 363-2095.



THE MALTA STUDY CENTER
THE HILL MONASTIC MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
Box 7300
Collegeville, Minnesota 56321

(320) 363-3514
www.hmml.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAINT JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

SPRING AND SUMMER 2001

*Guillaume Caoursin,
The Siege of Rhodes*

*Friends of the Center
Celebrate Malta Day*

*Chronicle of the Malta
Study Center*

*Collection Spotlight:
Music Collection, Mdina*

*Research Centers:
Istituto Complutense de
la Orden de Malta*

Fall Exhibit

Bibliography