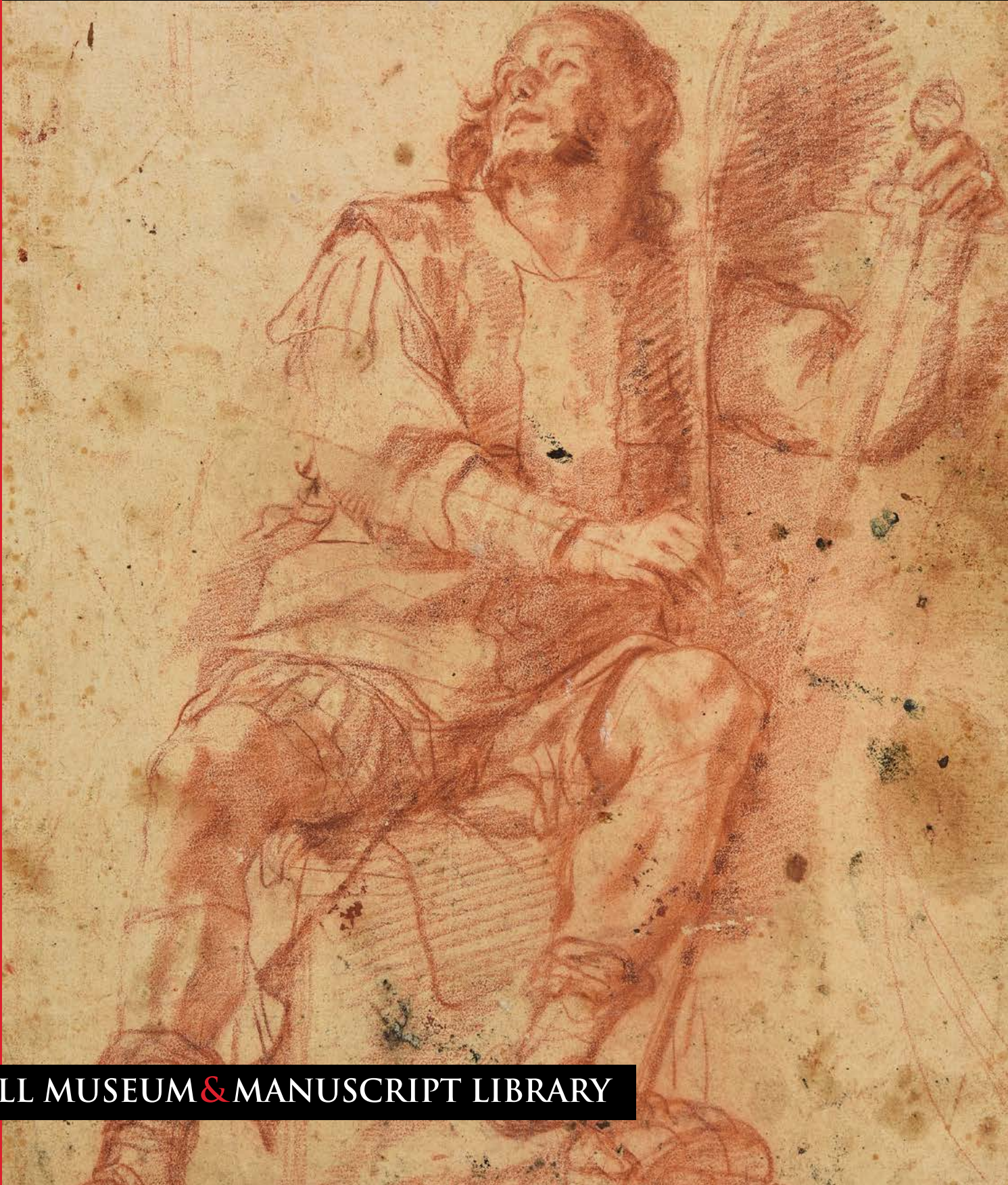


MELITENSIA

Spring 2018

A Newsletter of the Malta Study Center



HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY



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

Dear Melitensians,

As we expand our digital preservation beyond the major state and ecclesiastical collections in Malta, we are finding smaller archives that narrate the complex history of the Maltese archipelago. New discoveries are found each visit, including previously unknown manuscripts unfolding the history of the late medieval and early modern Mediterranean.

The end of 2017 brought two developments to the Malta Study Center's digitization projects in Malta. We completed the digitization of the Archivum de Piro at the Casa Rocca Piccola in Valletta, a project done in collaboration with the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti. Over 100 archival boxes and 300 manuscripts were digitized, becoming the second largest digitization project completed by the Center. As this project ended, the Gladys Kriebler Delmas Foundation funded a new project with Heritage Malta at MUŻA - Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti.

In February 2018, Joseph S. Micallef, the founder of the Malta Study Center, and I visited Malta to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Cathedral Archives. Dun Gwann Azzopardi and Mr. Mario Gauci of the Cathedral Archives were exceptionally supportive of the Center's participation in the conference. We also met several other friends in Malta. I am grateful to Mr. Joseph Grioli and Mr. Michael Lowell of the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti for their hospitality during our stay in Valletta. Thanks go to Dr. Charles Farrugia of the National Archives of Malta for meeting us in Rabat, and also to Mr. Noel Zammit and Dr. Joseph Buttigieg of Heritage Malta for hosting us at the Museum of Archeology in Valletta.

I want to thank the Friends of the Malta Study Center (the Center's advisory group) for their continued support during the Center's very productive year at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Sincerely,

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



Above: Dr. Daniel K. Gullo and Ms. Cláudia Garradas collecting metadata at Heritage Malta, Kalkara, Malta.

*On the cover: Mattia Preti, "Drawing of a Cavaliere di Malta."
17th-century drawing on paper. HMML project number HMZA 00028.*

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Where We're Working: MUŻA - Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti

In partnership with Heritage Malta, the Malta Study Center completed a five-month project to digitize the manuscripts, drawings, and map collections at MUŻA - Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti (Malta National Community Art Museum) between November 2017 and March 2018.

Over 1500 individual objects were digitized, including the Great Siege maps by the Italian printer Giovanni Francesco Camocio, which were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in January 2018. In addition to these priceless maps, MUŻA maintains a significant collection of manuscripts from the period of the French Occupation of Malta between 1798 and 1800, while possessing several medieval manuscript fragments and invaluable drawings by Italian masters.

Close collaboration between the Center's technicians and Heritage Malta's curators proved essential to the project due to the size of some of the objects and complexity of the collection. The Center's photographers constructed a specialized studio to capture the large maps of the Albert Ganado Collection, while Cláudia Garradas, site director of the Malta Study Center, worked with Heritage Malta's curators to provide preliminary metadata for the uncataloged parts of the manuscript collection.

The digitization project provided an unprecedented opportunity for the Center to help MUŻA digitize its maps, manuscripts and drawings as it prepares to return to its home at the famed Auberge d'Italie in Valletta, where the first Malta Museum opened in 1924.

The project was funded by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, which promotes the advancement and perpetuation of humanistic inquiry by supporting research libraries and other institutions that transmit the world's cultural heritage.



Above: "David Playing the Harp to King Saul." 17th-century drawing on paper. Copy after a painting by Mattia Preti. HMML project number HMZA 00021.



Above: "Heraldry Giovanni Francesco Camocio, *Disegno del Porto di Malta* (Venice: [1565]). Printed book on paper. HMML project number HMZA 00688.

Left: "Stemmi de Priori Gerosolimitani in Malta." 18th-century manuscript on paper. HMML project number HMZA 01262.

Joseph S. Micallef Attends 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Cathedral Archives in Mdina

Founder of the Malta Study Center and Honorary Consul General of Malta in Saint Paul/Minneapolis, Joseph S. Micallef, KMOB, UOM, was in Malta to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Cathedral Archives. While there, Mr. Micallef provided the opening remarks at the conference *Ecclesiastical Archives in Malta: Crossroads of Cultures and Religion, 1968-2018* held at the Chapter Hall of the Cathedral Church in Mdina on February 17, 2018. The one-day conference featured several papers by leading archivists and scholars on the history of ecclesiastical archives in Malta. Dun Gwann Azzopardi and others presented papers that recalled the collaboration between the Cathedral Archives and the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library dating back to the Malta Manuscript Microfilm Project begun in 1973.

During his stay in Malta, Mr. Micallef visited several of the Center's partners, including the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, Heritage Malta, Casa Rocca Piccola, National Library of Malta and National Archives of Malta. While visiting the National Archives in Rabat, Mr. Micallef was interviewed for the national project, MEMORJA - Oral, Sound and Visual Archive to provide an oral history of his work with HMML and Malta dating back to the 1970s. The MEMORJA project is the national depositor of community memory, sound and oral traditions.



Above: Ms. Cláudia Garradas, Mr. Joseph S. Micallef and Monsignor Gwann Azzopardi at the Ecclesiastical Archives in Malta: Crossroads of Cultures and Religion conference.



Above: Mr. Noel Zammit, Mr. Joseph S. Micallef, Dr. Joseph Buttigieg and Dr. Daniel K. Gullo at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

Left: Dr. Charles Farrugia and Mr. Joseph S. Micallef at the National Archives Head Office at Santo Spirito in Rabat.

Valletta Exhibition Held at the Embassy of Malta

In celebration of Valletta as the 2018 European Capital of Culture, the Malta Study Center organized the photographic exhibition *Valletta belt u poplu/Valletta city and people* by photographer Stephen Busuttill at the Embassy of Malta in Washington, D.C. The exhibition opened on the European Union Delegation to the United States EU Open House Day on May 12 and was available through May 25 as part of the EU Delegation's European Month of Culture celebration. Over 4,000 visitors viewed the exhibition.

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



Above: Xarabanks (buses) and businessman near Triton Fountain, photograph by Stephen Busuttill, 2008.



Above: Stephen Busuttill, photographer.

Mr. Busuttill's study revealed the rapid changes the city has undergone since joining the European Union. Photographs of festivals from 2008 and 2018 show the continuing importance of traditions particular to the Catholic heritage of the Maltese islands, including the feasts of saints and carnivals. Scenes of street life in Valletta, however, show the influence of globalization and the increasing role that tourism has played in organizing the daily life and business of the city over the last decade.

Valletta belt u poplu was a project endorsed by the Valletta 2018 Foundation.



Above: The new Parliament of Malta, photograph by Stephen Busuttill, 2018.

Curator and HMML Catalogers Win ARLD Award

Dr. Daniel K. Gullo, Ms. Eileen Smith and Dr. David Calabro were the recipients of the 2018 Minnesota Academic Innovators Award. This award recognizes academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to advance the missions of academic libraries in Minnesota through innovative projects, programs, or services. Since August 2016, Gullo, Smith and Calabro have developed a method to create new authorities for underrepresented communities not commonly found in the authority records established by the Library of Congress and Virtual International Authority File. The authority file provides authoritative data for names of persons, organizations, events, places and titles. Its purpose is to identify the file entered and provide uniform access to the bibliographic resources. The award is sponsored by the Academic & Research Libraries Division of the Minnesota Library Association and is also the Association of College and Research Libraries chapter in Minnesota.



Above: Dr. David Calabro, Ms. Eileen Smith, and Dr. Daniel K. Gullo receiving the Minnesota Academic Innovators Award at ARLD Day 2018.

Site Director Speaks at the National Archives of Malta



Above: Ms. Cláudia Garradas being introduced by Dr. Charles Farrugia at the National Archives Home Office at Santo Spirito, Rabat.

In April, Ms. Cláudia Garradas presented the paper “Metadata, Digitization, and vHMML Reading Room” to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Archives held at the National Archives of Malta’s main office at Santo Spirito, Rabat. Her paper described the cataloging initiatives of the Center and its special attention to creating authority files for Maltese composers and writers. The discussion traced the Center’s work from the collection of preliminary metadata in Malta through the full cataloging of a record at HMML. The Friends of the National Archives of Malta (FNAM) is a voluntary organization that assists the National Archives’ mission to preserve Maltese history and raise awareness of the archives. From 2007-2015, the FNAM partnered with the Center to digitize the 1411 volumes of the Magna Curia Castellaniae Acta Originalia fonds among several other collections at the National Archives of Malta.

News and Events from the Malta Study Center

Malta Study Center Participates in Exhibition in Florence, Italy

In support of the yearlong celebration of Valletta as the 2018 European Capital of Culture, the Malta Study Center contributed to the exhibition *Valletta, Capitale d'Europa* at the Palazzo Vecchio (Florence, Italy) from March 22 to May 10, 2018. The exhibition was organized by MUŻA, the Maltese Embassy in Rome, the Comune di Firenze, the Malta Map Society and the Valletta 2018 - European Capital of Culture Foundation. Curated by Dr. Sandro Debono, the exhibition presented the story of Valletta through a selection of maps and visuals displayed in three chapters and a 17th-century map of the Mediterranean featured in the Hall of Geographical Maps at the Palazzo Vecchio. The exhibition included the Great Siege maps by the Italian printer Giovanni Francesco Camocio, which were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in January 2018.



Above: Johannes Janssonius, "Valletta Civitas Nova Maltae olim Militae" in *Theatrum celebriorum urbium Italiae, aliarumque in Insulis Maris Mediterranei*. (Amsterdam: Ex Officina Joannis Janssonii, 1657). Printed on paper. HMML project number HMZA 00969.

Malta Study Center Sponsors Sessions at the Renaissance Society of America Conference

The Malta Study Center sponsored two sessions at the Renaissance Society of America's annual conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 22-24, 2018. The sessions were devoted to the historical problems of law and society in pre-modern Europe. The first session focused on "Law and Custom in the Early Modern Mediterranean" and featured papers by Drs. Claire Gilbert of Saint Louis University, Guillaume Calafat of the University of Paris, and Daniel K. Gullo of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. The second session, "Law, Peace, and Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe," included papers by Drs. Susan Longfield Karr of the University of Cincinnati and Sean Dunwoody of Binghamton University SUNY.

Curator interviewed on Malta University Broadcast Campus FM 103.7

In December, Liam Gauci, Curator of the Malta Maritime Museum, and Dr. Emanuel Buttigieg of the University of Malta interviewed Dr. Daniel K. Gullo for their weekly broadcast *Is-Sengha ta' l-istorja/Perspectives on the Craft of History*, which is aired on the University of Malta's Campus FM 103.7. The 30-minute broadcast discussed topics such as the nature of history, the problems of modern historiography, and the concerns and issues confronted by historians who enter the curatorial profession. The discussion also included questions about how curators shape history through their acquisitions and exhibitions, which is of particular importance to the Center as it carefully determines which collections to digitize in Malta. The broadcast, in English and Maltese, was replayed in March of 2018.



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Friends of The Malta Study Center

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

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