

CARMEL G. BONA VIA  
MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI  
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. BOOKS BY M.A. VASSALLI

*Alfabeto Maltese*, (s.n.; s.l.; ca 1790) size, 23.0 x 16.5cm, p. 8.

Attributed to M.A. Vassalli. A study of the texture of paper, letters and symbols proposed and the "Dialogo tra il Maestro e il Discepolo" indicate this assertion.

AQUILINA, J., *Papers in Maltese Linguistics* (1961) p 85.

BONA VIA, C., *Bibliography of Maltese Textbooks* (1979), p 20.

CASSAR PULLICINO, J., *Kliem bejn Tnejn*, "Mis-Sillabu" Vol. 1 No. 6 pp. 117-118; No. 7 p. 121.

*Alfabet Malti Mfysser Byl Malti u Byt-Taljan = Alfabeto Maltesl6moe Spiegato in Lingua Maltese e Italiana*, Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1790. sizes 16mo / 8vo; p 24, two impressions.

A study into the production and printing of this booklet reveals that:

(i) it was printed as sheet work on three sheets (surely not smaller than 43x29.5cm) from 6 formes of 4 pages each (forme signatures are numbered from A1 to A6). As the printed area measured only 15.5 x 8.3cm the wide irregular margin was to be trimmed accordingly, perhaps to Medium 16mo. (15 x 11cm).

(ii) Copies examined at the Malta National Library and University Library reveal very irregular trimming, giving sizes from 21.5 x 14.25cm to 16.5 x 11.5cm.

(iii) That some copies were circulated I think soon after printing, perhaps not even trimmed.

(iv) In the meantime, eleven mistakes were detected. Since only a few copies were in book form, it was decided to print the *Errata-Corrige* in the blank space on page 24. This was done by printing the unfolded page A1 which included the title page, p 4, p 21 and p 24. This is the only explanation I can give for the fact that p 24 on some copies have the *Errata-Corrige* and others not. On the other hand this leads one to say that there was not a second edition but only a corrected impression.

*Mylsen Phoenico-Punicum sive Grammatica Melitensis*. Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1791, size 22x14cm, p 236, 8 unnumbered + 4p index.

*Tria monumenta lapidea sepulcralia Kufico-Arabica-Sicula characteribus Kufico-Arabicis utrinque insculpta Panormi in domo D.ni Antonini Magnasco Septembris superioris an. MDCCXCII inventa et in publicam Excellentissimi Senatus Panormitani Bibliothecam Translata Descripsit in hodiernum characterum Arabicum Neski vulgo dictum Reddidit et Interpretatus est Michael Antonius Vassalli Meliten, OR. LL. Prof.*, Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1793, size 23 x 16cm, p. 8.

It is interesting to note that Vassalli here called himself Professor of Oriental Languages. Perhaps he was teaching these languages in Rome at the time.

*Ktyb yl Klym Malti 'Mfysser Byl-Latin u Byt-Taljan sive Liber Dictionum Melitensium, hoc est Michaelis Antonii Vassalli Lexicon Melitense Latino - Italum=Vocabolario Maltese Recato nelle lingue Latina e Italiana*. Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1796. size 29 x 21cm, p. xlv+681 columns (341 pages) + 2 Errata & Omissa.

*Recherces Historiques et Politiques sur Malte, Par \*\*\**. Paris, C.F. Cramer, AN VII (1798), size 20.2 x 12cm, p 127 + 2 plates & 1 map.

Attributed to MAV, if not in whole but certainly in the major part.

BONELLO, Giov., "A mysterious book by M.A. Vassalli" in "Sunday Times" 6.09.1992, p 25.

GANADO, A., "Another clue to Vassalli's authorship" in "Sunday Times" 27.09.1992, p.43.

BLONDY, Alain M., "More about the 'Recherches historique et politiques sur Malte'" in "Sunday Times", 10.01.1993, p 24.

*Instruction abrégée sur la culture du coton, d'après lea Expériencea réitéréea faitea par Michel-Antoine VASSALLI, Agent du Gouvernement, Chargé de la dite culture*. Salon, Département des Bouches-du-Rhône, 1809, size 19 x 14cm, p 8.

CASSAR PULLICINO, G., "Two unknown writings by M.A. Vassalli" in "Melita Historica" Vol X No 3 (1990), pp 293-314.

*Grammatica della Lingua Maltese di Michelantonio Vassalli. Seconda Edizione, scritta in italiano, molto accresciuta, ed in miglior ordine ridotta dal medesimo*. Malta, The author, 1827, size 20.5 x 12.5cm, p. vii + 147.

Although the title states "Seconda edizione", it is the first edition of this grammar. Vassalli regarded the *Mylsen* of 1791 as the first edition.

*Motti, Aforismi e Proverbii Maltesi, raccolti, interpretati e di note esplicative e filologiche corredati da Michelantonio Vassalli*, Malta, The author, 1828, size 20x13cm, p. vii + 92, 1 Errata.

*Quatuor Evangelia et Actus Apostolorum juxta Vulgatam Romae A.D. M.D.XCII Editam: necnon eorundem Versio Melitensis*, London, R. Watts, 1829, size 22 x 14cm, p. 280.

Published after Vassalli's death. Although anonymous, documents show that Vassalli worked on this translation up to a few months before his death.

*Storja tas-Sultan Ciru mehuda myr-Rollin*, Malta, (s.n.), 1831, size 15.5 x 9.5cm, p 123+3 unnumbered.

This is a translation of Charles Rollin "Histoire de Cyrus" printed and published in Paris in 1740.

II. OTHER PUBLICATIONS BY VASSALLI

*Stedina*, Malta, (s.n.), 1841. p. 4.

This is the only example of prose written by Vassalli. It was published 12 years after his death by G. Percy Badger in *A letter on the eligibility of the Maltese dialect as a written medium of instruction in the Government Primary schools addressed to His Excellency Sir H.F. Bouverie*, Malta, (s.n.) 1841. *Stedina* appears on pages 12-16.

*Associazione al Dizionario Maltese-Italiano-Latino*, Malta, Stamperia del Palazzo di S.A.E., (the author), 1792.

A one page handbill (folio size) giving publicity and asking for subscription to the *Lexicon*. The author is qualified as "Abate Michelantonio Vassalli".

Facsimile and text published by D. Fenech in *Vassalli u Kitbietu* (1977) pp 54 - 60.

*Avviso dell'Autore*, Rome (s.n.), c1796 size 28x20cm.

This notice, probably printed in Rome in about 1796, was circulated to subscribers to the *Lexicon*. Vassalli explained his new plan in publishing the *Lexicon* in three parts in two sexto size volumes. The cost was unaltered, as announced in the *Associazione* i.e. 5 Maltese scudi.

Correction to *Avviso dell'Autore*. size 7.5x8.5cm (Printed on a larger paper but trimmed to fit text)

Soon Vassalli realised that he could not keep the cost of the *Lexicon* as advertised. The original notice was emended by re-printing the last eight lines. The new price would be one scudo more, to subscribers the cost was to be 5 scudi for the *Lexicon* and 2 and one half scudi for the *Appendix*. The correction seems to be printed at the Stamperia del Palazzo. It was pasted on the last paragraph of the *AVVISO*. It was signed "Mich. Ant. Vassalli" leaving out the word "Abate". Copies of the *Lexicon* are known to have this correction handwritten and signed by Vassalli himself.

### III. BOOK BY M.A. VASSALLI'S SON

VASSALLI FORMOSA DE FREMAUX, Michael Antonio

*Suggestions in accordance with Mr. Amabile Bonello's project of emigration in the coasts of North Africa* by Mr. M.A. Vassalli Formose de Fremaux.\* Malta (s.n.), 1867, size 21×14cm, pp 20.

\*This is how it appears on title page and signature on p 24.

### IV. UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL ON VASSALLI

*University Library, Malta.*

*Miscellanea Vassalli*, Melitensia Ms. 222. Notes and other material collected by A. Cremona and forms the basis of his book "*Vassalli u Żminijietu*" (1937)

BUSUTTIL, Felix, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli's Contribution towards Educational Advancements in the Maltese Islands.*

B. Educ Thesis – 1953.

FENECH, Dwardu, *Vassalli u l-"Appendici Etimologiku" tieghu.*

B. A. (Hons) Maltese Thesis – 1960.

FENECH, Edward, *A Comparative Linguistic study in the translations of the Gospel according to Saint John in Maltese and Arabic.* 1969.

MIFSUD, Franz, *Studju komparattiv ta' l-ideat lingwistiki u letterarji ta' M.A. Vassalli u, A.E. Caruana fl-isfond ta' l-istorja ta' l-Ilsien Malti.*

M.A. Maltese Thesis – 1979.

PACE, Pawlu, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli u l-industrija tal-qoton b'zieda ta' tixbih mat-terminologija fid-Dizzjunarji ta' De Soldanis, Falzon u Caruana.*

B. A. (Hons) Maltese – 1968.

SAMMUT, Arthur, *Studji fuq il-Grammatici.*

B. A. (Hons) Maltese – 1968.

History Projects prepared by students at St. Michael's Training College for Teachers.

AGUIS, R.C., *Mikiel Anton Vassalli – 1964/66* p 61.

GATT, M., *Vassalli Missier il-Maltin.*

GUISTI, P., *Mikiel Anton Vassalli – 1963/65* p 35.

GRECH, Joseph., *Il-hidma ta' Mikiel Anton Vassalli fil-kamp edukattiv Malti. – 1955/57* pp 28.

Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli.

Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Tesi di Laurea.

CASTROGIOVANNI, Guiseppe, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli: Letterato e Patriota Maltese (1764–1829).*

Anno Accademico 1986–87, pp 166.

### V. BOOKS ABOUT VASSALLI

CREMONA, Anton, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli u Żminijietu – Bijografija.* Malta, Empire Press, 1937, p 101, illus.

This is a re-print of a series of 19 instalments appearing in "*Il-Malti*" between June 1932 and June 1937.

*Mikiel Anton Vassalli u żminijietu.* Malta, Klabb Kotba Maltin, 1975, p 140.

Second edition of the 1937 one, with corrected and up-dated notes in the English translation by May Butcher; edited by Oliver Friggieri.

*Vassalli and his times – a biography* (translated by May Butcher from the revised and amended Maltese text). Malta, Giovanni Muscat, 1940, p viii + 228, illus.

FENECH, Dwardu, *Vassalli u kitbietu.* Malta, Provincja Agostinjana Maltija, 1977, p 188, illus.

CASSAR, Paul, *It-Tfittxija għal Mikiel Anton Vassalli.* Malta, Ministeru ta' l-Edukazzjoni, 1981, p 65, illus.

*The Quest for Mikiel Anton Vassalli.* Malta, Ministry of Education, 1981, p 65, illus.

CACHIA, Lawrence, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli: ħajtu fil-qosor.* Malta, The author, 1988. p 51, illus.

### VI. ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

AZZOPARDI, Ġwann, *5 Dokumenti godda fuq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, "Saghtar" Ghadd* 62 (Marzu 1979), pp 16–20.

BLONDY, Alain, *More about the "Recherches historiques et politiques sur Malte"*, "Sunday Times," 10 January, 1993, p 24.

BONAVIA, Carmel G., *M.A. Vassalli's Commercial Activity*, "Sunday Times", 30 October, 1988 p 35; "Sunday Times", 6 November, 1988 p 12.

BONELLO, Giovanni, *Maltese in Spain during Napoleonic Age*, "Malta Philatelic Society Magazine", Vol 19 N. 3 (December 1990), pp 5–20.

*A mysterious book by Mikiel Anton Vassalli?* "Sunday Times", 6 September, 1992, p 25.

CASSAR PULLICINO, Joseph, *M.A. Vassalli – 1798–99.* "Sunday Times", 21 February, 1982; p 15, 28 February, 1982, p. 15; 7 March, 1982, p 17.

*"Kliem bejn tnejn" – Kitba mhux maghrufa ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Mis-Sillabu", Vol 1 (1985) N. 6, pp 117–118; Vol 1 N., p. 121.

*The English cemeteries adjoining the Quarantine Harbour: an early 19th century description (1827)* "Sunday Times", 10 May, 1987, pp 6–7.

*Two unknown writings by M.A. Vassalli*, "Melita Historica" Vol X N. 3 (1990) pp 293–314.

*Vassalli's second son. Arab hospitality; a pretended robbery?* "Sunday Times", 18 October, 1992, p 41.

CIAPPARA, Frans, *M.A. Vassalli wins a prize for Arabic* "Sunday Times", 19 June, 1983, p 12.

*The school of Arabic in Malta (1772–1795)*, "Sunday Times", 3 July, 1983, p 9.

*M.A. Vassalli's sacred patrimony* "Sunday Times", 2 March, 1985, p 21.

*M.A. Vassalli studied for the priesthood*, "Sunday Times", 9, March, 1985, p. 19

*M.A. Vassalli in the correspondence of Inquisitor Carpegna*, "Sunday Chronicle", 2 October, 1988, pp 5, 8.

*Mikiel Anton Vassalli: a preliminary survey*, "Melita Historica" Vol X N. 2 (1989) pp 145–156.

- Vassalli's step-father in prison, "Hyphen" Vol VI N. 6 (1991), pp 237–241.
- Mikiel Anton Vassalli: his children and Protestantism, "Sunday Times", 27 September, 1992. p 43.
- DE SACY, Silvestre, *Grammatica della lingua maltese di Michael Antonio Vassalli – seconda edizione; Motti, aforismi e proverbi maltesi, raccolti, interpretati da M.A. Vassalli*, "Journal Des Savans", Avril 1829, pp 195 – 204.
- DESSOULAVY, C.L., *Michael Anton Vassalli and the Vella case*, "Journal of the Royal University of Malta Literary Society", Vol 2, N.8 & 9 (March 1936), pp 404–407.
- FENECH, Dwardu, *Manifest ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "In-Nazzjon Taghna", 3 ta' Mejju, 1974, p. 11.
- FRIGGIERI, Oliver, *Tislima lil Vassalli*, "Saghtar" Ghadd 60 (Jannar 1979), p 32.
- "Saghtar" isellem lil Vassalli f'gheluq il-150 sena minn mewtu 1829–1979. "Saghtar" Ghadd 62 (Marzu 1979), pp. 9, 28, 29, 32.
- Ic-*curkett ta' Vassalli*. "Saghtar" Ghadd 96 (Mejju 1983), p 2–3.
- It-missil ta' kuxjenza Nazzjonali Maltija*. "Lehen is-Sewwa", 11 ta' Frar 1984, p 7; 18 ta' Frar 1984, p 8; 25 ta' Frar 1984, p 8.
- GANADO, Albert, *Another clue to Vassalli's authorship of 'Recherches'*. "Sunday Times", 27 September, 1992, p 43.
- GRIMA, Joseph J., *Vassalli's plan for primary education in Malta*. "The Democrat", 15 April, 1989, p 11.
- KIRKPATRICK, R.G., *Vassalli's burial place*. "Sunday Times", 14 December, 1986, p 35.
- MIFSUD, Franz, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli – Bniedem ta' Qabel zmienu*, "Liċeo Vassalli", July, 1989, pp 15 – 18.
- PARIS, Tancred, *The father of Maltese Literature*, "Journal of the University of Malta Literary Society", Vol 1 N. 8 (October, 1933) pp 387–390.
- SANT, Karm, *Wahda mill-ahhar ittri ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Sijon" Vol 6 N. 4 (Xitwa 1973), pp 95 – 96a + ii.
- Vassalli's autographed letter*, "Sunday Times of Malta", 17 February, 1974, p 13.
- Rev W. Jowett u M.A. Vassalli*, "Sijon", Vol 7 N. 3–4 (1975), pp 83–88.
- Vassalli and the Church*, "Sunday Times", 12 August, 1979, p 17.
- Tagħrif gdid fuq M.A. Vassalli: Dr Cleardo Naudi u Giuseppe Cannolo*, "Lehen il-Malti", Ghadd 22 (1980) pp 5, 6.
- M.A. Vassalli's sojourn in Rome (1788 – 1790)*. "Sunday Times", 3 April, 1983, p 9.
- Historical errors on Vassalli*, "Sunday Times", 8 December, 1985, p 18.
- Vassalli's burial place*, "Sunday Times", 23 November, 1986, p 17.
- SERRACINO INGLOTT, Erin, *Vassalli's "Lexicon"*, "Sunday Times", 13 December, 1981, p iv.
- Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764–1829)* (Erin Serracino Inglott intervistat minn Alfred Massa). "Il-*Hajja*", 5 ta' Marzu 1982, pp 4, 7.
- SPADONI, Domenico, *Maltesi nell'Ateneo Romano dalla fine del '600 alla metà del '800*, "Archivio Storico di Malta", Anno XII, Fasc 1 (Nuova Serie) Gennaio–Aprile 1941, pp 69–74.
- "UNDOGMATIC" *Vassalli's escape from prison*, "Sunday Times", 4 January, 1987, p 17.
- ZARB, Seraphin M., *Gabriel Fabricy O.P. u M.A. Vassalli*, "Il-Malti", It-tieni Ktieb tas-Seba' Sena (Ġunju 1931), pp 43 – 45.

## VII. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PRESS

- AQUILINA, Joseph, *Vassalli's Face*, "Sunday Times", 28 September, 1986, p 18.
- Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764–1829)*, "Times of Malta", 30 August, 1977, p 5.
- M.A. Vassalli (1764–1829): a scholar and a patriot*, "Sunday Times", 5 August, 1979, p 13.
- AZZOPARDI, Ġwann S.J., *X'wettaq Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764–1828)* "Il-Mument", 26 ta' Jannar, 1989, p. 17.
- BONAVIA, Karm, *F'gheluq il-200 sena mit-twelid ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Il-*Haddiem*", 29 ta' Diċembru, 1964, pp 5, 8.
- BONNICI, Alessandru, *Iż-żwieġ irregolari ta' Vassalli*, "Lehen is-Sewwa", 18 ta' Awissu, 1979, p7.
- CACHIA, Lawrenz, *Vassalli: 225 sena*, "Il-Mument", 1 ta' Jannar, 1989, p 7.
- M.A.V.: Missier l-isien Malti; minsi minn uliedu*, "It-Torċa", 5 ta' Marzu, 1989, pp 16, 17.
- Vassalli Anniversary*, "Sunday Times", 15 January, 1989, p 16.
- Vassalli: karattru kumpless*, "Il-*Gens*", 13 ta' Jannar, 1989, p 14.
- 200 sena ilu: Il-Grammatka ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "In-Nazzjon Taghna", 21 ta' Marzu, 1991, p 15.
- CASSAR PULLICINO, Ġuzè, *Vassalli's figure and ideals in the eyes of students during the 30s*, ("Meeting People" by J. Aquilina) "Sunday Times", 29 May, 1983, pp 20, 21.
- COSTA, M., *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "It-Torċa", 19 ta' Awissu, 1973, p 22.
- CUTAJAR, Dominic, *The political ideas of M.A. Vassalli*, "The Times", 6 August, 1986, pp 6, 7.
- DECELIS, Catherine, *L-Ideat soċjali ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Analizi" Vol 1 N. 2 (Diċ. 1987–Jan. 1988), pp 3, 4.
- DIMECH DEBONO, Ġuzè, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli: F'gheluq il-mitejn sena ta' twelidu (1764–1964)*, "Il-Malti" it-Tieni Ktieb ta' 1-40 sena (Sett. 1964), pp 77, 78.
- ELLUL GALEA, Karmenu, *Tishih il-holma ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Il-*Hajja*", 13 ta' Diċembru, 1986, p 7.
- FENECH, Dwardu, *Dwar Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Il-*Hajja*", 19 ta' Marzu, 1982, p 6.
- F'gheluq il-150 sena mill-mewt ta' M.A. Vassalli*, "Pronostku Malti" 1980, pp 119 – 123.
- FRIGGIERI, Oliver, *It-twelid tan-nazzjonalizmu Malti*, "Lehen is-Sewwa", 20 ta' Awissu, 1983, p 8, 12.
- GRIFFITHS, Victor G., *Msida Bastion Cemetery*, "Sunday Times", 14 December, 1986, p 35.
- "MALTI". *Il-qabar ta' Vassalli*, "Il-*Hajja*", 11 ta' Diċembru, 1986, p 6.
- MONTANARO, Edgar G., *Vassalli's burial place*, "Sunday Times", 30 November, 1986, p 33.
- MUSCAT AZZOPARDI, Ivo., *Mikiel Ant. Vassalli*, "The Critic", Vol II Nos 10–12 (1957), p 14.
- Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Lehen is-Sewwa", 3 ta' Marzu, 1964, p 7.
- PACE, Carmel, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Il-Berqa", 4 ta' Jannar, 1963, p 9.
- SAMMUT, Frans, *Vassalli: confusing the issue*, "Sunday Times", 11 October, 1992, p 18.
- SANT, Karm, *M.A. Vassalli u l-Knisja*, "Lehen is-Sewwa", 18 ta' Awissu, 1979, pp 6, 7.
- Myth Making*, "The Times", 2 May, 1980, p 10.
- M.A. Vassalli and Mgr C. Sant*, (Meeting People by J. Aquilina), "Sunday Times", 5 July, 1984, p 20.
- Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Il-*Hajja*", 20 ta' Novembru, 1986, p 6.

- Il-Professur Dun Ġużepp Calleja (1741–1798): is-Surmast ta' Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Tarxien", 1989, p 10.
- Ir-restawr tač-Ċimiterju Anglikan*, "L-Orizzont", 6 ta' Dicembru, 1986, p 6.
- Myth Making*, "The Times", 22 April, 1987, p 12.
- SCHEMBRI, Joseph, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764–1829)*, "L-Orizzont", 28 ta' Marzu, 1972, p 9; "L-Orizzont", 22 ta' Mejju, 1981, p 10.
- "SENECA", *Honouring Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Weekend Chronicle", 2 May, 1987, p 7.
- Vassalli–18th century Mintoff*, "Weekend Chronicle", 18 April, 1987, p 7.
- "SOCRATE", *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "It-Torča", 7 ta' Marzu, 1982, p 5; 14 ta' Marzu, 1982, p 5.
- WISMAYER, J.M., *Is it Vassallo or Vassalli?* "Sunday Times", 13 December, 1992, p 49.
- ANON. *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "It-Tieqa", N. 32 (Mejju 1981) insert;
- ANON. *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Il-Helsien", 3 ta' April, 1987, p 9; 10 ta' April, 1987, p 9; 16 ta' April 1987, p 9.
- ANON, *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*, "Il-Gzejjer", Nru 94, Ġunju 1979, (no pagination)