

Recent Publications and Book Reviews

Rev. Can. A. ZAMMIT GABARRETTA e Rev. GIUSEPPE MIZZI. *Catalogue of the Records of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the Royal Malta Library*, Malta, 1964.

Affine di rendere più accessibile agli studiosi l'indagine storica e la consultazione del prezioso e ricco patrimonio documentario dell'Ordine di Malta, giacente nei fondi della nostra Reale Biblioteca e quasi inesplorato più che inedito, il Can. Zammit Gabarretta e il Rev. Mizzi hanno accuratamente preparato il Catalogo menzionato di cui sono già pubblicati tre volumi: il I (Archivio 1-72), il IV (Archivio 280-315) e il VII (Archivio 1126-1131; 1135-1138; 1140-1143).

Il Vol. I preceduto da una concisa e succosa notizia bibliografica, comprende ben 72 volumi ed elenca documenti di capitale importanza per la storia dell'Ordine, quali donazioni, bolle Pontificie, bolle Magistrali etc. Un'appendice chiude l'interessante e ben nutrito volume.

Il Vol. IV che forma la seconda sezione dell'Archivio registra i 36 Capitoli Generali succedutisi tra il 1870 e il 1776.

Il Vol. VII comprende 56 manoscritti ed elenca in tre gruppi Bolle Pontificie (14 volumi), Brevi originali in favore dei Gran Maestri e Cavalieri (36 volumi) e un indice (5 volumi). La ripartizione del materiale del IV e VII volume, che presentano caratteristiche identiche a quelle del primo volume, è dovuta a ragioni pratiche.

La seria preparazione scientifica dei solerti compilatori ha garantito la riuscita dei Cataloghi, ed impegna inoltre il colto e qualificato studioso a valutare lo spirito di abnegazione dei compilatori stessi che ci hanno offerto fonti così accurate e sicure. Dal faticoso lavoro eseguito con i criteri della scienza e reso molto facile dalle diligenti e precise indicazioni forniti dai pazienti compilatori, ci ripromettiamo ubertosi frutti nel campo della nostra storia con l'appello agli studiosi: nocturna versate manu versate diurna. Inoltre Malta rimane grata ai due compilatori per aver collocato ancora una volta il nome della nostra Reale Biblioteca al livello delle Biblioteche Europee.

P. BONAVENTURA FIORINI.

ANDREW P. VELLA — *The Tribunal of the Inquisition*. Malta, Giov. Muscat & Co. Ltd., 1964, pp. 72, illustr. 6.

This work, which is the first in the series "Royal University of Malta Historical Studies", as the Author asserts, is a succinct account of the Tribunal of the Inquisition in Malta. It will surely prove useful not only to scholars and students, but also to the ordinary reader. Prof. Vella quite logically starts by giving us a short account of the Inquisition in general, making an apology of the punishments meted out by that Tribunal, which might seem to us very harsh, but were a matter of course in those inclement days. After this short introduction the Author passes to the History proper of the Inquisition in Malta from its temporary existence since 1433 to its decisive establishment in 1575. He enumerates the factors that brought about its establishment, which were the spread of heresy, superstitious practices and last but not

least the controversies between Grand Masters and Bishops. Whilst the Author frugally speaks of heresies and heretics, he indulges, somewhat longer in the controversies between the Inquisitor and the Order, the Grand Masters and the Bishops, and in the Quaker ladies' incident.

Very interesting and useful to scholars are the six Appendixes added to the text. We dare suggest that in an eventual reprint of this book the Author analyses these appendixes and makes a synthesis thereof adding thus other chapters to the text a) on the Inquisitorial proceedings and sentences against heretics, b) on the protocol observed between Grand Masters and Inquisitors, c) on the previous and following career of the Inquisitors and so on. Prof. Vella's work is a milestone in the historiography of the Inquisition in Malta.

Mgr. A. BONNICI.

BONNICI CALI', RAPHAEL, *Il-Madonna tal-Mirakli*, Empire Press, 1964, 24 p.

The Author, after a short introduction about the different titles given to Our Lady through the Christians' devotion, narrates about the old church at Casal Lija dedicated to Our Lady of the Miracles. It is a very interesting account of this Sanctuary and although it may seem a popular narration, we can say that it is strictly historical because everything is based on documents and on well known historians. But in a reprint of this interesting work, for a better scientific presentation we counsel the Author a) to put also his name on the front cover of the pamphlet; b) to indicate on the same front page the printing press together with the date of printing; and c) to put an accurate indication of the manuscripts and books, not in the body, but at the bottom of each page.

Fr. ALEX. BONNICI O.F.M. Conv.

WORKS PUBLISHED BY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Rev. Prof. A. Vella, "*The Tribunal of the Inquisition*", Malta, 1964.

Chev. E. R. Leopardi, "*The Story of a Wayside Niche*", in the "*Times of Malta*", 6th September, 1964.

Dott. A. Cremona, "*La Marina Maltese dal Medio Evo all'Epoca Moderna, Storia e Terminologia Marittima*", in *Journal of Maltese Studies*, No. 2, Malta, 1964.

Chev. R. Bonnici-Cali', "*Il-Madonna tal-Mirakli*" Malta, 1964.

Dr. E. Sammut, LL.D., "*It-8 ta' Settembru 1565 u 1943*", Malta, 1964.

Can. A. Zammit Gabarretta, D.D., B.A. and Rev. J. Mizzi, "*Catalogue of the Records of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the Royal Malta Library*", Vols. I, IV & VII, Malta, 1964.

Mr. Erin Serracino Inglott has translated into Maltese the "*Divina Commedia*" and published the first part: "*Inferno*".

Chév. V. Denaro, *The French in Malta*, in *Scientia*, Vol. XXIX, No. 1, January-March, 1963, p. 12.

Dr. P. Cassar, M.D., *The Maltese Corsairs and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem*, in *Scientia*, o.e.; l.e., p. 26.

Mons. Prof. E. Coleiro, D.D., Ph.D., *Malta nelle Letterature Classiche*, in *Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta*, Roma 1964, p. 25.