



THE MALTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Proceedings of History Week 2009

Edited by Charlene Vella

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Editorial

Charlene Vella

This volume of *Proceedings of History Week 2009* contains the acts of the biennial symposium that the Malta Historical Society has been organising on a fairly regular basis since 1981. It is a companion to the Society's academically meritorious annual journal, *Melita Historica*, which, since its first appearance in 1952, has played a seminal role in the fostering of a more scientifically rigorous approach to the research and publication of Maltese history.

The papers in this volume do not centre around a monographic theme. Instead, they reflect a broad spectrum of specialisations - from art and architecture to socio-political history, covering a time range from the late middle ages to the late nineteenth century. One of the merits of this volume is that it brings together established and emergent historians and academics.

The History Week symposia are, as a matter of fact, a platform for the sharing of ongoing research and stimulating discussions. The publication of the papers ensures that the important new material they contain becomes available to students, researchers, and the all those with a love and interest for Malta and variegated historical and cultural heritage. The wish of the Malta Historical Society is that it becomes a work of reference, and that it serves as a stimulus for future investigation.

The Malta Historical Society has been active since 1950. Sixty-two years is a long time; a lifetime almost. To survive, the Society needs to rejuvenate itself if it wants to ensure that it remains relevant to a cultured society that has naturally changed dramatically from the one that founded it. To emphasise this, the publication appears in a new format that will make it more easily appealing to a 21st-century readership. That this has been possible is due in very great measure to Dr Stephen C. Spiteri.

Abbreviations

AIM - Archives of the Inquisition of Malta
 AOM - Archives of the Order in Malta
 ACM - Archivium Cathedralis Melite
 Crim. Proc. - Criminal Proceedings
 DMC - Daily Malta Chronicle
 f. - folio
 ff. - folios
Ibid. - cited in the previous footnote
 JC - Jewish Chronicle
 Libr. - Libro
 Lib. Carc. - Libri Carcerati
 NAE - National Archives England
 NAM - National Archives Malta
 NAR - National Archives Rabat
 NLM - National Library of Malta
 MCC - Magna Curia Castellania
 Misc. - Miscellaneous
 Ms. - Manuscript
 Reg. Supp. Apothec. - Registrum Supplicationum Apothecarum
 WO - War Office record

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