

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



MALTA

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

VISIT US AT

Head Office

Hospital Street, Rabat RBT 1043
Tel: (+356) 2145 9863
Opening Hours:
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 08:00 – 14:00
Thu: 10:00 – 14:00, 15:00 – 19:30
Sat: 08:15 – 12:45

Gozo Section

Vajringa Street, Victoria VCT 1313
Tel: (+356) 2155 88 33
Opening Hours:
Mon - Fri: 07:30 – 13:30
Sat: 07:30 – 13:00

Legal Documentation Centre

Villegaignon Street, Mdina MDN 1193
Tel: (+356) 2145 9919
Opening Hours:
Mon: 08:00 – 14:00, 15:00 – 19:30
Tue, Wed, Fri: 08:00 – 14:00
Thu: 10:00 – 14:00

The Malta Study Centre

Hill Museum and Manuscript Library
www.hmml.org

customercare.archives@gov.mt
www.nationalarchives.gov.mt

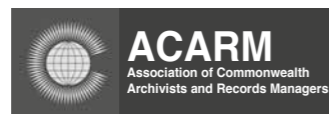


The National Archives of Malta

The Archives Portal Europe

www.archivesportaleurope.eu

MEMBER OF



A publication of the National Archives of Malta
© The National Archives of Malta
Contributors: The staff of the National Archives,
volunteers and members of the Friends of the National Archives
ISSN 1997-6348
Design: Salesian Press
Printing: Government Printing Press

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
1 Corporate Services, I.T. and Finance Management	3
2 Records Management	9
3 Archival Processing	23
4 Conservation Laboratory	29
5 Public Services	33
6 Legal Documentation Section	41
7 Gozo Section	45
8 Memorja	53
9 Supporting Organisations and Volunteers	59
10 International Relations and Activities	65
11 Historical feature: Giorgio Mitrovich by Dr. Albert Ganado	71
12 Unaudited Financial Statements, 2018	81

Cover: The glass negative of a photo of the Sette Giugno events from the Giovanni Bonello Collection. Shot on Saturday 7th June 1919 at 5.35pm the photo shows a Royal Marines unit carrying rifles with fixed bayonets and Maltese civilians facing each other in front of the Law Courts, Valletta. This photo and another one in the same collection are the only photos of these events, known to-date, to have survived the confiscation exercise carried out by the Police few days after the riots as they were “considered to incite the public”. (see back cover)



“Open access to archives enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy, protects citizens’ rights and enhances the quality of life.”

(Universal Declaration on Archives, UNESCO)



FOREWORD



People gathered on Sunday 8 June 1919 in Old Bakery Street (Valletta) on the spot where Emanuele Abela and Giuseppe Bajada were shot by British soldiers the day before, during the Sette Giugno riots. (Photo: Giovanni Bonello Collection).



Another commemoration was held on the same spot 45 years later as part of the Independence celebrations, September 1964. (Photo: DOI).

This publication aims to serve two main purposes. The first is one of accountability. As a public entity vested with a national mission, this report serves as a tool of accountability that is presented each year to Parliament. The second goal is educational and aims at documenting for posterity the work of the institution. Once again it is my privilege as national archivist and chief executive office of this institution to welcome you readers to this assessment, focusing on our internal, national and international operations.

Our mission can only be accomplished by keeping each and every user of our services at the centre of our operations. We exist to protect the memory of the nation through the preservation and accessibility to archival records. Yet, all this has one central scope – the user. If we forget that final target we risk to deviate our energy into processes which might look nice and popular but have no enduring benefits.

During 2018 we strengthened our human resources involved in the delivery of services to the public. The increase in numbers of staff was accompanied by targeted training. We are increasing the in-house training we give and also developing team-building sessions to polish the services our reading rooms' staff already give.

We also implemented the change allowing users to use their digital cameras for any reprographics they might need. This move was welcomed by all and was reflected in the sharing of large amounts of findings on social media platforms. The statistical effects of the new openness in the rule on digital photography in our reading rooms are also revealing. In a year our research sessions decreased by 11% and the time readers spend in our reading rooms also decreased by 17%. However, we registered an increase of 27% in the number of document deliveries. This means that the new system is speeding up the research process and readers can access more records in less time and visits.

The focus on user services did not distract us from intensifying the work on our holdings. We have seen a record year of accessions reaching us from public and private sources. This was in part the result of the strengthening of the records officers' network. Following the graduations last November we now have twenty persons fulfilling the duties envisaged in article 16 of the law. The setting up of a career path for these officers by OPM was also most welcome.

When it comes to private donations we continued our efforts to attract accessions that are worth to be included in the public domain. During this year we had several donations, including the papers of Ġuże Cardona. We also involved ourself with promoting the fonds from private origins that we already have. On these lines the publication of the autobiography of Dom Mintoff – *Mintoff, Malta, Mediterra: My Youth* was probably the greatest achievement of our institution during 2018.

On the national front, during the last year we worked specifically on our plan to support specific sectors of society that hold extensive archival holdings of national significance. In particular, we supported the Malta Band Clubs' Association to acquire government funding and launch a call amongst members for the digitisation of their archives. We also started implementing the provisions of an MoU we had signed with



two confraternities aimed at improving the preservation status of their holdings.

This was also the year when the National Forum on Archives was due. This event is a requirement under the National Archives Act. As in previous years, the National Council on Archives appointed the National Archives to collect, edit and set the data into the State of Archives Report. Apart from the satisfaction of another highly professional publication, the forum itself was most rewarding. The audience for the event brought together Malta's stakeholders in the sector and a highly interesting debate on the current situation followed.

It was also a year that brought a level of satisfaction in our interaction with the international archives profession. Apart from the regular participation in the main European archives fora, we also intensified our participation in academic events targeted at sharing our expertise in certain areas. One such event was the participation at the DCDC conference in Birmingham. Our project MEMORJA was presented at that event and aspects of it discussed during three break-out sessions.

We also started the formal participation in the European Digital Treasures project. We are proud to join a small number of archives from Europe led by Spain in order to disseminate the knowledge about Europe's main archival treasures. Such networking provides a learning experience to our staff and enables us to give an input in areas where we have already gathered professional experience.

This year did not only bring achievements and positive results. It brought some disappointments too. The main one was that another year has passed with no breakthrough in the issue of the new archives building. Once more I appeal for decisions on this matter as all the progress we have registered is compromised if the promise of a new national archives building is not fulfilled in time.

Dr Charles J. Farrugia
National Archivist / CEO



The National Archivist delivering a lecture at the Central Bank of Malta looking at a number of sources of Malta's economic history, revisiting some of the sources that have been used by economic historians so far, as well as other material available at the National Archives and other archival sources. July 2018.

CORPORATE SERVICES, IT AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT



1.1 Corporate Services Management Unit

1.11 Main duties

The main duties and responsibilities of the Corporate Services Management Unit are the management of human resources, procurement, stores, logistics and the general administration of the premises. Apart from the daily administration management of the head office in Rabat, Malta, that is its core function, the unit has four further functions:

- procurement, including tender procedures for large purchases are undertaken by this unit. Other relatively small purchases require quotations for the goods or services to be obtained and the unit has the task of ascertaining that the best quality is being obtained at the cheapest possible price.
- HR-related administration like leave records, roster planning and the staff records are managed by this unit. Further to the administrative tasks, recruitment of new employees and staff development are also managed by the Corporate Management Unit.
- the drafting, monitoring and execution of policies related to HR and administration. It is also entrusted with the coordinating role in the management of Parliamentary Questions (PQs). During 2018, the unit provided responses to 30 Parliamentary Questions.
- the administration of the Rabat premises includes items like filing, structural and assets' maintenance, management and compilation of reports, including HR related reports, as requested by various government authorities and ministries, and overall day to day running of the premises like daily management of maintenance, and cleaning services.

Photo at the top: Two new server systems were acquired during 2018.

1.12 Administration and Human Resources Development

Recruitment

Human resources infrastructure was strengthened in 2018 when, in line with the exigencies of the entity, by the detailing of three RSSL ex Air Malta employees by which our services at the Reading Room, Reception Desk and administration were further expanded and supported. Two officers, namely Peter Vella and Pauline Cortis reached retirement age and two other public sector employees joined the agency totaling the number of new employees to five who subsequently all were enrolled in appropriate in-house and outsourced training sessions. By the end of the year under review a fresh call for part-time Archives Assistants was also issued through Jobsplus.

Staff training

Staff training during 2018 included the attendance by various staff members to general and specialized training sessions, together with attendance to international meetings and conferences, held both locally and abroad. The exposure to new methodology and ideas that these conferences and training sessions offer to the members of staff is considerable. Several knowledge management sessions were held and these are devised to spread the knowledge gained by the single employee to all the staff whose work would benefit from the knowledge obtained. This was done through various theoretical and practical in house training sessions held at the Archives' premises.

Further training on procurement, ECDL courses, first aid, front office skills and customer care were attended by a number of employees to further strengthen the agency's performance in these vital areas.

Tenders

During 2018, two tenders were issued. These concerned a tender for the services of co-location of IT server and another one for the supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of a traction type lift including all the civil works and structural works required to serve the four floors of the edifice.

These were issued by the MEDE Procurement division and the agency assisted through, with the help of the Restoration Division, by preparing specifications and tender documents as well as conducting the evaluation process.



Maintenance of Buildings

The area consisting of a large room at the third floor was divided in two parts, the larger of which was transformed into adequate space to house the new IT server. This was appropriately refurbished with new airtight apertures and controlled climate conditioning.

During the year in review, the National Archives embarked on the further refurbishment of the chapel serving as a multi-purpose hall which underwent redecorating and the installation of large poster boards showing items from the national collection. New seats were procured for the Hall and a new heating system was also installed in place. The Memorja Project working station was completed and concluded with the procurement and installation of furniture and IT and scanning equipment, whilst new space for a new digitization room was identified and works commenced towards the realization of same. Another project initiated this year consisted of structural alteration to the CEO's office and the adjacent administrative support offices. This consisted of the opening of new doors and redecorating of said rooms. Other works included the renovation of existing wooden apertures, the installation of more than 100 meters of shelving, and the fixing of more pigeon roosting deterrents.

Further waterproofing and redecorating works were carried out at various sections of the premises. New digital equipment was procured for the Conservation lab and for the storage of the numerous glass plates within the national collection. Other works were carried out at the Banca Giuratale in Mdina amongst them the renovation of two large wooden apertures on the main façade.

1.2 IT and Finance Management Unit

1.21 Information Technology

2018 was another one dominated by the digitalisation of processes at the National Archives. The server tender was finalised and the suppliers identified. Cataloguing on the central database software continued throughout the year whilst the switch to the new webpage for the National Archives, the one built on government's Microsoft Sharepoint, was designed and built. Work on the Memorja project continued at a sustained pace. Following quotes, a company was selected to assist in the management of IT systems at the National Archives.

Over twenty thousand new items from six different collections were catalogued on the archival software. These figures were achieved mainly due to the hard work of three members of staff from other sections and three volunteers / students.



The new server system, detail

Simplification Measures

Two measures, directly linked to IT, had been identified as simplification measures for 2018. These were the design, testing and launch of a researcher database to include a researcher card and the digitisation, cataloguing and making available online of passport applications dating prior to 1900. The achievement of both these measures required months of co-ordinated work by the researcher's services staff, the Memorja team staff and IT staff. The finalisation of both measures was achieved in the fourth quarter of 2018.

New version of archival software

The migration from version 1.3 to 2.4 of the software was successfully done. This included a thorough testing of the 2.4 version and the data migrated, carried out in the first three months of 2018. Two members of staff were trained on the use of the new software by a member of IT staff. These two members of staff successfully trained all users of the software including employees, volunteers and students.

Daily challenges

Apart from normal day-to-day-repairs and maintenance of all the personal computers at the national archives, a number of new PCs were purchased for new employees joining the archives and two PCs that were beyond economical repair were also replaced with new systems. In addition to this some of the older systems, that were still functional but were getting too slow for efficient use, were upgraded to improve their performance. It is envisaged that the process of replacing PC systems that are more than eight years old (and growing too slow for efficient use) shall continue in 2019. New printing and office document scanning facilities were installed in the reading room and for the use by the Memorja team.

During the third quarter of 2018, quotations were collected for the services of outsourced IT department. The winning bidder was identified and work started in the final quarter of 2018. These services include the professional IT assistance required to maintain the wide range of IT systems being used at the National Archives. It is planned to issue a public tender for IT services in 2019.

The National Archives website is quickly becoming too cumbersome to maintain (due to old technology used in building it). To obviate for this, a new webpage had been designed on the government's Microsoft Sharepoint. This new site will be launched when the integration with the new government payment gateway is concluded.

New servers

Two server systems were acquired: one to serve as an archival repository and another that will be delivering the information to the general public. The archival repository is housed at the National Archives head

office in Rabat and is made up of two parts, one that is accessible to cataloguers and another that shall be an archival store of the data. Access to this system is restricted and only users local users shall be granted access to the cataloguing software and data held within it. The scope of this is to limit the chances of losing data to as much as possible. A tender was issued during 2018 for the hosting of the second set of servers. Following the successful conclusion of this tender process, the second system was installed in the winning bidder's data centre. Data transfer to this system shall start in the first weeks of 2019 and it is being planned to be finalised in the first quarter of 2019.

1.22 Finance Mangement

Finance at the National Archives is managed in house with the assistance of an outsourced accountancy firm.

During the third quarter of 2018, with the addition of one employee to assist the financial management of the archives, the section includes three persons. The new employee was trained in the management of payments to creditors, tranche requests and other day-to-day tasks.

Day to day data is collated into monthly accounts that are presented to the Ministry of Finance through the Financial Data Reporting System (FDRS).

Budgets 2019-2021

Every year the Ministry for Finance, through the Ministry for Education and Employment requests the budgets for the three years following the current year. Following consultation with all managers about their requirements, their costing and CEO approval, the report is presented to the Ministry for Education and Employment, who include it in their ministry-wide projections. The budgets also include the HR plans of the archives.

Payroll

All payroll together with any pay related issues were addressed by the finance section with minimal issues being dealt with instantly.

Financial Estimates 2019

During the fourth quarter of 2018, the financial estimates for 2019 were prepared. The financial estimates differ from the budgets



Opening of three doors in the administration area

done during the first months of the year in that they are fine-tuned as more data is available for the year in progress. Further to the financial estimates, the audited accounts of the previous year are also submitted. The financial audit was carried out also during the fourth quarter and the reports, which the archives is required by law to present to the ministers of Education and Employment and of Finance, submitted in time.



100 metres of added shelving in our repositories

2 RECORDS MANAGEMENT



2.1 Onsite Inspections

During 2018 the Records Management Unit (RMU) continued to perform visits and inspections to the records repositories of various public entities, departments and ministries. The main objectives of these inspections and visits are to identify historical records and arrange for their transfer to the National Archives, give consultation on good records management practices to the concerned entity and start the procedure for the implementation of an official retention policy that is endorsed by the National Archives under the provisions of the National Archives Act (Cap 477).

Photo at the top: Retention policies concluded during 2018

Public Entities supported by the Records Management Unit during 2018
Addolorata Cemetery
Department of Contracts
Electoral Office
Environment & Resources Authority (ERA)
Institute for Tourism Studies
Jobsplus
Malta Enterprise
Malta Police Force
Malta Tourism Authority
Mater Dei Hospital
Ministry for Finance (MFIN) - Various Departments and units.
Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government (MJCL) - Various Departments and units.
Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP) - Various Departments and units.
Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) - Various Departments and units.
Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman
Office of the Public Service Commission
Planning Authority
Regulator for Energy and Water Services
Restoration Directorate
Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre
St Vincent De Paul Long Term Care Facility
Superintendence of Cultural Heritage
Transport Malta
Water Services Corporation
Mercury Contracting Ltd
Soċjeta' Filatelika
3/11 Regiment Royal Malta Artillery (T) Association
Grupp Arkeoloġiku Malti

2.2 Appraisal of records

In the case of dormant collections of records that are no longer required by the concerned entity or in cases of emergency, the National Archives issues a letter of appraisal with the decision taken on the case in question. During 2018 the National Archives issued a number of such letters which helped entities to decongest their repositories.

Letters of Appraisal issued in 2018		
Ref. No.	Entity	Subject
APL2018-01	Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects	Appraisal of Public Works ledgers and files
APL2018-02	Jobsplus	Appraisal of Work Books
APL2018-03	Institute of Tourism Studies	Appraisal of Personal Student files
APL2018-04	Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) - St Theresa College	Appraisal of Attendance Sheets, Invigilation Duties Timetables and Replacement of Teachers Forms of the St Venera Secondary School.
APL2018-05	Heritage Malta - National Museum of Archaeology	1990s Museum Administration Records
APL2018-06	MFIN - Commissioner for Revenue	Appraisal of applications for grant on expenses
APL2018-07	MFIN - Commissioner for Revenue	Appraisal of Cash Float Registers
APL2018-08	St Vincent de Paul Long Term Care Facility	Appraisal of Charitable Institution and Hospital Records
APL2018-09	Ministry for Finance (MFIN)	Lottery Cashing Receipts
APL2018-10	Ministry for Finance (MFIN)	Tax / Profits Company Receipts (Tax at Source form LD03)

2.3 Processing of historical records still held by public entities

When historical records are identified, the originating office is instructed on a way forward for the preparation for the transfer of such records to the National Archives. The preparations include sorting, finding the original order, cleaning (when necessary), placing into archival quality boxes and listing. In cases where the records have traces of pest contamination, the records are to be professionally treated before being transferred. The treatment process is done with the qualified guidance and under the supervision of the NAM Conservators.

2.4 Retention Policies

Although the implementation of retention policies for public records has been a legal requirement under the provisions of the National Archives Act of 2005 (CAP), during the year under review the National Archives saw a surge in the number of requests by public entities to implement a record's retention policy. This was mainly due to the fact that retention policies are a mandatory requirement in the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that came into effect in May 2018. A good number of retention policies have been finalised (see table), while discussions on a substantial number of other policies have been initiated and hopefully they will be implemented during 2019.

Retention Policies implemented in 2018	
Reference No.	Entity
REP2018-01	Board of Exemption from fees at State Education Institutions
REP2018-02	MEDE - Quality Assurance Department
REP2018-03	Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman
REP2018-04	Office of the Public Service Commission
REP2018-05	MJCL - Cleansing and Maintenance Division
REP2018-06	Forms for narcotic and psychotropic drugs managed by the Department for Health Regulation
REP2018-07	Education Logistics & Support Unit (ELSU)
REP2018-08	MTIP - Manufacturing and Services Directorate
REP2018-09	MEDE - Migrants Learners Unit
REP2018-10	MFIN - Vehicle Exemption Tax
REP2018-11	Electoral Office
REP2018-12	Ministry for Health - Non-Emergency Ambulance Garage
REP2018-13	MEDE - Examinations Department
REP2018-14	Ministry for Health - Mater Dei Hospital -Patients' Records
REP2018-15	Ministry for Health - Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre
REP2018-16	MJCL - Restoration Directorate
REP2018-17	Ministry For Health - Information Management Unit

Accession Ref	Source	Extent
2018-01	Department of Contracts - Sample of Personal Files	0.2 linear meters
2018-02	Economic Policy Department - General Files (1973-1988)	25 linear meters
2018-03	Private Deposit by the Ġużè Cardona Family - Ġużè Cardona Private Papers and notes.	5 linear meters
2018-04	Private Deposit by Frans Said - A series of writings (2016-2017)	1 folder
2018-05	Private Deposit by Vince Ellul - Various official reports and publications (1939-1942)	6 items
2018-06	Private Deposit by the Bilocca Family - Music Related Records.	0.5 linear meters
2018-07	Office of the President of the Republic - Records related to the awarding of Ġieħ ir-Repubblika (1975-1985)	0.5 linear meters
2018-08	Purchased by the National Archives - Emanuele Sciortino Photographic Collection (ca.1927 - 1940).	927 items (37 acetate negatives and 890 glass plates)
2018-09	Purchased by the National Archives - The Lorenzo Gatt records.	1.5 linear meters
2018-10	Private Deposit by Godfrey Pirota - Copies of records related to Sir Anthony Mamo held at the TNA, UK (1971 - 1972).	1 box
2018-11	Private Deposit by the Mintoff Family - Digital copies of Dom Mintoff's photographic collection.	4.01 GB (295 digital Images)
2018-12	Private Deposit by Jean Borg (MEMORJA - WWII experiences) - Interviews and photographs (1940 - 1951).	280 MBs of data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-13	Reclaim of Public Records - Survey Sheets (1958).	1 bound set
2018-14	MEDE - Gozo-Education Back Office - Valetta School Registers (1933-1946).	2 Volumes
2018-15	Private deposit by Frank Mifsud (MEMORJA - Public Administration) - Interview & images re career in the Public Administration (1951-2013).	47 MBs of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-16	Private Deposit by Garth Metrovich and family - Photograph of Giorgio Mitrovich (ca.1885).	1 Photograph
2018-17	Private deposit by Carmel Deguara (MEMORJA - Public Administration) - Interview & images re career in the Public Administration (1959-2017).	52 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-18	Private deposit by Joe Sammut (MEMORJA - WWII Experiences) - Interview & images re WWII memories and career in the Public Administration (1935-2005)	132 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text).
2018-19	Private deposit by Marie Lourdes Grech (MEMORJA - Public Administration) - Interview & images re career in the Public Administration (1954-2016).	200 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text).
2018-20	Private deposit by Joseph Curmi (MEMORJA - WWII Experiences) - Interview & images re WWII memories and career in the Public Administration (1936-2003).	28 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text).
2018-21	Private Deposit by Tania Martinelli - Photographs of political activities and dockyard Drawing Office group (1950s).	208 MB of digital data



Inspection and appraisal of Charitable Institutions Records found at the St Vincent de Paul Residence

Accession Ref	Source	Extent
2018-22	Private Deposit by the Gusman Family - Collection of family cards (ca. 1970 - 2018).	1 linear meter.
2018-23	Transfer from the National Library - Records re Malta's application to join European Economic Community (1957-2004).	4 folders/files.
2018-24	Transfer from the National Library - MFA files - Membership of Malta in the UN and the Council of Europe (1964-1965).	2 files.
2018-25	Private Deposit by Josephine Ellul - Catholic Mass Membership certificates issue to individuals by Religious Orders (1956-1978).	6 Certificates.
2018-26	Malta Tourism Authority - Reports and other text material re the Maltese tourism industry (1960s - 2000s)	1 Linear meter. (Text & Audio-Visual material)
2018-27	Office of the President of the Republic - Various Records related with OPR activities (1949-1996).	1 linear meter
2018-28	Office of the President of the Republic - Records created during the Presidency of Dr E. Fenech Adami (2004-2009).	15.5 linear meters
2018-29	Private deposit by Paula Sapiano (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interview with Paula Sapiano on her connection with Malta and her identity as British-Maltese (1939-2012).	50 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text).
2018-30	Private Deposit by Composer John E. Zammit Pace - Original music compositions (1968-2018).	1 linear meter
2018-31	The Office of the Public Service Commission - Minutes of the Commission and sample of personal records (1985-1988).	1 linear meter
2018-32	Malta Police Force - Żejtun Police Station - Commissioner Occurance Books (1989-1997)	3 linear meters
2018-33	Private Deposit by Dennis A. Darmanin - Records related to the Sea Cadet Corps in Malta (1961-1971).	3 volumes
2018-34	Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman - Appraised Personal Records.	4 files
2018-35	Deposit by Michael Bonnici - Records of - Kunsill Ċiviku ta' Haż-Żebbuġ (1960s-1970s).	1 linear meter
2018-36	Deposit by Conrad Thake - Inventory of school items & exam results of Valletta Secondary School (1880-1898).	2 Volumes
2018-37	St Vincent de Paul Long Term Facility - Photographic Album (1960s).	1 Photo album
2018-38	Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Investment - Public Works Files missing from the NAM collection (1924-1930).	12 linear meters
2018-39	Private Deposit by Mose Tanti - Wedding photograph of Karmenu Tanti and Maria Saliba (1920s).	1 photo
2018-40	Private Deposit by Arthur Wait (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews and manuscript (1940-2014).	ca. 2 GB of data (images, recordings and / or text) and physical material

Accession Ref	Source	Extent
2018-41	Private Deposit by Liz Groves (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews and newspaper articles (1948-2018).	510 MB of data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-42	Private Deposit by Brian Crook (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews, ephemera and photographs (1944-1979).	93 MB of data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-43	Private Deposit by Fred Medhurst (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews and correspondence (1950s-2017).	3 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-44	Private Deposit by Alec Mustow (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Written account, ephemera and photographs (1944-1958).	147 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-45	Private Deposit by Elaine Zerafa (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews, ephemera and photographs (1942-2017).	2.4 GB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-46	Private Deposit by Janice Price (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews, ephemera, correspondence and photographs (1939-2017).	782 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text) and 1 postcard
2018-47	Private Deposit by Jenny Psaila (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews, notes, postcard and photographs (1936-2018).	1.2 GB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-48	Private Deposit by Mary Farrugia (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interviews, notes and photographs (1952-2017).	250 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-49	Private Deposit by Saviour Falzon (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Interview, correspondence and ephemera (1949-2017).	2.9 GB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-50	Private Deposit by Stephen Gallie (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta)- Written account, correspondence and photographs (1961-1978).	190 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-51	Private Deposit by Sylvia Withnall (MEMORJA - British expatriates in Malta) - Written account, correspondence and photographs (1945-1959).	35 MB of digital data (images, recordings and / or text)
2018-52	Private Deposit by Evelyn Pullicino - Publication: The Speedy Ready Reckoner (1950s).	1 volume
2018-53	Marsa Primary School - School Records (1917-2010).	ca. 3 linear meters (31 volumes)
2018-54	Private Deposit by Roger Vella Bonavita - Papers related to 'Maltese History: What Future' conference (1971).	1 folder
2018-55	Private Deposit by Pauline Scerri - Digital copies of Connaught Hospital plans (1937).	244 MB (3 images)
2018-56	Private Deposit by John Grima - Records re John Grima's film acting and directing career in Canada and the USA.	1 folder + 1 DVD
2018-57	Private Deposit by Juanita Sultana - Records re Admiral Juan Bautista Azopardo.	2 documents and 6 photographs
2018-58	Ministry for Health - Register copies of the Addolorata Cemetery burial records.	18 linear meters (105 Volumes)

2018-59	Superintendence of Cultural Heritage - Salvaged Records from private property undergoing renovation (1960s / 1970s).	1 linear meter
2018-60	Private Deposit by Rayden Mizzi - Bell ringing recordings.	650 GB of digital data
2018-61	Private Deposit by Paul Agius - 8mm film featuring a visit by Queen Elizabeth II.	1 reel
2018-62	Private Deposit by Paul Agius - Certificate template of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufacturing & Commerce and a Victor Pasmore exhibition poster.	2 large format sheets
2018-63	Deposit by Paul Agius - Two official Government Correspondence records (1901).	2 records
2018-64	Office of the President of the Republic - Greetings & Visitors books (ca. 1985-2017).	0.5 linear meters

Donation of a photo of Giorgio Mitrovich (Accession 2018-16)

In March 2018, Garth Metrovich and his family donated a 133-year old photo of Giorgio Mitrovich (1795-1885), a key personality of Malta's political history, to the National Archives.

Giorgio Mitrovich was born in Senglea on August 27, 1795. During his childhood, he experienced the riots against the French occupation, the blockade of the Grand Harbour by the British Navy and the capitulation by Vaubois in 1800. He also witnessed the start of British rule. He contributed significantly towards political and constitutional reforms, including the freedom of the press. In July 1835 Mitrovich went to London to plead for the Maltese cause and published *The claims of the Maltese founded upon the Principles of Justice*.

As a result of Mitrovich's efforts, the British government sent a Royal Commission to hold an inquiry into the local administration. Among other things, the commission recommended the abolition of press censorship leading to the freedom of the press in March 1839.

He died in 1885 in Valletta after a lifetime dedicated to constitutional and political reforms, including the freedom of the press.



Donation of the Ġużè Cardona Collection (Accession 2018-03)

Martoine and George Cardona donated father's Ġużè Cardona's (1922-1988) records to the National Archives in May. Cardona, a teacher and a researcher about the Maltese language, was a member of the Akkademja tal-Malti and the Għaqda tal-Malti (Università). He published a number of studies about Maltese authors; probably his most important work was *Dun Karm –Fajtu u Hidmietu* (1972). The next step is the cataloguing of this collection in collaboration with the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta.

Donation of music scores by John E Zammit Pace (Accession 2018-30)

John E. Zammit Pace donated to the National Archives the scores of the music he has composed over the last 51 years. This collection provides a unique insight in the avante-garde musical scene in Malta.



2.5 The Records Officers' Forum

The Records Officers' Forum was set up in November 2016, with sessions being held on a regular basis since. A total of four sessions have been held during 2018, during which a number of presentations were delivered by participants and guest speakers. At the end of every session an open discussion was held. The discussion was chaired by the National Archivist with the support of the NAM Records Management Unit's staff. During these discussions the participants discussed their work and brought forward records management issues and difficulties that they were facing within the entities that fall under their remit.

Records Officers Forum - Sessions - 2018			
Date	Participants	Entities represented	Presentations
27 February 2018	10	MTIP, Mater Dei Hospital, Identity Malta, Institut national du patrimoine (Paris), MJCL, Heritage Malta, House of Representatives, Ministry for Health, MEDE	'Tackling the Shed: A best practice case study' – a presentation by Mary Anne Debono from the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects 'Records management in France, practice and challenges' - a presentation by Clémence Lescuyer – Student Archives Curator at the Institut national du patrimoine, Paris
15 May 2018	11	Mater Dei Hospital, Heritage Malta, MFIN, MGOZ, MTIP, Planning Authority, Ministry for Health, House of Representatives, MTIP, MJCL, MEDE.	An overview of the War Museum Archives by Maria Micallef – Archivist at Heritage Malta. A presentation regarding the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) vis-à-vis Archives & Records Management by Dr Charles Farrugia – National Archivist.
24 July 2018	10	Heritage Malta, MTIP, MGOZ, MFIN, BRO, MJCL, MFH, House of Representatives.	Presentation 1: Records Management issues within the Ministry for Finance by Nathanael Zammit – Records Officer. Presentation 2: Main functions of a Records Officer within the Ministry for Health by Simone Camilleri – Records Officer
13 November 2018		All Records Officers were invited to attend and participate in the 2018 session of the National Forum on Archives that is organised every two years by the National Council on Archives. Invitees: All stake holders in the Archives and Records Management Section (Public & Private). The event is also open for the general public.	National Forum on Archives. Panel members - Hon. Evarist Bartolo - Minister for Education and Employment, Prof. William Zammit - President of the National Council on Archives and Dr Charles Farrugia, National Archivist.

Highlights of Records Officers' activities within their ministries during 2018

The National Archives Act stipulates that there should be a records officer in every public office. This provision started being officially implemented at the end of 2016 when 5 records officers were placed at ministerial level (Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Ministry for Gozo and Ministry for Education and Employment); in March 2018 Records Officers were placed at the Ministries of Finance and Ministry for Health.

The main duties of these records officers are to assure good records management practices and to be the contact persons between the National Archives and the ministries. It is hoped that eventually each Ministry will have a Records Officer.

Ministry	Intra-ministerial meetings held	Development of retention policies	Appraisal exercises	Transfer of records to the National Archives
OPM (Building Regulations Office)	1	1 - Building Regulations Office being developed	1 - Building Regulations Office's records appraisal criteria being developed	–
Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects	4	1 - Manufacturing and Services Department	1 - Marine and Storm Water Unit	–
Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government	8	18 (being drafted) - Requisitions for stores - Inventory book for PC - Procurement Records - Store Book - Expendable Items for PC - Permanent Records - Expendable items - Spare parts - Permanent Items - List of Monthly Vehicle items - Stock taking - Expenditure at Kordin Premises - Period Contract for items of Stores - Letter of Acceptance of tender - Uniforms - Issue and Receipt Notes - Expenditure Items - Finance (Return Form, Bin Cards, Payment Vouchers (White), Original Invoices, Fuel Requisition Forms and Timesheets for attendance of Cleaning Contractor)	1 - Heritage Malta (Accounts Section)	1 Courts of Justice (Criminal Courts) records' transfer process continued

Ministry	Intra-ministerial meetings held	Development of retention policies	Appraisal exercises	Transfer of records to the National Archives
Ministry for Gozo	4	1 (being drafted) - Salaries' Back Office	1 - Government Bank records	-
Ministry for Education and Employment	35	3 (concluded) - Quality Assurance Department - Education Logistics and Administration - Migrants' Unit 12 (being drafted) - 6 th Form (Malta) - 6 th Form (Gozo) - Information Management Unit - Gem 16 - School of Music - VPA School Gozo - Sliema Secondary School - Marsa Primary School - Floriana Primary School - Institute for Education Pembroke - School of Music, Sta Venera - School of Art, Valletta	5 - Work Books - Attendance Sheets, Invigilation Duties timetables, replacement of teachers forms - Gharghur Old School records - Floriana Primary (photos/registers) Appraised - Marsa old school records	4 - Registry MEDE (General Files) transfer process initiated - Gharghur Primary School - Marsa Primary School - Paola Primary School
Ministry of Finance*	4	1 (concluded) - Vehicle Tax Exemption	1 - Commissioner for Revenue Department	-
Ministry for Health*	21	12 (concluded) - Office of the Superintendence Public Health - Health Care Standards - Environmental Health - Directorate Programme Implementation - Financial Management and Control- Administration - Non-Emergency Ambulance Garage - Directorate for Pharmaceutical Affairs	1 - Burial Registers, Environmental Health	1 - Burial Registers, Environmental Health

Ministry	Intra-ministerial meetings held	Development of retention policies	Appraisal exercises	Transfer of records to the National Archives
		- Information Management Unit - Dar Kenn Ghal Sahhitek - Medical Records Mater Dei - Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre - Commissioner for Mental Health 12 (being drafted) - Foundation for Medical Services - Office of the Director General (Strategy and Implementation) - Human Resources Directorate - Financial Management and Control - Central Procurement and Supplies Unit - Office of the Chief Medical Officer - Health Information and Research - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention - Mount Carmel Hospital - International Affairs and Policy Development - Embryo Protection Authority - Directorate Allied Health Services		

* started working in March 2018.



Members of the Records Officers' Forum

3 ARCHIVAL PROCESSING



For over two years, the National Archives collaborated with former Prime Minister Dom's Mintoff's family in the publishing of his autobiography *Mintoff, Malta, Mediterra. My Youth*, that was published in November 2018.



Andrew Alamango, Jo Debono, Kevin Casha and Dr Stephen C. Spiteri discussing four recently-discovered records in private archives that are collaborating with the National Archives. *Evening of Discoveries*, November 2018.

3.1 Introduction

The Archives Processing Unit ensures that records of national significance and of enduring historical value are secured, described, preserved and made accessible to all those who seek to use them in their research.

Several records from the various ministries and departments as well as from private collections were transferred to the National Archives during 2018 as indicated in the previous chapter. All records will be sorted and eventually catalogued.

3.2 Cataloguing

Work on cataloguing projects, aided by a number of students and volunteers, is a core business function of the Archives Processing Unit that has been ongoing for several years. Last year, the data of the Office of the Prime Minister fonds (OPM) was fine-tuned and several files that have been received from the OPM Registry were integrated. Work was also carried out on the Aide de Camp, the Museum Department as well as on the General Miscellaneous Reports fonds.

Cataloguing	
Fonds	No. of entries
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	5,298
Aide de Camp (ADC)	492
Department of Museums (MUS)	250
General and Miscellaneous Reports (GMR)	1,752

Reorganisation and Relocation of Documents	
Fonds	No of units/ boxes / plans / files/ volumes
Police 1 (POL1) (Valletta)	177 vols
Building Notices (BN) (1880-1959)	394 boxes
General and Miscellaneous Reports (GMR)	3 units
Electoral Registers / Ordinances (OPU)	2 units

Sorting, Cleaning and Reboxing of Documents	
Fonds	No of boxes / bundles / units
Department of Culture	16 boxes
Department of Education (EDU02) – circulars and memos (1909-1923); PQs (1985)	8 boxes
Ministry of Education (EDU01) (1947-1958)	1 unit

3.3 Finding Aids

This year we sought to increase the number of finding aids that can be used by the readers to help them in their research. These finding aids include printed catalogues together with digital and printed databases. This is a table of the databases/catalogues that have been made available during 2018 at our Reading Room:

Finding Aids introduced in 2018		
Building Notices	1880-1959	Printed catalogue
Aide de Camp	1926-1962	Printed/Digital Database
G Files	1925-1974	Printed/Digital Database
Department of Museums	1900-1980	Printed/Digital Database
St Vincent de Paul	1825-1963	Printed Catalogue
Police Occurrences:		
POL 5 Żejtun (HQ)	1880-1988	Printed Catalogue
POL 7 Ħamrun (HQ)	1870-1955	Printed Catalogue
Newspaper Cuttings (These are articles written in newspapers that can aid our customers in their research)	2005-1017	Digital Database

3.4 Digitisation

The major digitisation projects during 2018 included the digitisation of the Agriculture Land Registers and Indexes, a number of passport applications and the Building Notices' indexes.

Digitisation	
Fonds	No of images
Documents (GOV, CSG, ARP, Army, etc.)	788
Passport applications (MFA01)	6,888
Identity Malta Indexes	2,355
Agriculture Land Registers' Indexes	3,201
V.M. Pellegrini Collection (Photos)	1,323
Building Notices Indexes	3,574
Agricultural Land Registers	27,657
Total	45,786



Presentation of the Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini Collection catalogue, 13 April 2018.

Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini Collection

The cataloguing and conservation work carried out by the National Archives on the Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini Collection, donated by Gabriel Pellegrini, were presented at the National Archives on 13 April. The Decorative and Fine Art Society (DFAS in Malta) sponsored the conservation of the collection's photographic records carried out by Audrey Rose Mizzi and volunteer Mary Buttigieg worked on the catalogue.



Audrey Rose Mizzi presenting the conservation work carried on the photos in the Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini Collection, 13 April 2018.

3.5 Internships

The National Archives collaborates with local schools, colleges and foreign agencies in a variety of activities as well as educational internship programs involving various tasks from administrative to archival skills, including electronic data management. Students are exposed to the documents so that they could familiarise themselves with the various records kept at the National Archives. A supervisor guides these students and teaches them how to clean, sort and re-box documents that are received from various departments, ministries and other public institutions as well as from private collections. This process serves as an induction to archival methodological skills that will also help them in their future research.

We received 16 requests for unpaid internships which was quite large in comparison with previous years. In fact, between February and September 2018, we accommodated two students per month and during certain months we even had four students carrying their internship at the archives.

On the other hand, we only received 7 requests from students to carry 20 hours as part of their Systems of Knowledge project at the archives, which were quite few when compared with previous years. In contrast, requests for visits/tours of the premises and from lecturers to carry History option students' fieldwork were quite numerous, with a total of 30 requests received during the year.

Internships held at the National Archives			
Course	Organising Institution	Number of students / hours	Type of training
Systems of Knowledge	Higher Secondary Giovanni Curmi	2/40	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing, data input, conservation laboratory
Systems of Knowledge	Secondary School, Dingli	3/60	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing, data input, conservation laboratory
Year 1	St Martin's College	1/10	General introduction to archives
Form 3	St Nicholas College	2/110	Archival skills, sorting, cataloguing, data input, conservation laboratory
Slovenia	Sets Nova Gonca	2/204	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisations, conservation laboratory
Slovenia	Economic School of Celje	2/140	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
Russia	Art History, University of Malta	1/20	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
Germany	National German Academy of Sciences	1/78	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
Germany	HVF Ludwigsburg	1/316	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory
Spain	Stucom Instituto	1/88	Archival skills, cataloguing and data input, digitisation, conservation laboratory

"I can totally recommend an internship abroad in the context of the study. Malta is perfect for anyone who wants to experience a different culture and mentality, but still wants to stay in Europe. The Maltese are very open and friendly, both in the private sphere and in the working environment.

I especially recommend an internship in the National Archives in Rabat. All employees were cooperatively and eager to show me their work. It is also no obstacle if you have never worked in an archive before. There are always interesting tasks to work on. For problems or questions was always a member of the staff available. Almost all employees speak perfect English, which helps to improve your own English. The team in the archive is also very international, there is a colleague from Italy and a colleague from the UK. In addition, there were often other interns from all over Europe. You will be well integrated into the team and can make contacts easily and quickly. They are always open for interns, even during my internship there were other interns.

In general, my English skills have improved during the internship. I also liked the working atmosphere in the archive. I was always flexible when I wanted to take a break and I could arrange other working hours if necessary. I then discussed this with a co-worker and it always worked well. As a result, there was always the opportunity to explore the island in addition to the work.

In summary, I would like to thank all those who have looked after me during my internship. I felt very well and learned a lot. Especially I would like to thank Dr Farrugia, who made it possible for me to spend a great time abroad in Malta and always tried to make the internship varied during the stay. I would also like to thank the Memorja-Team because they welcomed me into their office and integrated me very well into their team."

*Theresa Tremmel
University of Applied Sciences, Ludwigsburg Germany*



Intern Pol Abrado from Spain



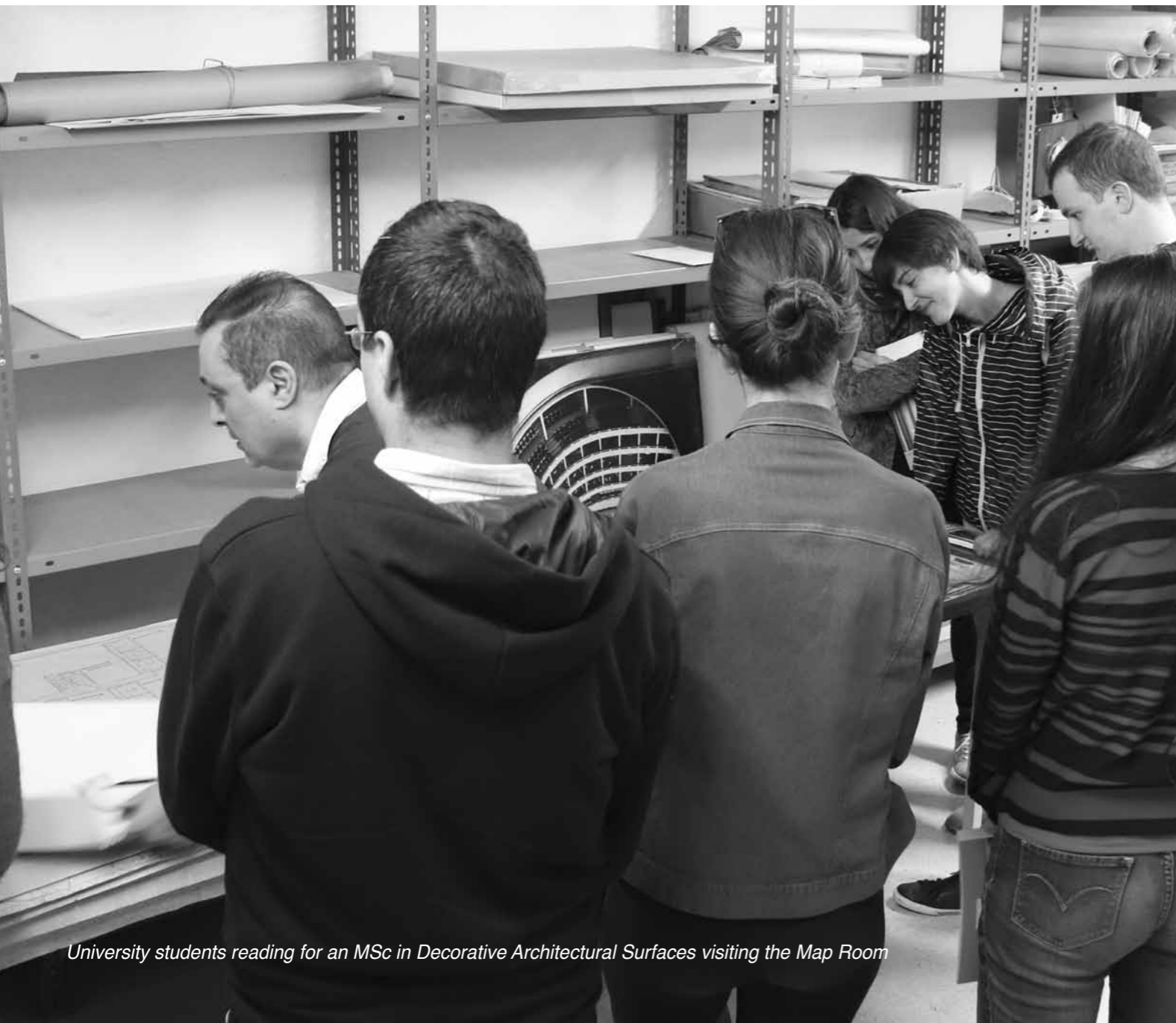
3.6 The Map Room

During 2018 our efforts at the Map Room were again focussed on the scanning of the Record Plans from the Ordnance Department and the inclusion of these digitized plans into the database (PDM Fond).

Apart from this, several records from other fonds including OPM, CSG, PWD, Police Files, LGO were digitised and the Memorja project was assisted with high resolution scanning of several ephemera generated during this project.

137 researchers and Students made use of the Map Room services in 2018. A number of other requests were answered remotely.

Plans scanned and inputted into Database (PDM) 2018	1495
Other scanned images (OPM, CSG, Police, PWD, LGO etc) and other high resolution scans for internal use (Memorja Project, RAF aerial-reconnaissance, etc)	432
Minor Repair done to Plans	455
Copies of Digitised Images of Plans, Ordered by Researchers	239



University students reading for an MSc in Decorative Architectural Surfaces visiting the Map Room

4 CONSERVATION LABORATORY



4.1 Conservation Work

During the year 2018 sixteen conservation jobs were carried out. These included material from ten different fonds, namely MCC, AGR, LGO, MFA (3), GMR, CSG03, POL 7, GOV02, PDM, and OPM, two jobs from Private Depositories (PD) and another three entrusted to us by private entities or individuals.

Of these, the four major conservation projects were

- first line of conservation on 154 Agricultural Registers;
- conservation work on six volumes from Identity Malta;
- conservation work on Mikiel Anton Vassalli's *Lexicon* belonging to the Carmelite Priory Archives in Mdina;
- preservation of the photographic collection forming part of the Private Depository of Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini.

Ten Damage Notifications Forms of items found in a bad state prior to being handled out for research in the reading room were received.

Work also continued on the long term project of conservation of documents from the Magna Curia Castellania (MCC). Fifty bundles dating back to the years 1719 to 1724 were processed, involving work on 905 folios. First line of conservation was applied to eleven large maps from the PDM. Other works included doing minor interventions and preparing various folders for documents forming part of the Memorja project.

Two volunteers, Francesca del Rio and Norbert Gingell carried out over 220 hours of voluntary work at the laboratory.

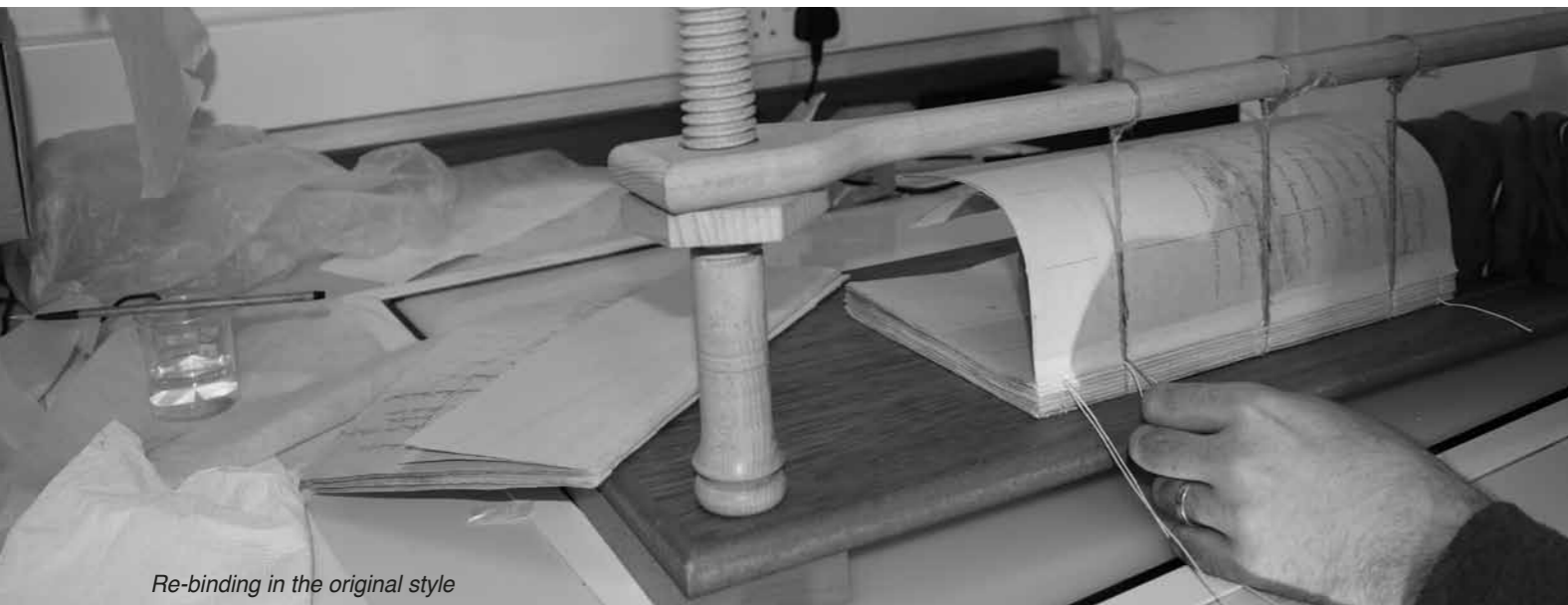
Photo at the top: State before conservation



Removal of old adhesive from the spine

4.2 Inspections and Condition Reports

Three external inspections assessing and reporting on the condition of archival holdings were held. These entities were the archives of the Commerce Department, the research library and archives of the Oratorian Community, St. Philip in Senglea and the archives of the Confraternity of Charity in Valletta. In each case a detailed report on the state of conservation of the holdings held within these archives with suggestions for improvement both of the storage area and the material was prepared. A visit was also held at the Richard Ellis Archives to acquaint ourselves with the set up existent for the digitisation of glass negatives at the said archives.



Re-binding in the original style

4.3 Collaboration with government departments

Training and hands on experience of first line of conservation on documents and maps were held at the Conservation Laboratory for two bookbinders from Identity Malta and seven staff members from the Works' Department. In addition to this, talks were held with the administration at Identity Malta regarding work practises in their bookbinding/restoration workshops and as a consequence to this new approaches were implemented for the restoration of books using archival friendly materials.



A staff training for Works' Department employees

4.4 Student Placements

Five students carried out their placement at the Conservation Laboratory. These students came from the University of Malta and the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School. As is the norm all students starting their work placement were introduced to the archives and a presentation on the safe handling of archival materials.

The work assigned to these students focused on two projects. Those working on items from the Prints, Drawings and Map collection (PDM) dry cleaned records and repaired tears and splits. Others were involved in the preservation of Police Records dating 1957 to 1960. The metal fixtures that are causing rust damage to the surface of the paper were removed and replaced with plastic coated metal clips or treasury tags with plastic ends. Then the documents are dry cleaned and re-boxed in archival quality boxes.



MSc in decorative Architectural Surfaces

4.5 Internships

Three students performed an internship at the conservation laboratory during 2018. Audrey Rose Mizzi carried out an internship of twenty four days as part of her MA in Preventive Conservation at the Northumbria University. During her placement Ms. Mizzi worked on material from the Private Deposit of Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini. Two other conservation students did a three-month internship with us: Simina Valeria-Ciucla and Teodor Chiribau-Albu from the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi (Romania). They were exposed to the day-to-day work of the Conservation Laboratory and had the opportunity to work on important records, such as Vassalli's *Lexicon*.



5 PUBLIC SERVICES



Students from St. Paul's Missionary College visiting the Conservation Lab

4.6 Tours and Visits

Throughout 2018 twenty two visits were held at the Conservation Laboratory with the participation of around 100 persons. These came from various local and foreign institutions, different faculties from the University of Malta, the Junior College, the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, local Secondary Schools, and Local Councils and private individuals.

For the third year running an elective study unit consisting of 14 lectures in Preservation Studies (LIS 2611) was offered to 2nd year students reading a Bachelors degree in Library Information and Archive Studies (Hons) at the University of Malta. This year we had two students choosing this module which is presented during the second semester.

4.7 Events

In April we presented the works carried out on the preservation of the photographs forming part of the Private Deposit of Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini. Representatives of DFAS (sponsors of the project) and Mr. Pellegrini's relatives were present. Another presentation dealt with the work involved in the conservation of Mikiel Anton Vassalli's Lexicon and was held at the Carmelite Priory in Mdina in November. This event, which was open to the general public, formed part of the Archives Awareness Week and was well-attended.

An annual commitment for the conservation laboratory is the participation of the Chief Conservator in the European Heads of Conservation (EHC) annual meeting. This event is organised by the country holding the presidency of the European Council during the first half of the year. This year's meeting was held at the National Archives in Tartu, Estonia and dealt with professional education and accreditation.



MSc in Decorative Architectural Surfaces students at the Conservation Lab



5.1 Introduction

At the heart of the National Archives of Malta and its services there are the Reading Rooms: at Rabat, Mdina and Victoria (Gozo). The Public Services Unit is committed to ensure high level standards with regards to customer service offered to the public.

5.2 Customer Care

In our constant effort to improve the services we provide to our clients, we have undertaken several initiatives this year.

A new Readers Registration System was launched at the National Archives of Malta. Through this new system a unique Archives Registration Number is being created for each researcher. This Archives Registration Number, together with the signature, would be the only details required to be filled by the researchers in the Attendance Register, upon their arrival at the National Archives of Malta.

Another major accomplishment was the transfer of the building permits from our Ħal Far repository to the Head Office in Rabat in the beginning of March. This was done to provide ease of access to the clients requesting the permits and avoid the waiting time to eventually consult the actual permit, since before clients used to give the Reading room staff the number of the building permit/s which they would like to order and were contacted when the requested volumes arrived at the Head Office for their consultation.

As from the 26 March, the former registration information services was transferred back to the Agricultural Research and Development Centre in Għammieri, Marsa. A digital copy of the former registration records and the related maps was provided to the Centre. During the time period that this service was provided by the National Archives, 1st of May 2015 till the 25th of March 2018, a total of 234 applications were processed by the archives' staff.

Our research services cater for a wide audience. In this rapidly-changing information society, the Internet is ever increasingly playing a fundamental role. In fact, research requests received via the customer care e-mail address continue to increase year on year, thus becoming the main channel through which we receive research queries.

Throughout 2018, 586 e-mail requests were received via the customer care e-mail address. Requests for passport applications prevailed by a large majority. As in previous years, there were a number of requests for maps, plans and photos. However, requests for army personnel files saw a slight decrease from the previous years. Requests for customs department arrivals and departures of passengers together with requests for birth, marriage and death records also were not as popular.

The Passage Assistance Records collection continues to be in demand. This year we received a total of 38 applications; of which 17 from Maltese residents and 21 from Gozo residents, an increase of 10 application requests compared with the previous year.

Head Office Research			
Month	Research sessions	Items consulted	Research hours
January	100	307	248
February	94	408	167
March	108	569	310
April	146	552	440
May	131	549	298
June	114	536	269
July	142	479	314
August	147	478	319
September	105	326	173
October	167	401	266
November	154	551	296
December	115	643	227
Total	1523	5799	3327

These figures, compared to the previous year's make an interesting reading. While the number of research sessions and research hours decreased by 11% and 16% respectively, the number of items consulted increased by 27%. This data highlights the benefits of the policy introduced in late 2017 whereby researchers may use their own digital cameras and thus don't waste their time copying the records.

Head Office Research			
Year	Research sessions	Items consulted	Research hours
2017	1707	4219	3834
2018	1523	5799	3327

Head Office Research – Items consulted													
Month	CSG	GOV	MFA	POL	PWD	MIL	CUS	BN	CIN	TOU	OPM	OPU	MISC
January	89	43	20	7	9	6	11	6	11	-	4	92	9
February	100	107	85	-	25	-	18	17	11	-	-	36	9
March	111	29	69	-	34	-	12	-	-	67	77	138	32
April	238	27	68	-	15	22	42	42	7	10	21	53	7
May	270	12	47	-	13	15	6	79	-	-	16	47	44
June	195	12	59	-	25	10	26	26	-	-	33	134	16
July	171	18	72	30	43	9	13	19	18	-	-	66	20
August	123	32	63	25	18	25	13	45	27	-	-	57	50
September	132	11	21	68	14	6	-	13	11	-	-	35	15
October	122	28	75	47	19	8	9	35	-	-	-	39	19
November	141	21	60	60	38	30	72	26	-	-	16	78	9
December	283	17	70	46	18	15	-	104	9	-	-	38	43
Total	1975	357	709	283	271	146	222	412	94	77	167	813	273

5.3 Educational and Cultural Visits

As part of our commitment to raise the awareness about the collective memory of the Maltese people, the National Archives of Malta organizes educational and cultural visits to our depositories. We believe in a hands-on experience particularly directed towards the students, both those who have chosen History as an option but also to all students in general. Apart from explaining the history of the building, the students are exposed to the archival processes from the conservation of paper to the right storage practices and the cataloguing of the collections. Moreover, important documents which shed light on aspects of Maltese history are exhibited and explained. For those who have opted to follow History as a study option, in collaboration with the Department of Education we prepare selected records for the students to work on.

On the other hand, cultural tours of the archives have during the past year been pre-booked by groups from different walks of life, who have shown interest in knowing more about us. For us these visits, are an opportunity to explain the important work being done at the National Archives of Malta and to bring closer the Archives to the people.



Students from St Thomas More College (Żejtun) visiting the National Archives.

Below is the list of these visits that have been conducted throughout the year ending 2018.

Date	Name of Organisation/Persons	Number of Attendees	Location of Activity
18/01/2018	UM - MSC in Conservation Technology	10	Head Office
18/01/2018	UM - MSC in Conservation Technology	10	Head Office
24/02/2018	GFA Sixth Form - History A level	4	Head Office
14/03/2018	M.A. Refalo Sixth Form, Gozo - History A level	15	Head Office
20/03/2018	Luther College, USA	11	Head Office
21/03/2018	St Paul's Missionary College, Form III/IV	14	Head Office
12/04/2018	UoM -BA (Hons) Public Administration	21	Head Office
18/04/2018	St Benedict College, Secondary School, Kirkop - Form IV History	13	Head Office
19/04/2018	St Benedict College, Secondary School, Kirkop - Form IV History	13	Head Office
20/04/2018	St Nicholas College, Dingli - Form 4 History	7	Head Office
27/04/2018	San George Preca, Secondary School, Hamrun - Year 10 History	11	Head Office
04/04/2018	St Margaret Secondary School, Verdala	8	Head Office
21/04/2018	Gozo College Secondary School - Form 4 History	5	Head Office
22/04/2018	St Catherine's High School, Pembroke	20	Head Office
17/07/2018	UoM - Postgraduate Students of Pharmacy	5	Head Office/ Pharmacy
14/08/2018	Mr Spiteri and History teachers	4	Head Office/ Pharmacy
18/09/2018	Italian Medical Professors	4	Head Office/ Pharmacy
11/10/2018	Professor Linaker (Pediatrician, formerly stationed at Santo Spirito Hospital)	2	Head Office
06/11/2018	St Margaret Secondary School, Verdala	3	Head Office
08/11/2018	St Gregory Parish Church	20	Head Office
12/11/2018	MEDE - Records Officers	10	Head Office
16/11/2018	Malta Enterprise	20	Head Office
19/11/2018	UM - Mr Bezzina	4	Head Office/ Banca Guratale
26/11/2018	St Thomas More, Żejtun - Year 8	40	Head Office
28/11/2018	UM - Masters in Conservation of Decorative Architectural Surfaces	10	Head Office
03/12/2018	UM - Masters in Museum Education	10	Head Office
05/12/2018	St Martin's College - Year 10	25	Head Office

5.4 Outreach Services

The goal of our outreach events is to increase the public awareness of our services, to highlight the significance of archival records and to foster public interest in national memory. As in previous years we organised public lectures, seminars, exhibitions and ensured a strong presence in the media.



Paper as Proof and Historical Evidence. Public Lecture by Michaelle Biddle

On 18 January Michaelle Biddle, the Collections' Conservator at Wesleyan University in Connecticut USA, delivered a public lecture on Paper as Proof and Historical Evidence at the National Archives. Since 2008 Ms Biddle has been consulting conservator for northern Nigerian and Malian manuscript collections in Arabic script. In 2015 she established a manuscript conservation laboratory at Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria. She has published on material cultural analysis and conservation of West African manuscripts, bookmaking and manuscript production, their inks, pigments, dyes and paper watermarks. Dr Biddle conducted extensive research on our Mdina holdings.



Professor Larry Sawchuk and Assistant Professor Lianne Tripp at the Pharmacy Museum within the National Archives. May 2018.



Dr Frank Fabri, Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Education and Employment addressing the ministry's top management during a seminar on records management organised in liaison with the National Archives. November 2018.

War and Disease: The Maltese experience of the 1918 Influenza pandemic

Professor Larry Sawchuk and Assistant Professor Lianne Tripp discussed several aspects of the 1918 influenza pandemic in Malta at the National Archives on 24 May, making use of several records from the holdings of the National Archives. Dr. Sawchuk, a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto at Scarborough, is biological anthropologist and health demographer, whose research interests are in the Mediterranean: Gibraltar and more recently in Malta and Gozo. His research primarily focuses on epidemics of infectious diseases such as cholera, influenza and yellow fever. Dr. Tripp is an assistant professor, in the department of Anthropology at the University of Northern British Columbia whose research area lies in the area of biomedical anthropology with a focus on the demography and health of small-scale communities. Her research examines diversity in the disease experience in the Maltese islands and Gibraltar.

Participation in an exhibition at The Palace of the President

Records from the Sir Anthony Mamo Collection were included in an exhibition hosted by the President of Malta at San Anton Palace commemorating the 10th anniversary of the death of Malta's first President.

Collaboration with the Works and Infrastructure Department

In June we organised and hosted a workshop about the best practices in the management of cartographic and design records with employees of the Works and Infrastructure Department within the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects. This workshop was organised within the framework of collaboration between the National Archives and the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects with regards to the Public Works' archival records and was followed by training sessions at our Conservation Laboratory.

Seminar for the Ministry of Education and Employment's top management

In November, the Office of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Education and Employment in liaison with the National Archives hosted a half-day seminar for the Ministry's top management to promote the concept and benefits of Records Management. This activity formed part of the Ministry's and National Archives' efforts to introduce and implement Records Retention Policies to ensure compliance with a number of legal obligations, including the National Archives Act, the Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulation, and other legislation.



The National Archivist briefing members of the Ministry for Education and Employment's top management about the National Archives and its operations.

Launch of the Malta Bus Archives

We launched the Malta Bus Archive on 11 October, an archive of experiences, knowledge and records about Malta's bus industry, from its earliest days through to current events. It forms part of the National Archives' Memorja project and is currently engaged in an oral history project where persons who were involved in public transport services are being interviewed about their experiences and recollections. One week later, a drop in session was organised to help us discover more about the development of public transport in Malta. Several former drivers, conductors, bus builders and dispatchers turned up and shared their knowledge and experiences. A public talk on the history of the Malta bus industry by Richard Stedall concluded the session.

Publication of former PM Mintoff's autobiography

Since late 2016, the National Archives was assisting former Prime Minister Dom's Mintoff's family in the preparations for the publishing of his autobiography. The archives identified a great number of primary sources, photographs and other records to accompany this work that covers the period between the beginning of the 20th century up to late 1943. The book was officially launched at the Palace of the President on 12 November.

Evening of discoveries

The 2018 Archives Awareness Week culminated in the hosting by the National Archives of Malta of an evening, open to the general public, where four recently-discovered records in private archives collaborating with the National Archives were presented in public for the first time. A number of discoveries were made during the research for a forthcoming book authored by National Archivist. These four discoveries were just a selection from several others that will be published for the first time in this book. The historical and technical background of these records, that included an 18th century proposal for the fortification of Mdina, a recording of a 1956 theatre production, late 19th century photographic collection and an early 20th century amateur film were discussed.

5.5 Use of Social Media

Facebook					
2018 Posts		Total Followers			
295		7,028			
Flickr					
Total Photos	2018 Uploads	Total Views	Albums	Following	Followers
459	75	415,533	27	68	163
Twitter					
Total Tweets	2018 Tweets	Following	Followers		
81	28	109	102		
Issuu Online Library					
Total Publications	2018 Uploads	Followers	Impressions	Reads	
16	2	35	34,294	5,101	
YouTube					
Total Videos	2018 Uploads	Subscribers	Total views		
32	7	62	11,640		

LEGAL DOCUMENTATION SECTION

6



6.1 Research

The number of research sessions at the Legal Documentation Section at Mdina during the year 2018 was 173. During these sessions 452 volumes during 703 hours.

These statistics indicate a decrease of 70 in the number of research sessions which result also a decrease of 305 in the number of volumes consulted and also a decrease of 314 hours of research.

Although the total statistics for the year 2018 registered a decrease in research sessions, volumes consulted and hours of research when compared to 2017, these figures are significantly higher than those recorded in 2015 and between 2009 and 2013.

6.2 Sorting and Cataloguing

During the past twelve months, 52 bundles of the *Atti Originali* records of the *Officium Veneranda Sinescalia* dated from 1604 to 1798 were cleaned up, sorted chronologically and re-boxed in 60 boxes. The *Officium Veneranda Sinescalia* was composed of the venerable *Siniscalco* and a councillor with the competence to

deal with all cases related to the land forces, the servants of the Palace, of the Customs, of the *Università*, the Judges, the solicitors, the financial procurators and the notaries. In case of appeal redress could be sought at the *Supremo Magistrato di Giustizia*, an Appellate Court.

Other cataloguing processes were done on the following fonds of records:

- 'Suppliche' of the *Supreme Court of Appeal* dated 1731 up till 1762. The 'Suppliche' records were sorted chronologically and re-boxed in 22 archival boxes.
- The volumes of the Criminal Court (Sentenzi) for the years 1814 to 1867
- Registrum Actorum Criminalium 1615 to 1730
- Provisionarum Criminalium 14587 to 1782
- Supremo Consiglio di Justizia 1815 and 1816

Reboxing and labelling of archival boxes

- The completion on the stacks of bundles of the Proc. App. Civili and Concorsi/Libelli/Deroghi which were cleaned up, sorted chronologically and re-boxed in 1837 of boxes totalling 265 metres of shelving.
- The completion of labelling the archival boxes of the fond Consolato del Mare

The first phase of The *Consolato del Mare* Preservation Project, which was kicked off in summer 2015 came to an end in December 2016. *Phase One* incorporated several interventions which include the removal of supporting wrappers and poor quality boards from the bundles and volumes; sorting of the documents in their chronological sequence, pagination, dry cleaning of the collection; and make up of a detailed condition survey to determine the type and amount of damage present in the collection; wrapping of non bound bundles in archival quality light board and housing of all items in archival quality boxes. Circa 65 metres of shelving comprising the *Consolato del Mare* records have now been preserved in archival quality boxes.

Also, the first phase included the compilation of an index and catalogue of the *Testimonialia con atti, contestati and semplici*.

6.3 Mdina Festival 2018

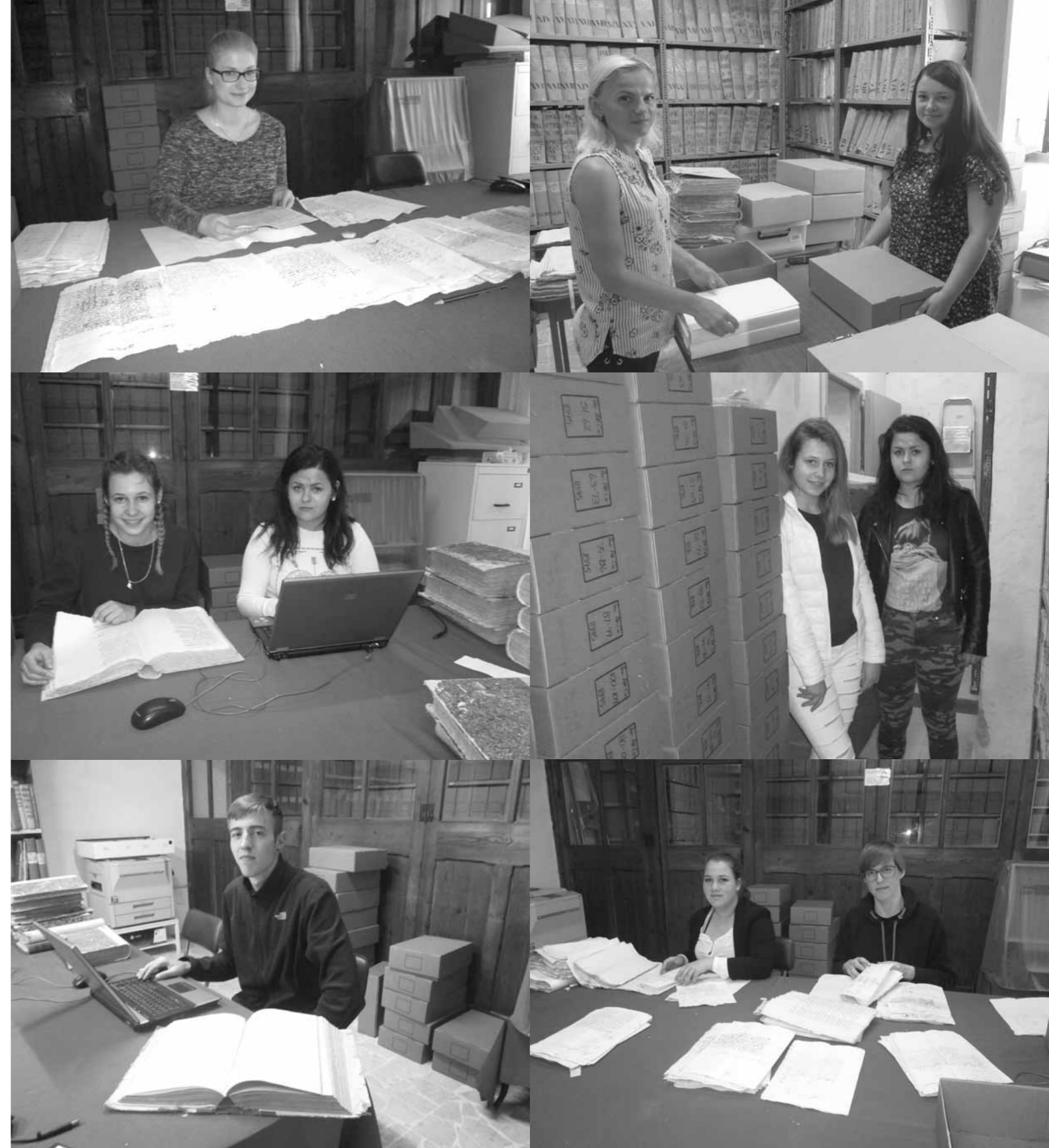
For the tenth consecutive years, the Banca Giuratale had participated in the Medieval Mdina Festival held between 5th and 6th May 2018. For this event, the Banca Giuratale main entrance was enriched by an exhibition on the history of tattooing in Malta, coordinated and curated by Dr Georgina and Pierre Portelli.

6.4 Visits

During 2018, post-secondary grade students from 'G.F. Abela', Junior College, had the opportunity to visit the Banca Giuratale and have a close glimpse to several volumes. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Faculties of Laws, Media and Knowledge Science and Public Administration were given a presentation and a comprehensive tour around the archives.



An installation by Pierre Portelli forming part of the exhibition on tattooing in Malta curated by Dr Georgina and Pierre Portelli



6.5 Internships

During the year 2018, a good number of foreign students pursued their internship to broaden their professional outlook through the richness of the legal records at the Mdina Banca Giuratale. The students were Clemence Lescuyer (France), Agnė Kozlovska and Ksenija Jačnik, Ingrida Subačiūtė and Jurgita Martišienė (Lithuania), Agata Maria Turek and Merlin Hänschke (Germany), Sara Kobal, Gaja Bizjak Rozle Ostir and Nusa Vahter (Slovenia), Teo Chiribău and Ciucula Simina (Romania), and Alexander Jacobsen (Malta).

From TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, to THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1798.

Wednesday, Dec. 26.

From the LONDON GAZETTE, Dec. 25.
Admiralty Office, Dec. 25.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Earl St. Vincent, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board Le Souverain, Gibraltar, November 27, 1798.

EREWITH you will receive the Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson, inclosing one from Captain Ball, of his Majesty's ship Alexander, with the Capitulation of the island of Goza.

My Lord, *Vanguard, at Sea, Nov. 1.*
I HAVE the honour to transmit you a letter received from Captain Ball, dated October 30, together with the Capitulation of the Castle of Goza, and a list of ordnance, &c. found in it; the prisoners are now embarked in the Vanguard and Minotaur till I can get a vessel to send them to France. Captain Ball, with three sail of the line, a frigate, and a fire-ship, is entrusted with the blockade of Malta, in which are two sail of the line and three frigates ready for sea; and from the experience I have had of Captain Ball's zeal, activity, and ability, I have no doubt but that in due time I shall have the honour of sending you a good account of the French in the town of Valetti. I am, with the greatest respect, your Lordship's most obedient servant,
HORATIO NELSON.
Admiral Earl St. Vincent.

SIR, *Alexander, off Malta, Oct. 30.*
I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that the Commandant of the French troops in the Castle of Goza signed the Capitulation the 28th instant, which you had approved. I ordered Captain Creswell, of the Marines, to take possession of it in the name of his Britannic Majesty, and his Majesty's colours were hoisted. The next day the place was delivered up in form to the Deputies of the Island, his Sicilian Majesty's colours hoisted, and he acknowledged their lawful Sovereign.

I embarked yesterday all the French officers and men who were on the island of Goza, amounting to two hundred and seventeen.

Enclose the Articles of Capitulation, and an Inventory of the arms and ammunition found in the Castle, part of which I directed to be sent to the assistance of the Maltese, who are in arms against the French: There were two thousand two hundred sacks of corn in the Castle, which will be a great relief to the inhabitants, who were much in want of that article. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. JOHN BALL.
Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION between Alexander Ball, Esq. Captain of His Britannic Majesty's ship Alexander, appointed to conduct the blockade of Malta, under Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. on the part of Great Britain, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lochey, AuJ. de Batt. Commander of the French troops in the Island of Goza.

I. The French troops shall march out of the Castle of Goza, with the honours of war, and shall lay down their arms as they get out of the Gate.

II. The Castle of Goza, with all the military implements and stores, shall be delivered up to the British officer appointed to take charge of them.

III. The French officers and troops shall be protected in their persons and effects, and the officers allowed to retain their side-arms; they shall be embarked immediately on board his Britannic Majesty's ships, and sent to France in transports, at the expence of the French Government. They are not to serve against his Britannic Majesty, or his Allies, during the war, until regularly exchanged.

Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. has entered into Articles with the inhabitants of Goza, that if the French surrender to the British, they shall be considered as under their protection, and they will not offer them the smallest insult or molestation.

Signed the 28th October, 1798.
ALEXANDER JOHN BALL,
Captain of his Britannic Majesty's ship Alexander.
Lochey, AuJ. de Battalion.

Approved--HORATIO NELSON.

Extract of Articles found in the Castle of Goza, Oct. 28.

50 barrels of powder—9000 ball cartridges—1000 cartridges, without ball—1700 flints—38 eighteen pound cartridges, filled—140 twelve pound ditto—450 six pound ditto—268 four pound ditto—25 three pound ditto—83 two pound ditto—18 eighteen-pounder guns, good, and 200 shot—2 twelve-pounder guns, good, and 900 shot—4 six-pounder guns, good, and 2985 shot—400 hand grenades, filled—90 piket and 90 halberts—3200 sacks of corn.

N. B. No small arms, except those laid down by the French troops.

Copy of Letters to the Right Honorable Lord Bridport, K. B.

SIR, *Boadicea, at Sea, Dec. 9.*
I HAVE the honour to inform you, that a ship privateer, named the Invincible Buonaparte, mounting 20 guns (12 and 18 pounders) with a crew of 170 men, of various nations, quite new, 16 days from Bourdeaux, and never having made any capture, was this day taken by his Majesty's ship Boadicea. I have the honour to be, &c.
R. G. KEATE.
Vice-Admiral Sir Alan Gardner, Bart.

My Lord, *Cambrian, at Sea, Dec. 8.*
ENCLOSED I have transmitted to your Lordship a copy of my letter of this day's date, to Sir Harry Neale, Bart. Captain of his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo. I am, my Lord, &c.
A. K. LEGGE.

SIR, *Cambrian, at Sea, Dec. 8.*
I HAVE to inform you, that I have this morning captured Le Cantabre, a French brig privateer of 14 guns and 60 men.

She is three days from Bayonne, quite new, on her first cruise, and a very fine vessel. I am, Sir, &c.
A. K. LEGGE.

My Lord, *Phaeton, at Sea, Dec. 6.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that this day his Majesty's ship under my command, in company with the Stag, captured a French brig privateer called Le Retourne, carrying 10 guns and 66 men, two days from La

Rochelle, bound on a cruise upon the coast of Africa. I have the honour to be, &c.

R. T. STOPFORD.
Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B. &c.

My Lord, *Cambrian at Sea, Dec. 12.*
I HAVE the honor to inform you, that this morning at one o'clock, we recaptured the Dorothca, a Danish brig, from Amsterdam, bound to Tangiers, laden with bale goods. She had been taken on the 9th inst. by the Rufce, a French brig privateer from Bayonne, in lat. 42 deg. 30 min. N. I have the honor to be, &c.
A. K. LEGGE.

Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B. &c.

Copies of Letters from Rear Admiral Harvey, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, to Evan Nepean, Esq.

Prince of Wales, Fort Royal Bay, Martinique, Sept. 8.

SIR,
I HAVE to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that since my letter to you of the 10th February last, the ships and vessels of his Majesty's Squadron under my command have recaptured six British and 16 American vessels of different denominations, bound to and from these islands, and have also detained 20 vessels under neutral colours on suspicion of having enemy's property on board. I have the honor to be, &c.
HENRY HARVEY.

SIR,
I AM to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that since my letter to you of the 8th ult. his Majesty's ships Concorde and Lapwing have captured the undermentioned French privateers (schooners) belonging to Guadeloupe.

La Buonaparte of 8 guns 72 men.
L'Amazone of 10 guns and 80 men.
La Sauveur of 4 guns and 21 men.
La Fortune of 2 guns and 22 men.

And the Lapwing captured, on the 12th ult. the Invariable schooner letter of marque of four guns, and 20 men, laden with dry goods, from St. Bartholemew's, bound to Guadeloupe. I have the honor to be, &c.
HENRY HARVEY.

SIR, *Oct. 22.*
You will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that since my letter to you of the 8th ult. three French privateers belonging to Guadeloupe have been captured and sent to this island by his Majesty's ships under my command, as under mentioned.

By the Bittern, September 8th, off Marigalante, Le 10 Aout brig of 22 guns and 50 men; she had been cruising on the American coast, where she had taken three American vessels, and one Dane, and was returning to Guadeloupe.

By the Matilda, the 5th inst. off the N. E. end of Antigua, L'Intrepid brig of 14 guns and 74 men; had been out three days from Guadeloupe, without making any captures.

By the Pearl, the 14th inst. off the East End of Antigua, the Scevola sloop of 10 guns and 73 men; had been out two days and taken nothing.

And the Pearl, a few days previous to the last capture, likewise destroyed a small French privateer row-boat, under Dominica. I have the honor to be, &c.
HENRY HARVEY.

BANKRUPT S.

T. Cole, of Manchester, warehouseman, to surrender Dec. 29, Jan. 12, Feb. 5, at Guildhall, London. Attyorney, Mr. Eaton, Birch-in-lane.

[Price Sixpence.]



Dr Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo, inaugurating The historic watercolours of a Gozo Notary, March 2018.

7.1 Background

The National Archives (Gozo Section), inaugurated on 24 November 1989, is the public record office for the documentation produced and received by past and present Government departments and establishments of the islands of Gozo and Comino.

According to Circular OPM/E/82/83 issued by the Office of the Prime Minister in July 1991 the "records originated by the Ministry for Gozo, Gozo sections of Government Departments, and by public bodies established for Gozo should be deposited at the Gozo Section of the National Archives."

The National Archives Act, enacted by the Parliament of Malta in May 2005 provides for the appointment of a National Archivist and an Assistant National Archivist for Gozo.

7.2 Records Management

Visits to Government establishments were carried out with a view to make an appraisal of the documents preserved therein. During the year 2018, on-the-spot checks were carried out at the Ministry for Gozo, at a deposit/ storeroom formerly belonging to Water Works Department in Triq il-Kapuċċini, Victoria and at the Gozo Courts.

As a result of these checks, a healthy discussion took place with officials of the Ministry for Gozo regarding the eventual transfer of documents that had been put-off as well as on the eventual transfer of digital photographs related to the activities of the Ministry to the Section.

Since the documents of the former Water Works Department (bills and attendance registers) were not considered of enduring historical value, permission was granted for their disposal.

A sizable number of registers from the section Registri Sentenzi and Sentenzi Superiori Civili held at the Courts were earmarked for transfer to the Għarb repository. The National Archives (Gozo Section) has already one hundred registers from this section (NAG-CG-02).

One of the four rare issues of The London Chronicle (1798), donated by Dr George Azzopardi, reporting on the French occupation of Gozo.

7.3 Accessions

During 2018, the National Archives (Gozo Section) received items in the following fonds:

- AG National Archives Gozo (03 vols)
items were added in the following section:
AG/05 - Miscellanea (01 vols)
AG/06 - Catalogues of other Archives (02 vols)
- CC Civic Council (34 vols)
items were added in the following section:
CC/01 - Minutes (04 vols)
CC/02 - Committees (01 vol)
CC/05 - Report Administration and Functions (17 vols)
CC/06 - Miscellanea (03 vols)
items were added in the following two NEW sections:
CC/09 - Gozo Civic Council – Press Cuttings (06 vols)
CC/10 - Gozo Civic Committee (1958-1961) (03 vols)
- GB Government Savings Bank (85 vols)
items were added in the following two NEW sections:
GB/07 - Savings Series (33 vols)
GB/08 - Withdrawal Money (52 vols)
- LC Local Councils (02 vols)
items were added in the following section:
LC/07 - Munxar (01 vol)
LC/12 - Xaghra (01 vol)
- PM Plans and Maps (41 large folders with over 1000 plans and maps)
items were added in the following NEW section:
PM/15 - Miscellaneous Plans and Maps – PWD (41 folders)
- ST Statistics (26 vols)
items were added in the following section:
ST/05 - Government Department • Single Reports (02 vols)
items were added in the following two NEW section:
ST/08 - Diocese of Gozo • Directories (13 vols)
ST/09 - Guida Generale di Malta e Gozo (11 vols)
- ZM Miscellanea (154 vols/items)
items were added in the following section:
ZM/01 - Misc volumes (07 vols)
ZM/05 - Misc. Charles Bezzina (03 vols)
items were added in the following NEW section:
ZM/06 - Bondi Collection (144 folders)

Dr George Azzopardi of Ta' Sannat donated old postcards and old photos of Gozo. During 2018, he also donated four rare issues of *The London Chronicle* of 1798, all four carry a number of interesting snippets on the French occupation of Gozo. They were bought online from Los Angeles, California, in excess of €1200.

Charles Bezzina enriched the section related to the role of Gozitans during the World Wars, created through his donations, by more photos.

Patricia Grech, the daughter of Victor Vella-Muskat, donated a considerable amount of papers related to the Gozo Civic Council, of which Vella-Muskat was secretary/treasurer. These are being catalogued and bound.

7.4 Archival Processing

Up to 31 December 2018, the National Archives (Gozo Section) held fonds from twenty-eight entities, each of which is subdivided to reflect the diverse activity carried out by the entity that created the fond. The fonds, by the cataloguing code, are:

- AG - Archives Gozo (National Archives – Gozo section)
- CA - Civil Abattoir
- CC - Civic Council
- CG - Curia Gubernatoriali (Courts of Law)
- CI - Charitable Institutions
- CP - Circulars and Posters
- CR - Cremona Collection
- DF - Documentaries and Films
- GB - Malta Government Savings Bank
- GL - Gurdan Lighthouse
- GM - Guljana Masini
- HI - Hospitals and other Institutions
- IR - Inland Revenue
- LC - Local Councils
- MG - Ministry for Gozo
- MH - Medical and Health Department
- MP - Monte di Pietà
- PA - Photographs. Albums
- PD - Police Department
- PM - Plans and maps
- PO - Passport Office
- PW - Public Works
- SG - Secretariat to the Government
- SN - Street naming
- SS - State Schools
- ST - Statistics
- UG - Universitas Gaudisii
- ZM - Miscellanea

of Goza, and a lift of ordnance, &c. found in it; the prisoners are now embarked in the Vanguard and Minotaur till I can get a vessel to fend them to France. Captain Ball, with three sail of the line, a frigate, and a fire-ship, is entrusted with the blockade of Malta, in which are two sail of the line and three frigates ready for sea; and from the experience I have had of Captain Ball's zeal, activity, and ability, I have no doubt but that in due time I shall have the honour of sending you a good account of the French in the town of Valetti.---I am, with the greatest respect, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

HORATIO NELSON.

Admiral Earl St. Vincent.

SIR, *Alexander, off Malta, Oct. 30.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that the Commandant of the French troops in the Castle of Goza signed the Capitulation the 28th instant, which you had approved. I ordered

signed the 28th October, 1798,
ALEXANDER JOHN BALL,
Captain of his Britannic Majesty's ship Alexander
LOCHEY, Auj. de Battalion.
Approved---HORATIO NELSON.

*Extract of Articles found in the Castle of Goza
Oct. 28.*

50 barrels of powder—9000 ball cartridges—1000
cartridges, without ball—1700 flints—38 eighteen pound
cartridges, filled—140 twelve pound ditto—450
pound ditto—268 four pound ditto—25 three pound
ditto—88 two pound ditto—18 eighteen-pounder guns
good, and 200 shot—2 twelve-pounder guns, good, and
900 shot—4 six-pounder guns, good, and 2985 shot—
400 hand grenades, filled—90 pikes and 90 halberts—
3200 sacks of corn.

N. B. No small arms, except those laid down by the
French troops.

*Copies of Letters to the Right Honorable Lord
Bridport, K.B.*

SIR, *Boadicea, at Sea, Dec.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that a ship
privateer, named the Invincible Buonaparte
mounting 20 guns (12 and 18 pounders) with

In 2014, the National Archives (Gozo Section) introduced a division for digital fonds that includes documents that are *either* available only in digital format or are digitalized images of documents held at the NAG, in which case the digital format carries the same code of the respective fonds. This division has been temporarily divided into the following sections:

- AD-CD Archives Digital • CDs–General items of a general nature
- AD-DVD Archives Digital • DVDs–General items with film footage of a general nature
- GL Ġurdan Lighthouse
Log Books and Eye observation of pressure, temperature, cloud, weather, visibility
- MG Ministry for Gozo • Chronological
Photographic chronology (10 Sep 2004 to 04 Mar 2008)
- PA Photographs
Gozo Historic photographs
- PG Press Gozo
Printed and the online news items related to Gozo (14 Mar 2008 to 31 Jan 2013) and from 24 Aug 2017.
- UG Universitas Gaudisii
The UG fond made up of 305 volumes and a total of 197,822 images.

The National Archives (Gozo Section) the co-keeper of the Notarial *Registers* from the NAR–Notarial Archives, Rabat-Gozo that – in agreement with, and with the approval of, the Minister for Gozo – were transferred from inadequate storage at the Ministry of Gozo. This deposit belongs to the Section, but is jointly managed with the Notarial Archives.

The cataloguing of transferred documents consumes a lot of time as, with the exception of Court registers, the bulk is transferred without any pre-established order. If ever there was one, it is, in the majority of cases, unknown to the present office holders.

During 2018 345 volumes/items were catalogued and deposited at the Section. This is less than the previous years: 417 (2017) and 810 (2016). However, it must be pointed out that over 1000 plans and maps were inserted in the 41 large folders of PM/15. Eight new sections were created in existing fonds during the year.

Another undertaking of the Section is related to the cataloguing of the niches of Gozo. The full list of the niches in the town, the villages, and the hamlets of Gozo and Comino was compiled and concluded during 2018. The gathering of basic information on each is still ongoing and work on the catalogue is in progress and the photographing shooting of a profession of each niche by Daniel Cilia has been concluded, and the photos are being edited. These will be eventually handed over in digital format and printed by the National Archives (Gozo Section).

Restoration

The restoration of the volumes of the *Universitas Gaudisii* – a desideratum for a number of years will finally be resumed during 2019. In November 2018, the Ministry for Gozo approved the funding of this project that will be spread over three years.

Digitisation

The process of the digitalization of documents at the NAG was initiated on 26 February 2013. During 2018, the digitalization of the fond MH•Medical and Health•01/Building plans and permits continued. The

process takes time as the size of the plans and attached documents varies and this requires a continuous adjustment of the camera. During the same time, many more images were digitalized at the request of researchers.

7.5 Public Services

During 2018 the number of research sessions at the National Archives (Gozo Section) was 616, almost double those in the previous year: 360 (2017) and 629 (2016). The increase is in fact much greater considering the over 350 requests for information via email during 2018.

The number of research hours amounted to 523, again an increase on the previous year: 447 (2017) and 640 (2016). The number of items consulted *in situ* amounted to 747, almost as in the previous year: 734 (2017) and 860 (2016). These figures have to be taken into consideration together with the aforementioned online requests. The amount of volumes handled throughout the year amounts to about 4% of the holdings.

The following is a break-down of statistics per month (2018):

MONTH	RESEARCH SESSIONS	HOURS OF RESEARCH	NUMBER OF ITEMS
January	056	052	071
February	032	035	051
March	050	068	075
April	130	070	158
May	028	045	047
June	079	060	074
July	090	028	032
August	040	043	055
September	030	035	044
October	026	028	036
November	028	030	055
December	027	029	049
TOTAL	616	523	747



The following is a break-down of accessions from each fond per month (2018):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
AG	001						001						002
CA			002										002
CC					002				004				006
CD													000
CG	002	002		001	009	001			003	003	002	007	030
CI								001					001
CP			001		002								003
CR													000
DF													000
GB					003								003
GL	002												002
GM	023	017	028	047	014	021	009	034	016	014	015	026	264
HI								001					001
IR													000
LC													000
MG	010			006									016
MH		012	014	012	004	010	011	003	003	004	024	008	105
MP													000
PA	006	007	005	005	001	007	001		004	002	002	001	041
PD	009	008	019	009	007	029	005	010	011	012	010		129
PM	001		003	035		002	003	002	003	001	002	001	053
PO													000
PW		001											001
SG													000
SN					001								001
SS		002		003		001	002						008
ST	014	002	002	033	004	001		003				004	063
UG	001			001								002	004
ZM	002		001	006		002		001					012
TOTAL	071	051	075	158	047	074	032	055	044	036	055	049	747

The GM-Ġuljana Masini fond proved to be the most popular for the sixth consecutive year; followed by the PD-Police Department fond; and the MH-Medical and Health fond in the third place.

7.6 Outreach

The National Archives (Gozo Section) strives to increase the public awareness of the written heritage at the Section. This is done through an annual exhibition and the monthly publication of a record from the registers of the *Universitas* which is the oldest section of the holdings in the monthly magazine *Il-Hajja f'Ghawdex*. Up to December 2018, 267 documents were transcribed, translated, and published with an explanation. Other public relations initiatives are also undertaken.

Seven group visits to the National Archives (Gozo Section) were held during 2018.

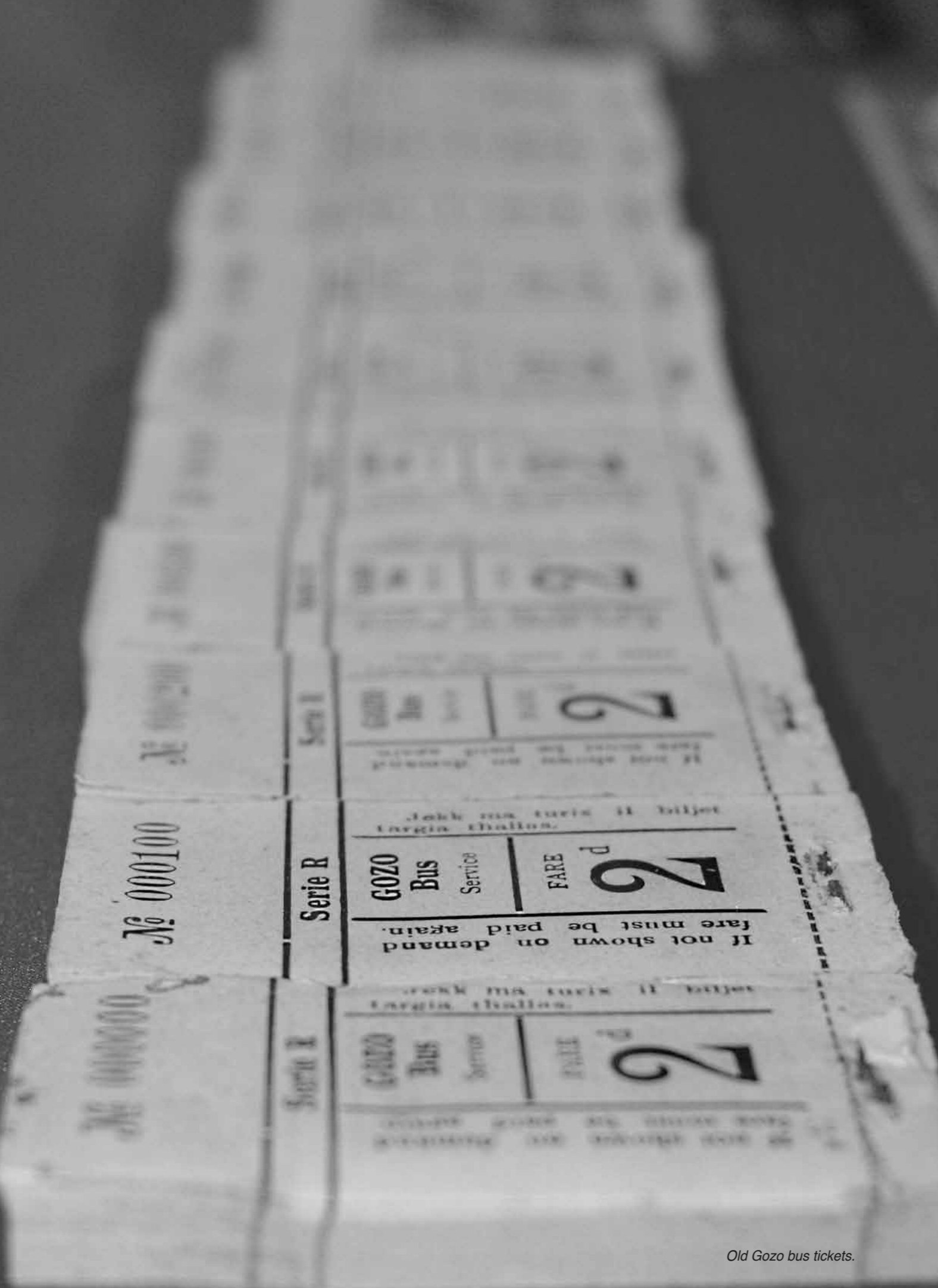
- on 30 January, 13 teachers and students from the Sir Mikelang Refalo Sixth Form led by Marisa Cauchi-Hili, Librarian Sixth Form.
- on 4 April, 7 MCAST librarians led by Anthony Saliba.
- during April, a Form IV student from the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary Secondary School carried out archival practical work for three consecutive days as part of the Career Exposure Experience.
- on 25 April, 65 Form III students from the from the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary Secondary School accompanied by their teachers,
- on 31 May, 32 French tourists.
- on 10 July, 50 persons from the *Klabb tal-Krafts*, Had-Dingli.
- on 14 October, 40 French pilgrims were briefed on the records held at the National Archives (Gozo Section).

A major exhibition was held during the year in collaboration with the Notarial Archives Gozo: *The historic watercolours of a Gozo Notary*. Notary Antonio Portelli was born in Rabat-Gozo on 1 March 1809 and practiced his profession in Gozo between 1839 and 1877. He whiled away his free time by embellishing the title-pages of some of his notarial volumes with ink drawings and water colours. The most interesting thing about his illustrations is that they reflect contemporary scenes and events.

These were exhibited for the first time in this exhibition officially inaugurated by Dr Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo, in March 2018. A full-colour catalogue with all his ink drawings and water colours was published for the occasion in a limited edition while a pack of ten cards with his ten most noteworthy water colours was prepared.



8 MEMORJA



Old Gozo bus tickets.



8.1 Introduction

MEMORJA is the National Archives' oral, sound and visual archive intent on serving as the Maltese Islands' main repository of national and public memory. A strategic plan for the establishment and running of this archive has been developed with the assistance of Prof John Chircop, the founder and the head of the Public Memory Archive within the University of Malta.

Our main objective is to employ cutting edge research, methodologies, theoretical and archival approaches, as well as state-of-the-art techniques and technology, to collect, record, transcribe, preserve, and make available for research, interpretation, and educational reasons, and divulgate to the general public – through museums, schools and community spaces – community / shared and individual memories, oral history, traditions, knowledge and experiences.

8.2 Thematic groups

Following the launch of MEMORJA, the oral, sound and visual archive within the National Archives in early 2017, five thematic research groups were identified to sharpen the archive's focus at its early stages.

- Experiencing War: Survival, shelter and food;
- Lampedusa and Malta;
- British expatriates in Malta;
- Bell-ringing and campanarian culture;
- Public Administration.

Notwithstanding the amount of information which the five themes have since generated – around 100 interviews and written accounts in total – the National Archives took over another theme as part of MEMORJA, namely public transport in collaboration with the Malta Bus Archive.

Photo at the top: A group of tradesmen posing with the chassis of a Stewart bus, St Catherine Street in Rabat. Carmelo Tonna is first from left. c.1933-38

Work on the Malta Bus Archive had started in mid-December 2017. Although placed within MEMORJA at the National Archives of Malta, it has a wider remit, namely to create and to maintain an official archive for all aspects of the bus industry in Malta and Gozo. Documents, ephemera, registers, photographs and oral history interviews are now being collected and/or donated as part of the Archives' own project.

The work is co-ordinated by Richard Stedall who has spent many years researching the history of Malta's buses, before being employed to work on the Malta Bus Archive. The objectives of this theme centre around three main areas:

- The interviewing of those who have worked in the industry (or whose ancestors did) as part of the Memorja team, namely drivers, owner-drivers, dispatchers, conductors, bus builders, ATP committee members and pin striping artists (*tat-tberfil*);
- To bring together as much information as possible from all sources to create as detailed reference source as possible;
- The indexing of old vehicle files at Transport Malta, and the detailed examination of their old bus files, pending eventual transfer to the National Archives at some future date. A small team of volunteers is being assembled to assist with these tasks (especially with recording the interviews in Maltese and then translating them into English).

At the time of writing, five individuals have been interviewed and nine hours worth of video interviews have been recorded. These interviewees have gone on record speaking about public transport during their childhood years, their introduction to the bus industry, uniforms, different bus models, the passengers, the lively colour schemes and the fines which used to be incurred. They also candidly discussed the wages, the numerous strikes, the authorities' reactions, the introduction of the ATP committee, government transport policy and the public transport reform implemented in July 2011. These men (predominantly) have spoken positively about the project and more interviews and research will be conducted on this theme well into 2019.

The Malta Bus Archive was launched to the public on the 11th October to a wide audience. This was followed by a 'drop-in' session, whereby members of the public were invited to share their experiences, and any ephemera they may have had with MEMORJA at the main office of the Archives in Rabat.

Quartet of Rabat musicians. L'Isle Adam Band Club. from left Emanuele Tonna Tal-Pissi, Unidentified, Joseph Schembri L-Ghasli. At the back Carmel Tonna Tan-Nasett. This photo was taken at the old premises of the L'Isle Adam Band Club. c.1937-38



(From left) Ġanni tal-Marida, Anni (Ġanni's daughter), Loulou Mifsud Bonnici née Pizzuto, Emma Felice Gay, Antoine Mifsud Bonnici (Loulou's future brother-in-law), Unidentified (friend of Ġanni tal-Marida) on the way down to caves below Dingli Cliffs sometime in 1950. Loulou and her family had left Sliema and sought shelter at Lija. They later found refuge in caves at Dingli Cliffs where they lived for about a year during the war.

8.3 Outreach

On the outreach front, 2018 had been an exciting and productive year. Following MEMORJA's sessions at the University of the Third Age in late 2017, the project's first session for 2018 was held at the University of Malta. The Department of Maltese-run *It-Tradizzjoni Orali* is an ongoing project whereby academics and researchers present fieldwork and studies about oral history and oral tradition in the Maltese Islands. MEMORJA's presentation, which was in April, was well-received.

An article penned by Fiona Vella was also published in the May 2018 edition of the Senior Times whereby the project's themes, objectives and the Archives' interaction with the public was further delved upon and enhanced.

Starting in October and heading into December 2018, the Archives had hosted seven students for training course in oral history and public memory delivered by Professor John Chircop from the University of Malta. These students have since been assigned their own thematic research groups which will then form part of the project.

In November 2018, MEMORJA ventured abroad for its first overseas event. The National Archives of Malta presented a workshop titled 'People Make Memories: capturing and sharing collective memory through oral history in Malta'. This was part of the conference 'DCDC18: Memory and Transformation', held at the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, held between the 19th and 21st November 2018.



Ralph Zammit, a Maltese soldier who served as an artilleryman in the US Army during WW2.



A group of children (with a woman at the back) in a field at Has-Sajd/Has Sajjed in Zabbar sometime during the Second World War. They are carrying pillows as they used to sleep in the farmhouse (Barumbara) on the right after their evacuation from their homes. c.1940-1945.



Karmena Calleja with her children: Maria Stella (holding hands with her mother), Karmena (at the back), Nina, Maria, Gorgina (at the front), Pawlu, Guza. This photograph was taken at il-Biskuttin in Floriana. c.1933.



Consiglio 'Konsu' Mamo at Qormi. 28th November 1965.



Charlie 'Kalatru' Borg posing with his father's bus at Ghadira Bay in 1969.



Joseph Ellul 'il-Boqboq' with his son Ivan and Richard Stedall coordinator of the Malta Bus Archive. Joseph started driving buses in 1978 up till the public transport reform in 2011. 5th August 2018.



Presentation at the University of Malta, April 2018.



Michael Cutajar 'iz-Zinnu' in front of one of his buses before his first MEMORJA interview. Michael started as a conductor in the mid-60s until he made the switch to driver-owner. He was a member of the ATP committee for 20 years and stopped driving in July 2011.



Oral history course, October 2018



MEMORJA presentation, Birmingham, November 2018.

9

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS



Minister Evarist Bartolo addressing the National Forum on Archives, November 2018



9.1 The National Archives Council

The National Archives Council, set up in line with Article 14 of the National Archives Act (2005), is entrusted with the duty

- to promote the National Archives and other record keeping entities;
- to ensure and facilitate the collaboration between the different stakeholders with direct or indirect responsibility for the protection and management of the archives sector;
- to advise the Minister on the management of archives in Malta;
- to draw the attention of the Minister or of any organisation or person responsible for archives to any urgent action that may be considered necessary for the better management of archives and records;
- to advise the Minister on any matter arising from the provisions of this Act and on any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

During 2018, Prof. William Zammit served as Chairperson while the members were Anton F. Attard (passed away on 18 July 2018), Mgr Ġwann Azzopardi, the chairperson of Heritage Malta Dr Anton Refalo, the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister's representative Joyce Dimech, the National Librarian's representative Maroma Camilleri, the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage Joe Magro, Dr Lillian Sciberras and Max Farrugia.

Photo at the top: The Friends of the National Archives and Filfla Records published a 12" LP and double CD comprising the complete set of the original Maltese songs recorded by Emmanuele Cilia 87 at at HMV studios (Milan) in 1931-2

Dr Charles J. Farrugia, the National Archivist and CEO and the Rev. Dr Joseph Bezzina, Assistant National Archivist for Gozo have attended Council meetings and supported its work by regularly updating the Council on the working of the Institution. The National Archives provides all logistical support by preparing agendas for meetings, the offices for its functioning and secretarial support.

The following is an account of the Council meetings during 2018 and the main issues that were discussed:

13 February 2018

- Archives pertaining to band clubs. Dr Farrugia explained that now a call for applications was to be issued for band clubs to have their archives digitised.
- The building of the new archives: Dr Farrugia gave a powerpoint presentation, citing all the areas examined and rejected – Swatar at Dingli, Maria Assunta School Hamrun and a piece of land near the Qormi cemetery. The authorities were focusing on a piece of land at Ta' Qali. Cabinet approval was still required for the plan to start.
- Private collections: Dr Farrugia gave a presentation on all the documents that were returned or claimed back by the National Archives from individuals and auctioneers. A proposal for a meeting to take place with all auctioneers was discussed. Besides, the law has to be amended to give a clear definition of public records and if problems arise, one must always contact the National Archivist.

10 April 2018

- Dr Farrugia announced that the site at Ta' Qali being considered for the national archives was about 12,000 square metres and that risk assessment of this land was to be done.
- The upcoming National Forum on Archives was discussed. Religious archives, the University Archive, the Gozo Curia and the Ganado & Associates' archive were to contribute towards the forum and the experience of the recently appointed Records Officers was to be discussed.

12 June 2018

- An update was given about the digitisation of the band clubs' archival material. Dr Farrugia explained that turnout was quite low – about 10 band clubs applied. A letter of thanks was to be sent to Ms Dorianne Coleiro and the St Michael Band Club of Żabbar for publishing guidelines on the archiving of musical scores and documents following consultation with the National Archives.
- The meeting proposed in the previous meeting with all auctioneers is not to take place before the law was amended. Besides, this topic was to be discussed in more detail.
- A new site for the National Archives was proposed – Fort Madliena. This proposal was rejected by the National Archives as it was considered inadequate besides requiring great restoration. A meeting with the Office of the Prime Minister on this matter was agreed upon.
- The Ministry of Finance informed the National Archivist that the Ospizio storage space had to be given to third parties. A new premises was offered; this was found inadequate following an inspection by personnel from the National Archives. The Education Minister was informed.
- Dr Farrugia gave a detailed account about the transfer of Addolorata Cemetery records to the National Archives. The lists of all burials, compiled by the Capuchin Friars were to be transferred to the National Archives before the cemetery's privatisation.

4 September 2018

- The Council was further updated on the digitisation of the band clubs' records.
- Discussions were held with the Office of the Prime Minister with regards the new premises for the National Archives. Besides, the National Archives were informed that the repositories at the Ospizio were not going to be relocated.

- Prof. Zammit explained that University courses related to archival studies were attracting few students. Members agreed that this matter had to be addressed.
- Dr Charles J. Farrugia informed the Council that the memoirs of the late Dom Mintoff were going to be published by his family, in collaboration with the National Archives and that the Archives Awareness Week was to be held between the 12 and 16 November.
- The final details with regards the National Forum on Archives, to be held on 13 November at the Maritime Museum, were agreed upon.



The executive committee of the Friends of the National Archives

9.2 Friends of the National Archives

The Executive Committee of the Friends of the National Archives, consisting of Max Farrugia as President, Dr Charles Farrugia as Vice-President, Dr Gerald Bugeja as Treasurer, Doris Mangion as Secretary (member as from September 2019), Ivan Ellul as Membership Secretary, Prof. George Cassar as Education Officer, Dr Evelyn Pullicino as Public Relations Officer (Secretary as from September 2019) and Dr Nazzareno Azzopardi, Leonard Callus and Martin Hampton as members, continued to support the work and initiatives of the National Archives of Malta.

During the past year, the Executive Committee continued to support the National Archivist and his staff in their efforts to identify a suitable area for a purposely-built new archive building having all the necessary modern amenities. One location had to be given-up and another one has since been identified for consideration by the authorities. Several meetings were held with the Minister for Education and the Permanent Secretary about the matter. The Executive Committee also sent letters to the Prime Minister underlining the urgency of passing on the land in question to the National Archives. The Committee members used every opportunity to highlight the need for a purposely-built archive with modern facilities.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Archives was held on Thursday 5th April 2018 at the National Archives Head Office in Rabat. In his address to those attending the meeting, the President, Max Farrugia, explained the work that was being accomplished by the FNAM in conjunction with the National Archives to preserve the collective memory of our nation. The Secretary, Doris Mangion and the Treasurer, Dr Gerald Bugeja, presented their annual reports. During this event, Paul Galea gave a talk about the Malta Railway and Claudia Garradas concluded the meeting with a presentation about the work of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) in digitizing Maltese historical documents.



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat visits the stand of the Friends of the National Archives at the Malta Book Fair, November 2018

The main project that was completed during the past year was that undertaken jointly with Andrew Alamango of *Fifla Records* to commemorate the 50th anniversary of composer Emmanuele Cilia's death: *Emmanuele Cilia. The Complete Studio Recordings 1931-1932*. The original recordings were transferred from the original 78 rpm shellac records and 45 rpm vinyl discs to digital format for their preservation. The committee entered into an agreement with Andrew Alamango and funded the project. The compilation of these songs on vinyl LPs and on CDs was launched in December 2018 at D'Amato Records shop in Valletta. These records and CDs are being advertised to raise funds for other projects.

During the year, the Executive Committee also continued to work on an innovative educational project. The photos to be used in this project have now been chosen from the National Archives collection. This project is intended to be completed during the coming year.

The new EU *General Data Protection Regulation* was introduced in May 2018. Consequently, a new Retention Policy was approved by the Executive Committee so that all the data about our members is managed in line with the provisions of Data Protection laws and regulations.

The National Archives participated in the book fair organized in October 2018 by *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna* at *Bieb is-Sultan* in Birgu. During the Book Fair held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre held between the 7th and 11th November 2018, 33 new members joined the organisation. A number of 'Cilia' CDs were also ordered. Committee members helped to man the stand at this fair together with National Archives personnel.

The 2018 number of the journal *Arkivju*, published jointly between the Friends of the National Archives and the National Archives and edited by Prof. George Cassar, was published in November in time for the November Book Fair. The outcome of new research at the National Archives is being publicised through this annual journal.

The executive committee supported this year's Awareness Week which included a well-attended event to launch the Malta Bus Archives as part of the National Memory project. An event about new 'Discoveries' included the projection of an old film about a festivity in Floriana which has been retrieved.

The National Archives and the FNAM also featured in the TVM2 programme *Hajjitna Ktieb*. The programme, screened in mid-December, dealt with *The Salter Album* which had been published by the National Archives to commemorate the 100th anniversary from the First World War.

A Maltese student, Sarah Agius, participated in the *Commonage Life Stories Project* of the Commonwealth. With the support of the National Archives staff working on the Oral Memory Project, Ms Agius met Vincent Caruana to hear his story about the experiences of the Maltese during the Second World War. Her essay about what she learnt from this meeting will be one of the 50 stories from 22 countries that will be published in *A Common Wealth of Experience: Freedom fighters, child brides and other untold real-life stories*, to be launched in March 2019.

Members of the Executive Committee gave much needed help at the *Banca Giuratale* which was open for the public during the Mdina Festival held on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th May 2018. The Executive Committee also participated in the National Council of Archives Forum held on Tuesday 13th November at the Maritime Museum.

9.3 Volunteers

The support of volunteers is essential for any national archives to register substantial progress in its archival curation efforts. Volunteering brings much more than unpaid working hours to the institution; it provides also expertise that each and every volunteer brings to the organisation. Apart from the tens of students we host on placements, we have a team of dedicated volunteers who work without much fanfare. Each of them has brought to us their specialisation while we provided the training required to handle the task assigned.

During 2018 the following volunteers gave their valuable services to the National Archives:

- Fred Bezzina (cataloguing the papers of Ġużè Cardona),
- Anthony Bonello (cataloguing maps and plans),
- Michael Bonnici (curator of the pharmacy museum),
- Mary Buttigieg (cataloguing the Mintoff bequest),
- Mark Caruana (cataloguing passport applications),
- Patrick J. Micallef (curating the KOMR data project),
- Norbert Gingell and Francesca del Rio (supporting our Conservation Laboratory staff), and
- Audrey Rose Mizzi (glass plate negatives' preliminary preservation).

During the year under review Mark Caruana reached the mark of inputting 60,000 passport application entries in our databases. Mark was probably the first 'virtual volunteer' in Malta. Living in Australia he did all his volunteering input remotely. It is amazing to note that these applications, covering the years between 1900 and 1936, were inputted over a period of 10 years. Beside this, he worked on 40,000 pre-1900 passports and bills of health. Mark started this process at a time when sending content abroad was not as easy. In hindsight, we are satisfied that we trusted Mark and supported him throughout.

In 2018 we also celebrated 10 years from when Anthony Bonello started his volunteering with us. During these years he has become part of the team and his IT expertise, eye for detail and extensive knowledge proved to a great asset to us.

Another seven potential volunteers have joined our Memorja project and we already provided them with the necessary training to kick-start their involvement helping with the interviews as from the first months of 2019.

We thank all our volunteers, and others who are not registered with us as volunteers but still contribute to ad hoc projects or events.

Thank you, your commitment is invaluable!



On 5 March 2018, Perit Michael Ellul (1925-2018), a key figure in the development of Maltese public archives during the last 50 years, died. While serving as an architect at the Antiquities Unit of the Public Works Department, Perit Ellul was entrusted with the custody and maintenance of a collection of public records in October 1972. This initiative turned out to be the modest start of the National Archives project. Since then, Mr Ellul continued contributing to the development of the National Archives and up to a couple of months ago he was one of our volunteers.



Volunteer Michael Bonnici has been responsible for the maintenance of the pharmacy museum at the National Archives since 2009. Since then the exhibits, including ingredient products and pharmacy equipment have increased by over 40%.

During 2018 nineteen prescription registers from old pharmacies were deposited and added to the other prescription registers (1921 to 1980 and 1919 to 1930) that we already had. The latest deposits hail from Calleja's Pharmacy (Rabat, 1936 to 1955) and Salus Pharmacy (Valletta, 1948 to 1964).

10 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



10.1 Fourth Croatia ICARUS and EURBICA Conference, Trogir, SPLIT, 14-16 March 2018.

The participation of the national archivist in Split, Croatia was intended at showcasing the project MEMORJA to a European academic audience. The second scope was to fulfill the obligations as a member of EURBICA. The third was to forge better relations between EURBICA, the National Archives of Malta, the Forum of National Archivists (FAN) and ApeX.

The Malta presentation was entitled 'Project MEMORJA: archivists as creators of records' and took place on 14 March 2018. The underlying argument of the presentation was the changes in the role the archivist plays in society in projects such as MEMORJA.

The second participation was at the EURBICA executive committee. Thus the meeting in Trogir was an attempt of bridge building with eastern european countries. Given the presence of Thomas Aigner (chairperson of ICARUS), the agenda was rescheduled to give priority to cooperation possibilities between Eurbica and Icarus.

Another interesting meeting was between the newly elected president of FAN Mr Jeff James, national archivist of the UK and the EURBICA Executive. Pan-European archival issues such as solidarity, shared heritage and specific items arising out of EU legislation were discussed.



24th EAG meeting and the 37th EBNA Conference – Sofia, June 2018

10.2 24th EAG meeting and the 37th EBNA Conference – Sofia, Bulgaria, 4-5 June 2018

The brief for the mission was to update the National Archives of Malta with the latest policy updates and application especially in relation to the implementation of the GDPR and also forge more collaborative networks that can support the current Maltese government electoral manifesto commitment to build a state-of-the-art national archives.

The meeting was opened by Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society of the EU. It discussed a number of current initiatives such as the building blocks of the Connecting Europe facility including e-identity, e-signatures; e-archiving. Other issues were updates on the DLM Forum and its recent move from the UK to Estonia. The organisation intends to intensify its outreach strategy based on evangelising; informing; promoting; cooperating; influencing; and assuring.

Belgium presented the findings of the Draft Survey on Archives and statistical data. This was followed by group discussions on the document 'Guidelines for archivists on the Implementation of the GDPR'.

10.3 Tenth Meeting of the European Heads of Conservation – Estonia, 30-31 May 2018

The EHC meets once a year to discuss a chosen topic which is relevant to problems associated with conservation in archives. The main topic discussed during the Tallin meeting was 'Professional Education and Accreditation Issues'. The National Archives was represented by Mr Mario V. Gauci, Chief Conservator, who delivered a presentation entitled 'Situation as regards education and conservators accreditation in Malta'. He mapped the development of conservation studies in Malta and the current training provided by the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage of the University of Malta. The issue of the urgent need for accreditation and warranting of professionals was mentioned.

The Malta presentation on the second day consisted of an assessment of the works carried out during the preceding year. Apart from the metrics of production, Mr Gauci also explained the inspections of external archival holdings that the conservation lab in Malta is embarking upon.



Meeting of the European Heads of Conservation – Estonia, May 2018

10.4 EBNA/EAG Joint Meeting – Vienna, 8-9 November 2018

The second meeting of the European Board of National Archivists and the European Archives Expert Group was held in Vienna. During this meeting the Draft Guidelines on the implementation of the GDPR were revisited and each country presented an update on the application of them. Another core topic discussed was the E-ARK4ALL initiative and how this can be tailor-made to the needs of the respective EU countries.



EBNA/EAG Joint Meeting, Vienna, November 2018

10.5 Assembly of Associates, Governing Board and Country Managers' Meetings – APEF – 7 and 9 November 2018

The National Archives of Malta is one of the founding partners of the Archives Portal Europe. This seminal project is already offering access to millions of archival records all over Europe, including records from the National Archives of Malta. The project developed its governing structures, and once again, as members of the Archives Portal Europe Foundation we participated in the Assembly of Associates and the Governing Board. During the Country Managers' Meeting we also informed the organisation of the appointment of our new country manager who will serve as the national aggregator for the portal.

10.6 Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary from the Foundation of ICARUS

The International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS) is an international network of commemorative institutions based in Central Europe. The National Archives of Malta is a member of ICARUS and participates in a number of initiatives this organisation takes. The EAG/EBNA meetings in Vienna provide ICARUS with the right opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary from its foundation. During a ceremony held at the University of Vienna, music and commemoration joined forces to create a wonderful evening of celebration. National Archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia, acting in his capacity as designate Chairperson of EURBICA was one of the guest speakers at this commemoration. He emphasized on the valuable contribution the organisation is giving to the European archives sector and congratulated the ICARUS for its future challenges.



Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary from the Foundation of ICARUS

10.7 CIRN conference at Monash University

The 16th 'Community Informatics Research Network' (CIRN) conference was held at the Monash University Centre in Prato, Italy. Last year's conference focused on the topic 'Research, Practice and Creative Endeavour that aim to Shape and Influence Policy and Programs'. During this event, Dr Charles J. Farrugia presented the paper 'Who's Voices Count? From Public Records to Public Memory'. It dealt with the transition from national archives focused entirely on public records to a more 'holistic' memory rendition of a nation. The eagerness of national institutions to go in this direction was analysed from the dimensions of accessions, appraisal and outreach processes. The event brought together 63 academics from a number of universities mainly from Australia, UK, Canada and a number of European countries.

10.8 DCDC2018 Conference in Birmingham, November 2018

The Memorja project of the National Archives was presented and discussed during the 'Memory and Transformation' conference organised by The National Archives (TNA) the Research Libraries UK (RLUK). The workshop entitled 'People Make Memories: Capturing and Sharing Collective Memory through Oral History in Malta' was led by national archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia and was held at the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre in Birmingham. Members of staff of the archives James Baldacchino and Irene Sestili also co-presented and led the workshop.



DCDC2018 Conference, Birmingham, November 2018

10.9 European Digital Treasures, Kick off Meeting in Barcelona, December 2018

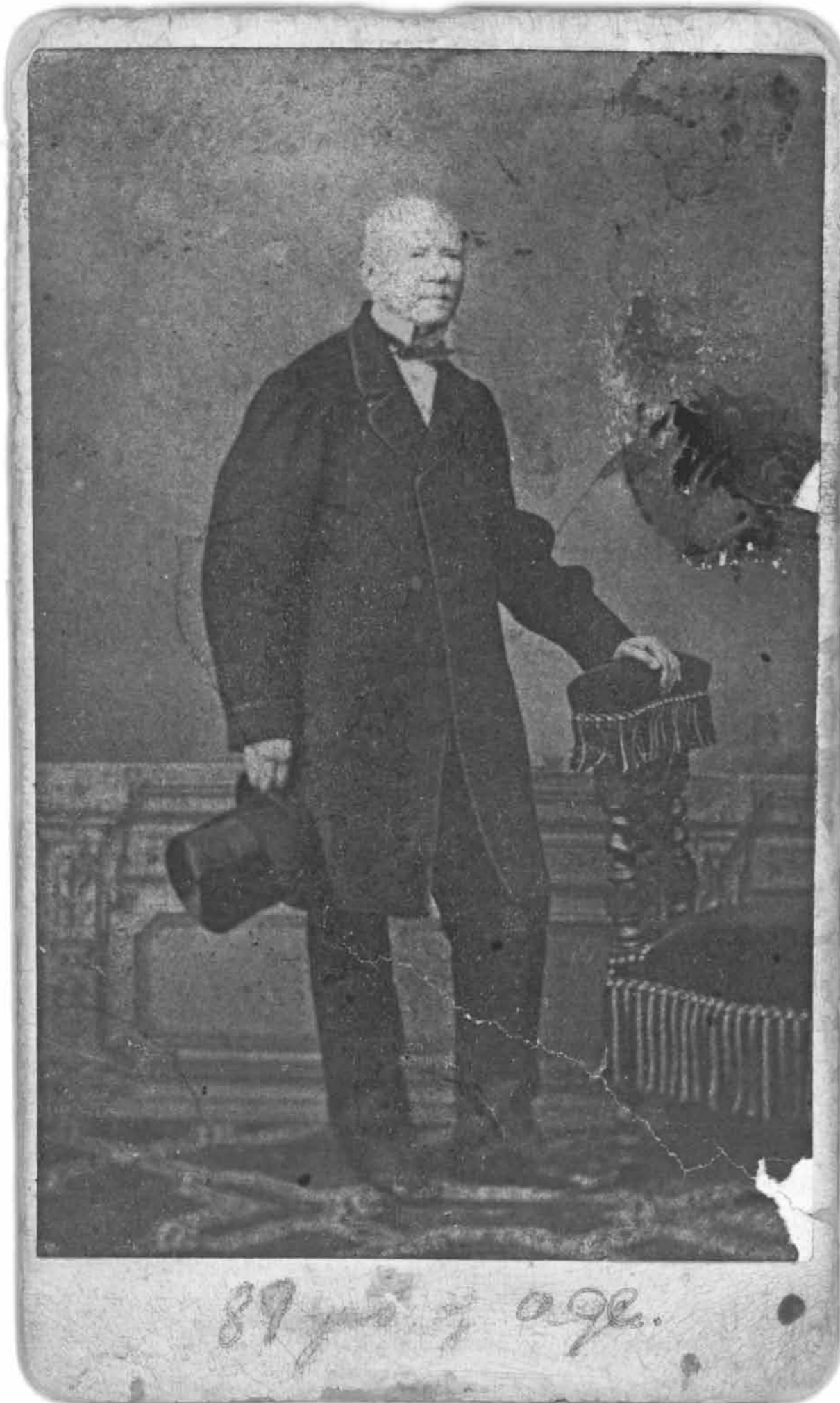
The National Archives of Malta are a partner in the European Digital Treasures, Management of Centennial Archives within the 21st century, a four-year project (2018-2022) led by the Spanish National Archives within the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The other partners are the national archives of Portugal, Norway and Hungary, the International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS), Cork Institute of Technology and Factoria Cultural (Madrid). Participation started in December and the goals of the project are the generation of a greater added value and sustainability of archives, through the identification and implementation of new business models and cross-cultural cooperation and hybridisation; a greater diversification of archives' users, through the identification and implementation of new audiences development strategies and activities; and enhanced visibility of the European heritage, history and culture found within the archives and the transnational mobility of works and professionals.



European Digital Treasures, Kick off Meeting, Barcelona, December 2018

11 GIORGIO MITROVICH

Albert Ganado



The 133-year old photo of Giorgio Mitrovich (1795-1885), donated by Garth Metrovich and his family to the National Archives in March 2018.



ACCOGLIENZA FATTA DAI MALTESI A' REGI COMMISSIONARJ D'INCHIESTA A.L. IN MALTA

LI 26 OTTOBRE 1836.

The visit to Malta on March/April 2018 of Annica Stoltz, Garth and Jacqueline Metrovich will go down as a remarkable event in the annals of Maltese history. They are the proud descendants of the great Maltese patriot Giorgio Mitrovich (1795-1885). While monuments of politicians abound, Mitrovich is almost completely forgotten, although one comes across various references to him and his work in books and newspapers, especially in the nineteenth century when he made his mark in the quest of national liberty.

It was only when Malta became a self-governing colony that biographies of Mitrovich started appearing in print. It appears that the first one was written by Mgr. Arturo Bonnici (1903-1978), founder and president of the Malta Historical Society. It was titled 'Let us remember a great patriot' published in *Lehen is-Sewwa* on March 11, 1972. Other writers followed his example: Ġużè Aquilina (1978), *Heritage* (1982), A. Ellul Galea (1985), Henry Frendo (2004), William Zammit (2008). Incidentally, Bonnici was, like Mitrovich, a Senglean by birth.

However, it was a Maltese Jesuit Father who focused on the invaluable contribution of Mitrovich to the yearned-for fortunes of the Maltese islands. His dissertation was written between 1965 and 1968 and it earned him a degree of B.A. History (Hons) at the Royal University of Malta. It consists of 190 typed quarto pages, but, alas, it has never been published. It was titled 'The political career of George Mitrovich', signed Hector Mercieca S. J. (1945 – died at Santiago, Chile, in November 2001). I happen to have a copy of his dissertation because he had access to the ten volumes of the *Comitato Generale Maltese* in

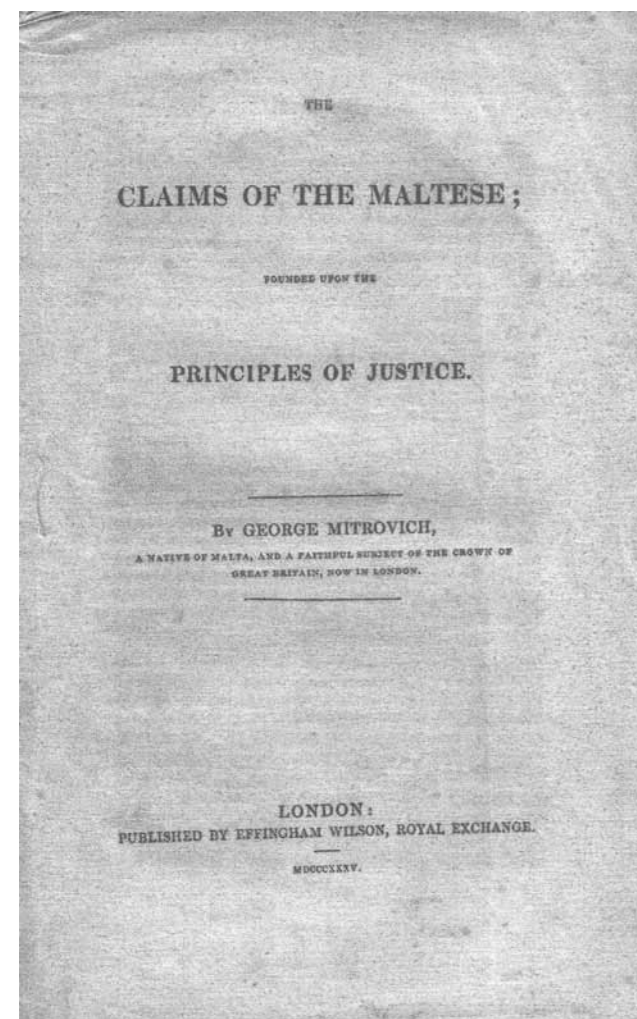
Photo at the top: Accoglienza fatta dai Maltesi a' Regi Commissionarj d'inchiesta A.L. in Malta – li 26 ottobre 1836. Lithograph Drawn by G. aetano Merlato and lithographed in 1836 or 1837 by Henri Thibout et Poize fils (Paris?). (Author's collection)

my collection, which he qualified as 'An indispensable source for my study of the political history of Malta in the 1830s', containing the minutes, projects and papers of the Committee.

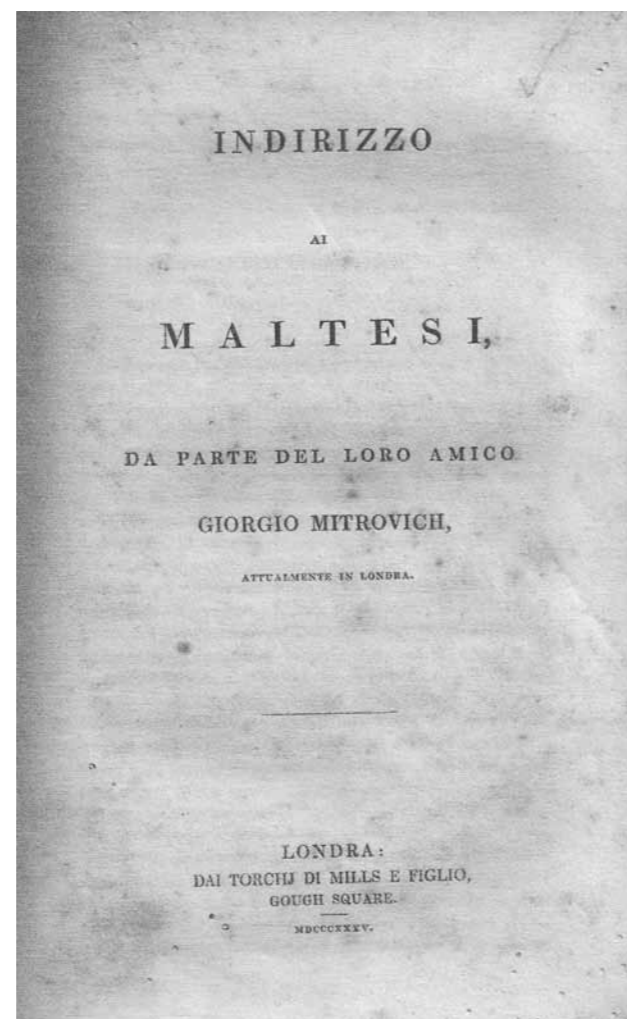
Mercieca divided his dissertation in three periods, the first one covering the years 1832-1836.

The four chapters of the first period deal with the unrest and petition of 1832, Mitrovich's first mission to London, the said Committee, the Royal Commission of 1836, and his second mission to London. Until 1838 the government had consistently refused to grant any licence to set up a printing press, except for the Protestant Church Missionary Society. So, for the period starting from 1830, when the *Comitato di Petizione* (later the *Comitato Generale Maltese*) was first set up, only manuscript sources are available, barring of course, the several pamphlets printed by Mitrovich in London which enjoyed a freedom of the press.

At the end of the dissertation there is a comprehensive list of Mitrovich's publications in London between 1835 and 1838. A list of these pamphlets is also available in my article on 'The origins of the records of the *Comitato Generale Maltese*' published in 2008 in *Guardians of Memory*, ed. Charles J. Farrugia, 2008, 253-284. In 1835 alone, Mitrovich produced no less than eight publications, starting with *The Claims of the Maltese founded upon the Principles of Justice*, followed soon after by another important plea for justice *Indirizzo ai Maltesi da parte del loro amico Giorgio Mitrovich che è attualmente in Londra*.



Frontispiece of the publication *The Claims of the Maltese*, published in 1835. (Author's collection).



Frontispiece of the publication *Indirizzo ai Maltesi*, published in 1835. (Author's collection).

Mitrovich wrote that it was time that the British nation should be acquainted with the actual state of the island of Malta. From very remote periods the Maltese enjoyed many privileges, they were governed by their own laws, they had their magistrates, and representatives who were accustomed to assemble in council.

When the French troops capitulated in September 1800 the Maltese Congress was suspended by Sir Alexander Ball, the very man who had stipulated with the Maltese and promised its preservation. He established a system of government entirely arbitrary and despotic, contrary to the expectations of the Maltese, disallowing them to be governed by their ancient laws, conformably to the spirit of the British constitution. This system of government, Mitrovich complained, had been in existence for 35 years (1800-1835).

He then enumerated some of the hardships and sufferings of the Maltese people. 'Deprived of their liberty, their rights and privileges disregarded or suspended, without any Representatives of their own to whom they could apply for redress, reduced to the lowest state of destitution and misery, a general discontent prevailed amongst them, though they are patient, submissive and quiet'. He queried 'Is (Malta) to be left in the state of destitution and slavery in which it now exists'.

Mitrovich also worked out the enormous differences that were created between the heads of department, all British, except one Corsican, and the other senior posts occupied by the Maltese. The local treasury was paying in all to the Britishers £25,500, while a miserable £6,870 was reserved for the Maltese. The Lieutenant-Governor (later called Governor) received a salary of £5,000 (183 years ago) and the Chief Secretary £1,500. While the British Chief Justice (who never studied Maltese Law) was granted £1,500 yearly, the four senior Maltese judges earned only £430 each! This was another source of humiliation, and consequently of disgust, to the Maltese people, nourished by 'a system of considering the native inhabitants as an inferior class of beings. Gone was the day of 19 June 1800 when the commanding officer of troops in Malta, Brigadier-General Thomas Graham, published an address to the *BRAVE MALTESE* during the siege against the French (page 11 of the pamphlet).

PARAGONE

Tra i Salarj degl' Impiegati Inglesi, e di alcune loro Pensioni, e quelli de' Maltesi. Fatto per approssimazione non essendo i nativi favoriti di nessun notamento, dal quale si potrebbero vedere esattamente le somme ed altre particolarità.

Salarj e Pensioni di 35 Persone, cioè 34 Inglesi ed 1 Corso.

	CIRCA
1 Luogotenente Governatore	£5000
1 Segretario Principale	1500
1 Capo di Giustizia	1500
1 Tesoriere	930
1 Soprintendente della quarantina	800
1 Procuratore Generale	800
1 Collettore della Rendita Territoriale	700
1 Agente nel Dipartimento de' grani	600
1 Soprintendente detto	500
1 Direttore delle Opere Pubbliche	500
1 Auditore dei Conti	500
1 Collettore della Dogana e dell' Assisa	480
1 Primo Assistente nell' ufficio del Segretario	480
1 Magistrato del Gozo e Collettore della Rendita Territoriale	400
1 Soprintendente della Pulizia di Marina	350
1 Magistrato della Pulizia Esecutiva	350
1 Luogotenente Governatore del Gozo	350
1 Cappellano del Governo Civile	300
1 Soprintendente della Stamperia di Governo	250
1 Soprintendente dell' ufficio di Posta	250
1 Scrivano nell' ufficio del Segretario, &c.	200
1 Ajutante di Pulizia e Tenente R. M. F.	200
1 Capitano della Quarantina	200
1 Magistrato della Pulizia Giudiziaria	180
1 Scrivano nell' Ufficio del Dipartimento de' Grani	160
1 Segretario del Luogotenente Governatore del Gozo	150
1 Scrivano nell' Ospedale Civile	120
1 Detto nell' Ufficio dell' Auditore dei Conti	120
1 Capo Mastro delle Opere Pubbliche	110
1 Magazziniere	100
1 Colonnello Rivarola, Corso, R. M. F.	850
31	Trasporto £18,900

	CIRCA
31	Riparto £18,900
1 Agente in Inghilterra pel Governo di Malta*	500
1 Rev. F. Laing, Pensione	400
1 Sir Wm. Ball, detta	600
1 R. R. Wood	1000
Alcuni dei suddetti hanno ancora il vantaggio dell' affitto franco, ed altri sono soggetti al solo terzo dell' affitto delle case che abitano.	
35 cioè . 34 Inglesi ed 1 Corso.	£21,400
Prendiamo ora i Salarj di 35 Maltesi d' un grado il più elevato.	
4 Giudici, a £430 l' uno	CIRCA £1720
1	350
1	300
6 Lord Luogotenenti dei Distretti, a £85 l' uno	510
1 Cassiere del Tesoriero	400
1 Secondo Assistente nell' ufficio del Segretario e Registratore del Supremo Consiglio di Giustizia	400
1 Magistrato della Pulizia Giudiziaria	250
1 Assistente nell' ufficio del Collettore delle Rendite Territoriali	200
2 Detti nella Pulizia di Marina	350
1 Magistrato dei Mercati	200
1 Provveditore nell' Ospedale Civile	200
1 Medico Detto	120
2 Chirurghi Detto	240
2 Avvocati, Assistenti del Procuratore Generale	340
1 Registratore della Corte d' Appello	150
3 Detti della Corte Civile, 1, 2, e 3 Aula	300
1 Assistente nella Pulizia Esecutiva	120
1 Magistrato della Pulizia Giudiziaria	180
1 Medico di Pulizia e di Quarantina	140
1 Capitano di Lazzeretto	200
1 Coroner	83
1 Assistente nell' ufficio delle Opere Pubbliche	100
35 Maltesi	£6,853
Dunque, gl' Inglesi ricevono £21,400	
I Maltesi detto 6,853	
Eccessiva differenza contro i Maltesi paragonando i Salarj degl' uni cogl' altri su di un numero eguale di persone £14,547	
* Attualmente è un tal Edw. Barnard, Esq., Londra, Parliament-street, No. 2, il quale, diceci che abbia meno salario del suo predecessore; cioè: meno di £500 come sopra marcato.	

Comparative list of salaries of the British and the Maltese published by Mitrovich in 1835

Petition after petition for the restitution of the rights of the Maltese were invariably turned down, ignored, or prevented from reaching the British Throne. Mitrovich quoted as an example the petition of 1811 to the King, 'signed by almost all the nobility of the island, and other respectable inhabitants'. The petitioners 'were designated by the ruler, a despotic military man (Sir Hildebrand Oakes), in a printed publication stuck up in all public spaces, as weak, inconsiderate, turbulent, and factious, and some of the subscribers have been deprived of their situations to the present day? One of the victims was Chev. (later Sir) Paolo Parisio, reinstated in December 1814 by Sir Thomas Maitland. The petition led to the appointment of a Royal Commission with Oakes as one of the three members, but the system was perpetuated.

Circumstances in Malta were easily affected by what was happening on the Continent of Europe, especially Italy. As Fr Mercieca pointed out, in 1830 the Maltese were breathing in the revolutionary spirit let loose in Europe. The members of the 1830 Committee were Dr Paolo Sciortino, Camillo de' Baroni Sceberras, Raimondo Rocco, Emmanuele Zammit, and Dr Giacomo Pantoleone Bruno.

On 18 May 1832 a petition was presented to the Governor, Sir Frederick Ponsonby (1827-1836). It was signed by 141 individuals, mainly householders in Valletta, among whom we find the name of Giorgio Mitrovich, a merchant, who had been employed as a clerk with two English commercial houses until he established his own business. The Maltese were asking for a National Council, the only solution to the grievances of the inhabitants. Forty days later the Governor stated that he had not sent the petition yet as he wanted some modifications. This brought about the intended split in the Committee, obviously engineered during those forty days. *Divide et impera!*

Some thirty-six signatories, including Mitrovich, refused to make the modifications ordered by the Governor. To overcome the problem the most important personages began to hold meetings, which they called *Conversazioni* to avoid the clutches of the law prohibiting meetings! A new 'Patriotic Committee' was formed, intended to organize the political struggle and to find the means of transmitting a petition as effectively as possible. A fresh petition of the same tenor as the former one was drawn up, largely the work of Camillo Sceberras, Dr Arcangelo Pullicino, Giorgio Mitrovich and Dr T. Spiteri. It was signed by a greater number than before, about 404, and sent by post to the Governor.

Another petition incorporating the Governor's amendments, was also presented by the other party, headed by Dr Bruno (Crown Advocate in 1839, later Judge), Raimondo Rocco, and Dr Sciortino (Professor of Political Economy at the University of Malta in 1839). However, both petitions agreed on the points of major import: a free press; the promulgation of a regular code of laws; a reduction in expenses going to Englishmen; more encouragement to agriculture, commerce, merchant shipping and public instruction. The outstanding main item was the long-standing demand for a native Council of members to be elected freely by various classes of Maltese 'with the power of indicating the necessary legislative and economical remedies'.

Sadly, Ponsonby was dead set against any Council as demanded, writing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that it was unpractical and injurious to the interests of the people. The 1835 Constitution which created a Council solely of members nominated by the Governor was diametrically opposed to what the Maltese wanted. Even before the nominated members were chosen, Mitrovich left for London on 20 May 1835 for business purposes. Camillo Sceberras took advantage of this visit by helping him financially to plead for the Maltese cause. Mitrovich handed in at the Colonial Office a letter from Sceberras, but he received no answer. Typical arrogance!

Fortunately for the Maltese cause, Mitrovich was introduced by Mr Jameson Hunter, a very important merchant connected with Maltese trade, to William Ewart, a renowned liberal member of the House of Commons for Liverpool. In July he published 1,600 copies of the said *Claims of the Maltese*; 400 copies were sent to Malta to be sold at one shilling each at Luigi Tonna's bookshop at Valletta. The other copies were distributed in England, many of them going to members of parliament. The contents of the pamphlet were confirmed by a British merchant, John Watson, residing at Belvedere, St Julians.¹ Writing to Peter Ainsworth, M.P. for Bolton he said: 'I can honestly assure you that there is not one paragraph contained therein but what is truth, honest truth and nothing but the truth'.

¹ On Watson's life, see Albert Ganado, 'John Watson's 'Belvedere' and the Malta Protestant College', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 11 March, 2018, 56-57.

Although Ewart was the champion of the Maltese cause, the mission of Mitrovich was supported by the House of Commons and their spokesmen, to wit, Joseph Hume, H. Warburton, H. G. Ward, Daniel O'Connell, George Grote, Howard Elphinstone, Edward Holland, W. Duwett, and even Lord Sandon from the House of Lords. According to O'Connell there were 200 MPs on the opposition benches who endorsed the complaints of the Maltese. Ewart even secured an interview for Mitrovich at the Colonial Office with Lord Glenelg, who, in 1836 appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the affairs of Malta whose members recommended many important reforms, including the freedom of the press.

Later, Mitrovich told the Under-Secretary of State, Sir George Grey, that the intrigues were made by a few individuals to protect their personal interest, and the Maltese had notwithstanding this shown their fidelity and confidence in the British nation, but the Maltese would certainly no longer 'suffer themselves to be treated as slaves'. They were seeking redress against 'misrule, despotism, arbitrary acts, oppression, intrigues, caprice, interest, *in fine*, a mass of evils which cannot in a few words be described'. He had made sacrifices, and if necessary he would sacrifice his life and his seven children for his countrymen.

At about this time Mitrovich sent to Malta his *Indirizzo ai Maltesi* which provoked a furore for and against. A satire denigrating the work of Mitrovich was written and distributed. The historian and poet Gian Anton Vassallo (1817-1868) wrote a *Confutazione* in which he stated that one could not walk in the streets, one could not enter a coffee shop, one could not engage in conversation without hearing thousands of praise for the name of Giorgio Mitrovich. The fear of many was doused and 2,357 individuals signed a new petition sent to Mitrovich on 25 January 1836 to be passed to Mr Ewart.

Discussions in London and correspondence between Mitrovich and the Maltese Committee went on unabated. The Colonial Secretary had already requested a report from the government in Malta on the justification of its acts. As he was not satisfied with the report, and under pressure from home, Glenelg decided to take action for the honour of the British nation. For him, these were the alternatives. Either appointing a Royal Commission to go to Malta, or Parliamentary Committees. The Maltese Committee, on the other hand, wanted immediate reforms as the grievances were so well known.

A Royal Commission was eventually set up composed of two members, George Cornwall Lewis and John Austin, described by Ewart to Mitrovich as 'a man of considerable talent and a liberal'. They arrived in Malta on 20 October 1836. Mitrovich asked Lord Glenelg for a letter of protection from the government of Malta. He was assured that protection was to be accorded to every person presenting himself before the Commissioners.

Mission accomplished, Giorgio Mitrovich arrived back in Malta on 12 October 1836 and was greeted by the people with demonstrations and an *Għanja* (song) in Maltese was composed. Found in MS 1025 at the National Library of Malta, it was reproduced in full by Gużè Cassar Pullicino in his article 'L-Għanja ta' Ġorġ Mitrovich u l-Għanja tal-Maltin' in the book *Kitbiet Oħra tas-seklu Dsatax* (Kullana Kulturali no. 37) published in 2002. Two stanzas are being reproduced here:

no.3

U kollha flimkien ingħajtu:

"Bravu Giorgi kull mument,

Bravu wkoll is-Sultan tagħna,

Bravi l-Membri tal-Parlament".

This refrain is repeated after stanzas nos, 6, 9, 12, 14 and 18.

no.11

Min kien jobsor li dan Giorgi

Kien dak l-Anġlu li ha ħsiebna,

Li mar jissakrifika ruħu

U tħabat biex reġa' fdiena.

The Royal Commission was seen by the people as a victory over the local government and all the credit was given to Mitrovich. In his history of Malta published in 1841, the French consul, Dominique Miège, held Mitrovich in high regard. Meantime, the *Comitato Generale Maltese*, consisting of 100 members, had been formed to conduct the proceedings before the Commission. Over 11,700 persons had voted before Notaries Public to elect representatives of all the towns and villages.²

5

DOCUMENT (B)

The Members composing the Maltese General Committee, according to specific lists delivered to His Late Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry on the 29th of November, 1836, were 97; the number of whom was afterwards augmented to 100, by the annexation of other Corporations—elected by the free suffrages of the people to the number of 11,712, out of a population of about 120,000 souls, viz:

	Electors.		Electors.
Nobles	53	Notabile, (city) and its suburb	
Lawyers	68	Rabato	773
Notaries	57	Zebbug—(Casal)	766
Solicitors, &c.	35	Zeitun	424
Clergy	327	Gargur	109
Merchants, &c.	112	Asciack	97
Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries	68	Nasciario	317
Traders in Manufactures (Drappieri)	72	Musta	499
Masters of Vessels	84	Zabbar	153
Brokers	24	Curmi	710
Carpenters	233	Siggieui	614
Tailors	267	Birchircara	745
Gold and Silversmiths, and Jewellers	70	Crendi	152
Smiths, &c.	71	Tarxien	119
Shopkeepers	275	Gudia	86
Bakers and dealers in Bread	68	Dingli	113
Professors of the Fine Arts	31	Micabiba	183
Booksellers, Printers, &c.	19	Zurrico	506
Shoemakers	81	Luca	129
Valletta, independently of the Corporations and Illiterate men	191	Attard	
Floriana, (suburb)	346	Lia	(Casals) 211
Cospicua, (city)	900	Balzan	
Senglea	172	Safi	
Vittoriosa	410	Chircop	146
		Misida, Pietà, &c. (Country places)	48
		Island of Gozo	678
			<u>11,712</u>

The voting pattern of voting for the Maltese General Committee. Extract from *Maltese Claims* published by Mitrovich in London in 1837 (Author's collection)

On the 3rd November the Committee handed Mitrovich as its spokesman a list of 18 grievances and the remedies proposed. The main remedies were these: a national council, separation of powers, a free press, the civil service to be manned by the Maltese, and the maladministration and abuse of power to be eliminated. He was interviewed by the Commission more than once to explain his plan of reform of 1835. One had to keep in mind that it was Mitrovich who had brought the Maltese cause to the direct attention of Parliament, the Colonial Secretary and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Fortunately the last two were sensitive to the needs of the colonies.

As the Committee set up to handle the Maltese affairs was heavily engaged, the presence of Mitrovich in Malta was no longer essential. On Ewart's recommendation he left again for London on 27 May 1837. He wanted to enlist more help from new friends as it was known that many were against the establishment of a free press and unfortunately the Bishop of Malta, Mgr Francesco Saverio Caruana (1831-1847), was of the same opinion, fearing the most fatal consequences to good morals and the Roman Catholic religion of the island. An agreement with the Committee undertook to pay Mitrovich 400 *scudi* a month, equivalent to some £33, for lodging, food and expenses. He arrived in England in late June, and immediately contacted Lord Glenelg and Mr Ewart.

² The complete record of the election consisting of 813 MSS folios is in the author's collection.

He found many helpful friends in England, chief among whom was Robert Montgomery Martin, author of the *History of the British Colonies*. Whenever the occasion arose, he sent letters to British newspapers defending the interests of Malta and rebutting hostile condemnations. However, as no national council was born and absolute censorship still reigned, enthusiasm waned, and the Committee became unable to honour its commitments towards Mitrovich. The sums paid to him were irregular, and by August he was already in financial trouble. To add to his miseries, Mr Ewart had lost his seat in the House of Commons. Was it because he had championed the Malta cause?

On seeing that the favourable report of the Commissioners was going to be implemented and that the Government was going to effect reforms, Mitrovich decided to leave England and he returned to Malta on 12 March 1838. By the end of February the first private presses had already been set up on the island. The first newspaper, in Italian, was published on 23 April 1838.

Mitrovich left behind him among his many British friends an excellent impression of his character and love of Malta. Montgomery Martin wrote to the President of the Maltese General Committee to say how much they owed him for his able unremitting efforts on behalf of the freedom and prosperity of Malta. He had watched his conduct in England since his arrival and he most gladly bore testimony to his upright and manly conduct, to the uncompromising independence he had evinced in the advocacy of justice, and to the abilities with which he had combated the opponents of an erroneous system.

Likewise, Ewart's letter to the President of the Committee spoke highly of Mitrovich stating that he could not allow him to quit England without expressing his sense of zeal and exactness with which he had discharged his duties in England. He had shown the same vigilant attention to every point connected with the welfare of Malta which he had exhibited before. All this was endorsed by the publisher Samuel Mills who remarked that from the first day of Mitrovich's arrival in London he had the opportunity of observing his perseverance, activity, and devotion to the duties he had undertaken.

Apparently influenced by the Chief Secretary Hankey (the *bête noir* of Maltese writers) as soon as he reached Malta, Lewis considered Mitrovich to be a well-meaning but exceedingly weak man who evidently wished the government to buy him body and soul for £200 a year. But even the historian Albert Laferla, a staunch imperialist, wrote that the fact that Mitrovich lived to the age of 90 and died in poverty shows how wrong Lewis' appreciation of his character was. Yet in his *British Malta*, Laferla reserved for Mitrovich only a couple of slight references.

The truth is, as Mercieca pointed out, that Mitrovich found himself burdened with a debt of 3005 *scudi* after his second stay in England. He had retired from his business to dedicate himself to the cause, and he had a large family to maintain. In these circumstances, he asked Lord Grenelg to authorize the local government to give him the necessary £250. He stressed that the reports of the Commissioners had shown how right he was in defending the Maltese interests, rendering at the same time a service to the British nation. On principle it was agreed that he could be given a clerkship when a vacancy occurred. It never happened.

On 15 March 1839 the law of the press came into effect. It granted freedom from censorship and the right to set up presses by private individuals. The main object of the efforts of Mitrovich had been achieved. By this time the General Committee had split in two parties. The group that were dissatisfied with the work of the Commission as no representative council had been granted was led by Camillo Sceberras who left politics. Others, like Mitrovich, saw in the Reports a good beginning. He was for consolidating what had been gained and pressing for more.

In 1839 two other petitions were formed, but Mitrovich was attacked with spleen by *Il Mediterraneo*, and his arch-enemy Lord Brougham stated that he was no longer an agent for the Maltese. A bone of contention centred on amendments to the press law, but the new petitions were presented in the House of Commons by Mr Ewart and Mr Hawes. That presented by Ewart asked for a 'salutary and permanent system of government', a Council of Representatives Body freely elected by the people. Mitrovich was once more in London and on 15 August 1839 he sent to Malta copies of his letter *Al Popolo Maltese*, shortly after a vitriolic attack against him by James Richardson, editor in Malta of *The Harlequin*. His London letter was fully acceptable to the Committee. Thus ended the visits to London of Giorgio Mitrovich.

In 1846 Ewart and Hume were still championing the Maltese cause in the British parliament. Ewart held that a representative council was the only solution to the grievances of the Maltese, but it was still being resisted by the Colonial Office. The Carnival riots of 1846 provided an opportunity to vent grievances against England and Malta became the centre of Italian liberals and revolutionaries. The arrival of a new governor Richard More O’Ferrall (1847-1851) coincided with a wave of revolutions all over Europe, and Sicily was no exception. Maltese pressure in favour of a representative council increased tremendously.

Very niggardly, after half a century of absolute one-man rule, a Council of Government was created by Letters Patent of 11 May 1849, but the elected members were placed in a minority. The first election under the new Constitution was held between 16 and 22 August 1849. Out of 3,486 electors, 1,940 did not vote. The merchant Giuseppe Montebello Pulis obtained the highest number of votes, namely, 714. Strangely, Mitrovich polled only 26 votes, while Camillo Sciberras obtained only 34. Governor O’Ferrall wrote to Mitrovich: ‘I regret that you have not received the reward from your contrymen which you deserve but political gratitude is not to be expected’. It was only in 1855 that he was elected with 1,050 votes upon the resignation of one of the members elected in 1849. However he resigned in June 1856 because of the systematic opposition by the official members to the motions presented by the elected members. He wrote in a letter to a local newspaper: ‘the people suffer, and meanwhile the government is deaf’.

Two years later he was once more in England. On 22 May 1858 he wrote to Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, asserting that the Maltese had always been loyal and so he could see no reason why Malta should not be permitted to enjoy a form of government similar to that of the other colonies. About himself he said that he had a family of twelve, and that he had a son in London and another at the Cape of Good Hope, both merchants. He himself had been in Malta for fifty years. Back in Malta he formed a *Comitato Patria* (committee of the homeland) in November 1858 to forward another petition. It included over twenty prominent citizens. The petition was never finalised as the new Governor, Sir Gaspard Le Marchant (1858-1864), had started effecting many useful reforms.

Political agitation was stirred again by a new movement led by four prominent lawyers (*I Quattro Avvocati*). The other four remaining elected members of the Council of Government did not feel it just to censure Le Marchant’s administration. Mitrovich was of the same view, he praised the various beneficial reforms, and he refused to sign the petition that was being circulated. For the good of the country, Viscount Edward Cardwell, the new Secretary of State, sent instructions to the Governor that great consideration should be shown to the opinions of the elected members in matters of domestic interest, and that above all no vote of money should be pressed against the majority of those members, except in very special circumstances and with an immediate report to the Secretary of State. Fr Mercieca described the despatch as one of the highlights of Malta’s constitutional history.

In the penultimate chapter Fr Mercieca dealt with the efforts of Mitrovich on emigration. He felt that it tied up with his struggle for political liberties in that both had to do directly with the many-sided political, economic and social situations in Malta. Indeed, as far back as 1835 he had contacted West Indian planters and hundreds of Maltese emigrated to Grenada and British Guiana. This is one of the items mentioned by him in his applications for assistance published as an appendix to the dissertation. Another lengthy appendix lists the services rendered by him to Malta and Great Britain between 1830 and 1878. It is dated 12 December 1878.³

The dissertation ends with a concluding chapter containing a short synopsis of the immense and valuable contribution Giorgio Mitrovich made to the interests and fortunes of the Maltese islands.

As part of his conclusions Fr Mercieca laid emphasis on how politics and trade were inextricably intermingled. Jameson Hunter was an important merchant connected with trade in Malta, while William Ewart was a member of Parliament for Liverpool, a constituency whose main lifeline was trade. The 1821 petition had been submitted by British merchants in Malta. The petitions of 1836 all pointed to the connection with trade and commerce.

As to Mitrovich, the Maltese nation should be grateful to him for paving the way for reform, for bringing the

3 *Servigi resi da Giorgio Mitrovich alla Patria e alla Gran Bretagna dal 1830 al 1878. Malta, 12 Dicembre 1878.* Manuscript compiled by Mitrovich, in the possession of Notary Alberto Sigismondo D’Andria in 1962. The author has a typed copy.

Maltese question to the immediate notice of the Colonial Secretary and of Parliament. He was convinced of the cause he was championing and he succeeded in impressing many Englishmen.

Relying on what the Commissioner Lewis had written, Sir Richard More O’Ferrall wrote in 1858: ‘Mitrovich is an intelligent enterprising man and I found him most useful in several occasions during my government of Malta and I would be glad to oblige him’. In a letter of 1851 sent to Mitrovich he stated: ‘I have never had reason to change the favourable opinion I had formed of you and only regret that I had no opportunity of making more strongly my conviction of the services rendered by you to your country’. This encomium reflects the sentiments of several other personalities who crossed the path of Mitrovich.⁴

I feel that the detailed dissertation of Fr Hector Mercieca merits a postscript. There is much more still to be researched and written about Malta’s adopted son Giorgio Mitrovich.

It has been written that he was the son of Salvatore Mitrovich and Adeodata Boldoni. His father belonged to a Dalmatian family of corsairs active in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It does not seem that he ever engaged in corsairing activity as he served in the Army of the Venetian Republic. As a Lieutenant in the Maltese Pioneers he proceeded to Egypt in 1801 with the English Expeditionary Force under the command of Lt General Count Francesco Rivarola. He was awarded the Turkish Gold Medal.⁵ Besides, in 1850 he received the British War Medal with his name and ‘Maltese Pioneers’ inscribed on the rim. The medal was struck in 1848 to reward the services of the British Fleet and Army from 1793 to 1814.⁶ He later served in various Maltese regiments, ending as Captain of the Royal Malta Fencibles.⁷

Most biographers wrote that Giorgio in his early years was employed as a clerk with two English commercial houses. Actually he was a good accountant and well-versed in Italian and English. In the early years of British rule a certain Henry Volger had a flourishing business in the 1810s and 1820s, a dealer in clothes, glass and china, mirrors and pianos. Between 1813 and 1815 he partnered George Reichardt who had a subsidiary company in Trieste, and when the latter wound up his commercial activities Volger decided to remain on the island and work on his own.⁸

On 1 January 1828 he advertised that he had set up a new commercial establishment which from that day would be carrying on business under the firm name H. Volger and Co. at 289 Strada San Paolo, Valletta. On the first of February 1828 Giorgio Mitrovich was admitted as a partner in the firm.⁹ Probably, he was working for Volger before that date. By mutual consent the partnership between Volger and Mitrovich was dissolved by the 1st December 1829, Volger left for Zante on the 10th and he was declared bankrupt by the relative Commission.¹⁰ Perhaps the death of his wife affected his business and he does not appear again on the Malta scene.

It is unlikely that between 1830 and 1839 he had the time to cultivate any business venture, but by October 1839 he had entered into a partnership with a certain Paolo Curmi.¹¹ It was intended to last four years but on 27 June 1840 he announced that he was no longer a partner of the firm Mitrovich & Curmi as this had ceased to function on his return to Malta.

4 O’Ferrall’s letter dated 16 August 1849 and other testimonials by Wilford Brett, David Grant, Robert Montgomery Martin and the Governor Charles J. van Straubenzee form the appendix to the MS *Servigi resi...* referred to in footnote 3.

5 A. Samut-Tagliaferro. *History of the Royal Malta Artillery*, Malta, 1976, 452.

6 Captain (later Lt Col) Frederick Gatt (1841-1892). Scrapbook marked W.O. Book, 128, 10b, in the author’s collection. (A. Ganado, ‘Maltese Pioneers and the Egypt Medal’, *Treasures of Malta*, x(3), no. 30, Summer 2004, 52).

7 A. Samut-Tagliaferro, loc. cit. He retired on half pay on 8 March 1837 (the year of two of his son Giorgio’s publications while the Royal Commissioners were in Malta). He died aged 86 on 18 April 1855. Giorgio was born when his father was 26 years old.

8 Henry Volger was born in Hanover in 1785. In 1824 he married Caroline Hurter, born in Germany in 1807, died in Malta in April 1828. Their son Otto Henry, a six-month old, died two months later. They had a daughter Melita born in 1825. (M. D’Angelo. *Mercanti inglesi a Malta 1800-1825*, Milano, 1990, 81, 209-211, 219). In 1820 he was the agent of Messrs Geller & Co., the owners of the Brig *William*.

9 *The Malta Government Gazette*, 2 January and 1st February 1828.

10 *The Malta Government Gazette*, 9 December, 10 December, 21 December 1829.

11 He referred to this contract in a letter dated 14 October 1829. He wrote it from London on his return from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham. In connection with that contract he referred to a certain ‘Signor Giglio’. (Giovanni Bonello, ‘Dalmatians in Malta at the time of the Knights’, *Histories of Malta – Mysteries and Myths*, Malta, 2007, vol. 8, 114-5). Mr Giglio could be S. Giglio who, according to Muir’s Almanac for 1844 ran a company of maritime insurance named *Industriosa* at 37 Strada Mercanti.

Giorgio Mitrovich passed away on 13 March 1885 in his ninetieth year at his residence 69 Strada Teatro, Valletta. His funeral testifies to the love and respect he had earned from his compatriots. Followed by a large concourse of people, his remains were borne to Porta Reale by six distinguished citizens. The cordons of the pall were held by the eight elected members of the Council of Government. Homage was paid by the professional classes, newspaper representatives and social clubs. The renowned philanthropist Marquis Vincenzo Bugeja (1821-1890) offered his carriage to the parish priest conducting the ceremony. But a sour note was struck by the vindictive colonial government of that time. The two Valletta bands of La Vallette and the King's Own were not allowed to take part in the funeral cortège, permission to cover the coffin with the Maltese national flag was refused, and the highly esteemed Dr Nicola Zammit (1815-1899) was not allowed to read his address at the Addolorata Cemetery when the Maltese great patriot was buried.¹²

Is it too much to expect that a Giorgio Mitrovich Memorial be erected in his honour by his compatriots?

Dr. Albert Ganado graduated B.A. and LL.D. in 1942 and 1946, and has practised law since 1947. Keen collector of Melitensia, including books and manuscripts, maps and prints, portraits, autographs, postcards and philatelic items. He has written extensively on Maltese history, art, legislation, politics and philately, authoring fourteen books and well over 200 articles of academic interest in journals and books published in Malta, London, Rome, Vienna and Leipzig.

Founder member of the Malta Historical Society (1950) and Past President, and of Din l-Art Ħelwa (1965). Co-founder of the Malta Philatelic Society (1996) and Secretary for twenty years, founder of the Malta Map Society (2009) and President. Member of The Maltese National Order of Merit (1998), Knight Magistral Grace (1987) promoted to Knight Grand Cross (2012) of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and *Commendatore pro merito Melitensi* (1996), *Commendatore nell'Ordine dei Santi Maurizio e Lazzaro*.

Past President of the Guild of Graduates, past Chairman of the National Archives Advisory Committee, the Heritage Advisory Committee of the Planning Authority, and the Malta Bridge Association. The Malta University Library produced in 1994 a Festschrift in his honour *Liber Amicorum Dr Albert Ganado*. In 2008 Heritage Malta acquired his unique collection of 450 antique Malta maps, all different, from the 16th to the 19th century.

In 2011 the International Map Society awarded him the prestigious Helen Wallis Award for his life contribution to the History of Cartography. In October 2013 the University of Malta conferred on him a Doctorate in Literature (*Honoris Causa*), while in 2017 the Faculty of Laws honoured him with the Academic Excellence Award.

¹² Malta at the time was governed by General Sir John Lintorn Simmons and the Chief Secretary and Lieutenant Governor was the Honourable Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson KCMG.

12 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 2018

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Income			
Government Subvention	2	750,000	650,000
Funds from the Ministry for Gozo	3	92,671	88,457
Other Income	4	43,764	38,016
Total recurrent income		886,435	776,473
Operational Costs			
Operational Costs	Stat I	(737,986)	(562,816)
Administrative Expenses	Stat II	(88,502)	(206,059)
Surplus before Interest		59,947	7,598
Interest receivable	7	-	10
Surplus for the year		59,947	7,608

**Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2018**

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	251,306	109,728
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	10	2,372	1,818
Cash at bank		220,229	210,173
		<u>222,601</u>	<u>211,991</u>
Total Assets		473,907	321,719
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Accumulated fund			
- Recurrent vote and operating activities	11	165,445	105,498
		<u>165,445</u>	<u>105,498</u>
Long Term Liabilities			
Trade and other payables		238,047	133,041
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Trade and other payables	12	42,788	56,287
Bank overdraft		-	26,893
Accruals, other payables and Deferred Income	12	27,627	-
		<u>70,415</u>	<u>83,180</u>
Total Reserves and Liabilities		473,907	321,719

Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund

	Recurrent vote & operating activities €	Accumulated Fund €
Financial period 31 December 2018		
Balance at 1 January 2018	105,498	105,498
Surplus for the year	59,947	59,947
Balance at 31 December 2018	165,445	165,445

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Surplus (Deficit) for the Financial Year before transfer of depreciation.		59,947	7,608
Adjustments for:			
Release of Grant		(25,666)	(27,380)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		63,449	24,813
Interest Receivable		-	(10)
		<u>97,730</u>	<u>5,031</u>
Operating profit before working capital changes			
(Increase) / Decrease in Debtors		(554)	22,048
Increase / (Decrease) in Creditors		39,869	472
Cash generated from operations		137,045	27,551
Interest Received		-	10
		<u>137,045</u>	<u>27,561</u>
Net Cash from Operating Activities			
		137,045	27,561
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of Tangible assets		(205,102)	(28,641)
Deferred Income Grants		105,006	120,334
		<u>(100,096)</u>	<u>91,683</u>
Net Cash from Investing Activities			
		(100,096)	91,683
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents			
		36,949	119,244
Cash and cash equivalents at the Beginning of the Year			
		183,280	64,036
Cash and cash equivalents at the End of the Year			
	13	<u>220,229</u>	<u>183,280</u>

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

Accounting convention and basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and under the historical cost convention

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Gains and losses on disposal of tangible fixed assets are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit.

Depreciation is provided for on the straight-line method in order to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful life as follows:

Improvements to Premises	15%
Passengers Lift	15%
Shelving	15%
Motor Vehicles	12.5%
Climate Control Equipment	10%
Computer Equipment	20%
Computer Software	33%
Office Equipment	10%
Furniture and Fittings	10%

Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash in hand and at banks and short-term deposits which are held to maturity are carried at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short-term, highly liquid investments readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flow, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and deposits at banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Creditors

Amounts payable are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the company.

2. Government Subvention

Amounts advanced by Government for recurrent expenditure are made in the form of subventions from the Consolidated Fund in accordance with Section 20 of the National Archives Act. In accordance with the selected accounting policy, these amounts are accounted for upon an accrual basis.

3. Funds from Ministry for Gozo

In 2007 an agreement was reached with the Ministry for Gozo to transfer monies from its vote to the National Archives of Malta to finance the Gozo branch's employment costs and contribute towards its general and administrative running costs.

4. Other Income

Other income is mainly generated from photocopy services, digital images and sale of publications.

5. Payroll costs and personnel information

	2018 €	2017 €
Wages and Salaries	455,187	547,485
Social Security contributions	154,797	39,766
	609,984	587,251

Number of employees as at period end:

Full time	21	20
Part time	0	5
	21	25

6. Surplus before interest

The surplus (deficit) before interest is stated after charging:

	2018 €	2017 €
Staff Costs (Note 5)	609,984	587,251
Depreciation of tangible assets (Note 9)	63,449	24,813
Auditors' remuneration	2,012	2,006

7. Interest Receivable

	2018 €	2017 €
Bank Interest	-	10

8. Taxation

The National Archives of Malta is exempt from any liability for the payment of income tax in accordance with Section 13 of the National Archives Act, 2005.

9. Tangible fixed assets

Cost	Improvement to Premises	Passenger Lift	Shelving	Motor Vehicles	Climate Control	Computer Equipment	Computer Software	Office Equipment	Furniture and Fittings	Fire Alarm System	Collections	Total
€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
As at 01.01.2018	72,051	6,965	95,914	29,665	28,496	39,431	10,500	36,978	78,591	25,611	-	424,202
Additions	2,939	-	-	19,800	-	118,014	40,845	1,059	4,157	153	18,135	205,102
As at 31.12.2018	74,990	6,965	95,914	49,465	28,496	157,445	51,345	38,037	82,748	25,764	18,135	629,304
Depreciation												
As at 01.01.2018	20,174	6,965	77,746	29,665	27,765	34,882	10,500	27,246	58,616	20,990	-	314,549
Charge for the year	3,750	-	-	2,475	731	28,479	13,479	3,759	8,363	2,413	-	63,449
As at 31.12.2018	23,924	6,965	77,746	32,140	28,496	63,361	23,979	31,005	66,979	23,403	-	377,998
Net Book Value												
As at 31.12.2018	51,066	-	18,168	17,325	-	94,084	27,366	7,032	15,769	2,361	18,135	251,306

86

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

10. Trade and Other Receivables

	2018	2017
	€	€
Trade Receivable	425	425
Prepayments	1,947	1,393
	2,372	1,818

11. Accumulated Funds

Capital Vote

The Capital Vote represents assets taken over from Government, net of depreciation.

Recurrent vote and operating activities

The recurrent vote and operating activities represent the accumulated deficit or surplus resulting from operations.

12. Trade and other payables

	2018	2017
	€	€
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Payables	42,788	4,035
Accruals and Deferred Income	27,627	52,252
	70,415	56,287

13. Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and balances with banks.

87

**Statement I
Operational Costs**

	2018	2017
	€	€
Salaries and Social Security	609,984	469,801
Water and Electricity	11,102	6,207
Insurance	4,572	2,109
Telecom Expenses	7,005	6,763
Cleaning Expenses	16,368	16,075
Repairs office equipment	6,693	24,917
Office Expenses	3,058	12,131
Repairs and Upkeep	15,755	-
<i>Depreciation Charge:-</i>		
Furniture and Fittings	8,363	14,692
Climate Control Equipment	731	-
Computer Equipment	28,479	6,528
Computer Software	13,479	-
Office equipment	3,759	-
Improvements to Premises	3,750	3,593
Fire Alarm System	2,413	-
Motor Vehicles	2,47	-
Total Operational Costs	737,986	562,816

**Statement II
Administrative Expenses**

	2018	2017
	€	€
Rent	24,179	23,742
Staff related expenses	6,060	1,632
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,472	2,345
Printing, postage and stationery	3,282	3,415
Audit Fee	2,012	2,006
Professional fees	30,198	31,976
Conservation Lab Expenses and Records Management	5,335	4,758
Travelling	8,876	9,954
Subscriptions and Brochures	2,849	3,198
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,393	3,456
Bank Charges	492	515
Advertising	354	37
Total Administrative Expenses	88,502	87,034

Photographs bearing on events of 7th, 8th + 10 June
considered to incite the public;
Prohibition of sale of

Ref. No. 54/19

Police Form B.

MALTA POLICE.

Correspondence Sheet

From <u>Superintendent</u>	Dated stamp of } Office of origin } 11th June, 1919.
<u>Valletta District.</u>	
To <u>Commissioner of Police</u>	Subject _____
<u>Headquarters.</u>	

I beg to report that copies of photographs as the enclosed specimen were to-day exhibited in the show-glasses of Messrs Chretien and Co. and Matthew Cumbo, Photographers, Strada Reale, Valletta.

As the exhibition of these photographs is considered to incite the public on the events of the 7th 8th and 10th instant, I ordered the proprietors of the two establishments to remove them from public view.

I beg to apply for instructions as to whether sale of these photographs should be allowed.

(Sd.) A.F. INGLOTT.
A/Supt. Valletta District.

H. H.

Submitted. the plates have been seized
Supt. Valletta informed that sale is forbidden.

12th June, 1919.

J. Brendo Zopandi
by: Com. of Police

✓

for BBZ