

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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*The Great Fire of Smyrna, September 1922.
Photo: Giovanni Bonello Collection*

COVER

During 2022, we recall the 100th anniversary since the arrival of the Smyrna refugees, one of the first major challenges faced by the first Maltese self-government, barely 10 months in office.

On Friday, 15 September 1922, 407 refugees fleeing from Smyrna (now Izmir in Turkey) arrived at the Grand Harbour; 81 of these refugees were of Maltese origin.

Smyrna, an important seaport cosmopolitan city on the Aegean coast, had attracted Maltese emigrants since the 19th century; by 1918 the Maltese population there was estimated at about 1,800. In 1922 war broke out between the Greeks and the Turks and as the Turks advanced on Smyrna a terrible fire broke rendering most of the inhabitants homeless. Many lost everything, and their only hope was repatriation in Malta.

Within three months, close to 1,600 refugees fled Smyrna and landed in Malta. Half of them were of Maltese ancestry, six were born in Malta. The others were Cypriots, Dutch, Egyptians, Swiss, French, Americans, Armenians, Italians, Swedes, and Ottoman Turks.

The more affluent refugees who could afford to leave Malta did so by the end of 1922. Others stayed longer. Some returned to Smyrna, while many were relocated to other countries such as Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States.

The passport application records collection at the National Archives includes photos of some of these refugees; a selection of the photos of those claiming Maltese ancestry is reproduced on the cover.

The so-called Maltese refugees who returned to Smyrna were distrusted by the Turkish authorities and were eventually expelled in 1932, unwanted twice over: in Malta, the country of their ancestors and in Smyrna, their birthplace.

See: The Epic of Smyrna Refugees in Malta, 1922 on page 149

FEW OF THE MALTESE REFUGEES WHO FLED SMYRNA IN 1922



Eleonara Borg (24 years)
widow
Angele (3 years)
Peter (4 months)



Domenico Vassallo (30 years)
tile maker
Josephine Vassallo (25 years)
housewife
Lorenzo (1 year)



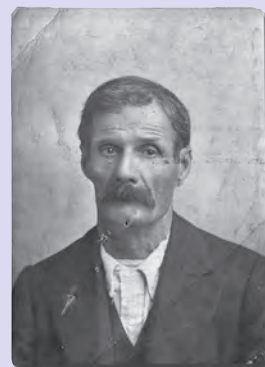
Emily Borg (24 years)
housewife
Felix (8 years)
William (5 years)
Melita (5 months)



Simon Ellul (57 years)
carpenter



Maria Portelli (17 years)
single



Casimiro Cassar (60 years)
stevedore



John Cassar (47 years)
railway worker



Riccarda Cassar (52 years)
housewife



Vincenzo Tabone (23 years)
painter



Gregorio Grech (28 years)
upholsterer
Photini Grech (30 years)
housewife
Antonio (4 years)



Antoinette Aquilina (16 years)
housewife



Sylvia Portelli (19 years)
single



Salvo Portelli (18 years)
fitter



Francois Fenech (48 years)
labourer



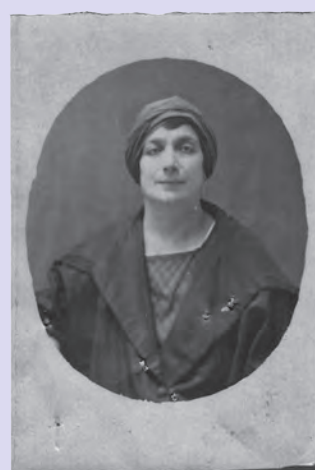
Polycarpe Fenech (13 years)



Irene Fenech (37 years)
housewife



Giovanni Buttigieg (44 years)
stevedore



Minia Buttigieg (45 years)
housewife

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FOREWORD

In my foreword to the last Annual Report, I set out several targets. Topping the list was the launching of the MEMORJA portal and the fruition of the European Digital Treasures project, including the exhibitions. I also mentioned the project of a new national archives building, one of the electoral targets of the outgoing legislature that is crucial to our future. I look back with satisfaction as we achieved several targets – at least those that depended on our institution and personnel.

The MEMORJA project reached an important milestone through the launching of the online portal. This made it possible for the public to start enjoying the wealth of data that has been gathered. It also gave new visibility to the project, widening the network of collaborators in terms of interviewees, donors of records and other stakeholders. We are currently analyzing the user interaction within this portal and training more interviewers who can keep up the momentum with the capturing of the people's memories.

The European Digital Treasures (EDT) project, that is supported under the Creative Europe programme also reached all its targets on time and within budget. During the last year, we developed three exhibitions that will span throughout 2022. This involved the planning, tendering, refurbishing of the chapel and anteroom, the writing of the six catalogues, and the assembly of the exhibitions. We were also directly or indirectly involved in the twenty-seven actions of the projects. I can report our satisfaction with all actions, particularly the competition for youths where they interpret documents from the exhibitions. I congratulate the three Maltese participants who successfully represented Malta.

I cannot say that the last year did not bring some disappointments. We had hoped to present to the public the concept design of the new national archives building prior to the end of the legislature. Due to a few setbacks, this did not materialize. However, the work that went into the internal planning and consultation is still an investment we will rely upon in the coming months. I would like to thank the National Archives of France for the technical support they have provided us and the Ministerial Committee that also did its best to try and see this project materialize.



During the year under review, we were also asked to take over the running of the Notarial Archives. This was a vision we had expressed more than fifteen years ago but was not entertained at that time. This challenge came at a time when the Chief Notary to Government had already invested heavily in turning the institution into a state-of-the-art research facility. During 2021, Parliament enacted the necessary legislative amendments to vest all the legal powers of the running of this institution onto the National Archives. We also welcomed three conservators and two paleographers who were employed with the Chief Notary to Government but are now employees of the National Archives. The project also involved us in hundreds of meetings with all stakeholders, mainly the contractors working on the project, Architect Jean Frendo who is monitoring the technical side, and Notary Dr Keith German who is the person responsible for the European funded project. Other meetings were held with the Notarial Archives Foundation on the best possible collaboration procedures we need to forge for the future.

The various projects together with COVID-19 did not keep us from continuing with our long-term plans. These included the extensive up-keeping of the repositories and the gradual development of the National Audio-Visual Institute. The latter project was enhanced through the recruiting of an audio-visual archivist who has already carried out an extensive assessment of all our audio-visuals. It is envisaged that during the coming year, we will formalise the parameters of this project.

2021 was also the year during which we commemorated the centenary from Malta's Self-Government Constitution. The publishing of a calendar and book to commemorate this event were successful both in terms of the publications produced but also in forging greater collaboration with other stakeholders in the sector, such as the History Department at the University of Malta. In terms of publications, we also launched a new initiative – the National Archives of Malta Monograph Series.

Another stakeholder we collaborated with was the Department of Library, Information and Archive Sciences at the University of Malta. This collaboration helped in the establishment of new Master courses in the library, information, and archives domain. This will make it possible for specialisation and more doctoral studies in this sector.

I look forward with optimism for the coming year. It is a year during which we will open the research facilities of the Notarial Archives, resulting in the first reading room managed by our entity in Valletta. Another project which we hope will assume utmost priority is that of the new national archive building. This is not a building that will cater only for the wishes of the lovers of the sector or to fulfill the crave of enthusiasts of a particular hobby. This is a national institution without which democracy would be limited and the memory of the nation would risk falling into a state of amnesia.

Our firm commitment is to see a state-of-the-art national archive building that offers adequate protection for our archival treasures and the audio-visual component of our cultural identity. Without the new building, such targets cannot be achieved. Future generations will condemn us if, during a phase of extensive funding for culture and widespread construction all over the country, we do not find the space, funding, and motivation to provide the country with such a core infrastructure.

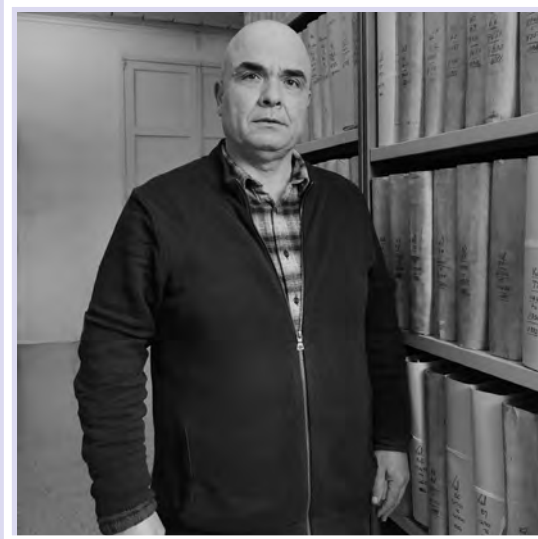
Dr Charles J. Farrugia
National Archivist and CEO



1

**CORPORATE
SERVICES,
IT AND FINANCE
MANAGEMENT**

OUR STAFF



LEONARD CALLUS



ETIENNE FERRITO



JOSEPH SCERRI



DAVID SARGENT



BERNARD SCHEMBRI



RUBEN VELLA



RITA VELLA BRINCAT



JENNIFER FALZON



MONICA MALLIA



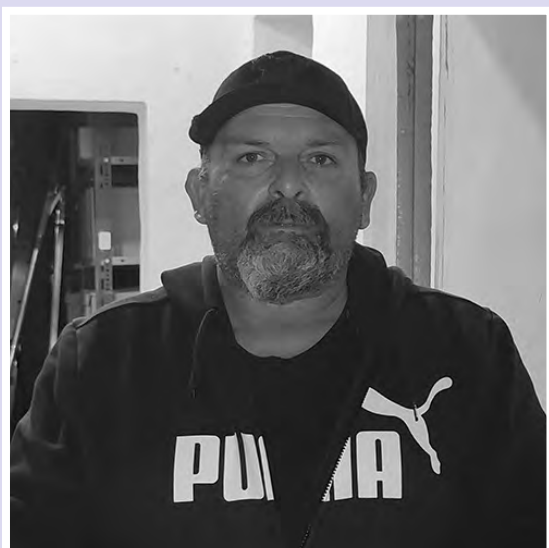
MARCO CAMILLERI



MICHAEL CILIA



PETER BORG



SILVIO CINI



EMANUEL MUSCAT



1.1 Corporate Services Management

The Corporate Services Management unit is the key enabler in the delivery of the entity's strategic goals, driven by its mission statement. Within this unit, the priority is to ensure that the needs of all the entity's stakeholders are met by focusing on the delivery of quality services, innovation, and capabilities development. This was in line with the challenges that the services request, together with the general upkeep and improvement of the historic facilities we operate from. In 2021, the unit continued to build on the work of previous years and sought to improve the services provided by the entity. The way services are delivered was in fact transformed through teamwork, shared vision, and commitment.

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our customers, visitors and staff. The sudden COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 presented the entity with various challenges through 2021 as well. The situation was closely monitored together with public health officials and other counterpart agencies. Adherence to the various circulars and update reports disseminated helped the entity respond to the evolving conditions in various ways, referred to later in this report. Throughout this ordeal, all NAM Reading Rooms remained open with committed staff to serve the public in the best and safest ways possible.

The main duties and responsibilities of this unit are:

- *Administration and Human Resources Development.*
HR related administration, such as leave, staff records and roster planning is managed by this unit. Further to the administrative tasks, recruitment of new employees and staff development are the responsibility of the Corporate Management Unit. The unit also deals with the drafting, monitoring and execution of policies related to HR and administration. It is also entrusted with the collating of reports and statistical data and the coordination of Parliamentary Questions' replies. The administration of the Conservation Laboratory, the Maintenance and Cleaning units and the Reception services fall directly under this unit.
- *Procurement.*
Procurement is the core function of this unit. 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.
- *Works and Maintenance of Buildings.*
The administration of all six premises run by the entity includes structural and assets' monitoring and maintenance, pest control and further logistics.

Administration and Human Resources Development

Recruitment

Human resources infrastructure was strengthened in 2021 by the addition of one Archivist specifically recruited to work on the newly established Audio-Visual unit. One Inspector of Records was recruited to join the Records Management Unit which now also has a new Senior Inspector of Records promoted in place. During the year under review, two part time Archives Assistants were also recruited.

Three conservators and two palaeographers joined the NAM team from the Notary to Government Office in view of the legal changes whereby the Notarial Archives section of St Christopher Street now falls under the responsibility of the National Archives.

Ten new volunteers have joined the entity during 2021, leading to a current number of nineteen volunteers working in the various existing NAM sections.

Staff Training

Staff training during the year included the attendance by various staff members to general and specialized training sessions, together with attendance to international meetings and conferences. Most of these were held in virtual mode.

A number of these courses dealt with procurement, MS teams, Microsoft OneNote and OneDrive training. Staff from the Conservation laboratory attended courses on nanocellulose films in art conservation and storage organisation.

In-house knowledge management sessions were regularly held, in order to help spread the knowledge gained by a single employee amongst his/her colleagues, benefitting them in their job skills. This was done through various theoretical and practical training sessions held online and at the archives' premises.

The unit also supported five members of the staff undertaking University degree and master courses, four of whom successfully graduated.

Procurement

During 2021, two calls for tenders were issued. One of these was issued twice without success and concerned the supply, delivery installation, assembling and dismantling of the furniture and IT equipment for three exhibitions. The other call for tender was issued for the supply, delivery and installation of archival shelving for Ospizio depository at Floriana.

These calls for tender were all published by the MJEG Procurement division, which assisted by preparing specifications and tender documents as well as conducting the evaluation process.

Works and Maintenance of Buildings

Following the successful tender for the installation of a passenger elevator covering the four floors of the NAM headquarters at Santo Spirito in Rabat in 2020, construction work on the masonry shaft was completed, followed by the installation of a mechanical lift. This long-awaited project will facilitate the use of the reading room by anyone, eliminating any obstruction for disabled customers. It will also facilitate the full use of all four floors by visitors and staff alike.

Works on the lift shaft





The works in the chapel, which serves as the entity's multi-purpose hall, were completed in the first quarter of 2021. Following the completion of the digitisation process of the map collection, the latter was transferred to the Ospizio depository. The ante-room of the chapel was refurbished whilst a new electricity system consisting of exhibition-appropriate lighting system and telephone and IT networks were installed. This room is intended to serve as exhibition space.

Weather proofing of three roofs was carried out. The former mortuary's room was emptied from documents and other shelving material, and a full refurbishment exercise undertaken. This space is intended to hold workstations for volunteers. This project is envisaged to be finalised by end of January 2022. The offices of the IT and Finance Manager were completely refurbished whilst structural and redecoration works in the Giuliana Letard Room are envisaged to be ready by the first weeks of 2022.

Other minor refurbishment works were carried out at the Għarb (Gozo) depository and Mdina section, as well as at the Ospizio depository in Floriana. In Gozo, a new, scanning device for the use of the public was procured and installed in addition, online conference facilities for all members of the staff were installed.

1.2 Finance and IT Management

IT Management

The IT section managed to reach all the targets set at the start of the year by successfully managing the exponential increase in IT services requirements due to the constant increase and improvement of the services being offered. The trend of clients increasingly requiring digital and online services, that started the prior year, was confirmed with a further increase in 2021.

Archives Portal Europe Content

The management of the Archives Portal Europe content was passed under the responsibility of the customer care team. One of the officers was trained and successfully managed to update and solve all issues that occurred throughout the year.

It is being planned that for 2021, the old server be refurbished in-house and installed as a data backup server at Rabat.

MEMORJA Project

One of the major achievements in 2021 was the finalisation and launch of the MEMORJA portal. The final months prior to launch were extremely busy, due to testing and operating changes. A vast range of technical expertise was employed in these tasks, generally requiring a full team of experts.

Remote Working

All through 2021, the IT section at the archives successfully supported those employees who were working from home and needed access to the archives' servers. This was a year during which our operations were impacted by the pandemic. Notwithstanding, operations on-site were in no way interrupted and any person who had to work remotely had all the facilities and support from an IT perspective.

Finance Management

Finance at the National Archives is managed in-house with the assistance of an outsourced accountancy firm that carries out financial reporting. Most of the tasks are recurrent on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly basis. During 2021, the finance section managed all finances of the National Archives with a range of tasks which include: the preparation of three year budgets from 2022 to 2025; financial estimates for 2022; creditor payments; tranche requests; monthly management accounts; payroll; cash management; invoicing; payment portals management; bank accounts management and reconciliations; financial management and advice to all other sections; and financial reporting to ministries and inland revenue.

Day-to-day data is collated on custom databases and this is in turn used to compile management accounts presented to the MFIN through their FDRS (Financial Data Reporting System). During 2021, the outsourced accountants, assisting with managing the finances of the National Archives, were GCS Ltd.

Budgets 2022-2025

In 2021, the Ministry for Finance, through the Ministry for Culture and Local Government, requested the budgets for the three years following the current year. Requiring a considerable effort to finalise realistic budgets, the planned requirements for the three years were identified and costed by the team. The report is presented to the ministry, who include the projections in their ministry wide claim from the MFIN. The budgets also include the HR plans of the archives for the same period.

Payroll

The whole payroll, together with any pay-related issues, were addressed by the Finance section. Following the transition at the end of 2020 where payroll was directly performed by the manager of this unit, the new accountants, GCS Ltd., gradually took over this task. At the same time, the manager reverting to overseeing and supervision of this process.

DUN ĠWANN

During 2021 we mourned the loss of Dun Ġwann Azzopardi (1937-2021). A true scholar, he worked tirelessly to preserve the documentary heritage of Maltese archives for over five decades.

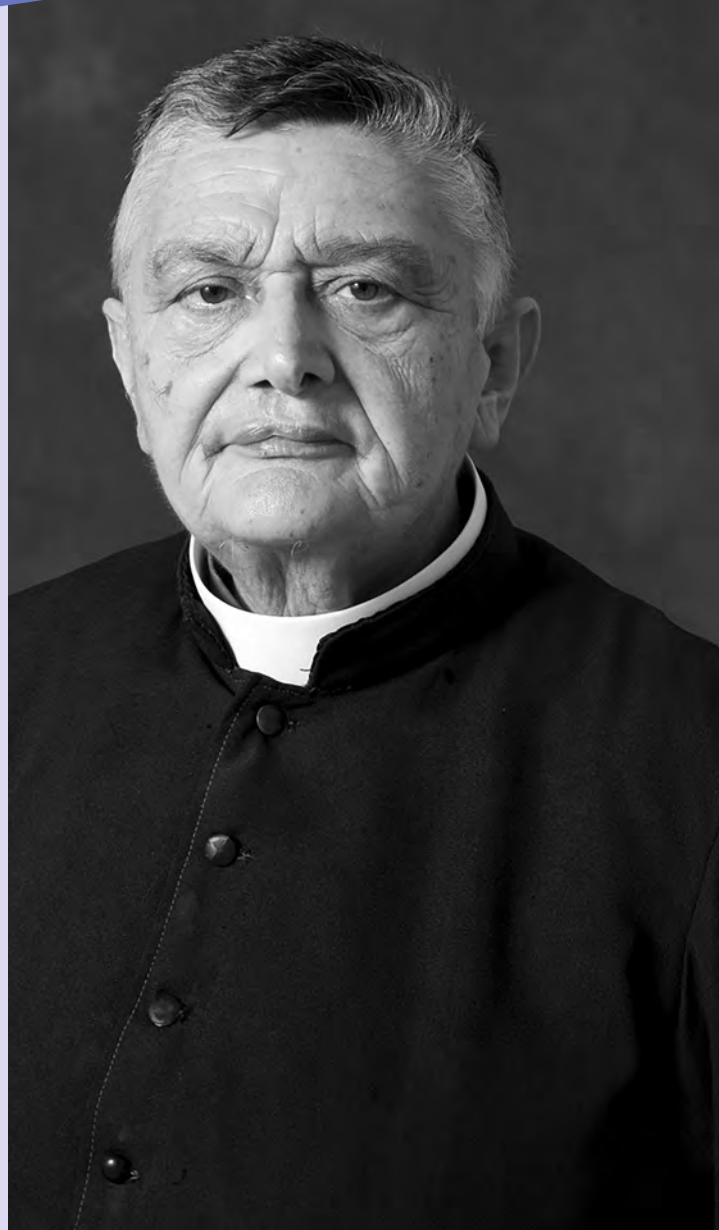
Dun Ġwann served as curator of the Mdina Cathedral Museum between 1967 and 2001 and as an archivist of the Mdina Metropolitan Chapter since 2013.

He served on the National Archives Council since its inception in 2005 and was instrumental in the development of the local archival scene over the past 50 years.

We miss Dun Ġwann's scholarship, enthusiasm and willingness to assist all in safeguarding and sharing our archival heritage.

We owe you so much Dun Ġwann.
Thank you.

Photo: Joseph Borg





2

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

OUR STAFF



IVAN ELLUL



ZVETLANA PACE



Official migration records at the Migrants Commission that were transferred to the National Archives during 2021

The Records Management Unit (RMU) assists public entities, departments and ministries in fulfilling their records management obligations. Meetings and visits are organised to identify historical records and to plan their transfer to the National Archives. The Unit also assists the entity with proper records management practices. Ultimately, an official retention policy, endorsed by the National Archives under the provisions of the National Archives Act (Cap 477), is developed.

2.1 Records Management Assistance

Table 2.1 is a list of the entities (public and private) that were supported by the Records Management Unit during 2021.

Public Offices supported by the Records Management Unit during 2021
Arts Council Malta
Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)
Jobsplus
Malta Communications Authority
Malta Police Force
Malta Statistics Authority and National Statistics Office
Malta Tourism Authority (MTA)
MFED - English Language Teaching Council (ELT)
MFED - Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools (FTS)
MFH - Environmental Health Directorate
MFH - Karin Grech Hospital
MFH - Mater Dei Hospital
MFH - Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health

MFH - Office of the Superintendence of Public Health
Ministry for Education (MFED)
Ministry for Finance (MFIN)
Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA)
Ministry for Health (MFH)
Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity (MFCS)
Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government (MHAL)
Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP)
MSFC - Director for Corporate Services
MTIP - Project Implementation Directorate
MTIP - Public Works Department
National Statistics Office
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Office of the Regulator - Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services (OR-GCES)
OPM - Institute for Public Service (IPS)
Planning Authority
Public Broadcasting Services
Public Service Commission
The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

Private Entities supported by the Records Management Unit during 2021
Times of Malta
Kummissjoni Immigranti

Table 1 Assistance (Entities Supported)

2.2 Appraisal of Records

The National Archives issues a letter of appraisal with regards to cases of dormant collections of records that are no longer required by the creating entity or in cases of emergency, stipulating whether the records must be preserved or not. During 2021, the National Archives issued a number of such letters which helped entities to decongest their repositories.

Table 2.2 is the list of appraisal letters issued by the Records Management Unit.

Reference No.	Entity	Subject
APL2021-01	MFED - Procurement Office	Appraisal of FS3 Records (2004-2010)
APL2021-02	MFED - St. Ignatius College	Appraisal of London Certificates (1999-2009)
APL2021-03	MHAL - Restoration Directorate	Appraisal of Rehabilitations Projects Office re consultations by MEPA.

Table 2. Appraisal of records (Appraisal Letters)

2.3 Processing of historical records still held by public entities

When historical records are identified, the creating office is instructed on the way forward with the final aim of transferring these records to the National Archives. This includes 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 documents are to be treated professionally under the supervision of the NAM Conservators before the transfer.

2.4 Retention Policies

Retention policies for public records is a legal requirement under the provisions of the National Archives Act of 2005. In addition, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires these instruments, and since its coming into force a momentum for retention policies by public institutions was created. As shown in Table 3, a total of 11 policies have been finalised during 2021, with a number of others in the pipeline to be finalised in the following year.

Reference No.	Entity	Status
REP2021-01	MFH - Management Support Directorate	Finalised
REP2021-02	Office of the Regulator, Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services	Finalised
REP2021-03	Malta Police Force (Civil Records)	Finalised
REP2021-04	MFED - English Language Teaching Council	Finalised
REP2021-05	MHAL - Restoration Directorate	Finalised (not implemented)
REP2021-06	MTIP - Data Retention Policy	Finalised
REP2021-07	MFH - Office of the Superintendence of Public Health - Department for Health Regulation	Finalised
REP2021-08	MFH - Environmental Health Directorate - Passenger Information Unit - COVID-19 Records	Finalised
REP2021-09	MFH - Mater Dei Hospital - Customer Care Department	Finalised
REP2021-10	MSFC - Director Corporate Services	Finalised
REP2021-11	MTIP Procurement (Mrieħel Stores)	Finalised

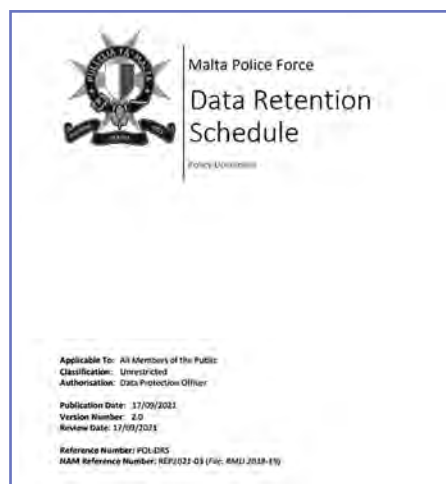
Table 3. Retention Policies

New accessions being unloaded at the NAM's offsite repository



2.5 Accessions

When compared to previous years, the accessions processed during 2021 is exceptionally extensive with a record number of 142 accessions being registered. The reason for this success is threefold. The first being the implementation of retention policies through which historical records are being identified and transferred to the National Archives for permanent preservation, such as in the case of the Malta Police Force. The second reason rests on the fact that more and more private individuals are depositing their valued private collections of records at the National Archives, knowing that their records will be professionally preserved and made accessible to the public. The valuable work of the MEMORJA project is the third cause of such a successful year with regards to the accessioning process. See the MEMORJA project section (Section 8) for more details.



Malta Police Force records retention policy endorsed by NAM and implemented during 2021

This is a list of the accessions that became part of the National Archives of Malta's holdings during 2021.

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-001	Private Deposit by Peter (sive Pierre) Vassallo and Carmel Axiak - MRO Fank Vassallo Collection (1924-2000).	2 linear metres
2021-002	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs - Debtors Ledger (1960s).	1 ledger
2021-003	Private deposit by Carmel Vella (MEMORJA) - Interview re childhood and WWII and post-war experience (1910s-1970s).	16.6 GBs
2021-004	MFH - Health Care Funding - Appraised sample of Applications for the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) (2015).	5 forms
2021-005	Private deposit by Frank Attard (MEMORJA) - Interview re WWII experiences, work at Times of Malta and relationship with Mabel Strickland (1928-1990s).	1.08 GBs
2021-006	Malta Police Force - Dormant Police Officers Dossiers no 1-600 (1900s).	ca. 29 linear metres
2021-007	Private deposit by Joseph Scicluna (MEMORJA) - Interview re childhood and Civil Service (1946-2018).	1.35 GBs
2021-008	Private deposit by Alfred Fiorini Lowell (MEMORJA) - Interview re civil service career (1941-2018).	1.62 GBs

2021-009	Ministry for Health - Appraised Human Resources Records.	6.5 linear metres
Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-010	Private deposit by Carmelo Grech (MEMORJA) - Interview re wartime experiences (1920s - 1945).	938 MBs
2021-011	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs - Applications for the renewal of passports processed by the Malta High Commission in London (1979).	0.2 linear metres
2021-012	Private deposit by Carmel Vella (MEMORJA) - Interviews re wartime experiences (1910s - 2017).	1.04 GBs
2021-013	Private Deposit by Mario Fenech - Vintage photographs and other records (1800s-1920s).	13 items
2021-014	Department for Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER) - Maps of the Maltese Islands issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (1990s).	2 large format Maps
2021-015	Heritage Malta - Attorney General Records Salvaged from the President's Palace in Valletta.	ca. 7 linear metres
2021-016	Department of Contracts - Appraised random sample of Government Contracts (1984-1989).	ca. 12 linear metres
2021-017	Private Deposit by Martin Aquilina - Digital copies of vintage photographs - as part of the Moses Aquilina Collection	5.5 GBs
2021-018	Private Deposit by Clive Sammut - Portrait of Manwel Dimech.	1 photograph
2021-019	Office of the President of the Republic - Analogue Audio-Visual Material, photographs and other official documentation (1990s-2000s).	1 linear metre
2021-020	Private Deposit by Ivan Ellul - Digital sound recordings and digital photographs of Mons. Gwann Azzopardi re the Wignacourt Archive (2008).	147 MBs
2021-021	Private Deposit by Sergio Grech - Local cultural TV broadcasts recorded on VHS (1980s-2000s).	9 VHS tapes
2021-022	Malta Bus Archive research and collected material.	688 MBs
2021-023	Ministry for Health - War Casualties Records (1942).	
2021-024	Ministry for Health - Original Ministry / Department for Health records indexes (1937-1940).	2 Volumes
2021-025	Private Deposit by Eddie Fenech Adami - Collection of official photographs of Eddie Fenech Adami from his tenure as Prime Minister and then as President of the Republic (2003-2005).	20 A4 Folders

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-026	Private Deposit by Rita Ann Ellul - Digital copies of photographs of various locations in the Maltese Islands (1990s).	1.15 GBs
2021-027	Ministry for Education - Birżebbugia Primary School Registers (1943-2008).	4 registers
2021-028	Ministry for Education - Rabat Primary School Registers (1977-2009).	5 registers
2021-029	Jobsplus - Appraised Human Resources Records.	0.2 linear metres
2021-030	Private deposit by the Malta Aviation Museum - Original copy of "L-Ghanja ta-Rebħa - Tifchira Tat-VIII ta' Settembru 1565" (1927).	1 pamphlet
2021-031	Private Deposit by Rita Ann Ellul - Digital images of flyers/posters for metal, punk and rock music events (1990s).	1.92 GBs
2021-032	Private Deposit by Joseph Meli - Midwife cases register of Maria Anna Meli Galea (1952-1954).	1 volume
2021-033	Private Deposit by Francis Falzon - Digital list of Mosta nicknames.	1 MB
2021-034	Private Deposit by Victoria Zammit - Perit André Zammit Collection of architectural works from various architects (ca.1786-1899).	ca. 5 linear metres
2021-035	Private deposit by Aidan Agius (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (1 pg.) & 1 digital copy (PDF [1.00 MB])
2021-036	Private deposit by Alice Chomier (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Digital Video Recording (2020).	1.383 GBs
2021-037	Private deposit by Andre Bellia (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [534 KB])
2021-038	Private deposit by Cherise Vella (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (3 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [501 KB])
2021-039	Private deposit by Danica Farrugia (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [200 KB])
2021-040	Private deposit by Deborah Spiteri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Written Account (2020).	1 written account (PDF [2.82 MB]).
2021-041	Private deposit by Ema Bonnici (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (3 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [769 KB])

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-042	Private deposit by Jake Mizzi (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (9 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [1.74 MB])
2021-043	Private deposit by Jeffrey Sammut (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Memorabilia (2020).	8 paper documents & Digital copy (PDF [499 KB])
2021-044	Private deposit by Kimberly Borg Camilleri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (1 pg.) & 1 digital copy (PDF [171 KB])
2021-045	Private deposit by Laura Fenech (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [1.25 MB])
2021-046	Private deposit by Lisa Micallef (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [952 KB])
2021-047	Private deposit by Luke Scicluna (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [425 KB])
2021-048	Private deposit by Mariah Agius (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [699 KB])
2021-049	Private deposit by Mark Said (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Written Account.	227.9 KBs
2021-050	Private deposit by Maya Scicluna (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [441 KB])
2021-051	Private deposit by Melissa Magro (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [566 KB])
2021-052	Private deposit by Neil Demarco (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (3 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [838 KB])
2021-053	Private deposit by Nicholas Spiteri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [572 KB])

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-054	Private deposit by Remino Spiteri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (1 pg.) & 1 digital copy (PDF [291 KB])
2021-055	Private deposit by Rene Rossignaud (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Video Recording (2020).	385 MBs
2021-056	Private deposit by Roberto Galea Musù (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (1 pg.) & 1 digital copy (PDF [324 KB])
2021-057	Private deposit by Shanaia Cassar (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (1 pg.) & 1 digital copy (PDF [245 KB])
2021-058	Private deposit by Willa Naylor (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (4 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [801 KB])
2021-059	Ministry for Education - Mosta Primary School (1917-2013).	4 Registers
2021-060	Private Deposit by John Cachia - Digital copy of photographs and memorabilia re Malta Harbour activity.	1.43 GBs
2021-061	Private deposit by Albert Camilleri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs (2020).	11.08 GBs
2021-062	Private deposit by Angela Charles (obo Secretariat for Catholic Education) (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Written Accounts (2020).	7.36 MBs
2021-063	Private deposit by Charles Savona-Ventura (obo Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - Military Hospitaller Order of Lazarus of Jerusalem) (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Documents and Video (2020).	140.35 MBs
2021-064	Private deposit by Christopher Cutajar (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Poetry Audio Recordings (2021).	127 MBs
2021-065	Private deposit by Gloria Callus (MEMORJA) - Theme: COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary (2020).	1 paper document (37 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [3.50 MB])
2021-066	Private deposit by Joseph Peter Zahra (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Written Account (2020).	31.9 KBs

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-067	Private deposit by Leon Bartolo (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 paper document (21 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [1.75 MB])
2021-068	Private deposit by Philip Zammit (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020)	163 KBs
2021-069	Private deposit by Tessa Mercieca (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs (2020).	643.1 MBs
2021-070	Private Deposit by Mark Montebello - Laissez passer signed by Alexander Ball.	1 sheet document
2021-071	Office of the President of the Republic - Presidential Palaces Inventory records (1990s)	ca. 1 linear metre
2021-072	MFED - Mellieħa Primary School - School admission and attendance registers (1871-1978).	2 linear metres
2021-073	Private deposit by Bernard Schembri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Feast Activities documents (2020).	10.91 MBs
2021-074	Private deposit by Noel Fabri (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Poem (2020).	Paper document (x3) & 1 digital copy (PDF [215 KB])
2021-075	Purchased and deposited by the Friends of the National Archives of Malta - Emanuele Sciortino Photographic Glass Negatives related to to accession no. 2018-08 (ca.1927-1940).	ca. 1 linear metre
2021-076	Private Deposit by Theuma Family - Gino Theuma Collection - Tourism related material .	ca. 1 linear metre
2021-077	Private Deposit by Carmel Joseph Farrugia - Recordings re Deportation of Maltese Nationals (Lura mill-Eżilju) (1995).	4 Audio Cassettes and 1 DVD
2021-078	Malta Police Force - Valletta Police Station (Civil) Records (1940-1996).	ca. 58 linear metres
2021-079	Private Deposit by Raymond Miller - WWI Prisoners of War Register (1914-1915).	1 volume
2021-080	Office of the President of the Republic - Various records related to the Maltese Presidency and British Governor (1920s-2000s).	ca. 10 linear metres
2021-081	Private deposit by Joseph Zammit (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs and Journal (2008-2021).	50.78 GBs
2021-082	Private deposit by Joseph P. Smith (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photo Collage (2020).	12.5 MBs

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-083	Private Deposit by Veronica Galea - The original Stan Fraser photographic & footage Collection and equipment (1941-1997).	1 linear metre
2021-084	Private deposit by Sigrid Neubert Estate - Sigrid Neubert's photographic project re Maltese megalithic temples (1980s).	2 boxes containing 723 black&white photographs
2021-085	Private deposit by Kurt Zammit (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Written Account and photographs (2020).	1 written account & 1 paper document & 1 digital copy (PDF [351 KB]) / 3 printed photographs & digital copies [117 MBs])
2021-086	Private deposit by Maria Rita Bezzina (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs (2021).	27.4 MBs
2021-087	Private deposit by Pawlu Dimech obo Għaqda Festi Esterni Ssma Trinità (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Feast Programme (2020).	1 paper document (16 pgs) & 1 digital copy: 3.39 MB
2021-088	Private deposit by Sharon Baldacchino (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Poem (2021).	1 paper document (2 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [342 KB])
2021-089	Private deposit by Véronique Vella (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Music album, banner and album cover (2021).	522 MBs
2021-090	Private deposit by Ivan Ellul (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs (2020-2021).	8.57 GBs
2021-091	Private Deposit by Bertu Aquilina (NAVI) - Skaldatura - Music Album by the band Skald (2021).	1 CD
2021-092	Private deposit by John Fiott obo Michael Fiott - GWU and Bailey publications (1960-1967).	21 items
2021-093	Private deposit by Max Farrugia - Research re Mgr. Enrico Dandria.	ca. 1 linear metre
2021-094	Office of the Prime Minister - Appraised Human Resources Records (1957-2003).	ca. 1.5 linear metre
2021-095	Ministry for Health - Business and Financial Plans (1992-2016).	ca. 2 linear metres
2021-096	Private deposit by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Publication (2020).	1 bound paper document (72 pgs) & 1 digital copy (15.9 MB)
2021-097	Private deposit by Angela Muscat (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary (2020).	262 KBs

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-098	Private deposit by CareMalta (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Publication (2020).	1 bound paper document (52 pgs) & 1 digital copy (18.6 MB)
2021-099	Private deposit by Michael Paul Borg (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 bound paper document (158 pgs) & 1 digital copy (23.3 MB)
2021-100	Private deposit by Victoria Foster (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project and other items - Letters and publications (1958-2021).	5 paper items and 48.6 MBs of digital data.
2021-101	Private Deposit by Joan Abela - Dockyard Officers group photos and personal portrait (1930s).	3 large format photographs
2021-102	Private deposit by Ronald G. Sultana (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Publication (2020-2021).	1 bound paper document (125 pgs) & 1 digital copy (24.9 MB)
2021-103	Private Deposit by Lawrence Ancilleri - Audio recordings re Dom Mintoff's time in the political scene (1983-2002).	155 audio recordings (107 cassette tapes; 155 digital audio files - 73.3 GBs).
2021-104	Private Deposit by Ray Fava via Steve Borg - Digital Photos part of the Karmenu Fava Collection.	2.63 GBs
2021-105	Private deposit by Therese Debono (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Photographs and blog posts (2020).	2.19 GBs
2021-106	Malta Police Force - Records held by the Police Museum (1900s).	ca. 15 linear metres
2021-107	Malta Tourism Authority - Foreign promotional videos about Malta (1989-2021).	314 GBs
2021-108	Private Deposit by George Azzopardi - Photographs and postcards of various Maltese locations and activities.	12 items
2021-109	Karin Grech Hospital - Appraised Human Resources records.	0.5 linear Metres
2021-110	Public Service Commission - Appraised records - Minutes of Commission meetings and sample records of case files and HR records (1989-1991).	1 linear metre
2021-111	Recovery of Public Records - Governor General File (GG.1-69 ex MIG 43-1954) re Governor's Palaces Equipment (1954).	1 file

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-112	MFH - Environmental Health - Department for Health Regulation - Sample of appraised records - Passenger Locator Forms and Public Health Travel Declaration Forms related to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020).	0.3 linear metres (2 boxes)
2021-113	Malta Police Force - Official Photo Albums (1970s-1980s).	11 albums
2021-114	Private deposit by Jane DeBattista (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Poems (2021).	1 bound paper document (52 pgs) & 1 digital copy (PDF [3.71 MB])
2021-115	Private deposit by Stephen Cachia (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	1 diary (PDF [282 KB]).
2021-116	Malta Police Force - Paola Police Station Records (1908-2010).	ca. 63 linear metres
2021-117	Private deposit by Cynthia Sammut - Bus Motor Company Records (1954-1959).	2 items
2021-118	Private deposit by David Vassallo - Medical booklets (1973-1976).	3 items
2021-119	Private Deposit by Charles Galea - Miscellanea records, rare publications and reports (1918).	0.5 linear metres
2021-120	Private Deposit by Paul Agius - Film footage of St Publius Feast in Floriana (ca. 1930s).	62.7 MBs
2021-121	Malta Police Force - Żebbuġ and Siggiewi Police Station Records.	ca. 5 linear metres
2021-122	Migrants' Commission - Passport records.	27 linear metres
2021-123	Private Deposit by George Azzopardi - War instructions pamphlet, and public activities and historical sites photographs (ca. 1920s-1950s).	1 pamphlet and 5 photographs
2021-124	Private Deposit by Max Farrugia - Collection of salvaged photographs (ca. 1940s-1950s)	ca. 50 black&white photographs
2021-125	Commerce Department - Expired Registered Patents.	ca. 120 linear metres
2021-126	Commerce Department - Expired Registered Designs.	ca. 6 linear metres
2021-127	Private Deposit by John E. Zammit Pace - Original music compositions.	14.6 MBs
2021-128	Private Deposit by Abraham Zammit - Police General Headquarters Circulars (1973-1998).	0.7 linear metres
2021-129	Private Deposit by Joseph Borg - Joseph Borg Photographic Collection (ca. 1940s-1970s).	ca. 4000 black&white and colour photographs
2021-130	Private deposit by Sandra Hili Vassallo (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Diary Entry (2020).	378 KBs

Accession Ref	Source and Description	Extent
2021-131	Private deposit by Ray Biagio Pace (MEMORJA) - COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project - Video footage re Malta International Airport during pandemic (2020).	454 MBs
2021-132	Private Deposit by Canadian-Maltese Joanne Prince - Maltese-Canadian family ancestry / descendants, and photographs (1900s).	119 Digital items (45.4 MBs)
2021-133	Private deposit by Mark Agius - The Sharlie/McKeever research file (1930s-1940s).	3 word documents [6.30 MB], 21 digital photographs [1.06 MB], 2 documents in hardcopy, 1 photocopy of passport application, 20 photocopies of photographs.
2021-134	Private Deposite by Ms Kathleene Koeppe - The Mario Caruana Photographic Collection (1970s-1980s).	ca. 3000 negative photographs
2021-135	Private Deposit by David Cachia o.b.o. Beheaded (NAVI) - Beheaded live performance back-drop banner (2000s).	1 large banner
2021-136	Private Deposit by Alan Nobbs - Newspapers Advertiesment register, private buisness cash book and family plague (1930s-1960).	2 Volumes and 1 plaque
2021-137	Private Deposit by Josephine Camilleri - Register re the Maltese Community in France.	1 volume
2021-138	Private Deposit by Josephine Camilleri - Collection of salvaged photographic slides (ca. 1960s-1970s).	ca. 700 slides
2021-139	Private Deposit by Josephine Camilleri - Collection of family photographs / negatives and film footage of the Camilleri Gilson Family.	ca. 600 photographs, 17 super 8mm tapes, 8 audio cassettes
2021-140	Ministry for Health - Appraised records - Personal Files, Procurement and Treatment Abroad (1950s-1970s).	ca. 5 liner metres
2021-141	Restoration Directorate - Records related to rehabilitation projects (1980s-2010s).	ca. 5 linear metres
2021-142	Identity Malta - Public Registry - Photo Albums re public registry exhibitions (1980s-1990s).	4 photo Albums

Table 4. Accessions



Virtual meeting of the Records Management Forum - February 2021

2.6 Records Management Forum

Throughout 2021 the Assistant Manager (Records) at ministry level kept on streamlining the records management systems within their respective ministries. Through them, the Records Management Unit was able to continue the appraisal of public records by implementing a good number of retention policies, which were also crucial for the identification of historical records still being held at government offices.

List of ministries and the name of their respective Assistant Manager (Records):

Ministry	Assistant Manager Records/ Records Officer
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Norella Darmanin
Ministry for Health (MFH)	Simone Bonavia Camilleri
Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA)	Mariella Galea
Ministry for the National Heritage, The Arts and Local Government (MHAL)	Jessica Farrugia
Ministry for Transport & Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP)	Anne Farrugia
Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children’s Rights (MSFC)	Ethel Delia
Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance (MJEG) former MJCL	Josephine Camilleri
Ministry for Education (MFED) former MEDE	Mary Anne Farrugia

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the sessions of the Records Management Forum of 2021 were held online.

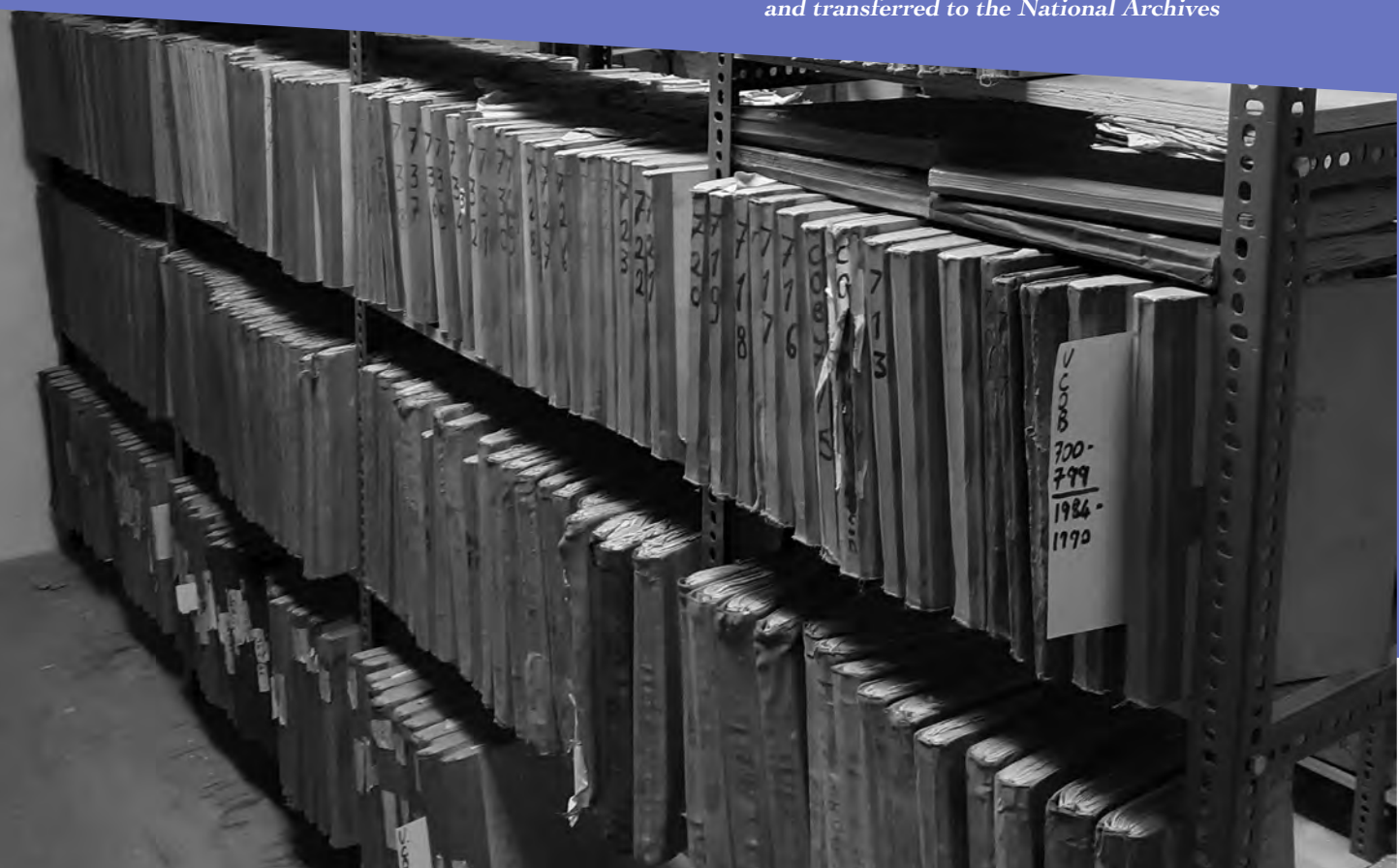
Records Management Forum - Sessions - 2021			
Date	Participants	Entities Represented	Presentations
11/02/2021	14	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA), Ministry for Transport & Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP), Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights (MSFC), Ministry for Education (MFED), Planning Authority, Heritage Malta, Mater Dei Hospital.	Session was devoted for an open discussion steered by the National Archivist. The discussion focussed on the current ventures and provided the participants with the opportunity for the participants to voice ideas, challenges etc.
12/07/2021	13	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA), Ministry for Transport & Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP), Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights (MSFC), Ministry for Education (MFED), Planning Authority, Heritage Malta, Mater Dei Hospital.	Presentation by Dr Charles Farrugia together with Dr Valeria Vanesio (Lecturer – Library Information and Archive Sciences) regarding new training opportunities at the University of Malta for the records management and archival sector.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RECORDS OFFICERS ACTIVITIES DURING 2021

Ministry	Intra-ministerial meetings held	Development of Retention Policies	Appraisal Exercises	Transfer of Records to the National Archives
Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights	4	1 finalised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate Corporate Services 2 awaiting approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Permanent Secretary • Disability Unit (now under different Ministry) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry • National Insurance Cards/ Contribution card and related documents • GBUs 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry (Hal Far store) • National Insurance Cards/ Contribution card
Ministry for Health	11	4 finalised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Secretary and Managing Support • Environmental Health Directorate • Office of the Superintendance • Mater Dei Hospital – Patient Support 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal files • Treatment Abroad • Tender files 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal files • Permanent Secretary files and Indexes • Business and Financial Plans • Karin Grech Hospital • Passenger Information Unit

Police Station records before being processed and transferred to the National Archives



Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs	30	<p>11 drafting stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG Political Documents • DGGI - European Affairs & Institutions • DGGI - Development & Humanitarian • Directorate for Consular Services • Director Maltese Living Abroad (DMLA) • Chief Information Office • Corporate Services • CULTURAL DIPLOMACY • Commercial Diplomacy Unit • DG GIIDEA • Mission 	0	0		
Ministry for Education	4	<p>2 finalised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head College Network Office • English Language Teaching Council (ELT) <p>9 drafting stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCAST Procurement • MCAST HR • MCAST Finance • MCAST Psycho-social Support • MCAST Communications • MCAST Registrar • MCAST EU Projects • MCAST Internal Audity Office • MCAST CSR 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS3s (Procurement Office) 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Lawrence Primary School(Admission & Attendance Registers) • Birzebbugia Primary Schoool (Admission & Attendance Registers) • Mellieha Primary School (Admission & Attendance Registers) • Mosta Primary School (Admission & Attendance Registers) • Rabat Primary School (Admission & Attendance Registers) • Zejtun Primary School (Admission & Attendance Registers)

Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects	11	2 finalised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTIP Data Retention Policy • Mriehel Stores 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources (Attendance sheets 2016; Sick leave certificates 2016; Old books and other documents found in an old cupboard; Copies of personal details 1950 – 1975; Invoices; Musterolls; Other various documents) • Travel Abroad files 1987 – 2006 • Miscellaneous Documents (Documents that were left behind from departments/entities that were transferred to other Ministries.) 	0
Ministry for Justice and Governance	5	0	0	0
Office of the Prime Minister	-	-	-	-
Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development	-	-	-	-

Die xij^a Septembris 1704.

In Sede Criminali Magnae Curiae Cassellae Med. Comp.
Sp. P. B. S. S. Joēs Vincēnrius Bellul, et p̄ns denunciavit, o a
et denunciat, veivngs. fecit, et facit Mattheu Musca
de Brabbato Civitij nostij de contraventione banni Ser.
Dni ob desertionem viagij per eum commissam, du' erat ad-
scriptus ad inseruiendum eum naui prefati Ser. mi Dni
ad pyratice exercenda armata contra Infideles, ac de ssello
eo, et super eo quatu' esso reo denunciato puoto curandosi a in
d'obbedire i banni di S. B. S., e compire al suo debito, men-
re si trouava ascritto in qualita di marinaro su il
Vasello armato a guerra contro gl'infedeli da S. B. S.
Bione, ebbe temerario l'ardire di lasciare d'imbar-
carsi sopra d. Vasello, per proseguire il viaggio che
qto pochi giorni ha

3

ARCHIVAL PROCESSING

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Joēs fran. Plotij

OUR STAFF



SAMUEL AZZOPARDI



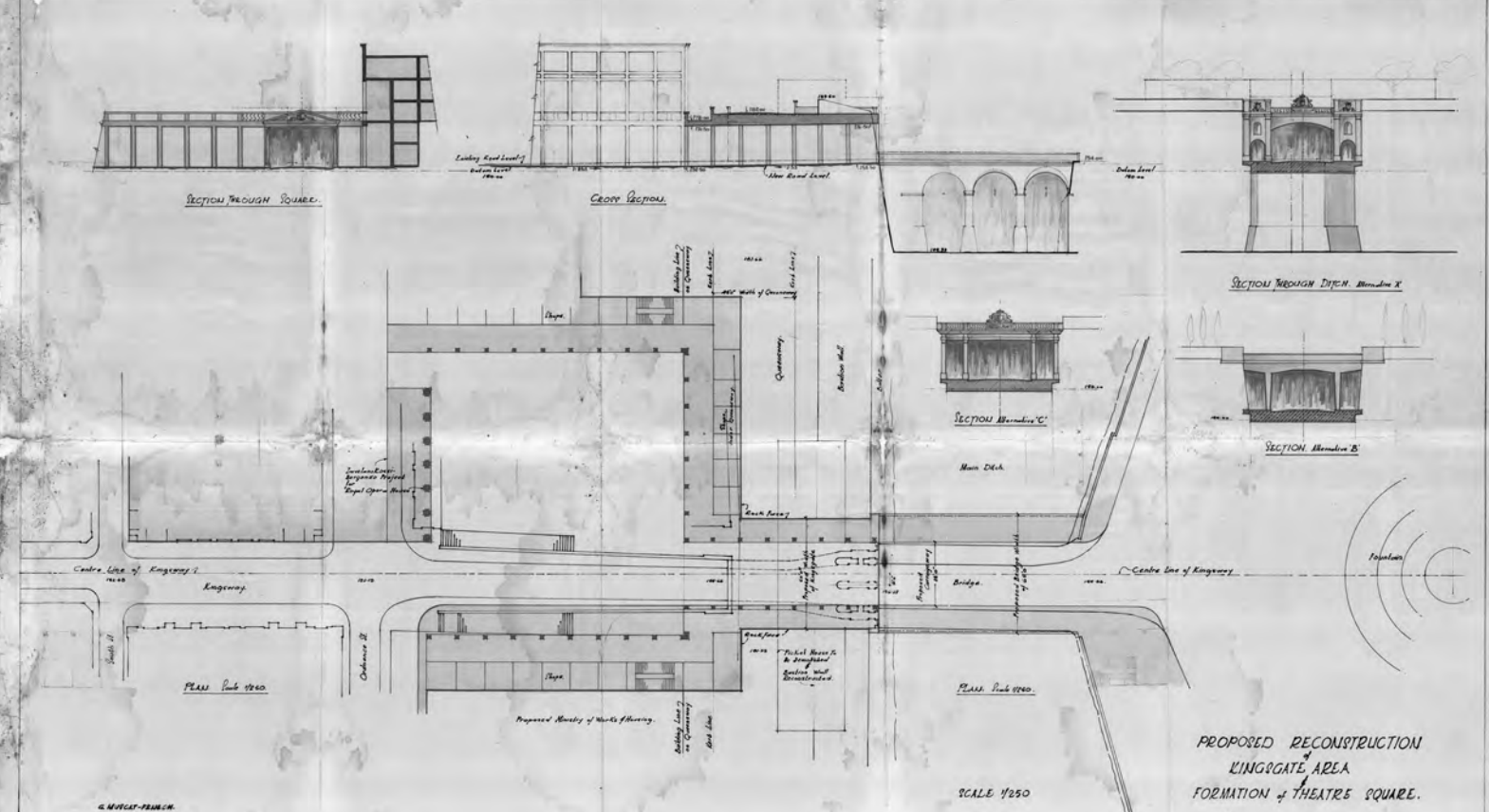
VANESSA BUHAGIAR



RENO CARUANA



IRENE SESTILI



Detail from plans prepared by the Public Works Department for City Gate area following the 1953 Competition.

The Archives Processing Unit ensures that following their transfer to the National Archives, records of national significance and enduring historical value are described, preserved and made accessible to all those who seek them.

3.1 Cataloguing

During 2021, two palaeographers, Vanessa Buhagiar and Samuel Azzopardi, joined the National Archives team after successfully completing their postgraduate course at King's College London and University of Edinburgh respectively, supported by scholarships issued by the Office of the Chief Notary to Government. These palaeographers are working on two sorting and cataloguing projects, namely the *Miscellanea* and *Consolato del Mare* fonds respectively.

3.11 *Miscellanea*

The *Miscellanea* Fond is a collection of loose documents pertaining to different courts that functioned in Malta between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. This Fond had hitherto not been catalogued although researchers had been given access to it.

These records were stored in boxes according to the year they were written in. This led to a situation whereby different types of documents from different courts in Malta, which nowadays constitute separate fonds within the National Archives of Malta, were grouped together. Thus, the cataloguing process of this Fond is rather challenging.

It was evident from early on that, in order for the *Miscellanea* Fond to be catalogued, it had to undergo another sorting exercise. Given that the collection had already been referenced by researchers, the structure of the Fond could not be reconfigured. For that reason, it was decided that each box would have to be sorted individually. Separate folders were created for every judicial body, documents of which were found in each box. The items were then sorted into these folders and were organised by date, rendering the collection more rational.

Following this sorting, the details of every document within each box were inputted into a standard archival database which included: the tribunal the item was subject to, the date it was created, its scope and content, the language it was written in, and its physical characteristics. Every document was also given an identifier number. Towards the end, each box was paginated, which simplifies the locating process for the researcher. As a final step, the old boxes, which were dusty and mouldy, were replaced to ensure the continued protection of the documents.

Other issues were encountered during the cataloguing process. Perhaps the most critical challenge was the understanding of the Maltese legal system during the period of the rule of the Order of St John. To date, no studies have been published that explain the judicial landscape of early modern Malta or explore how different courts interacted with one another. Such contextual understanding, crucial for any archival description exercise, however, was particularly pressing with this collection of court documents. In light of this lacuna, a 'learning-by-doing' approach had to be adopted. Now, we have a clearer understanding of how these tribunals functioned and how they interacted, with the catalogue reflecting this gained knowledge.

Indeed, the *Miscellanea* contain a wealth of information, not just of interest to the legal historian, but as they also store information on the politics, economy, society, and culture of early modern Malta. For the cataloguer and archivist, however, these boxes at times constituted a 'Pandora's box', in that indices, pertaining to different judicial bodies and hence different fonds within the National Archives of Malta, were found within. These presented a challenge, as these indices were identified as missing from series of these afore-mentioned Fonds.

Given that they constitute an excellent reference point for researchers, it was decided that these documents were to be extracted from the *Miscellanea* Fond and transferred to the Fond they pertained to. So far, two Consolato del Mare indices have been successfully shifted from the *Miscellanea* Fond to the Courts and Tribunals Section of the National Archives of Malta in Mdina.

The documents' physical state presented another significant challenge to the sorting and cataloguing process of the *Miscellanea* Fond; often this prevented the cataloguer from recording their details. Indeed, a significant amount of the collection had suffered water damage and thus developed mould staining, causing much of the text to become illegible. In this regard, the collaboration with the Conservation Laboratory was crucial. The conservation team enabled a safer access to the documentation through dusting, cleaning, and other conservation interventions.

Amidst these challenges, 22 boxes were sorted and 1280 catalogue entries were recorded within seven months of the start of the project during 2021. Each box has an average of 60 items and runs into an average of 716 pages.

Extrait des Preuves de noblesse du Chevalier
de Paul de Vion. Lattes au mois de septembre
40

Extrait de l'acte concerné
Ysa de Vion signora de Tefassocourt
che j'ho acquisto d' honore e quiddi
l'agnome:
Fratro de Vion = cogniti e capi della fam.
Erasche de Vion
Fratro de Vion sig. di Fratro gion.
no paragonato del fondone.
Erasche de Vion sig. e j'ho acquirove
della casa de Salton
v. pag. 55.
Erasche de Vion sign. de Salton
Erasche de Vion sig. de Salton
Nob. Paolo de Vion possedente
Ysa e Erasche esser germani figli di Erasche de Salton di Deserona fl. 5. dalli due
cogniti dei e cogniti della nobilita uno per la linea di Ysa altro
per quella di Erasche, dove si paragona e j'ho la sud. de Tefassocourt e di Salton
dove fl. 9-24. e nel fl. 1. e 2. del contratto matrimoniale sopra della fl. 1.
casa de j'ho Erasche verso Erasche ed Erasche da d' agniti
che due Fratros e Erasche erano suoi cogniti e capi della famiglia sopra della casa
sopra fl. 45 in fin. n. 46
La decemissione di Salton in tutte le parti di Erasche e non dividendo sopra dall' agniti
in tutte le parti fl. 35.
Ysa esser scato quello che fece la decemissione della casa di Tefassocourt si commissa
dalle parti di Erasche et Erasche in 1571. l'acta concernit fl. 49 e 50. signor. 15
il Basilio M...

Family tree of Hospitaller Fra Paulo de Vion Guglion/Gullion, inserted in CAE (Camera Comptorum Communis Aerarii - Common Treasury) proceedings concerned with the proof of nobility of de Vion. The issue was raised when de Vion was to inherit property in Valletta from his late uncle the Prior Fra Francesco de Vion de Tessancourt. NA 92/04 1707 Box 301A f. 448.

The sorting and cataloguing of the Miscellanea Fond is a demanding yet rewarding task, as it is facilitating the access to this largely untapped source of Maltese history while contributing to our understanding of Malta's early modern legal system.

3.12 Consolato del Mare

The Consolato del Mare fond consists of court documentation relating matters of commerce, piracy, investments and loans pertaining to maritime ventures, and a variety of other cases arising from shipping and associated industries.

The cataloguing exercise undertaken during 2021 can be divided into two.

The first cataloguing project was dedicated to cataloguing the Acta Originalia of the Consolato del Mare (CDM1). This cataloguing effort followed an earlier effort by student-workers who had catalogued up to Bundle 18 and part of Bundle 19, and consequently picked up midway in Bundle 19. The cataloguing effort on the Acta originalia was carried out up till the end of Bundle 29 and covered over 1,600 individual legal cases brought before the Consolato between 1727 and 1746.

Generally speaking, the collection is in fair condition, although several documents carry signs of water and mould staining, as well as occasional signs of ink oxidisation. In a few rare cases, the frailty of the paper made reading difficult. The absolute majority of the documents are in Italian and of roughly equal size. Smaller bills of lading were included in a large percentage of the documents, especially those

consisting in numerous inventories of the various ships leaving Malta's ports. A moderate number of documents in Latin, French and Spanish are present, with other languages being also exceptionally represented. With the exception of those in Latin, a fair number of the documents in other languages are accompanied by translations into Italian.

The remainder of the *Acta Originalia* covering the period 1747 till end of the functioning of the *Consolato* still await indexing.

The second cataloguing project was dedicated to *CDM 03 – Testimoniali*. This collection contains the testimonies collected by the *Consolato del Mare* in Malta from captains and crew members of ships that found themselves in Malta either willingly or after being compelled to make port in Malta to shelter from bad weather or corsairs, to recover from damages and losses suffered in transit, or having been so compelled by their captors. In the majority of cases, these testimonials detail the ship's name, the cargo on board and the difficulties experienced by the ship in transit. Generally speaking, these difficulties arose from bad weather conditions and piracy, but exceptionally merchants and captains found their plans curtailed by uncooperative local authorities or quarantine and security policies that blocked their entrance into port.

In addition to witness statements collected by the *Consolato del Mare*, this collection also includes testimonies submitted in other foreign *Consolati* and before other authorities by ship captain and crew members involved in ventures connected with Malta or persons in Malta that were later deposited with the *Consolato del Mare* in Malta.

The entire *CDM 03 – Testimoniali* comprises 18 bundles, of which the first five have been entirely catalogued. The cataloguing of Bundle 6 is currently underway. Nearly one thousand individual documents have been indexed, covering the period from the *Consolato's* inception in 1697 up till 1744.

Bill of Lading, dated 6 November 1728, related to the departure from Valletta harbour of La SS Trinità, a tartana owned by Alessio Mattei, on its way to Pantelleria and Marsala.

A di 6 di gbre 1728 In Malta

HA caricato con il Nome di Dio, e di buon saluamento vna volta tanto in questo Porto di Malta ff conto del S. Filippo Cornelio sopra la Tartana nominata la SS. Trinita Pattonegiata di Rabon Alessio Mattei Per condurre, e consegnare a Pantallaria e Marsala

l'appie nominate mercantie, segnate come di contro, e numerate come in pie, asciutte, e ben conditionate, e così promette detto Padrone a sua salua giunta consegnarle, e di nolo li farà pagato conforme il solito Et in fede del vero, farà la presente con altre simili sottoscritte da detto, Padrone o suo Scriuano, e non sapendo scriuere, per lui da terza persona, e vna completa, l'altre restino di nullo valore, N.S. l'accòpagni per tutto a saluamento.

In primis Denari contanti Genoini due cento e cinquanta dico 1250
 Più Botte vacanti acati due ad 22
 Più due corzare & corde di Battore ad 12
 To Antonio Sarda Scriuano di detto Padrone Affirmo come sopra

639

3.13 The Letard-Ciantar Genealogy Collection

The Letard-Ciantar genealogy collection includes over 700 volumes and hundreds of loose documents of dates of birth, marriages, deaths, contracts, notarial deeds, benefits, legacies, wills and concessions on titles of Maltese and Gozo nobility.

All the items were sorted, indexed and preserved in archival-quality folders. Cataloguing data is being completed by Irene Sastili and Noel D'Anastas and will soon be available for viewing on our catalogue platforms. Part of the collection will be available for research and study in the coming months.

3.2 Investigating 'O Melita Infelix'

A multi-disciplinary research team, composed of palaeographers and book and paper conservators, is currently investigating the sixteenth-century poem 'O Melita Infelix', written by Luca d'Armenia. This poem is found on the last (unnumbered) folio of the second volume of the Cedulae Supplichae et Taxationes series, forming part of the Magna Curia Castellania Fond. The team is investigating the poem through a new approach, combining the fields of research of palaeography, book and paper conservation and philology to throw new light on this literary work. Whilst research is currently still ongoing, it is hoped that the findings of this project are published in 2022.

3.3 Other

Three cataloguing projects earmarked in 2020 continued during the year under review, namely the Educational Department files, the Building Notices and the Chief Secretary to Government (CSG).

Anna Azzopardi
Student (ITS) Placement



The Chief Secretary to Government (CSG) fonds is one of our largest collections and covers the whole British period 1800-1964 and has been constantly the most researched collection.

Cataloguing	
Fonds	No of entries
EDU01 - Ministry of Education	1400 items
EDU02 - Dept of Education	4000 items
CSG01 - Chief Secretary to the Gov	30500 items
CSG03 - In Letters	1187 items
ARP - Attestations	400 items
DOI - Dept of Information	2147 items
BN - Building Notices	19038 items
MIL - Military Personnel Records	3544 items
HOM02 - Petitions	2500 files
GMR - General Misc. Reports	200 items
MGO (G files)	103 items
Total	65,019

Sorting, Cleaning and Re-boxing	
Fonds	
MFA01 - Passport Applications (Cleaning)	1000 items
OPM (labelling)	200 boxes
CSG01 (Cleaning)	2000 items
GLC (Letard Ciantar) - (Re-folding/re-boxing)	500 items
GMR	200 items
Total	3,900

Digitization	
Fonds	
Prisoners of War WWI	260 images
MFA 01	3152 images
CIN	310 images
BN	630 images
GMR	1648 images
Total	6,000

3.4 Internships

After the previous year’s absence due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, during 2021 we hosted Martina Fanari, an Italian Masters students from La Sapienza University in Rome and Joan Camilleri da Costa, a Portuguese university student from the Superior School of Education of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto. Apart from the opportunity that we offer to such students to work and increase their awareness of the Archives, such experiences are important for us as well as they help us strengthen our contacts with foreign educational institutions.

Throughout 2021, we also had two local students’ placements: Anna Azzopardi, who carried out the placement as part of her ITS degree course, and Ruth Micallef, who carried out the voluntary work as part of her Systems of Knowledge project.

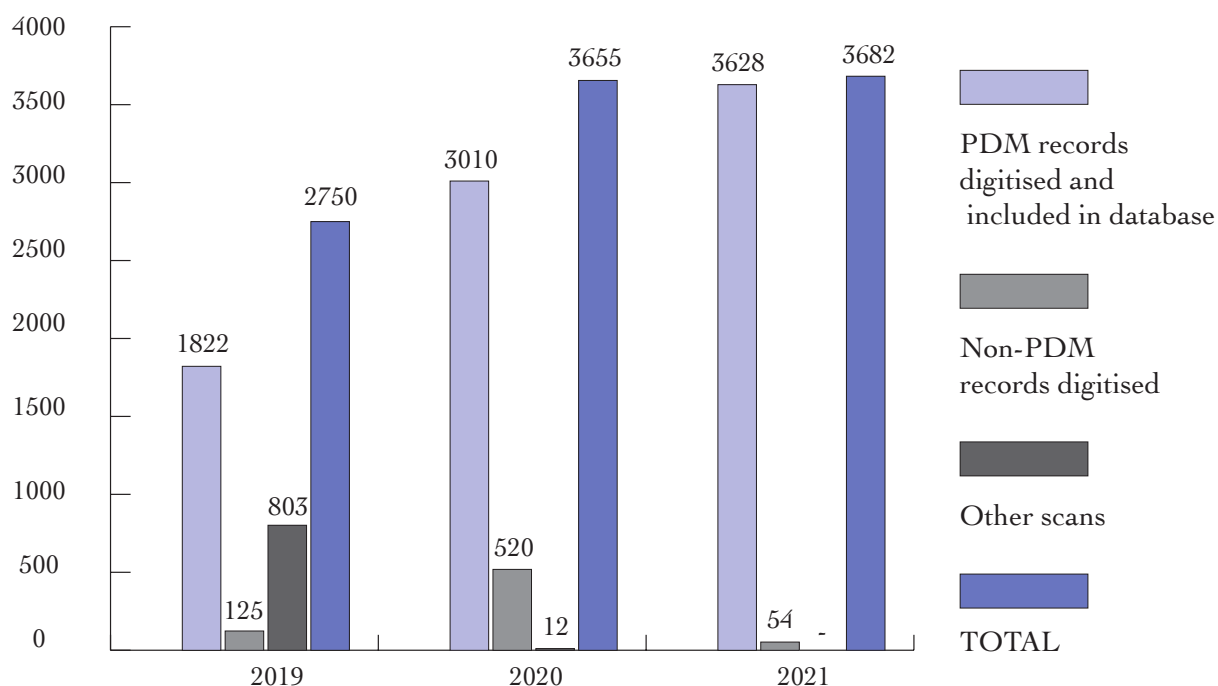
3.5 The Map Room

The ongoing pandemic impacted the Map Room activities, and for nearly the first half of this year operations were carried out remotely and visits had been suspended since the end of April 2020. Plans and photos from Map Room Collections were accessible on a Reading Room computer and copies were to be ordered online.

Images were scanned at the Map Room whilst editing and insertion into the Plans, Drawings and Maps Database (PDM) were done from home.

The exercise of the digitisation of the record plans of the Ordnance Department was concluded during 2021 and other interesting collections were scanned, including:

- “Railways, Trams & Motor Traffic” - 8 folders (1136 records at high resolution)
- First Two Books (from three) of “Country Tenements” (600 dpi)
- Book Ten of Santa Maria Addolorata collection (1902 - 1905) (at high resolution)
- Moses Aquilina Collection (at high resolution)



MARTINA FANARI

After finishing my Master's degree in Archival Science, I decided to take up a work experience abroad that could have given me the possibility to enrich my educational background by putting into practice what I learnt during my university studies.



The choice of doing that experience at the National Archives of Malta turned out to be the best because I could extend my vocational training and develop a method of analysis completely different to the Italian one.

Regardless of the restrictions due to the pandemic, my internship did not face any slowdown. I worked both at home and at the National Archives.

The activity carried out at home consisted in cataloguing different collections and in working on the Memoria project where I also had the opportunity to learn how to use the site of Archives Portal Europe.

At the Archive I assisted in the conservation of documents by performing such activities as removing metal pins and labelling boxes.

In addition, I practice my palaeography skills by cataloguing a collection from the 19th century.

It has been an experience during which I have gained a lot both professionally as well as on a personal level; I am grateful to all the people I had the pleasure to work and whose preparation and dedication are sources of inspiration.

Thank you to all the staff of National Archives of Malta for welcoming me among you and making me feel at home.

Martina Fanari
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

JOAN CAMILLERI DA COSTA

During my three-weeks internship in November, I had the opportunity to take a look at the different fields of work within an archive.



I learned about the history of the hospital, how it became the current archive and how it works.

My intention in undertaking this internship was mainly to learn about the importance of the island of Malta during the Second World War, to understand how the media was treated at the time, and to find out how this information reached Portugal.

During my brief experience I was able to understand how documents are digitized, how they are stored and how we should handle them.

The storage of documents is something fascinating and it is necessary to understand the entire history surrounding it. It is necessary to understand their history.

I strongly recommend an internship at the National Archives of Malta as the staff are very attentive, always available to help; the atmosphere is very pleasant.

This experience enriched me not only on a personal but also on a professional level. The team made me feel welcome and at home, as well as introduced me to their ways of working and the different sectors of the archive.

I love this experience and would love to repeat it again.

Joan Camilleri,
Superior School of Education of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, Portugal



4

CONSERVATION LABORATORY

OUR STAFF



MARIA BORG



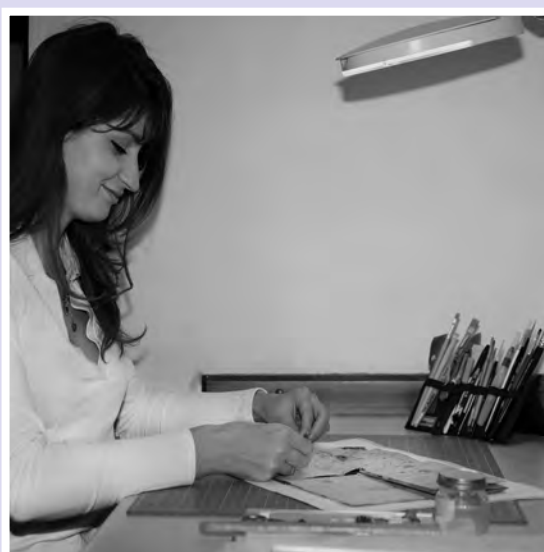
CHANELLE BRIFFA



SIMON DIMECH



ALICE FERRI



SARAH PORTELLI



SIMON SULTANA HARKINS



The year under review was marked by significant developments within our conservation laboratory. In September, three Conservators, Simon Sultana Harkins, Chanelle Briffa and Maria Borg, engaged with the Notary to Government, started forming part of the National Archives' Conservation team. (See also Section 7).

During the first 6 months, the conservation team alternated teleworking with physical presence, while the second half of the year brought about changes in the typology and quantity of work. These changes were ushered by new personnel and new sections within the National Archives' structure, particularly in relation to the National Audio-visual Institute (NAVI), the Notarial Archives section and the engagement of palaeographers within the Archival Processing Unit.

4.1 Conservation Work

Seventy-one conservation projects were carried out during the year under review. These included conservation work on records from the following collections: PWD, MFA 01, MCC, EDU 02, MNA92-04, MISC., CSG, CSG 01, CA, BN, Guliana Letard-Ciantar and MEMORJA. These comprised both short term work, and long-term projects, some of which are still ongoing. Work was also carried out on various private deposits and donations.

The long-term projects carried out during this year focused on conservation work related with the digitisation of CSG volumes, cleaning and minor repairs of tramway/ railway plans, and cleaning of negatives from the Cianco Collection and digitisation. Projects continued from previous years include work on passport applications, the Magna Curia Castellania (MCC), and work on drawings of the Addolarata Cemetery.

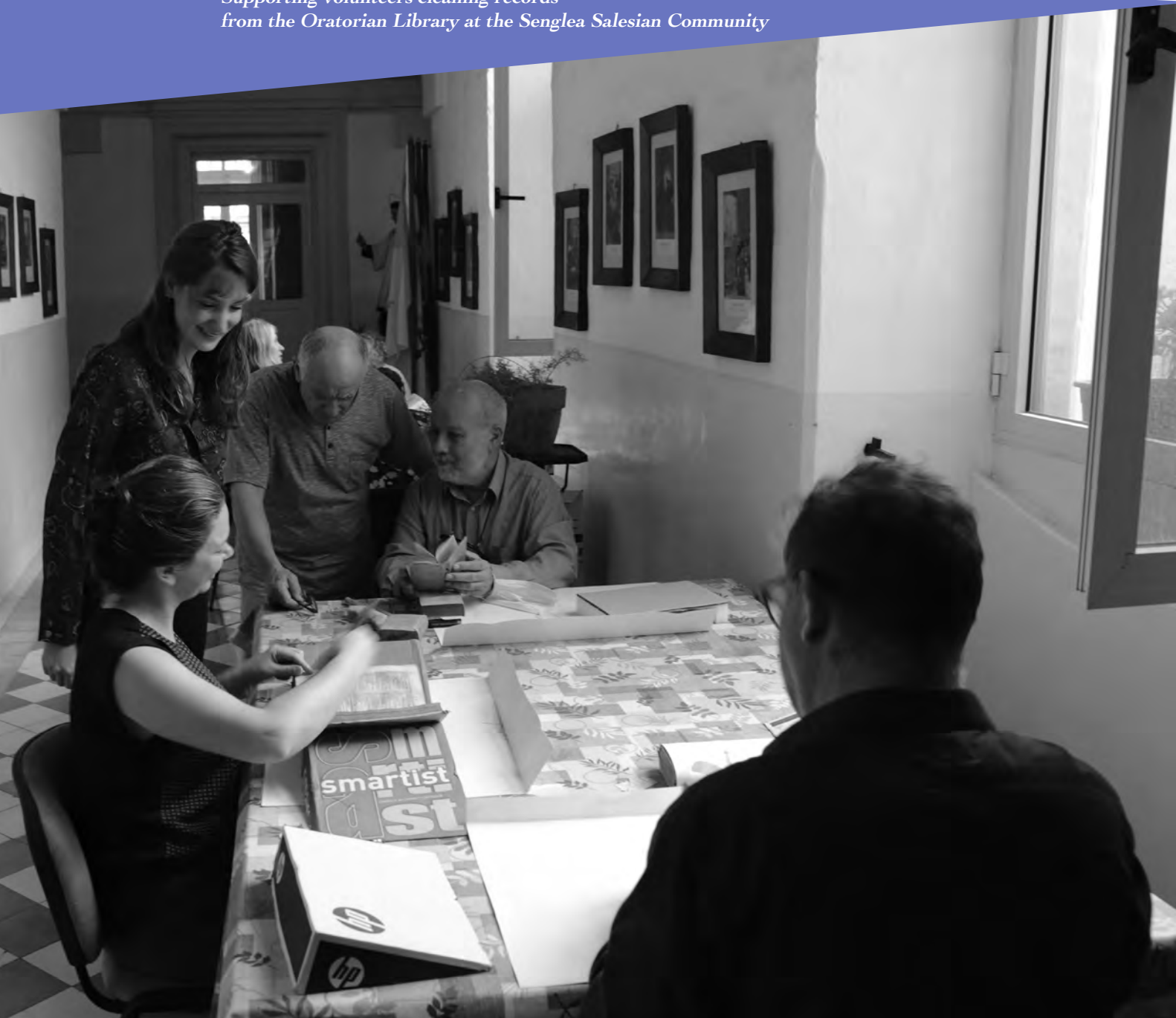
Conservation work for the volume UG/11/163 pertaining to the Gozo Section, which was in a very fragile state due to damage caused by fire in the past, was also completed.

As in other years, first line of conservation was performed on architectural plans before digitisation; these added up to 15 items.

4.2 Preventive Conservation

In July, the conservation laboratory team, together with various members of staff from different sections and volunteers, cleaned and rehouse 53,667 Police files covering the period 1962 to 1967. These were then relocated to the Ospizio storage facility. This was a collective effort which comprised the participation of 18 persons in an 11 working-days marathon. 761 Archival Boxes were used, taking 98m of Shelving. The whole process was overseen by the conservators.

*Supporting volunteers cleaning records
from the Oratorian Library at the Senglea Salesian Community*





*The Conservation Team together
with the National Archivist*

The construction of tailormade archival boxes, in particular for oversize volumes from the Giuliana Letard-Ciantar collection was also carried out. Similar boxes were also constructed for collections having specific needs and abnormal sizes, such as photographic material.

Edward Thake assisted our team for two months within the Jobsplus Traineeship programme. Under the supervision of a Conservator, Edward worked on the first phase of the Ciancio Photo Collection Project: the objective was to re-house in archival standard boxes and to catalogue this collection of photographic material. This process gave us an insight of its physical contents and the condition of the collection, in preparation for digitisation. The Ciancio project was also intended to serve as a pilot project for the standardisation of film cataloguing and digitisation of the Audio-Visual Media division of the National Archives of Malta. 74 Archival boxes, covering a 60-year period between 1955-2015, were catalogued. 22 Boxes of these were found to be in critical condition.

4.3 Damage Notification Forms

The Damage Notification Form procedure, whereby National Archives' staff inform the laboratory of damaged items that are needed by researchers, helps us to prioritise conservation work. The number of forms received during 2021, more than doubled when compared to the previous one. It totalled to 65; 29 of these are still pending treatment.

4.4 In-house Training

Training on the proper handling of archival documents was given to new members of staff, volunteers, and visiting students working on the collection. On some occasions this training was given online.

4.5 Inspections and Condition Reports

In August, the Conservation team visited our section in Gozo, including the storage facilities in Għarb. Following requests received, we carried out several inspections of archives that are not within the National Archives' holdings. These were the Discalced Carmelites in Cospicua, the Gozo Notarial Archives (in relation to the issuing of a tender for conservation and restoration treatments), the PBS Audio Visual Archive, the Times of Malta photographic collection, the Siggiewi Parish Archive (2nd visit following another one carried last year), Msida Police Station, Esplora (to assess musical artefacts from NAM collection currently on loan), the Law Courts (Voluntary Jurisdiction Section) and the Archbishop's Seminary Library.

Follow up meetings and visits were also carried out with the Salesians in St Philip Neri Oratory, Senglea. This long-term collaboration with the Oratorian Community Research Library has been progressing steadily.

4.6 Outreach

Since the pandemic limited tours and visits during this year, alternative ways of doing outreach work were explored. These included several posts for social media, in particular the participation in international events such as the European Day of Conservation organised by the European Confederation of Conservation-Restoration Organisations (E.C.C.O.), and the Ask A Conservator Day organised by Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC). Furthermore, three short videos were produced and edited in-house outlining the role of the conservation section within NAM and published on social media platforms.

*National Archives staff and volunteers
cleaning and rehousing Police files (1962 – 1967)*



How to choose the right support

- Flexible binding



*Online training of volunteers
about the safe handling of records*

Filming and interviews for the TV programmes *Il-Barokk* within the Laboratory covering our work were also performed.

A lecture on the conservation treatments carried out on archival documents from the Provincial Archive of the Carmelite Order was delivered to the Carmelite community in July.

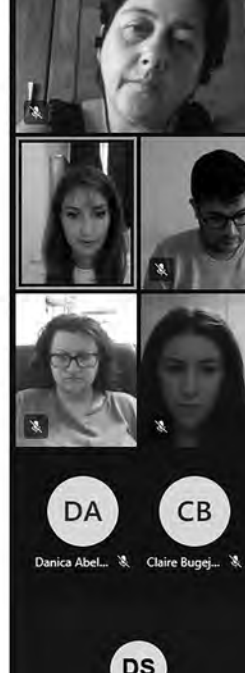
4.7 Continuous Professional Development

The Conservation team followed online training in relation to the use of nano-cellulose Paper. Later on, samples of nano-cellulose were acquired and different samples were prepared for testing.

An Evaluators' Training for e-tenders was also attended by Conservator Simon Dimech together with other staff members of NAM.

4.8 Emergency Planning

The team worked on a detailed emergency preparedness plan of the National Archives at Santo Spirito, Rabat. This consisted of prevention, a fire risk assessment, preparedness, a response plan and a recovery process. Work is still being carried out on some sections for further refining, updating and consultation with experts in determined fields.





Edward Thake assisting our team on the first phase of the Ciancio Photo Collection Project.

4.9 Support by Volunteers

During the year under review, 5 volunteers supported the Conservation Lab giving a total of 430 hours of work. The work carried out under supervision of the Conservators included dry cleaning of police documents and plans, removal of metal inserts, flattening, mould removal, cleaning of negatives, and digitisation work.

The conservation team was also involved in the coordination and provision of support to other volunteers involved in the digitization of the collection.

4.10 Other

Our Conservation Laboratory contributed to the rehabilitation project of the Notarial Archives building in St. Paul and St. Christopher Street, Valletta. The contract for disinfestation of the Notarial Archive collection, currently under process is being followed by the laboratory.

The conservation team worked hand in hand, giving its support and advice to the new NAVI section and its Archivist. Meetings were also held with consultant Dr Charles P. Azzopardi to structure a methodology for the way forward to best preserve our audio-visual collection.

The annual meeting of the European Heads of Conservation (EHC) did not take place for the second consecutive year due to the pandemic. However, several exchanges on various topics took place.

Collaboration with Heritage Malta Diagnostic Scientific Laboratory has continued throughout this year, in particular with the scientific analyses of a Portolan found on the cover of the Index of Notary Giovanni Domenico Spiteri.



5

**PUBLIC
SERVICES
UNIT**

OUR STAFF



JOSEPH AMODIO



MICHAEL BORG



MELVIN CARUANA



RACHELLE MIZZI



DEBORAH VELLA



STEPHANIE SCHEMBRI



*Public Administration students
visiting the National Archives*

The Public Services Unit seeks to assist our clients and guide them through their research and ensure that this is done in the most professional and courteous manner.

Once again this year our services have been affected by the Covid-19 situation: researchers had to book an appointment for research and social distancing had to be maintained. Once more, this resulted in fewer numbers of onsite researchers as may be seen below. However, in spite of these restrictions, we continued with our drive to improve the overall research experience. The most important initiative undertaken this year, was the launch of the Chief Secretary to Government (CSG 01) database covering the 10 years between 1935 and 1945. This database, which can be accessed from the Rabat Reading Room, includes over 55,000 entries and will be useful for researchers. We continued to build on last year's measure where clients may book documents in advance. In fact, as from this year those clients making use of this service, can now prebook up to 15 items on every appointment.

Throughout this year, we also started seeing researchers making increasing use of the initiative introduced the previous year – the self digitisation of documents. The total number of digital images reproduced through this system exceeded 500 images.

5.1 On-Site Research Sessions

During this year, on-site research sessions remained on the same levels of last year. Although these figures are mainly attributed to the COVID-19 restrictions, the general trend towards online use is a contributing factor. In fact, although we had an identical amount of on-site research sessions, the number of hours of research

increased compared to the previous year. This was partly also due to the fact that later in the year we removed the time-capping (of 3 hours) for each appointment. Thus, clients could spend the whole day researching.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Research sessions	1523	1687	1149	1146
Hours of research	3327	4341	2801	2944
Items consulted	5799	6077	5937	6911

Table 1 – Rabat Reading Room Activity

The number of requested items indicative; in fact, this year we saw a considerable increase in the number of documents issued. Such a figure should be seen in conjunction with both the new measure whereby clients may pre-order 15 documents per visit and the increase in number of online requests that we have received this year.

As for the type of collections that have been requested, the most popular fonds have been constant as in previous years, with the Chief Secretary to Government registering the largest share (over 1,900 file requests), overtaking the 2020 requests by more than 600 files. This figure confirms once again the importance of cataloguing and the provision of better access to the public to archival records. Other collections that continued to be high in demand throughout this year were the Passports Applications (MFA 01), Building Notices (BN), Police Records (POL) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) among others.

Rabat Reading Room - Requested items by fonds - 2021																
	ARP	BN	CSG	CUS	EDU	GMR	GOV	MIL	MFA	OPM	OPU	POL	PWD	Misc	Total	
Jan	5	60	92	31	nil	9	6	2	98	54	25	11	45	24	462	
Feb	9	46	97	20	8	52	11	1	93	8	69	10	36	34	494	
Mar	35	56	80	21	5	15	38	7	96	17	44	4	25	47	490	
Apr	15	24	83	12	49	19	18	2	111	55	39	20	22	47	516	
May	nil	45	94	12	44	16	18	13	127	43	117	47	49	50	675	
Jun	1	52	223	8	11	67	37	20	94	20	82	54	28	46	743	
Jul	1	132	279	12	22	15	8	16	85	33	80	35	40	18	776	
Aug	2	63	230	16	10	29	18	4	63	53	15	57	36	59	655	
Sept	1	64	178	6	31	27	nil	17	63	67	52	49	15	27	597	
Oct	6	34	183	8	2	6	19	22	34	50	45	20	18	76	523	
Nov	4	44	306	nil	4	5	27	nil	46	19	34	20	15	45	569	
Dec	12	6	138	6	nil	13	6	4	81	24	11	17	46	47	411	
Total	91	626	1983	152	186	273	206	108	991	443	613	344	375	520	6911	

Table 2 – Rabat Requested items by fonds

5.2 Customer Care

Once more, the year 2021 consolidated the online customer care as the primary medium of communication between the National Archives of Malta and our clients. Whilst the previous year was the first one ever recorded in which email requests surpassed the on-site sessions, this year we saw the widening in the gap between the two ways of communication.

The growth in customer care requests was evident last year when compared to previous years; however this year we reached even higher numbers with a total of 1,599 email requests received throughout January and December 2021. This outnumbers the number of email requests received in 2020 by 263.

Customer Care email requests 2021												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
120	126	148	146	143	132	128	125	141	145	133	112	1599

Table 3 – Customer care online requests

The number of email requests received per month during 2021 are being compared with those of the previous year in Table 2.

Customer Care email requests 2020 and 2021													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2020	101	61	77	131	122	133	152	139	118	116	94	92	1336
2021	120	126	148	146	143	132	128	125	141	145	133	112	1599

Table 4 – Customer care online requests 2020 and 2021

Table 2 indicates that the increase in emails escalated as from April 2020, when Malta experienced the first cases of COVID-19. In fact, the number of emails remained almost constant throughout at between 100 and 150 emails each month.

When the data is analysed over a period of 4 years, the upward trend in online communication is clearly discernible; requests increased by over 170% during the same period. This transformation required us to relocate more human resources to monitor and reply to the increasing volumes of emails.

*Masters in Baroque Studies
students at the Conservation Lab*





Public Registry Officers

The largest share of emails received in 2021 were requests for appointments to carry research at the Reading Room. Research appointment slots were mainly requested by Maltese residents. On the other hand, requests from foreigners to carry research on their behalf were on the increase due to travel restrictions.

Research from the Customs Department records of arrivals and departures of passengers were mostly requested in such cases. In view of restraints to travel to Malta, we even had one particular foreign client who requested research services from the Customs records for almost one whole year, specifically from November 2020 until August 2021. This was another challenge for us as the research was very time-consuming since it spanned along nine consecutive months.

As in previous years, requests for the viewing of plans and photographic material, passport applications for genealogical research, military personnel service records, as well as requests for birth, marriage and death records continued to generate interest and were the most commonly demanded amongst clients. The latter requests were directed to other the Public Registry Department and the Parish Archives since these records are not held at the National Archives.

When one compares the combined requests (on-site session together with the customer care emails) over the previous four year period, this year's figure reached an all-time high. This is a further confirmation of the growing awareness by the general public of the National Archives of Malta and our holdings.

Combined Requests				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
On site Sessions	1523	1687	1149	1146
Online Requests	586	784	1336	1599
Total	2109	2471	2485	2745

Table 5 – Rabat Reading Room Combined Requests

5.3 Ancillary Services

The National Archives of Malta offers ancillary services to our clients. These services are mainly focused on the reproduction of documents both in digital format and hard copies. Although over the past years we have introduced various options for on-site clients to reproduce documents freely, the increase in online customer requests augmented the requests for digital reproduction of material. During 2021, we handled the following requests:

Number of Requests_2021	
Digital Services Documents	208
Digital Service for Maps/Plans	111
Digital Service for Photos	13
Photocopy Service	105
Research on behalf of clients	36
Issuance of Emigration Certificate	18

Table 6 – Requests for ancillary services during 2021

In terms of images/pages reproduced for clients, this year we processed a record of 3025 images of documents, 541 images of plans and maps, 46 digital photos and 2110 pages of photocopies. When the ancillary services are contrasted with the previous years, one can denote an increase in the combined requests, both for online and onsite services.

5.4 Educational and Cultural Visits

Visits to the National Archives of Malta were once again negatively impacted by the pandemic. For the second year we did not have any secondary school visits. Cultural visits by groups were also missing. Of the three visits at the Head Office that we had this year, two were from University students and the other one was from the Public Registry officers.

Public Registry Officers	4 th November 2021	4 persons
Degree in Public Administration, University of Malta	25 th November 2021	20 persons
Masters in Baroque Studies, University of Malta	9 th December 2021	3 persons

Public Administration Students



5.5 Social Media

Facebook

2021 New Followers	Total Followers
1,216	15,390

Flickr

Total Photos	2021 Uploads	Total Views	Albums	Followers
1,038	187	822,597	40	221

Instagram

Total Posts	Total Followers
584	1,310

Twitter

Total Tweets	2021 Tweets	Followers
186	8	185

Issuu Online Library

Total Publications	2021 Uploads	Followers
39	1	43

YouTube

Total Videos	2021 Uploads	Subscribers
64	22	135



Illustriſſimo -

La fatalità diede che questa notte il Mio Brig. ho
acqua, e miracolosamente mi riuscì venirlo Turek
una spiaggia sotto vento di Capo Sant' Elena, pe
guerra Vostra. - Il M. e supplicata di spedire
questi oggi, il Soccorso per recuperare le merca
meno di Curioso mentre io con l' Equipage
Recuperando il meglio. La Circoſtanza non f
scrivete, ma attendo il Voſtro Soccorso - 2 MB
Spiaggia di S. S. 25. Maggio 1811.

Voſtro Diſpoſiſſimo Ser.
Michele Richard Cap.

Noi Giovanni Guiducci per S. M. Britannica
Storjole dell' Isola di S. S. e sue dipend
Avendo ricevuto alle ore dieci di mattina
pugente, e p. in Considerazione la disgrazi
Cap. si accetta le sue istanze, egli si spedisce
mente un Caico della portata di Cantara 1500.
ri Reis, acciò possi sopra di S.

6

COURTS AND
TRIBUNALS
SECTION



OUR STAFF



MARIO CAMILLERI



NOEL D'ANASTAS



While COVID-19 impacted severely the number of researchers at the Courts and Tribunals Section, our services have been strengthened by the assignment of Samuel Azzopardi, a classicist and palaeographer, to the National Archives (see Chapter 3). His main task during 2021 has been the subject cataloguing of the records belonging to the *Consolato del Mare*, a maritime tribunal with documentation relating to commerce, piracy, investments and loans pertaining to maritime ventures as well as a variety of other cases arising from shipping and related industries.

6.1 Research and Reading Room Services

The Courts and Tribunals Section recorded a significant decrease in the number of researchers, consulted volumes and hours spent on research in the premises during the year 2021. 143 researchers visited the Mdina Banca Giuratale, consulted 305 items and spent approximately 290 hours researching, primarily between February and April.

During the first quarter of the year, 27 MA Notarial Studies 5th year post-graduate students attended and completed 30 hours of hands-on practical experience on the volumes of the *Atti d'Accusa* and the Sentences belonging to the fond of the Criminal Court under the supervision of Dr Joan Abela. This activity was similar to what other students had completed the year before.

6.2 Sorting and Cataloguing

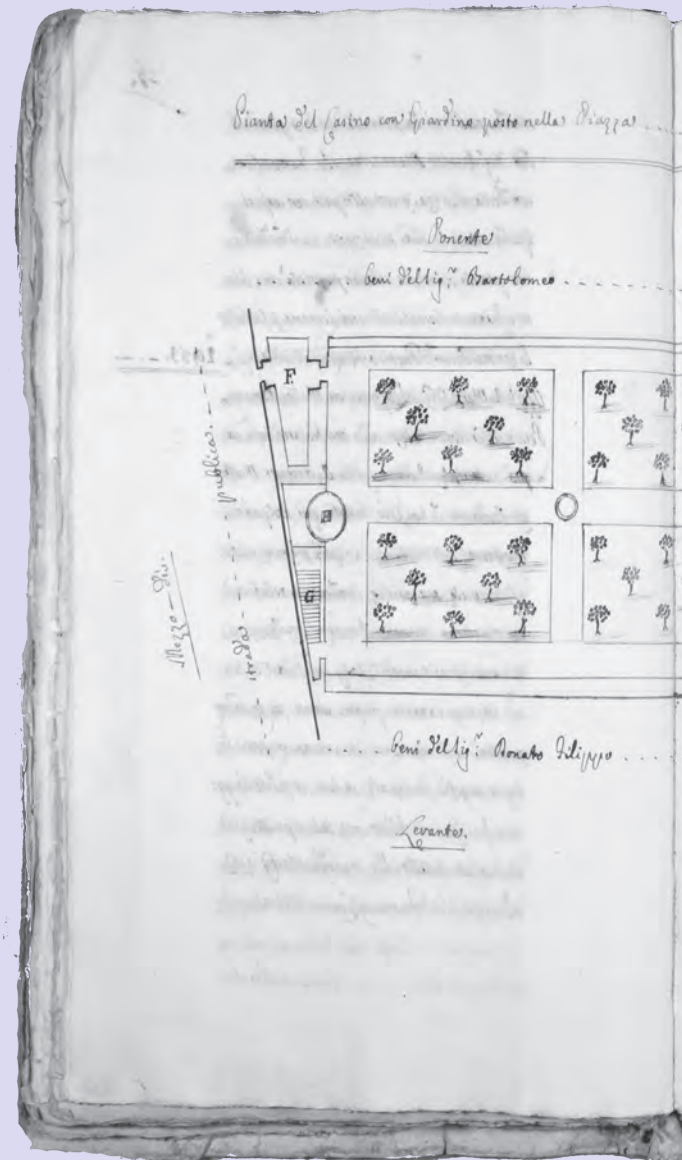
6.2.1 Consolato del Mare

As indicated in Chapter 3, the cataloguing effort in this seven-month period can be divided into two. The first cataloguing project was dedicated to cataloguing the *Acta Originalia* (CDM 01), a continuous effort that followed an earlier initiative by History undergraduates who had catalogued up to Bundle 19. The *Acta Originalia* cataloguing effort lasted until Bundle 29 and covered over 1,600 individual legal cases spanning the years 1727 to 1746. The rest of the *Acta Originalia*, from 1747 to the end of the Consolato's operation, has yet to be indexed.

The second cataloguing task was focused on *Testimonialia* series (CDM 03). This collection contains testimonies collected by the Consolato del Mare in Malta from captains and crew members of ships that found themselves in Malta, either willingly or after being compelled to make port in Malta to shelter from bad weather or corsairs, to recover from damages and losses sustained in transit, or have been so compelled by their captors. In the majority of cases, these testimonials describe the ship's name, the cargo on board, and the difficulties encountered by the ship while in transit.

Metadata for the Consolato del Mare is being created by Claire Bugeja as part of the current internship at the Courts and Tribunals Section at Mdina, which is offered by the Friends of the National Archives and sponsored by the HMML Malta Study Centre. Although metadata had already been done for the CDM in the past, more detail is being added this time.

By the end of 2021, approximately 80 boxes of the CDM *Acta Originalia* had been analysed. The current work is centred on the physical description of the volumes and bundles, which are now housed in



archival-quality boxes. The work entails noting details such as binding dimensions, languages used, other features such as seals and insignias, and the condition state of the items. Data is being compiled electronically. Dr Daniel Gullo and Dr Valeria Vanesio of the HMML Malta Study Centre are supervising the project.

6.2.2 *Registrum Patentarum*

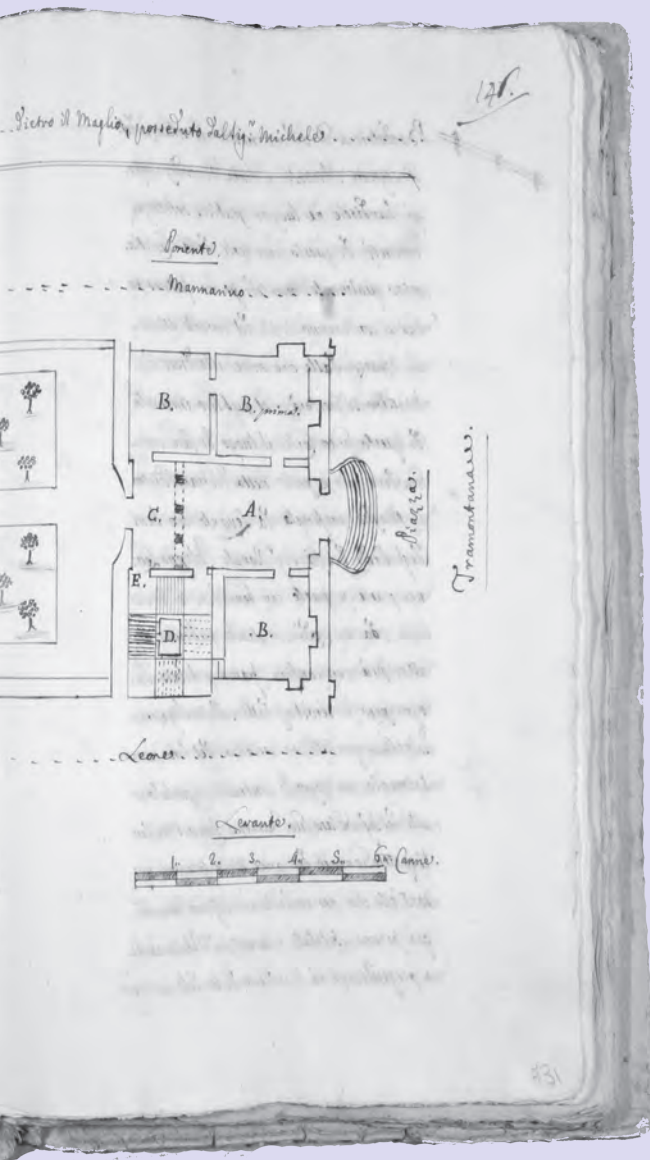
Claire Bugeja, who holds a bachelor's degree in classics and is currently pursuing a master's degree in archival science, was one of our volunteers during the year under review. During her weeks of internship in the Courts and Tribunals Section, she worked on ten loose unbound bundles of the *Registrum Patentarum* under the fond of the Magna Curia Castellania, ranging the years 1777 and 1798.

Sorting these bundles proved to be quite difficult, as the same date often appears several times. One can surmise that these documents were being recorded by multiple people on the same day; therefore, if three people were taking down departures on a particular day, there will be three different instances where the same date will be listed. The task here was to recognise the different handwriting and to organise the entries in as chronological an order as possible. Later bundles appear to show that a form of the roster had started being used, as only one person at a time would write for a series of days before being replaced by another.

The bundles were then foliated and placed in archival-quality folders for long-term safekeeping and preservation. Data was entered into a digital catalogue.

6.2.3 Other Collections

The catalogue of the post-Criminal Code period of 1854 to 1899 has now been completed. This includes a chronological detailed list of all cases, case number, year, names involved, nicknames, father's name, nationality, residence, occupation, details of the crime committed, sentence handed



down and date. This information is currently being reviewed and will be available for consultation on the Archives' catalogue platform in the near future.

In the second half of 2021, the music collection of Mro Frank Vassallo, which was handed to the National Archives the previous year by the composer's own son, Dr Pierre Vassallo, and Mr Carmel Axiaq, started to be catalogued. There are 83 compositions in total, mostly symphonic, chamber, and sacred music.

The fonds of the *Curia Capitalalis* and the *Officium Commissariorum Domorum* have fascinated the interest of researchers in recent months. A large amount of primary documentation that is archived in the Courts and Tribunals Section has been published by Mevrick Spiteri in his book 'The Houses of Baroque Valletta 1650-1750' investigating property disputes recorded in the *Officium Commissariorum Domorum*.

6.3 Visits and Presentations

Visitors and cultural tours were not permitted at the Banca Giuratale due to the pandemic crisis, but three different University of Malta groups visited the premises toward the end of 2021 in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. A presentation on the materials on display was given.

Prof George Cassar and Dr Noel Buttigieg accompanied a group of 20 students from the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture to the Banca Giuratale on 11 October. On 19 November, 20 students from the Department of History were accompanied by Dr Valeria Vanesio to the Mdina repository.

The University of Malta organized 'Christmas on Campus' cultural activities for its employees and students in the first week of December, which included a visit to the Courts and Tribunals Section.

A small delegation from the National Archives of Turkey made a special visit to the Banca Giuratale in June.

Some of the cancelled tours were substituted with an online lecture, such as an online presentation given to 27 MA Notarial Students in February as an orientation to their physical fieldwork.

6.4 International Fora and Online Sessions

In 2021, Noel D'Anastas has participated in online sessions on "Open Access: an Opportunity for Malta" and "Recommendations for the Development of a National Policy for Open Access to Publications, Research Data, and Related Issues".

Melvin Caruana, Noel D'Anastas and Leonard Callus participated in an international workshop at the Provincial Historical Archive of Alicante in September, titled "Innovation on New Digital Exponential Technologies in the Archives."

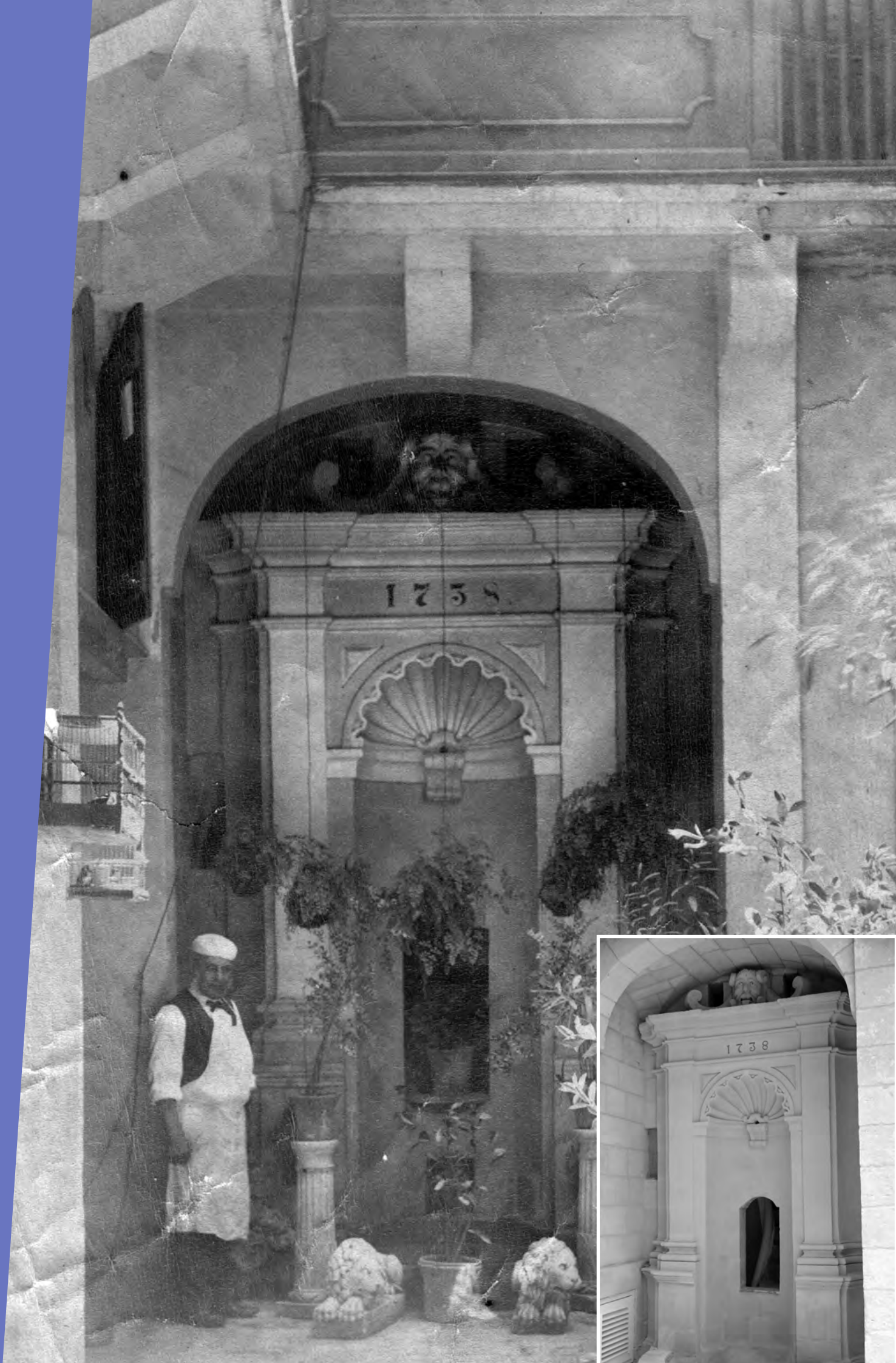
The necessary work for the inclusion of records from the fonds of the Magna Curia Castellania and the Consolato del Mare in an online exhibition in Prato (Italy) was carried out.



7

**NOTARIAL
ARCHIVE**





In October 2021, Parliament approved legislation whereby the guardianship and management of the historical original copies of the Notarial Archive was bestowed upon the National Archives.

The year under review was a rather busy year; the pandemic and the rehabilitation project at St Christopher Street, Valletta, ushered several challenges while we started preparing ourselves to fulfil our new duties.

Two palaeographers (Samuel Azzopardi and Vanessa Buhagiar; see Chapter 3) and three conservators (Chanelle Briffa, Maria Borg and Sultana Harkins; see Chapter 4), whose training was supported by scholarships issued by the Office of the Chief Notary to Government, have taken up their duties with the National Archives in May and September respectively.

7.1 Conservation

Twenty conservation projects were carried out by these three conservators during 2021. These included records that will be eventually displayed in the museum within the archive at St Christopher Street (Valletta), as well as a few volumes from the collection of Notary Giovanni Luca Mamo that will be displayed in the reading room of the same premises.

The items ranged from notarial deeds, single leaf items and logbooks from the maritime collection, to fragments that date to the French period, pertaining to confiscation of silver. Works consisted mainly of mechanical surface cleaning, paper repairs, consolidation of text, sewing consolidation and replacement where necessary, and consolidation of various aspects of the bindings. As usual, all conservation work has been properly documented.

7.2 Research and Analysis

Scientific analysis was undertaken on a portolan chart reused as a cover for an Index of Notary Giovanni Domenico Spiteri. In December, the chart was taken to the Heritage Malta's Diagnostic Science Laboratories for the identification of pigments using MSI and XRF. This will enable the conservators to determine the treatments to use on the map and to ensure that no further damage is done to the chart.

The provenance of the chart was also studied by Dr Michael Ferrar, a retired cartographer based in France. He has been working on the chart remotely with the assistance of Chanelle Briffa as well as Dr Joan Abela and Dr Theresa Zammit Lupi from the Notarial Archives Foundation.

A list of insects found on the premises of the National Archives is currently being compiled by Simon Sultana Harkins. This exercise is important to ensure the longevity of the collection and the safety of the staff.

7.3 Preventive Conservation

The collection of the historical original copies of the Notarial Archive is currently in a storage facility. The team monitored the facility constantly: boxes were regularly opened and checked for mould, condensation and other issues.

A number of conservation grade boxes and 'jackets' were constructed for the collection of Notary Giovanni Luca Mamo.

The conservation team provided training in book handling to volunteers assisting in the digitisation of records housed at the Notarial Archives at Mikiel Anton Vassalli Street. The conservators were also in charge of assigning and prepare volumes for digitisation.

In the meantime, the collection is being disinfested using the Anoxia treatment. Following the disinfestation cycle, lasting 40 days, the conservators inspect volumes for any signs of insect activity. When it is confirmed that there is no insect activity, boxes are barcoded, sealed in plastic and transferred to the storage facility.

In March the conservation team was assigned to list and pack the deeds of Notary Francis Micallef from the private property of the notary currently in charge of the collection. Four hundred and fifty-five volumes were listed, packed in storage boxes and transferred to the storage facility where they will be kept until the rehabilitation project is finalised.

In December, a site visit to the new storage facilities rented by the Office of the Notary to Government was carried out. The team gave advice and specification with regards to storage and environmental conditions.

7.4 Outreach and Other Activities

In October, the Notarial Archives team participated in 'Il-Barokk', a programme that airs on a Maltese national television station. This production explores the Baroque period in Malta, with an emphasis on arts and culture. The conservators and palaeographers spoke about the projects they were working on, with the aim of increasing public awareness of the Notarial Archive's collection.

The conservation team has been attending both online and on-site lectures and conferences related to various subjects in conservation. In December, the team attended an online lecture and demonstration on nanofibers in the National Archives conservation laboratory.

In a bid to enrich their professional development, the palaeographers attended the international conference 'Giustizia, istituzioni e notai tra i secoli XII e XVII in una prospettiva europea – In ricordo di Dino Puncuh', which took place between the 8 and 10 September and was organised by Notariorum Itinera. Vanessa Buhagiar also attended the two-day seminar 'Italian Palaeography: Gothic Cursive Script and Humanistic Script', which took place on 17 and 18 June and was organised by the School of Advanced Study at the University of London.

During 2021, the Minister of Justice and Governance, Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis, and the Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Hon. Josè Herrera and Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi visited works being carried out at the Valletta premises.



8

GOZO
SECTION

- Marsalforno Bay.

OUR STAFF



FRANCESCO PIO ATTARD



JOHN CREMONA



MARYANNE CURMI



PAUL FALZON



*Mġarr Harbour ca. 1912. London Studio, Valletta.
Donated by Dr George Azzopardi.*

The Gozo Section (NAG) of the National Archives of Malta (NAM) provides its services from the main premises in Triq Vajringa in Rabat, Gozo, from where it has been functioning for the last thirty-two years. It serves as the public record office for the documentation generated and received by Government departments and establishments in Gozo and Comino. The Gozo Section has also two depositories in Għarb, one housing the archive of the Notary to Government in Gozo and the other is an extension of the main depository in Victoria.

For the second consecutive year the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic were in force, and for several weeks staff alternated between office and telework. Notwithstanding the restrictions, the main hall of the Gozo Section of the National Archives was open for researchers. Online requests received by the public continued to be given attention and answered in the shortest time possible.

8.1 Records Management

During the year under review, visits were carried out at the Gozo Law Courts at Ċittadella and at the Ministry for Gozo premises respectively. At the Law Courts a number of volumes were earmarked for transfer to the NAG. Since the main hall of the NAG in Victoria is full to capacity, the volumes were transferred in two

different consignments to the Għarb depository. A number of records belonging to the Agriculture Section within the Ministry for Gozo was also inspected but transfer of these documents has been withheld due to storage space shortage.

8.2 Accessions

The following records were added to the Gozo Section of the National Archives during the year 2021. As in previous years, Dr George Azzopardi of Ta' Sannat Gozo made significant donations to the NAG, mostly consisting of old postcards, photographs and ephemera related to Gozo.

Accession ref. No.	Source and description	Extent
2021-1	Donation by Dr Joseph Grech – Music collection catalogue at the Archivum Cathedralis Gaudisiensis	2 volumes
2021-2	Transfer from Gozo Law Courts – Registri Mandati	110 volumes
2021-3	Transfer from Gozo Law Courts – Citazioni Inferiore	257 volumes
2021-4	Transfer from Gozo Law Courts – Indexes	13 Volumes
2021-5	Transfer from Gozo Law Courts – Talbiet żgħar	125 volumes
2021-6	Transfer from Gozo Law Courts – Bord tal-Kera	69 volumes
2021-7	Private donation by Dr George Azzopardi – Old prints related to Gozo	3 items
2021-8	Private donation by Dr George Azzopardi – Old postcards and photos of Gozo (ca. 1900 – 1970s)	71 items
2021-9	Private donation by Dr George Azzopardi – Original photographic negatives and slides	10 items
2021-10	Private donation by Dr George Azzopardi – Gozo related ephemera	2 items
2021-11	Plans and maps	5 items
2021-12	Transfer from Gozo College – State Schools – Admissions/attendance	3 volumes
2021-13	Private donation by Dr George Azzopardi – Guida Generale and other year books	4 volumes
2021-14	Various private donations and acquisitions	33 volumes
2021-15	Private donation by Joe P. Zammit – digital photographs related to Gozo	8778 digital photographs
2021-16	Private donation by Mr George Aquilina – Delle Antichita' e Guerre Giudaiche by Gioseffo Flavio (1633) – Johnson & Walker Dictionary of the English Language (1852)	2 volumes

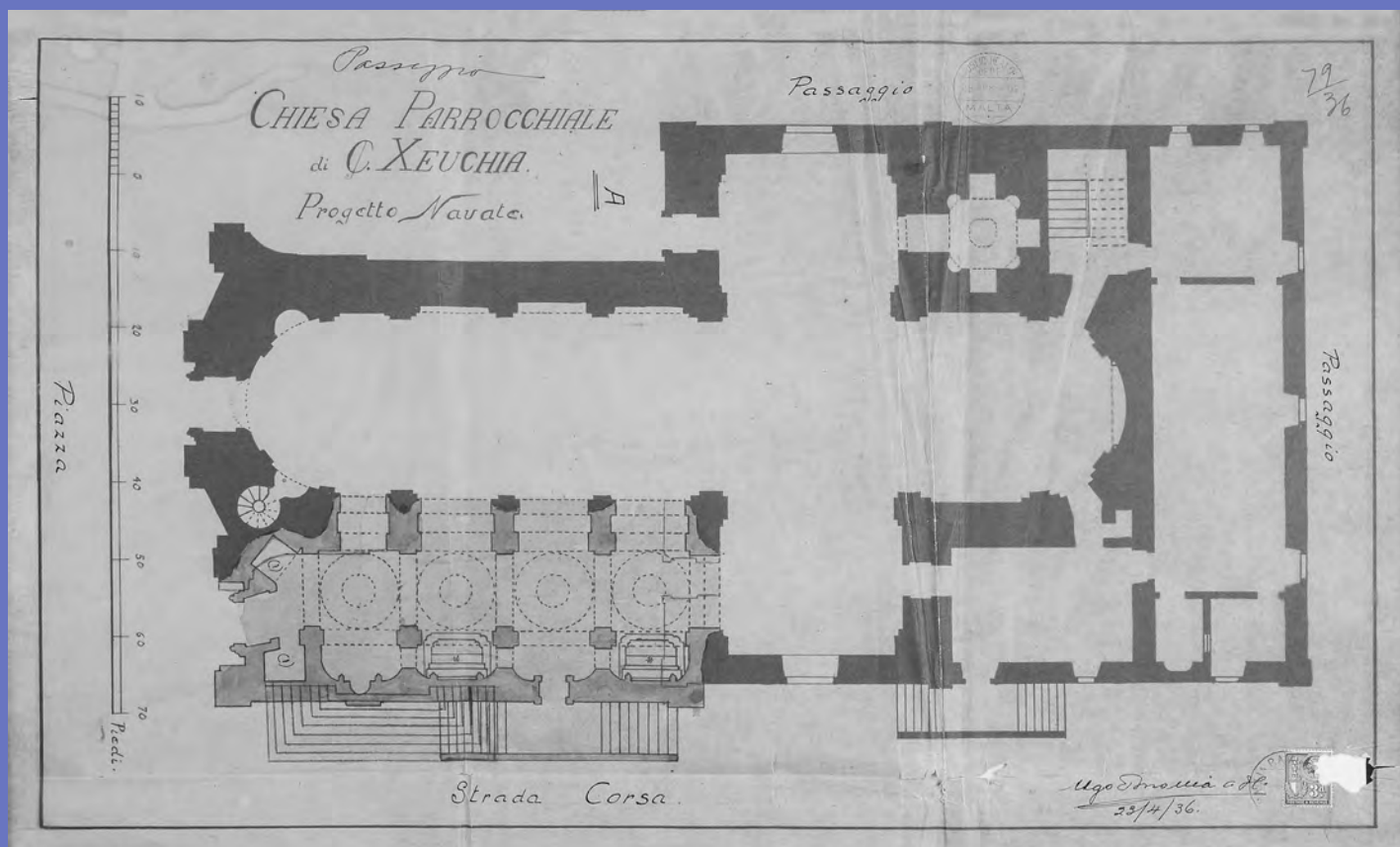
8.3 Archival Processing

710 volumes/items were added to the NAG depository during the year under review, more than those registered during the previous two years: 208 (2019) and 604 (2020).

Up to the end of the year, the NAG held fonds from twenty-eight different entities, each of which is subdivided to reflect the diverse activity carried out by the entity that created the fonds. The fonds, by the cataloguing code are:

- AG - Archives Gozo (National Archives – Gozo section)
- CA - Civil Abattoir
- CC - Civic Council
- CG - Curia Gubernatorali (Courts of Law)
- CI - Charitable Institutions
- CP - Circulars and Posters
- CR - Cremona Collection
- DF - Documentaries and Films
- GB - Malta Government Savings Bank
- GL - Ġurdan Lighthouse
- GM - Ġuljana 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

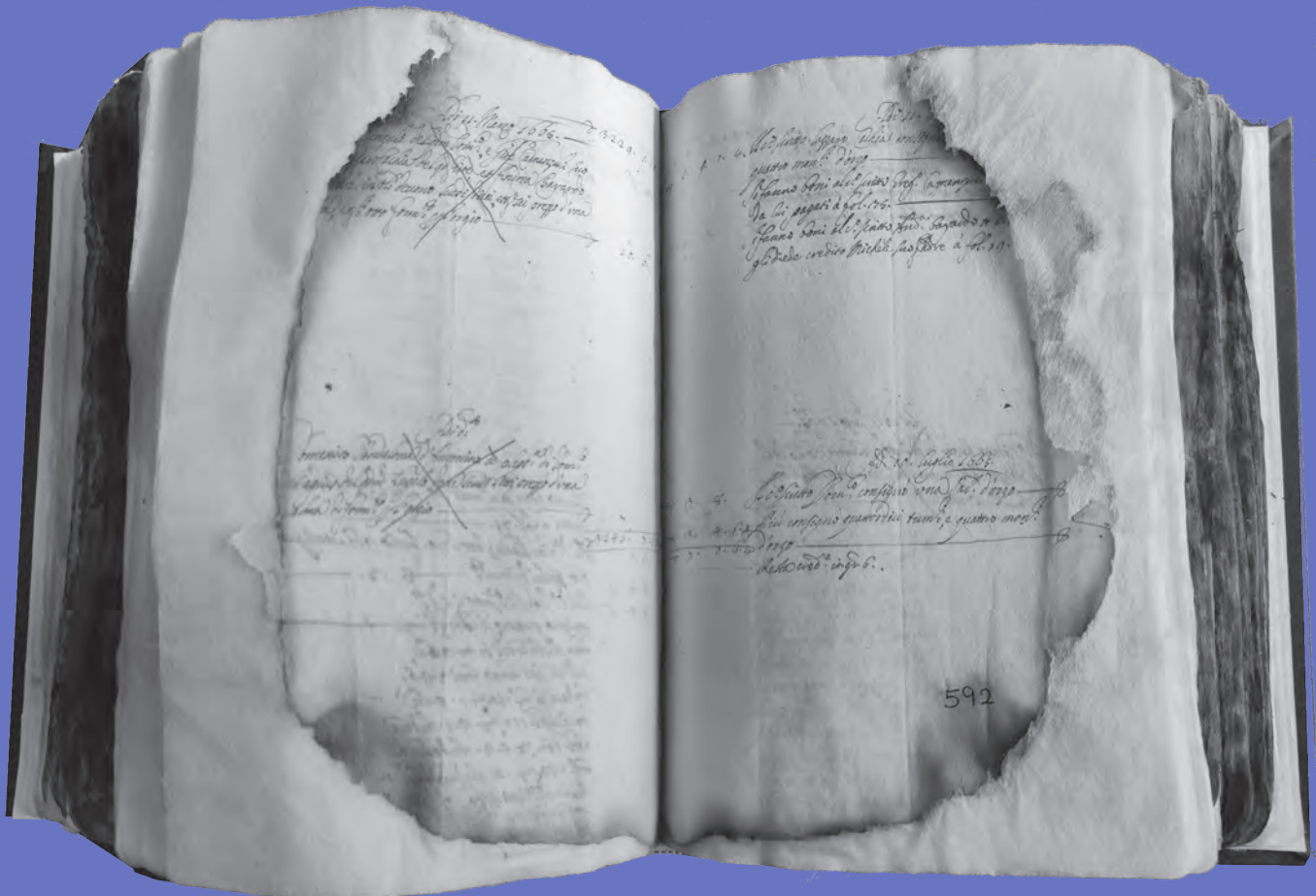
Proposal for the construction of naves at the old Xewkija Parish Church submitted in 1936. National Archives (Gozo Section) MH/01/56



The division for digital fonds includes documents that are either available only in digital format or are digitized 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 fonds made up of 305 volumes and a total of 197,822 images

VolumeUG/11/163 of the Universitas Gaudisii (1663-1666)
following restoration at the Conservation Laboratory



8.4 Digitization

With the aim of making records at the NAG more accessible to the public, the digitization of records preserved thereat was continued in earnest. One of the most popular fonds with researchers is the MH fonds, which consists of building applications submitted to the Medical and Health Department between 1893 and 1970. This fonds consists of very fragile material and continuous handling by researchers was causing damage to the records, particularly to the fragile plans attached thereto. The records between 1893 and 1960 are now completely digitized and research in this fonds has been made much easier without causing further damage to the original records. Digitization of the records between 1960 and 1970 will be carried out during 2022. Work is currently ongoing on the digitization of the indexes of the Law Courts with the aim of making research in this section easier.

With the help of the Jobsplus Scheme for students, two students were assigned with *Fondazzjoni Il-Hajja f'Għawdex* to carry out a digitization project of the monthly magazine which has been published uninterruptedly for 77 years. The NAG made its digitization equipment available so that the students could carry out the digitization of this important Gozitan periodical. In return, the NAG acquired a digitized copy of this publication.

8.5 Public Services

Research sessions during 2021 amounted to 212, less than the previous two years – 320 (2019) and 257 (2020) – but which compare well with 2020. The number of research hours amounted to 354, less than the previous two years: 416 (2019) and 511 (2020). The number of items consulted amounted to 606.

During the year 2021, the MH-Medical and Health fonds proved to be the most popular; followed by the PD-Police Department fonds; and the GM-Ġuljana Masini fonds.

The following is a break-down of statistics per month (2021):

MONTH	RESEARCHERS	HOURS OF RESEARCH	NUMBER OF ITEMS
January	015	028	036
February	021	038	049
March	010	016	050
April	025	044	049
May	016	032	053
June	023	033	080
July	014	021	041
August	027	039	063
September	025	044	063
October	014	021	040
November	015	027	057
December	007	011	025
TOTAL	212	354	606

The following table shows number of consultations from each fond per month (2021):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
AG													000
CA						004					002		006
CC													000
CD													000
CG	012			001	002	002	007	007	003		004		038
CI													000
CP													000
CR													000
DF													000
GB													000
GL													000
GM		004		015	015	007	002	008	015	001	002	003	072
HI					003				004				007
IR													000
LC													000
MG													000
MH	004	016	042	013	002	043	018	010	008	007	009	011	183
MP													000
PA	001	006		003		002		004	006				022
PD	016	013	007	008	006	003	006	009	023	012	012		115
PM			001			007	001	001		003	001	001	015
PO		001		001		001	001	006		001			011
PW						010	006	008	004	010	004		042
SG										005			005
SN													000
SS	001	005										007	013
ST				003	025			006		001			035
UG	001	004		002							002	002	011
ZM	001			003		001		004			021	001	031
TOTAL	036	049	050	049	053	080	041	063	063	040	057	025	606

8.6 Conservation

The binding and conservation project of the Universitas Gaudisii records, funded by the Ministry for Gozo, entered the second year. The project aims at providing binding or conservation boxes to the 305 volumes of this fonds. Volume UG/11/163 listing the debtors of the local Government of Gozo between the years 1663 and 1666 was found to be extensively damaged and has undergone a complete restoration process at the Conservation Laboratory at the National Archives.

Members of the Conservation Laboratory paid a visit to the Gozo Section and to the deposits at Għarb to ascertain the conservation situation and mitigation measures required for better preservation of the NAG collections of documents. Following this visit, maintenance was carried out at the Għarb depositories by a member of the Maintenance Section of the NAM and several measures have been implemented.

8.7 Improvements to the Premises

A fire-alarm system was installed in the main hall of the Gozo Section of the National Archives which will be able to detect smoke or fire and raise the alarm. The system is part of a bigger system covering the main hall of the Gozo Public Library with which the NAG shares the physical premises and access.

8.8 Outreach

The NAG continued to upload posts on the Facebook page of the National Archives with the aim of consolidating its presence on social media. A short article on an item from the NAG written by the former Assistant National Archivist Mgr Dr Joseph Bezzina and featured in the Diocesan monthly magazine *Il-Hajja f'Għawdex* continued to be shared on the NAM Facebook page every month.

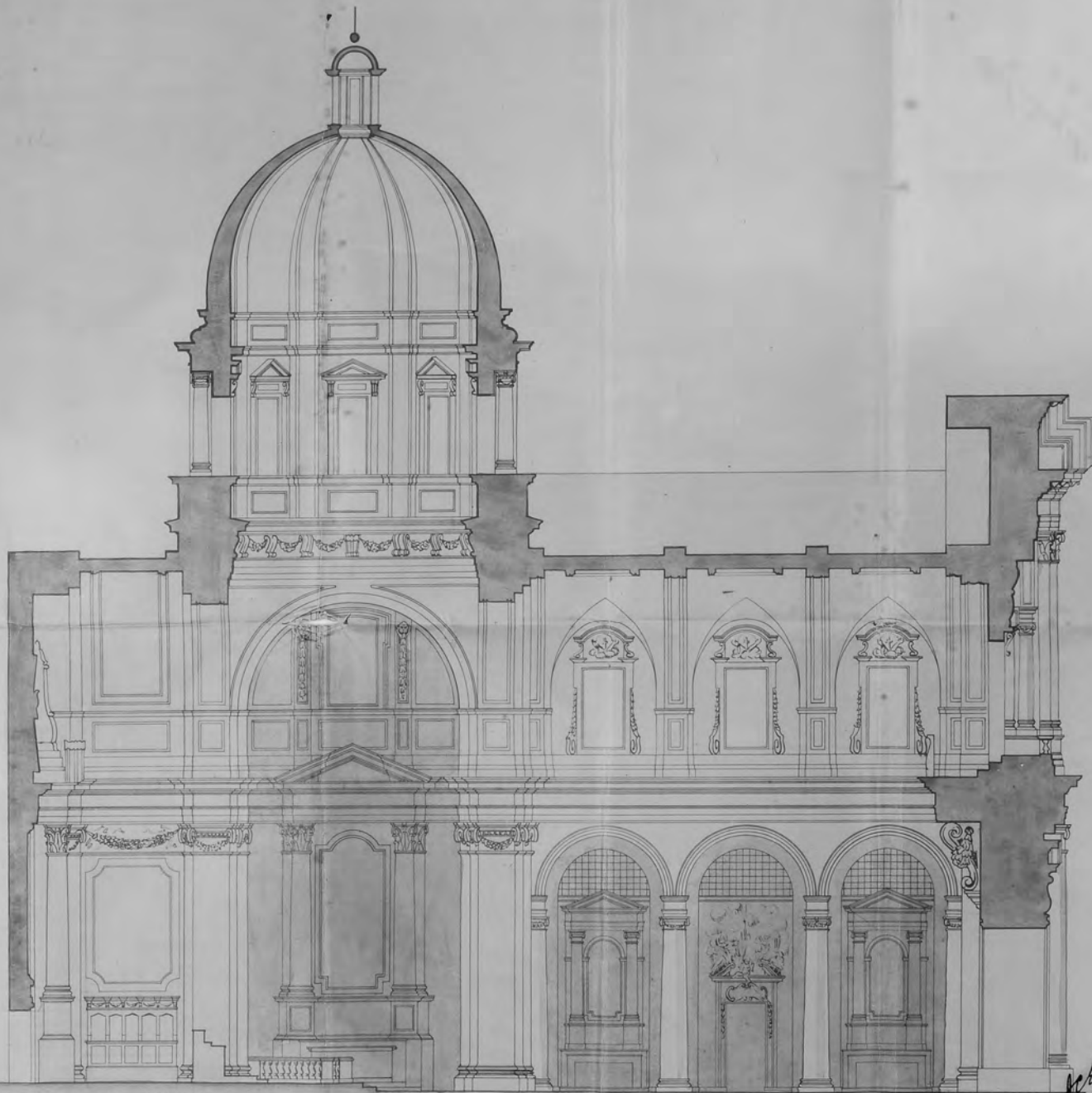
8.9 National Archives Council

In the absence of the Assistant National Archivist, the Officer-in-Charge at the NAG was invited to attend to the meetings of the National Archives Council (NAC) to fulfill the statutory obligation of the National Archives Act. Through this Council, action has been taken to draw the attention of the authorities concerned regarding the serious lack of storage space at the current NAG premises. With this in mind, a rationalization exercise has been carried out to allocate the space of the Victoria Primary School in Vajringa Street between the NAG and the Gozo Public Library once the school is relocated to the newly purposely-built premises.

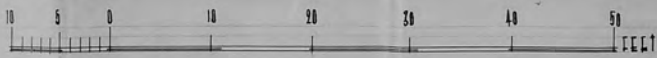
Dr George Azzopardi donating records to the Gozo Section



164
2/9



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



M. J. Dwyer
8.8.39

Piazza
S. Francesco
Victoria
Gozo

Proposal for the construction
of a new Church of St Francis of Assisi
in Rabat Gozo submitted in 1939.
This project never materialized.
National Archives (Gozo Section) MH/01/64



9

THE NATIONAL
AUDIO-VISUAL
INSTITUTE

OUR STAFF



GIOVANNI COPERTINO



During the year under review, the National Archives of Malta started developing the National Audio-Visual Institute (NAVI). This new body, emanating from the electoral manifesto of the incumbent administration and forming an integral part of the National Archives, is tasked to:

- preserve Malta's main audio-visual holdings;
- develop expertise required for the cataloguing, preservation and dissemination of audio-visual records;
- promote the academic and scientific training and knowledge in audio-visual archiving;
- provide for public engagement through exhibition spaces for the national archival audio-visual collection.

Giovanni Copertino was engaged as the audio-visual archivist. His first tasks were to develop an inventory of the audio-visual assets at the National Archives and to ensure that the basic infrastructure to store these assets in a safe manner is in place. Kevin Casha and Dr Charles Azzopardi are giving technical support in the development of the the photographic component of NAVI.

9.1 Inventory of Audio-visual Assets

The meticulous and laborious operation of drawing up an inventory of the audio-visual assets lasted for over four months and provided an overview of all the elements that serves also as a control tool for the collections. Besides describing each item in detail, the inventory includes an assessment of the its condition and any damage to the material and indicates any steps that should be taken.

As on December 2021, the National Archives' audio-visual collection included 315,000 photographs and slides, with just over 2,000 films of various formats and audio tapes, CDs, and magnetic tapes.

During 2021, several collections were added such as the Joseph Borg Collection, which includes 17 photographic albums with about 4552 photographs and 14,747 positive and negative photos and slides (276) created between the 1940s and 1970s and the Mario Caruana collection composed of 2615 photos, created between 1970 and 1980.

9.2 Audio-visual Conservation

Conservation is one of NAVI's key tasks. All records are stored in two temperature and humidity-controlled rooms. Measures were undertaken to ensure the right stable temperature and humidity in these storages.

While in general the NAVI collection is in good condition, some interventions are foreseen to guarantee optimal conservation conditions. During the 2021 assessment, the Ciancio collection was identified as requiring particular attention since the vinegar syndrome was found in some records. In fact, cataloguing of these audio-visual records has been prioritised and concluded while digital surrogates are being created from the photographic negatives.



JOSEPH BORG COLLECTION

Chev Joseph Borg Ph.C., L.P., K.M. (1919 – 1992) was born in Marsa and spent his childhood in Gozo. The family came to Malta in 1938 where he furthered his studies at the Lyceum and later at the then Royal University of Malta graduating, in Pharmacy (Ph.C.) in 1942 and as Legal Procurator (L.P.) in 1943. As a Sanitary Inspector during the War he examined the sanitary conditions within shelters and became Pharmacist-in-charge at the Central Hospital in Floriana. Between 1947 and his retirement in 1976 Chev Borg occupied various positions within the Department of Customs. He was married to Maria and had two children, Edith and Joseph. An avid collector of photos with a religious theme he engaged a photographer to take photos of churches as well as other places and events. We thank the Borg family for donating his collection to the National Archives of Malta. This collection includes 15,468 photographs (9,767 positive and 5,701 negative) and 372 slides created between the 1940s and 1970s.

*The funeral of Din Karm Psaila, the national poet,
at Żebbuġ on 15 October 1961. Photo: Joseph Borg Collection.*



MARIO CARUANA COLLECTION

Mario Caruana (1933-1988) was born in Paola. At 14 years of age he began working as an apprentice with a local carpenter until he lost the function of four of his fingers of his left hand while using an electric saw. The owner of Agius Photo Studio in Paola offered to teach him photography and eventually Mario worked with him for 27 years. In the late seventies, he joined the Public Works Department and photographed several of the projects undertaken by the department. We thank Kathleen Koepple for donating the photographic collection of her father to the National Archives; the Mario Caruana Collection is composed of 2,615 photos (negatives) created between 1970 and 1980.



MEM[O]RJA

oral, sound and visual archive



10



MEMORJA

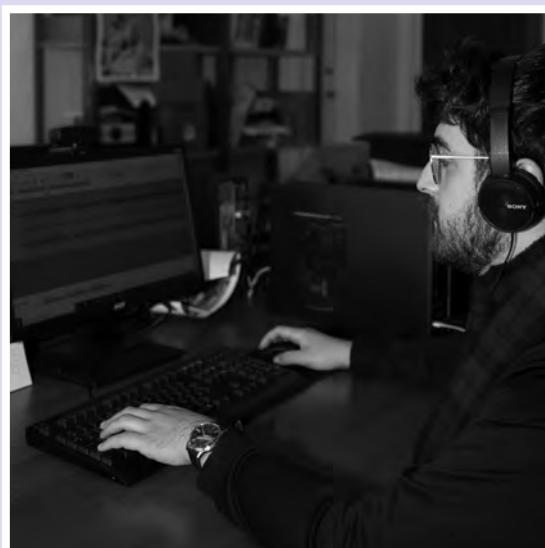
'LISTEN
TO OUR
STORY'

www.memorja.com

OUR STAFF



JAMES BALDACCHINO



GEORGE PISANI



RICHARD STEDALL



MEMORJA is the oral, sound, and visual archive of the National Archives of Malta, designed to become the Maltese Islands' main depositor of public memory. By employing cutting-edge research, methodologies, theoretical and archival approaches, MEMORJA collects, records, transcribes and preserves community/shared and individual memories, oral history/traditions, knowledge, and experiences as well as makes them available for research, interpretation, and educational purposes.

MEMORJA's team had started fieldwork in 2017 through face-to-face pre-interview meetings, leading to the creation of networks in the community. These new relationships with individuals from different backgrounds allowed members of the public to share their stories with the project through oral and video interviews and the donation of personal photographs, letters, film reels and artefacts. Given the opportunity to have their experiences documented for future research, these 'partners' are today addressing a lacuna often not found in official documentation and are thus providing more balanced and rounded perspectives on numerous themes and subjects.

MEMORJA had a very busy 2021. The project continued in broadening its capabilities and making its holdings ever more accessible with the much-awaited launch of the website. A new team member was added to the workforce, as well as another two volunteers who had successfully become integrated with the rest of the team. It is envisaged that 2022 will be just as busy and exciting.

10.1 Launch of the MEMORJA portal

The MEMORJA website was launched on 18 November 2021 at the NAM under the auspices of the Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

Summer 2021 was spent applying the final touches to the website. Along with designers AQUBIX, edits were made regarding technical issues, colour schemes and ease of accessibility. The site was later populated with various subfunds and holdings, and to start with, the following 11 research themes were chosen by MEMORJA:

- Across the Sea – Malta-Lampedusa Connection
- Experiencing War
- Curing the Body
- British Expatriates in Malta
- Fishing
- Transport in Malta
- COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project
- Food culture
- Serving the State
- Childhood
- Entertainment

A social media plan leading up to the launch was drawn up and implemented. The project's diverse themes and audio-visual material were showcased on the NAM's social media profiles – Facebook, Instagram, and Flickr – which led to a number of people wanting to further collaborate with the Project.



10.2 COVID-19 Pandemic Memory Project

During 2021, 59 donations were deposited by people from all walks of life, including:

- diary-entries - secondary school students encouraged by their teachers to write diary entries and submit them to MEMORJA;
- persons who, confined within their homes during partial lockdowns and quarantines (especially the elderly), were able to focus more on their hobbies, e.g., writing poems and personal ramblings;
- photos – one example of this is Joseph Zammit’s series of photos titled “PHOTO-A-DAY during the Pandemic COVID-19” in Gozo. These are photos which were taken every day starting from March 2020. Each photo is accompanied by a description/journal entry;
- publications - e.g., “Youth in a Time of COVID-19 Creative Pursuits of Young People in Gozo” by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ shows how the youth pursued a wide variety of artistic and cultural activities during the first partial lockdown and a CareMalta special issue showing how care-homes were affected by the pandemic;
- interviews - so far three interviews have been carried out. The interviewees consist of a nurse working at Mater Dei, an individual working in a clothes’ shop and a person who had contracted COVID-19;
- video recordings;
- other donations from teachers, lecturers, music composers, religious persons and prison correctional lieutenants.

10.3 Malta Bus Archive

Interviews were carried out on a tiered basis. Tier 1 takes the form of an informal chat (or series of chats) where basic information about the person (or their relative) is discussed, and any documents or photographs they may have are examined and where permitted digitized for MBA records. Twenty-five such meetings took place in 2021 (some of those from earlier in the year when COVID-19 restrictions were still in place were carried out online). Tiers 2 & 3 are more formal discussions (tier 3 being the videoed interview and tier 2 being the pre-interview meetings where the interview questions are discussed). These interviews are much more time consuming, and combined with Covid restrictions, this means that only 1 tier 2/3 interview was carried out in 2021 (Joseph Gauci, son of the late Emanuel Gauci – a Rabat-based bus builder from the 1950s and 1960s).

The scanning of photographs and documents uncovered during Tier 1 interviews has led to the extensive holdings of two individuals being digitally processed. The material included rare surviving copies of several documents (probably the only copies to survive) along with photographs held in family albums, never seen in public before. It is believed that more such material remains to be discovered and it is hoped (COVID-19 permitting) that a lot more Tier 1 interviews can be held during 2022.

The spreadsheet compiled from the Police Commissioner’s Occurrence Books now has over 12,000 entries. These primarily cover the period 1920 to 1932 currently and allow cross-referencing of Malta’s earliest buses with the drivers, conductors and in some cases owners who worked on them. They also allow patterns to be

spotted when it comes to the sorts of “offences” being recorded at the time, most of which are very minor by today’s standards.

The master document dealing with vehicle histories (buses, coaches, minibuses, former buses, etc), covering everything from the very first bus to arrive in Malta (in December 1904) up to the very latest vehicles delivered in 2021, now stands at 884 pages (over 900,000 words). A few ‘historical’ vehicles are still absent as their files cannot be located. These records are kept up-to-date by continuing visits to Transport Malta at A3 Towers and their long-term store at Pembroke.

10.4 Cataloguing

During 2021, the MEMORJA team:

- digitised and catalogued 50 Public Memory Archive interviews;
- uploaded thousands of digital objects onto Access to Memory (AtoM), which is the online open-sourced software the NAM uses;
- started cataloguing the Emanuele Sciortino Glass plate collection in AtoM;
- started cataloguing interviews related to the Three Cities physical and social landscapes theme in AtoM.

10.5 Outreach

Throughout the previous year, MEMORJA’s outreach got ever more significant. Collaborations were kickstarted with My House of European History (MyHEH), an official European Union platform which aims to establish partnerships with memory institutions in the Member States. Its aim is to publicize people’s testimonies in all EU languages so these will equally find their place in the MyHEH. Stories in Maltese from MEMORJA’s valuable archive have benefited from this online profile, whereby the oral history accounts uploaded have gained from the increased visibility which this project affords.

At the end of October, the Malta Bus Archive (MBA) made an appearance at a talk in London, entitled 101 Years of Continuous Bus Operations on Malta. In the audience, which consisted of members of two transport history associations, was also the acting High Commissioner from the Maltese High Commission to the Court of St James.

A MEMORJA seminar was held at the University of Malta on 27 November. This was convened by the National Archives, the Department of Libraries and Archives, and the Mediterranean Institute and speakers included the CEO, National Archives Dr Charles Farrugia, Prof. John Chircop, academic advisor to the Project, Pip Willcox, Head of research at the National Archives and MEMORJA team members. Pip has over twenty years of experience in interdisciplinary digital scholarship, working with library and archive collections. Her current projects include Engaging Crowds and Deep Discoveries, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council’s programme Towards a National Collection. In her previous role she founded the University of Oxford’s Centre for Digital Scholarship at the Bodleian Library and directed the Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School.



Tied in with the launch of the website, the Project had numerous slots on local daytime television and radio programmes and in local print media. The pre-launch publicity for the website consisted of articles in the Times of Malta. MEMORJA was showcased on Tgħid x'Inhu?, Ritratti, Ta' Filgħodu, Espresso, TVAM, and Campus FM. The latter consisted of a series of 10 radio programmes during which various aspects of Malta's bus industry since 1904 to date were discussed. Also three articles appeared in the Times of Malta:- 13/6/21 (bell ringing); 27/7/21 (buses); 14/11/21 (goats -vs- British Empire).

Bookmarks, flyers, posters, t-shirts and facemasks were designed. These were distributed to people during the National Book Festival in November where the MEMORJA team had significant engagement with the public.

A series of "pop-up" events were planned for late November and early December where the project would erect a gazebo in a central spot in each village to allow for the marketing of the project and the new website. Sadly, only one event took place (Paola) – the rest having to be postponed due to a prolonged period of windy and at times wet weather. Plans for a more formal "Drop-In Session" to be held in Siggiewi were also postponed but a 'pop-up'-style presence did happen on 18 December, which coincided with a Christmas event being held in the village.



Bell-ringing to war: archives to have new look and sound

SARAH CARABOTT

The home scene has kicked off in Malta, bringing with it the social upheaval about the world and how things are in the years of war.

Every year, participants and their families across several villages check over whether the bell-ringing should be cancelled or adjusted to a suitable or suitable time for the day, while many this year (even) participants started at a point to ensure the church clock bell was not damaged.

Team racing against time to document people's recollections

As some people will still be able to focus on the sound of the bell-ringing, others will be busy trying to capture the memories of those who lived through the war.

Maltese historian James Gatt... is working on the project for the...



Maltese historian James Gatt conducting an interview with Expert Programme at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden in 2011. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MEMORIAL, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA

He has been... in Malta, with the aim of capturing... the memories of those who lived through the war.

He has been... in Malta, with the aim of capturing... the memories of those who lived through the war.



Maltese participants during the transport of the hospital in 1942.



Maltese historian Christopher Barlow during a bell-ringing ceremony.

Lampetusa harbor (left)

Maltese historian Salim Durrani on his fishing boat in Malta in 1972.

Maltese historian Salim Durrani on his fishing boat in Malta in 1972.

Maltese historian Salim Durrani on his fishing boat in Malta in 1972.

6 THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2013



A Maltese bus in Chiapas Games exhibition (right) in the UK in 2012. PHOTO: MICK MITCHELL. When the bus returned to Malta (left) it was completely rebuilt to being a petrol route bus in the red and white that had been used on the Birkirkara route up until 1973. PHOTO: RICHARD STEDALL



Birth, death and revival: Maltese bus remembered

Online National Archives repository to be launched 10 years since Maltese buses were replaced by their Arriva cousins

SARAH CARABOTT

A bus built to shuttle Royal Navy personnel, and eventually rebuilt as Maltese route bus for Birkirkara community, was something of a cult icon when it took part in the UK 2012 Chiapas Games tour.

Nowadays, MEMO (Maltese Memorial Online) has been replaced by an online repository to be launched 10 years since Maltese buses were replaced by their Arriva cousins.

The bus, built to shuttle Royal Navy personnel, and eventually rebuilt as Maltese route bus for Birkirkara community, was something of a cult icon when it took part in the UK 2012 Chiapas Games tour.

The bus, built to shuttle Royal Navy personnel, and eventually rebuilt as Maltese route bus for Birkirkara community, was something of a cult icon when it took part in the UK 2012 Chiapas Games tour.

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11

SUPPORTING
ORGANISATIONS
AND
VOLUNTEERS

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COMPLETE STUDIO RECORDINGS

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The Complete
Emmanuele Cilia Studio Recordings (1931-1932)

Vinyl

€20

Special Off

The Complete
Emmanuele Cilia Studio Recordings (1931-1932)

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VALLETTA PERLA REALE AND ENTERTAINERS
MICHAEL ELLUL



*An online meeting
of the National Archives Council*

11.1 The National Archives Council

The National Archives Council is set up in line with Article 14 of the National Archives Act (2005), which stipulates that:

- (1) There shall be a National Archives Council, appointed by the Minister, which shall be composed as follows:
 - (a) a Chairperson;
 - (b) the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage *ex officio* or his representative;
 - (c) the Chairperson of Heritage Malta *ex officio* or his representative;
 - (d) the National Librarian *ex officio* or his representative;
 - (e) the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister *ex officio* or his representative;
 - (f) a person to represent the non-governmental archives or records centers;
 - (g) three other persons chosen from amongst persons known to be users of and familiar with archives, records management and information professions, or working in non-governmental organizations dedicated to information and archives, one of whom shall be appointed by the Minister responsible for Gozo.

In line with the National Archives Act, during the year under review, the Council continued to fulfil the functions assigned to it by the Archives Act, mainly:

- (a) to promote the National Archives and other record keeping entities;
- (b) to ensure and facilitate the collaboration between the different stakeholders with direct or indirect responsibility for the protection and management of the archives sector;
- (c) to advise the Minister on the management of archives in Malta;
- (d) to draw the attention of the Minister or of any organization or person responsible for archives to any urgent action that may be considered necessary for the better management of archives and records;
- (e) 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.

Council Members

During the year under review the Council was made up of the following members:

President

Professor Raymond Mangion

Members

Dr Joan Abela

Dr Steve Borg

Ms Maroma Camilleri

Mr Mario Coleiro

Rev. Mgr. Nicholas Doublet

Mr Max Farrugia

Mr Kurt Farrugia

Ms Judith Frendo Cumbo

Dr Lillian Sciberras

Secretary: Dr Kristina Camilleri Deguara

As in previous years, Dr Charles J. Farrugia, the National Archivist and the Officer-in-Charge of the Gozo Section Mr John Cremona attended all Council meetings and have also supported its work by regularly updating the Council on the working of the Institution. The National Archives also provides all logistical support.

The two priorities discussed during a number of Council meetings were the building of a new National Archives and the possibility of ways on how to solve the issue of storage space at the National Archives Gozo Section.

The Council met on the following dates:

27 and 29 January, 19 February, 25 March, 29 April, 28 May, 28 June, 2 August, 27 September, 29 October, 30 November and 14 December 2021.



*Committee of The Friends
of the National Archives, June 2021*

11.2 The Friends of the National Archives

During the year under review, the Executive Committee of the Friends of the National Archives started its operations with the following formation: Mr Max Farrugia as President, Dr Charles Farrugia as Vice-President, Dr Evelyn Pullicino as Secretary, Ms M'Anne Farrugia as Assistant Secretary, Dr Gerald Bugeja as Treasurer, Mr Ivan Ellul as Membership Secretary, Prof. George Cassar as Education Officer, Ms Marica Camilleri as Public Relations Officer and Dr Nazzareno Azzopardi and Mr Martin Hampton as members.

As this was the year during which elections were due, applications were issued. Dr Nazzareno Azzopardi decided not to recontest elections and was replaced by Ms Doris Zammit who was the only applicant who submitted her name for elections apart from the previous committee members. The change over came during the organisation's Annual General Meeting that was held on 4 May 2021 on Zoom.

FNAM 20th Anniversary Celebrations

During the past year, the FNAM's executive committee had to adapt its meetings and activities to the Health authorities' COVID-19 restrictions. The committee's meeting started to be held online. The pandemic also affected our operations in the previous year, 2020, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the FNAM's foundation. The committee had planned to hold events to celebrate this anniversary. Unfortunately, the proposed activities, such as the special Education Programme and an exhibition, could not be held because of the pandemic. Although the committee did its utmost to plan activities for the different circumstances we were usually used to, these had to be abandoned when new health regulations were enforced because of the surge in infections. The committee's plans failed to materialise because of the pandemic. However, the anniversary was commemorated with a series of weekly posts on the FNAM's website and Facebook page. The photos posted created awareness and prompted feedback.

Żebbuġ Band Club Project

In 2020, the Għaqda Każin tal-Banda San Filep had asked the FNAM's executive committee through Mr Philip Balzan to help in producing a book about Haż-Żebbuġ. Funds for this project were granted by the Small Initiatives Schemes of the Voluntary Sector Organization. The committee decided to help by contributing an article based on research on the passport applications held by the National Archives and available through Archives Portal Europe. Dr Evelyn Pullicino, Dr Charles Farrugia and Mr Martin Hampton wrote the paper about applications for passports by Żebbuġ residents from 1921 to 1938. When the Għaqda Każin tal-Banda San Filep later contacted the committee to have a FNAM member sitting on the editorial board for this publication, Dr Evelyn Pullicino volunteered to attend the meetings. At first, the publication, *Speciosa Citta` Rohan*, was simply going to include well-researched articles that had previously been published in the band club's annual journal. However, when it became clear that these did not cover all aspects of life in Haż-Żebbuġ, other authors were asked to contribute their papers for this publication. Another member of the FNAM executive committee, Dr Gerald Bugeja, also submitted an article about the sculptor, Antonio Sciortino. The weekly editorial meetings (naturally online during the COVID-19 pandemic) continued throughout 2020 and the first months of 2021, and the book (an over 600-page volume) was finally launched during 2021. This experience proved to be a new way of providing further visibility to the FNAM and the holdings of the National Archives of Malta.

Participation in the Malta Book Festival

In past years, our participation during the Malta Book Festival was a regular appointment. This was a bit disrupted due to COVID-19. However, when the event returned last year, we made a come-back and our participation was fruitful. During these events, we sell publications including the Emmanuele Cilia folk music products and a number of publications. Apart from the income from such participation, we also use this event to reach out to our members, collect membership dues and also to distribute our journal.

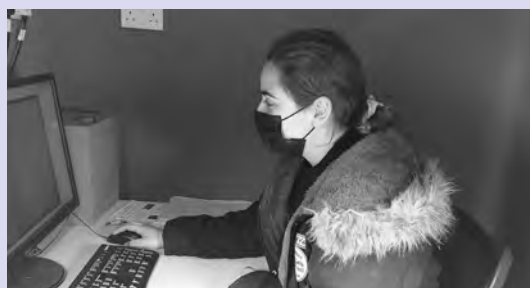
Records Managers

During its meetings, the FNAM committee discussed the importance of records managers within Government Departments, and their need to be supported and encouraged in their work. Some records managers reported that certain Government Departments had created their own retention policies without keeping to the standardised ones guaranteed by the legislation of past year. The FNAM, together with the National Archives, is supporting the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences, within the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Studies at the University of Malta, in its efforts to establish new courses for those who are already in possession of a Diploma in Library and Information Studies. Records managers will thus be offered the opportunity to augment their qualifications locally and can look forward in further promotions in their career.

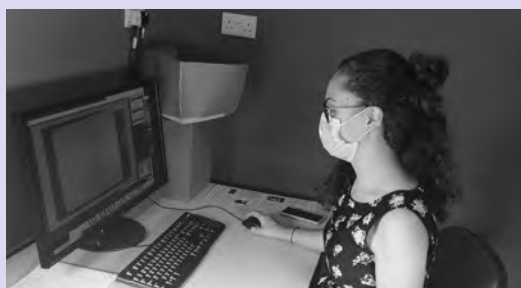
11.3 Volunteers

During 2021, we were once more supported by a good number of volunteers. Apart from those who have been contributing some of their free time for several years, this year we had an unprecedented number of persons offering their services for the first time. Thanks to this army of volunteers, we managed to start and complete various projects that otherwise would not have been possible.

SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



Andrea Cachia



Claire Bugeja



Danica Abela



David Pavia Livori



Francesca Cascun



Marlene Cefai



Mark Caruana (left), a long-standing volunteer supporting the National Archives from Australia together with Horace Vella, a former employee at the archives, who emigrated to Australia in 2021.

Over the last couple of years, we worked on the cataloguing of the Chief Secretary to Government collection (series 01). Such project was and is mainly carried out by volunteers. To date, we have over 60,000 entries in this database. During 2021, the volunteers Anthony Mifsud, Marlene Cefai, Danica Abela and Daniel Pavia Livori contributed towards this project.

Other volunteers are continuously working on various digitization processes. The collections that have been digitised were the passport applications (MFA 01) and the Charitable Institutions (CIN) registers. Norbert Gingell, Gabrielle Cachia, Andrea Cachia and Francesca Cascun contributed in these processes.

Fred Bezzina worked on the catalogue of the Eddie Fenech Adami papers while Mary Buttigieg concluded the catalogue of the Ugo Mifsud papers and started the catalogue of the Nani family collection.

Other tasks carried out by various volunteers were the re-folding of various records from the Giuliana Letard-Ciantar (Odette Fenech), assisting in the compilation of various inventories particularly for the audio-visual collection (Skye Vassallo), conservation work (Nicole Vassallo and Francesca de Rio) and cataloguing legal records at the Legal Documentation Section (Claire Scerri).

We are grateful to these volunteers and others who contribute in ad hoc projects or events.

Thank you, your commitment is invaluable!



12

**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**







Meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Digital Treasures project, Alicante (Spain), 2 September 2021

This was another year when our international activities were severely affected by the restrictions of the pandemic. Physical travel was restricted and thus most of the events were held on online platforms. Although this meant a less personal relation with colleagues abroad, to some extent it intensified our participation on online platforms. What follows is an account of the various interventions in international fora.

12.1 Meetings and Conferences

The first international conference participation for the year was on 16 March 2022 in a conference organized by the Alma Mater Europaea. Dr Charles J. Farrugia presented the paper “The Role of Archival Institutions during Trouble Times: The Case of COVID-19”, at the 6th International Archival Symposium.

As part of the centenary celebrations of the School of Library, Information and Archive Sciences at UCL, Dr Charles J. Farrugia, who is an alumnus of this University, was asked for an intervention presenting his experiences. This was held on 19 March 2021.

The National Archivist participated in a meeting of the Executive Board of the International Council on Archives representing the European Board of National Archivists, 8-9 April 2021.

The paper “A Critical Look on the Archives” by Dr Charles J. Farrugia was presented at the First Session of the Presidency Culture Symposia Series entitled ‘Malta and France: Shared Histories: New Visions’, 8 May 2021, Valletta/Online.

Archives Portal Europe Country Managers Meeting, 25-26 May 2021, Online.

Meeting of the European Archives Experts Group, 17 June 2021, Portugal/Online.

National Archivist acted as Panel Speaker at the event inaugurating the Maltese Carmelite Provincial Archives in Balluta, 10 July 2021.

Another participation of the National Archives was at the Steering Committee of the European Digital Treasures. This was held at the Provincial Historical Archive in Alicante. Our institution was represented by Leonard Callus and the main theme discussed was Innovation on New Digital Exponential Technologies Towards the Generation of Business Models, held on September 2 and 3.

Members of our staff Melvin Caruana and Noel D’Anastas visited the Provincial Historical Archives of Alicante (Spain). This visit was organised during the workshop about new technologies in the archival world, organised as part of the European Digital Treasures project co-financed by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

*On-line meeting of the Steering Committee
of the European Digital Treasures Project*



This was also followed by participation in a workshop about new technologies in the archival world. This workshop was part of the European Digital Treasures project, co-financed by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

The Executive Bureau of the International Council on Archives met in virtual mode on 20 October 2021. EURBICA participated in both sessions through its Chairperson Dr Charles J. Farrugia.

ICA convened its conference in virtual mode and National Archivist Dr Charles J. Farrugia was invited to chair a session with the theme 'Description: Using AI and "the Crowd" on 25 October 2021.

On 28 October 2021 the XXVIII International Symposium was organized by VNIIDAD in Moscow. Dr Charles J. Farrugia was invited to address the session entitled 'Documentation in Information Societies: Digital Transformation in the Interest of People, Society and the State.'

EAG Meeting, 4 November 2021. National Archivist Dr Charles Farrugia participated in the 29th European Archives Group and the European Board of National Archivists organized by the Slovenian Presidency. Several topical issues discussed, including a very similar project to MEMORJA by the Danish National Archives, collecting COVID-19 facts and memories.

MEMORJA seminar held at the University of Malta on 27 November 2021 had as a key-note speaker Pip Willcox, Head of Research at The National Archives (UK). Her own research is interdisciplinary, and brings together collections, technology and people. She has over twenty years of experience in interdisciplinary digital scholarship, working with library and archive collections. Her current projects include Engaging Crowds and Deep Discoveries, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council's programme Towards a National Collection. In her previous role, she founded the University of Oxford's Centre for Digital Scholarship at the Bodleian Library and directed the Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School.

Introductory speech to the conference 'Archives: Towards New Communities of Virtual Users' on 29 November 2021 organized by the Alma Mater Europaea, Maribor/Online.

This was another year during which National Archivist Dr Charles Farrugia held the post of Chairperson of EURBICA. It was a year during which ICA implemented the much awaited reforms in its internal functioning. It was also a year during which the activity of EURBICA continued in reaching out to members and non-members via social media.

12.2 European Digital Treasures Project

The National Archives of Malta is participating in European Digital Treasures: Management of Centenary Archives in the 21st Century, a project that aims at bringing joint European heritage, and especially its digital versions, greater visibility, outreach and use.

The project, co-financed by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission is run by a consortium consisting of the following seven partners:

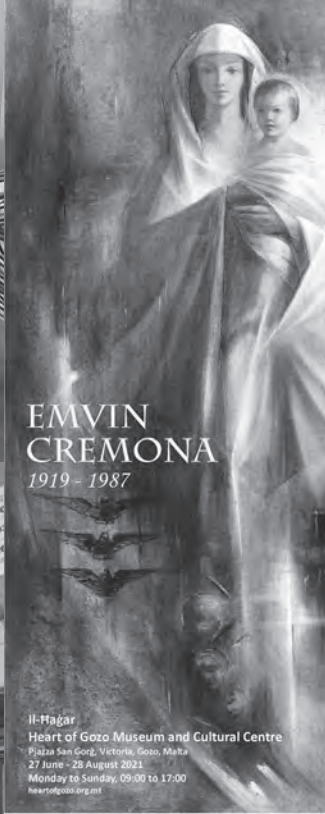
- Spanish State Archives (project lead)
- National Archives of Hungary
- National Archives of Malta
- National Archives of Norway
- National Archives of Portugal
- ICARUS – International Centre for Archival Research
- Munster Technological University (Ireland)

Besides working on several activities that make up the project (see Section 14 of this annual report), we participated in ten virtual Steering Committee meetings (11 January, 4 February, 2 March, 7 April, 7 May, 3 June, 2 July, 30 July, 1 October and 17 December) as well as in three Steering Committee Meetings held in Barcelona, Spain (29 June), Alicante, Spain (2 September) and Stavanger, Norway (11 November). In addition, we also participated in meetings related to the communication aspects of the project and specific activity-related meetings.

12.3 Agreement with the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey

Prof. Dr. Uğur Ünal, Director of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, and his delegation visited Malta between the 13th and the 16th June 2021. During this visit, we explored various avenues for co-operation between our institutions and signed a Protocol on Cooperation between the Directorate of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and the National Archives of Malta.





EMVIN
CREMONA
1919 - 1987

Il-Fgār
Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre
Plazza San Ġorġ, Victoria, Gozo, Malta
27 June - 28 August 2021
Monday to Sunday, 09:00 to 17:00
heartofgozo.org.mt

#IAW
INTERNATIONAL
ARCHIVES WEEK
2021

Check @icaorg
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for more details!

5 DAYS
12 WEBINARS
40 SPEAKERS
3 LANGUAGES



EmpoweringArchives ICA



13

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2021 DIARY



What's Archival Inevitably?



Sabrina Santan...



During the First World War, hundreds of enemy internees and prisoners of war were held in Malta, mainly at Verdala Barracks, St Clement Camp, Salvatore Fort and Polverista. They were guarded by officers and men of the Royal Malta Artillery and the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia. On 13 May 2021, Major Raymond Miller donated a large-format manuscript listing the detainees arriving between the first days of the war and June 1915



Some of our activities during 2021; this choice is intended to give an indication of various aspects of our work and activities.

12 JANUARY

Carmel Axiak and Dr Pierre Vassallo donated the original scores of the music composed by Mro Frank Vassallo (1924-2000) to the National Archives. Mro Vassallo composed various works for string, woodwind, brass instruments, pianoforte and voices. He also composed symphonies for both big and small orchestras, chamber works, oratorios, songs and other music.



15 JANUARY

We presented a calendar commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the first Maltese responsible Government to the Speaker and to the Members of Parliament. The National Archives prepared this desk calendar, which included unpublished photos and other

records, sourced from various archives, to commemorate these events.

18 FEBRUARY

An online meeting was held with officers from the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey about collaboration in the field of archives. This meeting led to an official visit later on during the year.



8 APRIL

A general staff meeting was held where we evaluated our performance during 2020 and set our targets for the year.

17 APRIL

On the 100th anniversary since the death of Manuel Dimech (1869-1921), Clive Sammut donated an original photo of Dimech to the National Archives.



26 APRIL

John Cachia donated a digital copy of a collection of photos and other records related to naval activities and services in the Maltese harbours to the National Archives.



6 MAY

A webinar about the Online Archival Literacy Course developed within the European Digital Treasures project was organised. The National Archives participated in the development of this course which offers a sustainable and attractive tool to teach students on the work carried out at the archives and how to use their services.





13 MAY

Major Raymond Miller donated a large-format manuscript register listing enemy aliens and Prisoners of War interned in Malta during the First World War. The register covers the period between the first days of World War 1 in August 1914 and June 1915.

17 MAY

We concluded an agreement with Sigrid Neubert's estate for their donation of Sigrid Neubert's photographic project (negatives and prints) about the Maltese megalithic temples. Sigrid Neubert (1927-2018) was one of the most famous architectural photographers in Germany. Prof Dr Michael-Jürgen Polonius (Sigrid Neubert's Estate), Dr Ludger Derenthal (Museum für Fotografie, Berlin) and Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi assisted in the acquisition of this collection.



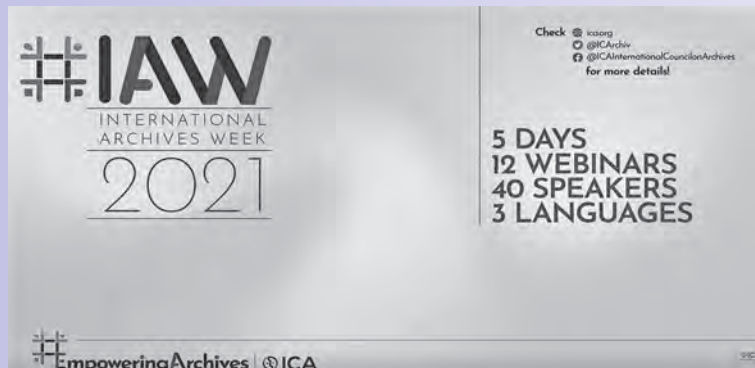
27 MAY

We started assisting the Siggiewi parish in their efforts towards the preservation of the parish archives. The Malta Study Centre, the Department of Library, Information and Archive Sciences (University of Malta) and the Archbishops' Archive are collaborating in this initiative.



2 JUNE

Veronica Galea deposited unique footage of Malta during WW2, shot by Stan Fraser, and a selection of audio-visual equipment at the National Archives.



9 – 14 JUNE

We celebrated the International Archives Week 2021, the theme being #EmpoweringArchives. We discussed and shared reflections on:

- how archives empower accountability and transparency through access to information;
- how to empower archives through collaboration, both between archives as well as with other professions;
- how to make archives more diverse and inclusive of different voices and histories.

15-17 JUNE

We hosted Prof. Uğur Ünal, Director of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, and held talks about collaboration between our institutions. A protocol on cooperation between our archives was concluded and signed.



27 JUNE

The exhibition Emvin Cremona (1919-1987) was inaugurated Il-Haġar, Heart of Gozo in Victoria (Gozo). Records from the National Archives were exhibited at that this exhibition, which ran until the 28 August. In September, records from our holdings were exhibited in an exhibition about Vincenzo Bonello (1891-1969), organised by the same museum.



5 JULY

We launched a new service at the Courts and Tribunals Section (Mdina) whereby researchers may make digital copies for their personal use. This service is free of charge.

12 - 23 JULY

During these two weeks, the staff at the National Archives and volunteers prepared 53,667 Police files, covering the years 1962 to 1967, for long-term storage. These files will occupy 98 metres of shelving.





2 AUGUST

We transferred 366 volumes of 'Mandati' and 'Citazioni Inferiori', covering the years 1851-1968, from the Gozo Law Courts at the Ċittadella to the deposit of the Gozo Section of the National Archives in Għarb.

29 AUGUST

Willie Zammit, who served for several years at the National Archives, passed away.



1 OCTOBER

We gave our farewell to our colleague Horace Vella before his departure to Australia.

4 OCTOBER

A competition was launched for students (15-17 years) to make a free interpretation of one of 60 archival documents about the Construction of Europe and five supporting documents from our archives or from Archives Portal Europe. This activity forms part of European Digital Treasures, a project co-financed by the Creative Europe Programme, the framework programme of the EU for the cultural and audio-visual sectors. The project aims to give increased visibility, outreach and use of European archival heritage. The winners will participate in an international camp week in Hungary in summer 2022.



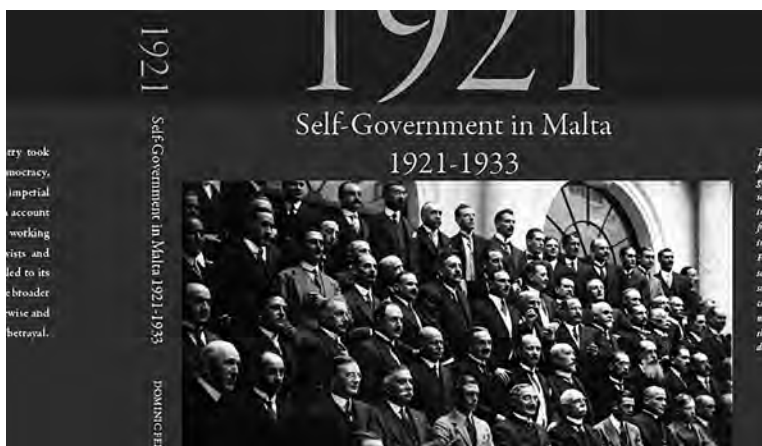


19 OCTOBER

The memory of Ġanni Cascun, a farmer born in 1925 in Burmarrad was published in the 24 official languages of the European Union. This interview, which forms part of our project MEMORJA, was made accessible on the European Parliament’s platform My House of European History and was also published on the European Parliament’s Citizens’ App.

1 NOVEMBER

The first Maltese Parliament was inaugurated officially 100 years ago. Together with the House of Representatives and Midsea Books, we were the main stakeholders in the publication of the book *1921: Self-Government in Malta (1921-1933)* by Dominic Fenech.



4 NOVEMBER

We celebrated #AskAConservator Day. Our conservators answered the questions, submitted by our audiences on social media platforms, about conservation of paper, manuscripts and other archival material.





14 NOVEMBER

This first of a series of articles and video productions, developed by the National Archives and the Sunday Times, and inspired by records from the National Archives and from other archives, was published. The aim is two-fold: to allow readers to gain an insight into Maltese history society through our archives and to develop the popular awareness of the archives. The first production dealt

with the dynamics of the impact of the British Empire and goats in Malta, including considerations of health, war, nutrition, politics, and economics.

16 NOVEMBER

Students from the Department of History visited our Courts and Tribunals Section in Mdina and the Cathedral Archives. This was part of the study-unit Archives for Historians co-ordinated by Dr Valeria Vanesio from the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences.



18 NOVEMBER

The MEMORJA website was launched under the auspices of the Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.



27 NOVEMBER

A seminar about the MEMORJA project was held at the University of Malta. This was convened by the National Archives, the Department of Libraries and Archives and the Mediterranean Institute. Prof. John Chircop, academic advisor to the project, Pip Willcox, Head of research at the National Archives (UK), National Archivist Dr Charles Farrugia and MEMORJA team members participated.



30 NOVEMBER

A 2022 calendar that gives an insight into Maltese society of 100 years ago through a small selection from the 2,451 passport applications submitted during 1922 was launched. This calendar was developed in collaboration with Identity Malta.

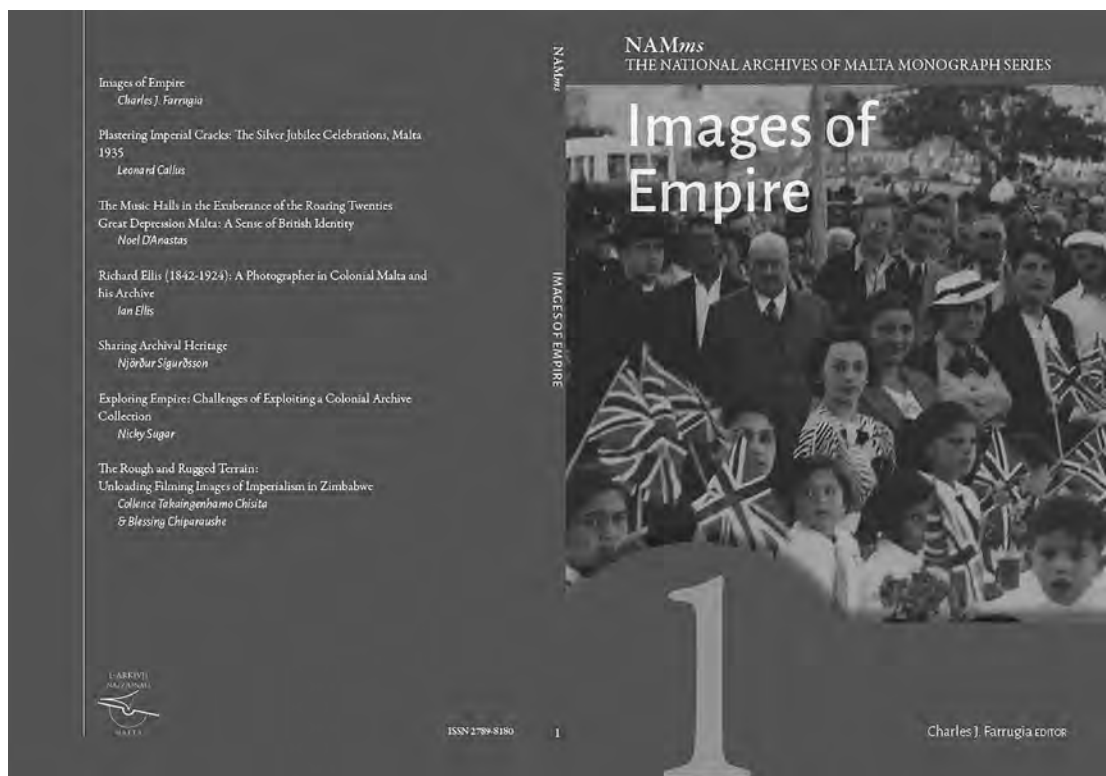
18 DECEMBER

A series of “pop-up” events marketing the project MEMORJA and its new website was organised in Siggiewi, coinciding with a Christmas event being held in the village.



19 DECEMBER

The first issue of the National Archives of Malta Monographs Series (NAMms) is published. NAMms is a series of monographs published by the National Archives of Malta seeking to foster the academic debate around archival issues, to bridge ideas from different academic disciplines and to bring to the fore archival theory, its application and challenges. In so doing, we disseminate the insights generated in the study of our holdings and promote the value of archives to society. The first issue is titled *Images of Empire* and discusses how archival and cultural institutions are facing the issue of imperial mindsets generated by colonial experiences.





CUSTOM HOUSE, MALTA

Prescribed by Article 183 of the Police Laws.

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Nation or Country	Profession Occupation or Trade	Proceeding to
<i>ies, Italian, Via</i>	<i>Viag</i>	<i>Surocu</i>
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<i>Apap Bologna, Maltes</i>		
<i>Apap, Italian</i>		
<i>Vincenzo</i>		
<i>Murrago</i>		
<i>reppu</i>		
<i>eppe</i>		

14

CROWDSOURCING ACTIVITY, HANDWRITTEN TEXT RECOGNITION SYSTEM





EUROPEAN DIGITAL TREASURES

The National Archives of Malta is participating in European Digital Treasures: Management of Centenary Archives in the 21st Century, a project that aims at bringing joint European heritage, and especially its digital versions, major visibility, outreach and use.

European archives are fundamental primary sources for discovering and reinforcing shared European culture and history. This project addresses the challenges of the digital society, related to the management and transmission of European historical and documentary heritage.

The project consortium is comprised of seven partners from seven countries uniting a multi-stakeholder team. Each partner has specific qualifications that together form an effective consortium.

- Spanish State Archives (project lead)
- National Archives of Hungary
- National Archives of Malta
- National Archives of Norway
- National Archives of Portugal
- ICARUS – International Centre for Archival Research
- Munster Technological University (Ireland)

The project is seeking to unlock the past to build capacities by:

- developing new business models for European archives in the 21st century to enhance the profitability and economic sustainability of digitised cultural heritage
- amplifying the visibility of archives to the public by underlining the importance of protecting European heritage
- reaching out to new audiences (Generation Z and Silver Generation) by encouraging the use of digital products that unlock the hidden treasures of joint heritage kept in archives
- supporting transnational mobility of managers, historians, experts, graphical and industrial designers as well as archivists to activate cross-sectoral opportunities.

14.1 Purpose of Activity

Work Package 3 (WP3 – Working with New Target Audiences) within the European Digital Treasures framework seeks to promote archives to different user profiles and to reach out to new audiences. One of the identified audiences is the silver generation (>60 years).

In this regard, a crowdsourcing activity across the project partners was developed, together with the Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain) in order to involve this target group in various tasks which would help with the creation of new digital content. As a partner, the National Archives of Malta took part in this activity whereby text within digitised documents was to be transcribed by persons from this cohort. In turn, their contribution would improve the recognition of handwritten text by using automated transcription and Probabilistic Indexing powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

14.2 Calls for Volunteers

Two calls for volunteers aged 60 and over were issued on the Facebook page of the National Archives of Malta (Figure 1). These were posted on the 28th September and 11th October 2021.

Interessat li tissieheb magħna fi proġett eċċitanti? Qed infittxu persuni, ta' l fuq minn 60 sena, biex iġhinuna ntejbu sistema li taqra l-kitba li qed tiġi żviluppata għall-arkivji. Kull ma jkollok bżonn huwa computer u l-internet....xejn aktar. Din hija attività fil-proġett European Digital Treasures, ko-finanzjat mill-Unjoni Ewropea. Ibgħatilna email fuq customercare.archives@gov.mt

Are you interested in joining us in an exciting project? We are looking for persons, over 60 years, to help improve the performance of a handwritten text recognition system that is being developed for archives. You only need a computer and an internet connection...nothing else. This is an activity within the European Digital Treasures Project, co-financed by the European Union. Drop us an email on customercare.archives@gov.mt



Figure 1: First call for volunteering on the Facebook page of the National Archives of Malta.

Interested persons were directed to get in contact through the NAM's Customer Care email whereby more information about the activity was subsequently shared.

14.3 Volunteers' Contribution

This section delves into the nature of the task which was allocated to the volunteers who participated in this activity. It also provides detailed information on the implementation of training sessions, allocation of work and the kind of support provided to the participants while carrying out the task assigned to them.

Description of Task

The focus of the task was a selection from the digitised Customs Departures indexes (Series: CUS 10) from the National Archives' holdings. These included five volumes (Items 1, 10, 20, 30 and 40).

Participants were asked to transcribe the travellers' names, the name of the vessel they were travelling on as well as the departure date by using a handwritten text recognition system accessed via internet.

Thanks to the utilisation of probabilistic indexing, the system recognises handwritten text within digitised images. As is normal with technology powered by AI, the 'Confidence Level' (i.e., the level at which the system is able to recognise the handwriting) was initially low as such systems would need to get used to the handwriting specific to the documents being transcribed. Figure 2 shows how the system was at first unable to identify the name 'Vincenza'.

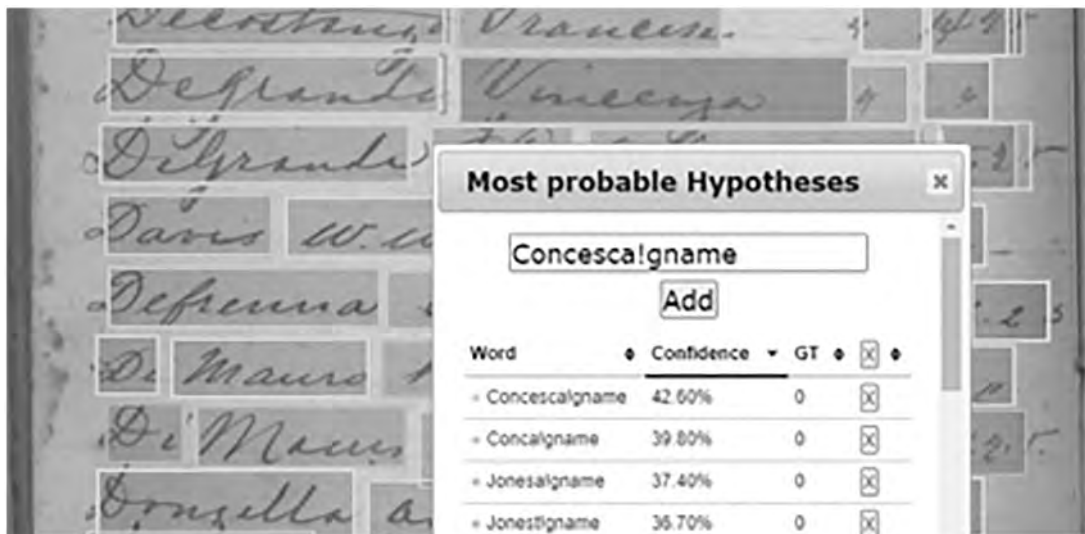


Figure 2: An example showing Low Confidence level. Double-clicking on each word opens the "Most Probable Hypotheses List". It lists the words which the system thinks might correspond to the handwritten text. Here the system did not manage to identify the name "Vincenza", hence the Low Confidence Level (42.60%).

It is here where the contribution of volunteers comes into play. Transcription of the text was key to helping the system in better identifying what each word stands for (Figure 3).

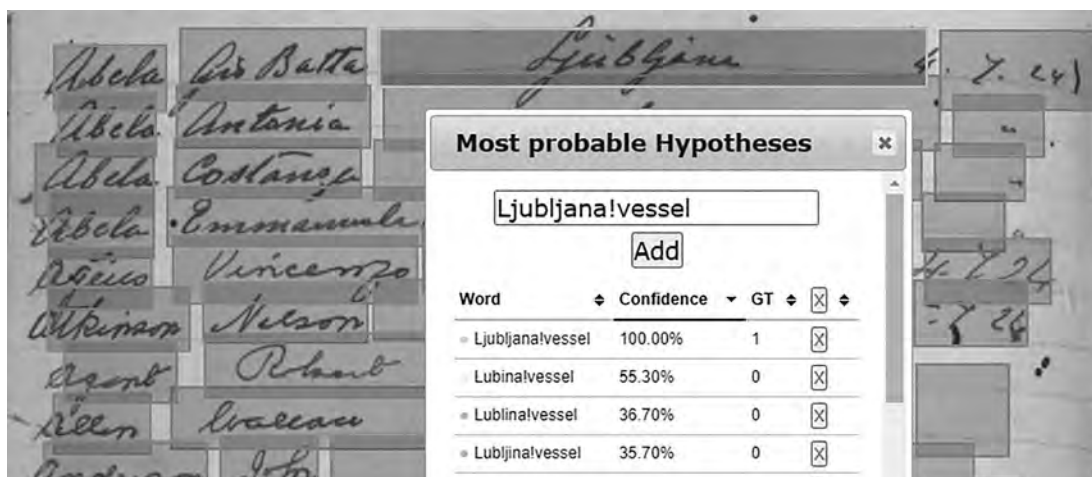


Figure 3: An example depicting the transcription of the vessel name “Ljubljana”. Continuous manual inputting of words will help the system to improve the identification of handwritten text leading to an increase in the Confidence Level.

In this way, the ‘Confidence Level’ will increase, i.e., the more words are inputted by the volunteers, the more the system will learn to recognise the handwritten text within the digitised Customs Departures indexes.

Furthermore, meaning had to be assigned to each transcribed word so as to contribute to a more efficient automated search within these documents. Therefore, the following tags were added after each inputted word:

- !gname (indicating the name of the traveller)
- !vessel (indicating the name of the ship)
- !date (indicating the date of departure)

Training Sessions and Supporting Guidelines

All persons who had expressed their interest in the activity were divided into several groups. This was also dependent on the time gap between the two Facebook calls and each person’s availability (e.g. work constraints).

Besides the observation of current COVID-19 restrictions (i.e., physical distancing measures), delivering training through online means was ideal due to several participants residing abroad (see to Table 1).

Five one-hour long online training sessions were delivered via Zoom (Figure 4). These took place on:

- Friday 8th October
- Monday 11th October
- Thursday 14th October
- Wednesday 20th October
- Friday 22nd October



Figure 4: An online training session with a group of volunteers.

These training sessions included a presentation on the handwritten text recognition system and step-by-step instructions about the task. In anticipation of these sessions, a set of usage guidelines was sent to each person to be able to better follow during training (refer to Appendix). In addition, these notes were to be used as guidelines while transcribing.

Allocation of Work

Each volunteer was allocated a number of pages to work on, with the maximum being 50 pages. Flexibility was however of utmost importance; in fact, quantity of allocated pages was largely dependent on various considerations, including:

- when the training session took place;
- the level of computer literacy. One requirement was for participants to have basic knowledge of IT. However, it was important to consider the fact that level of computer literacy varied across all the volunteers; therefore, this considerably affected the working pace; and
- other personal priorities.

In case any of the participants managed to complete the batch assigned to them before the due date, they were informed that it would be possible to work on more pages. In fact, a few did proceed on the transcription of more text.

Volunteer Support

As previously stated, varying levels of IT knowledge were present among the volunteers. Additionally, it was noted that not all of them were acquainted with the kind of handwritten text typically present within such documents. Thus, it was necessary to ensure that continuous support was being given to each participant throughout the duration of the activity. This help consisted of the following:

- Feedback after the completion of the first few pages. Participants were asked to inform us when ready from the transcription of the first few pages allocated to them. Their work was checked and personalised feedback was sent.
- Continuous support throughout the activity's duration. In addition, volunteers were also encouraged to contact us in case of any difficulties with their task. They were offered the possibility to do so via telephone/mobile, email and online meetings.

Volunteers' queries were mainly related to

- Technical problems related to the use of the Handwritten Text Recognition system.
- Difficulties with the identification of the handwritten text within the digitised Customs indexes. This included problems with deciphering abbreviated words pertaining to names of persons and vessels.

14.4 Volunteer Participation and Outcome of Activity, An Analysis

This section provides an analysis on various aspects pertaining to this crowdsourcing activity. It includes general demographic information about the volunteers, and an evaluation of both the work done and volunteers' feedback on the activity.

Volunteers: General Overview

A total number of 19 volunteers contributed to this activity. Gender distribution was more or less equal, consisting with 10 females and 9 males (Figure 5).

Volunteers: Gender Distribution

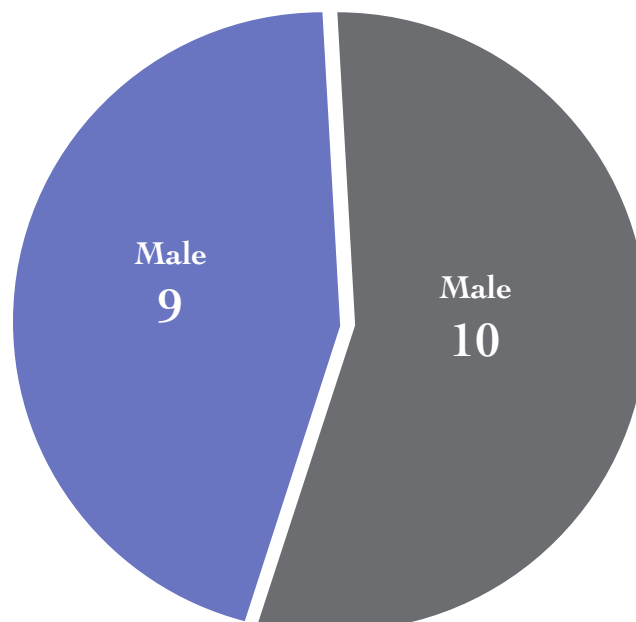


Figure 5: Volunteers: Gender distribution

The majority of the volunteers resided in Malta. Four volunteers came from outside of the country, namely the United Kingdom (2), France (1) and Australia (1) (Table 1).

The fact that the activity was to be carried out through a system accessed via internet contributed to attracting volunteers residing abroad. In this way, one could easily work on the task independently of where he/she is residing.

Country	Number of volunteers
Malta	15
United Kingdom	2
France	1
Australia	1

Table 1: Volunteers: Country of residence

Work Carried Out on the Customs Departure Indexes

These volunteers transcribed 545 pages out of 1458 (37.4%).

Table 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the work done (page numbers are as shown in the Handwritten Text Recognition system)

CUS Dep. Index - Item no.	Transcribed pages	Total no. of pages
1	3-18, 45-69, 104-113, 115-182	119
10	3-52, 142-178	86
20	3-32, 54-131	108
30	3-82, 217-228, 285-294	102
40	3-10, 46-65, 189-290	130
		545

Table 2: *Customs Departures indexes volumes: Pages transcribed.*

During this exercise, the “Get All Spots” function was not working on several pages within the Handwritten Text Recognition system, and thus these could not be transcribed. The Universitat Politecnica de Valencia were alerted of the issue.

CUS Dep. Index - Item no.	Pages not transcribed due to system bug	Total no. of pages
1	56, 188-400	214
20	132-223	92
30	83-216	134
40	66-188, 311-354	167
		607

Table 3: *Customs Departures indexes volumes: Pages not transcribed due to a bug with the system.*

Volunteers' Feedback

Following the completion of this activity, an online questionnaire (refer to Appendix) was developed in order to obtain feedback from the volunteers. This questionnaire was created by utilising Google Forms and a link was sent to all volunteers.

The following is an evaluation of their replies. Such feedback will be corroborated with comments made by the participants while carrying out their assigned task.

Response Rate

The questionnaire was sent to all 19 volunteers. The response rate is 78.9% (15 persons).

Activity Satisfaction

Questionnaire responses indicate that the volunteers were generally satisfied with the kind of activity allocated to them.

In fact, when asked about rating this activity (Q1), the majority (10) replied that they found it to be Very Interesting (Figure 6). The rest (5) think that it was Interesting.

Q1. How do you rate this activity?

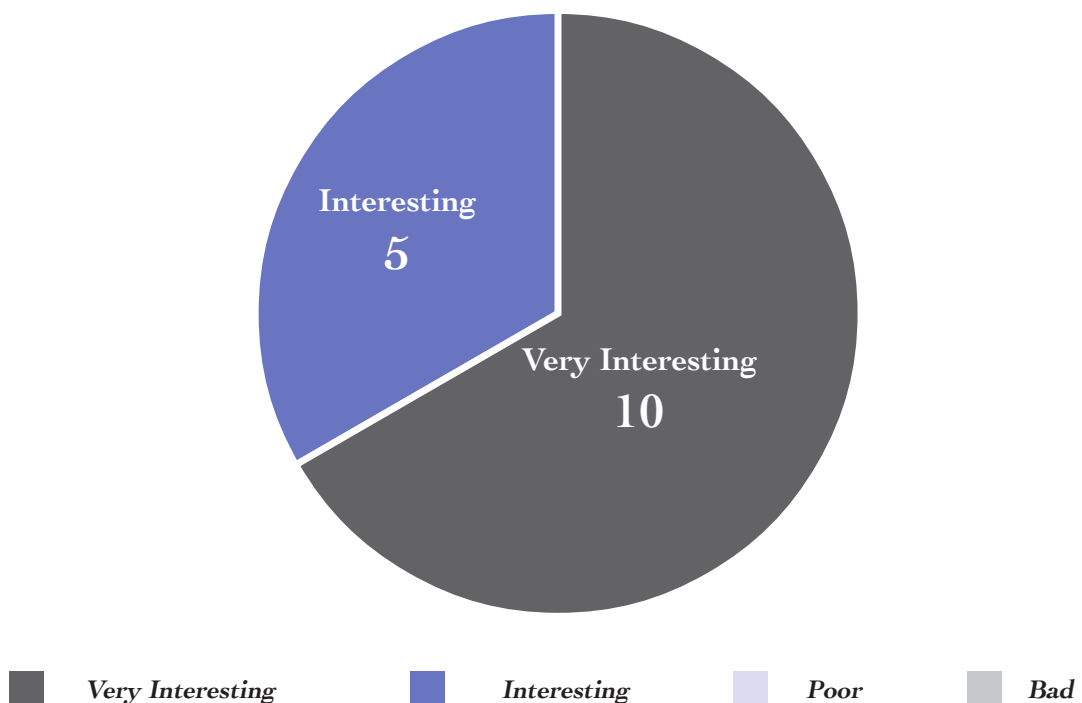


Figure 6: Q1. How do you rate this activity?

Additionally, when asked to rate the support they received during the activity (Q4), all volunteers answered Very helpful (Figure 7).

Q4. How do you rate the support you received during this activity?

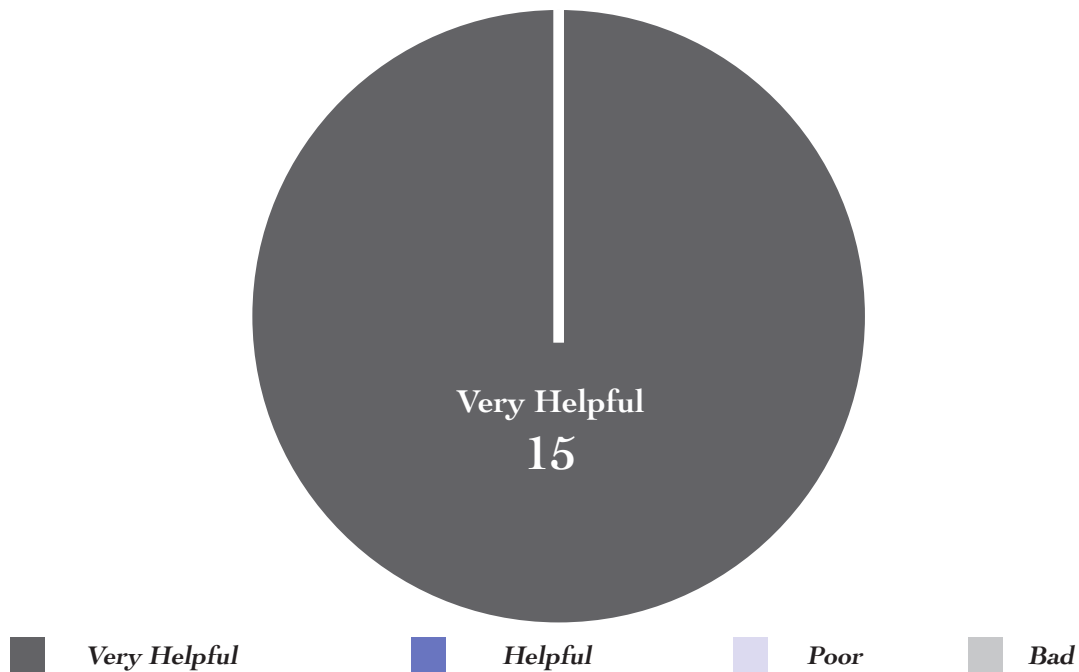


Figure 7: Q4. How do you rate the support you received during this activity?

Such positive responses tally with various comments made by several volunteers while working on the task. For instance, they mentioned that they were finding the work very enjoyable and offered to transcribe more pages. Indeed, Q5 confirms the latter. When asked about whether they would consider participating in other future similar activities, all participants replied Yes (Figure 8).

Q5. Would you consider participating in similar activities in the future?

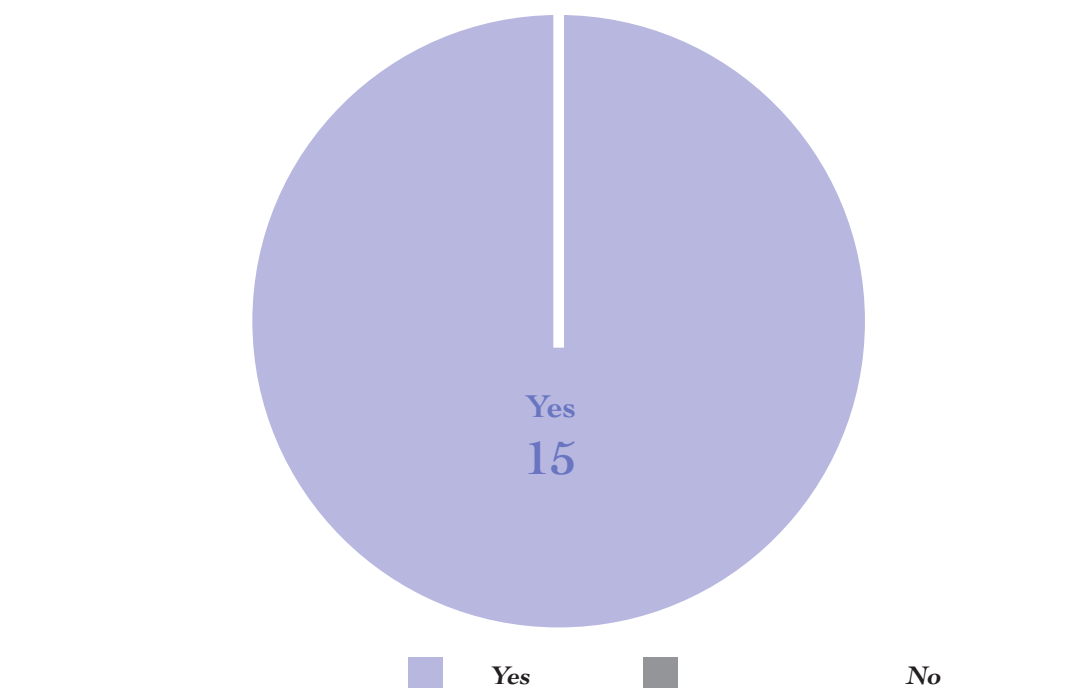


Figure 8: Q5. Would you consider participating in similar activities in the future?

Lastly, Q6, which required the inclusion of any comments and suggestions, further supports such positive feedback. Two persons explained how the task encouraged learning, with one mentioning that it was “[a]n educational experience”, while the other commented, “Keep the ball rolling. We learn more through such activities”. Similar comments were made by the volunteers while working on the task. A few of them even explained how coming across never heard before persons’ names and surnames (especially since the index includes many foreign names), and vessels would often pique their curiosity, and therefore, they would then proceed to look them up and read about their history.

Activity expectations

The inclusion of Q2a and Q2b was significant as there were several persons who had commented that the activity was not what they had expected it to be. A few of these kept on working on the task being assigned to them while others ended up pulling out of it. Therefore, responses to this question would further help to understand whether the information initially provided to volunteers was sufficient and relevant.

The majority (12) replied that the activity was indeed what they expected. Three persons replied No (Figure 9).

Q2a. Was the activity what you expected?

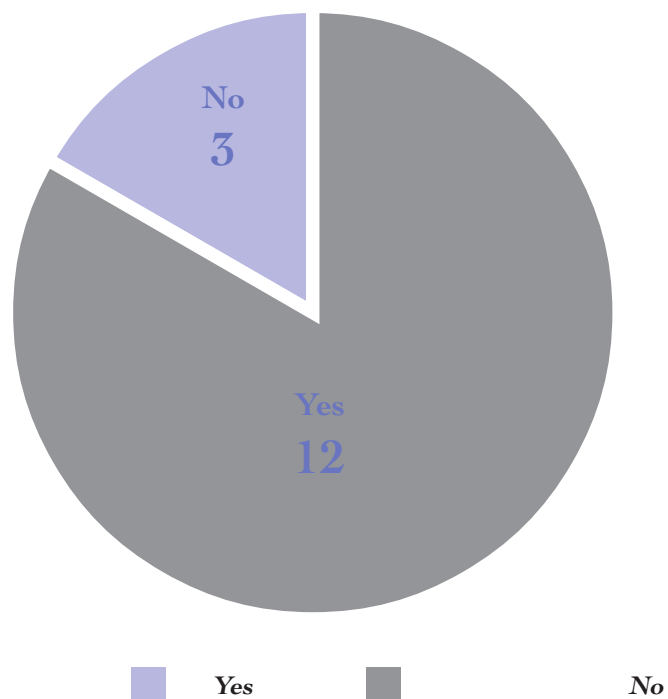


Figure 9: Q2a. Was the activity what you expected?

This question required respondents who answered No to Q2a to specify their reason (Q2b). One person stated that they did not know what to expect. The other answer explained that no relevant information was provided prior to the training session. Another one wrote that “it was my first experience”.

In the absence of further details provided by the first two responses, it would be difficult to absolutely confirm what kind of information they thought would have been important to be forwarded to them. However, interaction with the participants while working on their task might shed some light on this. For instance, when contacting the NAM regarding their interest in the project, a number of them inquired whether there was any remuneration involved. Upon examination of the two calls issued on Facebook, it was noted that there was no specification as to whether the task was to be carried out on a voluntary basis (Figure 1, pg. 3).

Another issue brought up by several volunteers and a few others who had pulled out of the project was that they expected the documents they would be transcribing to be different. They explained that it would have been more interesting to them if the choice of material was different; transcription of entries of the same kind felt too repetitive and boring to them.

Getting to Know About the Activity

When asked about how they got to know about the activity (Q3), the majority replied that it was through Facebook (11) (Figure 10). As shown in the chart below, the rest of the responses consisted of Friends and Other (relatives [e.g., son, daughter, etc.]). This indicates the speed of knowledge about the activity by word of mouth was also a contributing factor.

Q3. How did you get to know about the activity?

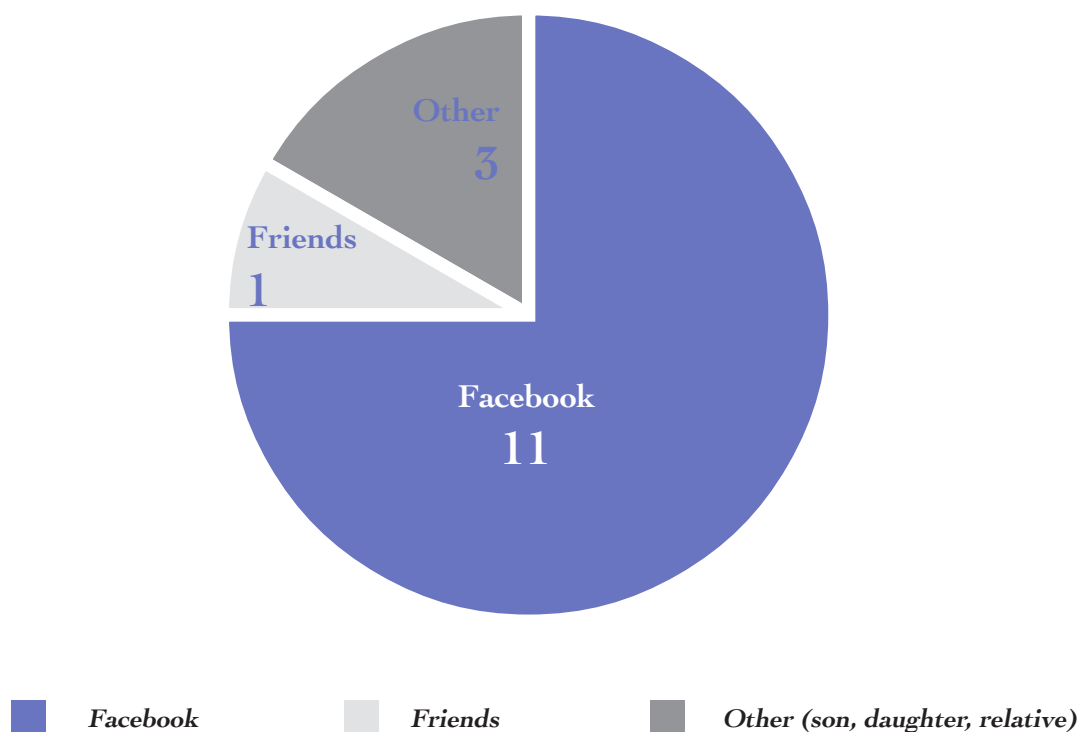


Figure 10: Q3. How did you get to know about the activity?

Other Comments by Volunteers

A few other issues were mentioned in Q6 (of which a total of 10 persons provided their comments). Further details are provided below:

- a. Short timeframe: Two volunteers commented that the time-frame required to complete the work assigned to them was too short, especially due to “the precision of the task required”. In fact, even while interacting with the volunteers, a few of them spoke about the tight deadline and would have wished for it to be longer.

Furthermore, it was noted that a number of these volunteers found it difficult to get used to the Handwritten Text Recognition system and this might have contributed to a slower working pace and difficulty with meeting the deadline. In this regard, volunteers who had expressed their doubts about completing the task were assured that it would have been fine in case they did not manage to transcribe all the pages assigned to them.

- b. System not user-friendly: One volunteer explained that he/she found the software to be buggy and not user-friendly; however, he/she still found the experience to be enjoyable.

Such an issue was also brought up by other volunteers while working on the task. A few stated that it was difficult to understand how various aspects of the system work. They noted some technical problems/glitches, such as whenever they input #-!date whenever they encounter the ditto mark (in many instances, one would find ditto mark [“] to indicate repetition of dates), it would later appear as just a hyphen when rechecking what was inputted in the “Most Probable Hypotheses List”. In such cases, the volunteers were informed that their input was still being processed correctly by the system.

In addition, there is the presence of the aforementioned problem whereby the “Get All Spots” function was not working, and thus there were batches of pages which could not be transcribed. Unfortunately, this issue was discovered after pages were allocated to the first two groups of volunteers. After contacting us, alternative pages were assigned to them.

- c. Other remarks: A few other comments included in Q6 further enforce the positive feedback discussed previously. Indeed, one volunteer mentioned how they were looking forward to seeing the end-result of this project while another one expressed his/her appreciation towards the organisation of the closing event, saying that “it really made me feel part of a team”.

14.5 Conclusion

This report concludes with details about an online event organised in occasion of the closing of the activity. It is then followed by some general observations regarding the outcome of the activity vis-à-vis its purpose within the European Digital Treasures framework.

Closing of Activity: Online Event

In occasion of the closing of this crowdsourcing activity, an online event took place on the 17th December 2021 (Figure 11). All volunteers were invited to a meeting whereby Dr Charles Farrugia personally expressed his appreciation for their contribution. Furthermore, a set of two presentations were also prepared: Leonard Callus provided a general overview of the European Digital Treasures project while Rachelle Mizzi spoke about the value of the participants' contribution in further facilitating accessibility to the material held within the National Archives of Malta.



Figure 11: An online event in occasion of the closing of the crowdsourcing activity

In line with the aim of attracting new audiences, a focus on showing appreciation for the volunteers' work, coupled with an emphasis of how their input would be significant in the larger context was valuable. This is because it would both enable a better understanding of the purpose of an archive and its mission in providing accessibility to its material.

General Observations

An analysis of the work done and questionnaire results supported by volunteers' comments while working on the task reflect a positive outcome when considering

the aim of the crowdsourcing activity. Within the larger context of the European Digital Treasures project, it can be said that the activity served as a good exercise to reach out to different audiences, in this case the Silver Generation.

In view of this, volunteer feedback strongly indicates that the activity managed to generate interest about the significance of an archive within society. To add to this, participants, especially those who have never visited an archive, could get a glimpse of the work done at the NAM and were able to be part of a team working on providing better accessibility to its material. In fact, many mentioned how the task served as an enjoyable and educational experience, while others emphasised how they felt appreciated and included in the team. Besides offering their help in case such similar projects arise, others even booked appointments for research at the National Archives of Malta, thus further showing how the attraction of new user groups through the organisation of such activities can potentially be one of the resulting outcomes.

14.6 Appendix

Handwritten Text Recognition System: Usage Guidelines

Accessing Images (Digitised Customs Departures Indexes)

1. The system is accessible through a link. You will be required to input a username and password as well. Access details will be provided to you.
2. Click on the grey box in the middle. You will be directed to five folders containing the digitised images.



Checking that each identified word is the correct one

1. A page can be zoomed in and out by scrolling the mouse.

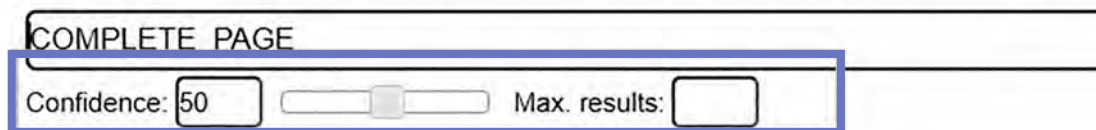
2. Click on Get all spots. Boxes around words will appear. These are the words which the system is able to detect.



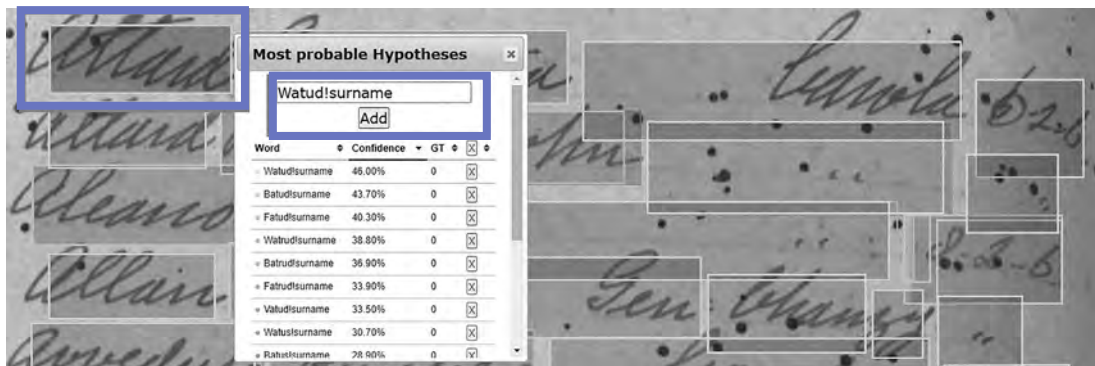
3. Confidence level: It is the level at which the system is confident at immediately identifying the correct word on the digitised image. The default level is at 50%. The more words are checked and corrected, the more the system learns; therefore, the confidence level will start going up.

In its beginning stages, the system will be unable to immediately identify words correctly. Some words might not even be marked with a box. Because of this, the confidence level should be significantly lowered. Sometimes, the system might still fail to mark certain words. In this case, you need to double click on such words and boxes surrounding them will appear.

EDT Malta - search & editing in text images



- Checking and correcting words: In the following example, we are going to correct the surname. Double-click on the box surrounding the word. This will open a dialogue box showing a list of words which the system thinks might likely correspond with the word in the image.

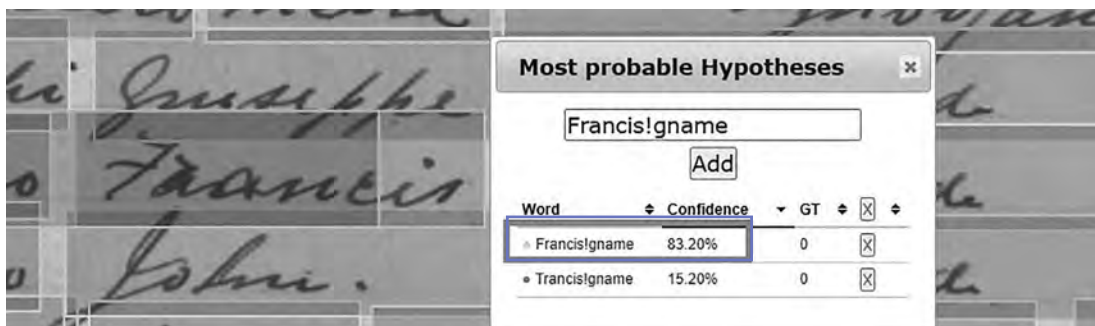


The list does not include the surname Attard so it needs to be added. In this example, the suggested word was deleted from the typing box and Attard was inputted instead.

Meaning has to be assigned to the word. In this case, the tag !surname has to be added after the surname.

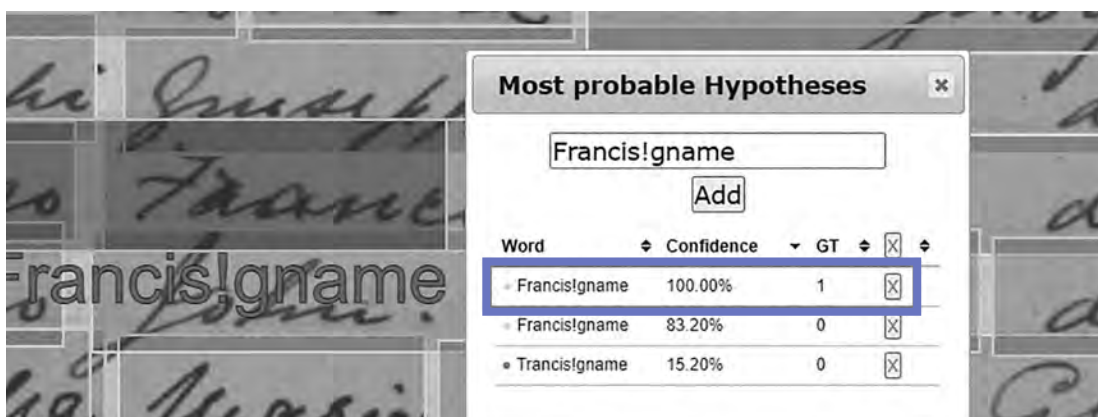
Click on Add. The word will be at the top of the list.

When the correct word is already in the “Most Probably Hypothesis” list



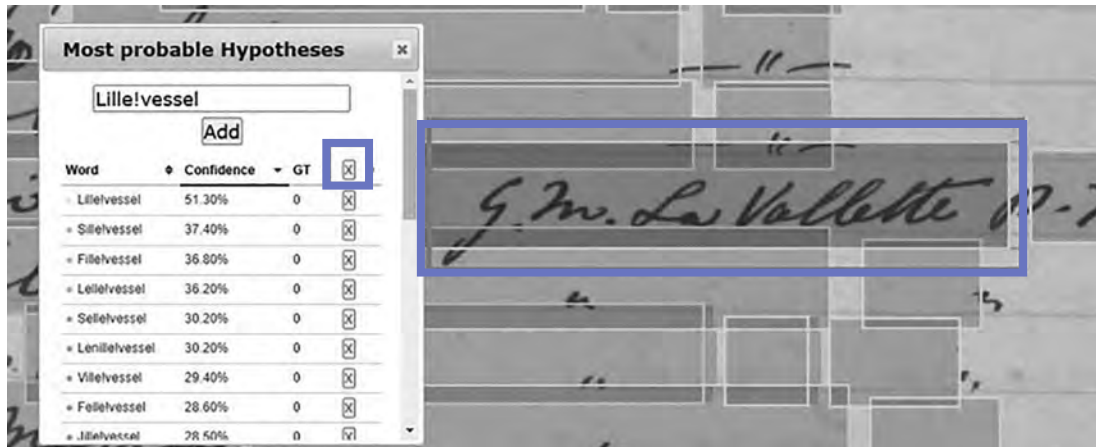
In this case, you still need to type the word in the text box and click on Add. It will appear at the top of the list; Confidence Level will be at 100% and GT will be marked as 1.

(Even if the Confidence Level already happens to be at 100%, you will still need to follow this procedure because GT needs to be set to 1).



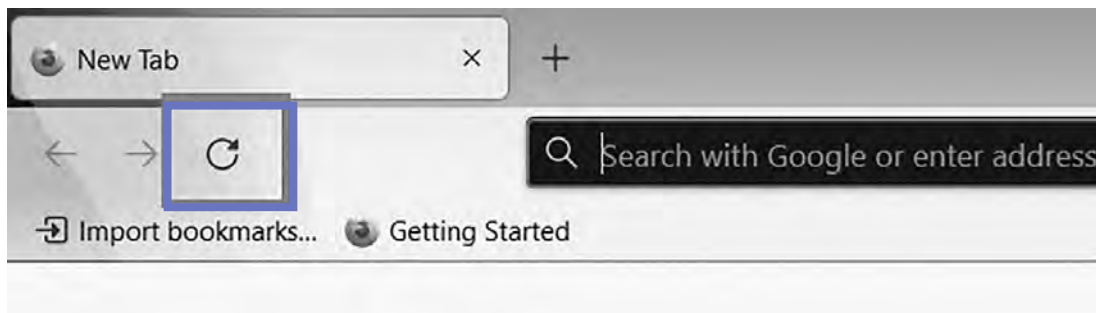
Boxes Surrounding More than One Word

In this example, there is one single box surrounding the vessel name “G.M. La Vallette”. First you need to double click on the box.



Then click on the topmost X and all suggested words will be deleted.

Refresh the browser and all boxes will disappear by default (placement of Refresh button depends on type of browser used).



Click on Get all Spots so that the boxes identifying the words will reappear. You can now see that the box which was previously surrounding the vessel name “G.M. La Vallette” has been deleted.

You can proceed to create boxes for each of these words/initials, i.e., one box for “G”, one box “M”, etc.

Creating New Boxes

Sometimes the system fails to detect specific words. You need to double click on each word and follow the usual process whereby you add the correct word in the dialogue box provided. The box does not need to surround the whole word.

Transcribing: General Rules

Tags:

- Tags indicate the meaning of each word. They should always be included after each single word transcribed.
- These are the tags to be used:
 - !surname
 - !gname
 - !vessel
 - !date

Punctuation marks and diacritics:

Leave out any punctuation marks (including brackets [parentheses] and full stops following initials and abbreviations) and diacritics (marks placed above and below letters, e.g., ò, ç) when transcribing. NOTE: Some exceptions include dates (see below) and aeroplane names (pg. 6).

Dates:

- Days, months and years should always be separated by slashes.
E.g. 21.4.05 -> 21/4/05!date
- No zeros should precede days and months. E.g. 01.06.05 -> 1/6/05!date
- Some of the dates have the year and sometimes even the month missing. When transcribing them, the year (and month if missing as well) should still be left out.
E.g. 09.12 [year missing] -> 9/12!date
24 [month & year missing] -> 24!date

Names containing more than one word:

Each word pertaining to a name should be marked separately with a box.

E.g. City of Dundee [vessel name] -> City!vessel of!vessel Dundee!vessel
Maria Concetta -> Maria!gname Concetta!gname

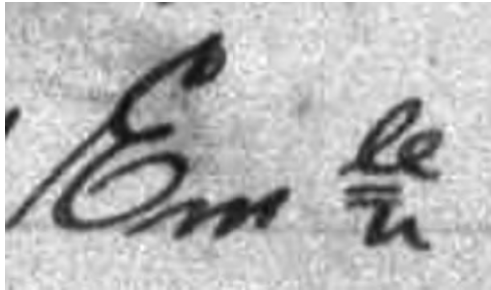
Quotation marks indicating repetition:

Single quotation marks (") are often used to indicate repetition of the same word in consecutive lines. These should all be transcribed as -#-. Depending on what it is indicating (whether surname, vessel etc.), the corresponding tag should still be inserted.

Abbreviations:

- Abbreviated person and vessel names should be transcribed in their original form.

Examples:



Emmanuele!gname

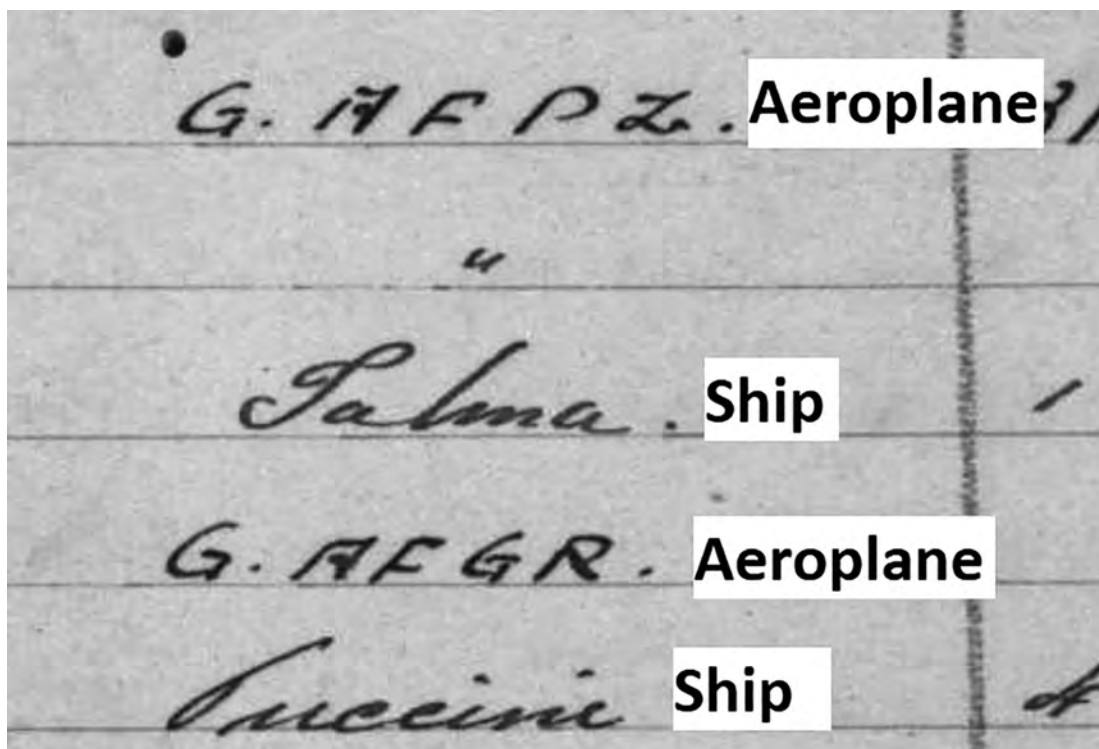


Giuseppe!gname

E.g. K. of Malta [Knight of Malta] -> Knight!vessel of!vessel Malta!vessel

[these kinds of vessel names appear repeatedly in the text so we would know what the abbreviated parts of their names would stand for]

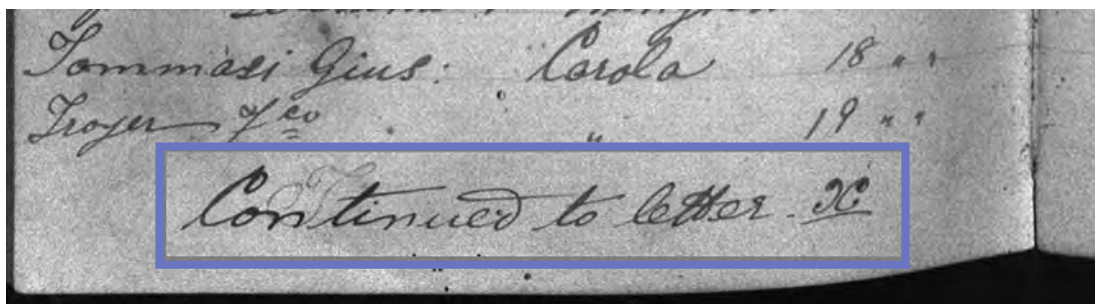
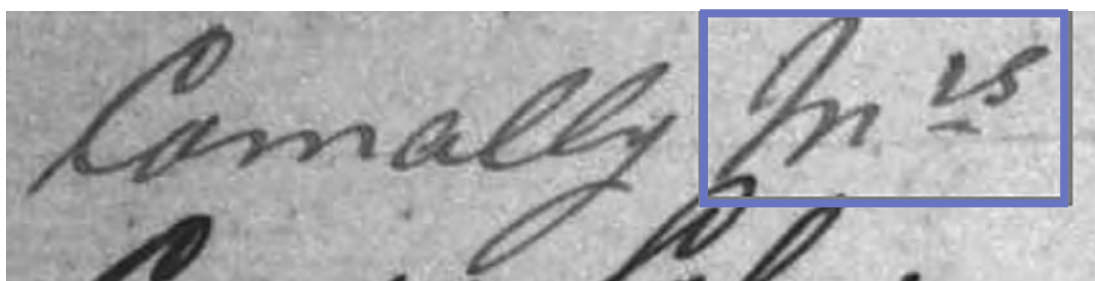
- Person's names written only in initials - In case of persons' names written only in initials, you should transcribe them as they are since it is difficult to understand what they might be standing for. Each letter should be assigned a separate box. Punctuation marks are to be ignored.
- Aeroplane names: Aeroplane names can be easily distinguished from ship names as they are only written in capital letters. These should be transcribed exactly as they are.
E.g. G.AFPZ should be transcribed as G.AFPZ!vessel



Other words included after names:

Any other words included after persons' names are to be ignored (e.g. Mr, Mrs, &, and, family, Rev etc.). Our aim is to focus specifically on the transcription of surnames, [persons'] names, vessels and dates. Any other words do not need to be transcribed.

Examples:

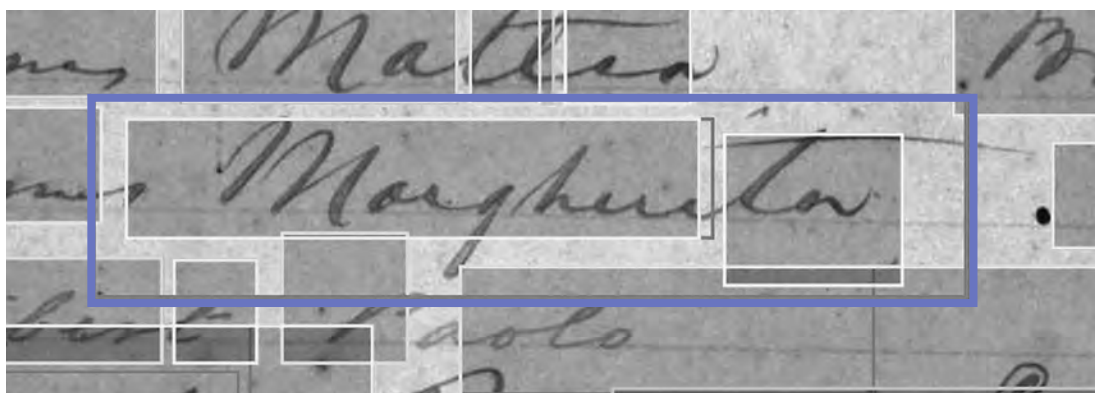


Boxes which are not marking any text:

Boxes marking empty spaces and insect damage are to be ignored.

Single word marked by more than one box:

In this case, select only one box for the transcription and ignore the rest. In the example below, you can select the first box so as to transcribe the name Margherita and ignore the second box.





15

1922
THE EPIC OF
SMYRNA REFUGEES
IN MALTA

Date

TELEGRAM.

SECRET

From Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

To Admiralty, R.A.Malta and S.N.O.(A) Constantinople.

PRIORITY. 253. 282. Owing to large influx of refugees and complete demoralisation of Greek Army steps are being taken to embark British Colony. The British residents are very scattered and it is impossible to ensure protection, alternative of concentrating them in one spot has been considered and rejected owing to difficulties of feeding and accommodation. There are large numbers of women and children and in order to guarantee their safety it has been arranged to embark them tomorrow Tuesday. It is proposed to send all British subjects who wish to leave to Cyprus(?) except Maltese who will be sent to Malta outside numbers for either place 1500. Request Colonial authorities be asked to make necessary arrangements for reception of the persons evacuated will only have provisions for the voyage. Consul General is telegraphing Foreign Office and Cyprus(?). Sent to Admiralty. Repeated to Rear Admiral, Malta, for information of Governor and S.N.O.(A) Constantinople for information of British High Commissioner. 253. 282.

1342/4.



Terror-stricken, thousands flocked to the city's long waterfront and begged to be taken aboard the western ships. Photo: Richard Ellis Archive.

1922. THE EPIC OF SMYRNA REFUGEES IN MALTA

Giorgio Peresso

Smyrna (today Izmir in Turkey) was a major multicultural and cosmopolitan centre within the Ottoman Empire. Maltese emigrants have settled in this important seaport city on the Aegean coast since at least the early years of the 19th century. By 1918, the Maltese were one small group in a very mixed population, estimated at between 1,800 and 3,000 persons. Most of them had been born in Smyrna and had no contact with Malta. Some were four generations removed from the island of their ancestors. The only link with Malta was mostly sentimental.

15.1 The Beginning of the End

Following the end of World War 1 (1914-1918) and the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire, the Greek forces landed in the city on 15 May 1919, marking the beginning of the Graeco-Turkish War (1919-1922). Initially the Greeks advanced inland and took control of several other cities. However, their advance was checked by Turkish forces at the Battle of Sakarya (1921), and on August 1922 the Greek front collapsed. Smyrna was recaptured by Turkish forces on 9 September 1922.



*In the afternoon of 13 September 1922, a fire broke out in the Armenian quarter in Smyrna. It spread quickly and no effort was made to put it out. The great fire of Smyrna raged on for days.
Photo: Richard Ellis Archive.*

Initially, the Turkish occupation of the city was orderly. It was thought that the presence of the Allied fleet would discourage any violence against the Christian community. In fact, on the morning of 9 September, twenty-one Allied warships lay at anchor in Smyrna's harbour. Sailors and marines from the Allied fleet were landed ashore to guard their diplomatic compounds and institutions with strict orders of maintaining neutrality if violence would break out between the Turks and the Christians.

Very quickly, order and discipline began to break down. Thugs were roaming the city's streets and life was becoming dangerous. The Greek Orthodox Metropolitan bishop, Chrysostomos, was hacked to death while the witnessing French soldiers were prevented from intervening by their commanding officer. Greeks and Armenians started seeking refuge with the Americans and Europeans, who on their part were anxious to remain neutral not to harm their relationship with the leaders of the Turkish National movement.

In the afternoon of 13 September, a fire broke out in the Armenian quarter. It spread quickly and no effort was made to put it out. The great fire of Smyrna raged on for days.

Thousands flocked to the city's long waterfront and begged to be taken aboard the western ships that stood by watching this horrible spectacle. The fire lasted for three days destroying the Greek, Armenian and European quarters of the city, forcing the Greeks and Armenians out of their hiding places, while destroying the corpses in the homes and narrow streets of the city. Future estimates set the death toll as high as 100,000. George Horton, the United States Consul and witness to these terrible days, would later write:

“One of the keenest impressions which I brought away with me from Smyrna was a feeling of shame that I belonged to the human race.”¹

15.2 The Rescue

The imminent entry of the Kemalist forces into Smyrna was expected as the month of September 1922 approached. On 2 September, the British consul Sir Harry Lamb informed Admiral Sir Osmond De Beauvoir Brock, Commander-in-Chief of the British Royal Navy's Mediterranean fleet commanding HMS *Iron Duke* Upon, of the Greek setbacks. Anticipating deterioration of the situation in Smyrna, Admiral De Brock started laying plans for the evacuation of British nationals: he brought the hospital ship HMHS *Maine*² into the harbour and requisitioned three merchant ships, including the S.S. *Bavarian*. He also ordered HMS *King George V* to head for Smyrna. All these ships were earmarked to evacuate British nationals to Malta³.

Consequently, he informed the naval authorities in Malta and in Constantinople about the large numbers of fleeing civilians, including several British subjects. Predictably they were to be moved to Cyprus and Malta which proved the most obvious destinations due to their connection with the Empire, though some Levantines ended up in Athens. In a secret telegram to Rear Admiral John Luce the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean pointed out the fact that British residents were scattered and it was impossible to ensure protection, short of concentrating them in one spot, an option that has been considered but rejected owing to difficulties of feeding and accommodation.

There were also large numbers of women and children. It had been decided to embark them immediately⁴. Since the decision to leave was a voluntary one, the British authorities made it clear that they would not provide maintenance for any refugee after they disembarked. This was emphasized in a notice posted at four embarkation points in Smyrna, no liability for compensation of any damage or losses sustained in consequence of one's departure was accepted⁵. Later on, such affirmation was not sustained since humanitarian assistance could not be denied. However, the matter eventually became the bone of contention between the Government of Malta and the imperial authorities in London. For several reasons, it was highly anticipated that the Maltese Government would be 'horribly "fed up" about it'⁶.

Reverend Charles Dobson, an Anglican clergyman and a New Zealander by birth who took the post of Anglican Chaplain of Smyrna on Easter 1922, was instrumental in tracking down British nationals. He set out to visit all the addresses where he knew British nationals to be staying. Picking his way methodically through the streets, Dobson brought news of

1 *Catastrophe at Smyrna*, Matthew Stewart, published in *History Today* Volume 54 Issue 7 July 2004

2 In 1900, HMHS *Maine* became a permanent hospital ship of the British fleet and for some years was on service in the Mediterranean, either as a floating hospital or for the transshipment of naval and military invalids. In 1920, the Royal Navy purchased a coal-burner built in 1902 with a speed of eight to ten knots and converted it to serve as a permanent hospital ship. The new HMHS *Maine* was kept in permanent commission between 1918 and 1939, being placed under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Station. (Source: Charles Savona-Ventura, *Military and Naval Hospitals in the last two Centuries*, Historical Hospitalium, Düsseldorf, 2001, 175.)

3 Lou Ureneck, *The Great Fire*, Harper-Collins, New York, 2015, 75.

4 NAM/CSG01/249/22 4 September 1922.

5 Michelle Tusan, *Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide and the Birth of the Middle East*, University of California Press, London, 2012, 170

6 Dominic Fenech, *Endemic Democracy (1919-1930)*, PEG, Malta, 2005, 214.



Smyrniots were fleeing Smyrna in huge numbers by mid-September 1922. Photo: Richard Ellis Archive.

the impending evacuation to all the British nationals he could find⁷. He was also repeatedly called upon to intercede on behalf of terror-stricken people of other nationalities⁸. Reverend Dobson, together with his Greek wife and their two daughters, would soon join the Malta-bound refugees late in September 1922 on s.s. *Bavarian*. The family spent a month in Malta and left for Italy on 23 October 1922, where Reverend Dobson was to witness Mussolini's March on Rome.

15.3 Once More, the Nurse of the Mediterranean

Once more Malta was to be destined to become 'the nurse of the Mediterranean', the title dubbed during the First World War, for the provision of providing the necessary facilities to wounded soldiers. This time it provided humanitarian assistance to refugees fleeing from Turkey.

Malta was considered a fortress serving British interests in the Mediterranean. During World War 1, the indigenous population was acquiescent as wars tended to provide relative prosperity to the Island. The situation changed dramatically with the Armistice in 1918, when Maltese servicemen returned home. As Dominic Fenech observed 'the irony was that

7 Giles Milton, *Paradise Lost: Smyrna 1922: The Destruction of Islam's City of Tolerance*, Sceptre, London, 2009, 302-03.

8 Joanna Hyslop, *A brief and personal account: the evidence of Charles Dobson on the destruction of the city of Smyrna in September 1922*. 70. Ms Hyslop is the granddaughter of Rev. Dobson.

prolonged war in Turkey was keeping the fleet away from Maltese harbours for unusually long time, causing more economic distress than there was already⁹. Consequently, the political climate in Malta became increasingly agitated and a riot broke out in June 1919.

Two years later, Imperial authorities granted self-government based on a diarchy. Both shared responsibilities and infrastructure in humanitarian assistance, such as that meted upon the Russian refugees fleeing the Bolshevik revolution. Immediately following the departure of the Russian refugees, the government had to deal with providing relief to the sizable number of refugees evacuated from Smyrna after the victory of the Turkish Nationalists in 1922.

The local authorities in Malta complied with the demands made by Admiral De Brock although the reception of the refugees was accepted with some hesitancy. The first group of refugees disembarked in Malta on 15 September 1922, arriving on the hospital ship *HMHS Maine*.

On that day, 416 refugees landed in Malta. These included 276 British, 82 Maltese (mostly born in Smyrna of Maltese ancestry), 26 Greeks, 14 Cypriots, 10 Dutch, 6 Swiss, a French and a Swede¹⁰. This arrival was reported in the *Daily Telegraph*: 'Peaceful Malta is to-day eager with excitement owing to the landing here of over 400 refugees.'

By 21 September, according to the report of the Chief Government Medical Officer, only 175 were able or willing to go to hotels. The others were provided with lodging and food at the Lazaretto on Manoel Island¹¹. Later on, additional facilities were provided at Fort Ricasoli and Cottonera Military Hospital (today St Edward's College). Out of the refugees perceived to be Maltese, only seven were born in Malta. Few, if any, of those who claimed to be Maltese were acquainted with any other language except Greek. Malta could not be considered their home in any sense¹².

There was no question that these refugees had to be supported. The controversy was about who should shoulder the financial burden. On 7 November 1922, the Maltese ministers declared that:

"On the assumption that the cost of maintenance of British born refugees will in due course be refunded by His Majesty's Government, the Government of Malta will advance the funds necessary for such maintenance" and that

"The established principle should be maintained that the keep of Maltese refugees not born in these Islands is not a proper charge on Malta Funds."
"A case should, however, be made out for submission to His Majesty's Government, emphasizing the principle hitherto accepted without demur that

9 Dominic Fenech, *Endemic Democracy (1919-1930)*, PEG, Malta, 2005, 214 quoting Plumer to Devonshire, 27 March 1923 (CO158//432//16537).

10 NAM/CSG01/254/1922.

11 NAM/CSG01/254/1922, W.C.F. Robertson, Officer Adminstrating the Government to Winston S. Churchill, Secretary of the State for the Colonies, 21 September 1922. The refugees were distributed among the following hotels in Valletta: British Hotel, Great Britain Hotel, Hotel d'Angleterre, Hotel d'Australie, Hotel d'Estrangers, Hotel de France, Hotel de Paris, Osborne Hotel, Royal Hotel, Seguna Hotel and Westminster Hotel.

12 NAM/CSG01/263/22, Lord Plumer to British Minister Athens, 4 November 1922.

the maintenance of distressed Maltese who are Maltese by parentage, and not by birth, is a legitimate charge on the Foreign Office Vote.”¹³

Some correspondents of the international press came to Malta with the refugees on the HMHS *Maine*. Many refugees had a tale to tell; correspondents despatched their observations to their home office. Furthermore, these journalists interviewed refugees within a few days after disembarking in Malta. George Martin of the *New York Times* added the following comment in his report entitled ‘Smyrna Catastrophe Hospital Ship Maine:

“Christians have been placed in a terrible position owing to the highly irresponsible action of the retreating Greek army in burning towns and villages. Thousands of Greek refugees were laying in lighters in the port and on the breakwater in pitiable condition without food or water; although the British had given them what assistance was possible.”¹⁴

The Daily Telegraph provided a detailed account of refugee Roy Treolar’s ordeal just as he landed in Malta. He visited the paper’s correspondent living at Sliema where he articulated the events of which he was eyewitness, recording the time the fire started - Wednesday 13 September 1922 at 2pm in the Armenian quarter. Treolar also recollected the scene when a doctor, Dr Murphy, was brutally assaulted at his house in Smyrna while his elderly wife Helen together with the daughter Helen succeeded in escaping the outrage and found their way to Malta where they stayed for 15 nights¹⁵.

13 NAM/CSG01/317/1922, Cabinet Meeting held on the 7th November 1922.

14 *New York Times*, 15 September 1922.

15 *New York Times*, 21 September 1922.

*The British Naval Hospital
HMHS Maine at the Grand Harbour in 1925.
Three years earlier, on 15 September 1922 this ship brought
416 refugees fleeing from Smyrna. These were the first group of 1540
Smyrniot refugees brought over to Malta between September and December
1922. Photo: Malta Maritime Museum, Heritage of Malta.*



The *Daily Telegraph* of the 18 September 1922 reported through its own correspondent in Malta the arrival of HMHS *Maine* under the title “Lady Lamb safe”¹⁶. Lady Lamb, wife of the British Consul-General and her daughter stayed in Malta for just three days before proceeding to England. They resided at the Cecil Hotel, a family-run hotel in Old Bakery Street in Valletta.

In spite of the original stance that refugees had to fend for themselves, the Consul-General remained in Smyrna to oversee broader British interests while his deputy, vice-Consul Edgar Gout, who was based in 54 Strada Nuova in Sliema (today Triq Arturo Mercieca), was detailed to monitor the needs of the refugees while in Malta. One of the tasks performed by Gout was a head count of prospective refugees still in Turkish soil. He interviewed at Fort Manoel several camp refugees who provided information about families who were still stranded in Smyrna - 135 in all¹⁷.

The newspaper report added that another group of refugees made up of 750 persons, including a number of Maltese, had already left Turkey on the *Bavarian*. The precarious condition of the refugees was commented upon on the arrival of those disembarking from s.s. *Bavarian*. Captain Allen of the *Bavarian* singled out the appearance of Maltese refugees. He was astonished at the number of well-to-do Britons who scrambled on board his ship wearing a fur coat over nothing at all. ‘Half of the people arrived without clothes’ he said, ‘The poorer people, the Maltese has the most raiment’. It seems that the more affluent residents have been less prepared for the disaster¹⁸.

15.4 The Refugees

Between the 15 September and 10 December 1922, some 1540 refugees landed in Malta. They arrived in ten voyages, namely HMHS *Maine*, *Bavarian*, HMS *King George V*, *Karnak*, *Carnaro* (twice), *Pierre Loti*, *Adria* (twice) and the *Empress of India*¹⁹. About 1400 passengers held a British passport. Although many had never set foot in England, they held British passports and expected the British government to help them during the crisis.²⁰

About half of them were perceived to be of Maltese extraction. A small number of refugees consisted of Cypriots, Dutch, Egyptians, Swiss, and French and a trivial number of Americans, Armenians, Italians, Swedes and Ottoman Turks. The largest minority among the refugees was Greek, mostly former employees of important Levantine clans. The more affluent refugees could afford to leave Malta promptly and did so by the end of 1922. These totalled 32% of refugees disembarked. Their stay averaged 30 days, with the shortest being 3 days. Some of the longer stays totalled 100 days. Other refugees stayed even longer. Apart from those who had integrated with Maltese society, some refugees remained in Malta for several years.

16 *Daily Telegraph 18 September 1922* in Lysimachos Economos, *The Martyrdom of Smyrna and Eastern Christendom*, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1922, 98-99.

17 NAM/CSG01/254/1922, Edgar Gout to the Lieutenant Governor W.C.F. Robertson to Winston S. Churchill, Secretary of the State for the Colonies, 21 September 1922.

18 Marjorie Housepian Dobkin, *Smyrna 1922, The destruction of a city*, Newmark Press, New York, 1988, 169.

19 This figure is by no means definite as a number of refugees came by independent means either through Athens or other ports rather than through direct link from Smyrna.

20 Michelle Tusan, 170.

The Lieutenant Governor Sir William C.F. Robertson called for the compilation of information about nationalities as well as the financial conditions together with learning the intentions of the British refugees. A cursory examination about the financial condition of most refugees revealed that they lacked financial resources and it was imperative that such refugees were maintained in Malta until they were moved to England²¹.

The consular representatives in Malta were expected to arrange for repatriation of their nationals. This exercise proved to be more difficult with Greek citizens.

Many of the refugees who had rushed to the British Consulate in Smyrna asserting that they were British subjects, held a dubious claim. Their acceptance as British subjects served as an impetus to gain relocation to Malta. Once in Malta they alleged Greek connection since that was the only language they knew and, in some instances, they had a Greek spouse. Several refugees had Greek Christian names.

This situation made the repatriation procedure rather complicated. The Greek Consul in Malta vetted visas application punctiliously while the British High Commissioner in Athens, Sir Francis Lindley warned Lord Plumer that Greece was the last place to which they should be sent as at the time; just one month after the Greek exodus from Smyrna there were about 600,000 refugees including 50,000 in Athens alone²².

Some families of refugees were separated in different countries. This was the case of a Canadian couple, Haritopoulos. The wife Ekaterina Haritopoulos was at the Cottonera Camp while her husband John was in Larnaca Cyprus. Eventually she was sent to Athens to be reunited with her husband²³.

The separation of families created by separation was quite a toll. A Greek refugee from Smyrna, Maria Zicakis, whose husband was kept as a prisoner by the Kemalist authorities, stranded in Greece and having no relatives there, was longing to join her father, Cazimir Cassar who was a refugee located in Fort Manoel. However, her father rejected her since having no relatives in Malta and, being a refugee himself, he was unable to support her²⁴.

Others were luckier. Anthony Barker obtained a British passport in Malta on 6 October 1922, later discovered to be obtained by fraud. He had landed with the *Maine* refugees. After obtaining a visa to travel to Greece, he left Malta on s.s. *Eden Hall* bound for Piraeus proceeding to Salonica. He was really an Ottoman citizen and his passport was confiscated after his actual identity was revealed as being that of Anastasios Varkaoglou. His reputation was described as 'unsavoury' and was reported to have been in prison²⁵.

On the other hand, in the chaos created during the evacuation, some of the perceived Maltese ended up in Cyprus while others found themselves in Greek territories, such as Volos and Mytilene. After landing, the Cypriot authorities undertook similar procedures adopted by their counterparts in Malta. Consequently, these were invited to proceed to Malta. A case in point is that Constantine Zammit and his family of four as well as that of Henry Calleja and his family of three. Both families were completely destitute and did not

21 *ibid* NAM/CSG01/254/22.

22 NAM/CSG01/287/22. British Minister Athens to Governor Malta, telegram 21 October 1922.

23 NAM/CSG01/820/22. C. Hartipp, British Legation Athens to Peter J. Sarantis, New York, 10 November 1922.

24 NAM/CSG01/32/23, Lord Plumer to A/British Consul Salonica, 8 February 1923.

25 NAM/CSG01/23/23, E.C. Hole to Lord Plumer, 5 March., 1923.

desire repatriation as they knew no language except Greek and had never been in Malta.²⁶ The Government of Malta preferred to accept to pay for their upkeep in Cyprus rather than shoulder the burden of their stay in Malta.

Attempts were made to send some refugees who landed in Volos to Malta. As in the case of Cyprus, the Government offered to pay for their upkeep in Volos of 13 Maltese British subjects, mostly women and children, as there was difficulty in arranging additional accommodation for refugees in Malta; ministers preferred that Maltese refugees be maintained in Volos at the expense of the Malta Government.²⁷ The family of Alfred Hadkinson had succeeded in reaching Piraeus but required the Governor's permission to proceed to Mytilene in the island of Lesbos. It was easier for them to hold on the mirage of a return to Smyrna since Lesbos was about 90 kilometres away²⁸.

The top priority of the immigration authorities in Malta was to move the refugees out of Malta as quickly as possible. Those British subjects who were convinced that the return to Smyrna was a futile illusion did leave Malta as they needed no visa to enter Britain. The other nationalities had no other option but to apply for one.

The Government of Malta had to perform multiple tasks in the distribution of these refugees. Having been relieved of those who chose to leave on their own accord, another relief came from those who were accepted in the community by their relatives.

Both the Imperial authorities and some of the refugees themselves held on to the prospect of return in view of the value of their profession or occupation. Since a mass return to Turkey was ruled out, preference was expected for those whose occupation was needed in case where any vacancy could not be filled by Turkish citizens. A report on the profession and occupations of the refugees was drawn for the attention of the High Commissioner Sir Horace George Montagu Rumbold.²⁹

On the other hand, the Government wanted to assess the situation of those Maltese who had relatives or local business connections and therefore could be forced out of the camps. Inspector J.E. Agius prepared a report about whether the relatives in Malta of the Smyrna Refugees were willing to support and contribute towards their maintenance. One survey of 17 refugees, carried out by Agius, showed that there were no local families willing and capable to support their relatives from Smyrna. Most of the 'relatives' indicated by the refugees were either in dire straits or expressed that they shared no family relationship or else were distant relatives. In one case the relative indicated by the refugee had been dead for 40 years³⁰.

The office of the Lieutenant Governor was the authoritative source able to deal with diverse requirements of actual and potential refugees in Malta. The most important function was approving payments of various subsidies especially those pertaining to approval of travel tickets. It dealt with enquiries about the whereabouts of refugees inside Malta and elsewhere. Such enquiries were conveyed through British consular services. The parameters under which the cooperation was relatively flexible as expressed by the British Consul-General in Naples:

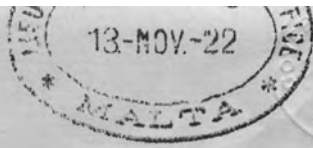
26 NAM/CSG01/273/22, High Commissioner Cyprus to Governor, Malta.

27 NAM/CSG01/813/22, telegram Governor to British Consul Volos 21 November 1922.

28 NAM/CSG01/813/22, British Consul Mytilene to Governor Malta, 31 October 1922.

29 NAM/CSG01/770/22, *Return showing the profession or occupation of British refugees from Smyrna who are still in Malta*, 29 September 1922.

30 NAM/CSG01/264/22, Report by Inspector J.E. Agius, 2 October 1922.



CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH NOVEMBER 1922.

All Ministers present with the exception of the Minister
for Industry and Commerce.

Government Line of Policy in regard to the Smyrna Refugees.

I.

On the assumption that the cost of the maintenance of British born refugees will in due course be refunded by His Majesty's Government, the Government of Malta will advance the funds necessary for such maintenance at an average rate of 2s/6d per head per diem.

II.

The established principle should be maintained that the keep of Maltese refugees not born in these Islands is not a proper charge on Malta funds. While sympathising with these unfortunate people in their sad plight, the Government cannot, in the present condition of the finances, increase its burdens, especially in view of the large expenditure already incurred on the maintenance of necessitous Maltese abroad who are eligible for this assistance by reason of their birth in these Islands. A case should, however, be made out for submission to His Majesty's Government, emphasizing the principle hitherto accepted without demur that the maintenance of distressed Maltese who are Maltese by parentage, and not by birth, is a legitimate charge on the Foreign Office Vote.

X.
III.

The Maltese Imperial Government's policy regarding the Smyrna refugees, approved by 'Cabinet' on 7 November 1922 and signed by Head of Ministry Joseph Howard. It dealt exclusively with the financial aspects. It is interesting to note that since the early days of self-Government, the Maltese ministers adopted the Cabinet convention even though this institution did not feature in any constitution granted by the UK Parliament before 1962. Photo: The National Archives of Malta.

III.

The present cost of the maintenance of 606 Maltese amounting approximately to £80 a day, is more than the Revenue can bear for an indefinite period. The cost of six weeks' maintenance has already been disbursed.

IV.

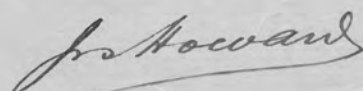
In the circumstances set forth above, Ministers are of opinion:-

(i) that the British refugees should be accommodated and kept separately from the Maltese, in order to facilitate the keeping ^{of} accounts, etc., and that, consequently, all the Maltese refugees should be concentrated at Fort Manoel, those already sent to Cottonera being retransferred to the Fort,

(ii) that the Maltese refugees should be informed that after the 1st December 1922, attendants who are not absolutely necessary shall be withdrawn; that the work hitherto done by them shall be performed by the refugees themselves under the supervision of the Public Health authorities; and that, as regards diet, the arrangements shall be the same as those obtaining at the Poor House;

(iii) that the whole position should be reconsidered on the 1st January 1923; and

(iv) that the Refugees Fund Committee should be invited to issue another appeal to the philanthropy of the public for further financial assistance.



Head of the Ministry.

“The fire at Smyrna is so abnormal a character that it would seem to be necessary to relax many regulations in order to deal with the numerous refugees who have lost their homes and have been forced to go to other countries.”³¹

At a very short notice, provision had to be made at the Lazaretto and Fort Manoel for the supply of accommodation, food, clothing, laundry and other services required by a large group of people: men, women, children of different nationalities and creeds. The medical condition of the refugees on arrival was good overall, but surveillance was constant since the risk of an outbreak of disease in a restricted area was high. Arthur Galea, Comptroller of Charitable Institutions reported:

“With the assistance of the Military Authorities the Lazaretto and Fort Manoel were fitted out in a few days and on the 15th September 1922, the first batch of refugees arrived. The British refugees have since the 2nd November 1922 arrived, been transferred to a new Camp at Cottonera Hospital and, at the beginning of January 1923, the Maltese refugees and a few other nationalities were transferred to Fort Ricasoli in order to prepare Fort Manoel for any eventual arrival of refugees from Constantinople.”³²

Providing humanitarian relief to the Smyrna refugees was a mammoth endeavour. At the time, Malta had a lean bureaucracy, trained to deal with a variety of tasks; it rose to the occasion despite the evident challenge. The arrival of these refugees coincided with a new constitutional situation in Malta. In 1921, the Maltese Islands had been granted self-government on diarchical lines. While the Maltese government oversaw internal affairs, the imperial government was responsible for defence and foreign affairs.

Prime Minister Joseph Howard (then known as the Head of the Ministry), formerly a director of a Greek company operating in Malta, held that the Malta government should not be financially responsible for the maintenance of any Smyrna refugees. The choice of an even-handed as Head of the Ministry augured well for moderation³³. The political climate inside and outside the local parliament was rather polluted. His moderation won him the support of the Governor Lord Plumer in the way he effectively portrayed the interests of the Maltese Government. Howard was adamant that all refugees, Maltese included, should be repatriated to Smyrna as soon as convenient. He had to deal with the challenges emanating from the British Government’s position that ‘only refugees who are natives or have their origin in the United Kingdom will be maintained by Imperial Funds.’ Howard remarked:

“I am informed that among the British refugees there may be many who are neither natives or have their origin in the United Kingdom being descendants of English families who for generations have settled in the East. Not even the so-called Maltese Refugees should be assisted by the Malta Government, as they also belong to families who for generations have lived out of Malta.”³⁴

As if this was not enough, even the Greek Government did not want to pay for the upkeep of its citizens in Malta. There were protracted discussions between the Maltese Imperial

31 NAM Maltese Imperial Government File 735/22 Philip Somers Cocks to William C.F. Robertson, 12 October 1922.

32 *idem*

33 Giorgio Peresso, *The Enigma of Malta Italica – the saga of irredentism while it lasted*, unpublished dissertation, Masters, History of Art Department, University of Malta, 2011, 61.

34 NAM/CSG01/81/22, Minute by Joseph Howard, 5 October 1922.



Government and the Greek Consulate in Malta over the reimbursement to the Maltese Government of expenses incurred in the housing, feeding and repatriation of Greek refugees. Out of the 70 Greek arrivals in Malta, only 20 remained by the end of 1922. Although the numbers in Malta were a mere fraction of the hundreds of thousands who had fled Greece, Nikolaos Kalogeropoulos, Greek Foreign Minister, initially refused to accept liability. After their arrival in Malta, some Greek-speaking refugees who had declared British citizenship just to be granted passage out of Smyrna started to claim Greek passports to settle in Greece. The Greek Diaspora in Malta consisted of about 30 well-to-do families, 14 of which, together with the Greek Ladies Charitable Fund, contributed financially towards the welfare of their compatriots.

Smyrna refugees resettled from Malta to Greece were granted alien status and subject to working and residence permits. Over time, it was therefore natural for some to seek to acquire Greek citizenship. Most were married to Greek women. In Patras, the issue was encouraged and complicated by Italian fascist propaganda and money. Indeed, some people elected to change citizenship from British to Italian rather than Greek.

The British diplomatic mission in Athens faced a constant stream of work because of complaints from destitute Maltese residing in Greece. Financially vulnerable refugees, whether in Malta or Greece, relied on some form of relief for their subsistence. As mentioned earlier, they considered themselves ethnically closer to Greece despite their roots in a British colony.

There was also a small number of Dutch who arrived in Malta on British ships. The Netherlands Government argued that the refugees ought to remain in Malta rather than be transferred to a country where the climate differs considerably from that to which they were accustomed. It consisted mainly of descendants of Dutch subjects who settled there during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Only a very restricted number of these refugees understood the Dutch language or had relations in Holland³⁵.

Most refugees in Malta held on to the expectation of a swift return to Smyrna. Admiral De Brock instructed Captain Henry Thursfield, Senior Naval Officer and R.W. Urquhart, British Vice-Consul, both in Smyrna, to draw up a report about the desirability of the return of British subjects previously domiciled in Asia Minor. This report stated that the nationalist government in Angora (today's Ankara) did not recognise the consular representatives of any of the governments only recently at war with Turkey. It was observed that many properties had been destroyed, not just because of the Great Fire. Commercial operations were at a complete standstill. All non-Turkish employees had been dismissed immediately after the exodus and were replaced by Turks³⁶.

In due course, while a few stayed in Malta, many refugees were relocated to several countries such as Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, United Kingdom, And United States. Those headed to Greece found themselves in such places as Athens, Chios, Corfu, Crete, Alexandroupoli, Kokkinia, Larissa, Lesbos, Patras, Piraeus, Rhodes, Samos, Syros And Thessaloniki. As time went on, Greece developed the infrastructure to accommodate not only Smyrna refugees but also those Greeks formerly residing in other Ottoman territories. Consequently, out of the 770 refugees repatriated from Malta between 1923 and 1930, 70% ended up in Greece.

35 NAM/CSG01/81/22 R. de Marees van Sinderen to Lord Curzon, 3 October 1922.

36 NAM/CSG01/262/22, Henry Thursfield and R.W. Urquhart to Lord Plumer, 30 Oct 1922.

The so-called Maltese refugees, who ultimately succeeded in returning to Smyrna, were distrusted by the Turkish authorities as they were considered Greeks in disguise. Unwanted twice over, in Malta, the country of their ancestors and Smyrna, their birthplace, they pinned on Greece, which they considered their homeland, their only hope for acceptance. Still, they were reluctant to exchange their British passport for a Greek one, for several reasons, including an abhorrence of conscription.

15.5 Some Faces

Every refugee had his or her own story; these are some of them.

Baker John Cilia (Tsilia) was born in Smyrna in 1886. As a British subject he, his wife Kirioki and their children Liberata, Marcos, Mary and Francis were entitled for protection. Therefore, the family boarded the *Bavarian* bound for Malta and arrived on 18 September 1922. Eventually, they were repatriated to Greece with a group of refugees who left Malta between 1 July 1924 and 11 March 1925. They settled in Nea Kokkinia (renamed Nikaia). This was one of the largest refugee quarters established near Piraeus in 1923³⁷.

John Cilia's name re-appears in the 1935 records of the British Consul in Athens as an applicant for British relief. Once more, he was destitute after attempting to make a living out of selling home-made cakes, itself an occupation relying on favourable weather conditions. His fragile subsistence had been aggravated by the flooding of his home. The Government of Malta disowned him, and relief was denied on the pretext that he had already received financial assistance during the years he had spent in Malta.

Another dramatic case was that of Ferdinando Cilia La Corte, the eldest of 8 siblings who arrived in Malta with their father Polycarp on the hospital ship *Maine* on 15 September 1922. Two years later, in September 1927, when was 25 years old, Ferdinando left for Australia in on the *SS Orvieto*. He stayed in Australia for just two days and on 19 October he left back to Malta on the same ship claiming that he was denied entry into Australia as he was found him medically unfit, contrary to the opinion of the medical authorities in Malta; he arrived on 2 December 1927. Few days later he retracted the medical unfitness claim and declared that he left Australia since there was unemployment. He was denied accommodation at the Ricasoli Refugee Camp because the Superintendent of Emigration Henry Casolani felt that the saga was all made up because of the refugee's home sickness. Moreover, the Officer-in-Charge of the Refugee Camp penned a scathing report against him, claiming that "since his first arrival in Malta he has never done or tried to do anything."³⁸

Francis Cilia was an example of how Smyrniots clung to the illusion of an eventual return. Cilia, a blind refugee, could not work because of his condition. He did not give up the hope to return to his birthplace and on 15 April 1931 he submitted an impassioned plea at the office of the Lieutenant-Governor in Valletta to arrange and pay for his and his wife's return to Smyrna³⁹. His plea was dismissed as he did not have a permit from the Turkish authorities to reside in Smyrna. The British Government continued to issue subsidies well after the Second World War to destitute refugees irrespective of their final place of residence.⁴⁰

37 Renee Hirschon, *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe*, Berghahn Press, New York, 1988, 2.

38 NAM/CSG01/348/1927

39 NAM/CSG02/126/31

40 NAM/OPM/1948-0055/1948, Relief to distressed Maltese in Smyrna, a/c for first quarter 1948.



Ferdinando Cilia La Corte, a clerk born in Smyrna arrived in Malta as a refugee on 15 September 1922. He was sent to Australia in September 1927 but returned immediately claiming that he was not allowed to enter the country as he was declared medically unfit. Back in Malta he was not allowed in the refugee camp as it was felt that he was making up his problems. Photo: The National Archives of Malta.

Refugees came mostly in family groups, while a few were accompanied by their servants. One of the young refugees, who later made a name for himself, was the Alec Issigonis (knighted in 1969). He later became famous as the automobile designer who created the best-selling Mini and the popular Morris Minor. He was accompanied by his mother, Hulda Prokopp, and his father, Constantine, who was blind. Constantine spent most of his time in Malta in hospital, where he died on 1 June 1923 and was later buried at Ta' Braxia cemetery outside Valletta. The Issigonis were of Greek extraction but became British subjects once his father Constantine Demosthenes Issigonis became a British subject in 1897.

Other noteworthy names include the Whittalls. Seventy members of the entire family and other relatives such as the Charnauds and the Gouts ended up in Malta. Herbert Octavius Whittall was the head of this extended family and he was considered the unofficial dean of the Smyrna refugee community in Malta. His family was described as 'a nation not a family.' In Turkey they were princes in their own right; their wealth and power, and to some extent their arrogance, had almost no limits.⁴¹ For all his reputation he lived in one of the refugees' camps. He was the spokesman of the community participating in various reports about the refugee's grievances, demands for subsidies as well as claims about the confiscation of their properties in Turkey. In a despatch to the Duke of Devonshire Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Plumer observed 'that members of the family should not be dependent on public relief

⁴¹ Philip Mansel, *Levant, Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean*, John Murray, London, 2011, 191.

No. 697
Date 20/5/26



DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT. (b)

I, the Undersigned, (d) Edward Sidney WHITTALL at present residing at Fort Riccasoli hereby declare that I am

(c) For a MARRIED WOMAN OR WIDOW (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of HUSBAND'S birth to follow.
the wife of Edward Sidney Whittall and that my husband is late husband was widow

a (d) British Subject by birth having been born at Smyrna on the 5th day of May 1888.

For PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
my paternal grandfather Charles Whittall having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at Liverpool on the 17th day of 1781

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, I hereby apply for a Passport for travelling to Cyprus Malta Greece for the purpose of residing there

(e) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports)

Date of presentation 20 MAY 1926
MALTA

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.
Age 38
Profession Accountant
Whether married or single Married
Domicile or ordinary place of residence Smyrna
Maiden name of widow or married woman:

Place of birth Smyrna
Date of birth 5th May 1888
Height 6 feet 8 inches
Colour of eyes Brown
Colour of hair Brown
Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities

I declare that I have no Passport already in my possession [other than ~~that~~ those which I annex hereto for cancellation] (f).

I further declare that I have made no other application for a Passport [since the last Passport was issued to me] (g).

(h) Signed E. Whittall

AND I, the Undersigned, (i) Doctor Paul Testa M.D. of N. 12, Strada Reato, Valletta hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration and description of the said Mr. Edward S. Whittall is true, and that I can FROM MY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of him vouch for him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

REFUGEE Signed P. Testa, M.D.

DESCRIPTION OF WIFE OF APPLICANT IF TO BE INCLUDED ON THE PASSPORT.
Name in full Dorothy Jane Whittall
Age 35
Profession none
Place of birth Smyrna
Date of birth 4th of October 1890
Maiden name Dorothy Jane Peacock
Height 5 feet 4 inches
Colour of eyes Brown
Colour of hair Brown
Visible distinguishing marks
Signature of wife of applicant D. J. Whittall

Children under the age of 16 if to be included on the Passport.
Christian Names and Surname — Date of Birth — Sex.
Iris Evelyn Whittall 21st April 1914 female
Dorothy Marian Whittall 25th January 1915 female
Monica Daisy Whittall 5th November 1918 female
Edward James Francis Whittall 20th December 1921 male
Helen Adelaide Whittall 18th January 1923 female

Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their applications be found to be untrue, they will be liable to prosecution.

NOTE: Two small (一寸) duplicate photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be submitted, one of which must be retained on the basis of the recommendations. (See Part 6 of Regulations overleaf.) In the case of children under the age of 16 years requiring a separate Passports, the parent or guardian must submit two such photographs.

A THREE PENNY Stamp should be affixed to the application form before production at the Passport Office.

Recommendations from Banking



CAUTION
*The attention of persons who are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact that it can only be signed from personal knowledge of the applicant, and not from information obtained from other persons.

Edward and Dorothy Whittall. Seventy members of the Whittall family, a great merchant family in Smyrna, ended up in Malta as refugees. This couple, together with their children Iris, Dorothy, Monica, Edward and Helen (born in Malta), moved on to Greece in 1926. Their passport application indicates that the passport was issued free of charge since they were refugees. Photo: The National Archives of Malta.

and charity.¹⁴² In time Herbert Whittall grew disheartened with the irreversibility of the flight from Smyrna and retreated to Tunisia where he died in 1929.

Upon taking over the administration in Smyrna, the Turkish Nationalists started hunting the Levantines who had collaborated with the Greek occupation. Walter Whittall, who arrived on the *Maine* on 15 September 1922 was identified as being one of them. He was accused of not only of spreading pro-Greek propaganda but of organising for the defence of British property in Bournabat, (today's Bornova) thus, according to Turkish sources, delaying by some hours the advance of Turkish

42 NAM/CSG01/330/22, Lord Plumer to Duke of Devonshire 17 November 1922.



15th April 1931.
Malta.

Sir

With most respectfully manner I am going to write you this letter to inform your gentleness that I am Francis Cilia Refugii without eyes blind man so here I cannot live because I cannot work no I and neither my wife because my wife is sick with Diabeter with the Doctor, so please I beg to your gentleness to pay to me the passage to go to Suirna, because here I cannot stop without any profit, so now I know that you are of good hearth and you make Charity please I hope that you will give me good answer with thanks.

I am your truly servant
Francis Cilia
Strada Nuova No. 60
Dospinea

Francis Cilia 'begging' the Governor's office to pay for his passage to be able to return to Smyrna. Photo: The National Archives of Malta.

15th April 1931
Malta

Sir

With most respectfully manner I am going to write you this letter to inform your gentleness that I am Francis Cilia Refugee without eyes blind man so here I cannot live without work no I and neither my wife because my wife is sick with Diabetee with the Doctor, so please I beg to your gentleness to pay to me the passage to go to Smirna, because here I cannot stop without any profit, so now I know that you are of good hearth and you make charity please I hope that you will give me good answer with thanks.

I am you truly servant

Francis Cilia

Strada Nuova No. 60

Cospicua

DEPARTURE OF REFUGEES

Left by the S.S. "LJUBLJANA" for Syracuse
on 20:1:23.

--

Name	Nationality	Profession	Address	Ship arrived
Wilkin Chars H	British	Marine-Engineer	Cottonera	S.S. Maine.
Agnes E	"	wife	"	"
Wilfred	"	clerk	"	"
Issigonis Hulda	"	"	"
Alex. C.	"	son	"	"
Keyøer Elsie A.	"	"	"

N.B. - Passages paid by Government - All proceeding to United Kingdom.

The record of the departure to England from Malta of child refugee Alex Issigonis, the future designer of the Mini, together with his mother Hulda. His father died in Malta and is buried at Ta' Braxia Cemetery.



9 December 1922. Former Ottoman Sultan Mehmed VI Vahideddin arrives in Malta on a British warship. The Turkish Grand National Assembly abolished the Sultanate on 1 November 1922 and expelled Mehmed VI from Istanbul. On the left is the sultan's 10-year-old son Prince Mehmed Ertuğrul Efendi. Photo: Giovanni Bonello Collection.

troops in Smyrna⁴³. Being under special surveillance, Whittall was advised by the Government to keep out of Turkey under the circumstances.

Although not from Smyrna, a very important refugee that arrived in Malta in 1922 was the Ottoman Sultan himself, Mehmet VI Vahideddin, the 36th and last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. He was compelled to abandon Turkey because of the Nationalist revolution led by Atatürk, who eventually became President of the Republic of Turkey in October 1923, like the Smyrna refugees. Evacuated from Constantinople on the British battleship *Malaya* on 17 November 1922, Sultan Mehmet VI landed at the Grand Harbour on 9 December⁴⁴. The Sultan stayed in Malta for a month as a guest of the British authorities, enjoying comforts most other refugees at the time could only wish for. Eventually he settled in San Remo where he died in May 1926.

Giorgio Peresso, graduated in history at the University of Malta. His Master's degree dissertation is entitled *The Enigma of Malta Italica - the saga of irredentism while it lasted*. He has authored a number of academic papers including some of which were presented at the Universities of Malta, Edinburgh Reading and Bristol. In November 2018 he presented the paper *The Role of Malta in the Smyrna Humanitarian Crisis of 1922* at the Levantine Heritage Foundation Conference held in Athens. He published the book *Giuseppe Donati and Umberto Calosso - Two Italian anti-fascist refugees in Malta*.

43 NAM/CSG01/320/22, 4 November 1922, Robert William Urquhat to Horace Rumbold, 24 October 1923.

44 Martin Gilbert, *A History of the Twentieth Century*, Volume One, Stoddart, Toronto, 644.

G.



R.

28.

By MAJOR GENERAL SIR MANLEY POWER, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, and of the Portuguese Military Order of the Tower and Sword, Lieutenant Governor and Commanding the Forces in the Island of Malta and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

To Robert William G. John Esq^r Treasurer to the Government of Malta.

YOU are hereby authorized and required, out of such Monies as are in or may come to your hands, appertaining to the Civil Government of this Island, to pay, or cause to be paid, to the undermentioned Individuals, or to their Assigns, the Sums affixed to their several Names; viz.—

- To Hector Greig Esq^r for the
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.....
- To William Sun
(for the Chief Secretary to Government).....
- To the Cashier of the Treasury.....
- Auditor of Civil Accounts.....
- Collector of Sea Customs.....
- Sum.....

Scudi.	Tari.	Grs.
6,575.	5.	6.
4,228.	5.	0.
1,788.	.	6.

16

- Collector of Port Dues and.....
- Collector of His Majesty's Land Revenue.....
- Collector of Excise on Wine and Spirits.....
- Vendue Master.....
- Collector of Judicial Fees.....
- Paymaster of the Royal Malta Fencibles.....
- Magistrate of the Markets.....

300.	.	.
220.	.	.
300.	7.	11.
522.	6.	.
54,822.	11.	13.

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

and for so doing this, with the acquittances of the said Individuals, or of their Assigns respectively, shall be to you sufficient Warrant and Discharge; the said Sums being on account of the *Fund* Establishment of the various Departments of this Island, for the Month of *July* instant.

Given at the Palace of Valletta, in the Island of Malta, this *Thirtieth*

A.

of Debentures bearing 4 per Cent annual Interest issued by
 Treasury of Government, on account of the Grain Department between
 the 1st & 31st July 1823

In whose favor	No of Debentures	In		Total
		Spt. Dollars	Curt. Money	
Richard Plasket	1	5000		5000
D.	2	5000		5000
D.	3		5000	5000
Frederick Hankey	4	6000		6000
D.	5		5000	5000
William Sim	6	6000		6000
Richard Plasket	7	5000		5000
D.	8	5000		5000
D.	9	5000		5000
James Toole	10	1000		1000
D.	11	1000		1000
D.	12	1000		1000
D.	13	1000		1000
D.	14	1000		1000
D.	15	3000		3000
D.	16	3000		3000
		\$ 40,000	10,000	50,000

Treasury 31st July 1823.

(signed) R. W. F. John
 Treasurer of Government

Comp^d
 J. M.

A true Copy

Statement of Profit or Loss or Other Comprehensive Income

		2021	2020
	Notes	€	€
Income			
Government Subvention	2	920,000	870,000
Funds from the Ministry for Gozo	3	67,614	85,059
Other Income	4	143,121	161,143
Total recurrent income		1,130,735	1,116,202
Operational costs	Stat I	(848,248)	(804,691)
Administrative expenses	Stat II	(183,161)	(215,198)
Finance costs		(23,691)	(23,748)
Net surplus before tax		76,642	72,565
Tax expense	6	-	-
Net surplus for the year		76,642	72,565

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	336,405	246,417
Right-of-use of asset	9	505,373	513,524
Total non-current assets		<u>841,778</u>	<u>759,941</u>
Trade and other receivables	10	5,160	1,834
Cash and cash equivalents	11	304,012	351,006
Total current assets		<u>309,172</u>	<u>352,840</u>
Total assets		<u>1,150,950</u>	<u>1,112,781</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Accumulated fund – recurrent vote and operating activities	12	285,974	209,332
Total equity		<u>285,974</u>	<u>209,332</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	13	472,608	473,817
Trade and other payables	14	148,719	291,080
Total non-current liabilities		<u>621,327</u>	<u>764,897</u>
Current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	13	37,350	24,900
Trade and other payables	14	206,299	112,460
Bank overdraft	11	-	1,192
Total current liabilities		<u>243,649</u>	<u>138,552</u>
Total liabilities		<u>864,976</u>	<u>903,449</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u>1,150,950</u>	<u>1,112,781</u>

Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund

	Recurrent Vote & Operating Activities	Accumulated Fund
	€	€
Balance at 1 January 2020	136,767	136,767
Comprehensive income		
Surplus for the year	72,565	72,565
Balance at 31 December 2020	209,332	209,332
Comprehensive income		
Profit for the year	76,642	76,642
Balance at 31 December 2021	285,974	285,974

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	Year ended 31 December	
		2021	2020
		€	€
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash used in operations		76,642	47,834
Interest expense to reconcile to surplus/ (deficit) from operations		23,691	23,748
Depreciation	8,9	41,935	82,065
Release of grant		(128,751)	(24,740)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus from operations		13,517	128,907
Movement in trade and other receivables		(3,326)	572
Movement in trade and other payables		(48,522)	137,847
Movement in lease liabilities		11,241	(1,152)
Net cash generated from operating activities		<hr/> (27,090) <hr/>	<hr/> 266,174 <hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8	(123,772)	(137,213)
Proceeds from government grants received		128,751	24,740
Net cash used in investing activities		<hr/> 4,979 <hr/>	<hr/> (112,473) <hr/>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments of interest classified as financing		<hr/> (23,691) <hr/>	<hr/> (23,748) <hr/>
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(45,802)	129,953
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		349,814	219,861
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	11	<hr/> 304,012 <hr/>	<hr/> 349,814 <hr/>

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and with the requirements of the National Archives Act, 2005.

Basis of measurement

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Gains and losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit.

Depreciation is charged to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful life as follows:

Improvements to premises	5%
Furniture and fittings	10%
Office equipment	10%
Climate control equipment	10%
Shelving	15%
Motor vehicles	12.5%
Computer equipment	20%
Computer software	33%
Passenger lift	15%

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables comprise amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of operations. If collection is expected in one year or less, they are classified as current assets. If not, they are presented as non-current assets.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the statement of financial position at face value. In the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes deposits held at call with banks and bank overdrafts.

Trade and other payables

Trade payables comprise obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

1. Accounting policies – continued

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and services in the ordinary course of the entity's activities. Revenue is shown net of returns, rebates, and discounts.

The entity recognizes revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and when specific criteria have been met for each of the entity's activities.

Revenue from services is recognized in the accounting period in which the services are rendered, by references to completion of the specific transaction assessed on the basis of the actual service provided as a proportion of the total services to be provided.

Government grants

Government grants consist of capital asset grants. These are recognized at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with. The fair value is credited to a deferred income account and is released to the statement of comprehensive income over the expected useful life of the relevant asset by equal annual installments.

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, 2005. In accordance with the selected accounting policy, these amounts are accounted for upon an accrual basis. During 2021, the subvention advanced by the Government amounted to €920,000 (2020: €870,000).

3. Funds from the 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. An amount of €67,614 was transferred in 2021 (2020: €85,059).

4. Other Income

Other income mainly relates to the release of a capital grant, photocopy services and digital images, sale of own publications and advertising in the newsletter.

5. Expenses by nature

	2021	2020
	€	€
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 8 and Note 9)	41,935	2,817
Wages and salaries (Note 7)	770,017	757,684
Rent	24,179	24,179
Other expenses	194,271	235,209
Total operating costs and administrative expenses	1,030,402	1,019,889

Auditor's remuneration amounted to €1,482 (2020: €2,817).

6. 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.

7. Wages and Salaries

	2021	2020
	€	€
Wages and salaries	718,052	709,127
Social security costs	51,965	48,557
	<u>770,017</u>	<u>757,684</u>

Average number of persons employed by the company during the year:

	2021	2020
Full-time	24	18
Administration	2	5
	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>

8. Property, plant and equipment

	Improvements to premises €	Furniture, fixtures & fittings €	Motor vehicles €	Computer & office, Equipment €	Acquisition of collections €	Passenger lift €	Total €
At 1 January 2021							
Cost or valuation	79,468	244,505	49,465	249,574	133,135	6,965	763,112
Accumulated depreciation	31,872	231,389	40,798	205,671	-	6,965	516,695
Net book amount	47,596	13,116	8,667	43,903	133,135	-	246,417
Year ended 31 December 2021							
Opening net book amount	47,596	13,116	8,667	43,903	133,135	-	246,417
Additions	730	22,868	-	29,077	-	71,097	123,772
Adjustments to depreciation	(9)	18,645	3,708	3,941	-	-	26,285
Depreciation charge	(3,986)	(9,120)	(2,475)	(42,010)	-	(2,478)	(60,069)
Closing net book amount	44,331	45,509	9,900	34,911	133,135	68,619	336,405
At 31 December 2021							
Cost or valuation	80,198	267,373	49,465	278,651	133,135	78,062	886,884
Accumulated depreciation	(35,867)	(221,864)	(39,565)	(243,740)	-	(9,443)	(550,479)
Net book amount	44,331	45,509	9,900	34,911	133,135	68,619	336,405

9. Right-of-use of Asset

	Land €
At 1 January 2021	
Cost or valuation	529,826
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(16,302)</u>
Net book amount	<u>513,524</u>
Year ended 31 December 2021	
Opening net book amount	513,524
Additions	-
Depreciation charge	<u>(8,151)</u>
Closing net book amount	<u>505,373</u>
At 31 December 2021	
Cost or valuation	529,826
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(24,453)</u>
Closing net book amount	<u>505,373</u>

10. Trade and Other Receivables

	2021	2020
	€	€
Current		
Prepayments	5,160	1,834
	<u>5,160</u>	<u>1,834</u>

11. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Cash in hand	878	70
Cash at bank	<u>303,134</u>	<u>350,936</u>
Cash and cash equivalents (excluding bank overdrafts)	304,012	351,006
Bank overdrafts	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,192)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>304,012</u>	<u>349,184</u>

12. Accumulated Fund

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.

13. Lease liabilities

	2021	2020
	€	€
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	<u>472,608</u>	<u>473,817</u>
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	<u>37,350</u>	<u>24,900</u>

14. Trade and Other Payables

	2021	2020
	€	€
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred income – government grants	148,719	291,080
	<u>148,719</u>	<u>291,080</u>
	2021	2020
	€	€
Current		
Trade payables	29,857	13,852
Accruals	38,635	27,135
Deferred income – government grants	137,807	71,473
	<u>206,299</u>	<u>112,460</u>

The deferred income from government grants relates to money received/receivable to finance capital expenditure from funds received from the capital vote and shall be recognised as income over the useful life of the asset.

Supplementary Statements

	Statement	
Operating Costs	I	
Administrative Expenses	II	
Statement I		
Operating Costs		
	2021	2020
	€	€
Salaries and wages	718,052	654,475
Water and electricity	12,044	10,235
Insurance	1,732	2,259
Telecommunication expenses	22,025	16,052
Cleaning expenses	16,190	18,588
Office expenses	11,287	1,739
Repairs and maintenance costs	23,983	19,278
Depreciation	41,935	82,065
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating costs	847,248	804,691
Statement II		
Administrative Expenses		
	2021	2020
	€	€
Auditor's remuneration	1,482	2,817
Equipment hire	467	2,877
Motor vehicle running expenses	1,982	17
Printing, postage and stationery	8,866	13,905
Rent	24,179	24,179
Salaries and wages	51,965	103,209
Staff related expenses	1,929	3,625
Subscriptions and brochures	10,680	14,347
Travelling costs	4,508	2,182
Professional fees	60,224	25,637
Records management unit expenses	6,514	4,264
Conservation lab expenses	2,922	5,125
Miscellaneous expenses	6,328	7,180
Bank charges	1,115	875
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total administrative expenses	183,161	210,239

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TELEGRAM

From Officer Administering the Government, Malta.
To Secretary of State for the Colonies.

15th September 1922.

Transport MAINE landed this morning 409 refugees
from Smyrna of whom small proportion only are
Maltese. Arrangements made for accommodation and
subsistence.

460 Maltese and 90 other British arriving by
BAVARIAN on Saturday.

Particulars will be sent by post.

Presume you are kept informed by Admiralty.

ROBERTSON.