

J. Azzopardi: *Archives of the Cathedral of Malta Misc. 32A:1313-1529; the study and text of an 18th Century index of transcripts.* Malta Study Center of the Hill Monastic Library St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1977.

This is an important addition to the series published by the Malta Study Center of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA. This Center is doing sterling service to Malta in microfilming all the existing documents in the Cathedral Museum of Malta; beside this the Center is also publishing scholarly monographs dealing with these archives.

The present publication falls into three main parts: in the first part Rev. John Azzopardi, the curator of the same Museum, traces the history of transcripts and indices in the eighteenth century; this is followed by five appendices giving details about the contents of MS32A. A. Luttrell studies the earliest documents transcribed in the Cathedral Archives, Mdina, 1316-1372. Finally the full transcription of MS32A: *Index Notitiarum 1313-1529* form the third and final part of this publication.

Through a careful examination of the registers of the Cathedral Chapter, Fr. Azzopardi gives us an outline of the history of this intense activity started by Canon Gian Battista Borg in 1758. Besides transcribing and indexing these documents, scattered throughout the Island, the Archives themselves were organized and systematized. This activity helped to put Maltese historiography, still in its infancy, on a firmer footing. Dr. A. Luttrell in his highly technical study, besides providing the reader with much useful information of a technical nature, evaluates the transcripts as to their accuracy or otherwise and gives us information as to the location of the originals and their use by subsequent historians.

The transcription of the Manuscript itself follows. Fr. Azzopardi himself describes the method followed in preparing the transcription of this text. He kept to the original except for some necessary modifications, such as the extension of the many abbreviations or corrections of the compiler's mistakes in the indication of the volume number. Going even cursorily through this index one notes what rich material still untapped is there in the Cathedral Archives for the history of Malta; and this is the more evident since the index is in a chronological order. Indeed one would think that we have a chronicle, not an index of MSS.

For those interested in the history of the Maltese language I am reproducing these two items: (a) – '15, iv, 1520: Lettera Regia al Vice-Rè di non mandar in Malta Sindicatori che non sono atti, e saputo della lingua (sic.) Maltese' (page 87) and (b) 3 – ix 1522: Vicerègia che i Sindicatori che non sanno la lingua Maltese prendano un interprete che sa la lingua, ed in sequela il Sindicatore Giovanni Aloisio Carbone prese per interprete il Notaro Giacobbo Bondino.' (page 91).

C. SANT