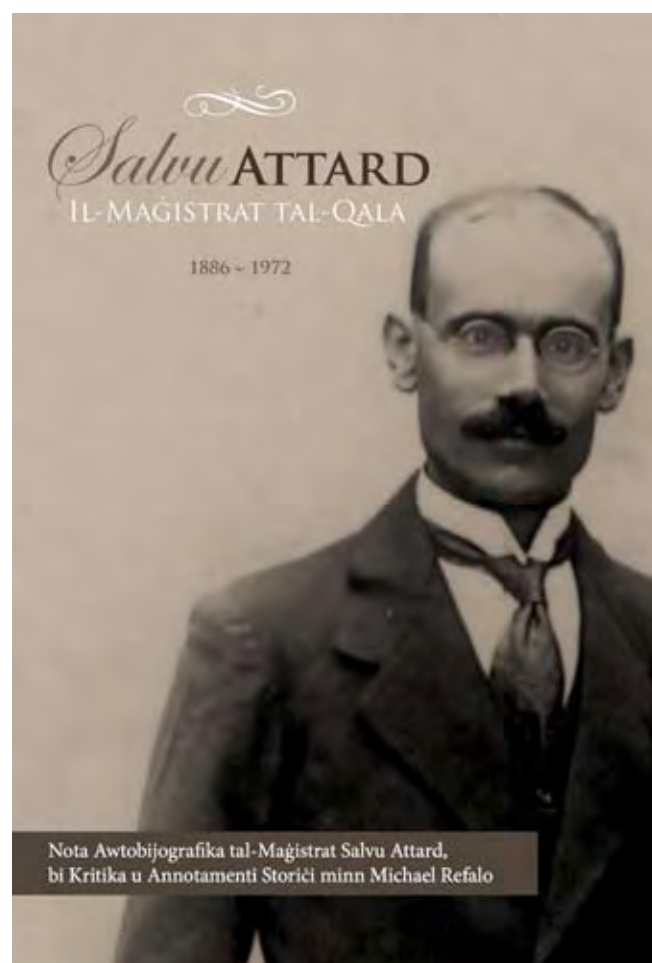


Salvu Attard. Il-Maġistrat tal-Qala 1886-1972. *Nota Awtobijografika tal-Maġistrat Salvu Attard, bi Kritika u Annotamenti Storici minn Michael Refalo*

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH CALLEJA

Michael Refalo,
Local Council, Qala, 2010, pp. 77.



This booklet, authored by Michael Refalo and published by the Qala Local Council, reproduces an autobiographical note written by Salvu Attard, in retirement after having practised as a lawyer in his native village, entered government service as Crown Counsel and Advocate for the poor in Gozo as well as tax assessor. The short writing concentrates upon Attard's early years and the problems he encountered throughout his life in

order to assert himself. Refalo has left the original writing, limiting himself to furnish footnotes to place Attard's writing in its proper historical perspective. Thus, for example, although Attard himself makes no explicit reference to the politico-religious disputes – both of which he lived through – the footnotes provide the background against which the protagonist sought to better his educational and, ultimately, his social condition.

The writing is preceded by a short essay dealing with the importance of (auto)biography and history and a critical commentary. The former essay makes the point that autobiographical and biographical writings, contribute towards the writing of history. If these, then refer to the common people, rather than the more famous personages, their contribution to the writing of social history is vital.

The latter provides a general comment on the autobiographical writing observing how, in retirement, Attard becomes conscious of his educational and social success.

The boy from the village of Qala returns there in retirement as a respected and admired lawyer.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.