

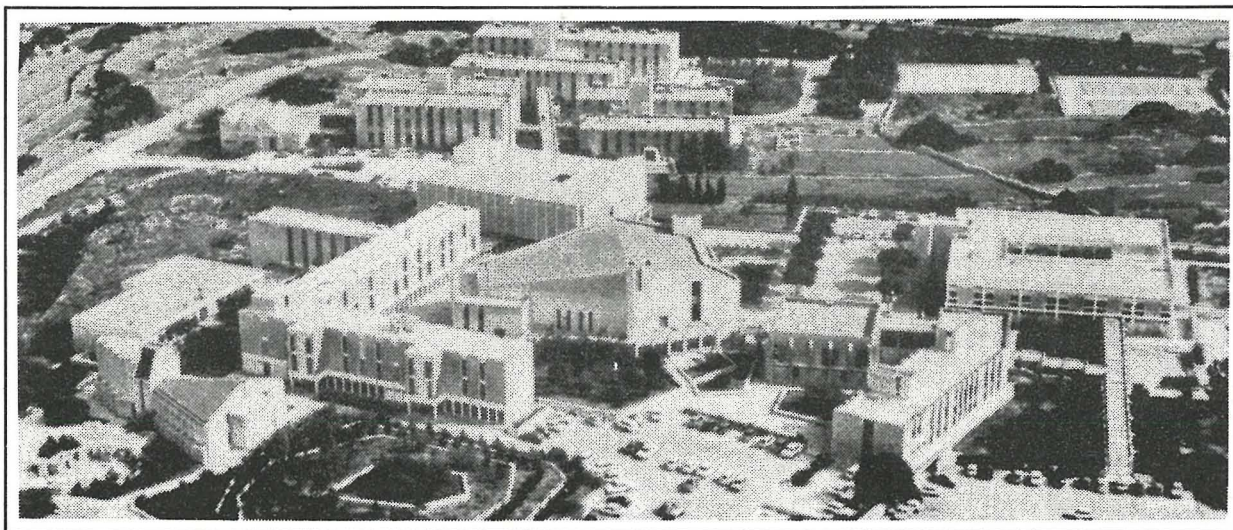


# University of Malta

# Gazette

Volume 22 No: 4

December 1990



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## OPENING DAY CEREMONY

The Opening Day Ceremony of the academic year 1990/91 was held at the Humanities Forecourt on Monday, 1st October, 1990.

The celebration of Holy Mass by the Chaplain, Rev. Paul Pace S.J. was followed by an address by the Rector, Professor E.J. Borg Costanzi, who welcomed the record 1,100 new full-time students. When commenting on the distribution of these students in the various courses, the Rector expressed his satisfaction that many of the students were going into areas which the country needed most, such as education, business management, accountancy, public policy, engineering and the sciences. However, he regretted that not enough students had applied to follow courses in the nursing and social studies areas. He appealed for more recruitment of university staff and urged students to face problems at the university by analysis and with a will to work together towards solving them.

Students were also welcomed by Notary Stephen Attard, President of the *Kunsill Studenti Universitarji*.

## FOUNDATION DAY AND CONVOCATION FOR THE CONFERMENT OF DEGREES

A Ceremony commemorating Foundation Day was held at the Sir Temi Zammit Hall of the University, Msida on Thursday, 22nd November, 1990. The origins of the University date back to the end of the sixteenth century when the Collegium Melitense was founded in 1592. The Ceremony was followed by a Convocation for the Conferment of Degrees.

His Grace the Metropolitan Archbishop, Mgr. Joseph Mercieca, celebrated Holy Mass and intoned the *Te Deum*.

During the Graduation Ceremony, the Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi conferred one hundred and ninety-nine (199) degrees and awarded forty-two (42) diplomas. The Ceremony was presided by the Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Paul Heywood. The Minister of Education and the Interior, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici and his Grace the Archbishop assisted at the Ceremony.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts in Socio-Legal Studies was conferred for the first time on fourteen students.

The following degrees were conferred:

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Sponsor: Dr R. Ellul

#### B.Sc.

Lawrence ATTARD  
David BRINCAT\*  
Karl BRINCAT

Saviour BUSUTTIL  
Arthur CACHIA  
Nicholas CALLUS

Mario CAMILLERI  
Adrian CARDONA  
Isabelle CILIA

Alexandra COPPERSTONE  
Maria CUTAJAR

Joyce DIMECH  
Joseph DOUBLET  
Liliana FALZON

Damian GATT  
Anna Maria GIGLIO  
Maria Pia GIGLIO

Bertha GINGELL  
Erika LENICKER  
Alfred MICALLEF

Stefan MIFSUD\*  
Joanne MUSCAT

Lorraine NAUDI  
Michael RIZZO\*  
Julian SANT FOURNIER

Adriana SPITERI  
Mario SPITERI  
Anthony SULTANA

Robert VASSALLO AGIUS  
Joseph VELLA  
Marion VELLA

John WOOD  
Nicholas ZARB

\* in absentia

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Sponsor: Professor A. Bonanno

**B.A.**

Annelise ABELA  
Joseph AGIUS  
Roderick AGIUS

Carmel ATTARD  
Judie AZZOPARDI  
Mario AZZOPARDI

Barbara BALZAN  
Albert BELL  
Patricia BONELLO

Christina BORG  
Stephen BORG  
Alan BUGEJA

Mary BUGEJA  
John BUSUTTIL  
Petra BUSUTTIL

Mary CACHIA  
Leonard CALLUS  
Claire CAMILLERI

Jeannette CAMILLERI  
Adrian CASHA\*  
Joanna CASSAR

Josanne CASSAR  
Natasha CASSAR  
Johanna CEFAL  
Noreen CESAREO

Josianne CONTI  
Christine COPPERSTONE  
Charlotte CORTIS

Paul CUTAJAR  
Charles DALLI  
Silvio DEBONO\*

John DEMANUELE  
Aldo FARRUGIA  
Natalino FENECH

Emmanuel FIORENTINO  
Johann GALEA  
Marco GALEA

Simon GATT\*  
Maureen GAUCI  
Patricia GAUCI MAISTRE

Joanna GERA  
Dorianne GRECH  
Adrian GRIMA

Brigid GRIMA  
Fiona MALLIA  
Michelle MARMARA

Sandra MERCIECA  
Simon MERCIECA  
Martin MICALLEF  
Frank MIFSUD

Moira MIFSUD  
Alfred MUSU  
Anthony PACE\*

David PACE  
Claire PARIS  
Nicola PORTELLI

Sergio PORTELLI  
Patrick PSAILA  
George SAID

Carmen SAMMUT  
Patrick SAMMUT  
Kevin SCIBERRAS

Ian SCICLUNA  
Mark SCICLUNA  
Nathalie SULTANA

Caroline THEUMA  
Francesco VALLETTA  
Claire VASSALLO

Alan VELLA  
Mark VELLA  
Fiona ZAMMIT

Lina ZAMMIT  
Rose Anne ZAMMIT  
Vincent ZAMMIT

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS)****B.A. (Hons.)**

Mary Anne AZZOPARDI\*  
Bernard CARUANA  
Anna Maria CASHA  
Joanne DARMANIN

Colette GUILLAUMIER\*  
Anna Maria LAURENTI  
Claude MANGION\*

Christiane SULLIVAN\*  
Anne Marie VELLA  
Marilyn VELLA\*

**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (HONOURS)**

Sponsor: Professor C.J. Farrugia

**B.Ed. (Hons.)**

Stephen ATTARD  
Anne Marie ELLUL

**BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (HONOURS)**

Sponsor: Prof. G.E. Camilleri

**B.Ch.D. (Hons.)**

John ATTARD MONTALDO  
John BRINCAT  
Evan T. CAMILLERI  
David DALLI

Charles FENECH  
Yvette FLERI  
Colin GAMBIN

Kok Heng LOH\*  
Miriam PULIS  
Mario ZAMMIT

**B.A. (SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES) and DIPLOMA OF LEGAL PROCURATOR**

Sponsor: Professor R. Cremona

Gerald BONELLO  
Adrian BORG  
Anton BUHAGIAR\*Mary GALEA DEBONO  
Joseph M. GIALANZÈ  
Rowena GRIMAMario MIFSUD TOMMASI\*  
Noel SCERRI\*  
Rose SCIBERRASEmanuel CAMILLERI  
Hilda ELLUL MERCERVera LUNGARO MIFSUD  
Sandra MIFSUD BONNICI

Helen VALENZIA

**B.A. (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)**

Sponsor: Mgr. Prof. V. Borg

Margaret ABELA  
Nathalie ABELA  
Josanne ATTARDMary Adele CAMILLERI  
Joseph DOGGETT  
Joan EBEJERAlfred SAID  
Michael SCHIAVONE  
Louis THOMPSONNicholas BALDACCHINO  
Michael BEZZINA  
Mary Rita BUTTIGIEG  
Claude CALLEJAPaul GALEA  
Anna MAGRO  
Astrid MILLER  
Irene MUSCATEdward TORPIANO  
Anthony ZAMMIT  
Claudia ZAMMIT**BACHELOR IN SACRED THEOLOGY**

Sponsor: Mgr. Prof. V. Borg

**S.Th.B.**David CAMILLERI  
Vincent Gordon REFALO  
Mario ZAMMIT SATARIANO\***LICENTIATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY**

Sponsor: Mgr. Prof. V. Borg

**S.Th.L.**Alfred GRECH\*  
Paul VELLA**DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

Sponsor: Professor F.F. Fenech

**M.D.**Stephen ABELA  
Mark AGIUS\*  
Rita O. AGIUSFrancis FARRUGIA  
Marco FARRUGIA  
Martin FARRUGIAPatricia SALIBA  
Rosalie SANT  
Jean Karl SOLERAlexandra BALDACCHINO  
Hermann BORG  
Joseph CASSARAngela GALEA  
Kenneth GRIXTI  
John LA ROSAMoira SPITERI  
Paul SULTANA  
Josephine TANTI  
Mark VASSALLOCorinne CIAPPARA  
Valerie CURMI  
Raymond DEBONO  
Elizabeth FARRUGIAFranco MERCIECA  
Louise MICALLEF  
Joseph MIZZI  
Robert PORTELLIAntoine VELLA  
Antoine XUEREB  
Maria Rose ZAMMIT  
Patrick ZAMMIT

The following diplomas were also awarded:

#### DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES

Joseph CAMILLERI  
Marielou DALLI

Joseph GERADA  
Louise MIFSUD\*

Josephine TONNA

#### DIPLOMA IN LABOUR STUDIES

Joyce AZZOPARDI  
Leslie BONNICI  
Carmen CAMILLERI

Edward D'AGOSTINO  
Nunzio R. DARMANIN\*  
Alexander D. FALZON\*

Josephine SULTANA  
Anna XUERE  
Manwel ZAHRA

Joseph CARUANA  
Charles CASSAR

Alfred MICALLEF  
Marianne SLADDEN

Alphonse ZAMMIT  
Louis ZAMMIT

#### DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Louis MALLIA\*

#### DIPLOMA IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Charles ATTARD  
Emanuel BARTOLO  
Victoria BONELLO

Patrick CARTER  
Paula DIMECH

Sandro SCHEMBRI ADAMI  
Stephen VELLA

#### HIGHER DIPLOMA (FACULTY OF SCIENCE)

Rudolph TABONE

### EXTRACT FROM GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES – 1991

#### UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

In a period of rapid development, embracing substantial increases in the number of enrolled students and a major building programme planned to provide the necessary corresponding amenities, the University expresses a will:

- (i) to create the right atmosphere in which the present young generation may develop their abilities fully to generate a responsible and learned society;
- (ii) to evaluate the academic contents of its courses;
- (iii) to meet the needs of the public and private sectors, within the availability of its resources.

The enrolment of more than 1,000 students in October 1990, is proof of the University's commitment towards these aims. The ability of facing the present reality of providing valid courses in ten different Faculties and in a number of newly constituted Institutes, is in itself a reflection of this institution's willingness to adopt innovative measures in solving immediate problems.

#### Staff recruitment and further development

The increase in student numbers and the need to strengthen the departments, have led to a recruitment programme which during the academic year 1989/90 yielded seventy-two new appointments. Furthermore, an increase in the Staff Development Vote enabled the University to award twenty-three scholarships (long and short-term) to members of staff enabling them to upgrade their academic qualifications in overseas Universities.

The conditions of employment of members of staff are under review but various efforts to attract and retain suitably qualified staff have not always been successful. The measured improvement in the remuneration paid to academic members of staff during 1990 has met some immediate needs but the outstanding claims by all the staff unions are still under consideration. As regards technical staff, the University has succeeded in attracting graduate recruits. These no doubt welcomed the improved conditions obtained by this group of employees during 1990.

**Registration of students**

The enrolment of students in October 1990 followed the pattern of recent entries except for a higher intake in the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy and slight increases in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and in Science

The number of students admitted to the respective Faculties and Institutes as follows:

**Entry 1990 – DAY COURSES****Faculties**

Architecture and Civil Engineering	46
Arts	174
Dental Surgery	12
Economics, Management and Accountancy	153
Education	106
Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	97
Medicine and Surgery	
M.D.	50
Pharmacy	82
Science	78
Theology	7
Institute of Health Care	72
	<u>877</u>
Post-Graduate Studies	65
Foundation Studies	168
Total	<u>1,110</u>

**Completion of Courses**

412 students completed their studies during 1990 and as graduates have enriched the areas of employment with their attained knowledge and acquired skills.

**Current Course Registrations**

Architecture & Civil Engineering	BE & A	100	
			100
Arts	BA	300	
	BA (Hons)	38	
	Dip. App. Soc. Stud.	32	
			370
Dental Surgery	B.Ch.D.	23	
			23
Economics, Management & Accountancy	BA Accty	78	
	BA Bus. Man.	34	
	B. Comm.	309	
			421
Education	B. Ed. (Hons.)	493	
			493
Law	LL.D	186	
	LP	14	
			200
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering	B. Elec. Eng.	63	
	B. Mech. Eng.	44	
	B. Eng.	229	
			336
Medicine & Surgery	M.D.	196	
	B. Pharm	199	
			395
Science	B. Sc	162	
			162
Theology	S.Th.L.	6	
	S.Th.B.	23	
	Dip. Past. Th.	1	
			30
Institute of Health Care	B. Sc. Nursing Studies	55	
	Dip. in Nursing	32	
	Dip. in Midwifery	20	
			107
			<u>2,637</u>
Post-Graduate Course		109	
			109
Foundation Studies		168	
			<u>2,746</u>
			168
<b>Total</b>			<u><b>2,914</b></u>

### Courses Outside Normal Hours

There are also 359 students pursuing evening courses in the Faculties of Theology (45), Arts (122), Education (50), Science (72) and Economics, Management and Accountancy (70).

### Building Programme

Major continuing projects include the building of extensions to:

- (i) the Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics Laboratories, Lecturing and Office Faculties;
- (ii) the Library
- (iii) the Humanities Complex.

Projects starting in 1991 cover several faculties and priority is being given to Engineering Laboratories, multi-user Lecture Centres.

Architecture and Civil Engineering facilities (such as Design Studios, Drawing Offices, Conference Rooms), Outdoor and Indoor Sports facilities, and Biology Laboratories.

Extensions to the Administration Building and University House are direly needed and plans are being made for the necessary works to commence in 1991.

The phasing of all the projects and the day-to-day maintenance of campus buildings, services and amenities will have to be carried out in a way that the whole site does not resemble a huge derelict area. Nor should the building programme impair the activities of the University, especially during the academic semesters. All the required expertise will have to be drawn upon effectively, with a view of harmonising the entire master plan to provide the necessary structure in time for even larger yearly intake later in this decade.

### Equipment

All laboratories in the medical, dental, scientific, engineering and pharmaceutical departments will continue to be equipped with modern and advanced equipment that befits faculties aiming at the improvement of student facilities. The period of studies at the University will thus be beneficial to all concerned and graduates will be in a better position to find the right level of employment they have aimed at.

### Development and Future Goals

Recent investment in University education has resulted in rapid academic growth. Such development has to be nurtured and maintained. New areas of learning are costly but they are worth the attention and funds they are obtaining. Besides the traditional professions, Malta's requirements in the fields of Nursing, Engineering, Science, Computer Studies, Management, Commerce and Education continue to make demands on the University to provide first-class graduates in these essential disciplines. The strong cultural base built over centuries of history, now requires technological advances that will lead to prosperity and success.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE INTERIOR

Vote 14 Recurrent

Details of Expenditure	Actual	Approved	
	Expenditure	Estimate	Estimate
	1989	1990	1991
	Lm	Lm	Lm
18. University of Malta	1,986,571	2,600,000	3,250,000
19. Stipend to University Students	1,139,036	1,924,000	3,018,000

## EDUCATION

Vote XIII Capital

Details of Expenditure	Actual	Approved	
	Expenditure	Estimate	Estimate
	1989	1990	1991
	Lm	Lm	Lm
8. University of Malta	532,384	2,000,000	1,750,000
1989-91 - Purchase of computer systems and equipment for the various Faculties and Institutes; construction works.			

**FACULTY OF LAWS**  
**B.A. (SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES) DISSERTATIONS**

<b>Name of Student</b>	<b>Title of Short Dissertation</b>	<b>Examiners</b>
BONELLO Gerald	The Family Court: Proposals for New Procedures	*Professor Renè Cremona Dr Jacqueline Grima (S/A) Dr Anthony E. Borg Barthet
BORG Adrian	The Award of Compensation for Non-Material Damages in Human Rights Cases	*Professor Ian Refalo Dr Vanni Bonello Dr Mark Said
BUHAGIAR Anton	The prescription of Criminal Action	*Dr Silvio Camilleri Dr Vincent DeGaetano Hon. Dr Joseph Brincat
CAMILLERI Emanuel	Children of a Lesser God: The legal, sociological and psychological aspects	*Professor Mario Vassallo Dr Ruth Farrugia (S/A) Ms Maureen Cole
ELLUL MERCER Hilda	The Legal Grounds of Annulment of Marriage	*Dr Renzo Porsella Flores Dr Tonio Mallia Rev. Dr Joseph Bajada
GALEA DEBONO Mary	The Legal Grounds for personal separation in Malta and some EEC countries – A Comparative Study	*Professor Renè Cremona Dr G. Caruana Demajo (S/A) Mr Justice Dr Franco Depasquale
GIALANZÈ Joseph M.	Violence towards the Elderly	*Professor Mario Vassallo Dr Vincent DeGaetano Ms Maureen Cole
GRIMA Rowena	Reconciliation Mechanisms – State and Voluntary Organisations	*Professor Mario Vassallo Dr Tonio Mallia (S/A) Mr Alfred Zammit Montebello
LUNGARO MIFSUD Vera	Grounds for Personal separation – Case-law	*Professor Renè Cremona Dr G. Caruana Demajo (S/A) Mr Justice Dr Albert Manchè
MIFSUD BONNÍCI Sandra	The Patrimonial Rights of the Wife	*Dr R. Porsella Flores Dr Jacqueline Grima Dr Elena Tanti Burlo
MIFSUD TOMMASI Mario	A Study on the legal forms of Punishments	*Dr V. DeGaetano Mag. Dr Silvio Meli Dr Saviour Demicoli
SCERRI Noel	The reconciliation process. The Lawyer	*Professor Renè Cremona Dr Tonio Mallia (S/A) Mr Alfred Zammit Montebello
SCIBERRAS Rose	Stress on the Maltese Family	*Professor Mario Vassallo Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace Rev. Dr Carmel Tabone
VALENZIA Helen	Reconciliation Mechanism in Separation Proceedings; The Role of the Second Hall Judge	*Professor Mario Vassallo Dr Tonio Mallia (S/A) Mr Alfred Zammit Montebello

\*Supervisor

S/A – Specialist Assistant

## NEWMAN CENTENARY YEAR

### “THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY – TODAY AND IN MALTA”

Following a suggestion from the Minister of Education, a seminar was held in order to review the relevance of Cardinal Newman's “Idea of a University” in Malta today on Thursday, 6th December, 1990 at the Sir Temi Zammit Hall.

The seminar was introduced by the Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi. A leading Newman specialist, Professor Alan Hill considered the topic from a universal point of view; a philosopher, Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, who is also Chairman of the Malta Council for Science and Technology, and a mathematician who is also a distinguished historian, Professor Stanley Fiorini brought the subject into a more local focus.

The discussion under the Chairmanship of the University Librarian, Dr Paul Xuereb, was concluded by the Minister of Education and the Interior, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici.

## GENERAL

### Visiting Lecturers at the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering

In October 1990, Mr Norman Keith Scott, M.A., B.Arch. (Hons.), Dip. CD. (L'pool), M.Arch. (MIT), FRIBA, MRTPI, CBE was invited to the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering to lecture to students about problems concerning new developments in historic cities.

Mr Scott's visit was intended to introduce students to the contextual problems facing architects involved in designing new buildings in sensitive historical environments as is often the case in Malta.

Another visiting lecturer was Mr Thomas Meyer-Wieser of *Schwarz-Meyer Architekten* of Zurich, who directed a studio for senior students concerned with “Five leading ideas of the Modern Movement”.

### Exhibition of Water Colour Paintings

In the period 30th November to 21st December, the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering held an exhibition of water colour paintings by abstract artist Mr Alfred Chircop at the foyer of the Sir Temi Zammit Hall of the University. The aim of this initiative was to involve itself directly in the cultural life of the Maltese Islands. Mr Chircop is a lecturer in Design at the Faculty.

### Seminars

On Saturday, 6th October, 1990, the Department of Biology held a one-day seminar on “Studies in Marine Biology” at the Science Lecture Theatre.

The Department of Romance Languages in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute organized a number of seminars in October and November.

On 25th October, Professor Roberto Pazzi spoke on “*La nuova narrativa italiana*”, while on 12th, 13th and 14th November, Professor Gianni Carlo Vigorelli held a seminar on

Alessandro Manzoni discussing the themes of “*Il cattolicesimo di Manzoni*”, “*Manzoni, il narratore e il poeta*”; and “*Attualità del Manzoni*”.

On Wednesday, 12th December, 1990, the Student-Teachers and Graduates of the Faculty of Education held a seminar on “Humanizing Our Schools . . . Committing Ourselves to Change” at the Sir Temi Zammit Hall.

### Lectures

In October, Dr William Vas Dias, B.Sc. (Hons.), Ph.D., Nutrition Expert – U.K. held three lectures on “Nutrition and Heart Disease”. These lectures were organized by the Department of Pharmacy and The Institute of Health Care in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists.

On Thursday, 22nd November, 1990, Professor Ilkka Orama, Head of the Department of Musicology, Sibelius Academy of Music, Finland gave a public lecture on “Artistic and Aesthetic Value of Music” at the Science Lecture Theatre.

On Friday, 30th November, 1990, Professor Tibor Deak, of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Horticulture and Food Industry, Budapest, Hungary gave a lecture on “The Use of Yeasts in Biotechnology” at the Science Lecture Theatre.

This lecture was organized by the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University and the Malta Council for Science and Technology.

On Tuesday, 11th December, 1990, Dr E.W. Anderson, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Durham delivered a public lecture on “The Gulf Crisis: Its implications for the Mediterranean” at the Science Lecture Theatre.

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

*All matters for publication in the next issue of the Gazette  
should be sent to the Registrar not later than  
the 21st February, 1991*

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# UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GAZETTE

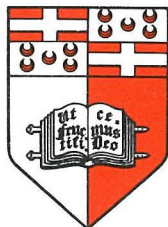
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SUPPLEMENT No. 5

Volume 22 No. 4

DECEMBER 1990

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Convocation  
for the  
CONFERMENT OF AN HONORARY DEGREE  
on  
H.E. Dr Richard von Weizsäcker

The Church of the University, Valletta  
Tuesday, 23rd October, 1990

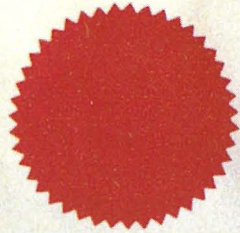


# Universitas Studiorum Melitensis

De Praeclarissimo Doctorem RICARDUM VON WEIZÄCKER Foederatae Germanicae Reipublicae Praesidem memorabili faustoque plausu ab Auctoritatibus Civilibus univ-  
 ersoique populo in Insula Melita hospitium insignem receptum quo tempore maioris momenti  
 ponderantur deliberationes quae sortem utriusque nationis futuram infra fines unius  
 consociatae Europae configurare valebunt honorare cupientes, eximiam suam eruditionem  
 hanc communem prorens agnoscentes, constantem suam atque inafessam operam qua rerum  
 civilium ac publicarum gestioni rationem proferere, praestantia religionis Christianae  
 principia sustinere, nationis Germanicae unionem fovere, pacem in caelo terarum orbe  
 promovere incessanter studuisti immo et adhuc assidue studes quam maxime aestimantes,  
 Universitatis Melitensis et Senatus et Concilium De dignissimum censuit qui inter Iuris-  
 prudentiae Doctores eiusdem Almae Matris inscribitis libenterque decreverunt ut huiusmodi  
 laureae doctoralis insignibus accoreris.

Melitae, ex aedibus Universitatis

a. d. X. Kal. Nov. MCM. MCMLXXX



*L. Beerl*  
 a. Lipsellis

*Edm. J. G. Castagn*  
 Rector

The Scroll of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) presented to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany

**CONVOCATION FOR THE  
CONFERMENT OF AN HONORARY DEGREE  
ON  
H.E. DR RICHARD VON WEIZSÄCKER**

The Convocation for the Conferment of an Honorary Degree – Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) – on H.E. Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, was held at the Church of the University, Valletta on Tuesday, 23rd October, 1990.

The ceremony, presided by the Chancellor Judge Maurice Caruana Curran, was attended by the Hon. Prime Minister Dr Edward Fenech Adami, by the Hon. Minister of Education and the Interior, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, German officials and members of the staff of the University.

The Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi, conferred the degree on H.E. Dr R. von Weizsäcker. The honorary graduand was sponsored by Professor Renè Cremona, Dean of the Faculty of Laws. The resolution approved by the Council of the University read as follows:

“Whereas a resolution has been passed by the Senate recommending that the Degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) be conferred on:

**His Excellency Dr RICHARD von WEIZSÄCKER**  
President of the Federal Republic of Germany

in recognition of his outstanding scholarship, his commitment to political life and religious ideals, and his unstinting efforts towards German unification and world peace;

Whereas this University feels that it should celebrate the unique event of the State Visit to Malta of His Excellency Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, coming as it does at a time of momentous decisions affecting the future of our two peoples within a united Europe;

And whereas this Council acclaims His Excellency Dr Richard von Weizsäcker as a most worthy man to receive the Degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) of this ancient University;

Now therefore, by virtue of the powers vested in us by the Law and Statutes governing this University, we the Council do hereby approve the aforesaid resolution of the Senate and order that the said distinction of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) be conferred on:

**His Excellency Dr RICHARD von WEIZSÄCKER**

on the 23rd day of October of the year of Our Lord, 1990.”



*The Rector embracing the Honorary Graduand as an expression of welcome to the Body of Graduates of this University.*



*The University Chancellor presenting the scroll and extending his congratulations to H.E. Dr Richard von Weizsäcker.*

ORATION BY PROFESSOR JOSEPH M. GANADO  
Emeritus Professor of Civil Law

*The following oration was delivered by Professor Joseph M. Ganado, Emeritus Professor of Civil Law at the Conferment Ceremony of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on the President of the Federal Republic of Germany:*

In 1950, as a young member of the academic staff, I was asked to deliver an Oration in a Graduation Ceremony of this University. We were then still living among the ravages of war and I started the Oration by expressing the following thoughts:

This year is especially significant, because we find ourselves exactly in the middle of the 20th century and we should ponder for a while not only on the wonderful discoveries which this century has seen but also on the squalid catastrophes which have burst upon mankind. We may ask, not without some misgiving, whether the remaining moiety of this century will be an age in which the marvels of science will be employed solely for the benefit of humanity or whether they will be used to wreak such havoc in man's life that it will be necessary to deprecate what man has made of man''.

I have now been invited to deliver a second Oration which happens to coincide with my retirement from the position of Dean of the Faculty of Laws and from my effective post at this University. It is indeed a great honour and a great pleasure for me to voice the feelings of the Members of the Academic Body of this University and to convey in the name of our Alma Mater a profound salutation to the illustrious head of a friendly country, His Excellency Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker, who is at present honouring Malta with a visit. We wish to welcome and honour him and through him honour also the great country which he represents. We too are privileged that he is going to be a graduate of this University and welcome him in our midst.

Since 1984 our illustrious visitor has been the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, which, with effect from the 3rd October of this year, encompasses the territory that previously constituted the German Democratic Republic. This is indeed a formidable occasion and Malta is privileged to be the first country to welcome to her shores the President of the newly unified Germany. The unification of Germany marks the fulfilment of a national aspiration already exhorted in the Preamble to the Basic Law enacted more than forty years ago:

“to accomplish in freedom and self-determination the unity and liberty of Germany” and  
“to serve world peace as an equal part of a united Europe”.

It was a great achievement for which our distinguished visitor had striven with great determination and patriotism but at the same time with characteristic modesty and impartiality as befits the high office occupied by him. The unification of Germany is a part, though a very important part, of the radical changes that are occurring in Eastern Europe and is concomitant with the movement towards achieving a united Europe. In this movement, Malta has her role to play and these are times of momentous decisions affecting the future of our two peoples within a united Europe.

Richard von Weizsäcker studied law and history at the Universities of Göttingen, Oxford and Grenoble and practised the legal profession, principally in industry, for quite a number of years. He has been for many years a prominent member of the German Evangelical Church and in fact was President of its Convention between 1964 and 1970 and a Member of its Synod and Council. His political beliefs brought him into the ranks of the Christian Democratic Union which he joined in 1954 and successively was a Member of the CDU National Executive and Chairman of various Commissions, a Member and later Vice-President of the Bundestag, and then in 1981 Governing Mayor of Berlin and Member of the Berlin House of Representatives, which offices he held at the time when he was elected President of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1984.

The world looks upon him not only as a politician who has reached the apex of his career through his election as the President of the Federal Republic of Germany for two successive terms, but also

as a person of distinction in various fields, among which law, politics and religion play a major role. He has been described as an ideal head of state and as a moral authority who embodies a spiritual and ethical claim to leadership. The humanity, nobility and frankness demonstrated in his speeches at home and abroad, his unfailing search for consensus and his readiness to meet and discuss with persons in all forms of activity have been singled out as salient characteristics of his personality. He is known for a significant contribution to scholarship and political standards which has earned him signal recognition through the award of the Theodor Heuss Prize.

Mr. President, the world sees in you an exemplary servant of society in your country and of the international community, secondly an accomplished member of the legal profession, and thirdly, though not least importantly, a believer in culture in a global dimension.

You acquired your academic training in three great centres of learning: Göttingen, Oxford and Grenoble representing in the field of law three great systems. The true modern lawyer, must be basically a comparatist in training and in approach. German law is one of the world's great legal systems and is exercising considerable influence on other societies, such as Switzerland, Greece, Turkey and Japan which have adopted your codification as their prototype and to a lesser extent, even on Italian legislation and, directly and indirectly, on other systems, including our own. I may mention that the person who drafted our Civil Code, Sir Adrian Dingli, was a student at the Universities of Heidelberg and Bonn. He spent over six years in foreign Universities where he carried out research in law, to start with in Rome and Bologna, then in Germany and then at the Sorbonne and finally at Oxford for the purpose, in this case, of historical research.

In the work of drafting our Civil Code in the second half of the 19th century frequent references were made to German doctrinal sources particularly the works of Zachariae von Lingenthal and the Austrian Civil Code. At the time when our Civil Code was drafted there was no possibility of more direct legislative influence from Germany because the German Code had not as yet been enacted.

In Germany there was the well-known reception of Roman Law, which remained in that country as a direct living force much longer than in other communities. Without in any way detracting from the enormous part played by Italian and French scholars, the fact remains that the various tendencies that manifested themselves in the course of centuries were fused together by the jurisprudence of Holland and Germany during the 17th and 18th centuries, thereby rendering invaluable service in the development of law. In the legal education of all countries one naturally encounters the works of your great legal scholars such as Mommsen, Windscheid, Savigny, Ihering and others some of whom have become household names among lawyers.

Your activities in the political sphere have naturally brought you more directly in contact with international law and international co-operation for the preservation of world peace.

You have been a realist in the appreciation of the dangers confronting the world; for example in 1986 when you were addressing diplomats in your country you said:

“Notwithstanding all differences in ideology, political concept, social system and development, our countries are moving ever closer together in a world becoming more and more full. We are becoming a community dictated by destiny. In the face of weapons which can extinguish all life people are filled with anxiety. They long for peace and a life free from hunger, hardship and injustice”.

At the same time you were optimistic in removing the differences between the various European sociopolitical systems and, indeed, you have been proved right.

You have been a powerful medium of friendly relations between countries. We cannot forget the service rendered by you in the explanation of the fundamentals of democracy and of the lessons that must be learnt from history – from good times and from evil times – and your contribution in the preservation of peace and world-wide co-operation, in the protection of the environment and in the solution of other social problems.

Lastly, though as I mentioned already, not least importantly, the world sees in you a believer in culture in a global dimension. Along the years we have been impressed by your insistence on the cultural bonds between nations. The historian in you comes to the fore. Culture is a tool that can be used for the fostering of mutual understanding and confidence and, in the end result, of peace itself. How can we forget your words on the subject of East–West relations? Allow me to quote your very words:

“Culture in Europe is not the exclusive province of the East or the West, but a question of give and take of mutual enrichment. What a debt we all owe to the literature and music of Poland! Where else does one find such vibrant debate on the meaning of European culture as in Hungary?... Culture involves us all. It is the way we see the world and the manner in which we live. It is a system of human understanding and thus a factor of peace”.

And, while casting your eyes to the Eastern European countries you had impressed upon us all that we should not be content just to live in freedom ourselves. The peoples in the Warsaw Pact area were persons whom you described as:

“rooted in the same European history and culture, a culture which is just as much at home in Strasbourg as it is in Krakow, which stretches from Salamanca via Prague to Kiev; which cannot be understood without Ionesco and Kafka, Flaubert and Dostoyevsky, Siegfried Lenz and Christa Wolf”.

### *Ladies and Gentlemen*

I would like to dwell briefly on what our new graduand stated about the majority principle in Parliamentary democracy in the course of his inaugural address in 1984 when he was elected President. He said that, compatibly with the necessity of an effective government,

“We all know that the majority have just as little claim to represent truth as the minority. No one may lay claim to possessing truth, otherwise one would be incapable of compromise, indeed of co-existence”.

In the light of his commitment to peace and his life-long search for understanding and co-operation at all levels, I feel that there can be no more fitting conclusion to this address than in these words. The duty to try to understand and appreciate the other person's point of view is a pre-requisite to the very concept of an ordered form of society, including the international one. Otherwise, one becomes incapable of compromise and of co-existence. With these thoughts I would like to rest.

## ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

*H.E. Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, President of the Federal Republic of Germany addressed the Congregation as follows:*

Mr Chancellor,  
Mr Vice-Chancellor and Rector Magnificus,  
Members of the Council and Senate,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for the great distinction conferred upon me and for your kind words, Mr Orator. I am delighted to accept this honour, which I regard as an expression of the close links between the Maltese and us Germans.

Your university, the oldest in the Commonwealth outside Great Britain, can look back on a long history.

The Collegium Melitense was founded by the Jesuits in 1592 and elevated to university status in 1769, both events taking place at a time when Malta was an important bastion of the West, situated in a strategically significant location in the centre of the Mediterranean, and still under the rule of the Knights of Malta.

The presence of many members of the great ruling families of Europe from almost every European nation contributed to the splendour and prestige of your island.

The names of the palaces of the eight "tongues", such as Auberge de Castille and Auberge de Bavière, bear witness to this cosmopolitanism; even today they testify to the close relation between history and the present time. The harmonious interaction of past and present which strikes the visitor is another of your country's attractions in a Europe which right now is undergoing such radical change.

In a historical city like Valletta one cannot help but be aware of the Mediterranean's role as a bridge linking North and South, East and West, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Continents with their different peoples and cultures have coexisted and enriched each other here since time immemorial.

By virtue of its history and its geographical situation, Malta was and is called upon to act as an intermediary and promoter of peace throughout the Mediterranean region.

In Europe today we are experiencing dramatic historic change.

Confrontation is a thing of the past; the future belongs to a Europe based on democracy and on the rule of law, on freedom and the respect for human rights.

Our close intellectual bonds are being revitalized. They show us the way to new forms of comprehensive cooperation founded on partnership.

Our common civilization and shared cultural heritage strengthen both our determination and our responsibility to achieve the unity of Europe.

Early next year Malta will play host to an important CSCE conference on the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

We can attain our great common goal of unity and openness in Europe only if all participants in the CSCE process remain committed to constructive, forward-looking cooperation.

Eliminating the confrontation in Europe will release the intellectual energies and material resources necessary to fulfil the paramount tasks of our time: the fight against poverty and underdevelopment and the struggle to preserve our natural environment.

I am visiting you at a time when Germany has regained its unity in peace and freedom.

We are aware that we owe this not only to our own steadfastness, but above all to the solidarity of our friends.

For this I extend my thanks also to the people of Malta.

Much evidence has come down to us of the contacts between our peoples since the days of the Knights of Malta.

Malta, its language and people, were and indeed still are the focus of intensive research by German scholars.

For example, the earliest known list of 121 Maltese words was compiled by the German traveller and linguist Hieronymus Megiser, who visited Malta in 1588.

But there are many other links between us, not least our peoples' expectations and hopes for peace in the world.

The recent irresponsible violation of international law and human rights in the Persian Gulf shows that the preservation of peace still requires major joint efforts.

At this time of particular challenges for the United Nations, it is most welcome that Malta's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Guido de Marco, has assumed the presidency of the 45th United Nations General Assembly.

His efforts will be of fundamental importance for the United Nations; the coming weeks and months will show whether the organization can play its intended historic role to maintain world peace, and whether it can fulfil the world's high expectation.

Malta has been shielded from many upheavals of the last few centuries. I am thinking of the Reformation and the religious wars, the revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries, the industrial revolution.

Now, at the end of this century, Malta is faced with the continuing technological revolution and with its tendency to eliminate the differences between societies. You, too, are confronted more directly than before by the more negative aspects of the rapid developments taking place in the western world.

This brings with it problems, but also opportunities, particularly for fruitful cooperation, for which differences as well as similarities can provide a firm basis.

There are many promising possibilities, above all in the scientific sector.

Progress, although modest, has already been made.

Four Maltese scientists currently hold scholarships from our Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and I would be glad if further suitably qualified researchers from Malta could join them.

Successful cooperation has been underway for some considerable time with a number of German scientific institutions, such as the Max Planck Institute for Radiology; further joint projects are to follow.

Twinning arrangements with suitable German universities are being considered.

I was particularly happy to learn that the Chairman of your law faculty, Professor Ganado, shares a lively exchange of views with the Institute for Comparative and International Law in Bonn.

I hope that this association can be further developed and intensified in future.

There exists, I know, a solid foundation for this: important elements of Austrian and German civil law are reflected in Maltese law.

Mr Chancellor, you have received me with honours into your historical institution.

I thank you most sincerely for welcoming me to the body of graduates of your university.