

BOOK REVIEWS

DONALD SULTANA — *Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Malta and Italy*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1969, pp. xviii-429.

Dr. Sultana's basic achievement in this book is to fill a biographical gap. In spite of the vast accumulation of material relating to Coleridge during the past two decades, virtually no investigation had been made into the brief period of his stay in Malta and Sicily. The reason for this neglect was partly a lack of knowledge of Malta on the part of English and American scholars, and partly the assumption that records of his work in Malta had been destroyed. In regard to the first point, Dr. Sultana had the advantage over any other Coleridgean specialist; and his indefatigable patience and industry were to prove the second point to be largely unfounded.

The result is that a new and fascinating light is thrown upon Coleridge at a critical period of his life. Dr. Sultana lays his stress equally upon the 'public' Coleridge, working on official documents for Sir Alexander Ball, and on the 'private' Coleridge, helplessly in the grip of drug-dependence and his passion for Sara Hutchinson. Concerning the former, the most disquieting revelation is of the extent of Coleridge's imperialistic zeal, and his complete acquiescence in his employer's predatory notions concerning Algiers and Sicily; however, this acquiescence at times caused him discomfort and bitterness, a humiliating sense of being a mere instrument in someone else's hands, which make his later eulogistic references to Ball in *The Friend* seem a less than accurate transcript of his feelings at the time. Concerning drug-dependence, we have a harrowingly documented account of the vicious circle of indulgence and remorse, each accentuating the other. The claim is made that as a result of this emotional distress, Coleridge came for the first time actually to prove on his pulses the Christian concepts of the Fall and Redemption, instead of merely accepting them theoretically. But the *Ancient Mariner* and the fragmentary *Wanderings of Cain* surely indicate that at a much earlier date than this such concepts had a more than theoretical interest for him. What in fact happened at this period was that he lived out his earlier imaginative insights with much greater intensity than ever before.

Though Coleridge is the central figure, one of the most impressive features of the book is the massively detailed establishment of a context for him. The first two chapters form a prologue, describing the historical background and Coleridge's life in the years immediately preceding his Mediterranean journey. Both chapters have a density and fullness that at first seems excessive, until one realizes just how crowded the later chapters are with names and documents that would have been unintelligible without such an introduction. Not that there is anything confused — or, to the attentive reader, confusing — about this lavishness. On the contrary, the author compels our admiration not just through his industry in assembling such a staggering amount of material, but through his ability to order it

coherently; and the result is a most remarkable example of meticulous scholarship.

Nevertheless, there is a reservation I have to make, and it is an important one. While I was reading the book I had recurring doubts as to whether the author had been wise in adopting a purely chronological 'narrative' method for presenting his material. The result of his uncompromising use of this method is that the aims he set himself in the preface are not realized with a perfect sharpness of focus. These aims are as follows: to emend the text of *The Notebooks* and to establish the canon more accurately than had been done previously; to trace the development of Coleridge's ideas; to 'trace the whole history of his addiction (to opium) from England to Malta, to describe its symptoms and to dwell at length on the sufferings that it caused him'; to emphasize Coleridge's feelings for Sara Hutchinson and the Wordsworths and — as a corollary — to trace the development of *The Prelude*; and to describe Coleridge's Italian studies, 'about which nothing of merit has so far been written'. In addition to this variety of topics there is the richly detailed presentation of the contemporary scene that I have already mentioned! and, in spite of the coherence that the narrative possesses, and to which I have paid tribute, the result is that the central themes seem dissipated rather than conveyed with full clarity. The problem is especially acute in regard to the first aim, to emend the notebooks. This is what Dr. Sultana says about the matter in the preface:

"In addition to writing a biography, therefore, I have attempted to emend the text of THE NOTEBOOKS without disturbing the continuity of the narrative or detracting from the human interest of Coleridge's story. For this purpose only the more important corrections have been incorporated in the narrative; the rest have been inserted in notes, with references at the end of each chapter. Originally I had also intended to make use of the footnotes to explain my differences with the editor on matters especially of history and topography in the Notes of Volume II, but lest the book should grow too long I have contented myself with stating the facts objectively in the narrative, leaving it to the reader to refer to the Notes of the editor, if he cares to, for different information."

Would it not have been better, however, to have engaged in this scholarly dispute with full explicitness in the body of the text, even if this meant dispensing with pure narrative? After all, the book will inevitably appeal mainly to the Coleridgean specialist. The non-specialist is interested in Coleridge primarily, if not exclusively, as a poet and a literary critic. Except marginally, this book avoids discussion or evaluation of the poetry as such — quite rightly, as Dr. Sultana already has enough on his plate; but this at once limits the readership, especially since in spite of its being a 'narrative' the book requires extremely close and attentive study to be appreciated. For these reasons, I feel that other methods of presentation in addition to the purely chronological one would have been desirable.

However, this must not obscure the fact that this book is a product of the most scrupulous scholarship, and will have a permanent importance in Coleridge studies.

R.J. Rayson.

ANNETTO DEPASQUALE, *Ecclesiastical immunity and the powers of the Inquisitor in Malta (1777-1785)*, Malta, 1968, pp. XIV-172.

The vicissitudes of the Inquisition Tribunal have always excited a considerable number of historians. Sensational facts about trials, tortures, and burnings at the stake have bewildered and plunged into a sense of distress even faithful christians. But if history is based merely on scandalous trials and terrors, facts can be hardly called objective. Though the Inquisition Tribunal should never have been established, history scarcely ever attributed full justice in dealing with the Ecclesiastical Inquisition. *Annetto Depasquale* tried to solve some of the complex problems that often puzzled the minds of historians.

As it is clear from the title itself, the Author meant to examine the problems from a juridical point of view. All his assertions are built on the theories of famous canonists of the past. Besides, particular facts are carefully chosen, not only from studies that deal with local history, but also from among numerous official documents scattered across different Archives of Rome and Malta.

Though some historians have published the results of their studies about the Malta Inquisition, this is the first dissertation that takes into consideration the last years of that famous Tribunal. The Author did not find it really difficult to trace abundant material for his scientific research. For the first 150 years, the Inquisitors used to leave in Malta just the denunciations, trials, and correspondence with the Supreme Congregation of the Holy Office. But during the period of Inquisitor Zondadari (1777-1785), anything which was not strictly personal had to be left in the Inquisition archives.

We feel that the Author should be praised for the fact he confined himself just to one particular aspect. Otherwise, he would have run the risk of being superficial.

The book is divided in two parts. The various problems of ecclesiastical immunity are clearly explained. The persons who enjoyed this immunity were either clerics dependent on the bishop of Malta, or officials, familiares, or gabelotti who depended on the Inquisitor.

The second part is really the argument of the dissertation. The Author carefully explains the difference between the powers of the Inquisitor as such and his powers as an Apostolic Delegate. Without this distinction, any study that investigates about the Maltese Inquisition would be mere confusion and ambiguity.

A. Depasquale meant to dedicate himself just to a single aspect of Inquisitor Zondadari's period. Consequently, the door is still open for fur-

ther research about this Inquisitor. We are grateful to the Author for his juridical and historical contribution. Historians, however, would have liked to see an introductory chapter with brief biographical notes about the Inquisitor here taken into consideration. Notwithstanding this, the Author did not miss to give us a hint about the abundant material which exhaustively contains any aspect of Inquisitor Zondadari's activities in Malta. From a historical point of view, the most important sources that deal with Zondadari as an Inquisitor and as an Apostolic Delegate are to be found in the Vatican Archives and in the Malta Archives of the Inquisition.

Alexander Bonnici O.F.M.Conv.

OLGERD DE SHERBOWITZ WETZOR — CYRILLE TOUMANOFF, *L'Ordre de Malte et l'Empire de Russie*, extrait de la revue *Annales de l'O.S.M. de Malte*, 1967, pp. 70.

The significance of the events in Malta during the last quarter of the eighteenth century has been reviewed in considerable detail by various historians in the last few years. This new monograph by Sherbowitz-Wetzor and Toumanoff is a further contribution to the subject and has the merit that new material relating to the Maltese-Russian affairs which the authors nickname "Légende Russe", extant in the Archives of the Order in Paris, Regestre des Archives Russe, was made accessible to them by the present Grand Master. In spite of the fact that these documents were studied and edited, the theses of Le Comte Michel de Pierredon, *Histoire politique de l'Ordre . . . souverain de Sant-Jean de Jerusalem* (Paris 1956, 1963), M.J. Rouet de Journel, *Nonciatures de Russie* (Studi e Testi, 167, 168, 194, Città del Vaticano), P. Czerwinski, *Zakon Maltanski i stosunki jego z Polska na przestrzeni desejoj* (London: Polish Research Centre, 1963) and the present reviewer's monograph *Malta and the Czars* (Royal University of Malta Historical Series II, 1965) remain unaltered except for a few details which, however important, do not change substantially the contents; but in some instances what before was a conjecture as the case of Prince Condé's (see p. 9) now has become confirmed. On page 20, a list of the Pories of the Order who recognised Czar Paul I as the newly-elected Grand Master of the Order is given, and another list of Pories who refused to acknowledge him is also included. Among those who accepted him as Grand Master for the very reason that "se trouvaient sous la tutelle des Course menacées par la révolution française et desireuses de se procurer l'appui de la Russie" we find the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. In connection with this item, at the *Archivio di Stato*, Palermo, "Magione Gran Priorato de Messina B. 410 n. 204," we discovered the following "Dichiarazione" which we are here publishing:

Dichiarazione

Noi Deputati, e Membri dell'Assemblea del Gran Priorato di Messina dell'ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme in virtù di Real'Ordine comunicati da sua Maestà il Rè delle due Sicilie in data de' 14 Ottobre 1799,

dichiariamo che il Gran Priorato di Messina dell'ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme riconosce con la maniera la più formale, ed obbligatoria Sua Maestà Imperiale Paolo I Imperatore, ed autocrate di tutte le Russie come Gran Maestro dell'ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme, ed in questa qualità gli presta il dovuto omaggio promettendogli solennemente quell'ubbidienza, alla quale sono obbligati li Cavalieri dell'ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme per i loro voti verso il loro Eminentissimo Gran Maestro, come anche di rendergli tutto ciò che li Statuti dell'ordine, ed i loro doveri gli prescrivono riguardo il loro Capo religioso.

Il Gran Priorato di Messina penetrato di riconoscenza, e di ammirazione verso l'Augusto e Magnanimo Sovrano, al quale è dovuta la Salvezza, il mantenimento, e la restaurazione dell'Illustre ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme si unisce intieramente a tutti que' suoi Fratelli, che hanno supplicata Sua Maestà Imperiale di tutte le Russie di accettarne il Gran Maggistrato nel medesimo tempo, che egli divide la sua ammirazione per le sue eminenti virtù, e la sua confidenza, che sotto i suoi auspizj, ed il suo Governo l'Illustre ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme non solamente ripiglierà il suo antico splendore, ma che quest'Epoca felice e per sempre memorabile sorpasserà ancora li tempi li più gloriosi de' Fasti dell'ordine sudetto.

In fede di che Noi Deputati, e Membri* dell'Assemblea del Gran Priorato di Messina abbiamo firmato il presente Atto, che andiamo a far porre ai piedi di Sua Maestà Imperiale di tutte le Russie nostro Eminentissimo Gran Maestro.

Messina, li 28 Ottobre 1799.

* per nome e parte di tutti li Componenti.

Primo Deputato Commendatore F. Andrea di Giovanni

Secondo Deputato Commendatore F. Giovanni Stagno

Cancelliere della Sta. Assemblea e Capitolo (?) Provinciale,

Il Nobile Cavaliere F. Antonio Longo Bilgandi.

Andrew P. Vella O.P.

JOSEPH MIZZI, *Catalogue of the records of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the Royal Malta Library*, vv. X-XI, Malta, University Press, 1969, pp. 110, 206.

A continuazione dei volumi in precedenza pubblicati (cf. *Mel. Hist.*, n. 4, p. 285), il compilatore con perizia e accuratezza ha dato alla luce la X e l'XI classificazione.

Ci sembra inutile ripetere quanto è stato pubblicato di questa opera all'uscita dei volumi precedenti. Ci limiteremo ad osservare che anche questi due volumi sono all'altezza degli altri per il loro contenuto, l'assoluto rigore scientifico, e la massima documentazione.

Le pregevoli introduzioni e le erudite note rendono i due volumi d'immensurabile valore per l'apporto che recano alla maggior conoscenza

dell'Archivio.

Con questi due volumi, il compilatore, paziente ricercatore d'Archivio e riesumatore di documenti mai prima valorizzati, contribuisce ad una crescente e più precisa immagine della vita dell'Isola di Malta ed un più vero volto del popolo maltese e della instancabile operosità dell'Ordine di S. Giovanni di Malta.

Gli storici, i ricercatori di notizie, di avvenimenti, di dati di carattere, di rapporti dell'Ordine di Malta con l'Europa del seicento-ottocento troveranno nei volumi una abbondanza straordinaria di informazioni e di indicazioni insostituibili per la stesura della storia di Malta.

La X catalogazione comprende 63 volumi (*Arch.* 1649-1712), dei quali la maggior parte sono manoscritti, alcuni documenti a stampa, e poche monografie.

Il valore intrinseco dei volumi cresce a dismisura quando si pensa che dalle pagine balzano molti lati inesplorati o del tutto ignorati o appena sorvolati da coloro che hanno concepito la storia come tradizione o come retorica. Il fatto poi che alcuni di quegli scritti o stampati sono sfuggiti alle bibliografie del Hellwald e di Rossi rendono interessanti i codici in parola. La sistematica esposizione dei manoscritti, associata ad una descrizione minuziosa, i rapporti che hanno i manoscritti con la storia europea aggiungono notevole importanza ai codici. I pochi esemplari a stampa sono rarissimi.

A prima vista sembrerebbe priva di qualsiasi pur minimo interesse la rassegna della catalogazione che tratta esclusivamente della legislazione della vita interna del benemerito Sovrano Ordine di Malta e dei rapporti legali con i diversi stati d'Europa. Ma un accurato esame del materiale riscontrerebbe senz'altro il gradimento degli studiosi perchè mette in luce l'opera umanitaria e cristiana di un manipolo di fratelli, cresciuto in un gigantesco Ordine Sovrano diventato propugnacolo della civiltà cristiana.

L'XI classificazione consta di 45 voluminosi tomi (*Arch.* 1713-1758), indicati sotto la denominazione di "Ospedale".

A nessuno sfugge quanto gli Ospitalieri di S. Giovanni abbiano lungo il corso dei secoli prodigate le loro forze per il benessere materiale degli indigenti, degli ammalati curando i loro corpi; di questa sezione della Sacra Infermeria gli studiosi rintracceranno notizie utili per ulteriori studi: copiosi nomi di medici, di cure, di chirurghi affiorano ad agio dei futuri compilatori della storia della medicina in Malta. Già il Dottor Paolo Cassar, attingendo a queste fonti, ha toccato questo argomento. Molti altri potranno beneficiare di questi manoscritti per dare alla luce nomi, fatti, e avvenimenti di pubblico interesse, ancora occulti.

Dalla innumerevole lista dei testamenti, rogati da un pubblico notaio, emergono, oltre la mentalità del tempo, le ultime volontà dei testatori di persone abbienti o di umile condizione, di soldati e di gerarchi che potrebbero eventualmente dare un panorama complessivo della vita economica, culturale e religiosa.

Peccato che alcuni codici si trovano in cattivo stato di conservazione.
Bonaventura Fiorini O.F.M.Conv.

JULIAN REFALO, RAPA, *The Xaghra Monumental Church*, Gozo, The Orphans Press, 1969, pp. 116.

Not often do we come across exhaustive and well written histories of the parish churches of these Islands. When we do, the first idea to come to our mind is naturally that of complimenting the author on his work.

In attractive format and quite well printed on good paper, Mr. Julian Refalo Rapa has given us the history and a minute description of one of the main churches in Gozo — the Basilica of Xaghra, his native village. The book contains a collection of information which must have cost the author a great amount of research work. There is scarcely any question one could ask about the attractive parish church of Xaghra which has not an answer in this 116-page book.

Although not divided into chapters, the book makes quite interesting reading and does not tire you at all. Of course, it appeals mainly to the parishioners themselves, the majority of whom would have perhaps preferred expected to see it written in their native language: it is they who would be most expected to show interest in Xaghra's parish church and try to find out for themselves the history of this or that picture, this or that honour bestowed upon their church. But, particularly in these times when Gozo is visited by thousands of English-speaking tourists annually, Refalo Rapa's book goes far beyond Xaghra's limits: the author had obviously this too in mind, when he decided to publish the result of his research.

The book is not meant to be a history of the village, but a guide to any visitor to the main church of the place, although we are given information about various other chapels, the majority of which have now disappeared.

The several parish priests and archpriests responsible for the spiritual welfare of Xaghra's people are sufficiently well mentioned. Likewise the benefactors of the church. How Xaghra's was raised to a parish church, then to a Collegiate and eventually to a Basilica. Paintings and their authors, particularly Virginio Monti, are exhaustively dealt with, always accompanied by a good reproduction of the original work. The various statues, stained-glass windows and other works of art, such as the marble and the silver objects, are fully mentioned.

Some might perhaps suggest that one or two items, such as something appearing on pages 78-79, could have been left out. But, as the book is intended to be a historical one and as such faithful to events as actually took place, we see no reason why Mr. Refalo Rapa should not have mentioned what in fact happened — not only that history itself may be registered but also that future generations may learn from the errors of the past, not excluding those committed by persons in authority.

The book has many merits. We are sure it will justly find a place amongst the works dealing with the history of the Church in Malta and Gozo.

Mgr. Anthony Gauci.

JOSEPH ZARB, *Zabbar Sanctuary and the Knights of St. John*, Zabbar, Veritas Press, 1969, pp. 124.

The Zabbar Sanctuary is undoubtedly one of the best known shrines of our Islands. But, though many illustrious persons had in past and present numerous contacts with this Sanctuary, no one knew about many interesting events that should impress an indelible name in history.

Undoubtedly, no one can boast to have a thorough knowledge of the facts and a passionate dedication to the Sanctuary as the Author has. Infact, Fr. Joseph Zarb lavished all his strength as a Parish Priest for a long span of time.

The volume means to present the bonds of affection that tied the Knights of St. John to the Zabbar Sanctuary. Each historical section is divided into two parts. Firstly, the Author briefly recalls the history of various exploits and campaigns of the Knights; then, he comments on the votive offerings donated to the Santcuary through the successive epochs. Each section is abundantly decorated with illustrations. Each illustration refers to a historical fact.

Some, at least, of these paintings, jealously preserved in the Zabbar Sanctuary, are of a relevant artistic importance. Consequently, a brief artistic valuation of the most important votive offerings would had been highly appreciated.

A historical work is truly appreciated when it gives out something really new. This is the case of this book. Many facts were completely unknown. We highly appreciate the *Appendix* of this study. There we find a photographic publication of numerous extracts from the Sanctuary's 1679 and 1699 inventories. Besides, the extracts from Alexander VII's Diary (who had been an Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate in Malta) are really valuable. But, since many of these documents do not refer to the Knights of St. John, I would have published them by themselves in a separate study.

Alexander Bonnici O.F.M.Conv.

GEORGE ZAMMIT, *Maltese Rhapsody*, Illustrated by the Author, Pietà (Malta), National Press, 1969, pp. 80.

Maltese Rhapsody, as its very name implies, presents a poem that extolls the beauties, virtues and all the other good qualities that Dr. George Zammit, a writer of repute and keen observer of his surroundings, sees in his beloved Malta and its people.

The Author has to his credit a number of other works in verse and

prose in various languages dealing with a wide variety of subjects, ranging from humorous to religious, including items of purely scholastic nature.

Now, with the publication of "*Maltese Rhapsody*", we may acknowledge also Dr. Zammit as a painter in the true sense of the word because, in this work, he combines seven hundred and forty five lines of fine poetry with forty-one good drawings in monochrome of local scenes most of which appearing in print or in any other medium for the first time.

By doing so, besides adding more laurel for his high-flowing verse, he earns the merit of discovering and recording so many picturesque spots and characteristic corners which only a person with an innate artistic sense would choose for illustration. Something, however, must have gone wrong with the plates especially in the case of the middle tones. Notwithstanding this, as a whole, the message, the character and atmosphere of the scenes do not seem much affected, and some of them reach a high standard of illustrative art, namely: the chapel of St. Paul the hermit, near Mosta (pl. 2), "Tal-Lunzjata" chapel and valley, Gozo (pl. 6), Chapel on Bengemma heights (pl. 10), Chapel of St. Anne, Pwales (pl. 18), Wayside tabernacle, Birkirkara (pl. 20), Xlendi, Gozo (pl. 22), "Għajn Qatet", Victoria Gozo (pl. 26), St. Sophia Street, Mdina (pl. 30), Porta dei Greci, Mdina (pl. 31), and the Windmill, Lija (pl. 34).

After all, the Author has no pretensions in painting as he himself confesses in the interesting preface of the book, wherein Dr. Zammit seems to be very sincere. He says: "It is with a view to showing that there is still much that can be saved and preserved (national heritage) for the benefit of posterity that this small collection of sketches, drawn by a loving though not expert hand is being produced".

With regard to his verse he tells us that: "The metre chosen varies according to mood and subject matter, from the traditional pentametre, the ballad and stanza-form, to free verse." He frankly calls it romantic: but we should like to add that it is also very instructive and educative, full of noble thoughts and recollections of the most important episodes of our varied history. Infact, the poem touches on Haġar Qim, Mdina, St. Angelo, Buskett, Xlendi, Ta' Ċenċ, and many other typical maltese places, and mentions, among other prominent people that shaped our destiny, Hannibal, Count Roger, La Valette, and Don Michele Xerri.

The legendary and folkloristic sides were also fruitfully explored beginning with Calypso and passing down to Hassan's cave, the Bride of Mosta and the youth of San Mitri. Some of our usages are also well interwoven within the lines, pointing out among others the youth's song under the girl's window decorated with the traditional flower pot, the presentation of the fish on the day of engagement, the wedding ceremony under the canopy, and the superstitious use of the bovine horns over the farmhouses. The public merriments of *Mnarja* and the *ġostru* were not neglected; but the greatest vitality of the poem seems to be derived from the religious

sentiment of the Maltese who, since embracing the faith from St. Paul's hands, have constantly fought to keep it untouched: that faith which nourished the love, unity and the activities of the people. This is reflected in many passages, such as those dealing with the urge of men to run with the burden of the statue of Christ arisen during the procession of Easter and the enthusiasm of the boys in delivering sermons during the Christmas midnight celebrations.

The book ends with a very useful set of notes that much helps the non-Maltese reader and all those who are not acquainted with the Maltese history and life; thus doing the author is assured of reaching his aim.

Raphael Bonnici Cali

ALESSANDRO K. VLORA: *L'Evoluzione Economica delle Isole Maltesi e i suoi Aspetti Geografici*, Roma, Società Geografica Italiana, 1967, 47 pages.

This short but fairly detailed survey of the Maltese Economy and its problems is of great interest to the historian. Sig. Vlora makes a very convincing case for his thesis that Tourism could provide the main source of foreign exchange for these islands. The other two pillars of the economy — Industry and Agriculture — in his view present serious problems for the future which will be difficult to solve.

Sig. Vlora is surely correct in saying that Malta (and Gozo) possess all the 'raw materials' necessary for the creation of a thriving Tourist industry. The islands have natural beauties of great charm and attraction. He himself is obviously in love with these islands and his description of Dwejra in Gozo defies translation:

"Una descrizione, per quanto vivace, non potrà mai dare l'immagine dei contrasti dei colori che si succedono in breve spazio; il blu più o meno intenso delle acque del mare, il verde chiaro di quelle che formano il laghetto, il bruno rossiccio della scarpata rocciosa, il bianco quasi accecante delle casette e di vicine cave di pietra, il nero del profondo traforo naturale e il turchese del limpido cielo!"

These natural assets he declares must be preserved and enriched. The coast must not be destroyed by ill-conceived developments. Ribbon development is a great danger since it destroys the splendid vistas and views available to all from the roads. The natural attractions must be saved for all to enjoy including the tourists. In short, Malta and Gozo must be made pleasant to live in and thus to visit. The need for a development plan (long overdue now) based on principles such as these obviously makes sound economic sense.

Sig. Vlora also stresses the importance of preserving and embellishing the island's historical heritage as one of the major touristic attractions. "The Monuments bearing witness to the historical evolution of the Maltese Islands are very numerous. These, since they are crowded into such a small area, appear to be displayed in a vast museum." This great asset must be taken advantage of, as he so rightly concludes. More attention

must be paid in particular to archaeological remains, impressive as they are, not only to the expert but also to the tourist. The message of this monograph is clear: it is sheer lunacy to spend millions on hotels if tourists visiting these islands find themselves and the Maltese enclosed in a cage of concrete and tarmac.

R. Vella Bonavita.