

# Launch of the first volume of the Journal of Baroque Studies

In November 2003, the International Institute for Baroque Studies launched the first volume of its *Journal of Baroque Studies* at St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity. This first issue contained papers presented at a seminar entitled 'Triumph over Death – a Baroque Celebration', organised in conjunction with the Manoel Theatre Baroque Festival in which took place in May 2003. The journal is edited by Dr Petra Bianchi, and sponsored by the University of Malta, the Malta Tourism Authority, and Chev. Roger de Giorgio.

During the launch the volume was introduced by the authors of the collected papers. Professor Denis De Lucca introduced the proceedings with an overview of the teaching and research activities of the Institute, which has around fifty students following its MA, diploma and certificate courses. He also gave a brief summary of his paper entitled "The *Feste Funebre* of Baroque Europe", which focuses on the imaginative use of the *effimero* by baroque architects in contemporary death rituals.

The paper by Dr Keith Sciberras deals with the monumental tombstones in the Conventual Church of St. John's in Valletta, while in her article architect Shirley Cefai describes the studies carried out by Institute on the *Chapelle Ardente* designed in 1726 by Romano Carapecchia. Mgr. John Azzopardi's contribution is entitled "Funerary Liturgical Rites and Baroque Music in the Mdina-Rabat Area in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries".

The proceedings of the launch were concluded by Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, Chairman of the Board of the Institute, who discussed the theme of his contribution on "Philosophy and Death in the Baroque Age". He stressed the importance of publications like this new *Journal of Baroque Studies* for the Institute, which has been very active in the field of research since its foundation in 1996. He also mentioned the considerable contribution to the

founding and activities of the Institute made by the late Dr Giovanni Mangion, to whose memory the first volume of the journal is dedicated.

Professor De Lucca announced that other publications planned by the Institute include a second volume of the *Journal of Baroque Studies* and the next issue of the IBS newsletter, published in conjunction with the Baroque Routes Network of the Council of Europe. The journal is available from Midsea Books Ltd, tel: 21496911, and from leading bookstores.

