

MDINA PROJECT DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BARLETTA, ITALY

In December 2001 the Chairman of the Mdina Rehabilitation Committee and Director of the IIBS, Professor Denis De Luca, presented a paper on the rehabilitation of Mdina at a conference on cultural heritage management held in the Castle of Barletta in Italy.

The contents of the paper, entitled 'Il Restauro di Mdina, Malta', included a detailed history of Mdina in the light of research already carried out, as well as historical finds and an evaluation of the various projects initiated by the Mdina Rehabilitation Committee to preserve Mdina's architecture and embellish its urban space with proper paving, underground services and illumination at night. Professor De Luca emphasised the need to adopt a proper management strategy based on a clear philosophy of conservation which took into consideration the past, present and future roles of Malta's oldest human settlement. He also emphasised the role of the IIBS in promoting research and conservation initiatives targeted at the Baroque heritage of Malta, including that of Mdina.

The Barletta conference was held under the auspices of the 'Herity' international certification programme for historic sites and the USUFI International Institute of the University of Lecce whose director, Professor A. Rizzo, a former Rector of that University, gave an interesting lecture about post-graduate studies aimed at producing the right professionals to deal with the multi-disciplinary problems of historic cities and landscapes. Other contributions were given by Mons. F. Marchisano, President of the Papal Commission for Sacred Archaeology and Church Heritage, by Professor L. Oosterbeck of the Polytechnic of Tomar, Portugal, by General R. Conforti, head of the Carabinieri department dealing with theft and vandalism, and by Professor H. Zemankova, Vice Rector of the Brno University of Technology, who talked about the conversion of abandoned

industrial buildings in the town of Zlin in the Czech Republic.

The event also included site sessions in a number of unique Romanesque buildings in Barletta and Trani, in the Swabian imperial Castel del Monte, and in the ruins of the medieval town of Cannes della Battaglia. It was supported by the European Commission office for Italy, the Italian ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture, and the regional administration of Puglia, Italy. The many personalities who attended the conference included Dott. E. Triggiani, Vice President of the Province of Bari, Dott. F. Salerno, Mayor of Barletta, and the Consul of the Republic of Malta in Barletta, Dott. Matteo Bonadies.

One important result of the Barletta conference was the inclusion of Mdina in the Herity Register of certified sites which qualify for international certification as cultural heritage sites, based on the four criteria of perceived value, preservation capability, transmitted information, and the provision of all those services which foster the optimum appreciation of the value of the cultural site under consideration. It was agreed by all conference delegates that emphasis should be placed on transmitted information due to the need for University based institutions to promote a set of initiatives

encouraging the dissemination of knowledge and awareness of European heritage sites. The International Institute for Baroque Studies is actively promoting initiatives on both the national and international levels, mainly through research, publications, and post-graduate and certificate courses focusing on Baroque buildings and their conservation.



1. Cattedrale antico Palazzo di S. Pubbio.
2. Palazzo del Vescovo.
3. Seminario
4. Convento, e Chiesa del Carmine.
5. Casa del Magistralo.
6. Armeria.
7. Monastero di S. Pietro.
8. Palazzo del Principe.
9. Curia.

10. Chiesa di S. Paolo
11. Dove il S. Apostolo predicava.
12. Tempio di Proserpina
13. Convento, e Chiesa di S. Agostino.
14. S. Francesco
15. Chiesa, e Convento di S.M. di Gesù
16. Convento, e Chiesa de PP. Domenicani
17. Sito dell' antico Tempio d' Apolline

Map of Rabat and Mdina, by Count Gian Antonio Ciantar (1772)