

# BOOKS - A Timeless Gentleman

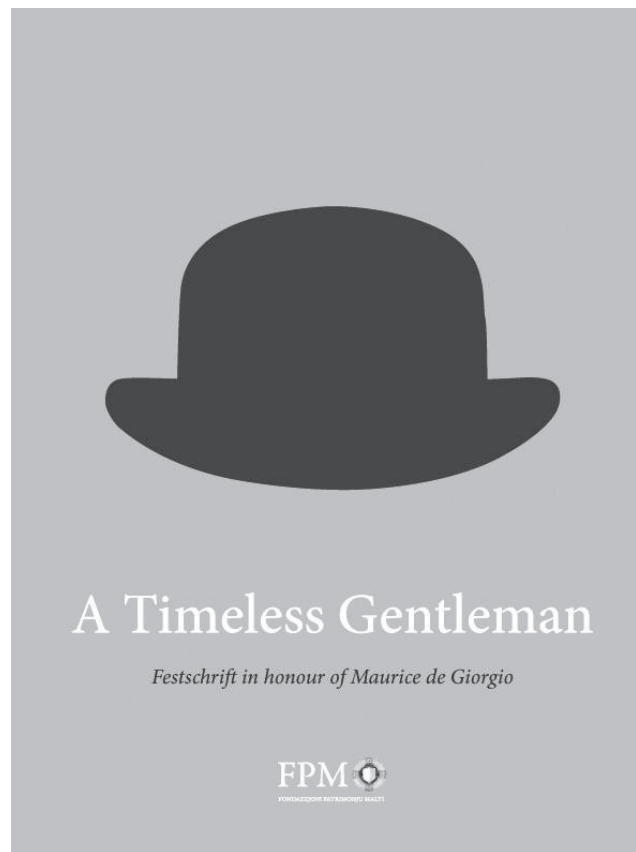
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***A Timeless Gentleman: Festschrift in honour of Maurice De Giorgio*, ed. by Giovanni Bonello, Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti / Progress Press, 2014**

A Timeless Gentleman – an apt title to apply to Maurice De Giorgio, the Chairman of Patrimonju who succeeded in the mammoth task of exhibiting treasures of Malta mostly found in private collections, thanks to the trust and respect that he inspires in all who know him. This is also the title to the festschrift of short essays, edited by Giovanni Bonello and presented by those authors who were somehow, at some point, participants in De Giorgio's task to make the cultural history of Malta better researched and more widely known.

Among the forty-plus essays are a number that are penned by lecturers with the International Institute for Baroque Studies: 'Baroque in Valletta' by Prof. Denis de Lucca; 'Preparing for the Afterlife in Eighteenth-century Malta' by Prof. Frans Ciappara; 'The Stolen Stones of the Victoria Lines' by Dr Stephen C. Spiteri; 'A Very Brief History of Art Collecting in Early Modern Malta' by Dr Theresa Vella; 'The Siege of Vienna of 1683 and the Celebration of Victory against the Turks in Malta' by Prof. Carmel Cassar; 'Nineteenth-century Opera Costume Designs at the Manoel Theatre' by Prof. Vicki-Ann Cremona; and 'Stemming Vice: A Proposal for Hospitaller Virtuous Living in *Ancien Régime* Malta' by Dr William Zammit.

The richly-illustrated book also includes contributions by Dr Joan Abela, Joseph Amodio, Mgr John Azzopardi, Francesca Balzan, Prof. Anthony Bonanno, Judge Giovanni Bonello, Alan Borg, Anna Borg Cardona, Prof. Mario Buhagiar, Dr Noel Buttigieg, Maroma Camilleri, Noel D'Anastas, Cynthia de Giorgio, Nicholas de Piro, Prof. Richard England, Antonio Espinosa-Rodriguez, Charles Farrugia and Melissa Glass, Dr Thomas Freller, Prof. Henry Frendo, Prof. Stanley Fiorini, Dr Michael



Frendo, Dr Albert Ganado, Dr Anthony Pace, Dr Michael Refalo, Joseph Schirò, Bernadine Scicluna, Prof. John T. Spike, Adrian Strickland, Prof. Conrad Thake, Prof. John Varriano, Rev. Dr Edgar Vella, Dr Jevon Vella, Dr Roger Vella Bonavita, Prof. Ann Williams, and Cecilia Xuereb.

The collection of originally-researched essays conveys the depth and variety of those areas of cultural history which *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* has brought to the fore in contemporary life, and present a fitting tribute and homage to the timeless gentleman who inspired it, Maurice de Giorgio.

