

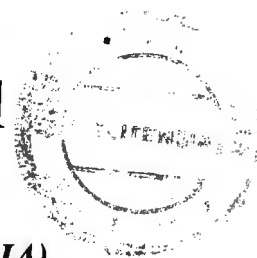


*Mr. A. M. M. M.*  
*MaLIA*  
*Information Association*

# **INFORMALIA**

*Newsletter of the  
Malta Library and  
Information Association (MaLIA)*

**Issue 114-115**  
**September-December 2005;  
January-March 2006**



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### **MALIA Report on the State of Maltese Libraries**

Buy your copy at LM2.25 -  
this will be mailed to you.

#### **ON RADIO**

5 April

Radju Malta ca. 9 pm

8 April

Campus FM ca. 9 pm

## **EDITORIAL**

This newsletter highlights events in the last six months. MaLIA's report on the state of Maltese libraries has finally been published. We encourage you to read its contents and send us your comments and feedback. MaLIA hopes to organise a number of events which will serve as a follow up to the issues raised in the report.

We note with that Hon. Louis Galea, Minister of Education, has not acknowledged the publication of the libraries' report nor replied to our correspondence to meet with him. (see p. 3) A number of Maltese libraries do register positive developments but they seem to scratch at the surface of a long-overdue overhaul that needs to take place to change the image, management and structures of public libraries, school libraries, the National Library and libraries in government agencies. So many issues need to be addressed and actualised particularly by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), by local councils and by public and private institutions. Needless to say we are encouraged by the increase of private initiatives that are taken to digitally preserve and provide access to particular specimen of our national collection when public bodies cannot do so.

Overseas news in this number illustrates that overall US and British patrons are satisfied with the quality of library services offered which go beyond providing traditional and electronic sources of information. These libraries' ethos is to market their services and respond to users' needs by organising activities that relate to the educational and recreational needs within the community with a dynamic spirit. In such a context, quality services in most Maltese libraries are still waiting to be born.



**April 23**  
**World Book and  
Copyright Day**

**Have you  
renewed your  
2006  
membership?**

**Have you got  
an email address  
or a new phone  
number?**

**Contact us now**

### **MALIA COUNCIL 2006**

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## INFORMALIA

**INFORMALIA** is the newsletter of the Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA), published quarterly. The first issue of **INFORMALIA** appeared in May 2003. It was formerly called "Newsletter" until the last issue Number 103 published in December 2002.

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views expressed by the Editorial Board and/or MaLIA's Council but only represent the author's views as forwarded to us.

The Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA), formerly known as the *Għaqda Bibljotekarija*, is the association that gathers within its ranks all information workers such as librarians and includes archivists. MaLIA is the oldest established association (1969) on the local information scene enjoying wide experience in this sector. Individuals interested in joining as members should write to the Secretary at the above address.

MaLIA is a full member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA).

This Newsletter is available on-line. Visit our web-site at:

[www.malia-malta.org](http://www.malia-malta.org)

## People News

**Mr Charles Cilia** MVO, MaLIA member, is Assistant Director of Education for Development whose responsibilities include the Education Division's Teachers' Documentation Centre. Mr Cilia was conferred the title Member of the Victorian Order by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her state visit to Malta in November 2005 for the opening of the CHOGM Commonwealth Meeting. Mr Cilia has also gained an MBA in International Marketing from Leicester University.

**Dr Paul Xuereb** was appointed Member of the National Order of Merit during the annual Republic Day ceremony at the Palace in Valletta. For over 40 years, Dr Xuereb provided a major contribution to the development of library science in Malta and distinguished himself in the area of culture.

He was appointed University Librarian in 1967, developing the University Library into the foremost library of its kind in Malta. Dr Xuereb was a founder member of the Malta Library Association which he represented in IFLA and COMLA of which he was President for a number of years. He was founder chairman of the Printed Matter Appeals Board, drama critic for *The Sunday Times* and is the author of various books.

**Mr Victor Magri's** passing away on the 14th October 2005 comes as a very sad loss to his colleagues within Malta's library profession. Though retired in 1985, after having faithfully served the University since 1968, and its Library as an acquisitions librarian since 1975, Mr. Magri continued to extend his advice, support, and voluntary services to many till his very end.

An accomplished bibliophile, long-time librarian, with a strong artistic flair, Mr. Magri will be lovingly remembered for his genial character, dedication to duty, and great sense of values. May the Good Lord grant him peace eternal, as deserves a true and much respected gentleman. (*In memoriam* - Anthony Mangion, Director, Library Services, University of Malta)

**Mr George Waller**, an honorary member, passed away in September 2005. A benefactor of our Association in the 1970s, he gave a number of talks to the association during his stay here.

**Rev Francis Azzopardi** OFM Cap., MaLIA member, passed away on the 3rd March. By profession an archivist, Fr Francis's best legacy is the invaluable work he did in cataloguing and classifying documents of the Order of St John at the National Library. This led him to establish a library at the Capuchin Friary at Floriana. He also published several features and books, including one on the Capuchin presence in Malta featuring the sermons of Fra Roberto Eboli during the Great Siege. As an ardent historian, he amassed all the historical and artistic objects he could from the Capuchin Friaries in Malta and Gozo and built up a museum at the Floriana Capuchin Motherhouse.

**Ms Marisa Calleja** is the new Head of the Schools Library Service. She replaces Mr Joseph M. Boffa who retired recently but who has offered his assistance to the Service during Ms. Calleja's running-in. MaLIA wishes her well.

**Ms Nathalie Youbi Formosa**, librarian at St. Aloysius' College, received the award of School Librarian of the Year 2005 at the Schools Library Service Seminar last October.

The School Library of the Year 2005 award was presented to St. Joseph Boys' Junior Lyceum, Paola.

MaLIA congratulates all librarians.

## New members

**Ms Liliana Grech** - DLIS student

**Mr Emmanuel J. Cachia** - Deputy Librarian, Central Bank Library

# MALIA News

## MaLIA's new Honorary President

Dr. Paul Xuereb has been appointed MaLIA's Honorary President at its recent Annual General Meeting in February. We congratulate him and look forward to receiving his support on library issues.

## Report on the State of Maltese Libraries

As announced, this report was launched at MaLIA's 2006 Annual General Meeting. Chairman Robert Mizzi gave an overview of the report findings which it is hoped will be discussed at a seminar to be announced later. The report provides local decision makers with important information on the various library sectors together with recommendations for action. It is highly regretted that Dr. Louis Galea, Minister of Education, Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs as well as a good number of librarians did not attend the event. Reviews will appear in the press in the coming weeks. All interested in purchasing a copy of this report are requested to send a cheque of LM2.25 payable to MaLIA.

## Register of Library and Information Professionals

The Byelaws for admission to the MaLIA Register of Library and Information Professionals have been mailed to all MaLIA members prior to the 2006 Annual General Meeting. Admission to candidates in the library, information and/or archival field is twofold. Route A is open to University qualified librarians and Route B is for non-University qualified librarians. A meeting to discuss queries and the workings of this Register will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Communication with the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment

MaLIA's efforts to meet the Minister of Education on various library issues since September 2004 have been fruitless. We continue to receive only acknowledgements to our letters. This situation was also encountered by previous MaLIA councils in the past few years. Feedback given on drafts of the new library legislation on the last week of November 2004 has remained unanswered. (See Robert Mizzi's letter in *The Times*, 30 March)

## Committee for the Development of Public Libraries (KILP)

MaLIA, represented by Robert Mizzi, has been contributing actively in the Committee for the Development of Public Libraries (Kumitat għall-Iżvilupp tal-Libreriji Pubblici - KILP) set up by the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Justice

and Home Affairs, Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici. The Committee organised two seminars so far and has also written to a number of embassies asking for their contribution towards strengthening the collections of public libraries. The Chinese Cultural Centre received acknowledgment for presenting around 1000 books to each of the seven regional libraries. During a meeting with the British High Commissioner, the Committee was informed that the Ministry of Education was offered the opportunity of bringing over 20,000 books from Belfast for public libraries at no cost except shipping charges but there is no confirmation on whether the offer was taken up or not. The KILP did not have the opportunity to intervene as the offer had been made directly to the Ministry of Education. It is hoped that such an opportunity has not been lost.

## MaLIA cooperation with MIIT

During the past few months, MaLIA has been cooperating with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) by supplying information on public libraries in view of the MIIT project that plans to introduce Internet points in public libraries and local councils. More details on this project will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Dewey Decimal Classification meeting

A meeting attended by librarians representing the major library institutions in Malta was held on 27 September 2005 to discuss the Dewey Decimal Classification 22 on Maltese History - 945.85 - and its various sub-divisions. A letter was sent to OCLC asking for advice but so far no official reply has been received. MaLIA needs to follow this up.

## COMLA and UNESCO Workshop on Information Literacy for Public Librarians Across the Commonwealth

Chairman Robert Mizzi represented MaLIA during a workshop on the theme "Information Literacy for Public Librarians Across the Commonwealth" held in Kingston, Jamaica, between 28 January and 2 February attended by Commonwealth library associations whose main focus was to produce a set of modules on information literacy to be used at national level. Following input from all participants, a set of modules was created and sent to UNESCO for approval. It is hoped that these will serve as a useful toolkit for various library associations to assist in training public librarians to promote and teach information literacy in their communities. MaLIA plans to deliver a short course for public librarians on information literacy in the coming months. A full report on this workshop will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Local News

### Local Councils, Public Libraries to have Wireless Internet

Free Wi-Fi wireless Internet is being made available at all local councils' offices and public libraries, as well as in the main squares of Malta's towns, Information Technology Minister Austin Gatt announced on 16 March. Minister Gatt also referred to the recent announcement of the SmartCity@Malta project which is expected to create 5,600 job opportunities. Around Lm110 million is planned to be invested over an eight-year period by the owners and operators of the hugely successful Internet City in Dubai.

### National Library Activities

A literary evening related to the National Library and its collections was held by Poezija Plus at the National Library in Valletta on 2 November. This was one of a series of activities held to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the issuing of the decree by Grand Master Claude de la Sengle which had sown the idea of a public library. Other activities at the National Library included a folk singing evening, organised by Dr Gorg Mifsud Chircop on 3 November and an open day on 5 November followed by a presentation of books as legal deposit by several Maltese publishers.

### Sliema library

The Sliema branch library has been refurbished and has moved to new premises in Blanche Huber Street. It was formally opened on March 9 by Minister Louis Galea.

### Ta' Xbiex library

The Ta' Xbiex local council announced in March that among works to upgrade and embellish the locality it includes the setting up of a public library. (*The Times*, March 9)

### Zejtun library

The Zejtun local council has claimed that contrary to what the Auditor General had noted in its

2004 report, it did not spend excessively on community affairs and hospitality. Its expenditure on education - Lm3,329 - included Lm2,369 allocated to the refurbishment of shelves and books for the local library. (*The Times*, March 9)

### Sannat Library

Carmel Camilleri, who was re-elected mayor of Sannat in mid-March plans to continue to develop the infrastructure of the village, attend to educational issues and to further develop the village library.

### Gozo Public Library

During a press conference in March, opposition leader Alfred Sant complained that a project to build a communal centre in Victoria announced five years ago has not yet started. He said the MLP local councillors would invest in the public library and promote reading, especially among young children. (*The Sunday Times*, March 5)

### Budget increase

In 2005 it was announced that the University of Malta Library was given an additional investment of Lm200,000 for the purchase of books.

### Wireless Access at University Library

In mid-February the University Library and the Computer Services Centre on campus announced that wireless access to the campus network had been extended to reading areas in all three floors of the Library. Students and staff can now use their own laptops, or other mobile devices that support wireless, and do their research by combining access to hard copy books and periodicals with access to online material on the Internet.

### Digitisation of Early University Registers

The University Library has recently published a digitised facsimile on CD-Rom of the five-volume manuscript registers of the Acta

Academiae Melitensis covering the University's administration from 1800-1945. The project was led by Mr Anthony Mangion and Ms Mary Samut-Tagliaferro. This was possible through a sponsorship grant by the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO and Lions Club (Malta). The historical registers cover the re-foundation of the University of Malta by Sir Alexander Ball and its development under British rule until the end of World War II.

### Malta Diary Project

The Malta Diary Project was launched last October by the Furtu Selvatico Boys School in Naxxar in order to record and store personal stories of historical importance. It provides a facility whereby members of the public can record historical and personal mementos on video and CD for archiving, at no cost, with the assistance of the school. Heritage Malta will be archiving the material. The Malta Diary Project means to preserve personal memories, photos and stories for posterity.

### Digitisation of Malta maps

In mid-January it was announced that Albert Ganado's private collection of about 600 Malta maps is being catalogued and digitised by Heritage Malta with the help of a Lm6,000 donation from Maltacom's *Fondazzjoni Memorja Kulturali Nazzjonali*. Dr Ganado's is the biggest Malta map collection in the world and the digitising process should take about another year to complete. The Bigli Restoration Centre had already digitised 330 maps. On taking over the Centre, Heritage Malta decided to revive the project.

The catalogue includes a detailed study of each individual specimen drawn up by historian William Zammit with the help of Dr Ganado. Dr Ganado's oldest item is the Quintinus map, published in Lyon in 1536.

# School Libraries



**HSBC donation to Gudja primary school**  
HSBC's southern area director Francis X. Gouder has presented about Lm400 worth of publications to George Sammut, head of the Gudja primary school. Throughout 2005 the HSBC Cares For Children Fund distributed books to various primary schools in Malta as a means of support in the fight against illiteracy.

**Fund-raising activity**  
On 7 December a cultural marathon walk at Buskett Gardens was organised by teachers and the school administration of the Dun Karm Sant Primary School in Tarxien. Pupils participated along with a record of 120 parents. Parents and sponsors contributed towards this fund-raising activity directed towards the upgrading and embellishment of the school library.

**Refurbished library**  
In January outgoing British High Commissioner Sir Vincent Fean paid a courtesy visit to St Francis of Assisi Boys' Secondary School, St Venera. His tour included the newly refurbished school library together with a new English Language Resource room.

**School library upgraded**  
Labour Leader Alfred Sant opened a modernised library at St George's Primary School in Qormi on 30 October. The MLP said that since April 2004 the Qormi council spent Lm1,500 on shelving and Lm1,300 on the purchase of new books. The council spent Lm3,700 for the Qormi regional library. The College of Nationalist Party Councillors deplored what it said was the "partisan way" in which Dr Sant was invited to inaugurate this public library. The college said the Labour-dominated council had ensured that the MLP received merit for initiatives taken or supported by the government.



**New primary school library**  
A new library at St Bernadette Primary School B in San Gwann was opened on 24 October, the European Day dedicated to parents and school. Tourism and Culture Minister Francis Zammit Dimech presented the school with five volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica of the Arts. He told the students it was important to read and learn about Malta's history, culture and traditions and praised the sense of community in the school and in San Gwann. Gabriella Buttigieg, a young student, donated books to the library on her own initiative.

**BOV donation to new Kirkop school**  
In February Ms Anna Depasquale Schranz, manager of Bank of Valletta's branch at Malta International Airport donated a collection of books to Mr. J. Micallef, Head of St. Benedict's College Boys' Secondary School in Kirkop which opened its doors for the first time last September. The books will enhance the new library's collection of works.

## SLS & MSLA Seminar for School Librarians

On 24 October, International School Library Day, the Schools Library Service in cooperation with the Malta School Library Association organised a half-day seminar for school librarians on the theme *Computerisation and Beyond*. Ms Marisa Calleja was introduced as the new Head of the Schools Library Service. This was followed by a presentation of awards by Dr. Cecilia Borg, Director General of Education (see p. 2).

Mr Joseph M. Boffa gave a powerpoint presentation on current challenges and difficulties concerning the computerisation of school libraries. A pilot study to computerise the holdings of 5 schools using software called Oliver produced by Softlink, Europe is underway and should be completed in 2007. As has been reiterated for several years, developments are dependent on a firm financial commitment by the Education Division and individual heads of schools together with ongoing technical support from MITTS. The SLS and the MSLA continue to lobby for financial aid and a greater staff complement to implement this project and others to support school libraries.

## Literacy Projects

### Reading events

Last September the education committee of the National Council of Women organised a family evening with Trevor Zahra, author of numerous children's books in Maltese.

In December it organised a Reading with a Difference course. Coordinated by Ms. Giuliana Peresso MA BA (Hons.), 15 teenagers discovered aspects of reading and how to browse the Internet to find stories online, join fan clubs, subscribe to newsletters and e-mail publishers. They discussed the use of media in presenting stories. The public will be informed on future events.

## Bilingual Bible for children on CD

The Malta Bible Society launched three innovative Bible products aimed at different audiences. These consist of an interactive CD for adults, an interactive CD with a set of booklets with stories from the Bible for children and a printed illustrated children's Bible.

The CD-Rom for children makes it a first in Bible software developed in Malta. Designed in Maltese and in English each story is fully illustrated with colourful pictures, theme songs and crossword puzzles helping children to enjoy interacting fully with the programme. The Bible Society is subsidising this product thanks to a small number of sponsors. For a full demo version visit the Bible Society site: [www.maltabible.com](http://www.maltabible.com).

### Overseas authors tour schools

From 14-19 November Annie Dalton, a British popular children's author, was a guest of publishers Harper Collins and Merlin Library who coordinated her visit as part of its ongoing campaign to promote literacy and reading among children. Ms Dalton visited state and private schools and signed books at a number of bookshops.

From 19-26 March Rick Riordan, American writer of *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, met children in various schools and signed books at bookshops. His visit was organised by Merlin Library and the theatre company Curtain Raiser



## Overseas Library News



### In the Electronic Age Americans' Use of Library Services Grows

A new study from the American Library Association (ALA) finds that libraries and librarians as well as the services they offer are clearly valuable to Americans. Two-thirds of adults (roughly 135 million people) visited their public libraries last year. KRC Research & Consulting conducted the study,

which interviewed 1,003 adult Americans in a national random-sample telephone survey between January 3-13 2006.

Findings show that:

- \* 7 out of 10 Americans report being *extremely* or *very* satisfied with their public libraries.
- \* More than 8 in 10 Americans (85%) agree that their public libraries deserve more funding.
- \* More than half of survey respondents (52%) believe \$41 or more should be spent. Americans currently provide, on average, about \$25 per year per person in local tax support for public libraries.
- \* 92% of survey respondents believe libraries will still be needed in the future.
- \* More than a third of Americans put the benefits of libraries at the top of the public services list as compared to schools, roads and parks.

Americans' use of library services has grown in almost every category from taking out books to consulting with librarians to taking out CDs, videos and computer software to attending cultural programs like speakers or movie showings. Among other things, ALA President Michael Gorman stated: "Your library card is the smartest card in your wallet." The most frequent library users are women, younger adults (ages 25 to 44), college-educated adults and parents of younger children. Adults in the Midwest and West are more likely to have visited their public library than their counterparts in the South and Northeast.

Access: [www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf)  
©2006 American Library Association

### Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources (2005)

This document summarizes findings of an international study by OCLC on information-seeking habits and preferences of information consumers in Australia, Canada, India, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Access: <http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm>  
(Source: *Managing Information Newsletter* 196, 12 December 2005)

### Information Literacy for All

The final report of the High-Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning, held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt, between 6-9 November 2005, sponsored by UNESCO, the National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL) and IFLA was released on 1 March 2006. It challenges international, regional and national organisations to move beyond an exclusive focus and concern for "Information for All" to "Information Literacy for All." The report acknowledges that Information Literacy is context specific to particular cultures and societies and makes practical recommendations that promote far greater social inclusion of all races, religions, ethnic groups and cultures within today's global Information Society.

The report covers four areas:

Education and Learning, Health and Human Services, Business and Economic Development, and Governance and Citizenship. It describes numerous activities and strategies to promote cooperation among governments, NGOs and international organisations, as well as opportunities for implementation.

Access: <http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/info-lit-for-all.htm>

### Enquire, Discover and Read

England's public libraries have joined forces to provide a suite of new online services - *Enquire, Discover and Read*. Managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) the services are available for the first time from a single national website for public libraries.

- \* Enquire - real time 24 hour response to enquiries via online chat or email;
- \* Discover - combined search of items from libraries, museums and archives;
- \* Read - access to other readers and to reading resources.

Access: <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/>

### LISTA Database free to all

EBSCO Publishing is proud to provide the *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA)* database as a free resource in libraries and information management. LISTA indexes more than 600 periodicals, books, research reports and proceedings. It is the oldest continuously produced database covering the field of information science since the mid-1960s.

Access: <http://web16.epnet.com/>

### New 13-digit ISBN

A new International Standard Book Number has been approved and will come into effect as of 1 January 2007 requiring that all books published after this date will carry the new 13-digit ISBN.

Access: <http://portal.unesco.org/>

## Donations

### Vittoriosa Library

In September the Vittoriosa local council received a collection of books and two computers for its regional library from the Bank of Valletta. Vittoriosa mayor John Boxall on behalf of the council was presented with the books by Albert Hili, manager of the BOV Cospicua branch.

### University Library

German Embassy attaché Ms Kerstin Platschs presented Mr Anthony Mangion, Director of the University of Malta Library with a number of books and a select number of journal issues on neuroontology, covering the healthy and diseased functioning of the senses. This formed part of the International Neuroontological and Equilibrimetric Society's book donations programme across thirty-three academic institutions from the new European Union countries.

### Institute of

### Agriculture Library

In November George Vella of APS Bank presented sponsorship money in aid of the reference library of the University's Institute of Agriculture to its director George Attard. APS and the Institute have an ongoing cooperation in aspects of local

rural development. The bank is sponsoring reference materials that support the teaching programme for the B.Sc. (Hon.) degree in Mediterranean agro-ecosystems management.



### Safi Library

Bank of Valletta Zurriq branch manager Frank Mallia presented a collection of

cultural and Melitensia publications to Safi mayor Peter Paul Busuttill for the public library. These included collections of Maltese poetry, Bank of Valletta's publications and art books featuring some of Malta's prominent artists.

### Gharghur Library

The HSBC Cares For Children Fund donated a number of books to Gharghur's public library. The books were presented to Gharghur mayor Mario Gauci by HSBC Mosta area director Richard Mercieca. Since taking over responsibility for the management of the library, the local council has undertaken the refurbishment of the premises, increasing the book stock and extending the library's opening hours to make it more accessible.

### Ghaxaq Library

In January Bank of Valletta's Zejtun branch manager Albert Pace donated a collection of books to Ghaxaq mayor Joe M. Abdilla for the regional library managed by Ghaxaq local council.

### Foundation for Human Resources Development

British High Commissioner Sir Vincent Fean presented a set of 27 books on management and human resources to the FHRD library in San Gwann.

### Appeal to set up Library for Refugees

Pamela Miceli, national officer on human rights and peace, Malta Medical Students' Association (*The Times*, 28 October 2005)

"I have been coordinating English lessons for refugees at the Hal Far open centre on a regular basis .... [and appeal to anyone who] would be willing to help our organisation in collecting reading materials so that a library may be started for people in detention".

## Exhibitions

### Maltese Cartography Exhibition

A very good representation of Maltese cartography held by the University Library collections was on display in its exhibition area from October until 31 January. The exhibits included a selection of maps of the Maltese archipelago, the harbour fortifications, and Valletta from the mid-16th to the early 20th centuries, and brought together some very good examples by famous cartographers such as Domenico Zenoi, Henricus Petri, Philip Cluverius, Joan Blaeu, Nicolas de Fer and Johann Homann.

### Nelson Exhibition

An extensive exhibition marking the 200th anniversary of the death of British naval hero Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar was held at the Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa from October until 8 January. Organised by Heritage Malta and divided into ten different epochs with 189 artefacts, the exhibits came from the Maritime Museum, private collections, the Presidential Palace and the National Library. The exhibition traced the

events leading to the British takeover of Malta two centuries ago.

### Italian National Libraries - A Travelling Exhibition

After a long journey in France, Belgium, Egypt, Cyprus, Albania, Lebanon and Italy, an iconographical and bibliographical exhibition *The Sites Of Written Memory* was held at the Ministry for Gozo between October and 7 December. It illustrated the history, heritage and activities of Italy's national libraries showing what services were offered to both the scholar and the public.

60 panels illustrated some of the most outstanding editions of works kept in various Italian national libraries, reproduced in facsimile. Particular attention was focused on libraries founded by the Church, those created in the Renaissance, the 16th and 17th centuries, during the Enlightenment and those of universities established before and after the unification of Italy.

## More Local News

### National Book Council - Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb

Dr Gorg Mallia (Chairman), Philip Borg, Joseph Debattista (Secretary), Paul Mizzi, Charles Casha, Priscilla Camilleri, Vincent Vella, Sergio Grech, Natasha Turner.

Its latest newsletter announced 3 main projects:

1. To draft a report on the state of affairs of the National Book Fair, followed up by a seminar. 36 exhibitors took part last December.
2. To introduce new categories in its Literary Prize. 77 books were submitted for the Prize in 2005.
3. To organise book-related activities with local councils.

While acknowledging the National Book Council's good work to promote reading and literacy, we note a lack of recognition in having a MaLIA representative appointed on this Council. A letter of complaint

sent to the Minister of Education on October 30th remained unanswered as was a letter sent to the Book Council.

Address: c/o National Library, 36, Old Treasury Street, Valletta.

Tel.: 21 236585/21243297;

Email:

sergiogrech@yahoo.com

http://adriangrima.250free.com/

kumitat/kunsill\_nazzjonali\_tal-ktieb.htm

### Go Mobile launches Mobile Books

Go Mobile has launched a service called Mobile Books which offers the chance to download a whole book or chapters on a mobile phone to be read whenever one wishes to. There are over 4,700 book titles to choose from including several classics.

To access the catalogue of books visit the Go Live! WAP site on a Go Mobile phone. Each view has a preview for download. A Mobile Book costs

Lm1 (excluding the download cost).

For more details, contact Go Care on 146 from a Go Mobile line, 7922-2146 from other networks, or visit [www.go.com.mt](http://www.go.com.mt).

### Documentary Sources of Maltese History

Malta University Press has published Part I no. 3 in the series *Documentary Sources of Maltese History* by Stanley Fiorini which brings together two short registers of the earliest extant notarial material in Malta dating back to the 15th century. Also published is Part II no. 2 which covers the first sixty years of the 15th century bringing together more than 600 documents related to Maltese history unearthed from the Palermo chancery archives.

Contact: Malta University Publishers Tel: 21313416/7  
Email: [mupl@mus.com.mt](mailto:mupl@mus.com.mt)

## Local and Overseas Calendar



### 18 April

**The Auberge d'Italie** - Public lecture at 6 pm by Kenneth Gambin, Chief Curator, at Heritage Malta's Head Office, Valletta.

### 20 April

**Underground Valletta** - Public Lecture in English at 6.30 pm by Edward Said at Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna's premises, Notre Dame Gate, Vittoriosa (next to St. Edward's College).

### 22 April-3 June

**'Certificate Course in Caring for your Treasures and Historic Buildings'** organised by The Institute for Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH) of Heritage Malta, Saturdays (9.00-12.30) at the University's Gozo Centre, Xewkija.

**MaLIA Report follow-up**  
details to be announced later

### May-June

Exhibition at the National Library of Spanish codices and facsimiles of documents relevant to the shared history of Malta and Spain. They will include the document in which King Carlos I granted the right of establishment on the islands to the Knights of Malta. Details to be announced in the press.

### 29 May-4 June

**Libraries in the Digital Age**  
Conference and course,  
Dubrovnik and Mljet, Croatia. <http://www.ffos.hr/lida/>



### 20-24 August

**72nd IFLA General Conference and Council**

Theme: "Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society"  
Seoul, Republic of Korea.  
<http://www.ifla.org>

### 16-17 October

**Conference: Internet Librarian International 2006**  
Theme: "Discovering New Resources; Demystifying Web Technologies", London  
[info@internet-librarian.com](mailto:info@internet-librarian.com);  
<http://www.internet-librarian.com>

### INTERNATIONALLY CELEBRATED DATES

World Book and Copyright Day - April 23  
World Telecommunication Day - May 17  
International Literacy Day - September 8