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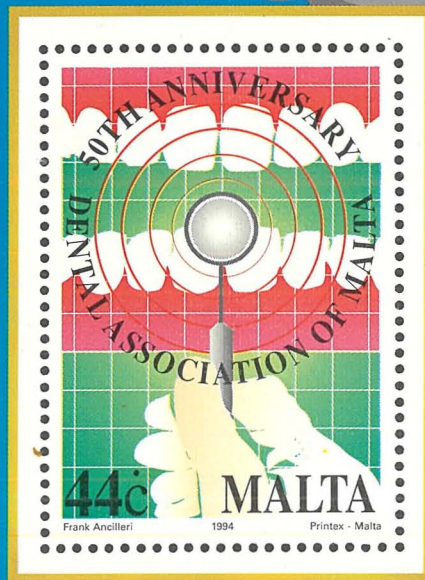
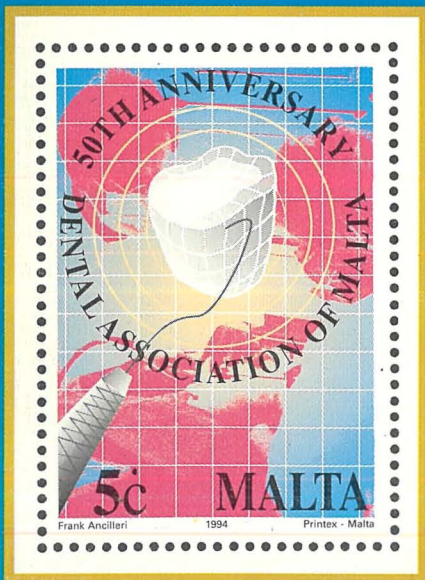
'94

International Conference

DENTAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

50th Anniversary Celebrations
10-12th February 1994

Souvenir Programme



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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Friday 11th February

8.15 a.m.	<i>registration</i>
8.45 a.m.	<i>opening speeches</i>
9.00 a.m.	<i>papers</i>
11.00 a.m.	<i>coffee</i>
11.15 a.m.	<i>papers and discussions</i>
12.30 p.m.	<i>lunch</i>
14.00 p.m.	<i>papers</i>
15.30 p.m.	<i>tea</i>
16.00 p.m.	<i>papers</i>
17.15 p.m.	<i>close of session</i>

Saturday 12th February

9.00 a.m.	<i>papers</i>
10.30 a.m.	<i>coffee</i>
11.00 a.m.	<i>papers and discussions</i>
12.00 p.m.	<i>lunch</i>
14.00 p.m.	<i>papers</i>
15.45 p.m.	<i>tea</i>
16.15 p.m.	<i>papers</i>
17.45 p.m.	<i>close of session</i>

Front Cover:

Set of two stamps issued on the 12th February 1994, on the initiative of Dr J.H. Mercieca, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Dental Association of Malta.

Souvenir Programme:

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MESSAGE OF WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the officers of the Dental Association of Malta and its International Meeting Organising Committee, I extend a very warm welcome to all who are participating in the Association's International Congress for 1994 being held at the New Dolmen Hotel in St. Paul's Bay to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Dental Association of Malta.

I have appreciated deeply and am also delighted with the support of our total membership and past officers of our Association. They have supported me magnificently in all stages of this enterprise. A debt of gratitude is owed to all who have made this most successful meeting possible. We are also pleased to announce that we have achieved our objective of organising an excellent scientific programme of international standard for our Congress which will be both interesting and enlightening. The Scientific Sessions will feature seven key-note speakers of international renown and they will together share their vast first hand knowledge and experience towards the theme of "Advancing Dentistry with Advancing Technology".

Congresses are not entirely about scheduled items in the programme – be they scientific or social. Informal encounters with colleagues from differing backgrounds are also something to be treasured. I hope, therefore that you will derive benefit from the many opportunities the Congress will provide for informal professional exchange.

In the pages that follow, you will find full details of the extensive Scientific Programme, the Trade Exhibition, the Social Events and Tours, all arranged for your instruction and entertainment over the next three days. I trust that your participation in these different facets of the Congress will be both informative and enjoyable. No scientific conference could ever be complete without the participation of the dental traders and I extend a special welcome to them in St. Paul's Bay. A debt of gratitude is owed to the many sponsors and most assuredly the exhibitors without whose support this event could not have taken place.

I hope that not only will the weather behave itself but also that you will find time in your busy schedule to explore the environs of the town along the Coast and inland, so as to learn more about Malta, the island's exotic places of scenic beauty and historical attractions. One thing is certain. I can promise that after attending the scientific sessions to learn more about new materials and the techniques, sharing the latest concepts of dental care with members of the team, discussing the problems of present-day practice and propounding our solutions for the future, at the conclusion of the conference we will have put some of the enjoyment back into our profession and can return refreshed to our practices and patients.

We extend our best wishes to all of you for a fruitful and good meeting, and bid a special warm welcome to all the participants from overseas. I strongly believe that sharing our pursuit of knowledge to improve standards of care for our patients is the way forward to ensure a sound future for dentistry.

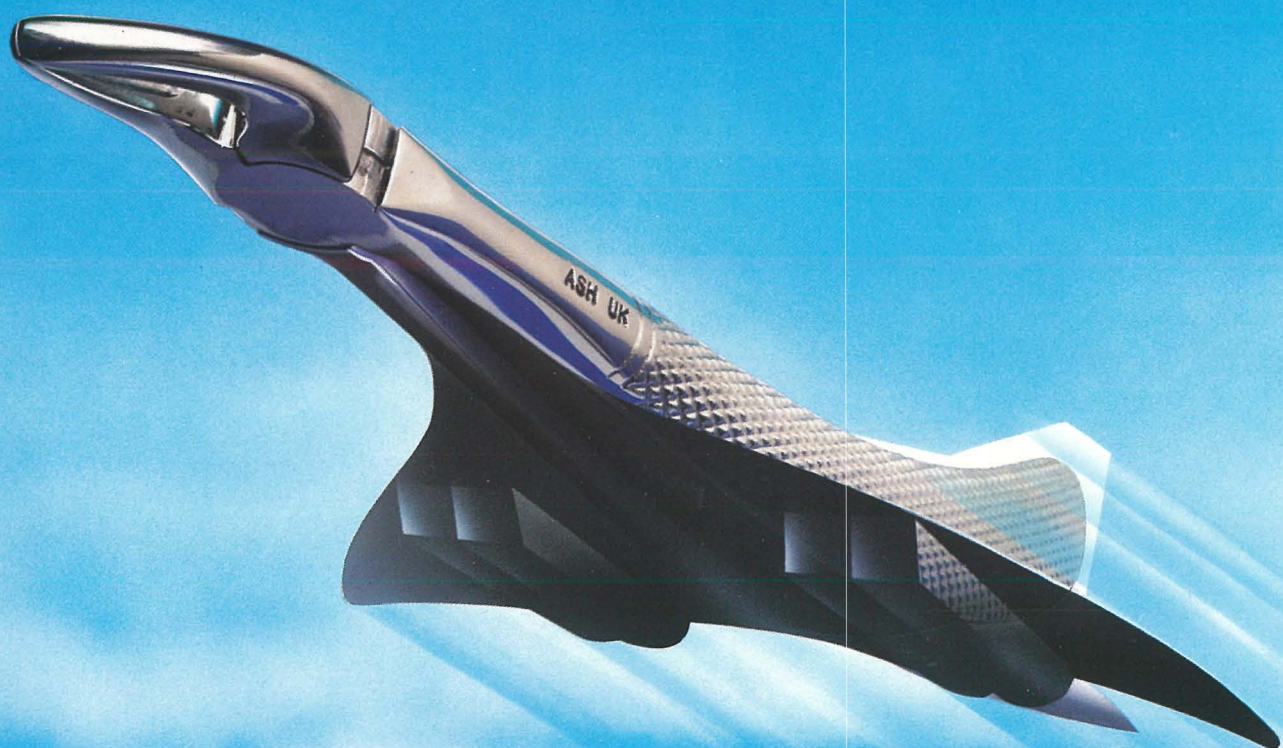
Welcome to you all and thank you for coming.



Dr. ALFRED MAGRI DEMAJO
President, Dental Association of Malta

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The History of the Dental Association of Malta 1944–1994

by

John H. Mercieca

It can safely be stated that the dental profession, in the normally accepted sense of the word, came into being in 1937 with the graduation from the University of Malta, of the first seven dental surgeons, who are rightly to be looked upon as the pioneers and the foundation stone of the Dental Profession in Malta. They were Joseph Farrugia, John H. Mercieca, John A. Portelli, Leo Portelli, Francis L. Nassetta, Victor Salomone and Victor Vella Grech.

Notwithstanding the fact that in 1935, when the seven dental students, who were in their 3rd year of the course, had formed an active Dental Students Association under the presidency and guidance of their mentor and teacher Prof. Egidio Lapira, yet seven years had to go by, before a true and proper association was definitely formed at a General Meeting, held for the purpose on Saturday the 12th February 1944 at 3 p.m. at Dr. F L. Nassetta's waiting room, called by a circular dated 3rd February 1944, under the signature of V. J. Salomone, secretary pro tempore.

The first meeting which was attended by ten members decided to form the association under the name "The Dental Association of Malta" and the members of the first committee were elected as follows: Chairman – Prof. E. Lapira, Secretary – V. J. Salomone, Treasurer – F. L. Nassetta and Members – J. J. Mangion and John H. Mercieca. At this meeting Prof. Lapira and Dr. V. J. Salomone were elected by the newly-formed Committee of five members, to represent the association at the then forthcoming National Congress to discuss the form of a New Constitution for Malta.

Thereafter the Association continued to meet at regular intervals to consider and decide on matters and situations pertaining to the Dental Profession. One such matter was the consideration of a letter received from the Lieut. Governor re conditions of employment and salaries of Government Dental Surgeons. Other matters decided were a proposal to the C.G.M.O. to appoint three members of the Association to sit and vote at meetings of the Medical Board whenever matters pertaining to the Dental Profession were to be discussed and a similar proposal to the Director of Education to appoint three members of the Association at Meetings of the Board of Education.

In November 1944 the Association applied for affiliation with the British Dental Association which was immediately after approved. In the early '50s the Association similarly applied for affiliation with the Fédération Internationale which was at once granted and the Malta Dental Association automatically became a member of this strong world body. The Dental Association of Malta is a founder member of the Malta Federation of Professional Bodies which was formed on the 9th November 1970. The Federation houses our headquarters which were at 1 Wilga Street, Paceville, but in February 1993 we moved to Medisle Village in St. Andrews where we have more spacious premises and there are plans to include a modern conference centre. We are also founder members of The Commonwealth Dental Association which was formed at a Formal Launching Ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 24th and 25th April 1991. Our president, Dr. Alfred Magri Demajo attended this inaugural meeting and he was appointed vice-president of the European Region which comprises the U.K., Cyprus and Malta.

As the years went by the Association held its meetings at homes of different members, but in the mid-fifties meetings started being held in the office of the head of the Dental Department at St. Luke's Hospital.

In June 1946 the Dental Association of Malta approved the representation of the Malta Dentists Association on the Committee by two members. Later in the year, for the sake of unity of purpose both

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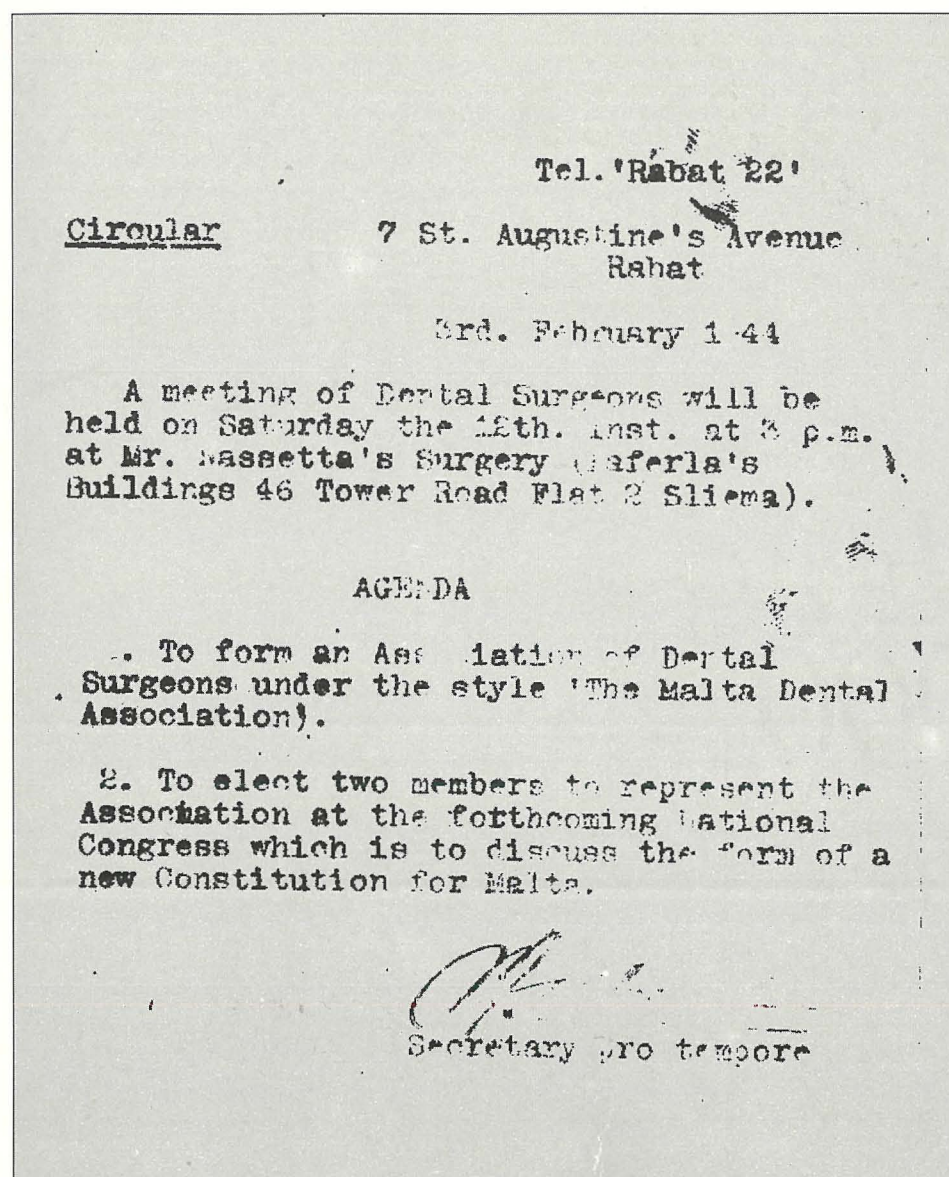
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Associations were amalgamated but members of the Dentists Association, though enjoying the same rights could not be elected as members of the Committee of the D.A.M.

In November 1947 Dr. Salomone resigned as secretary after three and a half years in office and Dr. John Mercieca was elected to the post which he held for the next fourteen years, when in 1961 he was unanimously elected President following the retirement of Professor Lapira who held office for seventeen successive years. Dr. Mercieca was at the helm for twenty successive years, from 1961 to 1981 when on his retirement he was elected Honorary Life President.

Subsequently Dr. E. Galea held office as President for four years, followed by Prof. G. E. Camilleri and Dr. Roger Vella who both served as President for two successive two year terms. At the A.G.M. of the Association held in January 1993 Dr. Alfred Magri Demajo was elected President and it falls to his lot to organise the important celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Dental Association of Malta from the 10-14th February 1994.



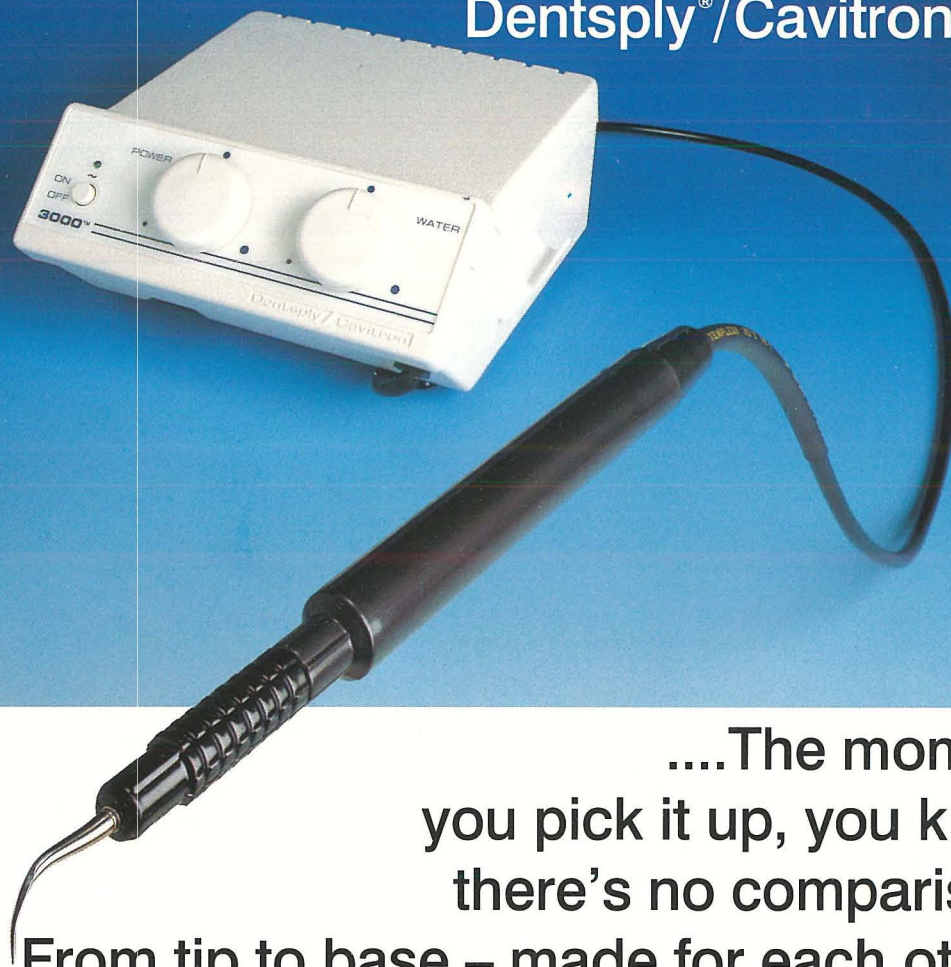
Foundation circular 3rd February 1944

During these fifty years of its life the Association has been a reliable guardian in all matters, whether of great or small import, affecting the dental profession and has in all eventualities, which had cropped up from time to time, soundly advised the profession as also groups of individuals who sought its protection leading them in the majority of cases to an acceptable and happy solution and steering them away from undesirable situations of turmoil.

The Association which back in 1944 started with a membership of ten now counts sixty members of the Dental Profession. In the latter half of the fifties it went through long periods of inactivity and inertia and at times its very existence was seriously threatened, but with the dogged perseverance of

a handful of its members, who inspired by the determined leadership of their then President and leader Professor Egidio Lapira, fought hard to keep the Association alive and going in order to hand it on, strong as never before to the now 130 strong professional members, in whose hands the destinies of the profession lie and whose heavy responsibility it will always be to see to its welfare and its passing from strength to strength and from one success to another.

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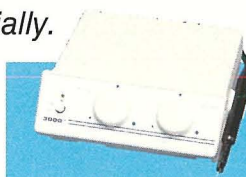
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The Dental Association of Malta First Committee (1944–45)

Prof. E. Lapira (*President*)
Dr V. Salomone (*Hon. Secretary*)
Dr (Prof.) J.J. Mangion
Dr Nassetta (*Hon. Treasurer*)
Capt. J.H. Mercieca

Present Committee (1993–1994)



Standing, left to right:

Dr M. Mallia (*Hon. Secretary*), Dr A. Charles (*F.D.I. Matters – Foreign Sect.*),
Dr F. Vella Bardon (*Member*), Dr M. Padovani (*Hon. Treasurer*), Prof. G.E. Camilleri (*Member*).

Sitting, left to right:

Dr P. Vassallo (*Asst. Secretary*), Dr J.H. Mercieca (*Hon. Life President*),
Dr A. Magri Demajo (*President*), Dr R. Vella (*Vice President*)

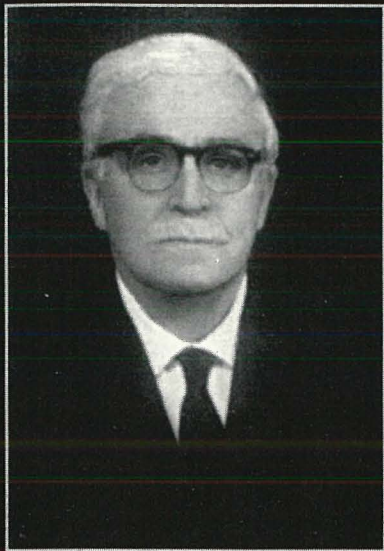


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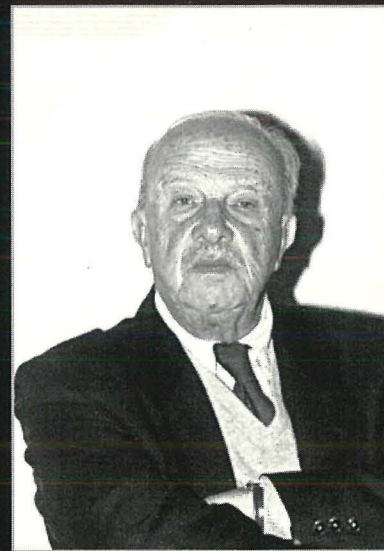
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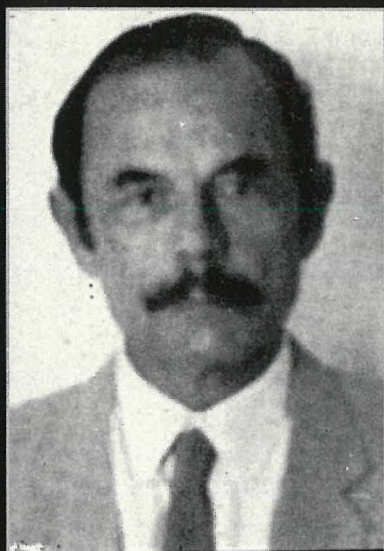


Egidio Lapira 1944–1961



John H. Mercieca 1961–1981

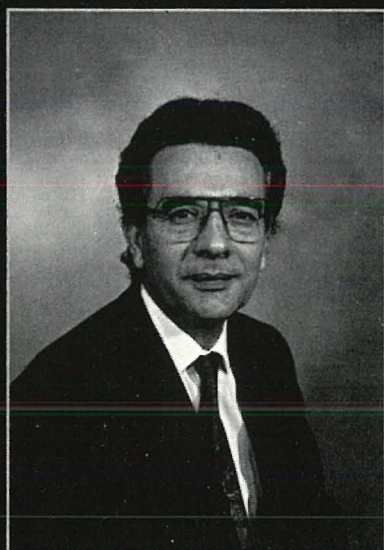
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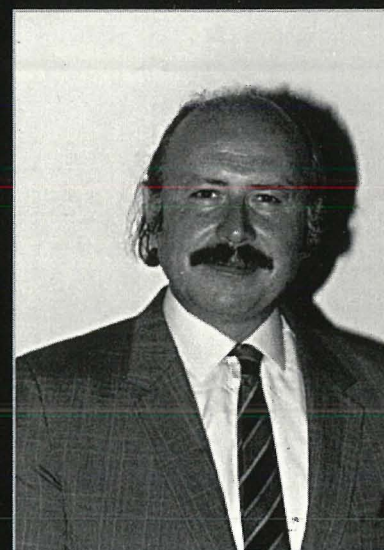
Edward Galea 1981–1985



George E. Camilleri 1985–1989



Roger Vella 1989–1993



Alfred Magri Demajo 1993–

95%

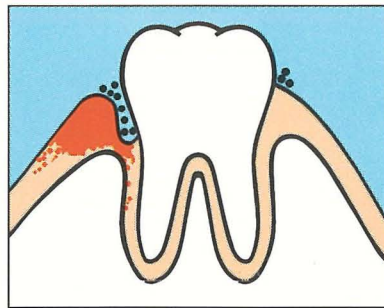
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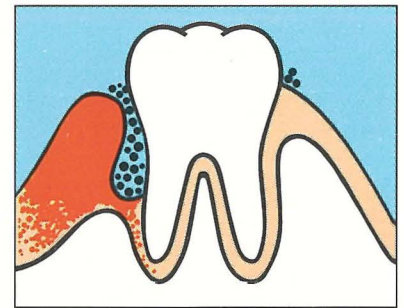
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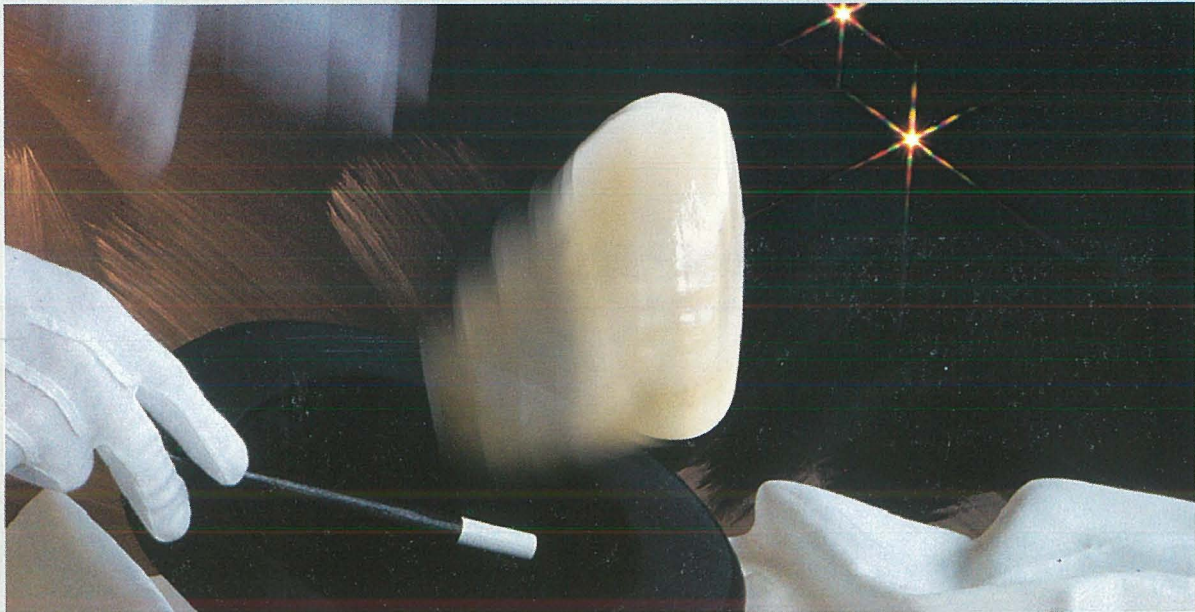
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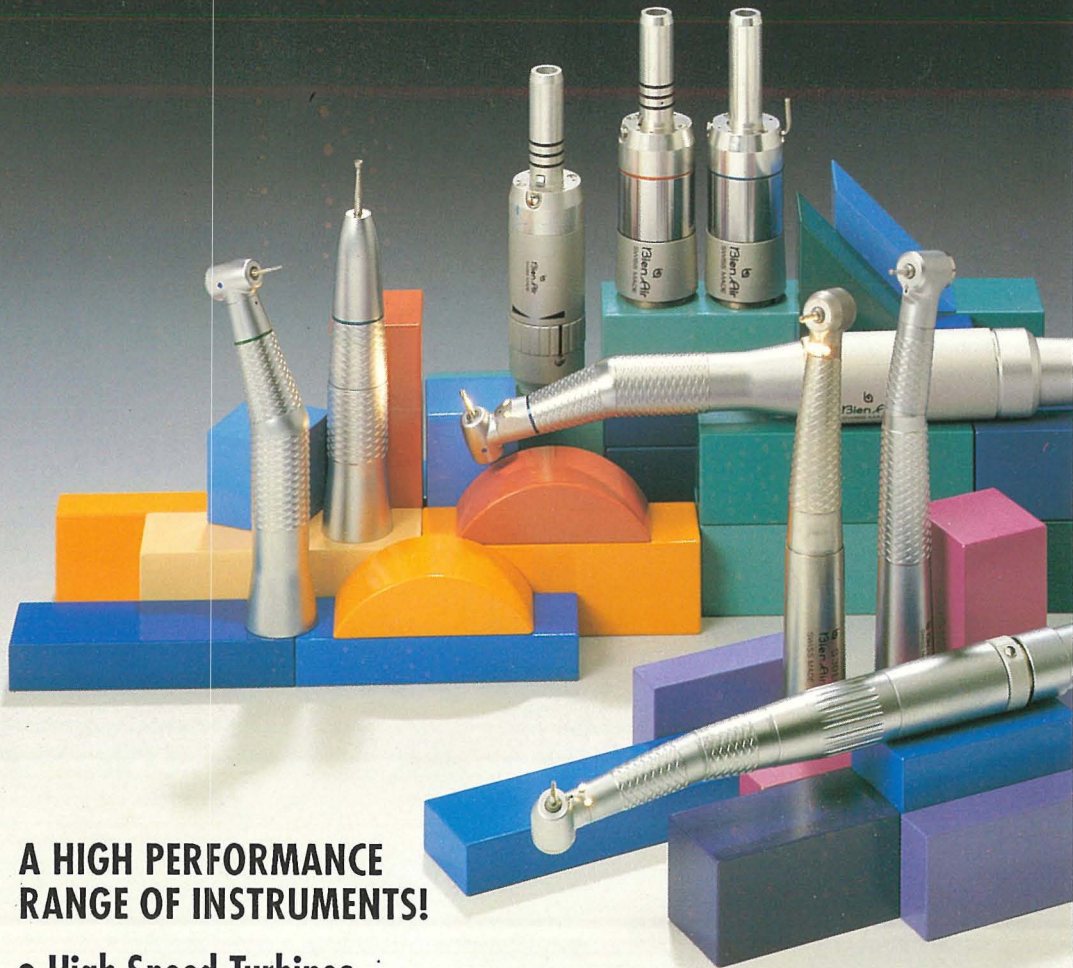
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PROGRAMME

Friday 11th February 1994

Chairman: Dr. Alfred Magri Demajo

0900-1000: Prof Paul F. Bradley: '**Frontiers for Laser Therapy in the Oral Cavity**'

1000-1100: Prof George A. Zarb: '**The Osseointegrated Implant and the General Dental Practitioner. Selection and Management**'.

Coffee Break

1115-1145: Dr Marie Lou Ciantar: '**Chemical Therapy in Periodontal Disease. Use and Misuse.**

1145-1215: Dr J. Ellis Paul: '**Sit Right, See Right, Do Right**'.

1215-1230: Prof Bernard G.N. Smith: '**Anterior Axial Tooth Movement using a Fixed Dahl Appliance**'.

Lunch

Chairman: Prof John M. Portelli

1400-1430: Prof Hector Galea: '**By the Skin of our Teeth**'.

1430-1530: Prof Bernard G.N. Smith: '**Pitfalls in Practice – a Dento-legal Perspective**'.

Tea Break

1600-1645: Dr Jack J. Messing: '**Endodontics - a Historical Review**'.

1645-1715: Prof George E. Camilleri: '**Oral Manifestations of Gastrointestinal Disease**'.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 12th February 1994

Chairman: Prof Hector Galea

0900-1200: **'The Changing Face of Orthodontics'**.
Dr K.G. Isaacson
Mr Allan Thom
Dr J.K. Williams

Lunch

Chairman: Prof George E. Camilleri

1400-1445: Dr Robin M. Davies: **'Clinical Review of Plaque, Gingivitis,
Calculus and Caries Efficacy Studies with a Dentifrice'**.

1445-1500: Prof John M. Portelli & Dr K. Spiteri Staines: **'Incidence of Oral
Cancer in Malta and the EU'**.

1500-1515: Prof Paul F. Bradley: **'Low Reactive Level Laser Therapy'**.

1515-1530: Dr Alfred Magri Demajo: **'Planning Ahead in Crown and
Bridgework'**.

1530-1545: Prof George A. Zarb: **'TM Joint Disorders in Dental Practice'**.

Tea Break

1615-1700: Dr Joseph L. Grech: **'Forensic Odontology'**.

1715-1730: Dr Patrick Engelfried: **'Ceramic and Metal Brackets.
A Comparison'**.

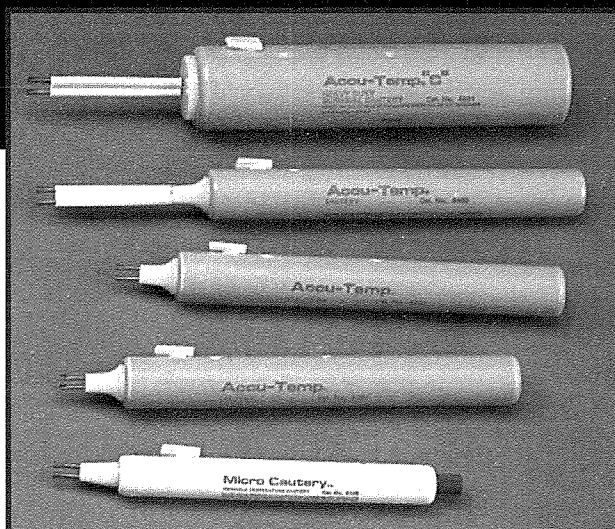
1730-1745: Dr Paula Vassallo: **'Incidence of Impacted Third Molars'**.

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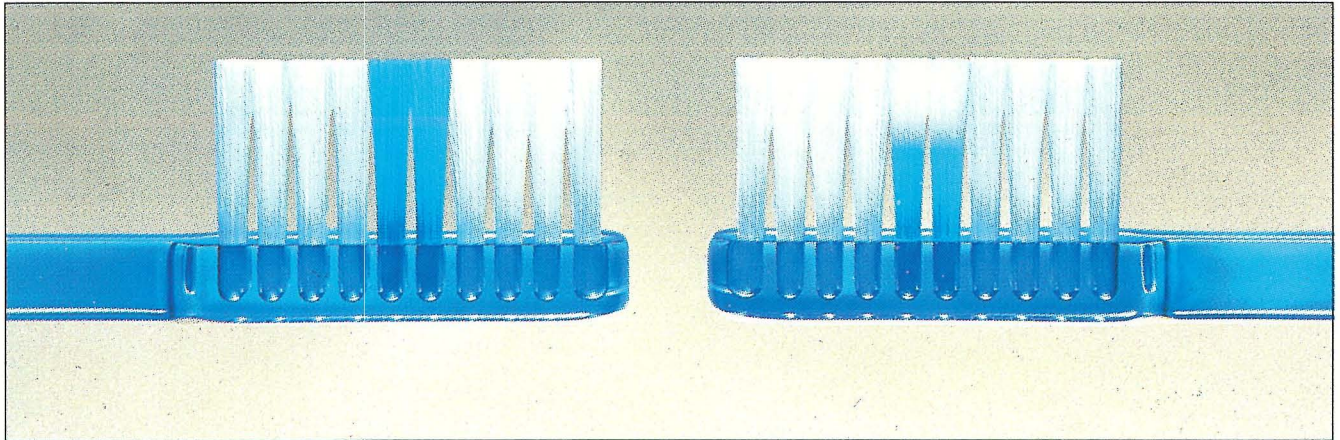
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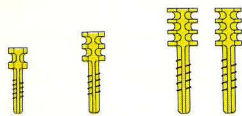
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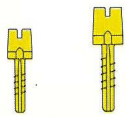
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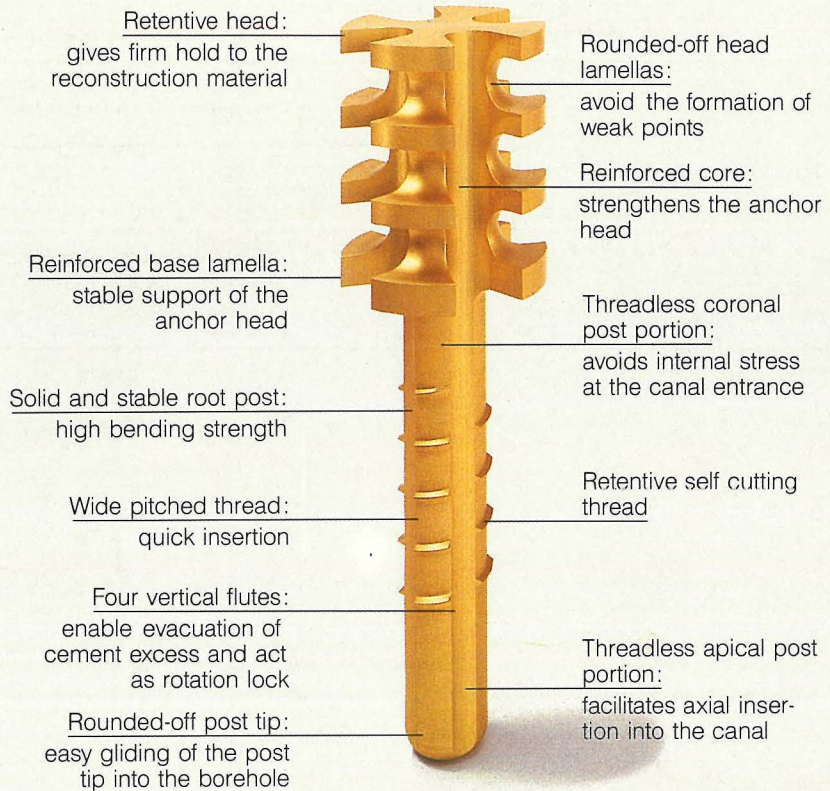
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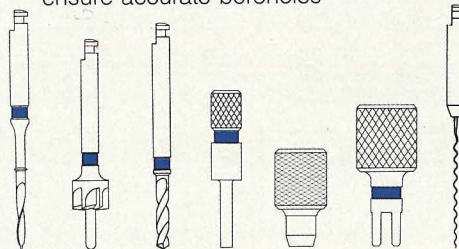
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The organising committee:

Dr. Alfred Magri Demajo, President DAM
Dr. Roger Vella
Dr. Malcolm Mallia

Scientific Programme:

Prof. George E. Camilleri

Secretariat:

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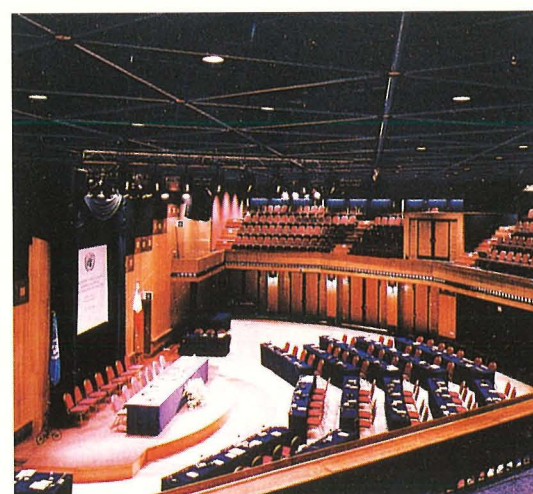
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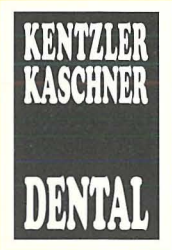
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Santa Apollonia

by

John Portelli

Biography

The little that is known about Saint Apollonia is from a letter sent by Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria between 240 and 265 AD to Fabius, Bishop of Antioch.

Dionysius' detailed description of the martyrdom of St. Apollonia is the only known original source of information about the Saint. The letter has in fact raised two questions, one descriptive and the other theological, which have over the years been the cause of some debate.

According to Dionysius, St. Apollonia suffered martyrdom during an uprising against the Christians of Alexandria immediately preceding the persecution of Decius at the end of 248 AD or the beginning of 249 AD. The uprising occurred during festivities commemorating the first millenium of the Roman Empire, and was precipitated by a poet who prophesied a calamity, the reason for which the populace attributed to the Christians.

Dionysius describes how a Christian man and woman, who he names as Metras and Quinta, were seized and put to death after suffering the most cruel tortures. After submitting the Christian population to further abuses and generalised looting of their homes, Dionysius states that there was "at that time, Apollonia, a virgo prebytera, and held in high esteem. These men seized her also and by repeated blows, broke all her teeth. They then erected outside the city gates a pile of fagots, and threatened to burn her alive if she refused to repeat after them blasphemous words. Given at her own request, a little freedom, she sprang quickly into the fire, and was burnt to death".

The description of St. Apollonia, as "virgo prebytera", has been freely translated as "a virgin advanced in years", and early portraits of the saint depict her as such. It was later suggested that Dionysius may in fact have meant "a deaconess", on which basis later artists in the middle ages, portrayed her as a beautiful young woman having her teeth extracted with forceps. During the Renaissance this was changed to the Saint holding a pair of forceps and a tooth. It is this image that has given rise to todays common but erroneous belief that St. Apollonia is the patron saint of dentists, and not, as is in fact the case of sufferers of toothache.

The theological question arises from the description of events related to the statement "she sprang quickly into the fire". Saint Apollonia is therefore one of the early martyrs of the church, who in order to preserve their chastity, or being forced with the option of either renouncing their faith or suffering death, voluntarily chose the latter in the form already prepared for them. Some early church authorities had interpreted St. Apollonia's actions as voluntarily choosing death in order to avoid the consequence of her tortures, thus putting in some doubt her saintly virtues. St. Augustine deals with this question and concludes that St. Apollonia and other early martrys of the church who acted in the same manner did so "... not through human caprice, but on the command of God, not erroneously, but through obedience ..."

There are also legends that have added confusion about the life and the times of St. Apollonia. One legend has it that the Saint was a King's daughter who was tortured with dental extractions by her father, and promised before her death to help all those who suffer with toothache.

The saint is sometimes referred to as St. Apollonia of Alexandria to distinguish her from another legendary Apollonia who was reputed to have met a similar fate in Rome during the reign of Julian the Apostate. The Church recognizes one St. Apollonia, of Alexandria.

Saint Apollonia in Malta

Devotion to St. Apollonia in Malta, as elsewhere, is limited. This also applies to other early saints of the church, who, by and large, were venerated and more part of Christian tradition prior to the XII century when the Virgin Mary became increasingly a focus of Christian devotion and prayer.

Portraits of St. Apollonia in Maltese churches are therefore quite rare, a number have however been traced. A painting by Cali Corleo is to be found at the Convent of St. Francis in Republic Street, Valletta. This depicts the saint in a classical renaissance posture holding a pair of dental forceps and a recently extracted tooth.

Another painting adorns an altar at the Parish Church of St. Caetan, Hamrun ¹. This painting by Anna Forte dated Rome 1874 depicts the saint rising to heaven with an angel at her feet holding a pair of forceps. Other paintings of the saint hang in the chapel at Fort St. Angelo, and at Manresa House, Gozo. The latter originally discovered in the former chapel of St. Martin is at present being restored and awaiting attribution to some artists probably of the XVII century. A votive painting formerly at the chapel of St. Matthew, Qrendi, has since disappeared.

Perhaps the best known portrait of St. Apollonia in Malta, from an artistic point of view, is a XVII century painting by Giuseppe D'Arena, hanging on the side of the high altar at the church of St. Lucia at Santa Barbara Bastions, Valletta. D'Arena, believed by many to be Maltese, but probably from Messina, is thought to have lived in Malta between 1666 and 1719, when he died in Valletta. D'Arena's depiction of St. Apollonia is a classical portrait with the youthful saint holding a pair of forceps and tooth in her right hand. Toothache or a particular regard for dentists can be safely ruled out as a reason behind D'Arena's portrait, his mother's name was Apollonia ².



Portrait of St. Apollonia by Giuseppe D'Arena at the church of Santa Lucia in Valletta.

Feast of St. Apollonia

Coming as it does the day before the feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck in Malta, a public holiday and day of considerable religious activities, the feast day of St. Apollonia on the 9th February has attracted little, or no attention in Malta – except of course amongst the dental profession.

Originally, and solely on the initiative of the late Mr. Anthony Ciappara (1903–84), a registered dentist and member of the Dental Association of Malta, dentists have come to celebrate the feast day of their patients' patron saint with increasing enthusiasm.

In years past, dentists and dental students were invited by Mr. Ciappara to Mass at either St. Francis Church in Valletta, or St. Gaetan Church in Hamrun and later treated to coffee at a fashionable café on Kingsway or High Street, there to watch the world go by. This was followed by lunch for those who found it possible to take a full day off their rigorous clinical duties. Small numbers made it delightfully possible to induce all the dental students to attend by inviting them to lunch. Mr. Ciappara's little known philanthropic activity was to entertain a group of orphans to lunch on St. Apollonia's day.



*Saint Apollonia's day, 9th February 1947.
Mr Anthony Ciappara (2nd from left).*

Times have changed, and in this fast and competitive world, we now celebrate this feast on the following day, a public holiday, mindful we like to think of our duties and nothing else. This of course has had one major advantage – St. Apollonia has come to mean a full day outing for dentists and their families. Mass is followed by lunch at an ever changing

venue, and the now traditional walk and tea becoming increasingly patronized – and would you believe it, dental topics, shunned by spouses, gradually disappearing from conversation.

As the dental fraternity grows, this informal gathering with a human touch will become increasingly important to us and future members of the profession.

I am sure St. Apollonia is well pleased.



10th February, 1992. Celebration of the feast of St. Apollonia.

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PRIVATE BANKING

GINO FARRUGIA

The harsh economic and political realities of the past few years effected adversely many organisations, not least banks. Many banks went through strategies of retrenchment, with the aim of reducing costs.

Generally the cost reducing exercise was two pronged – on one hand a reduction of the level of service offered to private customers, and on the other a decrease in staff levels. The reduction of staff lead to increasing dependence on electronic systems. Services were rendered impersonal – numbers replaced names, cash dispensers replaced friendly cashiers and generally, personal relationships gave way to anonymous transactions.

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To the local participants of the 1994 Dental Conference, Lombard Bank is a familiar name, a name which is now synonymous with the traditional values of private banking. To the overseas participants, this may be the first time they may have come across the name Lombard Bank – we all hope this will not be the last!

By way of introduction, Lombard Bank was incorporated in 1969 to operate as a fully licensed commercial bank. Until May 1975, Lombard Bank was fully owned by Lombard North Central UK, part of the National Westminster Bank Group. Today the Government of Malta owns 51% of the shareholding, but plans are in hand for the Government to divest its shareholding, and so Lombard Bank will become the first of the three local banks in which Government has a majority interest, to become a truly public company, one where the public is the majority shareholder. The Bank is represented in five strategic localities in Malta and provides the full range of banking services, from deposit taking to personal and corporate lending and trade financing.

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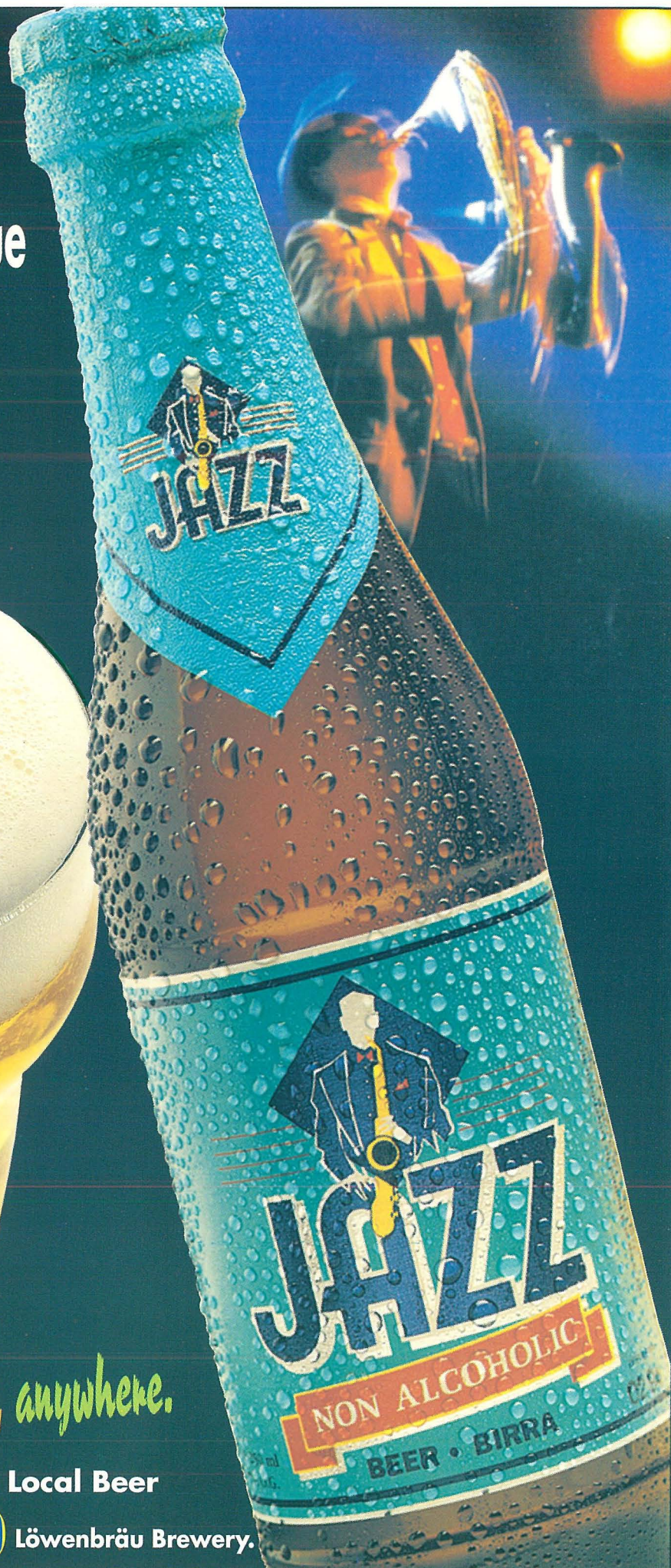
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Friday 11th February

- am Valletta Tour
pm Mdina Tour

Saturday 12th February

- am Cottonera Tour
7.30 pm The Malta Experience – an audio-visual
representation – followed by:
8.30 pm Conference Dinner in the Sacra Infermeria
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Sunday 13th February

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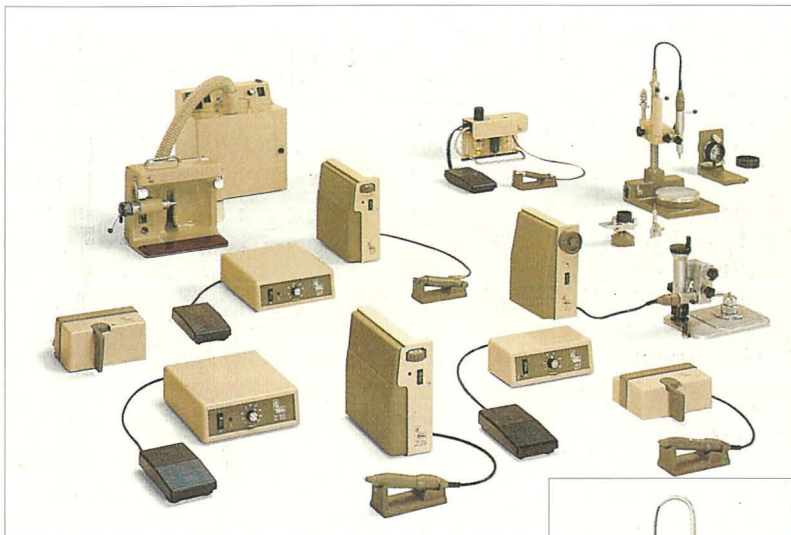
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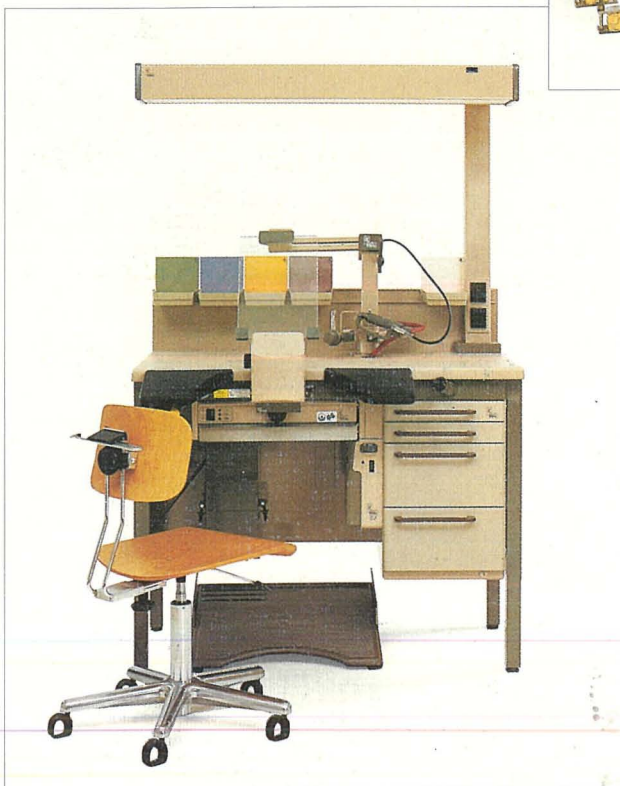
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