

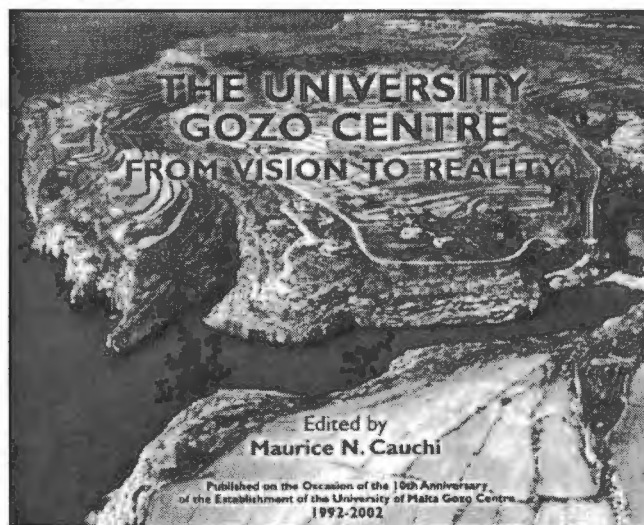
Editorial:

The University Gozo Centre: 10 Years On

This year the University Gozo Centre celebrates its tenth anniversary since it opened its doors for the first time and started the arduous road of organising tertiary studies in Gozo. The history of this event are summarised in a commemorative publication produced for the occasion. In an introductory note, the Rector of the University, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef explains why such a venture was a must. "It is difficult for Gozitans in employment to follow part-time University courses at the Tal-Qroqq campus" he said. He continues: "The Centre's activities extend beyond teaching. It has undertaken research in various subjects associated with Gozo, including its economy, its social fabric and its demography. The Centre's presence in Gozo has generated an intellectual revival, partly the result of the great number of scholars that regularly visit Gozo to lecture at the Centre.

The Director, Professor Lino Briguglio gave a short history of the Centre, from the very humble beginnings when it shared premises with the Sir Refalo Complex in Victoria, in 1992, through its acquisition of its current premises in 1997, and their successful conversion to an attractive building suitable for a university campus. He says: "I wanted the project to succeed and I really felt I had a mission to fulfil, namely that of promoting university education in Gozo. But the important driving force was that I loved (and of course still love) Gozo."

The Centre could not possibly take shape and become a reality but for the vision as well as practical and financial assistance given by the Ministry for Gozo. It was initially through the efforts of the then Minister for Gozo, Mr Anton Tabone, that the idea was first mooted and encouraged. This was followed with equal zest by the Hon Giovanna Debono. She says: "The setting up of the University Gozo Centre has been a success story that has further enhanced the educational sector in Gozo and introduced



the highest level of education on the Island."

It is enough to reflect that many hundreds of students that have gone through its doors in the intervening decade would most probably never have benefited from further education but for the foresight and support by all those involved in setting up and running the Centre.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the University of Malta Gozo Centre, a series of events were organised. On Friday 23rd August there was "An Evening of Drama". The play "Agave Ada_jo" written by Vince Vella was followed by a very lusty rendering of Aristophanes' "Lisistrata", translated by Joe Friggieri. Both plays were directed by Josette Ciappara. On the following day, (Saturday 24th), the celebrations started by Holy Mass celebrated by His Lordship Mgr N.J.Cauchi, followed by a commemorative speech by Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the University Gozo Centre on the topic: "The University Gozo Centre from an Idea to an Institution". This was followed by a concert of Vocal Popular Classical Music, with soprano Anita Cauchi, pianist Livia Galea conducted by Mro Joe Fenech and with the participation of the Choir of the University of the Third Age.