

# A FOCUS ON GOZO



Edited by  
**Joseph Farrugia**  
and  
**Lino Briguglio**

**Published by the University of Malta Gozo Centre  
in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo  
and the Foundation for International Studies**

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**Front Cover: A Windmill at Qala, Gozo. Photo: Ted Attard**

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**Editorial Note:**

The letters *ċ* (as in [ch]urch), *ġ* (as in [j]let), *ħ* (as in [h]orse) and *ż* (as in [z]ip) in Maltese words, are rendered in a Maltese font.

Arabic terms have been transcribed as follows: *jim* is rendered by *dj* and *ha* is rendered by *h*. The Arabic *ʿayn* is rendered by *ʿ*.

## PREFACE

**The Hon. Anton Tabone**  
*Minister for Gozo*

**T**his is the third volume published by the University of Malta Gozo Centre, since its establishment in 1993. The first two books dealt respectively with Tourism and with Culture in Gozo. The Gozo Centre has now established itself as an important institution in Gozitan life, and its activities and publications are making an important contribution to Gozitan cultural development.

This book contains a selection of papers originally presented in the form of lectures during the course entitled *A Focus on Gozo*, which the Gozo Centre organised in 1994-95. The course, coordinated by Rev. Dr. Joseph Farrugia, was very well attended, and the themes of the talks raised considerable interest among the Gozitan public. The organisers and my Ministry thought it would be good idea if these talks were published in one volume since this permitted the authors to elaborate on the themes of their talks, given that the 45 minute lectures presented a time constraint which restricted the amount of material that could be presented. Moreover, the publication of the lectures in a book adds to the durability of the contributions, since, unlike a lecture which is confined to a specific period of time, a printed paper can be consulted and studied over and over again. In addition, the inclusion of reference sources in the written version of the papers, render them very useful to students and researchers in matters related to Gozo.

A glance at the contents page of the book indicates that the volume covers a wide variety of themes, ranging from the physical to the cultural and the religious. Although a large proportion of the material is related to the history of Gozo, the book cannot be considered exclusively as a contribution to historical literature. Rather, as the editors suggest in their introduction, it is a search for the character and soul of the island.



## *Preface*

Producing a book of this nature requires considerable time and effort. Rev. Dr Joseph Farrugia and Professor Lino Briguglio have done a very good editorial job, considering the diverse nature of the papers and the different academic backgrounds of the contributors. I would like to thank them most heartily for their painstaking work. I would like to thank all the authors of the papers, since, obviously, without their contribution the book could not have been published.

I would also like to thank the Rector of the University of Malta, Rev. Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott, and the members of the Board of the Gozo Centre, for their important contribution to education and culture in Gozo.

My ministry has found it possible, and very rewarding, to collaborate with the Centre, not only in the production of this and the previous two books published by the Centre, but also in the various academic and social activities which the Centre organises from time to time. The fruit of such collaboration, which has now have developed into a strategic alliance, are there for all to see.