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Musings of Recovery: The Microhistorical Journey of a Jesuit Convalescent (1898-1911)

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Research in the Archivum Conventus Carmelitarum Notabilis (ACCN), brought to light a diary spanning from January 1, 1898 to April 9, 1911, and a sole entry in 1916 complemented by a short entry on 1916-1918. Found in a very good condition, the diary is written in English – with the exception of some entries in Italian – and presents detailed accounts of the life and encounters of an anonymous Jesuit, who seems to have been in Malta in convalescence from ill health. Mention of Casa Leone XIII and The College, situate the diary in the context of the Jesuit College founded in 1877 in Bel-Vedere, St Julian's, and the establishment of a home for the sick in 1894. Entries to visits in Gozo with fellow Jesuits, situate the diary in the context of Jesuits assuming leadership (1865-1909) of the Seminary and the school erected by the Bishop of Gozo. Unfolding in 498 pages, the diary is embellished with colourful pencil drawings of religious motifs and architectural designs. The microhistorical method will be applied for textual analysis, starting from transcription and preservation of the volume, passing on to annotate themes and cross-referencing to historical details and contexts emerging from other sources connecting microhistory of the individual to the socio-religious macro-history of the island. The interdisciplinary approach will be used. A compilation the names of specific individuals, events, and localities will be made, aiming at uncovering the author's life experiences, throwing light on ecclesial microhistory for a more nuanced understanding of the past. A unique feature of this diary: a number of intriguing codes inserted in the main entries, awaiting to be deciphered, will be highlighted.