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ENDURING EPHEMERA:

an exhibition of rare pamphlets from the
UM Library's Archives and Rare Books Collection

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

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Introduction

This exhibition of 70 pamphlets from the UM Library's Archive collection aims to bring to light the diverse nature of this collection, consisting of pamphlets on a wide variety of topics ranging from accounts of maritime skirmishes during the time of the Order of St. John, to scientific papers and tourist guides printed in the early 1900s, leaflets for catechesis, political pamphlets calling for fairer conditions at the hands of the colonial government and debating the issue of the "language question", and a number of other topics of interest. While most of the items on display were printed in Malta it is of added interest to note the range of languages used in these slim publications - including Italian, English, Portuguese, Spanish and earlier un-standardised versions of written Maltese.

Introduzzjoni

Din l-esebizzjoni, li hi magħmula minn sebgħin ktejjeb meħudin mill-kollezzjoni tal-Arkivji tal-Librerija tal-Università ta' Malta, għandha l-għan li titfa' dawl fuq il-varjetà wiesgħha ta' din il-kollezzjoni, li tikkonsisti minn ktejbiet dwar suġġetti diversi li jvarjaw minn informazzjoni fuq ġlidi marittimi matul iż-żmien tal-Ordni ta' San Ģwann, għal studji xjentifiċi u gwidi għat-turisti, ipprintjati fil-bidu tas-seklu dsatax, fuljetti għall-katekiżmu, ktejbiet politici bl-għajta għal kundizzjonijiet aktar ġusti mill-Gvern kolonjali, u dibattiti fuq il-kwistjoni tal-lingwa, fost suġġetti ta' interess oħrajn. Għad li ħafna minn dawn il-pubblikazzjonijiet esebiti kienu ppubblikati hawn Malta, wieħed jista' jinnota li dawn inkitbu b'diversi lingwi - fosthom bit-Taljan, bl-Ingliż, bil-Portugiż, bl-Ispanjol u b'ortografija Maltija li ma kinitx għadha qiegħi standardizzata.

ENDURING EPHEMERA

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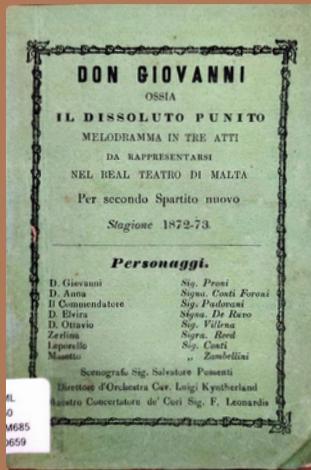
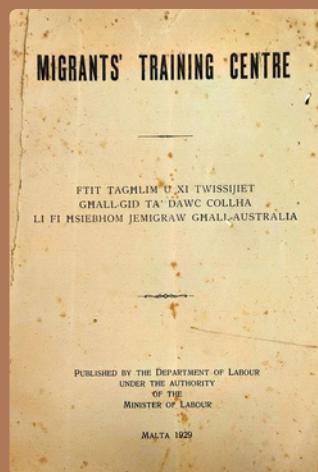
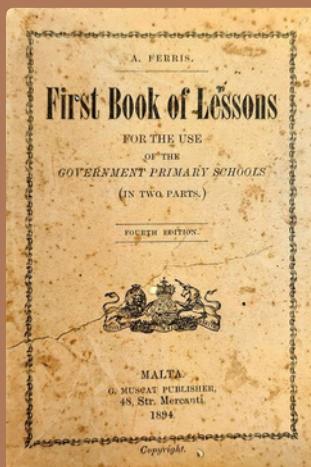
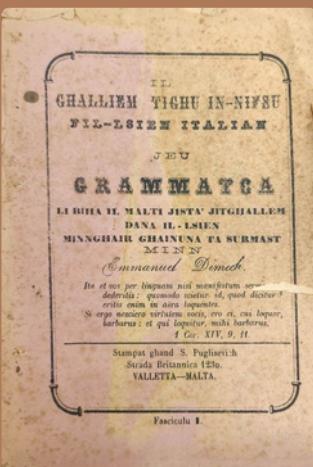
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Miscellaneous pamphlets

This display of miscellaneous pamphlets covers a wide range of areas of interest, such as Sapiano-Lanzon's advice to novice poets printed in 1904, in which the author elucidates by means of a number of carefully chosen examples the proper use of metre, accent and rhyme in Maltese poetry; useful information (printed in 1929) for those planning to emigrate to Australia - such a move was actively encouraged by the British government due to the unfavourable economic situation during the inter-war period; Manuel Dimech's study aid to Italian, subtitled *Allowing the Maltese to learn this language without the help of a teacher* - an objective very much in-keeping with Dimech's own autodidactic approach to learning - and Ferris's *First book of lessons* which is an early textbook for students of English printed in 1894 for use in local primary schools; an account written in Italian of the trial of a 19 year old Maltese girl "possessed by the devil" printed in 1672; The well-known author Juan Mamo's 1934 digest about curious practices and magic tricks from around the world; a libretto to the opera Don Giovanni, printed for the 1872 performance at the Royal Opera House; and a pamphlet in Maltese about the meaning of dreams.

Taħlita ta' ktejbiet

Din l-wirja, imħawra b'taħlita ta' ktejbiet, tolqot diversi oqsma ta' interress, ngħidu aħna, il-pariri li ta Sapiano-Lanzon lil poeti prinċipjanti, ippubblikati fl-1904, u li fihom jagħti spjegazzjoni cara dwar l-użu tajjeb tal-metru, l-acċent u r-rimi fil-poežija Maltija bis-saħħha ta' diversi eżempji magħżulin minnu bir-reqqa; tagħrif utli (ippubblikat fl-1929) għal dawk li kien beħsiebhom jitilqu lejn l-Australja - dan it-tluq kien inkoraġġit kontinwament mill-Gvern Ingliz minħabba s-sitwazzjoni ekonomika li ma kinitx favorevoli; is-sottotitlu tal-ktieb ippubblikat minn Manwel Dimech għall-istudju tat-Taljan: *Allowing the Maltese to learn this language without the help of a teacher* - hu għan li jaqbel perfettament mal-viżjoni awtodidattika ta' Dimech firrigward tat-tagħlim - u *First book of lessons*, miktub minn Ferris u ppubblikat fl-1894, hu ktieb immirat għal studenti tal-Ingliz biex jużaww bħala test fl-istudju fl-iskejjel primarji lokali; tagħrif miktub bit-Taljan u ppubblikat fl-1672 dwar każ fil-Qorti ta' tfajla Maltija ta' dsatax-il sena li "kienet ippossejta mix-xitan"; il-ġabra tal-awtur magħruf ġwann Mamo dwar drawwiet kurjużi u manuvri maġiči minn madwar id-dinja, miġbura fl-1934; librett tal-opra Don Giovanni, ippubblikat għar-rappreżentazzjoni operistika tal-1872 fir-Royal Opera House; u ktejjeb bil-Malti dwar it-tifsir tal-ħolm.

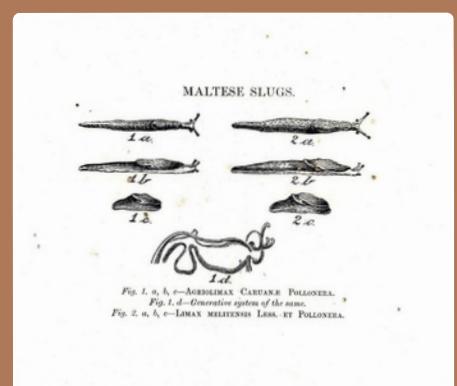
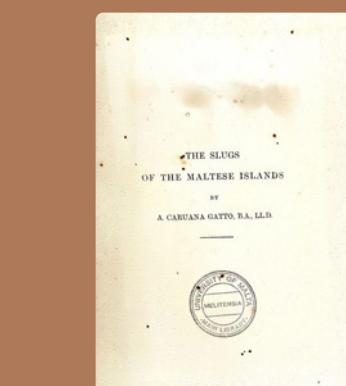


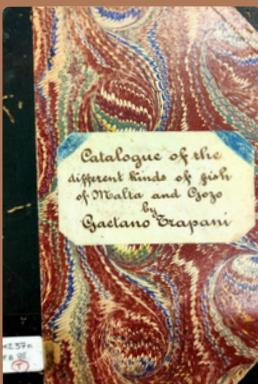
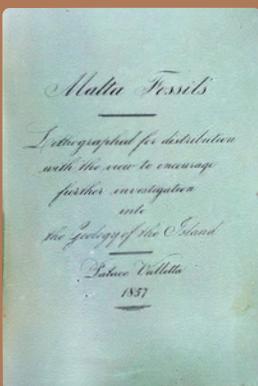
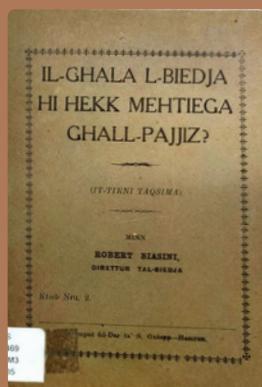
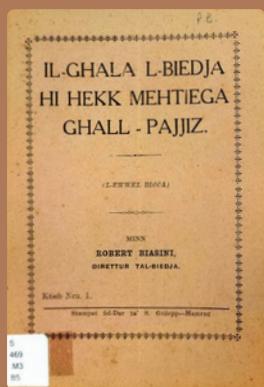
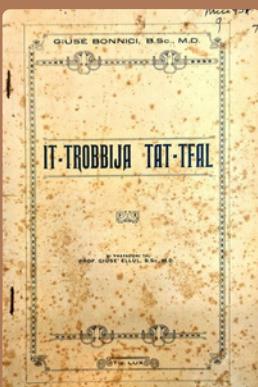
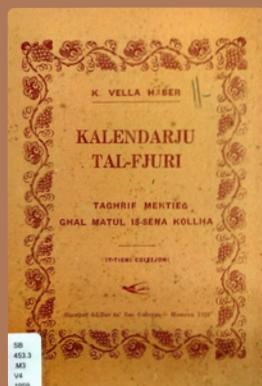
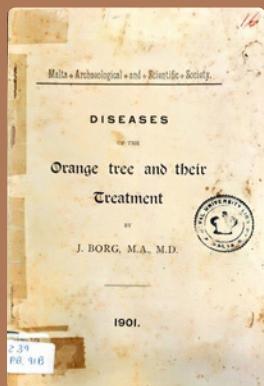
Science, botany and health

Xjenza, botanika u saħħa

This collection of scientific pamphlets range from simple gardening manuals such as Vella Haber's *Kalendarju tal-Hxejjex* to Sir Temi Zammit's account of what were then still baffling cases of "Mediterranean fever", as the disease Brucellosis was known in 1902. Many of these pamphlets were written under the auspices of newly established societies such as The Malta Archaeological and Scientific Society and the Literary and Scientific Institute (see Zammit and Borg's pamphlets) while others were the work of Government officials, such as Gaetano Trapani's catalogue of names of fish in 5 languages, written in order to facilitate the lucrative Mediterranean trade in fish. Guze Bonnici's clear and concise guide to child-care, on the other hand, combines his role of doctor with his love of Maltese and is an interesting exercise in written Maltese for practical purposes.

Din il-kollezzjoni msejsa minn ktejbiet xjentifiċi jvarjaw minn sempliċiment manwali dwar ix-xogħol tal-ġnien, ngħidu aħna l-*Kalendarju tal-Hxejjex* ta' Vella Haber, għat-tagħrif ta' Sir Temi Zammit dwar dawk il-każijiet ta' "Mediterranean fever" li kienu għadhom qed iħawdu l-imħuħ, kif kienet magħrufa fl-1902 bħala l-marda tal-Brucellosi. Uħud minn dawn il-ktejbiet kienu nkitbu minn xi riċerkaturi bil-barka ta' soċjetajiet li kienu għadhom kif twaqqfu, bħas-Soċjetà Maltija għall-Arkeologja u x-Xjenza u l-Istitut Letterarju u Xjentifiku (ara l-ktejbiet ta' Zammit u ta' Borg), waqt li oħrajn kienu xogħlilijiet ta' ufficjalji tal-Gvern, bħall-katalgu ta' ismijiet ta' ħut, miktub b'ħames lingwi differenti minn Gaetano Trapani, biex ikun iffaċilitat aktar il-kummerċ Mediterraneanu tal-ħut, li kien iħalli l-qligh. Mill-banda l-oħra, il-gwida għall-kura tal-ulied, miktuba b'mod ċar u konċiż minn Ĝuże Bonnici, tlaqqa' flimkien l-irwol tiegħu ta' tabib mal-imħabba tiegħu għall-Malti, f'forma t'eżerċizzu interessanti, miktub bil-Malti, għal finijiet prattiċi.





Maltese name	A CATALOGUE OF THE		
	Latin Name	Genus	Species
Ruddakha tal-Pis	Brama	Ocellaria	Linnæus
Ruddakha	Percis	Serris	Do.
Labrus	Turbus var.	Do.	
Borrezzu, or Jalla	Pteromimus	Do.	
Bonu'	Lampruda	Do.	
Bonelloj	Tetronemus	Lagophthalmus	Do.
Cigl.	Brama	Pholis	Do.
Cyprinid.	Sparus	Chromis	Linnæus
Corna	Sparus	Serris	Do.
Corna Fide Acanthus	Perna	Gymnus	Do.
Ciccia bolla	Squilla	Mastis	Do.
— kher	Sellifer	Arenus	Do.
Delfi.	Dolphinus	Dolphis	Linnæus.
Dorsieci	Sparus	Dentex	Do.
Dott. għid-	Sparus	Addotta	Schmidts
— leww	Sparus	Addotta var.	Do.

(*) This fish is called Garbata when very young.

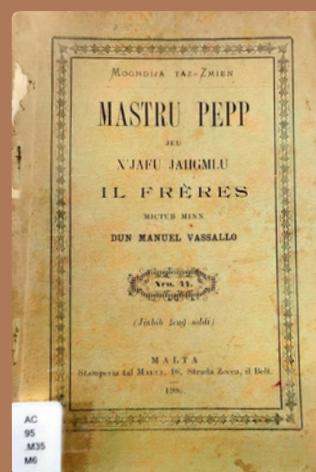
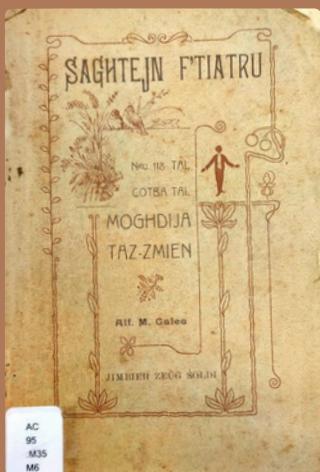
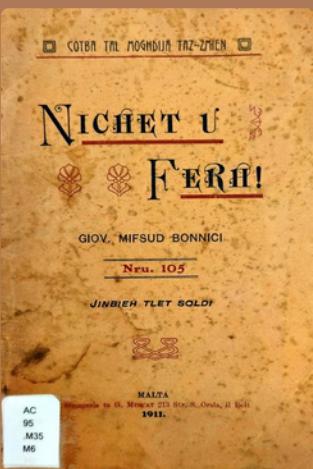
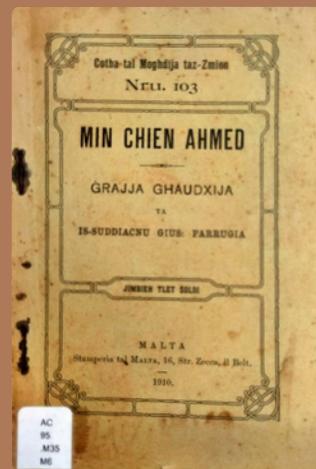
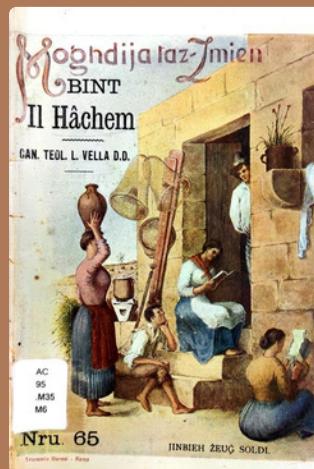
FISHES OF MALTA &c.			
Italian Name	English Name	French Name	Science.
Morone	Butterfly-fish	La Lierre	Preissial
Brama	Leopard rock-fish	L'Orlette	Do.
* Turdo var.	Wrasse var.	Le Turdo-var	Summer
Lamprida	Lampry	La Lampride	Preissial
L'Ordo scilliceti	Globe-fish	L'Ordo scilliceti (very rare)	
La Barra	Melgromot	La Barrene	Preissial
Catogna	Murena	Le Murene	Summer
Copula	Saw-fish	La Truite	Preissial
Gerris	Rock-Cod	Le Meron	Summer
Cicla bluosa	White Cow-fish	Le petite Cigale	Summer
Cicla grisea	Rough do	La Cigale	Do.
Dolce a	Dolphin	Le Dauphin	(very rare)
— Jeulta	Sea-toothed Dogfish	Le Dauphin	Preissial
Dotta bianca	Sea Rock Pearch	Perche du mer	Do.
Dotta di fonda	do var	do var	Do.

Various issues from the series Kotba tal-Mogħdija taż-Żmien

Ktejbiet mis-sensiela Kotba tal-Mogħdija taż-Żmien

The series *Kotba tal-Mogħdija taż-Żmien* (loosely translated as Books for pastimes) was launched in 1899 by Alfons Marija Galea (1861-1941), philanthropist, businessman and author. He continued publishing this series until 1915, producing one hundred and fifty issues which included translated stories, poems, plays, historical and folkloric information with a focus on Malta in particular. The main aim of this series was a social and educational one since these books were meant to be read by the Maltese working class, who were largely monolingual, in order to entertain while helping them to improve their general knowledge and reading skills. One can notice a number of words which are italianised orthographically, due to the fact that this series was written before the standardisation of written Maltese.

Is-sensiela *Kotba tal-Mogħdija taż-Żmien* inbdiet fl-1899 minn Alfons Marija Galea (1861-1941), filantropu, negozjant u kittieb. Hu baqa' jippubblika din is-sensiela sal-1915, u ġareġ mal-mija u ħamsin ġarġa li jinkludu stejjer tradotti, poeżiji, drammi, u tagħrif storiku u folkloristiku dwar pajjiżi differenti, b'mod specjali dwar Malta. L-ghan ewlieni ta' din is-sensiela kien wieħed soċjali u edukattiv għaliex dawn il-kotba kien immirati biex jinqraw mill-ħaddiema Maltin, li kien fil-biċċa l-kbira tagħhom monolingwi, u apparti li setgħu jgħaddu ż-żmien, setgħu wkoll itejbu t-tagħrif ġenerali tagħhom u l-ħiliet tal-qari. Wieħed jista' jinnota li hemm diversi kliem italjanizzat ortografikament, minħabba l-fatt li din is-sensiela nkitbet qabel ma ġiet standardizzata l-ortografija Maltija.

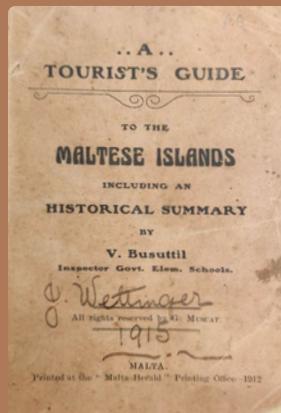
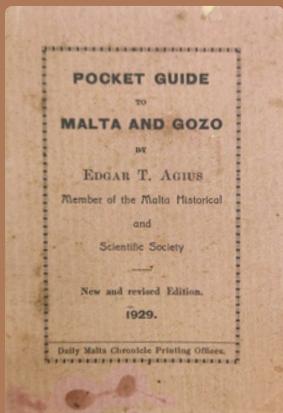
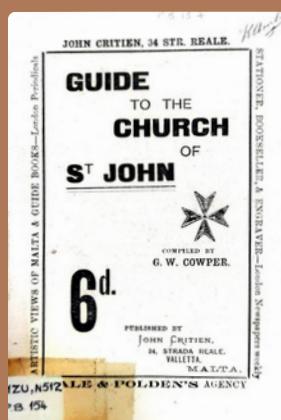
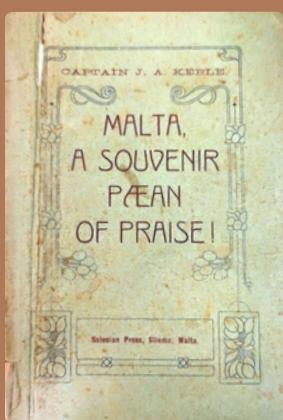
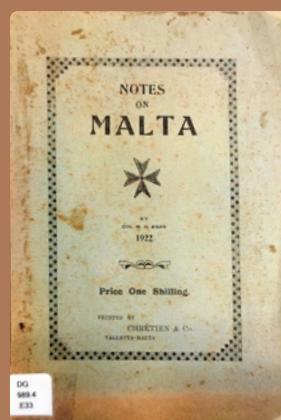
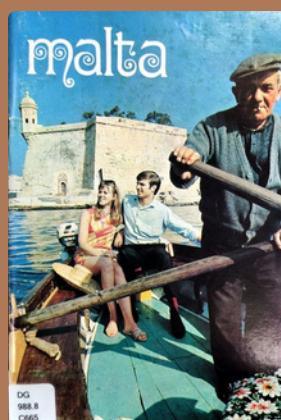
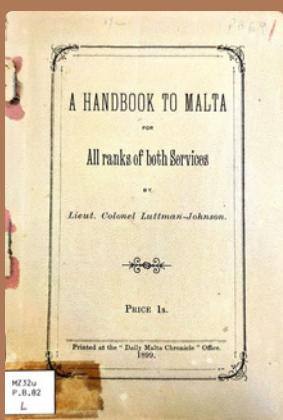
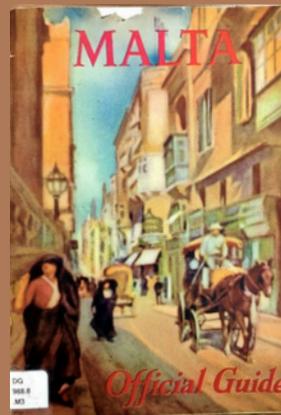
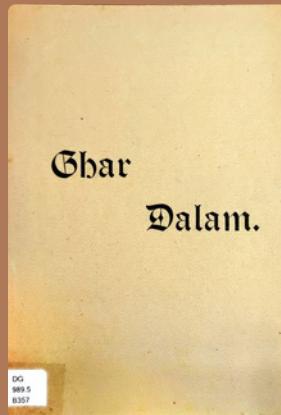
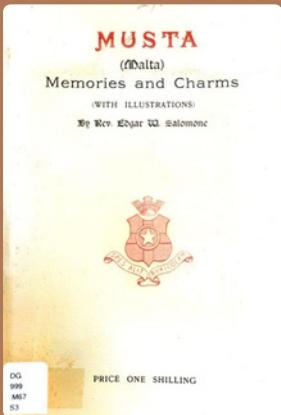


Malta guide books

These guides to the islands of Malta and Gozo provide a number of contrasting answers to the question: *Who needs general information about these islands of ours and why?* Early "Almanacci" were aimed at the local population, reminding them of days of obligation and listing useful administrative information, while later on in the 19th century saw the publication of guides with increasingly foreign audiences in mind - from British servicemen needing a concise introductory account of Malta, to cultural visitors interested in studying Malta's rich heritage and eventually, with the establishment of the Malta Tourist Board in the 1950s, tourists seeking a relaxing holiday of sun and sea. Some highlights include Capt. Keble's poetic accounts of Malta aimed at the cultural tourist, a rare pocket-sized guide printed in 1915, and an early "Official Guide" with an emphasis still largely on the provision of historical information. Such guidebooks give a simple yet historically accurate snapshot of Malta while also providing readers with a looking glass into a time that has long since passed.

Gwidi dwar Malta

Dawn il-gwidi, kemm għal Malta kif ukoll għal Ghawdex, jipprovdu numru ta' tweġibet kuntrastanti għall-mistoqsja: *Min jeħtieg informazzjoni ġenerali dwar dawn il-gżejjer tagħna u għaliex? Għall-bidu, l-"Almanacci" kienu mmirati għall-poplu lokali biex ifakkuuh dwar il-granet tal-obbligu kif ukoll biex jinfurmawh dwar għarfien amministrattiv utli, imma mbagħad, aktar 'il quddiem fis-seklu dsatax, dawn il-pubblikkazzjonijiet ta' gwidi bdew iwessgħu l-udjenzi tagħihom għal dawk barranin - minn ħaddiem Ingliz li kien ikun irid informazzjoni introduttora u konċiża dwar Malta, għal viżitaturi kulturali li kienu jkunu interessati li jistudjaw il-wirt rikk ta' Malta, u eventwalment, bis-saħħha tal-Bord tat-Turiżmu Malti li kien twaqqaf fil-ħamsinijiet tas-seklu għoxrin, kien ikun hemm xi turisti li jfittu xi vaganza rilassanti bix-xemx u l-baħar. Xi ħwejjeg li jispikkaw jinkludu: xogħlijiel poetiċi ta' Kapt. Keble mmirati lejn it-turist kulturali; gwida rari, ta' daqs żgħir, ippubblikata fl-1915; u gwida uffiċjali antika li kienet għadha tiffoka primarjament fuq il-forniment ta' informazzjoni storika. Għad li dawn il-gwidi huma sempliċi, xorta waħda jagħtu stampa preċiża tal-istorja ta' Malta, u lill-qarrejja jipprovdu lhom riflessjonijiet čari dwar żmien twil ilu.*

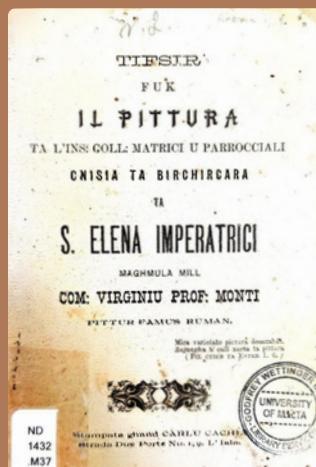
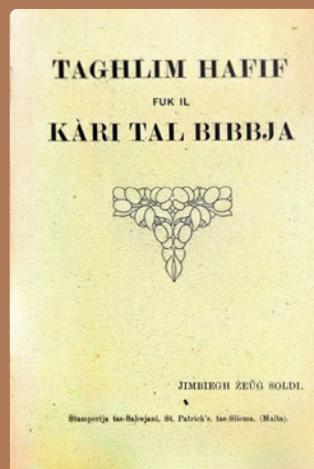
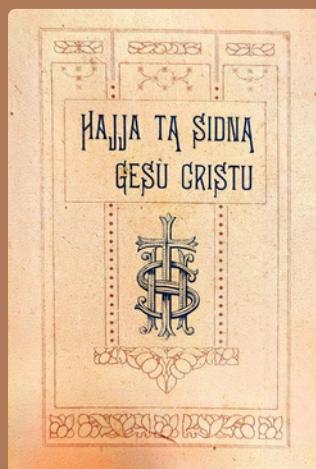


Religious pamphlets

For centuries Catholicism has been an integral part of Maltese society and culture. This can be seen from the countless publications, many of them in pamphlet format, which the local Church has printed over the years in order to strengthen religious values among the faithful and to explain its doctrines to the lay person. The publications included in this display were published during the 19th and early 20th centuries, and consist of prayers and guidance on catechesis, including *Catechismo religioso per le scuole infantili di Malta*. Others, such as *Tifsir fuk il pittura ta S. Elena*, feature the iconography of works of art in Church buildings and orations. The chosen pamphlets were all written in the Maltese language.

Ktejbiet religjuži

Għal sekli šaħni il-Kattoliciżmu kien parti integrali fis-socjetà u fil-kultura Maltija. Dan jidher f'bosta pubblikazzjonijiet, ġafna minnhom f'forom ta' ktejbiet, li l-Knisja Maltija xerrdet matul is-snini biex issaħħaħ il-valuri religjuži fost il-fidili u biex tispjega d-duttrini tagħha lil-lajki tagħha. Dawn il-pubblikazzjonijiet li jinsabu f'din l-esebizzjoni ġew ippubblikati matul is-seklu 19 u l-bidu tas-seklu 20, u jikkonsistu f'talb u gwida għall-katekeżi, fosthom *Catechismo religioso per le scuole infantili di Malta*. Oħrajn juru orazzjonijiet u l-ikonografija ta' xogħliji tal-arti f'binjiet tal-knisja, bħal *Tifsir fuk il pittura ta l'Ins. Coll. Matriċi u Parroċċiali cnisja ta Birchircara ta S. Elena Imperatrici, magħmula mill Com. Virginiu Prof. Monti, pittur famus Ruman*. Il-fuljetti magħżula kienu kollha miktuba bl-ilsien Malti.



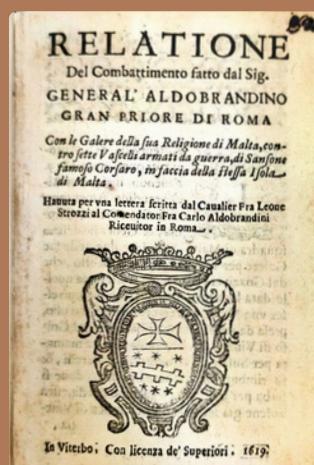
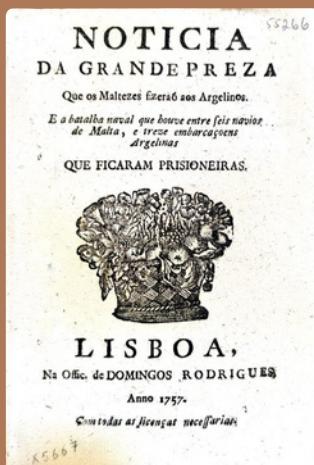
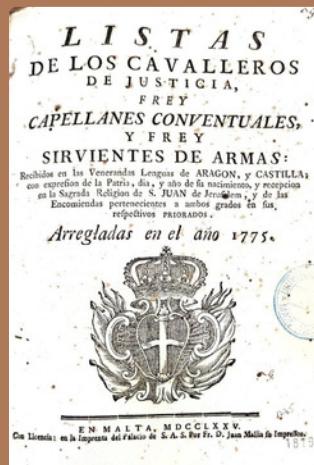
Pamphlets from the time of the Order of St. John

These treasured pamphlets attest to the maritime prowess of the Order of St. John in the 17th and 18th centuries. The pamphlet entitled *Relatione del sanguinoso combattimento, e presa d'un galeone e d'un pinco de' Turchi, fatta dalle Galere di Malta alle Crociere di Rodi il di 28 di Settembre 1644* is a first-hand account of galley combat against the menacing Turkish presence in the Mediterranean, while other pamphlets recount significant victories and relay other important news, such as *Noticia certa da chegada do Rey de Tunes a ilha de Malta*. These pamphlets were written in the Italian, Portuguese and Spanish languages.

Ktejbiet minn żmien I-Ordni ta' San Ģwann

Dawn il-fuljetti prezjuži jagħtu xhieda għall-ħila marittima tal-Ordni ta' San Ģwann fis-seklu sbatax u tmintax. Fost dawn il-ktejbiet insibu: *Relatione del sanguinoso combattimento, e presa d'un galeone e d'un pinco de' Turchi, fatta dalle Galere di Malta alle Crociere di Rodi il di 28 di Settembre 1644* li jagħti tagħrif meħud minn esperjenzi ta' taqbid fuq ix-xwieni kontra t-Torok, li kienu ta' theddida għall-Mediterran; waqt li ktejbiet oħrajn jirrakkuntaw dwar xi rebħiet sinifikanti, jew jgħaddu xi aħbarijiet importanti, bħal *Noticia certa da chegada do Rey de Tunes a ilha de Malta*. Dawn il-fuljetti nkitbu bil- lingwa Taljana, Portugiża u Spanjola

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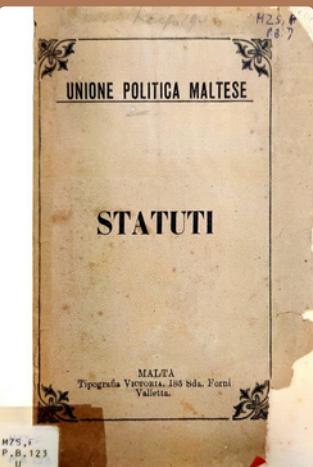
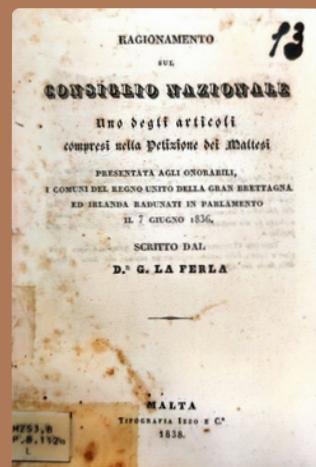
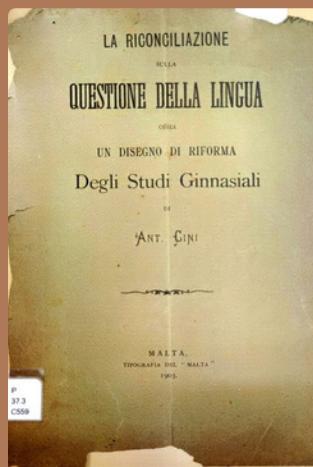
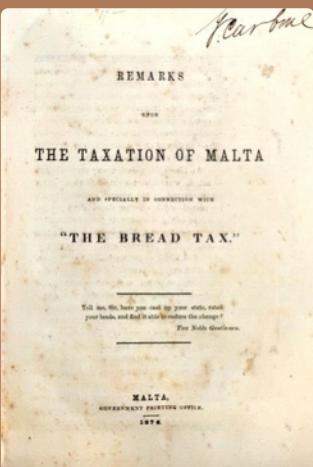
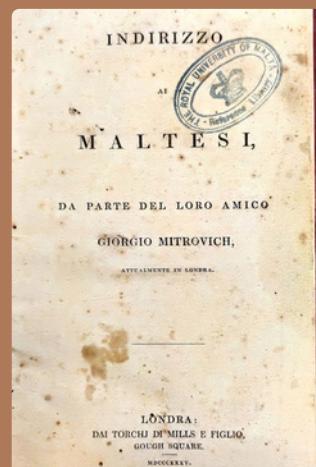
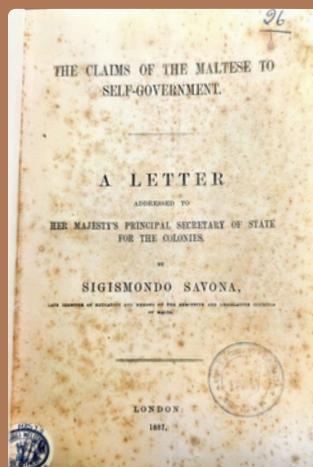
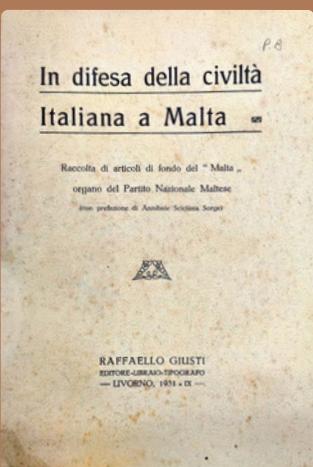


Language and politics

For over 150 years Malta was part of the British Empire, during which time the political situation underwent a series of changes in which successive constitutions were passed, suspended, and revoked, along with the rights that had been fought for. Numerous petitions, letters and pamphlets were written, read out in public and presented to the Colonial Government arguing for a fairer, more representative government. A well-known document which highlights these demands is *The claims of the Maltese to Self-Government: a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies* by Sigismondo Savona. The latter half of the 19th century saw the emergence of the first political parties, which coalesced around the thorny issue of the Language Question. This debate dominated the political scene for decades, as witnessed by the numerous pamphlets written on the subject, including *La riconciliazione sulla Questione della Lingua ossia un disegno di riforma degli studi ginnasiali*. The selected pamphlets are written in the English, Italian and Maltese languages.

Lingwa u politika

Għal aktar minn 150 sena, Malta kienet parti mill-Imperu Brittaniku, u matul dan iż-żmien il-qagħda politika għaddiet minn sensiela ta' bidliet li fihom ġew mogħtija, sospizi u revokati diversi kostituzzjonijiet suċċessivi. Għadd ta' petizzjonijiet, ittri, u ktejbiet inkitbu, inqraw fil-pubbliku u ġew ippreżentati lill-Gvern Kolonjali biex jimbuttaw 'il quddiem l-idea ta' gvern aktar ġust u aktar rappreżentattiv. Ktejjeb famuż li juri dawn it-talbiet tal-Maltin huwa *The claims of the Maltese to Self-Government: ittra indirizzata lis-Segretarju Principali tal-Istat tal-Maestà Tagħha għall-Kolonji* minn Sigismondo Savona. Fl-aħħar nofs tas-seklu dsatax bdew jiffurmaw il-partiti politici, u bdew aktar isaż-żu fehmiehom fir-rigward tal-Kwistjoni tal-Lingwa li kienet taħraqq ħafna. Dan id-dibattitu ddomina x-xena politika għal għexieren ta' snin, kif muri f'għadd ta' ktejbiet dwar dan is-sugġett, fosthom: *La riconciliazione sulla Questione della Lingua ossia un disegno di riforma degli studi ginnasiali*. Il-fuljetti magħżula huma miktubin bl-Ingliz, bit-Taljan u bil-Malti.



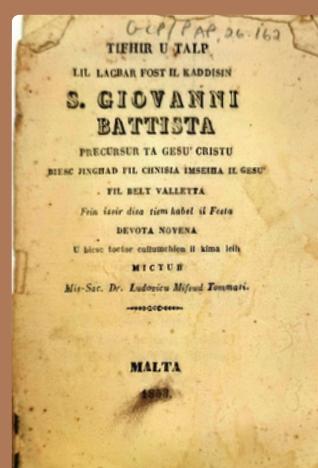
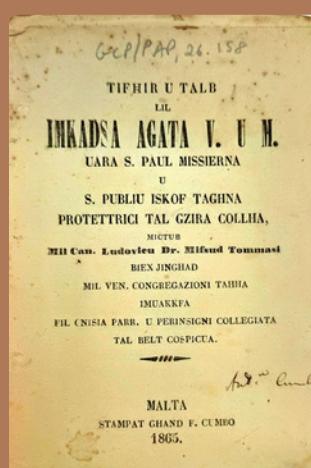
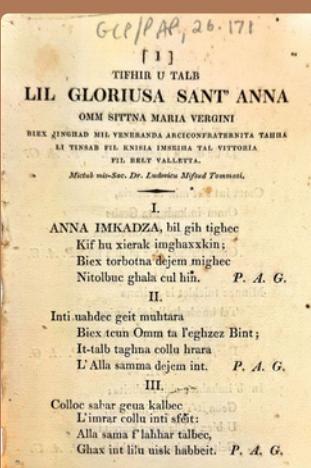
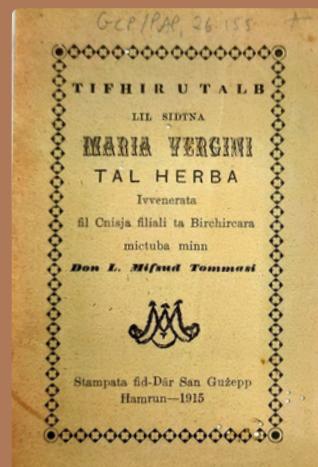
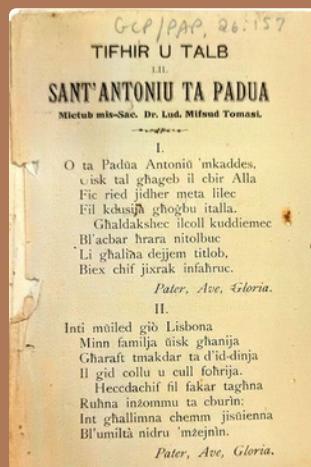
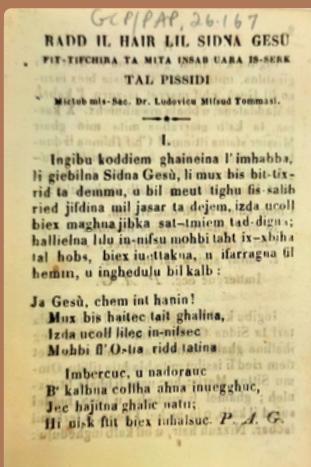
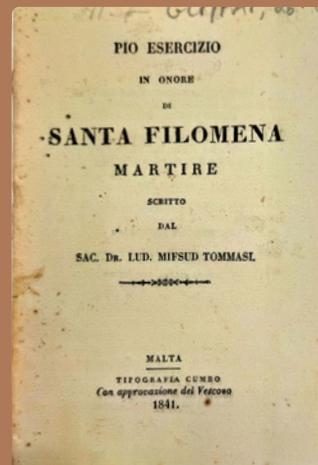
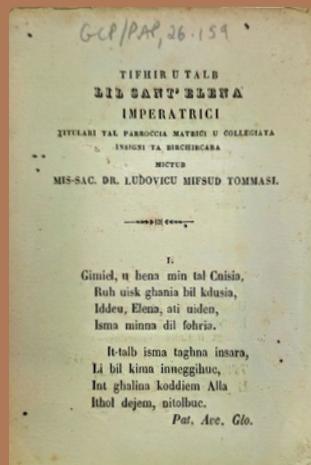
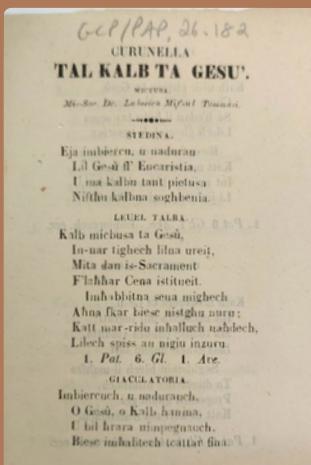
Mifsud Tommasi's hymns and prayers

"Kurunelli"

Il-Kurunelli ta' Mifsud Tommasi

These nine pamphlets are prayers or short hymns written by Ludovik Mifsud Tommasi (1796-1879), a poet, priest and educator, some of which were published during his lifetime and others after his death, dedicated to particular holy figures. In the pamphlets on display one can find prayers and hymns of praise dedicated to the Holy Mother and Virgin of Tal-ħerba, Saint Anthony of Padua, and Saint Agatha. In the prayer *Radd il Hair lil Sidna Gesu fit-Tifchira ta mita Insab uara is-Serk tal Pissidi*, the writer is thanking God for receiving a divine favour - in this case for the retrieval of a stolen ciborium. These "kurunelli" as they are known in Maltese have been handed down from generation to generation and are interesting documents of the local oral tradition related to the Catholic faith. Together with these prayers there also some "indulgences", handed out by Maltese bishops in the nineteenth century to be recited with religious conviction.

Dawn id-disa' ktejbiet huma kurunelli jew innijiet miktubin minn Ludovik Mifsud Tommasi (1796-1879), poeta, qassus u edukatur, uħud minnhom kienu ppubblikati matul ħajtu, u oħra jn stampati wara mewtu, u huma attribwiti lil xi figuri qaddisa partikolari. F'dawn il-ktejbiet esebiti, wieħed jista' jara talb u innijiet ta' tifħir iddedikati lil Sidna Marija Omm u Verġni Tal-ħerba, 'il Sant'Antnin ta' Padova u 'il Sant'Agata. Fit-talba *Radd il Hair lil Sidna Gesu fit-Tifchira ta mita Insab uara is-Serk tal Pissidi*, il-kittieb qiegħed irodd ħajr lil Alla għall-grazzja li nqalgħetlu - f'dan il-każ meta nstab il-pissidi misruq. Dawn il-kurunelli, kif inhuma magħrufin bil-Malti, ilhom jintirtu minn ġenerazzjoni għal oħra u huma dokumenti interessanti tat-tradizzjoni orali lokali marbutin mal-fidi Kattolika. Ma' dawn il-kurunelli hemm ukoll xi indulgenzi, mogħtijin minn isqfijiet Maltin fis-seklu dsatax biex ikunu jistgħu jingħadu b'konvinzjoni.





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