

## OBITUARIES

### **MGR. PROF. P. P. SAYDON, B.Litt., B.L.Can., L.S.S.**

The beginning of Springtime 1971 saw the death of Mgr. Prof. Saydon (1896-1971) who was one of the first members of the Malta Historical Society. Malta's renowned Biblical scholar, will remain known for his translation of the Bible from original sources into Maltese. He was ordained priest in 1919, and he studied both at the University of Malta and the Biblical Institute of Rome. He was also a member of various international Biblical associations. Besides proving to be a prolific writer of various articles on Biblical subjects, Mgr. Saydon also showed keen interest in Maltese history, particularly with regard to the Phoenician civilization of the Islands and the origins of the Maltese language.

Mgr. Saydon will remain known for his courage and initiative to take the lead, together with other personalities, such as Dun Karm Psaila, to defend the Maltese language and affirm its rights.

All those who knew him as well as those interested in Biblical and Maltese studies, will surely appreciate a new edition of his monumental translation of the Bible together with his commentaries.

May his ideal serve as an inspiration to the present and the future generations of Malta.

C. G. S.

### **DR. MARIO BORG OLIVIER, D.Litt.**

The unexpected and all too early death of Dr. Mario Borg Olivier, newly appointed Lecturer in History at the Royal University, has robbed Malta of one of its promising scholars and the Department of History of a teacher fully dedicated to academic work, a man of initiative, courage and religious spirit.

Mario was born on 15th June, 1937, and on finishing his Secondary education at the Lyceum, after spending three years as clerk with Barclays Bank, joined the Jesuit Order in 1957, leaving it in 1964 after having completed one year's study of Humanities and two years of Philosophical studies at the Gregorian University in Rome. Returning to Malta he was appointed Master in the Government Secondary Schools where he taught for three scholastic years.

Being awarded a scholarship from the Italian Government, Mario proceeded to the University of Messina where after a period of about six years of extensive research in Maltese and Sicilian Archives, taking as subject for his doctorate thesis "The population, wages, prices and taxes in Malta from 1450 to 1600", was awarded the degree of D.Litt. in History.

In this *Melita Historica* issue, his article "A Maltese Legal Library in the XVIth Century" is being published.

A.P.V.