

Supplement to the *MALTA STANDARD*, Thursday, December 24th 1865.

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(Published every Thursday)

MALTA STANDARD

1866

CALENDAR.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1st Epiphany 2nd Twelfth Day 3rd St. Stephen 4th St. John 5th New Year's Day 6th St. Basil 7th St. Agatha 8th St. Elizabeth 9th St. Anne 10th St. Nicholas 11th St. Lucy 12th St. Stephen 13th St. Agatha 14th St. Elizabeth 15th St. Anne 16th St. Nicholas 17th St. Lucy 18th St. Stephen 19th St. Agatha 20th St. Elizabeth 21st St. Anne 22nd St. Nicholas 23rd St. Lucy 24th St. Stephen 25th St. Agatha 26th St. Elizabeth 27th St. Anne 28th St. Nicholas 29th St. Lucy 30th St. Stephen 31st St. Agatha	1st Candlemas 2nd St. Brigid 3rd St. Valentine 4th St. Blasius 5th St. Agathina 6th St. Peter 7th St. Paul 8th St. Andrew 9th St. John 10th St. James 11th St. Philip 12th St. George 13th St. Mark 14th St. Basil 15th St. Agathina 16th St. Peter 17th St. Paul 18th St. Andrew 19th St. John 20th St. James 21st St. Philip 22nd St. George 23rd St. Mark 24th St. Basil 25th St. Agathina 26th St. Peter 27th St. Paul 28th St. Andrew 29th St. John 30th St. James 31st St. Philip	1st St. David 2nd St. David 3rd St. David 4th St. David 5th St. David 6th St. David 7th St. David 8th St. David 9th St. David 10th St. David 11th St. David 12th St. David 13th St. David 14th St. David 15th St. David 16th St. David 17th St. David 18th St. David 19th St. David 20th St. David 21st St. David 22nd St. David 23rd St. David 24th St. David 25th St. David 26th St. David 27th St. David 28th St. David 29th St. David 30th St. David 31st St. David	1st Good Friday 2nd Easter Sunday 3rd Easter Monday 4th Easter Tuesday 5th Easter Wednesday 6th Easter Thursday 7th Easter Friday 8th Easter Saturday 9th Ascension Day 10th Trinity Sunday 11th St. John 12th St. Peter 13th St. Paul 14th St. Andrew 15th St. John 16th St. Peter 17th St. Paul 18th St. Andrew 19th St. John 20th St. Peter 21st St. Paul 22nd St. Andrew 23rd St. John 24th St. Peter 25th St. Paul 26th St. Andrew 27th St. John 28th St. Peter 29th St. Paul 30th St. Andrew 31st St. John	1st St. George 2nd St. George 3rd St. George 4th St. George 5th St. George 6th St. George 7th St. George 8th St. George 9th St. George 10th St. George 11th St. George 12th St. George 13th St. George 14th St. George 15th St. George 16th St. George 17th St. George 18th St. George 19th St. George 20th St. George 21st St. George 22nd St. George 23rd St. George 24th St. George 25th St. George 26th St. George 27th St. George 28th St. George 29th St. George 30th St. George 31st St. George	1st St. Peter 2nd St. Peter 3rd St. Peter 4th St. Peter 5th St. Peter 6th St. Peter 7th St. Peter 8th St. Peter 9th St. Peter 10th St. Peter 11th St. Peter 12th St. Peter 13th St. Peter 14th St. Peter 15th St. Peter 16th St. Peter 17th St. Peter 18th St. Peter 19th St. Peter 20th St. Peter 21st St. Peter 22nd St. Peter 23rd St. Peter 24th St. Peter 25th St. Peter 26th St. Peter 27th St. Peter 28th St. Peter 29th St. Peter 30th St. Peter 31st St. Peter

The Supplement to *The Malta Standard* of December 24, 1865, was a calendar of 1866 which showed the Royal arms and the Latin inscription which is found written on the Main Guard.

## More about the Main Guard

In my letter in *The Sunday Times of Malta* of February 4, 2018, on the curious Latin inscription over the Main Guard, I had written that it had been removed and broken because of weathering. That is what actually happened to the Royal Arms and I assumed that the fate of the inscription went with it.

I have since come across another entry in the manuscript *Giornale* of Cesare Vassallo dated April 27, 1863, in which he wrote that restoration of the portico was taken in hand because the cornicione (entablature) was deteriorating, not because it was old, but due to the poor quality of the stone.

He recorded later that the portico was coming down in gross pieces and it was reconstructed exactly on the same design and with the same measurements. The Royal Arms were also restored, and the inscription underneath was faithfully copied from the previous one. One electric clock was installed for the first time and it was lit up on February 13, 1864.

As I had stated in my letter, the neoclassical portico was constructed in 1814, but the Arms were added later. On May 30, 1814 the First Peace Treaty of Paris was signed. This Treaty was fully confirmed at the Congress of Vienna which closed on June 9, 1815 and Malta fell under the absolute Sovereignty of the King of England. A tiny colony in the vast British Empire, not a Principality.

By letter dated June 24, 1815 the Governor of Malta Sir Thomas Maitland, wrote to Lieutenant Colonel (later General Sir) George Whitmore, commander of the Royal Engineers, informing him that he had received instruction from the British Government to direct that His Majesty's Arms be placed in such places as are most conspicuous. He had taken immediate steps to have the Arms placed over the Main Guard and in the Palace. He therefore directed Whitmore to proceed forthwith to get the same erected over Porta Reale and the Marina Gates.

In anticipation of the said instructions, Maitland had already taken steps to erase all visible vestiges of Principality, following similar acts ordered by Napoleon in 1798. By a Proclamation dated February 4, 1814, as soon as the horrific plague had come to an end, Maitland directed that all the Armorial Bearings, and other emblems of Sovereignty of every kind, wherever they might be found, were to be removed and substituted by the Majesty's Arms. The removal had to be done with that degree of observance and decency due to an Order (of St John) of great antiquity and much well-deserved celebrity.

It is therefore probable that the Royal Arms were placed over the Main Guard and in the Palace in 1814, rather than in 1815.

Albert Ganado  
Valletta