

ANNUAL VISIT TO GOZO

In order to stimulate further philatelic interest in our sister island, your Committee led by Dr J Mercieca, has for the past years organised an annual philatelic exhibition in Gozo spread over two days. This year, being the 200th anniversary of the French Capitulation, on the 29th October 1798, your Committee thought that it would be appropriate if we gave this event Postal History prominence, and consequently, it was decided that Dr A Bonnici would exhibit his collection of French Occupation Postal History material in connection with the French Occupation of Gozo. This exhibit included original letters by Sir John Hamilton, Sir Alexander John Ball, and all the letters as listed in the Malta Study Handbook of Archpriest Cassar.

The exhibition, ably organised on the initiative of Mr Anthony Fenech, our hard-working Committee member, took place at the Banca Giuratale on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November 1998. Other displays were presented by Mr A Fenech (Malta Postal History), Mr J Micallef (Malta Philatelic Material with a Spanish Connection), Mr H Wood (Early Photographic Postcards of Gozo), and Mr J Buttigieg (Collection of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta).

We were particularly honoured by the visit of the Hon. Minister, Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, who showed keen interest in the exhibits.

Our thanks go to Mr John Cremona, Private Secretary to the Hon. Minister G. Debono, and the officials of the Banca Giuratale for their help in making this exhibition a success.



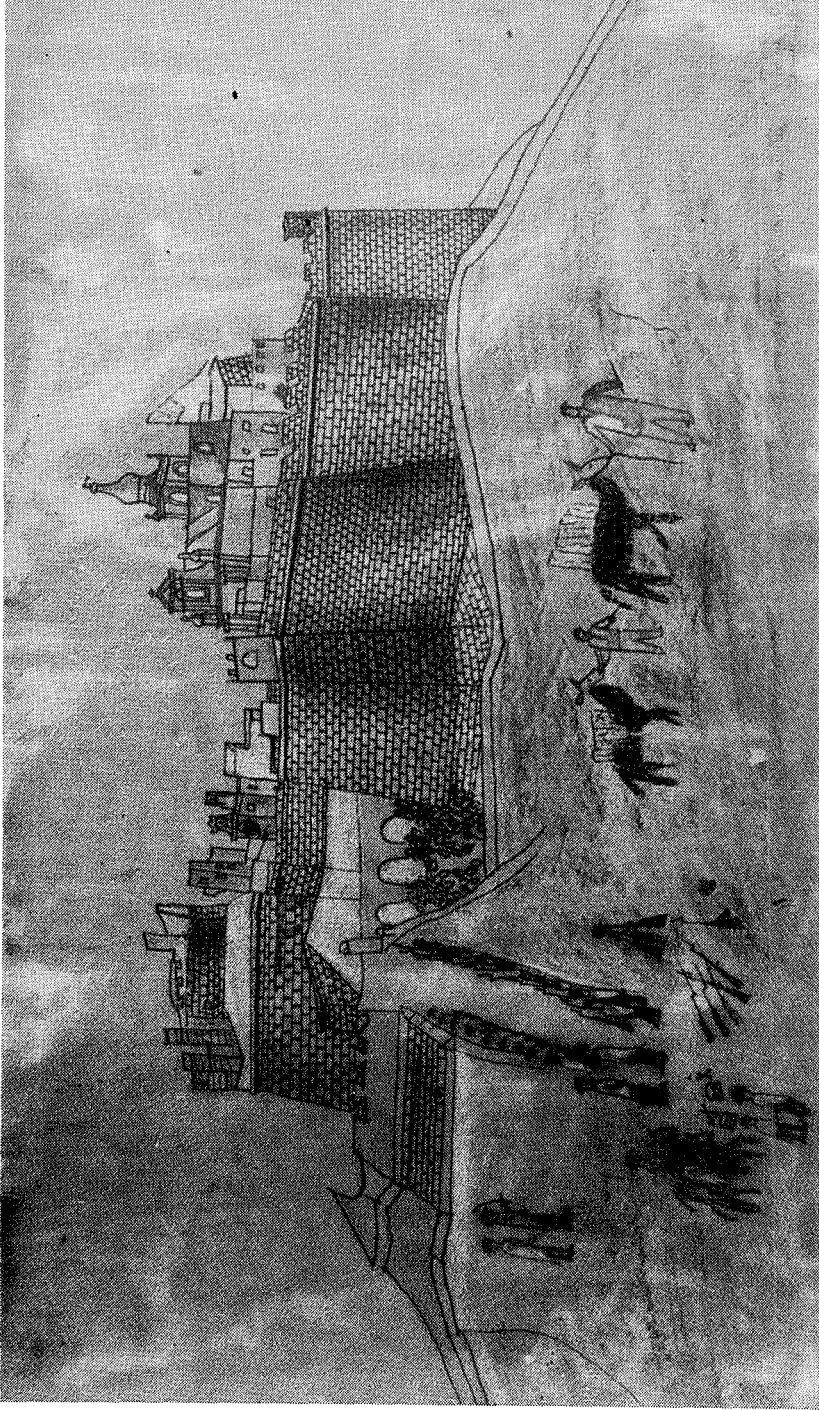
(Left to Right) Mr H Wood, Dr J Mercieca, The Hon. Minister Mrs G Debono, Dr A Bonnici, Mr T Camilleri, Mr J Micallef, Mr J Buttigieg



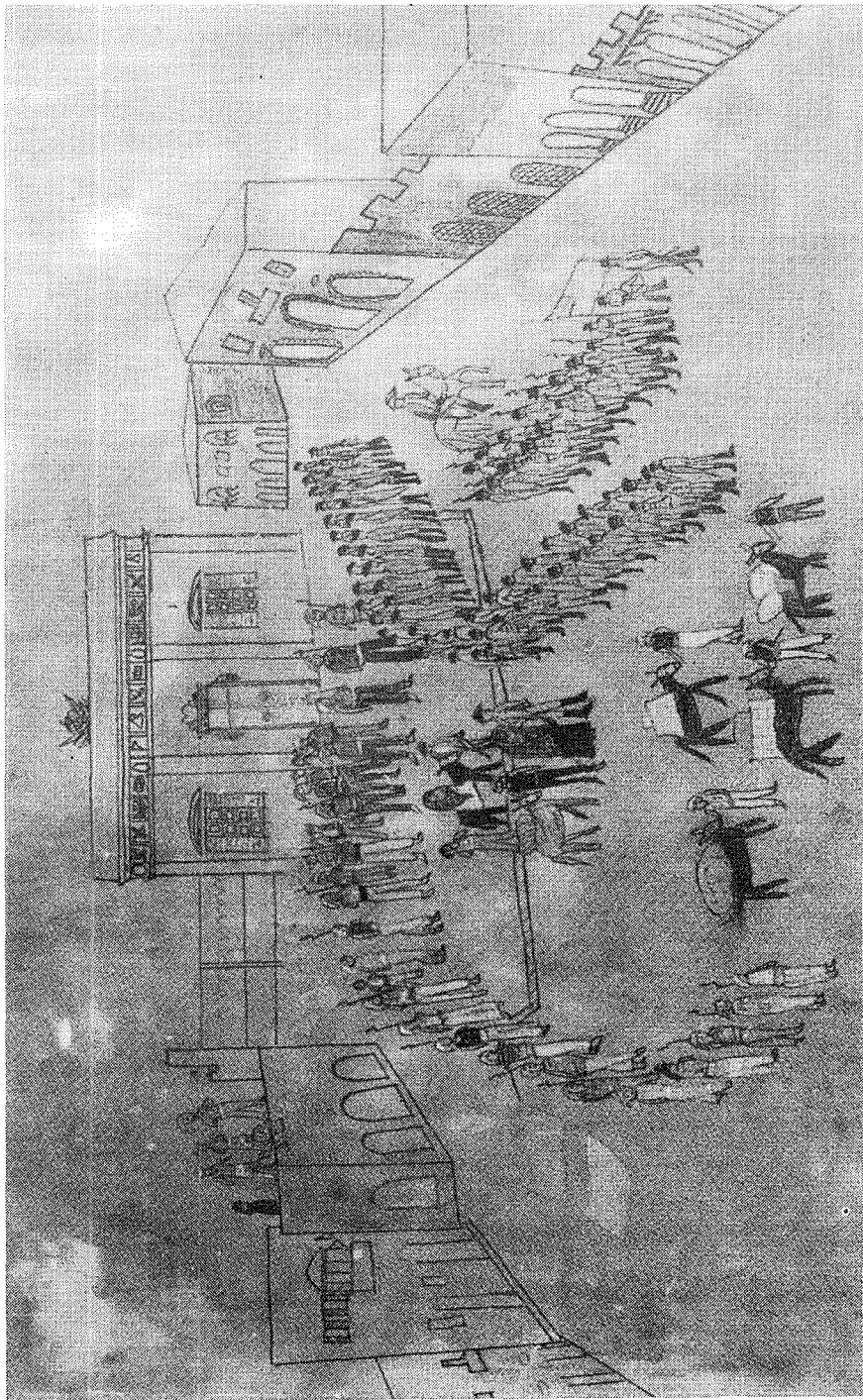
*(Above) Mr A Fenech,
Dr A Bonnici, Mr H
Wood, The Hon.
Minister Mrs G
Debono, Dr J
Mercieca*



*(Left) Dr A Bonnici
explaining the
various exhibits to
the Hon. Minister,
Mrs G Debono*



*French soldiers surrendering their arms to the Gozitans outside the Castello
(Courtesy J. Tabone, Heritage N° 75)*



*French Garrison capitulating to the British Officers at It-Tokk, Rabat
(Courtesy J. Cremona, Heritage N° 75)*