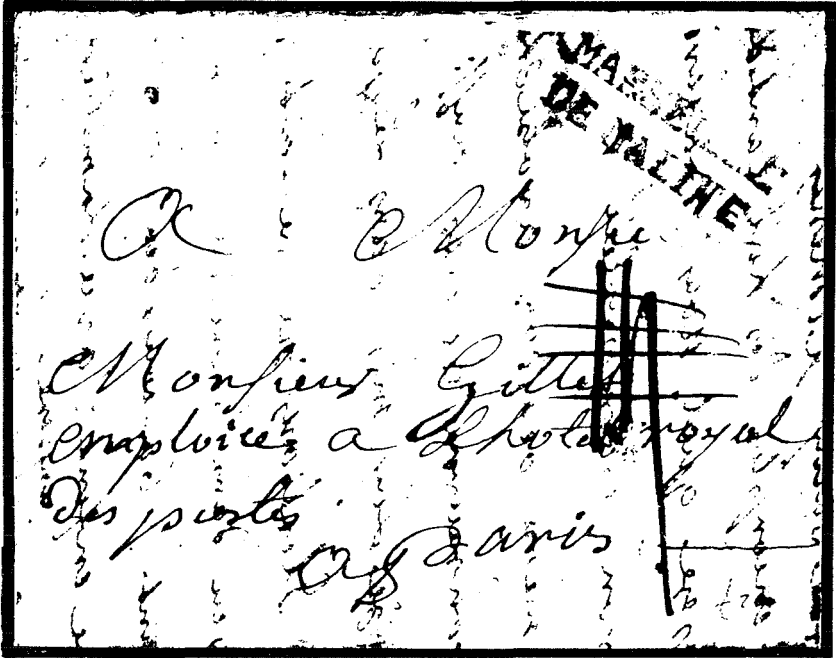


Marseille de Malthe

By:- Dr. A. Bonnici



This letter formed part of the collection of our late President Mr. Louis Frank.

It is an interesting Historical letter written in French signed "Savoja" written to his friend Mr. Gilber an employee at the Royal Post Office in Paris.

The letter bears the personal seal of Mr. Savoja, and the MARSEILLE / DE MALTHE hand-stamp which was applied at Marseille. It has a manuscript N°11 and crossed, which presumably is the fee for the letter.

The author started writing the letter on the 21st January 1773 and the first part deals with personal matters, however later on he gives us important historical information:-

*Le grand maître a reçu tout ces sacrements
de puis 2 jours. Il est a l'agonie. Les
pretendants au magistère ont plus de
besogne que je ne puis vous dire*

"The Grand Master "Pinto" has received the last Sacraments these last two days. He is in his last minute of life. The pretenders to the Grandmastership are doing a lot of lobbying".

ca 24.

Le grand maître est mort hier a 4 heures apres
midy. en mon particulier je le regrette beaucoup.
prie Dieu pour lui. Son anome pour regner
est le Baillly afflite.

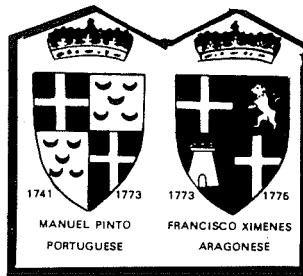
On the 25th he wrote:-

"The Grand Master (Pinto) died yesterday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Personally I regret this a lot. Pray God for him. They have nominated as Regent the Bailli Aflite".

Le 28. amidy l'on a élu pour
grand maître le Baillly Ximenes a la satisfaction
de tout l'ordre. est encompas des habitants de la
Campagne. Je pense qu'il nous sera favorable
et qu'il nous aura pour protecteur.

On the 28th he wrote:-

"At mid-day they elected as Grand Master Bailli Ximenes, to the satisfaction of all the order and even more of the inhabitants of the country. I think that he will be favourable to us, and be our protector".



Therefore, apart from an interesting description of what happened, this letter bridges two reigns of Grand Master Pinto - Grand Master Ximenes.