

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

Name of Country : MALTA
Name of Library : NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA
Name of Chief Executive : MR. PHILIP BORG

NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library serves as a research and reference library and collects every item of Melitensia by way of the Legal Deposit Act 1925. It also houses the Library and Archives of the Knights of St. John, the Archives of the Università and an almost complete collection of Maltese newspapers and periodicals.

Musical-literary evening

Launching of Facsimile of *Claude-Oronce Finé's Giuoco d'Arme dei Sovrani e degli Stati d'Europa*

To mark the occasion of Malta's entry into the European Union on 1st May, the National Library organized a musical-literary evening on 20th April in the Reading Room of the Library. This was the first time that such an activity was held on the premises. The programme, consisted of a choir recital by the *Collegium Musicum* interspersed with the reading of poems. The occasion also saw the launch of the facsimile of Bernardo Giustiniani's translation of Claude-Oronce Finé's *Giuoco d'Arme dei Sovrani e degli Stati d'Europa*. This edition was printed in Naples in 1725. Apart from its rarity the book is very special because it is dedicated to Fra' Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, Grand Master of the Order of St. John which ruled Malta at the time. *Giuoco d'Arme* consists of a 52-card game involving the various European states, among them Malta, existent in the 17th-18th centuries. For this reason we felt it was appropriate to publish the facsimile of this rare work to coincide with Malta's entry into the European Union. The production of the facsimile copies was the result of a combination of ideas of talented enthusiasts. Dr Philippe Palasi, an authority on heraldry, kindly wrote an introduction to the work. Above all the staff at the National Library carried out all the work, beginning from the planning of the project to the physical tasks involving rounding, headband and case-making and gilding of the book as well as slipcase-making. Only the printing was done at an outside source.

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) International Innovations Awards

In February 2004 the National Library of Malta participated in the fourth Biennial 2003-2004 CAPAM International Innovations Awards Programme 'Innovations in Governance'.

Our submission was '*Bringing Books to Readers for Enjoyment and Enrichment*'.

In all 154 submissions from countries world wide participated in this prestigious Award. The National Library managed to rank as a Finalist and in the top 14 of all submissions. The submission was recognized by CAPAM as being truly innovative and it exemplifies the theme of the Awards Programme: "*Innovations in Governance*".

The CAPAM Biennial Conference and Award was held in October in Singapore where the Director of the Department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement by the Hon. Minister and President of CAPAM Jocelyne Bourgon.

Renaissance Library Calendar 2005

The National Library of Malta was nominated for inclusion in the 2005 edition of the Renaissance Library Calendar. This is the fifth edition of the calendar, which consists of full colour photographs of 12 of the most historical and beautiful libraries in the World. The Calendar is very highly regarded, and the Information Strategy and Information Management organizers in Sweden, have received on this Calendar many glowing testimonials from library associations, librarians, information professionals, academics and book lovers everywhere.

In May 2004 we were pleased to be informed that our National Library has been selected for the Renaissance Library Calendar 2005 and our reading room hall is featured in the month of July.

Participation in Conferences abroad

Workshop organized by Puglia (Italy) Regional Council – In June 2004 the Director was invited to participate in the 7th annual Workshop which was held by the Biblioteca Multimediale del Consiglio Regionale della Puglia. The Workshop – “*Teca del Mediterraneo*” was conducted by Dott. Waldemaro Morgese, direttore Biblioteca Multimediale Consiglio Regionale della Puglia. The Director was appointed to chair one of the workshops – “Perché le Biblioteche nel XXI^o secolo”. As a result of this Workshop a Network International of Libraries was set up. Malta has welcomed the invitation to be a participant in the project and we will be doing our utmost to contribute for the good results. A plan was devised for the Network International of Libraries between Alessandria d’Egitto (Egitto), Bari (Italia), Malta, Tirana (Albania) and Tunisi (Tunisia). This co-operation agreement is surely in the right direction and will be promoting the diffusion of the culture and the studies on the quality of life in the different cities.

International Federation of Libraries Association (IFLA) General Conference and Council – Buenos-Aires (Argentina) 22-27 August 2004 – The 70th IFLA General Conference and Council was held in Buenos – Aires, Argentina. This year’s Conference centered on “Libraries: Tools for Education and Development”. The subject chosen is most relevant as libraries are no longer on the fringes of education and development but at the heart of the process. Like schools, libraries have become core infrastructure for national development. Information and knowledge are fundamental for Education and Development as well as essential requirements to improve the quality of life for people living in regions where the population has not reached a high level of economic and social development. In connection with the World Library and Information Congress 2004, an international trade exhibition has been arranged at the Hilton Conference Centre. More than 150 exhibitors presented their products and services.

Foundation Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) 22 – 24 September 2004, Rome - The 18th annual meeting of the Foundation Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) was held in the Biblioteca Nazionale in Rome (22-23 September) and in the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana in the Vatican City (24 September). Besides the annual Conference, special attention was made to two visits paid to the Central Library of Rome and to the public library in the Vatican. These visits are regarded of utmost importance because many regulations found in these libraries are adopted in our National Library.

The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources - TEL-ME-MOR

Through the Director’s participation in the Conference for European National Librarians (CENL) we prepared a report on the needs of the National Library and we were accepted as a participant in the TEL-ME-MOR project. Through our participation we will be procuring funds from the European Commission to cater for Retrospective Cataloguing in the National Library and to initiate a Digitization project.

Malta Book Fair 2004

The Department of Libraries and Archives in full co-operation with the National Book Council organised in November the 20th edition of the Malta Book Fair at the Naxxar Fair Grounds. The Fair was visited by thousands of people and more than five thousand students accompanied by their teachers visited the Fair during the morning sessions.

Thirty-one exhibitors set up thirty-six stands and between them they offered a large variety of book titles covering all subjects and thus all visitors had the opportunity to browse and purchase books according to their interests and tastes.

The Department organised three different exhibitions during the Book Fair: a) Malta’s accession in the EU, b) Making a Facsimile, and c) The Maltese Novel. The National Book Council with the help of the Department organised a fourth exhibition during the Fair about The Literary Awards.

Special activities during the 2004 Book Fair organised jointly by the Department and the National Book Council consisted of the Dramatisation of the National Library’s facsimile publication of *Gioco d’Arme dei Sovrani e degli Stati d’Europa*, Poetry reading accompanied by livemusic, Short story reading, Several Discussions, Life Documentary regarding Children’s Literature organised by *PoezijaPlus*, and Story Telling for young children.

Furthermore during the 2004 Book Fair, the National Book Council organised the Literary Awards Presentations for 2002 and 2003.

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