



Malta
Classics
Association

MELITA CLASSICA

Vol. 2
2015

*Journal of the
Malta Classics Association*

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MELITA CLASSICA

Vol. 2, 2015

Text © Malta Classics Association
Design and layout © Book Distributors Limited

ISBN: 978-99957-847-37

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1997-2002

Horatio C. R. Vella, Supervisor

Joseph Amodio

A.C.M. Ms. 81: trascrizione - traduzione – commentario.

M.A. Dissertation presented in Italian to the University of Malta in April, 1997. ix + 478pp.

Following the list of references, the Introduction gives a historical background of the period the inscriptions discussed from the manuscript fall into, that is, from 1350 to 1799; a description of the manuscript, tackling its legibility, abbreviation, punctuation-marks, errors, prosody and consistency in the use of surnames, and an appreciation of the Latin, style and prosody used in these inscriptions; their Classical sources; the authors of Ms. 81 and B.N.M. *Libr. 372*; the inscriptions' subject matters, their provenance and survival; their condition, personages mentioned in them, and a short discussion on proper names and surnames encountered. The Introduction is followed by an edition and an Italian translation of the inscriptions, which include both Latin and Greek ones, some composed in metre; a philological commentary; and Appendices on an analysis of the manuscript, the classification of the inscriptions into various categories, a map representing the locations where the inscriptions were set up, a list of abbreviations used in them, a list of inscriptions which include metre and stylistic figures, orthographical and grammatical errors met in them, and a history of the sacred remains kept at the Chapel of the Most Holy Crucifix within the Cathedral of Malta; an extract from the third Pastoral Visit of Bishop Alpheran de Bussan, and epitaphs

found in Gozo. Finally, the dissertation closes with Indexes of years met in these inscriptions, places, mythological, ancient, Christian, and other personages of different categories, and common people.

Victor Bonnici

Giovanni Antonio Viperano, De bello Melitensi historia: a re-edition and translation into English with introduction, commentary and indexes.

M.A. Dissertation presented to the University of Malta in August, 2002. 619pp.

The Introduction discusses the political background of the Great Siege of Malta, the life and works of Viperano, a synopsis of the *De bello Melitensi historia*, Viperano's position as a historian within the Classical historical monograph tradition, general comments on the *De scribenda historia liber* and the *De bello Melitensi historia*, the Classical and historical sources of Viperano's monograph under consideration, his views on the Turks and the Maltese, his description of Malta, an assessment of the *De bello Melitensi historia*, and the texts of the *De bello Melitensi historia* at the National Library of Malta. The re-edition is followed by its translation into English, a philological commentary, references, and indexes of names of persons, places and Latin words.

Dane Munro

A re-edition and translation into English of the monumental inscriptions found at the main nave of St John's Co-Cathedral (Valletta, Malta), including introduction, full commentary and indices.

M.A. Dissertation presented to the University of Malta in August, 2002. 761pp.

Following the list of References, the Introduction then gives a historical background of Jerusalem, the origins of the Order of St John, its stay in Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta, the Conventual Church at Valletta, the decline of the Order, a note on chivalric notions, burial,

posterity consciousness; the artistic style of the inscriptions, the marble used, marble layers, and the technique of the lettering; the legibility of the inscriptions, their measurements and treatment, errors met in their composition, the Latin used in them, their Classical sources, the inscriptions' literary style, the prosody used in some of them, the background of some frequently used words, the abbreviations met in the inscriptions, the versions of Caruana and Scicluna, the symbolism met in them, and a note on heraldry. The edition and the translation into English are then followed by the Commentary. The Appendices include a plan of the inscriptions as they appear in the main nave of the Co-Cathedral, their analysis according to three different editions, the inscriptions' use of artistic styles, and the persons they are dedicated to. The Indexes include a list of all the Knights commemorated in these inscriptions, biographical information on them, information on other persons mentioned in them, a list of professions and offices held by them, place-names found in the inscriptions and in the commentary, a list of occurrences of different stylistic figures, Latin and Greek abbreviations, occurrences of different symbols, a list of Classical authors referred to, and a list of Latin words used in the inscriptions. Finally, the dissertation finishes with an excursus on the contents of inscription 4a.