



# THE MALTA STUDY CENTER *at the* HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

Dear Melitensians,

While the Malta Study Center's primary mission remains the digital preservation of Malta's and the Order of Malta's manuscript and archival heritage, no less important to this mission is the careful cataloging of these documents to create access for scholars to study these historical records. Cataloging these manuscripts proves challenging, as many of the names, titles, and even the provenance of the documents remain clouded in the mists of history due to the movement of manuscripts across time and space.

Starting in 2016 and for the first time in its history, the Center began updating, correcting, and newly cataloging its massive microfilm and digital manuscript collection using modern DCRM and DACS standards to make these collections available in HMML's new online database, vHMML Reading Room. More than 19,000 microfilm and digital manuscript records have been added to the database over the last three and a half years, many with updated or new records. Although the process is far from complete, our efforts are helping to create accurate records that make use of modern technology to improve how scholars discover information.

Over the next year, we hope to complete the preliminary cataloging of the Center's microfilm and digital collections in vHMML. With the support of new partners and friends, such as the RENOWN Project at the Université Côte d'Azur, we can begin improving the records to help scholars discover the richness of Maltese history.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel K. Gullo  
Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center



*Above: Dun Gwann Azzopardi, Archivist of the Cathedral Archives, and Cláudia Garradas, Site Director of the Malta Study Center, at the Cathedral Archives, Mdina.*

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*On the cover: Engraving of Fra' Jean-Philippe d'Orléans (1702-1748) from René Aubert de Vertot, *History of the Knights of Malta*. London: Printed for G. Strahan, etc., 1728.*

MELITENSIA

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## *Center Participates in the RENOWN Conference, Nice (France)*

Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Valeria Vanesio participated in the two-day international conference *Relationships, Nobles, Orders, Networks Europe and Mediterranean* held on October 24-25, 2019, at the Université Côte d'Azur in Nice, France. The conference was organized under the auspices of the RENOWN Project and its directors, Drs. Anne Brogini, Charles Bouveyron, German Butaud, Maria Ghazali, and Jean-Pierre Pantalacci. Papers on the study of European and Mediterranean nobility and their family networks in relationship to the military religious orders were delivered at the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine. Dr. Gullo discussed the importance of metadata authority control for modern databases, such as vHMML Reading Room, to link noble families and identify people, while Dr. Vanesio described the importance of archival procedure for understanding proofs of nobility and authenticating the records as legal documents.

*Right: Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Valeria Vanesio at the Centre de la Méditerranée Moderne et Contemporaine at the Université Côte d'Azur.*

