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Historian's & Editor's Report

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I was invited to assume the role of Historian to the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands in January 2005. Research since has been directed on three fronts:

1. The History of the Order of St. Lazarus;
2. The History of the Maltese Grand Priory; and
3. The History of Leprosy in the Maltese Islands.

The material compiled has resulted in a varied output during 2006 [*vide infra*]. The main corpus of the research has been published by the Grand Priory as a definitive work entitled "*The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus*".

In addition, the Historian collaborated with the Library & Museums Subcommittee of the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery to help set up an exhibition on "*Ancient Medicine: Concepts of disease management*" at the Medical School during September-October 2006. Another poster exhibition on "*Hospitaller Orders in the Holy Land*" was set up at the Topaz Hotel on the occasion of the Supreme Council Meeting & International Investiture held in Malta in November 2006. A special commemorative stamp issue depicting two Vicar Generals of the Order – H.E. Count R.S.R. Attard 2004-2006 and H.E. Marquis F.M. Le Tellier 1673-1691 – was prepared for the joint Supreme Council Meeting and International Investiture held in Malta in November 2006. A number of other projects, including an archival CDROM are also underway.

In 2006, the Grand Priory also entrusted its historian with the onus of publishing a biannual newsletter for its members. The first issue of *Ordo Sancti Lazari – Newsletter of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands and the Commandery of Gozo* saw the light of day in June 2006 with a second issue with a special supplement was published in November 2006 [an early issue in view of the Supreme Council Meeting and International Investiture held in Malta].

Publications:

- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus*. ASMMH for Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, Malta, 2005, +18p. [ISBN: 99932-663-4-5; e-book publication downloadable from Grand Priory's website; originally published in *The Times (Malta)*, 30th January - 6th February 2005]
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: The Domus Leprosorum in Crusader Jerusalem. *Maltese Family Doctor - It-Tabib tal-Familja*, 2005, 14(2):p.67-70
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: Medieval Dermatological Hospitaller Orders. *Synapse: The Medical Professionals' Network*, 2006, January:p.8-9
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *L-Ordni Militari u Hospitaljer ta' San Lazzru ta' Gerusalem vs Torri Lanzun*. Il-Huggiega ta' San Gwann, June-August 2006, 1(12):p.9:
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *Historical Tidbits*. Ordo Sancti Lazari – Newsletter of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands and the Commandery of Gozo, 2006, 1(1):p.3, 1(2):p.3
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *History of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands*. Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, Malta, 2006. [webpage contribution – <http://www.stlazarusmalta.org/history.html>]
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *Leprosy Archives - The Maltese Island*. Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, Malta, 2006, +10p. [e-book publication downloadable from Grand Priory's website; Data submitted to the "Global Project on the History of Leprosy" of the University of Oxford, London, U.K.]
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *Ruzar Briffa's contribution to leprology*. The Sunday Times [Malta], 29th January 2006, p.17
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus*, Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, Malta, 2006, +244p. [ISBN: 10-99932-0-460-9]

Other individuals were encouraged and furnished with material to enable them publish further articles.

- ◆ S. Pisani: *14 ta' Mejju 1796 - Naqra ta' barxa li bdiet issalva l-hajjiet*. Lehen is-Sewwa, 1 July 2006, p.17
- ◆ T.C. Cutajar: *St. Lazarus – who was he?* Sunday Times (Malta), 18th June 2006, p.68-69

Lectures:

- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus*. Lecture delivered on the occasion of World Lepers Day under the auspices of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands – MHOSLJ, January 2005.
- ◆ C. Savona-Ventura: *Kings, Knights & Lepers*. Lecture delivered on the occasion of World Lepers Day under the auspices of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, January 2006.