



***Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura***  
*MD, DScMed, FRCOG, Acc.COG, MRCP, CLJ, OMLJ*  
*Hospitaller & Historian*  
*Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands*  
*Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem*



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**"NorthWynds" 7 Antonio Zammit Street,  
Gharghur GHR2040, Malta**  
Email: [charles.savona-ventura@um.edu.mt](mailto:charles.savona-ventura@um.edu.mt)

## **Historian's & Editor's Report 2007**

The Historian's activities during 2007 have centred on four fronts:

1. **Lectures:** Three historical lectures have been delivered during 2007.
  - a. The first was entitled "*History of Leprosy in the Maltese Islands*" delivered at the Topax Hotel during the World Leprosy Day Activity in January.
  - b. The second lecture was entitled "*The Order of St. Lazarus in the Holy Land*" delivered at Torri Lanzun during the Literary-Musical Evening in June.
  - c. The third talk delivered in June dealt with the *History of the painting depicting the "Raising of St. Lazarus"* restored by the Grand Priory and held by the Basilica of St. George the Martyr in Gozo. The text of this lecture is available in the commemorative booklet downloadable from the Grand Priory's website.
  
2. **Publications:** The major literary publication of the Grand Priory entitled *The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus* was published during 2006. The book has been advertised on the Grand Priory's website and has seen a spate of purchase requests from overseas. It is estimated that a total sale of 250 copies would recoup the publishing expenses so that the remaining 750 copies would serve to augment the Charitable Fund of the Grand Priory. Members should ensure that they support this endeavour by purchasing a copy. To date about half the initial financial outlay has been recouped through book sales. Members are encouraged to purchase the book if they have not yet done so.
  - a. In 2006, the Grand Priory entrusted its historian with the onus of publishing a newsletter for its members. This year a total of three issues have been published and distributed. The newsletter includes also a section of *Historical Titbits* that have dealt with various historical items of interest pertaining to the Order. The feedback response to the Newsletter has been very positive – both from local members and from overseas members of the Order.
  - b. The Historian also compiled the commemorative booklet entitled *The painting "Raising of Lazarus" held at the Basilica of St. George Martyr in Victoria, Gozo* published by the Grand Priory on the occasion of the formal presentation and blessing of the restored painting commissioned by the Grand Priory on the 23rd June 2007. This included
    - i. a historical background to the painting by the Historian of the Grand Priory;

- ii. a technical report of the conservation process by the art restorer Mr. G. Cutajar;
    - iii. a historical outline of the old Confraternity of St. Lazarus in Gozo by Chev. Dr. P. Pisani; and
    - iv. an outline history of the order of St. Lazarus by the Grand Priory's historian.
  - c. Academic historical papers have been commissioned by a number of journals.
    - i. "*Kings, knights and lepers*" scheduled for publication in the *Maltese Family Doctor*.
    - ii. "*The Order of Saint Lazarus in the Kingdom of Jerusalem*" scheduled for publication in the *Sacra Militia*.
    - iii. Mention of the Order and leprosy in Malta was also made in the article entitled "*Hospitaller activities in Medieval Malta*" published in the *Malta Medical Journal* [2007, 19(3):p.48-52]
3. **Library:** The Historian has continued to compile the electronic library by tracing further references of several articles and books pertaining to the history of the Order. Major important works obtained during 2007 include the following listed e-books. These can be obtained from the Grand Priory in electronic format.
- a. J.L. Gottfreid: *Archontologia Cosmica sive Imperiorum, Regnorun, Principatuum, Rerumque publicarum omnium per totum terrarum orben commentarii luculentissimi*. Jennisius, Frankfurt, 1628, Book III, p.2
  - b. *Ceremoniale che si ha da ossequiare dandosi l'habito a' cauallieri militi della sacra Religione de' santi Mauritio et Lazaro il cui Gran Maestro é La Real Altezza del Duca di Savoia, Principe di Piedmonte, Ré di Cipro*. Torino, 1646
  - c. *Memoires, Regles et Statuts, Ceremonies et Privileges des Ordres Militaires de Nostre Dame du Mont Carmel et de S. Lazare de Jerusalem*. Antoine Cellier, Lyon, 1649
  - d. L. Cibrario. *Precis historique des Ordres religieux et militaires de S. Lazare et dr S. Maurice avant et après leur reunion*. [French edition, trans. H. Ferrand], L. Perrin, Lyon, 1860
4. **Exhibition:** the exhibition related to the Hospitaller Orders in the Holy Land set up in November 29006 at the Topax Hotel has been left mounted by the hotel management throughout 2007. This has been obviously viewed by the various visitors to the hotel increasing the profile of the Order – specifically it was viewed by the representative Canadian visitors of the Order.