

CARMEL G. BONA VIA
MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. BOOKS BY M.A. VASSALLI

Alfabeto Maltese, (s.n.; s.l.; ca 1790) size, 23.0 x 16.5cm, p. 8.

Attributed to M.A. Vassalli. A study of the texture of paper, letters and symbols proposed and the "Dialogo tra il Maestro e il Discepolo" indicate this assertion.

AQUILINA, J., *Papers in Maltese Linguistics* (1961) p 85.

BONA VIA, C., *Bibliography of Maltese Textbooks* (1979), p 20.

CASSAR PULLICINO, J., *Kliem bejn Tnejn*, "Mis-Sillabu" Vol. 1 No. 6 pp. 117-118; No. 7 p. 121.

Alfabet Malti Mfysser Byl Malti u Byt-Taljan = Alfabeto Maltes 16moe Spiegato in Lingua Maltese e Italiana, Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1790. sizes 16mo / 8vo; p 24, two impressions.

A study into the production and printing of this booklet reveals that:

(i) it was printed as sheet work on three sheets (surely not smaller than 43x29.5cm) from 6 formes of 4 pages each (forme signatures are numbered from A1 to A6). As the printed area measured only 15.5 x 8.3cm the wide irregular margin was to be trimmed accordingly, perhaps to Medium 16mo. (15 x 11cm).

(ii) Copies examined at the Malta National Library and University Library reveal very irregular trimming, giving sizes from 21.5 x 14.25cm to 16.5 x 11.5cm.

(iii) That some copies were circulated I think soon after printing, perhaps not even trimmed.

(iv) In the meantime, eleven mistakes were detected. Since only a few copies were in book form, it was decided to print the *Errata-Corrige* in the blank space on page 24. This was done by printing the unfolded page A1 which included the title page, p 4, p 21 and p 24. This is the only explanation I can give for the fact that p 24 on some copies have the *Errata-Corrige* and others not. On the other hand this leads one to say that there was not a second edition but only a corrected impression.

Mylsen Phoenico-Punicum sive Grammatica Melitensis. Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1791, size 22x14cm, p 236, 8 unnumbered + 4p index.

Tria monumenta lapidea sepulcralia Kufico-Arabica-Sicula characteribus Kufico-Arabicis utrinque insculpta Panormi in domo D.ni Antonini Magnasco Septembris superioris an. MDCCXCII inventa et in publicam Excellentissimi Senatus Panormitani Bibliothecam Translata Descripsit in hodiernum characterum Arabicum Neski vulgo dictum Reddidit et Interpretatus est Michael Antonius Vassalli Meliten, OR. LL. Prof., Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1793, size 23 x 16cm, p. 8.

It is interesting to note that Vassalli here called himself Professor of Oriental Languages. Perhaps he was teaching these languages in Rome at the time.

Ktyb yl Klym Malti 'Mfysser Byl-Latin u Byt-Taljan sive Liber Dictionum Melitensium, hoc est Michaelis Antonii Vassalli Lexicon Melitense Latino - Italum=Vocabolario Maltese Recato nelle lingue Latina e Italiana. Rome, Antonio Fulgoni, 1796. size 29 x 21cm, p. xlv+681 columns (341 pages) + 2 Errata & Omissa.

*Recherces Historiques et Politiques sur Malte, Par ****. Paris, C.F. Cramer, AN VII (1798), size 20.2 x 12cm, p 127 + 2 plates & 1 map.

Attributed to MAV, if not in whole but certainly in the major part.

BONELLO, Giov., "A mysterious book by M.A. Vassalli" in "Sunday Times" 6.09.1992, p 25.

GANADO, A., "Another clue to Vassalli's authorship" in "Sunday Times" 27.09.1992, p.43.

BLONDY, Alain M., "More about the 'Recherches historique et politiques sur Malte'" in "Sunday Times", 10.01.1993, p 24.

Instruction abrégée sur la culture du coton, d'après l'expérience réitérée faite par Michel-Antoine VASSALLI, Agent du Gouvernement, Chargé de la dite culture. Salon, Département des Bouches-du-Rhône, 1809, size 19 x 14cm, p 8.

CASSAR PULLICINO, G., "Two unknown writings by M.A. Vassalli" in "Melita Historica" Vol X No 3 (1990), pp 293-314.

Grammatica della Lingua Maltese di Michelantonio Vassalli. Seconda Edizione, scritta in italiano, molto accresciuta, ed in miglior ordine ridotta dal medesimo. Malta, The author, 1827, size 20.5 x 12.5cm, p. vii + 147.

Although the title states "Seconda edizione", it is the first edition of this grammar. Vassalli regarded the *Mylsen* of 1791 as the first edition.

Motti, Aforismi e Proverbi Maltesi, raccolti, interpretati e di note esplicative e filologiche corredati da Michelantonio Vassalli, Malta, The author, 1828, size 20x13cm, p. vii + 92, 1 Errata.

Quatuor Evangelia et Actus Apostolorum juxta Vulgatam Romae A.D. M.D.XCII Editam: necnon eorundem Versio Melitensis, London, R. Watts, 1829, size 22 x 14cm, p. 280.

Published after Vassalli's death. Although anonymous, documents show that Vassalli worked on this translation up to a few months before his death.

Storja tas-Sultan Ciru mehuda myr-Rollin, Malta, (s.n.), 1831, size 15.5 x 9.5cm, p 123+3 unnumbered.

This is a translation of Charles Rollin "Histoire de Cyrus" printed and published in Paris in 1740.

II. OTHER PUBLICATIONS BY VASSALLI

Stedina, Malta, (s.n.), 1841. p. 4.

This is the only example of prose written by Vassalli. It was published 12 years after his death by G. Percy Badger in *A letter on the eligibility of the Maltese dialect as a written medium of instruction in the Government Primary schools addressed to His Excellency Sir H.F. Bouverie*, Malta, (s.n.) 1841. *Stedina* appears on pages 12-16.

Associazione al Dizionario Maltese-Italiano-Latino, Malta, Stamperia del Palazzo di S.A.E., (the author), 1792.

A one page handbill (folio size) giving publicity and asking for subscription to the *Lexicon*. The author is qualified as "Abate Michelantonio Vassalli".

Facsimile and text published by D. Fenech in *Vassalli u Kitbietu* (1977) pp 54 - 60.

Avviso dell'Autore, Rome (s.n.), c1796 size 28x20cm.

This notice, probably printed in Rome in about 1796, was circulated to subscribers to the *Lexicon*. Vassalli explained his new plan in publishing the *Lexicon* in three parts in two sexto size volumes. The cost was unaltered, as announced in the *Associazione* i.e. 5 Maltese scudi.

Correction to *Avviso dell'Autore*. size 7.5x8.5cm (Printed on a larger paper but trimmed to fit text)

Soon Vassalli realised that he could not keep the cost of the *Lexicon* as advertised. The original notice was emended by re-printing the last eight lines. The new price would be one scudo more, to subscribers the cost was to be 5 scudi for the *Lexicon* and 2 and one half scudi for the *Appendix*. The correction seems to be printed at the Stamperia del Palazzo. It was pasted on the last paragraph of the *AVVISO*. It was signed "Mich. Ant. Vassalli" leaving out the word "Abate". Copies of the *Lexicon* are known to have this correction handwritten and signed by Vassalli himself.

III. BOOK BY M.A. VASSALLI'S SON

VASSALLI FORMOSA DE FREMAUX, Michael Antonio

Suggestions in accordance with Mr. Amabile Bonello's project of emigration in the coasts of North Africa by Mr. M.A. Vassalli Formose de Fremaux.* Malta (s.n.), 1867, size 21×14cm, pp 20.

*This is how it appears on title page and signature on p 24.

IV. UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL ON VASSALLI

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GUISTI, P., *Mikieł Anton Vassalli – 1963/65* p 35.

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CASTROGIOVANNI, Guiseppe, *Mikieł Anton Vassalli: Letterato e Patriota Maltese (1764–1829)*.

Anno Accademico 1986–87, pp 166.

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Mikieł Anton Vassalli u żminijietu. Malta, Klabb Kotba Maltin, 1975, p 140.

Second edition of the 1937 one, with corrected and up-dated notes in the English translation by May Butcher; edited by Oliver Friggieri.

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FENECH, Dwardu, *Vassalli u kitbietu*. Malta, Provincja Agostinjana Maltija, 1977, p 188, illus.

CASSAR, Paul, *It-Tfittxija għal Mikieł Anton Vassalli*. Malta, Ministeru ta' l-Edukazzjoni, 1981, p 65, illus.

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CACHIA, Lawrence, *Mikieł Anton Vassalli: ħajtu fil-qosor*. Malta, The author, 1988. p 51, illus.

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CASSAR PULLICINO, Joseph, *M.A. Vassalli – 1798–99*. "Sunday Times", 21 February, 1982; p 15, 28 February, 1982, p. 15; 7 March, 1982, p 17.

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M.A. Vassalli studied for the priesthood, "Sunday Times", 9, March, 1985, p. 19

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