

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

By

Sir HARRY LUKE

MELITA HISTORICA feels honoured in publishing the following note which Sir Harry Luke, K.C.M.G., D.Litt., LL.D., has been pleased to contribute. Sir Harry Luke was for eight years Lieutenant Governor of Malta — eight eventful years which are recorded in his autobiography *Cities and Men*, Vol. III, 1956, pp. 61-91. He is also well-known for his excellent book *Malta — An Account and an appreciation*, (Harrap, 1949) of which two reprints have since appeared. His great work for the restoration and preservation of Malta's monuments and archives during his term of office deserves our gratitude and should prove an inspiration in our efforts to preserve and enhance the noble heritage of which we are justly proud.

Among his many commitments during his visit to Malta early in 1957, Sir Harry Luke found time to go through the various issues of MELITA HISTORICA and to acquaint himself with the activities of the Malta Historical Society. In sending these few words of appreciation for publication, he assured the Editor that his note "represents sincerely the admiration I feel for the work that you and your contributors are doing".

Sir Harry Luke wrote as follows:—

"As one who has been deeply interested for many years in Malta's unique historical and architectural traditions. I am naturally an admirer of the work of the Malta Historical Society and appreciate the visible results of its activities in the form of its valuable publication MELITA HISTORICA. Indeed, I have been honoured with an invitation to contribute to it, an invitation I would have been happy to accept but for the reason that my available time during my visit this year to Malta has been taken up with prior literary commitments, which have only just been completed on the eve of my departure. MELITA HISTORICA is not the type of publication to which I would have been content to offer a contribution not wholly worthy of its high standard.

So may I, in lieu, be allowed to confine myself to a word of admiration for and — if I may make so bold — encouragement of the work of research pursued by the Society, work which is of the kind that must be its own reward. Fortunately, although much has been written by people of many nationalities on Malta's long and strange history, its archives are still a practically inexhaustible mine of information as yet barely scratched at. Maltese and other research-workers labouring here are fortunate in the certainty that for decades to come this mine can be worked at full pressure, and that an abundant treasure will reward their labours".

H.C. LUKE.
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