

**THE HISTORICAL GUIDE TO
THE ISLAND OF MALTA
AND ITS DEPENDENCIES**

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The Historical Guide to the Island of Malta and Its Dependencies by Giuseppe Periccioli
Borzese

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THE
HISTORICAL GUIDE
TO THE
ISLAND OF MALTA
AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES.

DEDICATED TO
M^r. HENRY PONSONBY.

BY GIUSEPPE PERICCIUOLI BORZESI
OF SIENA.

MALTA:
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1830.

To the Noble young Gentleman,

MR. HENRY PONSONBY,

Sir,

I am happy in being permitted the favour of dedicating to you, the "Historical Guide to Malta and its Dependencies."

I have been encouraged in the preparation of this little work, by the hope that it may afford you some beneficial entertainment now in your first years; and that hereafter it may be an introduction to a more mature examination of the subjects of which it treats.

I have subjoined to the "Guide," some reflections respecting the ancient appellation of this celebrated land, and some important events that have taken place in relation to it. And I hope you will see the time, when you will find satisfaction in the examination of a question of antiquity, such as the author humbly believes not unworthy of your illustrious origin, and the country from which you have originated.

I shall be highly gratified with your favourable acceptance of this small effort of mine; and beg permission to subscribe myself with all respect,

Malta }
8th March 1830. }

Your most humble
devoted and obedient servant
GIUSEPPE PERICCIOLI BORZESI.



Al Nobil Giovanetto

SIGNOR ENRICO PONSONBY,

Signorino,

Io consacro a lei, Signorino, la " Guida Istorica di Malta, e sue Dipendenze."

Ho scritto questa operetta sulla veduta che possa esserle di una qualche utilità nella prima sua giovinezza, e che più tardi le sia di scorta ad uno studio più profondo dell' istoria dell' isola, e ad un più maturo esame degli oggetti che vi si trovano.

Ho aggiunto alla " Guida" alcune riflessioni intorno all'antico nome, e vicende di questa celebre terra. Spero che sapranno esse un giorno solleticarla ad occuparsi di una questione *istorico-geografo-archeologica*, che io credo non indegna di lei, nè della illustre nascita sua.

Sarò sempre però assai soddisfatto, se ella gradirà questa mia piccolissima offerta, e se mi permetterà che con tutto il rispetto mi dichiari quale mi pregio di essere

di lei Signorino

Malta gli 8 Marzo 1830.

Umilismo. Divotismo. ed Ubbidientmo. Servitore
GIUSEPPE PERICCIOLI BORZESI.

HISTORICAL GUIDE

&c. &c. &c.

PART I.

Geographical Description of the Island of Malta.

THE Island of Malta is situated near the middle of the Mediterranean sea; south of Sicily, between Pacchino called also Cape Passaro, and Camarana, anciently called Camerina.

On the North it is opposite Pozzallo, on the coast of Sicily; on the South, Tripoli, on the coast of Africa; on the East, the Island of Candia, and on the west, the Island of Gozo.

Malta is distant from Sicily, in the nearest direction, sixty Italian miles.*

(*) 12 Italian miles are equal to almost 11 English.

Its circumference is sixty miles; its greatest length twenty miles, and its greatest breadth twelve.

The centre of Malta is in longitude fourteen degrees and twelve minutes East from London, and in latitude thirty five degrees and fifty minutes North.

The longest day in this island is fourteen hours, fifty-two minutes and a half.

The Island of Malta contains two principal cities, viz: *Valletta*, and *Città Vecchia*, called also *Città Notabile*.

The city *Valletta* is fourteen degrees nineteen minutes and twenty-eight seconds east of the meridian of Paris in France.

Città Vecchia (the ancient city) is situated near the centre of the Island. It was founded two thousand years after the universal deluge, six or seven hundred years before Christ.

Valletta, which is now the capital of the island, and the seat of government, lies between the *Great Harbour* (called also *Marsa*

i. e. *Harbour*) and *Marsamuscetto* commonly called the *Quarantine Harbour*. The site on which the city stands was formerly called *Sceb-er-ras*, which in the Arabic language signifies a place which *rises above* the surrounding parts. The Grand Master La Valletta, from whom the city received its name, commenced the building of the city in the year 1556 of the Christian era; and after his death the work was continued by his successor Pietro di Monte. On the 18th of May, 1571, the city was entirely completed.

Within the suburbs of Valletta, on the opposite side of the Great Harbour, are the towns of *Borgo*, called also *Vittoriosa*; *Isola*, or *Senglea*; and *Burmula*, called also *Cospicua*; and on the neck of land on which Valletta stands is a considerable town called *Floriana* or *Borgo Vilhena*. The three former of these are also generally denominated *cities*.

Scattered in various parts of the island are twenty-two other villages called *Casals*.

These are

Casal Dingly	Casal Crendi ✓
„ Mosta	„ Zorrico ✓
„ Nasciar ✓	„ Chercop ✓
„ Gargur	„ Gudia .
„ Attard ✓	„ Micabiba
„ Zebbug ✓	„ Luca ✓
„ Balzan ✓	„ Tarcien ✓
„ Lia ✓	„ Zabbar ✓
„ Birchircara ✓	„ Zeitun ✓
„ Curmi .	„ Asciach ✓
„ Siggevi ✓	„ Safi . ✓

The population of the island and its dependencies is estimated at about one hundred and twenty thousand souls.

The Sovereign of the Island of Malta and its dependencies, is His Majesty GEORGE THE FOURTH, by the Grace of God King of Great Britain and Ireland.
