

THE WAY FORWARD

By

Dr. C.A. Gauci

Chief Herald of Arms of Malta

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➤ INTRODUCTION

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➤ PART ONE

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Page 20	Grandmaster de Rohan
Page 23: Plate 2	Extract from AOM 627 ("Baronia de Gomerino"): It is to be noted that the words " <i>Feudo Nobile</i> " are cancelled. The record outlines how the nature of those lands was changed from feudal- to allodial- (freehold) property and that the Magistral honour first created on 24th December 1710 is recorded to have been annexed by a deed of 5th November 1734, culminating in an investiture of 1st May 1737. This is, arguably, the biggest elephant in the room!
Page 29: Plate 3	Extract from AOM 627 ("Wzzini") showing formal registration of honours received by the comital Wzzini Paleologo family including a grant of <i>Nobiltà Patriziato Romano</i> as well as their descent from the Byzantine Emperors. The Royal Commissioners dismissed all <i>Patriziati</i> as "mere municipal honours".
Page 31: Plate 4	Portraits of Mariano Testaferrata (Heritage Malta) and Leonardo Abela (Old University gallery). By a Privilegium of 20th December 1553, Mariano Testaferrata was conferred the dignity of Patrician of Messina. Mariano was the first of successive generations of his family to have occupied the office of <i>Depositario</i> of the Holy Inquisition in Malta. By a <i>Privilegium</i> of 11th June 1590 from the Roman Senate, the dignity of Roman Patrician was conferred upon the Bishop of Sidonia Leonardo Abela, and his nephews, amongst whom Paolo Testaferrata.
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➤ **PART TWO**

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