

Charles Frederick de Brocktorff: Watercolours of Malta at the National Library, Valletta

Charles Frederick de Brocktorff painted whatever was interesting to wealthy visitors to the islands, e.g. St John's Co-Cathedral, the Governor's Palace, as well as magnificent views of the Grand Harbour. He also portrayed various classes of Maltese society for the benefit of English buyers who were curious to know how the Maltese lived



Behind the scenes

One of the main aims of the National Library of Malta is to make available some of its treasures to the general public, both local and foreign, since many of them are of international interest. The two Brocktorff volumes belonging to the National Library consist of 89 watercolours depicting views of Malta by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff (1775/85-1850), an artist of Northern German origin who visited Malta and opened an art shop in Valletta in the 1820s. Many of his family members were painters and lithographers.

Bernadine Scicluna and Theresa Vella were commissioned to research and write the two-volume publication featuring the watercolours by Charles de Brocktorff. General Editor: Giovanni Bonello

Volume 1 by Bernadine Scicluna reveals the artistic hand of Charles Frederick de Brocktorff through a selection of 17 watercolours in two albums at the National Library, Valletta. These consist of five topographical views of Malta and twelve works showing Maltese traditions and occupations dating back to the first half of the 19th century.

Volume 2 by Theresa Vella discusses another group of watercolours from Library Manuscripts 1147 and 1161. Valletta is the principal theme of the second volume, with 42 paintings by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff, showing interior views of St John's Co-Cathedral, The Palace, the Bibliotheca as well as a number of open-air views of Valletta and the Grand Harbour. The author gives a stylistic analysis of the paintings, while placing them in their art historical context. Their documentary value is also discussed, as a historic viewpoint of three of the most significant historic buildings in Malta. Of particular importance are the watercolours showing the interior of the Palace that underwent major changes in the early years of the British period. The author also presents a number of previously unpublished works by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff from other collections.

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This volume depicts how certain locations relating to Valletta appeared in the early 1800s, both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings as well as the city's streetscapes



Technical specifications of the publication and prints
Charles Frederick de Brocktorff: Watercolours of Malta at the National Library, Valletta - Volume 2

Limited edition; size: 220x300mm portrait; 250pp; full colour on high quality coated matt art paper; sewn and bound

12 Prints - Volume 2

12 reproduction prints on uncoated art board in full colour.
Size of each print: A3 (300x420mm)

Pre-publication offer (until December 2008): **€30.00**

Normal price (from January 2009): **€45.00**

Price includes Volume 2 and 12 A3 prints.

Please make cheques payable to: *The National Library of Malta*

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Watercolours of Malta
at the National Library, Valletta - Volume 2



By C. F. de Brocktorff

VIEW OF THE AUBERGE DE CASTILLE

A National Library of Malta publication
over 250pp accompanied by 12 full colour A3 prints
out in December 2008

