

## NERIK MIZZI HONOURED IN URBINO

On the occasion of the publication of Professor Henry Frendo's volume *Europe and Empire: Culture, Politics and Identity in Malta and the Mediterranean*, the University of Urbino invited the author to give a public lecture on 14<sup>th</sup> July based on its chapter four, which deals with the influences on Mizzi during his student days in Rome and Urbino, a pristine Renaissance city, before the First World War. Founded in 1506, this University, now with a student population of 20,000, is one of the oldest in Italy, initially a centre of excellence in jurisprudence.

Delivered at the Collegio Raffaello, where the romantic poet and Malaphile Giovanni Pascoli once went to school, Frendo's talk on the young Mizzi was chaired by Professoressa Anna Maria Giomaro, head of the faculty of civil law, and attended by two of the University's pro-rectors. Professor Frendo discussed Mizzi's fascination with Urbino and his subjects of study, his thesis, academic and journalistic contacts and publications, especially in his final year, before graduating there as a lawyer in 1912. His doctoral thesis dealt with the should-be rights at law of journalists in relation to editors, and of editors in relation to owners – topics which were considered to be quite innovative and seminal at the time, and which remain pertinent today.

It was at this stage and in such environs, Professor Frendo held, that Mizzi made bold publicly to demonstrate his early irredentist traits. One of the professors at Urbino in Mizzi's student days, the author Francesco Ercole, later became Minister of Public Instruction under Mussolini, and president of the Regia Deputazione per la storia di Malta in the 1930s, which commissioned Savelli's book on Maltese history.

Asked what were the main points made in his new book *Europe and Empire*, the speaker noted that apart from a well documented narrative from different archival sources including Italian ones, this called into question various historiographical assumptions relating to informal empire, civilizing missions, the theory of progress, assimilation, habeas cor-

pus, parliamentary democracy, national identity and the nature and aftermath of colonialism itself. Mizzi's court-martial, imprisonment and the ransacking of his newspaper office for words spoken in the legislature in 1917 and later his arrest and exile, without charge or trial, are a symptom of what went on in a so-called 'fortress', where signs of disloyalty or dissent to presumed norms were discouraged and risked being severely punished, as happened repeatedly in the 1930s and 1940s.

Entitled 'Enrico Mizzi: primo ministro maltese, studente urbinato', the occasion was featured prominently in sections of the Italian press, including *Il Resto del Carlino*, which has an audited daily circulation of 2,550,000. Giuseppe Giliberti, the professor of European and Human Rights Law, accompanied the guest lecturer to view a now framed portrait of Mizzi exhibited in the Rectorate, which was also visited by Commissioner John Dalli during a recent meeting on EU matters at the University. Professor Frendo, of the University of Malta, was appointed an editorial adviser to *Studi Urbinati*, a prestigious humanities quarterly founded in 1926.

ILLUSTRATIONS:



Foto n. 1. Professors Giliberti and Frendo in front of the framed Mizzi portrait at Urbino's Rectorate, next to the Aula Magna where Mizzi wore his toga as a graduand.

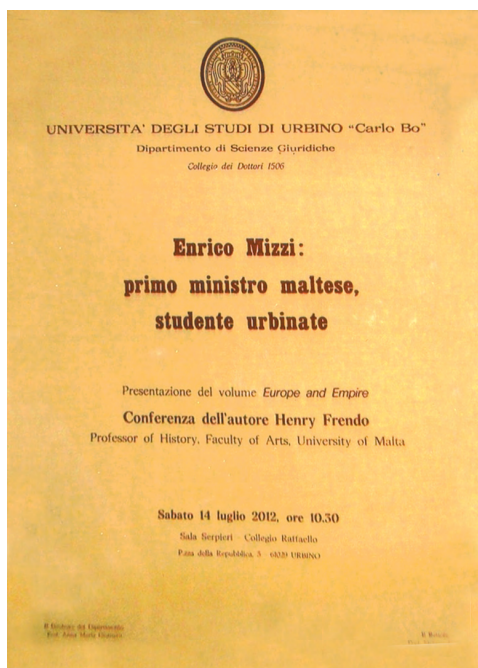


Foto n. 2. The speaker next to one of the large posters around the city announcing his talk.

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**il Resto del Carlino** SABATO 14 LUGLIO 2012

## Il primo premier maltese fu studente a Urbino

### LA CONFERENZA

#### Urbino

Oggi, alle 10.30, presso la sala Serpieri del Collegio Raffaello, in piazza della Repubblica, l'università degli studi di Urbino dipartimento di scienze giuridiche collegio dei dottori, presenterà il volume "Europe and Empire", conferenza dell'autore Henry Frendo, professor of history, faculty of arts, University of Malta. Il tutto si accentrerà sulla figura di "Enrico Mizzi, primo ministro

maltese, studente urbinato". Il 25 maggio scorso, nell'ambito delle celebrazioni per il Festival Internazionale della felicità, alla presenza del Commissario europeo per la salute e la politica dei consumatori John Dalli (maltese) e di Joseph Mifsud, presidente dell'Euro - Mediterranean University, nell'Aula Magna del Rettorato si è tenuta solennemente una commemorazione accademica di Enrico Mizzi, occasione per collocare una foto dell'ex primo ministro nella sala d'attesa del Rettorato. e.g.

**La città ricorda Enrico Mizzi, studente urbinato e primo ministro della Repubblica di Malta**

— URBINO —

OGGI il Dipartimento di Scienze Giuridiche dell'Università di Urbino, celebrerà dalle ore 10.30 nella sala Serpieri del Collegio Raffaello con una conferenza dal titolo «Enrico Mizzi: primo ministro maltese, studente urbinato», il padre della democrazia maltese. Per l'occasione sarà presentato il volume «Europe and Empire», con una conferenza dell'autore, il professor Henry Frendo.

Foto n. 3. Snippets from Italian newspapers reporting the event on 14th July.