

# The Roman *municipia* of Malta and Gozo





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The epigraphic evidence

George Azzopardi



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Front cover.

The statue from Gozo presumably representing Iulia Augusta in identification with Ceres and the base with inscription CIL, X, 7501 marking a dedication to the mentioned Iulia Augusta in identification with Ceres. A hypothetical reconstruction (see Chapter 7, Appendix 1 and also Figure 46). Photo: The Author; Graphics: Max Xuereb.

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To the memory  
of  
the late Rev. Tony Mercieca  
a genuine lover and promoter  
of anything cultural



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## Preface

How did the Maltese and Gozitans fare under Roman occupation? How were they treated by the new masters? And what did they do to appease them? What changes did the new political situation bring about in their lives? How did they respond and / or adapt? Was their religious identity in any way affected? How did they manoeuvre their loyalties to their own benefits? And how did they manage their own domestic affairs within the new political set-up?

Though based essentially on epigraphical evidence, this study seeks to address the above and other questions through an exercise in which epigraphy and the archaeological record supplement each other. For this reason, this study is not monodirectional and, in its quest for answers, often verges also on the margins because its ultimate aim is to gain as much wide a picture as can be possibly attained. It is, in fact, towards this aim that the epigraphic evidence under review is studied also within its political, social, cultural and, often also its religious, contexts.

This study consists of ten thematic chapters which do not follow strictly any chronological sequence. Each theme draws its starting point from a surviving or a documented inscription or set of inscriptions. For its content, the first chapter relies heavily – though not exclusively – on the author’s unpublished MA dissertation. On the other hand, some of the remaining chapters originated as published papers (by the same author) but are, here, being revised and reedited. The rest are completely new and have never been published before. The chapters also make occasional use of material from the above-mentioned dissertation. Unless otherwise indicated, the inscriptions reproduced in all these chapters had their reconstructions and translations done or revised by the author.

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