

Preface

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On April 3-6, 1992, the noun phrase, especially that of Maltese, was the subject of a meeting of the EUROTYP Noun Phrase Group with the Institute of Linguistics of the University of Malta. The idea was to see (i) how the Maltese evidence bears on typological theorizing about the structure of the noun phrase, and (ii) what the typological approach means for the description of the Maltese noun phrase.

The chief venue was the Foundation for International Studies at Valletta, but Calypso's Cave, the roof garden of the Hotel Osborne, Traffic Lights, and especially Jimmy's were also found suitable for conducting linguistic business of all kinds after hours.

The welcome that we received from the Maltese linguistic community was as warm as our debates were spirited, no matter how touchy the issues. We are grateful to the Rector of the University of Malta, Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, and to Ms Mara Pace and the staff of the F.I.S. for their hospitality and efficient organization of all local affairs. Without Albert Borg, head of the Institute of Linguistics and the best guide to his native language and culture, none of this would have been possible. Generous funding from the European Science Foundation (Strasbourg) permitted its Programme in Language Typology to be taken to the fringe of the ESF's dominions.

EUROTYP Working Papers VII/25, where the outcome of this joint venture was given a preliminary airing, are long out of stock-like much else in this series where the supply rarely kept up with the demand. Therefore, those friends of the noun phrase and/or Maltese who were not on the EUROTYP mailing list will certainly join us in thanking the editor of *Rivista di Linguistica*, Pier Marco Bertinetto, for his perseverance in seeing us into proper print.

With this collection, dedicated to Jimmy's, we would like to express our continuing gratitude to our Maltese colleagues for all they have taught us about their language, and we modestly hope to have been of some little assistance to them in putting the Maltese noun phrase in perspective.