



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

INSTITUTE FOR MASONRY & CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH

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Visiting Lecturers from the Centre for Sustainable Heritage at University College London December 2005



Prof. Cassar



Dr Blades

In December 2005, the Institute for Masonry and Construction Research again welcomed Prof. May Cassar, Director of the UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainableheritage/>, and Dr Nigel Blades, Projects Director from the same Centre, as Visiting Lecturers within the programme leading to the award of a Master of Science (MSc) / Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation Technology for Masonry Buildings. Both Prof. Cassar and Dr Blades were able to travel to the University of Malta through an EC Socrates Agreement signed between the Institute for Masonry and Construction Research at the University of Malta and UCL in 2003.

This visit led to two days of intensive lectures, discussions and practical work for the postgraduate students attending the course.

May Cassar tutored the students for a full day on the 5th of December on Values and Conservation Planning. This included formal lectures, discussions and individual short presentations by the students. Full use was made of the available time as the students were set learning tasks to prepare in advance of the classroom teaching.

On the 9th of December, Dr Blades lectured the students on Air Pollution and Cultural Heritage: Damage, Monitoring, Modelling and Mitigation. Lectures focused on pollution measurement and dosimetry, understanding and modelling air pollution in buildings, and pollution control methods. An overview of practical work on the monitoring of NO₂ inside and outside buildings was given by Arch. Glynn Drago and Arch. Tabitha Mifsud, two postgraduate students of the Institute who had

worked with Dr Blades the previous year. This involved the monitoring of the Old University Building in Valletta <http://www.heritagemalta.org/> an exercise kindly supported by Heritage Malta, where its headquarters are based. Diffusion tubes had been installed on Merchants Street, St Christopher's Street, inside the courtyard and inside the building the previous year. A practical session on the use of the IMPACT software tool to model the Old University Building also to help suggest ways of improving its pollution control was also held. Dr Blades explained to the students the use of the model developed during the EC 5th Framework Programme project 'Innovative Modelling of Museum Pollution and Conservation Thresholds (IMPACT)' This EC research project is assisting museums in the control of damaging gaseous pollutants. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainableheritage/impact/>

IMPACT has produced a web-based software tool (referred to as the model earlier) to assist museums, galleries and archives in making sensible decisions about the risks posed to their collections by air pollution.

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