



*Universitas Studiorum Melitensis  
Medicinae Chirurgiaeque Facultate*

*Dr. Emmanuel Agius  
A Bibliography*

*C. Savona-Ventura*





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**Faculty of Medicine & Surgery**  
**University of Malta**

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## *Introduction*

After the demise of Dr. Emmanuel Agius, his immediate family donated his academic papers to the Museums and Library Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. These papers included a number of original transcripts of published scientific articles and the text of a number of unpublished lectures delivered by Dr. Agius throughout his academic career. Dr. Agius further contributed in the literary field with a number of Maltese and English poems and short plays.

These papers have been catalogued by the Museums and Library Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and have been deposited in the Archival Section of the University Library.

## Biography



### Emmanuel Agius

#### Microbiologist

**Born:** Msida, 11/12/1911; **died:** 29/11/1993.  
**Education:** St. Paul's School, Valletta [1922-27]; University of Malta [1927-34]; continued postgraduate studies in Universities of Liverpool and London. **Qualified:** Ph.C. [Malta, 1930]; B.Sc. [Malta, 1931]; M.D. [Malta, 1934]; D.P.H. [Liverpool, 1937]; D.Bact. [London, 1938]; F.C.Path. [U.K., 1964]. **Career:** *Government Health Service* - Resident Medical Officer in Government Hospitals [1934-36]; Assistant Bacteriologist M&H Department [1938-51]; Senior Bacteriologist [1952-75]. During World War II acted as Medical Superintendent to Mater Boni Consilii Emergency Hospital and the Birkirkara Emergency Hospital.

*University of Malta* - Lecturer in Bacteriology and Parasitology [1948-75]; acting Professor of Pathology [1949-53]. Also served for some terms as member of the University Senate and the Faculty Board. **Achievements:** very active in British Medical Association [Malta Branch] filling various official posts [Hon. Secretary 1939-46; President 1947-48, 1955-56, 1960-61]; elected founder fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists [1964]. Was closely associated with the Institute Pasteur de Tunis et d'Algerie; served on the nomination committee for Nobel Prize award in Medicine [1953]; editor of the *St. Luke's Hospital Gazette* [1966-74]; published a number of publications related to bacteriology and parasitology in several referred journals besides a number of literary works. Was founder member and an active committee member of the British Culture Association and the Malta Cultural Institute; served as chairman of the Malta Geographical Society.

**References:** Agius, Emanuel. *Malta Who's Who 1965. A Biographical dictionary*. Progress Press, Malta, 1965, p.4; C. Savona-Ventura: Agius, Emmanuel. *Maltese biographies of the twentieth century* [eds. M.J. Schiavone; L.J. Scerri]. PIN, Malta, 1997, p.10-11; Portraits at the Medical School. *Maltese Medical Journal*, 2000, XII[1-2]:p.60.

**Portrait details:** Painted by Raymond Pitre; presented to Medical School by Agius family in 1995.

## ***Bibliography***

### ***Medical Lectures***

- *Recent advances in the Prophylaxis of Infectious Disease*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], 1938
- *The Viruses*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], 1938
- *The Agglutination Reaction*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], 1939
- *Geographia Mamda*. Notes for a lecture delivered to the Military Hospital at St. Patrick's, Malta, 1940
- [No title] dated 1941-4.
- *Exchanges between Medicine and Literature*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], 1942
- *Men, methods and motives in medicine*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Students Association [Malta Branch], 1943 [not available]
- *Four postulates of Preventive Medicine*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Students Association [Malta Branch], 1944
- *Some bacteriological aspects of typhus*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], 1944
- *The French School of Bacteriology*. A lecture delivered to the Royal University of Malta to the British Medical Students Association [Malta Branch], on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1945 [subsequently published by the Institut Pasteur d'Algeries, Alger, 1946, +15p. – vide infra]
- *Orthopaedics of Brucellosis*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] [with Prof. Craig & Dr. V. Amato], 1947
- *Some Recent Epidemics in Malta*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch], held at the University of Malta on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1947

- *BCG Vaccination*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] [with Dr. V. Zammit Tabona] on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1948
- *On Antibiotics - Penicillin and Similar Derivatives*. Lecture delivered to the Malta Cultural Institute, University Library 7<sup>th</sup> December 1949
- *Malta u l-Medicina*. Tahdita mghamula lill-"Ghaqda tal Malti - Universita`" fil 25 ta' Jannar 1949 [subsequently published by the Ghaqda tal Malti Universita`]
- *The truth about bacterial warfare*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Students Association [Malta Branch], 1949 [subsequently published in *The Chestpiece*, April 1950, 1(4):p.34-36]
- *Academically Speaking*. Malta Cultural Institute Rediffusion Talk recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1955
- *Alexander Fleming - The man and his work*. Paper read at a Symposium on Penicillin of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] [with Prof. Craig, Prof. J.E. Debono & Prof. P.P. Debono], 1955
- *Practical Aspects of Clinical Bacteriology*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] held at the Aula Magna on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1955 [subsequently published in *Chestpiece* 1957]
- *How bacteriology changed the world*. University Public Lecture delivered 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1961
- *Medicine in Britain since 1900*. Lecture delivered at the British Institute, 1961
- *On Truth and Absolute Values. Oration delivered on the Opening Day Ceremony of The Royal University of Malta 1st October 1962*. [subsequently published by the University Press, Malta, 1967, +5p. – vide infra]
- [No title]. University Public Lecture delivered 30<sup>th</sup> October 1963
- *The Development of Virology*. Paper read at a meeting of the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1963
- [No title]. Lecture delivered at the Istituto Superiore di Sanita`, Rome 26<sup>th</sup> May 1969
- *Medical aspects of tourism in the Mediterranean*. Paper read in the session on "Medical Aspects of Tourism in the Mediterranean" at



- the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Meeting of the British Medical Association, in Malta [subsequently published in the St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1969, 4(1):p.12-15].
- *Speech delivered by Dr. G. Borg Olivier (Prime Minister) at a Banquet in 1969 for the Annual Clinical Meeting of the BMA* written by Dr. E. Agius
  - *Reply to P.M. speech* in the 1969 Banquet [written at the Blue Sisters Hospital when recovering from kidney stone operation]
  - *An hour for my thoughts*. St. Luke's Lecture delivered to the Malta Branch of the British Medical Association on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1974 at the Medical School of the Royal University of Malta. [subsequently published in the St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1974, 9(2):p.138-143 – vide infra].
  - *Inspiration and Achievement*. The P.P. Debono Memorial Lecture, 1977
  - [No title]. Talk delivered to British Medical Association [Malta Branch] on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1978.
  - *Medical lessons of the Second World War*. Delivered to the British Medical Association [Malta Branch] at "Professional Bodies Federation" Premises on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1983.
  - *Brucellosis Research in Malta*. Lecture delivered on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1988.
  - *Introductory Welcome to delegates of the British Medical Association* delivered 1988.
  - *An Essay on Some Aspects of Medicine in Malta between 1934 and 1990*. Talk delivered 1990
  - [No title], undated
  - *The History of Penecillin*, undated
  - *Our Microbial Friends*, undated
  - *Sub-microscopic warfare*, undated - circa 1952

**Reports; Press releases**

- *Report on a visit to the Pasteur Institute of Tunis and Algiers* submitted to the Government of Malta, 19440
- *Impressions of an International Congress*, 1953 [published in The Chestpiece, January 1954, 1(9):p.20-24 – vide infra]

- Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 1969 announcing British Medical Association meeting scheduled to be held at the MCAST building on the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 1969
- *Round the World: Malta*. Contributions to the Lancet, 1967-1972: 21<sup>st</sup> January 1967, p.155; 27<sup>th</sup> May 1967, p.1155; 15<sup>th</sup> June 1968, p.1307; 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1968, p.1368; 19<sup>th</sup> April 1969, p.833 [original publications, typescripts & related correspondence – recruited by the journal in October 1966].
- *Brucella Infection in Man*. Personal notes dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 1948.

### ***Medical publications***

- *Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis*. British Medical Association [Malta Branch], Malta, 1942, +15p. [together with J.E. Debono, P.P. Debono, and C. Coleiro] [original].
- *T.A.B. Inoculation*. British Medical Association [Malta Branch], Malta, 1943, +6p. [original]
- *The prevention of human Brucella infection in Malta*. Archives de l'Institut Pasteur d'Algerie, June 1945, XXIII(2):p.93-97 [reprint].
- *The French School of Bacteriology*. Institut Pasteur d'Algeries, Alger, 1946, +15p. [original]
- *Random thoughts of a bacteriologist*. The Chestpiece, April 1949, 1(2):p.20-22 [typescript]
- *The truth about bacterial warfare*. The Chestpiece, April 1950, 1(4):p.34-36 [typescript]
- *Bis-Sahha Tieghek - Grajja tal-medicina fil qosor*. Universita` Rjali ta` Malta, Malta, 1953, +42p. [original & typescript]
- Impressions of an International Congress. The Chestpiece, January 1954, 1(9):p.20-24 [typescript]
- *Mycobacterium fortuitum*. American Review of Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Diseases, 1955, 72(1):53-63 [together with A.Q. wells and N. Smith] [reprint].
- *An uncommon Pathogenic Mycobacterium*. Archives Institut Pasteur de Tunis, 1956, 33(2):p.245-247 [reprint & typescript].
- *Practical Aspects of Clinical Bacteriology*. The Chestpiece 1957 [typescript of lecture – vide supra]
- *The influence of bacteriology and parasitology on civilisation*. The Chestpiece, Summer 1959, 2(2):p.12-15 [not available]

- *The action of Penbritin on Brucella micro-organisms.* Archives Institut Pasteur de Tunis, 1961, 38:p.97-101 [together with J. Mifsud] [reprint].
- *A comparative study of the action of Demethylchlortetracyclin and of Tetracycline hydrochloride on Brucella Melitensis.* Archives de l'Istitut de Tunis, 1962, 39:p.373-37 [reprint].
- *Further comparative studies on the action of Demethylchlortetracyclin and of Tetracycline hydrochloride on Brucella Melitensis and on Salmonella Typhi.* Archives de l'Istitut de Tunis, 1962, 39:p.381-403 [reprint].
- *Ix-Xjenza fil-Hajja ta' Kuljum.* Department of Information, Malta, 1963, +32p. [previously serially published in magazine "Ir-Review", 1963] [original]
- *The incidence of human Brucellosis in Malta.* Archives de l'Istitut Pasteur de Tunis, 1965, 42:p.31-37 [reprint & typescript & lecture notes].
- *A short history of Virology.* The Chestpiece, Summer 1966, p.9-20 [typescript & lecture notes]
- *On Truth and Absolute Values. Oration delivered on the Opening Day Ceremony of The Royal University of Malta 1st October 1962.* University Press, Malta, 1967, +5p. [original]
- *Anaemia in Pregnancy - The major causes in Malta.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1969, 4(1):p.53-58 [together with B. Benster, M.N. Cauchi, J.L. Grech] [reprint].
- *Public Health aspects of tourism in the Mediterranean.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1969, 4(1):p.12-15 [reprint].
- *Some aspects of Brucellosis.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1971, 6(1):p.53-56 [together with R. Pepper] [reprint].
- *Note on a probable case of Toxocara choroiditis.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1972, 7(1):p.61-62 [together with F.J. Damato and V. Busuttill] [reprint].
- *Antibodies to Rubella virus in Maltese women of child bearing age.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1972, 7(1):p.23-24 [together with G.K. Bailey, P.K. Fraser, and A.V. Portelli] [reprint].
- *An hour for my thoughts.* St. Luke's Hospital Gazette, 1974, 9(2):p.138-143 [reprint].

***Literary publications***

- *A Random Collection consisting of 2 one-act plays and 9 poems in English and 33 poems in Maltese.* The author, Malta, 1990, +94p.
  - Most of these literary contributions included in this collection had previously appeared in various publications. The archives also include a number of congratulatory letters from various literary and political individuals in response to the poem “*Ghomor ta’ Bniedem*” written in 1966.
- *Great English Catholic Writers II – Hilaire Belloc.* [typescript]