

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Opening of 'The Royal Family' – an exhibition of fine china at the Malta Chamber

"Malta's strong business links with the United Kingdom have characterised our life style for decades. Malta's long history of trade beyond our shores, has molded the social fabric of Valletta and by extension of the island" said Mr Anton Borg, President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry during the opening of 'The Royal Family', an exhibition of fine china organized to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta.

The exhibition features limited edition fine china articles and a number of photographs from the private collection of Gio Batta Delia.

"Gio Batta Delia's fine china and porcelain outlet in Republic Street Valletta was an institution in Malta's business landscape. It imported some of the finest ceramic and crystal brands, becoming the foremost establishment in this field. Gio Batta Delia formed part of a business community that coloured the busy everyday life of the capital city" Mr Borg said.

Mr Borg noted that the link of the Malta Chamber with the current Royal Family can be traced back to 25th November 1949 when Her Majesty the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, was greeted by the Chamber President Mr Lewis V. Farrugia when she visited the Exchange Buildings, during the centenary celebrations of the Chamber. "This very courtyard held 'The Industrial Exhibition' to mark the momentous occasion, which was held in collaboration with the newly founded Federation of Malta Industries" he noted.

Since then, a number of other members of the Royal family visited this building with the latest being His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex in 2011.

"The business community is an intrinsic part of the social fiber of Valletta and Malta. We are very happy to provide our premises for exhibitions like this, which continue to contribute to the artistic and cultural product of the country. We are also proud to house the offices of the Valletta 2018 Foundation, as well as to sit on the Board of Governors entrusted with organizing Malta's first ever European Capital of Culture. The Malta Chamber, through its various organs, and not less through this magnificent building, will take part in the run-up to 2018" Mr Borg concluded.

The exhibition was opened by H.E. the President of Malta Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca who congratulated the Chamber for the initiative.

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