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# Maritime Heritage

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## **Preface**

I feel privileged that the Wessex Institute of Technology has chosen Malta as the location to stage the First International Conference on Maritime Heritage. It is opportune that this conference is being held on an island considered to be at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, a sea that has witnessed the birth and evolution of many maritime cultures, traditions and customs. It is at this geographical crossroads that we have welcomed delegates from around the globe to discuss and share their research and knowledge, linked as they are by the common theme of the sea and its legacy.

The papers in this book, submitted by the various authors, reflect the broad spectrum of topics that are embraced under the notion of 'Maritime Heritage' as well as a variety of related disciplines. Archaeology, history, ethnography, museum studies and oceanography are just some of the disciplines brought to bear on the study of the subjects presented in this book. Indeed, the field of 'Maritime Heritage' is fertile ground for interdisciplinary cooperation and understanding amongst scholars and researchers. With this in mind I would urge the Wessex Institute of Technology to work towards establishing the Maritime Heritage conference as a regular event that would continue to provide a platform for the sharing of information on such a varied and fascinating subject.

Timothy Gambin  
Malta, January 2003





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