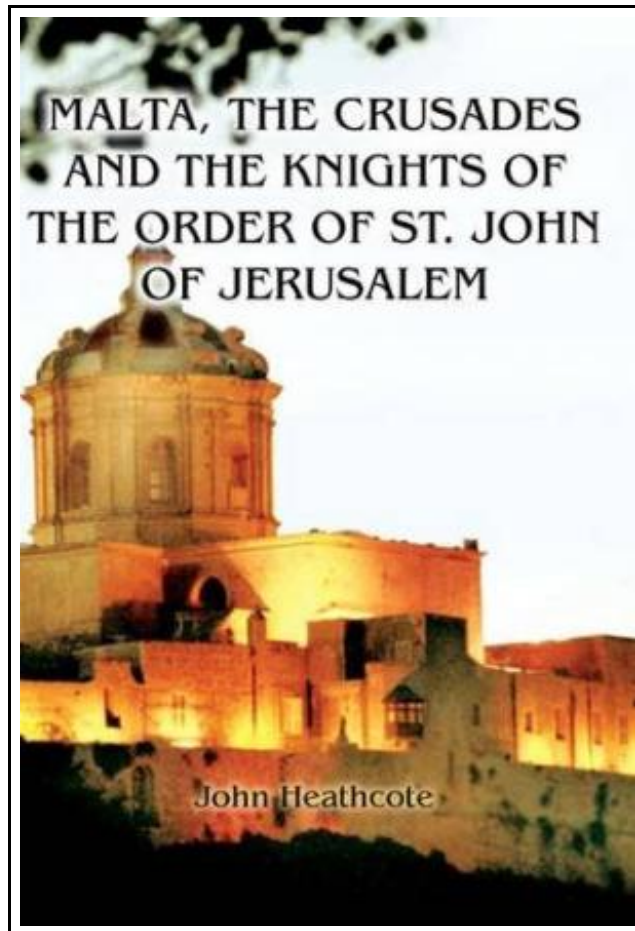


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Melrose Books. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Malta, the Crusades and the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, John Heathcote, Malta is a small archipelago in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea and consists of three inhabited islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino. Small it may be but it has the most remarkable and diverse history of any country in the world spanning a period of almost 5,000 years. The well-preserved Megalithic Temples of the Neolithic Age and the Hypogeum - the oldest of which dates back to before 3000BC - are designated World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. For 3,000 years powerful nations and empires sought to control the Mediterranean and saw Malta with its central location and fine natural harbours as strategically important. This resulted in the continuous occupation of the islands from the arrival of the Phoenicians around 1000BC to the departure of the British in 1964. In the year 58AD a great event occurred when St Paul, en-route to Rome for trial, and accompanied by St Luke was shipwrecked on Malta. The devout Christian faith of the Maltese can be traced back to this time. The golden period during this long occupation started with the arrival of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem in 1530. The Order was famous throughout Christendom as the defender of the faith against the Islamic Seljuk Turks, who later formed the Ottoman Empire, who the Knights fought during the Crusades and thereafter. Emperor Charles V recognising the important role of the Knights ongoing confrontation ceded Malta to the Order in 1530 following their expulsion from Rhodes in 1522. In 1565 the massive Ottoman armada of Suleiman the Magnificent laid siege to Malta which incredibly did not fall. La Valette the Grand Master of the Knights during the siege,...



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