

ANGLO-BAVARIAN AUBERGE

The Langue of England, which covered all British Isles, died out during the 17th-century due to its abolishment and the confiscation of its properties by King Henry VIII during the 1530s. To this effect, no Auberge of England was built in Valletta when the Knights moved to the new city in 1571. Eventually, it made a comeback during the late 18th-century with the institution of the Anglo-Bavarian Langue in 1784. By 1798, this new Langue expanded to cover a huge geographical territory, namely the British Isles, the southern Germanic region of Bavaria, Poland and Russia.



PALAZZO CARNEIRO

In 1782, Charles Theodore, incumbent of the Electorate of Bavaria from 1777 to 1799, purchased the expansive palace overlooking Marsamxetto Harbour to serve as Auberge for the then proposed Anglo-Bavarian Langue. This palace had been built by the Portuguese Balì Fra Gaspare Carneiro in 1695, and passed under the hands of the Order upon his death.

PROMINENT BUILDING

Overlooking the wide terrace at the back of the English Curtain, the two-storey façade of the Auberge of England and Bavaria takes up the width of an entire block. The centrepiece comprises a large round-headed portal flanked by twin pillars and an overlying open balcony carried on giant corbels. The wall spans on either side are perforated by closely spaced, moulded and rectangular windows, while the corners are marked by plain two-tiered pilasters. A pronounced cornice runs along the entire span, whereas the interface between the two storeys is marked by a string course. The internal layout has a U-shaped plan, and is characterised by lofty and well-lit rooms accessed through spacious and airy side corridors



ROLE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER

On the lines of present day Government departments, each Langue was assigned specific responsibilities. The Langue of England and Bavaria was tasked with the command of the Cavalry. Its Pilier (chief) occupied the post of Turcopolier.



Emblem of the Langue of England and Bavaria

HOSPITAL, SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

The British Military occupied this building until the granting of Self-Government in 1921, and used it as one of the many makeshift hospitals set up in Malta during World War I. It was later used as a school, until it began to house the Government Property Division in 1979.