



MerHbA

Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc
(Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

MHA Newsletter No. 6/2014

www.mha.org.au

July 2014

MerHbA! Welcome to all the members and friends of the Maltese Historical Association.

In these cold winter months it is tempting to stay home in our nice warm houses but there are many exciting events taking place in Melbourne over the next few weeks, including two organised by the MHA. I strongly encourage you to make the effort to rug up and venture out if you can. If you cannot, I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the MHA website. These days it is possible to travel through time and space from the comfort of our own homes!

In this newsletter you will find:

- A links to Dr Clemente Zammit's anthology of poems by Laurie Armato
- more stunning photos of Malta by Nino Xerri
- a summary of our June talk on the "Cantilena" by Joseph Borg
- an introduction to our presentation evening on Maltese literature by Dr Adrian Grima on 15 July
- an invitation to a special event about Lace, by Dr Consiglia Azzopardi on Tuesday 5th August at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville
- an overview of Frank Scicluna's South Australian e-Newsletters

The MHA website is being updated with the addition of a new category on the top menu called Archives. This project was started by the MHA Committee in 2013. I have linked to an Index and a number of lectures that were collated and given to me by Professor Maurice Cauchi. I intend to extend these to earlier years, as well as bringing them up to date. The MHA lectures, spanning over 25 years, are a treasure trove of information and it would be a shame for them to be lost; similarly with past newsletters. Please be patient; it is a very time-consuming process.

While chatting about this with Charlie Portelli he pointed out that nowhere on the newsletters or our letterhead was there a link to the MHA website! This has now been corrected. It is of course: www.mha.org.au

I must say that Charlie Portelli has the eyes of an eagle. Rarely does even a misplaced comma in the newsletter escape his gaze! Many thanks must also go to the MHA committee for their ongoing dedication and commitment in organising guest speakers and lectures, and contributing articles for the newsletter and the archives. It is a pleasure to work with such a team.

Saħħa u Sliem, Health and Peace,

Charles Gatt
MHA Secretary
secretary@mha.org.au

July Lecture

***Pretty Brits and Sleeping Poles:
One Hundred Years of Maltese Literature
about the Other.***

by
Dr Adrian Grima

**7.30 pm Tuesday 15th July 2014
Maltese Community Centre Parkville
All welcome**

Special Event

From Craft, to Industry, to Art

by
Dr Consiglia Azzopardi

**7.30pm Tuesday 5th August
Maltese Community Centre Parkville
All welcome**

Dr. Clemente Zammit has collated a number of poems by the late **Laurie Armato** (1930 – 2013) into a beautiful online book, which he wants to share with us. The e-book, titled ***Mad-Daqq ta' Mandulina***, can be found at:

<http://online.fliphtml5.com/bxaj/vdfy/>

Dr Clemente Zammit requests comments via email to:
clementezammit@optusnet.com.au

Many Thanks to Paul Vella, PRO, Maltese Literature Group of Victoria, for sharing this with the MHA.

THE AZTECS at Melbourne Museum

The Melbourne Museum is hosting a special exhibition on the Aztecs until 10 August 2014.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/current-exhibitions/aztecs/aztecs-introduction/>

If you join Museums Victoria before 27 July, you will receive a free ticket to this special exhibition.

The Museum and Melbourne University are also hosting a series of lectures about the Aztecs. For more information, visit:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/current-exhibitions/aztecs/aztecs-lecture-series/>

Scenes of Malta – Photographs by Nino Xerri

Nino has kindly shared three more of his superb photographs with us:



MDINA



The Mill Room
Rabat, Gozo



The Grandmaster's Palace Valletta

June Lecture: Pietro Caxaro's "Cantilena" by Joseph Borg

The lecture on 17 June was well attended, despite the cold night. Joseph Borg spoke about the "Cantilena", the oldest known literature in Maltese.

Mr Borg introduced the topic with a brief background of the Maltese language. The earliest Maltese writers in the 12th century wrote in Arabic. Later, Italian and Latin became the languages of the literati and official documents. The various dialects of Maltese (Arabic with increasing influences of Sicilian Italian, Latin and other European languages) were considered the 'Lingua tal Cuccina'. Writings in Maltese, such as Bonamico's sonnet from the latter part of the 17th century, were unusual.

However, in 1966, two researchers were surprised to find, in a book by Brandano de Caxario, a handwritten poem, which he attributed it to his ancestor, Petrus de Caxario who lived in the 1400s, two centuries earlier! After carefully checking it for authenticity, they set about deciphering and understanding the poem.

The "Cantilena" is a song about a wall that collapsed, despite good workmanship, as it had been built on unstable foundations. The poet explains he must try again elsewhere to succeed. Much has been written about the poem and its author and there are several possible interpretations.

Pietro de Caxaro was born to a noble family in Mdina around 1400. Well educated and prosperous, he was a highly regarded judge, as well as secretary of the Town Council of Mdina. He became good friends with the Dominicans, who arrived in Malta around 1450 and included several erudite friars.

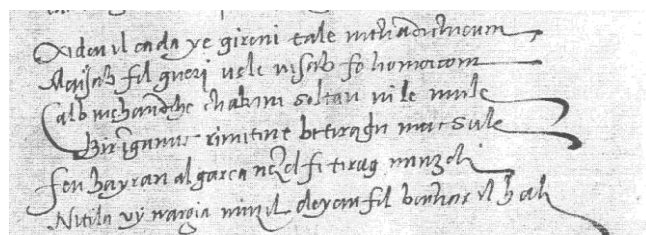
Around 1463, Caxaro aspired to marry a widow, Franca de Biglera. However, her brother objected on the grounds of 'spiritual affinity'. Caxaro obtained the approval of the Ecclesiastical Court but no records exist of their marriage or whether he left a widow or offspring when he died in 1485. In his will he left everything to the Dominicans. Is this a lament of lost love, with Pietro concluding that he needs to look elsewhere?

The poem may have been a reference to the actual collapse of a tower in Mdina. Peter Caxaro, acting as secretary at a Town Council meeting on January 11th 1454, spoke in favour of an urgent 'collecta' or tax to restore the walls. His brother was appointed to supervise the project but was later murdered by someone from Siggiewi. Is Caxaro mourning his murdered brother, who left behind a distraught wife and children? Is it a coincidence that the wife's name was Vintura and the word Vintura appears in the poem as one of only two words not of Arabic origin?

Prior to the arrival of the knights in 1530, there was no standard Maltese language; only a number of dialects. Caxaro's dialect, spoken in the west of the island, was defined by Vassalli as 'fir-rhajjel ta' fuq'.

I thought it fascinating that when reading the poem out aloud, several times, it becomes possible to understand much of the old dialect, even with my rudimentary knowledge of Maltese!

[Click here to read the full lecture](#)



The Cantilena

(English translation below each line)

Xideu il cada ye gireni tale nichadithicum
Witness my predicament, my friends (neighbours), as I shall relate it to you:

Mensab fil gueri uele nisab fo homorcom
never has there been, neither in the past, nor in your lifetime,

Calb mehandihe chakim soltan ui le mule
A [similar] heart, ungoverned, without lord or king,

Bir imgamic rimitne betiragin mucsule
That threw me down a well, with broken stairs

Fen hayran al garca nenzel fi tirag minzeli
Where, yearning to drown, I descend the steps of my downfall,

Nitla vu nargia ninzil deyem fil bachar il hali.
Climb back up, only to go down again in this sea of woe.

Huakit hi mirammiti lili zimen nibni
It [she] fell, my edifice, [that] which I had been building for so long,

Mectatili mihallimin me chitali tafal morchi
It was not the builders' fault, but [of] the soft clay [that lay beneath];

fen timayt insib il gebel sib tafal morchi
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay ...

vackit hi mirammiti.
It [she] fell, my building!

Huakit by mirammiti Nizlit hi li sisen
It [she] fell, my building, its foundations collapsed;

Mectatili li mihallimin ma kitatili li gebel
It was not the builders' fault, but the rock gave way,

fen tumayt insib il gebel sib tafal morchi
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay

Huakit thi mirammiti lili zimen nibni
It [she] fell, my edifice, [that] which I had been building for so long,

Huec uakit hi mirammiti vargia ibnie
And so, my edifice subsided, and I shall have to build it up again,

biddilihe inte il miken illi yeutihe
change the site that caused its downfall;

Min ibidill il miken ibidil i vintura
Who changes his place, changes his fate!

halix liradi 'al col xebir sura
for each [piece of land] has its own shape (features);

hemme ard bayda v hemme ard seude et hamyra
there is white land and there is black land, and red

Hactar min hedaun heme tred minne tamarra.
But above all, you must stay clear of it.

July lecture: Dr Adrian Grima, “*Pretty Brits and Sleeping Poles: One Hundred Years of Maltese Literature about the Other*”

Tuesday 15th July at 7.30pm



Dr Adrian Grima is a full-time lecturer in Maltese Literature in the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta (Faculty of Arts). His areas of specialisation are mainly in the use of metaphor to construct the Maltese national imagery in Maltese Literature, representations of the Mediterranean, and Maltese

authors, such as Juan Mamo, Dun Karm, and Frans Sammut, as well as the new generation of writers.

Dr Grima organises many events at the University of Malta with both Maltese and foreign speakers and produces cultural and academic programmes for the University radio. He has read academic papers at conferences in many Mediterranean and European countries, and in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. His papers have been published in Malta, Brazil, Cyprus, France, Germany and Italy.

A poet and short story writer in Maltese, Dr Grima has been invited to many festivals. His poetry has been translated into fifteen languages and book collections of his translated poetry have been published in English, French, Italian, and German. Individual poems have been published in a host of literary magazines and book anthologies in many countries.

Dr Grima is a co-founder of the Maltese Cultural Association ‘INIZJAMED’ (1998). He has also been involved in many national and international artistic projects, mostly of a literary nature. His work with ‘Inizjamed’ includes the organisation of the only international literary festival and residential literary translation workshop held in Malta, the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival.

The title of his topic is:

Pretty Brits and Sleeping Poles: One Hundred Years of Maltese Literature about the Other.

The talk looks at the representations of foreigners in five prize-winning narratives by authors from different periods of Maltese literature. It focuses on the nameless Arabs and idealised English lady in Guzé Aquilina’s novel, ‘*Taħt Tliet Saltnef*’ (1938), and a Turkish street hawker and a young Greek woman in Paul P. Borg’s, ‘*Dal-Lejl ġie Alla*’ (1984). It then looks at the portrayal of an Eritrean asylum seeker, a North African Muslim and a Pole in stories by exciting writers from the 21st Century cosmopolitan generation of Maltese literature, Claire Azzopardi, Pierre J. Mejlak and Immanuel Mifsud, all of which have been translated into English.



Special event: Dr Consiglia Azzopardi, “*From Craft, to Industry, to Art*”.

NOTE: This event will be held on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of August **NOT** the third, i.e. **Tuesday the 5th of August**.

Dr Consiglia Azzopardi was born in Għarb, Gozo in 1946. She learnt Maltese bobbin-lace as a child, at home from relatives, and from the neighbourhood where the crafts were widely practiced on doorsteps, in alleys and in sheltered street corners. ‘Bizzilla’ – as it is known in Maltese – became her favourite hobby until she graduated as a Primary school Teacher and then started to teach lace-making courses run during the summer holidays.

Teaching lace-making at the Girls’ Trade School, and later at the Gozo School of Arts, brought Consiglia into contact with lace-makers from the different villages in Gozo and Malta, who produced ‘pricking patterns’ from all over the Island. Since 1995, she has been teaching Maltese lace at the University of Malta Gozo Campus. During this time she instigated a Certificate and a Diploma course under the auspices of the University. This created an opportunity to start collecting material and information, before it was too late, at a time when the lace industry was declining rapidly.

Meanwhile, a study of the history of Maltese Lace was undertaken. At the University of Malta, she read for an M.Phil degree with the theme ‘Antique Maltese lace of the Time of the Knights 1530 – 1798’, and later for a Ph.D. researched ‘Maltese Lace of the 19th and 20th Centuries’. From these studies, several stages in the development of Maltese Lace-making techniques were discovered. A profile of the promoters responsible for such renovation was formulated, and the main artists working in the field were identified. The role of the lace merchants and the network of trade in Maltese lace were revealed. All aspects were entrapped in the political, social and cultural life of Malta with special emphasis on Gozo.

Consiglia is the author of three books about Maltese lace making, namely:

Gozo Lace: An Introduction,
Gozo Lace Selection of Designs by Diacono, and
L-Istorja tal-Bizzilla fil-Gzejjer Maltin.

Her lecture is titled ‘*From Craft, to Industry, to Art*’

Dr Azzopardi will be speaking about the history of Maltese Lace-making. She will discuss the tools of the trade and the various patterns used. She will concentrate mainly on 19th Century lace-making styles, greatly promoted in Gozo. These include motifs in a Moorish design, called ‘Festuni’. Strips of a sequence of these motifs, usually constructed in a round shape, may be sewn together to form all sorts of shawls, stoles, tops, bedcovers, etc.

The most common design of motifs are ‘star’, ‘flower’, ‘sun’, ‘palm’, ‘moski’, and the most important ‘Maltese Cross’.

Dr Azzopardi will be displaying some of her works on the evening.

SUMMARY OF FRANK SCICLUNA'S: MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER # 43

CENTRAL BANK, MALTAPOST ISSUE INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY COIN, STAMP



The Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost will be jointly producing a numismatic silver coin and a silver stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Malta's on 21 September 1964. Many other commemorative 2014 coins are listed in the Article

FILOSOFU U POETA - PATRI ANASTASJU CUSCHIERI O.CARM.

An article in Maltese about the Maltese philosopher and poet, the Carmelite Father Anastasju M. Cuschieri (1876 – 1962)



THE INTERNATIONAL BOBBIN AND NEEDLE LACE ORGANIZATION

Beginning in France in 1982, the OIDFA Congress is held every two years. This year it will be held in Adelaide, with lectures, exhibitions and sales of lace.



Congress: 18th to 20th July, 2014

Pre-Congress Courses: 14th to 17th July, 2014

Post-Congress Tours: 21st to 25th July, 2014.

The Maltese Lace expert Dr. Consiglia Azzopardi, author of the Gozo Lace Book, will be holding sessions at the Congress on Maltese Motifs.

Further details of the Congress can be found at: <http://www.oidfa.com/>

Dr. Consiglia Azzopardi has been instrumental in the revival of the lace-making craft in the Maltese Islands, by researching and teaching techniques which were being abandoned as the old generation of lace makers passed away.



Consiglia Azzopardi discussing old lace patterns with Carmela Spiteri, 92 year-old Gozitan lacemaker from Nadur.

The teaching of Maltese lace started at the Gozo School of Arts in 1990. In 1996 the University of Malta, Gozo Centre, began offering a three-year Certificate Course in Lace Making and, recently, a Diploma in Lace Studies.

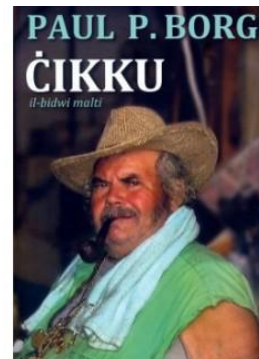
Consiglia is the director of the *Koperattiva Ghawdxija*

tal-Bizzilla u Artigjanat, a cooperative of graduates from the above courses, which handles orders for hand-made lace products in original and traditional designs. Currently, Consiglia is working to establish a *Casa Bottega* for Lace Making, offering short courses in an old Gozitan farmhouse capturing the atmosphere of the Gozitan lifestyle when lace making was at its peak.

She also maintains a website: www.malteselace.eu

CIKKU – IL-BIDWI MALTI

A new publication by Paul P. Borg called *CIKKU, il-Bidwi Malti* (the Maltese Farmer) deals with the relationship between man and the natural environment. Borg bases it on discussions with the late Ċikku Fenech Ta' Vangiela of Mosta and other peasants over many years. He delves deeply into the peasant philosophy, searching for the soul of the old peasant in his ancient environment, looking at the traditional way of peasant life and the causes of the changes that are devastating our natural environment



Borg recounts the 1963 murder by Ċikku Fenech of fellow peasant Ċikku Vella following a heated argument. The 23-year old Fenech then hid in remote cliffs for several months, before giving himself up. Borg details the murderer's whereabouts and adventures when in hiding and flashes back to the exploits of the young Ċikku in Australia. He brings to light the more daring feats of the Maltese farmer in his struggle to make a living in the environment of these islands.

Paul's earlier book, 'Ċikku Fenech, il-Qtil, il-Ħarba, il-Bidwi', gives a detailed account of Ċikku Fenech's life and was awarded the Literary Prize in 1999 for the best novel by the National Book Council.

Ċikku Fenech, 74, sparked the largest man-hunt in Malta's criminal history before giving himself up to police. Described as a dedicated farmer, he was a well known character in Malta and had a number of brushes with the law. He passed away on 08 February 2014.

The author can be contacted on: paulpborg@yahoo.com

PAUL P BORG MINN MALTA

This is a lovely thank you note, written in Maltese by the above-mentioned author, Paul Borg, in appreciation of the South Australian e-Newsletter.



Paul's grandfather was a cane cutter in Australia before WWI and recounted interesting tales of his travels. Like many Maltese, Paul has relatives in Australia he has never seen.

Born in Hal-Balzan in 1949, Paul developed a love and respect of nature as a child in Selmun and has published many books.

NOSTALGIA - MALTA IN THE PREVIOUS



CENTURIES

The "Ghonnella" or "Faldetta" was part of the Maltese women's Sunday best outfits and national costume until the mid twentieth century. A common sight in the church square till the 1950's, today it is only seen at folklore events and on postcards like the one above.



Professor Henry Joseph Frendo



Prof. Henry Frendo (born August 29, 1948) has been a Professor of Modern History at the University of Malta since 1992. Frendo was previously employed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, working in many countries around the world. His long and illustrious career includes lecturing and consulting worldwide, including

Australia and he has received many honours.

Dr Frendo served as Mayor of Attard (Malta) and as President of the College of Mayors. He was Chairman of the Refugee Appeals Board in Valletta (Malta). He has been involved in extensive television, radio and journalist work, including as Director of the Malta University Broadcasting Services Limited, Co-Editor of the Journal of Mediterranean Studies, Editor of the Maltese History journal 'Storja' and Vice-President of the University of Malta's History Society.

Since 2005, Dr Frendo has been involved with a 5-year Challenge programme on 'Freedom and Security' and is the convenor of two upcoming international conferences on Migration, asylum and security. He speaks Maltese, English, French, Italian and Arabic.

OPINJONI..... X'NIXTIEQU NARAW

A wishlist of 7 items in Maltese

PETER SERRACINO INGLOTT



Peter Serracino Inglott (April 26, 1936 – March 16, 2012) was a Catholic priest, ordained by Cardinal Montini, later Pope Paul VI. A professor of theology, Emeritus Professor of philosophy, and Rector of the University of Malta, he

was a professor and lecturer in many Universities around the world, receiving several honorary doctorates. He was also honoured by the French, Italian, Portuguese and Maltese governments.

Serracino Inglott was an advisor to the former Prime Minister of Malta, Eddie Fenech Adami, and one of three Maltese representatives at the Convention on the Future of Europe.

Inspired by Thomas Aquinas and Ludwig Wittgenstein, Serracino Inglott has written two principal philosophical texts, *Beginning Philosophy* (1987) and *Peopled Silence* (1995). He wrote extensively on a variety of subjects, notably on biotechnology and human rights.

Mario Vella, a former student of his, has written a critical assessment of Serracino Inglott as philosopher: *Reflections in a Canvas Bag: Beginning Philosophy Between Politics and History*.

MULTICULTURAL MALTA - India-Malta relations

Relations between Malta and India stretch back many years to a time when both countries were under British rule. Malta served as a convenient trading node for exporting silk and curios from India and the Far East. In 1878, the British-controlled Indian government dispatched 7000 native Indian troops to the island of Malta and throughout World War II, the British used Malta as a hub to bring Indian troops to and from the Atlantic.



More recently, Malta has been represented in New Delhi since 1989 and exchanged presidential visits with India in 1990 and 1992. Malta opened a High Commission in New Delhi in 2007 and has honorary consulates in Chennai and Mumbai, while India is represented in Malta through its embassy in Tripoli (Libya) and an honorary consulate in Valletta.

Both countries are full members of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Maltese government encourages Indian businesses by offering various incentives to Indian companies. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased nine-fold during the first three years of the 21st century, reaching 122 million USD by 2005-06.

As of 2007, there were around 200 Non-Resident Indians living in Malta, as well as a well-established community, descended from Sindhi businessmen from around 1887, though strict immigration laws prevented Indian immigration into Malta between 1952 and 1985. The Sindhi community, locally known as *I-Indjani* ("the Indians"), continues to maintain their traditions but Hinduism is still to be recognized as a religion in Malta. Though once very isolated, the Sindhi are now well-integrated into Maltese society and regarded as a national local minority.

Maltese have spread Christianity in India since at least 1924, with the first recorded arrival of a Maltese missionary to Kolkata. Entry of Maltese missionaries into India is now restricted with strict visa rules. There are several Maltese residents in India and firms like Malta Enterprises have a presence there.

PRESIDENT'S 'WELL-BEING' FOUNDATION



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca has announced the setting up of The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.

Focusing on the family as the foundation of society, The Foundation will have four pillars: a National Institute for Childhood, a National Observatory for Living with Dignity, a National Research Council and a National Centre for Freedom from Addictions.

MALTA AND NEW ZEALAND

The last census put the figure of Maltese people resident in NZ at 222. The earliest known Maltese man in New Zealand was Angelo Parigi. He was listed at St Patrick's Church in Auckland as marrying 16-year-old RoseAnne McMullen on 4 July 1849 and was described as "a boatman born in Malta". Some letters for a James

Cassar remained unclaimed at the Auckland Post Office in 1864. In 1883, Francesco Saverio de Cesare from the Government in Malta reported that he met three Maltese in Auckland and another in Tauranga, all doing well and not intending to return to Malta. They told him of other Maltese, whom they knew.



Since then small groups of Maltese came out in dribs and drabs, some via Australia. In 1989, a small group of Maltese formed the Maltese Association of Wellington (later incorporated) on 29 June (Mnarja). Prof. Carmen Dalli was founding president.

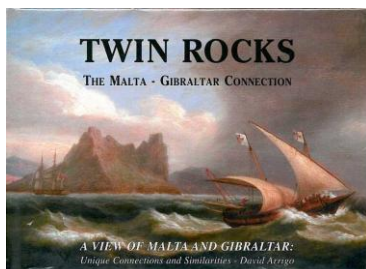
Source: Prof. Carmen Dalli

While the Maltese community in New Zealand is very small, a number of Maltese have studied in New Zealand under Commonwealth Scholarships and an Ombudsman's office has been set up in Malta. The working holiday scheme of 2004 provides opportunity for increased contact between the two countries.

In 2013, a new reciprocal Agreement on Social Security between Malta and New Zealand was signed, ensuring equality of eligibility, rights and obligations and so a person may now move between Malta and New Zealand without losing his or her pension.

MALTA AND GIBRALTAR

A Maltese community has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture from Spain by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. The garrison was serviced by immigrants, mostly from Malta and Genoa and later from neighbouring Spanish towns, giving the colony a very



cosmopolitan population, yet preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic uniqueness of the colony, despite centuries of British occupation.

Gibraltar prospered in the 19th century from trade with North Africa and with the presence of the Royal Navy. This attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands. In 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living on the Rock, many gaining lucrative employment associated with the dockyard.

Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the colony practically impregnable. This was to prove of strategic importance in both world wars.

Those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life of the colony. Most are staunch supporters of Great Britain, unlike the situation in Malta, where a rising sense of nationalism resulted in the eventual establishment of the Maltese republic.

ANOTHER CERTIFICATE FOR MALTA AS TOURIST DESTINATION

The Minister for Tourism Edward Zammit Lewis, announced that from next year JET2.com and Jet2 Holidays will start operating flights and package holidays between the Midlands and Malta.

The Minister also announced that Norwegian air will be operating a weekly service from Madrid to Malta.

NEW BUSES ARRIVE IN MALTA



Malta Public Transport has received five 12-meter Volvo buses and six 9-meter Optare Solo buses of the 45 to be leased for one year

NEW INNOVATION HUB AT SMART CITY

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat inaugurated an innovation hub, part of MITA (Malta Information Technology Agency), at Smart City. SmartCity is a technology park under development in Kalkara, Malta. The plan is to transform the Ricasoli Industrial Estate into a state-of-the-art information technology and media city based on the models of Dubai Internet City and Dubai Media City.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARNISI ESTATE (MARSOVIN)

Planted in 1994 the Marnisi Estate was the first in the series of Marsovin-owned Estates specifically intended for the production of Antonin Noir and Marnisi, multi-award winning wines.

To mark this special occasion, on the 7th of June, Marsovin will hold a Luxury Dinner and Opera recital on the estate grounds. The event is to be hosted by Virginia Kerr, one of the most distinguished Irish sopranos of her generation, accompanied by established Maltese musicians, harpist Anne Marie Camilleri Podesta and violinist Joseph Chetcuti.

SUMMARY OF FRANK SCICLUNA'S MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER # 44

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL – VALLETTA MALTA



Following the British takeover of Malta in 1800, there was an influx of British to Malta as a health resort but there were no places for Anglican worship. Proposals to hold Anglican services in St. John's Cathedral or other Catholic Churches were rejected. Government officials had to make do with a converted kitchen in the Grandmasters' Palace.

Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV, arrived in Malta on November 30th, 1838. Dismayed that there was no proper Anglican church on the island, she decided to fund the project, laying the foundation stone on the 20th March 1839, on the previous site of the Auberge d'Alemagne. The final cost of the building was put at £20,000. The church was consecrated on November 1st, 1844 and the 60 metre spire was completed in 1845.

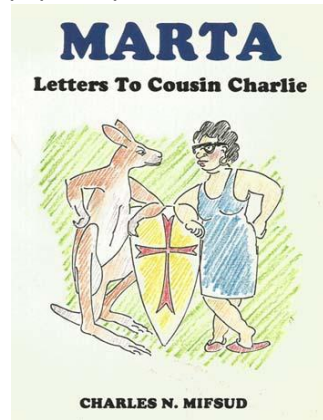
THE GOZO FOLKLORE MUSEUM AT THE CITADEL, RABAT GOZO

The Folklore Museum was opened in 1983 and its many exhibits provide insight into life on Gozo in the past.



The building dates back to around 1500 and is a medieval Siculo-Norman house full of nooks and crannies. It is located in a cluster of medieval houses, which used to belong to rich families but which are now interconnected.

The museum's exhibits relate to rural trades, domestic crafts, such as the exquisite lace for which Gozo is famous, and traditional pastimes, such as hunting and trapping as well as the tiny church models, which are a popular pastime in Gozo and Malta. There is also a beautiful collection of traditional costumes, clay statuettes and some old furniture items.



EXTRACT FROM THE BOOKLET OF CHARLES N. MIFSUD (NSW)

The first of ten gems, this is a hilarious letter written as a direct English translation from the Maltese. It starts off, "My dear Charlie, today is Holy

day, *Friday the Big* (Il-Gimgha l-Kbira). It's me, Marta. How are you and where *is your head* (Fejnha rasek?). We are all right. Since we came back to Mackay from your place in Sydney, Toni, my Toni has been very busy. He throw himself into the work *with his soul and body* (B'ruhu u b'gismu). Not like his brother Pawlu, he does not want to work; *he just turns with the clothes* (idur bil-hwejjeg)...."

ABORIGINAL WORLD WAR I HISTORY

About 500 Aboriginal people served in World War I and about 5,000 in WWII but accurate numbers might never be known, as the Department of Veterans Affairs did not list cultural backgrounds until after the Vietnam War. During World War I, Aboriginal men were excluded from joining the military, as they were not allowed to leave their prescribed area, but many got around this by pretending to be from different backgrounds. This changed during WWII due to high losses early in the war.

Upon their return to Australia, Aboriginal Diggers were not eligible for returned servicemen land grants or even membership of Returned Services League (RSL) clubs, and sometimes even found that the government had taken their children away while they defended their country.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

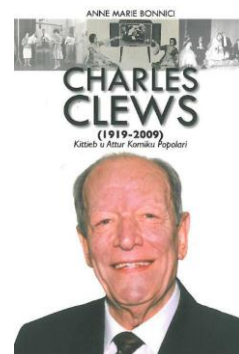
In the early 1920s, EJ Brady, a journalist, publicist and author, captured public imagination with a glossy book called *Australia Unlimited*, which advocated rapid expansion and growth to match the USA.



Governments created massive public debt as they embarked on ambitious nation-building projects. The Prime Minister, Stanley Bruce, won successive elections with slogans about getting more 'men, money and markets' into the country. In 1925, the Assisted Migration Scheme between Australia and British Empire (Including Malta) was established to provide approximately 450,000 migrants over a ten-year period.

CHARLES CLEWS ON THE REDIFFUSION

During World War II, while working at the Dockyard, Charles formed a *Concert Troupe* with some friends and performed comical shows to raise the morale of the workers. With increasing popularity, he joined with others to form the *Stage Commandos Variety Company*, giving shows all over Malta. In 1945, he co-founded "Radio Muskettiere" with Johnny Catania and Armando Urso, and produced a number of popular comedy shows for Cable Radio, known then as Rediffusion.



Clews is the author of seven booklets of a humorous nature in Maltese and of a great number of scripts for radio, comedies and sketches, and songs for the stage. His play *Dar Fuq ir-Ramel* has been translated into English, and included in Prof. A. J. Arberry's *Maltese Anthology*. In 1996 he was awarded the *Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika* (MQR).

MALTA SALUTES 300 OF OUR FALLEN ANZACS – THE CENTENARY



Many Australians do not realise that Gallipoli veterans are buried in Malta. The Anzac War Memorial Committee (South Australia) raised funds to erect a memorial to the more than 270 Anzacs who are buried on Malta.

More than 4000 wounded soldiers were evacuated to Malta from Gallipoli in 1915 when the island earned the title "Nurse of

the Mediterranean". Many passed away on the island and their remains were returned to Australia and NZ, but there are more than 200 Australians and over 70 New Zealanders still buried there.

A fundraising dinner dance was held at Findon SA to raise funds to complete the memorial. A 6m-high monument - which will cost about \$200,000 - was designed and sculpted by Gianni Bonnici, and is erected in the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta.

Malta War Memorial Committee chief executive, Charles Figallo, said that it was a project dear to the heart of the Maltese. The Hon. Maltese Consul for Malta in SA, Frank Scicluna, said that for many Maltese commemorating the Anzacs who are buried on the island, it was, "a way to say thank you to Australia".

Mr. Nicholas Bonello, the chairman of ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta and former High Commissioner for Malta to Australia said, "We are grateful to the Malta Anzac Committee, the associations and members of the Maltese community of South Australia for their generosity in raising funds to assist in building the monument at Floriana, Malta."

And finally, on a lighter note...

HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN LAMINGTON

This Australian culinary icon, which consists of sponge cake dipped in chocolate and liberally sprinkled with fine desiccated coconut, was created through an accident at work by a maid-servant to Lord Lamington, the thoroughly-British eighth Governor of Queensland.

The maid-servant was working at Government House in Brisbane when she accidentally dropped the Governor's favourite sponge cake into some melted chocolate. Lord Lamington was not a person of wasteful habits and suggested that it be dipped in coconut to cover the chocolate to avoid messy fingers. Lord Lamington devoured this new taste sensation with great delight and

the maid-servant's error was proclaimed a magnificent success by all! The newsletter gives the recipe.

I have summarised a few of the articles from Frank Scicluna's South Australian Newsletters, in order to encourage you to subscribe yourself. It's free! I hope that you are inspired by the richness and diversity of these articles and that you are motivated to research one or more to greater depth, maybe submitting an article for the newsletter or even presenting a talk to the group. Looking forward to hearing from you,

Charlie Gatt secretary@mha.org.au

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Where is this?



This photograph was one in the series presented by Joseph Flores at our May event. No one at the meeting was able to identify it. Is it even in Malta? Maybe our readers can help us? Send your answers to secretary@mha.org.au