Vladyslava Kravchenko is the Maltese Para Athlete for Tokyo 2020/21

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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Prominent lawyer Katrina Borg-Cardona passes away after 'long battle with unforgiving sickness'

Husband Aron Mifsud Bonnici, also a lawyer by profession, announced the tragic news on Wednesday

Prominent lawyer Katrina Borg-Cardona tragically lost her battle with "an unforgiving sickness" on Tuesday while receiving care in England.

Aron Mifsud Bonnici, husband and fellow lawyer, shared an emotional message on social media with the news, writing: "She fought bravely and faced the untimely outcome with courage and serenity. She now rests in peace.

"She will be missed by her two boys, her mother, our family and friends. I lost my wife, my friend of thirty years. The last days spent at her bedside were a tearful, tender recalling of many experiences shared together. She fortified me and consoled me without fail, from our student years up until the very end."

Katrina was an accomplished lawyer who took pride in her work and who demonstrated strong leadership throughout her career, writes Dr Mifsud Bonnici.

Indeed, Dr Borg-Cardona was engaged as Chief Officer for Legal & Lease Administration with Malta Industrial Parks, now rebranded INDIS Malta, between 2006 and 2009, and was then appointed to Chief Officer for Legal, Regulatory & Compliance with the same company in January 2010 until recently.

She was also engaged as Partner with Mifsud Bonnici Advocates in June 2014.

Celebrating her achievements, Dr Mifsud Bonnici highlighted how hardworking she was while remaining generous with time for the family.

"Dinners with friends and a glass of her favourite wine were her simple indulgences. Our family will treasure the memory of her beautiful life."

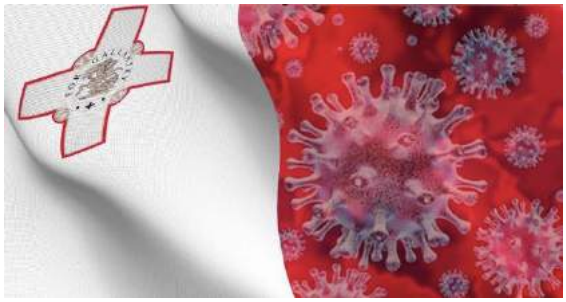
He thanked his parents and extended family for their support, and the nursing staff at the Royal Marsden Hospital "for their incredible dedication to patient care".

"I also thank her consultants and doctors who tirelessly applied their knowledge to Katrina. Finally, the team at Puttinu Cares, the Franciscan Fathers and others who supported us in London, and the many healthcare workers who make life that little bit more tolerable for patients and relatives."

Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

Our e-Newsletter is the most read and respected journal of its kind published in Australia for the Maltese living abroad.
The Maltese Journal provides the highest standard of journalism, respecting the intelligence of our dedicated and avid readers..
The Maltese Journal team

Malta Put on EU's Travel Red List After Recent COVID-19 Spike



By Julian Bonnici

Malta has been put on the EU's travel red list amid a spike in COVID-19 cases.

A map by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) that is updated weekly has put Malta in the red zone. While the ECDC's list does not have any immediate effect, it is used as a guide to member states and travellers.

Previous recommendations have told member states to prevent travel to red-listed countries.

A country falls into the red zone if its notification rate is between 75 and 200 and the positivity rate is higher than four. Malta's notification rate is at 122 and the positivity rate stands at 4.08 Malta's number of active cases now stands at 1,932 after 195 new cases and 5 recoveries were recorded. There are 18 people in hospital with the virus, one of whom is in ITU.

MERHBA

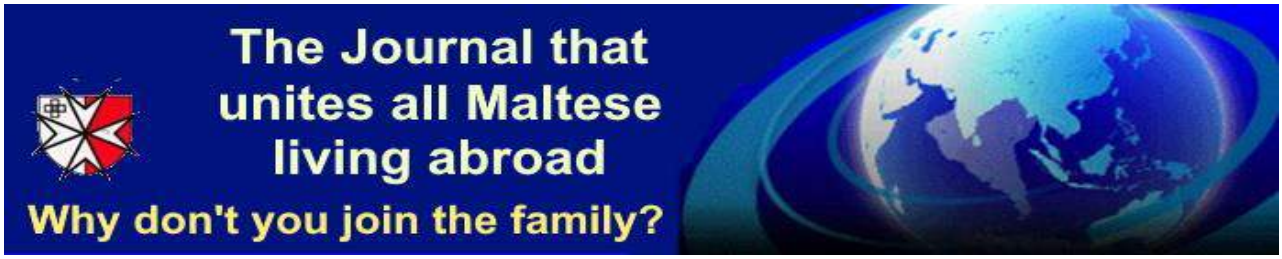
Welcome to our MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The advantage of an online magazine is
I don't have to rely on printers
to finish it on time,
it doesn't have any costs
(except time and patience) to produce it,
and it doesn't end up in the recycle bin
after you read it. It's ongoing
and growing all the time.
It's about building bridges between us.
It's all about the Maltese Diaspora,
the history and culture
of the Maltese islands,
it's about the Maltese
living in Malta and other parts of the world,
it's about the achievements
of expatriates who excelled in their field
and made a good name
to our beautiful island- MALTA

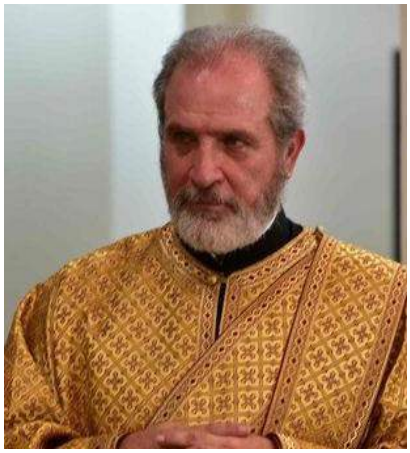
The Editor

The MALTESE DIASPORA

Maltese communities can be found at every corner of the globe; the highest concentrations being in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. The numbers of Maltese seeking better economic prospects abroad dropped significantly after Independence in 1964. However, following Malta's joining of the European Union in 2004, the Island started once again experiencing emigration to countries within the European Union. Maltese living abroad tend to hold on to their customs and language and heritage, with several returning to their homeland after decades away.



New Parish Priest of the Greek Catholic Church in Malta



Photos: Curia – church.mt/photos

Papàs Martin Zammit has been installed as a parish priest of the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus parish.

Papas Martin is 62 years old. He is a University professor specialising in Oriental Studies. Married with two adult children. His wife is still alive. On 11 June 2017 he was ordained a priest in the Greek Catholic rite and is now a new parish priest of the Valletta Church. He also baptised the daughter of his daughter some months ago.

The installation ceremony took place at the Church of St Nicholas, Valletta. During Mass which was also streamed on the internet and broadcasted on Television, Archbishop Charles Scicluna gave Papàs Zammit his mandate as the new parish priest of the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus parish known as Ta' Damaxxena..

During his homily on Sunday, Mgr Scicluna made reference to the Gospel reading according to the Byzantine rite: "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:14) and observed that in these unprecedented times due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is arriving to the faithful in a different manner since Mass is now being streamed online and broadcast on TV.

Archbishop Scicluna said that St Nicholas was a "great saint who united the east and west", while speaking about the Church where Mass was held. He added that Siggiewi's parish is dedicated to St Nicholas.

The Church of Saint Nicholas which is also known as the Church of All Souls is a Greek Catholic church in Valletta dedicated to Saint Nicholas. Originally built as a Greek Orthodox church in 1569, it was conceded to the Confraternity of the Souls in Purgatory in 1639, who rebuilt the church in the Baroque style in 1652. The church was passed back to the community in 2014.

The Greek Catholic community in Malta has been established since 1530 when a group of Greeks arrived in Malta from Rhodes along with the Knights of St John. There are two churches which are used as a place of worship by the Greek Catholic community in Malta – St Nicholas Church and the Church of Our Lady of Damascus also known as id-Damaxxena. The Catholic Church is made up of 23 different churches which are in a perfect community with each other and the Holy See. While the majority of the Catholics make use of the Latin liturgical rites, the Greek Catholic community in Malta observes the Byzantine rite.

Frequently Asked Questions

ORDER OF MALTA
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St.John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF MALTA? The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, better known as the Sovereign Order of Malta, has a two-fold nature. It is one of the most ancient Catholic Religious Orders, founded in Jerusalem in around 1048. At the same time it has always been recognised by nations as an independent subject of international law. The Order's mission is summed up in its motto "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum": nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith *(tuitio fidei)* and of serving the poor and the sick representing the Lord *(obsequium pauperum)*.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SAYING THAT IT IS A RELIGIOUS ORDER? The Order was born as a monastic community inspired by St. John the Baptist. This community, which was created by Amalfitan Merchants around 1050, ran a hospice providing care and shelter for pilgrims to the Holy Land. In 1113 it received formal acknowledgement as a religious Order from Pope Paschal II. Before the loss of the island of Malta (1798) most of the knights were religious, having taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Today, although some members of the Order are professed knights (having taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience), others have pronounced only the promise of obedience. Most of the Order's 13,500 knights and dames are lay members. Although they have not pronounced any religious vow, they are all devoted to the exercise of Christian virtue and charity, and committed to developing their spirituality within the Church and to expending their energies in serving the Faith and assisting others.

IS IT A MILITARY ORDER? The Order had to become military to protect the pilgrims and the sick and to defend the Christian territories in the Holy Land. The Order ceased to carry out this function when it lost Malta (1798). Today the Order preserves only the military traditions.

IS IT A CHIVALROUS ORDER? Traditionally Knights of the Order belonged to chivalrous and noble families of the Christian world. The Order is still a chivalrous order today as it has maintained the values of chivalry and nobility. Although the majority of its members no longer come from ancient noble families, they are admitted because of manifest merits towards the Church and the Order of Malta.

WHAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE ORDER? The Order of Malta works in the field of medical and social care and humanitarian aid, in over 120 countries, supported by the diplomatic relations it currently has with 104 nations. The Order also runs hospitals, medical centres, day hospitals, nursing homes for the elderly and the disabled, and special centres for the terminally ill. In many countries the Order's volunteer corps provide first aid, social services, emergency and humanitarian interventions. Malteser International, the Order's worldwide relief agency, works in the front line in natural disasters and armed conflicts.

The Order is also engaged in the cultural field. The Australian Association of the Order is mostly involved in Palliative Care, support for the homeless, a Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Unit, disaster relief as well as medical and first aid services in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. .

HOW IS THE ORDER GOVERNED? The life and activities of the Order are governed by its Constitution and its Code. The head of the Order is the Grand Master, elected for life by the Council Complete of State. The Grand Master is assisted by the Sovereign Council, in turn elected by the Chapter General (the assembly of the representatives of the Order's members, that meets once every 5 years). The Government Council is the advisory body of the Sovereign Council and provides advice on political, religious, medical and international issues. A Board of Auditors performs auditing functions. Both councils are also elected by the Chapter General. Juridical issues are submitted to the Magistral Courts, appointed by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE ORDER? Today, the Order is present with its Institutions in 54 countries. It has 6 Grand Priories, 6 Subpriories and 47 National Associations.

HOW MANY MEMBERS DOES THE ORDER HAVE? The Order is made up of more than 13,500 Knights and Dames.

WHERE HAVE THE MAIN HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN RECENT YEARS? The most significant aid projects have been carried out in Kosovo and Macedonia, India, in Southeast Asia after the Tsunami, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mexico, Congo, Sudan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Georgia and Haiti.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ORDER? One can become a member of the Order of Malta only by invitation. Only persons of undoubted Catholic morality and practice, who have acquired merit with regard to the Sovereign Order, its institutions and its works are eligible for admission. The relevant Grand Priory or National Association is responsible for proposals of admission. Please see *Members of the Order* for further details.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A VOLUNTEER? Volunteers are most welcome, for national and international projects. Please see *Volunteer* for further details on how to become involved in the works of the Australian Association.

HOW ARE THE ORDER'S DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED? In accordance with public international law, the Order maintains bilateral diplomatic relations with 104 countries. It also has permanent observer status at the United Nations and the Commission of the European Union as well as in 17 International Organisations such as the FAO and UNESCO. Diplomatic relations allow the Order to intervene with timely and effective action in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict. Due to its neutral, impartial and non-political nature, the Order can act as a mediator whenever a State requests its intervention to settle a dispute.

HOW ARE THE ORDER'S ACTIVITIES FINANCED? Activities are funded essentially by its members, their volunteering and monetary contributions. Internationally, resources for hospitals and medical activities usually come from agreements stipulated with the national health and social systems. The same is true for emergency services. In developing countries, activities are often backed by grants from governments, the European Commission or other international organisations. Many projects can only be realised through the help of public and corporate donations and sponsorships.

What is unique to the Order however is that overheads are absolutely minimal due to its members' and volunteers' active involvement which results in more funds being applied directly where they are needed.

Feast of Saint George in Victoria

The statue of St George in Victoria. Photo: Charles Spiteri

The feast of St George was celebrated in Victoria on Sunday 18 July.

Mgr Alfred Xuereb, Apostolic Nuncio for South Korea and Mongolia lead a concelebrated Mass, together with the Basilica Chapter and clergy.

Solemn vigil Mass was celebrated.. The translation of the relic took place followed by solemn pontifical vespers led by Gozo Bishop Anton Teuma. Vespri per la Solennità di San Giorgio Martire (1900) for soloists, quattro voci pari and orchestra by Mgr Giuseppe Farrugia will be executed.

La Stella Band, under the direction of Mro John Galea executed a musical programme at Independence Square. Sung prayers by the Collegiate Chapter was held followed by Pontifical concelebrated Mass, led by Bishop Teuma. Then solemn vespers were held led by Mgr Xuereb.

The Laudate Pueri choir participated in the celebration. A celebration of prayers and hymns next to the titular statue of St George were held at 8pm followed by Holy Eucharist Benediction. The Laudate Pueri choir and the Victoria Festival Orchestra took part. Soloists from the Cappella Sistina choir and the Coro

dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia joined the orchestra. The orchestra was under the direction of Maestro di Cappella Canon George Frendo.

The feast functions was broadcasted on Leħen il-Belt Victoria (104.00FM MHz Stereo), and live streamed on the parish Facebook www.facebook.com/stgeorge.org.mt, www.youtube.com/stgeorgesbasilica and www.stgeorge.org.mt.

As per normal practice, President George Vella lent a Russian icon of St George, kept at the Palace in San Anton and was exhibited at the basilica during the feast days. The traditional custom was initiated by former president Guido de Marco.

16 songs vying to win the L-Għanja tal-Poplu festival

Sixteen songs have made it to the final night of this year's L-Għanja tal-Poplu – Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija, which will be held on August 7 at Pjazza Teatru Rjal in Valletta. Their running order has been announced this week.

A total of 178 songs entered the 45th edition of the contest, out of which 40 were selected as semi-finalists. Sixteen songs were then chosen for the final night which will see them being performed live and accompanied by the Malta Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Joe Brown.

Emphasis on having good lyrics in Maltese This year, organisers put an emphasis on the importance of having good lyrics in Maltese and are satisfied with the level achieved by the songwriters. The festival is being organised in collaboration with Pjazza Teatru Rjal, and the support of Arts Council Malta and the Valletta Cultural Agency. COVID-19 health measures will be in place.

L-Għanja tal-Poplu will be broadcast live on TVM at 9pm. For more information, visit http://www.ghanjafest.com/.

The running order of the 16 finalist songs

1. Kunċert Impromptu – Thea Gauci and Nedved Galea 2. Logħba tal-Kaxxi – Karm Debattista 3. Nann! – Marija Bellia 4. Meta l-Lupu Jkun Bil-Ġuħ – Tiziana Calleja 5. Attakki Virtwali – Mark Cachia 6. Uman – Nicole Hammett 7. Għada Jisbaħ Ukoll – Philip Vella and Maria Spiteri 8. Se Nirranġaw – Dominic Cini and Anna Azzopardi 9. Logħba Ċess – JAMM Band 10. Is-Sirena Li Welldet it-Tama – Haley Azzopardi 11. L-Għeneb il-Qares – Daniel Muscat Caruana 12. Niftakar – MeadowStrings 13. Il-Bajtar Sar – Dario and Grecia Bezzina 14. Fuq L-Ixkaffa – Sean Borg 15. Min Bagħtu Dan L-Għannej – David Joseph Sammut 16. Ħarstek – Rachel Lowell

LUZZU Director: Alex Camilleri Country: Malta (2020) Europe, International, MIFF Play | Feature Language: Maltese with English subtitles
Genre: Drama Themes: Conversation Starter, Environmental, Family Stories, Parenthood

A lead turn reminiscent of Marlon Brando anchors this neo-realist look at the Maltese fishing industry.

Jesmark is caught between his devotion to the family trade – and his brightly-painted heirloom *luzzu* fishing vessel – and the worsening economic pressures surrounding it: the iron vice of Brussels' bureaucracy is squeezing the local fishermen's haul, his infant son needs expensive medical treatment, and the boat has sprung a leak. A trip into the murky waters of the seafood black market might hand him a lifeline … or a final break with tradition.

Maltese-American writer, director and editor Alex Camilleri turns the lens on his ancestral island home in this affecting debut feature – the first Maltese production ever selected for a major film-festival competition. Produced by arthouse mainstay Ramin Bahrani (*99 Homes*, MIFF 2015), and taking cues from the revelatory working-class portraiture of Ken Loach, Andrea Arnold and the Dardenne brothers, *Luzzu* is steered by a powerfully authentic performance from charismatic real-life fisherman Jesmark Scicluna, who won the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Acting at this year's Sundance. "Camilleri profiles little-represented lives with intelligence and integrity … Altogether bracing with its thorny labor politics and salty sea air." – *Variety*

In Cinema Sat 07 Aug6:30 pm Luzzu (94 mins) Sun Theatre Yarraville Victoria

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OPERATION HUSKY

9 July marks the 78th anniversary from the beginning of Operation Husky – the invasion of Sicily which was launched and directed from Malta. Unlike today the weather was rough with strong winds which almost jeopardized the operation. The troops were quick at calling it "Mussolini's Wind" but there was little funny about it as while preserving the element of surprise for the Allies it also caused the untimely deaths of hundreds of glider and parachute troops.

Malta has played a key role in this operation. Besides serving as General Eisenhower's – the Supreme Allied Commander's Headquarters it also served as a giant aircraft carrier from which some 600 fighters operated to cover the largest landing fleet ever assembled and to escort allied bombers from North Africa on their way to bomb strategic targets in Sicily. Malta served as a point of departure for about one third of the landing troops and a rendezvous for the entire fleet before proceeding to its target. More specifically, the Island provided much of

the fresh water needed for the invasion along with all sorts of supplies and war materiel which had been ferried to the Island in the last three months before D-Day.

Malta-based radar covered most of the landing places along the Sicilian shores throughout the initial stages of the operation until radar stations were established on Allied conquered territory. A fleet of Air Sea Rescue launches operated from the Island to rescue downed airmen or survivors from sunken or badly damaged shipping.

In the run up to the invasion, the British embarked on possibly the largest infrastructural project ever seen in Malta. The envisaged works were so huge that not enough workmen were available for it resulting in thousands of colonial pioneer troops including coloured ones from South Africa being brought in to help in the national effort. The works consisted of the repair of all bombed-out docks and quays which were to be used by invasion shipping. Existing airfields were repaired and extended and new ones built including one in Gozo at Xewkija. Miles upon miles of aircraft tracks leading to hundreds of aircraft pens were built too. The latter served for protecting aircraft against bomb blast and flying splinters. Specialist Royal Engineer miners were brought in to extend the underground accommodation of military headquarters, workshops, hospitals, stores, barracks and so on. They were also employed in extending or drilling new water galleries for the collection of drinking water through the rock. Through this effort the Island's water supply was increased exponentially and its pumping to the surface improved.

Many Maltese who spoke Italian were drafted as translators to accompany the invasion forces. Many of these stayed on to work with the Allied Military Government of Occupation first in Sicily and later in different parts of Europe. Others served as Voluntary Aid Detachment (nurses) and many others as servicemen in the different branches of the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces. With these hundreds of Maltese immigrants to the U.S. and the Commonwealth served in their respective forces some of whom found themselves unexpectedly back on the Island awaiting their re-embarkation for Sicily.

Amongst the first military formations to land on Sicilian shores in the Syracuse-Augusta zone were the 231 Brigade known as 'Malta's Own' made up from three Infantry Battalions originally forming part of the Malta garrison throughout the Siege. Proud of their role in Malta's victory these troops adopted the white Malta cross over a red shield as their battle formation insignia.

In historic terms the Invasion of Sicily marks the opening of the Second Front in Europe, the defeat of Italy, the beginning of the end of Fascism in Italy and in the end the complete annihilation of Nazi Germany. Despite this the Sicilian Campaign was overshadowed by later campaigns such as the Allied invasion of France in 1944. In Malta this campaign is largely forgotten perhaps as it came hot on the heels following the end of the Second Great Siege in the Island's history after the Axis defeat in Tunisia and the end of the war in North Africa. Yet, without Malta having stood fast against all odds throughout its long and arduous siege no victory in North Africa would have been possible and certainly no invasion of Sicily would have taken place. It also follows that there would have been no neither opening of the much needed Second Front in Europe in 1943 which had forced Hitler to divert vital scarce resources from the Eastern Front to face the Allies in Sicily and later in Italy. By thus doing Germany's armed capability against the Soviets was irrevocably weakened leading Hitler to cancel the Kursk offensive after just one week while the Sicilian Campaign was in full course.

During the Kursk offensive the forewarned Soviets (by the British intelligence) adopted a carefully planned and solid defence in depth strategy which resulted in the destruction of a large part of the German armoured force involved. Even if on a one to one basis the Germans emerged victorious at Kursk the scale of losses sustained by them in such a short time made it impossible for them to recover quickly. This in turn made it impossible for them to mount large offensives in the East. From this point onwards the winds of war turned resolutely against Germany and in favour of the Allies. Also, from this point onwards the Reich was compelled to fight a costly defensive war for which its forces were ill adapt having lost the cream of their soldiery in the long strings of victorious conquests earlier on in the war. Germany's fate was therefore sealed.

Hence, let us all remember, that none of this would have happened had it not been for the long years of sacrifice sustained by the Maltese and their brave British and Commonwealth defenders during the Siege of Malta between 1940 and 1942 which eventually led to the destruction of all Axis forces in North Africa, the opening of the Mediterranean to Allied shipping and the invasion of Sicily in that distant night of 9 July 1943. Lest we forget. *www.facebook.com/WirtArtna/*

Mdina to get a €1,000 000 LED lighting upgrade

Malta's old capital Mdina. Photo: Shutterstock

A €1 million LED lighting project for Mdina using citizenship fund money has been announced by the National Development and Social Fund. The project, which is part of a €3 million investment to embellish key buildings and landmarks in Malta, will be led by Infrastructure Malta.

It was announced during a news conference addressed by Capital Project Minister Ian Borg and Citizenship parliamentary secretary Alex Muscat. Mdina was Malta's first capital city and is the second most visited city by tourists in Malta. It is listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site.

In the first phase of the project, exterior lighting will be installed around main buildings in Mdina that are currently unlit or poorly lit.

These include the Mdina Cathedral, the Carmelite Church, the city's main gate, the gate of the Greeks and Vilhena Palace. The project's second phase will see lighting in the actual city being changed, to enhance Mdina and its architectural beauty.

In the third phase, the lighting around the fortifications and Howard Garden will be replaced.

Borg said that the government was committed to ensuring that Maltese sites remained a centre of attraction at both European and international levels.

Muscat added that the investment will improve Mdina's aesthetic value as well as the social and historical values of the city. The project, he said, would not have been possible without residency and citizenship funds deposited with the NSDF. The NSDF gathers a portion of fees paid by applicants seeking to purchase Maltese citizenship or long-term residence. [Times of Malta]

Santa Luċija's Chinese garden to get a €500,000 extension

Project will turn unused part of Garden of Serenity into public open space

A screengrab from a video showing a three-dimensional render of the proposed project.

An unused part of Santa Luċija's Chinese Garden of Serenity is to be rehabilitated and opened to the public by Parks Malta in collaboration with the locality's local Council.

The €500,000 regeneration project was announced on Saturday by Energy Minister Miriam Dalli, whose portfolio also includes responsibility for sustainable development.

Works will turn the unsused tract of land into a public area featuring a pond, playground and Greek theatre, among other things. The architectural design has been inspired by the Chinese principles of feng shui.

Feng shui seeks to create harmony between individuals and their surrounding environment. The garden's top and bottom pathways will join up "to showcase the life cycle: birth, youth, middle age and elderly age," the ministry said in a statement announcing the project. Speaking at a press conference at the project site, Parks Malta director ġeneral Adrian Attard said he expects the project to be completed "by 2022".

Santa Luċija mayor Charmaine St. John said the project would continue to enhance the Garden of Serenity while also embellishing Ġnien l-Iskultura.
"This has been my wish since becoming mayor," she said.
Dalli said the project would give local families, children, youths and the elderly "a space where to unwind." China's ambassador to Malta Yu Dunhai and other members of the Santa Luċija local Council were also present for the press conference.

2021 Malta Book Festival

The 2021 Malta Book Festival is being organised by the National Book Council and will take place between 3-7 November at the Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre (MFCC) in Ta' Qali.
Partners and prospective audiences are encouraged to follow this website and the NBC Facebook page for updates.
The first edition of the MBF was held in 1979, then called the Malta Book Fair (1979-2012), and has since grown into a festival that celebrates the book culture in all its forms. The international dimension of the Festival is increasingly reflected in the line up of guest authors and publishers which in previous years have included Gilbert Sinoué, Ros Barber, Shad Alshammari, Basma Abdel Aziz, Patrick McGuinness, Alek Popov, Marie Darrieussecq, Maram al-Masri, Dan Sociu, Ros Barber, Vera Duarte, Tim Parks, Philip ò Ceallaigh, Naomi Klein, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina and Sir Salman Rushdie.

Schools Weekday mornings at the Festival are dedicated to school visits. A special programme of cultural and fun activities for students and teachers alike is set up, including theatre pieces, readings and meetings with writers. Every year a professional team of actors adapts the Terramaxka Prize winners of the previous years, according to the age group of students.

While preparations for the Malta Book Festival 2021 are well underway, the National Book Council is aware that plans may have to be altered according to directives issued by national health authorities.

Programme A rich programme of events for the 2021 Malta Book Festival will be published in the coming months. While preparations for this year's edition are now well underway, the National Book Council will be following the national health authorities' directives on public gatherings to ensure the safest possible experience.

Exhibitors Applications for exhibitors, including publishers, and book sellers wishing to participate in the 2021 Malta Book Festival are currently open and should be received by no later than **Monday 9 August at 12.00pm (noon).**

Exhibitors are encouraged to make sure they peruse all terms and conditions before applying.

Applications can be submitted through the **dedicated online form here**, or by **downloading and filling the application form in .pdf** and sending it by post to:

MBF21 – National Book Council Central Public Library Prof. J. Mangion Street Floriana, FRN 1800 MALTA

The Exhibitors' Media Refund Scheme

The Exhibitors' Media Refund Scheme is organised by the National Book Council in a bid to promote the Malta Book Festival to a wider audience through the advertising and promotion in the local press of each exhibitor's events, books and/or participation at the Festival.

For the 2021 Malta Book Festival, exhibitors may once again request a full refund on their application fee if they opt to register for the Exhibitors' Media Refund Scheme. Exhibitors can read through the terms of the scheme and register via the same Exhibitors' forms www.ktieb

Soprano Nicola Said sings at Cannes Film Festival 2021

Maltese Soprano Nicola Said performed at the Global Short Film (GSF) Festival Awards during the prestigious international Cannes Film Festival 2021.

The GSF Festival Awards are organised by entrepreneur, producer and fashion designer, Andres Aquino at Villa Elegance in Cannes, France.

Nicola performed Je Veux Vivre from French opera *Romeo et Juliette* by Charles Gounod and *Quando Me'n Vo* from Puccini's 1896 opera *La Bohème*. Both were specifically chosen to accompany the theme of life and love, and beauty and love.

Also performing was world-renowned violinist, Edmond Fokker van Crayestein. Nicola sang in front of a number of distinguished guests from the entertainment world, including Dr Olympia Gellini, founder, Chairperson and President of WORLD Film Institute. and founder and CEO of Beverly International Film Festival and award-winning actor and producer, Vincent De Paul.

Nicola was first introduced to designer Andres Aquino by Hollywood composer William Camilleri and then asked to sing at this prestigious event in the Cannes Film Festival and calendar, of which Aquino is the founder and director.

After the event Aquino said, "Nicola, you came, you sang and conquered Cannes, transporting us to a magical and delightful world where you rule with your powerful voice." He added" I am looking forward to seeing you at our next event in New York".

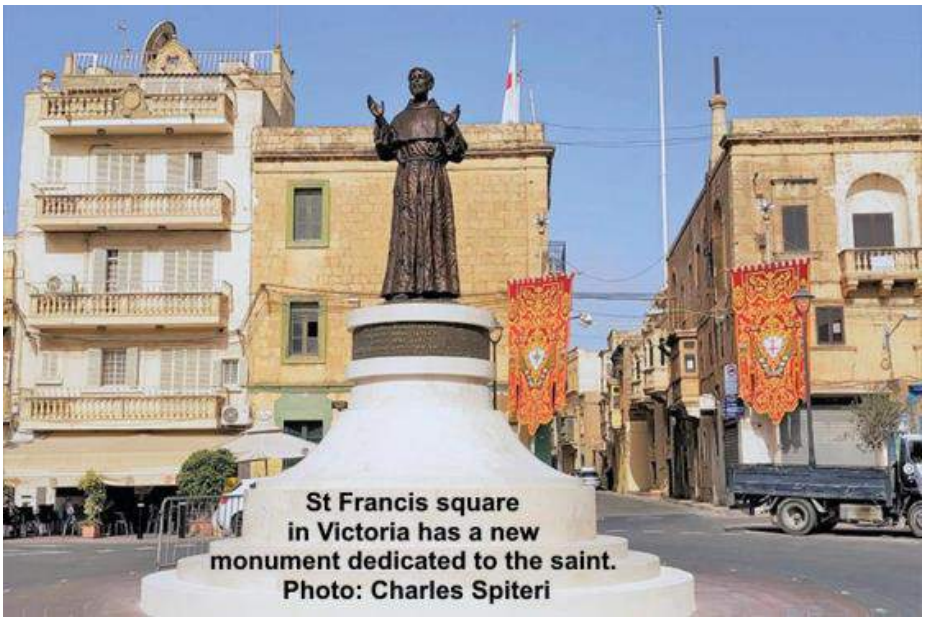
In a nod to her Maltese heritage, she wore a stunning gown generously sponsored by Maltese designers, Charles & Ron while her travel was supported by the Malta International Airport.

Upon her return from Cannes, Nicola said: "taking part was an amazing experience. I met fantastic people in the entertainment industry and have just been invited to sing in the New York Fashion Awards in February."

Nicola is the Malta Airport Foundation Ambassador and a Joseph Calleja BOV Foundation Scholar. She has been supported by the DrakeCalleja Trust, Janatha Stubbs Foundation, and Ian Tomlin Scholarship. She is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Opera Course for which she was granted a full scholarship.

Nicola, who is represented by The Music Partnership, has given recitals for HRH The Earl of Wessex at an event presented by the Duke of Edinburgh, at St. James's Palace and Kensington Palace in the UK. She won second prize in the Strauss Competition at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and first prize and audience prize for the Fulham Opera Robert Presley Memorial 2017. Apart from Malta and the UK, Nicola has performed in France, Italy, USA, Cyprus, Germany, China, Poland, Hungary and other

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR MALTESE ACHIEVERS


St Francis square in Victoria has a new monument dedicated to the saint. Photo: Charles Spiteri

A new monument dedicated to St Francis of Assisi was inaugurated in the square dedicated to him in Victoria last Tuesday. The monument, by artist Manuel Farrugia, complements the recent embellishment of the square. The sculpture represents the saint with open arms for people to join him in reciting the famous Canticle of Brother Sun, written by Francis himself.

The monument was inaugurated by Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri and blessed by Mgr Joe Vella Gauci. Taking part in the inauguration event were the Schola Cantorum Jubilate Children's Choir and SCJ Teenage Boys Singers who joined forces with the renowned Brasstubes – Brass Ensemble for Weddings and Functions. The young choristers performed works related to St Francis.

The three-metre-high statue was cast in bronze at the Domus Dei foundry in Rome. It weighs one ton. The pedestal, designed also by Farrugia, was manufactured by J&J Gauci Ltd of Mġarr, Malta. It was set up by Raymond Bonello and his team.

The Gozo Ministry was responsible for the embellishment of the square and monument. The project was initiated by former Gozo minister Anton Refalo.

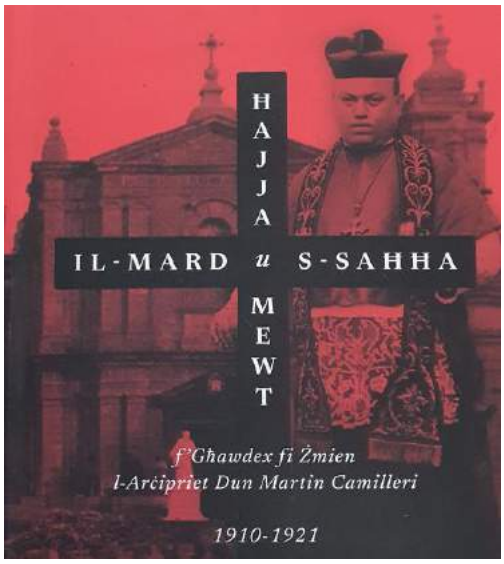
Statwa ta' San Frangisk – Victoria, Gozo

Ma nkunx qed niżbalja jekk ngħid li dan l-aħħar fi Pjazza San Franġisk Victoria għadha kemm tqiegħdet statwa *life size* ta' San Frangisk, il-fqajjar t'Assisi fuq pedistal sabiħ ħafna li fil-fehma tiegħi hija tassew sabiħa u realistika, xogħol l-artista żagħżugħ Għawdxi mill-pjazza stess, (ara ritratt ta' hawn fuq)

Manwel Farrugia li diġa għamel isem sabiħ għalih b'diversi xogħlijiet oħra mferrxa ma' Malta u Għawdex. Jien sejjaħtilha 'tal-ġenn' għax tassew hekk hi, u kif tilmaħha ma tistax ma tfakkrekx f'dan il-qaddis umli u twajjeb li tant kien iħobb in-Natura u li ċertament l-istatwarju Għawdxi għamel studju sew ta' dan ir-raheb biex seta' joħloq din il-figura li nħadmet fil-bronż ġewwa l-Italja. Pjazza San Frangisk Victoria illum hja meqjusa bħala waħda mill-pjazzez popolari u mfittxija fil-belt Victortia iktar u iktar minn meta hawnhekk

Gvern Nazzjonalista kien ħoloq il-Ministeru għal Għawdex. Dan il-Gvern issa dar dawra sewwa ma' dan il-Misraħ u biddlu f'ċentru fi pjazza mimlija ħajja fejn tispikka wkoll il-Knisja tal-Patrijiet Franġiskani. Jiena niftakar Funtana ħajja qabel ma ħadilha postha issa dan il-proġett li għax tgħid sa kemm miżmuma tajjeb kien fiha wkoll attrazjoni. Veru li f'jiem mirjieħa kien jintilef ħafna ilma u l-ħamiem kien jagħmel festa hawnhekk; forsi din kienet ir-raġuni li twarrbet; ma nafx! Imma kif inhuma l-affarijiet, issa ta' min jgħid Prosit lill-Ministeru għal Għawdex li ħa ħsieb din l-inizjattiva, opra artistika għall-aħħar li tagħmel ġieħ lill-artist żagħżugħ Rabti Manwel Farrugia.

Kav. Joe M Attard - GOZO



Mario Saliba, Ħajja u Mewt. Il-Mard u s-Saħħa f'Għawdex fi żmien l-Arċipriet Dun Martin Camilleri

1910 – 1921, Għawdex 2021: 346 paġna

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat – Għawdex Lulju 2021

Ħajja u Mewt. Il-Mard u s-Saħħa f'Għawdex fi Żmien l-Arċipriet Dun Martin Camilleri 1910 – 1921 huwa l-isem ta' pubblikazzjoni ġdida li għadha kemm ġiet f'idejja, xogħol it-tabib Mario Saliba mwieled il-Fontana imma li issa ilu żmien twil jgħix in-Nadur u li jien niftakru sewwa bħal student għaqli u ntelliġenti fuq il-bankijiet tal-Liceo. Il-ktieb jagħti ħarsa lura lejn l-epidemija li ġabet magħha l-imxija tal-Influwenza Spanjola 1918-19. Naħseb li dal-ktieb ħareġ fi żmien meta bħalissa wkoll Malta w Għawdex jinsabu maħkuma minn epidemija oħra li ħalliet għadd ta' vittmi u ħolqot ħafna nkwiet u tfixkil fil-ħajja normali ta' kuljum. Fil-fatt dan ix-xogħol huwa minjiera ta' tagħrif fuq medda qasira ta' żmien fl-istorja ta' ġiritna. It-tabib b'Malti tassew tajjeb u mexxej u permezz ta' tipa tassew ċara jippreżenta lill-qarrejja tiegħu r-riżultat ta' riċerka importanti dwar l-istorja tas-Saħħa, tal-qagħda soċjali u tal-kontribut li ta s-saċerdot Dun Martin Camilleri fis-snin ta' qabel u wara l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija li forsi għad fadal min jiftakarha xi ftit.

Biex nissellef xi ftit minn dak li kiteb Dun Jimmy Xerri, saċerdot ħabrieki mill-Belt Victoria u li issa ilu xi ftit mhux ħażin bħala l-Arċipriet tal-Parroċċa tan-Nadur iddedikata liż-żewġ kolonni kbar tal-Knisja Universali, San Pietru u San Pawl, it-tabib Mario Saliba jimraħ fuq ġrajjiet in-Nadur bil-problemi tas-Saħħa li tfaċċaw f'din il-lokalita'. Ir-riċerka li saret għall-ewwel darba f'dokumenti marbutin mas-Saħħa, jagħmlu din il-pubblikazzjoni tassew interessanti. Kif għidna iktar 'l fuq, aħna wkoll bħalissa ninsabu maħkuma mis-swaba ta' virus qerried li qed jifleġ lid-dinja tagħna. Il-ktieb ta' Saliba jagħtina ħjiel dwar il-miżuri li kienu ttieħdu f'pandemija oħra, dik tal-influwenza Spanjola, ftit iktar minn mitt sena ilu. L-awtur jelenka u jagħti tagħrif dwar bosta tipi ta' mard ieħor li kien hemm fl-ewwel għoxrin sena tas-seklu Għoxrin. Fl-aħħar nett l-awtur tal-ktieb jikteb dwar wieħed mill-Arċiprieti magħrufa tan-Nadur Dun Martin Camilleri u fuq l-inizjattivi li huwa ħa biex jaqbeż għall-parruċċani tiegħu u jġib 'l quddiem il-kwalita' tal-għixien tal-familji li tagħhom huwa kien ir-ragħaj maħbub, li miet f'eta relattivament żgħira. Kull min se jiġi f'idejh dan il-ktieb interessanti ppreżentat f'format tassew attraenti, se jsir jaf dwar il-kontribut li ta dan ir-Ragħaj tal-parroċċa favur il-merħla tiegħu, fi żmien li fih iffaċċja ruħu bi sfidi kontinwi.

Kif imbagħad jirrimarka tant tajjeb Dr Michael Refalo fil-Kelmtejn li għamel għad-Daħla ta'dan il-ktieb, bosta drabi dawk li jiktbu dwar Għawdex ħafna drabi jagħżlu li jiktbu esklussivament dwar il-Knejjes, il-piki parrokkjali u l-baned, liema parroċċa kienet l-ewwel, liema banda daqqet l-ewwel qabel l-oħra, u liema knisja kienet l-akbar u l-aktar imżejna. Dan żgur li mhux il-każ f'dan il-ktieb li għandna f'idejna. L-awtur jieħu spunt minn Arċipriet ħabrieki fir-raħal tan-Nadur u jmur oltre minn dik li tissejjaħ storjografija Għawdxija. Huwa jitfa' l-vista tiegħu aktar 'l bogħod mill-konfini dejqa tal-parroċċa, knisja u banda.

Dr Refalo jkompli jirraġuna li dan ix-xogħol jista' jiġi kkunsidrat bħal eżempju tipiku ta' *microhistory.* Veru li l-aċċent ewlieni huwa fuq l-aspett mediku imma dan mhux talli ma jnaqqas xejn mill-mertu tal-ktieb imma saħansitra jżidu. Fl-aħħar mill-aħħar dan il-Fontaniż huwa tabib u ma jistax jonqos illi huwa jagħti attenzjoni lil dan il-kamp. Madankollu dan il-ktieb jitfa' dawl fuq in-Nadur t'Għawdex fl-ewwel deċenji tas-seklu Għoxrin. Permezz tar-riċerki li għamel l-awtur tal-ktieb, partikularment f'reġistri tad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa li għadhom

ma ġewx ikkatalogati u ppreservati fil-Fergħa tal-Arkivju Nazzjonali tar-Rabat ta' Triq Vajringa, joħroġ ċar li Għawdex kien jinsab f'qagħda miżera ħafna. L-għixien kien diffiċli, l-iġjene kemm kemm teżisti, l-injoranza u l-illitterezmu kienu rampanti.

Dr Michael Refalo jżid jgħid li dan il-ktieb ta' Dr Mario Saliba juri li barra l-interessi prevalenti ta' min jikteb fuq Għawdex li diġa ssemmew, hemm aspetti oħra tal-ħajja f'dak il-perijodu li jistħoqqilhom attenzjoni, riċerka u kitba. Huwa veru min-naħa l-oħra, li mhux faċli li wieħed isib sorsi primarja sodisfaċenti u eżawrjenti. Wara kollox il-Knisja fil-Gżejjer Maltin, partikularment f'Għawdex, kienet tgawdi eġemonija assoluta u kienet prattikament l-unika istituzzjoni li qagħdet attenta biex tipproteġi d-dokumenti u materjal ieħor tagħha li lanqas l-Istat ma għamel dan dak iż-żmien. Mhux ta' b'xejn għalhekk illi meta wieħed jibda jfittex, dak li jsib jkun marbut mal-Knisja. F'din il-pubblikazzjoni t-tabib Mario Saliba jurina li riċerka għaqlija, interess serju fis-suġġett u determinazzjoni jistgħu jikxfu aspetti oħra fil-ħajja Għawdxija.

Bla dubju xogħol bħal dan jistħoqqlu kull tifħir għax bil-pretest ta' ċelebrazzjoni tal-Arċipriet tan-Nadur, qed tinfetaħ tieqa fuq is-saħħa, il-ħajja u l-mewt f'kommunita' f'Għawdex fil-bidu ta-Seklu Għoxrin. Il-ktieb jinteressa lil kulħadd imma jinżel tajjeb ferm ma' studenti u dawk li għandhom għal qalbhom l-istorja medika ta' pajjiżna. In-nies tan-Nadur għandhom iħossuhom kburin b'din il-pubblikazzjoni u nippretendi li għandhom ikunu minn tal-ewwel li jiksbu kopja tiegħu. Wieħed jista' jikseb kopja tiegħu billi jikteb direttament lill-awtur f'dan l-indirizz elettroniku: mariosaliba@gmail.com jew mgħand il-librara ewlenin. Lil Mario ngħidulu Prosit mhux biss għal dan l-aħħar xogħol tiegħu imma għat tant u tant artikli u kitbiet oħra li diġa tana. Ta' spiss jidhru wkoll xi artikli tiegħu fuq ir-rivista 'Il-Ħajja f'Għawdex' li jien naqra b'dehwa kbira.

Reflections on "Konvoj ta' Santa Marija"....

Dr. George M Boffa - NSW

Fewer and fewer of those who lived through WWII survive to tell the tale. We constitute a memory bank of some episodes of those years. We still harbour the emotions associated with tragic, sad, cruel but sometimes glorious events!

We commemorate the 77th anniversary of the miracle of the "Konvoj ta' Santa Marija", Operation Pedestal, which saved Malta and the Maltese from invasion and all the horrible happenings which would result from occupation by Fascist Blackshirts and, worse, Nazi Jackboots.

Servicemen in Malta, including the Maltese of KOMR, RMA, RN would have ended up in AXIS Prisoner Of War Camps. And many Anti Fascist Maltese, those who did not have "strange admiration for dictators", would have been sent to concentration camps!

It is interesting to look back at associated aspects.

Some considerations were beyond our ken or comprehension at the time!

Whilst Malta was thanking Santa Marija for salvation from occupation and relief from the pangs of hunger, the Fascists regarded the outcome of the Battaglia di mezz'Agosto or Battaglia del Canale di Sicilia, as they called "Operation Pedestal" to have been a resounding, massive victory for the Axis forces. More recent commentators in Italy also hold that view.

One commentator states **"SI tratta senza dubbio di una grandissima vittoria italiana, forse la piu` grande e di certo la piu` clamorosa di tutta la Guerra del Mediterraneo"……"una completa vittoria……per gli Inglesi e' una disfatta"**

This implies that there were several others. The impact on the Maltese and our reaction are hardly mentioned and no reference is made to the way the Maltese associate the convoy with the Festa of Santa Marija.

In August 1942, after the "battaglia", Italian newsreels and newspapers proclaimed "il glorioso bilancio" referring to the massive losses of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. Each sunken vessel was named and trumpeted, and a list was published.

It was a one sided situation with the ships bringing relief to Malta passing through a gauntlet of massive risk through narrow waters dominated on each side by a marauding heavily armed opponent.

"Dal Mediterraneo non si passa" was reiterated loudly to satisfy a long held yearning and imperialist emotions. After the battle, Mussolini issued a special "proclama" to "ufficiali, marinai, avieri" and went personally to award decorations.

General Augusto Palmieri, a pilot himself, described the Duce going to Elmas in Sardinia from where many of the attacks on the convoy had gone. The Duce had a "valigetta di medaglie" and made a speech telling his men that "il leone Inglese ha subito (preso) nel fianco il morso della lupa di Roma". General Palmieri continued to say that an officer raised a finger asking the Duce to give them planes because what they had were "Caravelle´ ie sailing ships.

This incident was reminiscent of the remark by Galland, the German air ace to Goering, the Nazi Air Marshall, in the Battle of Britain exactly two years before when he asked for a "squadron of Spitfires". Galland did not have much respect for Goering. Nor, it seems, did Palmieri for Il Duce.

The Duce had close family association with pilots. Count Galeazzo Ciano, his son in law, was a renowned airman who led the "desperata" squadron in East Africa and in the Spanish Civil War.

Two of the Duce's sons were pilots. Bruno, the younger, qualified as a pilot at the age of seventeen. He fought in the war in East Africa and In the Spanish Civil War before participating in World War II. Bruno , also a renowned aviator, died after volunteering to test a new secret long range heavy bomber. He died in Pisa in August 1941. Bruno's death affected Mussolini very badly. His brother said "There was a Mussolini before Bruno died and another Mussolini after he died.

Both Galeazzo Ciano and Bruno Mussolini are included by Nicola Malizia (INFERNO SU MALTA) in the list of pilots in Sicily in August 1940. There are myriads of stories and opinions on both sides of the conflict. To us Maltese the crucial point was that despite the boast **"nel Mediterraneo non si passa"**, five ships laden with essential provisions got through.

The convoy had to pass through a narrow channel whilst being attacked incessantly by plane, motor torpedo boats and submarines of which Italy had a big fleet.

To us it will be always **"Il-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija"**….."OPERATION PEDESTAL" a strong column of support, which it proved to be from several crucial aspects!

The 15th August, Santa Marija of 1942, was the first of four joyous days of relief, all four days dedicated to Our Lady. It was followed in a year on the 8th September, 1943, the Nativity of Our Lady, il-Vitorja, with peace with Italy and the surrender of her modern fleet "at anchor under the guns of the fortress of Malta". Then on the 8th May 1945, the surrender of Nazi Germany and on the 15th August 1945, the surrender of Japan.

The merits or justifications of claiming a great victory on a fleet which was not challenged by another fleet at sea is debatable. The only aim of the convoy of August 1942, was to get supplies through, which was done.

Many lost their life to relief Malta. We remain forever grateful and reverent. We, Maltese, were the immediate beneficiaries because we were not occupied!

Eighty years before, in 1858, Withworth Porter, an English General stationed in Malta, wrote with acute, prophetic foresight "English hearts and English swords now protect these ramparts which previously glistened with the ensigns of the Order of St John……should occasion ever demand the sacrifice, the world will find that British blood will be poured like water in defence of that rock…!

And it came to pass! Operation Pedestal in 1942!

If the small limestone island and its steadfast people and defenders had been the hinge upon which Europe's fate had turned in the sixteenth century, in the Great Siege of 1565, it was equally so during the second Great Siege in 1942, in the Second World War

When Porter wrote in 1858, Europe was echoing with the thunder and tragedy of the Crimean War. The Charge of the Light Brigade, a unique story immortalised by Alfred Lord Tennyson, still reverberated. The Light Brigade had been ordered to charge through a valley, the "valley of death" to capture guns from the Russians.

They faced "cannon in front of them, cannon to the left, cannon to the right".

"someone hath blundered" and they suffered fifty per cent casualties, gaining naught but honour and fame. Similarly, the Santa Marija Convoy faced cannon from the front, cannon from the right, cannon from the left, and bombs from the sky and missiles from the deep.

As the sailors of the Santa Marija Convoy sailed East towards the Canale di Sicilia, il Canale della Morte, to save Malta "there was not to reason why, there was but to do and die!"

Two thirds of the ships of the convoy were lost. But, the survivors saved Malta. What was done by the five ships which relieved Malta "maintained the highest traditions of men who have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind"!
They did not boast, they did not fuss, they served!
Two months after the convoy, with Malta still standing and defiant, came El Alamein, "the beginning of the end". And, later, the launching of Operation Husky, the invasion of Italy and the fall of Fascism, the tragic death of Mussolini and Ciano and the two horrible years of brutal war in Italy.
In the recent commemoration of D-Day on the beaches of Normandy, Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany noted that D-Day was the start of the liberation of German people from National Socialism, from Nazism. Germany was grateful!
Similarly, the saving of Malta by the "Konvoj ta` Santa Marija" was a key episode in the eventual defeat of Fascism to the advantage and benefit of our good neighbours, the Italian people who were freed from the yoke of Fascist dictatorship.
In truth the Maltese, maybe others as well, have ample reason to commemorate and be grateful to God and Santa Marija for the **KONVOJ ta' SANTA MARIJA of 15th August, 1942.**
Maybe, after the passage of 77 years even the "ranks of Tuscany" can pause to stare, admire, praise and cheer! **Il-KONVOJ TA' SANTA MARIJA** deserves no less!

WALKING ALONG THE FARM OF DREAMS

Photo: Miguela Xuereb

A young volunteer walks a horse and its foal at Dreams of Horses Farm.
The therapeutic farm, located in the outskirts of Xagħra in Gozo, provides horse-assisted activities and educational programmes to children and adults with difficulties.
The horses in this farm come from different backgrounds in life, most of them being rescued, the gentle giants with a unique personality all play a special role in helping other people.

LUCKY SURVIVER

"It happened 14 years ago today. There were six of us, and I'm the only one who survived. We were working fireworks together, then I stopped and left the room. Suddenly, I saw these huge flames engulfing the room. I remember I started running but then it all went blank. The next thing I know, I was in the hospital. I started asking where I was and where the others were. My heart shattered when I heard that they had died. I learnt that after the explosion, some men had rescued me and carried me outside.
If I hadn't left that room, I would have died too. People say I'm lucky…so I was the only lucky one? What about others? Why not them as well? People say it was a miracle…so it was only a miracle for me?
After that horrible accident, on 27th June 2007, I stopped working with fireworks. To this day, it breaks my heart. When it's 5.45pm, I turn to my wife and say, "What if I were there, now?" That chapter is closed but every time I hear the sound of a firework, my heart skips a beat." – Joseph
www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta

MUSCAT APPOPINTED YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS MANAGER

Kevin Muscat will look to build on Ange Postecoglou's legacy at Yokohama F. Marinos after he was announced as his fellow Australian's successor as manager of the Japanese club.

Yokohama confirmed Muscat's appointment on Sunday, just over a month after league-winning manager Postecoglou departed for Scottish powerhouse Celtic.

It is former Socceroo Muscat's first managerial position since he was sacked after just 14 league matches of his tenure at Belgian club Sint-Truiden last December.

"I am very honoured to be the manager of Yokohama F. Marinos, one of the most successful soccer clubs in Japan," Muscat said in a statement translated from Japanese on the club's website.

.Kevin Muscat's other comments:- "It is my pleasure to become the Manager of Yokohama F.Marinos, one of the most successful football clubs in Japan.

Firstly, I would like express my sincere gratitude to the club and the management for giving me this opportunity. I am excited to take on this new challenge in the most competitive football league in Asia.

I look forward to continuing and building on the foundations Ange has laid to finish the season strong and achieve our goal. I cannot wait to meet the players and staff, and get to work to achieve special things together."

Maltese Artist's Three-Legged Horse Sculpture Resumes Tour of Europe

By Julian Beacom

Following its appearance in Malta's Valletta International Visual Arts Festival (VIVA) in 2014, the iconic three-legged horse sculpture *Zieme* has once more continued its tour across Europe, finding itself in the Polish city of Krakow.

Having been on a temporary hiatus due to the pandemic, *Zieme* is once more continuing its tour, temporarily installed in Plac Ducha, situated in the heart of Poland's cultural capital – Krakow.

Created by Maltese artist Austin Camilleri, it will remain on display until the end of September. This follows *Zieme*'s previous installation on the grounds of the Kalmar Konstmuseum in Sweden.

Originally installed in Valletta in 2014, the sculpture created an immeasurable buzz around Malta. It is also considered one of the best artworks from Malta in the decades.

Zieme goes beyond being explicitly political, instead working through the channels of aesthetics to tackle notions of transience and myth.

When it was first installed in Malta, *Zieme* sparked both outrage and delight as the sculpture became the talk of the island. Standing at four metres, the sculpture's three-legged horse offered a metaphor for power. It also highlighted Malta's lack of equestrian monuments.

Its three legs represent an irony to the fact that power is illusionary. The loss of a leg makes the horse impractical and unproductive – losing its status of power.

At the time of its installation, *Zieme* garnered international attention and praise as international press and art critics wrote at length about Camilleri's work and its meaning.

Thanks to Malta's Ambassador to Poland Dr John Paul Grech and the Honorary Consul of Malta in Krakow Dr Agnieska Kaminska *Zieme* has made it to Poland.

Secret code breaker

Claudia Calleja

Blanche Martin: Cracked the code of a top secret 1943 message that said the King would be coming to Malta. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

Blanche Martin had only been working as a cipher assistant for a few months during World War II when she accidentally decoded an important message meant for her superiors' eyes only. She should not have figured out that King George VI was planning a historic visit to Malta on June 20, 1943 - his first visit since he had awarded the George Cross to Malta for the heroism of its people during World War II. When she realised the importance of the classified message, she decided it would be safer not to let anyone know she knew.

It was only some 50 years later that she broke her silence after being assured the wartime moratorium was over and she could speak safely. "I was the first to know," the 90-year-old dame says with a grin, as she recalls the exciting event that happened almost 70 years ago.

Ms Martin was a teacher by profession and, in March 1943, she accepted a post as a cipher assistant at the British naval headquarters in Lascaris Wharf during the war.

She and her colleagues were known as "cipherenes" and their jobs entailed decoding signals that usually consisted of a string of random numbers that could be translated into letters and words.

One day, on June 18, she walked in for her shift that started at 11 p.m. and noticed there was a signal that had been left standing since about 8 a.m. "It had five columns, with six numbers in each column... When I looked at it I realised why it had not been decoded... It was excessively scrambled," she recalls. Instead of putting the message aside she concentrated on it and kept trying to understand the nature of its complicated code.

Messages, she explains, were usually preceded by an "address" that set the theme of the message. In this particular case, she found it impossible to decode the address, so she decided to move on to the text.

As the clock ticked, in the early hours of June 19, she managed to decode the message. "I was really surprised when I broke the code and read: HM (His Majesty) the king will be coming to Malta," she recalls.

These words provided a clue to decoding the address which to her dismay read: "Priority. Hush, hush, most secret. To be deciphered by the flag lieutenant to the vice admiral only". It was only at that point that she realised she should not have decoded that signal so she kept her newly found information to herself and handed the message over to her duty officer, feigning ignorance.

Later that morning she was listening to the Rediffusion (a cable radio network) and heard the news that the King was coming to Malta the following day - June 20.

King George arrived at the Grand Harbour just after 8 a.m. and was taken on a tour to show him the devastation inflicted by the air raids.

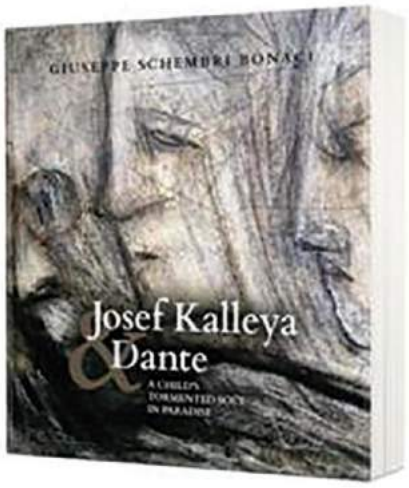
Half a century after the King's visit, Ms Martin disclosed her little secret for the first time during a function in 1993. Recently, she recounted the story again to The Times.

Her clear, blue eyes are a window to her youthful spirit that springs out through her passion for philanthropic work. She proudly wears the three badges she earned through her years of hard work and dedication - the National Order of Merit, the Knights of Malta and Member of the Order of the British Empire badges.

Ms Martin was a founding member of the National Council of Women and Din l-Art Ħelwa and founder of the Friends of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

She was also involved in the British Culture Association and George Cross Association and was awarded the Elderly of the Year award in 1991. [Times of Malta]

The world of Dante Alighieri and the artist Josef Kalleya



Left: The artist Josef Kalleya

Josef Kalleya & Dante
by Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci
published by Horizons, 2021

On the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, the author of one of the greatest literary achievements of all time, La Divina Commedia, the Comitato di Malta of the Società Dante Alighieri, embarked on a series of cultural activities among which was an initiative to publish a book that investigates Maltese 20th-century artist Josef Kalleya's preoccupation with Dante's masterpiece. Kalleya's concepts of Apokatastasis referred continuously to the Italian masterpiece, as demonstrated by his numerous drawings, the majority of which were produced between the 1960s and the 1980s. These are reproduced and feature eloquently in this publication.

Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci analyses this dialogue and structures his essays in three parts, Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso, following the dynamics of the epic poem itself. Inferno is the first volume published and he masterfully relates it to Kalleya's perspective.

Schembri Bonaci's quest was not the easiest as he had to go through Kalleya's huge body of work and, at times, decipher the imagery and attribute new titles to works that are bereft of Kalleya's usual idiosyncratic calligraphic references to protagonists and circumstances.

Schembri Bonaci's years of study of Kalleya's concepts and imagery acts as the foundation for this enterprise. In the words of the author himself: "What is more fascinating is that, for both, all this spiritual angoscia is manifested in line and in visual dialogue, a multi-dialogue, which like the cosmic musical spheres, chanted by Dante and visualised by Kalleya, encapsulate a whole symphonic unending fugue of faith and struggle."

According to the author, Kalleya's work do not reflect the artist's empirical visual interpretation of Dante's verses: "Josef Kalleya's works are, thus, not reflecting Dante's, but exploiting and appropriating Dante, his alter ego. Kalleya makes us see this whole process of salvation not through the distanced eyes of a divinely protected pilgrim, but through the tormented soul of a soul in torment, a tormented saint with a soul full of doubt."

Joseph Kalleya & Dante also includes a study by Nikki Petroni, who situates Kalleya's and other Maltese modern artists' works within the wider socio political context of late 19th- and 20th-century Malta, and further engages with the history of the Società's Comitato di Malta.

This publication's crossover appeal is intriguing to readers fascinated by the world of the Italian genius and to others interested in art, especially in Maltese 20th-century modernism, and the controversial, unorthodox viewpoint that was the cornerstone of the oeuvre of one of the fathers of Maltese modernism.

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Maltese-Canadian Museume - Toronto, several schools and libraries
websites; ozmalta.com., Maltese Community Council of Victoria
Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Maltese Clubs in Australia, NZ, UK and USA
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FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to realise a truly meaningful legacy for football, the community, and the nation.

Legacy '23 is Football Australia's plan to deliver immediate and long-term community benefits and economic impact from Australia hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™. It's an ambitious plan for our nation to build back through football and realise enduring and exciting benefits as a result of hosting this global event.

Winning the bid was just the beginning The emphatic reaction from the public, media and politicians when we won the bid was phenomenal. With over 800,000 people registering their support, and thousands of conversations online, football united the nation in a monumental moment for women's sport in Australia. Now, football and Governments must work together to maximise the opportunities of the biggest global event in Australia since Sydney 2000.

As Australia's Community Sport of almost two million participants, Football is an inclusive platform that can deliver economic, health and social benefits to more Australians than ever before. The whole nation is excited about the life-changing opportunities that lie ahead.

Through the five pillars of this strategy, Football Australia and Governments can partner together to create a limitless legacy from the FIFA Women's World Cup™.

Five Pillars of Legacy '23 Expand club, school, and social football programs to improve the experience for women and girls, and enable more people to experience the health and social benefits of football. Introduce a national Indigenous program, and enhance youth and CALD football initiatives. Football would reach 50:50 gender parity in 2027, with 400,000+ more female participants.

Community Facilities Improving football grounds to ensure equitable female facilities and meet surging community demand in the lead up to the tournament. Create settings where the football community can come together now, and in the years beyond 2023.

Build a national Home of Football to deliver world-class participation, professional development and women's leadership programs, for all ages and abilities. This will also serve as an International Centre for Women's Football for the Asia-Pacific region.

High Performance World-class preparation to support our Matildas in their ambition to lift the World Cup in 2023, while expanding our youth team programs and pathways to develop the next generation of talent.

Tourism & International Engagement Maximise opportunities to boost tourism and trade with our government partners, empower women across the region through leadership opportunities, and strengthen international relations in the Indo-Pacific through the platform of football and the world game.

Leadership & Development Empower a new generation of women to lead on and off the pitch ahead of the world's largest women's sporting event. Tailored educational programs to ensure greater female representation in key roles, to shape the future of Australian sport, and unlock the potential of women from Indigenous and migrant communities. Inspire Australians via greater visibility of legacy initiatives and sporting success stories leading into 2023.

EMVIN CREMONA'S EXHIBITION

Three of the paintings on display at Il-Ħaġar Museum in Victoria.

Four paintings by renowned artist Emvin Cremona have been loaned by the Central Bank of Malta to be put on show at Il-Ħaġar Museum exhibition in Victoria.

Around 90 works – including some from the late artist's family – are on display, including his prolific philatelic designs.

A catalogue covering the items being exhibited has been issued by the museum.

The Central Bank of Malta has 10 artworks by Cremona as part of its collection which covers most of the great Maltese artists. The Emvin Cremona exhibition forms part of the Victoria International Arts Festival, which runs until August 28.

Cremona (1919-1987) studied at the Malta School of Arts and the Regia Accademia delle Belle Arti in Rome. His works can be found in various countries, including the WHO headquarters in Geneva and the UN headquarters in New York.

The museum in St George Square, Victoria, is open from Monday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm. For more information, visit https://heartofgozo.org.mt/.

Helwa tat-Tork (Halva – Turk's Sweet)

This imported sweet probably arrived in our islands when Malta was under Arab rule. It has since then become part of the Maltese cuisine and is a common sweet on the islands, especially served at the end of big meals, weddings and during feast celebrations.

Ingredients:

100g white sugar
130g light tahini (sesami paste)
6 Tbls. water
vanilla
whole roasted almonds

Method:

On a low heat dissolve the sugar in the water in a thick-bottomed pan. Stir to dissolve but stop one its starts boiling.

Boil until sugar thermometer shows 140 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile in a heat proof bowl mix the tahini, vanilla and almonds.

As soon as the temperature of the sugar and water reaches 140 degrees Celsius, pour this on the tahini mix.

As you're doing this stir very well. In a very short while it will harden into a thick confection.

Transfer to an airtight container and leave to cool.

Some sesame oil may ooze out of the helwa but this does not impair in any way the marvelous taste.

http://www.ilovefood.com.mt/recipes/

The Maltese Clock – "Tal-Lira" (pound)

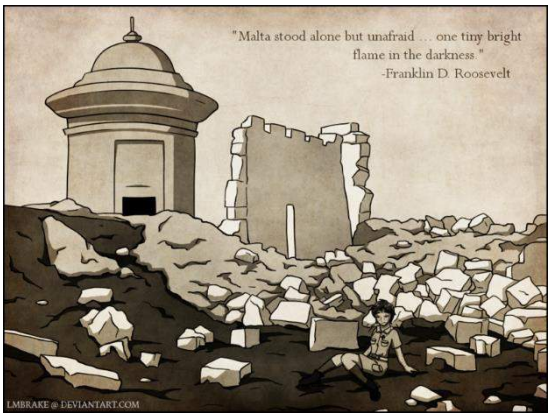
"The origin of the Maltese clock is unclear. What is remarkable is that Malta – a small island country – was able to sustain an indigenous clockmaking trade. They were produced over a period of around one hundred and fifty years solely for the local market at a time when only the aristocracy and the Church could afford them."

The Maltese Clock's real origin is difficult to trace. However, tradition has it that they adorned houses of the Maltese nobility as far back as the 17th century. The clock was made of wood suitable to take on several layers of gypsum, which was then engraved and decorated with gold. The case had two doors. The inside door incorporated the hand painted dial to which a handmade clock mechanism by Maltese Clock Master Makers was fixed from behind. Further down in the clock face the moving pendulum could be seen through a decorated aperture. On the front there was another door, which was framed with glass to protect the dial and ornate hands. The clock case was then painted and abundantly decorated with flowers typical of the colourful finish for which the clock is renowned.

These clocks were made either as wall hanging or table clocks. The former were, however, the most popular. Today, the original Maltese clocks are collectors items and very hard to find for acquisition as they fetch very high prices running into thousands of euros.

However, the tradition goes on with the reproduction of these clocks. They are made in the same original manner using the same technique. The only difference is that one cannot find the original hand-made clockwork. Two types of movements are used nowadays: a mechanical movement, which is adapted to be wound from the inside of the clock or a quartz battery movement. The latter is more commonly used being more practical. The Maltese Clock reproductions come in different colours, the most popular being green, black and terracotta (maroon colour). Mass production is not possible!

Malta has a tradition of making some remarkable clocks, in designs unique to the Islands. The industry today is small, but has a fascinating history. These clocks are nicknamed 'Arlogg tal-lira' clocks. The clocks are laboriously made in intricate stages. Their casings are finely painted and gilded.



MALTA IN WORLD WAR 2

"Malta endured prolonged and heavy battering in World War II--suffering some 6700 tons of bombs in April 1942 alone. The bombing lasted 154 days. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: 'Malta stood alone but unafraid ... one tiny bright flame in the darkness.'" Malta was attacked by Italy and Germany the day after their declaration of war. Like much of Europe, her place was in ruins for quite a while.

Along with the **Great Siege of 1565**, the most documented period of Malta's history is the **Second World War**. The Islands' strategic location once again made it centre stage in the theatre of war in the Mediterranean: a key stronghold from which the Allies could sustain their North African campaign and from which they could launch their eventual attack on mainland Italy.

Before that happened though, the Islands were subject to some of the most severe bombardments of the entire war. The Maltese people may have ended the war with the distinction of being the only entire population to be awarded the **George Cross**, Britain's highest civilian honour for bravery. But they also ended the war devastated. Malta holds the record for the heaviest, sustained bombing attack during WW2.

The British were unsure of whether they could adequately retain or protect Malta. While **a perfect strategic location**, it was also a difficult place to defend. First Lord of the Admiralty, then Winston Churchill, decided that Malta was vital to war plans and important for supply lines.

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

MALTESE CANADAIANIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

The Malta Band Club in the heart of the Maltese Community in Mississauga is once again open to members with the limits in numbers and following federal and provincial restrictions.

It was a thrilling day after months of lockdown, Dr. Raymond Xerri, the Consul-General, met Malta Band Club members and the Maltese Canadian Community following Mass at St Paul The Appostle Maltese Canadian Church.

We encourage you, your families and friends to support our Maltese Canadian clubs in any way possible, by becoming a paid member, visiting and buying from them and much more. You are important for the survival of these Maltese Canadian institutions, who for the past months still had to pay bills and with no help from Governments, which help preserve the identity of your ancestral home - The Maltese Islands.

Vladyslava Kravchenko to represent Malta in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

Coryse Borg

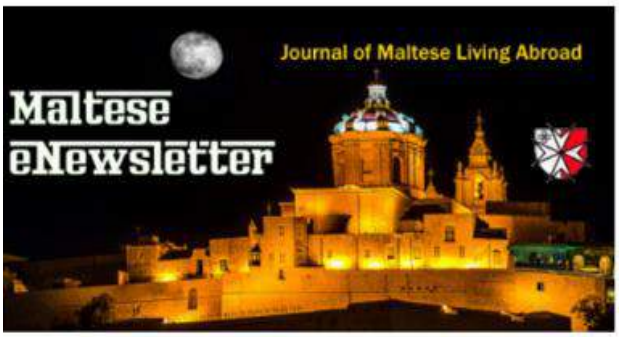
Vladyslava Kravchenko | Malta Paralympic Committee Facebook

Vladyslava Kravchenko is the first para athlete to be confirmed for team Malta at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

According to the Malta Paralympic Committee, Kravchenko will be representing Malta in the S5 para swimming category.

Born in Ukraine, Kravchenko moved to Malta with her mother when she was nine years old. In 2008, she was hit by scaffolding after it collapsed on top of her at a party in Qawra. The accident resulted in paraplegia.

She was Malta's flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, and in 2013, she was named the Para-Athlete of the Year by the Maltese Sports Journalists Association. ***www.newsbook.com.mt***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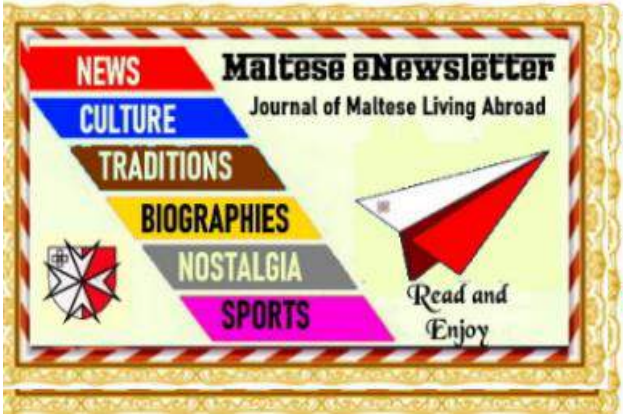
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