

# THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD

### 'Lost Maltese treasure' for sale at French auction house

The ex-voto painting commemorates an important event in the life of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt: the 1614 Raid of Żejtun.

One of Malta's "lost treasures", a painting commemorating one of the most important moments in the life of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt, is set to go under the hammer at a French auction house today.

The undocumented ex-voto painting is of the 'Raid of Żejtun', known as l-Aħħar Ħbit, since it was the last major attack made by the Ottoman Empire against Malta.

It took place in 1614, when raiders pillaged Żejtun and the surrounding area before being beaten back to their ships by the Order of St John and the inhabitants of the south-eastern towns and villages.

Historian Robert Attard came across the painting while perusing the online auction catalogue of SGL Enchères, a Parisian auctioneer.



Measuring only 28 by 19 centimetres, the painting is quite small but its quality and historic importance are of high value. It is expected to fetch between €20,000 and €25,000.

Dr Attard said the painting might have been presented at a chapel as a votive offering by the Grand Master himself. It features him kneeling down in prayer in front of a crucifix. The prayer desk shows his coat of arms while a detailed note narrates the event.

"This is the same Grandmaster of the famous Caravaggio painting but here he looks older and the image is much more stylised. The colours are extremely vivid and the quality of the work brings to mind similar works at the Louvre Museum."

A Turkish fleet can be seen in the background.

"The Ottomans were making a statement: 'We lost the siege but we are not dead in the water'.

"On July 6, 1614, a Turkish force of around 60 galleys appeared off the southern coast of Malta and 6,000 Turkish soldiers disembarked in Marsascala to pillage and plunder. Żejtun was sacked and the Maltese were terrified."

The Order sent a cavalry regiment to attack the invaders but they were almost defeated by the Ottomans. Meanwhile, a militia force of around 6,000 to 8,000 men was assembled and it fought the Ottomans in a number of skirmishes lasting a couple of days.

The Ottomans returned to their ships on July 12 and sailed to Tripoli on a punitive expedition against a local insurgent. At the time, Dr Attard notes, many ascribed the Turks' hasty departure to divine intervention.

"The picture is undocumented but it remains an interesting piece deserving further research." He described it as one of "Malta's lost treasures".

Alof de Wignacourt was a French nobleman who served as Grand Master between 1601 and 1622. He is mostly remembered for the construction of the Wignacourt aqueduct, as well as a series of coastal towers which also bear his name. Wignacourt joined the Order in 1564, aged 17, and distinguished himself at the Great Siege of Malta a year later.

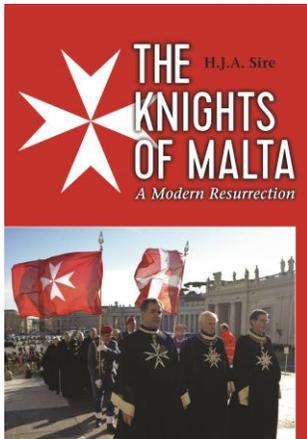
In order to ensure that the Maltese continued to celebrate the date of his accession, he declared the date of the shipwreck of St Paul in Malta to be February

## Three new books on Maltese History and The Order of Malta.

***The Knights of Malta – A Modern Resurrection (1798-2016).*** Pub: Third Millennium Publishers. Pps 340 . hb.

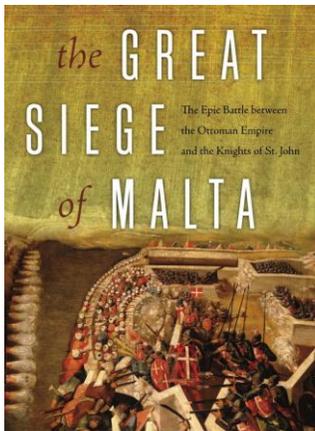
***The Great Siege of Malta by Bruce Ware Allen*** ForeEdge. Pps 329. hb.

***Malta Besieged - Malta 1565*** Edited by Maroma Camilleri.



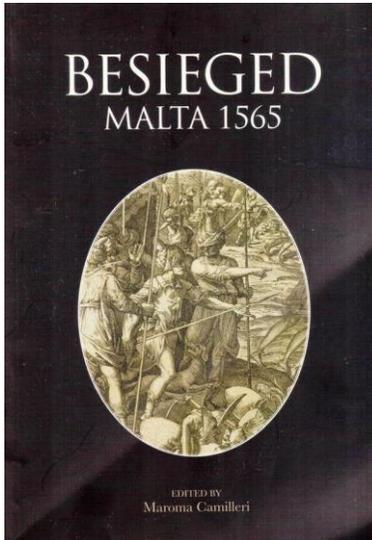
*The Knights of Malta – a Modern Resurrection* by Henry Sire is the first serious study of the history of The Order of Malta from the fall of the islands to Napoleon in 1798 up to the present day. It provides a detailed examination of the Order, after the flight of Grand Master von Hompesch to Trieste, his desperate attempts to recover his position, and the early years under distinguished naval knight, Grand Master Giovanni Tomassi. The tragic years when the Order was based in Sicily make gloomy reading, but from the rule of Lieutenant Master Carlo Candida in 1834 and Filippo di Colloredo-Mels in 1845, Sire paints a picture of constant expansion and development of the Order's hospitaller and charitable works. Details of this groundbreaking study have been extracted through the author having an unrestricted access to the Archives of the Order in Rome and other archives.

So much of the activities of the modern Order of Malta are not well known, but today the Order has inspirational charitable projects in around 120 countries and Diplomatic Relations with around 113 nations. As your readers would know, the Maltese Association of the Order is very active in many areas on Malta, from the poor and homeless to the Lourdes Pilgrimages. This is a distinguished and detailed serious historical study, and one that would be essential reading to any supporter of the works of The Order of Malta and its Maltese heritage.



Ernie Bradford's excellent book, *The Siege of Malta* was initially published in 1961, and since then has been the eternally popular study of this heroic moment in Malta's History – 450 years ago last year. Another excellent work by the Maltese historian of fortifications, Stephen Spiteri appeared in 2005 and now is a valued collectors item. This new volume by Bruce Ware Allen is as gripping as Bradford's study, whilst

being as detailed as that of Spiteri. However Allen has the added opportunity to consult newly published materials from Ottoman and Spanish sources, so as to make this new history a very valuable and factual study. In particular he covers in detail the period from the fall of Rhodes and the arrival of the Knights of Malta, the various sieges and battles in northern Africa, Tripoli, Djerba and the terrible invasion and enslavement of Gozo in 1551. But of greater importance is his reassessment of the role played by the Spanish Viceroy Garcia de Toledo. Although Don Garcia has been treated badly by historians of the Order, Allen shows that the combined strategy of both Grand Master le Valette and the Viceroy was crucial in making sure that the siege could be lifted, but at odds more in favour of the Christian Fleet. This is an important new study of one of the greatest of episodes in Malta's illustrious history.



Two volumes *Beseiged – Malta 1565*, published by Malta Libraries in conjunction with Heritage Malta brings fifty-one of the finest historians of this period of Maltese history into an inexpensive two-volume sets, published in paperback. These are generous studies of all aspects of the Siege, and of Maltese life and events during that turbulent era.

These articles are all based on the most recent scholarship, and from every perspective, including the newly discovered Sources of the Siege, Historians of the event, Art and Literature of the period, Events in the Siege, Arms and Armour, and Music and The Arts. Knowing of the popularity of recent publications of Melitensia, I suspect that this two-volume set will become a valued collector's item, and Malta Libraries, Heritage Malta and the Editor, Maroma Camilleri of the National Library of Malta are to be warmly congratulated.

At the time of going to press the Malta Historical Society has just announced the publication by The Malta Map Society of a new publication *The Pre-Siege Maps of Malta. Second Century AD – 1564*. Co-authored by the eminent Maltese map historian Dr Albert Ganado and Joseph Schirò this volume will complement the previous volume by Dr Ganado of the actual *Siege Maps of Malta*. The Society is under the Patronage of HE The President of Malta.



**Writtene exclusively for this journal by**

**Fra` Professor Richard Divall AO OBE**

**The Order of Malta, Melbourne.,**





## ***ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY***

***A history in common,  
a future in progress***

The Royal Commonwealth Society, founded in 1868, is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Through youth empowerment, education and advocacy, the Royal Commonwealth Society promotes the value and the values of the Commonwealth. We champion human rights, democracy and sustainable development across the 53 member states which are intrinsically linked through their common history and shared values.

### **Developing dialogue**

Developing dialogue and strategies to engage organisations and business for the well-being and prosperity of individuals.

### **Advocating positive social change**

Advocating positive social change across Commonwealth member states.

### **Empowering young people**

Empowering young people and providing a pan-Commonwealth framework for youth leadership.

### **Celebrating shared values**

Celebrating and building on the shared values and aspirations that continue to unite citizens across the Commonwealth.



## OLD CUSTOMS IN MALTA

**Żibeġ** Various games could be played, where children would compete for beads dealt out by every individual player. The most common game involves making a shallow depression in the ground (ħofra) into which beads are flicked using the fingers. In some games the colours of the beads have different values.

**Karretta u Skuter** Like most pre-war toys, these were home made. A set of three or four metal ball-bearing wheels were needed for the cart. The rider controlled the steering block with slim ropes. The scooter used two or three wheels, was pushed by one foot which also pressed on a wooden, hinged flap over the hind wheels to act as a brake.

**Boċċi** Several varieties and forms of games are possible with marbles. Before the advent of glass marbles, children made do with hazelnuts. Pre-war Codd-Stoppered ginger bottles had a plain glass marble as a stopper and children often broke bottles to get it out.

**Ħabel** Girls play with skipping ropes individually or in groups. In one popular game a girl calls out a series of possible attributes of an imaginary future husband as she skips and, when the rope hits her legs, she stops on the word assumed to predict the type of husband she would have.

**Tajra** The traditional basic model is made from thin, light, coloured paper stretched over thin strips of cane disposed in a bow and arrow position. The paper used to be glued with starch or flour heated in a little water. The fancy tail is added for stability.

**Taż-Żiemel** Two boys play at horse and rider, one acting as the horse the other as the rider, exchanging roles at intervals. Children enjoyed making the reins themselves, weaving odd, discarded coloured cotton-wool using pins on a wooden reel. Horse and rider couples often race each other.

**Passju** The rough diagram with nine, numbered compartments scratched on the ground represents the nine months of pregnancy, with the ninth month section drawn with a bulge. Girls cast a stone from the starting point, hop towards it, to trip it on to the next number. Completing the set results in 'having a baby'.

**Ċirku** Any hoop, of any size, free from spokes and hubs, used to be seen frequently trundled along the ground with the help of a piece of wire bent at one end to guide the rim of the hoop. Boys usually played on their own but sometimes hoop races were organised for the extra thrill.

**Bżieżaq tas-Sapun** These provided a pastime for all ages. A good mixture of soap in water blown slowly through a short length of cane tube produced beautiful, colourful bubbles. Commoner than the cane is a page from an old exercise book rolled, taped and trimmed into a tube.

**Żugraga** To spin a wooden top children wound a string several times around it and learned to throw it sharply while holding on to the end of the string. This made the top spin for a short while. Humming tops could be readily bought but others were home-made from wood, hollowed out and started with a string.

**Pupa** Mothers of most pre-war girls could not afford the luxury of buying dolls but made rag dolls from odd pieces of cloth and cotton-wool. Girls played 'mother' with rag dolls and often recruited a boy to join them as the 'father' normally to be ignored, uninvolved or scolded.

**Xixu** A small length of wood (formerly used to be an odd wooden bobbin or reel) is placed on a rigid edge on the ground and with a stick or rod is hit sharply on one end to make it fly as high as possible into the air

**More than a million tourist arrivals annually** Malta receives almost triple of its population in tourist arrivals per year: from slightly more than 414,000 people working and living on the island to 1,242,000 of tourist arrivals! The difference between the winter and summer months when both the locals and the tourists become more active, is tangible in the atmosphere.

# Transport In Malta

**Car rental in Malta** There are various car hire companies in Malta. You can book your car rental packages in Malta through internet booking or when you arrive at Malta International Airport.

Be sure to source either a hard copy of a Map of Malta or online before your arrival in order to familiarize yourself and have a bit of an idea of what to expect prior to your arrival here.

Malta car rental deals are preferably done before you come to Malta as this usually affords you a better deal where you can check prices and conditions of rental.

Although the Maltese islands are small, transport in Malta is essential to fully explore the beauties of the Maltese people.

## **Malta public transport Malta offers a very good bus service both for Malta and Gozo.**

The old Malta bus before the present operator was introduced still remains one of the tourist attraction. Unfortunately they have been removed from service and many do miss them for their old body style, paintings and decorations.

Public transport is a very good alternative for those who do not wish to rent a car. The service is relatively cheap and covers all the important locations in Malta and Gozo, including historical locations, beaches, hotels, entertainment, restaurants, Gozo ferry service.



**Malta hop on hop off** If you do not wish to rent a car you can easily use the public transport and the hop-On hop-Off service offered by three local companies.

It is an excellent service that offers different routes which include the main important aspects of all Maltese culture. Booking is through the hotel reception desk or the hop-On hop-Off company representatives. It is very easy to come across representatives in the main areas of the

island where you will find them selling tickets. Main pick up areas can be St. Julian's, Sliema and Gzira. There is no need for pre-booking.

**Tour bus passing from Mosta** Various companies offer bus tours. These might be already included with your holiday package. You will find available booklets advertising tours which will enhance your holiday. They include local Maltese feasts, cultural tours, Malta by day and also one day tours to Gozo, and their historical locations.



**Karozzin (horse drawn carriage)** Today the horse driven cab is only used to take tourists on tours around Valletta and Mdina and another few choice localities. It is one of the oldest traditions. A pretty sight when you visit [Mdina](#) and see tourists being horse driven through the beautiful streets of [Mdina](#). A truly picturesque sight. Take a photo and it will remain as a wonderful memory of Malta.

## **Old Maltese transport**

- See more at: [http://www.maltainfoguide.com/transport-in-](http://www.maltainfoguide.com/transport-in-malta.html#sthash.ZjWYdWd4.dpuf)

[malta.html#sthash.ZjWYdWd4.dpuf](http://www.maltainfoguide.com/transport-in-malta.html#sthash.ZjWYdWd4.dpuf)



## L-OMM

kitba tal-Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex

Mejju huwa x-xahar tal-Madonna; Mejju huwa wkoll ix-xahar li matulu nfakkru Jum L-Omm. Ta' kull sena aħna niddedikaw Jum lil dik il-kreatura tant għażiża u maħbuba li gābitna fid-dinja, rabbietna bl-ikbar għożża u min jaf x'għamlet sakemm ratna mmiddu l-ewwel passi tagħna! Mhux biss, imma wara li rabbietna, baqgħet issus warajna lesta dejjem biex tgħinna nterru fost tant ħotob u tlajja li toffriela l-ħajja ta' madwarna.

Ta' dan kollu aħna nħossuna xejn grati lejha! Ta' dan kollu aħna niringrazzawha xejn! Dwar dan xtaqt nieħu spunt minn pubblikazzjoni mensili, "Il-Ħbieb Isejħu" li joħorġu l-membri tal-Museum tan-Nadur (Qasam subien). L-istorja li ser nirrakkuntalkom iġġib l-isem "Kellhom minn tal-ħmir". Araw x'jidhrilkom minnha!

*Marija kienet armla li tħobb b'imħabba kbira lit-tliet uliedha subien. Tbakkar u tishar biex ma jkun jonqoshom xejn.*

*It-tfal kienu ħawtiela. L-għelieqi tagħhom dejjem mimlija ġid. Wara nofs ta' nhar xogħol fir-raba kienu jiġu lura d-dar, jintasbu mal-mejda u jieklu dak li ommhom tkun ħejjtilhom. U l-istess kienu jagħmlu fil-għaxija.*

*Iżda darba, meta l-ulied waslu għall-ikla ta' nofs inhar, flok ikla sħuna bħas-soltu, sabu biss ftit tiben mqiegħed f'kull platt li kien hemm fuq il-mejda! "Ma, mela ħsibtna ħmir!" staqsa l-kbir b'ton iebes.*

*"Ħsibt li għandkom minn tagħhom għax daww jieklu li tpoġġilhom quddiemhom u qatt ma jħossu li għandhom iroddu ħajr lil min iqegħidulhom quddiemhom. U billi intom qatt ma tgħiduli xejn wara li tieklu, ħsibtkom bħal ħmir...tikkuntentaw bit-tiben."*

*Ħrafa...izda b'tagħlima reali. Kemm ulied jersqu lejn il-mejda, jieklu u jtilqu 'l barra bla ma jindenjaw jgħidu grazzi jew prosit lil ommhom! Kulħadd jieħu gost b'kelma ta' radd il-ħajr. Ħlas żgħir għal tant sigħat ta' xogħol.*

*Għax x'jiswa li f'Jum l-Omm nagħtuha rigal sabiħ, imbagħad ma nurux apprezzament għal ħidmietha tul is-sena! Tassew li l-Omm iktar tapprezza xi kumment sabiħ u f'waqtu milli xi oġġett materjali li żmienu jgħaddi u jintesa ma' tant oħrajn. Kemm aħna neqsin minn dawn il-kumplimenti li ma jiswewx u la flus u lanqas tbatija biex tliissinhom imma kemm ihennu l-qalb ta' min jismagħhom!*

*Żgur li mhemmx qalb ikbar minn tal-Omm. Din dejjem lesta biex tagħder, tħenn u taħfer lil uliedha. Fiha, minn naħa l-oħra, l-ulied isibu l-kenn, il-faraġ u s-serħan. F'waħda mill-poeżiji tiegħu, it-tabib Ruzar Briffa jistqarr u jsaħħaħ dan il-ħsieb. Hu ma jridx ikidd lil ommu bin-niket u d-dwejjaq tiegħu, iżda għandha jrid jirrikorri biex isib il-hena tiegħu. U għalhekk fl-aħħar żewġ strofi tal-poeżija tiegħu 'Lil Ommi', nisimgħuh jgħidilha*

*Aħjar hekk, omm, aħjar le taf li jiena tliet l-hena kollu, sfajt għajjen, imdejjaq, xbajt minn did-dinja, dinja fejn l-għarwiena ħadd ma jlibbishom, ebda mard jitfejjaq.*

*Aħjar hekk, omm, aħjar taf biss li qalbi terġa' tithenna xħin inħares lejki u ħaġa waħda biss issaħħaħ talbi: ħarsa ta' mħabba minn ħlewwiet għajnejki.*

Għal snin twal, f'Jum l-Omm, il-Moviment ta' Kana f'Għawdex kien jagħmel quddiesa fil-kappella ta' ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija biex jiftakar f'dawk l-ommijiet li llum m'għadhomx magħna. Għax ma rridux ninsew li fid-dinja, kull qalb trid oħra, u għalhekk għandna nħossuna fid-dmir li nitolbu għal dawk l-ommijiet li hallewna, dawk l-ommijiet li dment li kienu magħna, għamlu minn kollox biex jarawna hienja u kuntenti. Ma nkunux ingrati u ntrussati issa magħhom aħna. Niftakru fihom mhux f'dan il-Jum biss, iżda matul il-bqija tas-sena kollha għax huma ssagrifikaw ħajjithom kollha biex illum aħna qegħdin hawn. Flok il-grazzi bil-fomm, flok il-kaxxa ċikkulatini li konna nagħtuhom kieku għadhom magħna, nixirfu sal-midfen tagħhom illum u ngħidulhom xi talba qasira flimkien ma' dak il-bukkett fjuri niedi u sabiħ, għelm ta' mħabba. Għaliex kif jistqarr il-poeta Vincent Ungaro, fil-poeżija tiegħu, *Wara l-mewt t'ommi*,

*Int mitt biex tgħix, tgħammar ġo qalbna B'demmek biss sħuna;  
U jekk tħabbat il-qalb, tħabbat int magħha Għalkemm midfuna.  
W għalhekk fuq qabrek fejn tinsab mistrieħa Sikwit tismagħna  
Niġu nħabbtulek ftit, biex tbexxaq l-għata U tqum tarana.*

Nibżgħu għaliha din il-ħlejqa msejha Omm jekk din għadha mimlija għomor, mimlija ħajja, u nagħmlu minn kollox biex ma ninkwetawhiex, ma nonqsuhiex; għal kuntrarju, nogħġbuha u nħobbuha. Jekk b'xorti ħażina tlfniha, (lil ommi *Lola* jien tlftha xi snin ilu) ma ninsewhiex, nitolbu għaliha biex il-Mulej jieħu ħsieb idahħalha fit-tgawdija tas-Sema mnejn titlob għalina u thejjilna t-triq biex għada pitgħada nkunu nistgħu ningħaqdu magħha!

Nagħlaq din il-kitba tiegħi billi nikkwota kliem il-Primat tal-Ungerija, il-Kardinal Midzenty dwar l-Omm:

Hija n-Nar: it-tfal huma d-dawl. Bid-dija tad-dawl inkunu nafu kemm hu kbir in-nar.

Hija d-Dielja: it-tfal il-friegħi. Mill-friegħi nistgħu nqisu l-valur tad-dielja.

Hija l-Arloġġ: it-tfal huma l-minutieri. Flimkien dawn juru l-ħin.

Hija l-Pinna: it-tfal huma l-kitba. Mill-kitba tagħraf il-karattru tal-kittieb.

Hija t-Tmun: it-tfal huma d-dgħajsa. Id-dgħajsa tmur kulfejn ireġiha t-tmun.

Hija r-Regina: it-tfal huma s-suldati. Taħt ix-xettru ta' Omm għaqlija, it-tfal ikunu sodisfatti u kuntenti.



## THE ISLAND OF COMINO

Comino is a small island located between the larger islands of Malta and Gozo. Comino is noted for its tranquillity and isolation. It has almost no permanent residents and is now mainly visited by tourists. St Marys tower is the most visible structure on the

island. Dating back to 1416 when the Maltese petitioned their King to build a tower on Comino to serve as an early warning system in case of an invasion, and to deter marauding Turks, pirates, smugglers and corsairs from using Comino as a hiding place and staging ground for devastating sorties onto the sister islands of Malta and Gozo.



**ST. JOHN'S DAY CONCERT**

**DATE & TIME: 23/06/2016 - 7:30PM**

Programme: **Sacred music for choir and orchestra**

Conductor: **Michael Laus**

Choir: **Goldberg Ensemble**

The annual St. John's Day Concert is organised by "The Maltese Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta" in order to raise funds for its Charitable Activities. This year's concert will be the sixth annual charity concert, and will feature choral sacred music by the Goldberg Ensemble and the Malta Philharmonic Concert conducted by Michael Laus.

**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES THREE**

**DATE & TIME: 05/06/2016 - 7:30PM**



Programme includes:

Works by **Cesar Franck, Leon Boellman, Louis Vierne** and **Charles-Marie Widor.**

Organist: **Charles-Marie Widor.**

Celebrated Maltese organist, Hugo Agius Muscat, concludes this year's series of organ recitals at Robert Samut Hall, with a programme featuring some of the greatest music from the organ repertoire.

**RICE: €8 LOCATION: Robert Samut Hall**



### **SBS Eurovision Radio Launches on 1 May!**

Australia, the moment we've been waiting for is almost here.

The 2016 Eurovision Song Contest will take over Stockholm, Sweden from 11 May with contestants from 43 countries set to compete. SBS Radio invites fans to kick off Eurovision celebrations early with **SBS Eurovision Radio**, your non-stop soundtrack to the world's biggest song contest, broadcasting 24 hours a day from 1 to 15 May. Tune into SBS Radio 4 on digital radio or stream online or via the SBS Radio App.

Listeners can request their favourite Eurovision tracks via twitter with the hashtag #sbseurovision and enjoy back-to-back Eurovision hits and classics. SBS Radio's Eurovision Reporter Alistair Birch will be on the ground in Stockholm bringing all the backstage gossip and interviewing Eurovision artists for SBS Radio's in-language programs. "I only speak three languages myself, so I rely on my colleagues at the SBS language desks back in Melbourne and Sydney to help bring Eurovision to Australia's diverse communities," he said.

"My speciality is recording the secret music of the Eurovision. With over forty talented artists gathered together, there is a lot of music performed over and beyond the actual contest entries and we will be bringing you the best of this on SBS Eurovision Radio."

Then, on TV, tune into SBS's Eurovision Weekend at 7.30pm on Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May. SBS's all-time favourite duo act, hosts Julia Zemiro and Sam Pang, will be poised and ready from the commentary booth in the Globe Arena in Stockholm to guide Australians through the meatballs, music and madness that is Eurovision.

This year, a third member is added to the team...as television, film and theatre star and Eurovision aficionado Toby Truslove puts on the sequins and shimmys into place as behind the scenes reporter; backstage to give Australians an access all areas pass to the preparations to the big contest.

Unlike last year where Australia was a wild card entry straight to the Grand Final, Australia's contender, Dami Im, will compete in Semi-Final 2, and must get enough votes to go through to the Grand Final. Australians will be able to vote in the contest during the early morning LIVE broadcasts and join in the conversation using the hashtag #sbseurovision during the interactive evening prime-time broadcasts with tweets and party pictures on screen.

**HOW TO VOTE** Eurovision fans can tune into SBS's LIVE early morning Semi-Final and Grand Final broadcasts on Wednesday 11 May (Semi-Final 1), Friday 13 May (Semi-Final 2 featuring Australian performance) and Sunday 15 May (Grand Final). **HOW TO VOTE**

In each Semi-Final, 10 contestants are chosen to qualify for the Grand Final. Viewers in all countries taking part in a particular Semi-Final are invited to vote via the official app, telephone and/or SMS. In the first Semi-Final, viewers and juries in France, Sweden and Spain will vote. In the second Semi-Final, viewers and juries in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom will also vote. All 43 participating countries vote in The Grand Final. The voting window opens after the last song has been performed, and ends 15 minutes later.

As per the official Eurovision rules, viewers can vote in the Semi Final in which their country is participating, as well as the Grand Final.

For Australian viewers, this means they will need to tune into the LIVE broadcasts of Semi Final 2 Friday 13 May from 5am, and the Grand Final Sunday 15 May from 5am in order to cast their vote at the same time as European audiences. To vote they will need to text or call the numbers that appear on screen during these live broadcasts.

The other 50% of the vote is decided by a National Jury in each participating country. Australia's jury will be announced on Friday May 29.

The jury and Australian public can vote for any country except Australia.

**SBS Eurovision Radio will simulcast the LIVE SBS coverage of both semi-finals and the Grand Final on Wednesday 11 May, Friday 13 May and Sunday 15 May on SBS Radio 4 on digital radio or stream online or via the SBS Radio App.**

**You can also hear the simulcast of the SBS prime-time broadcasts 7.30pm Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May.**

For more Eurovision news, head to the SBS Eurovision website [sbs.com.au/eurovision](http://sbs.com.au/eurovision)

Join the conversation **#SBSEurovision**



For more information and interview requests with SBS Radio's Eurovision Reporter contact: **Nikita Jacka**  
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## Communities

*Members of the Maltese community of South Australia participated in the Annual Christmas Pageant in Adelaide.*

South Australia is home to people from more than 200 culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse backgrounds.

The [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) has a wealth of free information available. An overview of Australia's diversity can be found in a section called [Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census, 2012–2013](#).

An overview of South Australia's diversity can be found on our [Statistics page](#), or in the new [People of South Australia publication \(PDF 5.3 MB\)](#), a compilation of statistics on birthplace, language, religion and ancestry from the 2011 Census for Population and Housing.

Most Local Government organisations have community profiles on their websites that provide insights into birthplace; ancestry; language spoken at home; and religion.

Local Government areas with significant proportions of overseas-born include:

<http://www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/communities-in-sa>



# ORDER OF MALTA – SINGAPORE BRANCH

## Historical Background

Association of the Order of Malta was formed as a delegation of the Australian Association on 23 February 2003 with eleven members, and on 19 February 2006 was promulgated as the youngest and smallest of the 53 National Organisations of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.



Members are chosen from amongst prominent professionals who are strong practicing Catholics, already active for many years in missions of mercy and ministries in their respective Parishes, have sound ethical values and are faithful to the Magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church. Every aspirant was also strongly recommended



The Singapore Association of the Order of Malta held its first investiture on 4 November 2007, when one Dame and six Knights of Magistral Grace were invested at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. Today, there are 23 members, of whom 4 are Dames. His Grace Archbishop Nicholas Chia is the Chaplain OF THE Singapore Order of Malta



## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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# Phoenician Legacy

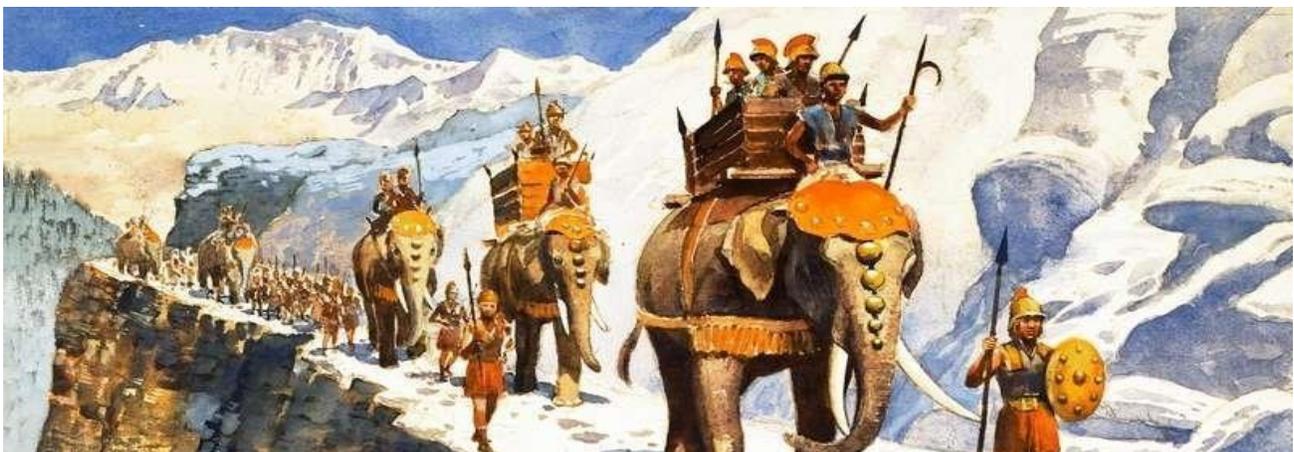
The Phoenicians occupied modern day Lebanon from about 1550 BC to 300 BC. They were a trading and seafaring people who left an incredible legacy throughout the Mediterranean basin that persists to this day. Their greatest contribution to humanity was undoubtedly their alphabet. The Phoenician alphabet is considered to be the ancestor of almost all modern alphabets.

Z Zayin Weapon	Y Waw Hook	𐤆 He Window	𐤄 Daleth Door	𐤂 Gimel Camel	𐤁 Beth House	𐤀 Aleph Ox	
𐤏 Nun Fish	𐤍 Mem Water	𐤌 Lamedh Ox-Goad	𐤋 Kaph Palm of Hand	𐤊 Yodh Hand	𐤈 Teth Unknown	𐤇 Heth Fence	
𐤔 Taw Mark	𐤑 Shin Tooth	𐤒 Resh Head	𐤓 Qoph Monkey	𐤕 Sadhe Fishhook	𐤐 Peh Mouth	𐤅 Ayin Eye	𐤆 Samekh Support

The Phoenicians were the first state-level society to widely implement a phonetic alphabet, which in turn, extended literacy beyond a narrow caste of priests. It led to a more democratic and flatter social structure throughout the Mediterranean. This democratization of knowledge in turn inspired the renowned Greek constitutional government and fomented a spectacular leap in literacy and literary production. The oral traditions of Greek mythology began to be transcribed onto Egyptian papyrus, which had an enormous influence on later cultures, namely the Etruscans and Romans. The Phoenicians were in fact the first shipping pioneers to explore beyond the Strait of Gibraltar. Their commercial network spanned the Mediterranean, where they colonized many outposts, including Carthage. In Carthage, they spoke Punic, a variety of Phoenician language, and became the Roman Empire's main rival. Rome and Carthage would fight three major battles, known as the Punic Wars, which would eventually determine the course of Western civilization.

Hannibal, a Carthaginian commander, led a successful attack on Rome by crossing the Alps on war elephants. Rome eventually vanquished Carthage and subsumed its territory. The Phoenician influence persisted, both through the Roman Empire, and through successive Middle Eastern civilizations. Hebrew and Arabic languages both stem from Phoenician, and Lebanon has inherited Phoenicia's rich literary tradition. Lebanon, in fact, boasts some of the highest education rates in the region, many of its citizens are trilingual, and Beirut has long been a regional book publishing capital.

It is interesting to me how highly valued Greek and Roman cultural output is, while the underlying Phoenician influence is little known. Without the innovative Phoenician alphabet, we might not have Greek and Roman mythology in the canon of Western literature.





## STUDY PROGRAMS & INTERNSHIP FOR ASIAN STUDENTS IN EUROPE

Discovering Europe improving languages and enjoying cross cultural exchange's opportunities. That's the aim of the new "Study Abroad" programme managed by EU Networking Centre in cooperation with Asian Studies Group from Italy and Malta.



The programme has been already introduced in Japan in cooperation with some agents in Kansai area and is under promotion according with foreign relations offices of some universities and local institutions for international cooperation. As joint programme with the Italian Asian Studies Group & the Maltese consulting / marketing company Europe Asia Smart Links Consulting, this study offer will include opportunity of cultural experiences in Italy in multi – sightseeing projects managed by ASG and then in intensive English training program in Malta.

As first year, even if the concept is developed on more European dimension, it is going to include just 2 countries (Italian and English speaking countries) but as strategic purpose of the managing board will be extended soon to other participations and partnerships.



Recently the programme has hosted also in Malta Chinese agents and professionals involved on cross cultural & study experiences and it seems that the cooperation's net will be involve also Chinese private institutes and universities with big agencies and tour operators from some parts of China.

Basically as NPO the service is offered at reasonable price 'cause the aim of the project is to boost study experience's opportunities in

Asia, making students and professionals connected and mutually involved on researches and cross cultural development's projects.

The program offers also scholarship for universities or institutes that want to certify official attendance of their students in the programme **and 3 months / 6 months programme with part time job's offers and internship are also available.**

The English classes will be certified by authorized high level English school in Malta and all cultural activities will include reports as detailed reference about the programme issued in Italy –

For further info or as group's quotation contact us at [eu-networkcentre@adm-ea.com](mailto:eu-networkcentre@adm-ea.com)



## MALTA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



Lord Plumer who was governor of the Maltese Islands from 1919 – 1924 and a great supporter and admirer of the Maltese water polo teams, first thought of the idea of sending a water polo team to the Paris 1924 Olympic games. Unfortunately, however because his term of office was nearly over, there was no time to make the necessary arrangements for the Malta's participation.

After Lord Plumer's departure, one of his staff mentioned the Governor's idea of Malta being represented at the Olympic Games and soon one of Malta's most prominent water polo players of the time, Carmel "Meme" Busietta, started the ball rolling for Malta's participation in the Amsterdam Olympiad of 1928. The prospect of our Island being represented along with the other nations in the international arena in competitions of such magnitude caught the imagination of all the water polo enthusiasts and soon the Amateur Swimming Association of Malta came into being holding its first meeting in 1925.

Immediately after being accepted as a member of the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA), Malta applied for the participation in the Amsterdam Olympiad. But to everyone's dismay the Dutch Organizing Committee refused this on the grounds that Malta could not participate as a nation because it was a colony of Great Britain. The Maltese, through the excellent relations with Mr. Hern, at the same time Secretary of the ASA of Great Britain and also the FINA, sought the help of the world's swimming body who in turn asked a legal adviser to take up Malta's case. After a prolonged legal battle, Malta's participation as a nation was accepted. However as all the dealings with the international authorities were being conducted by the ASA of Malta and as the official invitation was to be sent to "the official committee representing all sports of Malta" a Malta Olympic Committee had to be formed.

This was soon set up and the Malta OC held its first meeting on the 5th of June 1928 at 153 Strada Zecca, Valletta. Things had to move very fast, but Malta did finally make it to Amsterdam Olympiad being represented by its water polo team. Malta took part for the second time in the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 again in water polo and athletics. Coming so close at the end of WWII with Malta still devastated from the German bombings, Nestor Jacono was Malta's sole representative at the 1948 London Olympiad. With Rome being so close. Malta was represented by the largest contingent ever at the 1960 Olympic Games, which incidentally were broadcast direct in Maltese for the first time. Shooting and Cycling were the two sports Malta took part in at the Munich 1972 Games. Despite a call from USA

President Jimmy Carter for a boycott from all non Communist countries, Malta did not heed this advice and represented in Moscow in shooting, cycling and Archery. And it was a good decision indeed for Malta obtained one of its best ever results. Joanna Agius became Malta's first woman when she took part in the Double FITA finishing in the penultimate place one better than her male counterpart who was last.

An archer and two shooters were again included in the Malta contingent to the Los Angeles 1984 Games together with an athlete, a board sailor and two wrestlers. These Games will forever be remembered by all Maltese as Peter Bonello, our sailor, managed to finish 9th place out of 39 competitors to register the best ever result by any Maltese, so far, at the Olympic Games. In the 1996 Centenary Games in Atlanta, Malta again obtained one of its best results when Frans Pace, our shooter hit 119/125 (95.2%) in the trap to finish 20th out of a total of 52 shooters. However, one must point out that Malta has taken part also in the Commonwealth games where Laurie Pace, our judoka, won a bronze medal in 1990. Manuel Abela, our shooter, landed a bronze medal in the 1993 Mediterranean Games when they were held in the South of France whilst Carol Galea went one better when she won a silver medal in the Marathon during the same games which were held in Bari, Italy, in 1997.

Undoubtedly, one of the Malta Olympic Committee's biggest milestones was its idea and the subsequent initiatives take for the setting up of the Games of the Small States of Europe. It was Malta who first suggested the establishment of such an organization during the European National Olympic Committees (AENOC) General Assembly in Athens in May 1981 and again mentioned during the International Olympic Congress held in Baden-Baden in Germany during the same year. Despite Malta's various attempts to bring delegates together to further expand and develop the project, it was not before the 1984 Los Angeles Olympiad that the representatives of the eight nations got down to real business. Encouraged by the personal intervention of H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, the first Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) were held in San Marino in 1985 and have been held every two years in different countries belonging to the Organisation ever since.



Undoubtedly Malta's best result so far has been obtained in 2001 when the Games were held in San Marino. The Maltese managed to grab a total of 7 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 16 bronze medals. When the Games were held in Malta in 1993, Malta also achieved a very good result. The great excitement and encouragement of the local supporters who thronged all venues, Malta won a total of 31 medals, 4 gold, 7 silver and 20 bronzes. On the other hand the Iceland Games in 1997 also proved to be successful for the Maltese athletes as they garnered 27 medals of which five were gold, ten silver and twelve bronzes. <http://nocmalta.org/about-us/history/>



## ***Gasamamo supports Food Bank Malta***



As part of their on-going effort to support great initiatives that have an instant impact on the community, GasanMamo Insurance organised an internal company food-drive, between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The food-drive was held at their office to support Food Bank Malta.

GasanMamo employees were asked to donate non-perishable goods, such as canned goods, legumes, pasta and rice, oil and household items. These items were collected over the five-day period

before the Easter long weekend. "This was an excellent occasion for GasanMamo to get involved in an endeavour that has an immediate beneficial effect on those barely managing to scrap by in our local community" said Julian J. Mamo, Managing Director at GasanMamo.

Founded and managed by the Alliance Foundation in 2014, Food Bank Malta's mission is simple: to act as the pantry to families within the community who struggle to put food on the table. For every eight people in Malta, there is one person who relies on Food Bank Malta, as their source of food every month. This poverty does not discriminate to any one particular locality, and is spread across the Island. Food Bank Malta's efforts over the years have seen it support those under financial strains, including the families of children or parents with disabilities, those incapacitated due to ill-health, separated women and the recently unemployed. GasanMamo collected over 15 boxes of goods through-out the drive. These were then collected by Food Bank Malta. [The](#)

## **Great Siege of Malta, Knights of Malta and Napoleon**

### ***The Knights of St. John and the Crusades***

In 1522, during the time of the Crusades, the Knights of St. John were driven out of Rhodes by the growing Ottoman Empire. Meanwhile, in 1530, Charles V of Spain, out of fear of a possible Ottoman invasion of Rome, granted Malta to the Knights of St John for protection.

The knights fortified and enhanced their new domain and made the Italian language an official one. Because of the ongoing Crusade, the Knights' main task was to provide medical assistance. They built numerous hospitals and their eight-pointed cross, is still used as a symbol by many first aid organizations today.

### ***The Great Siege of Malta***



On the 18th May 1565, The Great Siege of Malta took place when the Turkish Ottoman Empire, a great marine power in the Mediterranean at the time, invaded and tried to capture Malta. The Turks sent 81 ships to attack and over 30,000 soldiers sailed into the Bay of Marsaxlokk, making the siege of Malta the bloodiest and most violent battle in history. During the battle, the Turks lost their commander Dragut Rais along with 8,000 men – around a quarter of their total army in the siege. During the siege, the Turks captured four Knights whom they beheaded and nailed to a cross. As a response, Grandmaster la Vallette beheaded Turkish prisoners and fired their heads from cannons. The Maltese people fought together with the Knights and 8000 Sicilian soldiers, winning the battle against the Turks.

### *The construction of Valletta*

After the siege, fearing another attack, la Vallette decided to increase Malta's fortifications and to build a new city on the previously uninhabited peninsula. The construction of Valletta began on 28 March 1566, with Grandmaster Jean Parisot de la Vallette himself placing the foundation stone. High walls were built for maximum protection, the streets laid out in a grid pattern and a big ditch was dug across the whole of the peninsula. The new city was of course named Valletta in honour of Grand Master de la Vallette who died in 1568, and did not manage to see his city completed.

### *Fortification of the Maltese Islands*

After 1634, Grandmaster Antoine de Paule continued to build fortifications for Malta's protection designed by Pietro Paolo Floriani. Thanks to the Knights, many architectural and cultural projects saw their light; while many new cities such as Cittá Vittoriosa and Cittá Rohan were built. The Knights not only enhanced and developed Malta but also continued to care for the sick. In 1674, the Knights began their new hospital, the Sacra Infermeria in Valletta and in 1676 the School of Anatomy and Surgery was set up. Sadly, as time passed, the Knights of St John became drunk with power and lost their support with the Maltese public. Their reign finally came to an end when Napoleon Bonaparte captured Malta.



### *Napoleon rule and Maltese rebellion*

Napoleon captured Malta on 11th of June 1798, while he was sailing his way to Egypt during the French Revolutionary Wars. The Knights offered Napoleon a safe harbour but denied Napoleon fresh water. As the Knights had lost their former fighting spirit they quickly lost to the French and had to leave Malta.

Even though Napoleon only stayed 6 days, he plundered treasures from the Maltese churches and sailed off to Egypt. He left behind approximately 4,000 soldiers to guard Malta. Napoleon only ruled Malta for about 3 months as on 2 September 1798 the Maltese rebelled against the French at Mdina and the French withdrew to Valletta.

The French stayed in Valletta for the next two years, until General Claude-Henri Belgrand de Vaubois surrendered to British forces on 5 September 1800.

Malta was grateful for the British help and wanted to become a part of the British Empire. They presented the island to Sir Alexander Ball who also accepted the Maltese Declaration of Rights. This stated that Malta would come under the protection of the King and that the King has no rights to hand over the Islands to any other power.



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