



## THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

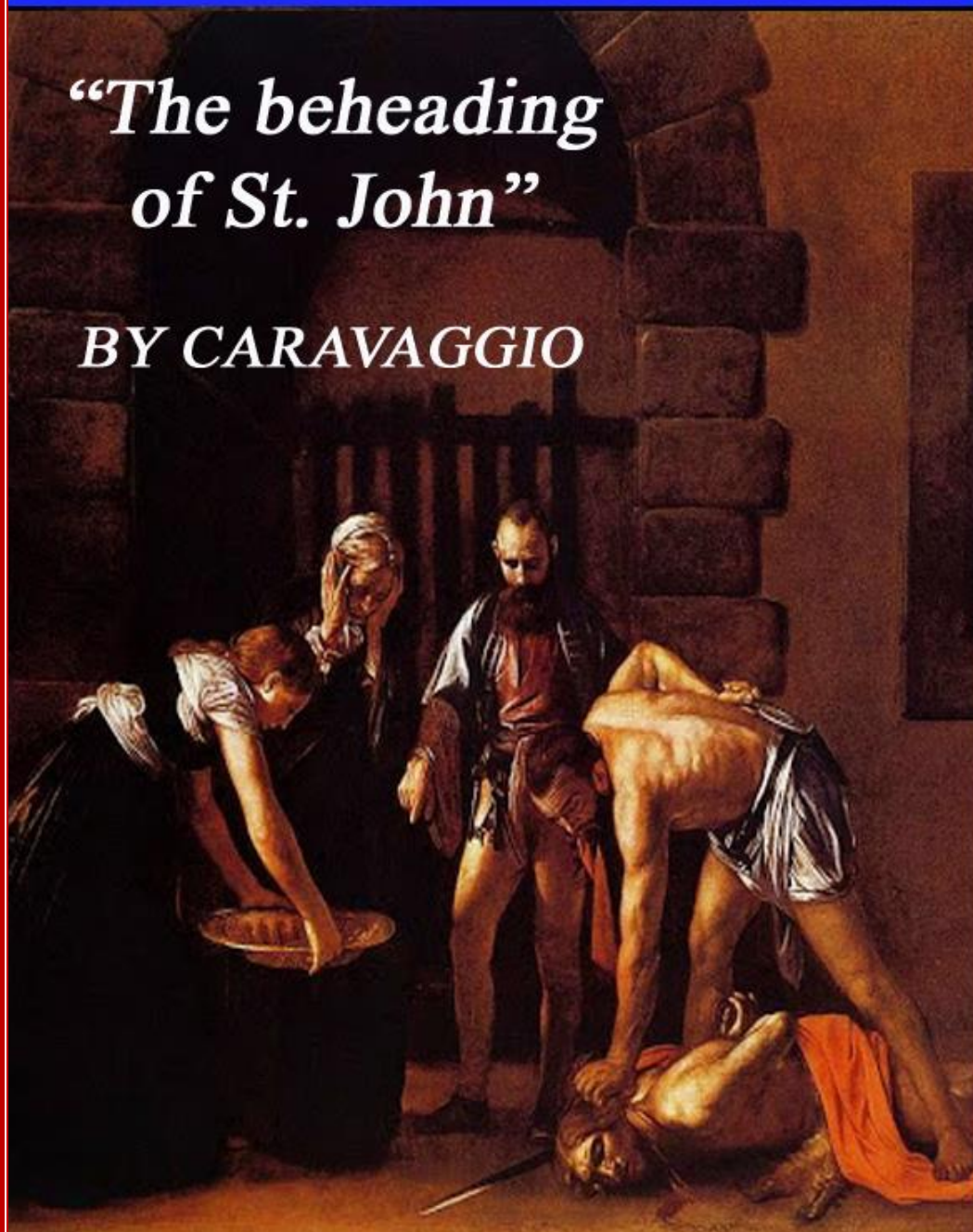
EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA

Contact: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)



# *“The beheading of St. John”*

**BY CARAVAGGIO**



## Caravaggio in Malta

Caravaggio (1571 – 1610) made Malta his refuge when he became a fugitive from Papal authority for committing a murder in Rome. Granted hospitality by the Knights of St John and later a pardon by the Pope, the famous and controversial painter produced a number of works for the Order and was eventually inducted into its ranks as a Knight of Grace. His sojourn was abruptly ended following his incarceration at Fort St Angelo after violent brawl. Caravaggio managed to escape to Sicily, but remained an itinerant fugitive until his death two years later.

**Michelangelo Merisi  
better known as Caravaggio**

# Caravaggio's contribution to the Maltese Islands



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio is one of the world's most famous painters. Born in Rome in 1571, he was a key influencer in the Baroque artistic movement. If you're coming on your holidays to Malta this summer, you really should take the opportunity to discover his incredible contributions to the Maltese islands.

He rapidly established himself as one of the most prominent painters of his generation and benefitted from many high-ranking connections, including The Order of The Knights- the pinnacle of European Nobility. It was through his connection with the Knights that he was first given the opportunity to travel to Malta, but not before he was made a Knight by the Grand Master of the Order himself. Unfortunately, he had got himself into trouble in Rome a few years previously where, after brawling, he was sentenced to jail time for murder. He hoped that his knighthood would protect him from the reach of Rome but he got himself into another fight, this time with an aristocrat, and found himself imprisoned in Fort St Angelo.

He eventually managed to escape, and around the time that he was cancelled from the rolls of the Order (in 1608) he made a bid for freedom and escaped to Syracuse in Sicily. By 1609, he had returned to Naples but found himself yet again, in a tight spot due to his involvement in another violent brawl. He suffered extreme facial disfigurement and rumours began to circulate that he had died. Eventually, after years in hiding, he managed to negotiate a pardon in return for the exchange of his art works with Pope Paul V's nephew.

Not much is known about his eventual demise but some believe that he was assassinated by emissaries of the Knights of Malta. Despite his popularity and notoriety, he was forgotten as soon as he died and it was only during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that his work became popular and recognised as masterpieces. He is credited with being a direct influence on Reubens, de Ribera, Bernini, and Rembrandt, and his work coined the phrase "Caravaggisti" and "Caravagesques" which referred to works and artists that were influenced by his own.



Some of his most notable works that were completed in Malta include "Beheading of Saint John the Baptist", and a "Portrait of Alof de Wignacourt and his Page", as well as other portraits of notable Knights of the era.

You can take in the majesty of his work at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, which displays two of his most notable paintings, "Beheading of a Saint" and "John the Baptist."

His influence on Malta can still be seen today- from Maltese artists influenced by his style, to a local wine that bears his name, the impact that his story and his work has had on this island is clear to see. A trip to Malta would not be complete without a visit to the Cathedral to take in these two magnificent pieces of art.

**LANGUAGES OF MALTA.** Malta has two official languages: Maltese and **English**. Maltese is also the national language. ... According to the Eurobarometer poll conducted in 2015, 98% of Maltese people can **speak** Maltese, 88% can **speak English**, 66% can **speak** Italian, and more than 17% **speak** French.





# Maltese-Canadian Museum Archive and Visitors Centre



St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex, 3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto.



We as a vibrant Maltese-Canadian community, Are happy and proud to present to all of you, especially those of Maltese decent, all that can identify us as a people, a country, and a nation.

On January 29th, 2017 we inaugurated the opening of our Parish Museum/Archives and we are determined to see this important place is used by the general public. This depository of archival material can be used by anyone wishing to do research on the community and on Malta.

We plan on giving tours to schools and interested groups, conducting Maltese & English movie nights, and presentations on various subjects. Research material on the community and Matla is available as well.



Historic collection includes coins, model ships/churches, fossils, photographs, books and other Maltese artifacts.



Heritage Toronto plaque honoring the Maltese in Malta Park, Toronto.



**Admission is FREE**

At present, the Museum hours are 10am-12pm, Thursday and Friday. Please contact us about private tours at 416-767-7054 / [stpaulmssp@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@rogers.com)  
Find us online at [www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com) or

/stpaulapostlechurch

For further information please ask for Richard Cumbo, Museum Curator.  
We are also accepting donations of archival material and any financial assistance to help with the maintenance of the museum.

Flyer by Trevor Parkins-Sciberras

**Hello Mr. Scicluna, thanks a lot for the Maltese e-newsletter that you have sent us for our archives of the Parish Museum that we have in Toronto. This is our brochure of the Parish Museum that we have been working on for over two years now so to be opened to the public. May God bless you always. Fr. Emanuel Parnis MSSP**



## Ohio's final survivor returned to Grand Harbour by Sarah Carabott

[timesofmalta.com](http://timesofmalta.com)



### Ash scattering ceremony for war hero Allan Shaw

Twins Peter and Patricia knew their father was in Malta during the war on a tanker but they did not know the significance of the convoy until Allan Shaw returned to the island in 2002. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

A part of World War II hero Allan Shaw will remain in Malta forever, as his children Peter and Patricia plan to scatter some of his ashes in Grand Harbour at a private ceremony.

The last survivor of the crew aboard the battered tanker SS Ohio, which made it to Malta as part of the Santa Marija convoy in 1942, passed away in 2015, aged 91. Mr Shaw, who first returned to the island six decades after the convoy became Malta's saviour, said in his will that he wanted to be brought over following his death.

His twin children, Peter and Patricia, in Malta to make his wish come true, were among the 11 relatives of war veterans who participated in the annual Santa Marija Convoy Commemoration on Friday, organised by the Apostleship of the Sea. Mr Shaw visited Malta nearly every year between 2002 and 2012 to commemorate Operation Pedestal after he was tracked down by World War II researcher and writer Simon Cusens.

He never thought of himself as a hero... he was just doing his job.



*Peter Shaw holding a picture of his father, Alan. Photo Matthew Mirabelli*

Mr Shaw, from Blyth, had first flown over to commemorate the 60th anniversary with more than 100 others who survived the attacks on the convoy.

"That's when we rediscovered the big story behind the convoy. He had kept it to himself all the time. We knew he'd been here during the war and on a tanker, but we didn't know its significance," Peter, 63, told the *Times of Malta*. His son recalled how that first visit "kind of gave him a new life".

"He was never happier than when he was talking to people here. He always called Malta 'the warm place'. And I think he found some inner peace by recounting the ordeal to those people he met here."

Allan Shaw, who had a second son, Michael, also recounted his experiences for the audio archives of the Imperial War Museum.

His son Peter recalls: "When the Ohio came into Grand Harbour in 1942, he couldn't believe the number of people standing there, waving, cheering and singing.

"And I think he had a similar feeling when he came back in 2002. "He never thought of himself as a hero. He was just doing his job. "Obviously, he then learnt that people thought differently of his role, and he was immensely proud of that." The twin siblings continue to remember their father as someone



*Some years ago, Allan Shaw retraced the trail of the Ohio in the Grand Harbour*

"who was always up to mischief". "He was always running away... and then we'd find him on a bench in Hastings Gardens. He had a good sense of humour... he'd place boiled eggs in the hood of our coats or in our pockets, and then we'd find them days later. He could be serious, but he was very funny," Patricia added.

Some years ago, Allan Shaw retraced the trail of the Ohio in the Grand Harbour.

For the Maltese, Mr Shaw will always be remembered as a friend.

"He gained so many friends here, and I think he would like to be remembered as a friend. Through his honorary citizenship of Valletta, he felt part of the island.

"He's likely to be remembered not as a stranger from the UK, but as part of the island... which in reality, he will now be. "He always

wanted to come back, but as he got more ill, he couldn't make it. "Now, in a way, part of him has returned," Peter said.

## Ghostly Tales of Malta Adam Claffey

Those who believe in ghosts, strange tales and super natural phenomena will find Malta has numerous haunted locations and ghostly stories to tell. According to Joseph Attard, author of, "The Ghosts in Malta" unexplained events and apparitions are rooted in Malta's historical past.

Known haunted locations in Malta include Manoel Island, Fort St Angelo, The Grand Masters' Palace in Valletta, St John's Co-Cathedral and Verdala Palace, not to mention various houses in different localities.



### The Black Knight

A Black Knight appeared during the years immediately after World War I, and was seen by both Maltese and Englishmen as they worked on the restoration of the island. Dressed in full armour and regalia of the order of St John, the Black Knight would supervise the men's work. The more work that took place, the more frequent his apparition. Some of the workmen speculated that the Black Knight was the Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena himself due to similarities to what they had seen in the portrait that still hangs to this day in the President's Palace in Valletta.

Soon after these sightings a crypt beneath the chapel was opened by Archbishop Captain Brockman who discovered that it had been destroyed by vandals. When the crypt was restored, the knight stopped appearing. However the Black Knight was seen again in 1980. When investigations took place they discovered that the crypt had been vandalised again.

### The Blue Lady

A young woman and the niece of Grand Master De Rohan. A suitor had been chosen for her who was not to her liking. Tired of being rejected by the lady in question the chosen suitor imprisoned her within her room in the Verdala Palace. After some time she tried to escape through a window, only to fall to her death. Soon after she was then seen roaming the building wearing a blue dress, the same dress she had worn when she died. Housing guests would see the Blue Lady's reflection when looking in a mirror and a majority of the staff working within the building had experienced at least one vision or encounter. It is said many people who attend the August moon ball at the Verdala Palace annually confirm that she does indeed appear in the palace.

### The Headless Bride

There is a tale of a girl known as Katerina who lived in Mdina. She killed a Knight who tried to attack her. She was sentenced to death for her crime and was beheaded but was granted one wish before her punishment and was allowed to marry. Many people have reported that after taking photos in Mdina that they have also captured an intruder they were not expecting to see. A figure of a headless girl, wearing a bridal gown.

I have enjoyed researching into the various myths, legends, tales and ghostly stories over the last few weeks. Thoughts of Malta potentially being the Lost City of Atlantis, Giant humanoids living deep underground in the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum or Black Knights and Blue Ladies have captured my imagination and I hope has done the same for you. I, of course, remain interested in hearing any stories, tales or legends that you may know and encourage you to comment below.



**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**  
**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

---

The Newsletter is archived at:  
Malta Migration Museum, Valletta  
Malta-Canadian Museum, Toronto Canada  
Website: [www.ozmalta.page4.me/](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me/)  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3](https://www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3)

**Thank you!**

We appreciate you emails  
comments, suggestions and contributions





## The Jewish double-spy who 'saved' Malta from the Nazis and Fascists in World War II

One of the most important British double-agents during World War II was an Italian Jew who was born in Genoa in 1902 and who 'saved' Malta from the Nazis and the Fascists and who 'helped' Montgomery win at El-Alamein.

His story, pieced together from the British archives, is now being told for the first time by one of the major historians of the British secret services.

The author is Rupert Allason, a former Conservative MP, who writes under the pseudonym Nigel West. His book, *Double Cross in Cairo*, was published by publishing house *Biteback* in London on 11 January.

This double agent was Renato Levi, son of an English father and an Italian actress, Dolores Dominici, who was the owner of Hotel Select in Genoa and of Hotel Miramare at Rapallo.

Levi, educated in Switzerland, had a British passport, thanks to his father, and was known as a ladies' man and a bon vivant.

When World War II began, he was recruited by the Germans as a spy but he soon presented himself to the British Consulate in Genoa and revealed everything. In this manner, he became a double-agent, that is, he pretended to spy for the Germans but in reality he was spying for the British. The Germans gave him the code-name Roberto while the British called him 'Cheese', with which rats are caught.

The Germans sent him first to Paris, where he stayed until the fall of the French army in May 1940, and when he returned back to Italy, he worked on behalf of the Italian secret service.

In February 1941 the Germans sent him from Italy to Cairo, where he again contacted the British, who got the idea to use him to create a fictitious network of spies to trick the Germans and the Italians.

An inexistent radio operator called Paul Nicosoff was created, together with his girlfriend from Crete, also inexistent, who was given the name 'Blonde Girl Moll'. It is clear that to British ears, Nicosoff sounds very much like 'knickers off'.

The British secret service officer who ran Levi and who invented this whole network of inexistent spies was called Evan Simpson. Before the war, he had been a journalist on the staff of *The Spectator*. He was also the author of some novels. In a report to his superiors, Simpson had written as regards Levi: "He is an inveterate liar, able to invent a lie at any time just to get out of a sticky situation. He loves adventure and he adores women. This job enables him to travel and to have in his pockets an enormous sum of money which otherwise he would not have."

In Spring 1941, the British sent Levi back from Cairo to Italy, where he was arrested not for his espionage, nor because he was a Jew, but because of his contraband activity. He was jailed in the Tremiti Islands, then in San Severo in Puglia, where he stayed until the downfall of Mussolini, in July 1943. But the imaginary network of spies he had created lived on and neither the Italians nor the Germans ever suspected anything.

Thus, the 'Cheese' network sent to its German counterpart, the *Abwehr*, almost 500 coded messages, an absolute record for a British double-agent. According to the Germans, the 'Cheese' network was their principal source of news for the entire Middle East.

The main activity of the 'Cheese' network was to spread misinformation. In particular, it exaggerated the number of British forces in North Africa. Thanks to the 'Cheese' network, in July 1942 the Axis believed there were 14 (inexistent) British divisions. The Axis believed these reports and thus Rommel postponed his offensive against the British in North Africa until the end of August 1942, by which time Montgomery had accumulated enough forces to beat Rommel.

The inexistent 'Cheese' network at the beginning of August 1942 led the Axis to believe that a British attack on the island of Crete was imminent. The Italians transferred a large part of their navy from around Malta to Crete and this enabled the Allies to put together a huge convoy, codenamed Pedestal, including no less than four aircraft carriers, to bring to Malta badly-needed supplies of fuel, weapons and food.



The trick succeeded, and thus Malta, and the free world, was saved even though at the very high cost of some 20 ships destroyed and 400 persons dead.

However, who controlled Malta, controlled all of North Africa and even Europe. Mussolini realized this immediately, while Hitler was obsessed with Soviet Russia and did not notice anything. The fact that Malta was not conquered by the Axis remained a fatal mistake on the part of the Axis.

With fuel getting scarce and with the Sicily Channel controlled by Malta, Rommel headed towards defeat. When at last he attacked the British, at the end of August 1942, the British had meanwhile got reinforcements.

Renato Levi later married an Australian woman and managed his family business, a boating company, in Bombay, India. He died in 1954, aged 52, but his key contribution during World War II remained unknown. Evan Simpson, the journalist and novelist who ran the 'Cheese' network while Levi was in jail, committed suicide in 1953.



## Conscription 1916: Who were the Maltese 'children of Billy Hughes'?

by Dr Barry York

The Maltese 'children of Billy Hughes' were a group of 214 Maltese migrants who arrived during Australia's conscription plebiscite campaign a century ago and were deemed to be prohibited immigrants under section 3(a) of the *Immigration (Restriction) Act* after failing a dictation test in the Dutch language. They are remembered in Maltese communities as *it-tfal ta' Billy Hughes*, 'Billy Hughes' children'.

To the opponents of William Morris Hughes, like Eddie Ward MP, Hughes thereafter became William 'Maltese' Hughes.

The 214 Maltese male labourers travelled on the French ship, 'Gange', and, unfortunately for them, the ship was due to arrive in Melbourne around 28th October 1916, the day of the plebiscite. Being Maltese, they were British subjects by birth and most had served at Lemnos, Mudros and Gallipoli.

During the First World War, Malta was 'the nurse of the Mediterranean'. With its hospitals full, Maltese authorities converted many public buildings on the tiny island into hospitals. About 80,000 wounded were cared for by the Maltese, many of them Anzacs, and there was favourable feeling toward them on the part of returned servicemen. It should be noted that Malta's population at that time was 212,000. (Malta is small. It can fit 300 times into Tasmania).

The gratitude of soldiers who recuperated at Malta was summed up by this telegram: 'Wounded in foot, am in heaven in Malta'. But back then, as sometimes still happens today, the exclusion of people who would make fine settlers was accompanied by exaggerated and hysterical claims.

During the plebiscite campaign, the anti-conscription Labor parliamentarians and trade union leaders argued that the capitalists planned to replace Australian workers conscripted for overseas with cheap imported labour. The Maltese were called 'coloured job jumpers'.

The fact that the Maltese in Australia numbered less than a thousand at that time did not deter talk of a Maltese invasion. The Australian Workers' Union declared that the Maltese were a 'black menace' and a meeting at Inverell was panicked by the rumour that four thousand had just landed and were sneaking in via Coffs Harbour.

Many years later in his memoir, *I Remember* (1956), anti-conscriptionist Jack Lang stated that the arrival of the 'Gange' was just the evidence the 'No' case needed. Prime Minister Hughes, an ardent advocate for a 'yes' vote, did not want the 'Gange' to disembark its passengers and relied on the 'dictation test' provision of the *Immigration (Restriction) Act* to keep them out. Section 3(a) meant that immigration

officers could declare any new arrival a prohibited immigrant if they failed a dictation test of 50 words in any European language.



Originally meant to exclude Chinese and other 'coloured' people, Section 3(a) had occasional political application, such as the (in)famous case of Czech communist Egon Kisch in 1934 who was tested in Scottish Gaelic.

The Maltese were tested in the Dutch language, by a professor from Melbourne University. A Maltese priest, Father William Bonnet, was allowed onto the vessel when it reached Sydney and spoke with the prohibited men. Outraged by the injustice and the sheer dishonesty, he wrote to Governor-General Munro-Fergusson, about what had happened.

In researching my book, *Empire and Race: the Maltese in Australia 1881 to 1949*, I came across a document from the Colonial Office in London on which an officer had scrawled the words: 'An act of treachery, worthy of the Germans!'

As the 'Gange' was a French ship, the excluded men ended up at its destination, Noumea. They languished there for more than three months, with their families back in Malta in acute poverty. However, public pressure from ex-servicemen and pro-Empire groups like the Millions Club secured their return to Sydney toward the end of February 1917.

But the ordeal was not over for Hughes 'children'. On return to Sydney, they were detained on an old hulk, the 'Anglian', in Berry's Bay, for a fortnight before being released gradually in groups. All were freed by 12 March 1917.

Maltes migrants have a reputation as hard workers and Billy Hughes' 'children' went on to help construct the Burrinjuck dam and the rail extensions in northern New South Wales. Another lot were recruited to the Mt Lyell mines in Tasmania. As in the 1950s, Southern Europeans did much of the 'dirty work', the harsh manual jobs. In 1989, I recorded an oral history interview with Emmanuel Attard from Adelaide, one of the last surviving passengers. In the following excerpt from the interview, he describes the voyage and a burial at sea.

## **APPREZZAMENT**

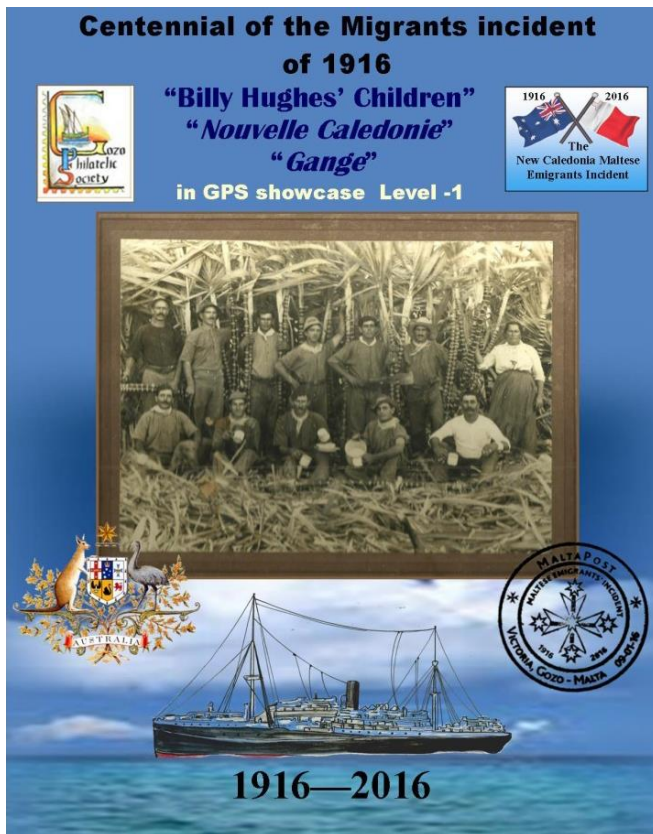


Ghaziz Frank, Nixtieq nerringrazzjak talli regularment tibghatli THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER tieghek. Hija verament informativa, mhux biss ghalina l-Maltin hawn fl-Awstralja imma wkoll ghal dawk kollha f'kull xaqliba tal-globu. Hafna wkoll huma dawk li m'humiex Maltin imma li jinterreshom minn Malta u Ghawdex u jiehdu gost biha. Naf nies li m'ghandhomx internet, imma uliedhom jistampawhielhom u jaghtuhielhom halli jaqrawha. Qed verament isservi ta' katina u ta' ghaqda bejnietna

Nammira l-isforz kbir li qed taghmel biex twassliina dan it-taghrif kollu dwar l-gheruqtaghna u l-usanzi li wrietna minghand l-antinati taghna, li hafna drabi ma konniex nafu bih jew insejnihom. F'isemm il-Kommunità Maltija tas-South Australia nawguralek kull sukses halli tkompli b'din il-hidma ta' tant siewi u taghrif. Il-Bambin ibierkek u iseddqek f'kull hidma utieqa b'risq il-Kommunità Maltija. **Fr. Gabriel S. Micallef ofm – Kappillan tal-Maltin fl-Arcidjocesi t'Adelaide, Awstralja. Awwissu 2017**







Nhar il-Hadd, 10 ta' Settembru 2017, PATRI GABRIEL ser jqaddes il-Quddiesa tat-Tieni Hadd tax-xahar. Din il-Quddiesa tfakkar il-COMMEMORATION DAY li fiha niftakru f'dawk li xerrdu demmhom biex illum qeghdin ngawdu il-pa'i, s-sliem u r-rizq ta' zmenijietna. Il-Quddiesa tibda fit-3.00 p.m. fil-Knisja ta' Kristu Re, f'Lockleys. Wara fis-sala jkollna xi refreshments u l-Father ser isemmalna **IL-BALLATA TAL-MALTIN TA' NEW CALEDONIA**, li f'din is-sena f'din is-sena jaghlqu mitt sena li minn wara sitt xhur tbatija u taqtiq il-qalb, fl-ahhar l-barkaw fil-port ta' Sydney. Hija storja li taqsamlek qalbek. Ejjew u gibu l-hbieb maghkom halli tisimghu din il-grajja ta hutna l-Maltin li ghaddew minn tant ghejtijiet biex flahhar irnexxielhom jakkwistaw dak li tant kienu xtaqu. li minn wara sitt xhur tbatija u taghtih il-qalb, fl-ahhar Ara pagna 7

## IL-FESTA TAL-VITORJA FIS-SOUTH AUSTRALIA

IL-MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP jixtieq javza li l-Festa tal-Vitorja ser tinzamm, bhal fis-snin l-imghoddija, gewwa Lockleys.

Il-Programm huwa dan:

**Il-Gimgha, 29 ta' Settembru** - Fis-7.00 tibda l-Purcissjoni bl-istatwa artistika ta' Marija Bambina mill-Gnien tas-Sorijiet Frangiskani. Takkumpanja l-MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND. Kif naslu fil-Knisja jsir t-TRIBUT LILL-MADONNA mill-Ghaqdiet kollha Maltin u wara tinghata l-Barka Sagramentali. Refreshments fis-Sala. Dawk kollha prezenti huma mistiedna.

**Is-Sibt, 30 ta' Settembru** - SOCIAL EVENING fis-Sala tal-Parrocca ta' Kristu Re, f'Lockleys. Ikla ta' 4 Korsi u Xorb mill-Bar. Iferrahna bil-kant tieghu DJ ERIC. Il-Prezz huwa biss ta' \$40. Ejjew u gibu l-hbieb maghkom. Ahsbu minn kmieni ghax il-postijiet huma limitati.



Fr Charles Sultana

**Il-Hadd, 1 t'Ottubru** - Fil-11.00 a.m. Quddiesa Solenni Kantata kkoncelebrata. Imexxi l-Kappillan tal-Parrocca ta' P. Gabriel Micallef u l-Kappillan tal-Parrocca San Lawrenz, Ghawdex – Fr Charles M. Sultana. Jiehu sehem ic-CHAPLAINCY CHOIR. Tinghata l-Barka Sagramentali. Wara jkollna l-purcissjoni fuq l-art tal-Knisja, akkumpanjata mill-MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND. Wara jkun hemm serata ta' divertiment fis-Sala Parrokkjali.

**It-Tnejn, 2 t'Ottubru** - Kulhadd huwa mistieden biex jigi jaghtina daqqa t'id biex nigbru l-armar u nnadfu. Wara jkollna quddiesa ta' Ringrazzjament minn Fr Gabriel u nispiccaw bil-B.B.Q.



## HAUNTED

It was during the time of the British rule in Malta when two drunken sailors were walking along the streets of Valetta, when upon reaching City Gate, they were accosted by a beautiful woman wearing the traditional Maltese costume, the *għonnella*. She asked them if they could accompany her home. Even though they didn't feel like walking much, they assented partly because they felt fascinated by the beautiful lady. They followed her and when they reached the house in St Ursola Street, she asked them if they could help her inside as she had left the key inside.

The soldiers were bewildered by such a request but nonetheless decided to help out the mysterious lady. After some time one of the naval men managed to clamber inside where he found the key. According to Mr Attard, this should have set him thinking as at the time there were no Yale keys which could lock a house from the inside. When he managed to open the door for the lady and his friend, the lady took off her *għonnella* to reveal beautiful black locks. When she started to light the house, the splendour and richness of the house left them gaping. Now that they were in the company of a beautiful lady and in a magnificent setting, they felt more relaxed. However, as time drew nigh, they felt more weary and left the house. One of the sailors realised he had left a very expensive silver cigarette case inside the house and they decided they would call again on the morrow to get it. The next day they were shocked to find the same house in a very dilapidated state. They were told by one of the neighbours that the house was said to be haunted and that sometimes they could see the house lit from outside.

A similar event occurred concerning two ladies and a British gentleman. This story was published in Blackwood Magazine by a certain Lord Lorne who recounted how a friend of his met two ladies walking at an unholy hour at night and asked him to accompany them to their house. He found it most strange but curiosity overtook him. Again the house was magnificent and the garden was full of ripe orange trees. However, over the arch he noticed an inscription saying *Omni Somnia* meaning "Everything is a dream". The following day, when he asked about the house, he was told that it had been uninhabited for about 100 years and it was said to be haunted by two sisters.



## Maltese Festa stamp issue: 10 statues of the Assumption of Our Lady

A series of stamps depicting processional statues of the various churches in Gozo and Malta, is being issued by MaltaPost.

There are ten stamps in the first issue, depict the ten statues of the Assumption of Our Lady found in churches in Gozo and Malta, with the feast being celebrated on Tuesday.

The Assumption stamps are the first in a series that

will form a collection featuring processional statues from various churches around the islands. It includes 10 stamps, 10 illustrated cards and 10 envelopes. Clients who order this collection before the 30th September 2017 will be given a binder free of charge, MaltaPost said. The stamps within the first issue of the 'Maltese Festa series' bear a face value of €0.26 each. They were produced at Printex Ltd by the offset process and the issue consists of 1,540,000 stamps. The issue will be sold in sheets of 10 stamps and each stamp measures 31mm by 44mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) bearing the Maltese cross watermark. Each sheet measures 182mm by 115mm.

The stamps are available as from Monday, the 14th of August, from all Post Offices in Gozo and Malta. Orders may be placed online at [maltaphilately.com](http://maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)



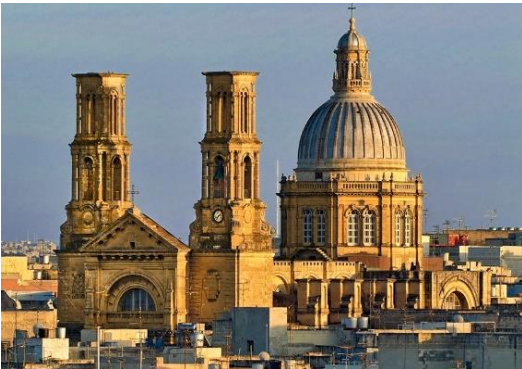
## HAMRUN - Malta

*Hamrun is a busy local commercial town. Its main street is dotted with busy shops that are popular with locals looking for a bargain on higher prices found in Valletta and Sliema. No major tourist attractions but to join in the everyday activity plan a visit during the traditional village feast*



home to approximately 9,000 people.

Visit the Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church to discover Hamrun's blessed treasure. In its crypt is buried San Gorg Preca (1880-1962), founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine which was established at the same Church. Dun Gorg, as he is locally known, lived most of his life in Hamrun. His life and works as well as the miracles and graces granted to those faithful to him have led to his beatification in 2001 and recognition as a Saint to all effects in 2007.



early 17th century. The Church of St. Francis of Assisi Church was built in the 1950s.

Mingling with the "Hamrunizi" you will soon notice that the most prominent name for boys is Gaetan or Gejtu (Gey-tu) due to their strong allegiance to the Patron of the first Hamrun Parish, St Gaetan, which was built in Neo-Gothic style in 1875. However it was the Baroque style Chapel of Porto Salvo, locally known as Ta'Santu Nuzzo, which was originally conceived as a village chapel when it was built in 1736. In the 1960s, the Immaculate Conception Parish Church was built to cater for the increasing population of Hamrun. You can also visit the Our Lady of Atocja Chapel, known locally as Tas-Samra, which is the oldest chapel in Hamrun, dating to the



Hamrun is quite unique in that it has three Patron Saints: San Gejtanu (St Gaetan), il-Kuncizzjoni (the Immaculate Conception) and San Guzepp (St Joseph). There are three respective band clubs and two Titular feast days celebrated in this town. St Gaetan's festa, celebrated on the first Sunday after 7th August, displays Maltese festa culture at its most exciting due to the rivalry between the band clubs of St Gaetan and St Joseph, whose marches are decked out in red and blue respectively. If you are in Malta at this time of year, join the locals, visitors and tourists and experience for yourself the fanfare that cannot be adequately described in words! The Immaculate Conception feast, which is celebrated on the first

Sunday of July and on the 8th December, is also worth attending however it is much more subdued.

## Saudi Hawks to grace this year's Malta airshow



Its colours are inspired the Saudi flag. They fly BAE Hawk Mk65, which is purposely modified and equipped with smoke generators.

The Malta International Airshow will this year include the participation of the Saudi Hawks - of the Royal Saudi Air Force - for the first time.

Their participation was announced by the Malta Aviation Society today.

This year's airshow, the 25th edition, is being held on September 23 and 24.

The Saudi Hawks Aerobatic Display Team would be exhibiting their abilities in an air display and the public would be given the opportunity to meet the pilots. The team was set up in 1998 and is based at King Faisal Air Base in Tabuk.



## Dame Frances Grima

**Dame Frances Grima was blessed with a long life which she dedicated primarily to improve the life conditions of her compatriots**

She possessed the strongest of wills and never gave up. But the end also came for Frances Grima at the age of 120.

She married Carmelo, general secretary of the Sectional Committee of the Labour Party in Zejtun, at

a young age and stood by his side through thick and thin, raising a family of four. She showed her mettle during the religious political confrontation of the early thirties. Members of the local club were refused absolution on going to confession. They resigned in droves and did not even dare to step inside their club.

Dame Frances came up with a solution. Her family home opened up as an office where her husband Carmelo could listen to the many grievances of the Zejtun community in those days in need of much assistance. Dame Frances became the standard bearer of the female community in whom she instilled the basic sights of social justice.

In the meantime the local club had been denuded of its members and in September 1933 registered as a band club with Dr Paul Boffa as its honorary president, with Dame Frances as its adopted maternal patron, a role she cherished and happily acknowledged. Her social, educational and cultural beliefs were grounded in the political message of Sir Paul Boffa, whom she considered her intellectual tutor till the end.

In the fifties Dame Frances started courses for females in Zejtun in First Aid and basic health hygiene, since she was a registered qualified member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade. Her work in favour of those most in need never ended. In 1994 Frances was created Dame of St John's Ambulance Brigade and awarded Gieh Iz-Zejtun in 1998. She was blessed with a long life which she dedicated primarily to improve the life conditions of her compatriots. Her right to rest in peace has been earned 10 times over. Maltatoday.com.mt - Joe Agius, Banda Zejtun Secretary





## Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2017



**Thursday 24 | Friday 25 | Saturday 26 August 2017 | Fort  
St Elmo, Valletta. 8.00pm**



The XIIth edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival organized by Inizjamed will be held on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th August 2017, at Fort St Elmo, in Valletta, at 8.00pm. The pre-Festival events start on Sunday 20 August. Entrance to all events is free.

Twelve writers from nine countries are reading at the festival, which also features Maltese and foreign poetry films, Maltese jazz bands, a book stall, a book binding stand by Kotba Calleja, drinks and a

selection of food provided by Migrant Women Association Malta.

The authors participating in this XIIth edition are Asja Bakić (Bosnia Herzegovina), Mourid Barghouti (Palestine), Lilia Ben Romdhane (Tunisia), Jean Portante (Luxembourg), Zoë Skoulding (Wales), Ma Thida (Myanmar), Arvis Viguls (Latvia), Gjoko Zdraveski (Republic of Macedonia), and John Aquilina, Mark Camilleri, Immanuel Mifsud, and Alfred Sant from Malta. Readings will be mostly in Maltese and English, but some short works will also be read in their original language.

This year's festival is part of a three-year Cultural Partnership Agreement between Inizjamed and Arts Council Malta. This is an important agreement because it offers concrete support in terms of training and financial resources to three editions of this independent festival and allows Inizjamed to plan ahead with peace of mind. The Festival is also part of the Literary Europe Live platform funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and managed by Literature Across Frontiers.

On Friday 25th August, the writers invited to read are Maltese crime novelist Mark Camilleri; the French-language poet and novelist from Luxembourg Jean Portante; the Bosnian poet and short story writer Asja Bakić; and the celebrated Palestinian writer Mourid Barghouti, author of poetry and prose, including the memoir *I Saw Ramallah*, who will be interviewed by Norbert Bugeja.

This second night features the premiere of the poetry film of Victor Fenech's work "Fuq Għoljiet Dingli" by artist and academic Trevor Borg, which will also be introduced by Kenneth Scicluna. Live music on Friday will be provided by the duo made up of John Bartolo on drums and Jimmy Bartolo, who plays on Brikkuni's latest album, on guitar.

During the readings on Friday (8.00pm – 11.00pm), children are being invited to attend an open workshop in Maltese and English on story writing and building papier-mâché models for festivals and other outdoor activities. This parallel event, which is part of the Oħloq Kultura programme, is being organized by More or Less Theatre in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation. Parents who would like to enrol their children for this workshop are to write to [info@moreorlesstheatre.com](mailto:info@moreorlesstheatre.com), indicating what time they will be attending.

The writers reading on Saturday 27th August are Welsh poet Zoë Skoulding; renowned Maltese poet and novelist Immanuel Mifsud; Latvian poet Arvis Viguls; and Burmese prose writer and political activist Ma Thida, who will be interviewed by writer Clare Azzopardi. Her most recent book, the prison memoir *Sanchaung, Insein, Harvard* was published in English worldwide with the title, *Prisoner of Conscience: My Steps through Insein* in 2016 (Silkworm, Thailand). This third and final evening also features the screening of "Off the Trail" (2015) by Jacob Cartwright and Nick Jordan, winner of the 2016 ZEBRA Prize for the Best Poetry Film, donated by the Haus für Poesie. The film is based on the poem "Endless streams and mountains" by Gary Snyder and will be introduced by Noel Tanti. Live music will be provided by John Bartolo on drums and Jimmy Bartolo on guitar.

**Pre-Festival Events** The writers will be in Malta throughout the week of the festival to take part in the Malta LAF Literary Translation Workshop led by Keith Borg and Nadia Mifsud. They will be translating each other's works, and reading some of these translations during the festival.

The pre-Festival events featuring the invited authors and festival organizers from the Literary Europe Live platform are being held on Sunday 20th August, Tuesday 22th, and Wednesday 23th, all starting at 8.00pm. There are also two events at Fort St Elmo that start at 7.00pm on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th. On Saturday 26 at 7.00pm, again at Fort St Elmo, the Festival is hosting a session called "Speed Dating: Face to face with Literatures in Europe", in which representatives from European literary organizations and institutions have 5 minutes to share information about opportunities in the field of literature and publishing with those who visit their stand. After the bell rings, the audience has to move to a different stand. The representatives from Literary Europe Live taking part in this session are Alexandra Büchler and Sian Williams from Literature Across Frontiers and Literary Europe Live; Mika Buljević from Kulturtreger|Booksa, Zagreb; Jutta Pīrāga from the International Writers and Translators House, Latvia; and Judit Böröcz from the Petöfi Literary Museum, Budapest.

In the weeks leading up to the Festival, other literary events involving the invited Maltese writers are being held, including an Open Mic session in Qala Gozo, in the San Vincenz de Paul Residence and in a summer school.

The 2017 edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival and the Malta LAF translation workshop are being held in partnership with Arts Council Malta and Literature Across Frontiers, and with the support of Valletta 2018 Foundation, Heritage Malta, Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, the volunteers of Tal-Kultura, and Studio Solipsis. The MMLF is the recipient of the EFFE, Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe label.

The new Festival logo and other promotional material were designed by artist Pierre Portelli.

More information is available on Facebook on pages of Inizjamed Malta and the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2017 and at [inizjamedmalta.wordpress.com](http://inizjamedmalta.wordpress.com).



**Il-voluntiera u l-awturi fl-edizzjoni tal-2015**

It-tim li jorganizza l-Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta huwa magħmul minn: Beverly Agius, Kit Azzopardi, Dorianne Bonello, Keith Borg, Jean Paul Borg, Norbert Bugeja, Elena Cardona, Antoine Cassar, Priscilla Cassar, Leanne Ellul, Claudia Gauci, Elizabeth Grech, Adrian Grima (koordinatur), John Paul Mifsud, Nadia Mifsud, Justine Somerville, u Gianluca Spiteri, bl-għajna ta' Alexandra Büchler, Immanuel Mifsud, Walid Nabhan, u Pierre Portelli.



## MALTA AND THE ANZACS The Nurse of the Mediterranean

Get a copy before  
they all go

A book every home library should have  
Contact us: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Read

Support

Enjoy

Contribute

Share

Treasure

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



I Thank you for sending me the informative and interesting Maltese eNewsletter regularly. Sending you some information and photos. Regards and thanks. Victor B. Caruana (Mosta).



## Mosta Coronation Anniversary

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Mosta celebrated the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary since the placing of the crown on the head of Our Lady in the Titular Painting of the Rotunda Church in Mosta. The celebrations started with a Solemn High Mass in the Rotunda led by H.E. Bishop Paul Darmanin O.F.M. Capp. After the Mass The Nicolo Isouard Band Club played popular band marches along the streets of Mosta. A grand colourful aerial fireworks display prepared by the 15<sup>th</sup> August Pyrotechnic Society was let off in the fields outside Mosta followed by a ground fireworks display by the same Society in Rotunda Square.

VICTOR CARUANA – MOSTA – MALTA – August 2017

## FRED AQUILINA WRITES FROM SAN FRANCISCO USA



Thanks for publishing the history of the Maltese Club in San Francisco in your Newsletter 180. After the War, our family was one of the first to emigrate from Malta to San Francisco in late Dec.1946. We were probably also the first Maltese to fly from London to New York then. As a young boy in the late 40s, early 50s, I remember my folks taking us to many events at the Maltese club on Oakdale.

At that time there were two institutions that the Maltese were members of and loyal to: St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church and the Maltese club. Most social activities for the Maltese at that time centered on church Festas and picnics (the church even featured Hollywood movies on Saturday nights in the "Hall"), or evenings at "the Club" which hosted dances, band recitals, Christmas parties and even live "teatrin" with club members as cast. It was quite a close knit community that kept the Maltese culture and history alive.

Am attaching a photo taken at "the Club" around the late 40s early 50s and hanging in the new Maltese club. In it, there are eleven members of our Aquilina family as well as other members of the Maltese community in the Bay Area who may recognize their parents or themselves as youngsters. If they do, I think the club would appreciate their getting in contact with them and letting them know who/where you are in the photo.

Frank, thanks again for all you do in preserving the culture, customs, language, and heritage of the Maltese people. It is truly appreciated by the Maltese community situated in all points of the compass. Prosit.

~~~~~  
All this in just 316 square kilometres, well under 100 square miles. No wonder Malta is often called '**a continent in miniature**'.



### CATACOMBS, BINGEMMA

We were visiting Malta with some very old friends (Dave and Mandy) when Mandy spied these catacombs from the car: they were over a wall, down a path and across a field. From what we have been able to discover, they are early Christian; but as so often with Malta, there is very little in the way of explanation, and nothing in the way of 'interpretation', to stand between you and something that is around 2000 years old.



## ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS WW1 2014-18



late 1914. The first Australian troops were sent to the comparatively quiet Armentières area, in the north, where they were introduced to trench warfare – represented in the stamp “Arrival on the Western Front”.



Their first major battles were the costly conflicts at Fromelles, in French Flanders, and, soon after, at Pozières and Mouquet Farm, in the Somme valley. “The Somme offensive” stamp shows Australian machine gunners returning from the frontline near Pozières. During 1916, Grace Wilson – matron on Lemnos in 1915, in Egypt and Britain in 1916, and in Abbeville, France, in 1917 – was awarded the Royal Red Cross, First Class for “distinguished service in the field”. She was also awarded three “Mentioned in Despatches” that year for her outstanding service, and a fourth time in 1918. She was one of around 3,000 Australian nurses to volunteer.



On the home front, news of the massive number of casualties on the frontline led to a decline in voluntary enlistment. Labor Prime Minister Billy Hughes believed more troops was the only way to win the war, and Britain pressured him to commit 5,500 men per month. The vexed question of conscription proved divisive politically, socially and religiously. The first of two referenda was held on 28 October 1916, the second on 20 December 1917. The “no” vote won by a narrow margin in 1916.

#####

## REMINISCING.....I am so impressed that you always manage to

find interesting things to put in your newsletter! I'm just reading about the street vendors - but there was one left off the list, that I remember coming round my nanna's house. It would be in the dark of the night, and the guy had a hurricane lamp in the back of his cart - and he sold hot bigilla! Also, my dad remembers when he was a boy in the early 1930s that the goatman would come round with his herd and milk the goats directly into the mugs and jugs of the waiting families. Mothers would warn the goatman to be sure and not make too much froth while he milked! When I was a child our milkman came round in a motorised truck, and as well as pint bottles of regular milk, he also sold half-pint bottles of chocolate, strawberry or banana milkshakes. At this time there was also a dairy shop in Merchant's Street in Valletta, where you could buy the milkshakes, and it made a pleasant interval to a long day's shopping! Where we lived (Bormla) we also had an old woman come round during May, with bundles of fresh cicri (chickpeas/garbanzo beans) which she pushed around in an old pram. The bundles were sold for pennies, and we would sit on a step shelling and eating the delicious little green morsels. Occasionally as well a tinsmith would come round and offer to mend pots and pans and sharpen knives. Regards - Ros





## Gozitan sang for Donald Trump in 2016 [Claire Caruana](#)

[Caruana](#)

*From left: US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Stanley Portelli and Christopher Hyland. Photo: Krystof Buttigieg*

Only a handful of people get the opportunity to sing for a US presidential candidate, yet aspiring tenor Stanley Portelli is one of the those lucky few.

The Gozitan lawyer recently performed for Republican candidate Donald Trump during a dinner at Trump National Golf Course in New Jersey. The candidate's wife Melania and daughter Ivanka were also among those at the event. "While on a trip to the States I was invited by some friends to join them for dinner to mark America's Labour Day weekend at the Trump National Golf Course.

"The original plan was that we would be spending some time socialising at the pool, have dinner and then I was going to interpret some arias. It was going to be a small concert for some American friends," Mr Portelli recalled. But while enjoying the meal on the golf course's terrace, the aspiring tenor was told that Mr Trump and his family were seated just a few tables away and would also be listening to him sing. "The next thing I know I'm being told that he wanted to hear me sing. Of course I was kind of shocked and couldn't believe what was happening but I felt I had to do it," he said.

According to Mr Portelli, who performed pieces by Mozart and Tosti, the presidential hopeful was "very gracious" and even complimented his singing. Mr Portelli was introduced to singing and acting at a young age by members of the MUSEUM society in Nadur. Since then, he has sat for a number of voice exams, attending workshops abroad to further his musical studies.

Yet while singing for a possible future president of the US will forever be etched in Mr Portelli's mind as one of the best days of his life, he insisted that he performed just as he would in front of any other audience, especially since the meeting happened by chance.

"For me communicating feelings that cannot be expressed by mere words is the most important thing when it comes to singing. But I must say I was touched by the comments from the Trumps, especially Mr Trump's daughter Ivanka, who stopped over, together with her husband, to tell me how touched she was by my singing."

On whether the singer was a keen follower of the tycoon, who has throughout the election campaign come out as a strong contender despite some highly-criticised views and a series of gaffes, Mr Portelli said that while he was interested in politics in general, meeting Mr Trump had nothing to do with the election or his views. "Mr Trump was beyond polite. As I was singing I couldn't stop noticing how attentive he was. "As soon as I finished my last piece he stood up, came over and told me: 'You have a beautiful voice, if I had your voice I'd be rich. I knew Pavarotti, you will be like him one day'." Timesofmalta.com September 11, 2016



## Poems by Anton F. Attard - Ghana tax-xahar t'Awwissu, u Poeziji ohra

On the occasion of the feast of the Assumption that was celebrated on Tuesday in Victoria, Gozitan writer, folklorist and poet, Anton F. Attard, has said that he felt the need to publish a booklet containing a collection of his own poems related to the subject. The poems, written by himself over the years, cover activities of the Leone Philharmonic Society; Our Lady of the Assumption, as well as poems about anniversaries and personalities who worked closely with the Leone Philharmonic Society,

Cathedral Church and the Citadel. The purpose of this collection of poems is that it is a document of historical events, which people can read over and over again, learning them off by heart and remembering them all their lives, remarked Anton F. Attard. He added that it is also his wish that the booklet be distributed free of charge,



along with the program for the feast which is issued from the Leone Band Club Victoria, on the occasion of the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption celebrated at the Cathedral Church, Gozo. Photograph by Joe Grech



## Prince Charles makes personal donation to St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Restoration Appeal

The Prince of Wales has signalled his support for the St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Save Valletta's Skyline Restoration Appeal by making a generous personal donation.

Prince Charles first worshipped in the cathedral while still an undergraduate at Cambridge University when he made two unofficial visits to Malta on holiday in 1968 and 1970, staying with the then Governor-General's family.

"This valuable endorsement by The Prince of Wales has given the Appeal a great fillip and reinforces the strong connections that the cathedral has with the Royal Family," said the appeal's co-chairman Martin Scicluna.

The St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Save Valletta's Skyline Restoration Appeal was launched on 9 February, the eve of the Feast of St Paul's Shipwreck in Malta. The cathedral is a universally recognised Valletta landmark, but the fabric is in dire need of restoration. Architectural inspections have identified severe problems threatening the tower, the spire and the external and internal stonework.



The target is to raise €3 million by November 2019, which will mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the cathedral. We hope that this sum will enable us to restore the church, as well as provide for a reasonable endowment for its future maintenance and well-being.

"We have been greatly encouraged by the response to the Appeal over the last six months, raising over €500,000 in donations from charities, foundations, individuals and corporate bodies in Malta and the United Kingdom," Scicluna said.

"We have reasonable sums already pledged for 2018. We have engaged one of Malta's leading architectural firms, Architecture Project (AP), to undertake the restoration work and we hope to see this commence on the ground in earnest by the first quarter of next year once all the technical surveys and planning applications for this Grade 1 listed building have been completed.

"His Royal Highness Prince Philip is Patron of the Friends of the Cathedral and President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca has given her distinguished patronage to the Appeal and, together with other Patrons, has been most supportive of our work."

Scicluna added, "We have been hugely assisted in our efforts by the unstinting support which has been offered by Maltese, British and other volunteers in raising funds for the Appeal through the organisation of events and by encouraging individuals, charities and foundations through their personal contacts in the United Kingdom and Malta to support us. "I think it is fair to say that the Save Valletta's Skyline Appeal has struck a chord in Malta. With Valletta becoming the European Capital of Culture in January 2018, we hope to be able to maintain the momentum of our fund-raising efforts and to witness the first

visible improvements to the physical restoration of the cathedral in at least 60 years." Source:

malta **INDEPENDENT** online



## The Western Association USA

The Order of Malta is a worldwide, lay, religious order of the Roman Catholic Church, which seeks to glorify God by promoting the sanctification of each member through his or her work with the sick and the poor and defence of the Catholic faith.

There are three national Associations in the United States established by decree of the Grand Master and vote of the Sovereign Council of the Order headquartered in Rome. The three national associations are: the Western Association in San Francisco, CA, the American Association in New York, N.Y., and the Federal Association in Washington, D.C. The Western Association is a separate legal entity responsible for the management and control of its business and affairs. As such, it acts on its own behalf subject to general oversight by the Order of Malta consistent with accepted corporate governance standards and practices.

### History

An initial contact between a delegate from the Grand Magistracy and the Most Reverend John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, in November 1951, preceded the establishment of the Western Association. Eight men were chosen as initial members, and were invested as Knights of Magistral Grace by Archbishop Mitty in Saint Mary's Cathedral on June 24, 1953. The new Western Association, headquartered in San Francisco, was given jurisdiction for the Western half of the United States, as well as the then-territories of Alaska and Hawaii. The fledgling group was guided during its early years by Prince Nickolas Tchkaotova, a Knight of Honor and Devotion, as it elected its first officers, received the Very Reverend Benedict Blank, OP, as its first Chaplain ad honorem, and began its many works of charity. Dames were first admitted to the Western Association in 1975.

### Present Day

The Western Association has approximately 800 Knights, Dames, Chaplains, and Provisional Members residing throughout the western half of the United States, each of whom has taken an oath to practice and defend the Roman Catholic faith and to serve the poor and sick.

### Locations

Los Angeles, CA, Oakland, CA, Orange County, CA, Phoenix, AZ, Sacramento, CA, San Francisco, CA, San Jose, CA, Seattle, WA

The Western Association USA is a vibrant community dedicated to highly engaged service to the poor and sick within their local communities. The Western Association USA and its invested members provide both direct hands-on service and financial support to about 55 different projects that serve the poor, the sick, the homeless, the elderly, and others in need in the western United States.

Additionally, the Western Association USA has free medical clinics in Los Angeles and Oakland, California as well as a mental health clinic in Seattle for the poor and uninsured. Also, every spring around the first of May, members of the Order from around the world, including roughly 250 from the Western Association, travel to Lourdes, France to care for men, women and children facing serious and often life-threatening physical challenges. Finally, Western Association members assist in many of the Order's worldwide projects, primarily operated under the Order's world-wide relief organization, Malteser International.



## Arkata - Wignacout Fleur-De-Lys - Archway

*Meta kont fl-iskola primarja kellna l-kotba tal-Malti 'Gabra ta Ward'. Fuq pagna minnhom kien hemm ritratt ta arkata sabiha li dak iz-zmien diga kienu waqqgħuha. Qed nirreferi għall-arkata tal-akwedott ta Wignacourt li kienet taqşam it-triq li tihu għar-Rabat fejn hemm it-triq li tihu għal Birkirkara. Din l-arkata fuqha kellha forma ta tliet fjuri tal-Fleur-de-lys li jistabu fl-arma tal-Granmastru Wignacourt. Minn hemm, it-triq li tihu għal Birkirkara hadet dak l-istess isem.*



*Ix-xena tal-pittura ta John Scerri thares lejn il-Hamrun.*

*The scene looks in the direction of Hamrun*

When I was still in Elementary School we had the Maltese reader 'Gabra ta' ward'. On one of the pages there was a photo of a beautiful archway which those days was already dismantled. I'm referring to the Wignacourt aqueduct archway which used to straddle the road to Rabat at the junction to Birkirkara. On top of it, this archway had three Fleur-de-lys flowers which are part of the coat-of-arms of Grandmaster Wignacourt. The road that leads to Birkirkara took the name of 'Fleur-de-lys' Road exactly from these ornaments.

***L-arkati li kienu jingħaqdu magħha n-naha ta fuq u n-naha t'isfel minnha, għadhom hemm sal-lum izda is-sabiha li qed nitkellmu fuqha, hattewha l-Inglizi fis-sena 1942 biex jgħamlu wisgha għall-ingenji tal-gwerra tagħhom għax kienet fin-nofs ittellifhom.***

***L-arkati jibdeu jidhru h'Attard fuq in-naha tat-tramuntana tat-triq tar-Rabat, imbagħad meta jaslu fejn ir-roundabout ta Santa Venera, jispicaw u ikompli f'daqqa wahda fuq in-naha ta Nofs-in-nhar tat-triq. Ezattament, mela, hdejn ir-roundabout kienu konnessi minn din l-arkata triumfali. Waqqgħu xi arkati mill-ohrajn ukoll biex wessgħu għat-triq, Homor fil-Google Map - L-arkata Safra u l-Ahdar il-hitan ta madwar kif kienu. Kollox bejn wiehed u iehor.***

The arches which connected to it on both sides are still there but the more ornate arch was dismantled by the British to make way for their war machines because it was in the way.

The arches start appearing at Attard town on the north side of the Rabat road, and then when they come to the Sta Venera roundabout end abruptly to appear on the other side of the road. Exactly near this present roundabout, they used to be joined by this triumphal archway. Some of the other arches were also dismantled to make way for the roundabout.



**READ - ENJOY  
AND SHARE**

**1  
NUMBER**

**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**



## Santa Marija Horse race in early afternoon despite the heat

Times of Malta Sarah Carabott



### Veterinary authorities' guidelines restrict them to morning or late afternoon

Horse races are held annually in Victoria to mark the feast of Santa Marija. Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi

Despite guidelines from the veterinary authorities that the Santa Marija horse races should be held in the morning or late afternoon, the traditional event in Victoria is planned for 2.30pm tomorrow.

In recent years, the organisers of the centuries-old races have come under fire by animal lovers. Since 2015, the Animal Welfare Commissioner has insisted that common sense prevail and the races be held in the morning.

When contacted, the commissioner, Emanuel Buhagiar, said that he was still against races being held at 2.30pm in the blazing summer sun. "Although there are no animal welfare concerns, common sense should prevail and such races should be shifted to the morning hours. From 7am to 8.45am is more appropriate, and doing so would not interfere with the religious functions that start at 9am," he said.

Asked to clarify what he meant when he said there were no animal welfare concerns, Mr Buhagiar said that before the race, the horses would be kept in the shade and be examined by the Animal Welfare Director. The race itself lasts about one minute. According to veterinary advice, there was no concern for the horses' welfare, he noted, pointing out there was nothing in the law or specific regulations that prohibited such races from taking place during the hours chosen by the promoters.

Mr Buhagiar said, personally, he would continue to insist the races should be held early in the morning when the temperature was more comfortable for the horses and even the spectators.

This view, he went on, was especially supported by the fact that climate change effects would become more adverse in the coming years. Animal Welfare Director Noel Montebello, meanwhile, directed the *Times of Malta* to a set of guidelines published by the Veterinary Regulation Directorate for the organisers and veterinarians responsible for such races.

The guidelines specify that the track must be flat, level, with no sharp turns and of soft ground. Races should not be held in extreme weather and definitely not from 11am to 4pm between July 1 and August 31.

The Santa Marija races date to 1587 and were held to encourage people to rear horses and similar animals that could be used to defend the island during an attack. Nowadays, they are organised by the Leone Philharmonic Society and partly funded by the government. Tomorrow's races will be held along Republic Street.

Mr Montebello pointed out that the veterinarian in charge and the organisers were ultimately the ones responsible for following the guidelines. "I will be monitoring the area with animal welfare officers to make sure they don't mistreat the horses," he said.

**SAHHA U \$LIEM LILL-QARREJJA KOLLHA**