

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



Map of the European Union

Walking in my grandparents footsteps in Malta

People recognized me as Maltese...most said it was my eyes and complexion that gave it away. My "I LOVE MALTA" t-shirt was a hit with the locals (and I think a bit of a turn off at times), although it did point out to everyone that I was definitely a tourist.



The locals all took time to ask about where my family was from and were so proud of their heritage and happy to share recipes and suggestions of places to visit. We spent a lot of our time in Malta with these locals, yesterday's strangers.

I took pride in telling them the family surnames: Cassar, Briffa, Fenech and Sultana. The Cassar name is everywhere there. There is Cassar Street (named after the architect Gerolimo Cassar), Cassar and Cooper Real Estate, Cassar names on the mail boxes and even on dumpsters.

When we visited Mgarr it was the start of holy week (the Friday before Good Friday). The city felt deserted, there were no tourists there and this is what we wanted. This was a typical Maltese village and we were here for a nice quiet dinner. What we didn't realize was that we were about to meet the whole town. At exactly 5.45pm all the 'villagers'

gathered at the church for mass and for the procession around the town to mark the start of Holy Week. What were we to do?...Well we joined in of course. It was spectacular, the statues were grand and there were so many people, all locals, celebrating and praying beside us.

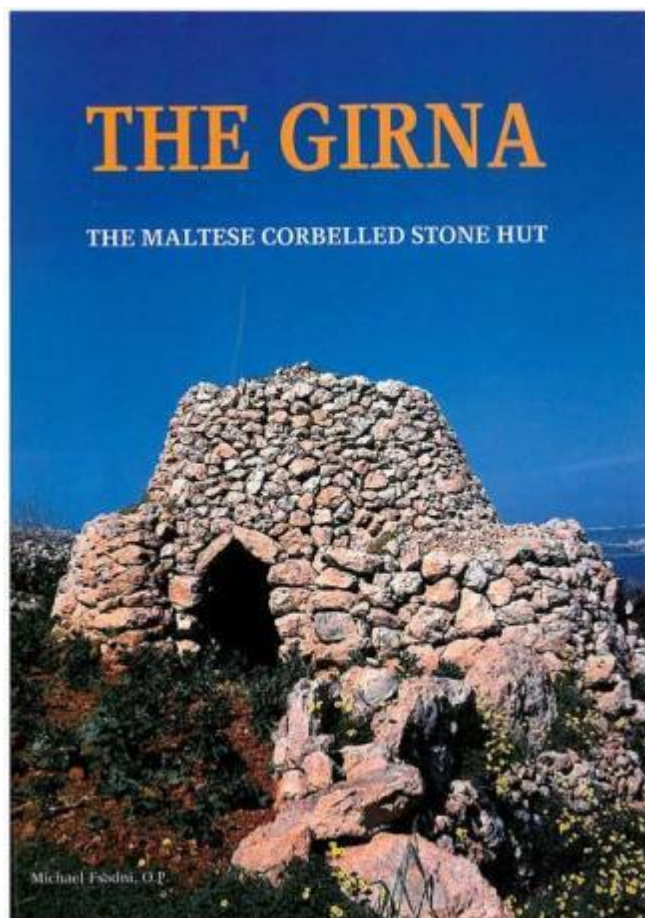
We visited a local bar before the procession to get information on what was happening in the town and to find out why everything was closed. We chatted about Australia and Malta and even shared some food ideas. The best part of the night was when the owner took me to his kitchen (his family kitchen, as the bar only serves drinks!) to show me his 'bebbux in the borma' (snails being cooked in a massive cooking pot!). He was so proud to show me and to share part of his culture with us. He even apologized that it was not ready for tasting earlier; otherwise, he said he would have given us some to try!

My family is from a small town near the airport called Luqa. The town is a quiet one. I walked the streets for about 2 hours and saw one school, a bakery, 2 fruit vans and one pastizzeria. I went to the church where all 4 of my grandparents used to frequent. I went to all of their streets and stopped outside their old houses. I met some of the locals and they were all interested in helping me find 'the right door'. I loved hearing their accents. They sounded just like my grandparents. I ate pastizzi in their streets, and I bought Qaghaq (sesame seed biscuits) and sat by the church and ate them. It was truly a memorable experience to literally walk in the footsteps of my ancestors. Words really cannot explain it.

I took great pleasure in phoning my Nanna Rita and Nannu Leli (who now live in Australia) to tell them I finally made it to Malta. I really felt a strong sense of pride here. A deep connection that's difficult to explain. Andrew also felt a connection here. Perhaps it was the friendliness of the people, or the familiarity with the food. Whatever the reason, it's the first place that I cried upon leaving since starting this journey 15 months ago.

I'm so proud to have literally walked in my grandparents footsteps and seen Malta. Before it was a distant European country from my heritage, now a familiar friend.

FIONA - THE ANXIOUS TRAVELLOR



IL-GIRNA - The Stone Hut

Nothing typifies the Maltese countryside more than the ubiquitous dry-stone wall that wind their way all over the land dividing the hot, dry soil into tiny parcels, from which the farmer ekes out an existence (*Il-hajt tas-sejjieh*). There, in the middle of it in the countryside of the western and northwestern part of the island lies the "girna", the Maltese stone hut.

The "girna", is a single room erected to meet the needs of farmers and herdsman. It has a double wall built of undressed stones, which are left unplastered. Internally, its ceiling is shaped like a dome, while the external wall is usually circular, although it can be square or rectangular or, in rare instances, oval-shaped. Its convex-shaped roof is covered with fragments of rotten rock and stone and sometimes with sand and lime, and rarely, with ground pottery (*deffun*).

The Maltese "girna" looks an extremely plain structure; its beauty ties in the skill of its construction, built as it is with fairly sized stones ably laid next to one another. Since the "giren" are mostly located in the west and north west of

Malta, where there are large quantities of loose limestone rocks on the surface, many of them are constructed with such material. The "girna" has one horizontal slab, or else is arched or triangular in form.

There isn't fixed rule that determines the size, height or width of the "gima"; it is probably built according to the needs of the owner and the actual skills the builder. The most beautiful and the largest circular "giren" are to be found in the stretch of fields and rocky ground between the Red Tower and Cirkewwa, while the largest square ones are to be found at **Ix-Xaghra Il-Hamra**, in the limits of Manikata.

Although some Maltese did use the 'giren' for habitation, these structures were originally built to meet the personal needs of farmers and herdsman and for the raising of live stock. Very often it was necessary for farmers to work fields situated a long way from their farmhouses and they had to have somewhere to shelter during the hot summer hours or during some sudden downpour.

In this shelter or "girna" they used to keep the food and drink they took with them and any small children they could not leave behind. In it they kept their tools, stored potatoes, onions, hay, etc. Some farmers used to dry figs, tomatoes and carobs in the sun on the roof of their "girna".

Today, the "giren" are almost completely abandoned because their owners do not have any further use for them. There are still many "giren" in the Maltese countryside, but a large number of them have collapsed or have suffered damage. As such, the future of these primitive structures part of Malta's architectural heritage, is not at all heartening.

The Maltese Bowlers Social Group NSW, Australia, Inc.



Moses Mifsud had a dream of forming a group of New South Wales lawn bowlers of Maltese origin, who can get together on a regular basis to enjoy a game of bowls, socialize, create new friendships and have a good time. This would also give retirees an opportunity to get outdoors and make new friends with bowlers of the same background.

His dream became a reality on the 6th December 1998, when nine Maltese-Australian bowlers met for their first official game at the Bexley Bowling Club and gave birth to the Maltese Bowlers Social Group NSW. Thanks to those founding members and the great enthusiasm and continuous hard work of Moses, the association grew and matured having been built on sound foundations.

The following year, in July 1999, the association moved to the Auburn Bowling Club making it its first official home base. A couple of years later, on 22 June 2001, we were certified as an incorporated association by the Department of Fair

Trading. After the closure of the Auburn Bowling Club on 1st May 2005 we moved to the present home base at the Rosehill Bowling Club. In December 2008 we celebrated our tenth anniversary.

2014-2015 COMMITTEE

Back Row (From L to R): Michael Vassallo, Mary Pace-Féraud, Lilian Attard and Mitchell Delamotte

Front Row (From L to R): Lina Rolé, Tony Pace-Féraud, Victor Fenech, Moses Mifsud and Carmen Samuel



We organize monthly friendly games of lawn bowls at different NSW bowling clubs and hold social functions for Australian lawn bowlers of Maltese origin, their partners and friends. Our activities are aimed to give opportunities to Maltese-Australians to regularly play and promote their favourite sport and uphold their culture and heritage and good standing in the community of which we are all very

proud. We are well respected and proud to run a well-managed club.

We are combined member with The Royal NSW Bowling Association Inc. We support the Australian representatives of the Malta Lawn Bowls Federation. Our club is an active member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. Our club logo incorporates the red and white colours of the Maltese flag, the Maltese cross and the Australian green and gold sporting colours. We are honoured to have Lino Vella AM as our Patron and appreciate the assistance we receive from our major sponsor Breakaway Travel and Simplicity Funerals. We also receive good publicity support from a number of Maltese language radio programmes in Sydney that include 2RRR 88.5fm, 2GLF 89.3fm and SBS 97.7fm.

Annual Pairs and Triples Championships are held within the membership. Apart from many games at the Rosehill Bowling Club, our programme always includes a number of games at other NSW registered bowling clubs. At every game our bowlers wear the club's official club shirts and our flag is raised on the greens. Social functions and day trips are typical social activities that are organised. The main function of the year is the combined Annual Awards Presentations and Christmas Lunch.

A monthly newsletter is published and is available to all members free of charge. We provide free coaching and lending of bowls to new members. We are a non-profit organisation run by a nine-member management committee and depend financially on sponsorship and fundraising activities amongst our members.

Currently the club averages 80 members of both genders who also play at their respective registered bowling clubs in all grades. We have members that compete and have done well in major competitions including representing Malta in lawn bowls.



A Short History of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

By

Abraham Vella and Mona Vella-Nicholas

Towards the end of November 1929, thirty-five Maltese residents of San Francisco met to discuss the establishment of a Colonial Club. A committee was given the task of finding suitable premises for a meeting place. In January 1930, they rented the ground floor of a house at 1648 Oakdale Avenue, San

Francisco. That same month, a committee selected the first officers of the club: F. Grech, President; C. Fenech, Vice-President; E. Micallef, Secretary; J. Azzopardi, Treasurer; C. Scicluna, Assistant Secretary; and R. Deguara, Assistant Treasurer. Hence, the "Maltese Club of San Francisco" was given birth. (Picture - *President Brian Ciappara*)

Very soon after, the "Melita Soccer Football Team" decided to join the Maltese Club, doubling the Club's membership. In 1932, the "Sons of Malta Soccer Team", as the Club's team was now called, won the Redmen Convention trophy in Santa Cruz. Other Club members who were musically talented organized a jazz band which played at dances and picnics and even gave concerts. This "San Francisco Maltese Band" even played for the welcome of Archbishop Edward Hanna at his dedication of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church auditorium. A dramatic company was also formed under Club auspices. This group put on plays in Maltese for the entertainment of the Club's members and their families.

The Club's activities encouraged many other Maltese to enroll, so bigger premises became an indispensable necessity. In June 1931, the committee rented the large building at 1789 Oakdale Avenue, a former church. The Club eventually bought the property, which remained its headquarters until 1995, when the Oakdale building was sold and the Club's present premises at 924 El Camino Real in South San Francisco became the Club's new home.



Although the soccer team and dramatic group no longer exist, the Club continues to be a source of entertainment and community to new generations of Maltese-Americans. Dinner-dances, casino trips, children's Christmas parties, and other events draw members and guests from all over the Bay Area to the Club. With the addition of women as full-fledged members in the 1990's, mystery trips, bingo nights, pot-luck dinners, and knitting groups have been added to the list of the Club activities. In addition, a Melitensia library has been added, providing books, music, and films on a variety of aspects of Maltese history and culture.

The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Oakdale premises in San Francisco in May 1979. Joseph Grech, Jr. was president at the time. San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was the guest of honor. Twenty-five years later, led by President Joseph Tanti, the Club celebrated the biggest event it has ever had. This 75th anniversary celebration was held on October 2, 2004 at the South San Francisco Convention Center and featured the Nicolo Isouard Band of Mosta. One can only guess how a new generation of Maltese-Americans will celebrate the Club's 100th anniversary in 2029!



DECEMBER 2015 Dr. Gejtu Pace awarded 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika'

Mr Gejtu Pace receiving the MQR medal from President Coleiro Preca



On Republic Day each year the President of Malta, on behalf of the Government and people of Malta, pays public tribute to a number of Maltese citizens who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour. Among the recipients of the 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika' (Medal for Service to the Republic) awards this year was Mr Gejtu Pace, a prominent member



of the Maltese community in Sydney. Mr Pace is a member of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad having been appointed to the Council in 2012 as one of two persons living in the State of New South Wales, Australia. The Council was established by an Act of the Maltese Parliament in 2011.

Mr Pace is a solicitor by occupation specialising in industrial law, personal injuries and workers compensation. He is the current president of *La Valette Social Centre* in Blacktown, NSW, and has been performing this leadership role since August 1997.

Mr Pace is also the Chairman of the *Maltese Care Services* and coordinator of the *La Valette Social Centre Respite Services*, which also incorporates the *Baulkham Hills Shire Council (Maltese & Korean) Care Services*. He is the editor of the monthly magazine *lċ-Centru* published by the *La Valette Social Centre* and of the Centre's website at www.lavaletteclub.net.

JERĠĠHU JILTAQĠHU L-KITTIEBA GĦAWDXIN

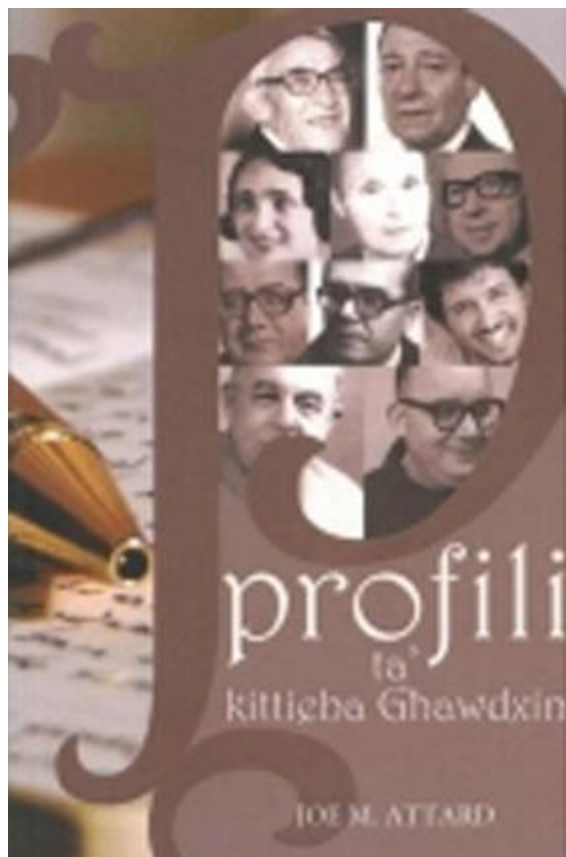
Jidher li d-diversi serati letterarji li għamilna matul dawn l-aħħar sentejn fl-okkażjoni tal-Karnival, tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa, tal-Milied, eċċ, bis-sehem ta' whud mill-kittieba Għawdxin li matulhom inqaw anke xogħlijiet ta' kittieba li hallewna, intlaqgħu tajjeb, u allura b'dan ir-riħ fil-qala', ser nagħmlu serata oħra nhar il-Gimgha 5 ta' Gunju fis-7.30pm fil-Librerija Pubblika ta' Triq Vajringa, Rabat Għawdex li matulha qed jiġu mistiedna l-kittieba Għawdxin, uħud minnhom magħrufa sew fostna.

Bla dubju nheggu lill-istudenti u lil dawk kollha li għandhom għal qalbhom il-Letteratura Maltija biex iżommu dik il-gurnata vojta u jiġu jismgħu xi ftit poezija sabiħa, xi novella, xi ftit epigrammi li tant kien magħruf għalihom il-Poeta tan-Natura u ex President ta' Malta Anton Buttigieg, magħruf bħala Toni l-Baħri mwied il-Qala, xi storja, xi ftit folklore flimkien ma' xi ftit mużika bil-għajnuna sħiħa ta' Mro Antoine Mercieca. Billi jkun beda Gunju u allura s-sajf jinsab qrib u l-festi jkun bdew ukoll, dis-serata qed insemmuha: Is-Sajf Magħna u l-Festi wkoll.

Se jinqaw xi siltiet mix-xogħlijiet ta' Gorġ Pisani u Patri Matthew Sultana Kapuċċin mix-Xagħra minn Antoinette Grech u Lorna Tabone, kif ukoll ser nisimgħu xogħlijiet minn fomm il-kittieba Charles Bezzina, li għadu kemm tana ktieb dwar Għawdex fl-Aħħar Gwerra, Ganninu Cremona, Anton F Attard u Vanessa Attard, Joe Camilleri, Joe W Psaila, Patri Remig Galea Kapuċċin li għadu kemm ingħata Gieħ Sannat, Mario Borg, Raymond Caruana, Dr Alfred Grech, Frans Mizzi u Pierre Mejlak li dan l-aħħar għal kitbiet tiegħu rebaħ premju prestiġġuż mill-Ewropa.

Jekk naraw li ma tħalluniex waħidna, għal ġejjieni nerġġu noħolmu b'xi haġa oħra! Tinsewx li l-bniedem ma jgħixx bil-ħobż biss! KAV. JOE M ATTARD – GOZO, MALTA

54 authors from Gozo



Joe M. Attard: *Profili ta' Kittieba Ghawdxin*, Klabb Kotba Maltin. 2014. 259 pp.

Publishing in this tiny island with an area and population that could easily fit in a district of one of Sicily's largest cities is nothing but astonishing. Over 1,000 titles get published a year, ranging from academic tomes to parish newsletters and this in a place where the people are not in general known for the voracity of their reading.

A visit to the recent Malta Book Festival confirms that publishing is not moribund, although how it manages to survive in the present world is always a bit of a mystery, and much credit is due to the handful of publishers who march on in the face of adversity.

This scenario has produced its varied plethora of writers, ranging from the sublime to the plainly ludicrous, from the capable to the incompetent, from writers who have found due recognition on the international scene to others who only see their names in print because they had forked out the expenses themselves, never to recover them.

In this scenario the number of local writers who have published works in Maltese, English and Italian mostly, but also in other languages ranging from Latin to Esperanto, is truly remarkable.

And the scene becomes even more remarkable if one were to consider the number of authors that Gozo has produced which include three of our foremost linguists (Guzè Micallef being the least known to the general public, perhaps unjustly overshadowed by the longer-lived Aquilina and Cremona), historians, poets, journalists, broadcasters, religious writings and essayists.

Its young promising authors include a novelist and a short story writer who has recently achieved international recognition: Pierre J. Meilak was awarded the European Union Prize for Literature.

Joe M. Attard's book is precisely meant to put on record the literary and academic contribution of authors from Gozo. The genesis of the book was a series of articles he himself had written for Rediffusion and later for Il-Mument featuring authors of the last 150 years, though surely the list could have been extended to include Gian Francesco Agius de Soldanis, one of Gozo's most distinguished literary sons.

Malta- There was a significant increase in the number of Somalis reaching Malta. "Taking into account the professional planning of the trips, it is assumed that the *modus operandi* has changed and that Malta is now targeted on purpose, thereby replacing Italy as the preferred destination country for this nationality.

The reason for this change has not yet been confirmed; however, in the past Malta resettled some Somali migrants in the United States and in some EU Member States, which might be acting as a pull factor."

MALTESE MIGRATION TO NORTH AFRICA

<https://lancstolevant.wordpress.com/2015/03/10/exodus-to-the-levant-and-north-africa/> **Exodus – To The Levant And North Africa**



Between 1818 and the early 1830s people began emigrating from the Maltese islands at a rate of around 1 to 2000 per year, the rate doubling towards the mid 1830s and only abating after about 1842. By this time some 20,000 Maltese had left (approx 15% of the population). My ancestors joined the exodus. In this article I will describe what drove people to leave and to the destinations they chose.

Economic Decline In the early 1800s Malta had a successful if somewhat volatile economy. The majority of its industry centred on cotton production which gave employment to pretty much the majority of the population one way or another, but it also prospered

from its position as a useful shipping stopover for the British Navy during the Napoleonic Wars and it did good business in smuggling. The first blow came at the end of the Napoleonic Wars when new ports opened up for traders resulting in less shipping traffic coming into the Grand Harbour of the capital Valletta. Malta also became less important as a base for smuggling.

The biggest catastrophe to the economy was the impact of the **Plague of Malta in 1813**. Quarantine restrictions across the island stopped the production of cotton spinning and export in its tracks as the congregation of people and movements between the villages, towns and ports were vetoed. Foreign ports also required shipping from Malta to be quarantined, so trade was all but extinguished for over a year. Some foreign ports insisted on keeping quarantine restrictions on Maltese shipping until as late as 1826 (perhaps not entirely for health reasons)! During this time, importers found new, cheaper producers from places like Syria, Egypt and India. New commercial treaties were negotiated to try and boost trade but only succeeded in further depressing the market and lowering wages for growers, spinners and weavers. Customs duties were also raised to try and generate revenues but just ended up further damaging trade. The Maltese economy started to spiral towards bankruptcy.

Some new enterprises were introduced to try and fill the gap, such as silk farming, which failed, and tobacco, which was the most successful. Cigar making employed 600 hands across the whole island at its height in 1842. Yet in 1813, my ancestor Joseph Callus, had employed 100 hands in a single cotton spinning mill which serves to illustrate the massive decline in employment across the islands (see **Rise and Fall of the Callus Fortunes**).

Another factor in the economic decline was the change of administration. The primary interest in Malta of its new colonial masters, the British, was its usefulness as a strategic naval base. **Sciberras** argues that it had less concern therefore, for developing the infrastructure of the interior or looking after the native population. Predictably the British expressed an imperialist attitude towards the native Maltese, treating them as inferiors and ousting them from governmental and administrative posts in favour of British employees. This was quite different to the administration of the Knights of St John who had subsidised the economy with income from their estates abroad and spent more on infrastructure and public works. While the Knights had been very paternalistic towards the Maltese, they had also been more inclusive, perhaps because the island was the principal dominion of their monastic order and where they lived out their lives.

The Battalions of Sorrows A large population and high levels of unemployment led to a big increase in poverty and crime. Banditry and begging became prevalent. In the mid 1830s, there were an estimated 2500 adult beggars in the villages alone and many more in the towns. Children were of course also recruited by their families to beg as a matter of course.

The evils of rising poverty levels were more homelessness, poorer housing conditions, sanitation and nutrition and inevitably disease. Infant mortality 1826-36 was around 30% (**Cauchi, M, 1990**).

"Poverty in short pressed heavily on the under-employed. Deriving sustenance from bean or millet, when obtainable, they frequently found themselves eating prickly pears, thistles and clover. During the day, some refused to leave their houses because of inadequate clothing. During the night, they covered themselves with sacks, rags and manure. Some had no

place to sleep, save the streets. Deaths from hunger and exposure apparently did occur and numerous deaths resulted from weakened resistance to fevers, the death rate averaging 29 per 1000".



(S. Sciberras)

In 1830 an outbreak of smallpox on the island killed 756 of its inhabitants. Then in 1837 there was an outbreak of cholera throughout the Mediterranean. In Malta it killed almost as many people as the 1813 plague, some 4253 people! And in 1840-41 the islands were devastated by a severe drought which further exacerbated the shortage of food. The population level was predictably stagnant until after 1842. Small wonder so many people wanted to leave!

Pastures New Most emigrants left for the North African coast, namely Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Egypt and in particular to the cities of Algiers, Constantine, Sousse and Tripoli. Significant numbers also went to the Levant, (or eastern Mediterranean), to port cities such as Beirut, Smyrna (Izmir) and Constantinople (Istanbul). Sizeable Maltese communities became established in these places. Just a few hundred emigrated to the Greek islands, Sicily, southern Italy and France. My ancestor Andrea Callus (1810-98) left Malta for Constantinople in 1829. Other branches of my Maltese family tree (Griscti, Diacono) also left in the early 1830s and went to Smyrna in Turkey.

Considering the long history of Maltese conflict with the Ottoman Empire and their religious and cultural differences, emigration to North Africa and Turkey at first glance seems a strange choice. Why didn't the migrants go to more culturally similar countries such as Italy? Surely it would have been easier to assimilate in those places? Historical research into nineteenth century emigration from Malta is still in its infancy, so explanations are still very much up for debate. Two accounts, one by [Fr Lawrence Attard](#) and another by [Joshua M Hayes](#) provide some interesting and slightly conflicting observations and theories.

Hayes stated that the British Government preferred emigrants to travel to other British colonies in West Africa or places like Jamaica or India but most Maltese did not want to leave the Mediterranean. They preferred to keep their options open to return, a factor evidenced by the high numbers who did in fact return, even if only on a temporary basis. Attard states that the government did come up with a number of proposals to support emigration to places like Cephalonia and later, Cyprus, but they simply never got off the ground. So there was no formal help and those wanting to emigrate had to do so by their own means. Places like Tunis, Tripoli and Sousse were only a couple of hundred miles away and were on regular trade routes, so passage was relatively cheap.

Other factors suggested by Hayes, are that the geography and climate of North Africa is similar and also the language. Algerian Arabic in particular, is linguistically quite close to Maltese.

Many Maltese chose Algeria as a preferred destination following the French conquest of Algeria in the early 1830s and the appointment of its first French governor in 1834. According to Attard, to secure the country, France needed colonists who would help develop the infrastructure and administration. France is a big country with a small population with low numbers of people wanting or needing to emigrate. The Maltese were seen as hard working and trust worthy, and even though they were now ruled by the British, the French governor did not think they were particularly loyal to the British or politically active. In fact, on the contrary, many Maltese were quite Francophile, despite Napoleon's short interruption to relations! In Tunisia, Attard argues that the French welcomed the Maltese as a counter balance to an influx of Italians who were suspected of having their own designs upon the country.

Hayes, however, sets out a slightly different perspective. He argues that what the French wanted were agricultural labourers but emigration was beyond the means of Maltese subsistence farmers. What they probably got instead were dock workers from Valletta who earned a bit more and were familiar with the shipping trade, and displaced officials and professionals such as doctors. Although the French allowed the Maltese in, they regarded them with suspicion preferring Italian and Spanish immigrants. The Maltese were subsequently quite poorly treated and were at the bottom of the social pecking order amongst the ex patriot communities in French North Africa.

Social networking was another factor. During the rule of the Knights, the Maltese conducted annual assaults on the north Africa coast (known then as the Barbary Coast). During these raids, inevitably some Maltese were taken prisoner. They were then sold into slavery and moved into the interior. A large Maltese slave colony was established in Constantine and there were slaves living at other places. Trade links also meant that there were itinerant Maltese communities in most major ports. Immigrants homed in on these communities for support in getting established in their new countries.

It is not clear to me why more Maltese did not go to Italy and Sicily which would appear to have offered many of the same benefits as North Africa, i.e. close to the motherland, similar climate and geography, shared language of Italian which was

widely spoken in Malta and perhaps of even greater significance, a shared religion. Malta has always been a strong and almost fanatical adherent to catholicism which one would have thought made Italy a better prospect than a muslim country. Certainly muslim countries at that time allowed religious freedom and with catholic France in control of North Africa, this may have provided further reassurance. The deciding factor must therefore have been the scope for economic opportunities both in North Africa and the Ottoman Empire.

At its height, the Ottoman Empire extended over 1000 miles from its capital at Constantinople in Turkey. This meant that the Ottoman navy was essential for maintaining control, both militarily and administratively, e.g. for tax collection. The Empire had no merchant navy. Its majority religion, Islam, forbade profiteering from usury and regarded trading as an inferior and undesirable profession for devout muslims. Ottoman subjects were in any case conscripted for 7 years military service, which led to a preference for military and administrative roles. Jews and Christians living in the Ottoman Empire were subject to higher taxes than muslims but as minority groups, this did not make much in the way of revenues for the Ottoman administration.

Traders from Western Europe moved in to fill the vacuum and through a number of contracts drawn up between the Sultan and European powers, obtained a range of rights and privileges in favour of subjects residing and trading in the Ottoman dominions. These became known as the '**Capitulations**'. Subjects were exempted from local taxes, laws, house searches and conscription and were bound instead to the jurisdiction of their home countries. The capitulations providing a virtual tax haven and the lack of existing port trade amongst the Ottomans, did much to encourage western entrepreneurs to set up new businesses all along the shores of the Ottoman Empire. These traders became a distinctive sub culture and were known as '**Levantine**'. They came from many of the major trading places around the Mediterranean; Genoa, Venice, France, Italy, Greece and of course Malta. There were also peoples from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

'Maltese Falcon' Statue Sells for Eye-Popping \$4 Million at Auction

Courtesy Everett Collection

The only known film-used Falcon is among the rarest pieces of movie memorabilia ever offered for public sale.



The Maltese Falcon statue from the movie of the same name sold at auction for \$4,085,000, including a buyer's premium of \$585,000.

The sale was conducted by Bonhams in New York in conjunction with Turner Classic Movies. The price was at the high end of expert estimates for the piece. Bonhams had declined to offer a pre-sale estimate.

It ranks with the most expensive pieces of movie and TV memorabilia ever sold at auction, trailing the original Batmobile from the 1960s TV show, which sold for \$4.6 million, and the Aston Martin driven by **Sean Connery** in *Goldfinger*, which sold for \$4.1 million.

But it far outstripped the \$2 million paid for a pair of ruby slippers worn by **Judy Garland** in *The Wizard of Oz*, or the \$576,000 paid for an Enterprise model used in *Star Trek*.

The falcon statue was one of two made for the movie but the only one known to have appeared on film. According to Bonhams, markings on the statue -- particularly a small dent from where the statue was dropped -- can be matched to the one on film.

"The spectacular price achieved reflects the statuette's tremendous significance. The Maltese Falcon is arguably the most important movie prop ever and is central to the history of cinema," **Catherine Williamson**, the director of the Bonhams entertainment memorabilia department, said in a statement.

The piece was owned by an unidentified California collector who acquired it in a private sale in the 1980s. The identity of the winning bidder has not been disclosed.

MALTESE CULTURE Food

In Malta you never go hungry



Maltese cuisine is the result of a long relationship between the Islanders and the many invaders who occupied the Maltese Islands over the centuries. This marriage of tastes has given Malta an eclectic mix of Mediterranean cooking. Although the restaurant scene is a mix of speciality restaurants, there are many eateries that offer or specialise in local fare, serving their own versions of specialities.

Traditional Maltese food is rustic and based on the seasons. Look out for Lampuki Pie (fish pie), Rabbit Stew, Bragioli (beef olives), Kapunata, (Maltese version of ratatouille), and widow's soup, which includes a small round of Gbejniet (sheep or goat's cheese).

On most food shop counters, you'll see Bigilla, a thick pate of broad beans with garlic. The snacks that must be tried are

hobz biz-zejt (round of bread dipped in olive oil, rubbed with ripe tomatoes and filled with a mix of tuna, onion, garlic, tomatoes and capers) and *pastizzi* (flaky pastry parcel filled with ricotta or mushy peas).

A trip to the Marsaxlokk fish market on Sunday morning will show you just how varied the fish catch is in Maltese waters. When fish is in abundance, you'll find Aljotta (fish soup). Depending on the season, you'll see spinotta (bass), dott (stone fish), cerna (grouper), dentici (dentex), sargu (white bream) and trill (red mullet). Swordfish and tuna follow later in the season, around early to late autumn, followed by the famed Lampuka, or dolphin fish. Octopus and squid are very often used to make rich stews and pasta sauces.

Favourite dessert delicacies are Kannoili (tube of crispy, fried pastry filled with ricotta), Sicilian-style, semi-freddo desserts (mix of sponge, ice-cream, candied fruits and cream) and Helwa tat-Tork (sweet sugary mixture of crushed and whole almonds).

Malta may not be renowned like its larger Mediterranean neighbours for wine production, but Maltese vintages are more than holding their own at international competitions, winning several accolades in France, Italy and further afield.

International grape varieties grown on the Islands include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Carignan, Chenin Blanc and Moscato. The indigenous varieties are Gellewza and Ghirghentina, which are producing some excellent wines of distinct body and flavour. The main wineries organise guided tours and tastings.

Depending on the season, tours cover the entire production, from the initial fermentation through to the ageing process. They also include wine history museums and opportunities to taste and buy a variety of vintages - BON APETIT

Brilli (A Game unique to Gozo)

Explore the Traditional Lifestyle of Gozo

Brilli is a game still played by adults in Gharb Gozo. Part of this remote area is undisturbed by cars, where streets have retained their function as a meeting place for the villagers.

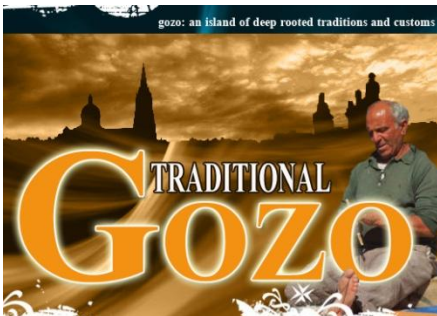


To play you need these objects Nine skittles (brilli) and a spherical wooden ball. The skittles are arranged to form a square with three rows, each row containing three skittles. A different term is used to describe the skittles according to their position in the square. The four brilli at the corners are called qriemec, while the central skittle is referred to as is-sultan. The remaining four skittles are known as is-sekondi. Each skittle is conical in shape, stability being provided by a metallic ring placed around the base. Is-Sultan has a spherical projection at its top to distinguish it from the other brilli.

To Play the game At least five to six people are needed for the game to be played. The place chosen for the first throw (messa) is marked by a stone.

The first throw (il-moll) gains points according to the number and type of skittles dropped. Thus is-sultan gains 18 points, is-sekond 12 points while the qriemec 1 point. If however more than one type of pin is dropped (example: sultan and qarmuc) only 2 points for each dropped pin is gained.

A line (il-Hazz) is drawn at the place where the ball stops after the first throw. The second attempt is thrown from this line and gains two points for every skittle dropped.



Traditional Gozo

Explore the Traditional Lifestyle of Gozo Gozo is renowned for its cottage industries, particularly spinning and weaving, and the creation of jumpers and jackets from the wool of sheep and goats.

Lace is the most widespread doorstep craft. It was introduced on a large scale after the 1840's. The craft soon proved its worth for the product was sold to the higher classes of society and even abroad. It was very common, especially in the afternoon, to see mothers with their daughters sitting on empty wooden lemonade crates with a lace pillow in their lap rested against the wall, their hands moving bobbins swiftly and deftly creating the most intricate and delicate of designs. Gozo lace is an object d'art and it continues to flourish despite competition from machine made lace.

The men make lace of a different variety: silver filigree, twisted into miraculous pieces of jewellery. And there is fabulous glass, with remarkable shapes in subtle shades of blue and green. Pottery is widely available, ranging from decorative pots and statuettes to imaginative house name plaques and door numbers.

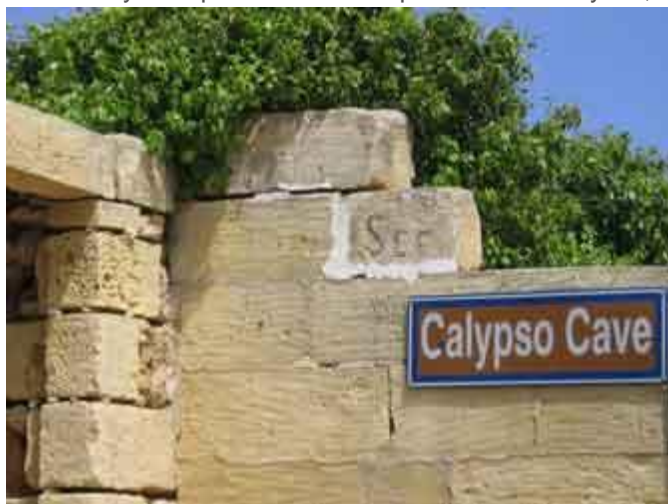
Crafts that are rarer still include palm work, palm leaves that are woven into sun-hats or baskets, cane work, especially practised by fisherman during winter to make cane curtains, carvers or sculptors, working the local stone or papier mache, producing statues and other objects to their own design, wood-workers that can construct anything from frames of grandfather clocks to limitation antiques chests of drawers and guilders, a craft that is gaining popularity.

Change is slow in Gozo, which adamantly sticks to its tortoise-like pace. Gozo has still succeeded in retaining its dream-like qualities of peace and solitude.

The Enchanted Realm of Calypso

Explore the Traditional Lifestyle of Gozo

Ramla Bay is reputed to be the place where Ulysses, the heroic Greek warrior, met the enchanting queen Calypso.



Consequently the island of Gozo is considered by many scholars to be the island of Ogygia. Homer's Odyssey narrates how Ulysses, after the wars of Troy, set sail for Ithaca where he had left his wife Penelope and only son Telamon. After several adventurous days at sea, his boat was wrecked in a terrible storm near the isle of Ogygia and Ulysses drifted on flotsam to the sandy shore of a large bay.

The goddess-nymph Calypso, who inhabited a cave in the hillside overlooking the bay, rescued Ulysses, took him to her cave and nursed him.

He then wished to sail home, but the nymph delayed his departure for seven long years. She promised him eternal youth if he consented staying with her but he refused, preferring to return to his wife and home in Greece.

He prayed to his gods daily and it was Zeus who ordered

Calypso to release the homesick man.

Ulysses sailed from Ogygia on a new ship loaded with presents for himself and his family which was a reward from Calypso and she ordered the winds to blow favourably to help him reach home safely. He arrived Ithaca where he found his wife Penelope at home weaving an unending web while she waited and waited for his return.

The view of the red sandy bay, of the sea and of the Gozo landscape is one of a beauty. Hundreds throng to the place for a look at the legendary abode of the brave hero and the lonely nymph.



Just five Egyptians were counted in the Victorian **census** in 1871, two years after the Suez Canal route through Egypt to Australia opened. By 1911, the population was still only 26. Most of these early settlers probably came to Australia as labourers and would probably have been of European heritage.

MIGRATION FROM EGYPT TO AUSTRALIA

Immigration of Maltese and other nationalities from Egypt to Australia increased significantly after World War II. A large number of immigrants arrived in the late 1940s and 1950s, escaping the growing Arab nationalist movement in Egypt which saw the overthrow of the Egyptian monarchy and the subsequent Suez Crisis. By 1952, the population of Egypt-born Australians had increased to 2,748; within seven years it had more than doubled to 6,555. Because of their multilingual skills many secured employment as translators and interpreters for the Australian government, in particular for the Department of Immigration. During the 1970s and early 1980s, increasing numbers of Egypt-born people settled in Victoria, and by 2011, the community had grown to 12,491 people.

The variety of languages spoken by Egypt-born Australians today reflects the multicultural character of the cosmopolitan cities of Alexandria and Cairo. While nearly half speak Arabic at home, the population includes significant numbers who speak Maltese, Greek, Italian, French and English.

Egypt-born Australians occupy a wide range of professions in Victoria, with nearly half of those currently employed working in managerial or professional roles. The community lives across Melbourne and in regional centres, with larger numbers in Melbourne's north-west.

The vibrant and diverse Egyptian culture is sustained and promoted through a range of community organisations including the Egyptian Federation of Victoria, the Alexandrian Group (AAHA), the Greek Egyptian Group (EEAMA) and the Melita Social Club.

NAXXAR

COAT OF ARMS

Similar to the Sliema and Żurriġ coat of arms, the Naxxar shield displays a charge upon a field which is divided between a metal (silver) and a colour (red). The countercharged cross is placed upon the division line, meaning that the charge is divided the same way as the field behind it, with the colours reversed. The village of Naxxar previously displayed an almost identical coat of arms, only that the cross was countercharged horizontally with the white over the red.

The village motto - *Prior Credidi* (First To Believe) - may explain the reason for the use of the cross as a charge to the shield.

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MALTA



ABELA

COAT OF ARMS

This coat of arms of the **ABELA** family of Malta is identical to that used by the ABELA family of Siracusa, Sicily. The mullets (stars) of the latter family are however, six pointed. The noble line of the Sicilian ABELA family also bear a very similar shield; the only difference being that the stars are six pointed and are aligned in chief of the shield.

Blazon: *Azure between three five-pointed mullets a chevron all or.*

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ARALDIKA
MALTA



Why living and doing business in Malta make business sense

In international tax planning circles, Malta is often referred to as one of Europe's best kept secrets, and people are still surprised when they first hear about the benefits of living and doing business there.

Malta offers the lowest effective corporate tax rate in the European Union (EU). While the corporate tax rate is 35%, upon the distribution of dividends to shareholders, the shareholders may apply for a refund of the Malta tax charge of the Malta Company, which will reduce the effective corporate tax burden to between zero and 6.25%.

There is also a favourable residents scheme for foreigners taking up residence, making Malta an ideal location for both businesses and individuals.

A well connected investment location right in the heart of the Mediterranean

With over 7,000 years of history, an average of 300 days of sunshine each year, an average annual rainfall of 550mm (about 21 inches), and no snow, fog or frost, Malta is a popular destination for many people seeking a relaxing destination with great weather and a healthy Mediterranean lifestyle.

Situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, about 100 kilometres south of Sicily and 300 kilometres east of Tunis, the Maltese archipelago consists of five islands, having a total area of 315km², of which the larger ones — Malta, Gozo and Comino — are inhabited. The total population in the Maltese archipelago is about 415,000.

The official languages are Maltese and English, however English is the main medium of official documentation in banking and commerce. For instance, laws are published in English, traffic signs are in English, and the main newspapers are in English. Italian is also widely spoken in Malta.

Some of the different reasons people offer for settling in Malta and setting up a company there are that the country:

- Has excellent communication links and transport networks with Europe and beyond;
- Is an ideal hub for combining business and pleasure;
- Has an enjoyable Mediterranean lifestyle with a diversity of restaurants, a good social life and quality cultural events;
- Has a very attractive tax system for companies and individuals;
- Uses the Euro and has a convenient time zone (Central European Time);
- Is a politically stable country; and,
- A wide variety of properties are available in all price ranges.

Having been a part of the British Empire for over 150 years, Malta inherited features of the British tax system and as a result, Maltese tax law is based on British tax principles. Malta's tax system brings to charge income and certain capital gains. By virtue of Malta's full imputation tax system, the double taxation of company profits in the hands of the shareholder is eliminated.

Residency and associated tax advantages

For over 20 years, the Maltese Government has adopted a residents scheme in order to encourage foreigners to take up residence in Malta. This scheme has proven to be very popular with people seeking a place to retire. An individual may take up residence in Malta by declaring his or her intention to do so and submitting the appropriate form within three months of arrival in Malta.

People taking advantage of this scheme benefit from a flat income tax rate of 15% on income received in Malta, with an annual minimum tax liability of €4,192 after double taxation relief. Malta's wide treaty network currently covers over 50 double tax treaties.

For tax purposes, an individual is generally regarded as being resident in Malta for a particular year if, in that year, his

or her stay exceeds 183 days. However, an individual may also be regarded as a resident of Malta when taking up employment in Malta.

Persons resident and domiciled in Malta are subject to income tax in Malta on their worldwide income and certain capital gains.

Persons who are ordinarily resident in Malta but not domiciled in Malta (commonly referred to as “non-doms”) are only taxed on income and certain capital gains sourced in Malta, plus income sourced outside Malta which is received in, or remitted to Malta. Foreign-source capital gains are invariably not taxable in Malta.

Expatriates may import their personal belongings to Malta free of VAT and import duties.

Favourable tax system for expats working in the investment services and insurance sectors

While being subject to the advantageous tax treatment applicable to non-doms as outlined above, expats working in the investment services and insurance industries, subject to certain conditions, may also benefit from a 10-year tax exemption on the following expenses incurred for the benefit of the expatriate, or of his immediate family, by the investment services company or insurance company of which they are an employee, or to which they provide services:

- Removal costs in respect of relocation to and from Malta;
- Accommodation expenses incurred in Malta;
- Travel costs in respect of visits by the expatriate and their family to or from Malta;
- The provision of a company car for the use of the expatriate;
- A subvention of up to €600 per month;
- Medical expenses and medical insurance;
- School fees of the expatriate's children.

In order to benefit from this exemption, the investment services expatriate must be employed or provide services to a company which is licensed as an investment services company in Malta, or is recognised as such, and the activities of which consist solely of the provision of management, administration, safekeeping or investment advice to collective investment schemes. The insurance expatriate must be employed or provide services to a company which is licensed to act as an insurance company, insurance manager or insurance broker.

Furthermore, the expatriate must not have been resident in Malta for a minimum of 3 years immediately preceding the year in which they started working or providing services to the company, and during these 3 years the expatriate should have been engaged in a similar position outside Malta.

Inheritance and capital transfer tax

There is no general inheritance tax system in Malta. However, upon the transfer or transmission (upon death) of:

- Real estate situated in Malta or shares in a company owning mainly real estate situated in Malta, a duty of 5% is due;
- Marketable securities (mainly shares) in Maltese companies, a duty of 2 per cent is due. Some exemptions apply.

Malta makes business sense

In today's increasingly competitive global marketplace, Malta is striving, with considerable success according to some observers, in establishing itself as an EU business and financial centre of repute. In addition to Malta's corporate tax system – with not more than a 5% effective tax rate — and the attractive tax system applicable to expatriates, Malta offers an enviable Mediterranean lifestyle with a Western European business climate, where English is the commercial lingua franca. The modern infrastructure and the “can do” attitude of the authorities and regulators, which provide industry with real-time efficient service and feedback, make doing business in Malta easy, efficient, and cost effective. As one of the many fund managers who has moved to Malta aptly put it, “Here, we do and achieve all that we used to in the City, at half the cost, 1/10th the tax, enjoying the sun, sea, sailing, the food, and the open air cafés.”

Unveiling of vibrant, flowing mural depicting Malta transforms Maltese Community Centre Hall in Victoria

On Sunday 3 May 2015 the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Robin Scott, unveiled the new mural installed in the hall of the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville at a cocktail reception organised by the MCCV. The mural was painted by Peter Toyne. Peter considered the commission to design the mural in the Maltese Community Centre hall for the MCCV as both a great honour and, equally, a great responsibility. The latter because the design was to express Maltese culture and identity.

A large audience filled the hall eagerly looking forward to the moment of the unveiling of the mural. When the Minister led the unveiling, it was met with loud applause and expressions of awe for a work of art that aptly reminded all of our beloved Malta.



The vibrancy and flow of the mural scene immediately transformed the hall into an apparently larger space of natural light and colour. The mural is part of a larger program of refurbishment of the Maltese Centre that the MCCV has been undertaking.

Dr. Victor Borg, President of MCCV addressing the audience

At the same event, Minister Robin Scott also launched the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory 2015 just published by the MCCV to promote cultural awareness of the Maltese community and provide information specifically targeted towards the Maltese aged residing in aged care facilities.

After the singing of the Maltese and Australian national anthems, Mr George Saliba, MC for the afternoon, welcomed the distinguished guests, which included Minister Robin Scott; Mr Victor Grech, the Consul General of Malta in Victoria; Dr Edwin Borg-Manché,

Honorary Consul of Malta in Victoria; Mr Mario Sammut, Vice-Consul of Malta in the La Trobe Valley; Mr Eddie Micallef, Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Rector at Parkville; and Sr Doris Falzon OP, Superior of the Dominican Sisters of Malta in Melbourne.



Photos supplied by George Brimmer

SHIPS USED BY MALTESE MIGRANTS



Ships on Charter

The final adieu, November 1950 Regular shipping for migrants to Australia really began in April 1948 when the **Asturias** left Malta, on April 23. In fact she had made a previous trip, on November 20, 1947, when one hundred emigrants had left on her, but many of them were returning emigrants who had paid anything from \$58 to \$80 to get as far as Melbourne. However from April 1948 to August 1952 the **Asturias** made fifteen trips to Australia thus earning for herself the sixth place among those ships which made most trips from Malta to Australia. The undisputed primacy goes to the aptly named **Sydney** which between December 15, 1951, and February 13, 1966, made thirty-nine trips between Malta and Australia. When the **Columbia** carried on her 1,075 migrants, that was considered then as the largest group ever carried to Australia in one voyage. The

Columbia left on November 21, 1949. On that day Mr Cole expressed his obvious satisfaction at practically solving the problem of providing a reliable shipping service for emigrants.

This is not to say that Mr Cole had solved the shipping problem to the satisfaction of everybody. While it was true that the Maltese Government had successfully obtained enough ships to carry those who wished to emigrate, there were complaints about some ships and about their sea worthiness and the kind of accommodation provided on board. Complaints appeared in the Maltese press about the **Columbia**. Although during question time in the Legislative Assembly Mr Cole had stated that the **Columbia's** trip was normal he did admit that during her journey three babies, only a few months old, had died at sea.

On April 26, 1949, the ship called **Misr** took to Australia seven hundred Maltese passengers. The ship had been built in the U.S.A. only six years before and was now owned by the Soc. Misr de Navigation Maritime of Alexandria, Egypt. In 1947 the **Misr** had embarked on her first voyage to Australia carrying on board a number of passengers who had originated from the Middle East. When the Maltese arrived on the **Misr** and disembarked first in Melbourne then in Sydney, some sections of the Australian Press had taken them for Levantines. Once on dry land the Maltese themselves complained about the accommodation they had been given in common dormitories. Complaints reached Malta about the ship **Ocean Victory** which had left on February 26, 1950. On her were 1,024 emigrants and these included forty-two babies, one hundred and sixty children between the ages of one and five years, and one hundred and eighteen between five and eleven years. Three qualified nurses were in charge of the child. Labour representatives in the Legislative Assembly asked for a discussion on the accommodation provided on some of the ships being chartered by Mr Cole's department.

Labour politician, Mr N. Laiviera, claimed that he had received letters from emigrants he knew who had bitterly complained about conditions on board the **Ocean Victory**. Mr Laiviera did admit that better accommodation meant more expensive fares. His colleague, Mr D. Mintoff, wanted to know if there was any truth in the rumour that a child had died. Mr Mintoff quoted from the Australian newspaper, The Daily Telegraph of April 3, 1950, which said that customs officials had described the **Ocean Victory** as a hell-ship. The captain himself admitted that a baby boy of ten months had died and so did another of sixteen months. Many of the passengers claimed they had suffered from dysentery while their linen was changed only once. Mr Anthony Cassar said that rain seeped into their sleeping quarters and Mrs Mary Grech, a mother with three girls and a boy, said that they lived on boiled potatoes and spaghetti.

Complaints were also raised about the ship **Florentia** which made three trips from Malta to Australia between December 15, 1950, and August 21, 1951. She had been built in Dunbarton, Scotland, in 1914. Some of those who travelled on the ship felt that the ship was not fit to cross the Indian Ocean, especially between May and September when the monsoons were likely to occur. One particular trip created quite a stir. The **Florentia** was expected in Grand Harbour, Valletta, on April. She was to carry 1,039 passengers but these were kept waiting for a number of days until she finally made port eleven days later.

The trip to Australia was uneventful, but chaos was let loose when she finally berthed at North Wharf, Melbourne, on May 31. Many relatives had been anxiously waiting for a very long time and tempers were short. On disembarking, one immigrant decided to run towards his relatives while his luggage was still being inspected by immigration officials. He was soon caught, but other waiting relatives and friends joined the fray. In the fracas that ensued three immigration officials were hurt and so were two Maltese. Five were arrested. One was accused of causing bodily harm to an immigration official while the other cases deferred.

An official comment from the Maltese Department of Emigration said about the incident "The man in question was only trying to kiss his mother before customs formalities had been finished. He had been already warned to wait, but he insisted on rushing to his mother. The other Maltese were all waiting on the quay. None of the arriving immigrants were involved".

It was obvious that the Maltese Government could not ignore the criticism in Malta and abroad about some of the chartered ships, particularly the **Ocean Victory** and the **Ocean Triumph** that if the decision to hire both ships had been solely on his own he would have never decided in hiring these two ships. He had sent a telegram to Malta expressing his favourable impression about the behaviour of the Maltese and that he thought that they would make good settlers. Source: *The Safety Valve* (1997), author Fr Lawrence E. Attard, Publishers Enterprises Group

OTHER MIGRANT SHIPS

ANGELINA LAURO 2 VOYAGES 1970, 1972 401 Maltese Migrants
ARCADIA - P & O SN COMPANY Number of voyages - 2 1962 -63 3 Maltese Passengers
AURELIA 1949-1960 Number of voyages - 15 3,288 Maltese Passengers.
AUSTRALIA Lloyd Triestino 1952 Number of voyages - 1 268 Maltese Migrants.
ASTURIAS 1947 -52 Number of voyages - 18 4770 Maltese Passengers
CASTEL FELICE Sitmar Lines Number of voyages - 6 1955 1958 3,276 Maltese passengers.
CASTEL VERDE - Sitmar Line 1954 Number of voyages - 2 556 Maltese Migrants.
CYRENIA 1950 - 1954 Number of voyages - 6 999 Maltese Passengers.
FAIRSEA 1954-1962 Number of voyages - 1,724 Maltese Passengers.
THESEUS HOBSONS BAY Shaw Saville line 1934 -36 Number of voyages - 6 72 Maltese Passengers.
LARGS BAY Shaw Saville Line 1948 - 56 Number of voyages - 28 324 Maltese Migrants
MOOLTAN P&O SN COMPANY 1952 Number of voyages - 1 352 Maltse Passengers
ORCADES 1939 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 2
ORIANA P&O SN COMPANY 1962 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 156
ORAMA - ORIENT LINE 1936 - 37 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 12
ORONSAY - ORIENT LINE 1936 - 37 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 4
ORSOVA - ORIENT LINE 1958 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 2
ROMA - FLOTTA LAURO 1959 - 65 Number of voyages - 22 Number of Maltese Passengers - 3849
SKAUBRYN Departed Greenock Saturday, 22 September 1883 Arrived MALTA 2 October Sailed 3 October Arrived Port Said 7 October via Suez Canal Arrived Aden 14 October Sailed 14 October Arrived Colombo 23 October Sailed 25 October Arrived Batavia 1 November Sailed 3 November Arrived Thursday Is. 13 November Arrived Cooktown 15 November Arrived TOWNSVILLE 16 November 1883
JERVIS BAY 1934 - 39 Number of voyages - 9 Number of Maltese Passengers - 107
OCEAN TRIUMPH 1950 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 905
RANGITIKI - N.Z.S.S. COMPANNOY LIMITED Passengers: 598 Sister ships: Rangitane (1), Rangitata 1946 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 64
STRATHNAVER 1948 -59 Number of voyages - 10 Number of Maltese Passengers - 111
STRATHMORE 1940 - 58 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 470
STRATHAIRD 1940 - 58 Number of voyages - 3 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1732
STRATHNAVER 1948 - 59 Number of voyages - 5 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1732
SURRIENTO FLOTTA LAURO 1949 - 1955 Number of voyages - 10 Number of Maltese Passengers - 3381
TAHITIEN Messageries Maritimes 1959 Number of voyages - 1 Number of Maltese Passengers - 60
TOSCANA - Lloyd Triestino 1948 - 57 Number of voyages - 5 Number of Maltese Passengers - 1202
UGOLINO VIVALDI Lloyd Triestino 1949 Number of voyages - 2 Number of Maltese Passengers - 18
H.M.S. VICTORIOUS 1946 The VICTORIUS carrying 1088 passengers from the United Kingdom wartime evacuees returning to Singapore, picked 15 men from Malta. These Maltese migrants completed their voyage to Australia on the Blue Funnel Line Steamship 'GORGON' and arrived at Fremantle on 12 December 1946
NUDDEA British India Stf Navigation Companyy. BUILT 1883. Gr. T. 2964.



Stay safe in the sun as Malta get set for a sizzling summer

Experts have urged sun-worshippers to protect themselves this summer after news that rates of skin cancer are on the increase in Malta.

May is Melanoma Awareness Month, with a number of campaigns taking place to raise awareness about the deadly disease.

Latest figures show that more than 110 people died from the condition in Malta in last 20 years.

Weather forecasters have already predicted this summer could be one of the hottest for years in the Mediterranean with temperatures well above average.

Kate Demanuele of Persona Med-Aesthetic Centre in Ta' Xbiex told 89.7 Bay: 'Unfortunately, local dermatologists have seen a sharp rise in cases of melanoma over the last years.

'Experts indicate that this rise is due to a couple of different factors, such as the depletion of the ozone layer, popularity of tanning beds, more revealing fashion styles, and social norms encouraging the desirability of tanned skin.

'While it's true that our bodies need a daily dose of Vitamin D, absorbing enough sunlight to reach your daily requirements is no problem for people living in Malta.

'With the amount of sun hours and strength of the UV rays in Malta, our daily required dose is easily satisfied without the need for any extra effort.' Avoiding too much sun, covering up, and using sunscreen is the key to preventing skin cancer. To protect against the harmful effect of UV radiation, it is recommended to seek shade and avoid the sunniest hours of the day.

When outdoors, try to protect your skin as much as possible, wearing a hat, sunglasses and clothing that covers your skin. She added: 'Dermatologists worldwide insist that there's nothing healthy about a sun tan, therefore through this campaign, we hope more people will become aware of the dangers of unprotected or inadequately-protected sun exposure.

'Prevention and early detection measurements of skin cancer, can save lives, therefore we hope this campaign will have its needed impact on people's lifestyle and their skin health.'

Persona Med-Aesthetic Centre is offering a number of free consultations for mole assessment throughout May to help increase awareness about the importance of prevention and early detection of melanoma



SEE YOU LATER, MATE
SAHHA, HABIB/A

