



PALAZZO PARISIO - VALLETTA

Built in the early 18th century by Bishop Sceberras on the site of two former houses in Merchants Street, then known as Strada San Giacomo, Palazzo Parisio consists of three elements, each two storeys high, enclosing a central courtyard. A new third storey was added after the First World War.



By the late 18th century the property became the town house of Chavalier Paolo Parisio Muscati, a Neapolitan Maltese nobleman who had married Donna Anna Muscati, grand-daughter of Donna Maria Sceberras, mother of Bishop Sceberras. Paolo Parisio played an influential role during the latter years of the Order of St. John's rule in Malta. It was during this period that the site acquired its lasting epithet of Palazzo Parisio.

On 13th June 1798 Napoleon Bonaparte landed in Malta and took residence at the Palazzo. During his seven eventful days' stay at the Palazzo, prior to embarking for his Egyptian campaign, Napoleon dictated

the transformation of Malta's ancient legal and administrative structures in the Republican 'Code Napoleon'. Less than three months, later these imposed, deep rooted and abrupt changes instigated the insurrection of the Maltese against the French.

With French forces blockaded inside Valletta, Chevalier Parisio left the city to join the Maltese peasant army at the head of the Naxxar battalion. Following the establishment of British rule (1800) Paolo Parisio resumed his involvement in his country's affairs and was held in high esteem by the local British authorities. Visiting British military officers, including Generals Abercrombie and Graham, took up temporary residence at his Palazzo and he was one of the first Maltese to be honoured with the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

An interesting phase in the Palazzo's history relates to the period preceding the Italian unification, when leading intellectual and artistic personalities of the early 'Risorgimento' became forced exiles in Malta. While in Malta, they found a natural affinity not only with those of a kindred spirit who had been agitating for local self-government, but also with the local intelligentsia; gradually infusing a fresh expression in local art and literature, is known to have befriended such a milieu and used his residence to hold cultural activities of note. One such event was held in the evening of 12th August 1821 when Gabriele Rossetti, an acknowledged poet of the Italian Risorgimento, composed and read a poem about Malta under the title '*San Paolo che naufraga in Malta e se ne dichiara il protettore*'.

Following Paolo's death and lavish state funeral, the property passed to the de Piro family and by 1886, the Palazzo was in a sorry state and co-owned by close to one hundred individuals. The newly appointed Postmaster General, Sir Ferdinand Inglott, who at the time was searching for a new site for the postal operations, persuaded the owners first to lease and then sell the property to the Government. Fully restored and refurbished, Palazzo Parisio formally opened its doors to the public on the 8th of May 1886, as Malta's new General Post Office. The top storey of Palazzo Parisio was completed after the first World War to house the Audit Office. During the Second World War, the Valletta palace was partly destroyed through enemy action, and in the repairs that followed, the exterior was left unaltered, though it was not possible to restore the decorations on the walls and ceilings. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs moved from the "Old Chancellery", Palace Square, to Palazzo Parisio in October 1973.



Tliet Mit Sena mill-Konsagrazzjoni tal-Knisja Katidrali fiċ-Ċittadella t'Għawdex

Nhar il-Gimgha 5 t'Awwissu 2016, fil-Knisja Katidrali, bħalissa mzejna waħda sew għall-festa tal-Għid tal-Assunta, saret Lejla Kommemorattiva fl-okkażjoni tat-tliet mit sena mill-Konsagrazzjoni ta' din il-knisja li xi darba hu maħsub kienet tempju pagan iddedikat li Juno u li iktar tard inbidlet fi knisja ddedikata lill-Imqaddsa Vergni Marija mill-

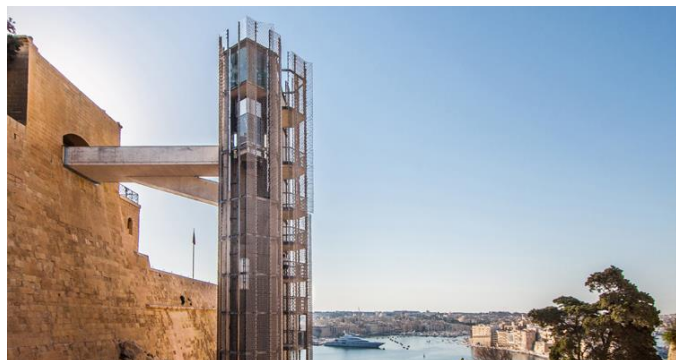
ewwel insara. Matul iż-żmien li l-Għarab damu jaħkmu fostna (870-1127) żgur li għebet kull traċċa ta' dil-binja Biżantina. Il-knisja li nbriet wara ġgarrfet ħafna minnha bit-terremot li ħakem lil Għawdex fl-1693 u l-ewwel ġebela tal-knisja li naraw illum kienet tqiegħdet fil-21 ta' Settembru 1697 u kienet ġiet ikkonsagrata mill-Isqof Giacomo Canaves fil-11 ta' Ottubru 1716, propju tliet mit sena ilu. Kien il-Papa Piju Disgħa li waqqaf il-Katidral tad-Djoċesi Għawdxija fis-16 ta' Settembru 1864.

Intant biex jifakkar dan l-Anniversarju tal-Konsagrazzjoni, saret Akkademja Muziko-Letterarja bis-sehem tal-*Cathedral Chamber Orchestra* (Leader Jean Noel Attard u Flute Obbligato Nathalie Fenech) taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Colin Attard li nterpretat xogħlijiet meħuda mill-Arkivji tal-istess Katidral. Haddu sehem is-solisti s-Sopran Pamela Agius-Cibrano, it-Tenur Charles Vella Żarb u l-Baxx Noel Galea. Smajna siltiet minn xogħlijiet ta' Agostino Nani (1782-1845), Francesco Azopardi (1748-1809), Emanuele Nani (1768-1860), Giuseppe Spiteri-Fremond (1804-1878) u Giuseppe Burlo' (1772-1857). Interessanti ferm kienu l-interventi storici li għamlu kemm il-Professur Stanley Fiorini u r-Rev. Monsinjur Dr Joseph Bezzina kif ukoll Monsinjur Arcidjaknu Giovanni Bosco Gauci li ta merħba lil għadd sabiħ ta' mistednin u parruċċani li attendew kif ukoll Monsinjur Isqof Mario Grech li ppresieda s-Serata. F'hin minnhom Monsinjur Bezzina ħabbar ukoll it-Tnedija ta' 'Tabula Gratulatoria' ta' studju riċerka b'tifkira ta' din il-ġrajja. Il-Pubblikazzjoni sa tkun ġgħib l-isem ta' **The Gozo Cathedral – its history and treasures**, kitba tal-istess storiku Bezzina u fotografija ta' Daniel Cilila. Nemmen li sa tkun pubblikazzjoni unika li s'issa għad ma kellniex f'idejna li sa tiftaħ tieqa beraħ fuq l-istorja u t-teżori ta' din il-Matriċi ddedikata lill-Assunta li dis-sena l-istatwa tagħha qed tagħlaq sittin sena mindu ħadet postha f'din il-Knisja Katidrali.

Kav Joe M Attard

Victoria Għawdex 8 ta' Awwissu 2016

Barrakka Lift Valletta Malta



This recently completed twenty storey high panoramic lift, commissioned by the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation plc and designed by Architecture Project (AP), is located on the edge of Malta's historic fortified capital city of Valletta. Where once the sixteenth century fortified walls of the town served to keep enemy ships at bay, they are now under conservation order and provide an unbeatable new access for

visitors and residents flocking here. Valletta is being given a new lease of life as the island prepares to host the presidency of the European Union in 2017 and the city having recently been named European Capital of Culture for 2018..

The structure is designed to enhance movement of large numbers of visitors and residents between the Grand Harbour and Valletta, from the water's edge along the Valletta waterfront, over the powerful landward enceinte of fortifications and into the heart of the city, creating new links to the Upper Barrakka Gardens and the new City Gate. It is bound to leave a significant visual impact on this sensitive heritage site and leaves no room for compromises on the engineering level, where attachment to the historic walls was not possible and where the programme was extremely onerous. The Barrakka Lift project therefore required a certain rigour to resolve the dichotomy between the strong historic nature of the site and the demands for better access placed upon it by cultural and economic considerations.

Shifting political and economic realities have always been a challenge for this world heritage city and the connection between harbour and city has transformed itself over the years in response to these unrelenting changes. The eighteenth century saw the development of harbour infrastructure that gave rise to a thriving commercial hub outside the walls, separated from the residential heart of the city, while the British period transformed the port into a vital strategic naval and merchant base in the Mediterranean. Today, a very different economic reality is once again dictating the transformation of this dynamic area of the town: the recent restoration of Baroque waterside warehouses into a thriving cruise ship terminal as well as the development of restaurants and cafes, prompted the re-activation of a lift that had been built to connect the harbour with the town in 1905 during Valletta's heyday as a trading port. The original lift structure was 60m tall and contained two lift cabins each with a capacity of 12 passengers. The operation was closed down in 1973 and the structure abandoned and eventually dismantled by the 1980s.

The renewed connection serves the needs of thousands of visitors approaching the city from the traditional arrival point at the foot of the bastions. The heavy demands of accessibility to and mobility around the town required a much larger footprint and a stronger vertical statement within the skyline of the historic harbour were therefore inevitable. In order to resolve this, a cavity was created by pulling the two lifts apart, where a staircase could be threaded in between. Not only does this space accommodate mandatory safety requirements, but it also reduces the visual weight of the lift structure itself and accentuates the vertical proportions of the structure.

The geometric qualities of the plan echo the angular forms of the bastion walls, and the corrugated edges of the aluminium skin help modulate light as it hits the structure, emphasizing its verticality. The mesh masks the glazed lift carriages, recalling the forms of the original cage lifts, whilst providing shade and protection to passengers as they travel between the city of Valletta and the Mediterranean Sea.

Picture credits: [Sean Mallia](#), [Luis Rodriguez Lopez](#) and AP



THE MONKS OF WAR

The Military Religious Orders

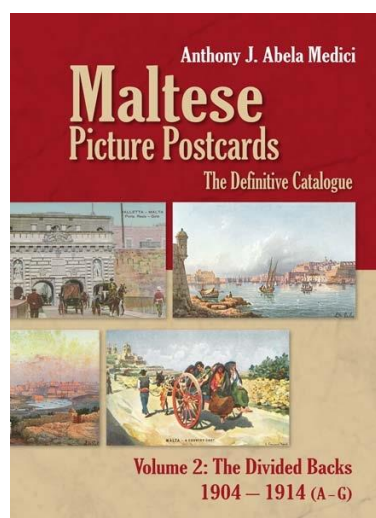
DESMOND SEWARD

THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA THE MONKS OF WAR

The military religious orders emerged during the Crusades as Christendom's stormtroopers in the savage conflict with Islam. Some of them still exist today, devoted to charitable works. *The Monks of War* is the first general history of these orders to have appeared since the eighteenth century.

The Templars, the Hospitallers (late Knights of Malta), the Teutonic Knights, and the Knights of the Spanish and Portuguese orders were 'noblemen vowed to poverty, chastity and obedience, living a monastic life in convents which were at the same time barracks, waging war on the enemies of the Cross'. The first properly disciplined Western troops since Roman times, they played a major role in defending the crusader kingdom of Jerusalem, in the 'Baltic Crusades' which created Prussia, in the long reconquest of Spain from the Moors, and in fighting the 'Infidel' right up to Napoleonic times. This celebrated book tells the whole enthralling story, recreating such epics as the sieges of Rhodes and Malta and the destruction of the Templars by the Inquisition. Acclaimed on publication, it has

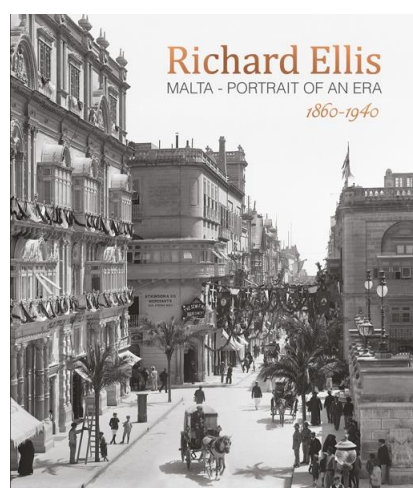
now been revised and updated, with a concluding chapter to take events in the 1990's.



MALTESE PICTURE POSTCARDS

The second volume in the series *Maltese Picture Postcards: The Definitive Catalogue* details the early period of the divided-back postcards published mostly in Malta between the years 1904 and 1914, and beyond. This second volume catalogues over 1,630 different cards and incorporates over 900 other images detailing amongst others the imprints and backs of cards. Practically all recorded postcards published in this period have been reproduced in full colour. This second volume covers publishers whose initials are from A to G. The third volume will cover publishers with initials H to Z. The visual memory of Malta and Gozo, its people and customs are once again being captured in this detailed catalogue of early Maltese postcards. This work is of particular interest to postcard and Melitensia collectors, to scholars of the British and French fleets in the Mediterranean in the first two decades of the twentieth century, and to current and former students of St Aloysius' College.

These three books and more are available at www.bdlbooks.com



RICHARD ELLIS: MALTA PORTRAIT OF AN ERA - 1860-1940

Richard Ellis is synonymous with photography in Malta during the Victorian and Edwardian periods and beyond. He left his legacy, this invaluable archive of images, for the benefit of the generations that were to follow. This unique photographic collection was added to by his son John and his grandson Richard, both photographers in their own right. The whole compilation creates a pictorial history of the Maltese Islands that would prove difficult to surpass. The contents cover a wide variety of topics ranging from formal portraits of visiting Royalty to everyday mundane tasks such as the milking of goats, and everything in between.

The pictorial collection in this publication, on the fiftieth anniversary of Malta's independence, attempts to portray the events and changes that took place in

Malta's way of life from an agricultural society to one with a modern and industrialized outlook. The very same building blocks that eventually, so many years later, formed the foundations on which the Nation that is Malta could proudly take its place in the World.



Malta's history and culture inform its funeral customs by James Stuart

Picture – John Butigieg

An antique horse-drawn funeral carriage in Valley Road, Birkirkara. Such carriages were phased out in the 1960s, when they were replaced by motorised hearses

Malta is a small European country located south of Sicily in the middle of the Mediterranean. Citizens speak the language Malti and share an elaborate culture that reflects Italian, British, French and native traditions. Malta's funeral customs are known for their detailed rites. These customs are rooted in a Catholic tradition and are similar to those of nearby Sicily.

Celebration Death is not a taboo subject in Maltese culture. Citizens celebrate death and several daily routines reflect the Maltese respect for death. Every Maltese village has a high concentration of churches, which ring their bells at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to mark the beginning of funerals. Funeral processions are elaborate, with large flower-covered coffins that shut down traffic in the city regularly. Obituaries are announced over the radio each morning.

Salt One of the oldest traditions is the practice of placing salt on the stomach of the deceased, known as being "salted for the pit." In the pre-modern period, families often preserved bodies in a saline solution, but many families simply placed a small amount of salt in a dish and laid it on top of the body, believing this helped preserve it. Many families still follow the practice today as a tradition.

Covering Mirrors Prior to the funeral, the body is kept in the family's house. According to the Journal of Folklore, Maltese people traditionally cover all mirrors in accordance with the traditional belief that mirrors are supernatural portals for spirits. Some families will remove mirrors from their rooms altogether and extend the practice to paintings in the death chamber where the body lies. Similarly, family members often remove furniture from the room to avoid tainting it with the presence of the dead.

Other Traditions Maltese citizens follow a number of other traditions that reflect the various cultures that passed through the country at different times. Family members often wash the body of the deceased before covering it with a shroud. They also close the eyes of the deceased if left open and raise the chin with a white kerchief. Finally, family members remove all knobs and knockers from their doors and leave their doors shut for several days, and neighbors follow suit by leaving their doors half-closed.

I think you should call these newsletters MALTAPEDIA because they are absolutely a mine of information about the Maltese people around the world, the heritage, customs and culture of the Maltese island and past and present news. You name a topic about Malta and here you find it. Salvu Pace - Victoria



TRADITIONAL DRESSES IN MALTA

Like every other country in the world, the fashion changed during the years. Malta is no exception, along the years locals changed their fashion habits and now everyone dress similar clothes to other European countries and follow global fashion trends.

Back in the days, cotton was the primary material used in making the clothes of peasants and country folk. Traditional Maltese clothes ranged from the humble attire of country folk to the lavish costumes of the more privileged classes. An array of gentlemen's waistcoats, ladies' gowns and bodices, wedding dresses, bathing costumes, undergarments as well as Maltese traditional costumes were part of the Maltese fashion recipe.



Għonnella Malta

One very particular aspect of the traditional clothes in Malta is the Maltese "Faldetta" or as known with the locals as the "Għonnella". The għonnella, pronounced "on-ne-la" (pl. *għenienel*, pronounced "ee-nee-nel"), was a form of women's head dress and shawl, or hooded cloak, unique to the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo. In the dialects of the south-east of Malta it was referred to as *culqana* while in the dialect of Għargħur it was referred to as *stamijna*.

The Għonnella used to be held with just one hand and would cover only the head and not the face, as you can clearly see in the above picture.

Another thing that might be of your interest is the Maltese Traditional Wedding. From time to time some localities re-enact an old Maltese wedding. Here the visitors can have a look at some traditional clothes that the Maltese used to wear during such

special occasions.

Fashion in Malta, today

Over the past half century, this little Mediterranean island, freshly self-determining after a long history of colonisation and dependence, achieved a great deal in the way of modernisation. Fashion is one of the things that the locals changed, due to various reasons, one of the main ones being Globalisation. While much of this may come as a surprise to some visitors, this transformation has not eliminated the core elements of Malta's cultural identity. Most locals today buy clothes online or else from one of the various shops around Malta.

Today visitors can enjoy authentic traditional Maltese clothes at the national collection of costumes and textiles at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa.

Source: Wikipedia

HISTORY OF MALTESE IN GIBRALTAR



A **Maltese community** has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled the Mediterranean and the vital route to the Suez Canal and thence to India. When the British conquered Gibraltar, the majority of the Spanish inhabitants were expelled and sought refuge principally in the nearby Spanish town of San Roque, leaving behind a garrison to be serviced by immigrants, mostly from Malta and Genoa. Immigration from

neighboring Spanish towns soon followed giving the colony a very cosmopolitan population. Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the Rock soon led to a coalescence of Maltese, Italian and Andalusian culture, preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic uniqueness of the colony despite centuries of British occupation.



Colonialism Gibraltar prospered by the arrival of 19th century trade with North Africa and the presence of the Royal Navy. This prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living on the colony. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to

the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the rock practically impregnable. The naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two world wars. It was only to be expected that, given the common cultural bond between Malta and Gibraltar, some Maltese would be lured by the prospect of lucrative employment there.

Maltese in Gibraltar By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not above 700. Many worked in the dockyard and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the economy of Gibraltar was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the Maltese Islands. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life of the colony, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK. The situation in Malta was very different, where, despite an earlier attempt at integration with the UK, rising nationalist sentiment led to independence in 1964 and the establishment of a republic a decade later.

**PLEASE, SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER BY READING IT, SHARING IT
WITH OTHERS AND BY SENDING US CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTEREST
TO BE PUBLISHED HERE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

THE PEOPLE OF MALTA

The combined population of Malta and Gozo totals up to around 420 000. Ethnically, the Maltese people are quite an extraordinary mixture. Throughout the Islands long history, the many races that have settled here have left their indelible marks. Thus the Maltese are among the most cosmopolitan people in the world. Nonetheless, there remain definite characteristics, which are ... and always have been ... distinctly Maltese both culturally and physically.



The Maltese character is gregarious and amiable. We love visitors and will go out of our way to make strangers feel at home. Nearly all Maltese are Roman Catholics and the influence of the church is not what use to be. Every town and village has its own church.... Some of these are large and imposing ... for example the parish church in the town of Mosta has the second largest unsupported dome in the world. During the summer months each town and village celebrate the feast day of its particular saint. These are colourful occasions with the whole population of the village en fete. Religion seems to be as much a part of life as eating and sleeping. Tolerance is another character trait, which has been honed over generations of foreign occupations..

Most first-time visitors to the Maltese Islands remark on the friendliness and almost naïve openness of the people. When you live here you realize that it is no act, put on for the sake of the tourist. Neighbours will always look out for one another ... they will knock on the door on their way to the shops to ask if they can get anything for you ... they take messages happily ... look after your children and pets ... and generally become very protective towards any non-Maltese living in their community. Tourists to Malta ... who later become permanent or temporary residents here do so for the overwhelming reason that they are made to feel welcome ... and that ... in a nutshell, sums up the character of the Maltese people.



For:- The Journal of The Maltese Diaspora – Maltese E/Newsletter on request of

A Life Well Lived And Loved: **AGNESE BORG (nee BORG GAUCI)** FROM THE BREAD MAKING VILLAGE OF HAL-QORMI MALTA

Agnese and Leone Borg



One of 18 siblings, **AGNESE BORG** was born in November 1918 and is still enjoying a hard life well lived with God's grace! Her siblings include:- Marianna a Sewing Teacher; Giovanna a Teacher; Paul; Mikiel; Emanuel/Leli 'L'Iskultur u l-Pittur'; Grezz 'tal-Muzew' Hal Qormi branch + 50yrs; Karmelo/Charlie 'it-Tram'/driver of CGMO for many years; Giuseppa; Agostina; Agnese; Giuseppe/Joe 'emigrated to South Africa'; Melita; Lucia; Gesuarda; Grazio; Giovanna/Joan. The Borg's were a loving and close

family. Some died as babies, or before she grew up. To-date Gesuarda and Agnese are still alive.

Giuseppa and George Borg - During her youth Agnese lived at St Sebastian Hal Qormi, Malta. Agnese's father **George Borg 1882** (pictured Xiklunabove) 'ta L-Aringu' from Hal Qormi was a Vendor Distributor/Salesman. As a child Agnese loved riding on his horse and green trailer. George and many Qormi Ghannejja 'Maltese Folk Singers' gathered in the evenings around his **Qormi Kafe**, sitting on stools or the footpath, sipping black fragrant coffee, eating pastizzi, strumming guitars and singing 'Spiritu Pront', 'ad-libbing' meaningful and expressive rhyming folk songs'. It was a marvel to Agnese that they remembered what the last person sang about and to continue with that thread for many minutes. She still remembers her father strumming and singing on his favourite white mother-of-pearl guitar as well as the village ambience, the coffee, mqaret and pastizzi smells wafting down the main street of Hal Qormi to the Gallarija of their house. George often asked Agnese to read excerpts from the Bible to those present.



Agnese's mother **Giuseppa Borg Gauci 1885** (pictured) from Rabat assisted her loving cheerful husband, and still managed to operate the family's Kafe' Shop on the corner of St Sebastian Street, despite tending and cooking for her large family. Giuseppa was a quiet, kind woman who baked bread, cooked and shared her food with others less fortunate. When her husband George died at 48 years old, after a

misdiagnosed case of tetanus and on advice of the Notary, Giuseppa sadly placed her younger children (including Agnese) in an orphanage at Hamrun, until affairs were settled. Agnese was 13yrs old when her beloved father died

Agnese recalls WW11 bombs dropping from the German Stukas and Messerschmitt planes, she dreaded the wailing of the sirens indicating an oncoming air raid; running to crammed shelters below street level with hundreds of people, cries of relief when the "Raid is Past" sound was heard; the queues to the Victory kitchens, hungry families, sick and moribund people, the Vjatki 'Last Rights' Processions etc. Agnese worked with her sister Melita at the Victualling Yard Bormla and NAAAFI.

Agnese is especially proud of her brother **Emanuel aka Leli/Manwel** (above) who won the **Sir Otto Beit Bronze Medal in 1962** in a competition for Commonwealth Artists and Sculptors. **Chev. Emanuel Borg Gauci OStA** was bestowed the title by Queen Elizabeth's representative at a ceremony in Valletta, attended by his sister Melita and Agnese's eldest daughter Nancy Borg. A street at Tal-Handaq Qormi was named in his honour, "**Triq Manwel Borg-Gauci Pittur u Skultur 1911-1991**". (Picture below)



Emanuel painted portraits and sculpted busts of many overseas VIPs, including Queen Elizabeth 11; Sir Winston Churchill (at Barrakka Gardens) and when living in South Africa a bust of Prime Minister Verwoerd and others. Jovial, gentle and trusting Emanuel was robbed of all his artworks by a con-man pretending to exhibit his works. Emanuel returned to Malta disheartened and penniless! His medal, remaining statues and paintings are curated by G. Pellegrini and Emanuel's nephew J. Pace. Agnese hopes one day a book on Emanuel, the Maltese Artist and Sculptor, will be written and placed alongside other notable artists in the Malta Arts Archive and Museum.

It was through Emanuel, that in 1945 Agnese met and married Leone Borg from Sliema. He attended the Don Bosco Salesian Oratory in his youth, was a Policeman and Wine Maker/Merchant. Agnese and Leone had 10 children and she worked in the family's Winery/Grocery/Newspaper shop in Sliema. Agnese sister Melita came once weekly to help her, whilst Nancy and Carmen helped their mother daily before and after school, hanging clothes, folding, ironing, cooking and serving in the shop whilst their father was at work.



Nancy started teaching Dutrina 'Catechism' and the growing boys attended the Salesjani. Leone also repaired cars at his garage at Depiro Street.

The children

In July 1964 due to political and other circumstances the BORG family immigrated to Australia as 10 pound emigrants settling at Bankstown, then Smithfield, NSW. Four years later in 1969, aged 52yrs Leone passed away. Life as a widow in the 1960's was extremely hard. A lonely chapter in Agnese's struggles in Australia. Rearing 10 growing children, with no support and paying off three mortgages, she found strength in prayers, God and church. The young

children were still at Catholic Primary and some at High School. Her teenage sons mowed the lawns and assisted with general tasks and repairs that Agnese required, whilst she relied heavily on Nancy and Carmen for monetary support, managing a household, shopping and assimilating into Australian life.

Once she got on her feet, Agnese underwent a Catechist's course, and taught Catechism at Smithfield Public School. She also worked part-time at Smithfield RSL "Returned Soldiers Club" and worked cleaning Solicitors offices at Fairfield, acting as an ad-hoc interpreter. Speaking and reading perfect Maltese and Italian, she assisted fellow Maltese and Italian emigrants.

Later Agnese joined the Senior Citizens and 50 and Over Group at Fairfield which assisted in settling and become more connected to her local community. She was blessed with good friends, enjoyed assimilating, understanding and easing into life in Australia, re-mortgaged and paid off the house 25 years later.

In 1980s with all children gone and settled, Agnese sold the Smithfield house, purchased a block of land at **St Clair**, building a home next door to her married daughters Mariza and Georgette and began child minding their children. Agnese missed her close Maltese and Italian friends and community at Fairfield, however once again displayed tenacity, made new friends and learnt the local transport system. Then at age 77years, Agnese joined the Senior Citizens Group at St Mary's and was much sought after as a carpet bowls player due to her natural bowling talent. Agnese taught herself touch typing on an old Remington typewriter. For 20years on Friday nights she looked forward to attending the 'Emanuel Prayer Group' at La-Valetta Maltese Social Centre Blacktown NSW. As a tribute to her, this group held an 80th surprise birthday party at La-Valette for their beloved member

For many years now, Agnese has been ably looked after by children Mariza (her carer), Tony (who lives with her) and Carmen who relieves both siblings taking Agnese to her place and attending evening mass. Nancy visits weekly with her husband; and other children visit and phone regularly due to distances. Agnese looks forward to all visits, attends various family and community functions and immensely proud of her family and their varied achievements and careers. Agnese has wide supporting networks, keeping connected and still maintains a positive, encouraging and jovial disposition. Such goodness has kept the family together and all



love their amazing mother, grand-mother and great-grand mother.

In 2016, at 97-3/4yrs, Agnese defies advancing dementia by reading newspapers and books in 3 languages, English, Maltese and Italian; lately reading "Inez" a Maltese novel, and watches car racing and football on TV with son Tony.

She loves to play solitaire on the computer, occasionally participates in a family skype session, and regularly watches Malta news on TV and gives the iphone or ipad a swipe with her finger like a pro. The vivid memories and love of her parents Giuseppa and George Borg from Hal Qormi are never far from her memories. "My father loved my mother, and we were a close family" she tells us constantly. Agnese has 54 descendants; 10 children all Malta born, 21 grand-children and 23 great-grand-children.

Whilst living in Australia over the last 52 years, Agnese has proudly met many visiting Maltese dignitaries including former President George Abela from Qormi, and recently, on 16 July 2016, Her Excellency The

President of Malta Marie Louise Coliero-Preca, who visited the Maltese Community in New South Wales, Australia. Indeed a memorable moment for the two amazing Qormi Ladies.

AD MULTOS ANNOS AGNESE BORG FROM HAL QORMI AND ST CLAIR NSW SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

Courtesy: Nancy Serg – August 2016

Taste of Malta at Latrobe Valley, Victoria



The first ever Latrobe Valley Maltese Festival was held at Kernot Hall on 27 February 2016. Lead organiser Frank Tabone (second from left) is joined by his father Frank senior, mother Jeanette, and friend Stella Bella in putting the event together with support from the Maltese Club and Latrobe City Council. photograph cher jimenez

A Morwell man's passion to keep his father's heritage alive has given rise to the first Latrobe

Valley Maltese Festival. Frank Tabone, whose father was born in the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta, said the idea came to him after noticing traditionally close Maltese families had begun to drift apart.

"I grew up with Maltese grandparents and experienced the language, the culture, the stories, the food and the way it was with family back in the 1970s and 80s," Mr Tabone said. "I don't see large families being together as much as back then.

"I wanted to allow a day where Maltese people could all come together as a group enjoying each other, remembering their heritage and culture, experiencing some of the old traditions and never forgetting where they came from." Mr Tabone said he first noticed the Maltese tradition slowly fading away within his own family after his paternal grandmother died. Following her death, his extended family no longer saw each other as often as they used to.

He first raised the idea of a Maltese festival with his boss, John Buhagiar, who is also the president of the Maltese Club in Morwell. Together with Latrobe City Council, the club and Mr Tabone formed a committee tasked with organising the festival at Kernot Hall, Morwell. The festival run from 10am to 6pm and featured traditional Maltese food, products and music.

It will also include native drinks such as Cisk beer and Kinnie, a Maltese soft drink that was made as an alternative to sodas in post-war Europe.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MQVB

The newly elected committee of the **Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia Inc** for 2016/2017 is as follows Joe Camilleri – President, Ron Borg – Vice/President, Lilian Camilleri – Secretary, Roger Gammon – Treasurer, Stanley Lynch – Librarian, Agnes Borg – Public Officer, Joe Aquilina – Property Stewart, Paul Taliana – Band Sergeant, Katie Cassar and Connie Lynch – Members. The Band was established in 1981. The Editor of the Maltese Newsletter and the readers wishes them a very successful and musical year.



MALTESE IN CORFU

Corfu has a population of 120,000, with some 45,000 in Corfu Town, on the island's east central side. The residents are largely Greek Orthodox but some 2,000 are Catholic, and of Maltese descent. The origins of this small community began in 1819, when the British governor of the Ionian islands, Sir Thomas Maitland, decided to build the palace of St Michael and St George, in order to represent British hegemony over Zante, Lefkada, Ithaca, Kefalonia and Corfu, with Paxos and Antipaxos, as well as the Maltese islands.

This majestic building was erected in the centre of Corfu Town, mostly by Maltese and Gozitan stonemasons, in Malta stone, imported expressly for this purpose on British warships.

Hundreds of Maltese settled on the islands and many married local girls. After some generations many gave up their Maltese language and adopted the local Greek, from the islands of Lefkada and Kefalonia to the main island Corfu (Kérkyra).

Some Corfiot-Maltese surnames are Azzopardi, Cuschieri, Debono, Spiteris and Xuereb.

Their community grew to about 4,000 by the 1960s when, because of the fraught political and economic situation, many of them emigrated to Wales.

Today 2,000 remain, served by a Maltese-Corfiot archbishop, Ioannis Spiteris, and two priests of Maltese origin.

This is a dwindling community that faces stiff taxes from the Greek State, as opposed to the Orthodox clergy, who regularly receive a stipend.

Indeed, the island's most famous church is an elaborately decorated Greek Orthodox one dedicated to St Spyridon, which contains the relics of Corfu's patron saint.

Its red-domed bell tower is a local landmark, while inside its ceiling murals show the life of the saint, who was born in Cyprus and performed many miracles before he died in AD350.

This is a dwindling community that faces stiff taxes

His remains are kept in a silver casket, which is opened four times a year to show his mummified face. The saint is then paraded through town to commemorate the fact he saved the island's residents from famine, Turkish invasion and twice from plague: these annual processions attract many local and foreign visitors.

Despite being a minority, there is still a Maltese Catholic church in the central part of Corfu Town.

The Nazis destroyed their original church in 1944 and burned its centennial archives.

The church of Saints Iakovos and Christophoros (SS. James and Christopher) was rebuilt in a simple Latin style and decoration after World War II.

Today it is large but plain. Masses are said in Greek, and even in various languages on Sundays. This old Maltese Catholic community faces a difficult future and it may disappear altogether.



ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE PALACE

Also known as the Royal or City Palace, the Palace of Saints Michael and George also known as the Royal Palace is situated in the northern side of Spianada. It was built at the times of British domination in the island between 1814-24.

It was accommodating the Knightly Battalion of Saints Michael and George recommended in 1827 by the King of England George the 3rd for his services in Malta and Ionian Islands. It was this historical fact that gave the name to this gorgeous palace which is the second in size in Greece only

to the palace of Othonas in Athens where currently the Greek Parliament is situated. The Palace was designed by the English Colonel Engineer Sir George Whitmore in style of English romantic classicism and executed from Maltese limestone. The palace complex consists of the main building and two symmetrically placed wings from both sides of the it.

The cornice of the roof is decorated with symbols of 7 Ionian Islands created by the local sculptor Pavlos Prossalentis. In front of the palace there is the brass statue of Lord Frederick-Adam, one of well-known English Commissioners, who did a lot for development of Corfu and made an important input in history of the island such as construction of aqueduct supplying the city of Corfu with drinking water from 11 km away. palace served different purposes during the time of its existence. It used to be Government House and a residency of the Governor, a summer residence of the royal family of Greece, after complete reconstruction it hosted the European Summit and today the Palace accommodates the Museum of Asian Art, the Municipal Art gallery, the 5th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, as well as the Municipal art café in its garden.

Maltese Surnames

Maltese surnames reflect the rich history of the Maltese islands.

Most Maltese surnames can be divided into 3 groups; Semitic, Romantic and English.

The top 5 most common surnames in Malta are: Borg, Camilleri, Vella, Farrugia and Zammit.

JEWISH FAMILIES IN MALTA

Jacob Israel was born in Corfu in 1834 and came to Malta at the age of 35. He set himself up in business first of all as a ship's chandler and then as an importer/exporter. His wife, seated in front



of him, was born in Sfax in Tunisia and came to Malta with her father, Rabbi Samuel Zanzuri, following a famine in the south of Tunisia which drove away many Europeans. Of the daughters, to Jacob's left, standing, Rachele, who alone of all the family stayed in Malta and had children there. In front of her is her sister Elise who married an Ottoman Jew and finally settled in Paris.

The boy, seated in front, Daniel, studied Medicine at the Catolica Hospital in Rome, but practiced most of his life in Tunis. To the right of the father, standing, is Mary who married a businessman from Sfax and settled there. In front of her, seated, is Emilia who settled in Lyons in France where her husband was a textile manufacturer, a business taken over later by one of his sons.

Missing from the photo are two elder brothers who had left for Peru where they became hugely rich in rubber. Another sister, Rebecca, settled in Cairo. This scattering throughout the Mediterranean was typical of many Jewish families and

also of Catholic Maltese, Malta being such a small and once a very poor place with few opportunities.

Courtesy of Aline P'nina Tayar, UK.



Rabbi Josef Tajar (Oil on Canvas). His name had been spelled Iusuf Tajar upon his arrival from Tripoli. He was the first rabbi to have a congregation on the island of Malta since the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the first rabbi in modern times. *Courtesy of Aline P'nina Tayar, UK.*



On the right is a photo of a descendant of Rabbi Josef, Ondina Tayar, as a young woman, around the time she was working on a written form of the Maltese language. Ondina graduated in Pharmacy and was one of the first woman in Malta to hold a university degree. She had wanted to study Medicine but had been barred from the course when she raised the matter of Darwin's theory of evolution, a forbidden subject in Catholic Malta at the time. *Courtesy of Aline P'nina Tayar, UK.*



Interior view of the New Synagogue in Valetta, Malta. Beit Hatfutsot – Visual Documentation Center. Courtesy of Stanley L. Davis – Jewish Community of Malta.

SEA URCHINS, UGLY BUT GOOD by Malta Chef

www.maltachef.com



PART OF MALTA CUISINE;
SEA URCHINS - RIZZI

To celebrate the "Festa Rizzi" which takes place during the month of June at Ta Xbiex Yacht Marina, we want to tell you something about these strange critters. While on the outside they don't seem to be the most appetising of meals, sea urchins are comparable to oysters for delivering a fresh, straight-from-the-sea flavour.

SERVED, RAW SEA URCHIN CAN HAVE A SWEET SUBTLE FLAVOUR WITH THAT UNMISTAKEABLE SEA-SALT FRESHNESS THAT ONLY COMES WITH LOCALLY CAUGHT SEAFOOD.

The spiny little critters are also popular in seafood-crazy Japan, where they are imported from many Pacific Ocean countries and served raw as sushi, called *uni*. As well as serving it raw as an appetiser, the Italians like to put it in a simple pasta to bring out a rich roasted quality in the flavour. Find it on menus in good coastal restaurants as *ricci di mare*.

Here are a few tips to help you on your way to a new culinary discovery.

- Most restaurants will serve raw sea urchin already cleaned in the shell. If you want to try preparing freshly-caught urchins yourself, you will have to get physical.
- Firstly, arm yourself against the urchin spines by using a towel or an oven glove to hold the urchin gently in one hand while you open the shell.
- Using a knife or a pair of kitchen scissors, make a small incision in the underside (flatter side) of the urchin and cut carefully in a wide circle around the bottom of the shell.
- After removing the base of the urchin shell, clean out the inside to remove the black internal parts. You might want to rinse it carefully with running water.
- You should be able to see around five bright orange fingers attached to the upper portion of the shell – this is the edible part of the urchin, the 'roe' (or strictly speaking the gonads of the urchin that produce roe).
- Carefully scrape out these orange segments and enjoy, either raw like Japanese sushi or cooked with spaghetti, Italian-style.
- Add a squeeze of lemon to the roe to further enhance the flavour.



**Il-Papa' gabilna r-rizzi, -hodor, vjola w hamranin,
Fuq il-blat malajr qeghndihom, - trid tarahom kif bdew mixjin!
Il-Papa', imbaghad, kissirhom, - u qasamhom f'zewg bicciet
Flieli homor, kbar, mimlija, -'tini, tini zewg rizziet!
Fuq il-blat, b'ringlejna fl-ilma, -nieklu r-rizzi lkoll flimkien
Igri nikber bhal missieri, -halli ngib ir-rizzi jien!
Nibda jien nistad ghar-rizzi, - halli l-ikla tibda tkun
kif qeghdin niklu, il-lejla, - hobz u rizzi ta' kuljum!
Ghax tar-rizzi waqa l-bahar. - ta' l-imhar qabez ghalieh.**

Dak tar-rizzi tela' jigri, -u ta' l-imhar baqa fil-qieh!

Sister Angela O'Donoghue, who spent most of her life in

Elena Bonnici – Maltese/Italian/Australian Chef



Celebrity Chef

Elena, who comes from a Maltese/Italian background is a talented, cheeky, 32 year old qualified chef and runs her own cafe in a hip Melbourne bar.

Elena, who comes from a Maltese/Italian background is a talented, cheeky, 32 year old qualified chef and runs her own cafe in a hip Melbourne bar. Elena was Stephanie Alexander's chosen assistant in Italy, where she and Maggie Beer held cooking classes in Tuscany in 1997. Stephanie considers Elena one of her best protégés and admires her cooking skills, her efficiency and sense of culinary and personal style.

Kunċert tal-Vjolin u Cello fil- Knisja Parrokkjali taż-Żebbuġ



għajjuna tal-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żebbuġ Għawdex, nhar il-Ħamis 11 ta' Awwissu pprezentat kunċert ta' mużika klassika bis-sehem ta' Stefan Calleja (Vjolin) u Desiree Quintano (Cello) fuq il-presbiterju tal-Knisja Arċipretali taż-Żebbuġ li matulu smajna xogħlijiet ta' kompożituri internazzjonali magħrufa li kienu jinkludu lil Antonio Vivaldi, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, R. Gliere, J. Massenet, u Ludwig Van Beethoven.

Matul il-kunċert il-President tal-Fondazzjoni l-Komm. Charles Zammit ipprezenta lill-Parroċċa taż-Żebbuġ xbieha ta' dal-Papa Pollakk maħduma fl-injam maħruq minn Joseph Cini, leader ta' Cini Brothers Band mill-istess raħal biex tinżamm fil-knisja bħala tifikira. **Kav. Joe M Attard – Victoria GOZO**



TRIVIA NIGHT
Fundraiser

COME & SUPPORT THE MALTESE YOUTH OF SA
Entry - \$15 per person

Doors open 6pm

Make a table of 10 or we can help you make one!

Lucky Door Prize, Raffle, Games and a Night Full of FUN!

BYO- Food and Drinks

Drinks available for purchase at the bar

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT
Stacey on 0431 419 852
or
Tessa on 0410 890 225
or
www.facebook.com/malteseyouthsa
RSVP: 9th September 2016

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Preserved at the Malta Migration Museum
and on www.ozmalta.page4.me

AUSTRALIAN - KOALAS

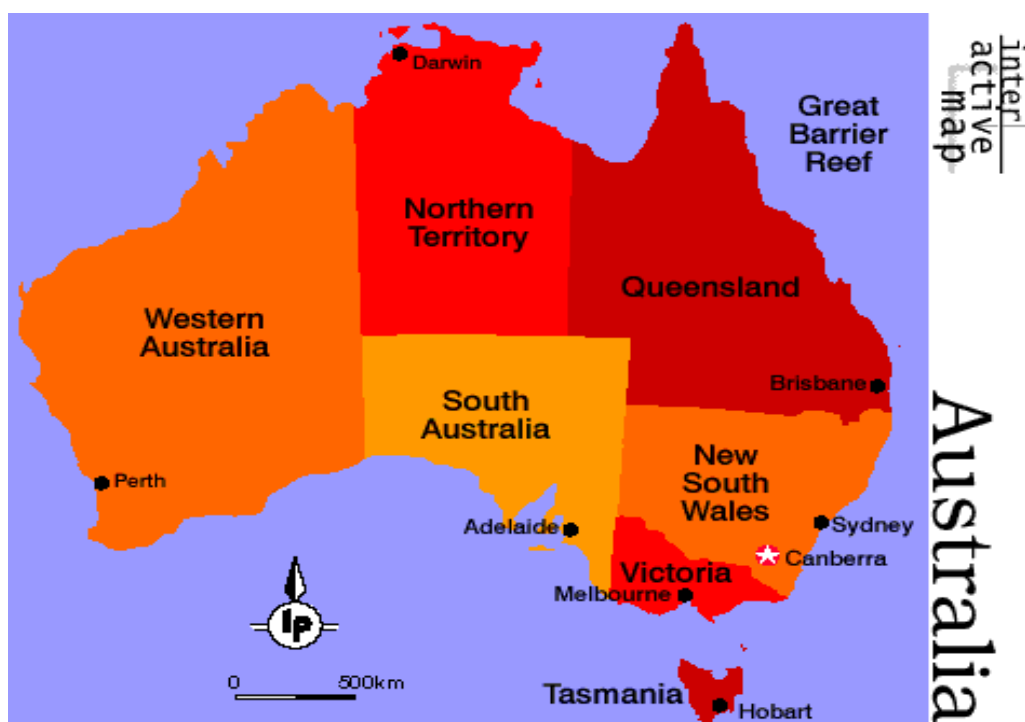


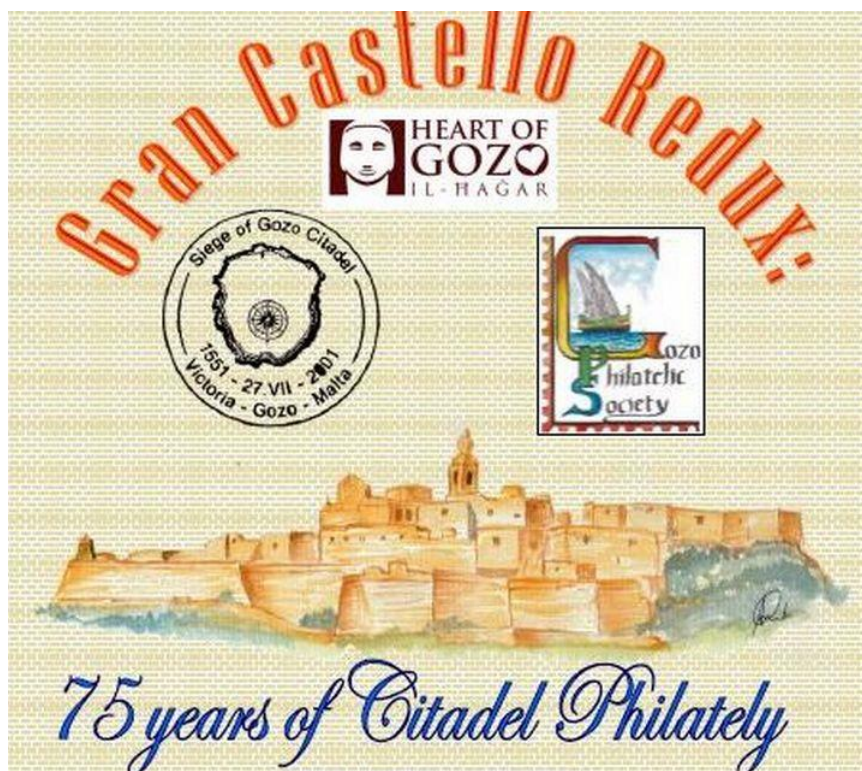
The koala's coat is so dense it acts as the perfect seasonal insulation, allowing them to stay warm in winter and cool in summer.

We often hear these adorable Aussies called 'koala bears', but they are actually not bears at all. Koalas are marsupials, so they carry their young in a pouch, unlike bears which carry their young in the womb until they are well developed. The koala lives almost entirely on eucalypt leaves and they have a very low metabolic rate for a mammal, which is why they can sleep for up to 20 hours a day!

Koalas vary in size and colour depending on where they live in Australia. Koalas found in the southern distributions (Southern NSW and Victoria) tend to be slightly larger and darker than those in the northern areas (Northern NSW, SA and QLD). This is likely to be related to the different temperatures and is a feature exhibited by many species whose distribution encompasses large climatic variations.

The most notable physical aspect of the Koala would have to be its big fluffy ears. Koalas have a great sense of hearing and an even better sense of smell. This is how they select which leaves are the best to eat. Their eyesight is not too good, and therefore detection of predators is generally by sound. They possess very strong forearms and extremely long, sharp claws for climbing.





75 years of Citadel Philately: Exhibition at Il-Hagar Museum. The Gozo Philatelic Society has set up a new exhibit in their showcase on level 1 at Il-Hagar museum in Victoria.

A selection of philatelic items – including hand-painted covers – show the Cittadella, from the first stamp issued during King George VI's reign. Thus the exhibit has been titled "Gran Castello Redux – 75 years of Citadel Philately". Opening hours at the museum, located in St George's Square, are 9am-5pm seven days a week – and there is no entrance fee.

MALTESE IN CANADA



FOR THE LOVE OF HORSES THE ATTRAD FAMILY LEGACY

Tino Attard: "For the Love of Horses" tells the compelling story of the Attard family, the most prolific horse racing family in Canada. The documentary illustrates how the invincible spirit of four penniless and uneducated brothers propels them to thrive in the highly competitive and

demanding sport.

"For the Love of Horses" is an expressively moving, family story of loyalty, determination and accomplishment. With stables at Woodbine Race Track, brothers, Joe, Tino, Sid, Larry and their children, play over-lapping roles in all aspects of the industry. They begin as pony boy, breaker, hot walker and groomer, and advance to horse owner, trainer, jockey and breeder. As their dream of becoming the first Maltese Canadian family in Canadian thoroughbred horse racing comes true, their devotion to the Maltese Community and their gratitude to Canada is shown.

***MALTESE IN CANAD by Beverley Smith for
WoodbineEntertainment.com***

TORONTO, May 9 - He is Woodbine's lodestar of fashion, its ultimate juggler of racetrack emotions, its curio, its griffin in fancy shoes. If you emptied his pockets you might find a mass of crushed betting slips, a flip cell phone ready to fire, a sack of marbles, and some coffee grounds. (Not really. He's too neat.)

Yes, Coffee John Calleja is an original. He's a kink of nature that discovered his rightful spot in life: jockey's agent. And throughout his 45-year career, he's only had to seek out a client once: when he started. If there was a Hall of Fame for agents, he and arch-rival/rare bird Colin Wick would be in it.

Wick died last July, pushing age 86. Calleja is 78, and in another fashion league altogether from Wick. He's dapper, as always, with a crisp gingham shirt, ivory sweater, black dress pants and lovely, lovely shoes on a spring morning at Woodbine. Shoes too lovely for a backstretch littered in straw and manure and mud. No matter. Calleja tip-toes through it all. A few years ago, he fell and broke his hip wandering the backstretch in those shoes – in February. He's ruined more shoes than he can count. But it hasn't muffled his sense of style.



***Calleja, left, with Larry Attard,
winning a Sovereign Award.***

Calleja was born in Malta, a tiny island in the Mediterranean Sea close to Sicily. Generally, it packs 250,000 people inside its coastal borders. The place stretches only 27 kilometres on one side and 14 kilometres on the other (or 17 miles x 9 miles). Yet, during World War II, it sustained the heaviest, most concentrated aerial bombing in the history of war. Over a two-year span in the early 1940s little Malta took about 3,000 hits.

With Britain and Germany and Italy all fighting to maintain control of an important strategic military post, Malta's devastation was horrific:

30,000 buildings destroyed, among them homes, churches, hospitals, colleges, theatres, clubs, government offices, factories, and flour mills.

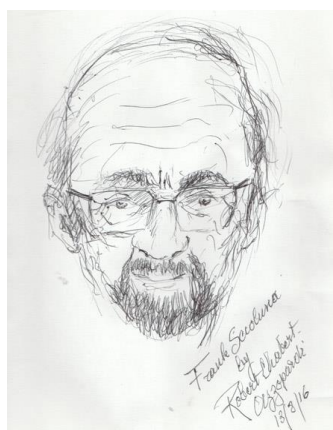
And while this all was happening, Calleja was a little boy in Malta, about seven or eight years old. He has memories of Spitfires and Sparrowhawks flying overhead and sirens sounding. He remembers attending school in bomb shelters.

After the war, his father, who had had a "peachy, peachy job" in Malta, emigrated to Canada in 1948, leaving behind a country in ruins. Then he worked to establish himself in Toronto before sending for his family a few years later.

Calleja, his mother, two sisters and a brother all came to Canada on the SS Independence. Since the ocean liner was too big to navigate Malta's shallow harbour, the Calleja flock had to make its way to Naples, Italy to board it. It took the family seven days to cross the Atlantic. (He rode the same boat as thoroughbred trainer Joe Attard, but they did not know each other. He was four or five years older than Calleja.)

It wasn't an easy decision in some ways for the Callejas. Coffee John says his parents were both well educated, his father having a pencil-pushing job for the government. (The building in which he worked in Malta still stands, but it's rotting away.) When the elder Calleja came to Canada, he got a more humble job at Canada Packers.

Calleja gave up his good job in Malta all for his kids, Coffee John said. "And he died at 62 of a heart attack, all for the kids, he done it," he said. "He done the right move for everybody." His mother, who had been a school teacher in Malta, also taught school in Weston, Ont.



Meet the Editor

Pen Drawing by

Robert Chabert-Azzopardi of Adelaide

On 14 August 2016

At the Maltese Cultural Centre, Beverley South Australia



Parish Church of Mellieha

The Parish Church of Mellieha is dedicated to the Birth of Our Lady, and was built between 1881 and 1898. All the stone was cut from a nearby quarry at I-Ahrax tal-Mellieha and transported up to Mellieha by the local peasants, who worked laboriously to see their wish of having a new church come true. Once the church's building was completed, the Parish Priests Dun Frangisk Magri, Dun Carlo Cortis and Dun Indri Fenech endeavoured to embellish the interior.

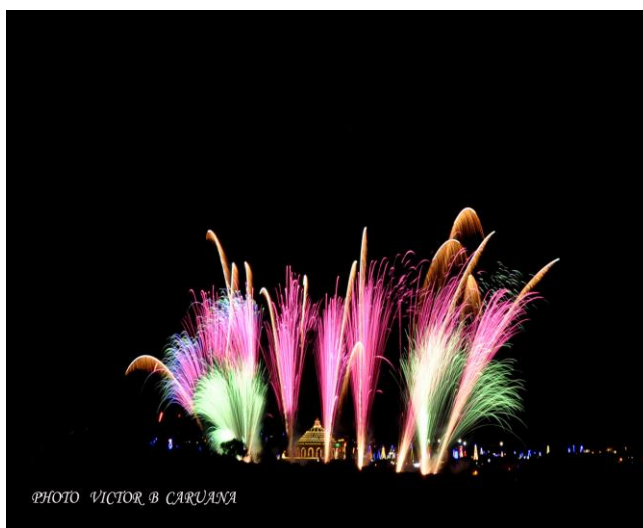
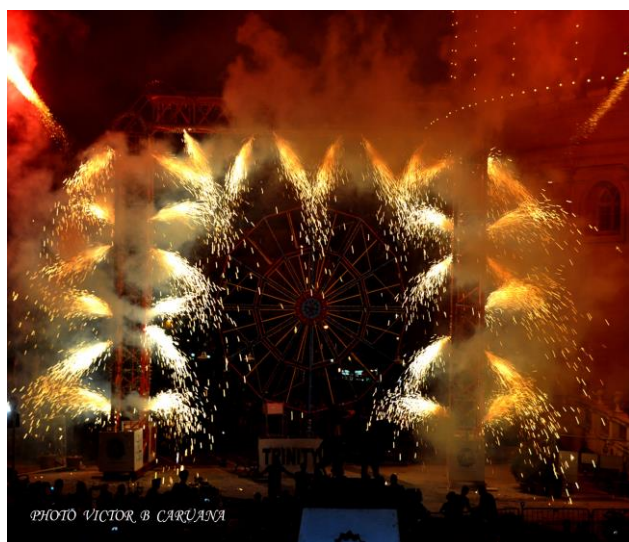
Thus between 1920 and 1940 the belfries and dome were erected, five bells dedicated to St. Frances, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Paul and the Virgin Mary were brought from Milan, and the church altars were decorated with paintings by the best Maltese artists, including the renowned Giuseppe Calì and Lazzru Pisani.

The Sanctuary's clock was fabricated by Mikelang Sapiano from Imqabba in 1875. All the expenses were paid by the British Government. From under the roofed verandah, a classic example of 17th Century Renaissance architecture, one can enjoy a picturesque view of the Valley of Our Lady, Mellieha Bay, Comino and Gozo. The rooms facing the chapel were originally contracted in the 18th century to host exhausted pilgrims.

Behind the iron grating, there lies a old statue of St. Anne, probably made by a devotee of Our Lady of Mellieha. In the chapel's facade there is as well a statue of St. Paul, which was constructed later in the 19th century. **Written by David Muscat**



Dear friends, on the 10th August, in the town of Mosta Malta, every year a big feast is held in Mosta in remembrance of the Coronation of the Titular Painting of the Assumption which is in the Rotunda. A dear and a good friend of mine Victor Caruana, a very well known and established photographer in Malta, but now retired, had the pleasure of sending me some photos of the firework display that the Santa Marija Fireworks Factory in Mosta put on, on the day. In some of the photos one can see the Mosta Church also known as the Rotunda all lit up. They were honoured to be included in the Guinness Book of records for the biggest fireworks structure ever held in a public square. Noel Galea was the mastermind and manufacturer of the big set fireworks set piece in Rotunda Square. Enjoy and admire the Photos. Have a g'day.....IL-Mosti



**Next edition will feature articles on Malta National Day
8 September**