



**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER**

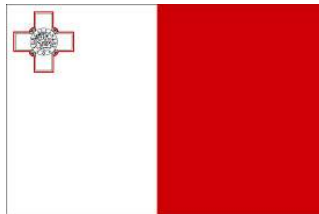
**MARCH 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA**

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## **MALTA AND EGYPT**

The distance from Malta to Egypt covers an area of about 1200 miles. This area played, from the beginning of civilization, an important role in shaping world history. These miles were always the crucible of conflict. They witnessed invaders who have repeatedly come and conquered, and who have repeatedly failed and brought down their own empires. Although this area was also a graveyard of many empires, the Mediterranean still survives and Egypt and Malta are still there, challenging



the time under the sun which also arises.



Against this background, the relation between Malta and Egypt was founded 5000 years ago when the Pharaoh Hound (Kelb tal-Fenek) which was brought by Phoenician traders, started to bark in the yards of Malta and Gozo.

Since that moment, thousands of Maltese came to Egypt. They scattered everywhere, especially Alexandria, Cairo, Suez and Port Said. They married, produced children and grand children. They built their own churches out of Malta stone. Their traces are still there thanks to the Maltese Pioneers like Toni Said, Ivo Muscat Azzopardi and George Vella who founded weekly newspapers, the Benevolent Society, the Maltese Club, and the Association for Diffusion Maltese Language and Literature. Their willingness to speak Arabic made them acceptable to the native Egyptian.

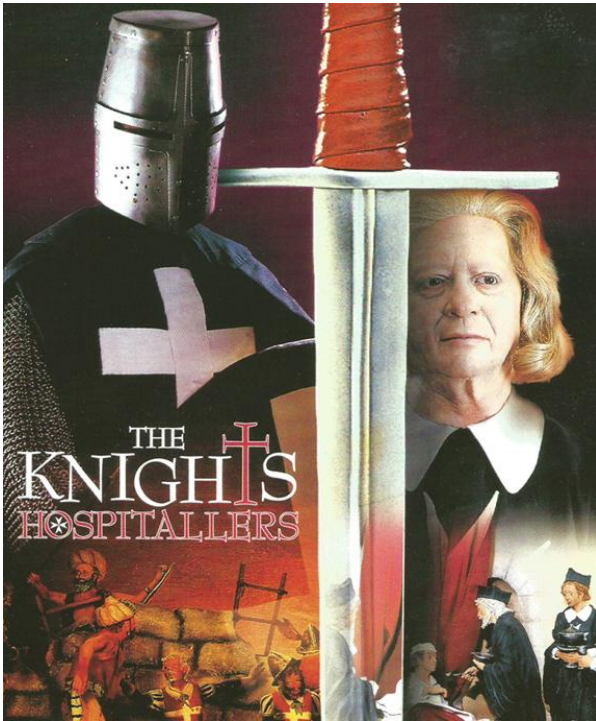
Egyptian Maltese diplomatic relations were established 39 years ago when both sides opened the door to each other to enhance the cordial and close bonds of friendship and fruitful cooperation which were translated in: - 16 agreements have been signed which put the base for our bilateral relations in various domains, namely civil aviation, tourism, cultural, consular affairs, trade and investment.

Official visits have been taking place on a regular basis and regular consultations on the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs which produced consensus on many regional as well as international issues and mutual support for Egyptian Maltese candidates for positions in international and regional organization. The increase of mixed marriages and their effect in strengthening bonds between people of the two countries. Many Egyptian musical groups came to Malta to participate in different occasions during the last years. Moreover, we succeeded in screening several Egyptian films at St. James Cavalier and at the University of Malta, as well as in different schools.

- Although trade between the two countries developed significantly during the last few years, it is still much less than expected. I am sure visits of Maltese dignitaries and business delegations will achieve a breakthrough in this domain, taking into consideration that we already had the legal basis to realize that goal. In this context, I would like to mention some promising areas for cooperation between the two countries. ' Malta's Smart City and Egypt's Smart Village have a lot in common. This can open a new potential for economic cooperation

## THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

The **Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta** is a Roman Catholic lay religious order of, traditionally, a military, chivalrous and noble nature.<sup>[5]</sup> It is the world's oldest surviving order of chivalry. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is headquartered in Rome, and is widely considered a sovereign subject of international law.<sup>[7]</sup>



SMOM is the modern continuation of the original medieval order of Saint John of Jerusalem, known as the "*Fraternitas Hospitalaria*" and later as the Knights Hospitaller, a group founded in Jerusalem about 1050 as an Amalfitan hospital to provide care for poor and sick pilgrims to the Holy Land. After the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 during the First Crusade, it became a military order under its own charter. Following the loss of Christian held territories of the Holy Land to Muslims, the Order operated from Rhodes (1310–1523), and later from Malta (1530–1798), over which it was sovereign.

Although this state came to an end with the ejection of the Order from Malta by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Order as such survived. It retains its claims of sovereignty under international law and has been granted permanent observer status at the United Nations.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign\\_Military\\_Order\\_of\\_Malta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_Military_Order_of_Malta) - cite note-9

The order is notable for issuing its own international passports for travel, postal stamps, along with its formal insignia, often portrayed as a white or gold Maltese cross. The order nominally invokes the Blessed Virgin Mary under the venerated Marian title of "*Our Lady of Mount Philermos*" as its patroness and spiritual intercessor.

Today the order has about 13,000 members; 80,000 permanent volunteers; and 20,000 medical personnel including doctors, nurses, auxiliaries and paramedics in more than 120 countries. The goal is to assist the elderly, handicapped, refugee, children, homeless, those with terminal illness and leprosy in all parts of the world, without distinction of race or religion.<sup>[3]</sup> In several countries—including France, Germany and Ireland—the local associations of the Order are important providers of first aid training, first aid services and emergency medical services. Through its worldwide relief corps—Malteser International—the Order is also engaged to aid victims of natural disasters, epidemics and armed conflicts.

In February 2013 the order celebrated its 900th anniversary recognising the Papal bull of sovereignty "*Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*" formally issued by Pope Paschal II on 15 February 1113, with a general audience given by Pope Benedict XVI and a Holy Mass celebrated by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone at Saint Peter's Basilica.

Dear Frank, We, Frank and Carmen Testa and family fully agree with the other readers that suggested that you should print a book where everyone can keep all the beautiful and historical items that you publish with such great detail. We don't think that we have ever seen such work done in such a detailed presentation. Well done. May God bless you and keep you healthy so that you can keep on doing this most remarkable work. Best regards .The Testa Family.

## CORFU – MALTA RELATIONS



A glance at the history of both islands brings us to a common point of reference, the British, particularly Sir Thomas Maitland. He was the Governor of Malta and was subsequently appointed as the first Lord High Commissioner for the Ionian Islands, including the islands of Cyprus, Corfu, Constantinople and Smyrna.

The British wanted to attract Maltese emigrants to obtain reliable workers to help in agriculture and the building trade, and also to reinforce their

seize on the islands. When Sir Thomas Maitland arrived in Corfu he decided to secure the old Venetian Fortress with new quarters, build a new prison, and also a palace at the town square (which is today the 'Asian Arts Museum'). The Palace also served as the seat of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. Eventually, he also ordered the building of the Mansion of Michelangelo, and other buildings in Corfu.

For these projects, Maitland needed the famous glowing Maltese stone. Simultaneously he also required the services of local Maltese skilled workers which he knew he could rely on since he was already familiar with their work in Malta. Between 1815 and 1860 he took about 80 people from Malta to Corfu, consisting of 40 stone masons and their wives. His plan was that they would settle there and their work could be continued by their children. Apart from these initial 80 people sent to Corfu, other Maltese who had been sent to the other Ionian Islands moved between the islands themselves.

The Maltese in Corfu settled in an area to the west of San Rocco Square and south of Mandouki, in the area of Platytera, Koulines and Solari. By 1901 there were already close to 1000 people of Maltese descent in Corfu. A number of Maltese families, especially the Atzopardis (Azzopardi) family, left Corfu after the union with Greece and settled in Cardiff, Wales. Their descents still live there today. Some of them subsequently returned to Corfu in the 1920's and they are today known in Corfu as the 'Cardiff Corfiots.

By 1930 the 'Maltese Corfiots had their own priest who looked after their welfare while he kept useful contacts with the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities in Malta. The priest was the Reverend Spiridione Cilia who was born in Corfu of Maltese parents.

The 'Maltese Corfiots today number more than 3500 from the initial 80. Considering that there are only about 100,000 Corfiots on the island, this is quite a high percentage. The 'Maltese Corfiots' still mainly occupy a region informally known as 'Maltezika' (Malta) and 'Cozella' (Gozo). It is here that the Catholic Cemetery is located, as well as a Cappuchin Monastery, and a convent and school which was founded in 1907 by the Franciscan Sisters of Malta.

Surnames which are very common in Corfu are Psailas (Psaila), Spitieris (Spiteri), Atzopardis (Azzopardi), Soueref (Xuereb), Alamanos (Alamango), Sakkos (Sacco) and Michalef (Micallef).

The historical connection between Malta and Corfu is not the only similarity. Corfu which is only a one hour flight away from Malta, is 56 km long and 13 km wide, making it just over twice the size of Malta. The climate is very similar to ours, with the exception that it is much greener than Malta (having over 4 million olive trees planted by the Venetians which are protected religiously), has many hills (its highest point is about 900 metres above sea level). It is surrounded by glorious beaches (31 of which are blue flag) and some of which are only accessible by boat. The local people are as friendly and hospitable as the Maltese. Like us they love the *outdoor life* especially sailing between the islands. The food is also very good. All the above, and more, make the possibility of local council twinning agreements something to look into.

Many Maltese people over the last 3 years have invested in plots of land close to the sea and traditional houses in the green island of Corfu. Property and residential development in Corfu is still a highly recommended investment opportunity. On the other hand, Malta is the ideal business environment for Greek businessmen who seek for a favorable tax regime and the chance for international business development.





## THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN 1981

Soon after World War II migration of Maltese citizens to Australia started to accelerate. In 1948 the need was felt in SA to found an organisation which would help the migrants settle in their new homeland. With this in mind, a Maltese Franciscan Fr. Giles Ferriggi founded the Maltese Community Society of SA.



The Maltese Cultural Centre as it was in 1976

Maltese and Australian volunteers, who had the welfare of other Maltese settlers at heart, organised socials and theatrical stage plays to maintain contact among Maltese people. These volunteers also welcomed new arrivals at Adelaide Railway Station and sea and air terminal.

In 1953, the Maltese Community Society of SA changed its name to the Maltese Guild of Australia (SA).

The name was conceived from a similar organisation in NSW. To facilitate contact between Maltese in SA social functions have always been an important part of the guild's activities. In the early days, film evenings were very popular, as

well as theatrical productions, in Maltese. However dances and cabarets have always been the most popular of social activities. The most important and popular of these has always been the September Ball. In 1963, it was decided to incorporate a Miss Malta contest into the September Ball.



The Centre as it is now

This contest is no longer held. Although social functions are, and always have been, a prominent activity of the Guild, they are not the only activities of the Guild. Its aims are much broader than socialising. In 1961, the Guild began the annual Laying of the Wreath at the War Memorial to commemorate the fallen Maltese of the Great Siege of 1565 and two World Wars.

Other Maltese organisations also commemorate this day with the Guild. The Guild has always helped its members with problems they have encountered in their new country. If the Guild could not help it would always direct members to appropriate agencies.

Visits to the sick and aged has also been part of the Guild's services. It had always been the ambition of the Guild to eventually have a hall of its own which would be used by all Maltese, and be their centre in SA. With this purpose the Guild became an

incorporated body in 1969. The Guild then set its sights on getting its own hall. The original aim was to buy a block of land and build on it.

Eventually, land was purchased at Dudley Park in 1971. However, due to subsequent events, it seemed unlikely that a hall could be built on that land. It was decided that the land be sold and a hall be bought. A hall was bought in Jeanes Street at Beverley in August, 1976.

After considerable work it was eventually officially opened on March 12, 1977 by the Deputy Malta High Commissioner. Since, then, the hall has continually improved and it is hoped that all Maltese will make more use of it.

Work started in providing an Information Office within the Centre, which provides a wide range of services and facilities to Maltese. A small grant was allocated by the State Government towards an office in 1981.

I do really like this newsletter because it is so neat and simple and easy to read. I prefer short stories and the photos are superb. I am very impressed with the amount of history and culture and I also find it very interesting to read about other Maltese people living overseas and their success stories. We should be proud of all those who made good name for themselves and to our beloved country Malta.

J. J. Vella



## **STUDENTS WIN MALTA POST ITEMS IN COMPETITION**

25 students from various schools in Gozo and Malta who participated in SAGHTAR magazine competitions throughout the scholastic year were awarded with Philatelic gifts during an event held at MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa.

The recognition awarded to these students for correctly answering questions related to Philately included subscriptions for first day covers of stamps issued by the MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau and the Malta Stamp Collection – a prestigious publication which includes stamp sets issued between 1964 and 2004.

SAGHTAR is a student's educational monthly magazine published in the Maltese language by the Malta Union of Teachers (MUT).

This publication presents information on local as well as international topics.

For a number of years, MaltaPost has contributed to this publication by promoting items related to Maltese philately and giving away collections of stamps to children.

"MaltaPost has been contributing to SAGHTAR for more than a decade now, stamp collecting is educational and it is amazing how much one can learn about Maltese History through stamps" said MaltaPost's Head of Philately Mary Grace Simpson. "Despite the various technological alienations youngsters have today, stamp collecting is still popular amongst this age group. MaltaPost works to continuously promote philately with members of the younger generation, in order to keep this hobby alive" she concluded.

## **MALTAPOST PHILATELIC WEBSITE**



Please visit the website of MaltaPost which is on [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com), and is completely dedicated to Malta stamps.

The site caters primarily for local and international philatelists and collectors of Malta stamps and related products. However, it is also be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about Malta's history as commemorated through stamps and see the works of some of Malta's famous artists of the 20th century replicated as there will be an online catalogue with images of all stamps issued in Malta since 1860.

The catalogue includes the technical details of all the stamps and can be easily searched by a variety of criteria. The site is updated with philatelic news and updates on forthcoming issues as well as enable subscribers to manage their philatelic account.

The website also hosts an online shop with all stamp sets and related philatelic items issued from 2002 onwards.

The website is of a simple and clear design which allows visitors to navigate easily and find what they are looking for.

This investment by MaltaPost brings the world of Malta stamps to a wider audience, both locally and internationally.



## **EARLY MALTESE SETTLERS IN ADELAIDE**

We do not know who was the first Maltese to settle in South Australia. However, Francesco Saverio De Cesare, a Maltese scholar who travelled across Australia during the 1880s, recorded a very interesting but sad story of Adelaide's first Maltese he encountered.

His name was Carmelo Fabri and his occupation was a land surveyor. Decesare stated in his work ***Reports Upon the Unsuitability of the British Colonies in Australia as a Field Maltese Emigration*** that he met Fabri who at that time was employed by the government as a draughtsman. Unfortunately, he was retrenched due to economic measures taken by the government. To survive he had to sell his professional instruments and books.

Decesare wrote - *In Adelaide, retired at the Destitute Asylum, I found a Maltese by the name of C Fabri, who says he was a perito agrimensore [a skilled land surveyor], and that he went there in search of employment as land surveyor; that he travelled on foot several hundreds of miles inland; was employed for sometime by the Government as draughtsman but afterwards dismissed as they reduced the number of employees in the Survey Department, and that,, not having any means to live upon, he was obliged to pawn all his professional instruments and books and his clothes, so that he was reduced to a state of starvation; and from a sense of humanity, the Government lodged him for some time in that Asylum.*

*The Director of that establishment told me that according to the regulations he could not keep him any longer, and that he had written to the Chief Secretary. The Under Colonial Secretary showed me a correspondence which had passed between the said Fabri and Sir William Robinson, the Governor, the result of which was that the Governor recommended that he should be kept there till they found some employment for him.*

*However, they say, that they have kept him already long enough and that they could not keep him any longer; and moreover, that they had offered him an employment at seven shillings a day, which he refused. I asked what that employment was; and when I was told that it was a manual one, for carrying earth in a wheel barrow, I remarked that it was not expected that a professional man would adapt himself to such work. In fact, when questioned by me, Fabri said that he would die of starvation rather than humiliate himself to that degree.*

*As the Government were not authorised to pay his passage to Malta and send him back to his country, and even if they were disposed to do that for him, serious objections might arise against their action, in as much as it would be a bad precedent, which might be cited on other occasions. I agreed with them to keep him at the Asylum till I arrive at Malta, report the case to the Government or the family of Fabri, who live at Vittoriosa, would send the necessary amount for paying his passage to Malta. I beg therefore to submit this matter to the consideration of the Government in order that, if they think proper, the necessary steps may be taken as to enable him to return to Malta. His health deteriorated so much that he finished up in Adelaide's Destitute Asylum where he eventually died.*

According to the 1911 census there were 248 Maltese in Australia. The number increased considerably in the years to follow. However, in 1912 the Australian Government excluded Maltese immigrants from the assisted passage scheme as a result of trade unions bans on *cheap labour*. In the same year the Government legislated the new policy of White Australia called the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act. This unfair exclusion of the Maltese made of mockery of the fact that they were British subjects and held a British passport.



## **BAKED RICE - ROSS IL-FORN**

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Ross-il-forn is a very popular Maltese dish very much like Arancini Scilani is to the Sicilians.

The concept is similar except, in this case, the rice is cooked separately, combined with a flavorful meat sauce, eggs and topped with cheese then baked.

Just rustic and super delicious. It is ideal to prepare with left over rice and some ground meat. I often use Buffalo or lamb to change it up a bit.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup short grain rice, cooked
- 1 lb ground meat, such as Buffalo or lamb
- 1 small can tomato paste
- a few sprigs each Oregano, Basil and parsley, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1 small onion, finely minced
- 1 cup red wine
- 1 bay leaf.
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1/2 cup each freshly grated pecorino romano and Parmigiano Reggiano cheese

### **METHOD**

Heat a saucepan and add 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Allow to heat, then sauté onion till translucent. Add garlic and sauté 2 more minutes. Add meat and use wooden spoon to break up meat. Cook on medium heat until meat browns. Stir in tomato paste and sauté 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in chopped herbs and bay leaf. Season with salt and pepper.

Pour in wine and allow to simmer 10 to 15 minutes on medium low heat, covered. Turn off heat and allow meat to cool. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a separate dish beat eggs. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in half of both cheese. Add in the cooked rice and stir gently so as not to break up the rice.

Stir in the cooked meat, once again to incorporate but not break up the rice. Pour into baking dish and top with the balance cheese. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until set and cheese melted. serve.



## **THE TINY ISLAND OF FILFLA FROM DINGLI CLIFFS, RABAT MALTA**



This microscopic island, that fits in the palm of one hand, well not really but you get the idea, is FILFLA, Malta's most southerly point.

This island is uninhabited, and it is not permitted to set foot on it! I have just learnt that there was a chapel built in a cave but apparently an earthquake destroyed this only known structure on Filfla. Maltese, normally associate Filfla with lizards as these are known to crawl around this small land!

The best place to view Filfla is from Dingli Cliffs, Malta's highest point. These cliffs offer breathtaking sea views but in my opinion the best place to appreciate these rocky walls is from the sea itself as I once discovered on a sea cruise around Malta.



As we were walking around at Dingli cliffs and around these countryside landscapes, one encounters a scene that is surprising and surreal. An middle-aged shepherd was gathering his animals for their evening exercise! This is not something you see everyday in Malta. The only animals we have here are domestic ones and yet, sheep and goats are

not seen roaming around very frequently, except in rural villages such as this one.



## **BRIGHT RED AND CHRISTMASSY – IL-PUNSJETTA**

### **POINSETTIAS GROW AS SMALL TREES IN MALTESE COUNTRYSIDE**

The spurge family is made up of about 2,000 species of flowering plants which produce a milk-like liquid which exudes from the plant whenever it is damaged.



About 20 species are found in the Maltese islands although not all are indigenous. The best known species is the poinsettia.

In Maltese it is called **punsjetta** although many refer to it as the Christmas flower.

The poinsettia is native to Central America and was named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico who was also an amateur botanist. Poinsett found the plant during one of his visits to Mexico and sent samples to his country. In the Maltese islands poinsettias can be found growing as small trees in the countryside especially in fields close to farmhouses.

The eye-catching, large, red 'flower' is not a flower but a bract of leaves with small flowers in the middle. To turn red the leaves require at least twelve hours of darkness for at least five days in a row hence the 'flowering' during the Christmas period.

As a result of this the plant has become a very popular Christmas decoration and present. The cultivation of poinsettias has become a large industry. Large scale cultivation started about a hundred years ago in the United States and has now spread to many other parts of the world including Europe.

## **POMEGRANATE- RUMMIEN**



The popular Pomegranate tree (Scientific: *Punica granatum*, Maltese: *Rummiena*, *Sigra tal-Bullar*) is frequently encountered in our Maltese countryside. This tree was originally introduced to our Islands in ancient times and has today become an integral part of our flora.

The Pomegranate, a deciduous small tree or shrub of around 5 meters, is attractive with its light green leaves. These leaves are oblong to elliptical in shape and arranged as opposites or in tufts at the extremities of the shorter twigs. Its more or less crooked trunk, which supports a well-branched tree, has a greyish or yellowish bark, which often flakes with age. During the flowering season, the bright-orange flowers are displayed either solitary or united in twos or threes; these are trumpet-like and composed of rather crumpled petals. Following fertilisation, beautiful yellowish or deep-red fruits

are produced. And nestled inside the leathery rind of these fruits are numerous seeds, each of which is embedded in a juicy pulp having a delicious sweet flavour.

Today, besides for its edible fruit, the Pomegranate is utilised in a number of ways - ranging from the making of red dye, to drinks and medicine.

## **BLACK MULBERRY - THE MALTESE TUTA**



The Black Mulberry (Maltese: *Tuta*) is known scientifically as *Morus nigra*. This tree is actually native of China but was introduced to the Islands in ancient times by the Phoenician settlers because of its fruits, which were appreciated for their refreshing and depurative qualities.

The Black Mulberry is a majestic tree, reaching a height of around 10 to 12 metres, having far-spreading branches that are more or less twisted. Its shady foliage is dark green, heart shaped and covered beneath with short soft hairs. It is a deciduous tree, shedding its leaves at the end of the growing season. The wind-pollinated small and inconspicuous flowers are borne in clusters, where the female flower quickly ripens to form a blackberry shaped edible fruit. Although this fruit is often referred to as a berry, it is actually a number of berries closely packed together. These purplish-blue fruits usually ripen in May

until well into the month of August.

Mulberries have many functional uses, which range from the direct use (as they are edible), to the making of jams, syrups and wines, as well as the flavouring and colouring of medicine.

Recently, a long-horned beetle which is well adapted to living on Mulberry trees, was accidentally introduced into Malta. And regrettably in certain regions this pest has attacked and killed some old specimens of Black Mulberry.

## **FIGS - BAJTAR TA SAN GWANN**



I don't know of anyone who does not like fresh figs, or Bajtar ta' San Gwann.

In Malta these figs are in season for a short while usually from the first week of June to the end of that month. The feast of St. John the Baptist falls on the 24th of June.

This typically Mediterranean fruit usually grows wild in our countryside. The fruit has a high content of natural sugars; in fact, when the fruit is very ripe it is like a concentrated jam so to speak.

Figs can be made into ice-cream, jam, sweet tarts, sweet loaf cakes, liquors or just eaten chilled.



## **NEW COAT-OF-ARMS TO ST ANTHONY'S BATTERY**



Master Mason, Leli Bufajra, worked through the winter to carve the missing coat-of-arms that once adorned the entrance to the Fortizza ta' Sant Antnin, on Qala Point, Gozo.

Here seen having accomplished the massive job on a 2 metre block of hard stone chosen specially from a Gozo quarry, he proudly transports the coat-of-arms of Grand Master de Vilhena and the Cross of the Order of St John, together with an inscription by the Governor of Gozo which reads: 'Nel Governo del Cav Fra Paulo Antonio de Viguier, 1732.'

This important decorative dedication over the Battery entrance is now back in place.

Since 2007 Din I-Art Helwa has been restoring the 18th Century battery by the Military Order of St John in a joint project with the Qala Local Council with MEPA funds derived from planning gains, and from the Local Council's and Din I-Art Helwa's own restoration funds.

The work on the battery, which had been left in total abandon with decayed and crumbling walls, is NOW A PIECE OF ART with marvellous views over the straits to Comino.

**SHARE YOUR STORY**

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?  
PUBLISH IT IN THIS HISTORICAL JOURNAL  
SEND IT TO: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**





## "ABOUT FIRELIGHT"

Firelight is a relatively new Maltese country folk pop band formed in June 2013. The driving force of Firelight is Richard Edwards. He's the lead singer, author and composer.



Richard is 31. Music is in his blood. His father is a well-known singer in Malta and just about all his family are entertainers. Richard plays the Appalachian mountain dulcimer, acoustic guitar, and percussion. He is joined in Firelight by his sister, Michelle Mifsud, on the piano, and brothers Wayne William, as backing vocalist, and Daniel Micallef on the acoustic guitar. Additional band members are Tony Polidano, on the upright bass, and Leslie Decesare on the drums and harmonica.

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Sir Gerald Strickland, 1st Baron Strickland 1861-1940, born in Malta, served as 24th Governor of NSW, in office 14 March 1913–27 October 1917



Children and young people under the age of 21 have been sent to Australia as unaccompanied child migrants since the 1800s. Western Australia was the major destination for post-World War II child migrants to Australia, with 48 per cent of the children from Britain and Malta coming to the State. The *Commonwealth Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946* made the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration the child migrants' legal



guardian. This guardianship power was delegated to the relevant state-based organisations. British, Maltese and State Governments subsidised the program financially.

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## HOW MALTA HAS POPULATED THE WORLD WITH 'LITTLE PLASTIC PEOPLE'



Britain's Daily Telegraph has carried a feature on how Malta has populated the world with little people – 2.7 billion little plastic people produced by Playmobil since 1974.

### Playmobil FunPark

#### PROMOTING PLAY –

#### 'PEOPLE FACTORY' AT HAL FAR, MALTA

The Playmobil FunPark in Malta was created with the aim of providing an opportunity for children to interact with Playmobil's range of

figures and play-sets in a fun-filled and safe environment. Understanding the importance of imaginative play, Playmobil pays great attention to detail, creating intricate and fun toys that adhere to the highest safety standards. Moreover, Playmobil encourages children's creativity through increased freedom in the toy's play and assembly. The Playmobil FunPark - the unique play area of the PLAYMOBIL toy system - offers all children the opportunity to experience the toy in an environment which is conducive to play and caters for the child's needs.

#### A PLACE WHERE CREATIVITY REIGNS

The Playmobil FunPark comprises both an internal as well as

an external play area, offering hours of play and fun. Specific theme oriented zones full of Playmobil toys are available for toddlers and youngsters in the internal area, while outside there is space for water based activities, a good sized sand-pit, a playhouse and life-size Playmobil animals. A unique play experience in an area of 2,000 square metres.

**TAKE A BREAK FOR A SNACK!** For a little break between playtimes, a cafeteria is available for children and their carers to spend their free time. Offering a broad range of snacks, you will find something for every taste at family friendly prices.

#### THE WORLD OF PLAYMOBIL - THE SHOP

The Playmobil FunPark shop displays the full Playmobil range by topic and age. Have you lost a part? We also offer a complete after sales service. Our Staff will be more than happy to assist you with any Queries you may have.

#### ACTIVITIES

At Playmobil FunPark Malta, we also organise craft workshops, where children have fun and learn all about pottery, face painting, plants and similar activities. These are usually weekend and school holiday events.



## **LIVING IN MALTA, AN ISLAND WHERE MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ENJOY ADVANTAGEOUS TAX RATES AND A BEAUTIFUL LIFE STYLE**

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Have you ever dreamt of moving abroad to an English speaking Island in the middle of the Mediterranean where crime is practically non-existent, the climate is pleasant throughout the year, the standard of living is high and the cost of living being reasonably low? Well, you can stop dreaming because your wishes may even be closer than you think. You might just want to start packing your bags after you read this.

For some years now, Malta has become a popular destination for South African nationals (amongst people from other nations) who have headed to this Mediterranean Island country to take up residency and live a lifestyle that up to that time did not seem could be a reality. English is very widely spoken, in fact it is the second language by most of the locals who are also well known for their very friendly nature thus making it easier to integrate into the Maltese community and understand the way of life and the general system. It is in fact no casual coincidence that there is already a sizable expatriate community made up of foreigners who are in Malta on work assignments, permanent residence holders, retiree's as well as business travelers that keeps growing from year to year.

Malta enjoys several double taxation agreements with various countries including South Africa. There are two types of residence status that one may take up in Malta. In both cases, one must purchase or rent a property in Malta.. Individuals residing in Malta are taxable only on income arising and/or remitted to Malta at the applicable rates depending on the residence status one has opted for.

## **HOW SOUTH AFRICA AND MISS WORLD CHANGED MY LIFE - MARTHA**



MARTHA FENECH - When I was a young girl, I remember watching the Miss World Contest on TV mesmerised by the glamorous global beauty queens. Excited to see who is Miss Venezuela and Miss India I secretly wished I was there on stage, little did I know that my wish would actually become a reality.

By the age of 17, I was taking my A-Levels exams and doing several fashion shows and commercials. I considered entering the Miss World Malta contest but then abandoned the idea as I thought I was too young and I had several other things on my mind. Then in the last week of applications I decided to give it a go just for fun and for the experience. I remember I was so nervous on the final night, I obviously wished to win but did not really think about what would happen if I actually won. Well I did and I was preparing for my journey to Ukraine in September. Yes Ukraine, was the original host country for Miss World 2008. Then there were some conflicts between Russia and Georgia and the contest was rescheduled and removed from Europe. When I finally received the email confirming the new host country I just stared at the screen. South Africa. What did I know about South Africa? Absolutely nothing. When I googled Johannesburg, all I read was what a dangerous city this is, it has a high crime rate etc etc etc I was completely stunned. But then I did a proper research and beautiful images started to appear and I was excited once again. Today I ask myself what if I hadn't gone to South Africa?



By the time the MW contest was held I had turned 18, an official adult and oh how I was learning and growing up psychologically. I did the long long journey to South Africa on my own. After doing a 3hr flight to Frankfurt, 7hr transit, and another 12hr flight to South Africa, all anxious thoughts disappeared and now I will go to the end of the world on my own. That was already an experience in itself that taught me to be more independent, positive and confident. After this long journey I arrived at my destination. South Africa. What a captivating country. Apart from being a breath-taking country, its people are the most welcoming I have ever met. Everyone is cheerful and happy, always ready to greet you with a smile. I experienced this treatment everywhere I went, and I will never forget the people I met there. South Africa will forever be close to my heart and so will its people.

### **AUSTRALIAN - ABORIGINAL SOLDIERS AT THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK**



### **POEM - The Black Rats**

He lived in a tin hut with a hard dirt floor.  
He had bags sewn together that was his door.  
He was a Rat of Tobruk until forty five,  
He was one of the few that came back alive.

Battered and scarred he fought for this land,  
And on his return they all shook his hand.  
The price of fighting for the freedom of man  
Did not make any difference to this Blackman.

He returned to the outback, no mates did he find.  
If he had a beer he was jailed and then fined.  
He sold all his medals he once proudly wore:  
They were of no use to him any more.

Confused and alone he wandered around,  
Looking for work though none could be found.  
The Anzac marches he badly neglected,  
Would show to his comrades how he was rejected.

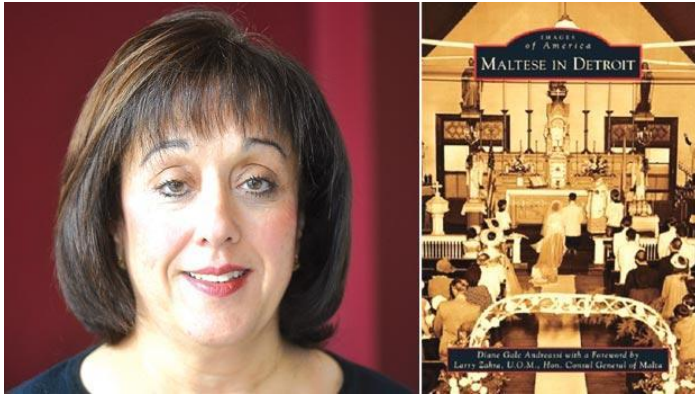
He fought for this land so he could be free.  
Yet he could not vote after his desert melee.  
And those years in the desert they really took their toll,  
He went there quite young and he came home so old.

This once tall man came from a proud Black tribe,  
Died all alone – no one at his side.

*Reproduced courtesy of Bruce Clayton- Brown*

## BONDS THAT NEVER DIE - MALTESE IN DETROIT

Reporter for the South Lyon An American reporter of Maltese descent has published a book documenting the emigration of thousands of Maltese people to the world's automotive hub of Detroit.



An American reporter of Maltese descent has published a book documenting the emigration of thousands of Maltese people to the world's automotive hub of Detroit.

***Seems to be a real heart tug for Malta, even among people with just a few drops of Maltese in their blood***

The book, *Maltese in Detroit*, focuses on Maltese immigrants, as well as their descendants, in Detroit and the surrounding area.

The majority of those who left the island for the US in the first half of the 20th century settled down in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago and Detroit, which has one of the largest (44,000) Maltese migrant populations.

Through the book, Diane Gale Andreassi, reporter for the South Lyon Herald, trails the Maltese Detroit settlers through time and illustrates the importance the Catholic Church had among the migrants in this new land. *Maltese in Detroit* speaks, among others, of priests who welcomed and helped new migrants settle down in the US.

"I wanted to put the book together to give recognition to Malta, the Maltese people who migrated to Detroit and the many families who were born from these Maltese immigrants," the reporter said when contacted.

Ms Andreassi's parents were both born in Malta. Her mother's family moved from Sliema to the Corktown area in Detroit when she was 12, while her father, from Mosta, migrated alone when he was 18. Ms Andreassi was raised in Detroit with four other siblings.

"I have always been very proud of my Maltese heritage, but there are so many people in the US who aren't aware of the island nation," she added.

Compiling the book took her a whole year but the journey introduced her to "many wonderful people of Maltese heritage".

"They were all proud to have been born in Malta or raised by Maltese parents. I can speak first hand when I say Maltese people are loyal, proud and generous," the author said.

Ms Andreassi has worked as a reporter and a section editor at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in Michigan. After giving birth to her first child, she worked as a freelancer, and it was then that she authored an encyclopaedia entry on Malta, which was published by Gale Research.

But the response to *Maltese in Detroit* book was "overwhelming".

"I have received hundreds of calls from people all over Michigan inquiring about the book. First, second and third generation Maltese have a real affection for Malta and their heritage.

"They talk about how important it is to maintain our Maltese pride, especially among the young generation. There seems to be a real heart tug for Malta, even among people with just a few drops of Maltese in their blood," she said.

The book, published by Arcadia Publishing, is available on iTunes and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## **MALTESE MIGRATION TO USA**



*(Left) Maltese leaving for the United States, September 1966*

Malta's Council of Government issued a statement on April 8, 1947, which showed that at that time more than 5,000 people had applied to enter the U.S.A. The statement also indicated that two main obstacles were hindering the entry of these people, many of whom had relatives living in the U.S.A. for a number of years who had promised jobs and accommodation for those who wished to emigrate. The two obstacles were the fact that there was no direct shipping between Malta and the U.S.A. and the closure of the local American Consulate which in past years had been issuing visas to intending migrants.

*(Below) Migrants bound for North America on the Marine Shark*



Efforts were made to eliminate such problems. The ship *Marine Shark* entered Maltese waters on July 7, 1947, and she took 240 migrants bound for North America. This was the first significant group to leave directly for North America. The ship took just eleven days to arrive and many of the Maltese continued their journey to Detroit and San Francisco. Most adults paid fares which ranged from \$40 to \$50. It was also at this time that an American consular officer paid two visits to Malta raising hopes that the local consulate will reopen soon.

In 1948 Mr J Cole, Malta's minister responsible for emigration, and Mr J Axisa, who was then the director of emigration, were on a visit of the main receiving countries favoured by the Maltese who wished to emigrate. While in the U.S.A. the two men were told that the process of granting visas would be speeded up. Both Mr Cole and Mr Axisa insisted with the Department of State that the presence in Malta of a permanent consul was not only greatly desired by the Maltese but also very useful because those who needed a visa had to go either to Rome or to Tunis. The two gentlemen from Malta got the impression that their request received a favourable hearing. In September 1949 the American ambassador to the United Kingdom requested the approval of the British Government for the reestablishment of an American consulate in Valletta.

The American Consulate was opened in February 1950 with Mr John Fitzgerald as consul aided by Mr Richard B. Andrews. At the time the two gentlemen were issuing 200 visas a month. Between 1949 and 1950 the total of approved migrants wishing to leave for the U.S.A. had reached the number of 1,324. Most left on board the two ships *Italia* and *Neptune*.



Saturday, May 3, 2014,

## Giant cocktail glass at records festival



The biggest cocktail glass in Malta was filled last night and many people got a taste at the Malta Records Festival in Qormi (St George area).

The cocktail glass, by James Aquilina took 240 litres of Strawberry Margarita.

The festival continues tonight with a wide variety of records set to be attempted.

Among them will be a tower of 21,000 profiterole (cream puffs) by Joe Borg Bonaci and Tiziano Cassar.

Some 15,000 attended last year's festival.

Visitors can take part in a number of competitions for the fastest eaters and drinkers.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMaltaRecords?fref=ts>



A **profiterole**, **cream puff** or **choux à la crème** is a French dessert choux pastry ball filled with whipped cream, pastry cream, custard, or ice cream.

The puffs may be decorated or left plain or garnished with chocolate sauce, caramel, or a dusting of powdered sugar.

In some areas, the term *profiterole* is used for small versions filled with whipped ice cream<sup>[1]</sup> and topped with chocolate<sup>[2][3]</sup> although the usage varies and can include other fillings.

Ta' Peppi Primavera bdew iwahhlu l-21,000 profiteroles li llejla se jiffurmaw l-itwal torri ta' profiteroles.

Ta' Peppi Primavera Caterers are building a tower with 21 000 cream puffs





**HERE IS AN AMAZING PICTORIAL SELECTION OF MALTESE DELICACIES**

*From top, left to right:* **Brungiel mimli** (stuffed aubergine), **Kinnie** (orange softdrink with aeromatic herbs), **Imqarrun** (baked macaroni dish-reminds me of my childhood), **Mqaret** (deep fried diamond-shaped pastry filled with dates), **Bebbux** (snails, yep, snails), **Stuffat tal-fenek** (rabbit stew), **Helwa tat-Tork** (sesame seed and sugar halva), **Cisk** (Maltese beer), **Pastizzi** (pastry filled with ricotta or peas), **Aljotta** (a fish broth with lots of different seafood in it), **Tasting plate with Bigilla** (bean dip with lots of garlic and parsley) and **Hobz biż-żejt u t-tadam** (bread with olive oil and tomato) and **Fazola bajda bit-tewm u t-tursin** (white butter beans with parsley, garlic and olive oil).

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## Elvis auction is one for the money Kim Dalli



One can be forgiven for feeling All Shook Up when setting foot inside a house in Santa Venera, Malta dubbed as Graceland – the ceiling and walls are awash with every conceivable item of Elvis Presley memorabilia.

From commemorative prints to statues to one single hair which once graced the King of Rock n'Roll's head, the collection was lovingly amassed by the late Alfred Vassallo, who also served as the president of the Elvis Presley Followers Fan Club Malta.

The house at 14 The Lodge 'Graceland' Triq in Brunzar Sta Venera is open for public viewing in May and over 460 items will go under the hammer on Monday and Tuesday at the Obelisk Auctions Gallery in Attard.



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