



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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MALTA AND AUSTRALIA - About the artist.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

A flourishing career that started back in 1988 has reached a remarkable milestone. Michael Wright, the Australian painter who has been painting in Malta full-time for the last 5 years, has sold his 200th painting. In the dog-eat-dog market of the crowded and overflowing Maltese art scene this is a magnificent feat on its own right. Michael, best known as LeMakoo (an old nickname – used for memorability, just as Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de Paloma preferred the name Pablo Picasso) is a unique artist with both feet fixed firmly in the commercial and flamboyant. A quick tour around Malta and it becomes easy to appreciate the impact LeMakoo has made on his home. From restaurants in St. Julians to wine bars in Valletta and even furniture showrooms proudly display a burning, moving landscape of LeMakoo. He has succeeded in creating a brand name for himself – something local artists seldom achieve – and the Malta art scene is all the better for it.

Watercolour and inks on paper.

MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

Both countries have one saint. Mary Helen MacKillop (canonised on 17 October 2010) and George Preca (canonised on 3 June 2007). One of Mary's miracles was performed on a Maltese immigrant to Australia, Sophie Delezio.

Painted by Michael Wright - LeMakoo





Both paintings 120x60cm Oil on canvas.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand-
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea Mackellar



Int sabiĥa, o Malta tagħna!

Mhux għax Malti nfahħrek jien;
issemmik id-dinja kollha,
magħruf ġmielek kullimkien.

Gan Anton Vassallo



Sydney and Valletta.

Both 100x50cm Oil on Canvas.

I believe that these two cities are the most stunning in the world from my perspective. It's easy to use colour and space to invoke mood and tone. I think that it is the fact that both have a great deal of buildings, space and water. Whilst other cities tend to have only one focal point. Sure, there are other stunning cities in the world, but none that have that mix of landmarks and water that these two have.

MALTESE SQUARE - PRAGUE - CZECH REPUBLIC



Since its foundation the square is named after the fact that in this place there is a monastery of Order of Knights of Malta. The monastery was founded there as early as in 1169.

Prokopova, Harantova and Nebovidská Streets run into the area of not much wide square.

Not only the mentioned monastery turns towards the square, but mainly it is an archaic church of the Virgin Mary

under chain, in the end of the bridge. Initially, the church should have been much larger, however only the presbytery was built, which later served as a main abbey and also the pair of towers in the western front stayed incomplete. The sanctuary went through several style phases, including early baroque modification under command of arch. Carlo Lurago.

In the centre of the square there is standing a high baroque sculptural group of the patron of the Order of Knights of Malta, St. John the Baptist. It was put there in 1715 as expression of thanks for diversion of plague. Originally, the sculpture formed a centre of the fountain, but this was abolished in the eighties of 19th century. Work on the sculptural group was submitted to Prague sculptural workshop of Jan Brokof (1652-1718). Author of the work is his second-born son Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokof (1688-1731). For the last time the sculpture was restored in 1988 by academic sculptor Drahomíra Šťovíčková.

There used to be a large area belonging to the Order of Knights of Malta in Prague Lesser Town in the middle ages. They built the Church of St. Mary below the chain, a monastery and several other buildings. The Grand Priory Palace stands at the place of the original monastery building and there are remains of it preserved there. The building still belongs to the Knights of Malta the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague Lesser Town is the place, where the famous statue Prague Infant Jesus (Nino Jesus de Praga) is kept. The White Friars in the church gained it as a gift from Polyxena of Lobkowicz in 1628. It is believed that it has miraculous powers and that it will help to those, who will pray to it. It was made probably already in the 12th century in Spain.

The Grand Priory of Bohemia

Knights of the Grand Priory of Bohemia and Austria:



Professed Knight
at the beginning of the 19th
century

Professed Bailli

The origin of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta may be traced to the founding of the Order of St John in Jerusalem in 1099. As the Order grew it became necessary to organize itself locally into Priories and Grand Priories. The Grand Priory of Bohemia was founded in 1183.

The history of the Order of Malta in Prague is commemorated in several place names in the Little Quarter at the west end of the famous Charles Bridge. Until 1741, Charles Bridge was the only crossing over the Vltava. The Bridge was commissioned by Charles IV in 1357 to replace the Judith Bridge (built in 1158), which was destroyed by a flood in 1342. The gateway to the Charles Bridge is flanked by two towers of different height. The taller pinnacled tower on the north was built together with the Charles Bridge. To the south is a shorter tower, the remains of the Judith Bridge Tower, built in 1188 to guard the entrance to the original Judith Bridge.

A short walk from these towers lies Maltese Square and Grand Priory Square. At the northern end of Maltese Square is a statue of St John the Baptist - part of a fountain erected in 1715 to mark the end of a plague epidemic. At the northern end of Grand Priory Square is the former seat of the Grand Prior. In its present form the palace dates from the 1720s. A large mural of pop musician John Lennon has decorated the wall of the Grand Prior's garden since his death.

The wheel of the Grand Prior's Mill has been totally restored and runs in a short side-channel of the Vltava river known as the "Venice of Prague."

Also in this area is the Church of Our Lady Beneath the Chain, which has two massive towers dating from the time when this was a fortified priory. The Church, founded in the 12th century, is the oldest in the Little Quarter and was presented to the Knights of St John by King Vladislav II. It stood in the centre of the Knights' heavily

fortified monastery, which guarded the approach to the old Judith Bridge, precursor of the Charles Bridge. The church's name refers to the chain used during the Middle Ages to close the monastery gatehouse.

A Gothic presbytery was added in the 13th century, but in the following century the original Romanesque church was demolished. A new portico was built with a pair of massive square towers but the work was abandoned and the old nave became a courtyard between the towers and the church. The church was given a baroque facelift in 1640 by Carlo Lurago. The high altar features a painting depicting the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist coming to the aid of the Knights of Malta in the famous naval battle at Lepanto in 1571.

In spite of adversities encountered during the French revolution and during the Napoleonic wars that followed, the Bohemian Grand Priory survived down to the 20th century, arguably the most testing century of its long existence.

During World War I the Order operated a hospital train which circulated throughout Europe treating the casualties of war. Over 27000 operations were conducted in the field.

In 1938 the (independent) Grand Priory of Austria was formed as a consequence of the Anschluß of Austria by Hitler. During the Nazi occupation of Bohemia the activities of the Order were banned and its properties were confiscated. Although the Order's activities were suppressed by the Nazis, the Regent Schwarzenberg used his political influence to ensure the survival of the order.

Following the war, the socialist state did not return the properties confiscated by the Nazis but instead nationalized them. A minimum level of activity was tolerated by the communists until 1950, when the Order, together with other Church orders, was dissolved and banned. The majority of the Order's members went into exile. A small group of knights remained in Bohemia and continued the Order's charitable and hospitaller activities with the support of their confreres abroad. They were headed by Prince Charles Schwarzenberg (1911-1986) as Regent of the Grand Priory of Bohemia, who untiringly defended the right of the Grand Priory to survive. In 1981 Fra Charles Paar was elected Grand Prior in exile.



Following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 the Order immediately resumed its activities. New members were inducted and the first steps were taken towards securing the return of the Order's buildings in Prague, namely the Grand Prior's Palace and the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain. Finally, Maltese Help was formed as the relief organization of the Order in the Czech Republic.

In 1991 the Order established diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic. The Order's embassy today stands next to the Church of Our Lady Under the Chain. Thus, once again the eight-pointed cross serves as a symbol of

assistance and comfort for those suffering in body or spirit and reminds us of the Order's motto, *Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*.

JOE SACCO CREATES A MIND-BLOWING 24 FOOT LONG PANORAMA OF WWI

Posted by Maisie Skidmore

Joe Sacco is not your average comic book artist. The Maltese-American illustrator began his career in journalism, and found himself drifting towards comics when the journalistic trend for detached storytelling left him feeling frustrated. His dissatisfaction led him to Palestine – and then Bosnia, Malta and a handful of others – from which he began the first-person war reportage in comic book form which would come to be seen as his characteristic style.

His latest work sees him take a step away from war reportage, however, instead choosing to depict the bloodiest battle of the First World War; the first day on the Battle of the Somme.

And what's more, he's illustrated it in the form of a 24 foot long panorama. It's a mammoth undertaking, yes, but not too enormous for Joe. Between his painstaking attention to every minute detail and the immeasurable brutality of a war scene depicted in cartoon form, the resulting work is, as you can imagine, very disarming.

The Great War, published by Jonathan Cape, is available to buy now.



Joe Sacco: The Great War



By Doris Fenech

August - Awissu, is the eighth month of the year and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days. August known as the month of fruit "ix-xhar tal-frott" and the month of Our Lady "ix-xahar ta' Santa Marija".

10th August: St. Lawrence Day - "Jum San Lawrenz".

15th August: The feast of the Assumption of Our Lady "festa ta' Santa Marija".

24th August: St. Bartholomew Day - "Jum San Bartilmew"

Maltese proverbs - "Qwiel Maltin"

San Lawrenz, ix-xahar tas-sħana. - The month of St. Lawrence is the month of heat.

Santa Marija, żriġħ it-tomnija. - St Mary's Day is the time for sowing late corn.

Santa Marija f'nofs Awissu, u kulħadd jieġu li jmissu. - St. Mary's Feast fills in the middle of August, when every one takes what is due to him.

San Bartilmew għandu l-muftieħ tax-xita. - St. Bartholomew has got the keys of the rain.

Meat l-Għansal jagħmel il-ward f'Awissu, ix-xita tkun bikrija, - When the squalls bloom in August there will be early rain.

Awissu x-xemx taħarqu u x-xita tmissu.- August is burnt by the sun and touched by the rain, i.e. it is a very hot month when we have the first showers.

INCREDIBLE 160-FOOT STEEL SCULPTURE LOOKS LIKE A RIBBON FALLING FROM THE SKY



City of Sydney Council is installing a \$3.5 million steel sculpture outside Town Hall and spanning George Street. It is one of three public artworks council is spending \$7.8 million on as it prepares to convert George Street into a pedestrian boulevard. Lord Mayor Clover Moore announced the works chosen by a panel of art experts, saying the artworks would change the face of the CBD and place an international spotlight on the city centre.

A giant Japanese-designed public artwork that will straddle Sydney's main street was unveiled on Tuesday (July 29), dividing opinion with supporters saying it will boost the city's reputation and critics calling it "stupid". "At last something interesting and engaging in a city that is becoming so ugly due to all the greedy developers," one reader said on the Telegraph website, while another added: "I think it is brilliant. Well done Clover, love your work." The Lord Mayor said the artworks would change the face of the city centre and shine the international spotlight on Sydney.

WAR TAX POSTAGE STAMP - WORLD WAR I



War is also expensive. Many nations needing additional revenue to pay for their armed conflicts have imposed taxes of various kinds on their citizens.

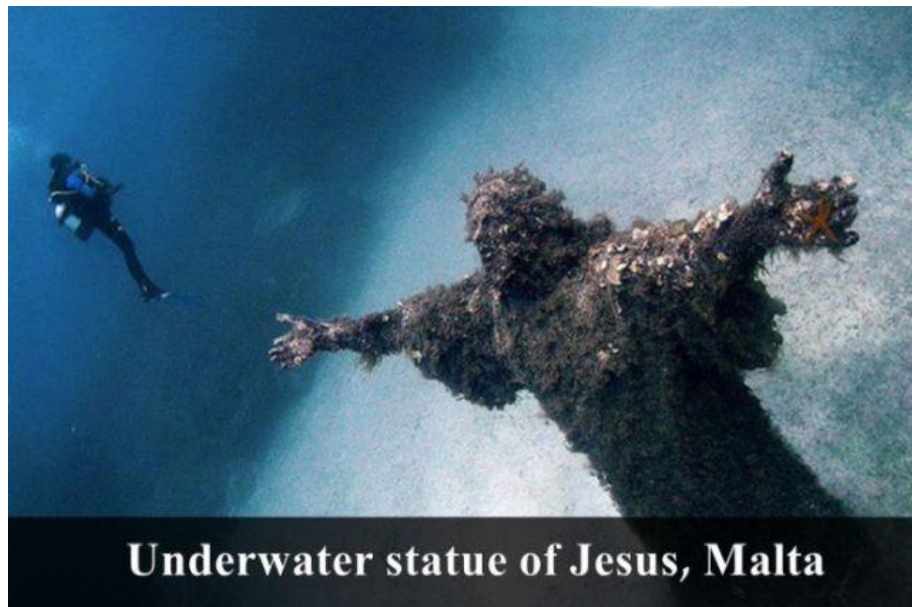
The taxes can take many forms, including the dreaded income tax. Goods and services might also be taxed. Among services that have been taxed is the delivery of mail.

When you think about it, taxing mail delivery is a fairly shrewd way to raise funds. It spreads the obligation equally among the entire population in relatively small, affordable increments.

A **war tax stamp** is a type of postage stamp added to an envelope in addition to regular postage. It is similar to a postal tax stamp, but the revenue is used to defray the costs of a war; as with other postal taxes, its use is obligatory for some time.

1918 Maltese war tax overprint.

The majority of war tax stamps were produced during and immediately after World War I, primarily within the British Empire and its dominions. In most cases, they were produced by overprinting regular issues with "WAR TAX" or "WAR STAMP", though the overprint "WAR" was occasionally used (as in the issues of British Honduras). While they were meant to pay for the war tax only, they were often applied toward postage and registration fees. The following British colonies and dominions produced war tax stamps: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Canada, Cayman Islands, Ceylon, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Gold Coast, Grenada, Jamaica, Malta, Montserrat, New, St. Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis.



The Maltese Titanic: The sinking of the S.S.Sardinia



In 2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the **RMS Titanic** in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. The disaster claimed the lives of about 1,500 of the ship's 2,200 passengers and crew, a tragedy which still fascinates millions around the world today.

There were no Maltese citizens on the Titanic (although an American survivor, Miss Georgette Alexandra Madill, of St Louis, Missouri, married a Maltese man later in life). The sinking of the **SS Sardinia** in 1908 just beyond the **Grand Harbour of Valletta**, however, could be considered the

Titanic's Maltese counterpart. It is worth mentioning, however, that the *Sardinia* was by no means as large or luxurious as the Titanic, nor did it carry as many passenger in its cabins, and therefore its sad ending has a much smaller claim to fame.

The Daily Mirror



Captain Charles Littler's death was recorded on the front page of "The Daily Mirror".

The *SS Sardinia* belonged to the **Ellerman and Papayanni Line**. It weighed **1,514 tons** (a minuscule proportion compared to the Titanic's vast 46,328 gross tons). On her last voyage, which ended on 25th November 1908, the *Sardinia* was carrying **39 crewmembers, 12 saloon (i.e. first class) passengers** and **142 steerage**, who were all **Moslem Moroccans** travelling to the city of Mecca. The *Sardinia* was travelling from Liverpool carrying a small handful of passengers and general cargo; it was due to set sail from Malta, then reach the **Egyptian port of Alexandria** and thence continue to **Mecca**, thus completing her journey.

The ship set sail from Malta's **Grand Harbour** minutes before 10 a.m. on that chilly Wednesday morning; everything seemed to be going normally, when at about 200 metres from the breakwater **thick black smoke** started to seep out of the vessel's starboard side. Within seconds, several explosions were heard throughout the ship, and not long after huge flames started to engulf the ship's keel. The wind was blowing strongly at the time, and with it the fire grew higher, the flames gushing up into the air and onto the top deck, burning everything it touched. The sinking of the *SS Sardinia* in 1908 was a sad precedent to the much worse Titanic disaster in 1912.

The ship changed its course and started to turn as if trying to re-enter the Harbour, which was still within sight. Several witnesses, however, saw that the ship started to go round in circles, implying that her crew had lost control of her rudder. When the *Sardinia* started to turn a fifth time, it ran aground on some rocks off Fort Ricasoli. Then, a large explosion rocked the vessel, shooting flames upward and spitting burning debris across the water and the nearby shore.

Boats of all kinds packed with local fishermen and seamen departed the port in order to try and help any possible survivors. Reaching the *Sardinia* itself would prove catastrophic, as it was still ablaze, and anyone who might still be alive was compelled to jump into the cold November water of the Mediterranean in order to escape the flames.



A rare photograph of a sinking ship: the SS *Sardinia* starts to list on its side as fire eats away its interiors. A lifeboat can be seen at the keel.

In all, **only ten passengers and twenty-three members of the ship's crew were saved**, but most of the Arabs below deck had either perished because of the explosion or drowned in the ensuing sinking. Their sad loss would tragically resemble the sad fate of most of the **3rd class passengers of the Titanic less than four years later**.

Only the bodies of 23 Moslems were recovered; they were transported to the Central Civil Hospital, and the following day they were buried in the **Turkish cemetery in Marsa**. The funeral for 45 year-old **Captain Charles Litter** and Scottish-born **2nd Engineer Douglas Hislop** took place on the 27th at **Ta'Braxia cemetery**, in the outskirts of Floriana. The funeral was also celebrated in honour of a small child, **Donald Grant**, aged 3, who was travelling with his parents, Jessie and James Gordon Grant, of the Eastern Telegraph Company (ETC), who were both saved. As they

were both still recovering in hospital when the funeral took place, the Superintendent of the ETC and his wife acted as chief mourners. The infant's coffin was carried by four colleagues of the ETC. Captain Littler's body was later reburied in England, where his widow and son from a previous marriage lived.

The final death toll was proportionately very high. **Two European passengers, sixteen crewmembers**, including Fireman **H. Dolan**, Quartermaster **Ed Farrell**; Fireman **W. Hynes** and 2nd Steward **F. Hughes**, and **more than 100 Arab passengers perished**. Three bodies were later recovered from the sea and buried in Ta'Braxia as well. The body of an unidentified European was washed up over a week later, on 8th December. The bodies of the 1st Mate, **R. Frew** (aged 37) and Engineer **J. Niel** (aged 38) were also buried in Ta'Braxia on December 11th and 17th respectively. **Fireman Charles Mooney's** body was buried in Adolorata Cemetery. Ironically **Chief Engineer W. Seagrave** also perished in the disaster, shortly after one of his children in England had died only a day after the *Sardinia* had left Liverpool; a second child died 10 days after the sinking.



Centro Cultural Hispano-Maltés

Ċentru Kulturali Spanjol-Malti



The Centro Cultural Hispano Maltés, is the only place dedicated solely, to the teaching of Spanish in Malta. It was founded on the 12th March 1984. Courses for Adult Beginners have been taking place since October of that same year. The Centre is licensed under the Ministry of Education and is situated at 18A/5, Level 2, Mikiel Anton Vassalli Street, Valletta, (near Osborne Hotel).

Spanish Courses are held in comfortable, state of the art premises centrally situated in the heart of our capital. Teachers are all fully qualified graduates with lots of experience in this field. Students are encouraged to make use of the Library. Most Courses are held in the evening but some Morning courses are also available. Included in the year 1 and year 2 Spanish courses is also a programme of ' Cultura Española', consisting of 7 sessions of very interesting information on the theme of Spanish Culture, such as basic History, Geography, Gastronomy and wines, Art and World Heritage. These sessions are held on a monthly basis and include lots of visual resources.

One of the main activities of the Centro, besides the learning of Spanish Language and Culture, is the Friday Night Club – El Club del viernesit offers activities such as Spanish Cinema, Documentaries, Lectures and Discussions, all this on the theme of ' Cultura Española', every Friday evening at 18.30 hrs, activities are free of charge and everyone is welcome.

The Centro also organizes one Cultural Tour to Spain every year. This year El Camino de Santiago ...Arte, Vino y Queso [St James of Compostela Route... Art, Wine and Cheese] will take place from the 9th to the 23rd July.

Have a look at our site and discover the possibilities to learn Spanish Language and Culture in Malta, together with information regarding the Club del Viernes activities, our publication 'El Eslabon', our Philatelic and Numismatic Club, our past tours, and of course, about the various courses available.



<http://artes-uk.org/2014/02/27/artes-malta-5-10-november-2014/artes-logo-2/> **ARTES MALTA**

VISIT: 5 – 10 NOVEMBER 2014

ARTES is a Registered Charity dedicated to raising awareness and understanding of Iberian and Latin American Visual Culture. It aims to bring together those with a special interest in the arts of Spain, Portugal and Latin America.



ARTES is visiting Malta from 5-10 November 2014. This visit is being organised by Marjorie Trusted of the V&A (ARTES Hon Vice-President) and Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci of the University of Malta (ARTES member). The provisional programme is detailed below and includes a symposium on Spanish Art being hosted under the kindly aegis of the Spanish Embassy.

Members who would like to take part, will need to book their own flights and accommodation. We can recommend Air Malta for flights and the Hotel Phoenicia and the smaller Hotel Luciano Valletta Boutique for accommodation. The Hotel Phoenicia is offering us their higher graded rooms at discounted prices. There is no charge

for any of the events or guided visits, however there will be charges of approximately £55 and £5 for the minibus we have hired to transport us to the various events (Billy's Car Hire) and for the ferry ticket.

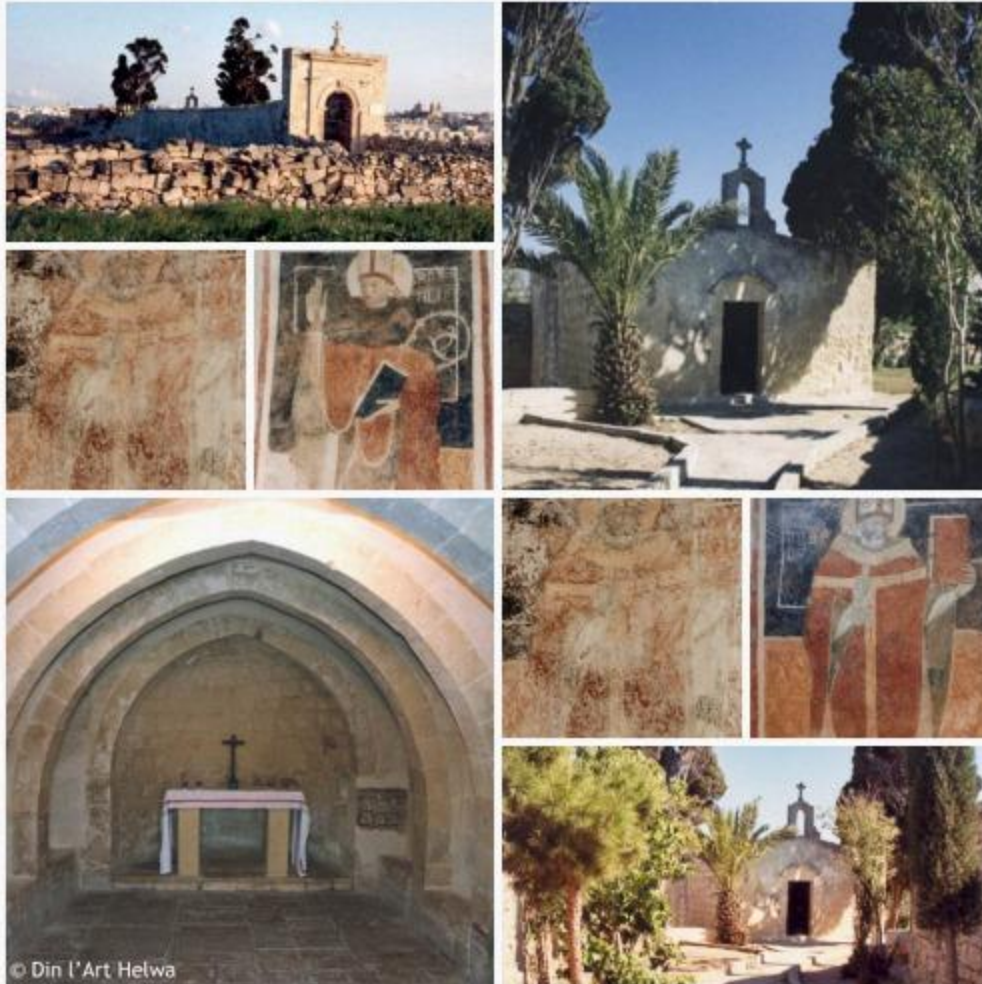
This visit is a wonderful opportunity to have privileged access the best examples of spanish art on the island. It is open to all ARTES members and their spouses, families and friends. For those family members still hesitating, please note that the symposium on spanish art is entirely optional and that for the non-art historian the visit is an excellent opportunity to explore this historically significant island which has such strong associations not only with Spain but also with Britain. Malta boasts an enviable climate and wonderful Mediterranean food and hospitality. Please do join us and contact Morlin at artesiberia@gmail.com if you would like to do so.



SPANISH CORNER

Castilla La Mancha is a region located at the center of the Spanish Iberian península. La Mancha is renowned for the Route of Don Quijote, and the famous Manchego Cheese for which the excellent wines produced within this region are a perfect match.

PUT ON THE WALKING SHOES WHEN IN MALTA



The first rain after the long, hot summer brings the landscape to life with **an astonishing variety of wild flowers**.

From mid-November until mid-May or so, you'll find the Islands **green and lush**. Fields are full of vegetables and waysides are carpeted with fennel, clover, wild iris, myrtle and much more. By late spring, **a thousand or more species of plants** will be in flower.

Away from the resorts and urban areas of central Malta, there is **a surprising amount of countryside**, some left almost untouched by modernity. You may be surprised to learn that only around one-fifth of the Maltese Islands is urbanised. Farmers often use traditional labour-intensive methods of the past. Village life still centres on the agricultural and fishing seasons.

Today, as in past times, you will still see old men and women, sometimes with their extended families, working the fields. In the north of Malta, where the ground

is barren, and in many parts of Gozo, you'll come across small flocks of **shaggy-coated goats and sheep** being herded along the wayside.

The Islands offer walkers some of the most **stunning views** anywhere in the Mediterranean. The first thing to do is to decide what sort of view you prefer - dramatic cliffs plunging into waves, the rocky, scrubland of the garrigue or hidden, lush valleys. En route, you'll come across mysterious, prehistoric sites, cave chapels and secluded palaces of the Knights.

In Malta, areas that make **excellent day hikes**, are Mellieħa, Dingli, Għar Lapsi, Fawwara, Wardija, all the North and the various bays, and the southern coast with its fishing villages and Delimara Point.

Gozo in its entirety is excellent walking country. Ta' Dbiegi, near San Lawrenz, the Ġordan Lighthouse near Għasri, Hondoq ir-Rummien near Qala and San Blas Valley near Nadur are all excellent walking areas. The Island is criss-crossed by tracks and lanes. The possibilities are endless.

Don't miss tiny Comino, ideal for a good day's hiking and the ultimate in solitude and views.

Put on walking boots, hire a mountain bike and head out from the village squares on the narrow farmers' tracks. **You'll find yourself in a timeless landscape**, quite alone even in peak season. There is plenty to discover, from ancient farmhouses and wayside chapels to spectacular seascapes. It is well worth the effort!

CHAPEL OF ST AGATHA, ZURRIEQ



Sometimes, you go past a building that piques your interest but not enough for you to stop and really look at it. Perhaps it is because you happen to be in a hurry. Or else because it is somewhere that you can get to easily so there seems to be no urgency to make the effort of finding some time to absorb it all in. "It'll be for another day," you tell yourself. Only that other day never seems to come.

How many people have done that with St. Agatha's Chapel?

Certainly many pass by it daily, seeing that it guards

a pretty busy side-road that links Zurrieq to Hal Far. Perhaps they do so because it isn't a particularly pretentious building but, in doing so, they're ignoring the links that it has to their roots.

St Agatha is actually one of Malta's patron saints. Legend has it that she came to the island as she was fleeing from her native Sicily and the Roman persecution of Christians. Regardless of how much (or how little) truth there is in this story, it certainly looks as if there was quite a following for this Saint in Malta. Indeed, in 1551 her intercession through a reported apparition to a Benedictine nun is said to have saved Malta from Turkish invasion.

The devotion of St. Agatha in Zurrieq dates earlier than that. By 1428, there already was a chapel built dedicated to her and this was popular enough for the area to become known as Ta' Sant' Agatha (of St. Agatha). By the start of the seventeenth century there even was a small cemetery next to it and the feast was celebrated on the 5th of February.

Eventually, however, it fell into disrepair and the current chapel was built in 1854 by a local patron. The two small front windows are kept open so that any devotees passing by can stop to say a prayer to St. Agatha even if the chapel happens to be closed. A reminder that there was a time that people used to stop here to pray, rather than rush by.

VISIT MALTA – FOOD AND DRINK

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

Traditional Maltese food is rustic and based on the seasons. Look out for *Lampuki Pie* (fish pie), Rabbit Stew, *Bragioli* (beef olives), *Kapunata*, (Maltese version of ratatouille), and widow's soup, which includes a small round of *Gbejniet* (sheep or goat's cheese). On most food shop counters, you'll see *Bigilla*, a thick pate of broad beans with garlic. The snacks that must be tried are *'ħobż biż-żejt'* (round of bread dipped in olive oil, rubbed with ripe tomatoes and filled with a mix of tuna, onion, garlic, tomatoes and capers) and *pastizzi* (flaky pastry parcel filled with ricotta or mushy peas).



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

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

Malta may not be renowned like its larger Mediterranean neighbours for wine production, but **Maltese vintages** are more than holding their own at international competitions, winning several accolades in France, Italy and further afield. International grape varieties grown on the Islands include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Carignan, Chenin Blanc and Moscato. The indigenous varieties are *Gellewza* and *Ghirghentina*, which are producing some excellent wines of distinct body and flavour.

The main wineries organise **guided tours and tastings**. Depending on the season, tours cover the entire production, from the initial fermentation through to the ageing process. They also include wine history museums and opportunities to taste and buy a variety of vintages. Read more on www.visitmalta.com

THE NEWSLETTER THAT BINDS ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

**AND PROMOTES THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE
OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS**



Malta – the beautiful



A Brief History of Manoel Island - MALTA

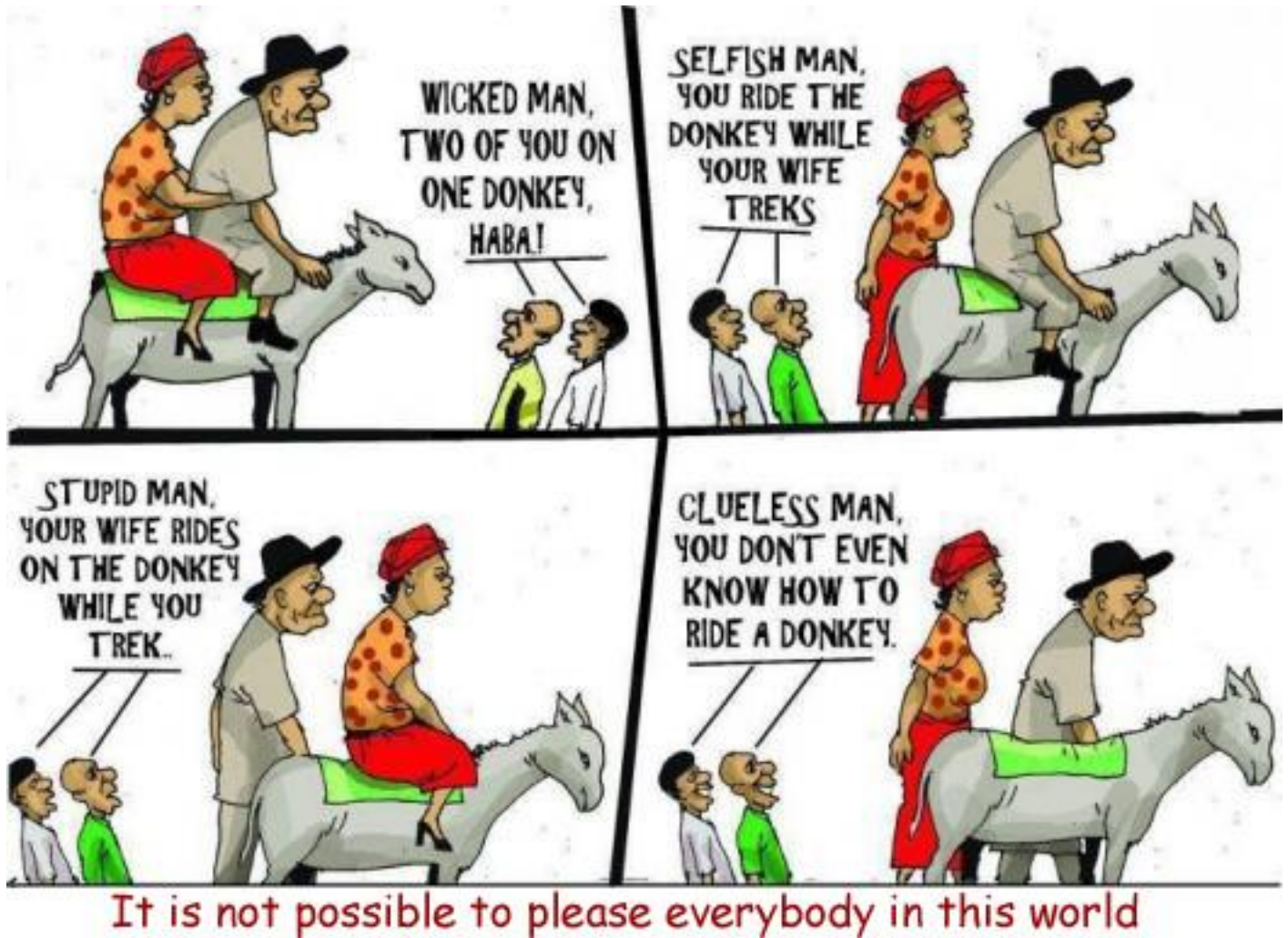
A small bridge situated in the innermost part of Sliema Creek, on the Gzira waterfront, leads to Manoel Island, an historic islet covering an area of some 30 hectares.

The Island's main feature is Fort Manoel, an 18th century fortification constructed by the Knights of St John. According to Quentin Hughes, Don Carlos de Grunenberg, a military engineer to the King of Spain, was the first to propose a fort on Manoel Island in 1681. Due to lack of funds, no definite steps were taken until Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena instructed two French engineers, namely, de Tigné (not to be confused with another Frenchman, the bailiff Tigné who contributed to the building of Fort Tigné in the latter half of the 18th century) and de Mondion, to carry out the work.

The fort was named in honour of the Grand Master and with its garrison of 500 men it was deemed virtually impregnable at the time. After suffering devastating attacks and a series of direct hits during air raids in the Second World War, Fort Manoel was reduced to a shadow of its former magnificence. Sadly, the situation was worsened by the decades of neglect and vandalism that overtook the place after the British forces moved out of Malta. Several years and millions of Euro later, this historic gem has now been fully restored by Midi plc in accordance with its lease obligations.

The other very well known historic structure on Manoel Island is the Lazaretto. Built from 1643, the Lazaretto was first used as a quarantine centre and, later, as a hospital and Military base. Today the Lazaretto is in a critical state of repair but will be fully restored and reused as part of the site wide heritage regeneration process undertaken by MIDI p.l.c.

Manoel Island is an established yachting centre and includes an extensive yacht repair facility considered to be one of the best in the Mediterranean. A fully fledged 350-berth yacht marina also features in the plans for Manoel Island's re-development.



Community Directory



MONASH MALTESE SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP INC

The organisation aims to reduce social isolation of its members through social and cultural activities, facilitation of discussion groups, fostering friendship and sport activities. The improvement of welfare assists members, allowing them to remain independent at home.

For more information contact Joe,

JOE MERCIECA Editor of the newsletter of the MONASH MALTESE SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP INC.

Victorian Multicultural Commission

Established in 1983, the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) has provided independent advice to the Victorian Government to inform the development of legislative and policy frameworks, as well as the delivery of services to our culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society. The VMC is the voice of Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and is the main link between them and the government. Our unique multicultural society remains one of our state's greatest assets and strengths.

Operating under the **Multicultural Victoria Act 2011** the VMC consists of 12 commissioners: a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, a Youth Commissioner, a representative of a community organisation and eight other members.

Objectives and functions

As specified in the **Multicultural Victoria Act 2011** the VMC's objectives are to promote:

- full participation by Victoria's diverse communities in the social, cultural, economic and political life of Victoria
- access by Victoria's diverse communities to government services
- unity, understanding, mutual respect and harmony among Victoria's diverse communities
- co-operation between bodies concerned with multicultural affairs and diversity
- a better understanding of Victoria's diverse communities
- the social, cultural and economic benefits of diversity, and
- to encourage all of Victoria's diverse communities to retain and express their social identity and cultural inheritance.

ENDURING LOVE:





The happy couple: Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth on their honeymoon in 1947

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh appear still very much in love at Broadlands earlier this year

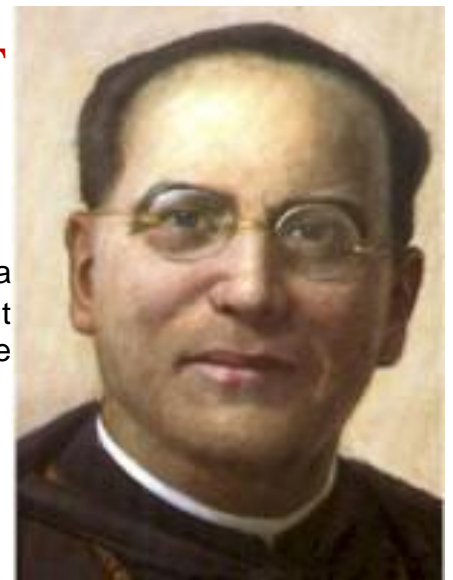


Time abroad: When Philip was posted to Malta as a naval officer from 1949 to 1951, the Queen spent several months by his side, staying at the Villa Guardamangia pictured here in 1950



THE FOUNDER OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL (MALTA) MGR. JOSEPH DEPIRO

Joseph De Piro was born in Malta on November 2nd, 1877 into a wealthy and influential family. As a young man he thought about becoming a lawyer but then felt that God was calling him to the



priesthood. In 1903, after the completion of his studies, he was ordained in Rome.

He was involved in different ministries within the Church, but his main concerns were the missions and work amongst the poor. As a young priest, he began to work towards bringing to fruition his long cherished dream of establishing a Society of priests and brothers committed to the spreading of the Good News. June 30th, 1910 was the foundation day of the Missionary Society of St. Paul. To its first members he passed on his missionary zeal and his love for those in need.

In 1927 he sent his first missionary, Br. Joseph Caruana, to Ethiopia. Six years later he himself was going there to help consolidate this new mission, but on September 17th, 1933 he died leaving a small group of priests and brothers without his valuable leadership. The Society went through difficult times till the 1950's, its members holding on to De Piro's prophetic words spoken not long before he died, "The Society will grow only after my death."

Today Paulist Missionaries seek to live out their founding charism in a world of change. We are witnessing to God's love through our missionary commitment: in parishes, in schools, in youth centers, in migrant centers, among the poor and the needy, and in far away lands. Our missionary presence is in Australia, Peru, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, Italy and Malta.

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New Foundation Will Share And Celebrate Malta With North American Audiences

To inspire Americans to learn about, experience and support places of great historic, cultural, and natural significance in Malta, the American Malta Foundation was created, in alliance with Din l-Art Helwa, the National Trust of Malta. After two years of planning, and studying the feasibility of a new organization, the American Malta Foundation (AMF) was formally launched in 2014, ... (Rest of the story at <http://starsandstripesmalta.blogspot.com/2014/08/new-foundation-will-share-and-celebrate.html>).

Alan Bonnici – President Stars And Stripes Malta



01 August 2014

Thirteenth Year Anniversary Montage of 9/11 on 14 Sept 2014



You are cordially invited for the unveiling of the **Thirteenth Year Anniversary Montage** memorializing the **185 Pentagon Souls** who perished on **Sept 11th, 2001**. The event will be held at the San Anton Presidential Palace - H'Attard.

The event is organised Maltese Artist Challie Turu Spiteri. The general public is invited to attend.

Email 13anniversary9112014@gmail.com for more information or to reserve your place.

SAHHA