



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER - LINKING THE MALTESE DIASPORA

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**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
OF MALTA IN 2014**

. From left: Dr Raymond Xerri (Director MLA), Rosalie Rivett, Carmen Galea, Franklin Mamo, Gaetano Pace, Joe Sherri, Louis Vella, President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Prof Maurice Cauchi, Fr Alfred Vella, Bernard Scerri, Larry Zahra, Lawrence Dimech and Frank Scicluna. (Not in photo: Prof Stephen Gatt).

**The next meeting of the Council Living Abroad (CMLA) will be held in Malta
on the 24 April 2015**

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malta

**This event will coincide with the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad 2015
which will be held at**

At the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

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WEBSITE www.ozmalta.page4.me**

**This newsletter is another history and cultural lesson about Malta and the
Maltese Diaspora for the young and the not so young**



Australia Day 2015 Celebration of the Maltese Community Council of NSW

The Maltese Community Council of NSW, led by President, Mr. Lawrence Dimech OAM, MOM, JP, held their yearly celebration of Australia Day on 25 January 2015 at the Holroyd Reception Centre in Merrylands, NSW. Malta High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand, H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, was invited and attended this year's celebration with Mrs. Victoria Muscat.

Also present were the Hon Chris Bowen Federal MP, Julie Owens MP of Parramatta, Clr. Greg Cummings, Mayor of Holroyd, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Barry York, and other distinguished guests. In his speech, the High Commissioner thanked the council for inviting him and Mrs. Muscat to join them in celebrating Australia Day 2015.

The High Commissioner spoke about how the Maltese community had contributed together with other nationalities towards building the Australia that we know today. He recognized Australia's generosity not only towards the Maltese but towards other nationalities that have settled in Australia, making it the multicultural society that it is today. H.E. Charles Muscat encouraged the younger generation of Maltese in Australia to be good Australians and to respect anything that is Australian but at the same time not to forget their Maltese heritage.

He mentioned and talked about the excellent relations that exist between the two countries and promised that he will keep building on these excellent relations for the future. Further, he pointed out the similarities in the history of Malta and Australia. He talked about how, in November, Malta would be hosting the CHOGM, in which Malta and Australia form part of the Commonwealth of Nations. We look forward to hosting this important event and also to welcome in Malta the Hon. Tony Abbott, Australian Prime Minister, together with other Prime Ministers.

Towards the end of his speech, the High Commissioner spoke in the Maltese language and reminded all present that we do have our own language. He urged and encouraged our young generation to practice the Maltese language as frequent as possible. We all know that this is not an easy task but we should at least try to keep our Maltese language alive.



AUSTRALIA POST ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE STAMP 2015



The Gallipoli campaign is significant to Australia. It also established a lasting link between Australia and Malta. More than 4,000 wounded Anzacs were evacuated to Malta for medical aid and convalescence. As a result of their injuries, many soldiers also died, their bodies repatriated to their home countries. But more than 270 Australian and New Zealand soldiers were buried on Malta. Over the term of the Great War, around 58,000 allied servicemen were cared for on Malta, which became known as the "Nurse of the Mediterranean".

On 25 May 2013, the Anzac Memorial in Floriana's Argotti Gardens was inaugurated. Designed by Maltese sculptor Gianni Bonnici, its two bronze figures acknowledge the humanity at stake in such conflicts and the individual suffering endured.

Cover design: Sharon Rodziewicz, Australia Post Design Studio
Cover photographs: Renee Figallo (memorial); St Edward's College, Malta (Cottonera Hospital)

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Charles Figallo Managing Director Basetec Services South Australia, CEO Malta ANZAC monument Committee

Mr Charles Figallo was instrumental in working with Australia Post to produce IPPE Anzac stamp so as to recognise the Anzacs who lay in Malta under the care of the Maltese people. The work that Mr Figallo, the children and his staff contributed towards this was effortless. The support from Australia Post to recognise the history of the Anzacs from Gallipoli has been overwhelming and our thanks go to Hilary Ericksen and the staff of Australia post who were assisting.

This documentation is recorded in the new commemorative book: MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN compiled by Frank Scicluna of Adelaide, South Australia. Reserve a copy: honconsul@live.com.au

Dr. Paul George Pisani elected as the new President of Wirt Ghawdex

BY GOZO NEWS · FEBRUARY 17, 2015 Photograph: Charles Spiteri



Wirt Ghawdex held their Annual General Meeting, where the 2015 Committee was confirmed and which saw Franco Masini coming to the end of his term as President after nearly 4 years of dedication and work for the Society.

The new President is Dr. Paul George Pisani, well-respected historian and researcher and the son of Gozitan Poet George Pisani.

Dr. Pisani graduated from the University of Malta as Notary Public in 1985, Doctor of Law in 1986 and Master in Mediterranean Historical Studies in 2010. He is also a Member of the Malta Institute of Management, Malta Historical Society, the Akkademja tal-Malti, the Ghaqda tal-Malti (Universita') and the Malta Folklore Society. He will bring to the society his experience from many years of involvement in our historical and cultural heritage and a life-long love for Gozo.

Sarah Gousse (nee Busuttil)



Victoria, Australia

Actor, Model, Musician, Stylist www.sarahgousse.com

"Musically talented and deeply charismatic, Goussé had me mesmerised." Lip Magazine

Since the tender age of three, Sarah has adored performing. Although her first role was a tree in the local ballet production, Sarah has become a versatile, exuberant and talented actress, singer and writer. Based in Melbourne, Sarah is currently performing her hit one-woman cabaret show *The Misadventures of Miss Bouzy Rouge* in various cabaret haunts and will take her show on the road to the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival and New York Fringe Festival.

Sarah has a strong love for the theatre performing in many productions including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Centrelink: The Musical!* and was also a part of a children's theatre touring company performing *The Search for Nanuk*.

She has also worked on feature films such as *The Boys are Back* and *Oranges and Sunshine* and many short films in Melbourne and Adelaide. After attending a performing arts conference in Los Angeles, Sarah was asked to audition for the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts and was awarded a scholarship to attend their summer program later this year. She enjoys gin & tonics (Hendricks with cucumber), wishes to travel on the Orient Express (preferably in 1920s attire) and dreams of attending the Oscars. Or the Emmys. Or the Cannes Film Festival.



Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Serving the Maltese community in Victoria, Australia since 1958



Soccer Club, St. Fidelis Soccer Club, Ex-service Association, 17th Melbourne 1st Malta Boys Scouts Group, Star of the Sea Dramatic Company, and the monthly publication "Malta".

The first meeting was held in St. Mary's Mission House in Parkville, Melbourne, which was the home of the priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP). The Superior of the Order and Spiritual Leader of the Maltese community in Melbourne, Fr. Onoratus Galea, MSSP, generously made the venue available for the meeting. Together with several other priests of the Society, Fr Galea was among those who strove for the establishment and the success of the MCCV. Among those present at the inaugural



meeting were the High Commissioner of Malta, Captain George Stivala OBE who attended as an official observer and was elected Patron by acclamation. The agenda for the first meeting included the selection of a name for the new organisation, the establishment of a Maltese cultural and recreational centre, a Maltese radio programme and general elections.

The foundation members of the MCCV in 1958.

The first officials elected on the MCCV Executive Committee were: Mr. Paul Paris, President; Major J.M. Vella and Mr. J. Galea, Vice-Presidents; Mr. F. St. Angelo, Secretary; Mr. D. Puli, Treasurer; Mr. W. Esposito, PRO; Mr. J. Zammit, Assistant Secretary; Mr. P. Madiona, Assistant Treasurer; and Mr. J. Briffa, Asst. PRO; while Messrs. B. Busuttil and G. Deguara were declared Auditors.

At the second General Meeting held on Thursday 25 April 1968 at 477 Royal Parade Parkville, Mr. Anthony Bonnici, a practising barrister, was elected President and the following members as office bearers: Mr. Anthony Pace and Mrs. Violet Mercieca, Vice-Presidents; Mr. Nicholas Chircop, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. Francis Soler, Hon. Treasurer. Two years later, at the third General Meeting held on Sunday 8 February 1970 at the Melita Social Club in Coburg, Mr. Anthony Bonnici, was re-elected President.



The fourth General Meeting was held at a different venue, 1 Harding St, Coburg, on 4 April 1976. The meeting marked a change in leadership, with Mr. Victor Borg, a practising solicitor, being elected President; Mr. Paul Borg and Dr. Gaetan Briffa, Vice-Presidents; Messrs. Ben Soler, Hon. Secretary; Mr. Joe Bartolo, Treasurer; Mr. C Portelli, Social Secretary; Mr. A Galea, PRO; Mr. V Pryce, Social Welfare Officer; Mr. J Galea, Asst Secretary; – Councillors Messrs. G Cini, J Vella, G Bugeja, Dr. A Vella, N Chircop, C Camilleri, J Grech, J Eynaud, J Schembri, J Stafrace.

The late Fr George Scerri seen addressing an MCCV Council Meeting with (from left) Victor Borg, George Saliba and Paul Borg looking on.

MCC HISTORY

The **Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc. (MCCV)** is a non-profit organisation which provides social, cultural, recreational and welfare support to all members of the Maltese Community in the State of Victoria. The MCCV is an umbrella organisation for some thirty Maltese associations which are currently affiliated to it.

The MCCV was established on Saturday 6 July 1958 on the initiative of the Austral-Malta Association. There were one or two delegates from the Austral-Malta Association, Maltese Settlers Association, Malta Migrants Catholic Association, Melita Social Club, Melfare Club, George Cross Soccer Club, Melita

Ladies Auxiliary The MCCV Ladies' Auxiliary was formed in 1976 with Mrs. Carmen Vella as the first President, Mrs. Lillian Calleja as Vice-President, Mrs. Terry Borg as Secretary and Mrs. Stella Galea, Treasurer. The other members of the first committee were: Mrs. Helen Soler, Mrs. Lina Stafrace, Mrs. Maria Briffa, Mrs. Irene Bonello, Mrs. Josephine Briffa, Mrs. Carmelina Camilleri, Mrs. Terina Camilleri, Mrs. Sandra Borg and Mrs. Connie Curmi. There were a number of other helpers, such as, Mrs. Lina Borg, who volunteered their time in those early days. In fact, over forty ladies attended their first meeting.

The Ladies Auxiliary was to raise funds for the MCCV. They achieved this aim with their individual and collective hard work and determination. In the process, their members provided valuable assistance to the more vulnerable sections of the Maltese community, particularly the elderly. They organised their own functions and also contributed and assisted in community events such as the Annual Fête.



Maltese Community Centre The MCCV continued to grow and at the General Meeting held in Parkville on 9 April 1978, the President reported that whereas at the time of the first General Meeting there were only five associations present, now there were 22 affiliated with the council, of which 20 were present. By 1986 the number of associations affiliated with the MCCV had increased to 27.

Bishop Kelly blesses the foundation stone which had been shipped from Malta with (from left) Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, Richard Curmi, Paul Borg, Joe Bartolo and Victor Borg proudly looking on.

The building of the *Centru Malti* in Parkville was the next most important project for the MCCV and its opening in December 1983 constitutes one of the most important landmarks in the annals of Maltese settlement in Victoria. It galvanised the various organisations forming the Maltese community and gave them a focal point and a sense of community bonding, which may have been lacking before. It gave them a stronger sense of purpose.

The building of a cultural and recreational centre for the community of Victoria was one of the agenda items for the first meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held on Sunday 6 July 1958 at St. Mary's Mission House. This dream was discussed on various other occasions.

On 13 December 1968 the President informed the committee that the first appeal for a building fund would be launched on the 20th December on the occasion of the Xmas party organised by the Community Christmas Committee. A plan for loans of \$500-\$800 by the affiliated associations would be proposed.

An Open Forum between the MCCV and the Maltese associations in Victoria was held at the N.O.W. Ethnic Centre in Coburg on 24 October 1976. There was a substantial response to the call made through public announcements in The Maltese Herald and on the Maltese radio programme.

Mr Victor Borg, President of the MCCV, who chaired the forum appealed for greater unity among the community. He invited suggestions on how to improve things as well as criticism in an open discussion with any fear.

It was at this forum that Fr. George Scerri, the Provincial of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, announced that the leaders of the MSSP had decided to make its property in Parkville available to the Maltese community. He said that the project contemplated that the priests would keep a small part of the land on which to build a chapel and for their use in the delivery of spiritual service. The rest of the land would be used for the construction of a Maltese Centre with facilities to cater for the needs of the Maltese community in the fields of education, social welfare, sports and so on.

The foundation stone which originated from Malta. - Fund-raising activities were organised in earnest in every corner of the Maltese community as the treasurer's report adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 19 July 1987 shows. By 30 June 1987, the donations by the affiliated associations had risen to \$44,965 and from individuals to \$11,452. The Quest had rendered \$228,461, the Fete \$72,434, raffles \$75,577, social activities \$13,713, bingo \$33,000 and the hire of hall rendered \$21,780. The Tini Jdejk project raised \$16,094 and Fr David's concerts raised \$53,941 while bank interest [1975-1983] rendered \$142,422.

The Foundation stone for community centre was presented at the council meeting held on 4 February 1981. It is the work of the Maltese sculptor Mr. Marco Montebello. It was laid in September 1983.

The Victorian Premier, Mr. John Cain officially opened the Maltese community's new Centre at Parkville on 20 November 1983. He unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion saying that he "was delighted to be associated with the opening of this very impressive new community centre. This is a very special event for the Maltese community in Melbourne, and for the community as a whole."

The official opening of the new Maltese Centre in November 1983. - Mr Cain said that he believed "the community at large will see in this new facility the great achievement of an important ethnic community in this State. This is a proud occasion for all of you, and it's a pride in which my Government is delighted to join in sharing... I want to put on record, too, my government's appreciation for the very valued contribution the Maltese community makes to our State. Like other ethnic communities in Victoria, the Maltese community has added a rich dimension to our cultural heritage.

The Centre houses a library, with about a thousand books, that became open to all in early 1985. Books and tapes can be borrowed except rare books and reference books. Dr. Maurice Cauchi looked after its establishment and Mr. Edwin Baldacchino helped with setting up the necessary facilities.

The MCCV became an incorporated association under the laws of the State of Victoria on 12 July 1984. As an effect of the incorporation, the premises at North Sunshine passed from the trustees' hands and became registered in the Council's name.

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 27 July 1986, after 10 years at the helm, Mr Victor Borg did not seek re-election to the Presidency and Dr Maurice Cauchi, a medical practitioner, succeeded him in that office. The MCCV's own monthly newspaper, *Il-Maltija*, was published under the editorship of Mr. Charles Camilleri in 1990.

After almost 6 years leading the MCCV, Dr. Cauchi stepped down after the meeting of 5th February 1992 as he was re-settling in Malta. Mr. Joseph Borg took over the presidency initially in an acting capacity and later he was formally elected President at the Annual General Meeting on 26 July 1992. Messrs. Victor Borg and George Saliba were elected Vice-Presidents; Ben Soler, Secretary; Ms. Vivienne Kost; Asst. Secretary; Paul Borg, Treasurer; Joe Montebello, PRO; Frank Calleja, Welfare Officer; Charles Portelli, Asst. Treasurer.

MCCV's Sunshine Office - In 1992, the MCCV purchased a shop-front in Watt Street, Sunshine, jointly with the MSSP, after the demolition and sale of the building in Westmoreland Road, Sunshine. Various activities are organised with the scope of promoting Maltese culture and encouraging local Maltese talent. The MCCV organises annually the Maltese Cultural Festival and most recently has signified its support of the Maltese Government's Roots programme that encourages youngsters of Maltese origin to trace their Maltese heritage. The MCCV also contributes to the unity of the Maltese community throughout Australia. On the 25th and 26th January 1986, the Council hosted the first national welfare seminar which was held at the Centru Malti in Parkville with representatives from all the major Australian States. The Maltese Federal Council of Australia was born during that Australia Day long week-end in 1986 in Melbourne. Unfortunately it never really took off as it was envisaged.

Welfare Services

In October 1997, the MCCV started delivering Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) to Maltese frail elderly who need planned and co-ordinate services because of their complex care needs. It enables them to live independently in their own homes or in the community and delays their need to enter an institutional environment. The Council owns and runs the only Maltese public library in Australia at the Centru Malti in Parkville. It has audio and visual material, apart from books. Having developed into an umbrella organisation for its affiliated members, the MCCV is recognised as the official and legitimate body representing the Maltese community of Victoria. *(The contribution of Mr Albert W Agius to this page is warmly acknowledged and appreciated.)*



Postal Arrangements in Malta During World War 1

BY NICHOLAS CUTAJAR – ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

During the first world war, British armed services mail was handled by the Army Post Office, a section of the Royal Engineers, Special Reserve. Staff was recruited from the staff of the civil post office. The General Base Post Office in the UK collected all mail from civilian Post Office including all letters and parcels intended for the Expeditionary Forces. After sorting into separate bags for every unit overseas and organised their conveyance to the nearest and appropriate port overseas, mail bags were delivered to the appropriate Base, Stationery or Field Post Offices which were responsible for handling all mail delivery and collection in the field.

Malta was regarded as a home station during the First World War. While British army soldiers based in Malta were required to prepay postage, servicemen (including allied forces, such as the Australian and New Zealand forces) in hospitals and convalescent camps were entitled to mail free of postage. During the Dardanelles Campaign, there were three stages of the Postal Services:

- 1 The initial arrangements which included the early services via Malta, from February to 10 June 1915.
- 2 Postal Services through Alexandria from 10 June to mid November.
- 3 Attempts to accelerate the carriage of mail in November and December through direct sailings between Marseilles and Mudros (on the island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea near Gallipoli).

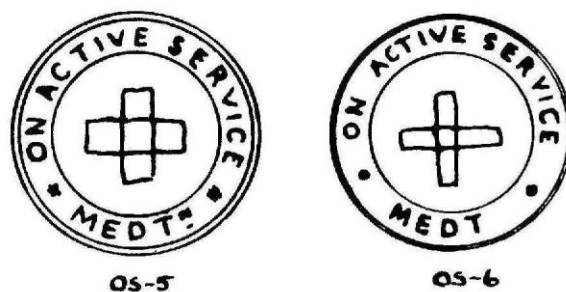
Following a refusal by the French to carry parcel mails for the British (and Allied) Forces, an alternative route to Mudros was organised coming into effect on December 9 1915. All mail was to be directed to Malta. Two small Royal Engineers Postal Section parties were dispatched on the 24 February and 20 March with great secrecy to two un-named base camps ("Base Z" and "Base Y"). 'Z' arrived at Mudros in early March, but was moved to Alexandria due to military activity preventing the setting up of the postal facilities there. Base 'Y' went straight to Alexandria but was later moved to Mudros where it was set up in April. The Postal Unit from the Royal Engineers (UK) arrived in Alexandria on April 23.

Homeward bound mails, including to Australia and New Zealand were at first processed at Mudros from bundles and bags received from the stationery "beach" field post offices. From Mudros, they were usually forwarded by sea transport to Malta, from where they proceeded on their onward shipment by the regular mail steamers to Marseilles, or elsewhere as required, but also sometimes directly to England. In September 1915, the few staff of the R.E.P.S. took over the work of addressing letters from the hundreds of wounded in the M. E. F. hospitals in Malta and transferring them to the local R.E.P.S. for processing. In later years, Malta became an important mail processing station for Mudros and Salonika and the work was taken over by the regular Army Post Office on the Island of Malta. Mails from British servicemen recovering in Malta were sent by the next available mail ship while mail from French personnel was processed generally by the French army post office usually on board ships in port or the Mediterranean sea. Indeed one comes across interesting postal markings from French military authorities.

All Mail from home (UK) as well as Australia including New Zealand, for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces in the Dardanelles and Egypt was sent to Malta from where it proceeded in bulk to Mudros. Following complaints from the Egyptian end, mails were made up in two bundles, one to Malta for the Dardanelles and the other to Egypt. A small detachment of Royal Engineers Postal Service was stationed on the Island of Malta to process (check and load) mail to the Dardanelles. However, due to irregularity in the availability of transport between Mudros and Malta, it was decided that all mail was to be sent to Egypt and vice-versa. The first mail under this new system reached Alexandria on June 10.

"ON ACTIVE SERVICE x MEDT^N" Handstamp

Since all the wounded and sick hospitalised in Malta and Gozo from the Dardanelles campaign were military personnel, they were allowed to post letters and postcards free of charge. Such covers carry a mandatory manuscript declaration "On Active Service" at the top. The postal markings on these missives included the single ring dated and coded "ARMY POST OFFICE" postmark and generally a circular undated double or triple ring handstamp inscribed "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" at the top and "MEDT^N" or "MEDT" at the bottom. The London G.P.O. Proof Book shows ten versions of this handstamps, eight of which have been recorded. Most had a (solid, outline, crude or none) cross in the centre, while at least one handstamp is known without the "MEDT^N" at the bottom. Some of the handstamps have the superscript "^N" missing.

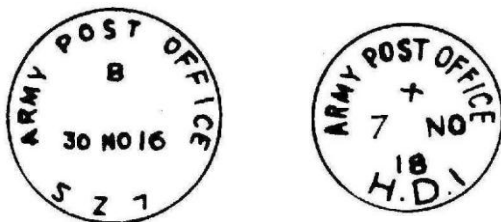


There seems to be some doubts whether only the sick and wounded personnel in hospitals were allowed to use this service. The earliest known date of this handstamp is 15 JU 15 (Type 2), which coincides with the arrival of the first sick and wounded from the arena of war and the latest on 17 DE 18. There is no doubt that the "On Active Service" handstamp was used on mail written in the various hospitals; the cross in the centre implies that this was the case. Various colours of these handstamps have been recorded, some individual handstamps known in at least three different colours used at the same location. For example, Type OS-3 (illustrated) is known in violet, blue and red-mauve and was used on mail from the Imtarfa Hospital between 26 AU 15 and 18 NO 17. Although all (incoming and outgoing) mail was censored, mail from the hospitals in Malta, though it may have been censored, generally did not receive censorship markings. It has been proposed that since in

many cases military personnel had been involved in writing letters for the sick and wounded, there was no need for a further delay in processing mail by applying a censorship mark.

The "ARMY POST OFFICE" Postmarks

Two Army Post Office postmarks were used during the duration of World War One.



The first, "ARMY POST OFFICE S Z T", APO SZ7, was a 28mm single postmark which included a code (*, A, B or D) and the date, shown below. The "S" is an indication that it was a "Stationary" Office rather than a "Railhead" Office; "Z" indicates its "Headquarters" area while the "7" stands for the individual office. Up to July 1916, no code letter was used; after this date, codes "A", "B", "D" and "X" have been reported to have been used.. The earliest recorded date is 22 DE 15 (no code) and the latest 27 JY 17 (Code A).

Anecdotal evidence claims this handstamp moved to Egypt in the summer of 1917. The Malta handbook "The Stamps and Postal History 1576 –1960", published by the Malta Study Circle (UK) reports the use of the "ARMY POST OFFICE SZ6" on a "Malta Souvenir Post Card" dated 26 Oct 15. Malta stamps have also been recorded cancelled "BASE ARMY POST OFFICE" (14 JU 15 and 10 FE 18) and although the Army Post Office number is not known it is thought that it may be "Z" (at least after mid 1917) which was located at Alexandria after its term in Malta

The "ARMY POST OFFICE H.D.1" datestamp was introduced early in 1917. It was used concurrently APO SZ7 above for a short time, when it took over. Three copies of this postmark were sent from London on 17 JA 17 and "H.D." is presumed to stand for "Home Depot". The earliest recorded date is 22 FE 17 and the latest 1 MR 19. Code Letters used were "A", "B", and "+", where "A" and "B" were interchangeable, while the it is not yet known whether the "+" was fixed or interchangeable. Three handstamps of this particular postmark were sent from London on 17 JA 17., and they can be differentiated perusing a table of 5 different dimensions. The earliest recorded date of use is 11 AP 17 and the latest use recorded on 17 JA 19. Codes "A", "B" and "+" have been recorded, and the significance of the "+" code remains unknown. Generally the "On Active Service" and the "Army Post Office" (H.D.I. / S Z 7) handstamps were applied together on the cover, but this was not always the case .

All sorts of combination of these postmarks and handstamps may be found on mail posted through the hospitals and convalescent camps, but generally the "OAS" handstamp is found in violet as well as other colours as mentioned earlier. In addition other marks may be applied depending on the route and/or channels the postal item goes through, such as Hospital Ships, or base camp.

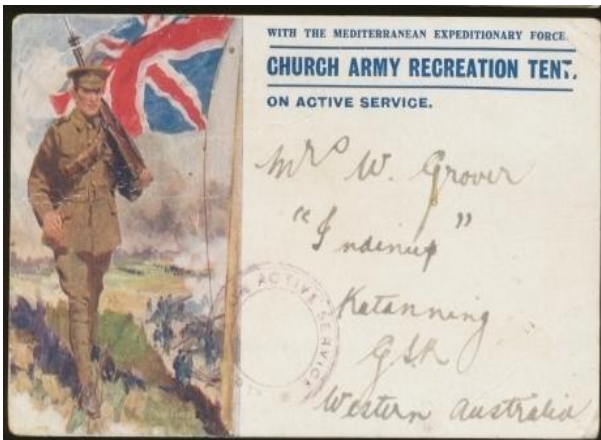
Acknowledgements:

Malta - The Stamps and Postal History 1576-1960", handbook compiled by the Malta Study Circle, edited by R E Martin, 1980.

"The World at War", Prestige Auction No 162, 5 March 2011.

Grosvenor Auctions", Philatelic Auction No. 60. 24 October 2010.

"Malta Military Hospitals 1915-1917" by G R Bruse, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Capt. RAMC (SR), Specialist Sanitary Officer, Malta



Undated "official" postcard (view of the Grand Harbour, Valletta, Malta at back, thus identifying where he was) to Western Australia, with a strike of OAS to Mrs. W Grover in Katanning, Western Australia. "On Active Service" in print.



1915 from Hospital Ship "Dongola" with OAS-9 (most likely); the "AI FORCES POSTAGE FREE/" Vic" c.d.s. applied on arrival at Melbourne. Message: "I am in hospital to undergo an operation to have a piece of Turkish bullet removed from my left eye"



Headed "Valletta Hospital", dated "16-6-15" (the earliest known date for any OAS handstamp is 15 JU 15) he was among the first to land in Malta, postmarked at the "Valletta " G.P.O. (Army Post Office not yet set up?), m/s "On Active Service" at the top and OSA handstamp in violet.



Dated 24 Sept (presumably 1915) with "OAS-7. to Wellington, New Zealand. "I will try to let you know how I am when I get back to Gallipoli. It may not be long because they are hurrying the troops." and ... "they (Turks) are absolutely fighting a clean fight"



MALTESE NEWSLETTER

**The Journal of the
MALTESE DIASPORA**

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MALTESE POUND

In 1855 the British Pound was declared the only legal tender on Malta. Prior to this coins of the English, French, Spanish, Sicilian dollars and coins of the Knights of the Order of Malta circulated alongside. In spite of this declaration commerce and banking still continued to use gold and silver coins of the Order of Malta and Sicily.



The foreign coins were finally removed from circulation in 1885 following a decree by the Italian government, which left only sterling coins circulating on the island for nearly a century until 1972. Although using British coinage, Malta did not decimalize its currency system in 1971 like Britain.

Malta finally decimalized in 1972 with the Pound

being divisible by 1000 mils, or 100 cents. Although Malta's currency was the Pound sterling, local official notes were issued denominated in pounds starting in 1914 due to concern over the first world war. This first series of notes was short lived being replaced by British treasury notes again in 1915 which circulated until 1949.

In 1949 Malta established a currency board and again began to issue notes. The Maltese pound was still pegged to the pound sterling and this parity was observed until the late 1970's. In 1968 the newly formed Central Bank of Malta took over the functions of the currency board and began to issue the national currency.

The name *Lira*, Maltese for pound was not used on banknotes until 1973 and on coins until 1986.

The ISO 4217 code for the Maltese Pound was MTL, locally prices were expressed using the pound sign (£) or Lm preceded the amount, i.e. Lm5.00. Maltese coins then came in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 cents and 1 *Lira*, and banknotes were issued in denominations of 2, 5, 10 and 20 *Lira*.

The Maltese Pound. was the second most valuable currency in the world, Kuwait being ranked at number one.



In 2008 Malta adopted the euro as its national currency.

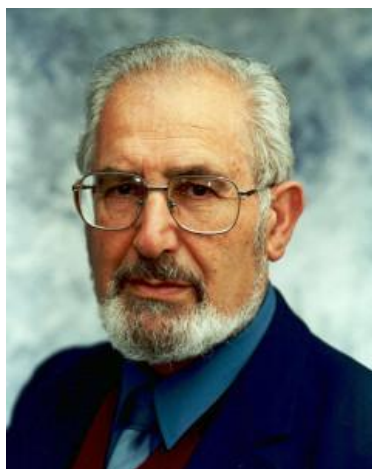
1940 With the outbreak of World War II, legislation was passed on 13 September 1939, authorising the Maltese government to issue Maltese notes in denominations of 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £1. These were put into circulation at different dates during 1940, except for the 2/- note which was issued in March 1942. A 1/- note (overprinted on old 2/- unissued stock) was

issued in November 1942 and replaced by a new 1/- note in 1943.

The issue of small denomination paper currency was necessitated by the scarcity of metal for coinage, and by the difficulty of shipping British currency to Malta during the war. With the war's end, these small denomination notes became obsolete and fell into disuse, mainly because paper wore out too quickly, and they were again replaced by British coins which continued to circulate as legal tender up to 1972.

The notes issued in Malta during the Second World War were uniface (single faced) notes except for the 1/- note which represented an overprint on old stocks of the 1918 2/- note. This was probably a wartime austerity measure applicable to note issues for the British colonial empire, as all other colonial note-issuing territories had similar uniface notes. The Malta notes therefore formed part of the colonial omnibus issues. More information: <http://www.vassallomalta.com/>

Poeta mill-Grupp Letteratura Maltija jiehu l-ewwel premju bil-poeżija tiegħu “Adaġjo”



09 Jan 2015 Manwel Cassar

Membru tal-komunità Maltija-Awstraljana f'Melbourne, Manwel Cassar, ġie l-ewwel fis-sezzjoni tal-Malti tal-Konkors ta' Poeżija *Monsinjur Amante Buontempo* inniedi mill-Għaqda Poeti Maltin.

Ir-rebħa hija ta' ġieħ konsiderevoli kemm għall-ilsien Malti letterarju li xtered barra x-xtut ta' Malta, u kemm għal Manwel Cassar personalment. Ilna nafu b'Manwel bħala poeta stabbilit li barra x-xandir f'kotba antologiċi, sikwit jaqra xogħlijietu fil-laqqgħat ta' kull xahar tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija.

Dan il-Konkors tal-Poeżija jsir kull sena mill-Għaqda Poeti Maltin, li hija bbażata f'Malta, u jiġbed għadd ġmielu ta' poeti Maltin, ġeneralment lokali. Il-Konkors fih il-mertu tiegħu u ntrebah minn ismijiet magħrufa u mhumieħ. Il-poeżiji sottomessi ta' did-darba ma ridux ikunu ta' iktar minn 20 vers.

Il-poeżija ta' Manwel Cassar iġġudikata rebbieħa minn tliet eżaminaturi jisimha ADAĠJO. Din il-poeżija mhix komuni fis-sens li ma tfahħarx jew ma tmaqdarx lil xi ħadd jew xi ħaġa u lanqas ma tagħti tagħlima. Hija ta' 16-il vers li b'għadd ta' stampi u kliem magħzul toħloq buli ("mood") ta' meditazzjoni u introverzjoni bħalkieku tħassib fl-għabex.



Our pride in Valletta has so swollen that we cannot even endure the sight of a hot dog kiosk in the shadow of 'Piano-gate' and next to the statue of the Grandmaster Jean de La Vallette

Ireland to donate offshore patrol ship to Malta



The Republic of Ireland is to give an offshore patrol vessel to Malta to help it cope with the migration crisis.

Defence Minister Simon Coveney agreed to give the recently decommissioned Le Aoife to Malta following a meeting in Latvia with Home Affairs and National Security Minister Carmelo Abela in the margins of the informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers. "The Maltese authorities require the ship for their armed forces to assist in the patrolling of the Mediterranean Sea to deal with the ongoing difficult refugee crisis in the region. Recent tragic events in that part of the

Mediterranean have underlined the significant challenges which need to be addressed by the international community and Ireland is very keen to play an active part in this regard," Mr Coveney was quoted as saying as The Irish Examiner.

"I welcome this very important contribution from Ireland which will help in bridging a gap in Malta's naval capacity pending our future acquisition of a new offshore patrol vessel," Mr Abela said.

Le Aoife, which is 65.2m long and has a displacement of 1019.5 tonnes, will be the biggest vessel to join the maritime squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta.

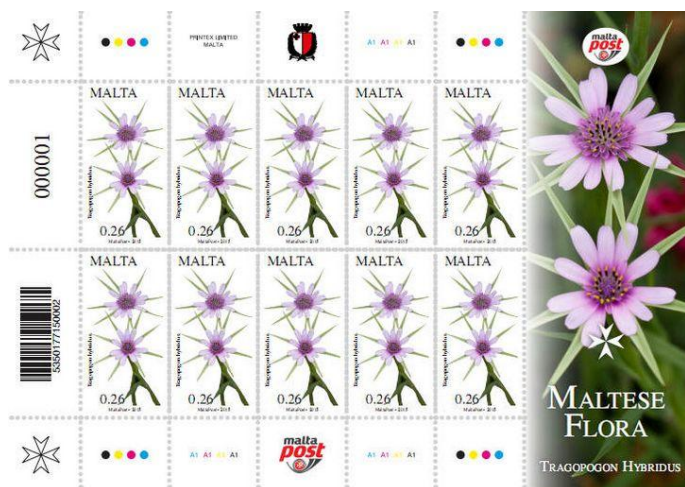
It was built 35 years ago and used mostly on fishery protection duties but is also sailed in other parts of the world including the Mediterranean to supply Irish troops involved in UN missions. It was in Malta in 2007.

The ship was the oldest in the Irish Navy and sailed in excess of 600,000 nautical miles. Its crew has boarded over 4,700 vessels at sea and detained over 440 fishing vessels. It was decommissioned last month.

The ministers also discussed further cooperation including in the training of Maltese personnel in Ireland and future potential operations, building on the successful joint training team Malta and Ireland provided to the EU Training Mission in Somalia.



Second set of Maltese Flora Philatelic Stamp to be issued



The second set of the Maltese Flora series will be issued by MaltaPost later this coming Saturday.

The set includes three stamps each bearing a face value of €0.26, €0.59 and €1.16 and respectively depict the Smooth Goatsbeard, the Crown Anemone and the Friar's Cowl which are species found in the Maltese Islands.

The Smooth Goatsbeard is a scarce annual plant belonging to the daisy family that grows mainly on clay soil in April and May. The Crown Anemone is an uncommon perennial herb and occurs in meadows, valleys and scrublands, in the cold months between December and March. The Friar's Cowl is a very common perennial herb and grows in a variety of habitats including disturbed ground and flowers mainly between November and March.

Photographer Guido Bonett captured the flowers featured on the stamps. The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 with each stamp measuring 20mm x 38mm with a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb.) while the sheets measure 154mm x 110mm and are complemented by a tab showing a photo of the flowers. The stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark while Printex Limited printed the set in offset process. The issue consists of 2,500,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 500,000 of the €0.59 stamp, and 26,000 of the €1.16 stamp.

This Philatelic Issue will be available as from Saturday 14 February 2015 from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com.

Numismatic coin for the 400th anniversary of Wignacourt Aqueduct

The Central Bank of Malta has issued a silver coin commemorating the 400th anniversary of the inauguration of the Wignacourt Aqueduct. The coin has a face value of €10.

The reverse of the coin features aspects of the Aqueduct namely: the Wignacourt arch, which was located at Fleur-de-Lys, and the Wignacourt water tower sited at Floriana. These are framed within a motif which recalls the surviving arches of the aqueduct.

The obverse of the coin carries a portrait of Grand Master Alof Wignacourt who financed a large part of the cost incurred for the construction of the aqueduct, which carried fresh water from the Rabat plateau

to Valletta. The aqueduct was one of the largest public utility projects undertaken by the Knights of the Order of St John and was inaugurated on 21 April 1615.

The coin was minted at the Royal Belgian Mint. It is struck in 0.925 silver and has a weight of 22.85g and a diameter of 37mm. The coin is of proof quality and the mintage is limited to 2,500 coins. The coin was designed and engraved by Noel Galea Bason. The coin may be purchased from the Malta Coins Distribution Centre at the main building of the Central Bank of Malta in Valletta, or by completing [the order form](#) which can be downloaded from the Bank's website.

The coin is being sold for €58 (including VAT). For more information the public is kindly requested to contact the Bank's Malta Coins Distribution Centre by email or by calling (+356) 2550 6006/7/8.

PLAYING WITH FIRE(WORKS)



'EVERYONE IS AFRAID' - SYLVESTER MAGRO, BISHOP OF BENGHAZI DESCRIBES THE SITUATION IN LIBYA

The Maltese Bishop of Benghazi, Mgr Sylvester Magro, says he will be returning to his flock, despite his fears of being caught in the midst of a sudden bomb or missile attack.

Speaking from the safety of Malta, where he has stopped en route to the Vatican for the Regional Bishops' Conference of North Africa, Mgr Magro said: "When in war, the factions move to different areas, they lose, they re-acquire lands and claim new ones. And you think to yourself – we're next, our area is next. "I'm terrified whenever there are bombardments. Whenever we hear those massive explosions, we would say – this is it. But so far we've been spared, thanks to God's mercy."



Mgr Magro was evacuated from the Benghazi church four months ago after the area became a battle zone and he is now living in a safer area in the periphery of Benghazi. On Saturday, the day after he flew from Labraq airport to Tripoli, the airport was hit by rockets purported to have been fired by the IS (Islamic State).

How strong is the fear of the IS, especially in light of the alleged beheading of the Coptic Christians? "You can't really ever put your mind at ease in such a situation. But it will take time for them to truly infiltrate Libya and to organise themselves," Mgr Magro said. "Everyone is afraid – but it's not just about the IS but about the war in its entirety. Gunfire and bombs terrify us all – citizens and foreigners alike."

He said the majority of the Christians in Benghazi were Filipino nurses whose services towards the injured were very much needed. "I think the fact that they are nurses offers them more security than if they were mere Christians in another profession." Mgr Magro also said he was unaware of the Benghazi Catholic Church being used as an Isis arms depot, as claimed by Libyan Air Force chief Maj al-Jaroushi. "But we don't really know what's happening at the church because we're so far away. We can't go there any longer. THE TIMES

The Malta Union Club Founded 1826 - 1, Tigné Street, Sliema SLM 3170, Malta.

Welcome



We are a long established private members club with excellent modern facilities located in the heart of Sliema, Malta. We welcome you to browse our website at your leisure and to contact us if we can be any help whatsoever.

You will be able to learn a little about our facilities and services and also find all the contact details you may need. We are dedicated to providing excellent services to both our members and visiting members from private members clubs with whom we hold reciprocal agreements.

The Malta Union Club History

“The Malta Union Club was founded in 1826 by British officers and civilians serving in Malta who took the top floor

less the ballroom of the Auberge de Provence, in the Strada Reale since re-named Republic Street in Valletta. Initially, membership was restricted to eighty paying members and a few honorary members. Members were charged an entrance fee of £4 and a quarterly subscription of £1. Among the first Honorary Members one finds Sir Walter Scott, Benjamin Disraeli and William Makepeace Thackeray.

In 1846 the number of paying members was increased to a hundred and fifty. In view of the crowded environment at the Auberge de Provence the Committee decided to open a branch in the country in the vicinity of Casolani's fishponds at Msida wherever they were located. It was not until 1851 that the Club acquired the first floor of the Auberge. Following the acquisition of the ground floor in 1862 the Committee decided to increase membership to three hundred. On the 1st. January 1903 the Club took over the entire building by title of emphyteusis for ninety nine years.

In 1874, the Club relinquished the tenancy of the Msida branch and opened another at 19, Ghar il-Lembi Street, Sliema. In 1889, the Sliema branch was moved to a more convenient site overlooking a parade ground in Ghar id-Dud where weekly military band performances were held.

Ladies were first allowed into the Club in 1907. It was only that year that a room accessible through a separate side entrance was provided for their exclusive use so that they “would be quite cut off and would not in any way interfere with the comfort and privacy of members.” However, three years later following pressure by HRH the Duchess of Connaught, a ladies' entrance was opened on the façade of the Auberge.

In 1931, the Club took over the United Services Ladies Bathing Club at Qui-Si-Sana and transformed it into the Ladies Bathing Club section. A bye-law authorizing ladies to invite gentlemen to swim in the area was approved. The problem of providing changing rooms for men was solved by agreement with the United Services Sports Club, nowadays known as the Marsa Sports Club, which operated an all male beach facility in the vicinity. The amenities were placed at the disposal of Malta Union Club members and male guests of the neighbouring Ladies Bathing Club. This marked the start of the long association between the clubs on the joint use of Tigné Beach.

At the Club's Annual General Meeting held on the 26th March 1992 the members approved an amendment to the Club's Rules whereby ladies, previously classified as “subscribers”, were given the right to become full members.

In the years preceding the expiry of the lease in an effort to obtain suitable alternative premises the Club entered into negotiations with the superior owners Gasan Properties Ltd. On the 5th June 1997 following several Extraordinary General Meetings convened to seek the members' approval of the Company's proposals the members accepted and gave the required two thirds majority to an improved offer namely, the provision in perpetuity of finished premises subject to the surrender of the original site prior to the year 2000. In 2002 the Club took possession and moved into the current premises on three floors with parking facilities underneath. An inaugural reception under the auspices of HE President Guido De Marco attended by 900 members was held on the 11th October 2002.

Meanwhile, on the international sporting front the Malta Tennis Federation invited the Malta Union Club to host an ATP Challenger Tournament. The event was held annually between the years 1994 and 1996 and attracted world ranked participants. Besides US\$25,000 in prize money the tournament qualified participants for important World Ranking computer points beneficial to Malta's national team players who through a wild card allocation system entered the main draw earning points in the process. Moreover the presence of many excellent tennis foreign players spurred Maltese youngsters to reach a higher standard in competitive tennis. MUC members played a vital role in the tournaments' organization.

The Club and the Malta Squash Federation have an ongoing agreement for members of Malta's national side to train and hold tournaments on the premises. In July 2012, the Malta Union Club was registered as a multi-disciplinary sports club and became a member (KMS/245) of the Kunsill Malti għall-Isport. Among the indoor sports practised on the premises are snooker, petanque, skittles and darts. Separate rooms are provided for specific card and board games. The Bridge Room is considered as the islands' leading and best equipped amenity in its category and a lending library is also available.

The Club runs two open air tennis courts, two squash courts and in conjunction with the Marsa Sports Club, the Tigne` Bathing Beach. The Club operates a bar and restaurant that provide snacks on a daily basis, offer curry lunches on Thursdays and Sunday lunches. Several organizations, such as the British Residents Association, The George Cross Island Association, The Corona Society and others hold meetings and some of their functions at the Club. The Club has several reciprocal arrangements in place with similar Clubs (residential and otherwise) in Europe and the Commonwealth.

I read with interest Ms Colley's description of her trip to Marsaxlokk market. It is certainly worth a visit. Apart from all the produce described by Ms Colley, it also remains one of the few places in Malta one can buy unpackaged gbejniet (local small cheeselets traditionally made of sheep's milk) and which I heartily recommend.

Tourists looking for souvenirs might also consider visiting Ta Qali crafts centre, where all of Malta's crafts work is represented (pottery, stone work, glass blowing, gold and silver jewelry) and in Gozo, Ta' Dbiegi Craft Village in Għarb where if you are lucky you will be able to see a lacemaker at work (as well as buy the most beautifully handmade lace).

I also greatly enjoyed your article on emigration. One of my father's ancestors lived in Egypt, but repatriated in a hurry at the time of the unrest in the 1800s after his servant reassured him that should the fighting come to their door, his Master was not to worry. Instead of leaving him to fall into the hands of the rebels, he their loyal servant, would himself kill his Master, with all due respect! And yes - I agree that the history of emigration should form part of the Maltese history curriculum. Anyway - I will stop here, just saying a big thank you to you Frank - I know from experience how hard it is to put together a newsletter, so prosit and grazzi hafna :-) all the best Ros (UK)

And I said to myself: " What a wonderful world "

Rachlene and Ashel from Northern Ireland on tour....

EASTER IN MALTA



Spending Easter in a foreign country has been an eye-opening yet enjoyable experience for me. Easter celebrations were very public in Malta as I stated last week in my blog from mass bells ringing every few hours to brightly decorated religious pageants and parades that were visible out in every town street. Easter Sunday was the one day that as you strolled down Sliema sea-front you weren't pestered by people trying to get you on board a harbour cruise but instead it was men inviting you to a Holy procession in the nearest chapels. This

reinforced to me how like Northern Ireland religion in Malta is a very significant part of their culture. It will be an Easter experience I know I shall never forget because unlike home where the majority of people were snowed in I was out in the glorious sun feasting on my basket of Easter eggs!

A central part of the Easter celebrations out in Malta was to spend time with your family. Imagine how we celebrate Christmas at home...family surrounding us... the divine turkey dinner...followed by some sort of glorious desert. Out in Malta this is how Easter is celebrated meeting up with family members and devouring a roasted lamb dinner followed by a slice of figolli. The cherry on top of the cake for me this Easter was being able to share my unique experience with my mother & step-father who were visiting me for ten days. Hearing about my family back home was like music to my ears and this definitely was the highlight to my Easter.

Acting as tour guide for the week together we visited many various towns and villages of Malta. On Good Friday we hopped on a bus to Mdina it is the old capital of Malta, words won't even justify how beautiful this medieval town truly is. It is a walled in city situated on the top of a hill in the centre of the island, thus views of the whole of Malta can be seen and were breath-taking. As we walked through the city gate entrance my mum and step-dad were astonished to find that the 'silent city' is still inhabited by nearly 200 residents, most of them elderly.

Roaming and investigating the slim and twisty streets of Mdina felt like we were on a great adventure. It took my mum at least fifteen minutes to realize that Mdina was not an outside museum (now you know who I get it after!) Unlike Belfast, Mdina is riddled with architecture and history dating back to as far as 700BC. It was visible as we walked about the ancient city this was the traditional Maltese way of life...laidback. Mdina is like a maze, walking down every street you didn't know what to expect next however it has no street lights and so I can safely say I wouldn't want to be walking around it at night time, you might get the fright of your life!



I learnt this flag symbolises St. John the knights flag. Rumour had it that after the Romans and Normans invaded Mdina St. Paul himself resided in Mdina after he was shipwrecked on the island (hence why Malta is in the Bible.) So it felt very surreal to think he walked the same streets we were walking. The 'Great Siege of Malta' 1565 was won by the St. John the knights against the Ottomans (Turks.) The St. John knights built many fortifications that can be seen throughout Malta and in Mdina they helped rebuild the Maltese cathedral (top picture of the blog.) The

endless list of invasions didn't stop there Napoleon landed on the island, then the British arrived in 1700 then last but in means least the second world war.

This Easter has been very different to the one I would've been having if I stayed at home in Northern Ireland. Easter out here has been informative and once again I have now found respect for the Maltese people as I learnt about their decades of sufferings. They are relentless survivors. It shall truly be an Easter I will always remember and never ever forget.

IS-SABIEH TAS-SAWM.....

Kitba ta Victor V. Vella B.A.,M.A.

Ohrog l-ghageb wara li l-Knisja Kattolika nehhieta mil-kalendarju taghha, sar moda. Anzi jaghmlu storbu fuq it-t.v. u fuq il-gazzetti kemm hu tajjeb ghalik u ghas-sistema ta gisimna. Mhux talli hekk talli sar kommercjali ghax issa mas-sawm ziedu ukoll effetti barra barra dak li jnaqqaslek is-sonza. Ziedu l-effett li jiddetoxia jew inaddaf wkoll is-sistema. Mas-sawm ziedu dieta stretta, ikel bla toghma jew tixtri mitt kwalita ta pilloli jew taghmel ezercizzju fiziku. U bejnieta taghmel spiza. Mhux bhal dari tnaqqas mill-iekel u tiffirka l-flus!

Bhal ma gara f'kollox, daż-żmien is-sawm sar kkomplikat. Dari kellna s-sawm tar-Randan, ta l-obbligu, l-Erbgha u l-Gimgha. Issum billi ma tiekolx laham u tnaqqas u torganizza l-ikel li tiekol. Kien hemm ukoll is-sawm ta lejlet xi festa kbira bhal ngħidu ahna l-Milied. Din is-sistema kienet ilha gejjja u tintuza mill-antik ghax il-Knisja ma tiehux hsieb ir-ruh biss imma permezz tar-ruh tiehu hsieb il-gisem ukoll. Mhux ta b'xejn li hawn minn isejjah lil Knisja bhala l-ewwel psikologista!.

Is-sawm ma jiswiex biss biex tnaqqas u tibqa slim: hemm aspett ieħor tieghu li hu forsi iżjed importanti. Hemm ic-caħda ..li ticcaħhad minn xi haġa hekk u kif u meta tixtieqha. Allura huwa test ukoll ta dak li insejhulu, self control, li tikkontrolla lilek innifsek. Dik il-haġa li wara kollox jagħfsu hafna fuqha s-sikologi moderni, minn Freud sa Dr. Phil Allura gara bhal ma qieghed jigr i f'haġna każi: narmu ideat/sistemi antika li kellhom x'jaqsmu mal- u daħħlithom l-Knisja u jerġghu jidhlu mit-tieqa tal-modernizmu. U jsiru popolari ghax jaqtghu iż-żarda minn mar-religjon, almenu dik Kattolika. Hekk gara mis-sawm, hekk gara u qieghed jigr i mil-meditazzjoni, u hekk beda jigr i rigward il-kwiet u s-silenzju. Nista nżid it-talb: il-lum jekk tgħid li titlob u tqabbdad stick quddiem statwa ta Buddha ħadd ma jistaghgeb u jikkritikak: ara ma jfettillek li tgħid li titlob lil Kristu jew lill-Alla tal-Bibbja! Ix-xema u l-incens aħjar ma nsemmieghhomx... malajr ikun hawn xi ħadd li jibda jagħtas.

Is-sawm jew il-perijodu tar-randan kellu tifsira oħra: l-ghaqda bejn il-gisem u r-ruh, bejn dak li jidher u dak li ma jidhirx, avolja jeżisti wkoll. F'kelma waħda għandu x'jaqsm mal-ħajja in generali. Ir-randan ta dari tant kien thallatt mal-ħajja li irnexxielu jiffirma pont sod bejn l-ispiritwal u il-materjal jew ir-ruh u l-gisem. B'hekk sar parti mil-kultura Maltija. Mas-sawm tar-randan kien jigi wkoll

it-tindif tad-djar lesti għat-tberik. Għadni nara lil Cetta ta ... toghrok u tqaxxar l-iskartocci tar-ram bil-gambol halli jkun jleqqu meta jigi l-Kappillan. Ileqqu u nodfa daqs ir-ruh wara it-tindifa u is-sawma twila tar-Randan. Is-sawm flimkien ma l-ispring cleaning jew it-tindif tad-djar u tat-tnaqqis ta l-ikel u xorb u tipjip kienu jiffirmaw il-Kultura tar-Randan Malti flimkien mal-ħabb il-qamħ (warda vjola li kenet tikber qalb il-qamħ) u wkoll mal-buqari bojod tas-Sepulkru.

Dawn il-kontrolli huma diffiċli u għamlu ħabta ma baqghux popolari ghax ma tantx jiżfnu sewwa mal-filosofija moderna 'if it feels good do it and do it now'. Jiġifieri jekk il-frotta tidher tajba aqtagħha u kulha friska. B'daqshekk ma jonqosx il-fatt li fil-ħajja bhal ma qegħdin naraw fil-prattika ma nistgħux ngħaddu mingħajrhom.

Għandna tattika kif ninħbew wara subaġġna u ndura mal-lewża. Imma xorta jibqa l-fatt li certi affarijiet u użanzi ta l-antik għadhom sbieħ u bżonjużi ghax għadhom jagħmlu sens. Dan jidher bic-car fl-ironija li daww li f'dawn l-aħħar ħamsin sena ipprovw joqtluhom qegħdin jerġghu 'jirxuxtawhom'..... ghax moda!.

GHAJN TAL-HASSELIN IN GOZO - MALTA

Work on the historic 'Ghajn tal-Hasselin,' in the heart of Apparition Square, or as it is better known, the 'Pjazza tad-Dehra, in Ghajnsielem, has now been completed.'

During the excavation works, which were carried out under the strict supervision of an archaeologist from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the discovery was made of part of the original walls including the back and side wall and part of the flooring of the original 'Ghajn tal-Hasselin.' They were still intact and in their original state and have been incorporated in this replica, including part of the façade.

An opening leading to a World War II shelter was also discovered on the same site. A small belvedere overlooking the Apparition Square has been built on top of the rooms housing the six stone washing basins.



Apparition Square, as well as the central monument of Anglu Grech, are also to be embellished, in a project organised by the Ghajnsielem Local Council, through the benefit of European Union funding.

This 'Ghajn tal-Hasselin' was built by Grandmaster Ramon Perellos in 1710 and was taken down in 1953.

It was in this square that 'Ghajn Salem,' the spring that gave its name to the village, used to flow. It was also near this spring that an arcade and six stone washing basins were built by Grand Master Raymond Perellos for the increasing population of Ghajnsielem, where they gathered and formed the community as it is known today.

For over two centuries, from dawn onwards the area around the spring was thronged with chattering women who congregated there in the mornings washing their laundry in the troughs, while the men whiled away some of the hot and sunny afternoons under the canopy of the mulberry trees. Rare were the occasions where the spring remained idle.



But to maintain hygiene in such a place was a problem. Less and less care was taken of the washing area and in the latter years of its existent, the arcade was left in a state of reckless abandon, the whole place stinking with filth until its removal in the early 1950's to make way for a new square.

Unfortunately, to maintain hygiene in such a place was a problem. Less and less care was taken to the washing area and in the latter years of its existent, the Arcade was left in a state of reckless abandon, the whole place stinking with dirt until its removal in the early fifties to make way for a new square.

Over the years as more and more families were served with running water in their residences, this fountain came to the end of its use and was wiped away, with its foundations buried under heaps of stone and other construction refuse.
www.gozonews.com

Coast Road works may be extended beyond summer because of archaeological finds

Works on the Salina part of the Coast Road may have to be extended beyond the summer because of a change of plans in order to preserve archaeological finds, Transport Malta said.

It said the works are being carried out under the supervision of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH) so that proper archaeological investigations are carried out on site. A complete list of discoveries made during the excavation phases for the widening and reconstruction of the road has already been made by the superintendence.

(The superintendence said on Sunday that discoveries during the project included a punic grave, a fougasse and remains of a Roman structure.)

Transport Malta said works on the project are therefore progressing in a more cautious manner to take into consideration these features and artefacts.

"It is envisaged that some structural changes will be required in the road foundation layers so as to preserve such features. Transport Malta is currently working on a modified option for the Coast Road in the Salina stretch to incorporate and preserve these archaeological findings, within the foundation layers below the road build-up.

"Due to these important findings the project timelines are being re-evaluated with the possibility of them having to be extended beyond summer."

It said it will continue to work with the contractors and supervisor so that the works programme is revised as necessary and that these continuing developments are catered for with the least disturbance possible and the least delays to the project. [THE TIMES OF MALTA 25/02/2015]

