Contents

Editorial: 2

Sustainable Tourism on the Small Island of Gozo 3
Lino Briguglio

A Long-lost Inscription from Gozo Re-emerges to Light 15
George Azzopardi

Ċorġ Pisani – Poeta t’Art Twelidu 18
Joe Camilleri

Chameleons in Gozo 21
Federico Chini

An Early Nineteenth Century View of Gozo 25
Michael Refalo

A Gozitan Multi-functional Mother 27
Carmen Bajada

Gozitan Migrant and Return Migration’s Impact on the Gozitan Festa 30
Raymond C. Xerri

A Window onto the Day-to-Day running of the Nazione Gozitana 34
Godwin Vella

Recent Activities at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) 38
Joseph Calleja

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Editorial: 
Artistic Life in Gozo

A largely holiday outpost like Gozo tends to concentrate primarily on servicing the hordes that descend on it continuously and at regular intervals, and which may have little time to concentrate on the finer things of life.

It is therefore the more important to highlight occasions where indeed cultural events do occur. One such was the exhibition of priceless manuscripts, documents and paintings on Gozo which were exhibited several weeks ago at the Exhibition Hall, at St Francis Square in Victoria.

Among the exhibits were items relating to history, archaeology, literature and other matters classified under seven separate sections. Exhibited also were correspondence by Agius de Soldanis, the first Gozitan historian and grammarian, who wrote the first history of Gozo, and Archpriest Saverio Cassar who played such a pivotal role during the French occupation. There were watercolours depicting the Brocktorff Stone Circle, as well as the Ggantija temples, all priceless cultural articles relating to the history and archaeology of Gozo. There were watercolours by Giorgio Grognet de Vasse, which depicted prehistoric monuments in Gozo.

Events of this nature should be encouraged and every effort should be made to ensure attendance by as large a number of locals and visitors as possible.

Related also to this topic were the celebrations associated with the ‘Lejjet Lapsi (‘Notte Gozitana’) held in the last week of May, which included a host of artistic activities. As the Minister of Gozo, the Hon Giovanna Debono said: “The Ministry for Gozo is offering an opportunity to Gozitan artists, musicians, dancers, craftsmen and other talented individuals to showcase their abilities during an unforgettable weekend.”

One must congratulate Heritage Malta who, in conjunction with the Ministry of Gozo, organised these activities.

Another important development, introduced with less fanfare was the setting up of a foundation with the aim of promoting dialogue between the Christian faith and culture through socio-cultural initiatives. This foundation was set up by the Gozitan Diocese in March this year to honour emeritus Bishop Nikol Cauchi. In launching this foundation, Bishop Mario Grech emphasized the need for a dialogue between faith and culture, adding that the Bible shed a realistic light on all humanity and, without one another, both faith and culture were incomplete.

It remains to be seen what impact this foundation will have on the development of these relations in the future.
Sustainable Tourism on the Small Island of Gozo

PROF. LINO BRIGUGLIO

1. INTRODUCTION

Gozo is the second largest island in the Maltese archipelago, situated to the North West of mainland Malta, with a land area of about 67 square kilometres and a population of about 30,000 i.e about 8% of the population on the Maltese Islands.

Tourism is an important source of employment and income in Gozo (Briguglio, 1997. West Midlands Enterprises, 2002). The importance of the industry to the Gozitan economy is probably higher than it is for mainland Malta, although precise statistical data in this regard are not available. One major difference between tourism in Gozo and Malta is that the former depends more on domestic tourism. Most international tourists visit Gozo as day-trippers.

Sustainable tourism has been defined as “tourism which is developed and maintained in such a manner and scale that it remains viable in the long run and does not degrade the environment in which it exists to such an extent that it prohibits the successful development of other activities” (Butler 2002). This definition highlights the need for a balance between economic and environmental concerns.

It is well known that many, if not all, economic activities have an impact on the environment and that this has a feedback effect on the economy itself. This is especially so in the case of tourism which utilises the environment as a resource. This paper will focus on environmental and economic impacts, and proposes approaches that while attempting to maximize income and employment from tourism, at the same time minimize the negative impacts on the physical environment.

The paper is divided in six sections. Section 2, which follows this introduction, briefly discusses the economic impacts of tourism on small island jurisdictions, while Section 3 assesses the environmental impacts. Section 4 focuses on Tourism in Gozo, referring to some problems faced by this industry. Some pre-emptive and corrective measures for the promotion of sustainable tourism...
are suggested in Section 5. Section 6 concludes the paper on the optimistic note that tourism itself is sharpening our awareness of the evils of environmental degradation, and that this could be conducive towards the adoption of sustainable tourism policies and measures.

2. THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF TOURISM

Small island jurisdictions tend to find it very difficult to compete internationally in the production of manufactured products and agriculture, mostly due to their limited ability to reap the benefits of economies of scale. This is not the case in tourism, in which many small island jurisdictions enjoy a competitive advantage due to their natural attractions, such as a pleasant climate, sandy beaches and an exotic image. As a result, many small island jurisdictions depend heavily on tourism for their economic development (McElroy, 2003; Ellul, 1999; McElroy and Olazarri, 1997; Liu and Jenkins, 1996).

The Economic Benefits

The relatively high dependence of small island jurisdictions on tourism, as is the case in Gozo, means, among other things, that a large proportion of employment occurs in the tourist industry or in tourism-related activities. It is not always possible to give precise estimates of such employment because it does not occur solely in activities usually associated with tourism, such as hotels, restaurants, airports, seaports, transport, travel agencies, souvenir shops and restaurants, but also in agriculture, fishing, banking, printing, and other activities, including public sector services, with which the tourists do not come directly in contact.

Tourism is also thought to have a relatively large multiplier effect (see Archer, 1982; Briguglio, 1992, Vanhove, 2005) due to the fact that its import content is relatively small compared, for example, to merchandise, given that it has a large services content and also because it has relatively large inter-industry linkages.

Tourism is also economically important because it is a source of foreign exchange. Many small island states would register large balance of payments deficits in the absence of proceeds from tourism. There are also a number of indirect economic advantages associated with tourism. These include a renewed interest in local arts and crafts, improvements in leisure, communication, medical and other facilities in the host countries, and a general awareness of the natural and man-made aesthetic assets.

Undesirable Economic Effects

Tourism however, tends to usher in a number of undesirable economic effects. Tourists exert demand on the public infrastructure, such as roads, water and electricity, for which they are not normally charged. In addition, the governments of host countries often undertake relatively large advertising expenditures. If tourists’ expenditure is netted out so as to take into consideration the price that the host country pays to attract and host tourists, the economic contribution of tourism would be much smaller than that usually reported.

In addition, when inward tourist traffic is organized by foreign-owned tour operators, often with enough bargaining power to dictate prices for accommodation in the host country, the net proceeds tend to be low.

A related problem is that tourism as an industry depends on the whims and fancies of foreigners, whose decision to visit a particular island are often influenced by conditions outside the control of the island itself, including economic conditions in their country of origin and reports in the popular press about island destinations.

Other economic pitfalls often associated with tourism in any country, but which are especially significant in small islands due to their relative large dependence on this form of economic activity, include pronounced seasonal unemployment and rapid increases in the price of land, often accompanied by land speculation.

3. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In the absence of tourism, small island jurisdictions would still have faced environmental problems associated with their geographical and natural characteristics. They tend to have unique and fragile ecosystems. For example, industrial development often leads to a rapid loss of biodiversity in small islands.
Islands also have a relatively large coastal zone in relation to the landmass. Thus, a relatively large proportion of land is exposed to forces that lead to coastal erosion and, in tropical islands, render them very prone to be affected by extreme events such as cyclones. Small islands are also very vulnerable to sea-level rise (IPCC, 2007), which would submerge a large proportion of the land mass, including their beaches, which are major attractions for tourists. Although these environmental impacts are not caused by tourism, they can be exacerbated by tourism. International air and sea transport, for example, are required even in the absence of tourism, but the increased traffic caused by tourism places severe strains on many islands. Airports and seaports in islands take up very large areas in proportion to the total space available, posing increased land-use pressure, as well as air and sea pollution. In the case of air traffic, flying craft also contribute considerably to noise pollution, often affecting practically the whole population of small islands.

The large amount of waste generated by tourist-related activity gives rise to major waste management problems, leading to health hazards and reducing the aesthetic qualities of the place. Similarly, increased demand for water exacerbates the water shortages in many small islands, particularly those located in the Mediterranean region.

Of particular importance in the case of small island jurisdictions is the fact that tourism is generally of a coastal nature. Many charming fishing villages in small islands have been transformed into tourist playgrounds, many beautiful beaches have been degraded, and many coastal areas have been subjected to noise and fuel pollution from sea craft.

Tourism may also cause inland problems. For example, in islands where eco-tourism is promoted, distances are so short that ecologically important areas are also easily accessible to tourists who may not have a special interest in ecological matters. As a result tourists, sometimes unknowingly, damage delicate vegetation and their presence may threaten rare species. In islands where cultural tourism is promoted, as is the case in Malta, considerable damage can be caused to historical places through frequent tourist visitations.

Another problem faced by small island jurisdictions is related to population density and carrying capacity. Many islands experience high tourism densities in relation to their population and land area. The concept of carrying capacity is very important in this regard, since small islands tend to very quickly reach that threshold level beyond which the natural ecosystem will be irreversible damaged (McElroy and de Albuquerque, 1998: 164; Mangion, 2001).

Can Tourism help the Environment?

The adverse environmental affects just described are to an extent mitigated by some positive ones, as there are instances where tourism can actually be conducive towards the protection of the environment. One reason for this is that tourism tends to create an awareness that the country needs to be attractive,
that the air needs to be clean and that the sea needs to be unpolluted. In the case of many small island jurisdictions, campaigns for protecting biodiversity and keeping the island clean are often based on the need to keep the place attractive for tourism.

Also, on a policy level, the dependence on tourism often forces the authorities of the islands to take a more serious view of planning, monitoring and market-based incentives, precisely because in the absence of such measures, the negative effects of tourism on the environment could, in the long run, destroy tourism itself.

The Balance

Such environmental benefits and downsides of tourism are, of course, not present in equal doses in all small island jurisdictions, since different islands have different characteristics. Some are more isolated and more remote than others, some are smaller than others and some are more environmentally fragile than others.

The next two sections will describe the specific experiences of a small island jurisdiction, namely Gozo.

4. TOURISM IN GOZO

Gozo forms part of the Maltese Archipelago, and is located in the centre of the Mediterranean. The population of the island is around 30,000 with a total land area of about 67 square kilometres.

Although the population density of Gozo is much lower than that of mainland Malta it is still relatively high as can be seen from Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Population Density in 2005</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>MALTA</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gozo</td>
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Source: Census of Population and Housing 2005 - Preliminary Report

There are five main types of tourists visiting Gozo, namely:

- Maltese residents who visit Gozo for a few days annually. In 2007 these amounted to about 33,400 with an average length of stay of about 2 days per person.
- Maltese residents who visit Gozo as day-trippers. Their number is not known with a sufficient degree of precision, but they could have amounted to about 150,000 in 2007.
- International stay-over tourists who spend most of their visit in Gozo. These amounted to about 40,400 in 2007, with an average length of stay of 5.8 nights.
- International tourists who visit Gozo as day-trippers. Again here, their number is not known with a sufficient degree of precision, but they could have amounted to about 650,000 in 2007.
- Gozitan emigrants, who sometimes stay in Gozo for a relatively long time, often a few months, mostly in summer.

In 2007, there were 10 hotels plus 8 guesthouses offering 1767 beds for tourists. The annual occupancy rates are rather low amounting to about 54% in 2007. This is principally due to the low turnout in the winter months and the under-utilisation of potential lucrative niche markets, such as agro-tourism and conference/business tourism.

Self-catering farmhouses (mostly rural villas with swimming pools) also attract tourism to Gozo. In 2007 these offered 2700 beds.

Economic Benefits of Tourism in Gozo

Direct benefits

Economic activity associated with tourism generates considerable income and employment in Gozo, since a high proportion of tourism expenditure goes on transport, food and accommodation, sectors in which Gozitans tend to have a high stake. However the income generated from tourism is not known with any degree of certainty, although it can be as high as 30% of the GDP of the island.

With regard to employment, it is known that the number of jobs in hotel and catering establishments amounted to 950 in 2007, but there were many other jobs in economic activities related to tourism, such as transport, souvenir retail outlets and banking.

Other economic benefits of tourism

Tourism may have been an important factor in the revival of certain traditional arts in Gozo and crafts.
such as lace-making, filigree work and pottery. Demand by tourists for these products has rendered their production economically viable.

The Maltese Islands, including Gozo, are renowned for their wealth of historical and archaeological heritage, which, before the advent of large-scale tourism, were probably not appreciated enough. The places of cultural importance are, even now, more valued by tourists than by the locals. However awareness of cultural heritage among the Gozitan population has increased as a result of tourism.

**Main Problems faced by the Tourist Industry in Gozo**

Gozo is characterised by two main features, namely small economic size and insularity. These features pose major economic constraints on the economy of the island (Briguglio, 1995).

**Small size**

Due to its very small size, Gozo has a very small domestic market, and has to rely on expenditure by non-residents to generate sufficient income and employment. Gozo also finds it impossible to compete in products which require economies of scale for efficient production. This is the case for example for most manufactured products. The island also lacks natural resources. For this reason, Gozo has limited options with regard to economic development.

**Double insularity**

Gozo suffers from what is known as double insularity, since it is on the periphery of another small island. This gives rise to heavy dependence on sea with mainland Malta, leading to a number of problems, including relatively high transport costs. This problem affects tourism in Gozo, since all tourist traffic passes through Malta, and there are no international passenger flights directly landing in Gozo.

**Transport problems**

Transport between mainland Malta and Gozo it is not sufficiently developed for international tourism, not only because it involves risks due to service disruption, especially in inclement weather, but also because it is not customised to individual flights from abroad. For this reason, transport problems between the airport and the Gozitan hotels, and the inter-island transport in general, tend to discourage direct tourism to Gozo.

**Seasonality**

Another problem relates to the seasonal nature of the industry. The bulk of international tourists (about 70%) visit Gozo during the summer months, and this gives rise to seasonal fluctuations, with a very high level of demand in summer and very slack demand in the winter and shoulder months. The
seasonal nature of the industry indirectly impacts many other areas of the Gozitan economy. This is particularly true with regards the supply side of the labour market. Gozitans are perennially worried about job security, this preoccupation with having a “stable”, “secure” job discourages people from entering the hotel industry. Such a situation, which will be discussed in further detail later on, leads to an unbalanced labour market situation. The EU report just referred to (West Midlands Enterprises, 2002) also proposed that the tourism strategy for Gozo should aim to promote Gozo as an all-year-round destination for international as well as Maltese tourists and to develop niche tourism products towards this end.

**Marketing Gozo as a tourist destination**

One of the major problems associated with tourism in Gozo is that the island is not marketed adequately as a separate tourist destination, and publicity is carried out by the Malta Tourism Authority, with Gozo treated almost as an annex. This may account for the fact that the overwhelming majority of international visitors to Gozo reside in Malta and are day-trippers. A report commissioned by the European Union (West Midlands Enterprises, 2002) recognized this problem and proposed that the island’s special tourist attractions should be the basis for marketing the island as a unique destination and not simply as an extension to Malta. As a strategy, the report proposed that the Gozitan tourism product should be differentiated from that of mainland Malta, stressing high quality accommodation, attractive rural features and rich cultural heritage.

**The Impact of Tourism on the Gozitan Environment**

Although, as argued above, environmental problems in small islands should not be exclusively blamed on tourism, it cannot be denied that tourism development does pose a major problem in this regard. This section lists the most important areas where, in Gozo, the environmental impact of tourism is most conspicuous.

**Increase in demand for building**

Building of tourist accommodation, notably hotels and blocks of flats, has increased at a very rapid rate as a result of intensive tourism development in certain areas. The Marsalforn and Xlendi areas have been completely transformed by such development.

Other negative outcomes of this development include the intense noise arising from construction activity, the vast amount of waste material and dust from demolished structures and from excavations. Newly developed tourist structures have also obliterated habitats in the Maltese countryside.

Additional negative tourism impacts in Gozo are associated with aesthetics, especially where new high-rise concrete structures have replaced beautiful traditional houses. Moreover, since limestone is used extensively in building, ancillary activities in quarrying have given rise to unsightly scars in many parts of the Maltese islands, besides causing considerable environmental damage to natural habitats and water tables.

**Increased waste management problems**

The sewage network in Gozo is very heavily utilised by local residents. The relatively large number of tourists intensifies this problem. Tourists are likely to be heavy users of water due to the fact that they are likely to use bathrooms and sanitary facilities more often than the locals. One outcome of this reality is that, in recent years, a number of popular bays were closed for swimming due to sewage pollution. This has caused considerable discomfort associated with foul smells and inability to swim in the bays, and, perhaps more importantly, has damaged marine and coastal life and induced an accumulation of toxic substances in marine organisms. This problem has however been practically solved due to the construction of EU funded sewage treatment plants. However, constructing and running the plants is still a very expensive exercise.

The generation of construction and household waste by the resident population is also a major problem in Gozo due to the high population density, and tourism tends to accentuate it. Up to 2006, a huge waste disposal area, called Tal-Qortin, became a very visible mound within a short distance of tourist and residential centres. Again this problem has been resolved, however again, at a very high cost.
In addition, tourism tends to increase the use of environmentally dangerous products, such as emissions of toxic gases from cars and power stations. Again here it should be said that the main culprits in this regard are local residents, but tourism intensifies the generation of harmful waste.

Destruction of habitats

As already stated, tourism tends to intensify the demand for transport, accommodation and beach use. This has led to increased destruction of habitats (especially beach habitats). Habitat destruction is however not confined to coastal tourism. High visitation rates to archaeological and historical sites tend to have a negative impact on these sites, especially on the fragile archaeological one.

Is tourism the worst culprit?

A note on the environmental impact of non-tourism economic activities is in order here. Although tourism is often associated with environmental degradation, it should be kept in mind that non-tourism economic activities also have major negative impacts on the environment and, therefore, the fact that tourism harms the environment should not be construed as a case for alternative forms of economic development.

For example, the manufacturing industry, with its reliance on fuel for machinery and its high rate of water consumption, may at times be more environmentally unfriendly than tourism. The agriculture sector, with its reliance on pesticides and fertilizers, also brings about irreversible environmental damage to habitats and human health. The construction sector is also very harmful to the environment and to human health. To be sure, no economic activity is environmentally neutral, and tourism is not always the worst culprit in this regard.

Some Environmental Benefits of Tourism in Gozo

Although tourism has many negative environmental impacts, and the list presented above is by no means exhaustive, it also has a number of positive environmental effects on the island of Gozo.

Tourism has increased environmental awareness among the Gozitan population. Factors such as waste management, clean bathing waters, coastal zone management and well-planned land-use tend to attract tourists and this has possibly led the resident population to assign more importance to environmental protection than would have been the case in the absence of tourism.
5. REDUCING THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

As already explained, in Gozo, the economic benefits of tourism are relatively large and in the absence of tourism income and employment would be drastically reduced. For this reason the authorities, the operators and the majority of the local population would like to see it grow as much as possible without harming the environment and creating social problems.¹

The issue in this regard is not therefore whether or not Gozo should continue to encourage tourism but rather how best to reduce the environmental and social harm caused by this type of economic activity, respecting the carrying capacity of the island (MTA, 2002; Mangion, 2001). The remedies often suggested in this regard relate to the development of alternative forms of tourism or to certain pre-emptive and corrective measures.

“Alternative” tourism

One possible solution sometimes proposed to reduce the environmental impact of tourism is to replace “mainstream” tourism with “alternative” tourism, with the intention of attracting more responsible tourists and reducing inflows. The question arises here as to whether or not small islands like Gozo could reduce their dependence on “mainstream” tourism and instead foster alternatives, such as cultural tourism and eco-tourism.

In general, what is termed “alternative” tourism turns out to be very small scale, and not sufficiently financially rewarding on its own. In the case of Gozo, for example, there would seem to be a case for promoting cultural tourism given that the island has a rich historical and archaeological heritage. However, relying on this form of tourism alone is unlikely to be viable. Most tourists who come to the Maltese Islands state categorically in the various surveys that they visit the Islands mostly because of its Mediterranean climate, and its sea and sun attributes (Ashworth and Tunbridge, 2003).

Also, Gozo’s Mediterranean location, to an extent, conditions the type of its tourist inflows. In all tourist brochures, Gozo’s cultural heritage is given prominence, but more prominence is given to its “sea-and-sun” attractions. Gozo’s climatic and geographic endowments sell and, as is well known, these attractions appeal mostly to what one may call “mainstream” tourists.

Another factor which may not permit drastic diversification towards “alternative” tourism relates to the existing structures of hotel and tourist facilities, which are geared mostly to “mainstream” tourism, and their objective is to increase occupancy rates, which would be very low if Gozo relies exclusively on “alternative” tourism. It will not make much sense for the authorities to force the existing hotels, which operate on the basis of the profit motive, to aim for low occupancy rates.

In general, measures that reduce tourism inflows are likely to have a negative impact on the economy, given that from each tourist there remains a net contribution to the Island’s income and gainful employment.

One is tempted to conclude therefore that reliance on “alternative” forms of tourism is viable only if these supplement traditional “mainstream” tourism, in which case the objective of reducing tourism inflows will not be achieved.

¹This conclusion clearly emerged during a consultation process on sustainable development in Gozo, in which the present author was directly involved, held on 26 November 2004.
These realities by no means contradict the argument that “mainstream” tourism is associated with certain environmental dangers and negative social impacts. The thrust of the argument here is that, given the attraction of “mainstream” tourism on economic grounds, pre-emptive and corrective measures to reduce its negative impacts may be more meaningful and operationally useful than policies to reduce the inflows.

**Self-regulation and labelling**

Self-regulation can be advocated as a means of reducing the negative environmental impact of tourism. As has been pointed out earlier, it is in the interests of the tourism industry itself to protect the environment. Moreover, in some cases, firms can make substantial financial savings by promoting good environmental practices such as, for example, laundering of linen on request only, and automatic switching-off of electric lighting, air conditioners and tap water.

Self-regulation and voluntary action can be stimulated through recognised, credible certification schemes, such as eco-labels. In the case of tourism these are often employed for accommodation services and are aimed at helping tourists identify which accommodations are environmentally friendly. (Hamele, 2002).

Yet past experience in Gozo has shown that self-regulation alone may not be sufficient to ensure adequate environmental protection. This is especially so for hotel operators that pursue short-term gains. It would be wishful thinking to expect, for example, that such operators would not erect structures on beaches if no control by the authorities were in place. There exists a case, therefore, for government intervention of various forms, ranging from planning and monitoring to direct control.

**Government intervention: legal controls and planning**

In a small island, where land is one of the scarce commodities, legal constraints as to land use are indispensable. In Gozo, such constraints have, since the early 1990s, been placed within the framework of the national Structure Plan and a series of local plans, with the aim of regulating development. Although the legally binding Structure Plan is not site specific, it recognises the severe land-use competition in the Maltese Islands but also suggests proactive measures for the enhancement of the environment, as well as other measures to ensure efficient use of resources and a better quality of life in the Islands.

Inevitably, tourism-related developments feature prominently in the Structure Plan. Before the introduction of the Plan, haphazard tourism development was common. There is now a general consensus in the Maltese Islands that planning of tourism structures is essential, primarily because of the growing concern about their impact on the environment.

**Impact assessments**

Planning generally involves direction-setting on the basis of overarching policies. In the case of land use, more specific measures involving a project-by-project assessment are required. It is generally necessary to examine certain individual project proposals before their commencement, in order to reduce the chances of conflict between an individual project and the Plan’s overall objectives. Environmental and social impact assessments are generally undertaken for this purpose. Such assessments contain a description of the potential direct, indirect and induced effects on the environment and on society at large.

The exercise is often accompanied by suggestions as to how the adverse environmental and social effects can be mitigated. The negative impact should of course be compared to the positive economic impact – an exercise which requires the participation of expertise from different fields, including the physical sciences, economics and sociology. These types of assessments are especially important for projects associated with tourism, where various considerations are involved other than economic benefits, including land use, protection of the environment, transport planning and social impacts.

In the Maltese Islands, environmental impact assessments are required by law for projects that are likely to have a “substantial” impact on the environment (see Planning Authority, 1994). Since the coming into effect of this requirement, there has
been a slowing down of developments which harm the environment.\footnote{This requirement, however, has also given rise to what has been described as unacceptable bureaucratic delays, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction among developers whose proposals are trapped in an overly long waiting list. unacceptable bureaucratic delays, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction among developers whose proposals are trapped in an overly long waiting list.}

**Setting standards and monitoring**

Many environmental problems arising from tourism are associated with the absence of standards and effective monitoring. Certain activities need to be controlled and monitored on an ongoing basis, either because they cause damage due to certain unforeseen circumstances, or because, with improved knowledge, the requirements of environmental protection may become more stringent over time.

Monitoring implies setting quality and quantity standards and codes of good practice in the first place. In the case of tourism this could include, for example, levels of permitted tourist capacity in certain beaches, maximum levels of pollution (arising from waste, fuel and noise), and so on. The monitoring exercise would then involve assessing the degree of compliance with these standards and codes by the industry itself within a self-regulatory regime or by the public authorities in a command and control framework.

Such standards have their downside, as they can create rigidity when circumstances change; a certain degree of flexibility, according to environmental and other circumstances should therefore be allowed. For instance, standards can be varied as waste disposal becomes more efficient, or as public transport becomes more commonly used and can effectively replace hired private transport.

The legal and institutional set-up in the Maltese Islands is sufficiently developed to enable the Government to set standards and back them by legal measures. Unfortunately, certain standards are difficult to enforce, either because of lack of inspectorate or policing personnel or due to non-availability of technical tools for proper assessment and monitoring. In some instances there may also be lack of political will to enforce certain standards due to possible negative impacts on business or to possible loss of votes to the party in government.
Economic instruments: internalising costs

Given that legislation is not always effective, especially because it requires a well-developed enforcement apparatus, and self-regulation is not forthcoming from the private sector, economic instruments may need to be put in place to allow the market itself to reduce environmental damage. Instruments such as taxes, fees and subsidies can be used to actually alter prices in order to cover also environmental costs. Unfortunately, such instruments are not commonly used in Gozo with regard to tourism.

The most important advantage of these methods is that they provide an incentive for the tourism operators to economise on environmentally damaging activities in ways that ensure an efficient allocation of environmental resources, hence promoting their sustainable use. Such methods also provide an incentive for the development of technological improvements to limit pollution activities. Charges also represent a source of revenue which can subsequently be used to offset subsidies for environmentally beneficial activities or to manage environmental resources.

Finally, such instruments foster the awareness that pollution and environmental services do come at a cost, even if this is not usually demonstrated in terms of market prices.

Such instruments are becoming increasingly utilised in the Maltese Islands. A recent example is the introduction of a tax on cars, depending on their harmful emissions.

The success of economic instruments will depend primarily on the efficiency of the public administration, particularly with regard to the speed with which those who comply are sufficiently rewarded (in the case of subsidies) and those who do not (in the case of taxation) are detected and punished.

Spreading the impact

One of the problems associated with tourism inflows in Gozo is that such inflows tend to be concentrated in some locations and in some months. In the Maltese Islands such concentration is very pronounced and poses serious threats to the environment. This suggests that if the impact could be spread, the carrying capacity of the Islands would be lighter and subsequently the environment less threatened. For such an approach to succeed, it is important to develop a tourist product which does not depend on “sea and sun” attributes, such as cultural tourism and agro-tourism (in the case of spreading the space) or walking tourism or health tourism (in the case of spreading the time).

This approach, however, has its weaknesses in that the negative impacts of tourism would then extend to areas which are as yet unspoilt. In addition, increasing the flow in the winter months would mean that the host community would not have a “quiet” season. In other words, spreading the impact over space and time has its cost.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper has described the most important economic and environmental impacts on the island of Gozo. It was shown that the economic benefits of tourism are often very large. It has also been argued that the negative impacts on the environment on the islands tend also to be relatively large. The objective of sustainable tourism is therefore not very easy to attain, and it often involves walking on a very tight rope.

The paper has argued that a policy of reducing tourist inflows would not find much support – except perhaps among those very keen on environmental protection – in an island where a large proportion of income and employment is generated from tourism and tourism-related activities, and where tourism growth has been instrumental in securing a respectable level of material welfare for the citizens, albeit accompanied by considerable environmental damage.

It was therefore argued that there is the need to find ways of minimising environmental damage without compromising the current and future economic well-being of the host country. A few pre-emptive and corrective methods towards this end have been described, although it was shown that their success cannot be guaranteed. Voluntary self-regulation, planning, carrying out impact assessments, setting and monitoring standards,
internalising environmental costs through economic instruments and spreading the impact over time and space, are likely to halt the pace of environmental damage, but, as shown above, they also have their downsides.

Like all other economic activities, tourism will never be environmentally neutral. Hotels will always emit sewerage, tourists will always add to water shortage and to the space constraints, air, land and sea-based traffic will continue to cause air and noise pollution.

Fortunately, tourism, being natural resource based, has quickly made the host island more appreciative of the benefits that are offered by the environment. In addition, as goods, such as clean air, clear seas and quiet spaces, previously abundant and free, become scarce, people tend to become more and more aware that environmental degradation is a great loss, not only in terms of long term or sustainable development, but also in terms of current well-being.

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A Long-lost Inscription from Gozo Re-emerges to Light

GEORGE AZZOPARDI

Introduction

Relatively few inscriptions of the 16th century managed to make it to present times. Yet, one such inscription from Gozo, carved in local Globigerina limestone, survives albeit in half. This short inscription was carved in 1581 during the governorship of Bernardo Daldana and when Garsia Monpalao, Salvo Pontremoli, and Tommaso Gauci were jurats of the Gozo Universitas. The surviving portion of the inscribed stone measures 62cm (height) by 35.5cm (maximum width) and has a thickness of 17.5cm including the frame.

Location and Circumstances of the Inscription’s Discovery

An additional note at the end of Agius de Soldanis’ manuscript Il Gozo Antico-moderno e Sacro-profano, kept at the National Library in Valletta, sheds some light on this otherwise unknown inscription. The note informs us that on the 15th October 1758, a stone inscription turned up while extending an external canal at the foot of the belfry on the northern side of the Matrice church (now the Gozo Cathedral) and along what is now Triq il-Fosos. The canal’s extension was undertaken westwards to alleviate problems related to rising damp behind the altar of the agony (now dedicated to St Joseph), behind that of the Apostles in the northern transept, and adjacent to the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament of the same Matrice church. A canal was, in fact, being dug around the church in order to tackle the afore-mentioned problems (Agius de Soldanis, 1746: 235v).

The Inscription

Reporting on an event taking place in 1758, the additional note must have been inserted after the completion of the original manuscript in 1746. Moreover, it betrays the involvement of a different hand by way of its calligraphy which is different from that in the rest of the manuscript. But, more importantly, this note documents the inscription in its entirety (Ibid.). As the left portion of the inscribed stone is lost, the complete recording of the inscription by way of this note allows us to reconstruct all the missing letters. The reconstructed text and translation of the inscription are given below:

Text

[FRATER BE]RNARDVS
[DALDAN]A MILES
[PRIORAT]VS CASTELLE
[ET LEGION]IS GVBERNA
[TOR HV]I[VS TERRE
[ET INSVLe] GAVDISII
[GARSISAS] MONPALAO
[SALVVS POR]E[MO]L ET THOM
[ASI GAVCHI I]VRATrA·D·1581·
The stone itself, the quality of the inscription, and the relatively detailed nomenclature attached to him. This ‘presence’ borne by the inscription is biographical (Barrett, 1993: 238. 240-1).

The inscription commemorates Bernardo Daldana, a knight of the langue of Castille, who was military governor of the terra and island of Gozo. The military role of the governor is explained by the fact that, amongst his responsibilities, he was also in command of the local militia (Bezzina, 2005: 47). Until 1551, the Gozo Universitas had been headed by a hakem who exercised his jurisdiction not only on the fortified city – then, called terra since the foundation of the Universitas – but also on the entire island of Gozo. As from January

**Translation**

FRA BERNARDO DALDANA  
KNIGHT OF THE LANGUE OF CASTILLE  
AND MILITARY GOVERNOR  
OF THIS CITY AND ISLAND OF GOZO  
WHEN GARSIA MONPALAO,  
SALVO PONTREMOLI AND  
TOMMASO GAUCI WERE JURATS  
IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD 1581

This inscription can perhaps be best classified as a commemorative one and, as such, a medium through which memory could be transmitted. It also afforded an almost direct and lasting ‘presence’ of the governor (whom it commemorates), mediated by the stone itself, the quality of the inscription, and the relatively detailed nomenclature attached to him. This ‘presence’ borne by the inscription is biographical (Barrett, 1993: 238. 240-1).
1551, Gozo was put under the responsibility of a governor who replaced the previous ħakem. As a governor was usually responsible for a castrum (fortified castle), the terra or fortified city of the island now came to be officially called a castrum or castle (as it was prior to the foundation of the Universitas) but, for a number of years, it still remained to be referred to as a terra (Ibid.: 38-9. 46; Galea, 2002: 4-7). Hence, the reference in this inscription to Bernardo Daldana as the military governor of the terra and island of Gozo even as late as 1581.

The inscription’s reference to ‘this city’ (huius terre / of this city) seems to imply that it was originally to be found somewhere inside the terra itself, presumably on one of the official buildings that were to be found there.

The Governor and the Jurats

The inscription also gives us the names of the three jurats during Daldana’s term of office as governor. They were Garsia Monpalao, Salvo Pontremoli, and Tommaso Gauci. The jurats’ number had been raised from two to three since 1st September 1579 (Bezzina, 2005: 47). Earlier in his manuscript, Agius de Soldanis also mentions these same three jurats by name along with the governor Bernardo Daldana in his list of the governors and jurats of Gozo. He adds that he got knowledge of governor Daldana from an inscription – presumably, this one – which was (once) placed above (the entrance to?) the old archives and which inscription he found recorded in the memoirs of the Abbate Canonico Costanzo (Agius de Soldanis, 1746: 79v). This Abbate Canonico Costanzo is very likely to be Ignazio Costanzo, an erudite ecclesiastic and scholar who, during the 2nd half of the 17th century, was at the height of his ecclesiastical career. A great lover of Maltese antiquities, he held correspondence on these matters with scholars and church dignatories alike, both foreign and local.

Concluding Remarks

This 16th century inscription is definitely a welcome addition to the very poor epigraphic corpus of Gozo from that period. Although, at present, it is kept in storage at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the surviving part of the inscription can now be better placed in context and, consequently, better understood not least as a result of its reconstruction reliably based on documentation contemporary to the discovery.

References


George Azzopardi is a researcher in archaeology and epigraphy is one of his main research interests.
Ġorġ Pisani – Poeta t’Art Twelidu

JOE CAMILLERI

Introduzzjoni


Il-Motiv tal-Istorja

Il-poeżija tal-motiv tal-pre-istorja, għalkemm mhix kotrana, qanqlet ċertu interess għax tat viżjoni oriġinali ta’ dan iż-żmien mistur u għalhekk hi ta’ kontribut siewi fl-izvilupp tal-istorja tal-letteratura taghna.


Hidmietu b’risq l-Ilśien Malti


Kwadretti Idealizzati

Bħala ghannej ta’ art twelidu, Pisani jghanni wkoll il-ġmiel territorjali. L-ambjent pajsaġġestiku, bixxejriet u d-drawwiet tal-poplu, huwa wkoll parti integrali mill-wirt u l-identità nazzjonali taghna.


‘Iżda l-ghanja ta’ żghożiti
Tibqà’ hierża mill-imwiet,
I-ghanja tieghi ma tmutx mieghi
galiex ġejja mis-smewwiet.

... Le ma nghix ghal ghomrok diemi
Le ma rridx dat-tul ta’ jiem,
Jien fil-ghanha nhalli qalbi
Ghax fil-ghanha nghix bla tmiem.’

Il-poeżija ‘Pars Mea’ taghlaq b’talba-appell li b’sinċerità qawwija turi sewwa r-rabta li kellu Ġorġ Pisani mal-poeżija u ma’ art twelidu:

‘Ħudli jekk trid, Mulej, kull m’ghandi fija,
Oftomni minn kull dewqa ta’ tgawdija,
Basta thalili f’qalbi
Is-slem tal-poeżija,
galiex dan sehem u dan biss hu ġidi,
Nghaddi fil-ghanha hajti
Poeta t’Art Twelidi.’

Chameleons in Gozo

FEDERICO CHINI

A Brief Introduction

The story of chameleons in the Maltese Islands is a story of survival and adaptation. In fact, though not a native species, the Chamaeleo chamaeleon or Mediterranean chameleon has adapted very well to the environment of our islands, managing to become, in less than a century, an integral part of the Maltese herpetofauna.

The Mediterranean chameleon is one of the 85 species of chameleons known in the world and is one of the only two species found in Europe. The first known person to describe the Mediterranean chameleon was Aristotle in the fourth century before Christ, yet the first one to classify it was Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy.

Chamaeleo chamaeleon

As the name clearly implies, the Mediterranean chameleon’s distribution revolves around the Mediterranean basin. Its presence is most strong in the North African states, though its distribution goes as far as the Arabic Peninsula and many other regions of the Middle East. In Europe, the chameleon is found in most southern Mediterranean countries: Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Sicily and the Maltese Islands.

Unique Features

Despite sharing a common ancestor with many other lizards, million of years of evolution has transformed the chameleon into a reptile with many unique characteristics.

As other reptiles, its whole body is covered almost homogenously in scales, with larger plate-like scales on the face and smaller ones on the rest of the body. A row of conical scales forms a small crest on the top of the head, which is usually higher in the male than in the female.

Its body, where the adult male can reach a length of over 30 cm (including the tail), is laterally compressed, a characteristic that is common to other arboreal lizards and that helps the chameleon to hide behind branches and avoid being detected by predators.

Yet what sets the chameleon apart from the rest of the animal kingdom are some other very peculiar characteristics.

The ability to change colour

The colour-changing ability of the chameleon is well known, yet due to misconception it is still widely believed that chameleons can change the colour of their skin to match that of their surroundings. This is wrong, as the change in pigmentation of the chameleon’s skin changes as a response to mood, intensity of light, stress, temperature, reproductive status and physical conditions. A scared chameleon will turn dark, almost black, while a dying chameleon will appear a pale greyish colour.

The normal colours of the Mediterranean chameleon are mostly green or brown with lighter spots on the side of the body, a colouration which is often a fairly good match with the surrounding habitat. Yet the chameleon’s chromatic range includes colours that go from grey to yellow and from black to orange.

360° vision with turret eyes

The ability of the chameleon to move the eyes independently and to allow them to view at 360° is a unique characteristic of this animal in the whole animal kingdom. This ability allows the
chameleon to be able to view in any direction without moving, as well as to keep an eye on an approaching predator while at the same time move towards a safer location.

Zygodactyl feet

Like arboreal birds such as the woodpeckers or parrots, chameleons possess zygodactyl feet which means that its feet have two opposing groups of toes which allows them to climb trees and plants as well as to walk over the open terrain. The claw-like feet are formed by two toes on the outside of each front foot and three toes on the inside part. This pattern is reversed on the rear feet.

Prehensile tail

To increase its dexterity as a climber, besides having clamping feet, the chameleon has a prehensile tail that coils around branches and stems allowing it to move with more grace and safety.

The lethal tongue

Together with the ability to change colour, the ability to catch prey by literally shooting it down with its tongue, is probably the most well known feature of the chameleon family. In fact the chameleons have a ballistic tongue mechanism which is unique among lizards.

A hunting chameleon will slowly approach its prey or wait for it to alight on a nearby branch and after having slowly moved to the ideal position, it points both its eyes on the prey. It will then unhurriedly open its mouth and finally eject its tongue. The tongue is often twice as long as the whole body length of the animal, and the total time necessary to eject it and capture its prey is less than one-sixteenth of a second, which is faster than a blink of an eye. The chameleon’s tongue, which terminates in a white sticky appendix, which up to few seconds earlier had been resting inside the U-shaped hyoid bone, is released like a spring onto the prey. The chameleon’s aim is formidable; it rarely misses a target.

Arrival in Malta

The chameleons arrival in Malta is a very recent one and it can be traced to the middle of the 19th century. It is in fact believed to have been introduced to the islands by the protestant missionaries returning from Africa between 1846 and 1865. Considered a pet, the chameleon was released into the gardens of the missionary’s house in St. Julians, which later, in 1877 became known as St. Ignatius College. From there the chameleon has managed to spread to almost all parts of the Maltese Archipelago, reaching most parts of Gozo and Comino and even the most remote areas in Malta.

But how did it manage to spread so vastly around the islands? The most likely possibility is that the chameleon did not move on its own but was taken to the different areas by people.

Seen as a possible pet or maybe as a kind of charm against insects, the chameleon has most likely been dispersed all over the island by farmers, children or dwellers that have found the animal by a roadside and decided to place it in their garden or field.

Nowadays Chameleons can be found in most parts of Gozo. Particularly in the areas of Xagħra, Nadur, Qala, Ghajnsielem, Sannat and Xewkija. Yet although its presence has through the years spread to almost every corner of the Maltese Islands, little is known about this fascinating animal, about
its numbers or about its local habits and little or almost nothing is done to protect it from the many dangers that continuously threaten its future.

Population Estimate

It is very difficult to give the approximate number of chameleons present in Gozo. But as this is, to my knowledge, the first report of its kind for the island, an attempt will be made to give a very rough estimate.

The present author estimates that the population number lies between 400 to 1000 specimens. This is obviously a very rough estimate, yet it might be considered as a starting point for future studies, as well as a good starting point for discussion.

Dangers

Though the chameleon population has adapted very well to the Maltese Islands, and though it has in a way prospered, chameleons are still endangered by the continuous loss of habitat.

Urbanisation, commerce, displacement, excessive use of insecticides and fires, are only a few of the threats faced by the chameleon in the Maltese islands. The Maltese Islands, with one of the highest density of human population in the world and with a rampant, as well as careless building practices, have been left with only a few areas of countryside that can be considered as such. The habitat the chameleon has adapted to in the last hundred and fifty years is slowly disappearing before our eyes.

The constant push to urbanisation, often caused by tourism, the building of new roads, the clearing of land for agricultural use and the space claimed for hunting and trapping are destroying the habitat of many species, including the chameleons. Some of them are directly killed, often unconsciously, as people are simply not aware that they are there; other specimens are pushed towards small, constricted areas, often bordering human developments.

In addition, the lack of proper designated conservation areas exacerbates the situation. Nowadays, for most people, it is more common to see a dead chameleon splattered on the road by a passing car, than a living specimen basking in the sun waiting for a cicada to stop nearby. In fact cars are one of the biggest threats to the local chameleon population. Though they have the ability to move their eyes independently, and so can see oncoming traffic, the chameleons are very slow moving animals. When a car is approaching they are more likely to freeze, or maybe puff then to run away. The consequence is often death. If they were as fast as lizards, they would probably stand a chance. The reality is that chameleons were engineered to live in trees, to move around branches and not to run on paved roads.

But though cars are probably the most evident of all dangers, there is something that is even more threatening: fire. Fires set to clear the land from shrubs and bushes do even more damage than cars, unknowingly killing many chameleons every year. Fires in fact, do not only kill the single specimen, but kill the whole group of chameleons in the area, destroying their habitat and any eggs which had been laid, hidden beneath a thin layer of soil.

The other silent killers are the pesticides. Spraying and often over-spraying of fields with pesticides is a common practice in Maltese agriculture. These pesticides which are supposed to kill the pests that ruin harvests, often kill much more than they intend to, and chameleons are directly or indirectly one of their victims.
Federico Chini, an Italian national living in Gozo, has a special interest in Nature and Environment protection. In 2006/2007 he followed the “Environmental Planning and Management” Course held at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus).

**Legal Protection and Conservation**

The Environment Protection Act and the Reptiles (Protection) Regulations of 1992, lists the *Chamaeleo chamaeleo* as one of the species to protect.

Handling a chameleon for reasons that are not purely scientific is in fact illegal. To keep it as a pet, to sell it, to export it or to kill it is illegal, yet little is known about these directives. School children, farmers and nature enthusiasts that encounter a chameleon will often handle it and displace it to other areas of the island (or possibly to their garden).

In Andalucia in Spain, twenty-seven areas have been designated to protect the species. Six in the area of Malaga, eleven in Cadiz and ten in Huelva. In Greece the chameleon is protected and included in the “rare” species of threatened species.

In Malta too, the chameleon is protected. Yet, despite the Environment Protection Act, little is done to really protect this animal.

**Maltese Bibliography**

After being featured in the *Times of Malta* (17th February 1975) in a full page article penned by C. Savona Ventura (NHSM), the chameleon made its way into other Maltese books including, *Discovering Nature in the Maltese Islands*, written by Alfred E. Baldacchino, Edwin Lanfranco and Patrick Schembri (1990), *Flora u Favna ta’ Malta*, edited by Joe Sultana and Victor Falzon (1995) and *Wildlife of the Maltese Islands*, same authors (1996). This last publication is probably the most comprehensive list of the Maltese wildlife to date. In April 2004, the chameleon was also featured in the Maltapost stamps portraying mammals and reptiles of the Maltese Islands.
An Early Nineteenth Century View of Gozo

MICHAEL REFALO

Introduction

One Mr. Keeling visited Gozo in early February 1827, and his account of that short visit was given in a religious publication in October of that year.\(^1\) The Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine,\(^2\) a monthly publication, was one of a number of such magazines issued by religious bodies or sects in Britain and served to counteract the image of Methodists as narrow-minded and with little interest for culture. Hence, a wide range of cultural subjects were dealt with. These were mainly intended to reach itinerant preachers and societies of the Methodist faith, proliferating throughout Britain, and hence the religious element was never far off from the more mundane concerns.

The Maltese Islands, a British colony but practising the Roman Catholic religion, were a subject of considerable interest to the British reading public in the early 19th century, and this not only, or mainly, from the religious perspective. The rule of the Order of St. John, the subsequent Napoleonic occupation and the eventual transfer of sovereignty to Britain were the principal reasons for the arousal of such interest. This is borne out by the considerable number of articles appearing in periodical publications during the 19th century in Britain. It was, however, Malta rather than the rest of the small archipelago that aroused such interest. Finding accounts of the smaller island is a rare occurrence. Keeling’s account, on the other hand, is devoted exclusively to Gozo and, in its short two pages, narrates something more than the usual wonder at the ancient temples of Ġgantija.

Of course, a religious publication such as this one, could not ignore that aspect which was foremost in the minds of its contributors. Mr. Keeling appears to have been fascinated by the island, but this contrasts with his moral pessimism.

\[\text{The view from the neighbouring hills [near the Ġgantija temples] is delightful. Gozo has a much more pleasing variety of hill and dale than Malta, and there appears to be in it much more land in high cultivation than in Malta. Many flowers that grace the gardens in England grow wild here. But the moral field is barren, and uncultivated to such a degree, as is sufficient to throw the reflecting mind into the deepest melancholy.}\]

The Cause of Keeling’s Sadness

The story of the visit follows the standard 19th century travel accounts. A three-hour boat trip from Valletta and a further hour to walk from the shore to the “principal town, Rabat” were punctuated only by the number of men and boys, and their asses, waiting for the boat and offering their services to the British visitors. These offers were declined, and the first meeting which Mr. Keeling and his companion held was with the “chief Magistrate,” who offered to act as guide “and to give me which information he could, relative to their [the Gozitans’] civil and moral state, as well as to point out anything otherwise interesting.”

Of course, a visit to Gozo had to include the routine visits to “the General’s Stone … also called Fungus Rock” and “the Giant’s Tower.” This latter is quite summarily dismissed as “a huge heap of stones, that were originally brought together with some design, but whether for a habitation, or for a place of worship, is doubtful …” However, the fulcrum of the visit as detailed by Mr. Keeling had, naturally enough, to do with religion.

On their way back from the western tip of the island, “we purposely passed through a very considerable village called Garbo. There the primate of the villages lives.” A visit to the church was a must. This is “somewhat elegant … but for the ornaments.” Meeting a priest in church, Keeling offers an Italian translation of the New Testament, an offer that was refused. Similar result was obtained when meeting another priest with whom “we had a little pleasant

\(^1\) Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine, 6 (Oct. 1827); p. 710-1
\(^2\) Published between 1778 and 1969, it originally bore the name of Arminian Magazine. It was renamed Methodist Magazine in 1798 and assumed its last title in 1822.
Michael Refalo, a Notary Public, obtained the BA at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) and is currently finishing his Ph.D. thesis. This deals with the Maltese commercial class of the late 19th century.

Mr. Keeling’s visit does not afford a very flattering portrayal of early 19th century Malta. Of course, the island was viewed through the narrow lenses of Methodism. It would seem, from a reading of that account that Gozo was indeed a beautiful island, but what nature furnished man tarnished. The moral barrenness of the inhabitants stands out against the natural beauty of the place. Even the Magistrate accompanying Mr. Keeling on his, and his companion’s tour of the island was quick to point out that “dark as Malta is, Gozo is a century behind it.”

Through the Eyes of a Foreigner

This short account allows a rare vision of early 19th century Gozo through the eyes of a foreigner. The various conflicts between the Roman Catholic hierarchy and visiting Protestant missionaries recurrent throughout that century coloured life on the bigger island. But Gozo, mostly agricultural and steeped in the religious monitions of its own pastoral guides, was immune from such problems. And yet, deep down, the feelings of Mr. Keeling must have coincided with those of his fellow co-religionists who perceived the inhabitants of that small island as being on the sure way to perdition. Indeed, the account laconically ends with a curious paragraph which has nothing to do with the main account. It reads as follows:

There are, I hear, five Jews in bonds at Constantinople for professing the Christian faith; and another has since made the same profession. The brother of the persecuted Arab in Syria has come to Malta, having been sent to Mr. Temple by his American Brethren at Beyroot. He knows no English, but is very clever in Arabic and Syriac.

One is inclined to think that this conclusion, by its very distance from the main subject of the account, distils the pessimistic view with which the new colonisers viewed the local population.

Giant’s Tower, Gozo
A Gozitan Multi-functional Mother

CARMEN BAJADA

Introduction

Being a mother of four children aged between five and sixteen, with a full-time job as financial advisor with one of the leading banks in Malta, as well as being a local councillor and a part-time student at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus), means that I have to use my time as wisely as possible. This article explains that these roles need not conflict with each other – on the contrary they may complement each other.

Juggling between one role and another does entail sacrifice, sheer hard work and sometimes sleepless nights. There were instances, for example, when on the eve of an examination I had to find the time to help my teenage daughters with their studies as they were also sitting for an examination the next day.

The essential skill needed for this purpose is time management, and the essential attitude is a belief that women can and should contribute to the well-being of their community and to society in general.

Being a Mother

Being a mother should not prevent a woman from being a leader, and taking assertive stances in line with the values she upholds. The role of a parent need not stop a woman from furthering her education and in utilizing such education for the benefit of her family and her community and society in general.

The early years of children are challenging for both parents. No matter how busy and engaged they are it is important that they give their children a sense of being loved. As a mother I make it a point to express love and affection to all my children, knowing that a gentle cuddle, a little encouragement, appreciation, approval or even a smile can go a long way to boost their confidence and well-being. I do my utmost to be available for our children whenever they need me, expressing interest and involving myself in their activities as much as possible.

Although my role as a councillor is demanding, I do my very best not to allow this to hinder my role as a parent.

I believe that young children need quality time. I enjoy playing and doing craft projects with them. I spend many afternoons and evenings with the family at Ramla Bay or Hondoq Bay during the summer months. During school terms I do my best to dedicate Sundays for my family. Moreover whenever I have an appointment in Malta and know that our children can come with us I insist that we go together. When my appointment is over, we often go to museums, historical places, and attend other cultural events. Even when I have to go abroad I do my best to travel as a family.

It is also important that women be a bit assertive when it comes to setting time for meetings. During a seminar organized by one of the Maltese Trade Unions, I was influenced by one of the contributor’s talk and her approach regarding the involvement of women in committees and boards. She sat on various boards as a director, and she was very assertive regarding the setting of times for the meetings. Men usually do not have to cater for their family’s daily requirements (cooking and being home when children return from school),
but it is usually they who schedule the meetings. As a mother I always make it a point that I am home when my children return from school, thus whenever I am asked to attend a meeting at that time, I ask for the meeting to be delayed by half an hour to enable me to meet both commitments.

I must admit however that I need my husband’s help to fulfil my family obligations. For example, since I utilise most of my leave to attend university on Saturdays, it has become extremely difficult for me to attend all the functions organised at school during office hours. Here my husband’s support is extremely vital. He attends functions which I do not manage to attend, keeping me informed of the outcome and when possible taking videos of activities in which our children participate, so that we can see them together at home.

**Being a Councillor**

Being a councillor is hard work and time-consuming. The key role of a councillor is to act as a voice of the local people: helping individual residents, developing strategies and services for the local community as a whole. I do my utmost to prepare for and participate constructively in all meetings of the council, committees and working groups. Most council meetings take place on at least one evening per month and meetings usually finish around mid-night, sometimes even later. Moreover there are also day-time commitments. These include meetings with other bodies, such as police and other authorities to ensure that local needs are met by all public services.

Keeping up to date with today’s dynamic environment entails that a councillor attends various seminars such as those relating to EU Funding. Councillors have to make tough decisions sometimes involving conflicting interests. To be able to take fair, sound and informed decisions based on the facts, a councillor needs to do a lot of reading of reports and correspondence which I usually do in the early morning hours. I also have to be on the alert for any news and information which affects the community of Xaghra.

A councillor needs also to maximise his/her knowledge of the law and relevant policies in areas such as development control and licensing. Councillors have to follow a strict code of conduct which governs their behaviour. I admit that making decisions about planning and licensing applications and policies are the most difficult. The Xaghra Local Council has to face and take stands against development planning decisions which are considered to be detrimental to the community, even though very profitable to the developer. A case in point was the development of twenty-three villas near Ramla Bay.

Although there are sometimes adverse repercussions for the councillors as well as their family members, including being bullied and intimidated, when taking certain stands regarding planning permits, I believe that a councillor has to shoulder the responsibility that the local community entrusts in them.

Thus although to become a councillor one does not need any formal qualifications, a councillor needs to possess considerable information about planning and environmental concerns. In addition, a councillor needs to be a good listener, have an enquiring mind, have the confidence to speak in public and have the commitment to work with others.
The Roles of a Mother and Councillor can be Complementary

In many instances the role of a councillor and a mother complement each other. For example as a council we are in direct contact with the local school, and often involve ourselves in youth work and adult education. We are also involved in libraries and community centres, parks, museums and sports centres, refuse collection and recycling, parks and traffic management, roads and pavements maintenance and environmental health. I am sure that my children’s knowledge on these issues has increased since I become a councillor. My knowledge on these matters has a spillover effect on their knowledge regarding these areas.

I feel that my role as a Councillor is helping my children to be more altruistic, as this role requires commitment to the principles of honesty, integrity, objectivity, openness, accountability and respect for others. I believe that the behaviour and character one hopes children will adopt and live are modelled by the behaviour of their parents. I try to show them by example in addition to verbal explanations.

Our children very often get involved and participate in the voluntary work I am involved in as councillor. They enjoy participating in cultural activities organised by the Xaghra Local Council, like for example, Ġgantija Awaken, Clean up the World and visits to the historical places in Xaghra.

Being a Student and a Mother

The knowledge I gain through my studies also has positive spillover effects on my family. For example as a result of my University course I have improved my knowledge of financial management, and this has been of benefit for managing family finances. In addition this has been useful to me as a Bank employee.

Part of the course I am following involves behavioural studies and this has had beneficial effects on my ability to understand people better, including my immediate family.

As a result of my studies I also improved my knowledge of time-management, a skill of major importance in my role as mother and councillor.

Conclusions

The most important thing for me is to attempt to attain a good balance between work, study and the family, giving priority to the immediate vital tasks to be carried out. As argued in this article, these roles can complement each other.

However there are times when life is very hectic and the pressure is heavy. Balancing three major roles is not an easy task but I have to do this for the benefit on my children, my community and myself.

The most important skill required to attain this end effectively and efficiently is time-management and this combined with motivation and dedication renders my life very satisfying and rewarding.

Diploma in Commerce Graduation

Carmen Bajada is currently attending a course at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) leading to a Bachelor Degree in Commerce. She is a financial advisor with one of the leading banks in Malta, as well as a local councillor for the Xaghra Local Council.
Gozitan Migrant and Return Migration’s Impact on the Gozitan Festa

RAYMOND C. XERRI

Introduction

The Gozitan festa, a mainly annual religious socio-cultural event, organized in every Gozitan village and in the town of Rabat, have gradually evolved over the past two centuries into a massive spectacle, considering the size of these tiny localities. The Gozitan village festa is by far the most awaited and grand event in the annual calendar of any locality. The flow of foreign currency, material goods of all sorts and the ingenious combination of foreign influences and local traditions have moulded the Gozitan festa into a unique event towards which migrants and return migrants contribute considerably. The festa is also Gozo’s largest cultural export to Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

The Centrality of the Festa to Gozitans

The festa has been the main gathering of the populace of every Gozitan village/town since their inception. For most of the villagers and townspeople this annual appointment sees them congregate in the main pjazza, wearing their best garments, where they pray, socialize, relax, conduct informal business and even find a partner for life. Despite the many events for the masses which are organized by the Catholic Church, political parties, the Ministry for Gozo, local councils and private entities, the village festa remains the fulcrum of Gozitan society.

The festa knows its religious origins primarily in church ceremony and gradually grew to encompass a far larger territory in external festivities in the streets around the church and in private houses. Migrant and return migrant financial contributions to the construction and decoration of churches are a well-known fact in Gozitan society. Scanning through local Gozitan parish financial registries testify to this fact. However, the full amount of contributions originating from migrants and return migrants to the annual festa are very difficult to calculate since gifts registries in parishes only cover income in foreign currency – British Sterling, Australian, Canadian and United States Dollars to mention a few.

The Titular Statue Represents Village Identity

A traditional festa requires a titular statue to be paraded around the village streets. In many Gozitan villages, the history as to how Gozitan titular statues were ordered, delivered and paid for is intrinsically linked to the migration and return migration patterns of Gozitans. Table 1 shows that from the nineteen titular statues purchased in Gozo since 1839, eleven were purchased from
**TABLE 1**: How Gozitan titular statues were influenced by migration and return migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Established</th>
<th>Patron Saint</th>
<th>Statue Manufacturer/ Statuary</th>
<th>Contact found by</th>
<th>Titular Statue arrives</th>
<th>Major migration periods</th>
<th>Major return migration periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabat</td>
<td>1435</td>
<td>The Assumption – Santa Marija</td>
<td>Fabrca di Statue Religioso – Francesco Rosa, Roma</td>
<td>Priest</td>
<td>July 1897</td>
<td>1839-1870</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabat</td>
<td>Prior to 1506</td>
<td>Saint George</td>
<td>Pietro Paolo Azzopardi (1791-1875)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>1839-1870</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xewkija</td>
<td>1678</td>
<td>Saint John the Baptist</td>
<td>Pietro Paolo Azzopardi (1791-1875)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>22 June 1845</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabat</td>
<td>Prior to 1506</td>
<td>Saint George</td>
<td>Pietro Paolo Azzopardi (1791-1875)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>1839-1870</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gharb</td>
<td>1679</td>
<td>Visitation of Our Lady</td>
<td>Giuseppe Vella (1802-1866)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>June 1853</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadur</td>
<td>1688</td>
<td>Saints Peter and Paul</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>After 1881</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sannat</td>
<td>1688</td>
<td>Saint Margaret</td>
<td>Carlo Darmarin (1825-1905)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>July 1863*</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xaghra</td>
<td>1688</td>
<td>The Nativity of Our Lady – Il- Bambina</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>26 May 1878</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Żebbuġ</td>
<td>1688</td>
<td>The Assumption – Santa Marija</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>August 1863</td>
<td>1840-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghajnsielem</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Our Lady of Loreto</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>October 1866</td>
<td>1855-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qala</td>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Saint Joseph</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>27 April 1890</td>
<td>1872-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Lawrenz</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Saint Laurence</td>
<td>Gallard et Fils, Marseilles, France (Ramat Statuaire)</td>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>10 August 1895</td>
<td>1893-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerċem</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</td>
<td>El Turco, Sicily, Italy</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>10 January 1891*</td>
<td>1885-1940</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontana</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus</td>
<td>Fabrca di Statue Religioso – Francesco Rosa, Rome</td>
<td>Priest</td>
<td>May 1907*</td>
<td>1907-1919</td>
<td>1920-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghasri</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>Michael Camilleri (1951- )</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>19-Sep-82</td>
<td>1921-1940</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munxar</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>St. Paul Shipwreck</td>
<td>Wistin Camilleri (1885-1979)</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>5-Feb-33</td>
<td>1957-1986</td>
<td>1870-1900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A major migration/return migration period is registered when more than 1% of the particular village/town’s population migrates/returns in a given year.
abroad, two from Fabrica di Statue Religiose, Francesco Rosa in Rome and nine from the renowned Gallard et Fils of Marseilles, France.

The period 1836 through 1900 saw the wave of migration from Gozo to the French speaking Barbary Coast, primarily to the cities of Algiers, Philippaville, Tunis and also to Stora, Annaba, Oran, Susa and Bona (Bezzina, 2002). Gozitan young men quickly earned a reputation for being hard workers and were sent to work at their employers’ home estates in France, mostly in Marsielle and Lyon. Although most Gozitans remained in France and never returned to Gozo, the few that returned informed their respective parish priest of the renowned Gallard et Fils and often took it upon themselves to collect funds to pay for these titular statues and prepare the necessary arrangement to purchase, pack and deliver the statue to their respective village.

Migrants also contributed financially towards gold/silver-gilded pedestals, gold gilding and ornaments related to the titular statues during the subsequent years, interventions made on the statue and the wave of restoration a century later between 1990 and the present.

In Qala, the titular statue of Saint Joseph was gold-gilded solely with financial contributions from Marsielle-based Qalin migrants in 1917 (Xerri, 2005).

**Migrants’ Contributions to the Festa**

Gozitan migrant and return migrant influences on the *festa* are definitely not limited to their contributions to Gozitan churches and their respective titular statues. Following the second world war, a popular movement in Gozo started a process of expanding the *festa*’s external dimension beyond the main square to spread throughout the village. The British military and Maltese *festas* both heavily influenced this development, particularly with the establishment of the local brass bands, the evolution of firework use on the ground and in the air, street *festa* ornamental furniture and lighting, the massive use of drapery, paper and balloons, *festa* memorabilia, and most visably, flags of migrant nations flying on return migrants’ houses.

Most Gozitan migrants return to Gozo in order to be home for *festa*. Other reasons range from attending funerals, marriages, first holy communion and confirmation of loved ones and to settle property or will matters. While in Gozo, migrants meet members of local *festa* related associations and particularly, as is tradition, the local parish priest. These encounters often lead to contributions towards church maintenance, the *festa*, *festa*-related associations and/or to projects being undertaken at that particular time by the parish.

Gozitan migrants have provided not only much needed financial contributions over the years, but more importantly innovative ideas to improve and expand the operation and impact of the *festa*. Gozitan migrants still purchase musical instruments to improve the local band and to establish awards for members of the band. In some villages migrants persuaded their clergy councils to include and dedicate a Migrants’ Day where migrant flags are paraded in the streets and during a migrants mass, in honour of all their fellow villagers around the world.

The first form of fireworks used in a Gozitan festa were mainly discarded explosives, flares, air and ground squibs, coloured gas canisters and sparklers from the Royal British Navy. Since the 1950s, many Gozitans mastered the technique of manufacturing fireworks in creating new, noisier and more elaborate ground and air designs. The ‘*daħna kulur*’ and ‘*fetħa daħna sewda*’ are creations of Gozitan manufacturers. Some patterns and designs were purchased and/or brought over by Gozitan return migrant sailors, mainly from the United Kingdom (UK) and the USA.

The late 1970s saw the introduction from the USA by Gozitan migrants and return migrants of firecrackers, jelly bombs and a whole range of Chinese manufactured fireworks used in the USA.

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1. A colour-smoke bomb which explodes about 300 metres in mid-air. The usual smoke is thick and white.
2. Fireworks which explode at a 400-500 metre height and showers in the form of an umbrella with dark black smoke instead of thick white.
during the 4th of July celebrations. Fireworks were often transported with tremendous risk in aircraft luggage accompanied by migrants and return migrants. The practice ceased once importation of such fireworks was allowed by the government. The same period saw the introduction of the use of shredded paper, initially produced by shredders imported from the USA (later produced by local presses) and balloons brought over from migrants and/or return migrants. Migrants from Canada and the USA also introduced festa memorabilia consisting initially of printed T-shirts and caps.

The 1990s saw the introduction of typically American foods – burgers, hotdogs, candy and doughnuts – alongside typical Gozitan and Maltese foods. The first vendors of such foods were Gozitan return migrants from Canada and the USA.

References


A typical Gozitan landscape of villages celebrating their local festa. Flags depicting return migrant families from Canada and Australia.

Dr Raymond C Xerri obtained his PhD in 2002 from Victoria University in Australia. His area of research was Social and Cultural Inquiry concentration on Gozitan Identity and Migration. He is a diplomat, anthropologist and guest lecturer at a number of universities.
A Window onto the Day-to-Day running of the Nazione Gozitana

GODWIN VELLA

Introduction

A decade ago the Island of Gozo commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of the end of the Knights’ rule, the eventful stay of the French and the eventual establishment of the short-lived Nazione Gozitana. The ad hoc commemorations organising Committee within the then Parliamentary Secretariat for Gozo supported a number of initiatives including the publication of two monographs on the French stay in Gozo by Dr. Joe De Bono and Mgr. Dr. Joseph Bezzina respectively, in which a comprehensive overview of the French occupation between 10th June and 28th October 1798 is provided. Another published source of great merit is Carmel Testa’s voluminous work “The French in Malta”.

Governance in Gozo

A notable source is kept at the National Library of Malta, namely a copy of two detailed income and expenditure accounts for the period 23rd October 1798 to end May 1799 compiled by Archpriest Saverio Cassar as Head of Government and Superintendent of Gozo. Entitled “Copia delli due Conti presentati alla Deputazione dal Sig. Arciperete del Gozo Don Saverio Cassar”, these form part of Library Manuscript 1053 – “Documenti insurrezione Gozo (1798), Lettere Cassar Bondi”, bequeathed to the National Library by Magistrate Edgar Parnis LLB in 1913. Surprisingly, listed publications seem to make little use of, if not overlook completely this source.

With a combined length of 87 A4-pages, these accounts shed valuable light on the governance of Gozo and on the outstanding capability of its people to rise to the occasion and overcome all sorts of challenges presented to them.

On 2nd September 1798 the Gozitans revolted against the 300 strong French garrison deployed on the island and succeeded in ousting them by 29th October, when an autonomous protectorate within the Kingdom of Naples was created. Although redeeming themselves from a despotic government and gaining full control of both internal affairs and foreign policy, the island’s resources had to be stretched to the limit to offer maximum resistance against emerging potential invaders and to procure supplementary food supplies from overseas. Indeed, except for a negligible percentage the total expenditure registered in the quoted source relates directly to the manning, upkeep and ammunition of the respective strongholds and corresponding strategic localities and to the shipping over of wheat and other foodstuffs from nearby Sicily. These preoccupations had been haunting the poor Gozitans for centuries, although the Knights’ imposing presence on mainland Malta alleviated to a limited extent this perennial struggle in more ways than one. In Cassar’s case, the situation was aggravated drastically due to the transfer to Malta of all food supplies and ammunition amassed within the Castello immediately after the surrender of the French.

Archpriest Saverio Cassar (1746 – 1805) was a born leader and a great benefactor of Gozo. He laboured to keep his fellow compatriots united and enacted audacious mitigation measures whenever the success of his mission was at stake. Notwithstanding these achievements, on 20th August 1801 Archpriest Saverio Cassar was kicked out of office by the Civil Commissioner of Malta Sir Charles Cameron. Besides witnessing the unceremonious termination of the Nazione Gozitana he was accused of money misappropriation, although the subsequent inquiry proved his innocence. Cassar died on 16th December 1805.

The Registers

What follows is a summarised version of the aforementioned income and expenditure registers. Wherever possible it has been deemed appropriate to leave the respective legends in their original wording.
L’avverta che restano da pagarsi il Capo Mastro e nove Cannonieri del Castello; ed i più due cannonieri del Forte Chambray.

Inoltre restano da pagarsi scudi sei cento e dieci avuti ad imprestito per pagare li cento soldati che hanno bloccato il Castello dall’24 Settembre fino li 9 Novembre 1798 come dal giornale.

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**Revenues** (23.10.1798 – 18.04.1799) – *including 221,4.8 from the University’s assets* 7534: 11: 20

Revenues from the Assembly (22.10.1798 – 18.03.1799) 424. 6. 10

7958. 5. 30

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**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione del Gran Castello** (23.11.1798 – 20.04.1799) 2286. 6. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione del Forte Chambray** (24.10.1798 – 20.04.1799) 1680. 0. 50

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Garzes** (24.10.1798 – 17.04.1799) 506.9. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre del Comino** (26.10.1798 – 20.04.1799) 596. 10. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Ras el Cala** (20.04.1799) 519. 6. 40

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Batterija Toce** (18.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 207. 8. 40

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre S. Biagio** (14.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 330. 7. 20

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Guardia Ghorofo** (18.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 156. 6. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Batterija Ramola** (18.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 407. 8. 40

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Marsalturno** (17.11.1798 – 20.04.1799) 1334. 2. 20

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione del Fortino S. Maria** (18.11.1798 – 17.04.1799) 341. 0. 20

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione del Fortino Colla el Bajda** (11.11.1798 – 20.04.1799) 505. 6. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Duejra** (05.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 268. 7. 10

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Scilendi** (18.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 225. 8. 16

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Torre Migiar Isscini** (18.11.1798 – 21.04.1799) 176. 0. 20

**Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione della Batterija Ghelmus** (10.11.1798 – 27.11.1798) 57. 0. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alli servienti della Curia** (02.12.1798) 6. 3. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla Ronda del Zebug** (18.11.1798 – 09.04.1799) 77. 0. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla Ronda del Garbo** (02.12.1798 – 31.04.1799) 75. 0. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla Ronda della Xeuchia** (02.12.1798 – 03.04.1799) 90. 0. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla Ronda del Nadur** (01.12.1798 – 03.03.1799) 60. 0. 00

**Pagamenti fatti alla Ronda della Caccia** (12.01.1799 – 02.04.1799) 60.0.00

**Spese Straordinarie** (05/11/1798 – 20/04/1799) 789. 4. 12

**Vicenda del Comino** (28.02.1799 – 04.04.1799) 35. 0. 00

**Vicenda di Chambray** (16.03.1799) 20. 0. 00

**Vicenda di Garzes** (17.03.1799) 20.0.00

**Alimenti di Carcerati** (December 1798 – 22.04.1799) 162. 9. 50

**Segnali ta’ Dbiegi** (23.02.1799 – 22.04.1799) 81.6.40

**Segnali del Nadur** (03.04.1799 – 17.04.1799) 26.3.00

**Danaro sommanistrato a quattro donne, i mariti di quali morirono nell’assedio di Chambray** 143. 0. 00

**Spese fatte per la gente del Comino** 56. 4. 00

**Danaro fornito agli Inglesi**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Al padrone del Brick capitato nel Migiarro</th>
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<tr>
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11442. 1. 12

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**Bilancio**

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**Nota:**

L’avverta che restano da pagarsi il Capo Mastro e nove Cannonieri del Castello; ed i più due cannonieri del Forte Chambray. Inoltre restano da pagarsi scudi sei cento e dieci avuti ad imprestito per pagare li cento soldati che hanno bloccato il Castello dall’24 Settembre fino li 9 Novembre 1798 come dal giornale.

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**THE GOZO OBSERVER (No.20) - June 2009**

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**THE GOZO OBSERVER (No.20) - June 2009**
## Intuito
Danaro somministrato in soccorso della Rivoluzione\(^{27}\)  
Danaro somministrato per mantenimento de Soldati\(^ {28}\)  
Danaro avuto per la provisioni\(^ {29}\)  
Dal Magaziniere del vettovaglio venduto nella Rivoluzione  
Dalla Cassa dell’Universita  
Avuti dal Magaziniere  
Avuti da diversi per pubblici contratti  
Da Lorenzo Vella contribuiti da molti di Casal Caccia per le provisioni  
Avuti dal prezzo de fromenti portati dallo schifo trattenuto in S. Paolo  
Others\(^ {30}\)  

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## Esito
Various\(^ {31}\)  
Pagati a Salvatore Vella per spese da lui fatte nelli due viaggi fatti per Napoli\(^ {32}\), ed in quello fatto per Siracusa\(^ {33}\) a fine di portare dispacci per Sua Maesta e domandar provisioni e munizioni di Guerra.  
Pagamenti fatti alla guarnigione del Gran Castello\(^ {34}\) (04/05/1799 – 28/05/1799)  
Chambray\(^ {35}\) (03/05/1799 – 30/05/1799)  
Garzes\(^ {36}\) (04/05/1799 – 22/05/1799)  
Comino\(^ {37}\) (03/05/1799 – 19/05/1799)  
Ras el Cala\(^ {38}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Toce\(^ {39}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
San Biagio\(^ {40}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Ghorof\(^ {41}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Ramola\(^ {42}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Marsalfurno\(^ {43}\) (03/05/1799 – 25/09/1799)  
Santa Maria\(^ {44}\) (03/05/1799 – 29/05/1799)  
Colla el Bajda\(^ {45}\) (04/05/1799 – 25/05/1799)  
Duejr\(^ {46}\) (06/05/1799 – 27/05/1799)  
Scilendi\(^ {47}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Migiar Issini\(^ {48}\) (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Spese Straordinarie\(^ {49}\) (14/05/1799 – 16/05/1799)  
Carcerati (22/04/1799 – 31/05/1799)  
Segnali ta Dibiegi\(^ {50}\) (23/04/1799 – 29/05/1799)  
Inglesi del Nadur (30/04/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Inglesi del Comino\(^ {51}\) (03/05/1799 – 29/05/1799)  
Alla fregatina dell’Alesandro capitata nel Migiarro (06/05/1799)  
Alle quattro Donne (05/05/1799 – 26/05/1799)  
Somministrati al Commandante Pace\(^ {52}\) in diverse volte  
Pagati per mantenimento del Conservatorio\(^ {53}\) fin tutto Maggio  
Danaro Rimesso Gio Battista Frangipane  
Pagamenti per le Compre di Vettovagli e Noli\(^ {54}\) (13/10/1798 – 12/05/1799)  
Pagati al Comandante Pace per spese fatte nel viaggio di Palermo\(^ {55}\) fatto per ottenere dalla R.C. provizioni con dilazioni secondo le note da lui prezentate  
Altre Spese per la spedizione dell’Orzi\(^ {56}\)  
Altre Spese per la spedizione di Fromenti\(^ {57}\)  
Spese nelle compe de Filati\(^ {58}\)  
Fabrica\(^ {59}\)  
Spese solite farsi dall’ Universita\(^ {60}\)  

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## Bilancio

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COPIA DEL SECONDO CONTO PRESENTATO ALLA DEPUTAZIONE DAL SIG. ARCIPRETE DEL GOZO DON SAVERIO CASSAR – IL PRIMO GIUGNO 1799
Notes

1 Chairperson Anton F. Attard; Secretary Frank Masini; Coordinator George Vella; Members Rev. Dr. Joseph Bezzina, John Cremona, Josienne Said and Godwin Vella.

2 Provisional Government of Gozo was created and constituted by its People on 18th September 1798. (Bezzina 2005, p 56)

3 Saverio Cassar was installed Archpriest of the Matrix church on 6th December 1773 and created Provico of Gozo on 1st January 1775. (Bezzina 1998, p 39)

4 Being 3200 sacks of corn, 50 barrels of gunpowder, 9000 ball cartridges, 1000 musket cartridges without ball, 1700 flints, 38 eighteen-pound cartridges, 140 twelve-pound cartridges, 450 six-pound cartridges, 268 four-pound cartridges, 25 three-pound cartridges, 88 two-pound cartridges, 18 eighteen-pounder guns and 200 shots, 2 twelve-pounder guns and 900 shots, 4 six-pounder guns and 2985 shots, 400 hand grenades, 90 pikes and 90 halberds.

5 Cassar imprisoned one of the Rabat Commanders and three Cannons suspected of treason vis-à-vis the Gozitan efforts to win back the Gran Castello from the French Garrison.

6 The only entries of rent received are 50 scudi each from the tenants of the Xaghra and the Xewkija Windmills, and 100 scudi from the tenant of the Ta’ Hamet estate. Saverio Cassar had issued a bando stating that all farmers who were unable to pay their rent for their fields on account of the invasion following the French invasion and the subsequent struggle to throw them out’ were granted a moratorium until further notice. (Testa p 579)

7 Monetary values: 1 scudo = 12 tari, 1 tari = 20 grani

8 The French Garrison inside the Gran Castello surrendered on 28th October 1798.

9 The French garrison inside Fort Chambray escaped clandestinely to Malta on 16th September 1798.

10 Erected in 1607, Torre Garzes had a massive construction. It was eventually demolished in 1848. (Samut-Tagliaferro pp 81-108)

11 The true purpose of this stronghold is unclear. The naïve but accurate coloured pen drawing of the French Capitulation at It-Tokk shows a one-storey high property along the northern side of the square (the site of present day Castle Pharmacy) with barricaded doors at ground floor level and what look to be three gun embrasures puncturing the overhanging parapet wall.

12 Originally called Torre Nuova, Torre S. Biaggio was referred to also as Ta’ Dhallet Qorrot, Ta’ Sopu and tal-Rudmu il-Kibir. (Samut-Tagliaferro p 181)

13 The whereabouts of “Ta’ Ghorot” could not be identified.

14 During the 18th century Ramla Bay was defended by two batteries (Balcinourt and Nadur respectively), a central redoubt, an entrenched entrenchment along the entire breadth of the bay, a fougasse on the Nadur side and an underwater sea-wall. (Samut-Tagliaferro pp 216-7)

15 Fox’s Marsamxett was erected in 1720 to replace an earlier construction (1616). It was eventually demolished in 1915 to make room for a Wireless Telegraph Station. (Samut-Tagliaferro pp 111, 191-200)

16 The Santa Maria Battery was erected in 1715 and stood on the site of the present Qajjargħa promenade parking. (Samut-Tagliaferro p 214)

17 Il-Qolla il-Bajda promontory was defended also by the Xewqien Redoubt. (Samut-Tagliaferro p 210)

18 Ironically, Ta’ Gelmus Hill was always listed out by the respective military engineers who inspected the Island’s defences during the Congress of St. John’s presence as a menacing threat for the Gran Castello defences.

19 The Nazione Gozitana’s early headquarters were sited in a farmhouse beneath the plateau at Ta’ Gelmus. (Bezzina 1998, p 39)

20 These include the upgrading and routine maintenance of the fortifications and the repairs of damages inflicted on the same fortifications during the insurrections, artillery transport and repair of mounts, transport to and from British vessels, purchase of ammunition and related supplies, accommodation of security corps, and messenger services.

21 Even though the island of Gozo was exploited by Maltese authorities as a dumping ground for the exile of unwanted elements (Testa p 79), quoted amount seems to refer to the prisoners of Cassar’s government.

22 A Semaphore Signal Station was erected on Ta’ Dhibiegi Hill in 1848. It was eventually relocated next to Ta’ Giordan Lighthouse after being damaged severely by bad weather.

23 A Semaphore Signal Station was erected on the southwest tip of the Nadur plateau (Ta’ Kenuna neighbourhood) in 1848. Its towering structure was employed as an Electric Telegraph and Cable Station between 1861 and 1883.

24 Giovanna Mizzu two scudi per week as from 21/11/1798; Maria Calleja two scudi per week as from 22/11/1798; Maria Grima two scudi per week as from 02/12/1798; Rosa Saliba 1 scudo per week as from 18/12/1798. Their husbands lost their life on 14th September 1798 during the third Gozitan attack on Fort Chambray. (Bezzina 1998, p 38)

25 The provision and transport of food stuffs, including Sicilian cheese.

26 A supply of arms and ammunition was made available by the Portuguese fleet blockading the Great Harbour. (Bezzina 1998, p 49)

27 The leading benefactors (five out of seven) hailed from the clergy, namely three cannons, a priest and a cleric.

28 A total of 54 donors including ten members of the clergy and six ladies.

29 Less substantive incomes originating from various activities/sources including the profits from the sale of bread.

30 A six page list featuring various expenses in connection with variety of activities, particularly the procurement of food stuffs (eggs, vegetables, fruits, olives, local & Sicilian cheese, poultry, mutton and beef), transport costs (including to and from Portuguese vessels), provision and transport of ammunition, and the donation of tobacco to the British forces.

31 Primo Viaggio di Napoli – 57. 9. 0, secondo 564. 2. 0

32 Viaggio per Siracusa – 161. 3. 0

33 Two gunnmen, a goal keeper and 53 soldiers.

34 A gunnmen and 29 soldiers

35 A complement of 10 defenders

36 A complement of 14 defenders

37 A complement of 5 defenders

38 A complement of eight defenders

39 A complement of four defenders

40 A complement of 10 defenders

41 A complement of 33 defenders

42 A complement of nine defenders

43 A complement of 12 defenders

44 A complement of six defenders

45 A complement of five defenders

46 A complement of four defenders

47 This includes the Ronda of Casal Caccia, Casal Nadur and Casal Żebbug.

48 Named by Giuseppe Abela.

49 Including the provision of beef, pork and wine.

50 Dr Francesco Pace met his future wife Lucia Dei Baroni Forno during these trips (De Bono p 48). Their son Gaetano served as Bishop of the Maltese Islands between 1857 and 1874.

51 The Girls Conservatory was constructed through the generosity of Bishop Labini in 1789. (Gau ci p 46)

52 Wheat and barley were imported from Sicily, namely through Syracuse and Agrigento. The quoted figure includes retail prices, transport to Gozo and per diem allowances granted to respective officials travelling abroad to oversee the deal.

53 Pace landed at Licata and proceeded overland to Palermo.

54 A total of 2000 salme (maltese mold – 0.2909m³) of barley were procured. Quoted amount includes various service charges like the drawing up and eventual copying of the procurement contract, and the fees of the respective Licata Harbour authorities.

55 Similar charges as in preceding note.

56 The payment for the wheat and barley purchased from Sicily was frustrated by sending all the spun thread produced on behalf of the Gozo Government on monthly shipments transported gratis to Sicily. (De Bono p 48)

57 Namely the purchase of the raw material, its manufacture, packaging in 99 sacks and eventual transport via Mgarr.

58 Being various salaries, additional expenses related to the procurement of wheat and barley and other extraordinary expenses.

59 Even though the Congress of the people of Gozo established a Cassa Nazionale for the provision of food supplies for the people of the island of Gozo (Bezzina p 47), Cassar seems to have made available his personal liquid capital to lubricate the day-to-day transactions.

Bibliographic Sources


Godwin Vella heads the Ethnography Unit within Heritage Malta.
Recent Activities at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus)

JOSEPH CALLEJA

Presentation of Certificates

The Hon. Giovanna Debono distributed certificates to 64 candidates who successfully completed the short courses at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus). The courses held were:

- ‘Introduction to Criminology’, conducted by Mr Saviour Formosa
- ‘Inclusive Education: Transforming Schools into Communities’ conducted by Dr Andrew Azzopardi
- ‘Transforming Schools into Communities’, coordinated by Dr Andrew Azzopardi

Minister Debono, commenting on the activities of the Gozo Campus, said that the partnership between the Ministry for Gozo and the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) is resulting in fostering education at all levels in Gozo and therefore making an important contribution to Gozitan society. Referring to the short courses offered at the Campus, Minister Debono said that she was very pleased that these courses were attracting participants from all walks of life and different age groups.

In his speech, Professor Lino Briguglio, who presided over the event, said that he was very pleased that so many students were seeing the need for further training and attending the courses offered by the Campus. This shows that the Campus is filling a very important void in Gozo. He thanked the Minister for Gozo and the University authorities for their continuous support of the Campus.

The Gozo Lace Day

The annual “Gozo Lace Day” event was organised for the thirteenth consecutive year on the 19th April 2009 at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) premises. The event consisted of a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lace-making. Present for the event were the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, Mr Anton Tabone, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, coordinator of the Lace Making Programme.

A presentation was delivered by Mr John Vella about the various types of thread that are available on the market for the making of lace. Ms Iris Galea Lowell also delivered an interesting lecture about ‘Lace-making from Prehistoric Times’.

Several persons, many of them lace makers, attended the event. The event included exhibitions of old lace pieces and textile crafts. Other exhibits were mounted by the International Organisation
of Needle and Bobbin Lace (OIDFA) and by the Malta Lace Guild. There were also demonstrations of sprang, embroidery, card weaving, tapestry weaving, cord lacing and information about courses in different aspects of Maltese Lace. Koperattiva Ghawdxija tal-Bizzilla u Artiġjanat were also present with lace making materials.

**New Webpage of the University of Malta (Gozo Campus)**

On 2nd May the University of Malta (Gozo Campus) launched its new webpage. It includes information about the Campus and about the services offered. It can be accessed at www.um.edu.mt/ugc

**Visit by the Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi**

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi, accompanied by Hon. Giovanna Debono, Hon. Dr Chris Said and Mr Joseph Calleja, talking to one of the participants.

On the 21st May, the Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi paid a short visit to the University Gozo Campus where he met with a number of participants who had followed courses co-financed by the European Social Fund held at the University Gozo Campus. Some of the participants explained how these courses had resulted in their decision to further their studies at tertiary level. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo and by Hon. Dr Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue.

**Public Lecture by Professor Raymond Ellul**

On 29th May Professor Raymond Ellul, from the Physics Department of the University of Malta, delivered a public lecture at the Ministry for Gozo entitled “A 12 Year Study of Atmospheric Pollution in the Central Mediterranean, A Maltese - German Project, 1993 - 2009”.

During his talk Professor Ellul summarised the work carried out during the last twelve years by the University of Malta. The University of Malta is the responsible Maltese academic entity appointed by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to run the University Atmospheric Research (GAW) station located at the Giordan Lighthouse in Gozo. Present for the lecture were the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo and Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector of the University of Malta.

**Opening of the Alliance Française branch in Gozo**

On 12th June the Alliance Française de Malte Méditerranée officially opened its new branch at the University Gozo Campus. The French Ambassador for Malta H.E. Mr Daniel Rondeau and Mr Anthony Borg from the Ministry of Gozo officially declared the branch open. The event
was also marked by a musical interval by soprano Marouska Attard and pianist Stephen Attard as well as by the opening of a photographic exhibition entitled “Paris la Métisse”. The exhibition featured 104 black and white photos by two French photographers Florence Batarière and Morgan Haël Jypsian. The photos reflected the cultural diversity in Paris from different aspects. Since last February the branch has offered a French course for adult beginners and showed a French film once a month. This summer the Alliance will be holding junior courses for secondary level students.

The French Ambassador for Malta H.E. Mr Daniel Rondeau (left), Mr Anthony Borg from the Ministry of Gozo (right) and Mr David Raphael Busuttil, President of the Alliance Française (centre), during the event.

Publications

The 19th edition of the Gozo Observer was published in December 2008. As in previous issues a number of articles on Gozitan affairs were included.

In this edition Maria Theresa Farrugia contributes an interesting article about the successful promotion of intangible heritage in the hamlet of Santa Luċija, Kercem, while Professor Charles Savona Ventura discusses Knight Templar remains found on the island of Gozo. Caroline Camilleri Rolls gives a summary about the Ġieħ Għawdex awards, and Maryrose Vella writes about the Gozo Discovery Bus. Paul G. Pisani presents an interesting article about his father Ġorġ Pisani on the 100th year from his birth. “A New Future for the Island – Eco Gozo” is the theme of an article by The Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, while Joe Muscat presents an article entitled, “Hitting or Missing Niche Markets”.

Free copies of the Gozo Observer and more information can be obtained from the University of Malta (Gozo Campus), Mgarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo.
Tel: 21 564559; Fax: 21 564550; E-mail: ugc@um.edu.mt; Web: www.um.edu.mt/ugc

The University of Malta (Gozo Campus)

Recently the Senate of the University of Malta has approved that the University Gozo Centre be given the status of campus and be renamed ‘The University of Malta (Gozo Campus)’

Joseph Calleja is Administrative Officer at the University of Malta (Gozo Campus).