



The Raoul Follereau Foundation (Malta) - The Order of Charity
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of the
Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

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RAOUL FOLLEREAU FOUNDATION (MALTA): NGO NO. VO/0980

Order of Charity Newsletter

Idejn Godda

Ashish huwa tifel ta' ħdax-il sena li jhobb l-isports, speċjalment it-tlielaq tal-ġiri. Izda ħajtu kollha dejjem kien jara l-marda tal-lebbra minħabba li ommu kienet infettata. Kienet tbat iħafna sakemm sabet l-ghajnuna u giet ikkurata, izda t-tifel għadda minn martirju. Huwa ma setax juża idu l-leminja minħabba li s-swaba ta' idu kienu magħqudin flimkien bil-lebbra. Lanqas seta' jzomm lapes f'idu.

Dan l-aħħar huwa kien operat fl-isptar fl-Indja biex ikun jista' juża idu. Bil-fisjoterapija li kien jingħata darbtejn

B'hekk issa huwa jista' jkollu futur 'il quddiem. Ikun jista' jkompli jmur l-iskola, jitgħallem sengħa u jaħdem meta jikber

ftit ieħor. Ma jibqax jiddependi minn ħaddieħor biex jaqla' x'jiekol.

Ashish beda jieħu lura dak li l-marda kiefra tal-lebbra kienet ħaditlu. Kien ixxurtjat li sab min jieħu ħsiebu biex ifieq. Izda hemm ħafna nies oħra, anke tfal bħal Ashish, li m'għandhomx min jaħseb fihom biex xi darba jfieuq, jew almenu min iħallsilhom għall-istess operazzjoni. Ma tixtieqx tgħin biex tfal bħal Asish ikunu jistgħu jużaw idejhom ħalli jkunu bħalek u bħali?

Fil-Maratona tal-Missjoni ta' das-sajf kien hemm 55 persuna ġeneruża li

offrew €200 biex jingħataw idejn godda lil dawk il-lebbużi li kienu tilfu subgħajhom. Jekk tixtieq tingħaqad magħhom, ibgħatilna dik is-somma u aħna nieħdu ħsieb nibgħatu l-offerta tagħkom ħalli nsalvaw dawn in-nies li jekk ma jkunux jistgħu jaħdmu, ikomplu jgħixu f'faqar kbir. GRAZZI ĦAFNA.

Chev. Tony C. Cutajar

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L-istorja tal-Lebbra f'Malta – Żmien l-Ingliżi— It-Tieni Darti

Prof. C. Savona-Ventura

Fi snin ta' wara it-Tieni Gwerra Dinija, il-komunità medika bdiet tirrikonoxxi l-fatt li waqt il-marda kienet waħda infettiva, ir-rata ta' infettività ma kienetx għolja waqt il-kura kienet għamlet xi avvanzi. Għalhekk f' 1953, il-ligi cwar il-lebra tbdilet u tnehhiet il-kuncett ta' internament sfurzatt bil-ligi. Din il-bidla fil-ligi rriżulta f'nuqqas fin-numru ta' lebrużi miżmu ma gewwa l-isptar. Li baqa kienu dawk il-każijiet antiki li kienu saru "institutionalised".

Fl-bidu tas-sittinijiet, bdiet diskussjoni dawr l-użu ta' kunbinazzjoni ta' antibiotici fuq il-principju tal-kura tat-tuberkulożi fejn il-mikrobu jista jigi ikkunsidrat bhala il-kuggin tal-mikrobu li jikkawża il-lebra. It-tobba Maltin kienu minn ta' l-ewwel li hadnu din l-ideja u f'Gunju ta' 1972, il-Gvern Malti inizza il-Progett Nazzjonali biex jeqred il-marda tal-lebra mil-Gzejjer Maltin billi kull każ magħruf jew identifikat mil-gdid gie mogħti kors fit-tul tat-tliet antibiotici li kienu jintużaw fil-kura tat-tuberkulożi. Il-Progett kien minnufieh ta' suc-

cess. Il-progett Malti sab ir-rikonnoximent tal-Għaqda Dinija tas-Sahha li hadnet il-principju ta' terapiji b'kombinazzjoni ta' antibiotici f'1981.

L-introduzzjoni ta' kura effettiva kellha effett sinifikanti fuq ix-xena lokali. Sa 1974, kien baqa bis 22 każijiet residenti fl-Sptar San Bartolimew. Dan l-isptar kien originalment mibni biex jzomm wisq aktar pazjenti. Għalhekk, dik is-sena il-każijiet li xtaqu jibgħu jgħixu f'istituzzjoni gew transferiti f'sit iehor fir-Residenza ta' Hal Ferha il-Għargħur. San Bartolimew biddel ir-rwol tiegħu u wara rifurbixment infetah bhala Rużar Briffa, imsemmi wara persuna li hadmet hafna għal gid tal-lebrużi. Il-pazjent li gew trasferiti Hal Ferha kienu pjuttost anzjani u bil-mod in-numru naqas minhaba

mwiet. F'1995 kien għad fadal biss hames persuni mil-grupp originali. L'ahhar kas gie transferit lura lejn San Vincenz f'Imgieret u Hal Ferha ingħalaq darba għal kollox f'2004. Fuq ix-xena nazzjonali, l'ahhar kas gdid tal-lebra li gie ir-raportat Malta kien fil 1999. Wiehed jista igħid li għalhekk il-marda tal-lebra giet estinta fl-Gzejjer Maltin. Dan ma jfissierx li ma għad fadal hadt li għadu jsofri mill-effeti ta' din l-infezzjoni. Il-persuna li tbat bil-lebra tingħata pensjoni mhux kontributorja. F'2008 kien hemm 50 persuna li kienu għadhom jircevu din il-pensjoni. Dawn naqsu mas-milja tas-snin u f'2012 kienu jgħoddu 36 persuna li bejniethom jircevu madwar €83,000.

L-istorja tal-
Lebbra
f'Malta—
Zmien l-
Ingliżi



MARA TA' KURAGĠ KBIR QALB IL- LEBBRUZI

Il-lebbra minn dejjem beżżgħet lil kulħadd iżda b'mod speċjali fis-seklu 19 meta kien maħsub li l-marda tittiehed. Iżda l-kuragġ u l-ġenerożità kbira ta' mara għenu biex itejbu l-ħajja tal-morda li kien hemm jgħixu waħedhom f'Ħawaii. Din kienet Madre Marianne li l-Kardinal Martins sejħilha "Mara li kellmet lid-dinja bil-lingwa tal-verità u tal-imħabba." Qal li "fit-tbatija tal-morda bil-lebbra hija rat il-wiċċ ibati ta' Ġesù. Bħas-Sammaritan it-Tajjeb hija saret ommhom."

Famous Lepers

Hija twieldet fit-23 ta' Jannar 1838 f'Hessen-Darmstadt, il-Ġermanja. Ta' sentejn il-familja Cope emigraw lejn l-Amerka. Ta' 24 sena hija saret soru mat-Tielet Ordni ta' San Frangisk fi New York u bdiet tgħallem fi skola tal-partroċċa.

Kienet superjuta f'kunventi differenti u anke fi sptar f'Sy-

racuse, fejn tgħallmet hafna li Swielha ta' ġid meta marret il-Hawaii. Kienet eletta provinċjala darbtejn.

Fl-1883 il-gvern ta' Hawaii talab għal volontiera minn 50 kunvent fl-Amerka u l-Kanada biex jieħdu ħsieb l-isptar fejn kienu jinżammu n-nies suspettati bil-lebbra. Kien hemm 35 soru mill-Ordni ta' Madre Marianna li offrew ruħhom. Fl-1883, Madre Marianne u sitt sorijiet oħra telqu lejn Hawaii barra Honolulu fejn fetħu sptar u skola għall-bniet.

Ħames snin wara, il-madre u żewġ sorijiet marru l-Molokai biex jiftħu dar għan-nisa li kellhom bżonn tal-protezzjoni. Il-gvern kien kontra li jibgħathom għal biċċa xogħol riskjuża bħal dik. Iżda l-Madre xejn ma beżżgħet u ħadet f'idejha d-dar li Patri

Damien de Veuster kien fetaħ għall-irġiel u s-subien lebbruzi. Madre Marianne biddlet il-ħajja ta' dawk in-nies billi introduċiet l-indafa u l-ferħ u d-daħq fil-kolonja. Ġagħlet lin-nisa jilbsu ħwejjeġ ikkuluriti u sbieħ biex jagħmlu l-qalb.

Ma setgħetx tfejjaqhom iżda almenu ma baqgħux nies imdejqa u mitluqa għal rashom. Il-gvern ta' Ħawaii onoraha għax-xogħol tagħha u Robert Louis Stevenson kiteb poezija dwarha. Hija ġibdet hafna tfajliet lejha u mietet fl-1918. Ġiet beatifikata fl-2005 u saret qaddisa fl-2012.



L-ISPIRTU TAL-MILIED

Kien fadal erbat ijiem għall -Milied. Kont għadni ma dħaltx fl-ispirtu tal-istaġun, anke jekk il-karozzi mlew kull rokna tal-parking quddiem is-supermarket. Ġewwa kien agħar minn barra. Kulhadd idur bit-trollies mimlija, donnu kulhadd mgħaġġel u kulhadd jaħbat u jgħaffeġ fuq xulxin.

“Għalfejn ġejt illum?” bdejt ngħid bejni u bejn ruħi. Rasi bdiet iddur bija u saqajja juġġhuni.

L-Ispirtu tal-Milied

Il-lista f’idi kellha ħafna ismijiet ta’ dawk li ma riedu xejn għall-Milied, izda jien kont naf li jieħdu għalihom jekk ma nagħtihomx xi rigal żgħir kemm hu żgħir.

Irnexxieli nimla t-trolley bla aħħar oġġetti u qbadt nersaq lejn fejn kien hemm ħafna nies jistennew biex iħallsu. Għażilt fejn deherli li kien hemm l-inqas nies izda kont żgura li ma nitlaqx mis-supermarket qabel għoxrin minuta oħra.

Quddiem kien hemm żewġ itfal żgħar – tifel ta’ xi ħames snin u tifla iżgħar.

It-tifel kien liebes ħwejjeg goffi u kbar ħafna għalih u żarbun li kien ilu li għamel

żmienu. F’idu kellu xi karta tal-flus.

It-tifla xejn ma kienet liebsa aħjar mit-tifel. Xagħarha kien imħabbell u fuq wiċċha kien jidher dak li kienet kielet il-lejl ta’ qabel. F’idejha kellha papoċċ sabiħ u jleqq. Mill-bogħod bdejt nisma’ l-kant tal-Milied u t-tifla bdiet tipprova tkanta xi strofa izda kienet stunata għall-aħħar.

Meta wasalna biex inħallsu, it-tifla qiegħdet il-papoċċ bil-galbu u b’attenzjoni kbira fuq il-bank.

“Dak €6.99,” qaltilha t-tfajla ta’ wara l-bank.

It-tifel qiegħed il-karta tal-flus mgħaffġa fuq il-bank. It-tfajla baqgħet tħares lejhom. “Jonqoskom €1.99,” qaltilhom wara ftit tal-ħin.

It-tifel għamel ta’ birruħu li fittex fil-bwiet. “Ikollna npoġġuh f’postu,” qal lil oħtu. “Nerġġhu niġu darb’oħra, forsi għada.”

It-tifla tniehded. “Izda Ġesù żgur li kienu jogħġbuh...” qalet minn taħt l-ilsien u b’dispaċir fi kliemha. “Immorru d-dar u naħdmu ftit ieħor,” qalilha. “Issa kollu għalxejn li toqgħod tibki. Imxi.”

Dawn it-tfal kienu ilhom ħin twil fil-kju. Fuq kollox, issa kien żmien il-Milied. Qbadt u poġġejt munita ta’

€2 quddiem it-tfajla. “Żomm il-bqija,” għeditilha.

F’daqqa waħda par dirgħajn daru miegħi u lehen irqiq qal, “Grazzi, sinjura.”

“Għaliex għedt li Ġesù jogħġbuh?” staqsejt lit-tifla.

Qabeż it-tifel u qalli, “Ommi marida u sejra l-ġenna. Missieri qal li forsi tmur qabel il-Milied biex tkun ma’ Ġesù....”

“U l-għalliema qaltilna li t-toroq tal-ġenna jleqqu bħad-deheb, bħal dal-papoċċ,” kompliet it-tifla. “Kemm tkun sabiħa ommi b’dal-papoċċ!”

Għajnejja ntlew bidmugh. “Iva, ħafna,” għeditilha.

Dak il-ħin irringrazzajt ‘l Alla li dawn it-tfal fakkruni dwar l-ispirtu veru tal-Milied u ddecidejt li nkun ġeneruża, mhux mal-qraba u l-ħbieb, izda ma’ min m’għandux biex igawdi xi ftit bħali. Tajthom €10 u serraħt il-kuxjenza.



A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON MEDIEVAL LEPROSY

by Katy Meyers Emery

Leprosy was an epidemic disease that not only infected millions of people over a span of thousands of years, but it still remains a threat in Third World countries. Due to its destructive effects on the flesh of those infected, leprosy created a history of fear and segregation caused by misconceptions and rumour. In the United Kingdom, during the Middle Ages leprosy reached its highest prevalence. In the mid-twelfth century alone it is estimated that there were 1.5 million cases of leprosy in England and Scotland. From the 11th to 16th centuries in England there were over 300 documented leper hospitals, most of which were founded prior to the 14th century. While it was thought that these hospitals were a location for outcasted leper victims, it has been found that they served a wide range of individuals suffering from diverse diseases and health issues.

One such leper hospital is that of St Mary Magdalen in Winchester, UK. The site is located on the outskirts of the medieval town, a common location for these types of institutions. It was founded in the 11th century, and is first documented as a leper hospital in the mid-12th century. By the 14th century it had expanded its function and opened to other types of diseases and health concerns. A total of 54 burials were found at the site, with 49 complete inhumations and 5 scattered remains. A recent study focuses on a sample from the cemetery consisting of 38 individuals. These were separate from the others spatially, and date primarily from the 11th to mid-12 centuries. It is thought that these were the patients of the hospital. [International Journal of Paleopathology, 2012, 2 (4), 170-180]

Leprosy is a chronic infection of the peripheral nervous system, and in its secondary phase can cause changes to the bone. It is highly infectious, transmitted through infected droplets, and incubates over a long period of time. In skeletal remains, leprosy appears as distinctive changes in the facial bones including rounding and enlargement of the nasal aperture, destruction of the small nasal bones, and resorption (loss) of jaw bone. Remodeling and loss of bone most frequently occurs in the hands and feet.

There can also be bony buildup on the limb bones in reaction to the infection. Loss of phalanges and limbs can also occur due to the loss of nerve sensation.

Of the individuals buried in the external cemetery, 84% had skeletal evidence for leprosy. In comparison with other known leper hospitals, this is an extremely high percentage. At St James and St Mary Magdalene in Chichester, 19.5% of individuals had skeletal indicators of leprosy. The site of St John Timberhill in Norwich had similar results, with 19.4% leprosy individuals. There was also a much higher percentage of sub-adults with leprosy at the site under investigation in comparison with others. A potential reason for the discrepancies between sites may be that leprosy only affects bone in 3-5% of the cases. The hospital at St Mary Magdalen in Winchester may be a site where the worst cases were taken, whereas other locations accepted a full range of leprosy individuals, many of which may have only shown soft tissue manifestations of the infection.

It appears that St Mary Magdalen of Winchester may represent an actually dedicated leper hospital. Given its earlier date, this may be one of the first types of this institution, which in later variations expanded its purpose. Despite the fact that they were consigned to a life outside of the normal town, the evidence from the cemetery and site show that the lepers were not down-trodden outcasts, but rather were well-taken care of and provided proper burials. As archaeological work reveals more evidence for leprosy in this period, it appears that these hospitals were not homes to the stigmatized outcasts, but rather were charitable institu-

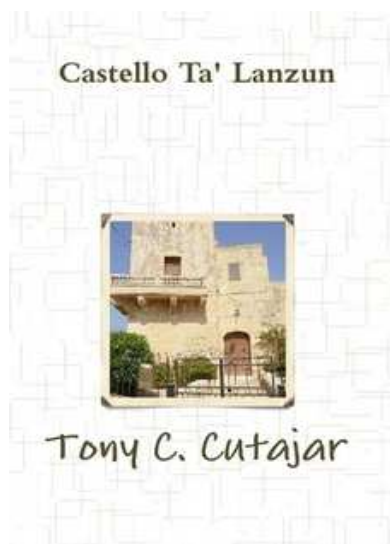


Skull with features of leprosy from St Mary Magdalen Leprosarium

Castello Ta' Lanzun **By Tony C. Cutajar**

The outbreak of the plague in 1676 not only was the worst in Malta's history but lay bare the very soul of all the people at large, be they Knights, well-to-do or poor. The city of Bormla was so very badly hit that half of its population got infected. Wenzu Lanzun lost his wife and three of his children and couldn't bear to live in his alley house any longer with all its memories. To protect himself and his remaining son he sought greener pastures literally in San Giljan where he bought a farmhouse and started a new life.

Little did he know that the Turkish pirates loved this quiet area and often climbed up the valley to see what they could lay their hands on, crops, animals and even people. Wenzu often found sheep or a cow missing and fearing for his life and that of his son he reinforced his property and turned it into a strong tower. Torri ta' Lanzun is still extant and is under the patronage of the ancient and philanthropic Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.



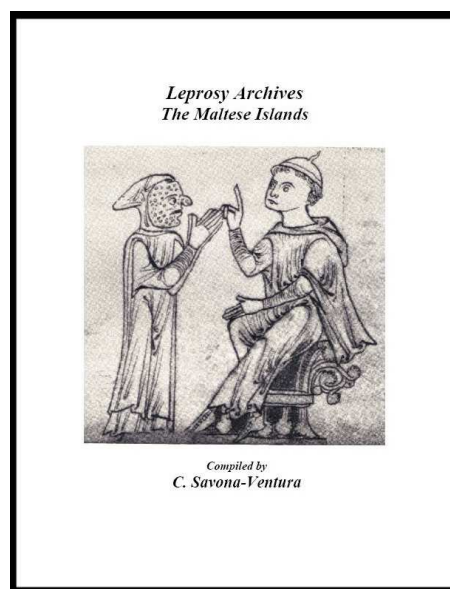
<http://www.lulu.com/shop>

Leprosy Archives – The Maltese Islands. **By Charles Savona-Ventura**

Published by: The Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLI, Malta, 2006, +16p. [updated 2007] [e-book publication in Adobe Acrobat].

Can be accessed freely from: www.stlazarusmalta.org/pdf_files/leprosy.pdf

This e-publication details the history of leprosy in the Maltese Islands and includes an annotated bibliography, a biographical profile of a prominent leprologist, a short history of the various leprosuria, a history of the Order of St. Lazarus in Malta, statistical tables about leprosy in Malta, and finally the legal code that pertains to leprosy.



IL-~~H~~ADD 31 TA' JANNAR 2016
HUWA JUM IL-LEBBRUŽI
Ma ninsewhomx!

Fondi għas-sena 2015

- ◆ Mill-Maratona Televizziva ta' din is-sena rcevejna €30,000 li €11,000 minnhom intbagħatu minn 55 donaturi bil- €200 kull wiehed biex nagħtu par idjn jew saqajn godda lill-lebruzi li ma jistgħux juzaw subgħajhom.
- ◆ Il-kumplament ser jitqasmu fil-granet li gejjin lil għaqdiet li jahdmu mal-lebruzi fil-Mizzjoni.

Fondi migbura din is-Sena 2015

- ◆ Bagħtna wkoll €750 lill-Fondazzjoni RAISE li membri zgħazagħ tagħha marru ma Dun Gorg Grima l-Etjopja biex jibnu fejn joqgħodu erba lebruzi.
- ◆ Gew migbura €743.55 fil-Wirja tal-vari tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa fiz-Zurrieq imtella minn Chev. Dr Victor Camilleri tal-Ordni Militari u Ospitaljera ta' San Lazzru ta' Gerusalem.

- ◆ Grazzi lil dak il-membru tagħna li bagħatitilna €500 għall-bzonnjiet tal-lebbruzi.

Nixtiequ nfakkruhom li meta tibgħatu ček, dejjem tiktbu isimkhom u l-indirizz biex nibgħatulkhom irċevuta.

**Grazzi għall-generozita tagħkom.
Nixtieqilkhom il-Milied it-Tajjeb**

U

**S-Sena l-Gdida 2016
Mimlija Risq, Hena u Barka**



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The Raoul Follereau Foundation [Malta] - Order of Charity is a non-profit organisation set up in Malta in 1967 with the goal of collecting monetary support for the assistance of lepers throughout the World. It forms part of the international Raoul Follereau Foundation established in 1946 by the world famous anthropologist who died in 1977. The main aims of the Foundation are:

- to encourage social help to those suffering from leprosy;
- to ascertain that these people are treated as they should;
- to help lepers find their place in society;
- to give financial help to leprosaria and missions working with them.

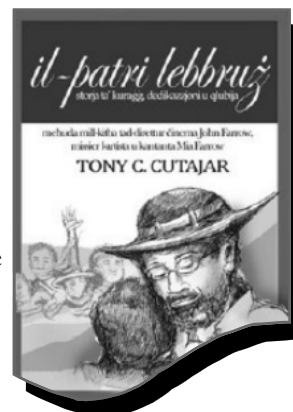


Raoul Follereau

*Help us help fight the scourge of
leprosy*

Kif tista int tghin ix-xoghol tal-Ordni tal-Karità

- Billi issir membru tal-għaqda—dan jiswa biss is-somma ta' €10 fis-sena. Li tkun membru jfisser li tircevi in-newsletter regolari b'mogħod elektroniku jew pubblikata.
- Billi tagħti donazzjoni b'kull ammont li tixtieq int. Sintendi kull donazzjoni tigi rikonnexuta b'rcevuta
- Billi tixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbruz* li jipprezenta storja ta' kuragg, dedikazzjoni u qlubija tal-qaddis li gie ddikjarat il-patron tal-presuni morda bil-lebbra. Il-Patri Lebbruz Damjan ta' Molokai kien mar jahdem f'kolonja tal-lebbuzzi abbandunati minn kulhadd. Għalihom kien sacerdot, tabib, bennej, mexxej, habib, missier. Fi ftit kliem kien l-għajn tas-salvazzjoni u t-tama tagħhom. Jum fost l-oħrajn, beda l-omelija tiegħu bil-kliem: "Għez iez huti lebbuzzi..." biex hekk qasam mal-kompatrijotti tiegħu fuq il-Ġz ira ta' Molokaj, l-aħbar li hu wkoll kien ittiehed mill-marda. Miet ta' 49 sena. Huwa u gie ddikjarat qaddis sitt snin ilu mill-Papa Benedittu XVI. Il-Ktieb jinbiegħ €6.50 biss inkluss il-posta. Ibghat cekk ta' €6.50 pagabbli lill-Ordni tal-Karita.



Offerta mill-qalb

Jiena _____ Nru tal-ID _____ li noqgħod

_____ Kodiċi Postali _____,

Email: _____

⇒ qed nibgħat cekk nru _____ bhala donazzjoni bis-somma ta':

€5 €10 €15 €20 €25 donazzjoni libera € _____

⇒ Nixtieq insir membru ta' l'Ordni tal-Karità u nibdha nircevi in-newsletter regolarment....€10

⇒ Lest nircevi in-newsletter b'mogħod elektroniku.....

⇒ Nippreferi in-newsletter pubblikata.....

⇒ Nixtieq nixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbruz*.....€6.50