

# 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 Ġgantija 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 'Lejlet 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.

