

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

ENROLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

1962, January 13: Maltese Union Club, New York; Deustches Historisches Institut, Rome.

February 14: Mr. Lawrence Schiavone, M.A. Mr. Alfred Fiorini, Ph.C. Mr. Joseph Attard. Rev. F. Romeo Grech O.C.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND READING OF PAPERS

29th January 1962 — Fifty first General Meting held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana.

Dr. Marjorie Edwards delivered a talk on the subject "Earning and spending in the first half of the 19th Century in Malta".

Afterwards Prof. Bonnici, The President, read the annual report. The Hon. Treasurer gave his report on the society's finances during the year. In 1961 receipts amounted to £69. 15s. 0d., while the expenditure during the same period was £67. 6s. 9d. Balance in hand amounts to £60. 11s. 11d.

Fr. Fiorini moved that Mgr. Prof. Bonnici be confirmed as President of the Society by acclamation. Mr. E. Leopardi seconded the motion which was approved *nemine contrario*. Then F.B. Fiorini O.F.M. Conv., Mr. E.R. Leopardi; Prof. J. Galea, M.D; Prof. S. Zarb, O.P., Mr. V. Denaro., Prof. A. Vella, O.P., Dr. P. Cassar, M.D. and Chev. V. Bonello were elected Members to form the Committee for 1962.

26th March 1962, Fifty second General Meeting held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana.

Two talks were delivered 1) by Dr. Paul Cassar, M.D., on "A document written on wood relative to the plague of 1813"; 2) by Fr. Bonaventure Fiorini, O.F.M. Conv: "San Francesco venuto a Malta? — disamina Storica."

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V A R I A

During the 25 years Prof. G. Aquilina has occupied the chair of Maltese literature in the Royal University of Malta he has found time to publish a surprising number of literary studies concerning the inhabitants, customs, history, language, etymology and topography affecting these islands. In addition various novels, short stories and an anthology of Maltese prose and poetry, collected with the collaboration of Prof. P.P. Saydon, were published in continental reviews as well as in local papers which succeeded in establishing and propagating the Maltese language in its present form.

These scientific publications were well received both in Europe, particularly in France, Italy and in England, and, in the United States of America.

Prof. Aquilina attended various international congresses, the latest was the Seventh International Congress of Onomastic Sciences where he read a paper on *Influenze Arabe Sulla Toponomastica Maltese* which was published in the proceedings of this Congress.

To commemorate all these activities and in recognition of the valuable services rendered to the Maltese language a successful *Soiree Lyrique* was organised by the *Societe Academique Maltaise* held in March.

W. F. BELLIZZI.

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An interesting addition to local literature is the first number of the *Maltese Folklore Review* edited by J. Cassar Pullicino, A.L.A., (Giov. Muscat & Co. Ltd. Printers 5/—). The perspective of time has rendered of greater value to students specializing in this facet of historical research. Beyond this sphere its appeal is bound to be limited and its popularity is subject to the limitation imposed to all multilingual publications.

A study on the marketing of farm produce featured by Prof. J. Galea and another by Prof. Raffaele concerning Malta and its Festas are worthy of particular attention. The Maltese Folk songs contributed by the editor can be taken as a gauge for the philosophical tendencies of the older generations of these islands.

W. F. BELLIZZI.

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