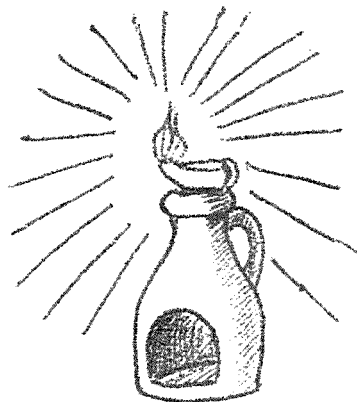


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L·IMNARA



HARGA No 4

AWWISSU 1981

MAHRUG MILL - GHAQDA TAL - FOLKLOR

L - I M N A R A

BULLETTIN TAL - GHAQDA TAL - FOLKLOR

HARGA No. 4

AWWISSU 1981

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Il-kontenut ta' dan il-Bullettin huwa 'copyright' u xejn minnu ma jista' jigi riprodott minghir il-kunsens bil-miktub ta' l-Editor u l-awtur kuncernat. L-Imnara u l-Editor huma ufficjalment irregistrati ghand il-Press Registrar.

L-opinjoni jiet espressi f'dan il-Bullettin m'humiex bilfors daww ta' l-Editor jew tal-Ghaqda tal-Folklor, jekk ma jkunx hemm specifikat li hu hekk.

Editor: Guido Lanfranco. Korrispondenza, artikoli, hlasijiet ghandhom jintbghatu lilu f'78, St.Trophimus Street, Sliema, Malta.



ATTIVITAJIET TAL-GHAQDA TAL-FOLKLOR

Minbarra ix-xoghol normali li tirrikjedi Ghaqda, billi jsiru laqghat tal-kumitat, korrispondenz, u rutina, din-is-sena li ghaddiet mindu harget l-ahhar Mnara, kienet ukoll mimlija negozjati dwar il-ftur tal-Muzew tal-folklor, u issa il-preparazzjonijiet qed jghagglu aktar. Kellna diversi laqghat mal-PRO tal-Ministeru tal-Kultura, s-Sur Michael Schembri, u ukoll ergajna morna naraw il-preparamenti fil-palazz ta' l-Inkwizitur, (18-8-81),

30-5-81; invistajna il-Muzew tal-Knisja ta' Haz-Zabbar, u 3-6-81 kienhemm laqgha ta' diskussjoni, fis-sede ta' Din L-Art Helwa, il-Belt.

Is-Segretarju onorarju, G. Lanfranco, ta ghajnuna lill-Jane Griffin, li giet mill-Amerka biex taghmel studju dwar San Pawl f'Malta, dawwarha il-postijiet konnessi ma' l-Appostlu, u hija uriet l-apprezzament taghha fil-kitba li harget. Ukoll, is-segretarju ghamel tahdita dwar il-folklor lokali, (26-3-81), lill-grupp ta' xi tletin, membri tal-Ghaqda "Young Women Christian Association li gew mill-Ingilterra, u qaghdum fid-Dolmen Hotel.

Il-Kumitat ghas-sena 1981 huwa hekk: President: Dr. C. Cassar, MD, G. Lanfranco, Segretarju Onorarju; Raf. Bonnici Cali' Kaxxier Onorarju; Membri: is-S'ri J. Buontempo, Angħo Dougall, Charles Coleiro, Jos. Drago, Dr. V. M. Pellegrini, LL.D., Miss. M. R. Pisani. President Onorarju, is-Sur J. Cassar Pullicino.

EVENTS OF FOLKLORISTIC INTEREST

by GUIDO LANFRANCO

A chronological list from August 1979, to July 1981. This is a list incorporating also material which had to be excluded from Mnara No.3 of 1980, due to lack of space.

1979

August

The Minister of Trade gave advance notice about a law to abolish toys in the form of weapons, like revolvers, swords, etc.. The Peace Lab, Hal Far, had children ceremoniously bury toys.

13th Aug., the Perseid meteor shower reached its maximum, and reminds one of the Gozitan tradition, when people go out on the fields to look for St. Laurence's Coal; the meteor shower is known as 'tears of St. Lawrence'

Grocers will henceforth be closed on Sundays and public holidays; In recent years there used to be a roster, now abolished.

Horse races were held at Ghajnsiolen on the occasion of the feast of the Madonna of Loreto.

Feast of St. Helen, B'Kara, again started to be held in the morning; in 1978 it was held in the afternoon.

September

Maltese Folk Group returned from Libya (Tripoli); 'Viva Malta' had taken part in a folk festival, for 1st Sept. Revol. celebrations.

On the Fest of Our Lady, at Mosta, sparrows with strings and ribbons on their legs, streaming behind, were released from the church door, as the statue was coming out. Whilst it is part of a celebration, it is still cruelty to birds, and no need to be encouraged.

8th September commemorated as usual with a Mass for the Dead of the sieges at St. John's co-Cathedral. Wreaths were laid at the monument, Victory Square, Vittoriosa, by the Vittoriosa Cult. & Hist. Soc.; From this year, Govt. representatives laid wreaths at foot of Freedom monument at Vittoriosa, instead of other sites. The regatta took place as well.

Sar il-pellegrinagg tar-roti u muturi mir-Rabat -Mosta, ghall Haz-Zabbar, fil festa tal-Madonna tal-Grazzja, fejn tbierku.

Horse races at St. Venera for 23rd, were cancelled, due to no permit being given, as a public road was to be used; these had to be organized by the Nationalist Party Club. At Ghaxaq, 18 races were held for the 2nd year, patronized by the Minister for Sports.

The Curia announced that bells should not be rung between 11pm and 6p m, except Christmas and Easter; also permissible after Thursday evening function, Friday 3pm; calling people to mass should not exceed 10 notes; Permissible also at funerals.

October

At parish of Burmarrad, 21st, blessing of farmers' tools.

14th, feast of St. Dimitri, Gharb, Gozo.

November

As from this year, Poppy Day will be discontinued; the British Legion had contributed to the fund since its inception. The occasion used to be very popular in Malta, with poppies of several types sold for funds, big ones on cars and horses, small on label.

Christ the King, as from this year, will include a Jesus Festival in front of St. John's, after the cortege from Floriana; formerly it was a long, elaborate cortege, from Castille, through valletta, to Floriana granaries.

December

The Ministry of culture, opened a museum of old machinery, at Sta Venera, the Vincenzo Bugeja Technical Museum, at the Social Action Centre.

For Christmas, the National Festivities Committee organized the Christmas Crib competition, the street lighting competition, and for the first time, open air cribs.

The fifth anniversary of Republic Day was celebrated on the 13th at Cospicua and Vittoriosa Freedom Monument.

On 16th, Canterini di Ortigia, a folk group from Sicily, gave a show at the Phoenicia, organized by the Italian Cultural Institute.

On Christmas and New Year, bus services will stop between noon and 3.30pm, for a lunch time break.

1980

January

26th & 27th people were encouraged to present gifts of money or food at church, to be presented to the archbishop for needy children. This was on Candlemas.

24th, a mass for journalists, on the occasion of their protector, St. Frances de Sales; held at Catholic institute.

Museum Dept. issued a set of four engravings; two maps by Ittar and Pauli, and two costumes by Zimelli.

1980 (Cont'd)

February

The seminarians lit the candles of the congregation outside the oratory of St. John, to initiate the celebration of Candlemas Ceremony.

Malta's republic Day was celebrated for the first time in Paris on December 13th, by the Charge'd'Affaires at the Embassy of Malta in Paris. The Maltese community of South California, celebrated New Year's Eve with maltese dishes. (both reported Feb 1980)

March

Penitential procession at Senglea with Statue of Redeemer, led by the Archbishop.

Mater Boni Consigli School, Paola, held a Figolla competition

Last Supper displays of the Table were held as usual in Valletta and Cospicua, Paceville (Augustinians) and Lija.

Miniature passion statue, standards, etc, were carried by boys in the miniature passion procession at Qormi; it is known as 'Tal-Bonu', and for several years organized by Karmenu Azzopardi.

April

St. Paul's Missionary College, Rabat, Ladies Circle organized a Figolla competition.

Good Friday Processions taking place in Malta were 13, Gozo 5.

Freedom day celebrations took place at Vittoriosa and Valletta March 31st. and at Victoria Gozo. It was also celebrated in Moscow, by the Malta-USSR Friendship Society.

6th April. Resurrection Procession did not take place because of rain, in the morning, but at Qormi was held in the afternoon. This has not happened for many years. At Paola, held Sunday later.

Hilton Hotel organized a competition of decorated easter eggs, including hard-boiled eggs.

A Figolla Party was held for the second electoral district children, by the Ministry of works and sports.

On Teleblea Sicilian TV,, the Qormi Good Friday Procession was screened.

San Gior traditional feast was inaugurated with the Zejtun procession; At Marsaxlokk, was the usual gathering, but bad weather discouraged the first dip for several.

The ballroom and the loggia foyer of the Hilton, provided an exhibition of local industries and crafts, including a kajikk, fish, lace, pottery, qubbajt stand, wicker, filigree, etc., all with the worker present on the spot; organized by Chaine de Rotisseurs.

This year, the Kalkara parish had its turn in offering the oil for the whole year, in the silver lamp offered by the Order of St. John in 1960 to the Grotto of St. Paul at Rabat.

13th; Resurrection procession held at Vittoriosa; it had been cancelled due to rain.

The Hilton organized an egg-hunt; young guests collected them from where they were hidden in various places in the hotel.

The Catholic Action organized a Best-dressed Doll Competition at San Anton Gardens, for part of their Spring Festival.

May

St. Joseph the worker, celebrated by political parties, and by the church. In several localities, a procession before mass consisted of carrying different tools of trades, to church, for blessing. No floats took part in the May Day festivities.

The National Festivities Committee re-introduced the Kummitiva in Gozo, for Carnival, this year; It took place last about 35 yrs. ago. The Committee also organized a carnival cake competition for confectioners, restaurants, hotels, etc..

For carnival, four foreign folk groups were invited to participate; one from Yugoslavia, one Poland, one Monaco, and another from Messina.

The Siggiewi Farmers' Centre, Siggiewi, organized a ceremony for the blessing of farmers' tools and animals.

June

Fireworks regulations were reconfirmed by police; Permits given for 20mins. salute when statue is taken out of niche; during the triduum after the functions; Eve of feast, 20mins after morning church funct. for 30 mins. after evening translation, for 1 hr. ground displays; before 11pm. On feast day, for 20mins after morning Te Deum, for 30 mins after after noon function, for 30 mins before procession, for 30 mins on termination of procession. The licenced person, confirmed by the Għaqda Piroteknici Maltin is to be on the spot during firing, & responsible to remove unexploded petards. Petards over 7 1/2 cm, rockets exceeding 15cm diam., rockets with bomb attachments, wrapping material other than cardboard, are not permitted.

Father's Day is catching on; mother's day is well established since the 50's. The Cemetary is visited for both occasions by those who lost their father and mother, and flowers are available for sale.

Feast of St. Anthony of Padova is held by the Franciscans Mönar, and includes blessing and distribution of bread to children at evening mass. At Ghajn Dwieli a procession is also held.

21st June someone imagined seeing a white-robed lady, or nun, walking on the sea at the Exiles, Sliema; different versions changed the story and some saw her with dogs, others at St. Andrews, etc. Two men are said to have been taken to hospital, for treatment against shock.

(June 1980 cont'd)

Mnarj included a defile' of traditional horsedrawn vehicles, farmers tools on show, folk-singing during night, and agricultural show. A defile' of folk costumes was also organized inside Buskett.

July

As part of the Marian Renewal '80, a pilgrimage left the Carmelite church at Valletta, with the statue, and stopped at the granaries Floriana, in the evening, where thousands participated with lighted candles. (19th July)

11th; two persons killed, five injured, at Zebbug limits, on explosion of fireworks factory. Parliament set up a committee to recommend ways of avoiding similar tragedies, and fireworks were meanwhile banned. Police raided fireworks stores, arrested clandestine workers in this field, and by end of July the committee drew up a preliminary report. By 25th police restarted issuing permits. Many towns and villages had postponed their feast days due to lack of fireworks.

Feast of Christ the King, Paola included new decorations, amongst them a statue of Grand Master Antoine de Paule. made in papier mache' by Fr. George Deguara.

August

Feast of Santa Marija celebrated in 10 towns and villages in Malta and Gozo.

The Bishop of Gozo led a pilgrimage of the sick and disabled to Rome and Lourdes.

St. Michael's Fireworks Factory workers of Lija, returned from Monaco, after winning first prize at the International Fireworks competition. They were greeted at Luqa, and escorted home by a fleet of 10 decorated cars from Lija.

Changes of street names Valletta: Britttania Str. now Melita Str. Irish Str. now Mediterranean Str.; Scots. Str., now Mikiel Anton Vassalli Str. Vittoriosa Irish Str., now Wenzu Dyer Str.; Britttannia. St. now Hilda Tabone Str.; Sliema Prince of Wales Junction, now Christian Brothers Str.; (Freres); Prince Albert Street, now Guze' Ellul Mercer; Alexandra Street, now Karm Galea Str. Naxxar Coronation Str., now Guze' Muscat Str.; Gozo, (Nadur) High Str., now December 13th Str.; (Sannat) Zabbetta Str., now October 10th Str.; (Xewkija) Britttania Str., now Freedom Str.; Britannia Junction, now Molina Junction.

(Duke of York Str. Paola, now F. Tortell Str.)
New Additions to Street Names include: Malta (Cospicua) John Pace; (Fgura) Pellicani, Sur, Aldebaran, Merhba,; (Sengkea) Marzu 31; (Vittoriosa) Triq '79; (Marsaxlokk): Labour, Dun Slav Gatt, Gorg. Gravina, Xatt is- sajjieda; (Zabbar): Dukkar, Telliera, Silla, il-'Vulkan', Qoton, Ghollieq, Kittien, Saghtar, Ghobbejra, Gilbiena, Kahwiela, Krexxuni; (Paola): Temi Zammit, Fuhhar, Xu; (Tarxien): Hagar;



(August 1980 cont'd)

(Mqabba): Xriek, Imterrqa, Fidwa, Pal, ic-Cavi, Troll, Saljatura;
 (Safi) Nassaba, Kaccaturi, Kuccard, Summien, Tellerit; (Siggiewi):
 Demnuq, Rebbiegha, Newba, Swieqi, Lorenzo Gafa', L-Iskola, Hal Xluq,
 Hal Nikluzi, Hal Kbir, Tal Providenza, Pietru Felici, Kircippu,
 Pawlu VI, Pietru Mallia, l-Ghid; (B'kara): G. Dimech Debono;
 (Sta. Venera): Qawsalla, Turretta; (Lija): tal-Mirakli, Hal Bordi;
 Gozo (Victoria): Viani, Karlu Galea, G. Fenek, Gilju, Magri, Saghtar,
 Borg Gasriju, Marzu Zi, Wistin Camilleri, Anici, Cetta Mintoff,
 Fomm il-Gir, Mattia Preti; (Ghajnsielem): Malta, Kemmuna, Gilfla,
 Maghdi-ja, 'Gleneagles', Bahhara, 'Guzeppi Cali', Gawwi, Cief, Latini;
 (Gharb): Tumas Cassar, Felic Grech; (Kercem): Guze' Flores, Sokkors,
 Kalandriet, Bies, Ghadira, Wenzu Mintoff, Gojgin, Gamlem, Summien,
 Horg, (Marsalforn): Luzzu, Qolla; (Munxar): Qasab, Tarsus;
 (Nadur): F. Attard, Lazzru Pisani, Piju Cellini, Isqof Buttigieg,
 Agius de Soldanis, Ellul Mercer, Imnarja, Guze' Bonnici, Emigranti,
 Bingemma, tal-Hali; (Gala): F. Barocci, Wied is-Sultan, Barbagann,
 Ottubru 30; (Sannat): L-Iskola, il-Blat; (Xaghra): Bambina, Aris,
 Mithna, Juel, Magdes; (Xewkija): A. Mallia Vernon, Arcipriet Grech,
 Indri' Borg, Majmuna, Labour, Rotunda, Wignet il-Bahar, Sardinell,
 Narcis, Gronfol, Gizi; (Xlendi): Sajjieda, Sienja, Omeru, Atena,
 Merkurju;

Other Street Changes: Floriana Britannia Street, now V. Dimech Str.
 Hamrun Lord Lynd Str. now Manuel Magri Str.

September

Maria Mater Gratiae Band Club, Zahhar, inaugurated a canopied
 lattice-work, (Kannizzata) donated by supporters.

December

The National Festivities Committee, organized a Christmas Crib
 competition with several categories; open air, mechanical, static,
 For the first time also competition for the best locally made
 pasturi.

Feast of St. Lucy held at Naxxar, Dec. 13th;

1981

January

Blessing of animals ceremony took place at Rabat, Mosta, St. Venera,
 and Xaghra, Gozo.

February

The General Soft Drinks Co. Ltd., inaugurated a 'Sprite' folk-singing
 campaign, starting with Zejtun, and meant to follow in other villages
 and towns. The best-known folk singers participated.

March

23rd; report by the committee set up to recommend measures for the
 control of fireworks manufacture presented final report to parliament.

(1981, cont'd)

The Minister of Education suspended the Lenten Sermons in Schools; the sermons had never been interrupted; the suspension was effected after a pastoral of the bishops offended the authorities.

Prime Minister announced that there would be no fireworks for the March 31st festivities.

April

Fireworks manufacturers showed disagreement with the report of recommendations by the committee set up by government for the purpose, as they cannot work if the conditions recommended are to materialize,

The Europa set of Malta stamps depicts the Mnarja races, and the Gostra.

The Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Hamrun, organized a live Last Supper presentation for Maunday Thursday and Good Friday. From this year, The Paceville Last Supper will include a set of passion statues.

24 April, issued list of numerous other street name changes.

May

The Rabat Farmers' Centre of the Social Action Movement, organized a ceremony of the blessing of farmers' tools and machinery, near the Church of St. Dominic.

In support of Polio Week, the Phoenicia Hotel organized the "Qirew" a type of banquet of the past.

The construction of December 13 Rd., Marsa, highway, exposed a well on the rock cut wall of the road; volunteers turned it into a 'cave' overlooking the road, and housed Our Lady of Lourdes statue, blessed on 8th.

For Mother's Day, Cana Movement organized various activities, including visit to maternity section of hospitals; Addolorata Cemetery, masses; entertainment for lone mothers.

The long established and popular Market at Valletta, ceased to function on 31st, by Govt. order; the Belt is-Sebh Market replaces it.

Carnival this year had only two grotesque mask bands participating, although other sections were well represented. Foreign folk groups included, Germany, France, Poland, Morocco, Sicily. A new introduction is the Mascot Competition, with the dancing groups, for children.

Xandir Malta, since its inception as Rediffusion, had broadcast Sunday Mass direct from various Churches; this year, only from the Ursuline church, G'manga.

June

Archbishop issued circular to parish priests, stressing need to deal with priorities in their church, when spending money; collection for furnishings, construction and changes, must first receive the approval of the Curia.

July

At the Trade Fair, Naxxa, the Agriculture and Fisheries section exhibited a large number of tools and objects formerly more often found and used in farms and houses of villages.

NOTA DWAR IL - MUZEW TAL - FOLKLOR

Huwa mahsub li dan il-Muzew Nazzjonali tal-Folklor ser jiftah aktar tard din-is-sena, mill-Ministeru tal-Kultura. Minn xi ftit snin ilu, l-hawn, l-Ghaqda tal-Folklor uriet interess specijali f'dan il-progett, kellha laqghat mal-Ministru u mad-Direttur tal-Muzewijiet, kitbet fil-gazzetti biex titlob ko-operazzjoni pubblika, gabret xi materjal, ghamlet xi donazzjonijiet, u offriet ghajnuna u informazzjoni fejn jehtieg. Ahna minn qalbna nawguraw li dan il-muzew jiftah b'wicc il-gid, biex b'hekk ikollna nukleju ta' oggetti u informazzjoni dwar il-folklor lokali, li fuqu jinbena aktar, meta il-pubbliku jidra japprezza aktar il-wirt ta' missirijietna. Ser ikun fil-palazz ta' l-inkwizitur, il-Birgu, li fl-istess hin ser jinzamm bhala palazz ta' l-epoka u statura tieghu stess, u ghalhekk dan mhux ser ikun biss bidu tal-muzew tal-folklor, izda wkoll monument nazzjonali tal-epoka tieghu.

EX VOTO U WEGHDIET

MINN RAFEL BONNICI CALI'

Jekk niehdu l-ghadd tal-knejjes li fihom fadal xi ghot-jiet tal-weghdi, mill-ewwel ninduna, li meta ma kienx hawn kumditajiet ta' traffiku, kien hawn knejjes meqjusa bhala santwarji f'kull naha tal-gzejjer taghna; minn dawn fadal tal-Mellieha, ta' Haz-Zabbar, Tal-Herba(f'Birkirkara) ta' Duna,(fir-Rabat), u ohrajn, kollha bl-isem tal-Madonna, bhal ma huma l-Madonna tal-Karmnu, tal-Mensija, ta' l-Isperanza, tal-Providenza, tal-Mirakli, tal-Ghar, u ohrajn. F'Ghawdex hemm tal-Qala, u ta' Pinu.

Nafu li kien hemm ohrajn li tilfu l-ghadd ta' kwadri zghar tal-Weghdi, maghrufa ahjar bhala tal-Ex-Voto, u maghhom tilfu wkoll l-isem li kellhom ta' Santwarju. Dan gara, minhabba li ir-rettubi ta' dawn il-knejjes zbaljaw meta warrbu dawn il-kwadri Weghdi, bl-iskuza li dawn ma kellhomx siwi ta' arti. Bosta minn dawn il-kwadri-weghdi, thallew jingerdu, u maghhom inqerdu pagni ta' Mistorja ta' missirijietna, ghax dawn kienu jurm xeni u grajjiet ta' niket jew ferh mill-hajja ta' kuljum, li fihom konna naraw id-drawwiet fl-ilbies, ghamaratad-djar, ghodod, snajja, u hwejjeg ohra ta' l-imghodd. Fihom konna naraw mohh il-poplu, it-twemmin u t-tama li kellu, waqt li kien ihabbat wiccu mal-gwaj, max-xorti hazina tal-mard, dizgrazzji u ghawg iehor.

Barra mit-tpingija hazina jew tajba, li kienet bizzejjed biex turi dan il-ghawg, il-kwadri wegħda aktarx kien ikollhom maghhom ukoll kitba qasira, li turi l-isem ta' min ghamel il-wegħda, bid-data u l-Mistorja ta' dik il-grajja.

Il-kitba kienet aktar miktuba bit-taljan , ghax dan kien l-ilsien ta' l-amministrazzjoni tal-Gvern u tal-Knisja, sas-seklu li hareg, u ghadd gmielu ta' ezempji ghad mistghu narawhom fis-santwarji li fadal.

Ir-retturi tas-santwarji, hemm bzonn li jifhmu li dawn il-kwadri wegħda huma l-isbah tizzjin tal-knisja, tizzjin wisq aktar siewi mid-damaski u irhamijiet li jistghu jinxtraw bil-flus kull meta wiehed irid, imma dawn l-oggetti tal-wegħda ma jinxtrawx, u ma ssibhomx meta trid; dawn saru f'waqthom biss, frott tac-cirkostanzi li sab fihom poplu msejken mahkum mill-mard, dizgrazzji u ghawg iehor.

Il-poplu, fidil għat-twemmin tieghu, ried juri qalbu meta heles mill-mard, tempesti, dizgrazzji fuq l-art, u grajjiet ohra li kienu jnikktuh. Dawn il-kwadri wegħdi kienu l-isbah sfog ta' hajr lejn il-grazzji li nqalghu għat-talb lill-Ajla bil-ghajnuna tal-Madonna u tal-qaddisin, kif jidher fil-kitba fuq l-istess kwadru jew għotja ohra.

"jew għotja ohra" għandha tfakkarna li l-ghonja aktarx kienu jagħtu flus jew oggetti tal-fidda jew deheb, waqt li hadd-iehor kien jagħti xema', zejt, u hwejjeg ohra ta' htiega għas-santwarju. Kienhemm min jagħti bastun jew krozzu wara li helsu minn mard fis-sieq, kintorini wara' l-ugħigh tad-dahr, habel li salva lill-xi hadd mill-gharq, xabla li wiehed biha heles mill-ghadu, meħalji, lbiesi, u hwejjeg ohra li jfakkru l-qagħda mwegħra li wiehed kien fiha. Xi nisa kellhom ukoll id-drawwa li jagħtu xi deheb li bih kienu jizzejh, xi gizirana, labra, curkett, insieket; ohrajn kienu jagħtu fork tal-fidda ta' idejn, saqajn, ucuh, widnejn, jew figura shiha ta' bniedem, tarbija fil-fisqija, , rgħiel jew nisa gharkubtejh, li kienu jinxtraw mill-argentiera bi ftit flus, imma ma kellhomx lizvanta gg li jgħithassru biz-zmien, bħalma kien jigri lill-kwadri-wegħda,

li kienu mpingijin fuq drapp jew injam, li jitmermru bil-umdu.

Dawn il-forom kellhom it-tifsir tagghom; nghidu ahna, forma ta' id, sinjal car ta' mard fid-dbiġ, u l-istess nghidu għall-forom l-oħra. Kienhemm min jaghti forma ta' qalb, mhux għax marid b'qalbu, imma għax kellu xi mard iehor tar-ruh jew tal-gisem, mard li ma riedx juri x'kien.

Il-fogħra kienu wkoll sabu mezz kif juru l-istess haga bħal-dawk li kienu jixtru il-forom tal-fidda. Dawn kienu jixtru jew jagħmlu b-idejhom stess, forom tax-xemgħa, ta' saqajn, idejn ecc., li ftit li qiegħ fadal minnhom fis-santwarji tagħna.

Ta' min ihajjar lir-retturi tas-santwarji, li jgħozzu kull għamla ta' ex-voto, kemm jekk huma tal-fidda, u kemm jekk huma ta' materjal iehor, bħall-krozzi, bsaten, hbula, injam, xemgħa, ecc., imma fuq kollox jippreservaw il-pitturi li jfakkru fil-grazzji, ukoll bil-kitba, għax dawn huma l-aħjar xieda tal-wegħdi. Ikun ukoll haga flokħa, jekk jingabar kollox fi ktieb, imqar f'manoskrutt, kull oggett, bil-kitba u l-istorja tiegħu, bħalma għamel il-kappillan Dun Guzepp Zarb, illum Monsinjur, li kollu hegga, gabar gabar kull haga ta' devozzjonili sab fis-Santwarju tal-Madonna tal-Grazzji f'Haz-Zabbar, nizzel kollox fi ktieb u stampah, u kompla gabar kollox f'muzew magħqud mal-knisja, bħalma hemm go santwarji oħrajn barra minn Malta, nghidu ahna dak tal-Madonna ta' Pompej.

F'dan l-artiklu qasir, jixraq li nghidu xi haga dwar il-wegħdi għamla ta' talb, pellegrinaggi, zjarat, u għemil iehor, bħal għotja ta' karita mal-fogħra, istituti ta' l-iltiema, ecc. L-awtorita' tal-Knisja, meta tat xi hemm nazzjonali, bħal xi pesta, gwerra, jew gwaj iehor, aktarx li għamlet wegħda ta' pellegrinagg ta' penitenza, bħal fil-kaz ta' San Girgor, meta l-isqof jitpaw mill-kattidral għall-knisja taz-Zejtun, imma l-bniedem individwali aktarx kien jimxi minn daru, sa xi knisja

mbeghda, fejn jaghmel zjara, u jaghti hajr l-Alla għall-grazzja li jkun qala', Nghidu ahna, nies tal-Kottonera u l-inhawi, aktarx li kienu jaghzlu jimxu sas-santwarju tal-Mellieha waqt li dawx ta' nhawi ohra kienu jaghzlu li jimxu sa dak ta' Haz-Zabbar jew knejjes ohra skond is-sahha ta' dak li jkun.

Mbaghad kienet dahlet ukoll id-drawa tal-nixxi mis-sinjuri hafja, qara purciissjonijiet tal-Gimgha l-kbira, ta' irgiel jerfghu is-slaleb jew il-vari, jew ohrajn imxejjin minn-ktajjen tal-hadid wara l-istess vari ta' din il-purciissjoni hekk devota.

Ma dawn id-drawwiet jistghu jinghadu wkoll dawx li jiehdu fliexken zagħar biz zejt mill-lampiet tas-santwarji, biex jidilku fejn ikunhemm l-ugigh, jew dawx li jiehdu l-ilma tan-nixxiegha mill-ghar tal-Madonna tal-Mellieha biex jixorbuh flok medicina għall-fejqan tagħhom.

Nagħlaq billi ngħid li dawn m'humiex drawwiet tagħna l-Maltin biss, imma ta' kull poplu iehor li jsib ruhu mahkum mill-bizgha, u ma jibqagħlux għajr it-tama fil-hanin Alla.

OPPOSITE.....

The Water Seller, a sketch by G.Lanfranco.

When most feast days occur during the summer, it is to be understood that thirst has to be quenched; nowadays we find a large number of drinks available at stands, ice-creams and other refreshments, but our forefathers did not have these facilities. When the festa is in one's own village or town, one could easily have a drink at home or at friends or tavern, but when visiting a neighbouring village, mostly walking to the place, one had to rely on the water seller for a cup of refreshment.

---ooo000ooo---



Water Seller

MILL - GHAR GHAD-DAR

Minn Dr. Charles Cassar, M.D.

Jinstabu bosta gherien, f'Malta u Ghawdex, imxerrdin l-hawn u l-hemm, il-bicca l-kbira taħ sisien gholjia. L-gherien, jew kennijiet, ghal-bosta snin, swew biex l-ewwel nies li zaru il-gzejjer tagħna marru jghixu fihom, u swew ukoll bhala oqbra.

Jekk niflu wiehed minn dawn l-gherien, naslu biex naraw kif kienu jghixu n-nies tal-qedem, f'dawn it-toqob kbar fil-blat, minghir ilqugh minn barra. F'bosta minn dawn l-gherien, gie li kienu jghixu aktar minn familja wahda, u magħhom kienu jdahhlu l-bhejjem ukoll.

Naraw f'dawn il-postijiet, il-maqgħad ta' l-irqad, jew blat daqsxejn għoli aktar mill-art, fejn fuq dan nahseb li kienu jqegħdu xi tibex; jew xi bicca blata l-gewwa mill-ghar, li hija mielsa hafna, jqegħdu l-qasbija, bit-tiben fuqha mqatta zghir.

Ta' qabilna, f'dawn l-gherien kienu jitwiellu u jmutu. Gherien kbar, bħal ma hemm Ta' Zuta, limiti tas-Siggiwi, jew bħal ta' l-Imtahleb, kienu joqgħodu fihom, jew familja numeruza bil-bhejjem b'kollox, jew meta wiehed mill-familja jizzewweg jibqa mal-missie u l-omm. Għalhekk insibu, kultant, dawn l-gherien maqsuma minn gewwa, bil-gebel. Instabu wkoll f'dawn l-gherien, xi rkejjen l-hawn u l-hemm, imgermda, fejn kienu jsajru meta ma kienux jistghu johorgu waqt xita. Illum dawn l-gherien għadhom hemm, u f'xi uhud minnhom għadhom joqgħodu nnies, bħal Ta' Zuta. Izda daz-zmien dawn l-gherien gew mirquma bil-hitan minn gewwa u minn barra, u tiskanda daz-zmien tisma minnhom hierga l-muzika, jekk mhux ukoll mghammrin mit-televizjoni. L-gherien il-kbar gew irrangati u mniffdin, u l-bhejjem jinzammu go għar fil-genb.

Ahna l-Maltin nġhinu ruhna, u għal-grazzja t'Alla dejjem sibna min imexxina l-quddiem, u għalhekk f'dan is-seklu għoxrin se nkunu rfajna rasna u giehna, hallejna l-għar, u llum darna saret p'alazz. Dan kollu juri li 'n-nazzjon stagħna, u l-fqir għandu min jahseb fih, mertu kollu ta' dawk li mexxew in-nazzjon, biex dan il-faqar imur minn pajjizna, u l-bniedem b'hekk ha id-dinjita' teighu.

Results of Truck-Name Watching during December 1976 - January 1978

by Guido Lanfranco

Background

Sporadic instances of motor cars can be traced in the Maltese islands, to the first decade of this century, and one or two occasions can be classified as public transport. The name carozza was a general term for a coach or carriage, and the motorized specimens became known as karrozza tan-nar, or tal-pitrolju. Before the first world war, motor cars were extremely few, but that war had introduced into our islands quite a number of motorized vehicles, including ambulances, and these were used alongside horsedrawn carriages and also horse-drawn ambulances, which were very much like an omnibus with a red cross on the side curtain. Just after the war most vehicles were sold locally, and the ambulances, especially formed a nucleus of trucks which were converted into buses of sorts, with the addition of windows on sides, and a balcony at the end to allow for a legally imposed back door. These belonged mostly to individuals rather than companies, and everyone painted his car according to one's fancy, with the inclusion of figures, and especially named on the sides, referring to famous people, operas, places, and adverts, with a stress on saints. Other ambulances were converted more easily into trucks for transport of material and merchandize, and these formed part of the first transport service of the kind. However, both the buses and truck types were too few to cope with the needs of the time, and the transport of material and household furniture, etc., had to be undertaken by ordinary working carts, of which there were several sized and modifications. Still chassis were imported cheaply from England, and the both built locally, both for the buses and the trucks. The latter also included decoration and names on

available space on sides and bonnet, but unlike the bises, trucks had less space to satisfy the whims of decorators, and a smaller name was usually resorted to, for the bonnet or the sides, but still, the bonnets of cars of those days were very small, and decoration on them had to be inconspicuous. By about 1927, government adopted a colour system for grouping destinations for buses, and this destroyed the random decoration with personal inspirations of owners, but these buses still bore some small name on the side or on the bonnet, which by that time, had developed into a bigger affair. In about 1933, no more decoration was allowed on the sides of buses, and only a few retained names on the bonnet. These latter eventually disappeared for ever, and only limited strips for destination details remained. Trucks had increased too, and they retained a name on the bonnet to this day

Some names from the old buses of the 1920's

From old photographs one may glean several names of old buses, amongst which one can name the following: San Filep, St. George, St. Gaetan, St. Peter and Paul, Cottoner, Pinto, Mannarino, Matthew Callus, Eviline, Pauline, Melita, St. Rita, San Guzepp, St. Paul, Bajadera, Othello, Favorita, Sansun, Queen Mary, St. Philip's Car, Peace Car, Traviata, Splendid, Yankee, New York, Superior, Wembley, Cordina's, Mtarfa Car, etc..., these being painted in large letters on the sides of the buses. In the present generation of buses, decoration is internal, and restricted to the driver's cabin, which may have simple or elaborate paintings or decorations facing the passenger sections, and include also occasionally, statues, lights, and artificail flowers; still more recently, these decorations in modern buses is diminishing, and even buses are being replaced by buses from London, imported by government in 1980-81, and sold to owners. Trucks appear to be the last to carry relics of the past craze on decoration, and the art which expressed the lives of the Maltese, is being lost in the trend where life

is becoming too hectic and impersonal. There may eventually be a time, when trucks will also cease to reflect their owners' touch.

Truck-Name Watching

The large number of trucks encumbering our roads, obstructing traffic, driving dangerously all over the place, with only rare exceptions, all have some name painted on their bonnet sides. Having observed the variety they offer, I decided to make a list of some I could come across myself on my way to work, and not having much time at my disposal, I jotted down these names whilst driving or asked someone at my side to write them down for me as I drove along. I made this decision in December 1976, and decided to stop recording them in January 1978. In this latter year, the traffic and licencing authorities, decided to replace the first numbers of the registration plates, by means of letters, in order to scatter licencing of vehicles over the year, to avoid congestion at licencing offices at the beginning of the year. The following is a list of names on trucks I recorded in the time stated above, and till then the number plates were as shown. From the list you will easily notice the names of saints, filmstars, heros of other types, singers, names from classical films and characters, nicknames names of countries or cities, and other expressions admired by the owner.

List of truck names

(where registration numbers are not recorded, or not complete, it could mean that the numberplate was either dirty with cement and mud, or obscured by the back flap left dangling over it, or simply the truck would have been driving too fast to allow both the name and the plate to be recorded together, and preference is here given to the name.)

Adeleide 3859

A B C 4437

Aldo Moro 51574

Angolina 81540

Angelo 75635

Albert 3771

Al Capone 2367

Ave Maria 75798

Always Happy 82773

Argone III 24176

Annunziata 41601

Bir Miftuh -----	Blue Rock Thrush 53753	Back Again 47057
Bruce Lee 42699	Brave Boy 53901	Brazil 53299
Bismark 40730	Bismark 12509	B B C 47690
Boneta 31488	Black Pirate -----	Bird of Paradise 12175
Blue Lagoon 84796	Blue Cave 42601	Bullfighter 78679
Bullfight 38767	Bullfight 78679	Bad Boy 80534
Bandit Boy 84933		
Concorde 3805	Connie 20905	Censina 31986
Demsi 3645	David Mark 48013	Don't Worry -----
Devil Earth 35787	Devil Woman -----	Demise Roussos 78110
Demise Roussos 6700	David 36044	Dolores 312-8
Detroit -----	Delilah 41609	
El Dorado 45923	Elvis 42953	East of Eden 37886
8th September 43696	Elton John 39954	El Cordobes -----
Eedora 4561	Fedora 29173	Furia Cavallo -----
Freedom 56021	Firefly 55641	Firefly 54154
Frida 57042	Frida 16265	Five Brothers 2--23
Flamingo 42139	It's Not Enough 39715	Inter 12967
Il Vapur 3872	Isabella 11364	
Gun Smole 68703	Golden Arrow 25259	Golden Arrow 38575
Germany 49347	Gianni Morandi 13920	Good Luck 31451
Good Luck 3914	Gay Hunter 27670	Gianni Nazzaro 40879
Gold Dust 64229	Golden Eagle -----	
Heathrow 39649	Happy Go Lucky -----	Hawaii Five O -----
Hunter 49087		
Joe Frazer 40308	Jumbo 32197	John Mary 43911
Jaws 44250	Jomar 30002	Junior Tarzan 46078
Jason King -----		
Kangaroo 83854	Kung Fu 678	King of Kings -----
Kaboccu 47096	King of the Road -----	Kennedy 41577

Little Tarzan 5460	Little Evan 53429	Little Simon 43846
Little Mario 18186	Liljoe -----	London Town -----
Light Finger 49695	Lightning Express 40098	Hiverpool 89233
Live and Let Live 53464	Live and Let Live 27654	Liaviour Elarine 53230
Love Me or Leave Me 49492	Lucky Boy 54856	Lucky Boy 66725
Let Me Pass 78425	Lady in Blue 81465	Lady Blue 207
Matador -----	M. Lourdes --838	My Love for Ever -----
Moiria 84927	Maria Bambina 67387	Maria Bambina 85371
Master Trouble 49231	Mountain 1288	My Friend -----
Manolita 37058	Maria Victoria -27291	Manuel 5706
Mexico 43691	Marco -----	Monte Carlo 13799
Monte Carlo 12883	Mexico City 49125	Morning Star 52344
Notre Dame 44414	Notre Dame 53422	New Mexico 2261
New Life 11687		Overland 1488-
Baradise 8376	Pandora 10493	Paul Anka 35976
Pussy Cat 83680	Pagliero 57184	
Quo Vadis 68561	Quo Vadis 83224	
Red Baron -----	Royal -----	Rock - n - Go -----
Road Runner 37750	Road Runner 29333	Red Star 42356
Road Devil 82080	Robin Hood 6053	Riviera 11205
Red Lion 44460	Red Lion 3384	Red Lion 58457
Red Lion 38998	Red Lion 36958	
San Gwann 75420	San Gwann 74024	Santa Tereza -----
San Rafel 81173	San Bert 861-	San Guzepp 29884
San Gejtanu 46394	San Gejtanu 16975	Santa Rita 8764
Santa Rita 21361	Santa Rita 10624	Santa Tereza 81057
Santa Lucia 39701	Saint Nicholas 48852	Saint Mary 3367-
Saint Mary 80316	Saint Mary 12503	Saint Mary 467-4
Saint Mary 27915	Saint Mary 32997	Saint Mary 67574
Saint Mary 72503	Saint Mary 34191	Santa Marija 25009
Santa Marija 39065	St. Gaetan 43135	St. Sebastian 8331
St. Anthony 46556	St. Paul 58848	St. Paul 23923
St. Dominic 31348	St. Peter -080	St. Paul 29754

St. John 47177	St. Philip 17982	St. Philip 36157
St. Catherine 2790	St. Andrew 30322	St. George 35608
St. George 31394	St. George 34736	St. John 45290
St. Peter -9196	St. Joseph 76615	St. Joseph 28730
St. Joseph 7941	St. Joseph 7012	St. Helen 81751
St. Helen 53750	St. Helen 20019	St. Christopher 39147
St. Francis 72503	St. Stephen 20346	Sea Bird 15280
Street Fighter 85050	Smiler 2941	Salvatur 2340
Spartacus 83659	Super Rocket -----	Sprr Tiger 37909
Superstar 71473	Superstar 51206	Sunny Boy 37046
Sandy Lee -----	Salvatore -----	Sunflower 32841
Skippy -----	Silka 8793	See Me Again 79875
St. Quinton 85064	Santa Fe' 22144	Santa Fe' 14273
Tal-Grazzja -----	Taz-Zgey 63851	Tiger of Wales 35977
Tar-Tortru 47040	Tony 36765	Tiger Snake 45553
Trinita' 30989	To Rome With Love ----	True Love 62412
True Love 34270	Tal-Life -----	The Saint 33866
Tom Mix 15509	Trident -----	Truck Express 22164
Transfiguration -----	Tal-Hocc -----	The Sailor 45921
Tom Mix 5509	Tom Jones 48526	
Ursus 17142	Ustinov II 76414	UNICOP -----
United Forge 53122	USA 4373	
Victor Royal 42913	Victoria 44126	
Werwer 92287	Winner 1-07	Winner 31351
White Brothers 32245		
Zunzan 37510	Zorro 48015	

All the above were collected from the Sliema-St. Julians-Gzira-Valletta area, and I thank my wife Salvina, my Brother Edwin, and a lecturer colleague Isabelle Agius, who patiently jotted down my dictates whilst riding with me to work. St. George 35608 was a petroleum truck. Angolina, Kangaroo, Elton Joh, San Rafel, Connie, were smaller vehicles (vans). As a general rule, local trucks livery consists of a red cabin and bonnet, and a green carrying space; mud-guards and chassis black. Only exceptions are purple cabins or other combinations of colour.

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compiled by GUIDO LANFRANCO

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