

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, Angèlo 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. Laurence

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 corcege from Floriana; formerly it was a logg, elaborate corcege, from Castille, through valletta, to Floriana granaries.

December

The Ministure 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 Girgor 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 7½cm, 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 Munnar, 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)

Mnarjaf 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: Brittania Str. now Melita Str. Irish Str. now Mediterranean Str.; Scots. Str., now Mikiel Anton Vassalli Str. Vittoriosa Irish Str., now Wenzu Dyer Str.; Britannia Str. 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) Brittania 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, 'Guzeppe Cali', Gawwi, Cief, Latini;
 (Gharb): Tumas Cassar, Felic Grech; (Kercem): Guze' Flores, Sokkors,
 Kalandriet, Bies, Ghadira, Wenzu Mintoff, Gojgin, Gamiem, 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, Widnet il-Bahar, Sardinell,
 Narcis, Qronfol, Glzi; (Xlendi): Sajjieda, Sienja, Omeru, Atena,
 Merkurju;

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

September

Maria Mater Gratiae Band Club, Zabbar, 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.
