

# L-IMNARA



**GHAQDA MALTIJA TAL-FOLKLOR**

**IL-HAMSA U GHOXRIN SENA TA' PUBBLIKAZZJONI**

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Bullettin ta' l-Għaqda Maltija tal-Folklor. Johroġ darba fis-sena. L-opinjoni jiet li jidhru hawn m'humiex neccessarjament dawk ta' l-Għaqda jew ta' l-Editor, jekk ma jkunx hekk speċifikat.

*Indirizz ta' l-Editor: 78, Triq San Trofimu, Tas-Sliema, SLM 02*



# FLUS “MALTIN”, KEJL U QISIEN

Ġużi Gatt

Il-lista ta' kotba li nkitbu fuq l-istorja tal-valuta legali, il-flus u l-muniti użati f'Malta matul is-sekli, minn żmien il-Feniċi sa żmienna, issa hi twila mhux hażin. Hafna mill-kitba li ġiet ippubblikata tixhed riċerka kbira u għarfien vast fuq is-suġġett. (1) B'xorti hażina però, li kellu wiehed ifittex fiha xi tagħrif fuq flus “Maltin” bħal m'huma, ngħidu aħna, l-IRBIEGHI u l-HABBA, x'aktarx li jibqa' b'xiber imnieher. Dan x'aktarx hu marbut mal-fatt li l-istorja ta' dawn il-muniti tmur lura għaž-żmien ta' qabel il-miġja tal-Konti Ruġġieru f'Malta. Jiġifieri tmur lura għal żmien li, għal hafna storiċi Maltin, hu żmien mudlam u bil-kemm mhux ukoll xi ftit perikoluż biex toqghod tbaġħbas fih.

Is-seba' seklju w.K. (wara Kristu) ra t-twelid fid-dinja ta' reliġjon “ġdida” - l-Islam. F'medda ta' ftit snin, din ir-reliġjon rebhet il-peniżola kollha ta' l-Għarabja, imxiet lejn il-Lvant u waslet sal-fruntieri ta' l-Indja, imxiet lejn il-Punent, qasmet il-Baħar l-Aħmar, rebhet l-Egittu, u sas-sena 696 w.K. hadet ukoll dik l-art li kienet tissejjah “l-Ifriqija”; li hi bejn wiehed u iehor it-Tuneżija ta' illum. L-ewwel mexxejja li għamlu isem fit-tmexxija ta' l-Ifriqija kienu dinastija ta' nies imsejha l-GHALIEBA (Aghlabids). Dil-kelma ġejja mill-għerq tal-verb Malti “gheleb/jeghleb”, bħal meta tghid, ngħidu aħna, li keffa tal-miżien “teghleb” lill-ohra. Il-laqam “l-Egħleb” kien inghata lil wiehed mill-fundaturi tagħhom u jfisser: “Dak tal-maġġoranza; dak li għandu l-fehma (jew il-konsensus) li teghleb il-fehmiet l-ohra”. L-Għalieba spiċċaw biex minbarra l-Ifriqija rebhu wkoll lil Sqallija u, magħha, fis-sena 869 jew 870 w.K. rebhu wkoll lil Malta.

Kienu wkoll l-Għalieba li, fl-ewwel għexieren ta' snin tas-seklju disġha w.K., holqu l-irbieghi. (2) Fi żmienhom, l-oghla munita tad-deheb kienet id-DINAR. Kienet teżisti l-munita ta' nofs dinar, li kienet tissejjah “*nisf dinar*”, u munita bil-valur ta' terz ta' dinar imsejha “*tult dinar*” (għax wiehed minn *tlieta*). Imma l-Għalieba holqu l-kwart ta' dinar, u peress li kwart hu wiehed minn erbgħa, sejhu l-munita IRBIEGHI. Għalkemm hareġ għall-ewwel darba fl-Afrika ta' Fuq, l-irbieghi maż-żmien beda jiġi stampat ukoll fi Sqallija Misilma. Fil-fatt, fi Sqallija ġie stampat fi “kwantitajiet kbar”. (3) Peress li Sqallija Islamika kienet iċ-ċentru ta' kummerċ kbir bejn l-Afrika ta' Fuq u l-Italja, l-irbieghi iddomina l-kummerċ kollu tal-pajjiżi taċ-ċentru tal-Mediterran. (4) Sar qisu d-dollaru tal-lum. Tant hu hekk li l-bliet Taljani ta' Amalfi u Napoli, li dak iż-żmien kienu għadhom fil-bidu u ma kinux iħabbtuha mal-qawwa tal-kummerċ Mislem, stampaw il-munita tagħhom bħala kopja preċiża ta' l-irbieghi Sqalli/Għarbi. (5) It-Taljani sejhu din il-munita *Tari*, jew *Tari d'oro*.

Aktar tard, peress li kif jgħid il-Malti “lż-żmien itul u l-qarn idur”, meta l-affarijiet inbidlu u kienu l-ibliet Taljani ta' Genoa, Pisa, u Venezja li ddominaw il-kummerċ

(1) Ara, ngħidu aħna, l-ktieb: *Currency In Malta*, ta' Joseph C. Sammut, Malta, 2002.

(2) “Dinar.” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, It-2 Ediz., 297-298.

(3) Maurice Lombard, *Espaces et reseaux du haut moyen age*, Pariġi: Mouton, 1972, pġ. 19-20

(4) Leonard C. Chiarelli, *Sicily During the Fatimid Age*, Teżi tal-Ph. D mill-Universita ta' Utah, l-Istati Uniti, 1986. pġ. 174

(5) Maurice Lombard, *Espaces et reseaux du haut moyen age*, Pariġi: Mouton, 1972, pġ. 19

ta' żmienhom, u Malta nħakmet minn mexxejja ġodda, dawn il-mexxejja l-ġodda ġew Malta bit-*tari d'oro*. Imma missirijietna lil dil-munita għarfuha mill-ewwel. U baqgħu jsejħula b'isimha oriġinali: "l-irbiegħi". L-irbiegħi kien tagħhom daqs kemm kien tagħhom l-ilsien Malti. Niesna baqgħu jikkalkulaw bl-irbajja' sas-16 ta' Mejju, 1972, meta Malta qalbet għas-sistema deċimall. Jien għadni niftakar sew it-tmintax irbiegħi (2s 6d).

Id-dinar, u allura anke l-irbiegħi, kien jinqasam f'**HABBIET**. (6) Li kellek issarraġ tmintax irbiegħi f'soldi ssib li għandek 30 sold (xelin kien fih 12-il sold). Tletin sold iġibu 360 ħabba (sold fih 12-il ħabba). Jekk taqsam 360 bi tmintax, jiġu 20. L-irbiegħi kien fih 20 ħabba, u kien ilu b'dak il-valur mill-inqas sa mis-seklu ħmistax. (7) Il-ħabba kienet ukoll tinqasam f'muniti iżgħar minnha. Nofs ħabba kienet tisesejjah XGHIRA (8). Jiġifieri ħabba kienet tiswa żewġ xghiriet, għalkemm dil-kelma f'Malta intnesiet u ma ġiet irreġistrata f'das-sens ta' frazzjoni ta' ħabba fl-ebda dizzjunarju.

Id-dinar kien munita tad-deheb. Imma mill-istorja ta' Sqallija nafu li fi żmien u kien hemm ukoll il-munita tal-fidda. Din kienet tisesejjah DIRHEM. Fil-Malti, id-dirhem jissemma biss fil-kotba tal-Bibbja ta' P.P. Saydon, imma dil-munita kienet komunissima fi Sqallija ta' qabel il-Konti Ruġġieru (9), u peress li issa qed jibda jidher ċar li Malta fi żmien l-Għarab kienet ukoll meqjusa bħala parti minn Sqallija, hu loġiku li d-dirhem kien magħruf sewwa f'Malta wkoll. Id-dirhem kien jinqasam f'sittax-il HARRUBA. Din il-harruba, li wkoll tissemma ħafna fl-istorja medjevali ta' Sqallija, kienet munita oħra tal-fidda. (10) Meta kont żgħir omni kienet tghidli, "Mela l-flus ħsibthom żerriegħa tal-harrub?" Jidher li d-dirhem kien jinqasam ukoll f'munita li kienet tiswa wieħed minn tnax (1/12) ta' dirhem, għalkemm l-isem ta' dil-munita ma' jidher li hu magħruf. (11)

Fiz-żmien meta l-valuta legali uffiċjali f'Malta kienet id-dinar, l-irbiegħi u l-ħabba, (jiġifieri qabel il-Konti Ruġġieru), jidher li kien hawn ukoll sistema ta' qisien u kejl. Xi wħud mill-ismijiet ta' din is-sistema ta' kejl għadhom magħrufa sew minn ħafna minna. L-istess ismijiet kienu użati fuq medda kbira ta' art, mis-Sirja u l-Iraq, sa l-Eġittu, Sqallija, u mit-Tuneżija sal-Marokk. (12) Il-qisien li se nagħtu huma skond kif inhu magħruf li kienu fil-Medju Evu fil-Lvant Nofsani u l-Afrika ta' fuq (13) u mhux kif kienu f'Malta fl-aħħar żminijiet li kienu għadhom jintużaw.

IS-SUBGħA (bl-Għarbi el-Isbagħ) kien it-tul ta' bejn iż-żewġ għekiesi tas-subgħa l-werrej. 24 subgħa kienu jagħmlu DRIEGħ (diragħ), li kien it-tul mill-minkeb sal-ponta tas-subgħa l-fustani. 4 dirgħajn kienu jagħmlu QAMA, jew it-tul ta' bejn il-ponot tas-swaba' tan-nofs ta' dirgħajn miftuħin beraħ. 5 qamiet kienu jagħmlu QASBA (għalkemm it-tul ta' din kien ivarja, imma bejn wieħed u lehor kien ta'

(6) "Habba." *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, it-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, 10-11

(7) Stanley Fiorini, *The Mandati Documents at the Archives of the Mdina Cathedral, Malta, 1473-1539*, Malta, 1992. Ara paġna lxi taht "grano".

(8) "Habba." *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, it-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, 10-11

(9) Paul Balog, "Fatimid Glass jetons: Token currency or coin-weights?" fil- *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient XXIV* (1981): pğ. 108.

(10) Ibid.

(11) Leonard C. Chiarelli, *Sicily During the Fatimid Age*, Teżl tal-Ph. D mill-Universita ta' Utah, l-Istati Uniti, 1986. pğ. 176-177

(12) "Misaha", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, it-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, 137-138

(13) Ibid.

erba' metri. (14) Mela l-kelma "qasba", użata bhala kejl, hi qadima hafna, u m'ghandux għalfejn jinghad li tista' tkun "kalk" tal-kelma Sqallija "canna" (15). Anzi, hi l-kelma "canna" li hi kalk tal-kelma "qasba", l-istess bhal fil-każ ta' l-irbieghi u t-tari.

Qlsien ohra: Il-QABDA kienet il-wisa' ta' l-erba' swaba' l-weqfin ta' l-id. Ix-XIBER kien il-wisa' ta' bejn is-subgħa l-kbir u s-subgħa ż-żghir ta' id miftuha berah, u l-FITER (bil-Malti nghidu "fitel") kien il-wisa' ta' bejn is-subgħa l-kbir u s-subgħa l-werrej.

Fiż-żminijiet li qeghdin nitkellmu fuqhom, ġidek kien jitkejjel skond kemm għandek art; u l-aktar art importanti ma kenitx dik li hi tajba għall-vilel u d-djar, imma dik li hi tajba għar-raba'. Mela ried ikun hemm ftehim fuq kif wiehed ikejjel l-art. Dal-ftehim kien importanti mmens għax bih mhux biss stajt tqis ġidek imma t-tmexxija tal-pajjiż setgħet ukoll tqis u tkejjel it-taxxi li għandek thallas fuq ġidek. Għalkemm is-sistema tat-taxxi dejjem tkun ikkumplikata, imma fis-simplicità tagħha, fi żmien l-Għalieba, is-sistema ta' hlas fuq l-art kienet din: Jew thallas persentaġġ, tant fil-mija, ta' l-uçuħ li johorġu mir-raba' tiegħek (jew tal-valur tagħhom); jew thallas somma flus kull tant raba' li għandek. (16) L-ewwel sistema kienet maghrufa bhala l-GHEXUR. Thallas għaxra fil-mija tal-uçuħ, jew il-valur tal-prodott li johroġ mir-raba' tiegħek. It-tieni sistema kienet tissejjah iż-ŻEWĠ, għax kienet imsejsa fuq il-kejl ta' kemm art kont tista' tahrat b'mohriet taż-żewġ, f'gurnata. Tant hu hekk li kien hemm min kien isejhilha ŻEWĠ IL-BAQAR. (17) Wiehed kien ihallas tant flus għal kull tant raba' li għandu u l-kejl kien mibni fuq kemm art stajt tahrat b'mohriet miġbud minn żewġ baqriet (jew gniedes) f'gurnata. L-ammont tal-flus li sid l-art kien ihallas lill-gvern kien jissejjah il-HARAĠ, filwaqt li l-ammont li min jahdem l-art kien ihallas lis-sid kien jissejjah il-QBIELA, għax kien ammont maqbul bejn sid l-art u min jahdimha.

Fil-każ ta' l-art li l-hlas fuqha kien isir bil-persentaġġ, ukoll kien hemm differenza bejn il-hlas li sid l-art jagħmel lill-gvern (l-ghexur), u l-hlas li sid l-art jitlob minn min jahdimha. Skond m'hu maghruf minn pajjiżi ohra ta' madwarna, jidher li l-qbiela fi flus kienet tithallas l-iktar fuq raba' li kien tajjeb għall-hxejjex ta' l-ikel, l-iktar it-tagħam, jiġifieri l-qamh u x-xghir. Filwaqt illi raba' li minnu kienu johorġu uçuħ "kummerċjali" bhal m'hu, nghidu ahna, l-qoton, kont trid thallas għalih b'sistema ta' persentaġġ mill-wiçç li johroġ. Ta' dan x'aktarx li għad għandna tifikira fil-qawl li jghid:

Il-qoton mill-fiddien,  
Johroġ bil-kejjiel u bil-wiżżien.

Jiġifieri li mill-"fiddien" il-qoton jiżnuhulek u jkejluhulek biex jaraw kemm se jiħdulek minnu. It-tifsira tal-kelma "fiddien" bhala ammont ta' raba' li fuqu trid thallas b'tant fil-mija tal-prodott, tinstab żgur fl-Eġittu. (18)

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(14) *Naval Intelligence Division, Admiralty Handbook, Syria*, Londra 1943.

(15) Joseph M. Brincat, *Il-Malti Elf Sena Ta' Storja*, Il-Pjeta, 2000: pġ. 119

(16) Talbi Muhamed, *Emirat Eghlabide*, pġ. 160-161

(17) Al-Nuwayri, *Nihayat il-Arab*, 24, 337

(18) Cahen Cl. "Kharadj", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, It-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, pġ. 1032

Sadattant, il-kliem l-iehor marbut mal-kejl tar-raba' hu użat ukoll bhala kejl ta' "piżijiet" fil-bejgh u x-xiri tal-ġwież u ż-zrieragh. Dan għaliex, fil-bidu nett, ir-raġunar kien dan: B'tant żerriegħa, stajt tiżra' tant art; b'kejla ful, tiżra' kejla raba', b'siegh qamh, tiżra' siegh raba'. (19) M'għandniex xi nghidu, maż-żmien il-kejl kellu jingħata tifsira iżjed preċiża. Wara kollox, siegh żerriegħa miżrugh f'raba' bagħli mod, u siegh żerriegħa miżrugh f'raba' saqwi mod ieħor.

Is-SIEGH kien kejl użat fl-inħawi tal-Ġordan u n-naħa ta' fuq ta' l-Għarabja. Fis-seklu 7 w.K. is-siegh kien jiswa 4 MDIED (mdied hu l-plural ta' MODD), u 16-il MODD kienu jiswew WISQ (20). Il-kelma "wisq" fil-Malti tal-lum tfigħer "ħafna" jew anke "iżżejjed". Imma fin-nisel tagħha kienet tfigħer tip ta' kejl. Meta wieħed kien jgħid: "Hawnhekk għandek wisq", kien qisu qed jgħid: "Hawnhekk għandek hemel", jew "Hawnhekk għandek tunellata", biex juri li għandek ħafna; kwantità kbira.

B'daqxsejn ta' rieda tajba, u meta ma jkunx hemm il-ħsieb li wieħed "jimmitologizza", il-lingwa tista' tmexxina biex nixhtu mqar xi ftit dawl fuq żminijiet "mudlama" ta' l-istorja ta' pajjiżna.

Hawn taht qegħdin nagħtu l-ismijiet tal-qisien ta' qabel id-dhul tas-sistema Inġliża (u qabel id-dhul tas-sistema metrika), u l-kejl li bih il-bdiewa għadhom jikkellmu fuq ir-raba' s'issa. Il-lista ħadnieha mid-dizzjunarju Malti/Inġliż tal-Professor Ġużè Aquilina, żewġ volumi li ħarġu bejn is-sena 1987 u 1990. Id-dizzjunarju jgħid li t-tagħrif ittieħed minn rapport imxandar minn kummissjoni maħtura mill-Gvern biex tistudja l-introduzzjoni ta' sistema metrika f'Malta. Ir-rapport ħareġ fl-1907:

1 Pulzier	-	21.83 mm
1 Xiber	12il pulzier	26.194 cm
1 Fitel	qisu nofs xiber	13.097 cm circa
1 Qasba	8t ixbar	2.095 m
1 Qasba kwadra		4.391 sq. m
1 Kejla		18.735 sq. m
1 Siegh	10 kejljet	187.254 sq.m
1 Tomna	6 sighan	0.112 ha
1 Wejba	4t itmiem	0.449 ha
1 Modd	16il Tomna	1.798 ha
1 Xiber kubu		17.971 cm dm
1 Qasba kubu		9.201 cu dm

(19) C.E. Bosworth, "Misaha", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, it-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, pġ. 138

(20) E. Ashtor, "Makayil wa Mawazin", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, it-2 Ediz., Leiden, Brill, pġ. 118



## THE *ĊUQLAJTA* DURING HOLY WEEK

Anna Borg-Cardona, B.A., L.T.C.L., A.T.C.L.

During Holy Week, ever since the Middle Ages, church bells have customarily been replaced by a wooden clapper or scraper throughout the Christian world. Bells are usually silent from Holy Thursday to the *Gloria* on Holy Saturday. In Malta, during this period, several different types of wooden instruments have traditionally been used.<sup>(1)</sup> They are all known by the name *ċuqlajta*, *ċuqlajqa* or *ċoklajta*, irrespective of their type or of their mode of sound production.

Ancient instruments known as *Semanteria*, are still used in Greek Orthodox monasteries, as a call for prayer and meals throughout the year. These are not usually used during Holy Week, but are used instead in conjunction with bells to announce the risen Christ. They therefore carry joyful connotations, contrary to those in Malta. The instruments themselves are also substantially differently-shaped constructions which are usually struck manually.<sup>(2)</sup> Hand twirled ratchets, frequently incorrectly referred to as cog-wheel 'rattles', are also found in Greece, but likewise tend to be connected with the Resurrection rather than with Passion Week. Malta's instruments, though undoubtedly related, carry different associations and do not appear to be *direct* descendants of these Greek idiophones.

### **Affinities with other instruments**

Malta's customs and practices of Holy Week tend to be more strongly influenced by Spain, Southern Italy and Sicily. Some very striking similarities can be found not only in the type of instruments, but also in their traditional use in these areas of the Mediterranean. These can easily be explained historically. Between the years 1282-1530, Malta and Gozo (as well as Sicily) were under Aragonese rule. By the early 15<sup>th</sup> century a group of prominent families had moved into the islands from Sicily and Aragon. When the Knights of St John arrived in Malta in 1530, there was a continuation of strong Spanish influence. These instruments therefore could very well

have reached the islands directly from Spain as early as the Middle Ages, or via Sicily and Southern Italy, with whom there was constant contact.

In considering the origin of these instruments in Malta, one should not forget that Malta and Gozo were, on occasion, populated by people from Sicily and southern Italy. These inhabitants would have brought their own customs with them. In the pre 1530 years, we know that several Sicilians were exiled to Gozo.<sup>(3)</sup> Later in 1551, after Gozo's population had been totally depleted by the Turkish invasion, it was repopulated by a number of Sicilians.<sup>(4)</sup> When the knights decided to build St. Elmo and St. Michael, there was an influx of labourers once again from Sicily.<sup>(5)</sup> Some years after this, in 1568-69, when the knights were building the fortifications of Valletta, large numbers of workers were also brought over to Malta from Sicily and Calabria. Another point worth remembering is the fact that Malta depended on the See of Palermo up to 1807, and it would therefore have been likely that there were several factors in common with this locality.

The large cross-shaped instrument with mallets used in many Maltese belfries (Fig. 1) bears a decided resemblance to the Spanish *matraca* (or *matracca*) which is a large construction that is also struck by wooden hammers (Fig. 2) The *matraca*, like Malta's larger instruments, is hung in the belfry and used during Holy Week. This instrument may be considered a rotary development of the more primitive *tric-trac*, usually having one clapper or hammer,<sup>(6)</sup> or of the *triccaballacca* of Naples, which consists of three or more percussive clappers.

The most obvious parallels can in fact be drawn with instruments used in Italy and Sicily. The closest similarity in terminology that I have come across can be found in Pian de' Greci in Sicily, where the instrument is known as *ciocch*<sup>(7)</sup> In Gozo, the instrument is generally referred to by the name *çoklajta*. It was so-called by De Soldanis and was also thus known in some parts of Malta such as Haż Żebbuġ in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The form of *çuqlajta* with a central handle and a tied flap on either side is an instrument commonly found in several countries. It is very interesting to find that it has certainly been known in Malta as far back as Roman times (Fig. 3).<sup>(8)</sup> Similar instruments are used in Sardegna during Holy Week and also in many parts of Italy.



A very conspicuous affinity is evident in the type of instrument with hinged flaps found in several Maltese Churches such as Mdina, Siggiewi and Gharb, Gozo (Fig. 4). This variety of *cuqlajta* may be seen in precisely the same shape and dimensions in specimens from Calabria and other areas of Southern Italy.<sup>(9)</sup>

The clapper with metal handles attached, is a very old type of instrument. Very worn exemplars are still found in some of Malta's churches such as Valletta, Lija, Haż-Żebbuġ. This instrument is also to be found in parts of Italy such as Trentino Alto Adige, in identical shape and dimensions.<sup>(10)</sup> It is particularly interesting to find this same instrument portrayed by the Jesuit Bonanni in 1723 (Fig. 5) in his *Gabinetto Armonico* in an engraving entitled *Crepitacolo per le chiese* (eng. CXII).<sup>(11)</sup>

The ratchet type of instrument is to be found in varying sizes, some large enough to be played on Church roofs (eg. Nadur, Qala), others of much smaller dimensions found inside churches (eg Naxxar, B'kara). A largish 18<sup>th</sup> century ratchet of this kind is portrayed by Filippo Bonanni in engraving CXIII (Fig. 6). Similar specimens from Calabria and Trentino Alto Adige may be seen in the Museo Nazionale delle Arti e Tradizioni Popolari in Rome. This type of ratchet sometimes has a very complex construction which requires more than simple carpentry. One of these more complex large instruments is still in use in the B'kara parish of St. Elena.

Relatively few of the smaller hand-twirled ratchets have been found in Maltese churches, but these were also commonly used in the homes. They were often given to children during Holy Week instead of their usual toys.

In Italy these wooden instruments have exactly the same strong associations with Holy Week as we find in Malta. They are considered to have an exorcistic function, clearly dating from pre Christian days when wooden instruments were thought to chase away evil spirits and therefore to purify a holy place.

### **Noise expells evil**

It is worth recalling that the original function of bells was, and still is in some cases, exorcistic.<sup>(12)</sup> It was not unusual for the older Church bells to be inscribed with the words "Daemones Expello Tempestates Que Sereno" (I expel devils and calm the

tempests). A traveller to Malta writing in 1839 describes one such bell in the Citadel Cathedral in Gozo.<sup>(13)</sup> Indeed, up to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, church bells were certainly still considered to possess the power to calm strong winds (eg. Siggiewi), or to chase away approaching tempests (eg. Birgu). One much-distressed correspondent from Senglea wrote the following in a local paper in 1906:

“We had a thunderstorm approaching the island not very long ago. At the third clap of thunder, the belfry of San Lorenzo was rushed by youths who successfully rang the storm away, and the danger once passed, rang a second peal of jubilation”! <sup>(14)</sup>

It is interesting to discover that bells in Malta had yet another function which was also associated with the expulsion of evil. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century we discover that bells were used to announce a person’s excommunication from the Church, here again indirectly serving a function of dispelling evil. <sup>(15)</sup>

Instruments such as scrapers and clappers were considered to have similar purifying powers. To this, a Christian medieval association with Judas Iscariot was also added.

The instruments of Holy Week carry several different shades of meaning in the minds of the common people; the crowds shouting out to hang Jesus, the suffering of Jesus, mourning for Jesus, the Roman soldiers approaching, repentance for sins committed by the crowds and by Judas Iscariot, or crushing the bones of Judas. The purifying element features in the disassociation from the sins of Judas and the symbolic act of crushing his bones for the evil done. This element remains well in keeping with the original function of wooden instruments.

In Malta, we find that up to a generation ago, there was a very strong association of noise with purification during Holy Week. This was a deep-rooted belief that had long been integrated into Christianity. Of particular relevance is the old pre Vatican Council custom which used to take place in the Easter Triduum, on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Wednesday, known as *l-Erbgha tat-Tniebri*, literally ‘the Wednesday of Darkness,’ the Church used to be hermetically sealed from all light. Fifteen candles placed on a special candlestand (*Il-Barabba*) near the altar were then lit. One candle at a time was snuffed out at the end of every one of the 14

Psalm readings. When eventually only the last central candle was left, and the Benedictus and antiphon had been recited, the last candle was lifted for the congregation to see, and was then also snuffed out to symbolise the death of Christ. The clergy promptly began to stamp their feet on the wooden choir. The congregation followed suit by knocking against the confessionals and stamping chairs, thus causing a most frightening cacophony of sound. This was generally said to symbolise the earthquake that took place after Christ's death. However, in the minds of the people it was usually also associated with chasing away the evil Judas who betrayed Jesus.<sup>(16)</sup>

There is one reading from the Gospel which originally inspired this type of reaction from the congregation. A very powerful passage in Matthew shows that the very elements showed their disapprobation of the crucifixion of Jesus. The earth quaked, darkness fell and the dead were seen rising from their tombs. This reading must have had a strong terrifying effect on the faithful who listened to it in a church which was in total darkness:

Matthew 27: The death of Jesus

45. From the 6<sup>th</sup> hour there was darkness over all the land until the 9<sup>th</sup> hour. And from the 9<sup>th</sup> hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?", that is "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

51. And suddenly the veil of the Sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, the rocks were split, the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy people rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the holy city and appeared to a number of people. The centurian together with the others guarding Jesus had seen the earth quake and all that was taking place and they were terrified and said, "In truth this man was son of God."

In this custom of clattering wood in Maltese Churches, we find a strong element of fear of the calamities that will befall evildoers and we see the same association with chasing evil, a continuation of the ancient belief in the power of noise to keep away evil.<sup>(17)</sup>

## Documentary records of the *ċuqlajta*

Out of the 50 or so churches I visited in search of the *ċuqlajta*, very rarely could I be told who constructed the instruments or when they were made. In one parish, that of Gharghur, it is recalled that the cross-shaped *ċuqlajta* in the belfry was made in the early 1930's by a carpenter by the name of Mikiel Aquilina.<sup>(18)</sup> Only in one case, in the parish of Qrendi was a large belfry cross-shaped *ċuqlajta* found actually carrying a date, 1933. However, it is not certain whether this is a date of construction or a date of repair. Instruments of this kind were not usually considered of much importance and therefore were not normally signed or dated. Records of them were only rarely kept in church registers. In most cases it can be concluded through living memory, that all the instruments are definitely a minimum of 50 or 60 years old. Most are clearly very much older.

It is indeed very fortunate when one comes across any form of documentary evidence, such as that found by Dun Salv Caruana in the Haġ-Żebbuġ parish.<sup>(19)</sup> Among the Church payments, a fee of "Scudi 0, tari 4" was paid to one Antonio Zammit on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1787 "*per aver accomodato la cocclaeta.*" The word "accomodato" is considered by Dun Salv to mean "repaired" rather than "newly-constructed." It carries the same meaning in several other of the Church records.

The Żebbuġ records prove that the Żebbuġ church was definitely using some form of *ċuqlajta* in 1787, but we cannot be entirely certain as to what type. Whether this *cocclaeta* is the same large belfry cross shaped instrument still in use today, is hard to say. Repairs would certainly have been made to it several times since then, and are definitely recalled to have been made in the 1940's, after the war. All instruments kept up in the belfry need constant maintenance, eventually leaving very little or nothing of the original construction. Hammers are frequently the first to go. Several instruments have in fact been seen with broken hammers. Many also have added reinforcements, sometimes wooden other times metal. Large sections of these instruments are very often completely replaced. The parish of Żebbuġ also has an instrument used inside the church which is, however, very likely to date from as far back as 1787. The age and type of wood as well as the metalwork all indicate the possibility of such a date.

Other churches were definitely also using some form of instrument in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, since Can. de Soldanis lists the instrument in his dictionary,<sup>(20)</sup> and describes it as the instrument used in Holy Week, suggesting that it has been long-established. Churches that didn't have belfries were not likely to have the very large instruments, and would probably have had a smaller more portable form of ratchet or clapper. Inside the churches the simple clappers with metal handles still to be found in several of the older churches can easily be dated back at least to the 18<sup>th</sup>, possibly to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Naxxar parish probably has one of the oldest ratchet-type instruments still in use inside the Church. The instruments used inside churches generally stand a better chance of preservation because they are brought out only once a year and then are stored in a cupboard in the sacristy till the following year.

It would be helpful to find documentary evidence of the use of wooden instruments in medieval Malta. Professor Godfrey Wettinger in fact comes across a *chicaikile* being played in 1527 as a means of teasing and ridiculing an old schoolmaster priest.<sup>(21)</sup> It is possible that this instrument was none other than some type of *cuqlajta*. Further delving into early records may eventually yet yield more, possibly earlier, proof of use of the *cuqlaita* on the Maltese islands.

#### Notes and References:

- 1 For details on the types of instruments found in Maltese Churches see Anna Borg Cardona "Grinding"Judas' Bones" *Treasures of Malta* (Summer 2002).  
See Fivos Anoyanakis, *Greek Popular Instruments* (Athens: National Bank of Greece, 1979), 95-104.
- 2 Stanley Fiorini, "The 1551 Siege of Gozo and Repopulation of the Island" in *A Focus on Gozo* eds. J.Farrugia & L. Briguglio, Formatek Ltd., (Malta:1996, reprinted 1997) 82.
- 4 Stanley Fiorini, "The 1551 Siege of Gozo" 83-84.
- 5 Brian Blouet, *The Story of Malta* (rev. ed. Malta: Progress Press Co. Ltd.) 70.
- 6 James Blades, *Percussion Instruments and their History* (rev. ed. Westport, Conn.:The Bold Strummer, Ltd., 1992) 195.
- 7 G. Pitre, *Giuochi fanciulleschi Siciliani* (Palermo: 1883), 417.
- 8 A very small bone clapper dating back to Malta's Roman period (218BC - 535AD) may be seen in the Museum of Roman Antiquities, Rabat, Malta. This may have been used as a toy or as an

instrument in religious ritual.

9. Paola Elisabetta Simeoni and Roberta Tucci, eds., Museo Nazionale delle Arti e Tradizioni Popolari, Roma. *La Collezione degli Strumenti Musicali*, (Roma, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, 1991) 88.
10. See Paola Elisabetta Simeoni and Roberta Tucci eds. *La Collezione*, 87.
11. Filippo Bonanni, *Gabinetto Armonico* (Rome: 1723). Bonanni (1638-1725) was a Jesuit librarian and bibliographer. In 1698 he was appointed curator of the famous collection of antiquities formed by Athanasius Kircher and preserved in the Jesuit College. His *Gabinetto Armonico* is one of the principal documents for the history of musical instruments.
12. Curt Sachs, *The History of Musical Instruments* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd, 1942), 169-170.
13. G.P. Badger, *Description of Malta and Gozo*, (Malta: 1838), 303.
14. *Daily Malta Chronicle*, 4<sup>th</sup> January 1906, Letter to the editor signed "Distracted."
15. Godfrey Wettinger, "Priests in Court: A Harassed Schoolmaster and his Traducer" in *Melitensium Amor*, eds. T. Cortis, T. Freller, L Bugeja (Malta: 2002) 97-110.
16. A very vivid account of this is given by Dun Anton Refalo in "Il Gimgha mqaddsa fix-Xaghra ta' dari " "Liturgija u Drawwiet ta' qabel ir Riforma" in *Ix-Xaghra*, vol. VIII No 9, (Jannar-Marzu, 1994). This custom was brought to an end by the reforms of Vatican Council II.
17. James Blades, *Percussion Instruments and their History*, 195.
18. Personal communication by Dun Karm Bezzina (aged c. 80yrs) of Tabor, St John Street, Gharghur, who recalls details of construction and maintenance done on the belfry *cuqlajta*. The instrument was made in the early 1930's by Mikiel Aquilina at the time that Dun Karm Fenech was Church Procurator. It was repaired by Duminku Pullicino, and later also by Bertu Aquilina, who placed it on metal supports.
19. Zebbug Bills Register 1781-1818. For this information, I am indebted to Dun Salv Caruana.
20. Can. Agius de Soldanis, *Dizionario Maltese Italiano Latino*, Malta National Library, Ms. Libr.143, 117v. See also *Damma tal kliem kartaginis mscerred fel fom tal maltin u ghaucin*, Ms. 143, 97r.  
*Tabella*. A stridulent instrument which is played during Holy Week instead of bells. (tr. Anna Borg Cardona).
21. Godfrey Wettinger, "Priests in Court" 97-110.

# CUQLAJTA in Malta

PLACE	TYPE							
	BELFRY		INSIDE CHURCH					
	Cross & Hammers	Ratchet		Clapper strung	Clapper w/ hinged wooden flaps	Clapper w/ metal handles	Ratchet	
			+hammers				twirled	sound box
Attard	**							
Balzan			*			**		
Birgu								
Birkirkara, St. Helen			**					**
Cospicua	*					*		
Dingli		*		**				*
Gharghur	**							
Ghaxaq	**				d		d	
Gudja	**			**				
Hamrun, San Gejtanu					**			
Kirkop								
Lija			d			*		
Luqa	**							d
Mdina Cathedral	**				**			
Mellieha		d						d
Mgarr								
Mosta								
Mqabba				*				
Msida	**			**				
Naxxar	**							**
Qormi, St. George	**			**				
Qrendi	**							
Rabat Dominican Church						*		
Rabat, St. Paul	*				**			
Safi								
Senglea								
Siggiewi	*				**			
Tarxien				*				
Valletta, St. John's Cathedral						**		
Valletta, St. Augustine						*		
Valletta, Jesuits						**		
Valletta, St. Paul Shipwreck						**		
Valletta, Carmelites						**		
Zabbar	*							
Zebbug	**					**		
Zejtun	**			**				
Zurrieq	d					*		

\*\* = in use; \* = not in use; d = discarded

# CUQLAJTA in Gozo

PLACE	TYPE							
	BELFRY			INSIDE CHURCH				
	Cross & Hammers	Ratchet		Clapper strung	Clapper w/ hinged wooden flaps	Clapper w/ metal handles	Ratchet	
			+hammers				twirled	sound box
Gharb	*				*			
Nadur		*						
Qala		*						
Rabat Cathedral								
Rabat, Franciscans					*			
Sannat		d		*				
Xaghra		d						
Xewkja								
Zebbug					*			

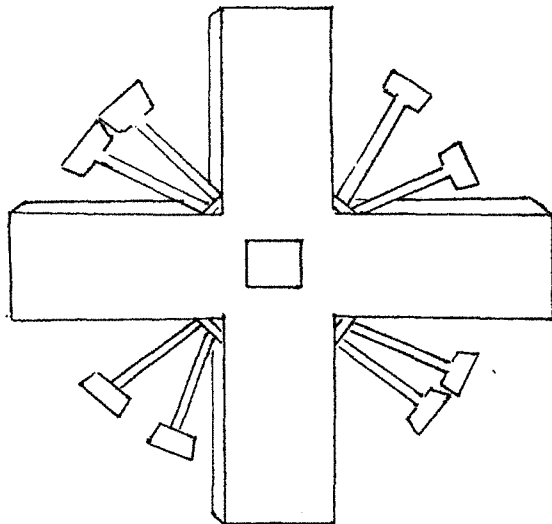


Fig. 1



Figure 1 Cross-shaped *cuqlajta* with wooden mallets. Found in several Maltese belfries. Drawing by the author.

Figure 2 The *Matrac(c)a* used in Holy Week in Spain as portrayed in Filippo Bonanni, *Gabinetto Armonico* (1723) Engraving CXIV.



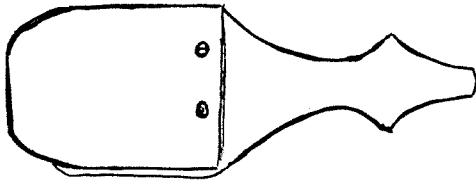


Fig. 3

Figure 3 Small bone clapper from Roman period.

Drawing by the author.

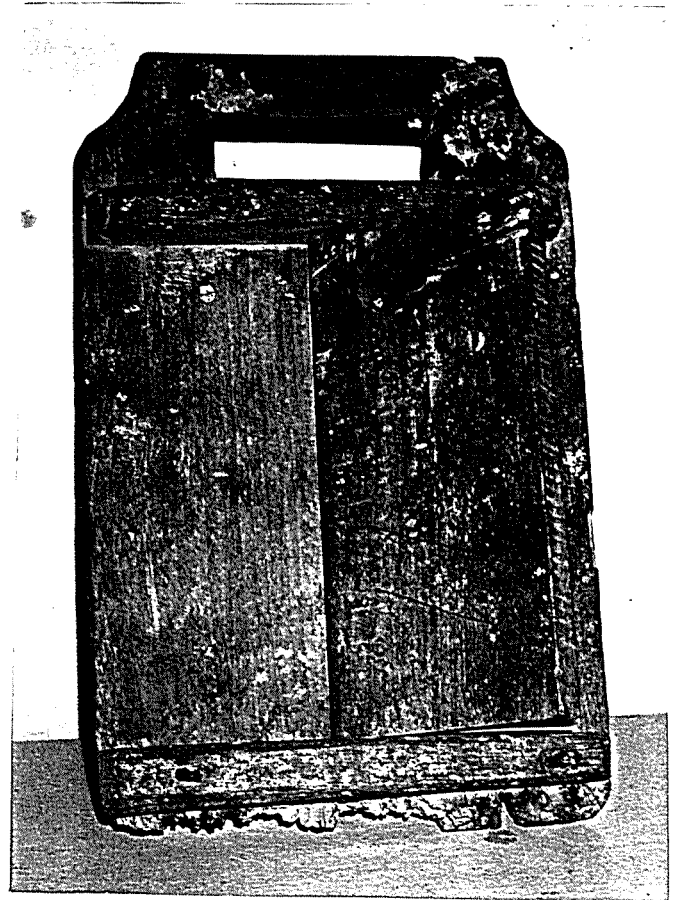


Fig. 4

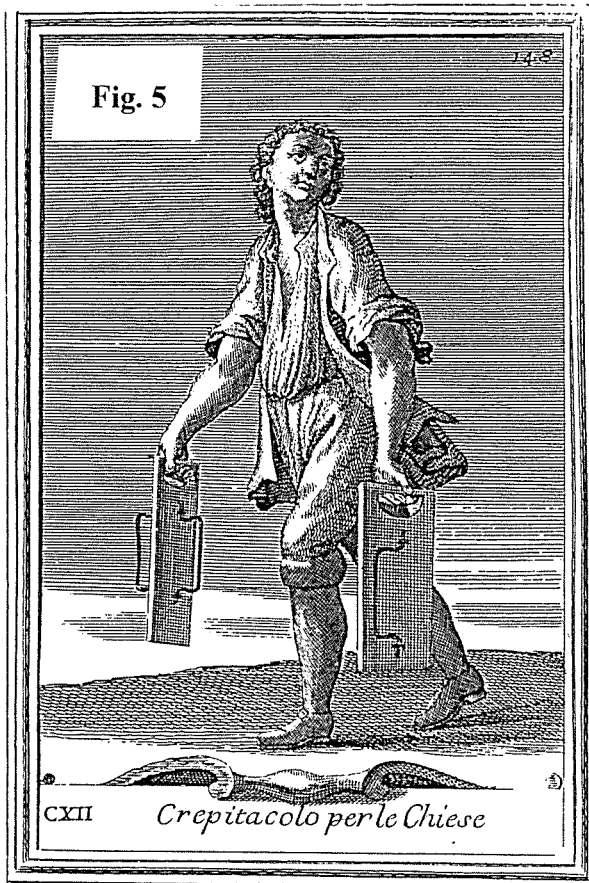


Fig. 4 Clapper with hinged wooden flaps (Gharb). One of the instruments used inside the church during Holy Week in Malta and Southern Italy. Fig. 5 Filippo Bonanni, (*Gabinetto Armonico*, 1723). Engraving CXII *Crepitacolo per le chiese*, showing a clapper with metal handles. Similar instruments also found in Maltese churches.

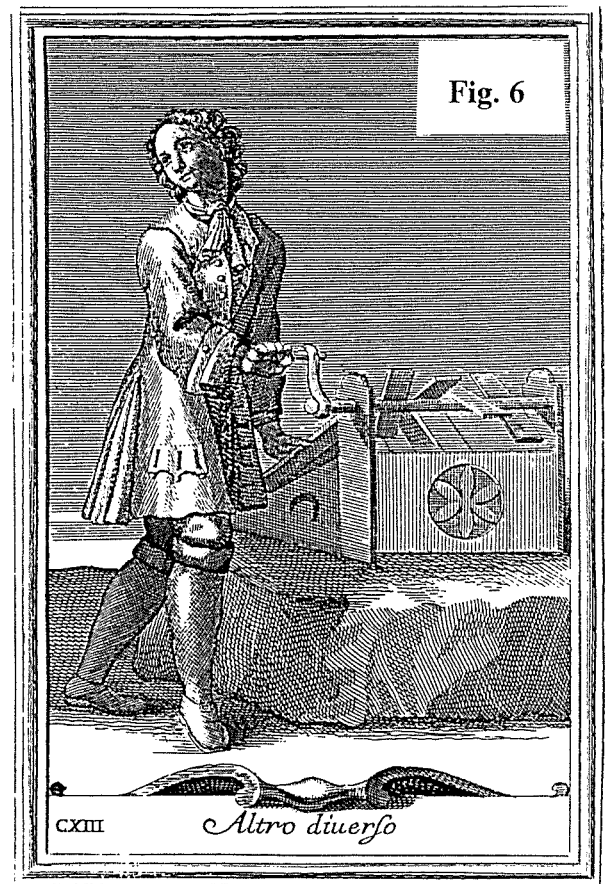


Fig. 6 Filippo Bonanni, (*Gabinetto Armonico*, 1723). Engraving CXIII. Similar large constructions are to be found in the parishes of Nadur and Qala, Gozo.

# IL-MUXRABIJA WIRT L-ISLAM FIL-GŻEJJER MALTIN

Dr. C.J. Jaccarini MD, FRCP, DCh.

Hawn min jghid li, minbarra l-lingwa, l-Gharab kienu dahhlu fpajjiżna t-tqassim tar-raba' f'tarag immewweg ta' ghelieqi mdawrin b'hitan tas-sejjieh kif ukoll l-użu tas-sienja ghat-tisqija tal-uċuh. Jinghad ukoll li kienu huma l-ewwel li hawlu f'Malta s-sigar taċ-ċitru. Izda dan kollu mhux la kemm wiehed jasal biex jipprova. Lanqas wiehed jista' jkun fiż-żgur jekk il-bixra arkitettonika ta' l-irziezet Maltin, bi kmamar ċatti mibnijin dawra mejt ma' bitha żghira, u dik ta' l-irhula, bit-toroq dojq u sqaqien li jserrpu u jidhlu go xulxin bla ma jsegwu pjan fiss, humiex ukoll influwenza ta' l-Gharab. Kull ma nistghu nghidu hu biss li ghad fadal fostna tliet elementi mhux komuni, jigiifieri *l-isqifa* - passagġ imsaqqaf li jiehu dritt ghal go razzett, *ir-roundels* gebliet kbar u tondi ngastati gol-hitan u mnaqqxin b'disinji dekorattivi, u *l-muxrabija* huma tipiċi tal-kultura Islamika.<sup>1</sup> F'din il-kitba se naghti xi taghrif fil-qosor dwar din ta' l-aħhar (bil-Gharbi *mushrabija*), li għalkemm illum qajla ghadna nisimgħu biha, kienet qieghda f'halq il-poplu fi żminijiet oħra u kienet saħansitra msemija minn Temi Zammit f'wahda mill-istejjer qosra tiegħu <sup>2</sup>.

*Il-muxrabija* hi bħal paraventu jew skrin dekorattiv ta' l-injam li kien jinhadem bl-idejn jew bit-torn f'ghamla ta' kannizzata u kien jghatti l-fetha ta' tieqa. B'hekk wiehed seta' jittawwal 'il barra minn got-tieqa bla ma jidher. Dan hu element interessanti tal-kultura tradizzjonali Islamika fejn is-soċjetà kienet minn dejjem iddominata mill-irġiel u fejn fl-imghoddi n-nisa ma tantx kellhom kuntatti diretti mad-dinja ta' barra. Għalhekk fil-waqt li l-irġiel setgħu johorġu 'l barra kull meta fettlilhom,

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<sup>1</sup> Mhux magħruf jekk dawn kinux iddahhlu dirett mill-Gharab ta' l-Afrika ta' Fuq, jew indirettament minn nies ta' Sqallija jew ta' Spanja. Għal iktar dettalji u ritratti ta' *l-isqifa* u *r-roundels* li ghandna fpajjiżna, ara M.Buhagiar u S.Fiorini, *Mdina: The Cathedral City of Malta*, Central Bank of Malta, 1996, vol.i, pp.55-60, 61, 64 u 66; u C.J.Jaccarini, *Ir-Razzett: The Maltese Farmhouse*, Malta, 1998, pp.80-82, 102, 107-108.

<sup>2</sup> Din jisimha 'Lejla Bint Ffissan', u giet mitbugħa f'*Nies Bla Sabar u Stejjer Ohra*, miġburin minn Toni Cortis, Merlin Library Ltd., 1987, p.62-65.

in-nisa kienu jibqghu misturin f'darhom u setghu biss jaraw x'kien qed jigri madwarhom billi jittawlu minn wara l-muxrabija.

Ghalkemm l-użu tal-muxrabija issa ilu sew li nqata' minn pajjiżna, dan l-oġġett xorta għadu jgajjem interess fost l-istudjużi ta' l-etnografija, ta' l-antropologija u ta' l-arkitektura għaliex jixhet dawl partikulari fuq id-drawwiet ta' l-imghoddi u l-hajja domestika ta' missirijietna. Jinghad li l-iktar muxrabiji antiki fid-dinja li nafu bihom s'issa huma dawk tas-seklu IX.

Aquilina jiddefinixxi l-muxrabija bħala "*a roofed balcony or projecting oriel window*"<sup>3</sup>, imma fil-fehma tiegħi din id-definizzjoni hi xi flit xotta u ma tkoprix il-bosta forom ta' muxrabija li għadhom jeżistu fil-gżejjer Maltin. Ta' min jinnota wkoll li hawn xi wħud li minflok il-kelma *muxrabija* jużaw *muxrafija*, kelma li safejn naf jien ma tinstab fl-ebda dizżjunarju Malti.<sup>4</sup> Kultant għadna nisimghu 'il xi xih raħli li jirreferi għaliha bħala *n-nemmiesa*, waqt li hemm ohrajn li jsibuha bħala *x-xerriefa*. Il-muxrabija qadima li hemm fir-Rabat, Ghawdex, isejhulha *l-kixxief* jew inkella *l-kixxifija*.<sup>5</sup> Fl-aħħarnett hemm *il-glusija* jew *gelusija*<sup>6</sup>, persjana f'apertura ta' tieqa li tinfetħ 'il fuq minflok lejn il-ġenb, li tista' titqies ukoll bħala varjazzjoni tal-muxrabija.

Il-muxrabiji li għad fadal Malta nsibuhom l-iktar f'xi razzett jew xi f'dar qadima fejn jidhru mahruġin kemxejn 'il barra mit-tieqa ewlenija fl-ewwel sular li thares għal fuq il-bieb ta' barra. L-iktar għamla komuni hi dik ta' kaxxa ċatta li fiha għadd ta' toqob zgħar fil-faċċata u toqba jew tnejn kemxejn ikbar fil-ġnub u fin-naħa ta' taħt. Ximindaqqiet minflok it-toqob tal-faċċata' jidhru serje ta' xquq bħal dawk tal-persjani.

Minhabba fin-nuqqas ta' sigar f'pajjiżna, l-ewwel muxrabiji x'aktarx li kienu jsiru tal-ġebel iżda dawn ftit li xejn għad fadal minnhom u llum l-iżjed li nsibu huma dawk li huma mahdumin fl-injam.

<sup>3</sup> J.Aquilina, *Maltese-English Dictionary*, 1990, vol.ii, p.874.

<sup>4</sup> Il-Prof. Aquilina jagħti l-kelma *xiref* bħala "To look/lean out of a window generally to see what is going on outside", iżda n-nom ta' dal-verb huwa *mixref* jew *mixraf* (li jfisser *post fil-ġholi* jew *belveder*). Aquilina, ii, 1990, 1574. Il-*Miklem Malti* ta' E. Serracino Inglojt il-kelma *muxrabija* ma' jgibhiex.

<sup>5</sup> Ara A.F. Attard, *Mill-Hajja ta' L-Imghoddi: Tagħrif Folkloristiku minn Ghawdex*, vol.i, Gozo, 1991, 84. Il-kelma *kixxifija* hija l-femminil ta' *kixxief*. Aquilina, 1987, vol.i, 657, taħt il-kelma *kixef*.

<sup>6</sup> Kelma li gejjta mill-Franciz, *jalousie*. Aquilina, vol i, 384

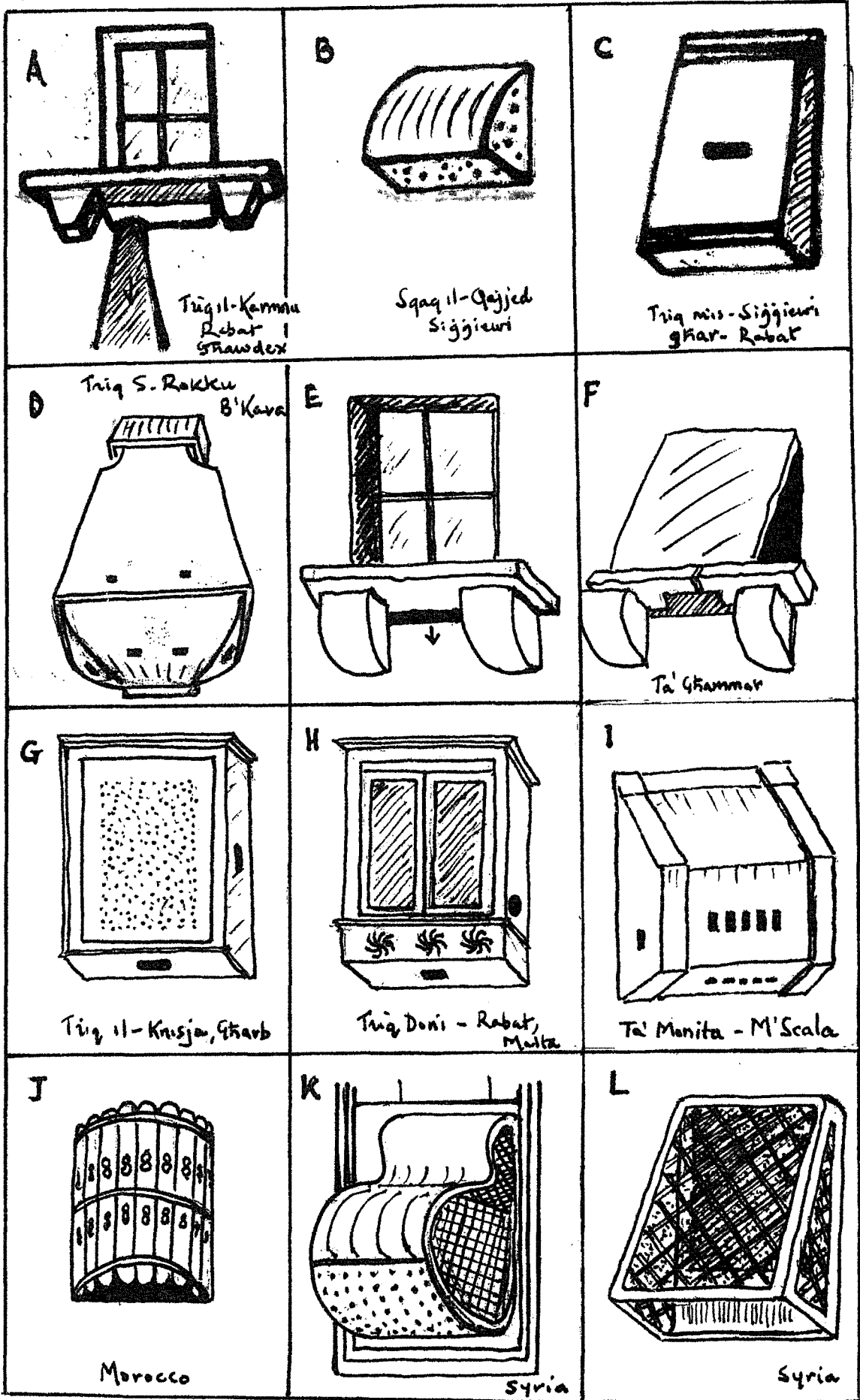
Fil-kantuniera tal-bejt ta' razzett ġieli naraw kamra zghira fuq quddiem b'daqsxejn ta' rewwieħa li minnha wiehed kien jista' jgħarrex madwaru. Din tfakkarna fil-gardjola (*sentry box jew vedette*) li hemm fil-kantunieri ta' xi whud mis-swar tagħna li minnhom kienet issir l-għassa għall-ghadu. U la qed insemmu l-fortizzi, hawn ta' min jinnota li s-swar Islamiċi kellhom ukoll il-*mushrabiya* tagħhom, għalkemm din kienet ta' bixra u funzjoni differenti minn dik tal-bini domestiku. Teknikament din isibuha bħala *box machicoulis* jew *drop box* u kienet bħal gallerija zghira tal-ġebel mingħajr qiegħ li tisporgi 'l barra mill-faċċata tal-bejt fuq il-bieb ewlieni tal-forti. Barra minn harsithom, mill-ġholi tas-sur, l-għassiesa setgħu jitfgħu fuq l-ghadu xita ta' mishun u qatran jahraq.<sup>7</sup>

Wahda mill-aktar għamliet strambi fost il-ftit muxrabiji tal-ġebel hi dik li għad hemm mal-faċċata ta' dar qadima fi Triq il-Karmnu, ġol-Mandragg, il-kwartier Għarbi tar-Rabat, Ghawdex (ara Ill. A). Din m'hix hliet toqba mdaqqsqa li tinfer il-hajt ta' fuq is-soll tat-tieqa u tghaddi 'l isfel fuq ix-xellug minn wara l-blata tal-harriġiet. Minn hawn tinzel f'għamla ta' gandott dejjaq li jibqa' jitwessa' bil-ftit il-ftit sa ma jispiċċa ċatt mal-hajt qisu mrewħa magħluqa. Jingħad li din hi l-iktar muxrabija qadima li hawn f'pajjiżna u l-unika wahda ta' din l-għamla.

Forma oħra interessanti ta' muxrabija tal-ġebel għandha l-wiċċ imzerżaq 'il barra, għat-tond, qisha harriġa rasha 'l isfel, b'għadd ta' toqob zghar ġo fiha li minnhom wiehed seta' jnemmes 'il barra. (Ill. B). Oħrajn huma bħal kaxxa ċatta tal-ġebel ingastata fil-hajt bil-faċċata tmil xi ftit 'il barra min-naha t'isfel (Ill. C). Żewġ muxrabiji ta' dan it-tip għadna nistgħu narawhom mal-bini magħruf bħala Ta' Monita, Marsaskala (Ill. I).

Muxrabija maħduma fil-ġebel b'bixra dekorattiva m'hix tas-soltu hi dik li hemm fuq il-bejt ta' 84 Triq Santu Rokku, Birkirkara - id-dar li, kif jingħad, kien jgħammar fiha l-patrijott Ċensu Borg (Braret) fi żmien il-hakma tal-Franċiżi (Ill. D).

<sup>7</sup> Għal din ir-raġuni l-Maltin kienu jsibu dawn it-torrijiet bil-*machicoulis* bħala "torrijiet tal-mishun". Ara S.C. Spiteri, *Fortresses of the Cross*, 1994, pp.474, 476, 645, 646. Wieħed jista' jara numru ġmielu ta' dawn id-*drop boxes* fit-Torri Gauci u fit-Torri tal-Kaptan li qegħdin qrib xulxin f' San Pawl tat-Tarġa, kif ukoll fit-Torri Kavallier fil-Qrendi. It-Torri ta' Gourgion fix-Xewkija, Ghawdex, li kien inħatt fi żmien l-ahhar gwerra, kellu bosta mibnijin dawra mejt mal-hitan.



Fid-djar li ma kellhomx muxrabija kien ikun hemm xi rkejjen ohra minn fejn wiehed seta' jgharrex 'il barra minghajr ma hadd jarah. Per eżempju, jekk niflu sew it-tieqa karatteristika li tagħti għal fuq il-bieb ta' barra ta' bosta rziezet (maghrufa bhala t-tieqa taż-żewġ harriġiet) għandna nindunaw li l-blata tas-soll mhux dejjem hija mhaxkna sew mal-faċċata tad-dar. Hekk kien jithalla xaqq li minnu kienu jgharrxu 'l isfel ha jaraw min ikun ġie (III. E). Barra minn hekk, xi galleriji antiki, kemm dawk tal-gebel kif ukoll ta' l-injam, kienu jservu sabiex wiehed seta' jhares 'il barra minghajr ma jixref. Fost il-galleriji miftuhin tal-gebel, jispikkaw dawk li huma mžejnin b'lavur mill-isbah u ddekorati b'toqob zghar minquxin f'sensiela ta' rozetti, flieli tal-qamar jew bid-disinn tal-furdulis. Xi whud insibulhom ringiela balavostri u kienu jintużaw għall-istess haġa. Hemm ukoll xi galleriji ta' l-injam b'numru ta' toqob zghar taht it-tieqa tal-gebn jew xquq fil-panewwi, imma hdejn il-galleriji bill-persjani jew bil-hsajjar tal-qasab mat-twieqi dawn huma rari.

F'razzett antik hdejn il-kappella ta' San Publju, f'Ta' Ghammar, Ghawdex, għad hemm muxrabija interessanti tal-gebel li sa fejn naf jien m'hawnx ohra bhalha fil-gzejjer tagħna. Fuq il-blata tas-soll, tistrieħ immejla 'l ġewwa mal-hajt ta' fuq it-tieqa, naraw ċangatura kbira, u fl-istess blata fetha maqtugħa rettangolari b'tavla fuqha li wiehed kien iressaq biex seta' jhares 'l isfel minn ġo fiha (III.F).

Fil-kunvent tal-patrijiet kapuċċini tal-Furjana nsibu verżjoni ohra, din id-darba f'ghamla ta' toqba mdaqqsqa ġos-saqaf tal-portiku ewlieni. Din it-toqba kwadra jew *spy hole* qieghda fil-gholi fejn ma tagħtix fil-ghajn u tinfed għal ġol-kuritur ta' l-ewwel sular permezz ta' toqba ohra fl-art. Fiż-Żejtun fid-dar numru 92 Triq il-Kbira hemm *spy hole* ohra li tixbahha, ghalkemm din qieghda fil-baxx, livell mas-soll tat-tieqa, thares lejn il-gebn tal-bieb ta' barra.<sup>8</sup>

Il-muxrabija ta' l-injam hi wisq iktar komuni minn dik tal-gebel u nistgħu narawha mxerrda 'l hawn u 'l hinn fl-irhula. Hemm minnha wkoll fl-Imdina u fix-xaqliha l-qadima tar-Rabat ta' Malta. L-iktar komuni hi f'ghamla ta' kaxxa ċatta, b'numru ta' toqob zghar fil-faċċata, fil-ġnub u fin-naħa t'isfel tagħha, li tghatti l-fetha

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<sup>8</sup> Tagħrif mogħti lili minn Joseph Tanti, Żejtun, 1.5.2002.

tat-tieqa ta' fuq il-bieb ewlieni. (Ill. G). Fuq quddiem, minflok toqob, ġieli jkun hemm *screen tal-wiremesh*. Jezistu wkoll xi kaxex b'zewġ purtelli tal-ħġieġ imtappan biex dak li jkun ma jagħtix fil-ġhajj (Ill. H). Ohrajn għandhom il-persjana mal-faċċata, bħal dik li nsibu hdejn in-niċċa ta' San Tumas f'Wied il-Ġhajj.

Għalkemm il-bixra tal-muxrabija Maltija ta' l-injam hi waħda sempliċi u ma fihiex ix-xogħol elaborat bit-torn jew bl-arkett li naraw f'dawk li hemm bil-gzuz ġol-pajjiżi ta' l-Afrika ta' Fuq u f'tal-Lvant Nofsani (Ill. J, K, L), hi xorta waħda tixbahhom. L-istess nistghu nġhidu għall-galleriji ta' l-injam li barra l-pajjiżi li għadna kif semmejna nsibuhom fil-parti t'isfel ta' Spanja li damet wisq aktar minna taħt il-ħakma ta' l-Islam.

F'dawn l-aħħar hamsin sena hallasna prezz qares għall-Iżvilupp ta' pajjiżna, u issa qisna ntbahna li tul il-mixja tal-'progress' għamilna herba shiħa mill-patrimonju Malti. B'hasra kbira wiehed jinnota li bil-ftit il-ftit, flimkien ma' l-irziezet u d-djar qodma, qed inkomplu nnaqqr u l-bosta fdalijiet zġhar, xempji ta' l-arkitettura vernakulari li fasslu missirijietna. Wisq aġar minn hekk, issa spiċċajna biex għarraqna wkoll il-maqdes ta' l-Imnajdra! Haġa tal-mistħija, il-lezzjoni aħna donna ma nitgħallmuha qatt!

Irridu nifhmu li minkejja ċ-ċokon u s-sempliċità tagħhom il-muxrabija u xi ntietef ohra - li hdejn il-patrimonju grandjuż tan-Nies tal-Qedem, tal-Kavallieri u tal-Knisja jistgħu jidhru li m'għandhom l-ebda valur - huma parti mill-istorja etnika u folkloristika ta' pajjiżna. Għaldaqstant, jeħtieġ li kull wiehed u waħda minna jaħdem bla heda, l-aktar fost it-tfal u z-zgħażaġh, biex ikun hawn aktar apprezzament u għozza ta' dak kollu li hallewlna missirijietna.

# POLYDACTYLISM IN FOLKLORE

Angelo Dougall

There have recently been some write-ups and comments in a local periodical about past incidence of polydactylism in Malta, and about its depiction in art. However, this article is more about polydactylism in Maltese folklore, local beliefs, and cases I have come to know about.

Admittedly, polydactylism is a very rare phenomenon and sparsely written about. Whenever mentioned, it is in an undertone; practically treated as taboo. Surely this phenomenon has occurred from time to time in Malta, and persons having five fingers and a thumb on each hand, and six toes on each foot have been depicted in art and written about in medical journals, with relative scientific comments and observations.

Polydactylism has been known in Malta since Neolithic times. In Dr. Paul Cassar's authoritative work "Medical History of Malta" (1964) p.5, it is stated that a statuette has been found with five fingers and a thumb. Some art critics have looked upon the depiction of polydactylism in art as the artist's mistake or whim; it is neither case. One little known depiction of polydactylism is a hardly noticeable detail in the 18<sup>th</sup> century mural in the refectory of the Old Seminary in Floriana. Here too, critics have suggested that the eunuch with five fingers and a thumb could be an error by the artist. Surely it is not! Personally I must admit I was more interested in the old folkloristic and culinary details painted in the magnificent murals, and could hardly notice that peculiarity. This phenomenon is known to have occurred also in neighbouring Sicily where it is held in superstitious horror. I was once reading on Sicilian folklore and found that this abnormality is associated with misfortune, dread and bad luck. In Malta, somehow it is held in similar apprehension, although more philosophically considered to be a freak of nature (*skerz tan-natura*) in man. As to its portrayal in art, artists must have either heard or known about it at some time or another, or have personally encountered this unusual incidence.



### **Polydactylism folklore in Malta**

It is indeed a very rare peculiarity, and generally believed by many, to be a freak transmission of a genetical trait of that "antediluvian race of giants" mentioned in the book of Genesis in the Bible and the Apocrypha. It is believed to be a trait of the giants that inhabited the earth in bygone times. Once I heard my father talking about one such case found some years back in Bormla, and that the smaller extra fingers were surgically removed in infancy to make the person normal! In Cospicua the individual was nicknamed "*Il-Buswab*" and referred to as "*raġel buswab*".

### **Other cases I know of.**

My friend Capt. Joseph M. Wismayer, in his work "The Fleet of the Order of Saint John", mentions the case in the 18<sup>th</sup> century of the Algerian Bey of Algiers who had seven fingers on each hand and seven toes on each foot; he was appropriately named "*Buswaba*" by his Algerian friends!

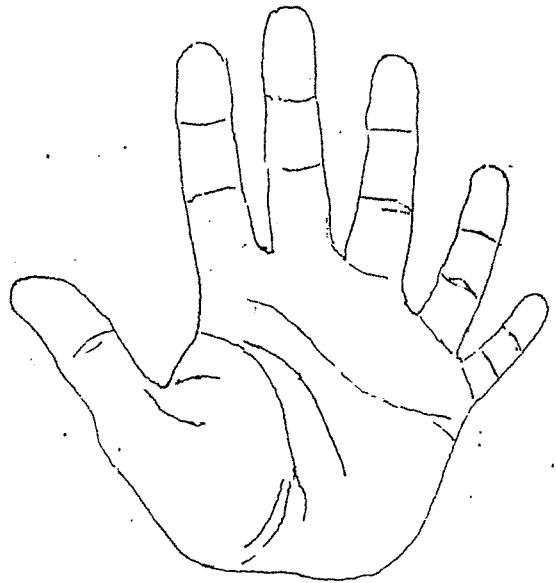
Polydactylism is also met with in Saint John's co-Cathedral in Valletta. On the marble memorial slab on the tomb of Chev. Charles Glandeves (about the middle of the nave), the angel on the right is shown quite clearly with six toes on his right foot. His left foot and both his hands are obscured artificially. Here the artist who designed the memorial could indeed have some hidden message, and one could suspect that Chev. Glandeves could have been a polydactyl knight!

In the early 70s I saw a photograph in an American magazine, of a coloured boy about six years old, in the state of Mississippi, U.S.A., with strong African features, who had five fingers and a thumb on each hand and six toes on each foot. The photograph showed this polydactyl kid, playing happily, all smiles, on a home-made "go-cart", similar to equally home-made carts children played with in pre-war Malta. When I was living in Detroit - Michigan I was told, in a hush hush tone, by some Maltese immigrants, that they remembered a case of polydactylism, a boy born to Maltese parents; these persons could probably be still alive today.

As has already been mentioned, in local folklore polydactylism is treated with some apprehension. A young artist friend of mine once told me that he used to count his baby son's fingers every evening to make sure that he had ten; I suppose he was so

worried and apprehensive that his son could be a polydactyl! Very likely he must have heard of this oddity of nature!

While it seems that polydactylism is a very rare worldwide phenomenon it has been known in Malta since Neolithic times. It has also occurred in neighbouring Sicily, in North Africa and North America, but in Malta we have a folkloristic explanation for polydactylism.



*Drawing of left hand based on a photograph in an Italian periodical, April 2001.*

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### **Kitbiet ghal "L-Imnara"**

Dawn iridu jkunu bażati fuq riċerka jew esperjenzi personali tal-kittieb, u jkollhom dejjem konnessjoni mal-folklor lokali. Kull kitba ghandha tasal ghand l-editur,

Guido Lanfranco, 78, Triq San Trofimu, Tas-Sliema, SLM 02



# Nicknames in Nineteenth Century Gozo

## C. Savona-Ventura

The use of nicknames has been prevalent in Malta throughout the ages possibly dating as far back as the Arab Period. Broadly Maltese nicknames have been subdivided into a variety of forms [1]. The present study attempts to list the nicknames prevalent among the Gozo population in the late nineteenth century. The information was collected from the patient identification notes recorded in the Register of Admissions and Discharges for Lying-in Women at Victoria Hospital for the period 29<sup>th</sup> March 1876 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 1893 [2].

These registers record a total of 396 admissions to the maternity wards of the hospitals. These women have been shown to come from the lower socio-economic strata of the Gozitan population [3]. A total of 218 entries [55.1%] include the person's nickname together with the given forename and surname of the individual. There does not appear to be any nickname entry following the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1886, the inclusion of the nickname being apparently dependent on the whims of the admitting medical officer. During the period under review, a total of 202 individuals were identified by their nickname, but 16 cases were illegible while a number had multiple admissions thus reducing the total number of identified nicknames to 155. An alphabetical list of the identified nicknames follows, though a number marked with a ? are misspelt. All were preceded by the particle *ta'* (of).

### NOTES

1. J. Cassar Pullicino. Social Aspects of Maltese Nicknames. *Studies in Maltese Folklore*. Malta University Press, 1992, p.123-140
2. *Register of Admissions and Discharges for Lying-in Women, Victoria Hospital, 29 March 1876 t 30 April 1892*, 2 vols. Vol II commenced on 29 March 1876 ending on 7 May 1884, +220p. (alternate pagination); Vol III commenced on 13 May 1884 ending on 30 April 1893, +198p. (alternate pagination). Manuscript in author's holding
3. C. Savona-Ventura. A Maternity Unit in Gozo a hundred years ago. *Maltese Medical Journal* 1995, VII(1):p.55-61; C. Savona-Ventura. Giving birth in 19<sup>th</sup> century Gozo 1876-1893. *Storja* 2001, p.52-66

<b>A</b>		<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1/77 Achcer	(?acer)	12/79 Cacu	06/80 Dobra (?)
<b>B</b>		12/76 Calcidonin	<b>E</b>
19/81 Baeva		20/77 Calura	09/82 Eksea
22/85 Bajju	(?)	18/82 Carna	(?)
03/80 Balal		02/77 Carnha	
13/78 Besciesia		02/82 Cascuza	<b>F</b>
02/79 Bezzina	(?)	07/80 Causu	05/79 Farfett
18/76 Brieret		20/78 Cheral	12/83 Felici
06/77 Brunu		09/78 Chischito	11/77 Ferhana
03/81 Bugian	(?)	04/84 Cinfa	04/78 Flusu
		15/85 Cini	05/84 Faqqar
		30/81 Cormla	04/85 Fortin
		14/83 Critema	20/81 Fortuna
		13/85 Cumbos	24/78 Futur
		24/81 Cuschieri	

- Continued from previous page

<p><b>G.</b></p> <p>01/79 Gadura (?)</p> <p>32/81 Gagu (?)</p> <p>22/80 Gandu (?)</p> <p>16/84 Geseran (?)</p> <p>25/80 Giacchi (?Gjakk)</p> <p>08/77 Jacob (?)</p> <p>15/83 Giaebri (?)</p> <p>02/81 gakbin</p> <p>04/77 Gahan</p> <p>06/78 Giannicu (?)</p> <p>11/82 Ginan (?)</p> <p>22/76 Ghingher (?Ginger)</p> <p>08/82 Giondu (?)</p> <p>01/85 Girbi (?Girba)</p> <p>19/77 Gisola (?)</p> <p>20/76 Gurdien</p> <p>15/77 Goga</p> <p>08/85 Gombor (?)</p> <p>02/83 Gora (?)</p> <p>04/83 Gostura (?)</p> <p>17/76 Gwan</p> <p><b>G</b></p> <p>26/80 Galetta</p> <p>01/80 Gandlora</p> <p>13/83 Gazzu</p>	<p><b>H</b></p> <p>05/78 Hangun (?)</p> <p>14/77 Harbux</p> <p>14/82 Hili</p> <p><b>I</b></p> <p>20/84 L-inglis</p> <p><b>K</b></p> <p>09/79 Karrani</p> <p>14/80 Channu (?Kanna)</p> <p>11/76 Charie (?Kari)</p> <p>07/79 Cheiet (?Kejjet)</p> <p>14/78 Chis (?Kies)</p> <p>12/87 Cloru (?Kloru)</p> <p>03/79 Cola (?Kola)</p> <p><b>L</b></p> <p>15/79 Lafrena (?)</p> <p>08/83 Lagari (?)</p> <p>17/84 Laig (?)</p> <p>24/84 Lali (?Lalli)</p> <p>20/80 Lazzru</p> <p>11/83 Licu (?Lici)</p> <p>22/84 Liximena (?)</p> <p>03/83 Loranielli (?)</p>	<p><b>M</b></p> <p>29/81 Maeduish (?)</p> <p>13/82 Maeru (?Majru)</p> <p>12/81 Marden</p> <p>10/78 Martina</p> <p>06/83 Masica (?)</p> <p>19/78 Masieh (?)</p> <p>01/78 Massi (?)</p> <p>22/81 Mastos (?)</p> <p>07/77 Melliehi</p> <p>08/81 Melha</p> <p>09/84 Miru</p> <p>25/81 Moncora (?)</p> <p>16/80 Mosnia (?Mozna)</p> <p>08/78 Munit (?Munita)</p> <p><b>N</b></p> <p>16/78 Naduria (?Nadur)</p> <p>14/85 Nahli</p> <p>16/76 Nanas (?)</p> <p><b>Gh</b></p> <p>09/77 Ghaghi (?0)</p> <p>27/83 Ghigha (?Ghaja)</p> <p>0985 Ghistan (?)</p> <p>15/84 Ghnella (?Ghonnella)</p>
<p><b>P</b></p> <p>04/82 Partazan (?)</p> <p>23/76 Patri *</p> <p>02/80 Peixu *</p> <p>26/78 Perin (?)</p> <p>29/83 Perisci (?)</p> <p>15/78 Pertina (?)</p> <p>10/81 Petit</p> <p>10/77 Pian</p> <p>17/81 Pieileicu (?)</p> <p>11/81 Pina (?Pinu)</p> <p>12/78 Precet (?Precett)</p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p>12/85 Riehlu</p> <p>(?Rhielu)</p>	<p><b>S</b></p> <p>26/83 Saghi (?)</p> <p>04/80 Savier</p> <p>07/83 Savina</p> <p>07/81 Scaland (?)</p> <p>22/87 Scandarett (?)</p> <p>06/82 Scei (?)</p> <p>28/81 Scela (?Skola)</p> <p>27/80 Scifina (?)</p> <p>11/84 Segruit (?Segwit)</p> <p>23/80 Seudi (?Sewdi)</p> <p>31/81 Signura</p> <p>19/76 Sipitani (?)</p> <p>09/80 Sneiter (?Snieter)</p> <p>33/81 Suin (?Sjuna)</p> <p><b>T</b></p> <p>02/78 Torek (?Torok)</p> <p>21/81 Tropper (?Troppu)</p> <p>24/80 Tuna</p>	<p><b>V</b></p> <p>22/78 Valentina</p> <p>13/79 Vaness (?Vanessa)</p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>07/84 Xuereb</p> <p><b>Z</b></p> <p>15/76 Zabbetta</p> <p>14/76 Zaru (?)</p> <p>11/78 Zbuna (?)</p> <p>03/77 Zebbieh</p> <p>16/77 Ziri</p> <p>03/78 Znaifa (?)</p> <p>21/78 Zoru (?Zorru)</p> <p>17/80 Zott (?)</p> <p>23/78 Zunzan</p> <p>09/81 Zuppet (?)</p> <p>03/82 Sniet (?Znied)</p>

## IL-WEGHDI MAL-QADDISIN

Arthur Grima

Il-weghdi dejjem kienu jsiru u wiehed jassoċjahom mar-religjon bhala mod ta' devozzjoni. Dejjem kien hawn nies devoti lejn xi qaddis, ghalhekk meta xi hadd jaghmel weghda arah imur jitlob lil dak il-qaddis li jkollu devozzjoni partikolari lejha.

Storja li sehhet tassew hija dik ta' Katarina u binha Feliċ. Din Katarina Schembri, xebba Galea mwiela ż-Żurriq, kienet toqghod Benghajsa. Fl-1945 binha Feliċ ta' tliet snin bdew ituh l-aċċessjonijiet. Din l-omm tistghu taħsbu kif iġġennet b'dak li beda jiġri u griet mhux f'it għand it-tobba biex tipprova tfejqu. Bhala mara ta' fidi kbira, Katarin sabet ir-refugju tagħha f' San Frangisk. Ma' dan il-qaddis għamlet weghda għall-fejqan ta' binha Feliċ. Il-weghda kienet li lil binha tlibbsu ċ-ċoqqa bhal ta' patri Frangiskan.

Din iċ-ċoqqa kienet ta' kulur kannella skur bil-kurdun mal-qadd. Katarin sabet biċċa drapp l-istess bhal tal-patrijiet, u hetithielu. Għal min forsi ma jafx, dan it-tip ta' drapp ixewwek mhux hazin, u mur ara dak il-povru tifel ta' tliet snin x'kien ihoss. Din il-libsa dam jilbisha għal madwar sena u nofs; immaginawh bil-libsa fis-shana tas-sajf! Hutu li kienu akbar minnu kienu jarawha stramba din il-biċċa li huhom kien dejjem liebes l-istess libsa.

Meta Katarina rat li binha kien fieq, nezzghatlu din il-libsa minn fuqu u l-weghda lil San Frangisk giet fi tmiemha. M'għandniex xi nghidu li Katarin ferhet mhux hazin bil-fejqan ta' binha, biss jien nahseb li aktar feraħ iċ-ċkejken Feliċ, għax fl-aħħar heles mix-xwiek li kien ihoss bil-libsa ta' San Frangisk!



Feliċ Schembri ma' hutu liebes ta' San Franġisk fil-bitha tar-razzett (ara pag. 28)



Is-siġġijiet tal-knisja (ara l-faċċata li jmiss)

# IS-SIĠĠIJET TAL-KNISJA

Guido Lanfranco

Il-knejjes l-antiki li ghadhom jeżistu mill-Medju Evu u minn ftit aktar tard kienu ċkejkni bħalma naraw f'diversi bliet u rħula u fil-kampanja. Dawn ahna kemm-il darba nghidulhom kappelli, ghalkemm ahjar jekk nirreferu għalihom bhala knejjes, ghax kappelli, antikament, kienu daww mibnijin imissu ma' knejjes ohra u saħansitra jitniffdu maghom, sakemm biż-żmien bdew jiffurmaw parti integrali mill-knejjes il-kbar f'ghamla ta' kappelluni. Fl-imghoddi dawn il-knejjes ċkejkni kellhom art imbattma u xejn sigġijiet, imma whud kellhom bħal bank twil tal-ġebel taht il-hitan. Biż-żmien, meta bdew jinbnew il-knejjes kbar, bdew idahhlu fihom sigġijiet ta' l-injami bil-qighan tagħhom mimlijin bin-nisga tas-soghda. Issa fil-knejjes insibu bankijiet twal u puliti li jitnaddfu malajr u jzommu l-ordni fil-firxa tan-nies li jmorru għall-funzjonijiet u waqt il-hruġ u d-dhul għat-tqarbin. Izda fis-snin sittin u sebghin tas-seklu ghoxrin, li kien żmien ta' bidla, kien għad kellna mijiet ta' sigġijiet tas-soghda, sakemm spicċaw għal kollox mill-knejjes.

Is-sigġijiet l-antiki fid-djar komuni, tista' tghid kollha kienu tas-soghda ghax tas-sinjuri biss kellhom kisi bit-tapizzerija. Aktar antikament lanqas sigġijiet ma kellhom fid-djar, imma kienu jahdmu l-banketti ta' l-injam ta' diversi daqsijiet u għamliet; anzi l-aktar il-foqra, u l-aktar antiki kienu joqogħdu fl-art u ma kellhom xejn hlief xi ġebbla għal min ma jiflahx jerga' jqum.

Is-soghda hija ħaxixa bil-weraq tawwalin, irraq u b'saħħithom. Fl-Ewropa kienu jobormu dawn il-weraq biex jiffurmaw bħal rumnell jew habel irqiq biex jinsgu bihom il-qighan tas-sigġijiet u l-Maltin tghallmu jimlew is-sigġijiet bħalhom. Ghalkemm għandna diversi speċi ta' sogħda jikbru f'Malta u Ghawdex, m'hawnx kwantitajiet u kwalitajiet tajbin biżżejjed, għalhekk is-soghda kienet tigi minn Sqallija u timbiegħ bl-użin, bil-qantar. Kien hawn bosta nies jahdmu billi jimlew is-sigġijiet, kif konna nghidulhom. Kien hemm mastrudaxxi li jahdmu biss sigġijiet u jimlewhom għandhom stess jew jghadduhom lil min jispeċjalizza f'dak ix-xogħol. Triq San Kristofru, il-Belt, kienet magħrufa bhala t-Triq tas-Sigġijiet, ghax kien hemm min

jahdimhom, u jsewwihom, u billi bosta mix-xoghol kien isir barra t-triq, kienu aktar jolqtu l-ghajn.

Meta fid-djar bdew dehlin is-sigġijiet u l-ghamara tradizzjonali, is-sigġijiet kellhom il-maqghad mimli bis-soghda, u s-sigġijiet tal-knejjes kienu jinhadmu hekk ukoll. Fid-djar ta' ffit qabel u fil-bidu tas-seklu ghoxrin dahlu wkoll sigġijiet li kellhom is-soghda taghhom b'xi kuluri, u minsugin b'mod li jiffurmaw disinn. Tal-knejjes ma kellhom l-ebda disinji imma xorta wahda kienu puliti.

F'dawn l-istess zminijiet is-sigġijiet fid-djar bdew jiehdu xejra ohra, billi l-maqghad kien isir ta' l-injam iddisinjat imma tal-knejjes baqghu jsiru tas-soghda u ta' sikwit kellhom jissewwew ghax is-soghda kienet tibda tinhall jew tinqata'. Dawn is-sigġijiet kienu joholqu hafna hsejjes fil-knejjes, il-hin kollu jizzerzqu ma' l-art u jistabtu, l-aktar meta n-nies iqumu u joqogħdu. Biex jonqsu dawn il-hsejjes, u biex ma joborxux l-art, is-sigġijiet tal-knisja kienu jsammruluhom biċċtejn ġilda salib mat-tarf ta' kull sieq. Din il-ġilda kienet ta' sikwit tinqala' jew titqatta', ghalhekk kultant zmien kienu jingabru s-sigġijiet f'xi rokna tal-knisja, inehhulhom il-ġilda l-hazina, igibu biċċiet tal-ġilda maqtughin lesti u jsammruhom salib bit-taċċi mat-truf tas-saqajn.

F'hafna knejjes, is-sigġijiet kienu jkunu proprjeta tas-sagristan, ghalhekk fil-knejjes kienu jsiru żewġ gabriet, wahda mis-sagristan li kien idur bil-kopp (u wkoll jaghti sitt habbiet bqija lil min itih sold!) biex ikollu fondi għall manteniment taghhom, u gabra ohra minn membru tal-kleru għall-knisja; dan kien idur bis-satla u ma jaghtix bqija.

Ġie li s-sagristan kien jikri ghadd ta' sigġijiet lill-familji meta jkollhom tieg. Dari t-tigijiet niftakruhom isiru fid-dar ta' l-gharusa minflok f'sala u kienet drawwa li, filwaqt li l-gharajjes ikollhom sigġijiet speċjali, il-kamra kienet tkun imdawra bis-sigġijiet, kif ukoll kmamar ohrajn imma, billi fid-dar ma kienx ikun hemm sigġijiet biżżejjed, kienu jinkrew ohrajn mill-knisja.

F'xi knejjes, is-sagristan kien ikun aktar imhabbat bis-sigġijiet fi zmien ir-randan. Fir-randan ikun hemm hafna eżerċizzi, u billi kienu jmorru bosta nies bi hgarhom, is-sagristan ta' dawn il-knejjes kien inehhi s-sigġijiet kollha u jrekkinhom stivati fuq xulxin kif tidhol wara l-bieb tal-knisja. Min jidhol għall-eżerċizzi kien



ikollu jagħti xi haġa lis-sagristan biex ikollu sigġu, u did-darba mingħajr bqija! Jekk ma thallasx tibqa' bilwieqfa. Malli jispiċċaw l-eżerċizzi ta' kmieni, kien jerga' jiġbor is-siġġijiet kollha, bil-ghajnuna ta' haddiehor, biex malajr ikunu lesti għall-eżerċizzi ta' wara, u dakinhar kien idahhal aktar soldi mis-soltu.

Sakemm kien għad hemm is-siġġijiet fil-knejjes, kien hemm diversi modi kif in-nies jużawhom. Suppost li ssib sigġu u toqghod fuqu, imma hafna kienu dawk li jużaw żewġ siġġijiet; wiehed biex ipoġġu fuqu, l-iehor biex jistrieħu miegħu fuq quddiem, li fuqu n-nisa kienu jpoġġu l-basket li dejjem iġorru magħhom. Xi mara hoxna hafna kienet tieħu żewġ siġġijiet fuq wara biex tpoġġi, u tnejn quddiem biex isserrah idejha! Meta fil-knejjes ma kienx hemm dawl biżżejjed, jew għax ikun għadu ma sebaħx u t-twieqi jkunu għadhom mhux qed idawlu jew għax il-knisja tkun mudlama minnha stess, kien hemm min jieħu biċċa xemgħa qasira miegħu fil-knisja, jixgħelha, qattar ftit mix-xemgħa fuq dahar is-siġġu u jwahhalha hemm biex ikun jista' jaqra t-talb minn fuq il-ktieb. Dawn l-individwi kienu ftit, għax mhux kulhadd kien jaf jaqra; anzi kienet issir ir-reċta tar-Rużarju filwaqt li ċ-ċelebrant ikun qed iqaddes u jaqra bil-Latin.

Is-siġġijiet tal-knisja kollha kienu jagħmluhom biċċa njama djagonali li tinzel mal-ġnub minn wara tal-maqgħad s'isfel tas-saqajn ta' quddiem; dan għaliex minflok jinżlu għarkobbtejhom waqt l-elevazzjoni, bosta anzjani u oħrajn għażzenin, kienu jxenglu s-siġġu ta' taħthom 'il quddiem biex jistrieħ fuq is-saqajn ta' quddiem, u f' dik il-qagħda, il-piż iżegleg il-minċotti tas-siġġu. Meta kien ikun hemm funzjoni fil-knisja li kienet tiġbed in-nies (bħal dik ta' nhar il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira wara nofsinhar), xi ommijiet kienu jibagħtu lit-tifla jew lit-tifel ipoġġi fuq sigġu biex b'hekk jirrizervaw post. Oħrajn kienu bħallikieku jagħmluhom tagħhom is-siġġijiet, u jorbtu tnejn flimkien biex ikunu riżervati. Mgħandniex xi ngħidu, aġir bħal dan kien jaqla' l-inkwiet. Imma biċċa nkwiet oħra kienet li fil-maqgħad tas-sogħda (li xi drabi kienu jsejnhulu kannape') kienu jbejtu l-baqq, u meta dawn ihossu s-shana johorġu jfittxu d-demmm tad-devoti! Meta jmorru lura d-dar bosta nies kienu jieħdu l-baqqa magħhom bla hsieb, waqt li oħrajn jifirxuhom mid-dar għall-knisja; b'hekk is-sogħda tas-siġġijiet kienet bejta għammiela!

# IL-KEBBIES TAL-FANALI F'WIED IL-GHAJN

George Cilia

Fis-snin tletin, ahna konna familja minn dawk villegganti f'Wied il-Ghajn. Kellna b'kera daqsxejn ta' terran fix-Xatt quddiem il-pont fejn inqattghu ix-xhur tas-sajf. Hekk kif kienu jibdew il-vakanzi ta' l-iskejjel, tal-karrozzin kien jigi ghalina bhas-soltu fil-pjazza tal-Birgu u jwassalna sa Wied il-Ghajn. Maghna konna niehdu l-affarijiet l-aktar mehtiega ghall-hajja ta' kuljum.

**Wied il-Ghajn fis-sajf** Dak iz-zmien hemm kien ghadu ma wasalx id-dawl elettriku u konna nużaw il-lampi tal-pitrolju jew tal-*mantle* ghad-dawl fid-dar u fit-triq. Ghall-ilma l-istess; konna nimlew il-bramel minn fuq l-ghajn ta' hdejn il-pont. Hwienet ftit li xejn kien hemm u ma kontx issib kulma trid, imma kienu jigu dawk tal-karrettuni bil-haxix, frott, pitrolju, silg u hobż, kollha bil-ghajta taghhom biex javżaw li waslu u n-nies johorgu jixtru. Wara nofsinhar kien jasal tal-gelati jew tal-granita bil-bziezen armati fuq karrettun miġbud minn hmar.

Fil-festa ta' Sant' Anna kien jasal tal-kaxxa tad-daqq jew terramaġika, mzejna bil-figurini u bnadar iddoqq muzika popolari u taż-żfin, miġbuda wkoll minn hmar, filwaqt li t-tfal jingabru mgħaġġba madwaru. Is-sidien tad-dghajjes kienu jixeghlu blalen tal-karti bix-xemgħa fihom biex iżejnu 'l bajja bid-dwal iteptu, u kulhadd igawdi l-baħar, il-frott abbondanti bħal bajtar tax-xewk, bettieh u dulliegh. B'xi dulliegha zghira konna nagħmlu fanal bix-xemgħa fih, u bis-salib ta' San Ġwann maqtuġh disinn fil-ġenb.

**Il-fanali tat-toroq u tan-nieċè.** Id-dawl mhux biss isebbah imma wkoll hemm bżonnu fid-dalma, għalhekk kien hemm l-obbligu sa minn zmien il-Kavallieri li jinxteghlu l-fanali fit-toroq. Fis-snin tletin, il-gvern kien ihallas lin-nies biex jixeghluhom filghaxija u jitfuhom filghodu. F'Wied il-Ghajn konna naraw lil dawn l-irġiel għaddejnin jgħaġġlu bis-sellum fuq spallithom biex ilahhqu max-xogħol.

Grezzju kien wiehed minn dawn. Meta jsirlu l-hin kien johroġ bis-sellum, biċċa ċarruta ratba biex inaddaf it-tubu tal-ħġieġ u landa pitrolju. Sajf u xitwa, bnazzi jew maltemp shana jew bard, filghodu kien jerga' jghaddi biex jitfihom. Grezzju kien drana lilna ġħax ezattament quddiemna kien hemm il-fanal ta' fuq il-pont. Kien ġuvni jghix wahdu fit-triq li taghti ġħal Ĥaž-Żabbar ftit 'il fuq min-niċċa tal-Kurċifiss li tagħha wkoll kien jieħu Ĥsieb il-fanal. Spiss kien jieqaf ikellimna u tista' tġħid li sirna Ĥbieb. Kien bniedem risponsabbli, sa dawra anki bil-lejl kien jagħmel biex jara li l-fanali kollha baqġħu mixġħulin. Il-pulizija tar-ronda, jekk jaraw xi fanal mitfi kienu jagħmlulu rapport.

**Il-kebbies tal-fanali fil-Milied.** Fiż-zmien tal-Milied Grezzju kien jaqla' xi sold iżjed ġħax is-sinjuri kienu jqabbdh jixġħel il-fanali tan-niċċeċ tagħhom mill-bidu tan-novena tal-Milied sa l-Epifanija. Qabel ma nxtered id-dawl elettriku ma' kullimkien, ġħall-festi il-mixegħla kienet tkun bit-tazzi taž-žejt mal-faċċata tal-knisja, piramidi fit-toroq u pavaljuni. Il-kappillan kien iqabbd lil Grezzju jieħu Ĥsieb dawn ukoll, kemm fil-festa titulari u oħrajn primarji, kif ukoll fil-Milied u fil-Ĥhid il-Kbir. Kazini u għaqdiet kienu jordnaw fjakkolata, jġħifieri mixegħla bil-fjakkoli fuq il-bjut jew bħal ta' postijiet oħrajn, fuq is-swar. Lil Grezzju ta' Wied il-Ĥhajn kienu jafdawh kullimkien. Sakemm wasal id-dawl elettriku f'Wied il-Ĥhajn fl-1950, il-kebbiesa kienu għadhom attivi.

Issa dan il-post sar turistiku, mimli lukandi, restoranti u vilel, bankijiet, brazzi artistiki bid-dawl elettriku, post miżġħud bin-nies. Spiċċa l-ambjent kwiet tal-fanali tal-pitrolju, l-ġħajn ta' l-ilma, dawk tat-terramagika, tal-ġelat u tal-bexxiexa. Kieku Grezzju tal-Fanali għadu magħna llum kien zġħur jitpaxxa fil-festi u fil-Milied jara dak id-dawl kollu li b'ġħafsa ta' buttuna wahda Wied il-Ĥhajn jinbidel f'ħuġġieġa wahdaFlus

## LAQMIJIET MILL-BIRGU

**Miġburin minn Anton Attard, Paul u Agnes Bezzina, Lorenzo Zahra**

*Nota Editorjali: Is-Sur Anton Attard, is-Sur Paul Bezzina u s-Sinjura tiegħu Agnes, u s-Sur Lorenzo Zahra separatament għamlu gabra ta' laqmijiet mill-Birgu kif jafuhom u jftakruhom huma. Dawn il-listi ma kinux influwenzati minn xulxin għax gew minn tliet sorsi li hadmu individwalment. L-editur ghaqqad it-tliet listi li b'hekk tkun biċċa xogħol aktar awtorevoli u interessanti.*

Anton Attard qassam il-lista tiegħu (Ottubru 1999) fi tlieta, hawn mogħtijin simbolu ta' referenza: A1:- kunjomijiet mhux komuni ta' familji li minflok laqam jirreferu għalihom b'kunjomhom bil-kelma "Ta'" quddiem; A2:- laqmijiet mogħtijin lil individwi personali; A3:- laqmijiet ta' razza jew familja bil-membri tagħha kollha, u uħud minn dawn il-laqmijiet originaw minn laqmijiet individwali. B :- Laqmijiet miġburin minn Paul & Agnes Bezzina (Frar 1998); Z :- Laqmijiet miġburin minn Lorenzo Zahra (Jannar 1998).

Ta' l-Abatija	A2, Z	Tal-Begiga	Z	Il-Barunell	A2, Z
Ta' l-Ahmar	Z	Bahri	Z	Il-Basla	Z
Alves	A2	Tal-Bajjad	A3, Z.	Ta' Bawetta	Z
T'Amajra	Z	Tal-Bajzu	A3, Z	Bazari	A2, Z
Ta' Ancilleri	A1	Bakkaljawa	Z	Ta' Bažež	A3, Z
Ta' l-Ankri	Z	Ta' Balla	Z	Il-Baziž	Z
Antonjoni	A2	Il-Ballarini	Z	Tal-Bazokk	A3
L-Arcipriet	A2	Ballijiet	Z	Ta' Bazoqq	Z
Ta' l-Arcipriet	A3	Tal-Ballun	Z	Il-Bazuž	A2, Z
Ta' l-Arlogg	A3, Z	Il-Balomba	A2	Il-Bebbes	A2, Z
Ta' Amadew	Z	Il-Bambina	Z	Il-Beccun	Z
Assweru	Z	Il-Banana	A2	Ta' Beccuna	Z
Awrazja	Z	Bandiera	Z	Il-Begig	A2
Babina	Z	Tal-Banka	Z	Il-Bega	A2, Z
Il-Babu'	Z	Il-Bannozz	A2	Beka	Z
Tal-Babbu	Z	Barbettu	A2	Belli	Z
Il-Baffer	Z	Il-Barbier	Z	Tal-Belt	A3
Tal-Bagigga	A3	Ta' Barun	Z	Ta' Bellika	A3, B, Z

Ta' Bellurasu	A3	Tal-Bott Ġamm	A3, Z	Taċ-Ċekerawt	A3
Bendu	A2	Bowdow	A2	Iċ-Ċerva	A2, Z
Ta' Beneditta	A3	Il-Bower	A1	Ċeritu	A2
Benkiki	A2	Il-Bożnja	A2	Iċ-Ċesbolla	A2
Ta' Bennarda	Z	Bożin	Z	Taċ-Ċfajla	A3
Beraq	Z	Il-Brajbu	Z	Iċ-Chippy	A2, Z
Berququ	A2	Tal-Brazil	Z	Taċ-Chippy(Ċippi)	A3, B
Ta' Betti	A3, Z	Tal-Brieret	B	Ċićajo'	Z
Ta' Bettina	Z	Brigantin	Z	Iċ-Ċićra	A2, Z
Bavari	Z	Il-Brodu	A2	Taċ-Ċićra	A3
Il-Biċċaman	A2	Ta' Bronk	A3, B, Z	Taċ-Ċijf	A2
Biċċaman	Z	Ta' Brunu	B, Z	Taċ-Ċijfpajlit	B, Z
Ta' Biċċe	A2	Tal-Bubu	A3	Iċ-Ċikitita	A2
Il-Bidillu	Z	Buċaga	Z	Taċ-Ċikkita'	B, Z
Bijna	Z	Buċaqq	Z	Ta' Ċikkulo	Z
Ta' Bijni	B, Z	Il-Buċićru	Z	Ċikkutazzejt	Z
Tal-Bilbla	A3, Z	Il-Bude'	A2,	Ċikkutizjin	Z
Ta' Billurasu	B, Z	Tal-Bude'	A3	Ta' Ċimejmu	Z
Binimanna	Z	Budeni	Z	Ta' Ċincinu	A3
Birdaqq	Z	Tal-Bukkun	Z	Iċ-Ċiniz	A2
Bizzarru'	Z	Tal-Buli	A3	Taċ-Ċinku	A3
Ta' Bjaġju	A3	Il-Bull	A2	Iċ-Ċirf	A2
Il-Blast	A2, Z	Ta' Buras	Z	Iċ-Ċijsbolls	A2
Tal-Bluribbin	A3, Z	Ta' Burzella	Z	Iċ-Ċorma	Z
Il-Boċċu	A2	Ta' Busissanta	Z	Iċ-Ċosi	A2
Il-Bogġa	A2	Ta' Busebu	A3, B, Z	Ta' Ċraret	A3, Z
Il-Bokser	A2	Iċ-Ċabumm	A2	Iċ-Ċukaj	A2
Il-Bomber	A2	Iċ-Ċaghqa	Z	Iċ-Ċuli	A2
Il-Bomer	A2	Taċ-Ċappaturi	A3, B, Z	Tad-Daqni	B, Z
Bondu	Z	Iċ-Ċopper	A2	Ta' Dalmas	A1
Bonniċ	Z	Ċappi	Z	Daqqaqhielu	Z
Ta' Borin	B	Taċ-Ċaqqu	A3, Z	Tad-Dar Hadra	A3
Ta' Borom	B, Z	Iċ-Ċattra	Z	Ta' Dellagori	A3
Ta' Bosko	B	Iċ-Ċawla	Z	Tad-Devernier	A3, B, Z
Ta' Bosku	Z	Ċawlieh	Z	Id-Dlam	Z
Tal-Botni	B, Z	Ta' Ċejlu	A3	Ta' Doda	A2

Id-Dona	A2	Il-Flaxin	A2	Ta' Gamillu	A3, Z
Dragu	Z	Il-Foj	Z	Ta' Garawwa	Z
Tad-Dsatax	Z	Ta' Fonzoloru	A3, Z	Ta' Gatt	Z
Id-Dubbiena	A2	Tal-Forn	A2, B, Z	Il-Gatto	A2
Tad-Dubrazil	Z	Franka	Z	Ta' Gawda	Z
Id-Duda	A2	Tal-Frapka	Z	Ta' Gawdenz	Z
Id-Dudu	A2	Ta' Frappa	Z	Ta' Gaxxolli	A3, Z
Duda	Z	Il-Furjaniz	Z	Ta' Garzija	A1
Id-Duddu	A2	Il-Futri	Z	Tal-Gazzu	A3, B, Z
Id-Dudu	A2	Ta' Ġaġu	A3	Geddumu	Z
Id-Dulliegha	A2	Ta' Ġakka	A2	Tal-Gidi	A3, Z
Dumbo	A2	Ta' Ġakki	A3	Il-Gimu	A2, Z
Id-Dunda	A2	Ġannafhiela	A2, Z	Ġirdi	Z
Ta' Dussiesu	A3	Tal-Ġebli	A3 Z	Tal-Glorja	Z
Ta' Lelleċè	A3, Z	Il-Ġebli	A2	Ta' Gnajnex	Z
Eskobar	A2	Ta' Ġellel	A1	Gajjex	Z
Ta' Ewropa	Z	Tal-Ġennien	Z	Gomes	Z
L-Ekstralarg	A2	Il-Ġgant	A2	Gradenz	A2
Tal-Faffu	A2, Z	Il-Ġibs	A2	Grané	Z
Fanali	A2, Z	Il-Ġidra	A2, Z	Grezzju	Z
Ta' Fanali	A3	Tal-Ġidri	Z	Tal-Groser	Z
Il-Fanu	A2	Ta' Ġidu	Z	Il-Gross	Z
Tal-Fanu	A3	Tal-Ġigulett	A3	Il-Griega	Z
Falka	Z	Il-Ġigulott	Z	Tal-Grillu	A3, Z
Tal-Far	A3, Z	Tal-Ġimgha	A3, Z	Gubbi	Z
Farretti	A2, Z	Tal-Ġinger	A3	Il-Guli	A2
Il-Faru	B, Z	Ġizzu	Z	Ta' Gulierrmu	A3
Ta' Fisani	A3	Ta' Ġlormu	B, Z	Guzap	Z
Il-Fatet	A2	Ġoker	Z	Gwardajmu	Z
Il-Fatri	Z	Ta' Ġoma	B, Z	Gwevara	Z
Il-Fellus	A2	Ġona	A2	Ta' Ghattan	Z
Ta' Ferrol	Z	Il-Ġulfi	Z	Ta' Ghasfura	A3
Fjuri	Z	Gugguwwa	A2	Ta' l-Ghawdxi	A3, B, Z
Il-Filju	Z	Il-Gaġġu	A2, Z	Il-Habba	Z
Fimja	Z	Tal-Gajdri	A3	Tal-Hocċa	B, Z
Ta' Fisani	B, Z	Tal-Kalif (Kalif valley)	B, Z	Tal-Haddied	A3, Z

Ta' Haddingli	Z	Il-Kallus (Callus)A1	Ta' Kletu	A3	
Hafifa	Z	Kalolu	Z	Il-Kliewi	A2, Z
Tal-Hajjat	A3	Kammajs	A2	Klejsu	Z
Hambita	Z	Kammanajsu	Z	Tal-Kobob	Z
Hamiemu	A2	Kaptan	Z	Il-Kokni	Z
Hamsacikk	A2, Z	Tal-Karamelli	Z	Kolina	Z
Hanina	Z	Tal-Karjoka	A3, Z	Ta' Kololu	A3
Il-Harufa	A2	Karlozzu	Z	Koppini (Coppini)	Z
Hasi	Z	Kartabù	Z	Il-Kraxx	A2
Tal-Hasira	A3	Ta' Karter (Carter)	A1, Z	Krispin	Z
Il-Haxixa	A2	Karusu	Z	Ksiba	Z
Tal-Hbula	A3, Z	Ta' Kaspan	A3, B, Z	Tal-Kurcifiss	A3, Z
Herbert	Z	Ta' Kaspru	Z	Kurdar	Z
Ta' Halafiusu	B, Z	Kassar (Cassar)	Z	Il-Kwiju	A2
Il-Hemda	Z	Kastelli	Z	Tal-Kwina	A3
Il-Hippi	A2	Tal-Katanott	A3, Z	Il-Kwin	Z
Hmira	Z	Tal-Katanozz	B	Il-Lablabun	A2, Z
Il-Hobz	A2	Katrilla	Z	Ta' Labrè	A3, Z
Il-Hors	A2	Katullu	Z	Ta' Laganà	A1
Hozzawig	Z	Il-Kavallier	Z	Laganan	Z
Tal-Hut	A3, B, Z	Kawzjo	A2	Tal-Lajdi	A3
Inbidu	Z	Il-Kawc	Z	Lalent	Z
Ta' l-Induratur	A3, Z	Il-Kaws	Z	Lampa	Z
Infern	Z	Il-Kaxma	A2, Z	Lança	Z
L-Ingliż	Z	Ta' Kaxxaspro	A3	Tal-Lang (Ta' Ang)	B, Z
Ingwanes	Z	Kazjo	A2	Tal-Landier	A3, Z
Ta' l-Ingwanti	Z	Ta' Kazwejna	B	Il-Langu	A2, Z
Ta' l-Ispanjola	A3	Il-Kejken	A2	Il-Lastku	A2
L-Iswed	A2	Il-Kejkna	Z	Il-Lawrenti	Z
Kakori	Z	Il-Kinki	A2	Lawris	Z
Kakajs	Z	Tal-Kennies	A3	Ta' Lawtier	Z
Ta' Kalang	A3, Z	Ta' Klikakka	B, Z	Lazarba	Z
Kalava	Z	Kikkukil	Z	Tal-Li	A3
Tal-Kaldaran	A3, Z	Il-Kinki	A2	Lingrett	Z
Tal-Kalgaran	B	Kiskidi	Z	Likata	Z
Kaljaturi	Z	Kitibuçi	A2	Linku	Z

Tal-Liri	Z	Martinelli	Z	In-Nanu	A2, Z
Litnizza	Z	Mastru Pawl	A2	Tan-Naru	B, Z
Lelà	Z	Matalin	Z	In-Naspla	A3, Z
Lembut	A2	Ta' Matti	A3	Tan-Nasppli	A3
Lokkiza	Z	Il-Maws	A2	In-Nassa	A2
Il-Lops	Z	Tal-Maxoxx	A3	Tan-Nassi	Z
Tal-Loqom	Z	Maxxra'	Z	Ta' Nastas	Z
Lotter	Z	Mazelli	Z	Ta' Natal	B, Z
Ta' Lukkeže	Z	Mazzita'	Z	Ta' Natu	Z
Il-Lulu	A2	Mazzara '	Z	Ta' Natu z-Zopp	A3
Luna	Z	Tal-Melha	B, Z	Navarra	Z
Lunzjat	Z	Merdaċċa	A2	Tan-Naverja	A3, Z
Lupa	Z	Merilli	A1, Z	Navi	Z
Ta' Mabbli	Z	L-Imghaxxex	Z	Neru	Z
Maċis (matches)	Z	Ta' Milja	Z	Nigles	Z
Maddis	Z	Il-Miċċu	B	Niglipep	Z
Ta' Madlien	A3	Il-Moċċu	Z	Niggizha	Z
Maġġur	Z	Tal-Mofti	A3	Tan-Nisa	Z
Tal-Magrabun	B, Z	Il-Mohh	A2	In-Noni	A2
Ta' Maħarax	B, Z	Tal-Monti	Z	Tan-Nożep	A3, Z
Tal-Mahmuga	B, Z	Il-Moru	A2, Z	Ta' Nozzi	A3, Z
Maħta	Z	Tal-Mostija	A3	Nuh	Z
Il-Maja	A2	Molfi	Z	Nuneppi	Z
Majjistra	Z	Ta' Morfi	A3	L-Ohxon	Z
Majk	Z	Molfa	Z	Ta' l-OK	A3, Z
Ta' Majru	A3, Z	Mufti	Z	Ta' Orazju	B
Majsi	Z	Muftieh	Z	Ta' Orsini	A1
Tal-Malament	A3, Z	Tal-Musmar	A3	Paċikk	Z
Il-Mali	A2, Z	Mustaċċa	Z	Tal-Pajlit	A3
Malti	Z	Ta' Nghas	A3, Z	Pajpella	Z
Tal-Mammasunt	A3, B, Z	Tan-Nabbu	Z	Paċifku	Z
Manina	Z	Najsu	Z	Paċlott	Z
Manini	Z	Nani	Z	Pagu	Z
Tal-Mannara	A3, Z	Nanna	Z	Palawċi	Z
Marid	Z	Nannu	Z	Palmabus	Z
Ta' Martina	B, Z	Tan-Nanu	A3	Tal-Padi	A3



Tal-Pafelioć	B	Perugin	Z	Puzask	Z
Il-Pah	Z	Tal- Pesis	Z	Qabla	Z
Tal-Pajlit (Pilot)	Z	Petitu	A2	Qafsa	Z
Paksu	Z	Tal-Petut	A3, B, Z	Qajmes	Z
Pakikku	Z	Tal-Pezija	A3, Z	Qalebrasu	Z
Tal-Palazz	Z	Pinokkjo	A2, Z	Ta' Qalleb I-Ankri	B
Il-Panokk	A2, Z	Il-Pinzell	A2	Il-Qamlu	A2
Panokku	Z	Pijpi	Z	Tal-Qarmec	A3, Z
Tal-Papà	Z	Tal-Pikles	A3, Z	Tal-Qastni	A3, Z
Tal-Pappagall	B, Z	Il-Pirilla	A2	Qlugh	Z
Il-Pappapà	A2	Il-Pissu	A2	Tal- Qofsa	Z
Pass	Z	Pistolu	A2	Il-Qormija	A2
Paski	Z	Il-Pi	A2	Tal-Qormija	A3, Z
Tal-Pastizzi	A3	Tal-Piti	A3, B, Z	Qrati	Z
Tal-Pata	A3, Z	Pizellu	A2	Qrocè	Z
Tal-Patalott	A3, Z	Pizu	Z	Tar-Raddiena	A3, Z
Ta' Patata	Z	Platini	A2	Ta' Randi	A3
Ta' Patatit	Z	Platt	Z	Tar-Rapajz	Z
Patni	Z	Il-Plammer (plumber)	Z	Ta' Rebekka	A3, Z
Il- Patri	Z	Pluto	A2	Regatta	Z
Patti	Z	Ta' Poggì	A3, Z	Ir-Regej	A2
Tal-Pawejxa	A3, B, Z	Poplu	Z	Ta' Remig	A3, Z
Pekin	Z	Porter	Z	Ta' Remigju	B, Z
Pellegrin	Z	Tal-Poxa	A3	Tar-Revinc(Revenç)	A3,B,Z
Il-Peps	A2	Il- Poxu	Z	Ta' Rham	B, Z
Ta' Percićci	A3, Z	Il-Pre`	A2	Rih	Z
Perkići	A2	Preti	Z	Tar-Rikka	B, Z
Tal-Peregin	A3, Z	Ta' Privitelli	A1	Rmamen	Z
Perejra	Z	Tal-Pulikan	A3	Tar-Rodu	A3, Z
Ta' Peressu	A1	Pulitu	Z	Ta' Rogers	B, Z
Peressa	B	Puntatur	Z	Rokka	Z
Peressu	Z	Tal-Purtinar	A3	Tar-Romblu	A3, B, Z
Perimess	Z	Pussy	Z	Ta' Rozolin	A3
Tal-Perù	A3	Ta' Putumen	A3, B, Z	Rožalija	Z
Il-Peru	A2	Tal-Putuna	A3, Z	Ruhittajba	Z
Perù	Z	Tal-Puxena	A3	Is-Sabih	Z

Tas-Saburas	A3, B, Z	Suban	Z	Tat-Twiebet	Z
Tas-Sagristan	A3	Suffara	Z	It-Twila	A2
Sakkatura	Z	Is-Sufu	B	Uffizzju	Z
Sakkazan (Saccasan)	Z	Ta' Summienna	B	Ta' Uffu	B
Sali	Z	Tas-Surgent	A3	Uradi	Z
Ta' San Flippu	A3, Z	Tas-Surmanwel	A3, Z	Ta' Vangelist	A3, Z
San Frangisk	A2, Z	Is-Sussu	A2, Z	Ta' Vangiela	Z
San Ġuzepp	A2	Takkaliti	A2	Tal-Vaxxell	Z
Ta' Sapa	A3, Z	Ta' Takkaliti	A3	Tal-Venikwà	A3, B, Z
Sapiti	Z	Tat-Taljan	A3	Ta' Vento	A1
Tas-Seraċin	B, Z	Taljana	Z	Il-Verdun	A2
Is-Sasu	A2	Tat-Tampier	A3, Z	Verzin	Z
Ta' Sasu	A3, B	It-Tank	Z	Tal-Veża	A3, Z
Sassu	Z	It-Tatù	A2	Virdis	A2
Tas-Saksafon	Z	Tat-Telli	A3, Z	Ta' Vjoletta	A3, Z
Seguna	Z	Tigieġu	A2	Tal-Volpa	A3, B, Z
Sellun	Z	It-Tikka	A2	Il-Wajwaj	A2
Sera	Z	Tat-Tikka	A3, Z	Tal-Wajwaj	A3
Serra	Z	Tilla	Z	Il-Widna	A2
Is-Seven	A2	Tat-Tilola	A3, Z	Tal-Widow	A3
Tas-Sigarru	A2	Trimimna	Z	Il-Wiequ	A2
Tas-Siggijiet	Z	Tat-Tobi	A3, Z	Il-Wols	A2
Is-Sikenz	A2	Tat-Tosu	A3, Z	Il-Womu	A2
Tas-Siki	A3, Z	Ta' Tinipatni	B	Tax-Xaham	A3, B, Z
Tas-Sinjorina	A3	Trizza	Z	Ix-Xamina	A2
Is-Sittabirra	A2, Z	Tat-Tromba	A3	Ix-Xampatra	Z
Ta' Skalamett	B, Z	It-Trumbettier	A2	Xamrok	Z
Skarpan	Z	Tat-Tunajja	A3, Z	Xanett	Z
Ta' l-Iskud	B, Z	Tat-Tunanu	A3	Ix-Xark	A2
Sofin	Z	Tunett	Z	Xarxen	Z
Soldi	A2	Tuneżija	Z	Ix-Xejki	A2
Is-Sold u nofs	A2	Tunnara	Z	Ix-Xellugi	A2
Is-Solfa	A2	Turija	Z	Xemx	Z
Tas-Sonu	A3, Z	Tutina	Z	Xewka	Z
Ta' l-Ispettur	A3	It-Tutu'	A2, Z	Ix-Xidja	A2
Sunetti	A2	It-Tuwenz	B, Z	Ix-Xifu	A2, Z

Xih	Z	Taż-Żazli	A3, Z	Taż-Żiffa	B
Ix-Xixxi	A2	Taż-Żebbugija	A3	Taż-Żigulott	A3, Z
Xjara	Z	Iż-Żebra	A2	Żiko	A2
Ix-Xmatt	Z	Taż-Żejt	A3, B, Z	Iż-Żina	A2
Xogħol	Z	Ta' Żembel	A3 B, Z	Iż-Żnej	A2
Ix-Xranz	A2, Z	Żenga	Z	Iż-Żniza	Z
Ix-Xufier	A2	Ta' Żeppla	B	Iż-Żogi	A2
Tax-Xwejha	A3, B, Z	Żeri	Z	Taż-Żoneċ	A3
Żakkew	Z	Taż-Żermuġ	A3	Iż-Żonoċ	Z
Taż-Żambu	A2, B	Iż-Żero	A2	Iż-Żużu	Z
Żammitellu	Z	Ta' Żettu	Z	Iż-Żiju Ġann	A2
Żananga	Z	L-Iżgiġġ	Z	Taż-Żikizokk	A3
Żanza	Z	Iż-Żiemel	A2	Zopp	Z
Iż-Żarmuċ	Z	Taż-Żiemel	B, Z	Taż-Żupietru	A3, B, Z
		Iż-Żiffa	A2,		

### Abbonament / Shubija

Din il-pubblikazzjoni ma tinsabx fil-hwienet, ghax jirċivuha b'xejn il-Membri Effettivi tal-Għaqda tagħna. Għalhekk min irid jabbona jrid jissieheb fil-Għaqda Maltija tal-Folklor billi jhallas lira fis-sena (Lm 1); membri godda jhallsu żewġ liri (Lm 2) fl-ewwel sena biss, u jkomplu bil-lira fis-sena. Kull hlas għandu jintbghat BISS lit-Tezorer, is-Sur J.F.Porçella Flores, 69, Triq il-Palma, Paola.



**Kumitat 2002, Ghaqda Maltija tal-Folklor fit-30 ta' April, fis-sede tal-British Legion (Malta) fil-Belt, meta sar trattament lil Guido Lanfranco li nhatar president onorarju. Fir-ritratt jidhru, mix-xellug ghal-lemin fuq quddiem:- Angelo Dougall, Alfred Fenech, Guido Lanfranco, Marija R. Pisani, Joseph F. Porsella-Flores; Fuq wara, George Cilia, Lina Zerafa, Ġuži Gatt, Joseph Fenech, Frans Farrugia.**

**Bidliet fil-Kumitat 2002** Is-Sur Guido Lanfranco li għal bosta snin kien president tal-Ghaqda, minhabba raġunijiet personali ma aċċettax in-nomina li jibqa' għas-sena 2002. Għalhekk il-kumitat hatar lil Ms. Maria R. Pisani bħala president. Is-Segretarju, is-Sur Alfred Fenech, minhabba raġunijiet ta' saħħa, kellu jhalli l-kariga tiegħu f'Lulju, u l-kumitat hatar lis-Sur Ġuži Gatt li daħal minfloku. Nawguraw lis-Sur Fenech l-isbah xewqat u niringrazzjawh għas-snin ta' xogħol lill-Ghaqda.

**Hamsa u ghoxrin sena ta' L-Imnara** Din il-pubblikazzjoni harġet l-ewwel darba fl-1978, dejjem mill-editur preżenti. Bdiet b'mezzi foqra ta' produzzjoni ta' dak iż-żmien sakemm il-proċess ta' fotokopji u l-kompjuter bdew jiżviluppaw biex L-Imnara bdiet toħroġ kwalita aħjar u l-kitbiet li fiha qed ikunu ta' għajjnuna għal bosta riċerkaturi fil-libreriji. Nawguraw li tkompli għal daqshekk snin ohra fil-futur.

### **Żewġ attivitajiet.**

**Fil-5 ta' Marzu 2002** saret laqgħa ta' diskussjoni li fiha erba' membri ġabu oġġetti li saru spejegazzjonijiet u diskussjoni dwarhom kif ġej:

- Is-Sur George Cilia: musbieh antik tal-metal.
- Is-Sur Frans Farrugia: gaggħa tradizzjonali tal-werziewq (jew grillu) li għamel hu stess; għodda biex tikkarga l-iskrateċ.
- Is-Sur Arthur Grima: ritratti ta' tifel liebes b'wegħda ta' San Franġisk.
- Is-Sur Guido Lanfranco: Miċċa taż-żingu li biha kienu jixxghelu t-tazzi tal-festi; fanal ta' l-aċitilena; pappagall (għodda) biex taqla' l-imsiemer kbar; santa li tpatti għall-malafama; diversi santi b'talb għal żmien l-ewwel u t-tieni gwerer dinjin.

**Fit-3 ta' Lulju 2002** saret taħdita nteressanti minn Paul P. Borg "Snajja' u Xogħol il-Maltin" dwar ir-riċerka tiegħu għall-kotba li ppublika dan l-aħħar.

## XOGHOLIJIET TA' DAN L-AHHAR MINN MEMBRI TA' L-GHAQDA MALTIJA TAL-FOLKLOR

*Nota Editorjali* L-*editur* lest li jdaħħal noti dwar xogholijiet u pubblikazzjonijiet mill-membri ta' l-Għaqda Maltija tal-Folklor. Mill-lista li tidher hawn taht tlieta biss kitbulu dwar pubblikazzjonijiet tagħhom; il-kumpliment ġabarhom l-*editur*, li jiskuża ruħu jekk ma semmiex lil kulhadd, għax ma jistax dejjem ikun jaf x'qed jagħmel kulhadd u kullimkien jekk ma javzawhx.

**Attard, Anton** Qed jagħmel riċerka dwar katekisti ta' qabel il-gwerra fil-Kottonera. Għandu bżonn jissellef kopja tar-ritratti tal-membri tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. Ġiġi Vidal (miet 1944) u Lorenzo Dingli (miet 1958). F'din il-ħarga ta' L-Imnara għandu kontribuzzjoni dwar il-laqmijiet tal-Birgu.

**Borg, Paul P.** Fl-2001 hareġ il-ktieb tiegħu "Snajja u Xoghol il-Maltin" Vol. II (375 paġni). L-ewwel volum hareġ fl-2000. Jittrattaw mhux biss dwar ix-xogholijiet u s-snajja, imma dwar individwi bħala karattri fil-kuntest tal-hajja Maltija. Għad irid johroġ it-tielet wiehed. Għamlilna taħdita dwarhom fit-3 ta' Lulju 2002.

**Borg Cardona, Anna B.A., L.T.C.L.** Wara hafna riċerka lokalment u barra minn Malta, ppublikat "A Musical Legacy - *Malta-related music found in foreign libraries*" (168 paġni) (2002) Jiġbor fih xogholijiet sa mis-seklu sittax. Fl-ewwel parti tidher l-istorja nteressanti tal-mużika u ż-żfin f' Malta. Parti oħra tittratta zifniet u mużika tal-*Branles de Malte* mis-seklu sittax, u *La Maltese* tas-seklu sbatax. Taqsima oħra tiġbor xogholijiet ta' danza u melodija mis-seklu sbatax. F'dan il-ktieb originali nsibu hafna illustrazzjonijiet addattati biex jagħtu l-atmosfera ta' dawk iż-żminijiet minn inċiżjonijiet u litografiji kontemporanji. Fih ukoll bosta paġni bil-mużika miktuba li wiehed jista' jaqra u jdoqq. *Fil-Journal of American Musical Instrument Society* (2002) kitbet dwar *The Maltese Friction Drum*. F'din il-ħarga ta' L-Imnara għandha wkoll artiklu riċerka dwar iċ-ċuqlajta.

**Camilleri B.A.(Gen.), Dip.Ed.(Ad. & Man.), J.C.** Kull sena jikteb għadd ġmielu ta' artikoli f' diversi perjodiċi u gazzetti. *Fil-Malta Year Book 2002* kiteb dwar "Graham Island . . ." . F'*Il-Mument* insibu ta' nteress artikli dwar snajja, bħal bejjiegha tal-ħalib, kalkara tal-gir, il-furnar, is-salini u oħrajn, minbarra kitbiet oħra dwar festi bħal dawk ta' Sant'Anton Abbati, il-kandlori u Santa Katarina.

**Cassar Pullicino, A.L.A., M.Q.R., Ġuże** Fl-2001 il-PIN ippublikawlu "Il-Kitba bil-Malti sa l-1870" (224 paġni), u fl-2002 "Aktar Kitba bil-Malti tas-Seklu 19" (157 paġni). Dawn huma t-tnejn mis-serje *Kullana Kulturali*. Dawn huma kollha ġabra ta' xogħolijiet miġburin wara hafna snin ta' riċerka. Mimlijin noti u referenzi ddettaljati u mportanti għall-istudju tal-letteratura tagħna.

**Chetcuti, M.O.M., Ġuże** F'dawn l-aħħar ftit snin ippubblika diversi xogħolijiet voluminużi. Fl-2002 hareġ "Kittieba Hbiebi - *Ġrajja awtobijografika tal-letteratura Maltija*" (728 paġni). Jinkludi għadd ta' kitbiet, intervisti u korrespondenza ma' kittieba li jafuh, għalhekk dan il-ktieb ipoġġi lil Ġuże Chetcuti fil-kuntest ta' zmienu tul bosta snin. Qabel dan kien hareġ ukoll antologija tal-poeziji miġbura tiegħu kif ukoll ohra ta' proża.

**Cilia, George** Fis-suppliment tal-Milied ta' *Il-Mument*, (16-XII-2001) ikkontribwixxa kitba dwar il-kebbies tal-fanali zmien il-Milied. Ma din deher ukoll ritratt tal-kebbies, mudell li jiffirma parti minn xena folkloristika li s-Sur Cilia għandu d-dar tiegħu.

**Ellul Galea, M.O.M., Karmenu** F'Diċembru 2001 hareġ il-ktieb tiegħu "It-Trejdunjonizmu f'Malta" Vol. IV (519 paġni). Dan u t-tliet volumi ta' qablu huma l-aktar xogħol awtorevoli u kompliti li għandna dwar dan is-sugġett, mimli referenzi u noti li jiffurmaw il-bażi għal min irid ikompli jirriċerka dan is-sugġett li għalih iddedika hajtu s-Sur Ellul Galea. Nifirhulu għall-Medalja ta' Malta (M.O.M.) li kiseb.

**Gambin B.A.(Hons.), M.A., Kenneth** Ix-xogħol tiegħu "*The Prison Experience at the Inquisitor's Palace*" (80 paġni) hareġ mill-istamperija tal-gvern fl-2002. Fil-*Fokus* li johroġ supplement ma' *Il-Mument* (14 u 21-IV-2002) kien kiteb ukoll fuq l-istess linji, dwar it-tortura u dwar il-habs ta' l-inkwizizzjoni. Dan huwa xogħol originali riċerka, fuq sugġett li dwaru hawn aktar interess f'dawn l-aħħar snin.

**Gatt, Ġużi** Minbarra li f'din il-harga ta' "L-Imnara" għandu artiklu originali dwar il-flus, kejl u qisien Maltin, għadu dejjem jahdem u jirriċerka vokabularju klassifikat fuq diversi gruppi ta' kliem. Fil-programm tal-festa ta' San Nikola (2002) mahruġ mis-*Sigġiewi Festival Brass Band and Social Club*, għadnu artiklu iehor sabih (10 faċċati) intitolat "Xi haġa fuq il-qtates u l-klieb".

**Grech, Sergio** Habrieki fl-ghaqdiet kulturali, l-aktar tal-Malti u tal-poezija li ghalihom jorganizza attivitajiet varji. Ta' Sikwit jikteb dwar l-ilsien Malti fil-gazzetti lokali. Jipproduci programmi fuq ir-radju. F'Dicembru 2001 ghamel intervista lill-*editur* dwar "L-*innara*" fuq ir-Radju ta' L-Universita fis-sensiela "Pickwick".

**Grima B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Dr. Joseph F.** Fis-sena 2001 il-PIN hareg il-ktieb tieghu "Zmien il-Kavallieri f'Malta 1530--1798" (307 pagani), mis-sensiela *Kullana Kulturali*. Fih l-informazzjoni kollha relevanti ghal dan il-perjodu ta' l-istorja taghna u mimli *illustrazzjonijiet*. Fost l-istampi kulturiti hemm is-sett kollu ta' l-armi tal-Gran Mastri.. Is-sur Grima ghadha karriera mimlija *pubblikazzjonijiet* dwar l-istorja ta' Malta.. Din id-darba rridu nifirhulu ghall-grad tad-Ph.D.

**Jaccarini M.D., F.R.C.P., D.CH., Dr. Carol J.** F'din il-harga ta' "L-*innara*" ssibu artiklu tieghu *interessanti* dwar il-muxrabija. Ilu zmien *jirricerka* dwar *strutturi* u bini Malti *mxerrdin* fil-kampanja ta' Malta u Ghawdex. Hafna minn dan ix-xoghol gabru fil-ktieb "Ir-Razzett" li tieghu *rega'* hareg *edizzjoni* ohra (2002). Fil-ktieb "*Mellieha throughout the tides of time*" li hareg il-Kunsill Lokali ta' dak ir-*rahal*, *jidher* artiklu tieghu *dettaljat* dwar "*Giren and Imgiebah of Mellieha*" (minn pagna 169 sa pagna 195) b'hafna *tabelli* *dettaljati* u *ritratti* *originali*.

**Lanfranco M.Q.R., Guido** Kiteb ghad ta' artikoli ta' *nteress* *folkloristiku* u *storiku* f'diversi programmi tal-festi 2002, kif ukoll f'perjodi *ohrajn*. Ghamel ukoll *recensjoni* tal-ktieb ta' Anton F. Attard "Mid-Dinja tas-Seher u tal-Folklor" (2002). Minbarra *diversi* *tahditiet* u *parteċipazzjoni* fi programmi tar-radju u *televizjoni*, fit-2 ta' Jannar 2002, fuq Radju Universita, fis-sensiela "Identita . . . harsa lejn il-gens Malti" *prezentat* minn Fr. John Avellino, *gie* *intervistat* bejn 6.30pm u 8p.m. fuq il-kapitlu 15 dwar *folklor* u *artigjanat*, li *jiforma* *parti* *mid-dokunment* "Il-politika kulturali f'Malta /Cultural policy in Malta . . A discussion document issued by the Ministry of Education 2001". F'Marzu 2002 il-Kunsill *Nazzjonali* tal-Ktieb *tah* il-Premju *Letterarju* *Speċjali* ghall-ktieb "Storja tat-Trasport f'Malta" (1999), *fil-kategoprija* ta' *xoghol* ta' *ricerka*.

**Masini L.P., Franco** Gie li jikteb artikoli fil-gazzetti. Wiehed minnhom "*Gozo's crown jewels*" *deher* f' *The Sunday Times* (16-XII-2001). Dan *jitratta*



dwar dokumenti u muniti mill-aktar antiki, flimkien ma' fdalijiet ohra ta' zminijiet klassiċi misjubin f' Ghawdex.

**Mifsud Chircop** B.A. (Hons.), M.A.(Hons.), Ph.D., **Dr. Ġorġ** Din is-sena nifirhulu għad. Ph.D. li kiseb. Sadattant kompli hafna attivita konnessa mal-folklor tagħna. Nhatar *chairman* tal-Hames Festival ta' l-Ghana. F' Marzu attenda u pparteċipa fil-*colloquium* dwar *Verbal wisdom and verbal humour* organizzat mill-Folklore Society of London. Il-PEG ippubblika l-ktieb tiegħu "Mill-praspar ta' Ġahan u stejjer tradizzjonali ohra" (2001). Fil-ktieb li hareġ il-kunsill lokali tal-Mellieha "*Mellieha through the tides of time*" ikkontribwixxa l-artiklu interessanti "*A look at some legends*" (minn paġ.197 sa paġ.203). Kiteb ukoll diversi artikoli fil-gazzetti, inkluz wiehed dwar San Ġwann u L-Imnarja (*Gensillum* 29-VI-02) u dwar Reinhold Kontzi (*The Sunday Times* 27-I-02). Fit-28 ta' Novembru 2001 tkellem dwar "Id-diskursivita tal-hrafa Maltija" fl-Universita bhala wahda mis-serje "Konferenza Ġuże Galea".

**Pisani** B.A., LL.D., **Dr. Paul George** F'Ottubru 2001 ippubblika l-ktieb "Ġorġ Pisani . . . Biblijografija Magħzula" (32 paġni) Dan fih lista tal-kitbiet kollha ta' missieru Ġorġ (1909-1999) li jinkludu drammi, poezija, novelli, folklor u rumanzi, kotba u artikoli, kif ukoll antologija, traduzzjonijiet, manuskritti u ohrajn. Inkluda wkoll kitbiet dwar Pisani minn haddiehor. Biex ifakkar it-tielet anniversarju mill-mewt ta' missieru, in-Nutar Paul George Pisani pprezenta kopja tal-ktieb lill-Biblioteche Riunite Civica e Ursino Recupero li hemm f'Katanja, Sqallija, fejn jinsabu mhux biss kollezzjoni shiha tal-kitbiet ta' Ġorġ Pisani, imma wkoll ta' diversi awturi Maltin ohrajn.

**Porsella Flores, Joseph F.** Jikteb diversi drabi fil-gazzetti. Dan l-ahhar kiteb bcejjeċ ta' korrisondenza dwar punti storiċi. F' *Lehen is-Sewwa* (26-I-02) dwarl-arloġġ tax-xemx mal-knisja tal-ĠIżwiti, u f' *The Times* (23-III-02) dwar min jieħu l-kreditu li f' Malta dahlet l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann.

**Zahra, Lorenzo** Għadu jikteb diversi artikoli fil-programmi tal-festi. Fost l-ohrajn kellu wiehed dwar il-baned u l-muzika fis-seklu dsatax fil-programm tal-Filarmonika Santa Marija, Mosta 2002. Mimbarra dan għadu jikteb korrisondenza

fil-gazzetti dwar punti li jikkonċernaw il-Birgu. F'din il-harga ta' L-Imnara ghandu lista ta' laqmijiet ta' dik il-Belt.

## APPREZZAMENT

Fis-6 ta' Awissu 2002 miet Rafel Bonnici Cali ta' 95 sena. Kien ilu membru fil-kumitat ta' l-Ghaqda Maltija tal-Folklor sa minn mindu bdiet. Kien wera hafna hegga meta l-ghaqda kienet organizzat tliet wirjiet folkloristiċi fis-snin sebgħin, wahda minnhom dwar l-ex voto, ohra dwar oġġetti folkloristiċi u għadd ta' tpingijiet minn tieghu, u l-ohra wirja dwar kostumi lokali.

Kien restawratur u pittur magħruf u għamel hafna xogħolijiet ta' pittura fi knejjes u djar privati. Kemm-il darba qabbdh jagħti kulur lill-istatwi bhala parti mir-restawr tagħhom. Fis-snin għoxrin kien ukoll jagħmel xogħol ta' dekorazzjoni interna bi tpingija mal-hitan u s-soqfa, u kienu jqabbdh ukoll ipingli l-għnub tal-karrozzi tal-linja, kif kienet id-drawwa bejn iż-żewġ gwerer.

Kien kittieb popolari prolificu u kien jikteb fil-gazzetti bil-Malti dwar l-arti u l-artisti, kif ukoll dwar l-istorja, l-aktar fejn jidhlu l-kavallieri. Kiteb bosta dwar id-drawwiet u t-tradizzjonijiet, u wkoll ktieb "Kitbiet imzewqa" (1987) (180 paġni).

Kien twieled Hal Tarxien u tghallem l-arti għand Giuseppe Cali. Għamel żmien jghallem l-arti f'diversi skejjel tal-gvern. Fi żmien kien president tal-każin tal-Banda Annunzjata ta' Hal Tarxien. Kien kavallier Tas-Soverign Military Order of St. John (Knights of Malta). Is-Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce ipprezentatu bil-Medalja tad-Deheb (1982). Saret wirja bix-xogħolijiet tieghu fil-Mużew tal-Kattidral Fl-Imdina (1985).

Rappreżentanza tal-Kumitat ta' l-Ghaqda Maltija tal-Folklor attendiet il-funeral tieghu f'Hal Tarxien u raddet il-kondoljanzi lill-familjari tieghu. R.I.P.



**Rafel Bonnici Cali**  
*Ritratt 8-V-1985 waqt zjara  
Mill-Għaqda tal-Folklor fil-  
Mużew tal-Kattidral, Mdina.*

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Awissu 2002**

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 Farrugia, Frans, "Mon Delice", Dawret Hal Ghaxaq, Hal Ghaxaq ZTN 13  
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 fi Triq Melqart, Marsaxlokk ZTN 09  
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