

Book Review: The Making of a Medico - A Memoir

Maurice Cauchi

Malta: Book Distributors Limited (2019); 164 pages

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH CALLEJA

This is an unusual memoir by a well known member of the Gozitan society and member of the Board of management of *The Gozo Observer* of which he has been executive editor since its inception in 1992.

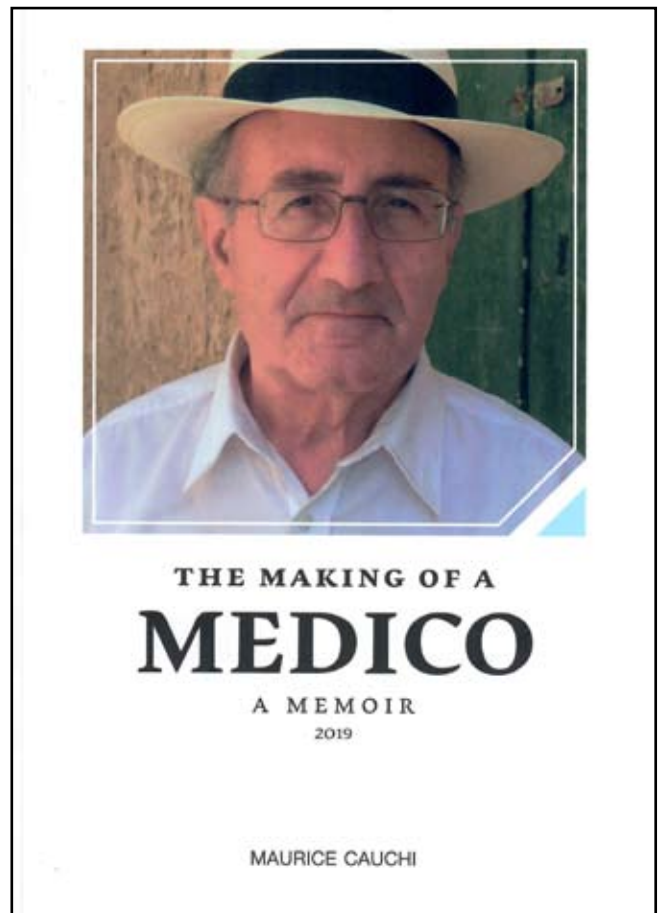
It starts in Gharb where the author was born and where he spent the first years of his life. He goes briefly over his experience at the Lyceum, Gozo, followed by university where he graduated MD. Of interest to all Gozitan students would be his comments on life of a Gozitan living in Malta, issues which have still not entirely disappeared.

His experience as a post-graduate student in London in the 1960s, which he describes as idyllic, give a glimpse of life for a student surviving in less than wealthy conditions. Having obtained his higher qualifications he tried his luck as a lecturer at the University of Malta, where he undertook rewarding research in the causes of anaemia among the Maltese.

His sojourn in his homeland did not last long, and within six months he had resigned his position and was on his way to Australia as Senior Lecturer at the newly established Monash University in Melbourne.

Unfazed by the challenges that face any migrant, he soon established himself, first as a respected researcher, and secondly as a champion of migrants, and especially Maltese migrants around the world. His many publications, including books and hundreds of research papers attest to his wide-ranging interests.

On his retirement from work in Melbourne he returned to Malta as professor of Pathology where he started a new career, as a director of hospital department of pathology, as well as head of the university department where he concentrated on ensuring that students, be they in the technical field, or those aiming at higher degrees in medicine, are given every opportunity to succeed. He takes special



pride in his efforts in abolishing that bugbear which haunts all students, namely the oral examination, relegating it to those who happen to be borderline.

His efforts at raising interest in the general public about migration, science and medicine has resulted in a flood of talks on these subjects, including an eight hour seminar held last year at the University of Malta Gozo Campus relating to '*Health and Society*', a monograph published by the Malta University Press, 2018.

This book would be found of interest to anyone involved in the above issues, and particularly to medical, science, including social science students.

It is available at all major bookshops, or directly from BDL (Book Distributors Ltd), (email: info@bdlbooks.com). Retail price €15.