Laqmijiet infamja ġewwa l-Furjana

fid-dawl tal-bidu tas-Seklu Għoxrin

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Il-laqam huwa tabilħaqq 'l-iktar ġebla tqila li tista' tixħet fuq individwu'.[1] Fil-maġġoranza tal-każijiet fejn insibu riferenza għal laqmijiet fid-diversi manuskritti li rajt wieħed jinduna kemm tassew il-laqam kien importanti. Meta laqam kien ikun infami, dan huwa meqjus tal-istess gravità daqs aggressjoni fiżika, jekk mhux aktar! Ġewwa l-Furjana, il-laqmijiet kienu komuni ħafna. Iżda dan jgħodd ukoll għall-kumplament ta' pajjiżna u saħansitra anke fil-Mediterran. Il-laqam fil-fatt huwa meqjus minn bosta studjużi bħala mezz ta' kontroll soċjali fi ħdan il-komunità, simili ħafna bħal fil-każ tal-'għajdut fuq in-nies'.[2]

Veru, il-laqam spiss kien iservi biex wieħed jidentifika t-tali individwu ġewwa r-raħal, iżda qalb komunità xi ftit jew wisq ġellieda minħabba t-tbatija tal-ħajja, il-laqam kien iservi wkoll bħala forma ta' aggressjoni verbali, x'aktarx riżultat ta' xi kunflitt soċjali bejn individwi jew familji, fejn l-unur u r-reputazzjoni tagħhom kienu għalhekk ikunu fil-periklu. Mhux darba jew tnejn, li l-Furjaniżi kienu jużaw il-laqmijiet bħala għodda biex jagħmlu ħsara, iċekknu jew saħansitra jieħdu xi vantaġġ fuq ħaddieħor billi propju jattakkawlhom l-integrità tagħhom jew l-unur ta' familthom.[3]

Ġeneralment il-laqmijiet kienu ta' żewġ tipi: 1. Laqmijiet tal-familja li x'aktarx kienu jintirtu. Dawn kienu jkunu distinti mill-oħrajn permezz tal-artiklu "tal-" quddiem il-laqam. 2. Jew inkella laqmijiet personali li kienu joriġinaw waqt il-ħajja ta' dik il-persuna u li anke setgħu jiġu mogħtija lid-dixxindenti tagħha, u b'hekk setgħu jsiru anke laqmijiet familjari. Dawn it-tip ta' laqmijiet kienu magħrufa permezz tal-artiklu "il-" quddiem il-laqam.[4]

F'komunità żgħira bħal dik ġewwa l-Furjana, il-laqam kellu tabilħaqq implikazzjonijiet qawwija rigward iċ-ċensura soċjali, kif ukoll, fil-kuntest ta' kontroll soċjali.[5] Mhux ta' b'xejn li l-laqmijiet infamja ġewwa l-Furjana kienu jissimbolizzaw affarijiet aktar serji minn sempliċi isem. Il-vittmi spiss setgħu ħassew l-integrità tagħhom taħt theddida meta kien jingħatalhom laqam inġurjuż, aktar u aktar meta f'komunitajiet żgħar kien aktar faċli li wieħed jibqa' mwaħħal b'dak il-laqam għal ħajtu kollha u saħansitra anke wara mewtu!

Ġewwa l-Furjana, insibu li l-laqmijiet[6] ta' natura infama kienu preżenti permezz ta' laqmijiet fiżiċi. Dawn kienu pjuttost offensivi peress li kienu mmirati lejn xi aspett tal-personalità sew fiżika jew esterna tal-bniedem.[7] Dawn ġeneralment kienu jinqasmu f'diversi kategoriji bħall-karnaġon, statura, ħxuna, mard u difetti fiżiċi oħra. Xi ċitazzjoni ta' dawn il-laqmijiet fiżiċi nsibuhom f'dawn li ġejjin[8]: tal-Xaħmia

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[1] D. Gilmore, *Aggression and Community. Paradoxes of Andalusian Culture* (Yale University Press 1987), 84.

[2] G. Wettinger, 'Late Medieval Maltese Nicknames', *Journal of Maltese Studies*, vi (Malta 1971), 36-7; J. Davis, *People of the Mediterranean. An Essay in Comparative Social Anthropology* (Routledge and Kegan Paul 1977), 87; J. Pitt-Rivers, 'Honour and Social Status', in *Honour and Shame*, ed. J. G. Peristiany (London 1965), 45-53; J. Sharpe, 'Such Disagreement betwyx Neighbours': Litigation and Human Relations in early Modern England', in *Disputes and Settlements. Law and Human Relations in the West*, ed. J. Bossy (C.U.P 1983), 178.

[3] A. Camenzuli, 'Maltese Social and Cultural Values in Perspective: Confessions, accusations and the Inquisition Tribunal, 1771-1798' (Unpublished M.A. dissertation, University of Malta 1999), 223-33.

[4] G. Wettinger, 'Late Medieval Maltese Nicknames', 37.

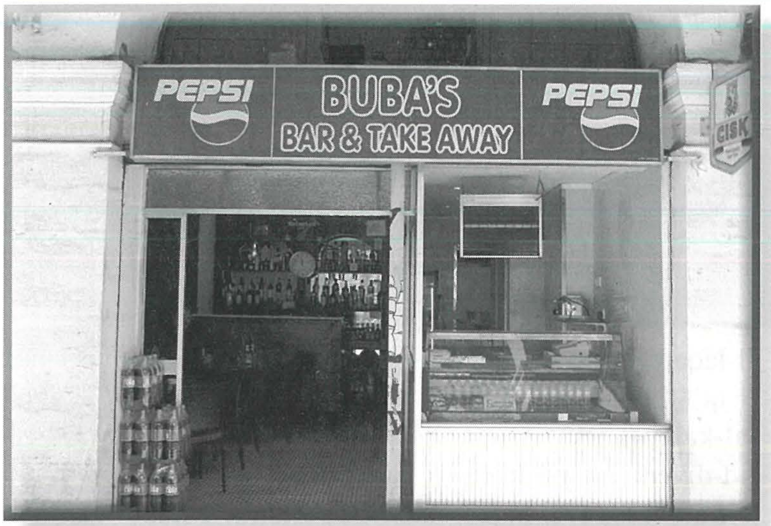
[5] D. Gilmore, *Aggression and Community*, 87.

[6] Il-laqmijiet li ser issir riferenza għalihom f'dan l-artiklu huma mniżżlin eżatt kif jinsabu fil-manuskritti.

[7] J. Cassar Pullicino, 'Social Aspects of Maltese Nicknames', *Scientia*, xxii, 2 (Malta 1956), 75.

[8] It-tifsira tal-laqmijiet qiegħda tingħata skont id-

(fatty),[9] ta' Pisellu *(pea; someone very tiny)*,[10] Ix-Xaħam *(fat)*,[11] tal Xabbeb *(his appetite always satisfied)*,[12] Lisfar *(of yellow complexion or pale)*,[13] ta Galluna *(gallon)*,[14] tal Punċ *(a thrusting blow)*,[15] Il-Bomba *(bomb, someone sensational in any sense)*,[16] tal Faħam *(someone having very dark complexion)*,[17] Liswed *(the blackest; of very dark skin)*,[18] ta' Carmnu Ittwil *(son of Carmel, the tall one)*,[19] tal Maħmaħun *(one who speaks with a nasal voice)*,[20] ta' Ġilda *(skin)*,[21] ta' Ċiombu *(lead, someone heavy)*,[22] ta' Lgħama *(blind)*,[23] ta' Carmine Issewda *(of Carmine, the black one)*,[24] ta' Soda *(steady or firm)*,[25] ta' Keili *(one who calculates everything)*,[26] ta' Legliega *(heavy drinker)*,[27] Il-Ħallu *(unenergetic)*,[28] it-Tapp *(Stopper, very short person)*,[29] il-



Ħanut li ismu huwa laqam

dizzjunarju ta' J. Aquilina, *Maltese-English Dictionary*, (Midsea 1987-1990), passim.

9 Verġinia Galea, ta' 24 sena, miżżewġa lil Carmelo, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada Botanico*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2768.

10 Nazzareno Xerri, ta' 13-il sena, bin Emmanuele, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada San Francesco*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2793.

11 Antonio Defelice, ta' 50 sena, bin il-mejjet Giorgio, u kien vagabond: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2836.

12 Nazzareno Xerri, ta' 13-il sena, bin Emmanuele, li kien joqgħod *Strada San Francesco*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2891.

13 Salvatore Chetcuti, ta' 32 sena, li joqgħod *Strada Magazzeni*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3051.

14 Carmelo Portelli, ta' 35 sena, bin il-mejjet Emmanuele: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2947.

15 Paolo Dimech, ta' 24 sena, bin il-mejjet Carmelo, li joqgħod fi *Strada San Francesco*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2973.

16 Spiridione Mifsud, ta' 50 sena, bin il-mejjet Antonio, li joqgħod fi *Strada Magazzeni*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 3019.

17 Nazzareno Dingli, ta' 19-il sena, bin Giuseppe, li joqgħod fi *Strada Mercato*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 3083.

18 Carmelo Psaila, ta' 32 sena, bin il-mejjet Giovanni, li joqgħod fi *Strada Leone*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 3156.

19 Giuseppe Żammit, ta' 12-il sena, bin Carmelo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1930.

20 Giuseppa Mamo, ta' 21 sena, mart Francesco; kif ukoll Francesca Teuma, ta' 32 sena, bint il-mejjet Carmelo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1943.

21 Carlo Debono: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1946.

22 Marcello Grech, ta' 32 sena, bin Carmelo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1951.

23 Dolores Benn, ta' 22 sena, mart William, li toqgħod fi *Strada Conservatorio*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2014.

24 Carmela Caruana, ta' 80 sena, armla ta' Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2129.

25 Caterina Vella, ta' 50 sena, armla ta' Vincenzo, li toqgħod fi *Strada Nuova*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2150.

26 Michele Angelo Borġ, ta' 62 sena, bin il-mejjet Giovanni: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2182.

27 Giuseppe Dimech, ta' 36 sena, bin Aurelio: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2099.

28 Publio Vella, ta' 45 sena, bin Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2258.

29 Emmanuele Ċefai, bin il-mejjet Vincenzo, li joqgħod fi *Strada San Pubblio*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3007.

Babus *(mentally undeveloped)*,[30] ta Andari *(messy person)*,[31] Ta Saffarilu *(one addicted to whistling)*,[32] il-Bus *(carronade; given to someone who is small but powerful)*,[33] tal-Violin *(violin; someone long-faced)*.[34]

Kwalitajiet difettużi morali kienet sezzjoni oħra ta' laqmijiet infamja fejn ġewwa l-Furjana kienu tassew komuni. Dawn il-kwalitajiet spiss kienu jinstabu fost dawn il-kategoriji: qdusija u reliġjon, imġiba morali jew għemil ħażin, dispożizzjoni ġellidija u krudili, xeħta mistħija jew beżżiegħa, kburija, suppervja, tferfix, bluha u oħrajn. Eżempji ta' dawn il-laqmijiet insibu fost l-oħrajn: ta' Limsella *(sea-needle, prick or stingy person)*,[35] ta' Bisonin *(poor; in need)*,[36] ta' Lazzarin *(Neapolitan Streetlounger, given by the Spaniards to the lower classes of Naples)*,[37] ta' Ġelos *(jealous)*,[38] Il Melħ *(salt; a busybody person, that is, someone who pokes his nose into everything)*,[39] tal Bidu *(beginning)*,[40] ta Faconda *(talkative)*,[41] Il Kibes *(excited)*,[42] ta Curċifis *(Crucifix; someone in a terrible situation)*,[43] tal Pastizzi *(cheesecakes; given to someone silly or good for nothing)*,[44] iċ-Ċiaċċarun *(gossiper)*,[45] ta' Ċiaċċaruna *(gossiper)*,[46] ta' Tubi *(blockhead)*,[47] tal-Kamar *(moon; has her head on the clouds or epileptic)*,[48] ta' Pezzutu *(sheepshead bream; someone in a bad mood)*,[49] tal-Forn *(oven; someone who indulges in malicious gossip)*,[50] ta' Bisogniu *(the one in need)*,[51] tal Battala *(idle*

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[30] Nicola Vella, ta' 60 sena, bin il-mejjet Nicola: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3050.

[31] Giovanna Pace, ta' 43 sena, mart Lorenzo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3058.

[32] Giuseppe Żammit, ta' 20 sena, bin il-mejjet Vincenzo, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Miratore*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2965.

[33] Pubblio Schembri, ta' 40 sena, bin il-mejjet Michele: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2117.

[34] Paola Aġius, ta' 34 sena, mart Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2198.

[35] Francesco Camilleri, ta' 14-il sena: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3037.

[36] Rosina Busuttil, ta' 13-il sena, bint Antonio, li kienet toqgħod fi *Piazza Fosse*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2756.

[37] Giuseppe Dalli, ta' 21 sena, bin il-mejjet Antonio, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Botanico*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2761.

[38] Carmelo Borġ, miżżewweġ lil Carmela, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Leone*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2768.

[39] Carmelo Debattista, ta' 63 sena, bin Michele, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Conservatorio* : Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2821.

[40] Robert Grech, ta' 15-il sena, bin Giovanni, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Miratore*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2862.

[41] Mary Żarb, ta' 22 sena, mart Romeo, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada Cappuċċini*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2913.

[42] Giuseppe Borġ, ta' 48 sena, bin Vincenzo, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Conservatorio*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 2929.

[43] Dolores Ellul, ta' 56 sena, mart Antonio, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada San Tommaso*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 3022.

[44] Emilda Borġ, ta' 30 sena, mart Emmanuele, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada San Francesco*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, case 3148.

[45] Antonio Libreri, ta' 41 sena, bin Paolo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1931.

[46] Carmelo Portelli, ta' 17-il sena, bin il-mejjet Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1931.

[47] Antonia Aġius, ta' 30 sena, mart Giuseppe, li toqgħod fi *Piazza Fosse*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1962.

[48] Maria Vassallo, ta' 30 sena, mart Riccardo, li toqgħod fi *Strada San Pubblius*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 1969.

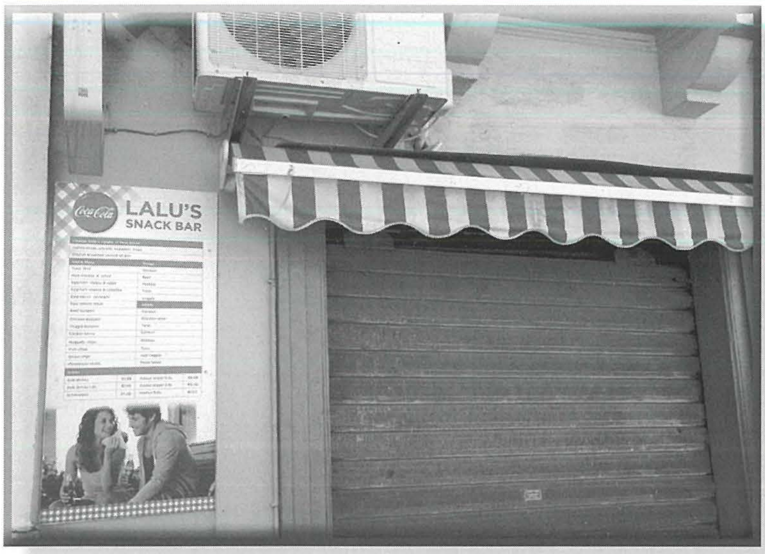
[49] Clara Giudice, ta' 45 sena, mart Giovanni: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2001.

[50] Antonio Ċilia, ta' 56 sena, bin il-mejjet Angelo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2034.

[51] Salvatore Vittellaro, ta' 13-il sena, bin Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2135.

or lazy person),[52] tal Ħawħu *(peach; a sodomite person)*,[53] tal Cacces *(braggart, one who shows off)*,[54] ta Faċenda *(someone busy)*,[55] tal Gkesghiesa *(instigator, inciter)*,[56] tal Carozzin *(horse-driven cab; said of a woman with loose morals)*,[57] ta l'għarawni *(a blown-up person)*.[58]

Fl-aħħar nett, laqmijiet infamja oħra kienu jinstabu ma' dawk li kellhom konnessjoni jew riferenza għal xi annimal jew insett. Laqmijiet simili fil-Furjana kienu dawn: ta Ħarufa *(lamb; a very tame person)*,[59] tal Nal *(horse-shoes)*,[60] tal Werżiek *(cricket; screamer)*,[61] ta' Żiemel *(horse)*,[62] ta' Liuna *(lion; of great physical strength)*,[63] Il-Barri *(bull; savage or wild)*,[64] *l'Asino (donkey; a fool)*,[65] tal-Ghawia *(little gull; said of someone who is so hungry that he eats anything)*,[66] tal-Ħut *(fish)*.[67]



Ħanut li huwa magħruf bil-laqam tar-razza

Mid-dehra l-Furjanizi ma kinux neqsin mil-laqmijiet infamja. Dan il-fatt jirrifletti kemm hawn fil-komunità Furjaniża kien hawn aktar forma ta' aggressività verbali milli dik fiżika. Din kienet xi ħaġa komuni f'bosta bliet u rħula Maltin.

Dawn huma ftit mit-trufijiet tal-ħajja soċjali u morali ġewwa l-Furjana fid-dawl tal-ewwel parti tas-Seklu Għoxrin. Dan il-perjodu partikolari kien jaħbat fl-għeqqel tat-tmexxija Ingliża f'pajjiżna, f'kuntest li jirrifletti wkoll il-ħajja inġenerali Maltija. Bosta minn dawn il-laqmijiet imsemmija nstabu waqt li l-Ewwel Gwerra

[52] Antonio Balzan, ta' 36 sena, bin Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2218.

[53] Maria Reġina Attard, ta' 38 sena, bint Feliċe, li toqgħod fi *Strada Nuova*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2243.

[54] Antonio Chetcuti, ta' 17-il sena, bin Emmanuele: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2286.

[55] Dolores Micallef, ta' 29 sena, mart Guglielmo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3042.

[56] Giuseppe Buttiġieġ, ta' 13-il sena, bin Emanuele: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3078.

[57] Antonia Formosa, ta' 50 sena, armla ta' Lorenzo, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada Giardino*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3141.

[58] Giuseppe Vella, ta' 8 snin, bin Giovanni, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada San Tommaso*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 3188.

[59] Feliċe Parnis, ta' 60 sena, bin il-mejjet Gaetano, li kien vagabond: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, 2832.

[60] Spiridione Debono, ta' 66 sena, bin il-mejjet Giuseppe, li kien joqgħod f' *St. John Ditch*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, 2874.

[61] Rosina Galea, ta' 19-il sena, mart Carmelo, li kienet toqgħod fi *Strada Mercato*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, 2913.

[62] Agostino Aġius, ta' 22 sena, bin Giuseppe, li kien joqgħod fi *Strada Miratore*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, 3015.

[63] Lorenzo Żahra, ta' 50 sena, bin Giovanni, li kien joqgħod fi *Piazza Fosse*: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 13 December 1935-13 February 1936, 3143.

[64] Giuseppe Muscat, ta' 50 sena, bin il-mejjet Giuseppe: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2053.

[65] Giorgio Cauchi, ta' 32 sena, bin Aloisio: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2249.

[66] Carmelo Pace, ta' 17-il sena, bin Gaetano: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2260.

[67] Giuseppe Vassallo, ta' 14-il sena, bin Carmelo: Floriana Commissioner's Occurrences, 20 November 1916-13 March 1917, case 2260.

Dinjija kienet għaddejja madwar id-Dinja, fejn Malta, għalkemm ma kinitx attakkata, kienet involuta b'mod qawwi, speċjalment fit-tiswija tal-biċċiet tal-baħar u fil-kura kontinwa tal-midruba. Laqmijiet oħra nstabu qabel il-bidu tat-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija li għalhekk, ilkoll, jagħtu xejra estensiva ta' aspett soċjali ġewwa l-Furjana fi żmien ta' tbatija kbira. Iżda minkejja dan kollu, il-Furjana dejjem tqieset bħala Belt glorjuża fost l-iBliet ta' madwarha. Għalkemm kien hawn dawn in-nuqqasijiet, l-għemejjel kbar magħrufa għalihom il-Furjaniżi, huma bil-wisq superjuri.

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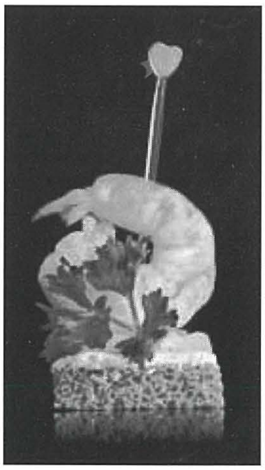

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