

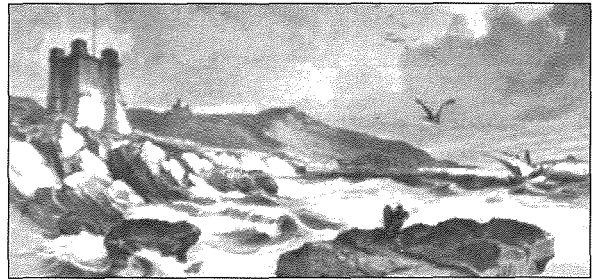


Deskrizzjoni ta' San Pawl il-Baħar f' *Recollections of Sicily, Malta and the Continent - 1847*

Tagħrif miġbur minn Keith Muscat

Qabel l-invenzjoni tal-fotografija, l-uniku mezz ta' kif wiehed seta' jesperjenza postijiet imbeġħda mingħajr ma jkun fiżikament fihom, kien permezz ta' tpingijiet, litografiji, pitturi jew kitbiet deskrittivi. Tul Seklu Dsatax kienu komuni hafna kotba li flimkien ma' nformazzjoni fuq postijiet varji, kienu jinkludu tpingijiet ta' xeni minn dawn il-pajjiżi. Dawn kienu jissejhu bhala kotba topografici jew *travelouges*. Hafna drabi dawn il-kotba kienu jkunu riżultat ta' kif wiehed jiġbor il-memorji ta' xi vjaġġ fit-tul li jkun għamel. Dawn il-vjaġġi, jew kif inhuma ahjar magħrufa bhala l-*Grand Tour*, ma' kienux xi haġa ġdida għax insibu deskrizzjonijiet tagħhom sa mis-Seklu Sbatax.

Fl-edizzjoni ta' din is-sena għażilt li nippublika xi tagħrif mill-ktieb *Recollections of Sicily, Malta and the Continent* miktub minn Penry Williams u illustrat. F'dan il-ktieb, li gie ppublikat minn Fraser & Co (Edinburgu, Skozja) fl-1847, Williams jagħti deskrizzjoni tal-postijiet li żar waqt dan il-vjaġġ li l-awtur jgħid li għamlu għal raġunijiet ta' pjaċir u saħħa. Dan il-vjaġġ beda' fl-1 ta' Jannar 1842, meta l-awtur flimkien ma' martu uliedu rikbu fuq l-isteamer *Oriental* li salpa mill-port ta' Southampton. Tul il-vjaġġ huma żaru Gibilta, Malta, Sqallija, l-Italja, l-Isvizzera u l-Belġju, fost l-oħrajn. Huma reġaw waslu l-Ingilterra kważi sentejn wara.



Huwa kellu hekk xi jgħid fuq San Pawl il-Baħar:

We made another excursion some litte time after to St. Paul's Bay. There they point out, I was told, even the identical rock on which the vessel of the apostle struck, and no doubt what ever exists in the minds of the Maltese as to the certainty of the site. A chapel is erected near the spot, to commemorate the event, over the altar of which is a damaged painting representing the shipwreck. This ba is in a pretty retired nook, and there are insulated rocks which will fully bear the description of "a place where two seas meet." Many are the arguments in favour of the island in the Adriatic. The fact, however, of the apostle being on his way from Crete to the Straits of Messina is most conclusive in favour of Malta; the more so as the word "Adria," which occurs in St Paul's account of the voyage, was in those days used to signify a much greater portion of the Mediterranean than the present limits of the Adriatic; in fact, it is impossible to determine as to what its real extent might have been.

With regard to my own feelings upon the subject, I always make a point of visiting those spots which have historical claims, with a stronger predisposition to become an unqualified believer; and I envy not the man who cannot be influenced by even moderately presumptive evidence. How wofully limited must be his field of interest who rejects everything incapable of mathematical demonstration! The past, as well as the future, must be to him a closed volume, and his life from first to last a scene of dull and cheerless suspicion.