

# THE **G** **OZO** **OBSERVER**

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## The Gozo Observer

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#### Editorial Board:

Prof. Lino Briguglio, Mr Joseph Calleja,  
Prof. Maurice N. Cauchi, Ms Caroline Camilleri Rolls

#### Editorial Office:

University of Malta - Gozo Campus,  
Mġarr Road, Xewkija, XWK 9016, Gozo  
Tel: (356) 21564559; Fax: (356) 21564550;  
e-mail: [ugc@um.edu.mt](mailto:ugc@um.edu.mt)  
Web: [www.um.edu.mt/ugc](http://www.um.edu.mt/ugc)

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**Front Cover Photo:** Courtesy of Joseph Calleja.

# Editorial:

## Gozo-Malta Links - Again

It is a well-known Maltese saying that ‘the tongue seeks the rotten tooth’. What hurts most will be at the fore-front of news and issues discussed.

It is no wonder, therefore, that yet again another solution has been proposed to the everlasting problem of Gozitan isolation, this time through the creation of a tunnel under the sea, linking Gozo and Malta.

There is no doubt that, even with the much-improved boat service plying between the two islands, there are those who believe that service can be improved. When one witnesses the thousands of Gozitans who have to cross every day, wasting the best of a couple of hours each way, one realises that indeed this is a problem.

So the suggestion made by the Gozitan Parliamentary Secretary Chris Said to build a tunnel has met with considerable approval from many sections of the Gozitan community, including that of the Gozo Business Chamber. A number of benefits would result from such a fast link including better trading facilities with considerable economic benefits to Gozo.

Some of the difficulties envisaged include the huge cost that such a major project would entail, estimated at well-over 150 million euro. Chris Said stated that it would be financed by private investors together with funds from the EU. He is optimistic that the cost could be recouped in 15 years.

It has also been pointed out that a Gozo tunnel could present serious problems in view of the depth of the sea between the islands - which is about 30 metres deep. It is envisaged that the tunnel would have to be 50 meters below the sea-bed.

There is no doubt that such a link would have major social and environmental impact affecting life in Gozo. Any feasibility study must include an examination of these effects. From practically any point of view Gozo will no longer be an island, and this will no doubt have a lasting effect on several issues. It is well to bear in mind that what Gozo has to offer is based on the very fact that it is an island. Joining it to Malta would make it just another place beyond Mellicha.

*Maurice Cauchi*



The Gozo Channel as seen from Nadur.

# The Genesis of Tertiary Education in Gozo

JOSEPH BEZZINA

*Speech delivered on the occasion of the inauguration of two new lecture halls at the University of Malta Gozo Campus – 17 March 2011.*

## Introduction

The official inauguration of the Malta University Gozo Campus on 4 May 1996 by the Prime Minister Dr Eddie Fenech Adami signalled the fulfillment of what has been mere wishful thinking for close to four hundred years.

## A Missed Opportunity

The first initiative for the establishment of an institution to cater for tertiary education in Gozo dates back to 1618 and the person behind the venture was Nicola-Angelo Macanuzio, also known as Mahnuq, a nobleman of Gozitan extraction living in Valletta.

On 4 September 1618, Macanuzio registered his will in the acts of Giovanni Simone di Lucia.<sup>1</sup> He left the lion's share of his movable and immovable property – a large portion of which was along the whole length of the Xewkija side of Mġarr ix-Xini Valley – to the *Collegium Melitense* of the Society of Jesus in Valletta.

The establishment of this *Collegium* had been authorized through a Brief of Pope Clement VIII addressed to Grandmaster Hughes Loubens de Verdalle (1582-1595) on 28 March 1592. It was a school of Grammar and Humanities and provided for the teaching of Philosophy and Theology. The deed for the actual erection of the *Collegium* was signed at the Magisterial Palace on 12 November 1592. It is considered the predecessor of the University of Malta, the foundation of which was authorized by the Breve *Sedula Romani Pontificis* of Pope Clement XIV dated 20 October 1769. The University was eventually founded through a

magisterial degree of Grandmaster Emanuel Pinto da Fonseca (1741-1773) on 22 November 1769 (Bezzina, 2002: 145-147; Vella, 1969: 7-10).

The bequest by Macanuzio to the *Collegium* was made with a very specific condition – a truly give-and-take donation for the benefit of the youths of Gozo. The Society of Jesus, accepting the donation, would be obliged to open a permanent residence and college on the island of Gozo for the benefit of the inhabitants of that island.<sup>2</sup> He was so anxious to promote the well-being of Gozo and the Gozitans that, in another clause, he set aside further property lest the income from the original bequest was not sufficient for the up-keep of the residence and



Nicola-Angelo Macanuzio or Mahnuq, a nobleman of Gozitan extraction living in Valletta, who laboured for the opening of a branch of the *Collegium Melitense*, the forerunner of the University, in Gozo. (Photo courtesy: Cathedral Museum-Gozo).

<sup>1</sup> Nicola-Angelo Macanuzio [Mahnuq], *Will* (4 Sep 1618) : Giovanni Simone di Lucia, NAM 784/13, 7–8.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 8.

college. In still another clause, he decreed that if the Jesuits did not accept the bequest, it should be passed on to the Order of Preachers, the Dominican Friars, with the same conditions attached.

The Society of Jesus initially accepted the legacy and sent two Jesuit Fathers to Gozo to seek proper premises for the setting up of a residence and a college in Gozo. The ensuing report has seemingly gone lost. It is however certain that the two Society members that came to Gozo were probably taken aback by the state of affairs of the island of Gozo at that time. So much so that, all of a sudden, they gave up the bequest. The Dominicans showed little or no interest in the undertaking.

The attempt of Nicola-Angelo Macanuzio to set up a Gozo Campus of the *Collegium Melitense* failed.



The suggestion of Henry E. Bunbury to Sir Thomas Maitland, the first British Governor of Malta, to open a University in Gozo (12 February 1815). (Photo courtesy: National Archives, Malta).

## A University for Gozo

A second attempt vis-à-vis tertiary education in Gozo was made by the British Colonial Office. It was the same Colonial Office that later on was to give strict orders to their representatives in Malta to be as thrifty as possible with the island, lest expenditure exceeded income.

A short time after Malta and Gozo were recognized as a British Crown Colony, the Colonial Office in London was deliberating the opening of a University in Gozo. The proposal was first made by Henry E. Bunbury, Under-Secretary of State, on behalf of Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, to Sir Thomas Maitland, the first British Governor of Malta, in a despatch of 12 February 1815.<sup>3</sup>

He suggested the setting up in Gozo of “a considerable university which may attract the young men of the most enterprising Greek and Italian families and become at the same time a lasting instrument for the extension of our [British] moral influence through the Levant and at least the south of Italy.”<sup>4</sup> He dwelt at length on other benefits that would accrue. The university was first and foremost conceived as a hub for the diffusion of Colonial propaganda towards the expansion of the British Empire, rather than a centre for the enhancement of education in Gozo. Just the same, were the idea to materialize, it would have certainly upgraded the standard of education on the island.

It was not to be. Governor Maitland was not a person to promote projects that were not his brainchild and he paid little or no attention to the suggestion. One might assume that Bunbury’s proposal was a fantastic suggestion – a University on a remote unknown island in the middle of the Mediterranean – but time proved that it was not far-fetched at all. By that time, it was being recognized that Gozo did nurture intelligent people. To try to make it easier for promising Gozitans to pursue tertiary education in Malta, Thaddeus O’Malley, Rector of the University between 1841 and 1842, suggested the building of a hostel in Valletta for gifted Gozitan students.<sup>5</sup> Such a suggestion naturally fell on deaf ears.

<sup>3</sup> Henry E. Bunbury, Under Secretary of State on behalf of Lord Bathurst, to Thomas Maitland (12 Feb 1815) : NAM, National Archives Malta, *CO to Gov*, 6, 8.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> House of Commons, *Parliamentary Papers*, 1843–XXIII–567, 28.



Sir Henry Bunbury (1778-1860), who considered it feasible to open a University in Gozo (photo courtesy: National Portrait Gallery, London).

At the time, three factors militated against the diffusion of education in Gozo: the Government's low vote, the language problem, and the little interest shown by the majority. No wonder that up to 1842, the year of the first British census, the Gozitans were still wallowing in ignorance and the number of literate persons was little more than one per cent. In fact, of the boys and girls between the age of seven and twenty living in Gozo at that time, only thirteen per thousand, or 1.3% were receiving some schooling.

### **Tertiary Education at the Seminary**

Nonetheless, the proposal made by Henry E. Bunbury in 1815 was not far-fetched, as many might imagine. So much so that fifty-one years later, when the Gozo Seminary opened its doors as a secondary boarder and day-school for boys under the able direction of the Jesuit Fathers, a number of distinguished Sicilian families did send their sons to Gozo.

The Gozo Seminary was inaugurated on 4 November 1866. It was the brainchild of Monsignor Pietro Pace, then Vicar General for Gozo, and a future bishop of Gozo and archbishop of Malta. Pietro Pace, together with Sir Adrian Dingli, Crown Advocate for Malta, were the main promoters of the establishment of the diocese of Gozo (Bezzina, 1985: 225-231).

These promoters were fully conscious of the urgent necessity of upgrading education on the island. One reason why they were pressing for a diocese was precisely because they rightly hoped that its establishment would bring about the opening of a seminary together with a secondary school. The provision for such an institution was indispensable.

The idea of opening a Seminary in Gozo was indeed a daring project in the middle of the nineteenth century. In the 1860s, around three quarters of the population of 16,000 were directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture. Analphabetism was rife and hardly any secondary education worthy of mention was imparted on the island.

The Bull *Singulari Amore*, that established the diocese of Gozo, stipulated the foundation of the Seminary within the former Saint Julian Hospital and the transfer of all its legacies to the new foundation.<sup>6</sup>

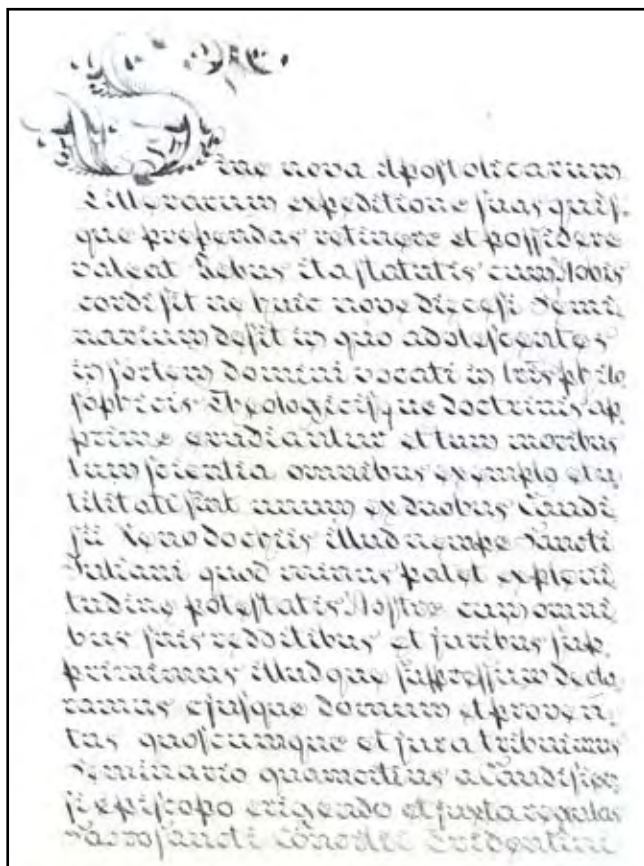


Monsignor Pietro Pace, Vicar General for Gozo, the person behind the opening of the Seminary and the beginning of Tertiary education in Gozo. (Photo courtesy: Cathedral Museum-Gozo).

<sup>6</sup> Pope Pius IX, Bull *Singulari Amore* (16 Sep 1864) 11r-v : ACG [Archivum Cathedralis Gaudisiensis, the Citadel-Gozo], Misc.

The Seminary was instrumental in enhancing the standard of education in Gozo and the reputation of the school spread far and wide. From the very first year, the sons of the best families in Gozo and many intellectually talented boys from Malta attended the Jesuit-run institution. The Jesuits even succeeded to attract a number of students from Sicily, their island home. In the seminary's secondary school or Minor Seminary, boys were prepared for the University of Malta Matriculation Examination, and many were those who obtained brilliant results. The faculty of Philosophy and Theology or Major Seminary made a very good name for itself for the seriousness and high standard of its studies and for the number of holy and zealous priests it turned out.<sup>7</sup>

In line with their policy, the Jesuits did not cater only for the intellectual and spiritual advancement of their students. They also sought to widen their cultural interests. In a few years, the Seminary became the centre of the major cultural activities of the diocese and of the whole island of Gozo. The



The Bull *Singulari Amore*, that established the diocese of Gozo and stipulated the foundation of the Seminary (16 September 1864). (Photo courtesy: Cathedral Archives-Gozo).

Jesuits held meetings of all sorts for priests, gave public lectures and talks, organized large-scale exhibitions on a variety of subjects, and produced dramatic shows for people at large. Many even crossed over from Malta to participate and enjoy these activities.

It was at the Sacred Heart Seminary, as the institution was called from 1881, that tertiary education was first imparted on the island. Students preparing for the priesthood followed the course of the *Scienze Sacre* studying Dogmatic and Moral Theology, Sacred Scripture, History of the Church, and Canon Law. Several attempts to obtain the authorization from Rome to confer first degrees failed not because of a lack of intelligent students and knowledgeable professors but as some quarters in Malta were afraid of competition from the smaller island (Bezzina, 1991).

The Seminary was to remain the only seat of tertiary education in Gozo for one hundred and twenty five years.

### University of the Air

In the late 1960s – in the post-Independence years – the youths of Gozo became more and more aware of the necessity of tertiary education. The costs involved were however beyond the means of the majority. Well-meaning Gozitans began to nurture the idea of requesting the University to hold some courses in Gozo to make it easier for Gozitans to upgrade their studies. At that time, the number of Gozitans at the University never surpassed thirty. The proposal was put forward to Sixth Form students at the Gozo Lyceum early in 1968. It was Mr George Cassar, the master of Maltese and a man fully dedicated to the common good of Gozo, who launched the idea and invited students to write a petition to the University outlining such a request. As a student, I was one of the promoters of the petition.

This request was linked with an appeal to the University to stop what was considered its discriminatory action against Gozitan students by compelling them to travel to Valletta to sit for the Matriculation examinations. At that time, both

<sup>7</sup> *Catalogus Provinciae Siculae Societatis Iesu*, Panormi 1867 onwards.

## University of the air

The Gozitans often complain, with justice, that they are neglected or even forgotten at times by the central government. Their latest complaint is about a topic of some importance but it seems doubtful whether the remedies they are advocating are the most practical in the circumstances.

Teachers in Gozo's secondary schools (and presumably other people in Gozo as well) would like to have the opportunity of attending the University's evening courses leading to the B.A. degree. One must sympathize with them, of course, for one would like all the citizens of these Islands to have exactly the same educational opportunities.

The Gozitans, on the other hand, must accept the facts of geography. In the same way as people living say in some remote Italian or British village have to accept the fact that they cannot hope to work in their village during the day and go to the nearest University, some hundreds of miles away, in the evening.

Two remedies have been suggested so far. One of them is the institution of courses in Gozo itself under the University's aegis. This is obviously out of the question. Not only would it mean having members of the University's small departments constantly in Gozo or commuting frenziedly every day, but it would also entail the building up of a separate library in Gozo, which the University can ill afford even if it should be fairly limited in scope.

The other remedy, the brainchild of a distinguished Gozitan academic, has been proposed by the Gozo Civic Council as an alternative. This remedy would consist in the production of televised courses running parallel to the ones being conducted at the University at Msida. Unfortunately, to this proposal as well, there would seem to be some formidable objections.

In the first place, a University course cannot possibly be satisfactory unless it involves constant communication between teacher and learner. This would be impossible in a televised course, although it might be possible to lessen this difficulty if the University could find satisfactory tutors resident in Gozo to supplement the televised lectures.

There is, however, a much greater difficulty. The course would entail the televising of a fairly large number of lectures in the evenings when MTV's normal programmes are being broadcast. This would mean having to use a different channel for the televised courses; whether this is technically possible at present is doubtful.

It would entail, moreover, having a separate studio for the broadcasts and making great extra demands on the University's teaching staff who would have to devote hours every week to the recording or live broadcasting of the courses. Apart from all this, of course, it would be necessary to provide a satisfactory library in Gozo.

The great effort and expense involved would seem to rule out this proposal as well. But surely there is another, more practical way of solving the difficulty. Government ought to provide promising Gozitans in its employment with scholarships (bursaries in addition to their pay) enabling them to attend day courses at the University — three years as opposed to five years for the evening courses. It could also provide them with a hostel where they could live decently and not too expensively.

The number of scholarships should not be unlimited, but sufficiently large to ensure that no Gozitan who is a potential graduate and is keen enough to dedicate himself for three years to higher instruction, would lack the opportunity of doing so.

The leader of the Times of Malta (18 March 1970) supporting the idea of the University of the Air. (Photo courtesy: Public Library-Gozo).

Oxford and London Universities had an examination centre in Gozo to cater for Gozitan students, but not the Malta University. The University at long last acceded to this request.

The holding of University courses in Gozo was a harder nut to crack. The proposal was eventually taken up by the now defunct Gozo Civic Council, a regional government for Gozo. By 1970, two possibilities were being put forward.

The first was to request the University to impart the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science courses to Gozitan students in Gozo. The suggestion was immediately shot down; it was impracticable for members of the Departments concerned to commute frenziedly to Gozo and, besides, there was no library in Gozo to cater for specialized research.

The second was the setting up of a University of the Air, a project that was being launched in Great Britain around the same time. Through a sort of closed-circuit radio, students sitting in a lecture-room in Gozo could listen to lectures being imparted at the Valletta University campus with the facility to make questions and participate directly in the debate.

It was Professor Guzè Aquilina, Gozitan and, at the time, vice-Rector of the University of Malta, who seemingly first aired this idea to Dr Anton Tabone, President of the Gozo Civic Council. In the sitting of 19 February 1970, the Council unanimously endorsed the proposal<sup>8</sup> and, on 26 February, it formally tendered the request to Professor Edwin Borg-Costanzi, the University Rector.<sup>9</sup>

Professor Aquilina put his full weight behind this second proposal "for the benefit of those who, for one reason or another, cannot settle in Malta to read for a degree" (Jaquil, 1970: 15; Aquilina, 1970: 14). He considered the provision of University facilities for Gozitan students by the adaptation of the British idea to the local situation as the only plausible solution.

Professor Aquilina backed the Gozitan request when it came up for discussion at the University Council. Yet, as often happens, the concept was not pursued further.

### University of Malta Gozo Campus - A Reality

Anton Tabone, son of Dr Anton Tabone and first Minister for Gozo, took up the idea of an institution of tertiary education in Gozo soon after the establishment of the Ministry for Gozo on 14 May 1987 (Bezzina, 1997: 430-431).

<sup>8</sup> Gozo Civic Council, *Minutes* (19 Feb 1970): NAG-National Archives Gozo Section, CC/01/04 under date.

<sup>9</sup> The reference given to the relative correspondence (probably lost) in the Gozo Civic Council, *Minutes* (19 Feb 1970): NAG-National Archives Gozo Section, CC/01/04 under date, is GCC 2/70 (Doc 39).



The Minister found collaboration both on the part of the University, especially from the Reverend Professor Peter Serracino-Inglott, the Rector, as well as from his colleagues within the Government's cabinet. Innumerable obstacles had to be overcome before the dream could come true. In the meantime, Professor Lino Briguglio was roped in by the Ministry to promote this foundation. It was not an easy task to convince the University Council and Senate to set up a Campus in Gozo.

The University of Malta Gozo Centre was finally established in October 1992 and courses were inaugurated on Saturday, 6 February 1993 during a ceremony at the Exhibition Hall of the Ministry for Gozo. Lectures were initially imparted at the premises of the Sixth Form in Rabat, Gozo. The new centre in Xewkija began to function from October 1996.

The Centre, now rightly called Campus, is governed by a board chaired by the University Rector and administered by a director, a post that has been held from the beginning – with shining results – by Professor Lino Briguglio.



The University of Malta Gozo Campus – on the Mgarr-Victoria road.

Throughout the fifteen years of its existence, the Campus served not only for the organization of courses and for research, but also for the promotion of culture. It began by the organization of a five-year part-time course leading to a BA degree and proceeded throughout the years with an innumerable number of courses. The University also uses the Gozo Campus for specialized research on atmospheric and climate change in collaboration with foreign institutions. Besides this, through the Gozo Campus, the University has embarked on a number of research projects concerning Gozo, such as the lace-making industry, agriculture, and tourism.

Mr. Anton Tabone, the former Minister for Gozo and the principal promoter of the whole project, considers the campus as a dream come true. He is also certain that the involvement of the University in Gozitan affairs was another step towards the emancipation of this island region in national affairs (Cauchi, 2002).

Dr Anton Refalo, Parliamentary Secretary for Gozo between 1996 and 1998, gave his full support to the Campus. In September 1998, with the re-establishment of the Ministry for Gozo, the Honourable Govanna Debono, the new Minister for Gozo, declared her interest in increasing and widening the scope of the Campus from day one. She has never ceased to give the Campus her full support.

On 4 May 1996, during the inauguration of the Malta University Gozo Campus, Prime Minister Dr Eddie Fenech-Adami affirmed that “when the idea of the Gozo Centre was first raised, many thought it was just a nice dream and not practical. But the idea has become a reality because over the recent years we have come to appreciate two things: the importance of university education, and the opportunities for education in Gozo.”

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Joseph Bezzina is Head of Department Church History at the University of Malta.



Anton Tabone, the former Minister for Gozo, who against all odds succeeded to start a University Campus in Gozo.

# It is Time to be Bold and Ambitious

CHRIS SAID

## Introduction

“This is Europe’s moment of truth. It is the time to be bold and ambitious.”<sup>1</sup> Some weeks have passed since I have embraced the idea, supported it and proposed it to our Government. It has been on Gozo’s agenda for decades, it has been discussed innumerable times and sadly it has also been shelved for a countless number of times.

But now, the opportune moment has come, and my Government has realised this. It is time to study the feasibility of permanently linking Gozo and Malta and my proposals are clear. I retain that a sub-sea



The 6.2km Nordoya subsea tunnel connects Esturoy with Bordoy, the two most northerly islands of the Faroe Islands.

tunnel between the two islands would offer the most economic and environmentally friendly solution. This is truly Gozo’s moment of truth. It is definitely the time to be bold and ambitious.

In the end this is just an enunciation of the political principles which I and the party in Government have upheld for years. These have been neatly spelled out in the present 2020 strategy for Europe which states that, “Economic, social and territorial cohesion will remain at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy to ensure that all energies and capacities are mobilised and focused on the pursuit of the strategy’s priorities. Cohesion policy and its structural funds, while important in their own right, are key delivery mechanisms to achieve the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Member States and regions.”<sup>2</sup> This is what we want to achieve for our nation and for the island region of Gozo in particular.

## Cohesion Policy

The channel crossing between Gozo and Malta is a strategic thoroughfare of importance in the road network of the two islands. The allure of Gozo coupled with the necessity of Gozitans to travel to the mainland for study, work or health reasons have made it a vital point of connection which over the last twenty years has more than doubled in affluence passenger wise and more than trebled when it comes to vehicles.

Between 1990 and 2010, the annual passenger numbers have doubled to over four million and the annual vehicle figures trebled to over one million. In 2010, cars and cargo vehicles that crossed between Gozo and Malta, and vice versa, numbered 1,104,370 whilst passengers added up to 4,031,480.<sup>3</sup> Comparatively, and to put everything in perspective, if we quote the passenger figures that in

<sup>1</sup> European Commission (2010). *Europe 2020. A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, Brussels. Preface Jose Manuel Barroso.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. National Statistics Office (17 January 2011). *Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo*. Malta. Q4/2010, 010/2011.

2010 transited the Malta International Airport, we come up with 3,293,524.<sup>4</sup> Nobody can put in doubt the fact that the road between Gozo and Malta is a true lifeline.

Nevertheless, the double insularity problem for Gozo remains. Although the present services provide a guaranteed and somewhat comfortable crossing, the insularity factor is impinging heavily on the island's economic growth. In 2009, a report detailing the Outcome of Social Dialogue within the Gozo Regional Committee of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development showed that per capita output and income in Gozo are lower than that of the main island, and Gozo does not appear to be contributing to and benefitting from national economic growth in a proportionate manner. Per capita income in Gozo stood at 74.5% of that of the main island in 2007. Over one half of this difference is due to a lower rate of employment in Gozo. Another third is due

to lower productivity of jobs in Gozo, and the rest is attributable to a lower proportion of working-age persons within the total population. The same report argues for the need for better transport as key to address the shortcomings of the economy of Gozo, and to help it exploit its distinctive advantages, thereby increasing its contribution to the national economy as well.<sup>5</sup>

The Cohesion Policy enunciated in the Europe 2020 strategy is about ensuring people are able to make the most of the inherent features of the territories in which they live. "Cohesion policy should continue to play a critical role in these difficult times, in order to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while promoting the harmonious development of the Union and its regions by reducing regional disparities. Cohesion policy has made a significant contribution to spreading growth and prosperity across the Union, while reducing economic, social and territorial disparities."<sup>6</sup>



Ċirkewwa harbour.

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<sup>4</sup> Cf. [www.maltairport.com](http://www.maltairport.com)

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Cordina, Gordon and Vella, Stephanie (2009). *A Package of Measures to address Short-term Pressures and the Medium-to Long-term Development Goals of the Economy of the Island Region of Gozo. Outcome of Social Dialogue within the Gozo Regional Committee of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development, Gozo. Executive Summary*, 2.

<sup>6</sup> European Commission (2010). *Investing in Europe's Future. Fifth Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion*. Luxembourg. XXIII.



The Gozo Channel ferry leaving Mgarr.

I retain that the answer that can give Gozo true territorial cohesion with mainland Malta is the infrastructure we are proposing. I believe that the surest way of bringing to Gozo the four freedoms promoted by the European Union, namely freedom of movement of people, freedom of movement of goods, freedom of movement of services and freedom of movement of capital, is by linking the two islands in a permanent manner. We want to do away with the constraints that presently hamper Gozo from achieving the same results of mainland Malta.

### **Tangible Improvements**

The construction of all forms of infrastructure that have bettered connectivity and improved accessibility have always led to tangible improvements in the life of the people. Although studies will be conducted into the social, cultural and economic impact on the island of Gozo by connecting the two islands permanently, one does not have to be very imaginative to understand that Gozo stands to benefit from such a project.

The experience that has been accrued from such infrastructures in other countries makes one believe that the same will occur on our island. The construction of sub-sea tunnels in Norway have led to the generation of new business and the creation of new initiatives in the smaller communities. These permanent links have also induced people originating from the small island communities to continue to live permanently on the island or to return after they had gone to live on the mainland.

Two sub-sea tunnels (Vaga tunnel, 2002, 4.9km - Nordoya tunnel, 2006, 6.2km) that were constructed in the Faroe Islands, where the population amounts to 50,000 people, have completely revolutionised the quality of life of the islanders, whilst decentralising business growth and development. The results accrued from these two experiences are so positive that another two projects are presently under consideration.

We will soon start delving deeper into the implications of such a project on our islands but the positive reactions we have received from our people, from all walks of life, is that this project is not only desirable but also a sine-qua-non solution that look to the future, invests in the future, and gives an assurance of a better future.

Our community at large will be involved in various discussion forums because in line with the EU's fifth document of cohesion policy, we believe that, "involving regional and local communities can improve policies. Evaluation evidence has demonstrated that the active participation of people and organisations at regional and local level, from the design to the implementation stage, is a crucial success factor. Indeed such partnership is one of the key sources of added value of Cohesion Policy, mobilizing the skills and knowledge of those concerned to make programmes more effective and inclusive".<sup>7</sup>

### **Technical Studies**

We will shortly be getting ahead with the various investigations that need to be done before deciding whether the construction of sub-sea tunnel between Malta and Gozo is feasible or not. In my opinion this project will be beneficial and cost effective, but ultimately it will be the feasibility studies that will show us if this is true or not. Until then, my opinion will be based on a number of considerations which I have discussed thoroughly with various members of the Gozitan community, and which I have also decided to share with the general public.

Presently the Gozo-Malta Channel is being served by the 'new' fleet of vessels which has now been in

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<sup>7</sup> European Commission (2010). *Investing in Europe's Future. Fifth Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion*, Luxembourg. XXI.



The Mgarr Terminal.

operation for the last eleven years. We should now be planning the substitution of this fleet which will take place in approximately ten to fifteen years' time. But should we go for a similar solution or for a way out that is of a different nature, with a long term configuration? The proposal of a sub-sea tunnel envisages a life span of at least one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty years and per se the tunnel will always remain there. In the meantime four or five fleets of vessels would have to be constructed.

Although we are proposing a sub-sea tunnel, other options will also have to be considered in our studies. A field survey produced in 1972 by members of the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan in "full cognisance of the necessity for Malta to construct this connection road,"<sup>8</sup> spells out three different options namely, a bridge, a causeway and a submerged tunnel. What we know for sure from evidence and similar experience in hand, is that the option that is being proposed is substantially lower in cost than bridges or submerged tunnels even in the case where there is a challenging geology.

Likewise the studies should delve into the required tunnel class which is to be proposed. This depends on the length of the eventual tunnel and the traffic volume. If we were to take the year 2010 for example, we know that the 4,000 vehicle mark was only surpassed marginally in thirty-seven days whilst in another fifty-one days more than 3500 vehicles made the channel crossing. This, and future projections will determine the size of the tunnel.

As in similar circumstances and for similar projects, studies into the required installations will also need to be made. These should include the setting up of emergency lay-bys at regular intervals with fire-extinguishers and telephones, including also turning niches for trucks. A high voltage electrical supply will have to be configured with supply coming from both tunnel entrances with transformers along the tunnel, all supplemented by emergency power. Illumination will be planned and divided into nightlight, transition and daylight zones. The ventilation compliment is normally supplied through reversible jet fans providing longitudinal ventilation to the required standards. The pumping out of any water inflow will also be catered for with a water reservoir located at the bottom end of the

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<sup>8</sup> Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (1972). *Link Road between Malta and Gozo Islands. Preliminary Survey Report*. Japan: Government Of Japan. Foreword, Tazuke, Keiichi, 1.

tunnel with a capacity to store at least a twenty-four hour of allowed inflow.

Communication through the tunnel especially in the case of emergencies, together with radio reception and cellular phone coverage are also important. In such cases the tunnel operator would be able to interrupt the radio stations with emergency messages. Speaking about safety and emergency situations, the experience from past similar projects shows that accidents are more prone to happen on an open road than in tunnels themselves.

When it comes to the feasibility of the tunnel one will also have to incorporate maintenance costs which would also include all operational costs. There is enough historical evidence to guide us in this matter with typical replacement of 'light weight' installations being replaced over an average of 15 years. On average maintenance and operational costs average at between 1% to 1.5% of the original (initial) cost of the tunnel. This is even much more contained than other permanent link solutions.

The most important element in the studies that will have to be conducted is into the geology of the islands and the dividing sea bed. Whilst recognising that tunnels have been built in all types of geological conditions, costs may vary according to the environment in which they are completed. All risk-analysis will also have to take into account seismic activity to which our reality is prone. In this case one will have to accrue from the experience drawn up from tunnels constructed in the past in Iceland (where volcanic eruptions, together with earthquakes are common) and Japan. Sub-sea tunnels have withstood even the most severe seismic activity in both these countries.

## The Way Forward

Preliminary studies into the feasibility of the project will be in the hands of Transport Malta. These studies will take into account the various conditions and technical configurations which have been mentioned above without sidelining the environmental, social and economic impact which

such a project will have on the life of the two islands especially Gozo.

It is also public knowledge that Jaspers (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)<sup>9</sup> have been called upon to assist in the possible application of EU funds on such projects. Whilst the original Ten-T network for the islands of Malta and Gozo did not envisage a permanent link between the two islands, this plan is being amended to take account of this development.

The application of EU funds for the project will not discard the possibility of combining the same grant offered by Europe with a PPP (Public Private Partnership). In fact various financing models will be looked into as part of the studies being undertaken. It is also known that Jaspers themselves have already been looking at addressing issues that may arise because of such funding structures and the support that is required under a PPP approach.

Although Government will not be tying its hands at this stage, this project appears to fit like a glove into the scenario of a Design-Build-Operate (DBO) or a Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO) project which can bring significant benefits to both contracting authorities and end users. It is also a project where public funding can be integrated with EU grant funding. Previous valuable experience has been built in many sectors and the lessons from this experience can be incorporated into DBO/DBFO structures.<sup>10</sup>

Without doubt, great challenges lie ahead. But we are ready to persevere against all odds, being bold and ambitious to deliver what we believe to be an effective lifeline to our island and a better future for our children. We are duty bound to do this, and we will not shirk from our duty.

Dr. Chris Said is Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue and represents Gozo in the Maltese Parliament.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. [www.jaspers-europa-info.org](http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org)

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Pricewaterhousecoopers Eeig, 2010. *Jaspers Horizontal Task: Combining EU Grant Funding with PPP for Infrastructure Projects. Guidelines for the use of DBO to procure infrastructure projects using EU structural funds.* Luxembourg.

# Mamo's Door-snail - Dussies ta' Ghawdex

## *Muticaria macrostoma* var. *mamotica* (Gulia, 1861)

JOHN J. BORG

### Introduction

The Mollusca are amongst the best known and probably easily recognizable group of invertebrates. This is mainly due to the fact that snails have long been studied by naturalists and their shapes and colours fascinated humans since prehistoric times. Apart from their aesthetic value many species are consumable. Because many species have been over-collected either as specimens for collections or for food many species have declined in numbers including some endemic species which may occur in a few square metres of area.

### Mamo's Door-snail

The family Clausiliidae Morch, 1864 is considered as one of the largest families of terrestrial snails of

which four species with many different forms occur in the Maltese Islands. They are very difficult to spate from each other and three species, namely: *Lampedusa imitatrix* (Boettger, 1879), *L. melitensis* (Caruana-Gatto, 1892) and *Muticaria macrostoma* (Cantraine, 1835) are endemic to the Maltese Islands. The latter species is represented by four or five different forms. A unique form was described by Gulia in 1861 and this race is restricted to the Muxar promontory of *Il-Fekruna* or as it is known by the locals as *it-Toqba ta' Kristu*. This endemic form known to the scientific community as *Muticaria macrostoma* var. *mamotica* is considered as Endangered (Thake, 1989) and is also threatened by development.

Mamo's Door-snail is a terrestrial pulmonate snail with shell sinistral, medium-sized and light



Mamo's Door-snail





Mamo's Door-snail next to centimetre rule

yellowish-grey in colour. The external case is more or less closely ribbed with about 40 to over 200 ribs. Its preferred habitat is calcareous rocks, especially Coralline Limestone karstlands and *rdum*. Usually occurs in crevices and cavities in rocks and occasionally under vegetation growing in soil pockets. Also found in rubble walls surrounding cultivated as well as abandoned fields (Giusti *et al.*, 1995).

### Giuseppe Mamo

Considered as the father of Maltese Conchology (Cachia, 1999), Giuseppe Mamo was in Agosta, Sicily in 1793 but was raised and educated in Malta. He carried out his studies at the Lyceum and the Royal University of Malta. He graduated as a chemist and during the plague of 1813 Mamo served in the Lazzaretto as the hospital's chemist. He also studied natural sciences and became an authority in conchology, geology, physics and analytic chemistry and archaeology. Giuseppe Mamo was nominated for the post of Professor of Natural Sciences at the University but due to his humble nature, he declined the offer. His passion for the mollusca led him to study the local species for 47 years. He built a large and important collection of some 438 different species from the Maltese islands. After his death this collection was bought by Sir William

Reid, Governor of Malta, and this was displayed at the Public library. Mamo was also a member of societies including the *Accademia Gioenai di Scienze Naturali* of Catania, in the *Cabinetto di Storia Naturale* in Syracuse and the *Società Medica d'Incoraggiamento* of Malta. Giuseppe Mamo died in 1865. Two years after his death, the Archaeological Society commissioned Dr. A.A. Caruana to prepare a report on Mamo's works and on the collection based mainly on Mamo's original notes. A report entitled *Enumeratio Ordinata Molluscorum gaulo-melitensium of the late G. Mamo* was published in 1867.

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John J. Borg is Principal Curator at the National Museum of Natural History.

# GUG - Gozitans' Voice at University

JOELENE ATTARD & ANTHONY BRIFFA

## Introduction

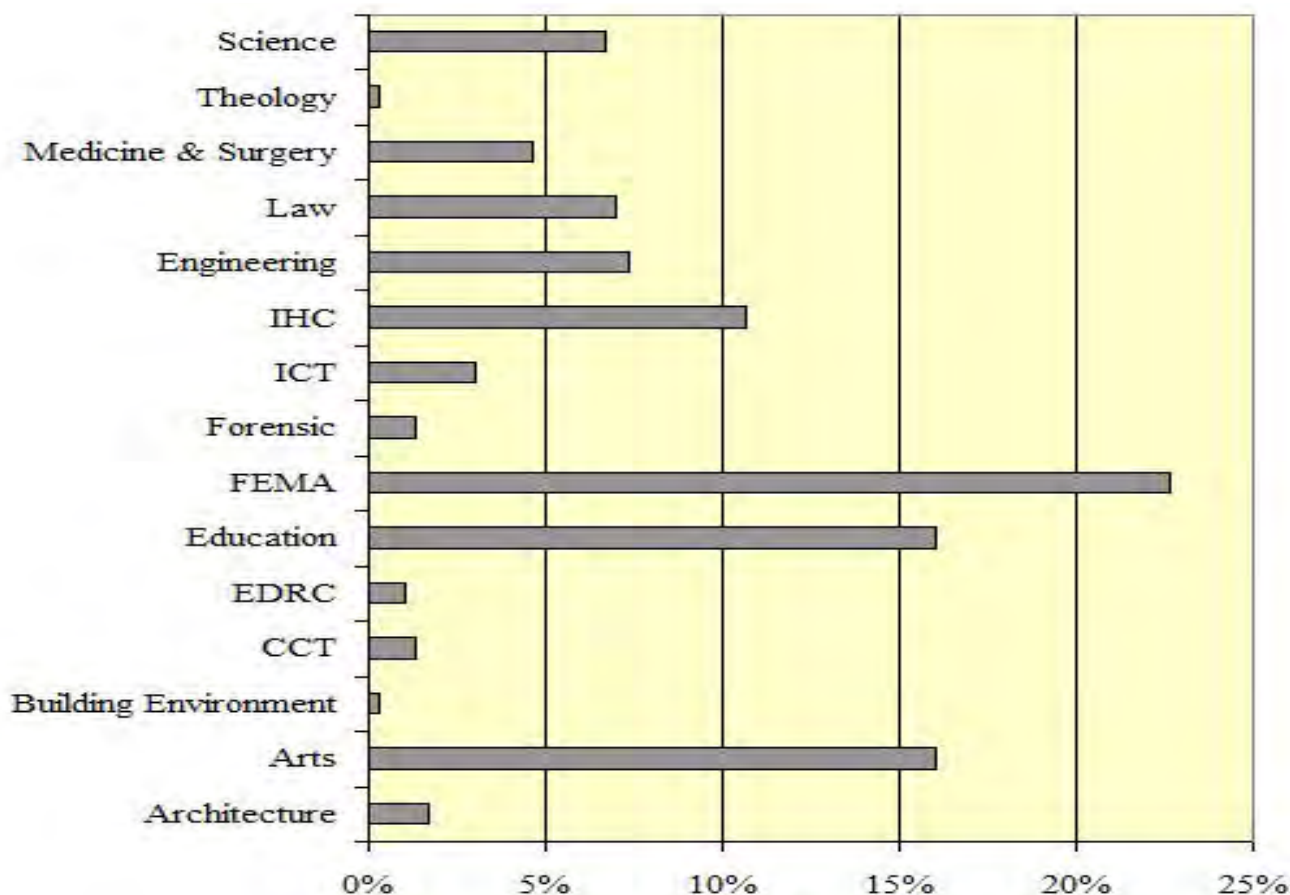
The Gozo University Group (GUG) was established in the 1980s and later, in 1987, it was formally recognized as a student organization. Since its inception GUG has evolved into a more organized, stronger organization and continuously strives to make its voice heard by undertaking a number of ambitious projects. Its main aim is to represent Gozitan students at University and to promote their interest in their transition to university life. GUG commits itself to cater for the students' particular requirements and to help them in whatever situations they might find ambiguous. The organization is affiliated with various committees and organizations, some of which are the Regional Projects Committee-Ministry for Gozo, KPS (Commission for Social Policy) and KNZ (National Council for Youths).

## The Survey

In March 2009 a survey was undertaken to gather direct and useful information about Gozitan students and their experience as students living or studying in Malta. The survey involved asking questions regarding various aspects that in some way or another affected the quality of life of these students including important factors of their university year such as the course undertaken by individual students, transport, accommodation, grants and other activities. The survey was anonymous and the information gathered was treated with high confidentiality.

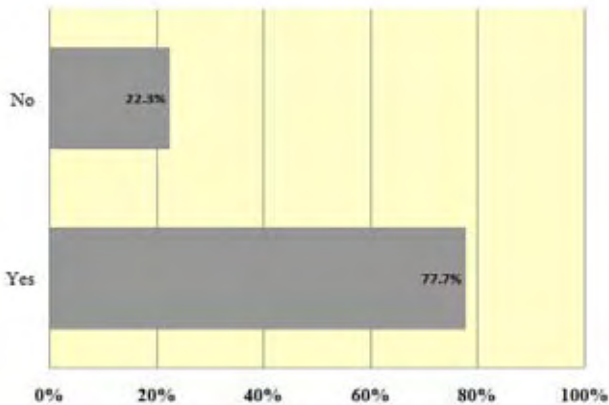
As can be seen below, the majority of the students are inclined towards business studies followed by education and arts. The majority of Gozitan students fall under Faculty of Economics,

## Demography of Students According to their Faculty



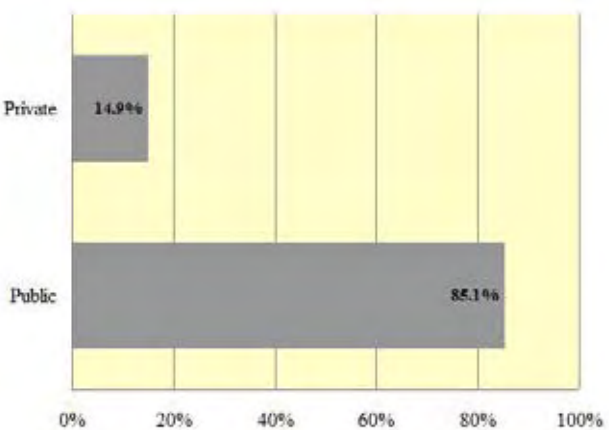
Management and Accountancy whilst there is a poor concurrence in Theology, ICT and architecture.

**Would you prefer the exams be held in Gozo?**



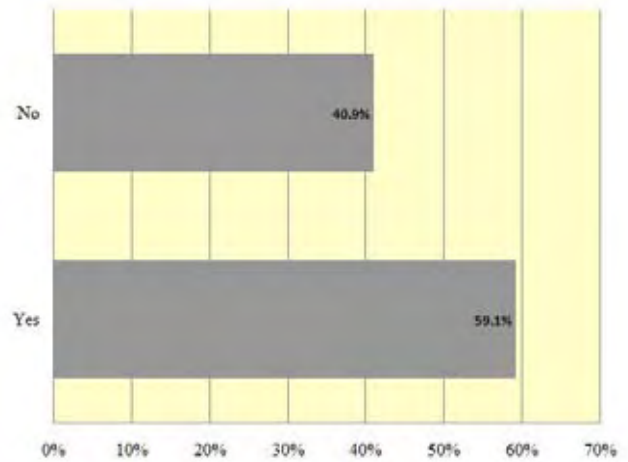
As the result clearly shows the majority of Gozitan students prefer to have their exams held in Gozo and they feel at a disadvantage against fellow Maltese students in this particular case. This could be because of the fact that they have to cross between Malta and Gozo everyday and there were cases where students missed their exams because of bad weather conditions. This issue was confirmed by 63.1% of the Gozitan students when they were asked if they felt at a disadvantage when it came to exams.

**When travelling in Malta, what type of transport do you use?**



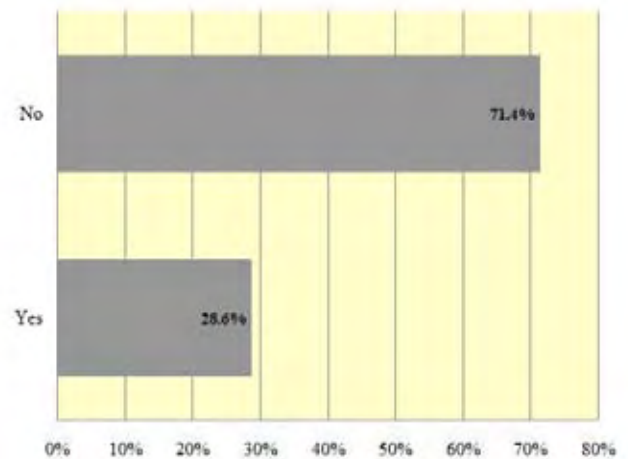
When travelling in Malta the majority (85.1%) of the students use public transport while the rest prefer to travel by private car. When asked about the quality of service of public transport, 63.1% stated that it was of medium quality. It was only 17.2% who said that the service was bad and the remaining 19.7% said it was good.

**Do you think that the Gozo Channel Schedules are well apportioned?**



The majority of those who said yes agreed that the ferry schedule was adequate but the rest 40.9% did not agree. This amount has to be taken into consideration especially when we bear in mind that there are a large number of students who travel to Malta and do not find that the service caters to their needs. This argument must be looked into and if sufficient arguments exist, amendments made.

**Do you think that one bus trip every hour is enough?**



After students cross over to Malta by ferry, if they are to use public transport they must find the right bus to get to their destination. According to the survey 71.4% of the students who use public transport do not agree that a bus every hour is adequate. If students are late by five minutes because of ferry delays, they have to wait another hour to catch the next bus. This clearly shows that there is the need for some type of a reform or an agreement to increase the number of bus trips.



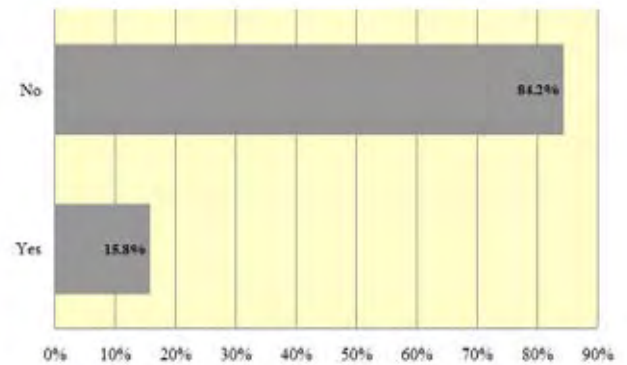
Current GUG members.

**Have you ever missed the ferry, even by just a couple of minutes?**



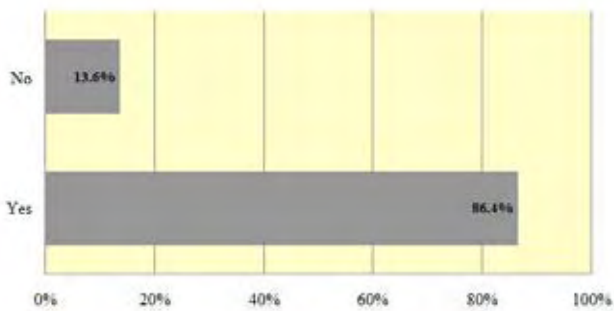
When asked if they ever missed a ferry, 82.8% of students confirmed that this happened to them regularly while 16.8% said it happened to them a few times. There was a small percentage of 0.4% who said that they never missed a ferry that they were meaning to catch which is a relatively small amount compared to the 82.8% who miss ferries regularly.

**Do you think that the transport system is scheduled to complement the ferry timetable and vice versa?**



From the results one can see the enormous lack of coordination between the Gozo Channel timetable and that of public transport. It is often the case that upon arrival at Ċirkewwa by bus, a ferry has just left meaning that a 45 minute wait for the next ferry is required; or else upon berthing at Ċirkewwa, the required bus has just left meaning a wait for the next one. This is confirmed by 84.2% of students questioned.

**Should there be a “Students’ Card” so that students can be entitled to a discount when using public transport?**



When this question was presented to the students, 86.4% agreed that they should have this card to entitle them to a reduced rate when using public transport. After all, this system of a “Students’ Card” would help students to minimize the day to day costs they incur during their University years.

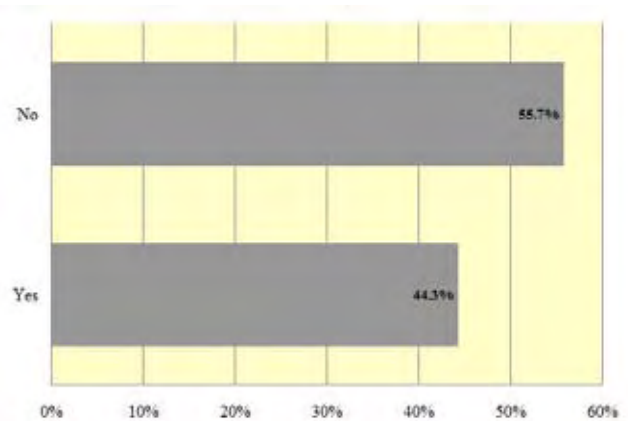
**Accommodation**

Every Gozitan student has a choice either to travel four hours every day of the week to and from University or otherwise find a flat near University to minimize the hassle and time wasted in travelling back to Gozo. With the latter option there are added difficulties and expenses such as payment of accommodation and having to live as independently as possible. This study shows that 86.6% of the Gozitan students prefer to live in Malta during their years at University, 72.9% of which rent an apartment to live in. The majority of these flats are in Msida, Gzira while there are small numbers who live in Birkirkara, Santa Venera and also in Valletta and Hal Luqa. This means that the percentage of students who live in their own or their family’s apartments are a meager percentage of 27.1%. When asked if the apartment they rent is to their particular tastes, 72.3% answered that it is, which is a clear indication that the majority of students are happy while living in Malta.

Renting your own flat can bring about added expenses to the cost of living of students and GUG asked about these particular issues as well. Students were asked how much they must pay every month as rental expenses. The majority of 69.9% pay between €80 and €100 a month whilst

20.5% are paying more than €100. This is a burden on the student especially since students have no fixed wage and it takes a substantial part or all of the monthly stipend allowance. Gozitan students nowadays have the facility to apply for another type of allowance of €349.43 every 3 months (equivalent to €116.47 monthly) to compensate for their monthly rental charges.

**Do you think that a Stipend Allowance of €116.47 per month is enough?**



55.7% answered that this amount is not enough to recuperate all their expenses, most of these being rent and transport expenses. It is because of this that 71.2% of students think that this amount should be increased.

The information gathered from this survey served multiple purposes and GUG has worked and will continuously strive to improve the various difficulties arising from these situations.

**GUG Managed To...**

*Sub-Committee*

On the 6th April, KSU (University Students’ Council) held its annual AGM during which GUG was present and asked for a permanent KSU sub-committee directly involving issues concerning Gozitan students. GUG, representing more than a 1000 (Gozitan) students at University, believes that there should be more direct communication between the two, and hopefully tackle issues faster. One of the issues mentioned as an example was for the examinations to be held in Gozo, an option that the majority of Gozitan students would like to have available. Carl Grech, President of

the KSU said that his organisation agrees with the suggestion and a KSU sub-committee will be created. He proposed a sub-committee made up of four Gozitans, namely ex officio GUG President and any three GUG members and three ex-officio members of KSU, namely the KSU President, the KE and the KPS. GUG was pleased to agree to the proposal as this should strengthen the much needed direct and close collaboration structure with KSU.

### ***Transport Reform***

GUG, together with KSU did its best to ensure a smooth implementation of the public transport reform directly involving the University bus routes for Gozitan Students. This is due to positive meetings GUG had with KSU and MITC, the two major stakeholders in this assignment.

### **The Bus Service from Ċirkewwa**

A direct service between Ċirkewwa and the University will be catered for so that there will be no need for Gozitan students travelling to and from University to exchange buses. This service was to start at 5.30am and was to end at 11.00pm, operating on an hourly service.

Any student travelling in Malta will benefit from reduced fare prices when purchasing 30 and 90 day tickets. The ticket price for a 30 day student pass ticket is €21 instead of €45, whilst that of a 90 day ticket is €60 instead of €120. These rates apply to persons between the ages of eleven and sixteen and to those persons that can provide evidence that they are enrolled in a full time course with a minimum duration of three months. The institute that they are enrolled with must be registered with the Ministry of Education.

Buses operating between Ċirkewwa and University, besides being high capacity buses need also to have the space to accommodate luggage. This will help in facilitating mobility.

The proposed bus routes will be run by the new service provider Arriva. The GUG has, on many occasions, imparted information on this matter

mainly during meetings with Gozitan students and during Freshers' Week, an annual event organized by KSU.

### **Acknowledgements**

GUG would like to thank KSU and Emanuel Delia, Amanda Ciappara and Pierre Carabott from MITC for their alliance in this assignment. More information can be acquired by contacting GUG or KSU Secretary General Karl Agius on secgen@ksu.org.mt or 99309841.

Joelene Attard is a 20-year old University student reading a Bachelor of Commerce degree, her major line of studies being Accountancy and Management. Currently she is the GUG Assistant Financial Officer with the aim of replacing the current one in the next scholastic year.

Anthony Briffa is a 23-year old University student reading a Master in Maltese Language by research. He has graduated with B.A. (Hons) in Maltese and Communications and PGD in Translation Studies. Currently he is a member in the GUG executive and has been a member for over four years lately occupying the role of Secretary General.

# Mitt Sena mit-twelid tal-Professor Ġużè Aquilina (07-4-1911 – 07-4-2011)

JOE M. ATTARD



Il-Professor Ġużè Aquilina.

## Mitt Sena mit-twelid tal-Professor Ġużè Aquilina (07-4-1911 – 07-4-2011)

Għalkemm l-ilsien Malti m'ilux sekli li daħal fostna, hemm xi wħud minn dawk li bir-rieda sħiħa tagħhom, għanewh, u miegħu għanew ukoll art twelidhom. Illum għandna kittieba li rnexxielhom jilħqu fil-quċċata tal-letteratura, mhux biss, imma wkoll li l-kitbiet tagħhom, it-tagħlim lill-istudjużi fuq l-ilsien Malti, jistgħu jitqiesu bħala ġamar li jkebbes il-qlub lejn il-letteratura Maltija. Hija haġa biex ngħidu hekk li ma titwemminx kif studjuż, kittieb, poeta, rumanzier u għalliem bħal Professor Ġużè Aquilina rnexxielu jilħaq dan il-livell hekk għoli li dwaru ser niktbu llum fl-okkażjoni tal-100 sena minn twelidu.

Fi profil qasir bħal ma hu dan tagħna, huwa diffiċli li niktbu u nsemmu kollox dwar il-ħajja u l-hidma ta'

dan il-Għawdx i dehni, imma aħna sejrin nagħmlu mill-aħjar li nistgħu biex nagħtukom stampa ċara u tagħrif siewi dwar wiehed mill-aqwa kittieba u studjużi tal-Malti.

Il-Professor Ġużè Aquilina tweled il-Munxar, raħal li jmiss mal-fdalijiet tat-tempju megalitiku ta' Marziena u mal-blat imtarraġ tax-Xlendi, fl-għodwa tas-7 ta' April tas-sena 1911. L-ewwel sisien tat-tagħlim tiegħu, bnihom fl-iskola primarja Ta' Sannat (li qed tfakkar twelidu bi programm commemorattiv), raħal tefgħa ta' ġebbla bogħod minn raħal twelidu, iddedikat lil Pawlu ta' Tarsu, u wara, għadda għas-Seminarju t'Għawdex. Minn hawn dan il-kittieb letterarju daħal jistudja fl-Università Rjali ta' Malta, fejn fis-sena 1934 huwa ħa l-B.A. Kien biss tliet snin wara li Ġużè Aquilina ħa l-Lawrja ta' Avukat mill-istess Università'. Huwa dam jaħdem ta' avukat fil-Qrati ta' Għawdex għal madwar tmintax-il sena, meta fl-1 ta' April 1955 huwa sar *full time Professor* tal-Malti u tal-ilsna Orjentali fl-Università Rjali ta' Malta. Dejjem miexi 'l quddiem fit-triq wiesa' tat-tagħlim, Aquilina kiseb il-grad tal-Ph.D mill-Unversità ta' Londra fl-1941.

Il-Professor Ġużè Aquilina kien membru ta' bosta għaqdiet u kumitati kulturali li aħna m'aħniex sejrin noqogħdu nsemmuhom kollha, iżda ta' min jgħid li huwa kien il-president tal-għaqda tal-Malti, imsejha 'Università' kif ukoll president onorarju tal- 'Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti'.

Il-Professor Ġużè Aquilina kabbar il-ġieħ ta' lsienna f' bosta pajjiżi billi għamel taħdidiet dwar l- 'Ilsien Malti', 'il-Malti bħala Lsien Imħallat', 'l-Oqsma tat-tiftix tal-Lingwistika tal-Malti', u taħdidiet oħra fl-universitajiet ta' Londra, Durham, Cambridge u Edinburgh. Huwa ppubblika artikli u kitbiet oħra f' diversi rivisti lingwistiċi mxerrda mal-Ewropa.

Imma l-hidma tal-Professor Ġużè Aquilina ma tiqafx hawn. Sa mill-1937 huwa kien diġà tħabbeb sewwa mal-Malti u nsibu li f' din l-istess sena, huwa kien rebah l-ewwel premju għall-aħjar rumanz bil-malti moġhti mill-Gvern, bir-rumanz *Taħt Tliet Saltriet*.

Dan huwa rumanz tassew sabiħ, b'deskrizzjonjiet tassew qawwiya u ħajja u li minnu nagħtukom silta fi tmiem dan il-profil. Il-Professor kien ukoll l-editor tal-organu tal-istudenti universitarji, *Leħen il-Malti* kif ukoll ta' sensiela ta' kotba *Tagħlim għal Kbar*.

Li kieku kellna noqogħdu nsemmu x-xogħol kollu ta' dan l-istudjuż, kittieb, poeta, rumanzier u għalliem mill-Gżira tat-Tliet Għoljiet, ma konna nispiċċaw qatt. Għalhekk aħna jidhrilna li nsemmu biss xi wħud mill-kotba li l-Professor Aquilina kiteb u ta lill-istudjużi tal-Ilsien Malti. Fost dawn il-pubblikazzjonjiet, insibu: *A Comparative Study in Mixed Maltese* u *The Structure of Maltese*. Dawn iż-żewġ kotba jagħtu taħrif siewi dwar l-istorja u l-bini ta' lsienna. Insemmu wkoll il-kotba nteressanti *Il-Polz ta' Malta*; *Studji Kritiċi Letterarji*; u *Madwar il-Ħajja* (f'erba' volumi). Ma nistgħux inħallu barra *Il-Muża Maltija – Antoloġija ta' Poeti*.

Aquilina ppubblika wkoll ktieb ta' poeżiji bl-Ingliż li jgħib l-isem ta' *The Struggle*. Huwa kiteb ukoll bosta poeżiji u epigrammi bil-Malti li dehru f'diversi ġurnali u rivisti. *Fit-Tejtru* huwa l-isem ta' ktieb ieħor li kiteb dan il-ġenju letterarju u li jiġbor fih bosta drammi u kummiedji bil-Malti. *Arbli fuq il-Bjut*, xogħol tiegħu wkoll, kien inħadem b'suċċess fuq il-palk tal-Liceo t'Għawdex mill-Għaqda Drammatika 'Lyceum Players'.

Il-Professor Aquilina għamel bosta introduzzjonijiet f'kotba kemm ta' proża kif ukoll ta' poeżija. Huwa tana f'idejna bosta materjal li mhux lakemm jintesa malajr. Xogħol interessanti ieħor li ta lill-istudjużi kienet il-gabra ta' madwar ħamest elef qawl b'ħafna taħrif dwarhom li jinsabu midmuma fil-ktieb tiegħu *A Comparative Dictionary of Maltese Proverbs* li kien intlaqa' ferm tajjeb minn dawk kollha li għandhom il-ġid tal-Ilsien Malti.

Ma nistax ma nersaqx lejn tmiem dan il-profil bla ma nsemmi forsi l-ikbar opra ta' ħajtu u li nistgħu ngħidu haditlu għadd sabiħ ta' snin minn għomru biex seta' juriha d-dawl tal-istampa. Qed nirreferi għad-dizzjunarju tiegħu f'sitt volumi Malti-Ingliż-Malti mahruġ mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin immexxi minn Għawdx iħor, Pawlu Mizzi.

Il-ħidma tal-Professor Ġużè Aquilina lejn il-Malti tibqa' ma tintesiex. Jalla l-ilsien tagħna jsib nies qalbiena li ma jibzghux jiġġieldu għal-letteratura

Maltija bħalma għamli l-Professor Ġużè Aquilina u għawdxin oħra fosthom Ninu Cremona, Ġorġ Pisani, Mary Mejlak, Anton Buttigieg flimkien ma' oħrajn. Aquilina baqa' sa ma s-saħħa baqgħet tagħti, jgħolli u jsebbaħ l-ilsien Malti mhux biss fil-gzejjer Maltin iżda wkoll f'artijiet imbiegħda. Il-kitbiet tiegħu ma jistgħux ma jqanqlux f'qalb il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin ta' kull żmien, imħabba lejn ilsien artna, għax fihom isibu l-benna u l-għaqda li wiehed ifittex fil-letteratura tagħna. Xhieda ta' dan hija s-silta qasira li qeġdin nagħtukom hawn taħt meħuda mill-ewwel rumanz li ħareġ mill-pinna tiegħu, *Taħt Tliet Saltnet*.

*Iż-żgħażaġħ tar-raħal mhux ħlief jitordu wraġha bil-moħbi ta' missierha. Għax imbarra leħinha, dawk ix-xufftejn tagħha mimlija u ħomor f'wiċċ qamħi mfaqqa', kienu jħarrku d-demmi tal-irġiel kollha li kienu jikluha bil-ħars.*

*U f'din il-lejla ta' qtugħ il-għeneb, Pawlina, billi rat li missierha f'it kellu moħħ il-kliem, biex tgħaddi ż-żmien, infexxet tghanni u, bis-sakra tal-għana, bilkemm intebhet li l-għenieqi kienu qed jaqgħulha fl-art minn ħogorha mfawwar.*

*Tgħid dan l-għana kienet qed tghannih lil xi wiehed għażiż!*

*Għalkemm kienet tqarrab it-tmintax, kienet għadha ma ħabbet lil hadd. Madankollu ġo fiha kienet bdiet thoss bħal ħlewwa ma tafx x'inhi, imma għal min għandu mid-dinja, dil-ħlewwa hi bħal lewn li jidher f'ħawħa biex juri li din bdiet issir. Ma' din il-ħlewwa, jew aħjar, xewqa misterjuża, bdiet thoss ukoll nuqqas ta' kwiet, bdiet thoss xi ħaġa nieqsa, bħal baħħ li jrid jimtela. Tmintax! L-imħabba tibda tagħmel tagħha; min-naħa jew minn oħra, hi tinfed il-qalb żaġħżuġha bil-vleġeġ tagħha tad-deheb li hi titlaq issa mill-ħhub ta' żewġ xufftejn li jitbissmu, issa minn taħrika ħafifa tal-id, issa minn tislama ċkejka.*

*Bħalissa l-ħemda donnha ngabret madwarha tissamma bla nifs, tissamma għax ma tridx titef kelma waqt li dit-tfajla tghanni:*

*Gismi għamiltu dghajsa  
Dirghajja għamiltom qluġħ  
Immorru bejn sema w ilma  
Fejn ma tarana ebda ruh.*

*Misbaħ għajnejn ħanini  
Daħkana, suwed tut,  
Ja mħabba mlieli qalbi  
Għax mingħajrek jiena mmut!*



## Lill-Professor Ġuzè Aquilina (1911 – 1997)

Kont għadni tifel ċkejken fil-Primarja  
Meta l-ġhalliem ħabbibni sewwa miegħek,  
Urieni dlonk imħabbtek lejn ilsienna  
Biex tara l-Malti le fit-tajn jitmiegħek!

Żammejtek għalhekk dejjem jien b'kolonna  
Illi ħabrikt w għożzejt ilsienna sħiħ;  
Lil raħlek il-Munxar ħallejt minn kmieni  
Biex f' Malta tkompli taħdem bla mistrieh!

Matul is-snin mill-pinna għarfa tiegħek  
Ħargu studji w kitbiet ta' mitt elf sura  
Għax int dejjem emmint illi b' ilsienna  
Bla tlaqliq xejn, naqtgħu l-aqwa figura.

Quddiem kulhadd nistqarr u bla ftaħir  
Li fit-tiswir tal-Malti, sehmek kbir.

Kav Joe M Attard  
Rabat - Għawdex

### Summary of the above article in English

Professor Joseph Aquilina B.A., LL.D., Ph.D. hailed from Munxar. He was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1911 and passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1997. He was educated at the Sannat Primary School, at the Bishop's Seminary Gozo, and later at the University of Malta and the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London (1937-40). In 1937 he graduated as a lawyer and exercised his profession at the Gozo Law Courts for about eighteen years. He was the first holder of the Chair of Maltese and Oriental languages (1936-76) at the University of Malta where he also became Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1948-66 and 1972-75). He was also Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Malta (1970-1974), President of the Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (1972-82), President of the Association of Teachers, Royal University of Malta (ATRU), (1952-76) as well as President of the Association Internationale D'Etude des Civilisations Mediterraneennes (1972-82). In 1986, Professor Aquilina was elected member of the Council of the Faculty of Theology.



Egħluq il-mitt sena mit-twelid tal-Professor Ġuzè Aquilina fil-Munxar, Għawdex gie mfakkar permezz tal-attività 'Iż-Żiffa tal-Poeżija' ġewwa il-Librerija Publika ta' Għawdex bil-parteciġazzjoni ta' studenti Għawdxin.

He won several literary awards, namely the Gold Medal Ġuzè Muscat Azzopardi (1966), Gold Medal of the Confederation of Civic Councils (1973), and Gold Medal of the Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (1979). Way back in 1963 he was chosen Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Between the years 1932 and 1937 he served as editor of the Journal of the Royal University of Malta Literary Society. For a good number of years he edited as well the following periodicals: *Lehen il-Malti*, *Tagħlim għall-Kbar*, *Journal of Faculty of Arts* and the *Journal of Maltese Studies*. Professor Aquilina's scholarly interests range widely over the field of Semitic and Romance linguistics.

He also read papers at several international linguistic and onomastic and literary congresses and is the author of linguistic and literary books. He was the winner of the first novel in Maltese *Taħt Tliet Saltnet*. His greatest work is his Dictionary Maltese – English (2 volumes), English – Maltese (4 volumes) published by Midsea Books Ltd (Malta).

Kav. Joe M. Attard hu membru tal-Akkademja tal-Malti u awtur ta' bosta poeziji, essays u features letterarji. Gie mahtur Kavallier tal-Ordni Unione Cavalleria Cristiana Internazionale (UCCI) fl-1984 u huwa s-Segretarju tal-Għaqda Ġurnalisti u Kittieba Għawdxin sa mit-twaqqif tagħha fl-1960.

# Two Former UGC Students obtain their Ph.D.

CAROLINE CAMILLERI ROLLS

## Introduction

Since its inception, the University of Malta Gozo Centre has allowed around 400 people to graduate in various diplomas and degrees. The courses held are attended by mature students most of which are employed full time and many who are also supporting a family. During the almost twenty years since courses started to be held in Gozo, around 275 people have graduated with a diploma, including the Diploma in Commerce and the Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education; around 88 people are now in possession of a degree, including Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce and about 44 people are holders of a masters degree including Master of Arts in Islands and Small States and Master of Arts in History.

However the Gozo Campus has not only been a place from where people can come to further their education without the constant travelling back and forth from the main University Campus in Malta, for some it has been the stepping stone to go even further and obtain a doctorate. Two such individuals are Dr Michael Refalo and Dr Gillian Martin. Their stories are as follows.

## Dr Michael Refalo

Reading history has always been my pastime. However, pastimes and hobbies, of their very nature, are secondary things one does in life. When the Gozo Centre of the University of Malta advertised a B.A. Course on Gozo on a part-time basis, it seemed an ideal opportunity. Despite some initial reluctance, deep down I felt that this was a way out of a rut which my professional work had led me into; it had the potential of being a spark which would wake my mind from the mental lethargy induced by dealing with routine legal matters.

The five long years which it took to obtain the B.A., doing history and philosophy on alternate weekends, have been a fruitful experience. It was not only interest in the discipline studies; it was the company, it was the environment, it was the feeling that despite being on the threshold of middle age, it was still possible to feel mentally young and challenged.

Once the course came to an end, a void opened up. It became an urgent matter to find something which could replace the weekend meetings and lectures at the Centre. At the same time, however, it proved to be a fruitful and enriching experience, one which taught me that besides reading history as a pastime, and perceiving philosophy as useless, there was another reading. History and Philosophy became, for me, not only a passion but also goalposts which illuminate both the mental faculties as well as the practices of life. The natural consequence was to continue my studies.

On the strength of my previous law degree and the passion for history, and to pursue the study of the latter, I applied for, and was accepted, as part time M.Phil. student at the University of Malta. My main interest had always been matters connected with social history. And it was in that direction that my research went. After a year or two, under the tutorship of Dr. John Chircop, I was advised to narrow down my research. Writing on social classes in Malta during the 19th century, threatened to become a multi-volume affair rather than a thesis. Now, I had a specific subject to research, the commercial class, about whom there was substantial information. My application to upgrade the M.Phil. to Ph.D., supported of course by my tutor, was accepted. Although it took, in all, close on to 6 years to finish my thesis, and despite the problems one inevitably encounters, it was a very enjoyable experience. This culminated in my graduation in October 2009 with my thesis entitled 'The Maltese Commercial Class. Business, Family, Networks.'



Dr Michael Refalo at his graduation.

## Dr Gillian Martin



My decision to apply for a BA course at the Gozo Centre was certainly not because I needed something to occupy my time; I was working fulltime in a primary school (PE teacher and administrator) and also had a part time sales job (Good Earth Sales Rep) besides helping out in our small family business.

My boys were 7 and 5 years old ...and I had no family at all on the island to help out. So, really I must have been quite mad to even consider it for a moment. The thing is that I had always had this romantic idea of going to university as a mature student. I had trained in London as a nurse in the 80's, specialising in Intensive Therapy Nursing, but had always thought that I would enjoy a more academic course if the occasion arose.

When the Gozo Centre advertised the BA course I knew that this was something I would love to do. I was (am) very fortunate to have a hugely supportive husband. There is absolutely no way I could have coped with the work without his help.

When I selected Philosophy and Sociology as my two study areas, I must admit that I knew very little about both subjects. It turned out to be a perfect choice for me. I found the broad variety of topics in both areas to be stimulating and challenging. I loved the lectures – meeting up with my fellow students every Friday evening and Saturday morning – focusing on taking notes during the lectures and chatting during breaks in the courtyard – it was like a break for me – for 4 hours I totally forgot about all the ‘real’ work waiting for me at home. (I was inscribed on the Dean’s List for excellence in HMC in 2002).

The five years chugged along, slowly at first, but the last year seemed too short. We had final synoptic exams – preparation for those were tough and the exams terrifying, but the results were good and I graduated in 2003 *summa cum laude*. I decided to take a year off after this – mainly to spend some more relaxed time with my husband and sons.

By this time, however, I was well and truly hooked. I knew that a Masters in sociology was my next step. After searching the net, I came across an MSc

in Sociology run jointly by the Victoria University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Salford University. It was a very varied and interesting taught masters course and the fact that it was an online course made it a perfect choice for me. In fact, there were big changes in the University set up while I was doing the course (Victoria Manchester merged with UMIST) and my MSc was awarded by the newly named University of Manchester. I graduated with Distinction in 2007. My dissertation was on the sociology of the body, “Dying to be seen? Power and body shape in late modern society”, supervised by Prof Nick Crossley.

Just as I was coming up to the end of my dissertation, the government announced the first set of MGSS scholarships for PhD students. I thought that this might be my chance to study full time, something that I had always wanted to do. I presented my research proposal focusing on childhood obesity in Malta and successfully competed for a grant which covered my university fees and included a modest stipend. (Unfortunately my dream of studying ‘full time’ never materialised; my part-time sales job remained an important life-line).

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to continue working with Prof Nick Crossley at the University of Manchester who was now head of Department there. I spent the following three and a half years travelling up to Manchester for short spells every four months or so for supervision meetings and to make the most of the excellent training in academic skills offered by the University.

My research was carried out in primary schools in Gozo between 2007- 2009. I defended my thesis “Childhood Obesity in Malta : a sociological perspective“, before Prof Gillian Bendelow (University of Sussex) and Dr Vanessa May (University of Manchester) in January 2011.

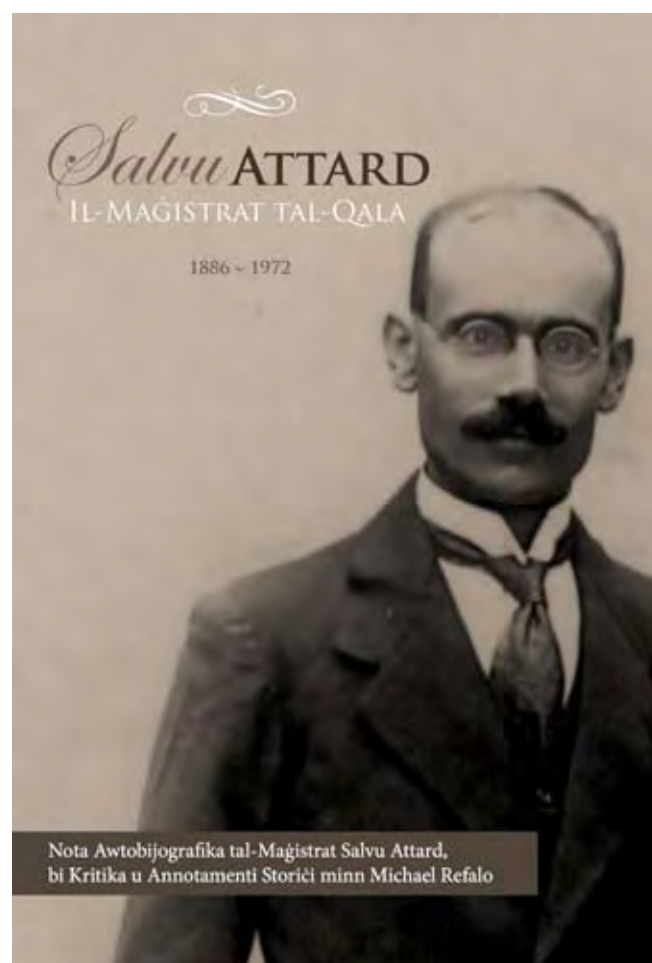
Since then I have been lecturing part time at the University of Malta and at the Gozo Campus (module in Sociology of Health and Illness). I have been appointed as a marker for Matsec examiner for sociology (intermediate) and am currently supervising an MA(sociology) student.

Caroline Camilleri Rolls possesses a Master of Arts Degree in Islands and Small States Studies and currently assists in the administration as Academic Coordinator at the University Gozo Campus.

# Salvu Attard. Il-Maġistrat tal-Qala 1886-1972. *Nota Awtobijografika tal-Maġistrat Salvu Attard, bi Kritika u Annotamenti Storici minn Michael Refalo*

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH CALLEJA

Michael Refalo,  
Local Council, Qala, 2010, pp. 77.



This booklet, authored by Michael Refalo and published by the Qala Local Council, reproduces an autobiographical note written by Salvu Attard, in retirement after having practised as a lawyer in his native village, entered government service as Crown Counsel and Advocate for the poor in Gozo as well as tax assessor. The short writing concentrates upon Attard's early years and the problems he encountered throughout his life in

order to assert himself. Refalo has left the original writing, limiting himself to furnish footnotes to place Attard's writing in its proper historical perspective. Thus, for example, although Attard himself makes no explicit reference to the politico-religious disputes – both of which he lived through – the footnotes provide the background against which the protagonist sought to better his educational and, ultimately, his social condition.

The writing is preceded by a short essay dealing with the importance of (auto)biography and history and a critical commentary. The former essay makes the point that autobiographical and biographical writings, contribute towards the writing of history. If these, then refer to the common people, rather than the more famous personages, their contribution to the writing of social history is vital.

The latter provides a general comment on the autobiographical writing observing how, in retirement, Attard becomes conscious of his educational and social success.

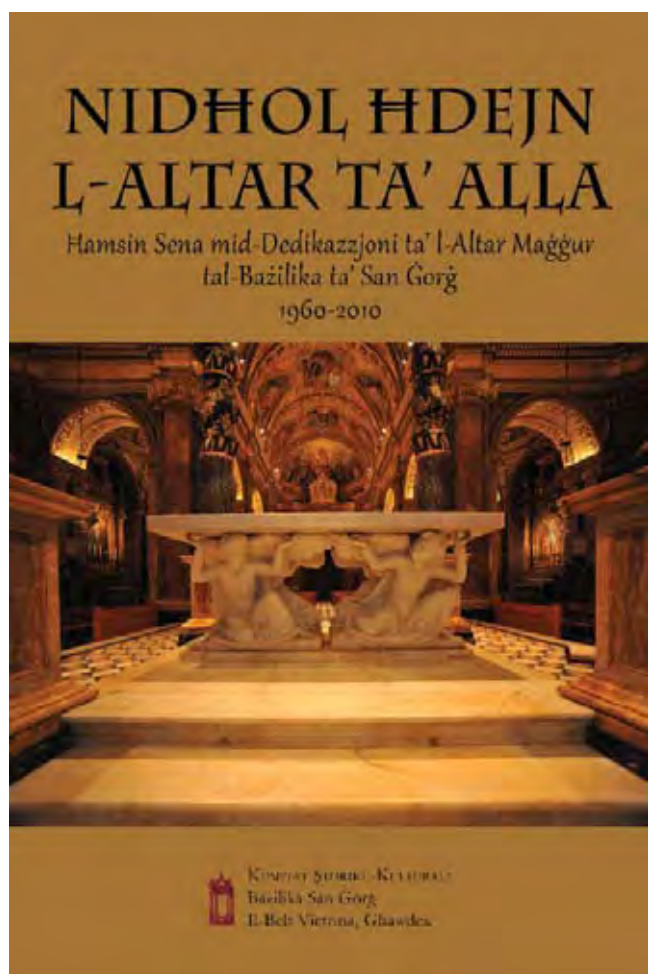
The boy from the village of Qala returns there in retirement as a respected and admired lawyer.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.

# Nidhol hdejn l-altar ta' Alla. *Hamsin Sena mid-Dedikazzjoni ta' l-Altar Magġur tal-Bażilika ta' San Ġorġ (1960-2010)*

REVIEWED BY GEOFFREY ATTARD

Francesco Pio Attard (Ed) ,  
Historical and Cultural Committee, St George's  
Basilica, Victoria, Gozo (Malta), 2010.



This book is the latest publication issued by the Historical and Cultural Committee of St George's Basilica in Victoria. It was precisely on December 21, 1960, that the then Bishop of Gozo Mgr Gużepi Pace dedicated the new altar of the basilica in the presence of a huge congregation that gathered in the Basilica to witness such a historical occasion taking place before its very eyes.

The book contains a presentation by Mr Francesco Pio Attard, member of the committee itself and one of the minds behind the idea of this timely publication. Mgr Joseph Farrugia, archpriest emeritus of St George's Basilica, is the author of the preface of the book. In his study Mgr Farrugia focuses mainly on the wide theological meaning of the altar and neatly ties this theme with the historical milieu in which the altar was thought and designed by the able Roman sculptor and artist Professor Carlo Pisi. As a lecturer in Fundamental Theology at the University of Malta, Mgr Farrugia does not hesitate to delve into the anthropological significance of the altar even within ancient and pagan religions. However in his article Farrugia stresses the superior theological significance of the altar within the Christian religion. For those who are interested in the local history of Gozo and its ancient parish of St George, Mgr Farrugia's contribution is of the utmost importance since he does not fail to mention the Eastern and Greek background of the parish where Gozo's earliest Christian altar was erected.

Fr Roberto Gauci, a priest who hails from the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St Gregory at Ta' Kerċem and who presently is the master of ceremonies for the diocesan bishop of Gozo, presents to us an interesting and detailed study regarding the historical-liturgical aspect of the altar mainly within the Christian milieu. The etymological roots of the term "altar" is tackled in a manner that is interesting to both the amateur and the professional reader of theology. The arguments regarding the orientation of the Eucharistic celebration are also well tackled

taking into consideration universally acclaimed publications about this particular theme such as former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's book 'The Spirit of the Liturgy' which has been translated into various languages (also in Maltese). Fr Gauci has words of praise for the parish's decision to have the silver cross put in the middle of the altar during the liturgical celebration, since this practice has not only been recommended by Pope Benedict XVI himself but also helps the faithful to have a specific focus during their participation in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr Richard Nazzareno Farrugia, a priest who hails from Xagħra and who at present is studying Moral Theology at the Accademia Alfonsiana in Rome, is the author of the second study in the volume. Fr Farrugia has authored a series of inspiring articles in

the parish bimonthly 'Il-Belt Victoria'; besides his specific field of Moral Theology, he is quite keen on the liturgical aspect of the Catholic faith and he is coincidentally related to the well-known Mgr Giuseppe Farrugia Tal-Vers. Fr Farrugia writes about the sacrificial aspect of the altar inspiring himself from the Second Vatican Council's important document about the liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. Farrugia tackles the image of the altar, the victim and the sacrifice as presented in the New Testament's Letter to the Hebrews, a document whose importance can hardly be overestimated in this particular field of research. The author also explains the role of the altar as the place of both the meal and the sacrifice, the latter concept being unwillingly compromised by some Catholic liturgists during the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council.



St George's Basilica

The second section of the book focuses more on the historical and artistic aspects of the “new” altar of St George’s Basilica. It opens with a detailed chronology of the altar’s history covering the period from April 1949 to July 1967 when Bishop Pace blessed the baldacchino which towers over the new altar of St George’s and which resembles Bernini’s baroque canopy at St Peter’s Basilica. Dr Eugene F. Montanaro, an old friend of St George’s and himself an authority on the artistic history of St George’s Basilica, is the author of the article regarding Claudio Durante, the marble designer of the former main altar of the St George’s parish; this article was reproduced from the 1989 issue of the *Programm Festi San Ġorġ Victoria-Għawdex* issued by the La Stella Philharmonic Society on an annual basis for the occasion of the titular feast.

This old altar which dates from 1754 will eventually be permanently exhibited at the Basilica Museum which is still under construction. Mr Paul Muscat, who holds a Masters in Art from the University of Malta, is the author of a short but important study focusing on the correspondence found in the parish archives regarding the commission of the Basilica’s present altar. Besides referring to the various letters and receipts regarding the altar’s commissioning by Rev. Anthony Grech Vella in the fifties and sixties, Muscat contextualizes the idea of the altar’s commissioning within the liturgical reform that took place in the Catholic Church at Vatican II and also in the light of the parish’s erection into a basilica minoris by Pope Pius XII. This second section ends with a study by renowned young Gozitan artist and researcher Mr Mark Sagona, who happens to be a parishioner of St George’s and whose father Joseph is not only an artist in his own right but was also a close friend of Professor Pisi. Sagona’s study provides us with first hand information about Carlo Pisi and his works and remains up to now the best biographical sketch that we have as to this Roman artist who worked in our islands during the second half of the twentieth century.

The publication contains within its back pages an appendix with valuable information about various commemorative publications related to St George’s. The list of the dedication of the altars of the parishes

of the diocese of Gozo follows; some of these altars substituted earlier ones some of which have unfortunately been destroyed while others kept for posterity.

*Nidhol ħdejn l-altar ta’ Alla* is a must for all lovers of Melitensia, or rather of Gaulitana, to use the right term. The book has an attractive coloured cover and is well presented. The photos – though black and white – are clear and, as to the local ones, are in their majority being published in book-form for the first time. The book does not present heavy reading and can be read in one sitting, but one is not advised to read it in one go since it is full of theological meaning and some parts of it actually make for meditative reading. All in all, it is a book that every parishioner of St George’s should make it a point to have and own; a small literary masterpiece to commemorate an artistic masterpiece erected to the honour of God and the Christian people of Gozo.

The book was launched during a presentation held at the Mgr Emanuel Mercieca Hall of St George’s parish on Monday 27 December 2010, feast of St John the Divine; a short powerpoint presentation was shown to the parishioners gathered for the occasion. At the end of it, Dr Paul G. Pisani KM, member of the Historical and Cultural Committee of the Basilica presented the first copy of the book to the Archpriest Mgr Pawlu Cardona, who said a few words of thanks. Copies of the book can be purchased from the Parish Centre and from the local bookshops.

Fr. Geoffrey G. Attard was ordained for the diocese of Gozo in June 2004. He graduated M.Th. in Ecclesiastical History from the University of Edinburgh in November 2005 and he graduated M. Lit. in Practical Theology from the University of St Andrews with a dissertation entitled “Climate Change and the Catholic Church” in 2008; he has recently published his dissertation in book form.

# Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

JOSEPH CALLEJA

## A Photo Exhibition to Commemorate the Opening of Two New Lecture Rooms

On 17 March the University Gozo Campus organised a photo exhibition to mark the commemoration of the opening of two new lecture halls. The event formed part of the Discover University! Open Week 2011 held by the University of Malta during the third week of March.

This exhibition contained photos, accompanied by captions, relating to the activities of the University Gozo Campus, since its establishment in 1992. The inauguration programme consisted of introductory remarks by Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the University Gozo Campus, by Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, and a commemorative speech entitled 'The Genesis of Tertiary Education in Gozo' by Joseph Bezzina.

The official opening of the exhibition and the inauguration of the two lecture halls were made by Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector of the University of Malta and Hon Giovanna Debono.



One of the two lecture halls.



Professor Lino Briguglio with the Hon. Giovanna Debono and Professor Juanito Camilleri at the exhibition.



## The Gozo Lace Day - 2011

On 10<sup>th</sup> April the Lace-Making Programme of the University Gozo Campus, organised its annual event 'Gozo Lace Day' for the fifteenth consecutive year. The event consisted of a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lace-making. Present for the event were the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, Mr Anton Tabone, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, coordinator of the Lace Making Programme and Dr Raymond C. Xerri as the guest speaker.

A large number of lace makers and friends attended the event which also included exhibitions of contemporary lace master-pieces and textile crafts, a competition and a raffle. There were a number of stands, one of which was mounted by the International Organisation of Needle and Bobbin Lace (OIDFA).



Lace making during the Gozo Lace Day.

### Public Lecture by Professor David E. Cooper

On Friday 1 and Saturday 2 April 2011 Professor David E. Cooper, who was, until recently, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Durham, gave two highly interesting philosophy sessions at the University Gozo Campus under the title 'Meaning, Language and the Understanding of Cultures'.

In the first session he spoke of the role of meaning in the social sciences as opposed to its role in the natural sciences, while in the second session he raised the big question of how different other cultures might be from our own. He went on to



Professor David E. Cooper during the lecture.

discuss the idea of symbolic or metaphorical meaning, in the context of the claim that, where other cultures seem to hold views very different from our own, we should treat them as speaking non-literally.

The lectures were intended mainly for those following the BA course in Philosophy at the University Gozo campus, but a good number of sixth-form students accompanied by their teachers crossed over from Malta to join the Gozitans. They all found the lectures highly informative and asked for similar sessions to be held during the next academic year.

### Courses

During the first six months of 2011 the University Gozo Campus organised the following short courses:

- 'The Military Religious Order of St John - A General History', coordinated by Professor Victor Mallia Milanes;
- 'Inclusive Education: Transforming Schools into Communities', coordinated by Dr Andrew Azzopardi;
- 'L'Importanza di Insegnare ed Apprendere l'Italiano del XXI Secolo - Metodologie Attuali', coordinated by Dott Anna Porcheddu.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.



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The Editor, Gozo Observer, University of Malta - Gozo Campus, Mgarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo. Tel: +356 21564559, Fax: +356 21564550, E-mail: [ugc@um.edu.mt](mailto:ugc@um.edu.mt)

