Is-Sewwa bil-Fatti

Kulħadd jemmen, u hekk għandu jkun, li għas-sewwa tal-istorja m'għandniex għalfejn niġbru lejn xawwatna. Ikun tajjeb li ninżgħu iż-żarbun li lbisna għal għexieren ta' snin, u hekk inġarrbu u nilbsu żarbun ġdid. Iun kollu ta' xejn li nilbsu żarbun ġdid fuq dak qadim li ilna nterrqu bih. Għalhekk, se nagħmluha ċara li din hi l-aħħar kelma. L-aħħar kelma mhux għaliex ma rridux nitkellmu aktar, iżda għaliex inħossu li dan għandu jkun kapitlu magħluq u maqbul bejn kull min għandu rieda tajba.

Bħala soċjetà, il-Banda l-Unjoni ma ssib, u ma tara l-ebda xkiel li taħdem u tistinka 'l quddiem f'ġieħ l-arti mużikali u l-għaqda fir-raħal ta' Ħal Luqa. Biex tħabrek f'kooperazzjoni sħiħa ħa tara l-festa titolari f'ġieħ Sant'Andrija tikber u tisraq qlub anke l-barranin. Bħala soċjetà aħna dejjem ħassejna d-dmir, u hekk għamilna u nibqgħu nagħmlu, li ħadmu ma' kulħadd. Iżda llum wasal iż-żmien, meta kulħadd jaħseb li qal tiegħu li nagħmlu l-affarijiet ċari, mikxufa fuq il-mejda kif dejjem għamilna, dan għall-ġid tal-istorja.

Aħna, kull dokument li kellna ħriġnieh mingħajr biża' u ħabi. U hekk stennejna li jagħmel ħaddieħor, anke meta ersaqna lejh u ma kienx lest jgħinna billi jurina dokumenti li tlabnieh. Issa wasal iż-żmien li ngħidu u nuru dak li rnexxielna nsibu, anke wara li ġie mitbugħ il-ktieb tas-soċjetà fis-sena 2005, bl-isem *Ħal Luqa u l-Banda tagħha l-Unjoni*. Sa dakinhar l-għan tagħna kien li noħorġu l-istorja tas-soċjetà tagħna fl-isfond tal-iżvilupp tar-raħal ta' Ħal Luqa. Storja li dejjem kienet konsistenti f'dak li għedna jew ktibna.

B'dan ma jfissirx li dan li qed niktbu għandu jitqies biss bħala tkomplija ta' dan il-ktieb, iżda, bħala riċerka kontinwa biex jiġi stabbilit bl-aktar mod konkret u serju, l-argument li tqanqal minn ħaddieħor dwar liema kienet l-ewwel banda ġewwa r-raħal ta' Ħal Luqa. Fehma, li sa ftit snin ilu meta bosta minn missirijietna kien għadhom ħajjin, ħadd ma kellu dubju dwarha – għax il-Banda L-Unjoni kienet magħrufa bħala l-ewwel banda Ħalluqija.

Dak li nkiteb fix-xogħol voluminuż *Ħal Luqa u l-Banda tagħha l-Unjoni*, jidhrilna li ġie ikkritikat b'mod anonimu bl-aktar mod baxx, l-aktar fuq il-mezzi elettroniċi moderni. Aħna ftit li xejn tajna widen ta' dan. Aħna aktar tajna widen tal-kritiċi ta' veru li kitbu kliem ta' tifħir kemm dwar l-awtur kif ukoll dwar in-nisġa tal-istorja nfisha. Dawn żgur li ma kinux imxaqilba, iżda kitbu fuq dak li qraw fil-ktieb dwar l-istorja tal-Banda L-Unjoni.

Iżda, meta s-soċjetà l-oħra tar-raħal waslet biex hi wkoll toħroġ il-ktieb tagħha f'għeluq il-125 sena, bl-isem *L-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija - Twelidha u Ġrajjietha* fl-2008, iggranfat ma' ħwejjeġ li lanqas huma dokumentati biex tikkritika l-pubblikazzjoni tal-Banda L-Unjoni. U terġa', biex bnew l-istorja tagħhom tal-bidu, ftit li xejn hemm referenzi, anzi l-parti l-kbira, l-ewlenin huma referenzi mingħajr bażi għax imsejsa fuq għajdut. Allura bilfors titħasseb u tħewden, kif wara dak l-għaġel kollu, ma joħroġ xejn

solidu, dokumentat jew imsejjes fuq riċerka metikoluża.

Il-Banda l-oħra ta' Ħal Luqa, jiġifieri mhux dik anzjana ta' L-Unjoni, daqqet għall-ewwel darba fil-pubbliku nhar il-15 ta' Awissu 1884.

Dan m'aħniex nghiduh aħna, iżda nkiteb fil-ġurnal *The Malta News and Independent* ta' nhar l-Erbgħa 27 ta' Awissu 1884. Għall-grazzja t'Alla, dan il-ġurnal ħadd ma skoprieh min-naħa tal-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija għax kieku ma nafux jekk illum kienx ikollna din l-evidenza ċara u dokumentata. Għall-benefiċċju ta' kulħadd, minbarra li se nġibu kopja tal-paġna ta' dan il-ġurnal fejn hemm din il-ktiba, se naqilbu għall-Malti dak li nkiteb bl-Ingliż. Il-kitba tgħid hekk:

"Waħda miż-żewġ Soċjetajiet ta' Casal Luca għamlet l-ewwel dehra fil-pubbliku nhar il-Ġimgħa wara nofs inhar tal-15 tax-xahar ġo Casal Asciack, għall-festa tal-Madonna mtella' s-Sema; din is-soċjetà fil-preżent hija magħmula minn 16-il persuna. Xi tliet xhur ilu qabel ma kienu f'idejn id-direttur preżenti (il-magħruf is-Sur T. Galea) bilkemm kienu jafu jaqbdu strument b'idejhom, iżda minn mindu ilhom taħt idejn id-direttur preżenti, din għalkemm Banda żgħira, irnexxielha tesegwixxi dan il-programm:

March		T. Galea
Polka	L'Ardita	T. Galea
Valse	Elisa	T. Galea
March	Jone	Petrella
Mazurka		T. Galea
Quadrilles	The Philarmonic	T. Galea
Galop	Off to Australia	T. Galea

Dan il-programm ġie esegwit b'mod eċċellenti minn dawn in-novizzi mużiċisti. Aħna sinċerament u mill-qalb nixtiequlhom progress u suċċess. Ix-xewqat tagħna ma jistgħux ifallu dment li jinsabu f'idejn Surmast tant magħruf.''

Meta ltqajna ma' din il-kitba, m'emminniex li għamilna xi sejba kbira. Ħassejna biss li din il-kitba hija dokument awtentiku li jikkommemora l-ewwel ħarġa ta' 16-il alliev, li donnhom lanqas kellhom isem ta' Banda. Jew forsi kien għadhom ma ngħatawx il-permess li jagħmlu użu mill-istess isem tal-qaddis fl-isem tas-Soċjetà? Fuq kollox lanqas daqqew f'raħalhom. Insomma, kienet Soċjetà żgħira li rnexxielha tiġbed lejha Surmast tant bravu, is-Sur Tommaso Galea biex fi żmien tliet xhur ħarġu jdoqqu fil-pubbliku ġo Ħal Għaxaq għall-festa ta' Santa Marija.

Iżda f'din il-kitba hemm stqarrija oħra, xhieda qawwija li l-Banda L-Unjoni kienet diġà stabbilita u magħrufa. Għaliex hawn, iswed fuq l-abjad inkiteb *one of the two Philarmonic Societies of Casal Luca*. Allura kienu diġà tnejn, u t-tieni waħda, dik li magħad saret Banda Sant'Andrija xirfet barra għall-ewwel darba nhar il-15 ta' Awissu 1884, għax l-oħra L'Unione kien ilha ddoqq.

Imma żomm ftit, dawn il-bravi bandisti novizzi wkoll fi tliet xhur irnexxielhom jitgħallmu nofs tużżana marċi? U hawn il-moħħ ġera lura lejn il-ġrajja tal-Banda L-Unjoni, u ftakarna fl-ittra ta' *Wieħed Luki* li dehret f'paġna 3, fil-ġurnal *Il-Ħabbar Malti* tad-19 ta' Diċembru 1883.

F'dik il-kitba, dan il-Wieħed Luki ftakar u stagħġeb kif dawk il-bandisti rnexxielhom joħorġu jdoqqu wara tliet xhur studju biss! Allura, min kiteb fil-ġurnal *The Malta News*

and Independent kważi sena wara, kellu wkoll, jew ħass il-bżonn li jfaħħar din il-banda ġdida li wkoll ħarġet iddoqq fil-pubbliku *wara tliet xhur*! Iżda fil-kitba tagħna dwar l-istorja tal-Banda L-Unjoni, iżda wkoll dan il-paragrafu, li fid-dawl ta' llum narawh li jagħmel aktar sens minn qatt qabel, u nifhmu aħjar għaliex kien hemm dik l-għira u mibegħda. Fl-istess ittra, Wieħed Luki kompla hekk:

"Kien xieraq iżda li kulħadd jaghmlilhom ftit tal-kuraġġ lil dawn iż-żgħażagh hekk ta' ħila. li biex jagħtu gost qegħdin jagħmlu dmirhom kollu, ***imma huma ma jarawx ħlief żeblieħ*** *minn min imissu fl-erbat'ijiem li għandu x-xorti jismagħhom u jgħinhom b'qalbu kollha biex jgħaddu 'l quddiem."*

Fil-ktieb tal-Banda L-Unjoni, slitna din il-parti għaliex bassarna, mhux ħrafa ta' Esopu kif kien hemm min kiteb, iżda li veru ġo Ħal Luqa kien hemm għira u tfixkil kbir għal dawn l-ewwel bandisti ta' L-Unjoni. Bir-raġun kif kiteb l-awtur tal-ittra, dawn il-bandisti rċevew żeblieħ! Illum, jidher aktar ċar minn qatt qabel. L-ewwelnett għaliex dawn kienu jsawru l-ewwel banda minn meta seħħet il-firda, u allura kienu l-unika banda Ħalluqija. It-tieninett għaliex dawn il-bandisti kienu qed idoqqu fir-raħal ta' Ħal Luqa, meta kien waqa' ftit tas-skiet wara l-firda u bdiet tiġġedded l-ewwel banda mħarrġa mis-Surmast Vincenzo Camilleri, mgħejjun minn ibnu Gavino. Illum, din ir-rabja tinftiehem aktar għax fejn il-banda L-Unjoni esegwiet programm għall-ewwel darba ġo Ħal Luqa, it-tieni banda li ħarġet minn Ħal Luqa ma daqqitx fl-ewwel ħarġa tagħha fil-pubbliku f'Ħal Luqa, iżda bogħod minn darha, ġo Ħal Għaxaq. B'din is-sejba jinkixef ukoll li l-Banda Sant'Andrija mhux veru daqqet f'Diċembru 1883 għall-quddiesa tal-qassis Dun Mifsud kif jgħidu xi wħud.

Issa ejjew inkomplu nressqu l-bċejjeċ lejn xulxin biex hekk nibnu l-istampa ta' x'tassew ġara mill-fatti li għandna f'idejna. F'din l-ittra tal-ġurnal *Il-Ħabbar Malti*. *Wieħed Luki*, jfakkar u jfaħħar il-ġrajja ta' nhar il-Ħadd 9 ta' Diċembru 1883 meta saret il-festa tal-istatwa tal-Kunċizzjoni tal-Misraħ li ġewwa Ħal Luqa kienhemm devozzjoni kbira lejha. U jgħidilna li f'din il-festa, Il-Ħalluqin kellhom ix-xorti jisimgħu l-ewwel darba l-banda l-ġdida tagħhom, banda li b'ħila kbira, taħt it-treġija taż-żagħżugħ Gravino Camilleri, marret tajjeb ħafna. Għal darb'oħra, fl-ittra ta' sena wara naraw xebħ ieħor għaliex, l-isem tal-banda ma ssemmiex, u ssemma' biss is-surmast Tommaso Galea.

Issuktajna bir-riċerka tagħna, għax emminna li xi mkien għandu jkun hemm dokument li jsaħħaħ dak li diġà kellna f'idejna. Emminna, li jekk kienhemm min għal xi raġuni warrab jew ċaħħad lill-pubbliku minn ċertu tagħrif siewi li jitfa' dawl fejn sa llum kellna d-dlam, xi ħaġa ħarbitlu. Lilna għajruna li ma konniex serji fir-riċerka, li l-istorja hi dixxiplina li tistrieħ fuq l-evidenza u d-dokumentazzjoni... li l-għajdut, ix-xniegħat, u s-suppożizzjonijiet mhumiex fl-aġenda tal-istoriku... eċċ. Hekk kitbu fil-ktieb annwali tal-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija tal-2006 f'paġna 173.

S'issa diġà urejna bil-kitba li dehret nhar is-27 ta' Awissu 1884 kemm aħna serji u kemm infittxu. Huma, li jippretenduha ta' serji u bravi, għax *tas-Surtun* allura jridu jgħallmu lil ħaddieħor, jew ma fittxewx jew inkella riedu jaħbu, għaliex fil-ktieb tal-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija maħruġ fl-2008 ma sibna l-ebda referenza għal din il-kitba. U wkoll, ma sibna l-ebda referenza dwar din it-tieni prova li se nressqu, li tkompli tissustanzja li **l-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija kienet it-tieni banda ġewwa Ħal Luqa mwielda fl-1884**.

Mela, fil-ħarġa tal-ġurnal *The Malta News and Independent* ta' nhar l-Erbgħa 3 ta'

Settembru 1884, ħarġet aħbar oħra li kompliet tqawwielna qalbna li konna sibna tarf il-kobba li xi wħud xtaqu li tibqa' mħabbla. Fi-paġna mal-editorjal reġa' kien hemm artiku żgħir iżda mimli b'aktar dettalji, lifih inkiteb hekk. U hawn se nerġgħu nipproduċu din il-kitba bil-Malti biex kulħadd jifhem sew:

"Is-Soċjetà Filarmonika Sant'Andrija ta' Casal Luca, taħt id-direzzjoni Mużikali tas-Sur T. Galea għamlet it-tieni wirja tagħha fil-pubbliku f'dak ir-raħal nhar il-Ħadd wora nofs inhar nhar il-31 ta' Awissu, u daqqet il-programm li ġej:

Passo Doppio	Il 31 Agosto	T. Galea
Mazurka	Giselda	T. Galea
Selection	La Traviata	T. Galea
Valzer	Elisa	T. Galea
Quadriglie (?)	Filarmonica	T. Galea
Marcia	Casino S. Andrea	T. Galea
Polka	L'ardita	T. Galea
Galop	Off to Australia	T. Galea

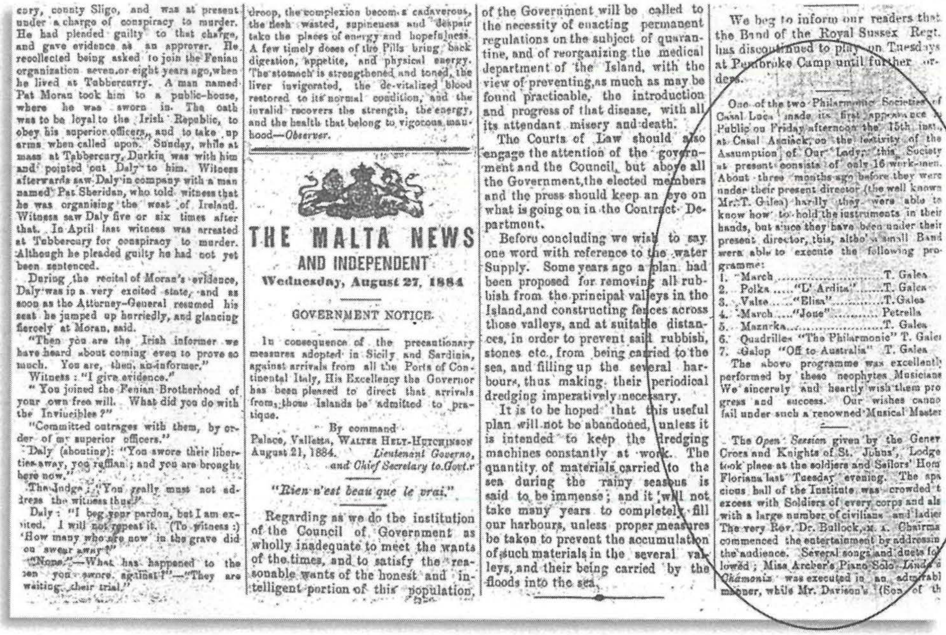
Ħafna rġiel u professuri tal-Mużika li ncertaw preżenti qalulna li dan il-programm ġie esegwit ferm tajjeb. Ħafna tifħir huwa dovut lill-mexxej tagħhom, għaż-żelu u l-enerġija li bihom irnexxielu fi żmien tant qasir, iġib lil dawn il-ħaddiema (workmen) kapaċi jdoqqu l-programm li semmejna. Aħna ġejna mgħarrfa li s-Sur T. Galea qed iħejji programm ferm iżjed diffiċli għall-wirja li jmiss. Grazzi ħafna lis-Sur T. Galea u l-ġabra ta' studenti tiegħu."

X'naraw u x'nitgħallmu minn din it-tieni kitba, jew aħbar? L-ewwel ħaġa hi li għandna konferma li din hi t-tieni darba li ħarġet iddoqq is-Soċjetà Filarmonika Sant'Andrija, u li allura l-ewwel aħbar fil-ġurnal tas-27 ta' Awissu 1884 kienet b'referenza għall-istess banda. It-tieni li f'din l-okkażjoni, il-banda Sant'Andrija daqqet il-marċi li esegwiet l-ewwel darba, u żiedu tliet marċi oħrajn, dejjem jekk il-*Marcia - Casino S. Andrea* ma kinitx l-istess *Marcia* li fetħu l-programm biha fl-ewwel ħarġa! Għax allura jiġi li fit-tieni ħarġa daqqew dawk tal-ewwel darba u żewġ marċi oħrajn.

Barra minn dan, tidher ħaġa oħra li mill-ewwel ħsibna fiha, iżda meta terġa' taqra din il-kitba tidher ferm aktar qawwija u ċara. L-imsieħba fis-Soċjetà Sant'Andrija kellhom seba' mitt ġenn biex juru li jeżistu. Kellhom ġenn akbar li jdoqqu f'pajjiżhom, jiġifieri Ħal Luqa, u hekk forsi wkoll, biex jagħtu risposta lill-avversarji tagħhom.

Dan għaliex daqqew f'Ħal Luqa nhar il-31 ta' Awissu, jiġifieri sittax-il ġurnata wara li daqqew f'Ħal Għaxaq. U l-ġurnata jidher li kienet fl-okkażjoni tal-festa taċ-Ċintura. Biex inkunu ġusti mal-istorja rridu nghidu li l-ġurnal *Malta* tat-3 ta' Diċembru 1884 qal li daqqew is-Sibt u l-Ħadd. Imma allura kif dan l-awtur li kiteb b'tant tifħir fil-*Malta News and Independent* ma semmiex li daqqew lejljiet il-festa wkoll. Jekk xejn, dan jurina l-għatx u n-nuqqas ta' tagħrif dokumentat min-naħa tas-Sur Ciappara kif ukoll mill-awtur Jesmond Grech li la rriċerkaw u lanqas ivverifikaw - anzi kitbu fuq dak li semgħu.

Dan it-tagħrif ikompli jtella' aktar żejt f'wiċċ l-ilma. Jidher li sa dik is-sena l-festa tal-Madonna taċ-Ċintura ma kinitx tiġi ċċelebrata daqshekk bil-kbir. U għalhekk il-Banda Sant'Andrija setgħet iddoqq mingħajr inkwiet, aktar u aktar meta l-prokuratur tagħha kien Ġużeppi Micallef. Iżda s-sena ta' wara l-1885 inqala' l-inkwiet għaliex bħala l-ewwel banda u l-aktar banda anzjana, il-Banda *L'Unione* applikat u ngħatat il-permess iddoqq



cory, county Sligo, and was at present under a charge of conspiracy to murder. He had pleaded guilty to that charge, and gave evidence as an approver. He recollected being asked to join the Fenian organization seven or eight years ago, when he lived at Tubbercurry. A man named Pat Moran took him to a public-house, where he was sworn in. The oath was to be loyal to the Irish Republic, to obey his superior officers, and to take up arms when called upon. Sunday, while at mass at Tubbercurry, Durkin was with him and pointed out Daly to him. Witness afterwards saw Daly in company with a man named Pat Sheridan, who told witness that he was organising the west of Ireland. Witness saw Daly five or six times after that. In April last witness was arrested at Tubbercury for conspiracy to murder. Although he pleaded guilty he had not yet been sentenced.

During the recital of Moran's evidence, Daly was in a very excited state, and as soon as the Attorney-General resumed his seat he jumped up hurriedly, and glancing fiercely at Moran, said.

"Then you are the Irish informer we have heard about coming even to prove so much. You are, then, an informer."

Witness: "I give evidence."

"You joined the Fenian Brotherhood of your own free will. What did you do with the Invincibles?"

"Committed outrages with them, by order of my superior officers."

Daly (shouting): "You swore their liberties away, you ruffian; and you are brought here now."

The Judge: "You really must not address the witness thus."

Daly: "I beg your pardon, but I am excited. I will not repeat it. (To witness:) How many who are now in the grave did you swear away?"

"None."—What has happened to the men you swore against?"—"They are waiting their trial."

droop, the complexion becomes cadaverous, the flesh wasted, supineness and despair take the places of energy and hopefulness. A few timely doses of the Pills bring back digestion, appetite, and physical energy. The stomach is strengthened and toned, the liver invigorated, the de-vitalized blood restored to its normal condition, and the invalid recovers the strength, the energy, and the health that belong to vigorous manhood—*Observer.*

THE MALTA NEWS
AND INDEPENDENT
Wednesday, August 27, 1884

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

In consequence of the precautionary measures adopted in Sicily and Sardinia, against arrivals from all the Ports of Continental Italy, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that arrivals from those Islands be admitted to pratique.

By command
Palace, Valletta, WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON
August 21, 1884. *Lieutenant Governor, and Chief Secretary to Govt.*

"Rien n'est beau que le vrai."

Regarding as we do the institution of the Council of Government as wholly inadequate to meet the wants of the times, and to satisfy the reasonable wants of the honest and intelligent portion of this population, of the Government will be called to the necessity of enacting permanent regulations on the subject of quarantine, and of reorganizing the medical department of the Island, with the view of preventing, as much as may be found practicable, the introduction and progress of that disease, with all its attendant misery and death.

The Courts of Law should also engage the attention of the government and the Council, but above all the Government, the elected members and the press should keep an eye on what is going on in the Contract Department.

Before concluding we wish to say one word with reference to the water Supply. Some years ago a plan had been proposed for removing all rubbish from the principal valleys in the Island, and constructing fences across those valleys, and at suitable distances, in order to prevent said rubbish, stones etc., from being carried to the sea, and filling up the several harbours, thus making their periodical dredging imperatively necessary.

It is to be hoped that this useful plan will not be abandoned, unless it is intended to keep the dredging machines constantly at work. The quantity of materials carried to the sea during the rainy seasons is said to be immense; and it will not take many years to completely fill our harbours, unless proper measures be taken to prevent the accumulation of such materials in the several valleys, and their being carried by the floods into the sea.

We beg to inform our readers that the Band of the Royal Sussex Regt. has discontinued to play on Tuesdays at Pembroke Camp until further orders.

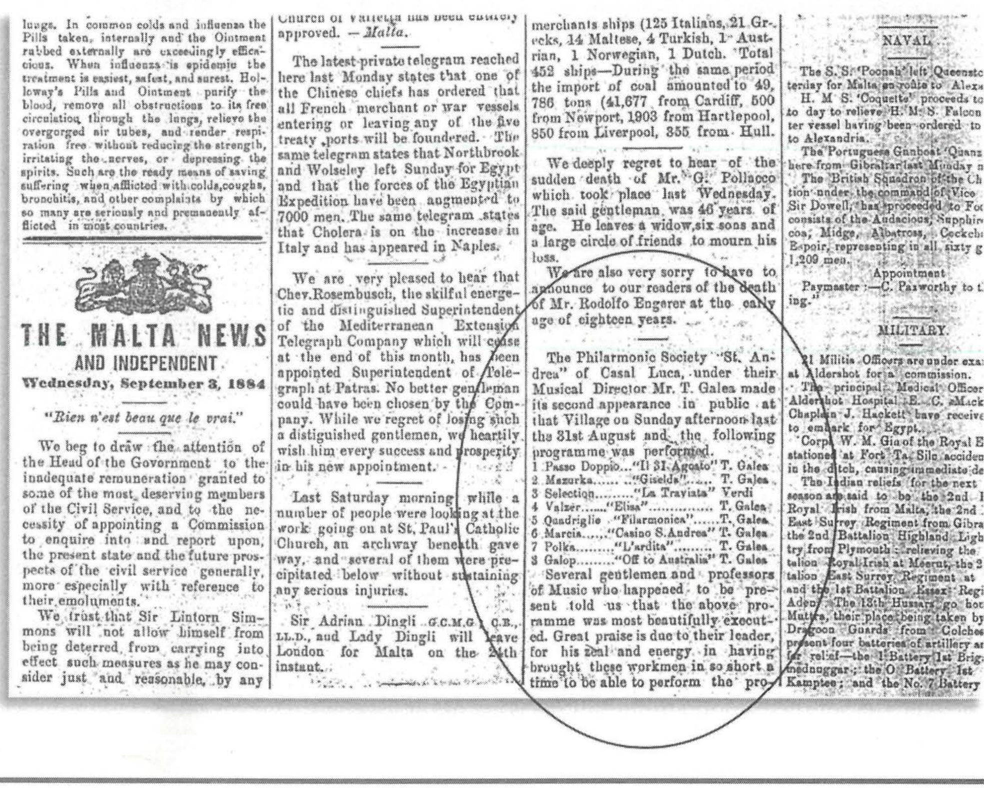
One of the two Philarmonic Societies of Casal Luca made its first appearance in Public on Friday afternoon the 15th inst., at Casal Asciack, on the festivity of the Assumption of Our Lady; this Society at present consists of only 16 work-men. About three months ago before they were under their present director (the well known Mr. T. Galea) hardly they were able to know how to hold the instruments in their hands, but since they have been under their present director, this, altho' a small Band were able to execute the following programme:

1. March .... T. Galea
2. Polka ....."L' Ardita" .... T. Galea
3. Valse ....."Elisa" .... T. Galea
4. March ....."Jone" .... Petrella
5. Mazurka .... T. Galea
6. Quadrilles "The Philarmonic" T. Galea
7. Galop "Off to Australia" T. Galea

The above programme was excellently performed by these neophytes Musicians. We sincerely and heartly wish them progress and success. Our wishes cannot fail under such a renowned Musical Master.

The *Open Session* given by the Gener[al] Cross and Knights of St. Johns', Lodge took place at the soldiers and Sailors' Hom[e] Floriana last Tuesday evening. The spacious hall of the Institute was crowded t[o] excess with Soldiers of every corps and als[o] with a large number of civilians and ladie[s]. The very Rev. Dr. Bullock, M. A. Chairma[n] commenced the entertainment by addressin[g] the audience. Several songs and duets fol[lowed]; Miss Archer's Piano Solo *Linda di Chamonix* was executed in an admirabl[e] manner, while Mr. Davison's (Son of th[e]

Meta daqqew l-ewwel darba



lungs. In common colds and influenza the Pills taken, internally and the Ointment rubbed externally are exceedingly efficacious. When influenza is epidemic the treatment is easiest, safest, and surest. Holloway's Pills and Ointment purify the blood, remove all obstructions to its free circulation through the lungs, relieve the overgorged air tubes, and render respiration free without reducing the strength, irritating the nerves, or depressing the spirits. Such are the ready means of saving suffering when afflicted with colds, coughs, bronchitis, and other complaints by which so many are seriously and premanently afflicted in most countries.

THE MALTA NEWS
AND INDEPENDENT
Wednesday, September 3, 1884

"Rien n'est beau que le vrai."

We beg to draw the attention of the Head of the Government to the inadequate remuneration granted to some of the most deserving members of the Civil Service, and to the necessity of appointing a Commission to enquire into and report upon, the present state and the future prospects of the civil service generally, more especially with reference to their emoluments.

We trust that Sir Lintorn Simmons will not allow himself from being deterred from carrying into effect such measures as he may consider just and reasonable, by any

Church of Valletta has been entirely approved. — *Malta.*

The latest private telegram reached here last Monday states that one of the Chinese chiefs has ordered that all French merchant or war vessels entering or leaving any of the five treaty ports will be foundered. The same telegram states that Northbrook and Wolseley left Sunday for Egypt and that the forces of the Egyptian Expedition have been augmented to 7000 men. The same telegram states that Cholera is on the increase in Italy and has appeared in Naples.

We are very pleased to hear that Chev. Rosembusch, the skilful energetic and distinguished Superintendent of the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company which will cease at the end of this month, has been appointed Superintendent of Telegraph at Patras. No better gentleman could have been chosen by the Company. While we regret of losing such a distiguished gentlemen, we heartily wish him every success and prosperity in his new appointment.

Last Saturday morning while a number of people were looking at the work going on at St, Paul's Catholic Church, an archway beneath gave way, and several of them were precipitated below without sustaining any serious injuries.

Sir Adrian Dingli G.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D., and Lady Dingli will leave London for Malta on the 24th instant.

merchants ships (125 Italians, 21 Grecks, 14 Maltese, 4 Turkish, 1 Austrian, 1 Norwegian, 1 Dutch. Total 452 ships—During the same period the import of coal amounted to 49,786 tons (41,677 from Cardiff, 500 from Newport, 1903 from Hartlepool, 850 from Liverpool, 355 from Hull.

We deeply regret to hear of the sudden death of Mr. G. Pollacco which took place last Wednesday. The said gentleman was 46 years of age. He leaves a widow, six sons and a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

We are also very sorry to have to announce to our readers of the death of Mr. Rodolfo Engerer at the early age of eighteen years.

The Philarmonic Society "St. Andrea" of Casal Luca, under their Musical Director Mr. T. Galea made its second appearance in public at that Village on Sunday afternoon last the 31st August and the following programme was performed.

1 Passo Doppio..."Il 31 Agosto" T. Galea
2 Mazurka........"Giselda"...... T. Galea
3 Selection........"La Traviata" Verdi
4 Valzer......."Elisa"............. T. Galea
5 Quadriglie "Filarmonica"......T. Galea
6 Marcia......"Casino S. Andrea" T. Galea
7 Polka.........."L'ardita"......... T. Galea
8 Galop........."Off to Australia" T. Galea

Several gentlemen and professors of Music who happened to be present told us that the above programme was most beautifully executed. Great praise is due to their leader, for his zeal and energy in having brought these workmen in so short a time to be able to perform the pro-

NAVAL.

The S. S. 'Poonah' left Queenstc[own] ... terday for Malta en route to Alex[andria].
H. M. S. 'Coquette' proceeds to to day to relieve H. M. S. Falcon ... ter vessel having been ordered to to Alexandria.
The Portuguese Gunboat 'Quanz[a]' ... here from Gibraltar last Monday ...
The British Squadron of the Ch[annel] ... tion under the command of Vice ... Sir Dowell, has proceeded to Fo[...] consists of the Audacious, Sapphire ... coa, Midge, Albatross, Cockch[afer] Espoir, representing in all sixty g[uns] 1,209 men.

Appointment

Paymaster :—C. Pasworthy to t[...] ing."

MILITARY.

21 Militia Officers are under exa[mination] at Aldershot for a commission.
The principal Medical Officer Aldershot Hospital E. C. Mack ... Chaplain J. Hackett have receive[d orders] to embark for Egypt.
Corp. W. M. Gia of the Royal E[ngineers] stationed at Fort Ta Silc acciden[tally fell] in the ditch, causing immediate de[ath].
The Indian reliefs for the next season are said to be the 2nd [Battalion] Royal Irish from Malta, the 2nd [Battalion] East Surrey Regiment from Gibra[ltar] the 2nd Battalion Highland Ligh[t Infan]try from Plymouth; relieving the [...] talion Royal Irish at Meerut, the 2[nd Bat]talion East Surrey Regiment at ... and the 1st Battalion Essex Regi[ment] Aden. The 18th Hussars go hom[e from] Muttra, their place being taken by [...] Dragoon Guards from Colches[ter] ... present four batteries of artillery ar[e] for relief—the 1 Battery 1st Brig[ade] Ahmednuggar; the O Battery 1st ... Kamptee; and the No. 7 Battery

Meta daqqew it-tieni darba

ukoll għall-festa taċ-Ċintura! Dan isostnieh il-ġurnal *Malta* tal-4 ta' Settembru 1885 u jkompli jżejjen l-istorja s-Sur Jesmond grech f'paġna 41 tal-ktieb tal-banda Sant'Andrija (2008), meta jfakkar li l-Prokuratur Sammut ried li ddoqq banda waħda.

Anzi l-festa taċ-Ċintura f'Ħal Luqa f'Awissu 1885 kibret bis-saħħa ta' L'Unione tant li żżanżan innu f'ġieħ il-Madonna b'mużika ta' Ferdinando Camilleri u versi tal-Ħalluqi Franġisk Azzopardi, u kor tat-tfal kanta mal-banda![1] Ta' min jinnota li mill-1886 u fis-snin ta' wara għal taċ-Ċintura dejjem daqqet biss il-Banda *L-Unjoni*. Dan seta' jsir għax il-prokuratur Micallef tneħħa meta l-maġġoranza tal-Ħalluqin li dejjem kienu Ajklieri għażlu lil Andrea Sammut. Dan juri l-popolarità li dejjem gawdiet l-Unjoni għar-raġuni tal-anzjanità u għaliex il-maġġoranza tal-poplu Ħalluqi kellu għal qalbu din l-ewwel banda.

Irid jingħata widen ukoll, li biex jħarġet iddoqq l-ewwel darba l-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija, ma kellux għalfejn japplika għall-permess il-kumitat tagħha, għax il-permess ġabuh ta' Ħal Għaxaq biex iddoqq għalihom fil-15 ta' Awissu 1884. Imbagħad, il-kumitat tal-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija ma kellu l-ebda diffikultà jġib permess idoqq ġo Ħal Luqa 16-il ġurnata wara, nhar il-31 ta' Awissu, ladarba f'dak il-jum ma kien hemm l-ebda applikazzjoni oħra fir-raħal.

Punt siewi hu li fil-ktieb tal-Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija (2008) insibuhom jikkwotaw lis-Sur Noè Ciappara li Gavino Camilleri kien qed jieħu ħsieb il-bandisti tagħhom. Kieku din mhix fabbrikazzjoni, ibqa' żgur li kienu jdoqqu xi biċċa mużika li kitbilhom tul dawk is-snin mil-1878 sal-1880 jew aktar, li jixtiequ li ħadem magħhom. Imma xejn, lanqas marċ wieħed minn dawk is-snin, anzi l-marċi ta' dan is-surmast bravu jinsabu fl-arkivji tal-Banda L-Unjoni. Fil-fatt, fil-ftit xhur li kien ilu magħhom is-Surmast Tommaso Galea kitbilhom il-*Marcia Casino S. Andrea*! Marċ dedikat lill-każin!

Minn dan kollu jidher ċar li fl-1883 kien hemm kumitat bl-isem *Società Filarmonica San Andrea*, magħrufin fir-raħal ta' Ħal Luqa bħala *tal-Istilla*. Sal-ħabta tal-ewwel ġimgħa ta' Mejju 1884 ġabru biżżejjed persuni (16) li jdoqqu strument biex is-Surmast Tommaso Galea jkollu biex jaħdem. Tant, li fil-kitba li dehret fil-ġurnal *The Malta and Independent* ta' nhar l-Erbgħa 27 ta' Awissu 1884 kitbu: *"Xi tliet xhur ilu qabel ma kienu f'idejn id-direttur preżenti (il-magħruf is-Sur T. Galea) bilkemm kienu jafu jaqbdu strument b'idejhom..."*

Allura, il-konklużjoni minn dan id-dokument u dokumenti oħra li flejna f'din il-kitba jwasslu li qabel Mejju 1884, ġo Ħal Luqa kien hemm banda waħda, L'Unione. U kien hemm kumitat bl-isem ta' Società Filarmonica San Andrea, magħrufin bħala tal-Istilla, mingħajr attività, u l-ftit persuni b'ħila li jdoqqu strument, bdew jieħdu sura ta' banda meta stiednu jmur imexxihom is-Surmast T. Galea.

B'hekk, dak li ilu jintqal u jinkiteb b'mod konsistenti għal dawn l-aħħar sittin sena jew aktar li l-Banda l-Unjoni taf għeruqha fis-sena 1880 u m'hemm l-ebda dubju li l-Banda Unjoni hija l-ewlenija u l-aktar anzjana f'Ħal Luqa. Ma' dan kollu ninnutaw xebħ ieħor fiż-żewġ ittri li juru li ħarġu mill-istess pinna li riedet tenfasizza ċerti punti. Hekk, fl-ewwel ittra b'referenza għall-bandisti, l-awtur juża' l-kelma *neophytes* jiġifieri novizzi, u fit-tieni waħda l-kelma *pupils*, jiġifieri studenti. Iżda fiż-żewġ ittri jipponta lejn il-bandisti tal-Għaqda Sant'Andrija bħala *workmen*, jiġifieri ħaddiema.

Ma rridux u mhix l-intenzjoni li din l-analiżi fuq riċerka u dokumentazzjoni ġdida nħalluha mdendla u noħolqu aktar dubji. Nixtiequ, u hekk qed nagħmlu, li din il-kitba

twassal biex kulħadd jifhem sew x'ġara f'dawk is-snin tal-bidu tat-tmeninijiet tas-seklu dsatax.

Il-konklużjoni dokumentata iswed fuq l-abjad miġbura f'din il-kitba turu lu l-Banda Sant'Andrija ħarġet iddoqq fil-pubbliku għall-ewwel darba nhar Santa Marija tal-1884 għall-festa tal-Madonna taċ-Ċintura.

Kulma nkiteb dwar xi attività minn mużiċisti mill-każin Sant'Andrija b'data qabel dawn it-tnejn, hija biss fabbrikazjoni, xewqa u logħba sfaċċata biex jaljenaw. Anzi, mod kif ideffsu storja differenti f'moħħ dawk il-ftit Ħalluqin ta' llum li ma jafux ġrajjiet missirijiethom. Iż-żewġ paġni mill-ġurnal The Malta News and Independent tas-27 ta' Awissu 1884 u tat-3 ta' Settembru 1884 fihom miktub iswed fuq l-abjad id-data tal-ewwel żewġ ħarġiet tal-banda Sant'Andrija. Dan li qed jagħmlu llum qatt ma tħajru jagħmluh snin ilu meta kien għad hawn ħafna xhieda li jiftakru l-ġrajja tal-bidu, tal-ewwel banda Ħalluqija, il-Banda l-Unjoni. Dawn iż-żewġ kitbiet fil-ġurnal tal-1884 ikomplu jsaħħu l-evidenza li l-ewwel banda Ħalluqija dejjem kienet u tibqa' l-Banda L-Unjoni.

Il-Kumitat mgħejjun minn Frances Galea.

Programm Strumentali mill-

Banda 12th May

taħt id-direzzjoni ta'
Mro. Hermann Farrugia Frantz

Nhar il-Ħadd 4 ta' Lulju 2010
fuq il-plancier artistiku, fit-8.00pm

Gioachino Rossini	LA CENERENTOLA *Sinfonia*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	SINFONIA NR. 40 – K550 *1mo Movimento – Allegro Molto*
Camile Saint-Saens	SANSONE E DALILA *Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix*
James Horner	THE MASK OF ZORRO *Selection*
Klaus Badelt	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL *Symphonic Suite*