> Sliem għalik aħna ngħidulek
> Kemm ninsabu ferħanin
> Sliem għalik, o kbir Andrea
> Protettur tal-Ħalluqin

L-Ewwel Banda Ħalluqija

● Il-Kumitat

S'issa l-poplu kellu l-opportunità li jaqra ż-żewġ kotba maħruġa fis-snin li għaddew dwar iż-żewġ baned ta' Ħal Luqa. Ninsabu ċerti li kull min wettaq dan l-eżerċizzju wasal għall-konklużjonijiet tiegħu. Konklużjonijiet li jmorru ferm 'il bogħod mill-ħmerijiet li nkitbu fuq xi siti elettroniċi, li għal ħafna huma mitqiesa bħala kummenti ta' fanatiċi li flok jiftħu għajnejhom jissuktaw jgħoddsu rashom fir-ramel. Konklużjonijiet li jagħmlu għajb lil dawk li mingħalihom iridu jagħtu ġieħ lir-riċerka storika. Diżgrazzjatament imbagħad hemm dawk l-uħud li b'ripetizzjoni sistematika jkomplu jdoqqu l-istess diska biex itambru fl-imħuħ magħluqa, ħmerijiet li qatt ma ġraw.

Waqt ir-riċerka dettaljata u profonda li għamel is-Sur Francis Galea, l-awtur tal-ktieb ***Ħal Luqa u l-Banda tagħha L-Unjoni*** ltaqa' ma' tagħrif li għalkemm ma kienx marbut mal-Banda Ewlenija ta' Ħal Luqa, xorta kellu sinifikat dwar l-ewwel banda f'dan ir-raħal. Tant, li l-istess Galea ħassu bejn ħaltejn jekk għandux jinkludi din is-sejba fil-ktieb tal-Unjoni stampat fl-2005. Finalment ħass li ma kellux għalfejn joħloq polemika fi ktieb storiku dwar il-Banda L-Unjoni. Għalhekk ħalla s-sejba tiegħu fil-kexxun għall-mument opportun.

Dan il-mument ma damx wisq ma wasal. Min ma ħamilx jaċċetta l-istorja kif tassew seħħet u tinsab dokumentata, ma felaħx aktar lill-istess imsaren fl-istonku tiegħu. Għaldaqstant għażel li flok jitkellem u jsostni, jew aħjar ifittex aktar fil-fond dwar l-istorja tagħhom, qatagħha jattakka l-istorja ta' ħaddieħor. Din l-attitudni daħħket lil bosta, b'mod partikulari lill-Ħalluqin ta' rieda tajba u, aktar lil dawk li kellhom ħjiel sew tal-ġrajja tal-baned f'dan ir-raħal.

Meta wasal dan il-waqt, is-Sur Francis Galea għaddielna s-sejbiet tiegħu u fhimna għaliex ma xtaqx li jdaħħalhom fil-ktieb tal-2005. L-ewwel nett Galea ried jikteb l-istorja tal-Banda l-Unjoni u, it-tieni għaliex b'dawn is-sejbiet kien ikollu jqanqal argumenti li ma kellux bżonnhom biex joħroġ u jwassal il-bidu tal-Banda l-Unjoni. Għalhekk, is-sejba ta' meta l-Banda Sant'Andrija *daqqet l-ewwel darba* u *t-tieni darba* wkoll ġew żvelati fil-ktejjeb ***L-Aħħar Kelma*** li l-Każin tal-Banda l-Unjoni teba' fl-2009.

Fil-ktieb li tal-Banda Sant'Andrija ppubblikaw fl-2008, jiġifieri tliet snin wara dak maħruġ mill-Każin tal-Banda Unjoni, f'paġna 36 tqanżħu biex joħorġu storja dwar l-ewwel servizzi tas-Soċjetà Filarmonica San Andrea. Fl-argument mingħajr dokumentazzjoni u provi, ittantaw ibellgħu lill-qarrejja li din il-banda daqqet l-ewwel darba għall-festa ta' Sant'Andrija f'Novembru 1883 u xi xahar wara għall-ewwel quddiesa tas-saċerdot novell Dun Indri Mifsud Aquilina. L-argument(mingħajr dokument serju) kollu bnewh għax skont huma, is-Surmast Ferdinando Camilleri li mexxa l-orkestra fil-knisja għall-quddiesa ta' Dun Indri, qalu li kien l-għalliem tal-istrumenti tal-korda tal-Banda

THE MALTA NEWS AND INDEPENDENT

Wednesday, August 27, 1884

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

... 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,

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 attendant misery and death.

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.

... the Band of the Royal Sussex Regt. has discontinued to play on Tuesdays at Pembroke Camp until further orders.

One of the two Philharmonic 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 ..... "Joue" .... 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 Genev. Cross and Knights of St. Johns', Lodge took place at the soldiers and Sailors' Home Floriana last Tuesday evening. The spacious hall of the Institute was crowded to excess with Soldiers of every corps and also with a large number of civilians and ladies. The very Rev. Dr. Bullock, M. A. Chairman commenced the entertainment by addressing the audience. Several songs and duets followed; Miss Archer's Piano Solo *Linda di Chamonix* was executed in an admirable manner, while Mr. Davison's (Son of th...

Meta daqqet it-tieni darba l-Banda Sant'Andrija

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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 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

... 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 ... men. The same telegram states ... Cholera is on the increase in ... has appeared in Naples.

... very pleased to hear that ... mbusch, the skilful energe... distinguished Superintendent ... Mediterranean Extension ... Company which will cease ... end of this month, has been ... 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 Greeks, 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 Philharmonic 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 Queenstown yesterday for Malta en route to Alexandria. H. M. S. 'Coquette' proceeds to day to relieve H. M. S. Falcon ... vessel having been ordered to Alexandria.

MILITARY.

Meta daqqet l-ewwel darba l-Banda Sant'Andrija

Sant'Andrija. Imbagħad, aktar 'l isfel kitbu li Ferdinando u ħuh Gavino *setgħu kienu partitarji ta' baned differenti*. Fil-kitba storika ma teżistix din it-teżi, għax jew *kienu* nkella *setgħu kienu*!! Issa meta ssemmi strumenti tal-korda tkun diġà qed tmur lil hinn minn Banda! Mela allura kieku dan l-argument seta' jitwemmen il-konklużjoni hija li f'Ħal Luqa minbarra l-Banda l-Unjoni fl-1883 kien hemm ukoll xi daqsxejn ta' orkestra biex iddoqq fil-knisja. Ir-rwol tas-Surmast Ferdinando kienet immirata lejn orkestra u mhux banda.

Imbagħad ippruvaw ikomplu jsostnu dan l-argument mhux dokumentat, b'kitba tas-Sur Noè Ciappara li ta l-istess verżjoni għal din il-ġrajja. Issa, is-Sur Ciappara li miet fl-1992 fl-għomor ta' 89 sena, jekk inqisu l-età ta' 16-il sena bħala waħda ta' maturità li fiha tfajjel jibda jirrekordja l-memorji tal-ġrajjiet, din toħodna għal bejn wieħed u ieħor l-1929. Mela, f'dik is-sena, l-1929, Ciappara kien tfajjel ta' xi 16-il sena li f'moħħu beda jirrekordja l-ġrajjiet li seħħu 46 sena qabel, jiġifieri fl-1883. Biex nagħtu daqsxejn ta' xebħ nimmaġinaw kif illum, tfajjel ta' 16-il sena mingħajr l-ebda tagħrif dokumentat jista' jibni minn dak li jgħidulu n-nies il-ġrajja tal-Indipendenza ta' Malta li ġrat fl-1964. Inħallu f'idejn il-qarrejja biex idommu dawn il-ħsibijiet u joħorġu bil-konklużjonijiet tagħhom!

Imbagħad, f'paġna 38 tal-ktieb li ħarġu fl-2008 faħħru l-intervent tal-prokuratur Giuseppe Micallef (li kien ukoll il-President tal-Banda) u lill-pulizija li għamlet xogħolha biex daqqet il-Banda Sant'Andrea fil-festa tal-Patrun f'Novembru 1884. U jsemmu l-inkwiet u r-rivalità li ssemmiet fuq fuq fil-ġurnali ta' dak iż-żmien. Rivalità li bejn *due società ffilarmoniche rivali* – u li ma tissemmiex għaliex din ir-rivalità! Iżda meta nanalizzaw dan li ġej nibdew nifhmu li biex nibnu l-argument jeħtieġ li mmorru lura lejn x'deher fil-ktejjeb ***L-Aħħar Kelma*** maħruġ mill-Kumitat tal-Banda l-Unjoni fl-2009. Dan l-eżerċizzju qed isir biex niffriskaw il-memorja tal-qarrejja u, nuru li hemm baħar jaqsam bejn dak li kitbu u jibqgħu jippruvaw itambru tal-Banda Sant'Andrija. Il-fatti juru li jew min għamel ir-riċerka għall-ktieb tagħhom m'għamilx ir-riċerka meħtieġa, ma riedx ikun sinċier u leali lejn l-istorja, inkella m'għandux ħila. Ġara li Francis Galea newlilna żewġ kopji ta' paġni minn ġurnal bl-Ingliż *The Malta News and Independent* li fil-ħarġiet ta' Awwissu u Settembru 1884 hemm żewġ kitbiet żgħar dwar il-*Filarmonic Society St. Andrea of Casal Luca*.

Fl-ewwel tagħrif li deher fil-ġurnal *The Malta News & Independent* tas-27 ta' Awwissu 1884 insibu li l-Banda San Andrea daqqet għall-ewwel darba (*first appearance*) nhar il-Ġimgħa 15 ta' Awwissu 1884 għall-festa ta' Santa Marija f'Ħal Għaxaq. Biex min ta t-tagħrif ikompli jżejjen il-progress tal-banda kiteb li kienet magħmula minn 16-il ħaddiem (*16 work-men*) u, li sa tliet xhur qabel u qabel ma ngħaqad magħhom is-Sur Tommaso Galea, dawn bil-kemm kienu jafu jżommu strument f'idejhom.

Minn din il-kitba għandna dokumentat li:

1. Il-Banda San Andrea daqqet għall-ewwel darba mhux f'Ħal Luqa, iżda barra minn pajjiżha f'Ħal Għaxaq;
2. Li din il-banda kienet magħmula minn 16-il daqqaq;
3. Li dawn id-daqqaqa sa tliet xhur qabel, jiġifieri Mejju 1884 lanqas kienu jafu jaqbdu strument b'idejhom;
4. U, li s-Surmast Tommaso Galea ingħaqad biex iħarreġ il-Banda San Andrea f'Mejju 1884.

Minn dan it-tagħrif dokumentat f'ġurnal ta' dak iż-żmien il-poplu jikkonkludi li l-ktieb li ħareġ il-Kumitat tal-Banda Sant'Andrija fl-2008 huwa mimli ħrejjef u għajdut mhux dokumentat biex iġebbdu lura l-bidu tal-istorja tal-banda tagħhom għas-sena 1883. Mill-erba' punti li elenkajna mill-kitba fil-ġurnal għandna tagħrif fuq pedamenti sodi li l-Banda San Andrea twieldet f'Mejju 1884 u daqqet għall-ewwel darba tliet xhur wara, f'Awwissu 1884. Fil-ktieb tal-2008 kitbu li l-Banda daqqet l-ewwel darba f'Novembru 1883 xi ħaġa li mhix vera għax il-grupp ta' daqqaqa-bandisti ma kienx imlaqqa'. Mit-tagħrif fil-ġurnal jidher li hija gidba wkoll li s-Surmast Tommaso Galea ngħaqad magħhom fl-1883 kif kitbu diversi drabi u wkoll f'paġna 380.

It-tieni tagħrif li jorbot u jsaħħaħ l-ewwel wieħed deher fl-istess ġurnal fil-ħarġa tat-3 ta' Settembru 1884 fejn ingħataw tagħrif li l-Banda San Andrea għamlet it-tieni dehra tagħha *(its second appearance)* fil-pjazza ta' Ħal Luqa nhar il-Ħadd 31 ta' Awwissu 1884. Mill-ġdid f'din il-kitba riedu juru l-ammirazzjoni tan-nies preżenti lejn il-ħila tas-Surmast, li fi żmien tant qasir *(in so short a time to be able to perform)* irnexxilu jwassal id-daqqaqa jesegwixxu dak il-programm.

Mela b'xorti tajba min kiteb l-ewwel darba kiteb ukoll it-tieni darba biex sostna l-argument tiegħu ta' kif u meta twieldet il-Banda San Andrea ta' Ħal Luqa. Dawn iż-żewġ kitbiet huma ta' siwi kbir għaliex l-ewwel kitba hija diġà dokument b'saħħtu, iżda t-tieni kitba tkompli ssaħħaħ l-ewwel waħda! Iż-żewġ kitbiet flimkien huma b'saħħithom ħafna għaliex joħorġu d-data eżatt tat-twelid tal-Banda San Andrea filwaqt li jwaqqgħu kulma nkiteb s'issa dwar il-bidu tal-Banda San Andrea kemm fil-ktieb tal-2008, fl-annwal li toħroġ is-soċjetà ta' kull sena, kif ukoll f'kull kitba oħra dwar l-istess suġġett.

X'jgħidu u xi jfissru dawn iż-żewġ dokumenti siewja? L-ewwel nett ta' min jinnota u jagħmel enfasi li dawn dehru fl-istess ġurnal, jiġifieri ***The Malta News and Independent***. Il-mod kif inkitbu u twasslu lill-editur, juri li dawn għaddewhom il-kumitat jew persuni midħla sew (awtorità) tal-Każin tal-Banda Sant'Andrija. L-iskop ta' dan il-membru jew tal-kumitat kien: **li jirreġistra l-attività tal-banda San Andrea u, li fuq kollox juri l-eżistenza ta' grupp ta' bandisti bl-isem tal-għaqda u b'surmast li jmexxihom.** Fuq kollox, u aktar minn kull ħaġa oħra r-rappreżentanti tal-Banda Sant'Andrea riedu jirreġistraw meta u fejn daqqet fil-pubbliku u, min kien l-għalliem u l-mexxej tagħha.

Ir-riċerka serja u dettaljata tal-awtur storiku Francis Galea m'għandniex għalfejn nikkummentaw dwarha aħna. Xhieda tal-kwalitajiet ta' dan l-awtur-riċerkatur hija n-numru kbir ta' kotba ta' riċerka li ħadem fuqhom u ppubblika. Kotba dettaljati u leali lejn il-ġrajja u l-personaġġi involuti li dejjem ingħataw tifħir minn għadd wiesa' ta' kritiċi. Xhieda oħra hija li wara l-ktieb ***Ħal Luqa u l-Banda tagħha L-Unjoni***, Galea ġie mistieden u rriċerka b'mod mill-aktar metikoluż żewġ kotba oħra, wieħed għall-***Banda De Rohan*** ta' Ħaż-Żebbuġ u ieħor tal-***Għaqda Banda Żejtun***. Jidhrilna li dan huwa ċertifikat biżżejjed tad-dixxiplina u r-rispett lejn l-istorja kif tassew ġrat mill-awtur Francis Galea.