

L-emigranti Mqabbin fl-1919: Is-sena ta' l-irvellijiet



Kitba u riċerka ta' Mario Vassallo

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Is-sena 1919 tipprezenta ġrajja mdemmija fl-istorja tal-poplu tagħna ġrajja ta' qlubija fil-mixja ta' ġensna għall-kisbiet politiċi, soċjali u ekonomiċi. Waqt dimostrazzjonijiet imqanqla li kienu qegħdin isiru f'pajjiżna mill-poplu mxebba' għall-mewt, kienu nqatlu erba' hutna Maltin mis-suldati Ingliżi. L-irvell tas-sebgha ta' Ġunju kien riżultat ta' żmien iebes li kien għaddej minnu l-poplu Malti. F'dik il-habta, f'pajjiżna kien hawn hafna qgħad, skarsezza ta' bosta affarijiet essenzjali għall-hajja, għoli fil-prezzijiet ta' l-ikel, b'mod speċjali l-hobż, u l-bičċa l-kbira tal-poplu kienet qieghda tghix fil-miżerja.

Id-deċiżjoni tat-turufnament

Il-klassijiet sinjuri u privileġġjati kellhom ilmenti ohra kontra l-gvern Ingliż. Dawn kienu qegħdin jibżgħu li l-gvern, biex jiġbor aktar flus, kien se jdahhal taxxa fuq il-qliegh. Barra minn hekk, il-politiċi Maltin bdew jagħfsu lill-gvern Ingliż biex dan jagħti lill-Maltin kostituzzjoni fejn il-poplu Malti seta' jmexxi dawk l-oqsma li jkollhom x'jaqsmu ma' Malta. Min-naha tiegħu l-gvern Ingliż ma kienx qieghed jagħti kas tas-sitwazzjoni u ta' l-ilmenti tal-Maltin. B'rihet dan, f'Malta żviluppat sitwazzjoni ta' skuntentizza kontra l-gvern Ingliż; skuntentizza li nbidlet f'rabja li spiċċat fi traġedja. Imma ejja ma mmorrux naħsbu li l-erbgha maqtula nhar is-*sette giugno* huma l-uniċi vittmi ta' dan il-perjodu. L-ghaks u n-nuqqas ta' xogħol gieghel lil

hafna minn missirijietna biex minn jeddom jiehdu d-deċiżjoni tat-turufnament minn pajjiżhom bit-tama li jsibu l-fortuna ta' hajjithom f'artijiet imbegħda. Taht il-hakma tal-kuruna Ingliża, il-fenomeni ta' l-emigrazzjoni beda' jerfa' rasu sakemm sar l-ordni tal-ġurnata.

Il-ħlas ta' Malta fortizza

Fis-sekli dsatax u ghoxrin, Malta kellha problema ta' popolazzjoni żejda. Fl-1800, il-gzejjer Maltin kellhom popolazzjoni ta' madwar 100,000 ruh. Fl-1900, il-popolazzjoni telgħet għal madwar 200,000 ruh. Fl-1950, laħħqet it-300,000. Il-Gvern Ingliż ma seta' qatt jagħti x-xogħol lil dawn l-eluf kollha. Wiehed irid jiftakar ukoll li f'dak iż-żmien il-familji kienu numerużi ferm u kull omm kien ikollha boton tfal madwarha donnha fenka fil-garżella. Għalhekk, l-unika soluzzjoni li kien hemm kienet li l-gvern Ingliż ihajjar irġiel Maltin jemigraw għal xi snin, l-aktar fi żmien meta f'Malta kien jiżdied il-qgħad. Dan kien ironikament l-aktar evidenti fi żmien il-paċi meta l-baċiri u l-isptarijiet kienu jiżvojtaw, l-ispiza ta' l-Imperu fil-gzejjer tagħna kienet tiġi limitata u n-numru ta' nies tal-militar kien jonqos drastikament. Dawn il-miżuri kienu jġibu magħhom ghaks u niket fost il-Maltin ta' dari. Dan kien il-prezz biz-zalza li kellha thallas Malta bhala fortizza ta' l-imperu Ingliż.

Wara l-Gwerra l-Kbira

Wara t-tmiem ta' l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija fl-1918, f'Malta

faqqas il-ġuh, infirex il-faqar u kibret l-iskarsezza ta' l-affarijiet essenzjali, inkluż il-hobż, il-patata, il-pitrolju u z-zokkor. Haġa minn lewn id-dinja li din l-iskarsezza ġabet magħha għoli fil-prezzijiet, *blackmarket*, trekkin u praspas ohrajn ta' l-imbroljuni. Il-ġurnali ta' dak iż-żmien akkużaw lin-negożjanti tad-dqiq li huma kienu qegħdin jistgħanew minn fuq il-miżerja tal-poplu. Is-sena 1919 kienet wahda deċiżiva għal ġensna. Min hareġ jipprotesta fit-toroq u safa midrub jew maqtul u min reha kollox warajh u salpa 'l barra mill-Port il-Kbir sabiex isib xogħol f'pajjiżi 'l bogħod minn xtutna b'kulturi u stili tal-hajja ferm differenti minn tagħna.

L-emigranti Mqabbin

Għalkemm xi ftit 'il bogħod miċ-ċentru tat-tqanqiliet politiċi li sehħew fil-belt kapitali f'dik is-sena, l-Imqabba xorta ma kinitx hielsa mill-effetti negattivi tal-qagħda kritika ta' pajjiżna fl-oqsma ekonomiċi u soċjali. Fis-sena ta' l-irvellijiet, kien hemm tlettax Imqabbi, residenti fl-Imqabba, li applikaw biex jinħarġilhom passaport. Il-Maltin f'dik il-habta kien għadhom lanqas jafu jispellu l-kelma turizmu, u għalhekk m'hemmx dubju li l-passaporti kienu mahruġa għal raġuni ta' xogħol. Minn dawn it-tlettax, hdax kienu rġiel fil-waqt li tnejn kienu nisa, ilkoll bla skola formali iżda b'rieda ta' l-azzar li jibnu futur ahjar għalihom u għal familthom. Mir-riċerka li għamilt fl-Arkivju Nazzjonali ta' Malta fejn huma

I, the Undersigned, (a) Micabiba 25th October 1919.

I, the Undersigned, (b) Antonio Bezzina hereby declare that I am present residing at St. John Basil's Micabiba

(c) For a MALE or FEMALE (to be struck out in other cases), Particulars of His Majesty's birth to follow.

(c) wife and that my husband is

(d) British born Subject having been born at Micabiba on the 30th day of October 1899.

(e) For PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).

(e) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at Paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Italy

(f) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Antonio Bezzina

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Antonio Bezzina is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of him vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Savanor Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION **IMPORTANT**

The attention of persons who are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations be found to be untrue, they will be liable to prosecution.



Antonio Bezzina ta' 28 sena



Domenico Tonna ta' 38 sena

I, the Undersigned, (a) Micabiba Malta 21st February 1919.

I, the Undersigned, (b) Domenico Tonna hereby declare that I am present residing at St. Parrocchiale Micabiba

(c) For a MALE or FEMALE (to be struck out in other cases), Particulars of His Majesty's birth to follow.

(c) wife and that my husband is

(d) British born subject having been born at Micabiba (Malta) on the 23rd day of October 1881.

(e) For PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).

(e) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at Paternal grandfather on the day of

I not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Tunis (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Domenico Tonna

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Rev. F. S. Savanor Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Domenico Tonna is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of him vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Savanor Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

Specimen signature of wife if to be included on the Passport.

IMPORTANT

Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations be found to be untrue, they will be liable to prosecution.

I, the Undersigned, (a) Micabiba 25th August 1919.

I, the Undersigned, (b) Felice Zammit hereby declare that I am present residing at Qu. 2 Vicolo St. Clemente Micabiba

(c) For a MALE or FEMALE (to be struck out in other cases), Particulars of His Majesty's birth to follow.

(c) wife and that my husband is

(d) British-born subject having been born at Micabiba - Malta on the 5th day of March 1881.

(e) For PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).

(e) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at Paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Australia

(f) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed F. Zammit

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Sergius Curran P. hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Felice Zammit is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of him vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Sergius Curran P.

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION **IMPORTANT**

The attention of persons who are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations be found to be untrue, they will be liable to prosecution.



Felice Zammit ta' 28 sena

I, the Undersigned, (a) Malta 20 September 1919.

I, the Undersigned, (b) Giuseppa Zammit hereby declare that I am present residing at Sde. Vie Vallerio 59 Micabiba

(c) For a MALE or FEMALE (to be struck out in other cases), Particulars of His Majesty's birth to follow.

(c) wife and that my husband is

(d) British-born subject having been born at C. Curmi on the 24th day of March 1896.

(e) For PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).

(e) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at Paternal grandfather on the day of

I not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to San Francisco, California, U. States of America (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Giuseppa Zammit

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) P. Per. Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Giuseppa Zammit is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of her vouch her as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Savanor Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

IMPORTANT

Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations be found to be untrue, they will be liable to prosecution.



Giuseppa Zammit ta' 44 sena, flimkien ma' wliedha Georgio (Iemin) ta' 14-il sena u Margherita (xellug) ta' 12-il sena

mizmuma l-applikazzjonijiet għall-passaporti, wiehed jista' jsib bosta dettalji relatati ma' dawn it-talin, inkluż ukoll l-indirizzi, ir-ritratti u s-snaġġa' rispettivi tagħhom. Fil-fatt, it-tabella t'hawn taht turi lit-tlettax Imqabbi residenti f'rahalhom li applikaw għad-dokument tal-passaport fl-1919:

Isem	Kunjom	Sengha	Destinjazzjoni
Anthony	Camilleri	Lavrant	Tunis
Gerolamo	Azzopardi	Mhux imsemmeja	Tunis
Giuseppe	Galea	Lavrant	Tunis
Paolo	Borg	Lavrant	Tunis
Domenico	Tonna	Lavrant	Tunis
Innocenzo	Gauci	Lavrant	Tunis
Rosario	Zarb	Mhux imsemmija	Tunis
Felice	Zammit	Lavrant	L-Awstralja
Giuseppa	Zammit	Mara tad-dar	L-Amerika
Giuseppa	Zammit	Mara tad-dar	L-Eġittu
Antonio	Bezzina	Fil-barriera	Tunis
Michele	Facciol	Lavrant	Tunis
Innocenzo	Galea	Mhux imsemmija	Tunis

Ta' min wiehed jikkummenta li f'din is-sena partikulari kien hemm ukoll numru ta' persuni oħrajn imwiolda fl-Imqabba, iżda li ma kinux residenti fl-Imqabba peress li marru joqogħdu fi mkejjen oħrajn f'Malta, u li applikaw huma wkoll biex jinħarġilhom passaport f'isimhom. Għall-finijiet ta' din ir-riċerka dawn it-talin m'humiex qegħdin ikunu inklużi mal-lista t'hawn fuq.

Irid jingħad li n-numru ta' tlettax Imqabbi li applikaw għall-passaport ma jinkludix tfal peress li dawn ma kinux jagħmlu applikazzjoni separata, imma d-dettalji tagħhom jidhru flimkien ma' dawk tal-ġenituri. Biex niehdu eżempju, nistgħu nsemmu l-każ ta' Giuseppa Zammit ta' 44 sena li applikat għall-passaport flimkien ma' wliedha Georgio ta' 14-il sena u Margherita ta' 12-il sena. Hafna drabi, in-nisa kienu jemigraw biex jingħaqdu mar-raġel li kien ikun diġà emigra qabilhom.

Dettalji personali

Il-lista ta' snaġġa', hafna minnhom tradizzjonali, hija xhieda tal-klassi soċjali ta' l-emigranti Mqabbin u minnha nistgħu niehdu idea ta' x'kienu jahdmu missirijietna fl-ewwel snin tas-seklu għoxrin. Hafna minnhom la kienu jafu jiktbu

u lanqas jaqraw. Kellhom biss is-sahha ta' dirghajhom biex tagħmel tajjeb għall-ġurnata xogħol minn sebh sa dlam. Ix-xogħol manwali, partikolarment dak relatat mal-ġebba u l-biedja, kien mifruq qatigh fost l-Imqabbin ta' dik il-habta. Min jaf ma' liema xogħlijiet ġodda kellu jlaqqagħhom id-destin fl-artijiet barranin! L-applikazzjoni għall-passaporti jagħtu wkoll hjiel mill-aktar interessanti dwar id-dehra tal-persuna kkonċernata. Fost it-tagħrif li wiehed jista' jara, insibu:

- Il-lewn ta' l-ghajnejn u x-xagħar
- Il-forma tal-wiċċ – jekk hix tonda, tawwalija jew donnha kaxxa!
- Ix-xehta ta' l-immieher, il-geddum u l-fomm – ċatt, mibrum, għall-ponta u l-bqija
- Il-karniġġjon tal-ġilda – samrani, bjond, ruxxan, mahruq bix-xemx jew bajdani
- Xi partikularitajiet oħrajn – nghidu ahna xi farrett fil-wiċċ jew fl-idejn, xi par mustaċċi mibrumin, sinjal ta' punti ta' xi operazzjoni, id-disinji tat-tatoos u oħrajn.

Meta wiehed iqis li l-Imperu Inġliż kien mifruq ma' l-erba' nahiet tal-globu, dawn it-tip ta' dettalji kienu neċessarji biex ikunu magħrufa r-razez diversi li kienu lkoll taht il-kappa tal-kuruna. Barra dan kollu, kien ikollu jittiehed il-

fingerprint ta' l-applikant u dan għadu jidher sal-lum stampat bil-linka sewda fuq id-dokumenti ta' l-applikazzjonijiet tal-passaporti. Biex l-informazzjoni kollha dwar l-individwu tkun ivverifikata, ma kinitx tonqos nota qasira ta' awtentiċità fejn il-kappillan jew it-tabib jew in-nutar tar-rahal kienu jikkonfermaw id-dettalji ta' l-individwu u li l-applikant huwa persuna ta' l-affari tagħha. B'hekk l-Imperu Inġliż ma kienx ikollu problema li johroġ il-passaport lill-applikant Imqabbi bhala "British Subject".

Il-faxxinu tar-ritratti

Bla dubju, l-iżjed faxxinu tad-dokumenti ta' l-applikazzjonijiet għall-passaporti antiki żgur li jinsab fir-ritratti li jkunu meħmuża ma' kull dokument. Ir-ritratt wahdu jaf jgħid mitt storja u wahda fuq kull individwu. Hafna drabi r-ritratti kienu jittiehdu fi studjo apposta fejn dak li jkun kien jilbes l-aħjar ilbies li kellu. F'xi każijiet, ir-ritratt ma kienx jittiehed b'mod individwali, imma kien jinkorpora l-familja shiha ta' l-individwu kkonċernat, jew parti minnha. Min jaf kemm holmu dawn l-Imqabbin meta ġew biex jieħdu r-ritratt... Holmu bil-liri tad-deheb li jinbtu taht l-ispralli tat-toroq dritti u wesghin ta' artijiet

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.

(a) Micaliba 6th November 1919

I, the Undersigned, (b) Innocenzo Galea
 at present residing at Micaliba Piazza Chiesa hereby declare that I am

(c) For a Married Woman or Widow (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of Husband's birth to follow.
 (d) British Subject and that my late husband was having been born

Micaliba on the 20th day of June 1897.

For Persons born Abroad, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
 my (late) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Rome

(e) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Innocenzo Galea.

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Innocenzo Gauci hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Micaliba is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of Innocenzo Galea vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

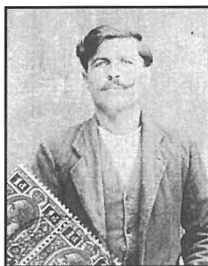
Signed Innocenzo Gauci

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION IMPORTANT.



Innocenzo Galea
 ta' 22 sena. L-isem
 Innocenzo kien
 popolari fil-Mqabba
 l-kult lejn San
 Innocenz.



Innocenzo
 Gauci
 ta' 38 sena

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.

(a) Micaliba 7th July 1919

I, the Undersigned, (b) Innocenzo Gauci & Giobanni
 at present residing at St. Nicolo' Desideri & Micaliba hereby declare that I am

(c) For a Married Woman or Widow (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of Husband's birth to follow.
 (d) British born Subject and that my late husband was having been born

Micaliba on the 27th day of March 1881.

For Persons born Abroad, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
 my (late) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Rome

(e) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Innocenzo Gauci & Giobanni

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Micaliba is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of Innocenzo Gauci vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION IMPORTANT.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.

(a) Micaliba 21st October 1919

I, the Undersigned, (b) Michele Facciol
 at present residing at St. Nicolo' Desideri & Micaliba hereby declare that I am

(c) For a Married Woman or Widow (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of Husband's birth to follow.
 (d) British born subject and that my late husband was having been born

Micaliba on the 29th day of April 1894.

For Persons born Abroad, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
 my (late) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Rome

(e) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Michele Facciol

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Michele Facciol is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of Michele Facciol vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION IMPORTANT.



Michele
 Facciol
 ta' 23 sena



Paolo
 Borg
 ta' 37 sena

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.

(a) Micaliba 6th February 1919

I, the Undersigned, (b) Paolo Borg
 at present residing at Micaliba Piazza Chiesa hereby declare that I am

(c) For a Married Woman or Widow (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of Husband's birth to follow.
 (d) British Subject and that my late husband was having been born

Micaliba on the 9th day of September 1882.

For Persons born Abroad, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
 my (late) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at paternal grandfather on the day of

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Rome 11/7/19

(e) (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports).

I further declare that I have no Passport already in my possession (f) (other than that which I annex hereto for cancellation).

(g) Signed Paolo Borg

AND I, the Undersigned, (h) Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Paolo Borg is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of Paolo Borg vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Rev. F. S. Bonanno Parish Priest

NOTE.—Duplicate small unmounted photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender.

CAUTION IMPORTANT.

imbieghda fejn il-fortuna tixxeblek mal-hajja. Kemm holmu li se jehilsu mill-ghaks, il-ġuh u l-hafa li offriellhom l-imperu Inġliż f'Malta u jakkwistaw id-dinjità u jsiru nies f'art il-barrani! Uhud minn dawn ir-ritratti ta' l-Imqabbin li hallew lil artna fl-1919 qeghdin jakkumpanjaw lil dan l-artiklu biex ikollna idea ta' min kienu dawn it-talin, x'kienu jilbsu u kif kienu jidhru.

Id-destinazzjoni ta' l-emigrant

F'dawk iż-żminijiet, l-emigrant Imqabbi kien għadu jfittex l-ibliet Gharab tal-Mediterran biex fihom jissetilja u jsib xogħol u jsostni lil familja. Fil-fatt, fl-1919 xejn anqas minn 84.6% ta' l-Imqabbin erhewlha lejn ix-xtut ta' l-Afrika tat-Tramuntana, fil-maġġoranza tagħhom lejn Tunis. Il-klima ta' dawn il-pajjiżi tixbah lil dik ta' Malta, l-ilsien Gharbi kien jinftiehem xi ftit mill-Maltin, filwaqt li dawn il-pajjiżi kienu viċin ta' Malta biex jippermettu lill-irġiel Maltin, li jemigraw jiġu jaraw il-familja f'Malta spiss u bi spiza żghira tal-passaġġ. Terġa' u tghid, wara l-1900, kien sar possibbli li l-barranin jixtru art ġewwa t-Tuneżija. Id-destinazzjonijiet Awstraljani u Amerikani kienu għadhom mhux popolari ma' l-Imqabbin għalkemm dan mhux dejjem kien il-każ f'lokalitajiet oħrajn. Per eżempju, fl-istess sena li qeghdin nitkellmu fuqha, 44% tal-Mostin emigraw lejn l-Amerika u 38% lejn il-Kanada filwaqt li kienu biss 9% tal-Mostin li emigraw lejn Tunis, Algiers jew l-Eġittu. Fl-istess sena kien hemm persuna wahda biss, kemm fil-Mosta u kemm fl-Imqabba, li emigrat lejn l-Awstralja.

It-tabella t'hawn taht turina liema kienu d-destinazzjonijiet li għażlu l-Imqabbin, residenti fl-Imqabba, li talbu li jinħarġilhom passaport fis-sena 1919.

Tunis (Tuneżija)	10	76.9%
L-Eġittu	1	7.7%
L-Amerika	1	7.7%
L-Awstralja	1	7.7%

Bit-titjib fil-mezzi tat-trasport u l-komunikazzjoni, dawn id-destinazzjonijiet fl-artijiet tal-Misilmin bdew jitilfu mill-popolarità tagħhom u l-Malti beda jfittex l-futur tiegħu f'nahiet imbieghda tal-globu. M'għandniex xi nghidu, il-preferenzi tal-Maltin u l-Mqabbin komplew jinbidlu fis-snin ta' wara meta l-emigrazzjoni kompliet tirranka u iżjed familji sfaw mifruda u mbikkma. Fil-fatt, wara l-1920 l-aktar pajjiżi li laqgħu Maltin fi hdnhom kienu l-Kanada, l-Istati Uniti, l-Awstralja u l-Ingilterra.

Date of presentation	14/12
DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.	
Age	22
Profession	
Maiden name and place and date of birth of widow or married woman travelling singly	
Height	5 feet 3 inches
Forehead	High
Eyes	Brown
Nose	straight
Mouth	normal
Chin	strong
Colour of Hair	Dark brown
Complexion	fresh
Face	round
Any special peculiarities	
DESCRIPTION OF WIFE OF APPLICANT IF TO BE INCLUDED ON THE PASSPORT.	
Names in full	
Age	
Profession	
Place and date of birth	
Maiden name	
Height feet inches	
Forehead	
Eyes	
Nose	
Mouth	
Chin	
Colour of Hair	
Complexion	
Face	
Any special peculiarities	
Signature	
Names, ages, and sex of children under the age 16 if to be included on the Passport.	

Kopja ta' l-applikazzjoni għall-passaport tas-sena 1919

Konklużjoni

L-effetti ta' l-emigrazzjoni ma ġarrbuhomx biss l-Imqabbin li hallew rahalhom iżda wkoll l-Imqabbin li baqgħu ma' djul il-knisja ta' rahalhom. Kull persuna li kienet thalli l-lok fejn twieldet u trabbiet, kienet thalli vojta kbir warajha. Huwa dokumentat li minhabba fl-emigrazzjoni, il-popolazzjoni fl-Imqabba u fil-bqija ta' l-irhula u l-ibliet Maltin u Għawdxin naqset b'mod notevoli. Fil-fatt, sena wara s-Sette Giugno, twaqqaf kumitat dwar l-emigrazzjoni li f'dik il-habta kienet meġjusa bhala l-unika soluzzjoni biex issolvi l-pressjoni għall-impjiegi. Fis-snin ta' wara l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija, bejn l-1918 u l-1921, emigraw xejn anqas minn 11,787 persuna minn Malta u Għawdex.

Sadanittant, id-demmi li xxerred fis-sena ta' l-irvellijiet ma kienu għalxejn. L-istudju ta' l-istorja politika huma tal-fehma li s-sena 1919 kienet strumentali biex Malta tinghata kostituzzjoni ġdida fl-1921 li permezz tagħha l-hakkiem Inġliż ta s-self government lill-Maltin. Dan kien pass importanti hafna fil-mixja ta' pajjiżna sabiex jikseb rajh f'idejh u b'hekk il-Maltin setgħu tabilhaqq ikunu fit-tmun tat-tmexxija politika, ekonomika u soċjali ta' pajjiżhom. Madankollu, il-mewġa ta' l-emigrazzjoni kompliet tiqliel sa ma bdiet tisfuma wara l-ghoti ta' l-Indipendenza fl-1964.

Riierenzi

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