

# OBITUARIES

## MARGARET MURRAY

(1863—1963)

The death of this distinguished archaeologist and folklorist on 14 November, 1963 in her hundred-and-first year was described by Prof. E.O. James in "Folk-Lore" (Vol 74, 1963, p. 568) as "an event of unusual interest and importance in the annals of the Folk-Lore Society in particular as well as in the wider sphere in which her influence was felt in so many directions and disciplines".

Maltese Folklore may be included in this "wider sphere". The Editor of this Review, in particular, owes much to her stimulating interest and encouragement since he first corresponded with her in 1947. She had a first-hand knowledge of Malta, having excavated Borg-In-Nadur and other sites in 1921-27. Besides Sir Themistocles Zammit, her friends in Malta included our veteran grammarian and folklorist Dr. A. Cremona, a regular contributor to this Review, who wrote an Obituary of Dr. Murray in *Il-Malti* (1964). Apart from her archaeological publications she is best known in Malta for her *Maltese Folk-Tales* (1932), translated from Maltese with the help of the late Mrs. A.M. (Liza) Galea. A fuller appreciation of Dr. Murray's work in this field will appear in the next issue of this Review.

J.C.P.

## ~~BERTHA KOESSLER-ILG~~

~~(1881—1965)~~

~~Students of Maltese Folklore will receive with regret the news of the death of Frau Bertha Koessler-Ilg which occurred at San Martin de los Andes, Argentina, on August 9, 1965, in her eighty-fourth year.~~

~~Bertha Ilg was born at Passau, Lower Bavaria, on December 27, 1881. In the early years of the present century she lived for some years in Malta, being attached to the German Consulate, at that time headed by Baron von Tucher-Simmelsdorf, to whose wife she was related. From this period date her best known works on Malta i.e. the two volumes *Maltesische Märchen und Schwänke* (Leipzig, 1906) and, in collaboration with Prof. H. Stumme, *Maltesische Volkslieder*, a collection of 400 folksongs.~~

~~German Consulate, at that time headed by Von Tucker to whose wife she was related. From this period date her best known works on Malta i.e. the two volumes *Maltesische Märchen und Schwänke* (Leipzig, 1906) and, in collaboration with Prof. H. Stumme, *Maltesische Volkslieder*, a collection of 300 folksongs.~~

~~In 1920 she settled down with her husband, Dr. Rudolf Koessler, at San Martin de los Andes, where she remained till the end — a loving wife and a devoted mother to her family, and a trusted friend to the Araucanian Indians who called her 'la araucana blanca'. Besides helping her husband — the only doctor in a vast region — in his humanitarian work, she turned her attention to the perishing lore and traditions of the Araucanian Indians. She lived long enough to see her work appreciated throughout the world of scholarship. The Universidad Nacional de la Plata honoured her publicly and published the first volume of her *Tradiciones Araucanas* in 1962.~~

~~The present writer had been in correspondence with Frau Bertha since 1959. With~~