Meta l-Gvernatur Bonham-Carter żar Birżebbuġa

Adrian Vella

14 ta' Lulju 1936

Il-Gvernatur Charles Bonham-Carter wara żjara f'Birżebbuġa jikteb fid-djarju tiegħu:

Matul il-ġimgħa żorna żewġ parroċċi, Birżebbuġa, villaġġ tas-sajjieda fil-Bajja ta' Marsaxlokk, u San Ġiljan, li fl-aħħar ftit snin inbidlet f'villeġġatura għas-sajf. Il-qassis tal-parroċċa ta' Birżebbuġa, Father Fenech, hu persuna li ma jċedix għad-diffikultajiet, sod , forsi jagħmel xi ftit għall-ġid*, iżda amikevoli. Ir-raħal tiegħu qed jikber malajr u għalhekk qed tinbena knisja ġdida. L-iskultura tal-kaptelli tal-kolonni qed titħallas min individwi bħala rigali u qed isir minn artisti lokali b'riżultati verament tajbin f'żewġ postijiet. Gabriele (il-mara tal-Gvernatur) f'ħin mhux imħares uriet xi interess f'pittura taż-żejt tal-Madonna bil-Bambin li fuqu ġie applikat materjal tal-qotton kkulurit, li l-qassis ta!! Issa qed tipprova taħbieh .... il-każin f'Birżebbuġa hu wieħed sportiv u hemm ħafna taħlit ma' membri tal-RAF – xi ħaġa eċċellenti. ... Intlaqajna tajjeb kull fejn morna.

F'kitba oħra iktar tard fid-djarju Bonham-Carter jitkellem dwar żjara oħra f'Birżebbuġa lejn tarf Settembru 1949. Il-Gvernatur ma tantx kien kumplimentuż dwar il-kappillan li talab għal promozzjoni għal neputih li kien ingħata impjieg sena qabel.

* Bonham-Carter juża l-kliem 'a bit grasping perhaps'. Skont Aquilina 'grasping' hi aġġettiv li jfisser 'jagħmel għal flus, ġid, poter, eċċ'

14th July 1936

Governor Charles Bonham-Carter pays a visit to Birzebbuga ... He writes in his diary:

We have visited two parishes during the week, Birzebbugia, a fishing village on Marsaxlokk Bay, and St Julian's, which in the last few years has become a summer resort. The priest of the former, Father Fenech, is a tough fellow, quite sound, a bit grasping perhaps, but very friendly. His village is growing fast so a new church is being built. The carving of the capitols of the pillars is being paid for by individuals as gifts and carried out by local artists with really good results in two places. Gabrielle (the Governor's wife) in an unguarded moment showed some interest in an oleograph of the Virgin and Child upon which coloured cotton stuffs had been appliquéd so the priest gave it to her!! She is now trying to hide it. .... The club at Birzebbugia is a sports club and there is much mixing with the men of the R.A.F. - an excellent thing. ... We were well received everywhere.

In a later entry in the diary Bonham-Carter speaks of another visit to Birzebbuga in late September 1939. The Governor was not very complimentary about the Parish Priest who asks for a promotion for his nephew who had been given a job a year earlier.

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