



Tagħrif storiku miġbur minn sorsi diversi

Iż-Żejtun – Dan l-isem x’ifisser?

L-isem Żejtun ġej mill-qedem, żgur mijiet ta’ snin ilu. Hemm minn isostni li l-isem ġej minn żmien il-Feniċi, allura mat-tlett elef sena ilu. Izda xi provi hemm? Din hrafa jew fatt? L-isem Iż-Żejtun kien jghodd ghax-Xlokk kollu ta’ Malta minn Hal Ghaxaq ghal San Ġorġ ta’ Birżebbuġa, Marsaxlokk u Delimara, ir-Ramla taż-Żejtun, Wied il-Għajn ghal Haż-Żabbar u lura ghaż-Żejtun.

Wara li tkeċċew l-Arab minn Malta mill-qawwiet tal-Konti Ruġieri fl-1091 u t-twemmin nistrani reġa’ sar popolari madwar l-1230, l-istess zona kienet magħrufa bhala Terra Santa Katarina. Izda l-isem Żejtun baqa’ fuq fomm in-nies u l-ewwel attentat biex l-isem oriġinali jitnessa falla!

L-istess gara meta l-Gran Mastro Ferdinand von Hompesch ta liż-Żejtun it-titlu *Bylandt* kunjomm ommu. Bhal kull isem li taw il-Gran Mastri lil-lokalitajiet oħra, eżempju Senglea – l-Isla, Rohan – Haż-Żebbuġ, Pinto – Hal Qormi u l-istess Hompesch ghal Haż-Żabbar, minkejja li dawn kienu ismijiet ta’ prestiġju artistokratiku, il-Maltin ghażlu li jzommu l-isem oriġinali tal-lokalità tagħhom. Ghax mhux haġa hafifa taqla’ mill-memorja kollettiva isem etniku, marbut mal-hajja, tradizzjonali, storja u hidma ta’ lokalità. Iż-Żejtun baqa’

eżempju haj sal-lum. Filfatt *zejtun* huma s-siġar taż-zebbuġ u l-frott tiegħu, siġra u frotta li ilhom kultivati ghal aktar minn erbat elef sena u f’Malta żgur li dahlu fi żmienu il-Feniċi.

L-Origini

L-origini tal-kelma Żejtun, il-plural ta’ Żejtuna hu puniku/semitiku jiġifieri dak mitkellem mill-Feniċi u l-Kartaġinizi li ghexu f’Malta ghal mijiet ta’ snin qabel il-hakma rumana. Izda anke fi żmien il-Pax Roman l-Maltin baqghu jtkellmu l-Kartaġinizz. Il-Grieg u l-Latin qatt ma qabdu art hawn. San Luqa jiddeskrivi l-Maltin bhala Berberi, jiġifieri la kienu jafu l-Grieg u lanqas il-Latin, izda kienu jtkellmu ilsien tal-Afrika ta’ fuq. Hekk jista’ jkun li l-isem Żejtun kien jintuża għaz-zona tax-Xlokk ta’ Malta, f’dak iż-żmien. Izda dan mhux żgur. Jista’ jagħti l-kas li dahal fuq żmien l-Arab u f’Malta nsibu żewġ lokalitajiet b’dan l-isem, Għajn Żejtuna fil-Bajja tal-Mellieha u ż-Żejtun tagħna.

The Arabic word *zaytun* [زيتون] is cognate to Hebrew *zayith* [זית] and Aramaic *zayta* [ܙܝܬܐ] olive and might derive from a Common Semitic root signifying to be prominent; on the other side, it might also have been borrowed from a language of Mesopotamia (Sumerian *zirdum* [𒍪𒍪], Akkadian *serdu*). Due to the spread of Islām, the word was subsequently transferred to many more languages, from the Mediterranean (Portuguese *azeitona*) to Africa (Swahili *zeituni*) and Asia, which features related names in a wide area from the Caucasus to the South Asian tropics: Georgian *zetis* [ზეთის], Armenian *jiteni* [ձիթ-եղի], Kazakh *zaytun* [зәйтүн], Kurdish *zaitun* [زەیتون], Farsi *zeitun* [زیتون], Punjabi and Hindi *jaitun* [जैतून, जैतल], Tamil *saidun* [செட்டிசெட்டி], Dhivehi *zaitooni* [زیتون] and even Mongolian *chidun* [чидун]. Another, more distantly related word is Maltese *zebbuġ* which is suspected to derive from a term for olive in the Berber language, which also belongs to the Semitic language subfamily.

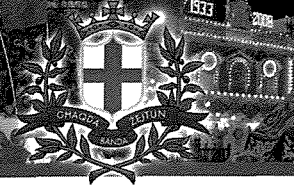
Due to the enormous importance of olives for both the Greek and the Roman cultures, their name entered nearly every European language via Latin *oleum* oil as generic word for liquid fats, e.g., English *oil*, French *huile*, German *Öl*, Italian *olio*, Dutch *olie*, Polish *olej* and Finnish *öljy*.

http://www.uni-graz.at/~katzer/engl/Olea_eur.html



Il-Kurzità

Fatt kurjuż ferm hu li fil-Malti mitkellem ma nużawx il-kliem ‘zejtuna’ jew ‘zejtun’ kif għadu jiġri sal-lum f’bosta pajjiżi, izda minflok nużaw il-kelma zebbuġa u zebbuġ kliem li wkoll gie applikat bhala isem ta’ lokalità, bhal Bir Żebbuġa, Haż-Żebbuġ f’Malta u ż-Żebbuġ Ghawdex. F’pajjiżi fejn baqghu jintużaw, in-nies tuża “**Żejtun**” għas-siġra u l-frotta kultivata, waqt li zebbuġ tintuża għall-istess siġra izda li tikber mhux kultivata. Min-naha l-oħra l-kelma ‘zejt’ kif jagħmlu f’pajjiżni Arab kollha baqghet magħna f’Malta. Għalhekk mill-antik kienu jorbtu ż-Żejtun mal-kelma *zejt* u bhala motto taż-Żejtun jiktbu “Miż-Żejt Hadt Ismek” meta huwa bil-maqlub għax iż-zejt isir miż-Żejtun u huwa aktar preċiż il-motto li nużaw illum ‘Frott iż-Żebbuġ Ismi’. Li hu żgur huwa li



ż-żewg kelmiet 'zejtuna' u 'zejtun' ma baqghux fostna bhala kliem mitkellem. Issa bosta studjużi jsostnu li l-Malti tal-lum dahal fi żmien l-Arab. Hekk waheda tqum il-mistoqsija. Tghid 'zejtuna' u 'zejtun' kienu digà fostna qabel gew l-Arab?

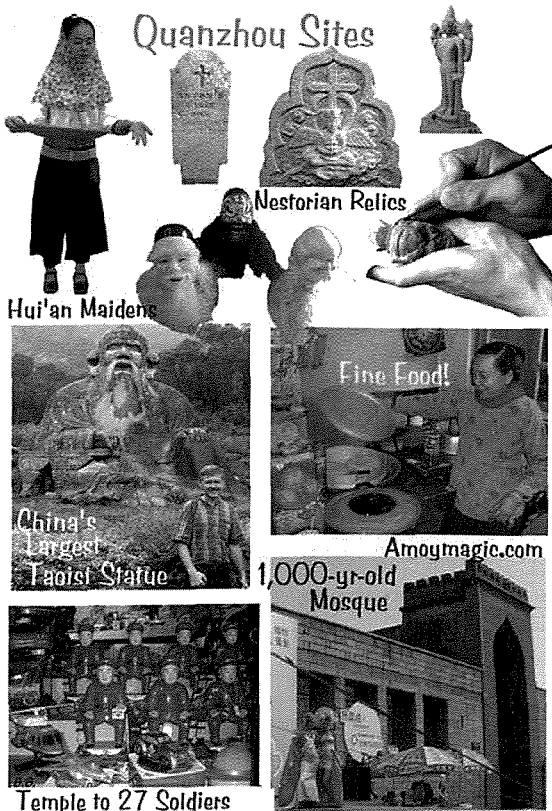
Kliem imxerred f'bosta pajjiżi

Fi Spanja żgur dahlu mal-Arab u fl-Ispanjol nsibu *acejtuna* (zejtuna) u *azebucha* (zebbuġa) tal-ewwel ghaż-zebbuġ kultivat u l-ohra dak li jikber bla kultivazzjoni. Għax ta' min jghid li din l-imbierka kelma tinstab imxerreda kulfejn kien hemm mill-kultura punika jew araba.

Zayton (the Arab's name—a homonym for "olive," symbol of peace), was the largest port on earth, rivaling Alexandria in Egypt. Start of the Silk Road of the Sea, this was the legendary port of call for Ibn Battuta, Sinbad the Sailor, and Admiral Zheng He, who 70 years before Columbus sailed the seas in 440 foot treasure ships that would have dwarfed Columbus' little 85' Santa Maria.

Columbus never made it to Zaytun, but I have! That mystic "City of Light" is just a 90 minute drive up the coast from my adopted home of Xiamen (which a few centuries ago was part of Quanzhou). Marco Polo was impressed by Zaytun's gems, pearls, porcelain, and silk, but he overlooked the true wealth of this mythic port—the place and the people!

<http://www.amoymagic.mts.cn/Quanzhoupage.htm>



M'ahnix Wehidna!

Punt tabilhaqq interessanti hu l-fatt li l-kelma Żejtun hija, f'ċertu sens popolari bhala isem ta' diversi lokalitajiet, l-aktar fid-dinja arbija jew fejn kien hemm diversi lokalitajiet, l-aktar fid-dinja arbija jew fejn kien hemm influwenza tal-kultura arbija, fejn kien hemm jew ghad hemm kultivazzjoni tas-siġar taż-zebbuġ. Hekk insibu Żejtun fil-Gaža, Żejtun fix-Xatt tal-Punent tal-Palestina, Żejtn distrett fil-Kajr, Żejtun fl-Armenja u fi żmien Marco Polo, kien hemm żejtun anke fiċ-Ċina belt li illum iġġib l-isem Quan Zhou. Mela, hadd m'ghandu jehodha bi kbir, jekk nghidu li l-lokal taghha ha l-isem Żejtun mill-kultivazzjoni tas-siġar taż-zebbuġ u l-għasir taż-zebbuġ ghaż-zejt, kif sar pajjiżi ohra.

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From The Times

October 30, 2008

Found in a rundown Boston estate: Barack Obama's aunt Zeituni Onyango

'Auntie Zeituni', who, with Uncle Omar, dropped out of sight after moving to the US, is backing the presidential candidate from her modest flat

James Bone in Boston, Rob Crilly in Kogelo and Ben MacIntyre



Obama's prime-time TV onslaught l Banked the 42 US

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Il-Kunjom

B'danakollu hawn min isostni li l-isem Żejtun jista' jkun gej mill-kunjom 'Żejtuni' kunjom li jinsab fis-Sirja u f'pajjiżi ohra b'kultura jew influwenza Arbija. Dan l-ahħar kien fl-ahbarijiet għax iz-zija tal-President Barack Obama, kunjomha hu Żejtuni. İzda din tal-kunjom ma tantx taghmel sens għax kif rajna l-kelma 'Żejtun' bhala isem ta' lokalità mkien ma' kienet marbuta ma' kunjom iżda ma' kultivazzjoni taż-zebbuġ.

L-Arkeoloġija

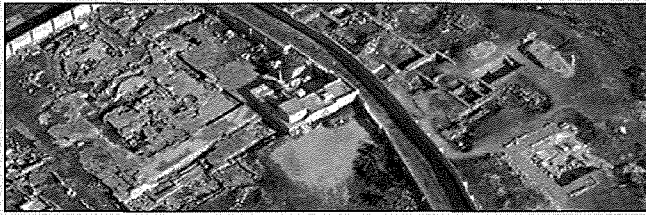
Fejn m'hemmx il-kelma miktuba jkollna nduru fuq ix-xhieda arkeoloġija. Il-lokal taż-Żejtun kien importanti mill-qedem għax qieghed fuq l-gholja li thares fuq il-portijiet ta' Marxaxlokk, ir-Ramla taż-Żejtun u Wied il-Għajn. Żgur li minn żmien il-Feniċi għal żmien ir-Rumani u anke wara sa żmien il-Bizantini, kwazi elf sena shah l-inhawi taż-Żejtun kienu mhux biss abitati iżda din kienet zona ta' prosperità. Xhieda ta' dan kollu huma l-fdalijiet ta' Tas-Silg, prova ċara tal-importanza li kellu ż-Żejtun f'dawk iż-żminijiet.

Tas-Silg is a multi-period sanctuary site located in the south-eastern part of the island of Malta, close to Marsaxlokk harbour. The site has a long history of antiquarian research and archaeological excavation.



The Missione Archeologica Italiana carried out excavations between 1963 and 1970, identified the site with the famous sanctuary to Juno (Astarte of the Phoenicians) mentioned in Cicero's Verrine Orations and given coordinates in Ptolemy's Geography. The Italian team resumed work on site in 1997. In 1996 the University of Malta started its own excavation project in the area south of the main sanctuary complex consisting of four trenches, A to D. The table below briefly highlights the results of the excavations in the southern sector of the Tas-Silġ site.

<http://www.um.edu.mt/arts/classics-archaeo/projects/tassilg>



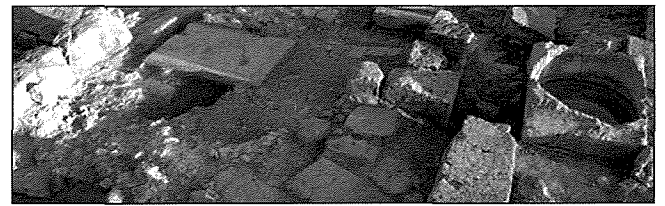
L-agro industrija taż-żejt taż-żebbuġa

Fi żmien ir-rumani wahda mill-aktar attivitajiet importanti kien ix-xoghol marbut mat-tkabbir tas-siġar 'taż-żejtun' u l-ghasir tal-frott tiegħu ghaż-żejt. It-tradizzjoni li fil-qedem fiż-Żejtun kien hawn dan ix-xoghol dejjem kienet qawwija. Iżda fejn huma l-provi? Dawn fl-ahhar waslu wkoll!! Kien fl-1961 li meta bdew inehhu l-hamrija fejn inbena l-Liceo Carlo Darmanin, instabu l-fdalijiet ta' kumpless uman fejn kien jinghasar iż-żejt. Meta t-tradizzjoni ma kinitx hrafa, kienet veritá mibnija fuq fatti li ntradmu matul iż-żmien.

In 1961, whilst work was underway for the construction of the new village school in Żejtun, ancient remains were noted. Archaeological excavations were taken up in 1964 revealing a large cistern and some water channels, together with an area paved in stone slabs. Eight years later, the start of an annual excavation project, led by the Museums' Department, got underway uncovering in the course of short excavation campaigns what was identified as a farmstead of Roman date. Various parts of the stone apparatus used in Roman times for the production of olive oil were found. These included the large stone block used as the counterweight for the wooden beam of the press and a stone vat for the settling of the processed olive oil. These remains constitute the industrial zone of the farmstead.

To the south a series of rooms were uncovered, all containing lozenge-shaped terracotta tiles. Some of the walls are plastered and were decorated in red paint. A second cistern was discovered further south, as well as a rock-cut silo-pit containing Bronze Age pottery. Short excavation campaigns were conducted until 1976 uncovering what is now identified as a typical Roman rustic villa.

<http://www.um.edu.mt/arts/classics-archaeo/projects/zejtunvilla>



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