

## L-Alfabet ta' l-Għaqda Harsa lura

*J.J. Camilleri*

**L**-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti ħatret Kummissjoni fl-14 ta' Novembru, 1920, biex tfassal alfabet. Waħda mir-raġunijiet għaliex il-Malti ma kienx jista' jieħu r-ruħ kienet sewwa sew in-nuqqas ta' alfabet stabbilit, uniformi u aċċettat minn kulhadd. Kulhadd kien jikteb kif irid u jfettillu. Xi studjużi u xi għaqdiet ittantaw ifasslu alfabetti tagħhom, iżda l-isforzi tagħhom ma wasslu mkien. Ta' min isemmi t-tentattivi ta' Frangisk Vella fl-1831, Luigi Rosato fl-1839, is-Socjeta' tal-Propagazzjoni tat-Tagħlim Nisrani fl-1845, Sir George Percy Badger fl-1841, Gio-Batta Falzon fl-1861, Annibale Preca fl-1900, Napuljun Tagliaferro fl-1901, E. Magro fl-1906, Salvu Mamo fl-1901 u Ġ. Muscat-Azzopardi fit-traduzzjoni tiegħu tal-Vangeli.

Il-Kummissjoni mwaqqfa mill-Għaqda ma damitx ma lestiet ix-xogħol tagħha għaliex sejhet laqgħa apposta fit-18 ta' Diċembru, 1921, biex jiġi diskuss abbozz ta' dan l-alfabet. L-alfabet ġie approvat u erbat ijiem wara, is-segretarju ta' l-Għaqda, F.S. Caruana baġhat l-alfabet il-ġdid, flimkien ma' ittra, lill-Kap tal-Ministri Joseph Howard u talbu biex il-gvern jibda juża dan l-alfabet fil-pubblikazzjonijiet bil-Malti. J. Howard għadda l-ittra lill-Ministru ta' l-Istruzzjoni Pubblika, iżda baqa' ma rriżulta xejn.

L-istess problema reġgħet qamet fil-5 ta' Diċembru, 1929. F.S. Caruana dik id-darba kiteb lill-Ministru ta' l-Istruzzjoni Pubblika u talbu biex l-alfabet ta' l-Għaqda jibda jintuża fid-dokumenti uffiċjali ta' natura permanenti. Milli jidher dik id-darba kienu nqalġu xi differenzi fil-Kunsill ta' l-Għaqda, għaliex fil-laqgħat li saru fis-17 u fl-24 ta' Novembru, 1929, imsejnin biex jiddiskutu l-ittra li kellha tintbaġħat, Ninu Cremona ma attendiex. Qal li bħala Editur tal-Pubblikazzjonijiet bil-Malti tal-Gvern seta' jkun ta' xkiel għal dawk li riedu jesprimu l-opinjoni tagħhom. Barra minn hekk, wera ruħu bil-miktub flimkien ma' Ġ. Vassallo, li bħala prinċipju ma kienx jaqbel ma' l-azzjoni tal-Kumitat ta' l-Għaqda, dwar dil-ħaġa.

Dr. E. Mizzi, il-Ministru ta' l-Istruzzjoni Pubblika, għadda l-ittra ta' F.S. Caruana, lil Ninu Cremona. Cremona kien impjegat tal-gvern bħala Editur tal-Pubblikazzjonijiet bil-Malti, u fl-istess waqt membru tal-Kummissjoni li fasslet l-alfabet il-ġdid. Ninu Cremona kiteb minuta twila lill-Ministru dwar il-proposta ta' l-Għaqda, u wera li kien tal-fehma li l-gvern, għall-

mument, ma kellux jimmodifika l-alfabet li kien qiegħed jiġi wżat fil-pubblikazzjonijiet tal-gvern.

Wara dak kollu li ġara, il-problema baqgħet hemm. Dr. E. Mizzi nnifsu ma kienx ferħan bis-sitwazzjoni għax ilmenta mal-Kap tal-Ministri għaliex il-Malti wżat fil-pubblikazzjonijiet tal-gvern ma kienx uniformi. Għalhekk Cremona kien ingħata istruzzjonijiet biex f'dik il-ħaġa jimxi mad-deċizzjoni meħuda fil-Kabinett u fuq dawk il-prinċipji approvati miż-żewġ Kmamar fil-31 ta' Ottubru u d-9 ta' Novembru, 1932. Baġhatlu wkoll xi kitbiet bil-Malti biex jimxi fuqhom. Cremona ħass li dawk il-kitbiet ma kinux gwida suffiċjenti biex fuqhom ifassal ortografija uniformi, u għalhekk talab għal aktar regoli speċifiċi. Il-Ministru kien wera l-fehmiet tiegħu u sostna illi jekk il-Malti kellu jinkiteb b'mod differenti mit-Taljan, dan xejn ma jkun jaqbel għall-idjoma mitkellma. Fil-laqgħa tal-Kabinett ta' l-1 ta' Settembru, 1932, kien ġie deċiż illi l-Malti kellu jiġi mgħallem kif mitkellem u miktub kif jiġi ppronunzjat. Il-Ministru kien qal ukoll lid-Direttur A. Laferla li hu kien ansjuż li t-tagħlim tal-Malti jkun tali biex aktar 'il quddiem jagħmilha ħaġa possibbli li l-istudenti jitgħallmu bla tbatija t-Taljan. Fl-isfond ta' dan kollu, il-Ministru ordna lil Cremona biex jimxi fuq dawn il-prinċipji.

Il-problema ta' l-alfabet ma solvietx ruħha qabel l-1 ta' Jannar, 1934. Ironikament, kellu jkun gvern kolonjali li ta għarfien uffiċjali lill-alfabet u lill-ortografija ta' l-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti, illum magħrufa bħala l-Akkademja tal-Malti.

NOTA: Fil-prezentazzjoni tad-dokumenti f'dawn l-Appendiċi ma saret ebda tiswija, la fl-Ingliż u anqas fl-ortografija tal-Malti. *Il-Bord Editorjali*.

## APPENDIĊI A

19, Sda Reale,  
Valletta, 22nd. December 1921.

Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at a general meeting of the members of the Union of Writers in Maltese (*Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti*) held on the 18th. inst., a draft of the Maltese Alphabet as proposed by the Commission appointed by the same Society on the 14th Nov. 1920, was discussed and approved with a view to its being adopted in the Maltese Orthography.

The Commission's aims in devising a phonetic alphabet as advocated by the best scholars in Oriental Studies, were simply to place the actual scripture of our vernacular on a fixed standard of its sounds which so far have been vaguely represented by capricious transcription borrowed from foreign orthoepy which is practically embarrassing and scientifically incorrect.

It is therefore to be expected that if this Alphabet is favourably accepted by people who are anxious to promote the literary progress of our vernacular such as it is evidenced by the public-

ations wide-spread of the Maltese Press, the Society will make it a duty to publish the full report on the orthographical rules which have already been set and compiled for the purpose of establishing a uniformity in Maltese writing amongst all writers and editors.

I beg hereby to attach a specimen of the Alphabet as issued by the Society.

The Society shall deem it an essential service of cooperation if the Government might provide any of the new types of letters which are wanting in the Government Press and adopt the proposed Alphabet in all vernacular publications.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

To His Honour,  
The Head of the Ministry,  
The Palace.

F. S. Caruana  
Secretary,  
Ghaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti

## APPENDICI B

Maltese Alphabet issued by the *Ghaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti*.

Letter Types	Sound & Value	Examples				
A, a	a (Alef)	Arda, sâr	15.	L, l	Elle (Lam)	Lizla
B, b	Bz (Ba)	Bejt, beheb	16.	M, m	Emme (Min)	Majda
Ċ, ċ	Ċe (Ċim)	Ċajta, ċemp	17.	N, n	Enne (Nun)	Ngras
D, d	De (Dal, djal } dhal (ħaġa) }	Dahaħ. Dâr dardar	18.	O, o	O (Alef + wa)	Morr
E, e	Effe (Fa) { E, Alef and wa }	<del>Eftfal</del> Eft, xêna	19.	P, p	Pe	Patru
F, f	Effe (Fa)	Felfel	20.	Q, q	Qa (Qaf)	Qadin
Ġ, ġ	Ġe (Ġim)	ġellewż	21.	R, r	Enne (Ra)	Râs
G, g	Ga (Ġam ġimel) }	giddieħ zandoffla	22.	S, s	Esse (Tsa sin, sâd) }	Silġ siġ
Ħ, ħ	Ħajm	Ħajm, taġġim	23.	T, t	Te (Tha, ta ta) }	Tul Tawru
H, h	He (Ha)	Deħer, fiħa	24.	U, u	Wa and wa	Sûfa ħi
Ħ, ħ	Ħe (Ħa)	Hoħż, ħoħer	25.	V, v	Ve	Vemier
I, i	I. i. î (Alef and wa)	Ixti bîr	26.	W, w	We (Waw)	Wakħ
J, j	Ja	Bjan	27.	X, xe	Ëxe (Xin)	Xêna
K, k	Ka (Kaf)	Kelb	28.	3 3	Zeta (Tzod)	Zokħ
			29.	3̇ 3̇	Žeta (Zoj)	Žunza

## APPENDIĊI Ċ

## GHAQDA TAL-KITTIEBA TAL-MALTI

Uffiċċju tas-Segretarju,

c/o Empire Press, Valletta.

Malta, 5 ta' Diċembru, 1929.

Sinjur,

Għandi l-unur li nqiegħed quddiemek dan li ġej, fl-isem ta' l-Akkademja tal-Lsien Malti.

2. Issa li l-lsien malti, bis-saħħa ta' xi disposizzjonijiet mgħoddijin mill-Gvern tal-lum, qiegħed jieħu xejra sabiħa, u billi issa ikun meħtieġ li l-ligijiet tal-Pajjiz jingiebu fil-lsien malti, il-Membri tal-Kumitat ta' l-Akkademja tal-Lsien Malti, — mgħarufa bl-isem ta' "Ghaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti", — fl-aħħar laqgħa li saret fl-24 ta' Novembru li hareġ, qatgħu qalb waħda u fehma waħda, li jitkellmu mal-Gvern fuq din il-ħaġa ta' hteġa hekk kbira, u itarrfu dak li huma jaħsbu li mingħajru il-lsien malti ma jistax jgħaddi l-quddiem, u li fl-istess hin, hu ta' Għajjnuna kbira sewwa lil-Gvern u sewwa lill-istudenti tal-lsien malti.

3. Il-Ghaqda — Xirka Filoloġika u Letterarja — kienet imwaqqfa fl-1920, bil-ħsieb li:

a/ twaqqaf alfabbett malti, mibni kemm jista' jkun fuq sisien xjentifiċi, imqiegħdin minn Orjentalisti, u fl-istess hin, li jimxi mal-ħteġ, u għal xejret min jaqra;

b/ tigbor fl-imkien il-kittieba t-tajba kollha tal-Malti, kif ukoll l-edituri u l-istampaturi;

c/ tnissel letteratura maltija onesta, fejjieda, sabiħa kif tixraq liċ-ċkejna Malta.

4. Sabiex thejji Alfabbett Malti, mibni fuq qofol xjentifiku u r-reguli ewlenin tal-Ortografija Maltija, il-Ghaqda kienet hatret kummissjoni magħzula minn fost l-aħjar kittieba tal-Malti: dawn kienu: Il-mejjet Ġuzè Muscat-Azzopardi, P. L., President, Mons. P. Galea, J.C.D., Mons. C. Psaila, is-Sur Ninu Cremona, il-mejjet P. F. Bellanti, u s-Sur F. S. Caruana, Segretarju.

5. Fi sbatax-il laqgħa, li ħadulha sentejn żmien, il-Kummissjoni hejjiet alfabbett u ortografija għal-lsien malti, u bil-għajjnuna tal-Gvern ta' dak iż-żmien, li kien daħal għall-istampa tiegħu, ix-xogħol tal-Kummissjoni (*Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija*) deher fl-1924.

6. Wara l-ħruġ tat-*Tagħrif*, malajr beda hierēg "*Il-Malti*" li hu il-Leħen tal-Ghaqda; u joghġobni nġhid li daww kollha li huma miġbudin għal-lsien malti, qagħdu għall-alfabbett tal-Ghaqda, u l-għadd ta' l-ismieħbin fil-*Il-Malti*, għalkemm qajla qajla qiegħed jikber kull sena.

7. Minn mindu hareġ it-*Tagħrif*, raw id-dawl bosta xogħolijiet miktuba bl-alfabbett tal-Ghaqda. Dawn li ġejjin jixraq min isemmihom:

a/ *Il-Gzejjer ta' Malta u l-Grajjaghghom*, tal-Prof. T. Zammit, C.M.G., M.D., D.Litt. (Oxon),

b/ *Il-Ktieb tal-Genesis*, miġjub fil-Malti minn Dun P. P. Sajdun, D.D.

c/ *L'Ortografia Maltese*, ta' Giovanni Vassallo,

d/ *X'inhu l-Malti Safi*, tas-Sur Nin Cremona,

e/ *Tifkira tat-8 ta' Settembru, 1565*, u Ġabra ta' poezijiet ta' Mons. C. Psaila,

f/ *Imħabba u Mibēgħda*, ta' Ġuzè Bonnici.

8. L-Alfabbett u l-Ortografija tal-Ghaqda għoġbu lil hafna studjusi magħrufa ta' l-ilsna orjentali; fosthom insemi ir-Rev. C. S. Dessoulavy, li annom ta' l-Ghaqda, qara fil-congress tal-Orjentalisti ta' Oxford, fl-1928, Karta fuq il-lsien Malti, u lir-Rev. Rafel Nakhla, S. J., ta' Beyrouth, li, meta ġie f-idejħ *Il-Malti*, sejjah il-lsien tagħna l-iżjed letterarju fost id-djalettii Għarbin.

9. Imħabba f'dan li semmejt, ikun wisq għall-qalb tal-Ghaqda jekk il-Gvern idahħal l-Alfabbett imwaqqaf minnha, għall-inqas f'dawk id-Dokumenti li għandhom karattru permanenti,

ghar-raġuni li dan l-alfabbett hu:

- a/ l-izjed sempliċi li qatt deher fil-Malti,
- b/ imqiegħed fuq prinċipji xentifiċi, u għalhekk internazzjonali f' l-elementi fonetiċi tiegħu,
- c/ l-eqreb wiħed lejn l-alfabbett li juża l-Gvern fil-Kitba bil-malti, u lejn dak ta' l-aħjar perjodiċi u gazetti, la darba id-divrenzja ma hix hlief ta' żewġ ittri: il-“k” flok iċ-“ch” u il-“q” flok il-“k”.

d/ l-ehfef għall-istudenti li bi hsiebhom jersqu għall-eżamijiet taċ-Ċivil, u għall-istenografija tal-Malti, billi ma għandhiex hlief ittra waħda għal kull lehen.

10. Il-Għaqda fl-aħħarnett tixtieq li jsir dan, jigifieri li jiġi adottat l-alfabbett li hi ilha tuża seba' snin shaħ, għaliex hekk hi tkun tista' tghin, għalkemm indirettament, bil-hruġ ta' letteratura tajba għall-iskejjel u għal kulhadd, bħal antologiji ta' proza u ta' poezija, kotba għat-tfal, kotba ta' tharriġ fil-Malti.

Fit-tama li jkolli twiegħiba għal qalbi,

Għandi l-unur ingħodd ruħi,

Sinjur,

Il-qaddej tiegħek,

F. S. Caruana

Segretarju

ta' l-Akkademja tal-Lsien Malti.

## APPENDIĊI D

Hon. M.P.I.,

This question was fully anticipated by me and I submitted my views on the subject in my previous communication dealing with the establishment of a Maltese Evening Class at the Lyceum (File M.P.I./C/470/28) and in my subsequent correspondence with regard to the appointment of a Commission by the Government for translating existing local laws into Maltese (File M. for J/561/29),

I beg now to submit the following remarks with reference to the enclosed letter from the Secretary of the “*Akkademja tal-Lsien, Malti*” known as the “*GHAQDA TAL-KITTIEBA TAL-MALTI*”.

- (1) The Għaqda's aim since its institution in 14th November, 1920, was to fix a uniform orthography amongst writers in Maltese and a Commission was set up for that purpose. That aim, however, met with abortive results among writers, printers and editors in general, after the publication of the “*TAGħRIF*”, – the compilation of which was entrusted to me, assisted by Mr. G. Vassallo.
- (2) The failure of the Għaqda's scheme is naturally to be ascribed to its hard and fast attempts to adopt a phonetic alphabet. Although it being the most correct one, is generally considered as an unfamiliar innovation and, as facts have shown, is doomed to fail; notwithstanding, in the case of the Għaqda, the symbols chosen were the most current ones,

except for two or three of them which differ from their usual character and value i.e., the g (for the *fixed* sound of hard g), the k (for the câf = ca, che, chi, co cu); and the q (for the guttural kâf).

- (3) Since the publication of the Ghaqda's organ "*IL-MALTI*", the claims of this Society for a popular adoption of its alphabet have practically ceased. The Ghaqda's alphabet is now only used by subscribers of the organ and in some purely literary or philological matters published by its Members. The Ghaqda itself, in a linguistic sense, is regarded as scientific society rather than a popularly literary society.
- (4) As to the plea raised in the enclosed correspondence that "the adoption by Government of the Ghaqda's alphabet in all official documents of a permanent nature should determine the progress of the Maltese language and in the meantime serve as a help both to the Government and to the students of Maltese", I am afraid that the Ghaqda's Committee has failed to forecast the adverse effects of such adoption and to realise to what a limited extent the Government, though in theory should approve of the Ghaqda's principles, may commit itself in adopting the Ghaqda's alphabet.
- (5) In my opinion any attempt in inducing the Government to try the experiment of adopting this system, which since Vassalli's time (1790), failed several times, would be simply exposing the Government to the risk of losing what so far it has gained through its prudent policy and efforts towards the standardization of the Maltese Orthography on the best practical lines which, for the time being, could be adopted.
- (6) The orthography in any language was mainly formed by chance or by fancies of early writers. History shows that its gradual standardization was never attained other than by a radical scholastic scheme. The activities of Academies, even if supported by Governments, to introduce straightaway a standard alphabet have always proved unsuccessful and have done more harm than good to the language itself.
- (7) The current Maltese alphabetical transliteration which has been used by the best writers in the different epochs, and which should rightly be considered as the standard one, is the outcome of a radical scholastic system in the early Primary Government School. Since 1840, children were first taught the Italian Language through the medium of written Maltese and for that purpose Maltese was transliterated on the alphabet of "*Società Filologica*". This transliteration has prevailed since the last 90 years and there is no likelihood of its being modified, at any rate for the time being, by the change of the three letters (and not two) suggested by the Ghaqda in order to conform to the principle of an accurate phonetic alphabet. It may, perhaps, be amended in progress of time by a radical scholastic system; but, I repeat, any other effort will prove unsuccessful and harmful. Besides the unsuccessful efforts of Vassalli (1790 – 1827); Zerafa (1827); Bellanti (1829); and Panzavecchia (1845), it is worth mentioning as striking instances the following phonetic alphabets which although adopted or strongly backed up by the Government had also failed:
  - (a) The Arabo-Maltese Alphabet (1838);
  - (b) Panzavecchia's Alphabet (*Grammatica Maltese* 1845);
  - (c) Alphabet of the *Società Medica* (1841);
  - (d) Alphabet of the *Xirca Xemia* (1882);
- (8) Contrary to what has happened in other written languages, Maltese orthography is not morphologically the result of chances or fancies, except in some conventional symbols of transliteration. Maltese being a semitic language, when written, is transcribed by the generality of the best writers in accordance with the fixed rules of Grammar and the value of the letters independently of the proper formation of the letters.

- (9) So far, the Ghaqda's contention, regarding the convenience of the use of its alphabet by the Government on the grounds of scientific importance and simplicity, does not practically hold good; and although there may have been many and are many adherents of the system I, being foremost in the ranks, in a scientific sense, who have contributed to the Maltese Literature in the Ghaqda's transcript, several of the scholars had to revert to the use of the current alphabet when writing for popular purposes.

To prove this assertion, I may quote the following authors and scholars who advocated the use of the phonetic alphabet during different epochs and had reverted to the current one. Viz:

- (a) Francis Vella (1831)
- (b) Luigi Rosato (1839)
- (c) The Society for the Propagation of Christian knowledge (1845)
- (d) Sir George Percy Badger (1841)
- (e) Gio-Batta Falzon (1861)
- (f) Annibale Preca (1900).
- (g) Napeoleon Tagliaferro (1901).
- (h) E. Magro (1906).
- (i) Salvo Mamo (1901).

and quite recently the President of the Ghaqda itself (The late Chev. G. Muscat Azzopardi) who published the Gospels with a common alphabet whilst the Ghaqda was in its full swing.

The Editors of newspapers such as the "Habib" and the "Lehen Is-Sewwa", who formed part of the Ghaqda's Commission, refrained also from using the Ghaqda's alphabet.

- (10) As the Committee of the Ghaqda admits: "The alphabet used by Government in its official documents is the nearest to that of the Ghaqda's, the difference being only in the three letters mentioned in para 2 of this minute. To use the three letters of the Ghaqda instead of the current ones would be forcing the Government to bring about a revolution in the standard transcript resulting into such a confusion as to spoil the good plans of the Government to uplift and spread the Maltese language. The present Government has adopted the best and most practical Maltese transliteration which is in conformity with the orthography used by the old Government in its official documents and school books for the last 40 years, the previous one (that of the late Xirca Xemia) having been abolished from schools as being unpracticable. On the recommendations of a Committee of Maltese Writers which was formed in 1893, the present orthography used by the Government was introduced. This Orthography consists of the alphabet of the Società Filologica (with the exception of the consonant *u* which was subsequently substituted by the "w"), and embodies the grammatical principles as first propounded by Vassalli, by the Xirca Xemia and lately by G. Vassallo in the "Muftieħ" and by the Ghaqda itself in the "Taghrif".
- (11) The difference in symbols, as Panzavecchia himself asserts in his "Grammatica della Lingua Maltese (1845)", does not practically imply improper orthography; and letters of one single sound, even if expressed by diagraphs, are in practice considered as varying conventional characters. They are not therefore expected to stand a scientific test.
- (12) The question of transliteration which is to be used in the translation of laws into Maltese has already and duly been discussed by the Commission entrusted with these translations, on the 12th of September 1929, and the Commission has decided to adopt the ortho-

graphy now used by Government.

- (13) I wish to state that as one of the Members of the Committee of the Għaqda I was invited to discuss this matter in a meeting which was to be held on the 17th November 1929 and which for want of a quorum was put off to the 24th November 1929. I refrained from attending this meeting as I thought, perhaps, my position as Editor of the Government Maltese Publications might interfere with the free opinion of the Members. I, as well as Mr. G. Vassallo, expressed in writing that we did not approve, in principle, the action of the Committee of the Għaqda in this matter.
- (14) I would suggest that the Secretary of the Għaqda be informed that the Government does not consider it advisable, for the present, to modify the alphabet used in Government publications.

Anth. Cremona  
EDITOR

4.2.30.

Maltese Publications.

## APPENDIĊ E

S.P.O.,

Although I do not agree with all the views expressed by Mr. Cremona in the first paragraph of his observations in Red A, I do not intend to embark upon a discussion, since, in this special case, it is merely a question of carrying out decisions already taken by the Government, which are based on the principle enunciated by the great majority of both Houses of Parliament in the Resolutions approved on the 31st October and 9th November last.

2. The recognized type of our orthography, which is also common and familiar to the people in general, is that adopted in the Italian Language: and, the more Maltese is written differently from Italian, the less will it suit our spoken idiom. I do not mean, by this, to deny the existence of certain differences of sound in the pronunciation of our vernacular; but the so-much-talked-of danger of amphibology is nugatory if attention is paid to the meaning of phrases. Besides, all languages abound with amphibologisms and peculiarities in pronunciation and nobody has ever thought of them as defects that need correction for common use. Excessive, not to say ridiculous, philological severity is considered pedantry and is not insisted upon in those very languages which are reputed as most perfect.

3. As to the second paragraph of Mr. Cremona's observations, it should be remarked that the Maltese orthography desired by the overwhelming majority of the population as represented by the Government (specimens whereof are contained in the Circular, Referendum and Notices referred to above) may not provide sufficient technical guidance to follow a uniform and consistent orthography to the uninitiated, but, as they were intended for professionals in this matter, it was not deemed necessary to enter into any details.

4. Anyhow, the Officer entrusted with Maltese translations is requested to adopt the following specific changes in the Maltese orthography so far adopted by him: —

- (1) The letter *U* is to substitute the letter *W* everywhere;



- (2) To do away with all dots so far adopted on the letters *Z*, *J*, *C*, and *G* and, in the case of the latter two letters, to substitute such dots:
- (a) by an *i* in the case of words where the letters *c* and *g* are usually followed by a vowel, such as: "*ciar*", "*giostra*", "*giurdien*" etc.
  - (b) by an apostrophe in cases where such letters are followed by a consonant, such as: "*C'cheichen*", "*g'bart*", "*ig'mla*" etc.  
wherever the said letters *C* and *G* have a soft sound.
- (3) The apostrophe is to substitute the heifen in the case of all articles, prepositions or articulated prepositions preceding words beginning with a vowel, such as: "*l'arma*", "*f'opra*", "*fl'acbar*", not "*l-arma*", "*f-opra*", "*fl-acbar*", etc.
- (4) The letter *Q* is to take its natural place as universally used, in order not to have the incomprehensible "*kwiet*", but the regular and natural "*quiet*"; and the letter *k* is no longer to substitute the hard *c* ("*hecc*" not "*hekk*") but to take the place so far usurped by the "*q*" ("*kasba*" not "*qasba*"). The letter *Q* should invariably be followed by a *U*.
- (5) The double consonant *sc* is to substitute the letter *x* in every Maltese word deriving from Italian, such as: "*coscia*" (not "*coxxa*"), "*scalata*" (not "*xalata*").
- (6) Maltese-Italian words should invariably be written as nearest as compatibly possible to the Italian way, so as not to have "*azzjoni*" instead of "*azioni*" nor "*ffjuri*" instead of "*fiuri*" etc.

5. I am sure that the above instructions are quite sufficient for the future guidance of the Officer entrusted with Maltese translations.

27th December, 1932

Enrico Mizzi  
Minister for Public Instruction.