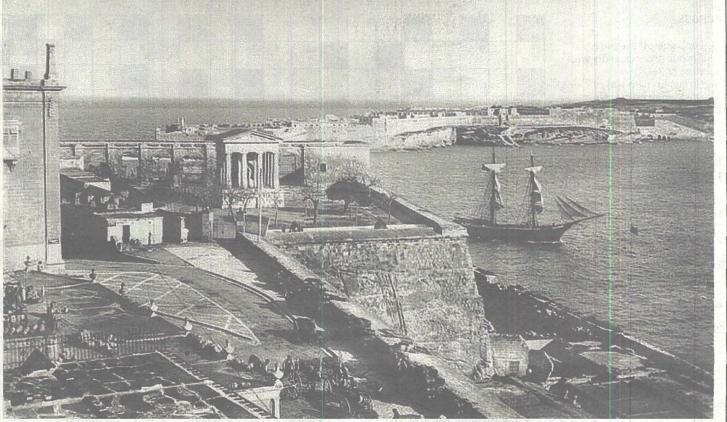
## NATIONAL



The ceremonial procession of the Maltese nobility on the occasion of the visit of King Edward VII in 1903.



The Cospicua parish church damaged by war.



The Lower Baracca in Valletta c. 1870

## Photographic nostalgia



Malta, Valletta, Strada Reale c/w Strada San Cristoforo. Easter Sunday - date unknown

Spending a lifetime poring over thousands of photos, from the earliest calotype of the 1840s to the pre-World War II period, photographic researcher Joseph Piccinino came to realise there was a reason behind every photo. Each snapshot had an objective; the challenge for him was to find it.

Whereas today taking a photo is a very simple exercise in which the camera or mobile phone takes care of all the technicalities of focus, exposure, etc, it was a very different affair in the past.

## "The photographers of the day felt urged to record street life for posterity"

Taking a photo was expensive and hard work. To walk around or travel with a camera in the 1880s, one needed a tripod made of heavy wood and metal. One had to study the ground for a steady footing and possibly a platform, then calculate the sun's intensity and work

general scene, one would hope that out it was not always at the bank.



Well-dressed foreign visitors in full Victorian garb during a visit to a prehistoric megalith site. PHOTOS: FRANK-LEA

While investigating his cache of with those of bygone days to find old photos, the details slowly started

Piccimino has always been fascinated by what the old shops sold and tried to make out the signs over the doorways, the adwerts at their side and the

movement would be at a minimum. scenes and ceremonies of today a meagre living.

they are worlds apart. Similarly, while thousands resided in Valletta, many, especially those in the Mandragg area, lived in miserable Dickensian conditions.

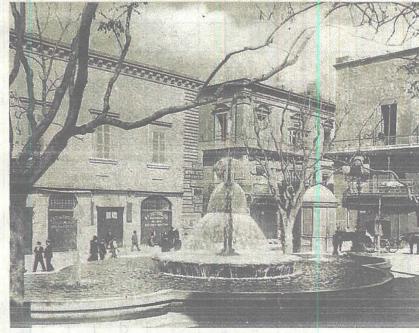
Piccinino considers it remarkable out the exposure for the bulky wares in the shop windows. He was that the photographers of the day Marina, elegant Valletta shops and curious to find where chemists, gro- did not limit themselves to their In the case of portraits, the phocers, cobblers, tea shops and tailors official commissions, portraits and city and village streets, among others. tographer would pray that the sitter were located or where one would go events, but felt urged to record would stand still for the duration of for a haircut. And what if one needed street life for posterity, leaving 6.30pm at the Phoenicia Hotel in Flothe shot. When taking pictures of a to borrow some money? He found behind them photographs not only of the nobility and bourgeousie, but the ghosting shadow caused by He also compared the street also of those who struggled to earn

The researcher is now paying tribute to these photographers with an illustrated talk organised by heritage NGO Flimkien ghal Ambjent Ahjar. Piccinino will reveal all the details he discovered while showing attendees photos of old city gates like Porta grand old palazzos that adorned both

The talk will be held tomorrow at riana. Those attending the talk may proceed to dinner at the hotel for a special price at 8pm. For tickets, log on



Revellers attending carnival celebrations in Valletta.



to https://ticketengine.faa.org.mt/. Piazza Assedio or Great Siege Square in Valletta c.1915