

~~take up his new functions in Strasbourg in October. He will succeed Mr. Polys MODINOS (Greece).~~

~~The Secretary General is Mr. Peter SMITHERS (Britain), who has visited our Island on more than one occasion, and is a friend of Malta and the Malta Council of the European Movement.~~

~~As a result of Mr. Smithers' contacts with Malta, the Council of Europe 13th Exhibition, on 'Neo-Classicism', will be held in Malta in 1970: the necessary preparations have already been put in hand to ensure a successful outcome of such a useful and memorable event.~~

~~We hope and believe that in Mr. Sforza, who hails from the country that is nearest to us both geographically and otherwise, Malta will find another friend, who will likewise use his influence to help us solve some of our problems. We sincerely wish him every success in his new, important post.~~

## ~~THE FIRE-RAISERS~~

~~EUROPE Day was this year commemorated by the University Players' production of Max Frisch's THE FIRE-RAISERS. As I see it, there were two main reasons behind this choice. First of all the author is a well known contemporary whose vision embraces Europe as a whole. This is not only in keeping with the once again resurgent idea of a European rather than a limited national background for the races inhabiting this continent, but it is also in line with the current trend which wants to demolish national barriers for the promotion of peace.~~

~~The fact that THE FIRE-RAISERS attempts to re-write history by attributing the rise of Nazism to the commercial middle class is of secondary importance. What was of primary importance, especially in connection with Europe Day, is the message that evil, once recognised, is to be combatted immediately and that it is the responsibility of the individual citizen to spare no effort to ensure a healthy way of life. Max Frisch's conception of the modern state rests to a large extent on the ability of the average citizen to recognize his duties and carry them out.~~

~~The cast was made up of Mario Azzopardi, Godwin Scerri, Christopher Warren, Therese Micallef, Monica Debono, Marianne Burlò, Mario Philip Azzopardi, Philip Grima, Albert Fenech and Chorus. Direction was in the hands of Beatrice Dennis. Well done!~~

G.S.

## ~~RIGHT-HAND DRIVE~~

*Does the road wind up-hill all the way?  
Yes, to the very end.*

*Will the day's journey take the whole long day?  
From morn to night, my friend.*

I feel positive that that is, in poetic form, what crosses the mind of any Maltese driver who, with his nose literally buried in a king-size roadmap, plans his imminent trip to the North: Sicily, Calabria, Rome, Lugano, Heidelberg, Amsterdam ... Up and up, day and night! A care-free sense of glee at the thought of the enchanting European North seems to mingle with a certain feeling of apprehension. It is not the up-hill winding all the way that torments him, for he knows that to be a sort of optical illusion of the mind. It is the right-hand drive! Yes, from near-by Syracuse to distant and chilly Iceland, it's right-hand driving all the way. Besides, there will be traffic signs and traffic rules, the like of which we in Malta have never known. And on the highways and by-ways of the Continent the traffic will be so heavy that even the Sliema-bound traffic will look like child's play. Poor Maltese driver, he had better drop the idea, and take the traditional and 'easier' means of transport, namely plane, train and coach; and he had better stop somewhere nearer home, say Rimini, or at most Venice!

At the other end, a 'European', an experienced driver no doubt, gleefully studies the well-known routes that lead to the marvellous, sun-bumt South: the autobahn to Bâle, then down beneath the Gotthard and on to the Autostrada del Sole, and the deep, blue sea! But look! The autostrada has already reached deep into Calabria, and there are tolerably good roads on the eastern coast of Sicily. And there is a new *traghetto* to sunny Malta, of which so much has been said and written of late. So the European tourist winds his way down-hill to Malta. But at near-by Taormina he comes to know from a fellow-driver that the ferry service to Malta is quite costly and that traffic in Malta, in spite of Sweden's and Iceland's example, still goes left. Such a dialogue might again take the following poetic form (with apologies to C.G. Rossetti):

*Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?  
Of labour you shall find the sum.  
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?  
Yea, beds for all who come.*

G.M.