

Il-Malti fil-Kunsill tal-Gvern

Mistoqsijiet ta' l-Onor. K. Vassallo

*2nd Sitting of the C. of G. Thursday, 29th Nov. 1945**38. Mr. K. Vassallo asked the Lieutenant-Governor:*

Q. Owing to the ever-increasing output of Maltese literary works could the Hon. Gentleman please approve the increase to £200 of the provision of £100 for yearly subsidies hitherto provided by Malta Govt. for such purposes, and see that such an additional sum be included in the next General Estimates?

A. It is felt that for the time being local authorship is sufficiently encouraged by the provision of funds at the existing rate, but the hon. Member will have an opportunity of moving an increase in the vote under Head 8 Education B. Item 34, when the 1946/47 Estimates are under consideration by the Council.

45. Mr. K. Vassallo asked the Lieutenant-Governor:

Q. Whether the hon. Gentleman will find any objection to the forms for permits from the Building Control Board, as well as from other sources, being printed not only in English but also in Maltese?

A. — There is certainly no objection to any Government form being printed in the English and Maltese languages, and this is the normal course which is followed. In the case of application forms for the issue of licences by the Building Control Board, it does not appear that the use of the English language alone has been the cause of any inconvenience to the persons who were required to fill them in, but the hon. Member's suggestion will be adopted when the forms are reprinted.

*Sitting No. 15 of the C. of G. Friday, 8th February, 1946**517. Mr. K. Vassallo asked the Director of Education:*

Q. — Can the hon. Gentleman say how many Maltese literary classics have been purchased by the Malta Government and distributed to the Elementary Schools Circulating Library of Malta and Gozo from 1938 to date, together with their titles and authors?

A. — The information asked for is being collected. I take the opportunity to point out however that the Circulating Libraries are under the management of the Librarian and my Department only provides premises.

*'Il-Għid il-Kbir' ***Karmenu Vassallo*

DUN KARM — l-oghla għolja Maltija bl-oghla żewġ qċaċet ta' gherf.

RESURREXIT SICUT DIXIT — Hu qam minn bejn l-imwiet kif stqarr hu nnifsu! Fuq dan il-ghamil, fuq din il-grajja, fuq dan l-ghageb ta' l-egħgubijiet li sehħ u twettaq minn bin xebba safja li kienet bintu, Dun Karm — l-oghla poeta nazzjonali tagħna — niseġ u damm poezija li la tasal qatt biex tmūt u anqas biex tindifen mieghu f'qabru; hi tibqa' tghix u ssaltan għal dejjem ma' ismu, fil-waqt li fuq il-herba u l-ghabra ta' fdalijietu mmermra tissokta ttenni tghanni u xxandar rebbieha, sa ma jtulu ż-żmien u l-wisa', il-ġieħ u s-sebħ li kiseb u sthoqq f'hajtu bhala poeta u fl-istess hin qassis.

Kristu qam: qam mhux minn nagħsa hafifa jew raqda twila; imma qam minn hdan il-mewt u reġa' għall-hajja biex qatt ma jmut iżjed — u dan għamlu bis-saħħa tiegħu biss u tiegħu wahdu meta għoġbu u ried jinqeda bil-milja kollha tal-qawwa ta' setgħatu bhala Bniedem u Alla li kien. Kristu ġġieled, issielet u tqabad ma' l-ehrex u l-eqqel għadu li jaf bih il-holqien — il-mewt — u kien l-ewwel u l-ahhar wiehed, anzi l-wahdani, li għelbu u rebħu u xejnu. Mela jekk il-mewt hi l-qerda u t-tmiem ta' kollox għal kull bniedem milqut minnha, għal Kristu kienet bil-maqlub il-bidu u l-ftuħ ta' ġrajja ġdida — ġrajja ta' apoteosi, ta' dawl, ta' sebħ u ta' ġieħ mill-akbar: għax kienet sewwasew il-mewt dik li wriet biċ-ċar u xehdet bid-dieher kif Kristu kien tabilhaqq Alla, Bin Alla li tlaħham fil-guf safi ta' mara, li sfat Omm u baqgħet fl-istess waqt Xebba bla tebgħa, għall-helsien tagħna mill-jasar tad-dnub.

Fuq il-qawma ta' Ġesù Sidna minn bejn l-imwiet ma kinux wiehed u tnejn dawk li għasru u hallew gherfhom mahżuż fuq il-karti. Għad-dinja nisranija din il-ġrajja hekk kbira u tal-ghageb — li l-ebda ġrajja ohra ta' l-imghoddi jew ta' li ġej ma

* Fl-1942 ix-'Xirka għat-Tixrid ta' l-Ilsien Malti' (X.T.I.M.) nediet konkors dwar 'Kritika ta' xi Xogħol Letterarju bil-Malti'. Fost it-tlettax-il studju li ntbagħtu għall-konkors kien hemm wiehed, 'Il-Għid il-Kbir — Dun Karm l-oghla għolja Maltija bl-oghla żewġ qċaċet ta' gherf', mibgħut minn Karmenu Vassallo bl-isem mibdul ta' *Conscript*. Fir-rapport tagħhom tad-19 ta' Novembru, 1942 l-eżaminaturi, P. Pawl Tabone, O.F.M. u A. Cremona, semmew b'tifhir l-istudju ta' Vassallo. Ix-X.T.I.M. ma kenitx f'qagħda li tistampa l-istudji, u xi Ms. tagħhom — fosthom dak ta' Vassallo — baqgħu merfughin għandi billi jien kont is-Segretarju tax-Xirka. Meta ġie li semmejtlu din il-kitba, Vassallo kien iġidli biex il-Ms. nibqa' nżommu jien u 'l quddiem imbagħad nara x'l-ahjar isir bih. Inhoss li huwa xieraq issa li f'dan in-numru speċjali ta' *Il-Malti* jidher l-apprezzament li kien kiteb Vassallo fl-1942 dwar il-poezija ta' Dun Karm 'Il-Għid il-Kbir'.