

# JOURNAL OF MALTESE STUDIES

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## EDITORIAL

### INTRODUCING OUR PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR

THE feature article of this number '*Ethno-Linguistic Aspects of Animals in Malta*' is by Mr. J. Cassar Pullicino, A.L.A. who, though not a member of the University Teaching Staff, has had associations with the University for many years. To him belongs the credit of being the first qualified Librarian of the Royal University of Malta Library in the old historic building in Valletta. Before his time there was no library to speak of. So to him fell the task of reorganising it on scientific lines practically from scratch during his six years of office from 1953 to 1959, when he left the University to resume his substantive post as a civil servant in the Department of Information where his scholarly influence was felt in the number of educational publications published by that Department. For the last few years he has also been one of the Teaching Assistants in the Department of Maltese.

Mr. J. Cassar Pullicino is the recognised authority on Maltese folklore, to the scientific study of which he has devoted most of his life. The lengthy article we are publishing in this number, which could not be produced earlier on account of pressure of work, is one more contribution to the fascinating subject, the scholarly and scientific importance of which is perhaps appreciated more abroad than in Malta which is not yet sufficiently conscious of its heritage. In 1959 he read a paper on 'The study of Maltese Folktales' at the International Congress for Folktale Research held at Kiel.

The University of Malta has recently undertaken a thorough reorganisation of our pre-degree courses based on Mediterranean studies. It is not easy to fit Malta into this picture without someone fully qualified incorporating the heritage of Maltese tradition with the heritage of European

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culture. No one better than Mr. J. Cassar Pullicino, who has specialised in Maltese folklore and social history, can illustrate, and justify, Malta's contribution to the corpus of Mediterranean studies. His material, far from being a re-hash of other people's researches or publications, is largely an original contribution obtained from personal research which in his comparative studies he integrates with the data of previous knowledge. He is one of the rare scholarly civil servants such as one comes across in the British Civil Service who has succeeded in combining the discipline of vocational scholarship with the scrupulous performance of his duties as a Civil Servant now attached to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture since 1965.

Here are some of his main activities as an author of scholarly books and articles and editor of learned reviews besides other articles of local interest in Maltese reviews and in the Press.

## FOLKLORE

### PUBLICATIONS AND FULL-LENGTH STUDIES

*An Introduction to Maltese Folklore* (Progress Press, 1947); *Għana u Taqbil it-Tfal*, a collection of Maltese Nursery Rhymes (Special Number of 'Lehen il-Malti', 1948); *Haga Moħgaga u Tabbil il-Moħħ leħor*, Parts I-IV, a collection of Maltese Riddles (Central Office of Information 1957-59); *Il-Folklore Malti* (Malta University Press, 1960); *Il-Bennejja tal-Folklore Malti* (Malta University Press, 1964); *Notes for a History of Maltese Costume*, offprints from 'Maltese Folklore Review' (1966); *Stejjer ta' Niesna*, a collection of Maltese Folk-Tales (Department of Information, 1967).

### SHORTER STUDIES

*Kif Igħajtu l-Bejjiegħa* (1941-43), a collection of Maltese Street-Cries in 'Lehen il-Malti'; *Tabnin u Għana tan-Nieqa* (1949), a study of Maltese lullabies in 'Lehen il-Malti'; *A Survey of Folklore Research in Malta* (in 'Folklore( - Transactions of the Folk-Lore Society of London', 1947); Various studies on *Maltese Legends and Traditions*, in 'Scientia', Malta (1944-49); *The Inner Life of the People of Malta*, in 'Sunday Times of Malta' (21.9.1958-26.10.1958); *The Study of Maltese Folktales - Paper read at the International Congress for Folktale Research in Kiel and printed in the Proceedings of the Congress Internationale Kongress der Volkserzahlungsforscher in Kiel und Kopenhagen* (19.8.-29.8.1959): *Vortrage und Referate*; *Song and Dance in Malta and Gozo* (1961), offprint for 'Journal of the English Folk-Dance and Song Society'; *200 Maltese Folk-Songs* (jointly with B.Koessler - Ilg) in 'Maltese Folklore Review' (1962);

*La Maddalena in una Leggenda Maltese* (1950), offprint from 'Lares', Firenze; *Canti sulla Passione nelle isole Maltesi* (1954); offprint from 'Lares'; *Usi e Costumi della Settimana Santa a Malta* (1956), offprint from 'Pheonix', Bari; *Alcuni Cibi Antichi Maltesi* (1961) offprint from 'Melita Historica'; *Giovanni Antonio Vassallo e la Poesia Popolare Maltese* (1963) in 'Maltese Folklore Review'.

Edited 'Maltese Folklore Review' (1962-).

## LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

### PUBLICATIONS

*Kitba u Kittieba tal-Malti* – a history of Early Maltese Literature being published by the Royal University of Malta. Vol. I (1962); Vol. II, Parts I and II (1964); Vol. III (ready for the press – 1967); *Kelma Waħda Biss u Kitbiet Oħra*, Collected short stories, sketches and essays (Veritas Press, 1967); Edited (a) *Id-Djalogi ta' De Soldanis*, 18th Century Maltese prose texts (1947); (b) *G. A. Vassallo – Poeziji* an anthology, with a historical introduction of the lyrical poems in Maltese written by a 19th Century Professor of Italian, published in 'Lehen il-Malti' (1951-52); (c) E. Cachia's novelette *Eljeżer u Nestali*, (Veritas Press, 1967); (d) '*Gemgħa Sunetti*' miktuba bil-Malti sa l-1900 (cyclostyled at the Royal University of Malta – 1967).

### SHORTER STUDIES

*Unpublished Maltese Dictionaries* in 'Scientia', Malta (1947); *Social Aspects of Maltese Nicknames* (1956), offprint from 'Scientia' Malta; *Nursery Vocabulary of the Maltese Archipelago* (1957) offprint from 'ORBIS – Bulletin International de Documentation Linguistique', Louvain; (Jointly with Prof. Aquilina) *Lexical Material in Maltese Folklore* (1957), offprint from 'Journal of the Faculty of Arts'; *Linguistic Analysis of Fr. Magri's Folk-Tales* (1961), offprint from 'Journal of Maltese Studies' *G. F. Abela and the Maltese Language* (1961), published in 'G. F. Abela – Essays on the Third Centenary of his Death' (1655-1955); *Voci e Termini Maltesi usati dai Calzolai* (1964), offprint from 'Journal of Maltese Studies'.

## HISTORY

### FULL-LENGTH STUDIES

*Michel Angelo Grima – Insigne Chirurgo Maltese* (1949), offprint from 'Rivista di Storia delle Scienze Mediche e Naturali', Firenze; *Malta in 1575: Social Aspects of an Apostolic Visit* (1956), offprint from 'Melita Historica'. *Canon F. X. Caruana and Maitland's Reform of the Charitable Institutions*, in 'Scientia' 1953-1954; *The University Library 1838-1842*

(1959), offprint from 'Journal of the Faculty of Arts'.

SHORTER STUDIES

*Malta in British Periodicals 1915-1951 - A Select List* (1953) offprint from 'Melita Historica'; *The Re-Opening of the University in 1800* (1958), offprint from 'Journal of the Faculty of Arts'. Edited 'Melita Historica', organ of the 'Malta Historica Society' (1952-61).

Though we have enlarged on the scholarship of Mr. J. Cassar Pullicino as the principal contributor of this Journal devoted to Maltese Studies, we wish to make it clear that we are not less grateful to the other contributors who have helped to vary the material in this issue.