

EDMUND F. SUTCLIFFE S.J. - A POSTSCRIPT

By JOSEPH A. BUTTIGIEG

EDMUND Sutcliffe S.J. is, perhaps, best known as an exegete and he might be remembered for his learned contributions to Biblical scholarship. To the Maltese, however, the name of Sutcliffe is primarily connected with the Maltese language and its grammatical history. A *Grammar of the Maltese Language* first appeared in 1936 and it was the product of Fr. Sutcliffe's deep interest in Oriental languages; he was professor of Hebrew at Heythrop College for many years. It was at that College that he came in contact with several Maltese Jesuit students of Philosophy and Theology. He regularly asked their help in clarifying problems of pronunciation and usage; for, it must be pointed out, Edmund Sutcliffe never came to Malta and could not speak Maltese although he read and wrote it comfortably. He also had many Maltese friends and Heythrop College Library possesses a surprisingly rich Melitensia shelf. A good number of the books and pamphlets to be found there are signed by their authors, such as Dr. Anthony Cremona, Professor Joseph Aquilina, and others.

I never had the good fortune of meeting Fr. Sutcliffe, but I was lucky enough to come across some of his papers among which there were several interesting items. Thus, for example, I came across a few cuttings from the *Malta Chronicle and Imperial Services Gazette* (1935-36) which contain 'Lessons on Maltese Grammar'. Two other very interesting items are one cutting each from *Il-Berka* and *Il-Lehen is-Seuua*. Both these cuttings carry a translation from the English of an article written by Fr. F. Woodlock S.J. It is obvious that Fr. Sutcliffe kept both of them for the purpose of comparison. But, contrary to what one might expect, it was not the actual translations that Sutcliffe wanted to compare. An article published in *Il-Berka* (Thursday, April 27, 1939) is entitled *Is-Sacerdozju ta' Kristu Imghoddi lill-Bnedmin*, and on top of the page Fr. Sutcliffe wrote in red ink: 'The modern - more accurate scrip. [sic.]' The *Lehen is-Seuua* (April 26, 1939) cutting is headlined: *Is-sacerdozju ta' Cristu u is-sehem li għandhom minnu il bnedmin*; and here, Fr. Sutcliffe's remark, also in red ink, reads: 'The old scrip. Italian.' These two cuttings and the cryptic remarks scribbled on them cannot help reminding us of strong controversies which are now little more than history.

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Among the same papers I came across two other fascinating items. First of all, there was a letter written to Fr. Sutcliffe by an Irishman, Francis Walter Doheny, which carried suggestions for improving or expanding Sutcliffe's Maltese Grammar. I will reproduce the entire content of the letter because it is something of a collector's piece. I do not feel sufficiently qualified to evaluate and criticize the suggestions put forward by Francis Doheny but I may say that they seem very impractical and they reflect an attitude or approach to grammar and the teaching of language which would nowadays be regarded as old and obsolete. Naturally, it would have been marvellous, if possible, to find out what Fr. Sutcliffe himself thought of these suggestions. But I will expound a little on this in a moment.

The other item, definitely the most interesting of all, is Fr. Sutcliffe's own copy of his Maltese Grammar. This contains among its pages a few small papers with notes in Sutcliffe's own handwriting. These notes were, most probably, intended to be incorporated in a later edition of *A Grammar of the Maltese Language*. Since such an edition never came to print, the publication of these short notes should be of considerable interest to the Maltese scholar.

At this point we had better come back to the letter of Francis Walter Doheny to Fr. Edmund Sutcliffe. This letter, which is typed rather untidily and with many corrections in ink, consists in six quarto sheets typed on both sides. The first two sheets consist in a letter proper. The other four deal each with a different topic. This letter is reproduced here in its entirety.

MALTESE ORTHOGRAPHY AND SOME KINDRED MATTERS

(4 *Encs.*)

Thomastown,
Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

15th September, 1939

The Rev. Edmund F. Sutcliffe, S.J.,
Professor of Old Testament Exegesis
and Hebrew,
Heythrop College,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, England

Reverend Dear Sir,

I have lately been in contact with your 'Grammar of the Maltese Language' (Oxford University Press), which I am sure I am correctly as-

sessing as a very learned and clear setting-out of the structure and details of this distinctive and interesting minor European tongue.

The sad outbreak of War has made somewhat unreasonable the matters with which I seek to trouble you in this letter and enclosures. Even if, however, as is quite possible, opportunity of handling them is effectively suspended till the blessings of Peace return, they then will still be of 'live' interest, and with my personalia of health, etc., probably much more uncertain than yours, and your facilities of transferring them to some other relevant quarter, if failure of health or like personal circumstances arose (as I hope very much will not, over a span of many years), it seems preferable to communicate with you, despite the war and its direct and indirect difficulties.

The Maltese Literary Association mentioned in the Preface (p. vi) to your Grammar, if still current, as it doubtless is – this letter being subject to censorship, it seems preferable not to give its name in its little-known (Maltese) language, as the words would be of unknown meaning, and I thus refer to it by English words describing it – would probably be a very suitable quarter to handle the subject of both the 'Orthography' and the '500 Most Frequent Words' memoranda enclosed.

It would seem highly desirable to have the '500 Words' matter handled for Latin also, and I am sure that the authoritativeness, on matters of that language, of some Catholic bodies in Rome, with which you would have special facilities of direct or indirect communication or contact, would be recognised in all quarters.

The details set out in the 'Orthography' memorandum correlate with corresponding needs and opportunities of supplying them, to be found (in widely varying degrees) among most of the Latin Alphabet European languages, Polish (it is sadly seasonable, or unseasonable, to note) being the European language for which this holds good in maximum degree.

The superiority of 'diacritical' letters over digraphs, such as ch, cz, ty, &c, is a practically 'won-out' fact, in East Central Europe, where the former have been in course of superseding the latter for about 100 years past (gaining place in Latvian, only about 1920). The superiority of 'borrowed' letters over diacritically marked ones is just as real, but as yet not recognised, though it has in its favour, as a quasi-'possessory' circumstance, the widespread dislike of persons of English mother-tongue, as a whole, to use diacritically marked letters in English.

The Cyrillic sign for G (suggested for Maltese Ghain in the memorandum), with down-stem for small-letter, ought to be made the ordinary sign for G g (displacing these latter forms, of which the capital is too similar

to C, and the small-letter very clumsy), in all (or without waiting for 'all', in any) Latin-Alphabet European languages. Further, though less pronouncedly, the Cyrillic letter for I i is a better form (И и), and might reasonably supersede I i in all or any European Latin-Alphabet languages.

Apart from the anomolous use in Hungarian of S for the English Sh-sound (and Sz for the ordinary S (Ss) sound), Maltese X x is far the best symbol for the sound in any Latin Alphabet language (and better than the Cyrillic letter, with its 3-bar clumsiness, III III). I was interested, then, to see your mention of an East Anglian scribe, centuries ago, having proposed its use in English for sh (xal for shall, &c.). X x is, however, needed in various Latin-Alphabet tongues, with its Greek and Cyrillic value (the Ch in Scots and German 'Loch' sound, including the softening of it in German, Irish, &c., to the 'ich' sound, when the contact vowel is not an A or an O). It would also be a better first-step change for K-sounding Ch, in English, French, etc., (words of Greek, &c., origin) than (as a first-step) the more severely phonetic K. Extension of Maltese use of X x for the Sh-sound to any other language would thus be deprecable, but the best sign for it (superior to any now in use, other than Maltese X, and ranking at least equal with that) would be Greek Sigma (capital shape, in reduced size, for small-letters). As a matter of typography, Sigma (capital shape) is a handsome letter, that would add to the beauty of a printed page, especially in the languages in which the Sh-sound is far commoner than it is in English.

In all these matters, printed forms alone should be considered, anent [sic.] choice of letter-forms for borrowing. If current non-Latin form is too like some Latin letter, or otherwise not available, a suitable written form can always be trusted to evolve itself following adoption in print, within the wide limits of permissible divergence from printed form, of which printed and written small-letter L and S are examples. Until this happens, at worst, current written orthography of the sound could be continued, and change to new symbol made in printed form alone.

The wide time-range of work in this subject-matter is shown by the circumstances that the diacritical letters, which have been ousting digraphs in Europe during the past 100 years, winning adoption in Latvian, as already stated, as lately as 1920, were originated by Jan Hus over 500 years ago.

The high standard of your 'Grammar' makes it, I think, permissible, without any shadow of unagreeableness, to bring to your notice some points of which you may be glad to have note, re a second edition, mainly a suggestion of an appendix re Semitic gutturals generally, as aid to correct notion of Maltese Ghain and Q.

A plain postcard acknowledgement of receipt (sc., bare acknowledgement, without any expression of opinion or undertaking to make any use or transmission of enclosures) would much oblige, owing to uncertainties of safe arrival of communications under War conditions, &c.,

I apologise for length and all other shortcomings.

I remain,
Reverend Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Francis Walter Doheny.

PS. I should much appreciate your preserving for possible future reference the enclosures, instead of destroying them, even if no handling of them seems reasonable or practicable to you.

Following are the four memoranda accompanying the above letter.

I. THE FIVE HUNDRED MOST FREQUENT WORDS (IN ANY LANGUAGE)

In recent years, the attention of those concerned with the teaching of languages to persons of other mother-tongues ('foreign languages'), and with various other special aspects of language, has been increasingly directed to the practical importance of the fact, which finds place for almost all languages, that a limited number (say, 500) of specially common words in a language occur more frequently than all its thousands of other words, collectively.

'Basic English', if not actually originating from advertence of this fact, closely correlates with it. A 'basic' (limited vocabulary) form of any language, however, necessarily includes, besides the (say) 500 commonest words, a large number (say, 300) of such other words as God, man, woman, child, sun, moon, bread, butter, milk, nose, ear, lung, horse, dog, blue, green, heavy, light, marry, die, (be) born, believe, win, lose, eat, drink &c., however far they are from being among the first five (or eight) hundred in frequency of occurrence.

In propounding the 500 (or other settled number) of most frequent words in any language, it should be quite clear from the outset that absolute, metaphysical certainty as to which words have, mathematically, the greatest frequency of occurrence, written or oral, or both, over the whole field of use of the language, even within a time limit of, say, fifty years back, is attainable only by the Omniscience of the Deity. The practical thing is to make as careful and painstaking a selection as possible, and to have some list, so drawn up, with or without amendments from some other source, made the authoritative list for that language, with the

sanction of some authority relevant to it, such as 'L'Academie Française' for French. Such list might preferably be divided into the 250 most frequent words and the 250 next most frequent. If, in actuality, to the omniscient eyes of the Deity, some fifty or more non-included words have an even ten to twenty per cent (on average) greater frequency than some equal number of included words, and some similar misassessment of relative frequency arises as between some of the first 250 words and some of the other 250, no essential harm arises: the list, despite its theoretical inaccuracy, remains an important aid to the learning of that language as a foreign tongue, and for various other practical uses. Its 500 words can, for instance, be taught as a matter-of-course part of an outset or first-half-year course, and the words accordingly omitted from vocabularies of texts, 'readers', &c., in that language.

A main preliminary to the framing of any such list is to settle what shall be regarded as a separate word. Each language naturally requires separate treatment in this respect. For English, it seems best to treat he, his, him, they, them, this, these, child, children, man, men, woman, women, am, is, are, was, were, be, been, do, did, done, see, saw, seen, (&c., &c.) – even does and says, because of the shortened vowel-sound, as compared with do and say – as, all, separate words. For Latin, sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt (and so on) seem best treated as separate words (but of course not all necessarily among the 500 most frequent). On the other hand, fuit (third person singular as the most frequent form) might preferably represent the whole of its tense, fui, fuisti, &c., as its members are regular inter se, the frequency of all six, collectively, in 1,000,000 or other counted number of words, being the criterion for inclusion or non-inclusion of 'fuit' (and so, for any similar word) among the 500.

II. SUGGESTIONS, CORRIGENDA, &C., FOR A 2ND EDITION OF 'GRAMMAR OF THE MALTESE LANGUAGE'

1. (General). References (mostly in 'Vocabulary') to comments, &c., on a word in the body of the book, are very hard to trace, owing to the section numbers being noted only at the head of each (usually many-paged) 'section'. If every tenth page had at page-top the number of the section dealt with on the page, it would be very helpful.
2. Some of the Hebrew and Arabic words cited for comparison, &c., are not translated, e.g., p. 172, Rem.
3. P. 66. Chapter V has no general heading, showing that it deals with verbs.

4. P. 72. (ii) 'The auxiliary vowel may be a or i.' This seems to mean a for some verbs, i for others, not a and i, as alternative forms, for any one verb of the relevant form. This might reasonably be stated expressly.

5. P. 73. Second last line of sec. 39. What radicals are 'homogeneous' for purposes of the rule stated?

6. P. 130. III. ii. 'gerger to grow,' - ? misprint for 'growl.'

7. P. 155 (g) The wording seems based on either (1) 'the open vowel a,' (in qsamna, &c.) being long in se, or (2) its being lengthened by addition of -h. The shift of accent to last syllable in qasmuh, qsamtuh, qasmuk, shown in the table on p. 156 invites a similar comment.

For students of the language, ignorant of the actual fact, in particular, express assertion of whichever is the actual fact of the two numbered (1) and (2) just above, seems necessary.

In this connection, it may be suggested as within the range of the book, to include a short note on the rule for accent (stress) in Arabic, in a 2nd edition.

(Over? what part of the whole field of Arabic), the rule (as seen stated by writer, to best of recollection) seems to be that syllables may be (1) light; (2) middle; or (3) heavy. (A) A heavy final syllable attracts the stress. (B) If final syllable is not heavy, stress is on penultimate, unless (sc. as exception to (B) but not to (A) i.e., not derogating from heavy final syllable always attracting the stress) both penultimate and ante-penultimate are 'light', in which case stress is on ante-penultimate.

Correctness or otherwise of above statement, and field of its application in different forms, &c., of Arabic, and apt terms of expression of difference between heavy, middle and light syllables will of course be known to the Rev. Author.

8. P. 2 Rem. 2. Wording of latter part seems adjustable to 'a following word, if beginning with a vowel, even though closely united with the preceding word,' (&c.)

9. More than one reference is made to 'final aspirate h,' but no account is given of its pronunciation. This, per Miss Butcher's book, seems to be like the Ch in Scots Gaelic-German 'Loch'.

10. A short note definitely or conjecturally accounting for the frequent strange change of a into ie would be interesting.

III. MALTESE ORTHOGRAPHY

The Maltese Alphabet could be very neatly, &c., freed from diacritically marked letters (other than H h) as follows.

1. Ч (Cyrillic symbol for the English-Spanish Ch in 'church' sound)

instead of current Ć ć (for same sound).

2. Δ Δ (Greek Delta, D, with minuscule same shape as majuscule, in smaller size), for Ġ ġ (sounding as English J j, Dz dz (Dž dž), in East Central European languages).

3. Γ Γ (Greek Gamma, G, with minuscule same shape as majuscule, in smaller size, as in Cyrillic Alphabet, but with a down-stem (sc., like p, &c.) added, desirable even as a Cyrillic letter, and as a Latin-Alphabet letter reasonably necessary, to differentiate from small-letter r), for Gh gh.

4. З з (Cyrillic Z z), or Ss 'Spiegebild' (mirror-reversal) of Latin Z z, or one of these forms as majuscule and the other as minuscule, for Ž ž. It would, however, be preferable to use Z z for its normal European value (outside German, Italian, and Spanish), at present represented in Maltese by Ż ż, and to use the new sign here suggested for the much less common sound of current Z z, i.e., the close-blent Ts sound, which Z z has usually in Italian, and uniformly in German.

Assuming H h continues in use as now for silent H, no suitable letter form (sc., without diacritical mark) is available for H h, that is to say no borrowable form, which can, without arbitrariness, be made to represent the sound of ordinary aspirate H. If, however, Maltese were to adopt Greek Sigma (S) (majuscule, in reduced size, for minuscule also) for the English Sh-sound, instead of current X x, X x would then be available to represent the aspirate H sound, as in Serbian in which, before a vowel, its etymological sound of Ch in (Scots, Gaelic and German) 'Loch' is worn-down to a simple aspirate H sound (Croatian and Slovence use H h for both sounds, the Ch-in-Loch etymological sound, and the actual H-sound to which it has worn down in these languages, when immediately preceding a vowel).

X x is, however, so frequent in Maltese, that substitution of another letter for it, and diversion of X x itself to supersede present H h, represent a radical and in practice difficult departure from existing orthography, for attainment of which it would be regrettable to delay the other changes suggested above. Accordingly, the substantive proximate suggestions herein made are to be taken as contemplating retention of H h, and aiming only at the clearing-away of the other diacritical letters (as stated at outset).

IV. MALTESE GH AND Q

The Semitic guttural sounds and the Maltese modifications of them are so strange and difficult to persons of Aryan mother-tongue (at any rate,

to those whose mother-tongue is English) and they occur so frequently in Maltese that a short excursus or appendix on the subject be a welcome addition to a second edition of 'A Grammar of the Maltese Language.'

Such excursus, while giving specially detailed and helpful directions for the correct pronunciation (articulation) of Gh and Q, would also note, and differentiate from one another (and from Maltese Ghain and Q)

1. (Simple) Alif (heard before an initial vowel in German, also?);
2. 'Alif with hamza' (which, according to 'Additional Notes' on page 281, is the same sound as Hebrew aleph);
3. Ghrain² (a uvular articulation of R, which is said to have vogue among some Frenchmen and Germans, in pronouncing R in their respective languages, being called in French 'R grasseye').
4. General Semitic Ghain;
5. General Semitic Qaf (Qof) (deep guttural);
6. Maltese modified or worn-down form of Ghain;
7. Maltese modified or worn-down form of Qaf.

'Sharply parting the roots of the tongue from the wall of the throat' (the description of Maltese Q given on p. 7 of the 'Grammar') seems to the writer hereof a physical impossibility, and Miss Butcher's 'an articulate pause' conveys no meaning, though her alternative description, comparing it to the 'suppressed cackling of a hen' is not unhelpful. (Qaqa is Maltese for 'cackle'.)

It seems curious (and might perhaps be useful to explain) how a sound which 'has lost its affinity with k' ('Grammar' p. 7) comes to represent not only the Semitic Qaf, but also, in some words, ordinary Arian K (hard C), e.g., qampiena (bell), Isqof (bishop), in both of which, of course, the sound is, etymologically, an ordinary K (hard C) sound.

Description on p. 6, of (general) Semitic Ghain, as 'produced by a sharp opening of the vocal chords,' seems to writer hereof not clearly differentiated from 'alif', which he takes to be a 'crisper', more sudden opening of the vocal chords (involved in uttering a vowel sound) than the ordinary English articulation of initial vowels.

Miss Butcher's representation of Maltese Ghain as an 'ah' sound or articulation, preceding the substantive vowel of the syllable, seems to writer hereof to convey a fair idea of the articulation of Ghain, at least, of what Maltese and general Semitic Ghain have in common, though it throws no light on the difference between them.

Anything that can be said, in any such excursus or appendix as suggested, on the articulation, &c., of the Semitic gutturals above-noted, not occurring in Maltese, would probably be most helpful to a correct ap-

prehension and articulation of the worn-down forms of two of them, which do occur (and as very frequent sounds), in Maltese, Gh and Q.

(Finis)

Although I will not comment on the content of the above letter, I feel it important to point out that Fr. Sutcliffe seems to have written a reply to it on October 8th (this date is scribbled in pencil on the top right hand corner of the first sheet). I did my best to recover Sutcliffe's reply but all efforts proved futile. I was told by Fr. Bernard Leeming S.J., a very close companion of Fr. Sutcliffe's and his literary executor, that Sutcliffe, though methodical, was never a practically efficient character. He never kept copies of the letters he wrote. So, I wrote to the parish priest of Thomastown in an attempt to contact Doheny himself. Unfortunately, Doheny was no longer alive, but the parish priest, Fr. Michael Carrol, sent me some very interesting, if not so useful, information. Here is the relevant part of his letter to me.

Parochial House,
Thomastown,
Co. Kilkenny.
27-10-69

Dear Mr. Buttigieg,

In reply to your query of the 15th re Francis Doheny I am afraid I have to confess a rather disappointing search for information.

Francis Doheny died here in Thomastown in what was then called the 'County Home', now St. Columba's Hospital, on 13/2/62 at the age of 62 (I think). He was an utter genius but also completely impractical. He qualified as a solicitor, worked for a time in Somerset House till they got rid of him somehow. He then practised, if that is the right word, in Kilkenny his native town, but he always saw so many loopholes in the law that he argued as much for the opposition as for his client and his cases were interminable, so he ended up a pauper and spent about the last 20 years of his life here.

He spent those years studying all kinds of abstruse problems, legal, linguistic, etc., and corresponded with all kinds of people. He fell out with all relations, and I have not been able to discover any close surviving relatives. He refused even to be buried in family plot.

All this meant, of course, that if he made a will - and so far I do not know that he did - he had nothing to will except his books and papers, and no one among the few friends he had left felt sufficiently interested

or authorised to take charge of them. So they were packed in a few boxes and left there for some time, till a change of administration or one of those periodical clean-up and renovation jobs got under way or something got them moved and apparently dumped as waste paper. This is an assumption. No one there now seems to know what really happened to them.

So I do not see much hope for the recovery of any of his papers at this stage.

Nearly all the few friends who maintained contact with him and especially those who shared some of his interests have now passed on too. I am thinking particularly of my old Professor of Greek, Mr. Peter Byrne with whom Mr. Doheny corresponded. He was interested in Maltese too as he spent a good while during the first world war as an interpreter there...

But you are not interested so much in Mr. Doheny as in Fr. Sutcliffe and his reply to Doheny's letter! And except a miracle occurs I do not see much hope of its recovery...

That is, I am afraid, all I can do for you. I never knew Mr. Doheny myself, though I met him once when I called to see a patient in the Co. Home. I have been stationed here only for the last four years.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Carroll.

This leaves us with the last item of Fr. Sutcliffe's papers; namely, the notes found in his own copy of *A Grammar of the Maltese Language*. I will, naturally, reproduce them in full, indicating the two pages between which every note was found. Between pages 18 & 19:

Gram. p. 19

bieba tal-hobz = crumb of bread from Arab. لُبَابُ lubabu.

Lane gives only لُبَابُ = fine flour or meal

Freitag " " لُبَابُ = medulla (panis)

Hava " لُبَابُ = fine flour

Dessoulavy p. 58: لِبَابَةُ (Algerian)

ink = linka (some say inka)

orange = laringa (some say aringa)

jasar = slavery

jassar = to enslave.

Between pages 24 & 25:

Maltese Gram. p. 24

add qattiel (Cremona)

harrâ " "

sajjied " fr. sâd

habbiez " "

żebbiegh " "

sensâl (Cremona. [also Falz. sensiel] fr. sansil

Between pages 52 & 53:

Maltese Gram. p. 53

(c) Similarly in Hebrew, Joüon ≠91d&e.

(b) " " " " ≠126h who calls it accusative of local
determination.

Between pages 56 & 57:

Maltese Gram. p. 57

add rieqed (Cremona)

nieżel (" "

really pres. part.

add hâfi (Cremona) fr. hefa

miexi " "

hâmi " " hema

Between pages 72 & 73:

Alla jaf x'inhu jagħmel = God knows what He is doing

Alla jaf x'inhu l-ahjar = " " what is best

p. 73 Sh'd be hemez, jehmez...

p. 135 stieden. Aquil. Structure p. 83 says from عَن

[The Arabic put in by Sutcliffe, here, is incorrect. He must have mis-
read the transliteration in *Structure* - it should be from أَرْن , with
hamza.]

Between pages 98 & 99:

p. 98 add swied, jiswied to grow black Falzon, Cremona

p. 99 add djieq, jidjieq, to become narrow Falzon, Cremona

xjieh, jixjieh, to age " "

mlich, jimlich, to become brackish " "

Between pages 114 & 115:

add ghawwem (Cremona)

hawwel (" "

dewwem (" "

dewweb (Cremona
 ghajjar ("
 fawwar ("
 dewwaq ("
 rejjah ("

Between pages 120 & 121:

Maltese Gram.

p. 120. ghema, jaghmi, moghbi (Cremona)

bena jibni بَنَى

beka jibki بَكَى

gera jigri جَرَى

mexa jimxi مَشَى

kera jikri كَارَى 3F

lewa jilwi to twist لَوَى

fela jifli " scrutinise فَلَى

feda jifdi redeem فَدَى

tena jitni fold شَنَى

xewa jixwi roast شَوَى

hara jahti حَاطَى transgress, sin

rema jarmi رَمَى

heba heba imp. = Dozy gives vulg. حَبَى

hefa not in Cara حَفَى have the feet, hoofs worn by walking

hela

hema hema imp. = to heat (dialect)

qeda فَضَى

qela قَلَا and قَلَى (but cf. أَهَى appar also =

ghewa jaghwi (1) scream, cry out ع F

(2) instigate against ع F

beda jibda

nesa jinsa نَسَى

mela

sewa, jiswa سَوَى

qara jaqra قَرَأَ

9 different classes

[It is not clear to which
 'classes' Sutcliffe is refer-
 ring here.]

hara jahra حَرَى
 ragha jirgha رَغَى pasture
 dara jidra ضَرَى Dozy Lane accustom self
 dagha jidgha دَغَى curse
 رَعَا o = curse

أَرَعَى رَعَيْتُ
 أَرَعُو رَعَوْتُ = curse

reha jerhi Dozy رخو & رخى, Lane رَخِيَ must be a dialect form
 abandon

hefa jahfi = wear, waste consume F
 " jahfa = be barefooted, wear threshold F
 *ghola joghla to raise up F
 ghoxa joghxa to faint F

cf. Il-Malti 1939 p. 7d

hola " " " " 48a

Between pages 124 & 125:

Maltese Gram. p. 125

add saddad fr. sadd (Cremona)

raqqaq fr. raqq (")

These discoveries among Edmund Sutcliffe's papers may be small and rather disconnected. Still, I am sure that they will prove themselves to be very interesting to the Maltese enthusiast. Nevertheless, apart from the academic interest, these papers contain a human element which fascinates me as much as anything else, because it is a bridge between the present and the past, between me and a lover of the Maltese language who is dead but also present thanks to his writings.