

Nicknames in Nineteenth Century Gozo

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The use of nicknames has been prevalent in Malta throughout the ages possibly dating as far back as the Arab Period. Broadly Maltese nicknames have been subdivided into a variety of forms [1]. The present study attempts to list the nicknames prevalent among the Gozo population in the late nineteenth century. The information was collected from the patient identification notes recorded in the Register of Admissions and Discharges for Lying-in Women at Victoria Hospital for the period 29th March 1876 to 30th April 1893 [2].

These registers record a total of 396 admissions to the maternity wards of the hospitals. These women have been shown to come from the lower socio-economic strata of the Gozitan population [3]. A total of 218 entries [55.1%] include the person's nickname together with the given forename and surname of the individual. There does not appear to be any nickname entry following the 25th March 1886, the inclusion of the nickname being apparently dependent on the whims of the admitting medical officer. During the period under review, a total of 202 individuals were identified by their nickname, but 16 cases were illegible while a number had multiple admissions thus reducing the total number of identified nicknames to 155. An alphabetical list of the identified nicknames follows, though a number marked with a ? are misspelt. All were preceded by the particle *ta'* (of).

NOTES

1. J. Cassar Pullicino. Social Aspects of Maltese Nicknames. *Studies in Maltese Folklore*. Malta University Press, 1992, p.123-140
2. *Register of Admissions and Discharges for Lying-in Women, Victoria Hospital, 29 March 1876 t 30 April 1892*, 2 vols. Vol II commenced on 29 March 1876 ending on 7 May 1884, +220p. (alternate pagination); Vol III commenced on 13 May 1884 ending on 30 April 1893, +198p. (alternate pagination). Manuscript in author's holding
3. C. Savona-Ventura. A Maternity Unit in Gozo a hundred years ago. *Maltese Medical Journal* 1995, VII(I):p.55-61; C. Savona-Ventura. Giving birth in 19th century Gozo 1876-1893. *Storja* 2001, p.52-66

A		C	D
1/77 Achcer	(?acer)	12/79 Cacu	06/80 Dobra (?)
B		12/76 Calcidonin	E
19/81 Baeva		20/77 Calura	09/82 Eksea
22/85 Bajju	(?)	18/82 Carna	(?)
03/80 Balal		02/77 Carnha	
13/78 Besciesia		02/82 Cascuza	F
02/79 Bezzina	(?)	07/80 Causu	05/79 Farfett
18/76 Brieret		20/78 Cheral	12/83 Felici
06/77 Brunu		09/78 Chischito	11/77 Ferhana
03/81 Bugian	(?)	04/84 Cinfa	04/78 Flusu
		15/85 Cini	05/84 Faqqar
		30/81 Cormla	04/85 Fortin
		14/83 Criterna	20/81 Fortuna
		13/85 Cumbos	24/78 Futur
		24/81 Cuschieri	

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<p>G.</p> <p>01/79 Gadura (?)</p> <p>32/81 Gagu (?)</p> <p>22/80 Gandu (?)</p> <p>16/84 Geseran (?)</p> <p>25/80 Giacchi (?Gjakk)</p> <p>08/77 Giacob</p> <p>15/83 Giaebri (?)</p> <p>02/81 gakbin</p> <p>04/77 Gahan</p> <p>06/78 Giannicu (?)</p> <p>11/82 Ginan (?)</p> <p>22/76 Ghingher (?Ginger)</p> <p>08/82 Giondu (?)</p> <p>01/85 Girbi (?Girba)</p> <p>19/77 Gisola (?)</p> <p>20/76 Gurdien</p> <p>15/77 Goga</p> <p>08/85 Gombor (?)</p> <p>02/83 Gora (?)</p> <p>04/83 Gostura (?)</p> <p>17/76 Gwan</p> <p>G</p> <p>26/80 Galetta</p> <p>01/80 Gandlora</p> <p>13/83 Gazzu</p>	<p>H</p> <p>05/78 Hangun (?)</p> <p>14/77 Harbux</p> <p>14/82 Hili</p> <p>I</p> <p>20/84 L-inglis</p> <p>K</p> <p>09/79 Karrani</p> <p>14/80 Channu (?Kanna)</p> <p>11/76 Charie (?Kari)</p> <p>07/79 Cheiet (?Kejjet)</p> <p>14/78 Chis (?Kies)</p> <p>12/87 Cloru (?Kloru)</p> <p>03/79 Cola (?Kola)</p> <p>L</p> <p>15/79 Lafrena (?)</p> <p>08/83 Lagari (?)</p> <p>17/84 Lalg (?)</p> <p>24/84 Lali (?Lalli)</p> <p>20/80 Lazzru</p> <p>11/83 Licu (?Lici)</p> <p>22/84 Liximena (?)</p> <p>03/83 Loranielli (?)</p>	<p>M</p> <p>29/81 Maeduish (?)</p> <p>13/82 Maeru (?Majru)</p> <p>12/81 Marden</p> <p>10/78 Martina</p> <p>06/83 Masica (?)</p> <p>19/78 Masieh (?)</p> <p>01/78 Massi (?)</p> <p>22/81 Mastos (?)</p> <p>07/77 Melliehi</p> <p>08/81 Melha</p> <p>09/84 Miru</p> <p>25/81 Moncora (?)</p> <p>16/80 Mosnia (?Mozna)</p> <p>08/78 Munit (?Munita)</p> <p>N</p> <p>16/78 Naduria (?Nadur)</p> <p>14/85 Nahli</p> <p>16/76 Nanas (?)</p> <p>Gh</p> <p>09/77 Ghaghi (?G)</p> <p>27/83 Ghigha (?Ghaja)</p> <p>0985 Ghistan (?)</p> <p>15/84 Ghnella (?Ghonnella)</p>
<p>P</p> <p>04/82 Partazan (?)</p> <p>23/76 Patri *</p> <p>02/80 Peixu *</p> <p>26/78 Perin (?)</p> <p>29/83 Perisci (?)</p> <p>15/78 Pertina (?)</p> <p>10/81 Petit</p> <p>10/77 Pian</p> <p>17/81 Pieleleicu (?)</p> <p>11/81 Pina (?Pinu)</p> <p>12/78 Preicet (?Precett)</p> <p>R</p> <p>12/85 Riehlu (?Rhielu)</p>	<p>S</p> <p>26/83 Saghi (?)</p> <p>04/80 Savier</p> <p>07/83 Savina</p> <p>07/81 Scaland (?)</p> <p>22/87 Scandarett (?)</p> <p>06/82 Scei (?)</p> <p>28/81 Scela (?Skola)</p> <p>27/80 Scifina (?)</p> <p>11/84 Segruit (?Segwit)</p> <p>23/80 Seudi (?Sewdi)</p> <p>31/81 Signura</p> <p>19/76 Sipitani (?)</p> <p>09/80 Sneiter (?Snieter)</p> <p>33/81 Suin (?Sjuna)</p> <p>T</p> <p>02/78 Torek (?Torok)</p> <p>21/81 Tropper (?Troppu)</p> <p>24/80 Tuna</p>	<p>V</p> <p>22/78 Valentina</p> <p>13/79 Vaness (?Vanessa)</p> <p>X</p> <p>07/84 Xuereb</p> <p>Z.</p> <p>15/76 Zabbetta</p> <p>14/76 Zaru (?)</p> <p>11/78 Zbuna (?)</p> <p>03/77 Zebbieh</p> <p>16/77 Ziri</p> <p>03/78 Znaifa (?)</p> <p>21/78 Zoru (?Zorru)</p> <p>17/80 Zott (?)</p> <p>23/78 Zunzan</p> <p>09/81 Zuppet (?)</p> <p>03/82 Sniet (?Znied)</p>