

The words of the eminent Italian scholar underline, if anything, the need of studying the Maltese material against the wider background of international or Mediterranean folklore. If more scholars will come forward to undertake the analysis of our folk-narrative material, we will be able to classify the motifs and the tale-types, as suggested by Toschi, in accordance with internationally recognised systems of classification. Such work, however, pre-supposes material help or encouragement from institutions or universities that is sadly lacking so far.

Cremona is now in his 92nd year. His lasting merit as a folklore scholar is that he has studied and compared on a scientific basis the material collected by Fr. Magri and others. Very few such studies have been made in Malta. In his work Cremona leans mostly on similarities with Sicily and Italy, while Fr. Magri was more inclined towards the East, intent as he was on the Phoenician theory which has since been debunked. Other comparative studies awaiting the attention of scholars should cover Calabria, Spain, North Africa from Egypt to Morocco (which Stumme has tentatively illustrated), as well as Syria and Lebanon. Cremona has done his part. Let others carry on the good work on the foundations laid by Magri, Cremona, Ilg and Stumme.

J.C.P.

Obituaries

ANTHONY CREMONA, D.Lit. (1880-1972)

The death of Dr Anthony (Ninu) Cremona on January 4, 1972 a few months before attaining the age of 92 removes a highly respected scholar and man of letters from the scene of Maltese studies. The appreciation of his contribution to Maltese folklore studies which appears elsewhere in this issue had already gone to the printers when we heard the sad news of his death which, though not unexpected, nevertheless came as a shock to his many friends in all walks of life.

There is little that I can add to my review of his work. He was deeply moved when, on the 28th March, 1968, the Malta Folklore Society, of which he was a Hon. President, honoured him with a commemorative talk on his folklore studies and with the first public showing of a documentary film on his life and activities produced by the Staff of the Department of Information.

Students of Maltese folklore owe a great debt to Mr Cremona and it is hoped that the esteem in which he was justly held in academic circles in his lifetime will take a tangible form by the publication of his folklore studies in one volume — hopefully on the initiative of the Royal University of Malta which conferred on him the honorary degree of D.Lit. in 1960.

Miss VIOLET ALFORD (1881-1972)

Miss Alford's death on February 16, 1972 brought to an end an exceptionally long and active life. Her valuable contribution to the study of the dance tradition and folk customs of Western Europe has been placed on record by Douglas Kennedy in the Winter 1971 number of *Folklore*, to which was appended a list of more than 100 books and other publications.

Her first introduction to Malta was through her brother, the Rev. Canon Leslie Alford, who served as Army Chaplain with the local Garrison from 1912-1915 and who had a sizeable collection of lantern slides of the Island. In 1946 she contributed a brief comparative note on *The Maltese Parata* in the *Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society* (Vol. 5, No. 1). On the 3rd May, 1960, during a brief visit to Malta she delivered a lecture, *Folk Dance and Drama*, in the University Theatre, Valletta, which later appeared in the *Journal of the Faculty of Arts* (Vol. II, No. 1, 1960). In her lecture she was able to give more elaborate comparative data on both *Il-Parata* and *Il-Maltiija*.

In August, 1960, on behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the EFDSS* she invited the undersigned to send a contribution to the *Journal*, which appeared in 1962 under the title *Dance and Song in Malta*. Miss Alford welcomed the publication of the *Maltese Folklore Review* in 1962 and was a firm believer in the idea of a folklore centre in Malta. She also encouraged the present writer to follow up her own researches on *The Cat Saint* with particular reference to the cult of St Barbara and St Agatha in Malta.

J.C.P.

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