

C, ċ	El (Eem)	Għajja, ġempel
D, d	De (Daf, dżal dħal thya!)	Dahar Dax dardar
E, e	E, alef and va)	Eef, xēna
F, f	Effe (Fa)	Felfel
G, ġ	GeV (Giem)	ġellewż
G, g	Għa (Għam Għinnel) }	giddieb għandoffle
Għ, ġħi	Għajnejn	Għajnejn, tagħinna
H, h	He (Ha)	Deku, fiha
#, k	Ethe (Ha)	Hobż, hafer
I, i	I. i. ī (Alef, and va)	Ixtu bix
J, ġ	Ja	Bjar
K, k	Ka (kaf)	Kelb
L, l.	Ell (Lam)	Léjla
M, m	Emme (Mim)	Mejda
N, n	Emme (num)	Mogħas
O, o	O (Alef & voe)	Amor
P, p	Pe	Patri
Q, q	Qu (Qaf)	Qadim
R, r	Ere (Ra)	Râs
S, s	Esse (Tsav) sin, sād)	Silġ sūq
T, t	Te (Tha, tsav)	Tid ta'
U, u	Wa and Va	Suħba
V, v	Ve	Vemmen
W		Waltu

# IL-MALTI

il-mixja sal-gharfien  
uffiċċiali

mill-21 ta' Frar sat-30 ta' April 2023

Il-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arkeoloġija

il-Belt Valletta

A, a	a (alef)	Anda, sâr
B, b	Be (Ba)	Bejt, bkel
č, č	Če (Čim)	Čajta, čempel
D, d	De (Dal, džal) dhal (ħha)	Dahar Dâr dardar
E, e	E, alef and va)	Elf, xêna
F, f	Effe (Fa)	Felfel
Ğ, ġ	Ğe (Ğim)	Ğellewîz
G, g	Ğa (Ğam ğħmel)	ġidieħ gandoffle
Għ, ġħ	Ğħajnejn	Ğħajnejn, tagħma
H, h	He (Ha)	Deħen, fiha
Ħ, ħ	Elħe (ħha)	Ħobż, hafer
I, i	Ģ. i. ī (Alef and voe)	Ixtu bir
J, j	Ja	Bjar
K, k	Ka (ħaf)	Kelb
L, l.	Ellē (Lam)	Leyla
M, m	Emme (Mim)	Mejda
N, n	Emne (num)	Mħas
O, o	O (alef + voe)	Amor
P, p	Pe	Patri
Q, q	Qu (Qaf)	Qadin
R, r	Ere (Ra)	Râs
S, s	Esse (Tsa sin, sâd)	Silġ sûq
T, t	Te (Tha, tsan) ta)	Tul Tauku
U, u,	Wa and voe	Sūfa
V, v-	Ve	Vemken
W, w-	Wa (Waw)	Watħas
X, x-	Exx-e (Xim)	Xêna
Ż, ż-	Zeta (żiġi)	Żotek
ż, ż-	żeta (żoġi)	żunżiem

# **IL-MALTI**

## **il-mixja sal-gharfien uffiċjali**



Taħt il-patrocinju  
tal-E.T. Dr George Vella  
President ta' Malta



## KELMTEJN QABEL

I-kobor ta' ġens ma jitkejjilx bl-ghadd tan-nies biss. Ĝens jissawwar min-nisġa ta' żewġ realtajiet ewlenin, il-ġeografija u l-istorja. Filwaqt li tal-ewwel qajla tinbidel, il-mixja kostanti taż-żmien tagħġen u tiskolpi mingħajr waqfien lir-ruħ tiegħu. M'hemmx kapitlu aktar awtentiku minn ieħor, għax kull kisra hija parti integrali mill-istess triq twila u mserrpa, u kull dakra ġidida żżewwaq dan il-mužajk ikkulurit b'haġra ta' lewn differenti. U għaldaqstant, l-ghadd ckejen tal-ġens ta' dal-maktur art-ħelwa li tatna isimha huwa mogħni bil-qabda mill-istorja twila u mħawra tiegħu.

Forsi ftit nirrealizzaw li din l-istorja epika hija miġbura fit-totalità tagħha fi Isienna. Huwa jirrifletti b'mod ċar u jwahħad sekli ta' hakmiet u influwenzi minn ġnus varji. Biżżejjed jingħad li l-Malti hu l-unika lingwa b'qafas semitiku li tinkiteb b'alfabett rumanz. L-gheruq tiegħu jxenxlu lura sas-seklu disgha wara Kristu, sewwa sew mill-bidu tal-ħakma Għarbija. Il-lingwa mitkellma fil-gżejjer tagħna ma staġnatx mal-wasla tan-Normanni fl-1091, u eventwalment mat-tkeċċija tal-Musulmani mir-Renju ta' Sqallija fl-ewwel nofs tas-seklu tlekk. Il-Maltin u l-Ġħawdexin lejn tmiem il-Medjuevu ma qagħdux lura milli jhaddnu kliem romanġ għat-ħaddim effettiv ta' Isienhom. Dan il-proċess ha spinta ġmielha mal-wasla tal-Ordni ta' San Ģwann fl-1530, kemm ghaliex kien hawn influss qawwi ta' nies minn diversi bnadi tal-Ewropa, u kemm ghaliex is-sengħa tat-tarznara u tat-tbahħir hadet żvolta differenti. Żviluppi notevoli oħra seħħew mal-bidla ta' Malta f'kolonja Ingliza fil-bidu tas-seklu dsatax. L-element anglosassonu beda jħalli l-marka tiegħu. Illum, ftit anqas minn sittin sena minn meta sirna stat indipendent, il-Malti qed jiġi mdakkar aktar minn qatt qabel minn dan l-element minħabba r-rivoluzzjoni teknoloġika tal-aħħar ftit għevireن ta' snin.

Din in-nisġa kkulurita ġibdet l-attenzjoni tal-istudjuži sa minn mijiet ta' snin ilu. Sfat ukoll suġġett ta' polemika meta d-destin politiku kien f'salib it-toroq. Illum inqisu l-ihsien Malti bhala l-ġebla tax-xewka tal-identità ta' ġensna. Kien propju għalhekk li esprimejt ix-xewqa li jithares il-Malti sa mid-diskors tal-ħatra tiegħi bhala President tar-Repubblika f'April tal-2019. Jeżistu għadd ta' sfidi li jeħtieġu l-attenzjoni, fost oħrajn fit-tagħlim tal-Malti fl-iskejjel, fil-postijiet tax-xogħol, fil-qasam mediku, fid-dinja digitali u fix-xandir. Għalhekk l-Uffiċċju tiegħi qed jaħdem mill-qrib mal-ġhaqqiet tal-Malti bil-ghan li jiġu identifikati miżuri konkreti li għandhom iwasslu għall-użu tajjeb tal-lingwa Maltija kif ukoll għall-użu ta' Malti tajjeb.

Mingħajr dubju, din il-wirja li qed tittella' minn Heritage Malta u l-Akkademja tal-Malti ser tkompli tnissel apprezzament akbar fina, u sservi ta' xprun sabiex nużaw aktar il-Malti fit-taħdit u l-kitba tagħna. Il-mixja tal-Malti sal-ġħarfien tiegħu bhala l-ihsien nazzjonali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta u bhala lingwa ufficjalji tal-Unjoni Ewropea tisfa fix-xejn jekk ahna, il-werrieta ta' dan it-teżor, inbarruh minn ħajnejna.

It-twissija tal-Poeta Dun Karm ta' mitt sena ilu għadha tgħodd u b' saħħitha sal-lum.

## Foreword

The greatness of a nation is not measured merely through its multitude, since a nation is generally shaped through two inevitable realities, its geography and its history. And while the former rarely changes, the latter is a constant march through time that moulds and sculpts the soul of a nation. There is never one past chapter of a nation which can portray it more than others, as every corner turned is an integral part of the long and winding road it travels, every experience is an added hue to the colourful kaleidoscope of its journey. Thus, the smallness of this nation, whose name we derive from our country, is endowed through the richness of our long and colourful history.

Perhaps few of us ever realise that the past 1100 years of this epic journey are perfectly epitomised through our language. It clearly reflects the influences from all the different ruling nations through the centuries. Suffice it to say that the Maltese language is the only language with Semitic roots written in the Roman alphabet. Its roots go back to the 9th century AD, during the Arab rule. However, our spoken language did not stop with the arrival of the Normans in 1091, and with the eventual expulsion of the Muslims from the Kingdom of Sicily by the first half of the 13th century. During the course of the late Middle Ages, the Maltese and Gozitans never shied away from using romantic words to express their language effectively. This was further escalated with the arrival of the Order of St John in 1530, both because of the huge European influx and because the shipping and commerce took on a different turn. Another noteworthy development occurred when Malta became an English colony at the turn of the 19th century. The Anglo-Saxon influence began to leave its mark. Today, just under 60 years from our Independence, the Maltese Language is still impacted more than ever by this element, because of the technological revolution of the last few decades.

This colourful mix of our national language has attracted the attention of scholars for years on end. It also became a subject of controversy when our political fate was at a crossroad. Nowadays, we consider our Language as the cornerstone of our nation's identity. It was precisely for this reason that I expressed my desire to preserve the Maltese Language during the acceptance speech of my appointment as President of the Republic in April 2019. There are a number of challenges which require attention, including teaching Maltese in schools, in workplaces, in the medical sector, in the digital world and the media. Hence, my Office is closely collaborating with the respective Maltese Language organisations to strengthen effectively the use of Maltese.

Without a doubt this exhibition, organised by Heritage Malta and the Akademja tal-Malti, will continue to instil in us a greater appreciation for our language, serving to spur us on to use it more while speaking and in writing. The journey to its recognition as the National Language of the Republic of Malta, and as an official European Union Language, would be rendered futile if we, the heirs to such a treasure, would end up eliminating it ourselves.

Dun Karm's century-old warning is still convincingly valid.

**H.E. Dr George Vella  
President of Malta**

## TEŻOR NAZZJONALI

L-istorja tal-ilsien Malti mhix ħlief ġrajja twila u rikka ta' kuntatti mżewqa minn ħakmiet differenti u li matulha ntiseġ il-sien uniku mill-aktar interessanti.

Il-Malti huwa lsien qadim u jmur lura mill-inqas elf sena. Lingwa mitkellma, l-istess bħall-poplu li jħaddimha, hi haġa dinamika, u għalhekk tissokta tinbidel u tiżviluppa. Maż-żmien, kliem imut waqt li iehor jitwielek skont iċ-ċirkustanzi tal-ħajja ta' madwaru.

Minkejja l-preżenza tal-Feniċi u l-Puniċi fil-gżejjer tagħna u l-ħakmiet twal tar-Rumani u l-Biżantini (218 q.K - 870 w.K) ma jidherx li dawn ħallew xi ħtieq lingwistiku. Il-bidu seħħi mal-miġja tal-Ġharab. Minn issa 'l-quddiem u sa żminijietna l-Malti sejkun imsejjes fuq għamlu Semitika u Għarbija, qrib ħafna tad-djaletti tal-Ġharbi mitkellma fl-Afrika ta' Fuq. Maż-żmien il-Malti kompla jiddakkar minn għejjun oħra wisq differenti imma l-qofol tal-grammatika u tal-vokabolarju tiegħi tibq'a dik li tnisslet matul il-ħakma Għarbija.

Ilsien huwa teżor nazzjonali għax fih hemm maħżuna l-memorja kollettiva tal-ġens li jħaddnu. L-akbar sfida tagħna hi li din il-memorja nghadduha lill-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri, mhux bħala fdal tal-passat imma bħala wirt ħaj li bih aħna nagħrfu lilna nfusna.

Aliquatu n-nuqqas minn is-sirha:

Aliquatu n-nuqqas minn is-sirha:  
Cicidu l-ċċida yeġi minn tħalli  
Koġiex il-ġuġi u lej u s-sab fu ġurra  
Kollha minn tħalli seħħi minn tħalli  
Bis-ġuġi minn tħalli seħħi minn tħalli  
Fuq bayyan al-ġuġi u qid fi tirag minn  
Nistha u minn tħalli seħħi minn tħalli

Hinhabit bi mirrammeti l-lyi 3men nibrij  
mer-tanha mballi minn is-sirha tħalli minn  
fent imprest insib il-għebi s-sirha minn  
waekk it-ġuġi minn tħalli seħħi minn tħalli

Hinhabit bi mirrammeti l-lyi 3men nibrij  
mer-tanha mballi minn is-sirha tħalli minn  
fent imprest insib il-għebi s-sirha minn  
waekk it-ġuġi minn tħalli seħħi minn tħalli

## NATIONAL TREASURE

The history of the Maltese Language is a rich and intricate story, a blend of different influences from the multitude of rulers dominating it through the years, spinning it into a unique and interesting language.

Maltese is an old language, dating back to at least a thousand years. As a spoken language, similar to its people, it is dynamic and as such continues to change and develop. Over time, words die out while others evolve, according to the circumstances of the time.

Despite the presence of the Phoenicians and Carthaginians on the islands, including the long rule of the Romans and Byzantines (218 BC-870AD), these do not appear to have left any linguistic mark. It all started with the advent of the Arabs. From here onwards, and up to the present day, the Maltese Language follows a Semitic form, closely related to the Arabic dialects of North Africa. In time, the Maltese Language continued to be influenced by other very different sources, yet the essence of its grammatical roots and vocabulary remains that from which it originated during the Arab rule.

A language is a national treasure, since it holds the collective memory of the nation which embraces it. Our greatest challenge is to pass this memory on to our future generations, not as a remnant of the past, but as a living heritage through which we can identify ourselves as a nation.

### IL-KANTILENA BL-ORTOGRAFIJA TAL-LUM

The *Kantilena* in present-day orthography

Xidew il-qada, ja ġirieni, talli nhadditkom,  
Ma nsab fil-weri u la nsab f'ghomorkom  
Qalb m'għandha hakem, sultan u la mula  
Bir imġhammiq irmietni, b'turġien muhsula,  
Fejn hajran għall-gharqa, ninżel f'taraġ minżeli  
Nitla' u nerġa' ninżel dejjem fil-bahar il-gholi.

Waqgħet hi, imrammti, l'ili żmien nibni,  
Ma htatlix mgħallmin, 'mma qataqli tafal merħi;  
Fejn tmajt insib il-ġebel, sibt tafal merħi;  
Waqgħet hi, imrammti.

Waqgħet hi, imrammti, niżżlet hi s-sisien,  
Ma htatlix l-imghallmin, 'mma qataqli l-ġebel;  
Fejn tmajt insib il-ġebel, sibt tafal merħi;  
Waqgħet hi, imrammti, l'ili żmien nibni.  
U hekk waqgħet hi, imrammti! w'erġa' ibniha!  
Biddilha inti l-imkien illi jewtiha;  
Min ibiddel l-imkien ibiddel il-vintura;  
Għaliex l-irradi għal kull xiber sura:  
Hemm art bajda, w-hemm art sewda u ġamra.  
Aktar minn hedawn hemm trid minnha tmarra.

## L-MALTI U KIF TNISSEL?

**Il-Malti huwa essenzjalment ilsien Semitiku miktub bl-alfabett Latin.**

s-sena 870 timmarka l-bidu ta' djalett jixbah ħafna lil dak mitħaddet fil-pajjiżi tal-Magreb. Skont al-Himyari, l-Għarab li ħakmuna kienu mit-tribu tal-Aglabiti mill-Afrika ta' Fuq. Huma invadew lil Malta fis-sena 868-869 u għamlu ġherba minnha. Imbagħad, meta fl-1048-49 l-Għarab ta' Sqallija saħħew il-preżenza tagħhom f'Malta, huma ġabu magħhom djalett Għarbi bi traċċi tal-Isqalli.

Mal-miġja tan-Normanni fl-1091 u speċjalment wara t-tkeċċija tal-Musulmani fl-1249, bdew jiżdiedu l-kuntatti mal-ilsna tal-Ewropa u l-influwenza tal-Iżlam sfat fix-xejn. Għaldaqstant, il-Malti beda jiżżewwaq bi kliem meħtieg fil-ħajja ta' kuljum mill-ilsna romanzi.

Dan seħħi l-aktar mal-miġja tal-Kavallieri ta' San Ģwann (1530-1798). Dawn ġabu magħhom ħafna mgħallmin tas-snajja' u l-ilsien Malti kellu jilqa' u jintegra kliem ġdid. Din it-terminoloġija ġidida (l-aktar mit-Toskan) baqqħet dejjem tikber sakemm spiċċat biex waqqfet il-mekkaniżmu Għarbi msejjes fuq l-għerq u l-forom. Il-Malti żviluppa metodi eħfek u eqreb għas-sistema tal-lingwi Ewropej għall-integrazzjoni tal-kliem imsellef, sewwa sew iz-zokk u l-affissi.



## IS THE MALTESE LANGUAGE AND HOW DID IT ORIGINATE?

*The Maltese Language is essentially a Semitic Language written in Latin alphabet.*

The year 870 saw the emerging of a dialect closely related to that spoken in the Maghreb countries. According to al-Himyari, the ruling Arabs were the Aghlabid tribe of North Africa. They invaded and ransacked Malta in the year 868-869. Then, in 1048-49, the Sicilian Arabs strengthened their presence in Malta, they brought with them the Arabic dialect with traces of Sicilian.

With the arrival of the Normans in 1091, and especially after the expulsion of the Muslims in 1249, contacts with European languages increased and the Islamic influence faded. The Maltese Language became interlaced with words from the Romance languages, used for necessity during daily life.

This mostly occurred with the arrival of the Knights of St John (1530-1798). They brought with them several trade masters, and thus, the Maltese Language had to adopt and integrate new words. This new terminology (mainly Tuscan) continuously increased and blended with the Arabic roots and forms. The Maltese Language developed easier methods, closer to the European languages, to merge borrowed words, by using the stems and affixes.



**Xhieda oħra hi t-toponomastika ta' Sqallija u ta' Malta li turina xebha bejn iż-żejjjer fl-ismijiet tal-bliet u l-inħawi kif muri fit-tabella.**

Further evidence is the toponomy of Sicily and Malta which shows similarities between the two islands in names of towns and areas as shown in the legend.

## BEDA JIĞI STUDJAT IL-MALTI?

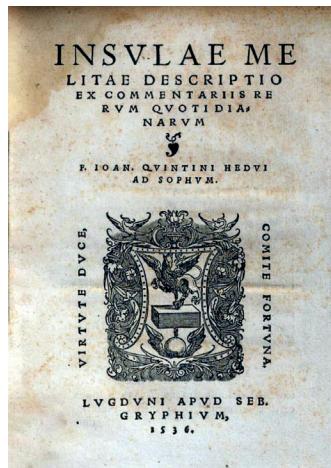
**Il-fehma žbaljata li I-Malti ġej mill-Feniċju/Puniku kienet mifruxa sew fost I-istudjuži bikrin.**

L-ewwel lingwista serju li kiteb dwar il-Malti kien Hieronymus Megiser li ġabar madwar 400 lingwa u djalett. Il-Malti tant interessah li ddedika ktieb għalihi, *Propugnaculum Europae* (1606) u sejjahlu “Saračen” kif ukoll “Moresk” u “Kartaġiniz”, teżi li ma qabilx magħha Gan Franġisk Abela – l-ewwel studjuż Malti ta’ Isienna li fehem kif id-diglossija u l-politika jibdlu l-lingwi. Studjuż ieħor kien Johannes Henricus Majus bil-pubblikazzjoni *Specimen Linguae Punicae* (1725) fejn fisser li I-Malti fih “fdal li baqa’ mill-ilsien Puniku qadim”. L-idea žbaljata li I-Malti ġej mill-Feniċju/Puniku baqqħet tkarkar saħansitra sas-seklu 20.

Bdew l-ewwel tentattivi għal dizzjunarju u grammatika tal-Malti, fosthom tal-Kavallier Thezan bil-manuskritt *Regole per la lingua Maltese* (1600-1647). Madankollu, l-ewwel grammatika serja tal-Malti kienet tal-Kanonku Gan Franġisk Agius de Soldanis, *Della lingua punica presentemente usata da’ Maltesi* (1750) li kienet tinkudi wkoll *Idea d’un Dizionario della lingua Punica-Maltese*. Dan il-ħsieb kompla jaħdem fuqu u ġabru fid-ċċamma tal-Klem Kartaginis msċerred fel-Fom tal-Maltin u Għaucin (stampat ghall-ewwel darba fl-2016).

**1536**

*Insulae Melitae Descriptio*



**1647**

*Della descrittione di Malta*



**1753**

Damma tal-Klem Kartaginis msċerred fel-Fom tal-Maltin u Għaucin

## DID THE STUDY OF THE MALTESE LANGUAGE START?

*The misconception that the Maltese Language stems from the Phoenician/Punic was rather widespread among early scholars.*

The first serious linguist to write about the Maltese Language was Hieronymus Megiser, who collected around 400 languages and dialects. He was so intrigued with the Maltese language that he dedicated a book to it, *Propugnaculum Europae* (1606), and called the language “Saracen”, as well as “Moresk” and “Carthaginian”, a theory to which Gian Frangisk Abela disagreed – the first Maltese scholar on our language to understand how diglossia and politics can change languages. Another scholar was Johannes Henricus Majus who, with the publication *Specimen Linguae Punicae* (1725), explained how the Maltese Language still contains “remnants of the old Punic language”. The erroneous idea that the Maltese Language is derived from the Phoenician/Punic language dragged on into the 20th century.

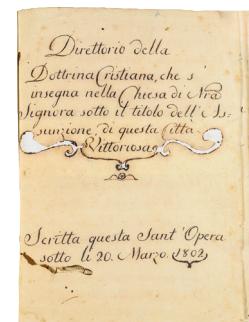
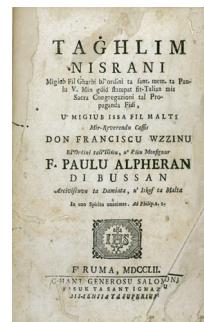
The first attempts for a Maltese dictionary and grammar started with, among others, Knight Thezan’s manuscript *Regole per la lingua Maltesi* (1600-1647). However, the first proper Maltese grammar book was by Canon Gian Francesco Agius de Soldanis with *Della lingua punica presentemente usata da’ Maltese* (1750), which also included *Idea d’un Dizionario della lingua Punica-Maltese*. He continued to work on this idea and collected it in the *Đamma tal-Kliem Kartaginiż Imixerred fil-Fom tal-Maltin u Ghawdxin* (first published in 2016).

**Fl-istess waqt, il-Knisja f’Malta komplet ixxerred il-fidi Nisranija bil-lingwa tal-poplu kemm bil-prietki, fosthom ta’ Ignazio Saverio Mifsud li nqisuhom bħala l-ewwel xogħlijiet ta’ proża bil-Malti (1739-1746) kif ukoll bil-publikazzjoni ta’ Tagħlim Nisrani ta’ Dun Frangisk Wizzino – l-ewwel ktieb stampat bil-Malti u bit-Taljan (1752).**

At the same time, the Church in Malta continued to spread the Christian faith in the nation’s language through sermons, among which are those by Ignatius Saviour Mifsud, considered as the first known works in Maltese prose (1739-1746), as well as the *Tagħlim Nisrani* publication by Fr Francesco Wizzino – the first book to be printed in both Maltese and Italian (1752).

**1739-46**

Il-Prietki bil-Malti



**1752**

Tagħlim Nisrani

**1802**

Direttorio Della Dottrina Cristiana

## NIBET IL-HSIEB BIEX IL-MALTI JSIR ILSIEN EWLIENI?

**Matul is-seklu 18 kompla jitrawwem sens ta' kurzit  ta dwar il-Malti li mbag  had   viluppa f'interess u fl-  t  har sar impenn shi   favuru biex isir l-ilsien ufficjali tal-pajji  .**

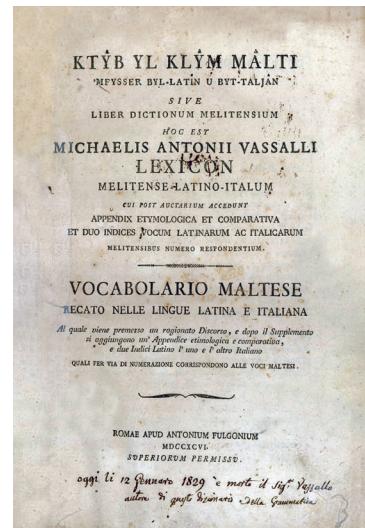
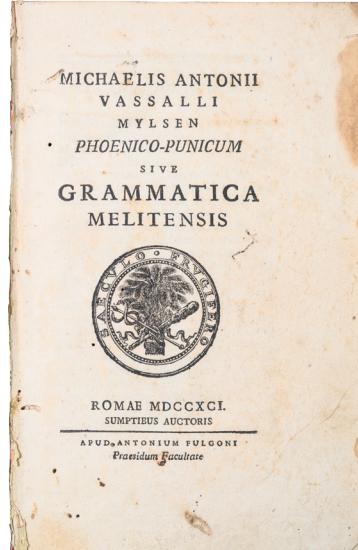
**M**ikiel Anton Vassalli, li g  hadda hajtu f'ambjent Illuminista ja  dem biex il-Maltin jaqbd   t-triq tal-progress, ried li qabelxejn il-poplu jitghallem il-qari u l-kitba ta' Isien. B'hekk biss setg  u jaqbd   r-riedni tat-tmexxija u jsiru nazzjon ghalih. Dan ifissru fid-*Discorso Preliminare tal-Ktieb il-Kliem Malti maghraf ahjar b  hala Lexicon Melitense-Latino-Italum* (Ruma, 1796). Vassalli kien l-ewwel studju   li qiegħed il-Malti fuq sisien sodi xjentifiċi meta stampa *L-Alfabett Malti mfisser bil-Malti u t-Taljan* (Ruma, 1790) u l-Mylsen *Phoenico-Punicum sive Grammatica Melitensis* (Ruma, 1791).

Il-ħolma ta' Vassalli damet ma seħħet. L-Ingliżi, b  hala l-ħakkiema l-ġoddha wara l-perjodu qasir tal-Franċiżi (1798-1800), aktar kien mohħhom biex irażżu l-kultura Taljana u jdeffsu minflokha l-kultura u l-lingwa Ingliża qalb il-poplu u l-amministrazzjoni tal-pajjiż.

B'danakollu, fost il-Maltin tqanqal moviment ta' kittieba, li mnebbha mir-Risorgimento Taljan bdew jaħdmu biex jikkultivaw ilsien art twelidhom u jibnulu letteratura li minnha l-poplu jkun jista' jirrifletti t-twemmin, il-ħsieb, il-gosti u t-tiġriġ tiegħu. Ewlenin fosthom kien hemm Ĝan Anton Vassallo u Gużè Muscat Azzopardi.

1791

Mylsen Phoenico-Punicum sive Grammatica Melitensis



## DID THE IDEA OF THE MALTESE LANGUAGE AS THE FIRST LANGUAGE COME FROM?

*During the 18th century, what started as an intriguing interest in the Maltese Language soon became a full-fledged commitment to give it the status as the country's official language.*

Mikiel Anton Vassalli, who came from an Enlightenment environment and wanted the Maltese to pursue the road of progress, first stressed for the people to learn to read and write in their language. Only then could they grab hold of the reins of leadership and become a nation. He explains all this in the 'Discorso Preliminare', the introduction of *Ktieb il-Kliem Malti*, better known as *Lexicon Melitense-Latino-Italum* (Rome, 1796). Vassalli was the first scholar ever to set the Maltese Language on a sound scientific footing, when he printed *L-Alfabett Malti Mfisser bil-Malti u t-Taljan* (Rome, 1790) and the *Mylsen Phoenico-Punicum sive Grammatica Melitensis* (Rome, 1791).

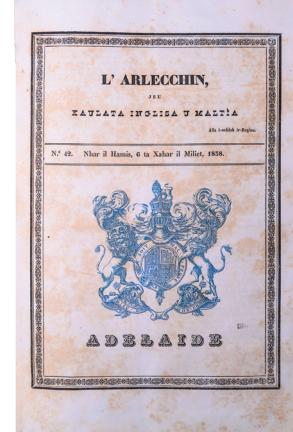
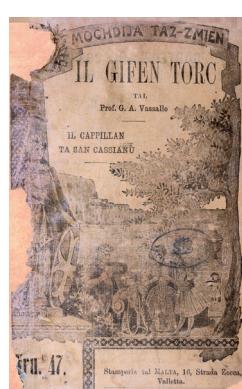
Vassalli's dream took years to realise. The British, as the new rulers following the short stint of the French (1798-1800), were more concerned in suppressing the Italian cultural influence and replace it with the English culture and language, both among the people, as well as within the country's administration.

However, a movement of Maltese writers, inspired by the Italian Risorgimento, began to nurture their mother language, building a literature with which people could reflect upon their beliefs, ideas, tastes and experiences. Foremost among these writers were Gian Anton Vassallo and Gużè Muscat Azzopardi.

**Dan il-moviment jilhaq il-milja tiegħu bit-twaqqif tal-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti fl-1920. Fost il-membri ta' din l-Għaqda kien hemm Dun Karm Psaila, Ninu Cremona u Gużè Muscat Azzopardi li mhux biss wittew it-triq biex il-Malti jkun studjat bis-serjetà imma komplew irawmu u jsaħħu l-letteratura Maltija.**

This movement reached its peak with the establishment of the 'Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti' (the Maltese Writers' Association) in 1920. Among the Association's members were Dun Karm Psaila, Ninu Cremona and Gużè Muscat Azzopardi, who not only paved the way for the Maltese Language to be seriously studied, but also fostered and promoted Maltese literature.

**1842**  
*Il-Ġifen Tork*



**1838**  
***L'Arleccchin, l-ewwel ħarġa ta' gazzetta bil-Malti***  
L'Arleccchin, the first newspaper issue in Maltese

## TQANQLET IL-KWISTJONI TAL-LINGWA?

**Il-Kwistjoni tal-Lingwa weldet il-partiti politici f'Malta imma l-progress favur il-Malti baqa' lura.**

**F**l-1839 il-Gvern Ingliz ipproklama l-libertà tal-istampa. Bdew joħorġu l-ewwel ġurnal bil-Malti u jiżdiedu l-kotba, u aktar bdiex tinhass il-ħtieġa li jkun hemm alfabet wieħed u stabbli. Twaqqfu numru ta' għaqdien lingwistiċi fosthom l-Accademia Filologica Maltese li fasslet alfabet Malti li jaqdi t-tagħlim tat-Taljan, u x-Xirka Xemija (Soċjetà Semitika) li fasslet alfabet fonetiku fejn kull sinjal kelliu ħoss wieħed biss u kien magħmul minn ittra waħda.

Fl-istess waqt, il-Gvern kien iddiżappuntat bin-nuqqas ta' progress biex l-Ingliz jistabbilixxi ruħu bhala l-lingwa ufficjali tal-amministrazzjoni u tal-qrati. Fl-1878 bagħat żewġ Kummissjonijiet Irjali, waħda minnhom immexxija minn Patrick J. Keenan biex teżamina l-iż-żebbu u l-istituzzjonijiet edukattivi, l-aktar ‘to secure to the Maltese a thorough instruction in the English language, and thus to give them a full opportunity to avail themselves of the advantages and fulfil the responsibilities of British citizenship’.

Fl-1880, id-Direttur tal-Edukazzjoni Dr Sigismondo Savona beda jdaħħal ir-riformi ta' Keenan approvati mill-Ingilterra u għażel l-alfabet tax-Xirka Xemija. Kien l-aktar alfabet sempliċi imma sab rezistenza politika qawwija peress li kien jinkludi l-ittri j, y, u w, u b'hekk deher li qed jaqdi l-lingwa Ingliza. Il-Kunsill tal-Gvern inqasam bejn dawk li kienu jaqblu ma' dawn ir-riformi u l-Partito Anti-Riformista mmexxi minn Fortunato Mizzi (aktar tard magħruf bhala l-Partito Nazionale) li r-raison d'etre tiegħu kienet id-difiża tat-Taljan bhala ‘la lingua nazionale dei maltesi’.

**1880**

**Dibattitu 104 tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern, 17 ta' Marzu**  
Council of Government debate 104, 17 March

said: — La pubblicazione del rapporto Keenan ha destato gravi apprensioni in tutto il paese, e tra le altre, di tutte gravissima, quella che il Governo voglia destreggiarsi a mettere in esecuzione alcuni tra i suggerimenti dello stesso, che la grande maggioranza della popolazione considera come fatale allo insegnamento. Quest' apprensione è fondata, imperocchè essa ha già un precedente nella riforma che, nel senso del rapporto Keenan, il Principal Segretario di Governo, adottando i suggerimenti fatti nel rapporto della Giunta nominata per condurre gli esami del Liceo composta dall'onor. Savona, dal Rev. Wiseley e dall'onor. Collettore della Rendita Territoriale, imponeva alle autorità che presiedono al Liceo colla sua lettera del 9 Aprile 1877, nella quale passando sopra alle disposizioni dello Statuto Fondamentale per gli studj liceali — che è legge per quello Istituto — si ordinava col regolamento secondo l'esame di lingua Inglese per l'ammissione al Liceo, e col regolamento settimo questa stessa lingua come mezzo di comunicazione nello insegnamento di tutte altre scuole. Tutti qui ricordano che quella

## WAS THE LANGUAGE QUESTION RAISED?

*The Language Question brought about the birth of political parties in Malta, however, progress in favour of the Maltese Language lagged behind.*

In 1839, the British Government proclaimed the freedom of the press. With the emerging of the first Maltese Language newspapers and increase in books, the need for one official alphabet was becoming increasingly evident. Various language associations were set up, among them the *Accademia Filologica Maltese*, which formulated a Maltese alphabet to serve Italian teaching, and the *Xirka Xemija* (The Semitic Society), which drew up a phonetic alphabet where each sign had only one sound and was composed of one letter.

At the same time, the Government was disappointed by the lack of progress to establish English as the official language in administration and courts. In 1878, two Royal Commissions were sent, one of which was led by Patrick J. Keenan to review the educational institutions, especially “*to secure to the Maltese a thorough instruction in the English language, and thus to give them a full opportunity to avail themselves of the advantages and fulfil the responsibilities of British citizenship*”.

In 1880, the Director of Education, Dr Sigismondo Savona, started to introduce Keenan’s reforms approved by the British Government, and chose the *Xirka Xemija* alphabet. It was the simplest of the alphabets, yet it had a strong political resistance since it included the letters j, y and w, which seemed to be accommodating the English language. The Government Council was divided between those who agreed with the reforms and the *Partito Anti-Riformista*, led by Fortunato Mizzi (later becoming the *Partito Nazionale*) which was set up to defend the Italian language as the language of the Maltese people.

1934

### L-għarfien tal-Malti, l-Ingliz u t-Taljan bħala ilsna uffiċjali

Declaration of Maltese, English and Italian as official languages

1. It-Taqsima (1) ta’ l-Artiklu 57 ta’ l-Ittri Patenti Tagħna msemmijin hawn fuq tiġi b’dawn l-Ittri mhassra u flokha tidhol din it-Taqsima li ġejja—  
 (1) Il-Isien Ingliz, bħala il-sien uffiċjali ta’ l-Imperu Ingliz, u l-Isien Malti, bħala il-sien tal-poplu ta’ Malta, u l-Isien Taljan, ikunu l-ilsna uffiċjali ta’ Malta. Il-Isien Ingliz ikun l-ilsien uffiċjali tal-amministrazzjoni, u l-kitba kollha uffiċjali u d-dokumenti pubblici u l-avvizi kollha maħruġin mill-Gvern Malti u li huma ta’ importanza jew ta’ interessa għall-pubbliku għandhom ikunu magħmulin b’dak il-Isien, mingħajr ħsara, iż-żda, għal-Isien Malti u għal-Isien Taljan billi dawn jiġu użati bħala ilsna li jiżidiedu mat-test Ingлиз f'din il-kitba, dokumenti u avvizi msemmijin hawn qabel, kif wieħed isib li hu xieraq u jaqbel. Xejn ma jista’ jsir sew b'ligjet kemm b'egħmil iehor fit-tmexxija tal-Gvern li tnaqqas jew ittellef mill-qagħda tal-Isien Ingliz jew tal-Isien Malti bħala ilsna uffiċjali jew li taħbat tnaqqas l-užu tagħhom fit-tagħlim jew fis-servizz pubbliku.

## KOMPLA JISSAHHAH L-GħARFIEN UFFIċJALI TAL-MALTI?

**Fl-1964, il-Malti jiġi ddikjarat l-ilsien nazzjonali ta' pajjiżna, u fl-2004 sar wieħed minn fost 24 ilsien uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea.**

**F**l-1934, il-Malti ġie rikonoxxut bħala lingwa uffiċjali flimkien mal-Ingliz u t-Taljan, filwaqt li l-Kostituzzjoni tal-1961 iddikjarat il-Malti u l-Ingliz bħala ilsna uffiċjali. Il-folja nqalbet mal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta Indipendenti (1964) fejn insibu distinżjoni importanti. L-artiklu 5 jispeċifika li (1) il-lingwa nazzjonali hi l-Malti, (2) li l-lingwi uffiċjali huma l-Malti u l-Ingliz u (3) li l-lingwa tal-Qrati hi l-Malti. Il-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta Repubblika (1974) ikkonfermat dawn l-artikli.

Id-dħul ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea kompla saħħaħ il-Malti meta fl-2004 ġie rikonoxxut bħala lsien uffiċjali fost 24 lingwa. Sahansitra llum huwa studjat fl-Università ta' Bremen, il-Ġermanja, fejn f'Ottubru 2007 twaqqfet l-Għaqda Internazzjonali tal-Lingwistika Maltija.

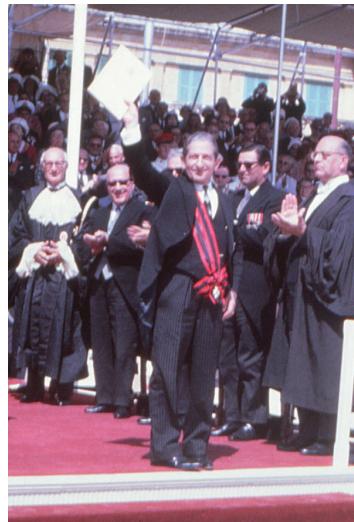
Minkejja li Isienna baqa' dejjem jikseb prestigju uffiċjali, fl-1989 l-uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru ħass il-ħtieġa li joħrog ċirkulari biex il-Malti jintuża mal-pubbliku kemm fid-Dipartimenti kif ukoll fil-Ministeri. Barra minn hekk, fl-1996 ħarġet ċirkulari oħra biex il-Malti jintuża aktar fil-korrispondenza uffiċjali. F'April 2005, il-Parlament Malti għadda unanimament il-Liġi tal-Malti li biha twaqqaf il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Il-Isien Malti. F'Artiklu 3 tal-Att dwar l-Il-Isien Malti nsibu li l-Malti huwa "l-Isien ta' Malta u element ewlieni mill-wirt u l-identità nazzjonali tal-Maltin għax jaġħilhom minn kull poplu iehor". L-istess Artiklu jistabbilixxi li l-Malti huwa l-aqwa mezz ta' espressjoni u li l-lingwa tiġġedded ta' kuljum fuq fomm il-Maltin.

**1964**

**Il-Kisba tal-Indipendenza / Attainment of Independence**

5. (1) L-Isien Nazzjonali ta' Malta huwa l-Isien Malti.

Artikolu 5 tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta Indipendenti (1964) u Malta Repubblika (1974)



**1974**

**Twaqqif tar-Repubblika / Establishment of the Republic**

## DID THE MALTESE LANGUAGE CONTINUE TO BE STRENGTHENED OFFICIALLY?

*In 1964, the Maltese Language was declared as our national language and became one of the European Union's official languages in 2004.*

In 1934, the Maltese Language was recognised as the official language alongside English and Italian, whereas the 1961 Constitution declared Maltese and English as the official languages. A new chapter began with the Constitution of Independent Malta (1964) with a marked distinction. Article 5 specifies that (1) the national language is Maltese, (2) the official languages are Maltese and English, and (3) the language used in the Law Courts is Maltese. The Constitution of the Republic of Malta (1974) reconfirmed these articles.

Malta's accession to the European Union in 2004 continued to strengthen the Maltese Language further, since it was recognised as one of the official languages among its 24 languages. Today, it is even studied at the University of Bremen, Germany, where the International Association of Maltese Linguistics was founded in 2007.

Despite the fact that our language continued to officially gain prestige, in 1989 the Office of the Prime Minister found it necessary to issue a circular for the Departments and Ministries to use the Maltese Language with the general public. Moreover, in 1996 another circular was issued insisting that the Maltese Language should be used more in official correspondences. In April 2005, the Maltese Language Act was unanimously passed by Parliament, whereby the National Council for the Maltese Language was established. Article 3 of the Maltese Language Act states that the Maltese Language is "the language of Malta and the key element of the heritage and national identity of the Maltese which distinguishes them from all other nations". The same article states that the Maltese Language is the best means of expression and that the language is renewed when being spoken daily by the Maltese.

**2004**

**Shubija fl-Unjoni Ewropea / Accession to the European Union**



Dan it-Trattat, imhejj f'original uniku fil-lingwa Čeka, Daniža, Estonia, Finlandiža, Frančiza, Germaniža, Griega, Ingliza, Irlandiža, Latvijana, Litwana, Maltija, Olandiža, Pollakka, Portugiža, Slovakka, Slovena, Spanjola, Svediža, Taljana u Ungeriza, bit-test ta' kull waħda minn dawn il-lingwi egwalment awtentici, għandu jiġi ddepożitat fl-arkivji tal-Gvern tar-Repubblika Taljana, li għandu jibgħat kopja awtentikata lil kull wieħed mill-Gvernijiet ta' l-Istati Firmatarji l-oħra.

Artikolu 3 tat-Trattat ta' adeżjoni ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea

## NAGĦMLU BIEX INŻOMMU L-MALTI HAJ F'DINJA GLOBALIZZATA?

**Jeħtieg li qabelxejn nifhmu li l-Malti mhuwiex artefatt f'mużew u ma nistgħux inwaqqfu l-arloġġ tal-progress.**

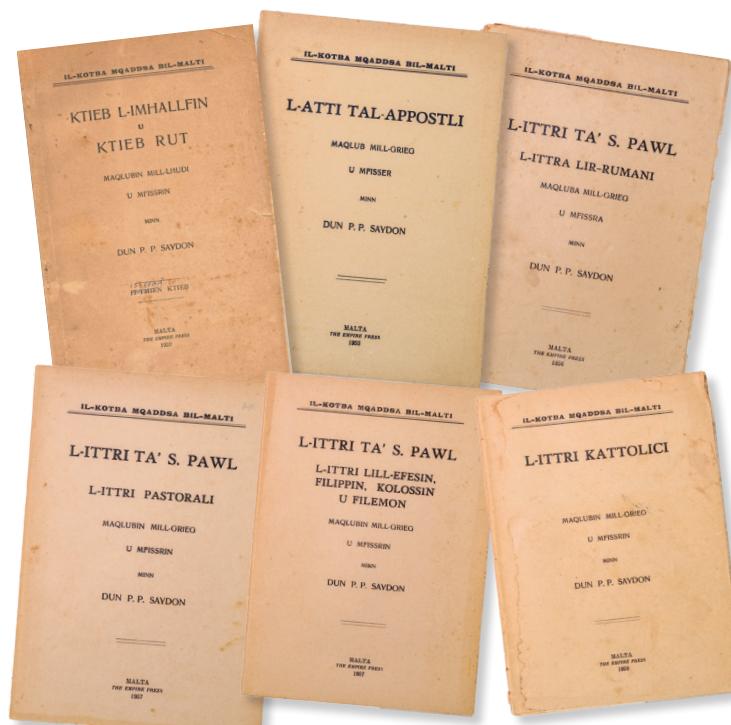
Isienna se jibqa' jiġġedded u jinbidel mal-bidliet u l-kisbiet ġodda li jagħmel il-poplu li jitkellmu. L-isfida tagħna hi li lill-istudenti tagħna nippreżentawlhom il-lingwa tagħna bħala ħaġa ħajja u dinamika. Jeħtiġilna li nżommu ruħna aġġornati ħalli b'hekk inkunu nistgħu nifhmu aħjar għaliex isseħħ il-bidla u x'inħuma l-konsegwenzi tagħha.

Għandu jkun hemm dizzjunarju Malti tajjeb u aġġornat online. Neħtiegu ghodod maħsuba ghall-pedagoġġija, nghidu aħna grammatika aġġornata, moderna – grammatika li lill-istudent flok timbutta, tqanqlu bil-kuržitā. Minkejja l-ghodod komdi pprovduti mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Malti, fejn tidħol l-informazzjoni teknoloġika, jidher li filwaqt li l-biċċa l-kbira jitkellmu bil-Malti, il-Maltin għadhom jippreferu jużaw l-Ingliz meta jiġu biex jiktbu xi ittra jew jibagħtu messaġġi elettroniċi.

Hi ġerha nazzjonali li nhossuna aħjar meta nkellmu lil uliedna bl-Ingliz. Daħlet taħt il-ġilda tagħna u mhix ħlief att ta' sfiduċja tal-poplu tagħna fi innifsu. Jeħtieg li l-poplu jifhem li l-bilingwiżmu huwa ġid kbir u bl-ebda mod ma jfixkel it-tagħlim u l-iżvilupp tat-tfal u tal-pajjiż. Jibqa' jidwi kliem Dun Karm Psaila, il-Poeta Nazzjonali – “Hobb, jekk jiswewlek, l-ilsna barranija, iżda le tbarri lil min hu ta' ġewwa.”

**1929...**

**Traduzzjoni tal-Bibbja għall-Malti**  
Translation of the Bible into Maltese



## CAN BE DONE TO KEEP THE MALTESE LANGUAGE RELEVANT IN A GLOBALISED WORLD?

***Primarily, it is important to understand that the Maltese Language is not a museum piece and that the rate of progress cannot be halted.***

Our language will continue to be renewed and evolve along with changes and new achievements gained by the nation. Our challenge is to present Maltese to our students as a living and dynamic language. We need to keep abreast of changes and understand why they are happening and their consequences.

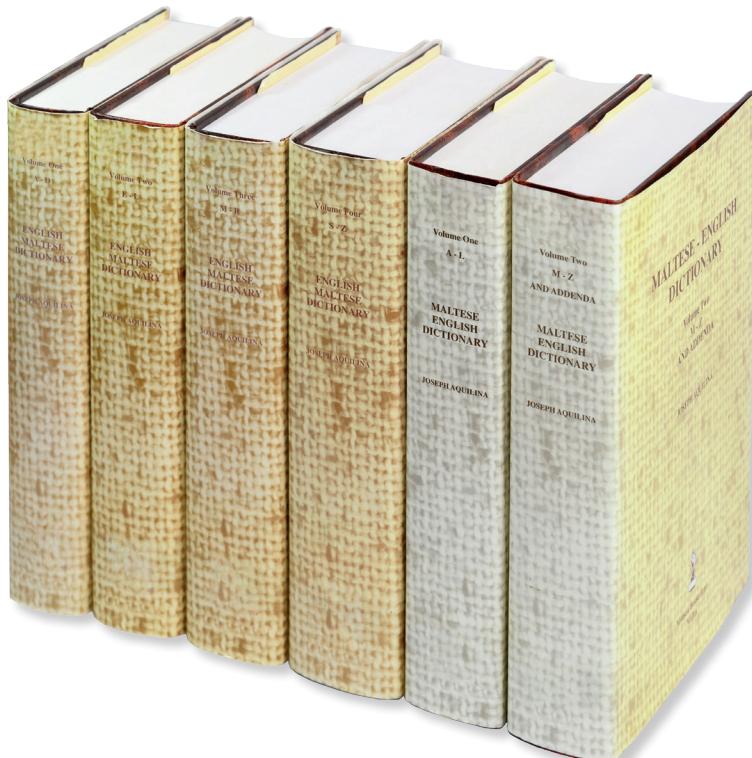
It is imperative to have a good up-to-date Maltese online dictionary. Tools need to be designed for pedagogy, for example with grammar, to engage the students rather than put them off. Despite the good tools already offered by the Maltese National Council in information technology, the majority of Maltese-speaking people still prefer to use English in emails or when texting messages.

A national sore point is that we tend to speak to our children in English and it has become common practice, which in itself is a discredit to our own nation. People need to understand that bilingualism is actually an advantage and in no way does it hinder the education or development of our children or our nation. Dun Karm Psaila's own words, our national poet, still resonate – “Love foreign languages, if it benefits you, but do not renounce your own”.

1999

Id-Dizzjunarju ta' ġuże Aquilina

Dictionary by ġuże Aquilina



**Fl-14 ta' Novembru 1920 twaqqfet I-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti li aktar tard fl-1964 saret magħrufa bħala I-Akkademja tal-Malti.**

I-ħsieb ewljeni tal-Għaqda kien li tagħżel alfabett li jkun imħaddem mill-kittieba kollha tal-Malti. Dan seħħi sena wara fit-18 ta' Diċembru 1921. Wara, fl-1924 I-Għaqda ħarġet it-Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija – l-ewwel manwal tal-ortografija tal-Malti.

Fl-1925 I-Għaqda bdiet toħroġ il-perjodiku tagħha, *Il-Malti*. Dan għadu jiġi ppubblikat kull sena f'edizzjonijiet letterarji u akkademici flimkien ma' ħarġiet speċjali.

Fl-1984 I-Akkademja ħarġet regoli ġodda fuq il-kliem ta' nisel Rumanz jew Ingliz li dehru fiż-Żieda mat-Tagħrif. Aktar tard fl-1992 I-Akkademja ħarġet I-Aġġornament tat-Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija. Fl-1998 stampat ir-Regoli tal-Kitba tal-Malti.

Matul is-snин, minbarra għadd sabiħ ta' pubblikazzjonijiet, I-Akkademja ħadet ħsieb tikkommemora kittieba Maltin u torganizza taħdidi kif ukoll seminars fuq il-letteratura u l-lingwa Maltija.

Pubblikazzjonijiet oħra jinkludu *Studji Dunkarmjani* (2011), *Doreen Micallef – il-Konferenza – il-Poeżiji* (2015), *Fuq il-Passi ta' Vassalli* (2019) b'ricerka ġidida fuq ‘Missier I-ħiġien Malti’, *Is-Sessiżmu fil-Lingwa Maltija* (2020) u *Storja tal-ħiġien Malti u l-Letteratura Maltija – Kronologija* (2021).

Fl-2013 I-Akkademja sponsorjat ir-restawr tal-volum li fih tinsab I-‘Għanja’ ta’ Pietru Caxaro, magħrufa bħala I-Kantilena kif ukoll ir-restawr tal-Prospetto (1820) ta’ Mikkel Anton Vassalli u fl-2016 il-pubblikazzjoni tad-ħamra tal-Kliem Kartaginis msċerred fel-Fom tal-Maltin u Għaucin.

**1921**  
L-Alfabett

Maltese Alphabet issued by the "Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti"		
Letter Type	Sound	Examples
1. A, a	A (Alef)	Anda, sān
2. B, b	B (Ba)	Biegħi, bieħi
3. Ċ, ċ	Č (Čie)	Čiġi, čemp
4. D, d	D (Dej, dje)	Dakha, dher
5. E, ē	E (Ef)	Efha, ċiefa
6. F, f	F (Fa)	Faq, fajha
7. Ġ, ġ	Ġ (ġiem)	ġellew, ġie
8. G, g	G (Gan)	għadid, għandha
9. H, ħ	H (Ha)	ħajnej, tħażżeen
10. K, k	K (Ka)	Dekha, ka
11. M, m	M (Ma)	ħolbi, kifha
12. L, l	L (Lid)	ix-xebha, l-ixx
13. J, ġ	J (Ja)	Byej, ja
14. K, k	K (Ka)	Kebbi, ka
15. L, l	L (Leħżeen)	Legħiex
16. M, m	M (Mieha)	Miejdha
17. N, n	N (Nien)	Nofis
18. O, o	O (Oħżejha)	Imra
19. P, p	P (Pax)	Paxiex
20. Q, q	Q (Qa)	Qu (Qa)
21. R, r	R (Ra)	Ra
22. S, s	S (Sa)	Sa (Sa), sa (sa)
23. T, t	T (Ta)	Tieq (Ta), tiegħi
24. U, u	U (U)	Wa and u
25. V, v	V (V)	Vemix
26. W, w	W (Wa)	Wa (Wa), Wattie
27. X, x	X (X)	Exxa (X)
28. Z, z	Z (Z)	Zeta (Z)
29. Ħ, ħ	ħ (ħ)	ħażżeen

Lil din l-art ġelwa, l-omm li tatna isimha,  
Hares, Mulej, kif dejjem int ħarist:  
Ftakar li lilha bl-ohla dawl libbist.

Agħti, kbir Alla, id-deh'n lil min jaħkimha,  
Rodd il-hniena lis-sid, saħha 'l-ħaddiem:  
Seddaq il-ħaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.

**1922**

L-Innu Malti

## OF PERSEVERANCE FOR THE MALTESE LANGUAGE

**The Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti was founded on the 14th November 1920. Today, it is known as L-Akkademja tal-Malti.**

The original purpose of the Għaqda was to choose an alphabet to be used by all Maltese writers. This was achieved one year later on 18 December 1921. By 1924, the Għaqda issued its very first guidebook on Maltese orthography - *Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija*.

In 1925, the Għaqda started to issue its own periodical, *Il-Malti*. It is still being published annually, through literary and academic editions together with special issues.

In 1984, L-Akkademja issued a set of new rules for words of Romantic or English origin, which appeared in the publication *Zieda mat-Tagħrif*. Later on, in 1992, L-Akkademja published the *Aġġornament tat-Tagħrif fuq il-Kitba Maltija* and in 1998 printed the *Regoli tal-Kitba tal-Malti*.

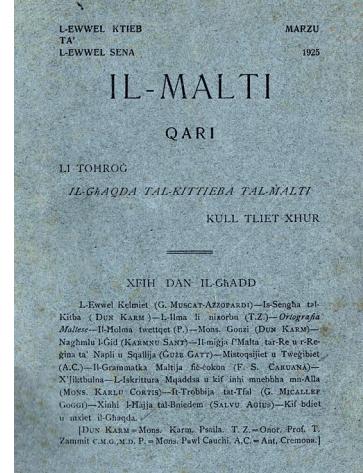
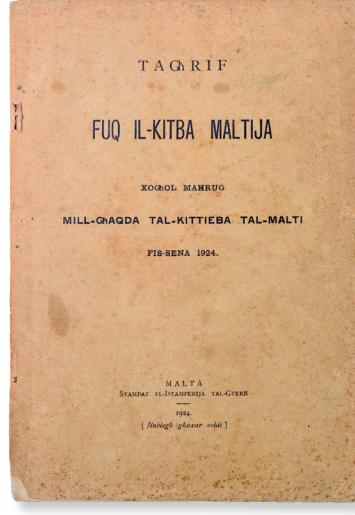
Besides the substantial number of publications, L-Akkademja commemorates Maltese authors and organises discussions, as well as seminars on Maltese Literature and Language.

Other publications include: *Studji Dunkarmjani* (2011), *Doreen Micallef – il-Konferenza – il-Poeżiji* (2015), *Fuq il-Passi ta' Vassalli* (2019) – with new research on the ‘Father of the Maltese Language’, *Is-Sessiżmu fil-Lingwa Maltija* (2020) u *Storja tal-İlsien u l-Letteratura Maltija – Kronoloġija* (2021).

In 2013, L-Akkademja sponsored the restoration of the volume which includes Pietru Caxaro’s ‘Għanja’, known as *Kantilena*, as well as the restoration of Mikiel Anton Vassalli’s *Prospetto* (1820) and the publication *Đamma tal-Kliem Kartaginis msċċered fel-Fom tal-Maltin u Għaucin* in 2016.

**1924**

*Tagħrif fuq il-kitba Maltija*



**1925**

*Il-Malti*

## Kont taf li l-parti l-kbira tar-residenti ta' Malta jistgħu jżuru i-Mużewijiet u s-siti ta' Heritage Malta mingħajr ħlas?

Il-passaport tal-istudenti ta' Heritage Malta jagħti l-jedd **lill-istudenti kollha tal-iskejjel primarji u sekondarji** flimkien ma' **żewġ adulti li jkunu magħhom** li jżuru mingħajr ħlas il-maġġor parti tal-Mużewijiet u s-siti\* kemm-il darba jridu. L-istudenti huma mħeġġa jżuru wieħed mill-Mużewijiet jew mis-siti sabiex jiġbru l-passaport tal-istudenti. Il-card ta' Heritage Malta mogħtija lilhom mill-iskola trid tiġi pprezentata sabiex jingabar dan il-passaport.

L-istudenti tal-**Università ta' Malta** u **tal-Junior College** li għandhom kont tal-e-sims jistgħu jżuru mingħajr ħlas il-biċċa l-kbira tal-Mużewijiet u s-siti\* meta jipprezentaw il-mowbajl app tal-e-sims jew evidenza oħra li tikkonferma l-pussess ta' dan l-kont e-sims.

**L-istudenti tal-MCAST** jistgħu jżuru mingħajr ħlas il-biċċa l-kbira tal-Mużewijiet u s-siti\* meta jipprezentaw il-kard tal-iskola.

**Anzjani ta' 60 sena jew aktar** flimkien ma' **żewġit itfal jew żgħażaq (sa 18-il-sena)** li jkunu magħhom jistgħu jżuru mingħajr ħlas il-maġġor parti tal-Mużewijiet u s-siti\* kemm-il darba jridu. Dan il-passaport jingabar mill-uffiċċi tal-Kunsilli Lokali. Trid tiġi pprezentata l-karta tal-identità waqt is-sottomissjoni tal-applikazzjoni għal dan il-passaport.

(\*Valletta Sotterranea, l-Ipoġew ta' Hal Safljeni (Hypogeum) u s-siti li ma jinfethux b'mod regulari għall-viżitaturi mhux inkluži)

### Did you know that most residents in Malta can enter Heritage Malta Museums and sites for free\*?

The Heritage Malta Student Passport entitles **all primary and secondary school students** and any **two accompanying adults** unlimited access to nearly all Heritage Museums and sites\*. Students are encouraged to visit any museum and collect their student passport upon presentation of the Heritage Malta card they are given from school.

**University of Malta students** and **Junior College students** in possession of an e-sims account can also enter free of charge into museums and sites\* once they display their e-sims mobile app or present alternative evidence of an e-sims account.

**MCAST students** enter free of charge\* as well just by showing their school card.

**Senior citizens aged 60** and over and **any two accompanying youths** (aged up to 18) can get free unlimited access to most Heritage Malta museums and sites\*. All you have to do is drop in at your local council with your identity card to apply for our Senior Passport.

(\*Excluding Underground Valletta and Hal Safljeni Hypogeum and those museums and sites that open only by appointment)

**Sib aktar tagħrif hawn / Find out more here:**



[heritagemalta.mt/community](http://heritagemalta.mt/community)

## **IS-SERJE TAL-WIRJET ESPRESSO** ESPRESSO EXHIBITION SERIES

**It-titlu ta' din is-sensiela ta' wirjet huwa ispirat minn dik il-kikkra kafè wisq popolari, b'togħma pjuttost qawwija u tfuħ. Bħall-espresso, dawn il-wirjet aktarx li huma fċ-ċokon imma fl-istess hin tant intensi u jiffukaw fuq aspetti kurjuži miġjuba mill-Kollezzjoni Nazzjonali.**

This title is inspired by the popular small cup of coffee which is strong in flavour and aromatic. Same as the Espresso, these exhibitions, albeit small are just as intense and focused on a particularly curious aspect from the National Collection.

**1. Siege Maps: Keeping Memory Safe**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

29 January - 22 May 2016

**2. Mattia Preti: Self-Image**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

5 October - 30 November 2016

**3. Edward Lear in Gozo: 150 Years Later**

*Heritage Malta, Gozo Area Office (Cittadella)*

2 December 2016 - 28 January 2017

**4. Reborn: An Early Painting in Focus**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

8 December 2016 - 31 January 2017

**5. De Valette's Armour & Fighting Sword Reunited**

*Fort St Angelo (Vittoriosa)*

8 September - 15 October 2017

**6. Etruscan Urns in the National Collection**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

21 July - 23 September 2018

**7. Ta' ġawhar Tower: Gold, Bread and Fire**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

28 June - 28 September 2019

**8. The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th-Century Malta**

*Inquisitor's Palace (Birgu)*

4 September - 31 December 2019

**9. Pots, People, Places and Science: The Journey of the Humble Potsherd**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

20 June - 21 August 2022

**10. Meet the Phoenicians of Malta**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

29 August - 30 October 2022

**11. Honor Frost's Malta: A Pioneer in the Centre of the Mediterranean**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

3 November 2022 - 31 January 2023

**12. Il-Malti – Il-Mixja sal-Għarien Ufficijal**

*National Museum of Archaeology (Valletta)*

21 February - 30 April 2023

**Il-Wirja**

**Kurazija:** Joe Borg u Godwin Vella

**Disinn:** Id-Dipartimenti tal-Wirjet u tad-Disinn & Branding

**Manifattura:** Dipartiment tal-Manifattura u l-Manutenzjoni

**Il-Ktejjeb**

**Kitba:** Joe Borg, Mario Cassar u Godwin Vella

**Traduzzjoni:** Margaret Abdilla Cunningham

**Ritratti:** Pierre Balzia

**Għajnejha Teknika:** George Agius, Kimberly Azzopardi u Fiona Vella

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Kull dritt huwa riservat f'kull pajjiż.

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Hobb, jekk  
jiswewlek,  
l-ilsna  
barranija,  
iżda le tbarri  
lil min hu ta'  
ġewwa.

Dun Karm Psaila  
Il-Poeta Nazzjonali



Taħt il-patrocinju  
tal-E.T. Dr George Vella  
President ta' Malta



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