

Siltiet minn *Stedina ta' Vassalli* fil-ġurnal *Il Kaulata Maltia* (1839)

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L-eqdem edizzjoni ta' *Stedina*

Konna naħsbu li *Stedina* dehret l-ewwel darba fl-1841 fil-ktejjeb *A Letter on the Eligibility of the Maltese Dialect as a Written Medium of Instruction in the Government Primary Schools addressed to His Excellency Sir H. F. Bouverie* ta' George Percy Badger. Fl-1843 *Stedina* reġġhet dehret f'*Il Malti* tal-Academia Filologica Maltia u fl-1845 reġġhet tfaċċat fil-ktieb *A Short Grammar of the Maltese Language*, xogħol li sal-lum ma konniex nafu ta' min hu. L-aħħar żewġ edizzjonijiet harġu b'xi tiddiliet mill-edizzjoni ta' Badger.¹

Dan l-aħħar, waqt li konna qed inqallbu l-ġurnal *Il Kaulata Maltia*,² intbaħna li fit-tielet u l-aħħar harġa tiegħu, jiġifieri dik tad-29 ta' Jannar 1839, kien hemm xi siltiet twal minn *Stedina* miġburin f'artiklu wieħed. Isem Vassalli ma jidher imkien.

Il Kaulata Maltia

Il-ġurnal *Il Kaulata Maltia* hareġ l-ewwel darba fil-15 ta' Jannar 1839. Kien “stampât min Cumbo nal' Editur tal' Arlekkinn, u jimbieħ fil kafê ta' Sàlvu Said Hâra ir-Rjâli, No. 248.”³ L-editur ta' *L-Arlekkinn*⁴ kien James Richardson, Protestant.⁵ Mid-dehra l-ġurnal *Il Kaulata Maltia* ma kienx jiktbu Richardson imma sieħbu George Percy Badger,⁶ Ingliz u Protestant bħalu li kien jaf il-Malti sew.⁷ Skont nota manuskrutta fuq il-faċċata tat-tielet harġa, il-ġurnal kien

jeditjah Badger: “*Edited by G. P. Badger Esq. Discontinued with this number.*”⁸

Il Kaulata Maltia fih qwiel, taqbiliet, poeżiji, tagħrifiet u avvizi marbutin mal-edukazzjoni u r-religjon.⁹

Il-hsieb tal-ġurnal

Il-hsieb ta’ dan il-ġurnal kien wiehed ambizzjuż. Ried jagħti sehmu biex jistabbilixxi l-lingwa u l-letteratura Maltija. Hekk jidher fl-avviż ta’ qabel il-pubblikazzjoni tiegħu miġjub minn *The Harlequin*:

*Non occorre che noi parliamo dell’ utilità, e del pregio di una tal pubblicazione, queste son cose ovvie a chiunque. E chi potrà assicurare che non sarà per essere questo foglio un giorno, il precursore dello stabilimento della lingua Maltese sopra un’ equa e solida base, e della produzione d’ una letteratura che potrà empire il Mediterraneo de’ suoi pregievoli e gloriosi risultamenti?*¹⁰

Meta *Il Kaulata Maltia* kien diġà ħareġ darbtejn, *The Harlequin* reġa’ kiteb:

The second number of the Kaulata has made its appearance. We recommend this paper to every Maltese family as being the most unexceptionable publication in Malta, not excepting the great father of us all, the Government Gazette. The object of this purely Maltese paper is, to give information to the mass of the people, descending to the very lowest classes. Besides this, to excite the love of reading and letters, and to afford some elegant literary amusement. If this paper continues, we doubt not, all these desirable things will be accomplished.

*The objection, that this paper will retard the march of education is of no value, since out of the city very few Maltese understand the Italian or English languages; and if in every town and village one person can be found who can read, he may be able to amuse and instruct hundreds and thousands in their own mother tongue. The ortography of this publication is conducted upon scientific principles; and for once, and perhaps now and for ever, this orthography has taken a tolerably fixed and permanent form.*¹¹

Kif għedna, il-ġurnal ħareġ tliet darbiet biss. Jista’ jkun li waqaf għax ma kienx hemm biżżejjed qarrejja li kienu lesti jixtru ġurnal bil-Malti mahruġ

mill-Protestanti.¹² Forsi lanqas ma għen ruħu meta permezz ta' *Stedina* hadha kontra t-Taljan bhala l-ilsien ewlieni ta' Malta.

Kelmtejn fuq l-alfabett u xi għażliet lingwistiċi ohra

L-alfabett tal-ġurnal huwa wiehed Latin. Għandu minn dak ta' Vassalli tal-1827, ħlief għall-grafema <g> flok <ɾ> (<gadzetti>,¹³ <ortografia>¹⁴), id-digraff <ts> flok <z> (<Skòtsja>,¹⁵ <edukatsioni>¹⁶) u l-grafema <x> flok <u> (<xemx>, <xita>).

Mill-bqija, bħal Vassalli, il-*Kaulata* jiddistingwi l-gutturali /s/ u /g/ u jirrapprezentahom bħalu, jiġifieri <ɾ> u <ɾ>. Għażel ukoll il-fonemi /h/, /h/, u /k/. Bħal Vassalli, huwa rrapprezentahom bil-grafemi <h>, <h>, u <h> – ħalliha li xi drabi jista' jkun li ma kienx ċert mid-distinzjoni ta' bejniethom. Nġhidu ahna, darba minnhom kiteb <jidher>¹⁷ u ffit wara kiteb <jixhed>.¹⁸

Xi drabi l-ġurnal haddem il-prinċipju etimoloġiku għal xi kliem missellef. Nġhidu ahna hekk għamel bil-kelma <skond>¹⁹ (minn <secondo>). Dan il-prinċipju reġa' haddmu għal xi kliem ta' nisel Għarbi bħal <blied>.²⁰ Daqqiet ohra haddem il-prinċipju fonetiku bħal fil-kliem <radba>²¹ u <xufut>.²²

X'kien jahseb Badger fuq Vassalli u hidmietu

Badger huwa magħruf l-iktar għal kitbietu fuq Malta u l-edukazzjoni tal-Maltin.²³ Fl-istess sena li huwa kien medhi bil-ġurnal *Il Kaulata Maltia* (u aktarx b' *The Harlequin* ukoll), huwa ppubblika *Sullo Stato della Educazione Pubblica in Malta*. Sena qabel ħareġ *Description of Malta and Gozo* u fih reġa' tkellem fuq l-edukazzjoni tal-Maltin u fuq it-tagħlim tal-Malti.

Fiz-żmien li qed insemmu, il-Kummissarji Inglizi George Cornewall Lewis u John Austin kienu għadhom kemm ippublikaw ir-rapport tagħhom fuq il-qagħda ta' Malta. Fih ħarsu wkoll lejn l-edukazzjoni u għaddew għadd ta' rakkomandazzjonijiet. Skont Badger, dan ir-rapport kien xprunat mill-kritika li kien għamel lill-Gvern Inġliż Giorgio Mitrovich fl-1836.²⁴ Ir-rapport kien ħadilhom sena u nofs xogħol.²⁵

Fil-ktieb *Sullo Stato della Educazione* Badger fela r-rakkomandazzjonijiet fuq l-edukazzjoni u kellu xi jgħid fuq kull waħda minnhom. Tkellem fit-tul fuq it-tagħlim tal-Malti fl-iskejjel primarji u wera li ma kien jaqbel xejn mal-

alfabett imħallat li dak iż-żmien kien użat fil-ktieb tal-qari għall-iskejjel.²⁶ Jista' jkun li kien qed jirreferi għall-ktieb *English and Maltese Reading Book, for the use of Government Primary Schools* (Malta, 1839).²⁷ Qal li dan l-alfabett kien hemm warajh Lewis.²⁸ Sejjahlu “*inutile innovazione*” għax barra li l-grafemi Għarab li kien fih kienu jtellfu s-simetrija tal-karattri Latini, huma kienu johlqu diffikultà għall-istampar u għall-kitba bl-idejn.²⁹ Fisser li mqar Vassalli, “*il più dotto nella sua lingua nativa che mai esistesse in Malta*”, u li seta' uża grafemi aktar sempliċi fl-alfabett li holoq, tal-inqas il-grafemi tiegħu kienu jzommu mas-simetrija tal-alfabett Latin.³⁰ L-argumenti fuq is-simetrija alfabetika u fuq l-ittri Għarab insibuhom f’*Il Kaulata Maltia* wkoll.³¹

Fil-ktieb Badger reġa' semmich lil Vassalli meta ried isostni li l-Malti kien ilsien tajjeb biex wiehed jesprimi l-ideat kollha tiegħu – halliha li fit-tieni ħarġa ta' *Il Kaulata Maltia* nsibu li l-Malti “sâr tant fqir illi ma fihx kliem bizzejjed biex uifed jistan jikteb fih ix-xensi [ix-xjenzi].”³² Fil-ktieb issokta l-argument tiegħu billi elenka għadd ta' kotba ta' kittieba Maltin, fosthom Vassalli. Għafas l-aktar fuq l-erba' vangeli u l-Atti tal-Appostli, ta' Vassalli wkoll, miktubin “in puro dialetto maltese, *che contegono, come ognuno facilmente conviene che dica, molte idee spirituali e metafisiche, difficili ad esprimersi in qualsivoglia lingua.*”³³ Barra dawn, Badger semma wkoll xi manuskritti bil-Malti, imma did-darba m'għamel l-ebda referenza għall-manuskritti ta' Vassalli,³⁴ wisq anqas għal *Stedina* – avolja f'dan iż-żmien kienet diġà għaddiet għandu. Dan għaliex dik il-ħabta Badger kien traduttur tač-Church Missionary Society, li kellha f'idejha l-manuskritti ta' Vassalli. *Stedina*, li donnha hija d-daħla għal xi ktieb tal-qari, nistennewha li kienet fosthom. Band'ohra Badger indika li kellu l-kopja originali ta' Vassalli.³⁵

Badger wera fehmiel differenti ħafna minn dawk li kien ihaddan Vassalli fuq in-nisel tal-Malti. Filwaqt li Vassalli baqa' jsostni li l-Malti kien imnissel mill-Puniku,³⁶ Badger, li fl-1835 kien Bejrut jissokta l-istudji tal-Għarbi u 'l quddiem ħareġ xi kotba wkoll,³⁷ mill-bidu saħaq li l-Malti kien djalett Għarbi. F'*Description of Malta and Gozo* huwa fisser li l-bosta kliem Malti li seta' kien Puniku u li kien għadu jintuża sa żmienu kien jinsab kollu fl-Għarbi. Fl-istess ħin, il-ftit tagħrif li l-istudjuji kellhom f'idejhom fuq il-Puniku ma kienx bizzejjed biex jikkonferma x-xebh bejnu u l-Malti. Filwaqt li għaraf li xi kelmiet fil-Malti ma kellhomx l-Għarbi bħala s-sors tagħhom, huwa fisser li b'daqshekk ma jfissirx li dawn kienu mnisslin mill-Puniku. Badger irrefera għal sieħbu Schlienz, li kien jaf l-Għarbi wkoll u li kien jaħsibha bħalu.³⁸

Xi kultant, id-differenzi fil-fehmiet ta' Vassalli u Badger kienu kbar. Filwaqt li Vassalli fisser ruhu sew, anke fi *Stedina*, li l-Maltin kellhom l-ewwel jitgħallmu l-Malti u mbagħad jgħaddu għat-tagħlim ta' ilsna oħra, fil-ktieb *Description of Malta and Gozo* Badger kien jaqbel mal-isforzi li kienu qed isiru biex l-Għarbi jkun l-ilsien ewlieni tat-tagħlim fl-iskejjel tal-Gvern.³⁹ Madankollu, sena wara, fil-ktieb *Sullo Stato della Educazione* Badger elenka l-vantaġġi l-kbar li kieku l-ilsien tat-tagħlim f' Malta kellu jkun l-Ingliz, u li l-Malti kellu jservi ta' pont sakemm jintgħallem dan l-ilsien.⁴⁰ Hawnhekk it-tagħlim tal-Għarbi llimitah għall-istudenti fil-Liceo.⁴¹ F' *Il Kaulata Maltia* nerġgħu nsibu li l-Ingliz, u mhux it-Taljan, kellu jkun l-ilsien ewlieni tat-tagħlim.⁴² Fil-ktejjeb *A Letter on the Eligibility* Badger fisser li l-Malti kellu jkun *ikkoltivat parzjalment* biss,⁴³ jiġifieri li l-Malti kellu jkun mezz li jwassal għat-tagħlim ta' lingwa oħra, u mhux sugġett ta' studju fih innifsu.

Il-merti taż-żewġ edizzjonijiet ta' *Stedina* miġjuba minn Badger (1839, 1841)

Kull waħda miż-żewġ edizzjonijiet ta' Badger għandha element li jqarribha lejn il-kitba oriġinali ta' Vassalli. L-ewwel edizzjoni, dik imxandra fil-ġurnal, tippreserva d-distinzjonijiet tal-hsejjes gutturali li kienu tant għal qalb Vassalli. Dawn id-distinzjonijiet fil-hsejjes Badger ma rriproduċihomx fit-tieni edizzjoni mxandra f' *A Letter on the Eligibility*, għax skontu, barra li ma kinux għadhom jinstemgħu fit-Tlett Ibliet, fl-irhula kienu qed jinqatgħu wkoll.⁴⁴ Kontemporanju li ma kienx jaqbel mal-għażla ta' Badger kien Francesco Vella, li għamilha ċara li l-hsejjes li kien nehha Badger kienu għadhom jinhassu. Vella ta x'jifhem li Badger kien qed jinqeda b' Vassalli biex jippromwovi l-alfabett ġdid tiegħu.⁴⁵

Mill-banda l-oħra, it-tieni edizzjoni jidher li tippreserva l-kitba sħiħa ta' Vassalli. L-ewwel edizzjoni tal-*Kaulata* hija magħmula minn gabra ta' siltiet differenti, kultant b' xi zieda ta' xi frazi għall-konsistenza tal-argument, kif jidher mit-traskrizzjoni taż-żewġ edizzjonijiet fl-appendiċi ta' dan l-artiklu.

Irid jingħad li bidla ewlenija fit-test tal-ewwel edizzjoni hija l-qtuġh barra tar-referenza awtobijografika għas-safar li Vassalli kien għamel l-Italja, Korsika, Franza u Majorka. Badger seta' halla barra din ir-referenza, għax fl-ewwel edizzjoni ma semmiex l-awtur oriġinali min kien waqt li fit-tieni edizzjoni jsemmih u ddeskrivieh bħala "*a man who did more in the cultivation of his native dialect than any Maltese, but whose memory is not held in that reverence and esteem which it deserves*".⁴⁶

Mikelanġ Camilleri

Fil-bidu semmejna li *Stedina* dehret ukoll fil-ġurnal *Il Malti* tal-Academia Filologica Maltia tat-2 u s-16 ta' Settembru 1843. Fl-1845 reġġghet dehret fil-ktieb anonimu *A Short Grammar of the Maltese Language*.

Ma nafux min kien il-moħħ wara l-pubblikazzjoni mill-ġdid ta' *Stedina f'Il Malti*. Madankollu llum nistgħu ngħidu li wieħed mill-membri tal-bidu tagħha, Mikelanġ Camilleri,⁴⁷ kien l-awtur tax-*Short Grammar*.

Camilleri, mill-Birgu, kien qassis Kattoliku li wara seba' snin li kien ordna, sewwawew f'Mejju 1843, ħarab lejn Ġibiltà, sar Anglikan u żżewweġ armla Maltija.⁴⁸ Ftut ġimghat qabel, il-ġurnal *Il Portafoglio Maltese* kien qed ifaħħru għall-mod tajjeb li bih kien qed imexxi skola li kien fetax hu f'Jannar 1842 fil-Birgu, u li fiha lit-tfal kienu jgħallmuhom il-Malti biex bih jintgħallmu suġġetti oħra.⁴⁹

Hidma mas-Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge

Bħala Anglikan Camilleri tqabbd mill-Isqof Tomlinson biex jaqleb bil-Malti xi kotba sagri għas-Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge – għaqda Protestanta li daħlet hawn Malta flok iċ-Church Missionary Society.⁵⁰

L-ewwel biċċa xogħol li ppubblika b'ismu kienet il-verżjoni bil-Malti tal-*Book of Common Prayer*. Din rat id-dawl fl-1845 bl-isem *Ktieb it Talb ta' Áalenia, u tal Áoti tas Sagramenti u tar Riti u chirimonyi oħra tal Knisya, fuq id drawa tal Knisya mwahhda ta' l'Ingilterra u ta' l'Irlanda: flimkien mas salterju ew is salmi ta' David, ukoll il áamla u kif áandhom ikunu ordnati u ikkonsagrati l'isqfijiet, il qassisin, u id dyakni*.

Nafu li l-Isqof kien qabbd u jaħdem ukoll fuq l-edizzjoni l-ġdida tat-Testment il-Ġdid. Din l-edizzjoni ħarġet fl-1847 bl-isem *Il Áaqda il Jdida ta' Sidna Jesu Kristu, mijyuba mil Inglis*.⁵¹ Fiha rreveda x-xogħol li kien għamel Vassalli u zied it-traduzzjonijiet tiegħu tal-epistoli u tal-Apokalissi.⁵²

Iż-żewġ kotba ħarġu bl-istess sistema alfabetika. F'rapport li ħareġ fl-1845, ftit qabel il-pubblikazzjoni ta' *Ktieb it Talb ta' Áalenia*, l-Isqof kien qal li fit-tnejn għal dan il-ktieb kellhom iħabbtu wiċċhom ma' diversi diffikultajiet minhabba l-“istat anomalu” li fih kien jinsab il-Malti miktub.⁵³ Skontu, is-sistema ortografika li nħadmet kienet l-eħfef waħda u l-iktar waħda effikaci biex jintgħallhem il-Malti fi skola tal-Ingliz.⁵⁴

Tliet kotba ohrajn ta' Camillieri?

Skont Ninu Cremona, is-Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge ħarget tliet kotba ohrajn bil-Malti.⁵⁵ Dawn huma *A Short Grammar of the Maltese Language* (1845), *Il-Bidu tal-Grammatika Ingliża* (1846), u *Il Haġa u il Vinturi ta' Robinson Krusoe, ta' York: Miktuba minnu in nifsu. Mijyuba mill'Inglis* (1846). Il-ktieb tal-grammatika tal-Ingliz nistgħu nqisuh mitluf.

Fl-1857 Cesare Vassallo attribwixxa l-ktieb ta' Robinson Krusoe lil Camillieri.⁵⁶ Minkejja dan, u minkejja l-alfabett tiegħu, dan il-ktieb kemm-il darba ġie attribwit lil Richard Taylor.⁵⁷

Minhabba li l-kotba li rajna nkitbu bl-istess alfabet, jġigifieri dak li ħareġ bih u użah Camillieri, nifhmu li barra l-ktieb ta' Robinson Krusoe, il-grammatika tal-Malti u l-grammatika tal-Ingliz setgħu kienu xogħol Camillieri wkoll.

Hajr lill-ħabib tiegħi Dr Olvin Vella.

Appendiċi A

Dawn huma t-traskrizzjonijiet taż-żewġ edizzjonijiet ta’ *Stedina* migjubin minn Badger. Is-siltiet bil-grassett juru d-differenzi bejniethom.

<p>L-edizzjoni ta’ <i>Il Kaulata Maltia</i> (1839)</p>	<p>L-edizzjoni ta’ <i>A Letter on the Eligibility of the Maltese Dialect as a Written Medium of Instruction in the Government Primary Schools addressed to His Excellency Sir H.F. Bouverie</i> (1841)</p>
<p>Par. A Ħat ma jitsta [sic] jichad illi ahna hau f’Mâlta uisq nieqsin it-ta’lîm u il nerf, u fost il bosta huejġeg illi zamna lura in-noqsân tal qari a tal kitba f’Isienna hia l’akbar. Miskîn ta Mâlta qabel ma jista jitralllem xi hâga jahtieglu leuel jitralllem Isien ieħor li jrid is-sniñ sa ma jiksbu tajjeb, u min huma dauka fostna li jistru jaaddu tant zmien fl’iskola biex jitrallmu ffit tal-qari u kitba?</p>	<p>Par. A Tifthu ctieb, u ma tistûx takrauh, âx ma tällimtûx il kari, tarau u thossu illi bhalli chiecu jsòb bicom. Jec mbaât takrauh u ma tifmuhx, u lankas tafu tfsiruh, billi jcuñ mictûb b’Isien bar-rani, nisthajjel illi jcolcom actar sóba. Izda jec tafu takrauh, u tifmu minnu xi ffit, u hec ma tafûx tfsiruh, u xi huejġeg tifmuhom hagia b’ohra, jcu bil maklûb, êduli: x’òkla cbira ma tigidomx?</p>
<p>Par. A U kos nalhek hauna tant Maltîn li meta jaqrau xi hâga bit-Taljân ma jafux jfissruha, u jhabbilhom mohhom, b’hek jqarqu bihom nfushom u b’ohrain bhâlhom, bla ma jridu. U mniex jigi dân kollu? Òair milli f’dîna l’art tanna qat ma hasbu nalina, u anqas hsibna ahna ta rgiel tal naqal, bhal ma faseb il poplu u in-nies tad-dinja kolha fl’artijiet ta barra, seuua kbâr seuua zjar. Ahna immela jmisna u nandna nâfu u naqrau u niktbu b’Isienna, bhâl ma jâfu huma ma kollimkien; ladarba din hi hâga li tinhtieg u jafuha sa fix-xajjar ta Barbaria, u il Òarab u il Biduîn.</p>	<p>Par. A U chem hem fostna min daun it-talin, li il ffit li jakrau ma jfmuhx [sic] tajjeb, u jhabbilhom mohhom, u b’hec jkarku bihom nfushom, u b’ohrain bhalom bla ma jridu? U mniex jgi [sic] dân collu? ‘Air milli f’dina l’art tâna kat ma hasbu âlina, u ankas hsibna ahna ta rgiel tal âkal, bhal ma hasbet in-nies tad-digna colla, fl’artijet ta barra, seuua cbâr, seuua zâr. Ahna immela imissna, u ândna nafu nakrau u nictbu b’Isienna, bhalma jafu huma mâ collimchien: ladarba din hi hagia li tinhtieg u jafuha sa fix-xajjar ta Barbaria, il ‘Arab u il Biduîn.</p>
<p>-</p>	<p>Par. A ‘Aliex min-nokkàs tal kari u il chitba beinietna jgi, illi ahna bis, fost in-nies ta’ collimchien, bkaina bosta uara fit-tâlim, u fil huejġeg tal êrf; illi rjûs-na ntleu bil hrejjef, u bakû mimlijn bil fruijet; illi uisk minna nitchelmu u ma nafux xi nidu, nithattu u ma niftiemux: u âlhec bosta uħud jnsabu mhabblin dejjem f’âmilhom, u âl col xein jtbiêdu ma xilxin.</p>

-	<p>Par B Il bniedem li ma jafx jakra u jcteb [sic] b'lsien u ma jstax juizen lilu in-nifsu, xoólu dejjem mhabbel, u hua dejjem mhabbat u hosbien, ma jafx x'jámel, la fein jmid ideih leuuel; áx billi ma jctibx, meta jnsa, ma ándux x'jfaccru. Geuakt ándu il mictub fuq huejjeg ta daru, u jahtieglu jakrahom min hat iehor, biex járaf x'inchitiblu, u chem il darba jgri illi jakraulu u ma jfisrulus seuua, u jcollu jmur jggiera u jbka ma jafx chif in huma. F'chelma uahda, il bniedem li ma jctebx, állankas b'lsien, hu áma u mxebbeh lil bhima, u l'ohrain jstú jmexxuh u jsukuh chif jridu u jógiobom.</p>
-	<p>Par C Illúm id-digna fethet áneiha u áddiet lkoddiem bil kari u il chitba li in-áraf ma collimchien, u álhec tbidlet uisk milli chienet mijet ta snin ilu. Immela il bniedem li ma jáfx jakra u jcteb jstá jid illi ma hu xein fid-dinja, illi hu il lsir tiú in-nifsu u tal ohrain; illi col fein jmùr ma jsua xein, u jáddi b'mischin u b'zeuuiel, u malli hat ma jhares leih, uisk uhud jdcu bih. 'Aliex fiz-zmien li ahna fih, in-nies hjenet bosta uisk milli dari, u hem min jfittex jkarrak b'min hu bla hila u áneih máluka. U filli dàc li ma jafx jakra u jcteb hua bla daul dana izjed min ohrain jstá jtkarrak. Imma nhalluna min dana collu: námli illi ahna ninsabu kalb it-tieba, u fost in-nies seuua. Izda meta narau nies ohra, u mad-dinja colha, u sa f'kié il lvant geuua ic-Cina collimchien jafu il chitba, nistú ahna námli ruiehna min áiru u illi nibkú saimin minnu, u fid-dlamijet ta l'mbiemin ta l'mtarxin, u tal ómi, li ma jtchelmux, li ma jsimúx, u li ma jaraux? Le: ma jxirkilniex dana billi nibkú uara izied, u jahtigilna nhautlu u nágglu f'din il hagia, biex nirbhu ir-rihu li rhaina sissa, u nilhku ma l'ohrain.</p>

<p>Par B Qidna illi il kitba u il qari jaftieg jkun b'lsienienna biex nirbhu iz-zmien li tli-fna, ladarba malli taqra u tikteb b'lsienek thossok minnufih tithenna, u bhalli kieku tistenbeh, billi tiftaħ naineik u tġara daul gdid, izda meta Malti jaqra bit-Taljġn (ma noidux nal dauka il ftit li tnallmu nal snin) donnu dejjem bic-epġar qoddi-em naineih, u ftit jiehju pjaċir il naliex ftit jifhem.</p>	<p>Par D Izda ctibna mil-leuel ġndu jkun b'lsienienna, biex nirbhu iz-zmien li tli-fna: ladarba, malli takra u ticteb b'lsienek thossok minnufih tithenna, u bhalli chie-cu tistenbeh, billi tiftaħ ġneic u tara daul gdid, dinja ohra, u hemma mbaad tġraf x'kieed tid u x'kieed tġmel, u issib illi minnec uahdec tġun ticteb fehmi-tec b'ideic, tarahom b'ġneic, u takta b'fo-mmoc colma jctbulec ohrain; ġliex, billi jġun mictub bil lsien li tuilid t trabbe-it min tfulitec u mis-sibh ta omroc, issibec fid-daul, fejn tara u tilmah tajjeb, ti-fhem u itticeem, u tistġ tixtar collox min-nufih u minnec in-nifsec.</p>
<p>Par B U mnein sa fejn, u il naliex ma nand-niex niktbu bhall ohrain? Il Qarbi bil Qarbi jikteb, bit-Taljġn it-Taljġn, u sal Isuet li jnsġb geuua il qalb ta l'Afrika, mnein qat ma hareg, u la rġ dinj'ohra, izda jaqra u jikteb b'lsien? U min kien dġk il hġti l'ibleh, u dġk nieqes mil naqal, bnied-em mberfel, li ganal lil missirijetna taz-zmien, illi beniethom ma jiktbox bil lsien li fih tuieldu, u bih jiftiehm? Mġn uebbilom dġna? Ried illi janmel dġk li ma jġix minnu, u qarraq bihom. Taqriqa kienet li giebet il uisq minna fil hal tad-dlamijiet, u tal bluha, li hi l'anarr hġga li tġnsġb fid-dinja: naliex il bluha hia il hġta ta kol deni li fihom iggib il bnedmin. Izda bnadijiet ohra ma humiex hek. Barra min hauna kol fejn rait, u kol fejn dort sibt ir-ranajja, il harrġta, il nazziegġn, il bdieua, il hġd-diemin, u in-nies tas-snajja kolha, sibtom jġfu jaqrau u jiktbu, kolhat b'lsien ta pajj-isu. Il kol tarahom bil kodba f'ideihom fil knejjes, fir-rhula, qalb l'mrieħel, fil bliet, fir-rħajjel. Haun bis ma raitx dġna. Bnadi ohra qat ma lġqait ma missirijiet li jnidu l'uliedom: La titkellem bil lsien ta fejn Alla hġlqek u uldek; izda haun f'Mġlta rait u smait. Bġndi ohra leuel b'lsienom, u bih mbanad ilsna ohra jitrallmu; izda hauna le, donna m'afniex bhall nies ohra. U x'jedd nandu it-Taljġn izjed min ilsna ohra? Izda il miskġn ta Malti x'jnidli fuq dġna kol-lu? ma kellix mġn jaġni id-daul, u jnal-limni. Imma tġf x'jnid il bidui meta il bard u ix-xita tkun sejra thallih:</p> <p>“Ja nasfġr, tħħbah, u infila Uaslet nalik ir-rebbna Ladarba fl'art ix-xoir mila.”</p>	<p>Par E U mnein sa fejn, jeu il ġliex, ma ġnd-niex nictbu bhall ohrain? Il 'Arbi bil ġrbi jcteb, bit-taljġn it-Taljġn, u sal isued li jnsġb geuua il kalba tal Africa, mnein kat ma hareg, u la kat ra dinj'ohra: izda jakra u jcteb b'lsien. U min chien dac l'ibleh, u hec nieqes mil ġkal, bniedem mberfel, li ġiaal lil missirijetna taz-zmien, illi be-nietom ma jctbox bil lsien li fih tuieldu, u bih jiftiehm? Mġn uibbilom dana? Ried illi jġmlu dak li m jġix minnu, u karrak bi-hom. Takrika chienet li giebet il uisk min-na fid-dlamijet u fil bluha, li hi l'aar hġgia li tġnsġb fid-digna: ġliex li bluha hia il hġta ta kol kerk, u ta kol deni li fihom iggib il bndmin. Izda bnadijiet ohra ma humiex hek. Barra min hauna kol fejn rait, u kol fejn dort, hdġx il sena fl'Italia, u tsetax f'uisk bliet, gzejjer, u artijet ohra, sibt ir-rġjja, il harrġta, il ġzzikin, il bdieua, il haddimin, u in-nies tas-snajja colla, sibtom jġfu jakrau u jctbu colhat bil lsien ta pajj-su. Il kol tarahom bil cotba f'ideihom fil cnejjes, fir-rbuġ, kalb l'mrieħel, fil bliet, fir-rħajjel. Haun bis ma raitx dana. Bnadi ohra mchien ma lġkait mġ missirijet li jidu l'uliedhom: La titchellem bil lsien ta fejn Alla halkec u uieldec; izda haun rait u smait. Bnadi ohra leuel b'lsienom, u bih mbaad ilsna ohra jitġlmu; izda hauna le, donna mahniex bhall nies ohra. U x'jed ġndu it-taljġn izjed min ilsna ohra? Izda tiduli ma chenniex min jatina id-daul, u min jġllimna. Tabilhak.</p>

	<p>Par F Immela issa illi ándna il chif u biex bid-daul tat-tálim, issa illi nfethet it-triek u hia uàtja lachem náddu minna, ma nokódux izied nithàsbu x'ándna námli u ankas il chif ándna nictbu. La tisimúx izied, u lankas bis tatu uiden lein it-tmarmir u il climijet tal fruá tá dauc il boloh i rjusom jebsa u ájjurin jlakilku bil marràra f'lsienom jidu illi il hagia ánda issir xort'ohra, hec kat ma chienet: izda mbaád billi huma bla hila ma jafúx il chif, u dana l'ankas hsieb li ándhom. U malli ma tatúx uiden, hallu ideicom, ictbu ál-leuuel chif tistú, u bil ffit il ffit sama collox jgicom seuua, u tidrau u iddarru. La taktúx klubcom. Il hràra tácom jec téleb il bluha ta xuhud li jberducom fuc dàna jeu jficcio jnehhulcom il hràra, hia nfisha tìrbah it-tmirijet colha li hirgìn mil mard tá klubhom.</p>
	<p>Par G Aktar min erbin sena ili illi hsibt, thabatt u hdimt fuk din il hagia biex nseuua, u námel illi il chitba tána tcun tistá issir hielsa b'lsienna u márufa; izda it-torok colha chienu máluka. Ohrain kabli chienu hasbu u riedu jámlu dana; áx chienu rau bhali illi jinhtieg. Huma árfu min kabli it-tbatia il cbira li nbatu f'Malta sabiex nitálm; illi it-thabit bein in-nies collu jgi min dan in-noqqás ; illi tálimna bil maklub, illi mchien bhálna, colhat fid-digna jbda jakra n jcteb b'lsien, n ahna ndumu is-snìn il cbar nitáchircu bla feida, u ffit mbaád huma fostna li johorgiu, u bosta uisk izied jbkú ma jafu xein, u bla ebda kari. Dac li ma jftiehemx jntisa. Dána collu niggez lil órrief tána fl'móddi; imma billi ma setú kat jámlu leuuel triec, malli bdeu u ma nifdux, chellom jhallu min dic is-siá li rau li ma chellom daul u hila bizzejjed. Izda il haira u it-thautil tahhom, jec álihom sar bàtal, it-telfien taz-zmien u it-tbatia il cbira kankluni, hairuni u uettakli il hràra tá kalbi biex námel dmiri collu u nsib it-tarf ta din il hagia hec mohtiega. Mbaád bil áinuna t'Alla il áziz meddeit idejja, u ál-leuuel bhál áma u bit-teftif fost ic-cpàr u id-dlam, u b'nakra ta daul li chelli, ftaht it-triek, u kalkaila áddeit il koddem sama sebahli, u sib ruhi fuk ir-rieh. Min dac iz-zmien hdimt, ctibt, u rait u hejjeit-ilcom il módia miftuha berah, li áliha kieéd nistedincom.</p>

Appendiċi BMalta
Feb 4 – 1844My dear D.^r Cullen,

The bearer, Mr Charles Murphy, (son of Mr Murphy Esqr known to every one from the Giant's Causeway to Cape Clear) requests a line to you – but he requires no recommendation from me, for independent of his worthy family, he is his own recommendation when known the travels for his health with his medical friend to Hyland, I shall be most grateful if in your power to be of every use to them in any way, they leave to-day for Sicily, thence to Naples and on to the Eternal City for holy week.

In my banishment here (on a rock as well as thorny) I have had such a treat in D.^r Miley's home and God speed his pen. Small people here. All or nearly all the Government offices filled with Scotch from the Governor downwards, – as for Religious affairs here I console myself with the adage “when things come to the worst they mend”.

Dr Tomlinson seems a midway, via media, between a ninny and a bigot. I fear the latter predominates.

Some time ago you had in Rome a Maltese apostate Priest, named Camilleri, who ran away last May with a woman to Gibraltar, there they read their Recantation and were married by Tomlinson's vicar, thence they returned to Malta, where Camilleri hands the dame back to her friends, repairs to Rome to make his peace, receives absolution from the Inquisition – makes the exercises (they say) at St Eusebio, and hurries back thus to the woman and to Tomlinson, who seems in extacy at the glorious conversion, has appointed Camilleri Cappellano Maggiore of the New Church (to be opened in a few days) and the dame organist as she plays the Piano. By Tomlinson's express desire the conversed pair go on Sunday publicly to the Protestant Church at 11 o'clock a.m – amidst the hisses of the assembled indignant crowd. Yesterday several were put in prison for insulting him, and to-day others.

So much for Maltese edification.

Tell good Dr Kelly that the Pilgrim to Jerusalem is at length out of the hospital like a ghost, without a place to go to or a penny in his pocket. I want him to go back and say his prayers one (?) of Naas, as Government would get him a passage home free – but he persists on going on various. I dont know how to help him.

I trust all is well and prosperous with you – with 50 kind things to Dr Kelly and sincere wishes for the prosperity of all and each under the most

ever yours sincerely

B. Esmonde S.J.

I fear there is another couple at least, on or about to trip off also to Gibraltar – so we shall soon have a Gretna–Green in the South – under the auspices of his Lordship of Gibraltar so much for the march of intellect in Malta.

CUL/NC/4/1844/13

Math

Feb 4 - 1844.

My Dear Dr. Cullen

I believe Mr Charles Murphy (Son of
 Wm Murphy Esq known to every one
 from the Giant's Causeway to Cape Clear) presents
 a line to you - but he requires no recom-
 = mendation from me, for independent & his
 worthy family, he is his own recommendation
 when known - He travels for his health
 with his medical friends to the Strand, I
 shall be most grateful if in my power to be
 of any use to them in any way, they leave today for Sicily, then on to
 Naples & on to the Eternal City for holy week.

In my lamentable heart (on a sick as well as
 young) I have had such a treat in St. Mi-
 = che's Piazza & - God bless his pen -
 Small people here - all or nearly all the
 Govt officers filled with Scotch from the Governor
 (downwards, - as for Religious affairs here
 I console myself with the saying "when things
 come

come to the point they mind? —

St. Tomlinson seems a midway, or a -
Media, between a Ministry & a Ligat. I
fear the latter predominates —

Some time ago you had in Rome a
Matter a public Priest, second Corollari,
who ran away last year with a woman to
Gibraltar; there they read their Recantation
& were married by Tomlinson's Vicar,
thence they returned to Matting, where
Corollari heard the same back to his
friends, repairs to Rome to make his
peace, receives absolution from the
the Inquisition. — You makes the Exercises
(they say) at St. Isidoro, in hurried back ~~Matting~~
to the woman & St. Tomlinson, who seems
in staying at the glorious Concession, has
appointed Corollari (appellano Messiani of
the New Church (to be opened in a few days)
& the same against as she plays the Piano.

St. Tomlinson's group leave they the Convent
pair go on Sunday publicly to the Prot. Church
at 11 o'c. A.M. — amidst the hisses of the

of unbleed indignation comes - yesterday
several were put in prison for insulting
him, & to say others -

So much for Maltese Edification -

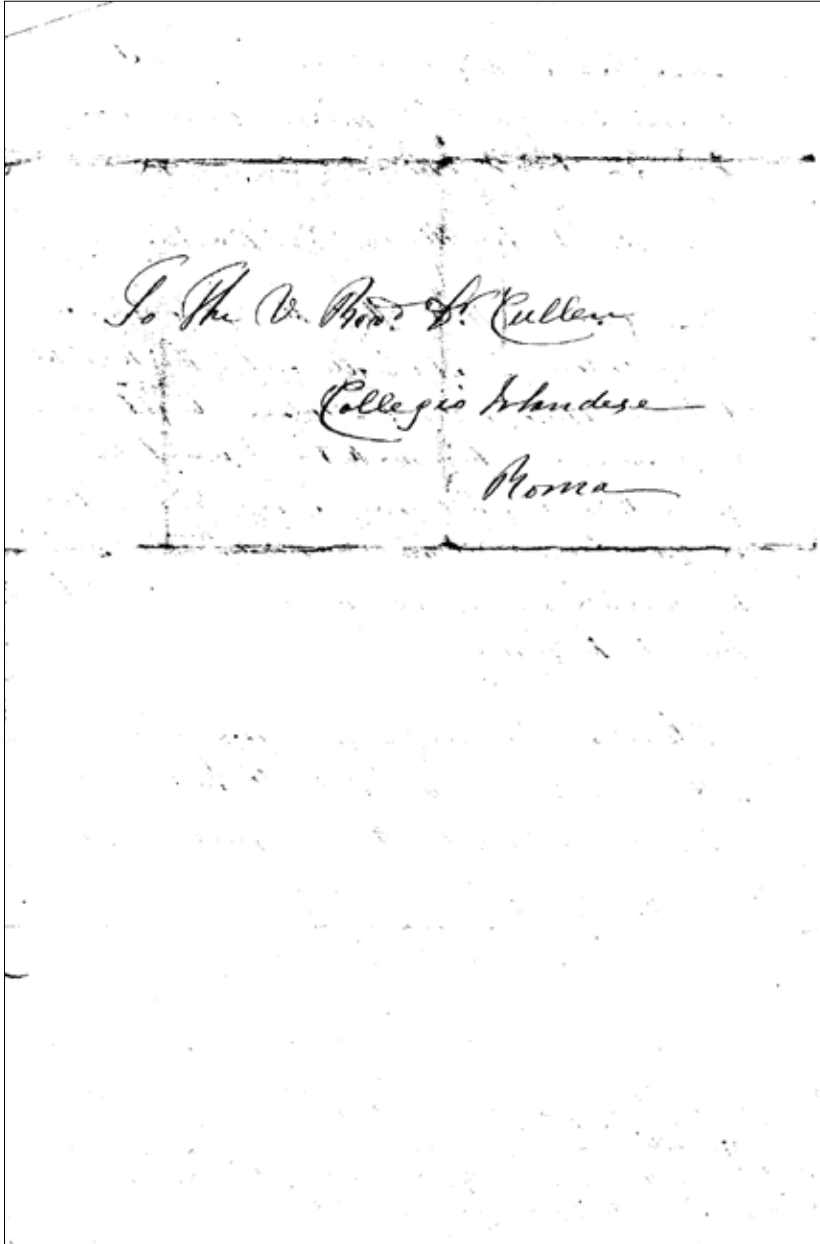
Tell God Sr. Kelly that the Pilgrim to
Jerusalem is at length out of the hospital
like a ghost, without a place to go to or
a penny in his pocket - I want him to
go back & say his prayers over Sea of Neas,
as Gov^t would get him a proper home - but
he persists on going on roads - I don't know
how to help him -

I trust all is well & prosperous with you -
with 50 kind things to Sr Kelly &
sincere wishes for the prosperity of all
& each under yr ovt

ever yr sincerely
a

R. B. Esmond S. J.

I fear there is another ^{at least} couple on or about to be shipped
to Gibraltar - so we shall soon have a Gesta - Green in
the South - under the auspices of his Bishop of Gibraltar
so much for the march of intellect in Malta -



Noti

- 1 Vella, Olvin. ‘*Stedina ta’ Vassalli: Studju Kritiku u Komparattiv’*, *Il-Malti* – harġa LXXVII. Malta, 2005.
- 2 Fuq dan il-ġurnal ara Fiorentini, Bianca. ‘Il giornalismo a Malta’ f’Bonello, Vincenzo; Fiorentini, Bianca; Schiavone, Lorenzo (ed.). *Echi del risorgimento a Malta*. Milan, 1982: 38-9. Ara wkoll Farrugia, Karl. ‘*Il Kaulata Maltia* – The only extant copy of the first journal in Maltese’, imxandar elettronikament f’<https://blogs.bl.uk/asian-and-african/2017/11/il-kaulata-maltia-the-only-extant-copy-of-the-first-journal-in-maltese.html>. Farrugia identifika t-tliet hargiet ta’ dan il-ġurnal fil-British Library, Londra.
- 3 Ara l-ahhar paġna ta’ kull harġa tal-ġurnal.
- 4 Il-ġurnal kien jismu *The Harlequin, or Anglo Maltese Miscellany*. Hareġ 115-il darba, mill-1838 sal-1840.
- 5 Ara n-nota bijografika fuq James Richardson fi Fiorentini, 1982: 33 u 34, n. 4. Fiorentini qalet ukoll li missier James, John, kien waqqaf dan il-ġurnal. Fuqu ara Fiorentini, 1982: 33 u 34, n. 3. Ara wkoll Cassola, Arnold. *Lost Maltese Newspapers of the 19th Century*. Malta, 2011: 22 et passim.
- 6 Fiorentini, 1982: 38. Fiorentini kitbet hekk: “*Foglio scritto in vernacolo, ideato da Sir John Richardson [missier James] e diretto dal suo amico e collaboratore Sir George Percy Badger.*”
Aktarx Badger u Richardson kienu t-tnejn ta’ ġewwa, għax fl-1839 ukoll, meta Richardson spiċċa l-Qorti u wehel sitt xhur habs – mibdula f’multa ta’ 250 skud – minhabba artiklu kontra l-Knisja Kattolika li kien xandar f’*The Harlequin*, Badger hareġ jiddefendih b’ruhu u ġismu fil-pubbliku. Ara Badger, George P. *Trial of Mr J. Richardson, for an alleged libel against the Roman Catholic Church*. Malta, 1839.
- 7 Roper, Geoffrey. ‘George Percy Badger (1815-1888)’ f’*Bulletin (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies)*, vol. XI, nru 2. Londra, 1984: 140 et passim.
- 8 Qed nirreferu għall-kopja tal-British Library.
- 9 Ara Farrugia, 2017.
- 10 *The Harlequin*, 13.xii.1838: 176. Ir-referenza originali fi Fiorentini, 1982: 39, n. 1.
- 11 *Ibid.*, 23.i.1839: 20. Ir-referenza originali fi Fiorentini, 1982: 39, n. 1.
- 12 Sa fejn nafu ahna, il-ġurnal Protestant *Malta Penny Magazine*, editjat minn Richardson ukoll, kien l-ahhar wiehed li uża l-alfabetta ta’ Vassalli, jġigifieri f’Ottubru 1839. Ara Vella, Olvin. 2005: 47, 50.
- 13 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 22.i.1839: 6.

- 14 Ibid.: 8.
- 15 Ibid.: 6.
- 16 Ibid.: 5.
- 17 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 15.i.1839: 2.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 15.i.1839: 3.
- 20 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 15.i.1839: 4.
- 21 Ibid.: 2.
- 22 Ibid.: 2.
- 23 Fuq il-hajja u l-hidma ta' Badger ara Dessoulavy, Charles. 'George Percy Badger' f' *Journal of the Maltese University Literary Society*, nru 9, Jannar. Malta, 1934: 437-39; u Roper, Geoffrey. 1984: 140-155.
- 24 Badger, George Percy. *Sullo Stato della Educazione Pubblica in Malta*. Malta, 1839: 33.
- 25 Lewis, Gilbert Frankland (ed.). *Letters of the Right Hon. Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Bart. to various friends*. Londra, 1870: 101.
- 26 Badger, 1839: 124-6.
- 27 Dan il-ktieb huwa attribwit lill-Kanonku Annetto Casolani. Ara Cremona, Ninu. "Kelmejn fuq l-Istorja tal-Letteratura Maltija (mis-Seklu Sbatax sas-Seklu Ghoxrin)" f' *Lehen il-Malti*, Ghadd 8. Malta, 1965: 31.
- 28 Badger, 1839; Ibid.: 125-6.
- 29 Ibid.: 124.
- 30 Ibid.: 125.
- 31 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 15.i.1839: 2.
- 32 Ibid., 22.i.1839: 5.
- 33 Badger, 1839: 131.
- 34 Ibid.: 132.
- 35 Vella, Olvin. 2005: 38.
- 36 Agius Muscat, David u Vella, Olvin. *Minn Fomm Vassalli*. Malta, 2014: 64-67.
- 37 Roper, 1984: 141 et passim.
- 38 Badger, George Percy. *Description of Malta and Gozo*. Malta, 1838: 5, 12, 77.
- 39 Ibid.: 79-81. Ara wkoll Dessoulavy, C. L. 'Modern Maltese Literature' f' *Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies*, vol. VII, nru 4. Londra, 1935: 791.
- 40 Badger, 1839: 119-120.
- 41 Badger, 1839: 134.
- 42 *Il Kaulata Maltia*, 22.i.1839: 5.
- 43 Badger, 1841: 5-6.

- 44 Badger, 1841: 12. Ara wkoll Badger, 1838: 78.
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- 46 Badger, 1841: 17.
- 47 L-imsehbhin tal-Academia kienu Dr Ludovico Mifsud Tommasi, Dr Lorenzo Decaro, Dr Celestino Camilleri, Dr Paolo Pullicino, Dr Michel'Angelo Camilleri, Dr Salvatore Cumbo u Dr Gaetano Vella. Wara ssiehu wkoll Dr Arcangelo Pullicino u Dr Gio Antonio Vassallo. Ara Vella, Olvin. 2005: 46.
- 48 Pontificio Collegio Irlandese, Ruma, CUL/NC/1844/13. Ara t-traskrizzjoni taghha f'Appendiċi B. Fuq Camilleri ara wkoll Sant, Carmel. *Bible Translation and Language – Essays into the History of Bible Translation in Maltese*. Malta, 1992: 34; Bonnici, Joseph. 'Rev. Michael Angelo Camilleri: a renegade priest or a philanthropist?' f' *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 7.v.2000: 52-53.
- 49 Bonnici, 2000: 52-53. Il-permess hariglu fit-23 ta' April 1842. L-Arkivju Nazzjonali, ir-Rabat, CSG 43/1, bla numru tal-paġna.
- 50 Cremona, 1935: 50.
- 51 Cremona, 1935: 50; Sant, 1992: 35.
- 52 Sant, 1992: 35.
- 53 Cremona, 1935: 50; Sant, 1992: 35. Ara wkoll *The Missionary Register for MDCCCXLV. Containing the Principal Transactions of the Various Institutions for Propagating the Gospel: with the Proceedings, at large, of the Church Missionary Society*. Londra, 1845: 385.
- 54 Cremona, 1935: 50; Sant, 1992: 35.
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- 56 Vassallo, Cesare. *Index Librorum Orientalium et Latinorum Publicae Bibliothecae Melitensis Ordine Alphabeti*. Malta, 1857: 16.
- 57 Ara, nghidu ahna, Aquilina, Joseph. 'A Brief Survey of Maltese Literature', *Scientia*, Lulju-Settembru 1956: 132.