

TOURIST GUIDING SYMPOSIUM 2022

COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET



BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MALTESE CARNIVAL

Ms. Caroline Calleja (Tutor – Ms. Ruth Azzopardi)

Abstract

The research done for this essay is set out to look behind the scenes of this cultural event and to shed light upon the amount of creativity and work involved in the five days of these cultural activities and how these can be more exposed to foreign visitors. By gathering information from people who are directly involved in the carnival activities and others who studied and have a good background of knowledge regarding this cultural event, it turns out, that if we do not preserve and respect its heritage, uniqueness, and the high artistic level, it could be lost. The participants are passionate in what they do and for them it is more than just a hobby. Their main satisfaction is the appreciation of their work. It involves a lot of commitment, hard work and money. It is important to exploit this festival's potential more. This can be done if it is given more cultural importance when educating the future generations, so they can appreciate it more. An advanced marketing strategy, better promotion and a better workspace were also suggested.

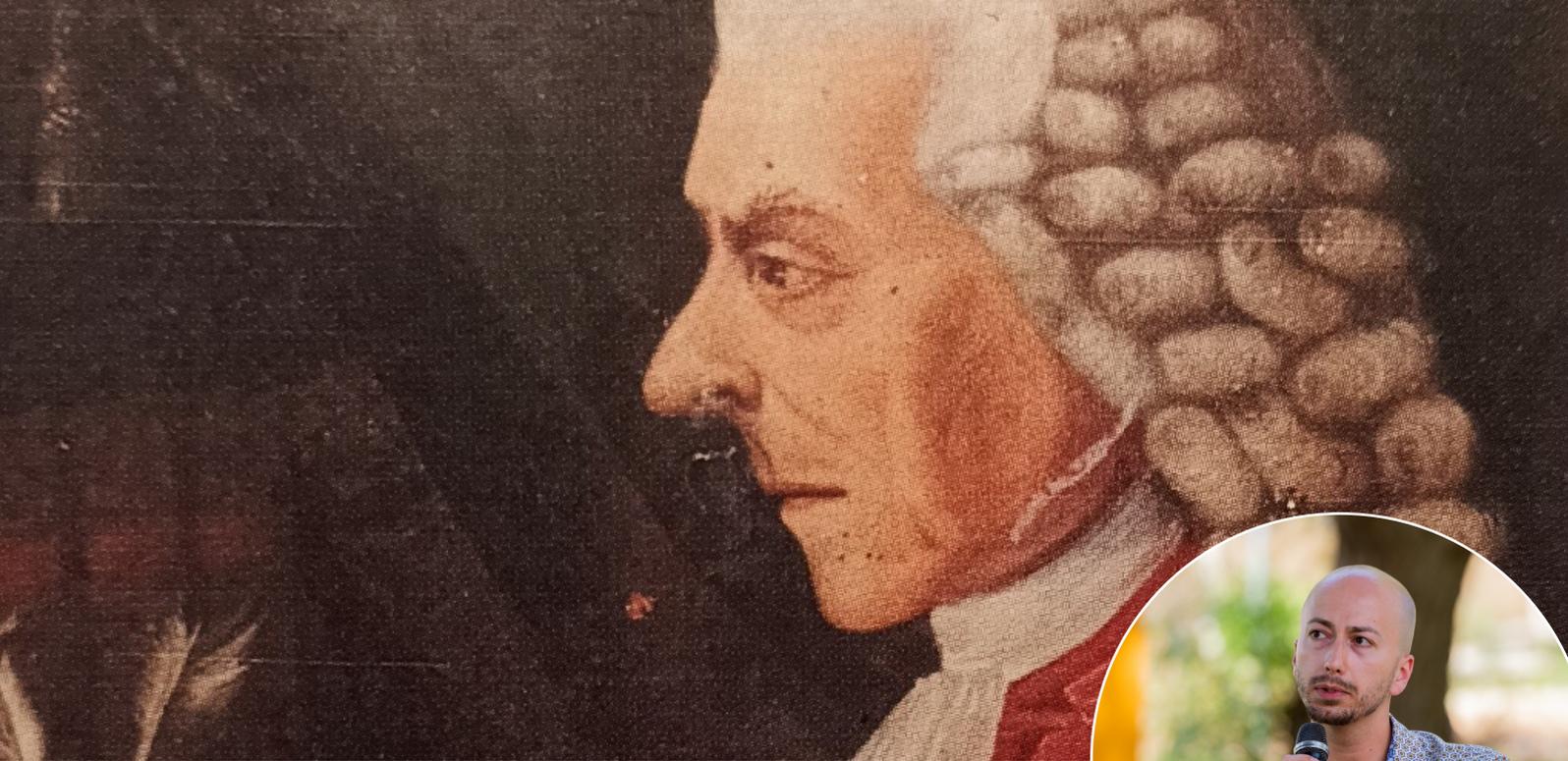


SLIEMA AS A CULTURAL CENTRE WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIAL HISTORY AFTER 1800

Ms. Kathryn Caruana Montaldo - (Tutor – Ms. Graziella Bencini)

Abstract

This research will show that the town of Sliema has much more to offer than initially meets the eye. The more popular roads are lined with shops and restaurants, and its foreshore is perhaps its greatest attraction. However, this study will demonstrate through a literature review and interviews with residents, knowledgeable in architecture and history, that the heart of Sliema still has a lot of architectural gems and the town has a colourful and important history. Sliema's history is significant in itself and in relation to Malta's history. In addition, a survey will show that the majority of the respondents were aware that Sliema had some history of value and were keen to take a tour to learn more. This suggests that Sliema is not being utilised to its full potential and that more awareness needs to be made of its treasures and unique history. In light of this there are enough reasons to create a tour of Sliema to showcase these finds that would attract visitors to Sliema in the off-peak months of the year and to improve the recognition and conservation of its history. The implications are that there is potential to further develop this study and take it forward to the next step.



ANDREA BELLI: MALTESE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VALLETTA

Mr. Juan Dingli - (Tutor – Dr. Christine Jones)

Abstract

Andrea Belli was a Maltese architect and entrepreneur who lived in Malta during the 18th century. The aim of this research was to create a chronological timeline of his life and his architectural contributions to Valletta. Till now, all the information on Andrea Belli was scattered throughout various pieces of literature. The objective of this research was achieved by means of meticulous examination of the available literature on Belli. The findings deliver a better understanding of what Andrea Belli's contributions to Valletta were as well as his life achievements. The research ascertained that Andrea Belli was the architect behind Palazzo Bonici and the Church of Our Lady of Liesse. The research also highlighted Belli's life achievements such as his appointment as the impresario of the Manoel Theatre and his monopoly of Maltese stone exportation. Certain grey areas were encountered due to the lack of information available on Belli but this research attempted to bridge the gaps where possible. The findings contribute to the available knowledge on Andrea Belli and shed light on his life and work. This research also set the basis for the creation of a tour based on Andrea Belli.



MUTINY IN MALTA. A TOUR OF THE SLAVES REVOLT OF 1749

Mr. Jeremy Grech (Tutor – Mr. Vincent Zammit)

Abstract

The research conducted in this long essay was set out to document one very important event in the history of the Knights of Malta, and from this information integrate it in a special interest tour. Special focus is given to the gruelling and devious event which occurred during the time of Grandmaster Pinto who reigned from 1741 up to 1773. In order to conduct such research, several historical essays, costuming books, theatrical scripts and other papers have been reviewed. Along with this, a questionnaire consisting of 10 questions which are of multiple choice, have been sent out to two types of groups, a theatrical crowd and a non theatrical crowd. The different audience niches that were approached to obtain such answers, along with the professional historians who have also contributed heavily, provided the information necessary for producing such a work, in which the author hopes to combine both history and entertainment in one local tour which also factors in an interactive group activity at, as the participants chose, the end of the tour itself. In this study, which has during the process of writing undergone many changes due to new findings, the author has found the wants, likes, and pleasures of the potential audience and tourists that bring into play a theatrical tour with a theme of special interest tourism. The chosen element of performance shall not only recount to the audience a story that has for so long been lost to the hands of time but also bring it to life due to a visual representation in which the guide shall become, and thus convey.



HERITAGE INTERPRETATION OF MINOR NORTHERN PREHISTORIC SITES IN MALTA: A FOCUS ON TA' HAGRAT, SKORBA, TAL - QADI TEMPLES, BUGIBBA DOLMEN AND NAXXAR CARTRUTS

Ms. Naomi Mifsud Scicluna (Tutor – Mr. Vincent Zammit)

Abstract

Malta has approximately 25 prehistoric sites. Around 20 of which are considered to be minor sites. Not many locals and visitors are aware of minor prehistoric sites in the north of Malta. The aim of this study is to explore the feasibility of introducing an interpretation centre dedicated to minor prehistoric sites in Malta. This study used a qualitative approach, through semi-structured interviews. Interviews were conducted with the identified stakeholders including 3 heritage curators and 4 local councillors. The data was analysed through thematic analysis following the framework developed by Maguire & Delahunt (2017). Results indicate that interviewees had a basic knowledge of what heritage interpretation is. Participants noted that a baseline of heritage interpretation is offered in Skorba temples and ta' Hāgrat temples. However, other minor northern sites, such as tal-Qadi temples and the cartruts in Naxxar had no interpretation offered on site. There were conflicting views with regard to proposing an interpretation centre dedicated to minor sites in Malta. The main themes that emerged through the thematic analysis included; the physical and educational access to a site, the overall experience when visiting a site and the promotion of national identity. A number of recommendations were systematically developed during the course of this study focusing on the increased visibility of minor sites. These included the drafting of a heritage trail between different localities and the setting of an interpretation centre through the individual local councils.



A TOUR OF HAMRUN TO DEEPEN THE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF MALTA

Ms. Marcella Capista (Tutor – Ms. Stephanie Mifsud)

Abstract

A lot of research has been carried out on those Maltese towns which have the most popular Heritage sites and tourist attractions. Nevertheless, the history of Malta can also be retraced in monuments and buildings which are found in localities out of the sight of the common tourist, such as, for example, the town of Hamrun.

This essay is aimed at proving the validity of Hamrun as a location for a historical tour which can help in deepening the Modern and Contemporary History of Malta. To do so, a proper physical tour of the town has been planned, organised and held. After joining the tour the participants were interviewed and asked about their opinion on the experience.

The research showed positive results, which should encourage further studies on the topic. Participants, in fact, appreciated the tour and recognised its efficiency in promoting not just knowledge concerning the town of Hamrun and its most interesting attractions, but also knowledge on aspects of Maltese history and culture.



RELIGIOUS FERVOUR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCHES IN THE CORE OF 'CASALE' SIGGIEWI.

Ms. Elena Irodiu (Tutor – Dr. Christine Jones)

Abstract

It is widely accepted that religion is almost a universal institution in human society. Religion dates to the beginning of culture itself and it is found in all societies, past and present. Various academic articles and reports focus on the vital role of the church and the belief in the wellbeing of the population. This study aims to relate how did within a span of three hundred years from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries religious fervour influenced the development of churches in the village core in the village of Siggiewi.

Various books and articles were researched for a deeper understanding of the historical context that led to their construction and their influence on the community. A detailed description of the history of Siggiewi is offered in "Siggiewi-Citta Ferdinand", by Carmel Vella. However, little reference is made to religious fervour as the main factor of stability in an ever-changing society and the important role it played as the driving force behind the development of religious buildings. This research focuses on the development on a selected number of churches located in the core of the parish of Siggiewi and their development from sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The role of clerics and the impact of these churches on the community will also be explored. Historical supporting evidence was collated through research into printed material such as academic journals, books, articles, and e-documents. The results of the study addressed the ongoing discussion about the relationship between history and religion, and the connection between community spirit and religious architectural development. It deals with the links in which these facets interact.



THE MALTESE ISLANDS AS A TOURIST DESTINATION FOR TRIATHLETES

Ms. Germaine Vassallo (Tutor – Dr. Danica Bonello Spiteri)

Abstract

Triathlon is a sport that consists of swimming, cycling, and running. The local scene has been growing rapidly and in recent years Malta has been put on the international triathlon map. This long essay considers the Maltese Islands as a destination for triathletes, as this is largely an unexplored area within the context of sports tourism.

Opinions and experiences of well-renowned and long-standing local athletes were evaluated, together with foreign triathlon coaches, looking at what can be offered to visiting athletes. The opinions on how to make our islands more equipped, safer, and appealing to such athletes were recorded.

Our islands offer unique advantages to foreign athletes: all year-round training, unique scenery, and historic sites. The main negative aspects identified are related to cycling and lack of information. These implications could inhibit the progress and expansion of this niche market unless action is taken or alternatives implemented.



ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG ADULTS IN GHAR DALAM CAVE MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Dr. Lucienne Portelli (Tutor – Ms. Graziella Bencini)

Abstract

The aim of this research was to look into different aspects of the visitor experience of young adults at Ghar Dalam Cave, Museum and Garden which is located in Birzebbugia, Malta.

The reason for research was to find ways to enhance the visitor satisfaction to this site. A sample of 18 to 35-year-old adults were asked questions regarding demographic data followed by open ended ones relating to their experience at Ghar Dalam.

The findings revealed satisfaction with the site but suggested improvement in heritage interpretation and better use of the site's gardens. The young visitors showed moderate interest to revisit Ghar Dalam. However, they were more willing to attend an afterhours event targeted for them.

Since more than half of the visitors were local young adults, these results could indicate a potentially viable way of repeatedly attracting these adults to the site, while forging a long-term relationship with them.



PROSPECTS OF INTRODUCING GEOTOURISM TO THE ISLAND OF GOZO

Mr. Dorian Klaja (Tutor – Mr. David Pace)

Abstract

Geotourism is an emerging type of tourism, which is lately gaining more and more popularity worldwide. Various regions experience an increase in geotouristic infrastructure, such as geoparks. At the same time the number of tourists focused on geological and natural beauty of their chosen destinations is on the rise, thus making the concept of geotourism even more valid. This research seeks to address the issue of introducing geotourism to the island of Gozo, Malta. It focuses on perceptions of the local population, which will be essential when establishing first geoparks on the island. The research also investigates the prospects and possibilities of effective planning and management of the needed infrastructure. Finally, the dissertation explores the potential of the natural environment of Gozo, including its geology and unique natural rock formations. The research will be conducted using quantitative methods of data collection. A questionnaire will be distributed in the island of Gozo, both electronically and physically to get an insight into local populations' perceptions regarding this novelform of niche tourism. The questionnaire will consist of about 10 close – ended questions aimed to establish the familiarity of the local population with the concept of geotourism as well as their willingness to participate in the future projects connected to geotouristic infrastructure. The collected data will be accompanied and to a large extent, supported by already published material. It will include various articles, books and other research covering the topic, which have previously been conducted in Malta. The outcomes of this research will shed more light into the feasibility of introducing geotourism in Gozo, which has a great potential for this type of niche tourism. It is thus important to extend the research of this novel type of tourism and increase the currently scarce literature about this topic.



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