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### LATE MEDIEVAL MALTESE NICKNAMES

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AMONG the most intriguing features of late medieval documents in Malta are the references they contain to the nicknames which were then current in the islands. Unfortunately, while it has been easy to collect some three hundred surnames belonging to the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, as well as some thousand placenames, it has proved extraordinarily difficult to find even one hundred nicknames.<sup>1</sup> The reason for this relative dearth is not far to seek. Nicknames were a popular and unofficial form of personal and family nomenclature, and as such were normally ignored by the notaries, scribes and priests who were then almost the only literate persons in the islands. They were only recorded through unavoidable necessity when it was found difficult to distinguish otherwise between persons who had identical names and surnames and lived in the same village — especially if, for some reason or other, it was not convenient to record their father's name.

The distinction between surnames and nicknames, so strong and universal nowadays, obviously already existed then. But it still sometimes happened that uncertainty would persist over the status of a particular name, whether it should be regarded as a surname or nickname. It must be remembered that nicknames, like surnames, were also inheritable, and must often have become accepted as the normal family name instead of an older one. In fact, there cannot be any doubt that several of the entries of surnames in the militia and angara lists of the fifteenth century were

<sup>1</sup> The chief two authorities on nicknames that I have consulted are: A. Preca, *Malta Canaea*, Malta, 1904; and J. Cassar Pullicino, 'Social Aspects of Maltese Nicknames', *Scientia*, xxii, n. 2, pp. 66-94. Preca's work contains a short section on nicknames, in which he classifies them according to whether they express (a) physical defects, (b) moral defects and ignominy, (c) means and ability, (d) profession, habits, etc., and (e) archaic words. Cassar Pullicino's study, mainly based on the innumerable examples to be found in the electoral register of 1939, is a much more thorough study, too long to summarise here. The present writer has published a study on 'The Distribution of Surnames in Malta in 1419 and the 1480's' in No. 5 of the present Journal, and is completing his collection of Early Maltese Placenames for publication in the near future. Prof. J. Aquilina has published a study of Maltese Placenames in his *Papers in Maltese Linguistics*.

really nicknames after all, being pressed into use instead of surnames. This should not lessen the importance of the fact that a distinction was normally made between the two.

Unfortunately, if it was sometimes difficult for the contemporary scribe to recognise them for what they really were, it naturally becomes doubly difficult for the present day observer himself to decide on the matter. For this reason, most such surname-nicknames, which would have greatly inflated the present list of medieval nicknames, have been omitted from it. One will therefore look in vain for such surname-nicknames as Charuf, Cheffut, Crapi, Debeb, Gigante, Kerfixi, Sigir (? Żghir). Nor does the list include that large number of surnames which started off as nicknames: i.e. Agius, Axisa, Canzuhuk, Chetcuti, Ebejjer, Fenech, Psaila, Sapien, Sacco, Xerri, Xiriha, Zahra, Zerafa.<sup>2</sup> In spite of their origin, most of them had, by the fifteenth century, been accepted as the normal, officially recognised, family names, and they should not therefore have any place here. On the other hand, that nicknames continued to exist right down to the present day side by side, but independently, of the surnames is an interesting fact, particularly for the light it might shed on the cross currents of the two main cultures influencing the Maltese people at the time — the Semitic Arabic, even Moslem, strain, and the Romance Sicilian Christian one.

It will be seen that in the Medieval placenames of Malta, the names of Semitic origin predominate to such an extent that the Romance ones, except for those referring to Christian proprietors or to Saints' Churches, are of really negligible importance. The surnames, however, are mixed to a much greater extent, with a very large number of names of Romance origin — though surnames like Vella probably arose locally, whatever their meaning and linguistic origins. Surname giving was a Christian European habit that arose in the Middle Ages; both the Classical Romans and the Arabs or Moors had essentially different systems. One may therefore assume that all Maltese surnames are posterior to the Norman invasions, whether they were of Semitic or Romance origin, though tenuous links might very well exist with the older systems. It is in fact possible that the first real surnames on the island were those of the new Christian rulers, their soldiers and administrators, and the merchants and priests that followed in their wake. The system was then inevitably extended to the rest of the population as one aspect of the gradual process of cultural assimilation. The drive came from on top, from the administrators, clerics,

<sup>2</sup> Most of these were also listed by J. Cassar Pullicino, *op.cit.*, p. 71.

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notaries and scribes. It should not therefore occasion any surprise that surnames of Romance origin like Vella, Vassallo, Falzon, Bonavia, Pace should loom so large in the Medieval militia lists of Malta.

However, it is still possible to argue that the surnames do not correctly reflect the extent to which cultural change had progressed among the common people. For this, the study of nicknames is a much surer guide. The lowly nicknames were not the creation of the literate and therefore perforce Sicilianised clerks, etc.; they were invariably conferred by the people on each other and must reflect much more exactly what was going on in their minds. By means of their study one can penetrate to some extent the Romance-bias of the clerks. However, it must be admitted that some little bias still remains because it was still the clerks, notaries, etc. who had to record the nicknames though they had nothing to do with their original formation. It is possible, for instance, that the nickname recorded as 'Formica' was really 'in-Nemla' or 'tan-Nemla', the clerk having simply translated it into Italian. This is even more probable in the case of the nickname 'lu Russu', which has the same meaning as 'lahamar'. However, one cannot be sure how far this tendency went.

Another problem met with has been the initial one of decipherment and transcription, especially as the nicknames occur very rarely – more often than not, just once, – and it is therefore normally impossible to check their appearance in one place with that in another. In many of the fifteenth century hands it is practically impossible to distinguish between 'c' and 't', as well as between 'n' and 'u', so that one usually has to resort to what may be called contextual probabilities – in the case of nicknames of very doubtful value. This explains why it has not been possible to decide on the better reading between 'tardin' and 'cardin', 'Carnoch' and 'Carnoch', 'Taypu' and 'Caypu', 'Dneje' and 'Dneje'. Two others whose exact reading is still doubtful are 'Seyser' or 'Seyser', and 'Ferzesu'.

Even after obtaining the right reading one has not solved all the preliminary problems, because one still has to conjecture (very often it is hardly better than that) the right sounds of the nickname before recognising and understanding it. The 'ch' of 'Chaul' must obviously stand for 'c'; but it does not follow that the same letters in 'Chickyne' must have the same value, though it seems probable. It might be considered that 'Chardun' was probably pronounced 'Cardun', not 'Hardun' or 'Qardun', but such judgements, unless they are based on some kind of evidence, can have little value. After all, it could be thought just as un-

likely that 'Cherdica' was pronounced 'Cerdica' instead of 'Qerdica' – one could even appeal to the variant from 'Cardicha'. However, the existence of two other variants – Gerdica and Jerdica – would tend to show that the correct pronunciation of its first letters was a 'c' or soft 'g'. As has already been said, it is very difficult to obtain multiple records of the same nickname and, when such repetitions contain no spelling variations, they are of little use in solving this particular problem, though they are of some value palaeographically because they might still belong to a different and clearer hand.

Occasionally, reference to a modern dictionary or list of placenames (or map) might be of considerable assistance. Thus there cannot be much doubt that the correct pronunciation of 'Carchille', 'ilkinch', and 'Cuchede' is Qarcilla, il-Qinc, and Quccieda respectively. On the other hand, 'Chileyme' was most probably pronounced Klejma (little word), though there is a chance that it should be read Hlejma (small dream). 'Flucha' probably stands for 'Fluka' (i.e. Feluka). The 'h' might also stand for either of the two 'gh' sounds which early Maltese, like Arabic, must have had. Thus it is possible, probable even, that 'Hajxe' was pronounced Ghajxa. But as long as several other occurrences of the said nicknames have not been found, written in different hands and preferably with different spellings, it shall not be possible to give definitive renderings of them.

A glance through the list reveals that, as expected, the majority of the nicknames in use in late medieval Maltese were of Semitic origin, but that Romance ones included not only references to towns with which presumably their owners had connections – nicknames such as Avola, Caglarisi, Malfi – but others like Ballarin, Baroni, Barri, Caglan, Flucha, Formica (unless it really represents the nickname Nemla), Maduma and Madiuna, Manina, Ribazza, Rocca, lu Russu (probably standing for l-Ahmar), Slampa, ta' l-Isptar, Stajnu, Trumbetta, Villano. These do not include those over whose exact rendering doubt persists. Thus at last first hand evidence is available confirming the suspicion that Sicilian speech was affecting the language spoken in Malta.

Even in these medieval nicknames one can observe the distinction made between those introduced by the definite article *il-* and the others preceded by the possessive *tal-*, the former given to the first holder of a nickname, the latter to his descendants or spouse. Among the former there are: *labiad, lahamar, ilkinch*; among the latter: *bita ilbuf, bita lispital*. The use of *bita il* for the modern *tal-* is, in itself, highly interesting because it disposes once for all of the dispute which has often broken out

about the etymological origin of the Modern Maltese *ta'*.

One further point regarding the use of the definite article is that it is frequently omitted altogether. The fact that the overwhelming majority of nicknames discovered so far do not have the definite article might at first be taken as the result of more negligence on the part of the scribes, until one notices that it is also left out of nicknames like *bita gilidi*, *bita challus*, *bita sible*, *bita sacora*, where it would be much more difficult to be omitted unconsciously.

Several of the nicknames whose meaning can be hazarded referred to animals, birds or insects:

|         |         |          |                      |
|---------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| Barri   | bull    | Felluse  | chick                |
| 'Fencu' | rabbit  | Formica  |                      |
| Ċawl    | jackdaw | (Nemla)  | ant                  |
| Dorbies | lion    | Hmajta   | small she-ass        |
| Moghža  | goat    | Quċċieda | a louse just hatched |

Plants provided several other nicknames:

|           |                     |          |                       |
|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Fgġjlu    | tiny horse-radish   | Xelluxe  | < Ar. خَلْطُور, root. |
| 'Kemune'  | cumin seed          | Żaghruna | a hawthorn tree       |
| Laniasa   |                     |          |                       |
| (Langasa) | a pear, a pear tree |          |                       |

Objects included:

|           |         |          |                         |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| Xacora    | sack    | Hamrija  | soil                    |
| Trumbetta | trumpet | Hnejja   | an arch (architectural) |
| Maduma    | a tile  | Raddiena | a spinning wheel        |

Personal details were not forgotten: *Fartas* presumably referred to its possessor's baldness. *Catherine bita lispital* and *Luchia bita lispital* must have been two girls or women who had been brought up in the Hospital of Santo Spirito, which often served as an orphanage for unwanted children. One's complexion was sometimes referred to: 'labiad', white; 'lahamar', red; 'lu russu', red. One's real or fancied status must have occasionally provided a reason for a nickname, as 'Villano' (cf. placename 'tal uillan', i.e. tal-Villan),<sup>3</sup> villein; 'baroni', baron – the latter probably as a joke. An interesting group of references to abstract qualities

<sup>3</sup> *tal uillan*, clausura in contrata *ta xubira*: 9. ix. 1508, Not. C. Canchur, R 140/4, f. 30. Another nickname found in the placenames of Malta is *il-Qinc*. At Zebbug, Malta, there is an alley still called *Sqaq il-Qenc*.

or habits can also be made out:

|                 |                 |               |           |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| 'Hajxe'         | poltroon        | Barmu         | twister   |
| 'Hagira gebisa' | hard rock       | Dalam         | dark      |
| Klejma          | one little word | Manja Bachira | ate a cow |
| Bewsa           | a kiss          |               |           |

Finally, the list also contains two nicknames which recall two of Malta's quaint old customs which disappeared centuries ago. The nickname 'Carchille' recalls the *qarcilla*, which were two small pastries in the shape of a bride and her bridegroom which used to be carried in the wedding procession to the church and placed on the altar as a gift to the priest officiating in the wedding ceremony.<sup>4</sup> The *zerda*, equally forgotten nowadays, was the custom of distributing bread, flour, fruit, wine, etc., on feastdays to the poor of the district, usually following the directions left in a pious bequest by an ancestor. The North African Arabic زَرْزَر means 'Prendre un repas à la hâte; serrer la gorge,' according to Cherbonneau. But our medieval documents explain it much better.<sup>5</sup>

#### A FIRST LIST OF LATE MEDIEVAL MALTESE NICKNAMES

N.B. Arrangement is alphabetical according to Modern Maltese spelling where known; otherwise according to original spelling within inverted commas.

Sources All notarial references, unless otherwise explained, are to the records in the Notarial Archives, Valletta. 'R' refers to deed registrations; its absence indicates a reference to a volume of 'original deeds'. Where pagination is omitted the reason is that there is no pagination running through a volume from beginning to end but probably a number of

<sup>4</sup> J. Cassar Pullicino, 'Il-Konti Ciantar u l-Folklore Malti', *Il-Malta*, Dicembru 1955.

<sup>5</sup> 'cum condicione tamen quod dicti heredes de fructibus unius galce vocate landar ta il geuenie debeant facere zerdam in ecclesiam sancte marie casalis axac et celebrare facere missam die festi ecclesie predicti': will of Rina, widow of Cathaldus Muhumud, 9 September 1467: Not. Arch., MS 588, f. 11<sup>v</sup>, deeds of Notary Paul Bonello. 'dictus Jacobus (Hagius de casali Zebbug) solitus tempore sue vivencie fari omni festa de la virgini maria de menzu augustu celebrari et diri missa et fare la zerda sive convitu', evidence of Bernardus Vella alias *gibas*, 21 August 1500: Cath. Arch., Curia Episcopalis Melitae, Acta Originalia, T. Xuerib et N. Hayus contra B. Vital et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501-02, f. 58<sup>v</sup>.

paginations each covering a portion of it, thus causing confusion. In such cases the date should be sufficient to avoid too much trouble in tracing references, since the deeds are always in chronological order. The only abbreviations that need explanation are: RML: Royal Malta Library; CEM: Curia Episcopalis Melitae; Cath. Arch.: Cathedral Archives kept in the Cathedral Museum, Mdina; Univ.: Università; Quad. Div.: Quaderni Diversi. MAIN SOURCES: Rabat population list: Cath. Arch., Università, Quaderni Diversi, n. 2; Angara list, early 1480s: Cath. Arch., Università, Quaderni Diversi, n. 5; Militia list, 1420s: Cath. Arch., Università, Quaderni Diversi, n. 6; Militia postings, c. 1419; Cath. Arch., Università, Quaderni Diversi, n. 4.

- ABJAD, L- Chiccu *labiad*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 8.
- AHMAR, L- Jacobus Farrugia dictus *lahamar*: Not. J. Zabara, 2.ix.1495. Cf. *lu Russu*, below.
- AVOLA Nardus de *Avola* alias Gauchi de Suburbio (Birgu): Not. C. Canchur, 4.i.1507, R 140/3, f. 55.
- BALDIRI Frater Guillelmus Luckys alias *baldiri*: Not. J. Zabara, 20.viii.1487, R 494/1. Also: Antoni Luckis *baldiri*: Angara list, early 1480s.
- BALLARIN Antoni Farruge alias *ballarin*: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, 'Memoriale . . . Samuelis Ragusi . . .', 13.viii.1490, f. 2.
- BARMU Gilius Fitiene alias *barmu*: Not. C. Canchur, 19.vii.1509, R 140/4, f. 97.
- BARONI Stefanu Mifsud dictu *baroni*: Angara list, early 1480s.
- BARRI quondam Antoni Falsuni dictu *barri* of Casali Cummi: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, T. Xuereb et N. Hayus contra B. Vital et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501-02, 5.xi.1501, f. 115<sup>v</sup>.
- BERAQ Luca Lukis *berac*: Not. Laurentius Haius, 23.iii.1525, R 7, f. 13<sup>v</sup>.
- BEWSA Johannes *Beusa*: Not. J. Zabara, R 494/2, 29.vii.1499.
- BIDNI Andria Vella *bidini*, inhabitant of 'Luca et Gudia': Angara list, early 1480s.
- BRURI Raidus Hellul alias *Bruri* of Casali Percop (Kirkop): Not. C. Canchur, 18.x.1502, R 140/1, f. 187.
- BUF, TAL- Catarina *bita ilbuf*: Rabat Population list, 1483, f. 4.
- BUQA Nardo Calleya alias *buca*: Not. J. Zabara, 29.v.1486, R 494/1.
- 'BURKE' Antonio Sammut *burke*: Not. J. Zabara, 6.ii.1495, R 494/1.

- BURZULLINA La mugleri di Bartolomeu *burzullina*: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 5, 'Homini falluti', 17.xii.1488, f. 1.
- 'CACCHI' Petro Vella alias *Cacebi* de Casali Xiloc: Not. C. Canchur, 18.iii.1506, R 140/3, f. 9.
- 'CAFASOTH' Marcus baldakjn alias *cafasoth* et betta iugales habitatores casalis micabibe: Not. C. Canchur, 30.i.1514, R 140/6, f. 29<sup>v</sup>.
- 'CAGLUN' Nicolaus Cassar alias *Caglun* habitator castris maris: Not. P. Bonello, 5.ix.1467, Not. Arch. MS 588, f. 6<sup>v</sup>.
- 'CARNOCH' or 'CARNOTH' Dionisius Barbara *carnoch*: Not. C. Canchur, 10.i.1514, R 140/6, f. 24.
- 'CARRIAS' Antonius Magro alias *carrias* de Casali Tarxen: Not. C. Canchur, 23.ii.1514, R 140/6, f. 44<sup>v</sup>.
- COWL Nicolaus Bunnichi alias *Chaul*: Not. C. Canchur, 3.i.1509, R 140/4, f. 54<sup>v</sup>.
- 'CHARDUN', 'CHERDUN' Zaccarias Zammit alias *Chardun*: Not. J. Zabara, 10.x.1494, R 494/1. Also: Matteo Zammit alias *Chardun* de Casali Milleri: Not. C. Canchur, 14.xii.1506, R 140/3, f. 49, and: Lencio Zammit alias *Cherdun* de Casali Micabibe: idem, 28.i.1507, *ibid.*, f. 63.
- 'CHERDICA' Bartholomeus *Cherdica* alias Butigeg: Not. J. Zabara, 21.xi.1500, R 494/2. Also: condam Manni Samut alias *cardicha*: will of Nob. Petrus de Vaccaro, 11.vi.1493, Not. B. de Sillato, Not. Arch., MS 1069, f. 37. Cf. *Gerdiqa*, below.
- 'CHICKYNE', 'CHICHINE' Masius Deyf dictu *Chickyne*: Not. J. Zabara, 18.v.1498, R 494/2. Also: Georgius *Chichine* alias Magro: Not. C. Canchur, 4.i.1507, R 140/3, f. 54.
- 'CHINCHILI' (? Ġingli) Franciscus Spiteri alias *chinchili* de casali Tarxen: Not. C. Canchur, 4.i.1507, R 140/3, f. 54.
- 'CUBEYLE' (Qbejla or Hbejla) Nicolu Samud *cubeyle* of Casali Gregori: Angara list, early 1480s.
- 'CULAYRO' Johanna mulier uxor quondam Giliu Hellul alias *culayro*: Not. C. Canchur, 13.xi.1514, R 140/6, f. 88<sup>v</sup>.
- DALAM Paulu Vella *Dalam* of Casali Buzbud: Militia list, 1420s, f. 15<sup>v</sup>.
- 'DAYDUNI', 'DEIDUNI' Antonius de Armanino dictu *Dayduni*: Not. J. Zabara, R 494/2. Also: Johanni de Amanino alias *Deiduni*: Not. C. Canchur, 3.vii.1502, R 140/1, f. 162<sup>v</sup>.

DORBES Simon Vella et Magdalena uxor quondam Nicolay *Dirbes*, alias Vella eius mater: Not. C. Canchur, 8.x.1520, R 140/8, f. 139.

'DNEJE', 'DUEJE' Gullielmu Vella *dueje* (or *dueje*) of Casali Buzubud: Militia list, 1420s, f. 16. Paulu Vella *dueje* (or *dueje*) of Casali Pascualini: *ibid.*, f. 15.

DUBU Lemo Tabuni alias *dubu*: Not. J. Zabara, 25.viii.1486.

'DURMESE', 'DREMUSU' Micaeli Manjuli (i.e. Mangion) alias *durmese*: Not. J. Zabara, 13.ii.1495, R 494/1. Iu *dremusu*: Militia list, 1419-20, Rabat (published in *Melita Historica*, vol. 5, n. 2, p. 103).

FARRATA Magister Antonius Dingli alias *Farrata*: Not. C. Canchur, 3.ix.1505, R 140/2, f. 152.

FARTAS Nicolaus Muctara (i.e. Muhtara) alias *fartas*: Not. Andreas de Beniabin, 12.v.1479, very late copy in RML MS 360, pp. 591-92.

FELFULI uxor *felfuli*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 10.

FELLUSA Cataldo *felluse*: Not. J. Zabara, 12.ix.1487, R 494/1. Cf. Cathaldus Pulluchinu: Not. B. de Sillato, 5.iii.1506, Not. Arch. MS 1069, f. 80<sup>v</sup>.

FENKU Andreas Cahalun *Fencu*: Not. C. Canchur, 28.i.1521, R 140/8, f. 159<sup>v</sup>.

'FERZESU' Franciscu Luckisi *ferzesu* (?): Militia list, 1420s, f. 33.

FGEJLU Paulu Cumbu *fagajlu* (?): Militia postings, die luni ala plaza, c. 1419.

'FLUCHA' Arrigu Zammit *flucha* of Casali Curmi: Angara list, early 1480s.

'FORMICA' (perhaps representing *Nemla*): Magister Antonius Bortella dicto *Formica*: witness to Don Michael Fabro's will, 17.v.1431, very late copy in RML MS 635, f. 227.

FATAJAR Nicolaus Bunnichi dictu *Fitayar*: Not. J. Zabara, 5.x.1496, R 494/1. Also: Joanni *fitayar*: Bishop's rescript erecting the confraternity of St. Mary at Birgu, 20 May 1455, eighteenth century copy in: Cath. Arch., Mdina, Documents, Series A, T. 11, MS 2, Miscellanea Notiziarum, 1334-1593, p. 57.

GEBLI Zaccarias *Gebli*: Not. C. Canchur, 17.x.1511, R 140/5, f. 81.

GERDIQA Andreas *gerdica* habitator Insole Melitae: 6.ix.1486, Not. J. Zabara, R 494/1. Bartholomeus Buttigieg alias *ferdica*: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, T. Xuereb et N. Hayus contra B. Vital et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501, 3.xi.1501, f. 112<sup>v</sup>.

'GIBASAL' Perius et Antonia Farruge alias *gibasal*: 11.iv.1512, Cath. Arch., CEM, Registrum Actorum Originalium, 1511, f. 29<sup>v</sup>.

'BITA GILIDI' Palma et Catharina *bita gilidi*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 4.

'GIRINY' Antoni Mihallef alias *giriny*: Not. J. Zabara, 22.viii.1487, R 494/1.

'GIRBAS' Bernardus Vella alias *girbas*: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, T. Xuereb et N. Hayus contra B. Vital et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501-02, 21.viii.1500, f. 58<sup>v</sup>.

GORDAJNA ex relatione Juliani Zumech *Jordayna*: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, T. Xuereb et N. Hayus contra B. Vital et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501-02, 15.x.1501, f. 68<sup>v</sup>.

GHAFRID, Andria Bunnichi *afrid* of Zejtun: Cavalry list of 1492: RML MS 670, f. 21v. Ganu *hafrid* of Casal Kibir: Militia list, 1420s.

HAGRA IEBSA (?) Petrus Axac alias *chagira gebisa*: Not. P. Bonello, 6.x.1467, Not. Arch., MS 588, f. 22<sup>v</sup>.

'HAJXE' Luca Samud *bajxe* of Balzan: Militia list, 1420s, f. 8.

HALLAS or CALLAS TA' Jacoba *bita challas*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 6.

HAMRIJA Antonio Xiberras alias *Chamiria*: Cath. Arch., MS 28, pp. 423-25, eighteenth century copy of document dated 21.viii.1527.

'HANEJA' (Hnejja or Ghannejja) Andrea Mahallif *baneja* of Casali Lia: Militia list, 1420s, f. 7<sup>v</sup>. Also: Gullielmu Mahallif *baneja* marinaru of Birkirkara: *ibid.*: f. 8<sup>v</sup>.

'HELIS' Niculozu Farruge *helis* (Micabibe): Militia list, 1420s, f. 20<sup>v</sup>.

'HERIS' Dominicu Vella *heris*: Militia postings (he was posted at 'lu gadir', i.e. St. Thomas Bay near Zejtun), c. 1419.

'HIDU' Andrea Mahallif *bidu* (Casali Lia): Militia list, 1420s, f. 7<sup>v</sup>.

HMAJRA Cola Curmi *humaira* of Rabat: Angara list, 1480s, f. 10; Bartholomeu Cummi *humayra* of Rabat: *ibid.*, f. 17; Johanni Cummi *humaira* of Rabat: Militia list, 1420s, f. 31<sup>v</sup>.

KALJARIS Xalomo Hakym alias *Caglarisi*: Not. J. Zabara, 23.xi.1487, R 494/1.

KAMPIS, KAMPISA Bernard Farruge *campis*: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 9, f. 45<sup>v</sup>, 16.x.1488; cf. Bernardo Farruge alias *campise* of Casal Milleri: Not. C. Canchur, 5.iv.1519, R 140/8, f. 46<sup>v</sup> et seq.

KEMMUNA Nicolaus darmaninu dictu *kemune*: Not. J. Zabara, 11.vii.1496, R 494/1.

KLEJMA Franciscus Museat alias *chileyme*: Not. Gerolamo Cumbo, 28.i.1531, R 191/1.

KWEJNA Laurencia alias *cueyna* mulier filia quondam Pauli et Rina, uxor Stephani Seykel: Not. J. Zabara, 27.vi.1487, R 494/1.

LANGASA Ximuni Bartalu *laniasa*: 1488, Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 5, 'Homini falluti'; also: lu figlu di Ximun *lanzasa* lu grandi: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 10, f. 11<sup>v</sup>, 19.xi.1488.

LEJLI Guglemu (sic) Baldiri *layli*: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 9, f. 7, 6.vii.1488.

MADJUNA (or *Maduna*) Masius *Maduna* alias Vella de Casali Luca: Not. C. Canchur, 28.iv.1506, R 140/3, f. 12<sup>v</sup>.

MADUMA Micheli Maniuni *maduma* of Rabat: Militia list, 1420, f. 30<sup>v</sup>.

MALFI Magister Jacobus Hakym alias *Malfi*: Not. J. Zabara, 27.i.1487, R 494/1.

MANGA BAORA Joanna filia Blasii Ketcuti alias *manja bachira*: Not. Gerolamo Cumbo, 26.v.1532, R 196/1. Cf. surname Maniavacca, in Sicily and in Malta.

MANINA Franquino Machanuc alias *Manina*: his will, by Not. Ingomez de Brancato, 11.xii.1492, noted in late seventeenth century manuscript, RML MS 695, f. 117<sup>v</sup>.

MEJMU Bartholomeus Chabele dittu *Mejmu*: Not. J. Zabara, 10.ii.1501, R 494/2.

MOGHA Jacobo Chirmel alias *mehze*: Not. J. Zabara, 27.xi.1494, R 494/1.

'MISLAHAC' Gullielmu Mahallif *misilabac* of Birkirkara: Militia list, 1420s, f. 9.

MZEWWAQ Lucas Baldakin alias *mi-seuhac*: Not. C. Canchur, 11.vi.1512, R 140/5, f. 136.

NIHAYSI' Matreo *Nihaysi* alias Farruge: Not. J. Zabara, 8.iii.1487, R 494/1.

'PARAC' Testamento di Don Leonardo Xeberras detto *Parac* quondam Manfredi: late seventeenth century entry in RML MS 695, f. 235. Cf. (Xeberras) alias *parac*: RML, Univ. 11, f. 374<sup>v</sup>, 26.xi.1477.

QARCILLA Joannes Vella alias *Carchille* habitator Rabbati: Not. Gerolamo Cumbo, 8.ii.1531, R 196/1, f. 45.

QASBIJA Nardus Curmi dictu *cashie*: Not. J. Zabara, 30.x.1499, R 494/2.

QATUSU Marcu *atusu* of Birmiftuh: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 5, 'Homini falluti', f. 12<sup>v</sup>, 13.iii.1489.

QINC, II- quondam Chaym Artun alias *ilkinch*: Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Originalia, 'Memoriale... Samuelis Ragusi... ', 13.viii.1490, f. 1.

QUCCIEDA Gullielmu Staferagi *cuchede* of Siggiewi: Militia list, 1420s, f. 25<sup>v</sup>.

RADDIENA Jacoba mulier uxor Mathei Grecu alias *radene*: Not. J. Zabara, 22.x.1494, R 494/1.

RATBA, TA' *bita ratiba* e la matri: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 7<sup>v</sup>.

RIBAZZA Not. Lorenzo *ribaza* (i.e. Farrugia): Cavalry list, 1492, RML MS 670, f. 20<sup>v</sup>. Notaro Lorenzo Farrugia alias *Ribazza*: Cath. Arch., MS Giuspatronati in Malta e Gozo, f. 161.

'ROCCA' Georgius Randun alias *Rocca* habitator Casalis Percop: Not. C. Canchur, 21.viii.1516, R 140/7, f. 49.

LU RUSSU thomeu lu *russo* of Rabbati: RML, Univ. 11, f. 79, c. 1450.

'SADUN' Paulu Vella *sadun*: Militia list, 1420s, f. 17<sup>v</sup>.

'SAITUN' Matheus Burlo alias *Saitun* filius magistri Antoni *Saytun* habitator Casalis Axac: Not. C. Canchur, 4.i.1507, R 140/3, f. 55<sup>iv</sup>.

'SEYSET' or 'SEYSER' Ximun Salibe *Seyset* (or *Seyser*): Angara list, early 1480s, f. 21.

'BITA SIBLE' Franca *bita sible*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 8<sup>v</sup>.

SIMNA Gullielmu Mahallif *Simne* of Birkirkara: Militia list, 1420s, f. 9<sup>v</sup>.

SLAMPA Testamento di Mattheo Curmi *Slampa* in actis Notarii Lucae de Sillato, 20.xii.1458: late note in RML, MS 695, f. 258<sup>v</sup>. Also late note in Cath. Arch., MS Libro delli Testamenti, f. 179.

SPTAR, TAL-I Luchia *bita lispital*, Catherina *bita lispital*: Rabat population list, 1483, f. 4<sup>v</sup>.

'STAYNO' De facto Jacobi Cassar Stayno: RML, Univ. 11, f. 552, entry between November 1498 and January 1499.

'TAYPU' or 'CAYPU' Lenczu Aczupard *taypu* or *caypu*: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 9, f. 33, 11.ix.1490.

'TARDIN' or 'CARDIN' Simon Skembri alias *tardin* (or *cardin*): Cath. Arch., CEM, Acta Orig., T. Xuerib et N. Hayus contra B. Vitali et Ven. D. Orlandi Vital, 1501-02, 20.x.1501, f. 128<sup>v</sup>.

- 'Tis' Bertu Xebiras *tis*: Cath. Arch., Univ., Quad. Div., n. 5, 'Homini falluti', f. 8<sup>v</sup> or 9, 14.ii.1489.
- TRUMBETTA Fidericus Fava alias *Trumbetta* habitator Casalis Zabbar: Not. C. Canchur, 13.xi.1503, R 140/2, f. 21.
- VILLANO Nicolaus Binnichi alias *Villano*: Not. C. Canchur, 28.iv.1505, R 140/2, f. 133<sup>v</sup>.
- WERC, IL- Matheus *ilguerch*, owner of field at il-Handaq: Not. C. Canchur, 19.viii.1522, R 140/9, f. 114.
- XELLUXE Gilius Casaha alias *xelluxa*: Not. J. Zabara, 7.vi.1499, R 494/2.
- 'XILEIMET' Paulo Bigeni alias *Xileimet* melitensi: Not. Jacobo Bondin, 14.viii.1522, R 69.
- 'XILEYPE' Gilio Cumbo dittu *xileype*: Not. J. Zabara, 5.viii.1495, R 494/1.
- XKORA, TA' Lumejna(?) *bita sacora*: Rabat population list, 1483. Also: Bartholomeus Gaudixi dittu *Xacara* of Rabat: Not. J. Zabara, 26.xi.1495, R 494/1, and: coram Bartholomeo Gaudixi dittu *xacora*: *ibid.*, 4.ii.1488.
- XULLIEXA Gulinus *Xullix*: Not. C. Canchur, 28.xii.1511, R 140/5, f. 98<sup>v</sup>. Also: Lucas *Xullix*: Not. J. Zabara, 14.i.1501, R 494/2.
- 'XUMEYRE' Margarite et Cuncte, filiarum Antoni Bugeni alias *Xumeyre*: Not. B. de Sillato, 30.iv.1519, Not. Arch., MS 1069.
- ZAGHRUNA Guillelmus Pisanu dittu *Zabyrun*: Not. J. Zabara, 30.xii.1495, R 494/1.
- ZERDA Catherina mulier uxor Michaelis Manjuni dittu *Zerde*: Not. J. Zabara, 14.v.1499, R 494/2.

## FOREWORD

*L-Inkwiet tas-Sur Martin* is a one-act play about the impact of the City on the Village. The village represents tradition and conservatism, attachment to the old ancestral customs which are rapidly disappearing under the impact of city life which, being more cosmopolitan, is exposed to many foreign influences from which radiate new mental attitudes that are progressively eroding the core of the village community as we knew it in our younger days.

It is a one-act play which I enjoyed writing and seeing performed by my students several times in the University Theatre at Valletta. The play represents a conflict of mental attitudes to life as it affected the domestic habits and peace of mind of a good-natured, temperamental village man attached to his family traditions and customs and whose two lively daughters upset his tenor of life by some of the exotic fashions of modern life which they picked up from the two Sliema families they worked for as maids.

I am grateful to Mr. F. Williams, a British resident of Siggiewi and congratulate him on his mastery of written Maltese which is by no means easy for an English-speaking person. I have published the Maltese text and translation facing each other to enable Semitic linguists to read the two texts together and draw their own conclusions from the propinquity of the original text and its English rendering.

I do not think that this experiment is without its value. The Maltese language is rapidly developing along two distinctive lines which are one linguistic and another literary. Though Malta is a small country both its language and history form an integral part of the structure of Mediterranean civilization. Unfortunately, most books on Malta, very often *libri ex libris*, do not give a faithful picture of the Maltese and the language they speak. One field that is generally either ignored or underestimated is that of Maltese literature. This Journal will continue to introduce both aspects of Maltese contemporary culture to its subscribers abroad. There will be more translations, with or without the original texts as the occasion permits, in future issues.

This is the continuation of a policy which I have already adopted in previous numbers of this Journal in which I published Maltese texts with the English translations for comparative linguistic and literary purposes.

J. AQUILINA