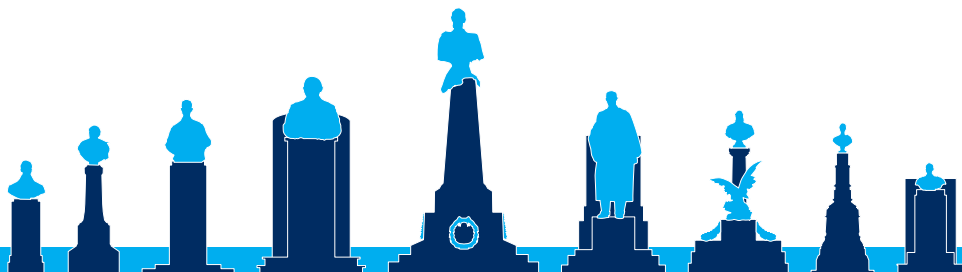


FIMBANK
GROUP

conservation of the
nine monuments at
the maglio gardens
in floriana



FIMBank... investing in our heritage.

Breathing life back into history

Following our very positive experience with the success of the project for the conservation of the Great Siege Monument in 2010, we were glad to team up once again with Din I-Art Helwa, the national heritage trust, to embark on a project which aimed at conserving the nine monuments in the Maglio Gardens. We were to provide the financial support necessary to make the project possible while Din I-Art Helwa undertook to coordinate the effort, with the cooperation of the Floriana Local Council and the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment. The conservation work was entrusted to the Heritage ResCo team, composed of academically trained and experienced conservators Ms Ingrid Ross, Mr James Licari and Mr Frank Chetcuti. At the time, the monuments were in various states of preservation, and while the conservation work would be tackling the monuments individually, the main focus was on countering the effects of the natural weathering process, and in some cases, the effects of vandalism. It was evident that once again, the restorers would be facing an extraordinary challenge.

As to why the monuments in the Maglio Gardens were selected for conservation, the reasons are various. The Gardens themselves reflect a history which goes back centuries, to the time of the Knights of St John. Moreover, all the personalities which these monuments commemorate, in their own way, contributed greatly to Malta's political and social development. However, these monuments do more than just commemorate individuals. They are an important part of Malta's social, political and artistic heritage, tracing the islands' development over more than a century, and a living testimony to the work of accomplished Maltese 19th and 20th Century artists, such as Antonio Sciortino, Vincent Apap and Ganni Darmanin.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have collaborated in this project, especially our partner Din I-Art Helwa, the Heritage ResCo team, the Floriana Local Council and the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment. I would also like to thank the Maltese media which gave excellent coverage to this initiative, in particular Ms Mariella Pisani Bencini, producer of the popular TV programme 'Meander', who produced and broadcast a series of ten features on the project, and Mr Joe Mikalleg from the daily newspaper 'In-Nazzjon', who was instrumental in the publication of nine full-page articles about the personalities commemorated in the Gardens. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Mr Vincent Zammit, author of these articles, which are now reproduced in this booklet, on the thorough research and interesting perspectives he has given us about these personalities as well as about the Gardens themselves.

Margrith Lütschg-Emmenegger
President
FIMBank plc





The Monuments at Floriana's Maglio Gardens

Floriana boasts a rich history with a number of historic buildings, churches, gardens and monuments that shed a light on Maltese history. Amongst these one finds the Maglio Gardens, better known to the Maltese as 'Il-Mall'. The Maglio Gardens in Floriana are popular both with the locals as well as with many others who work in the area, as it offers an ideal venue for leisure and recreation. It also features on the itinerary of foreign visitors who tour the many historic buildings, churches, gardens and monuments located in Floriana. The Maglio Gardens date back to the middle of the 17th Century, and were originally allocated for the exclusive use of the Knights of St. John as a recreation area. In 1805, shortly after the establishment of British rule in Malta, the general public was given access to the gardens, and since then these have served as a popular place for relaxation.

Following persistent rumours of an impending Ottoman attack on Malta in the 1630s, the Order of St John had decided to upgrade the fortifications surrounding their city, Valletta. An Italian military engineer invited to Malta to evaluate the situation, Pietro Paolo Floriani, suggested the enhancing of the landward fortifications of Valletta. Despite strong opposition, the lines of fortifications as recommended by Floriani were built, and eventually became known as the Floriana Lines. Soon afterwards, the French Grand Master, Jean Paul Lascaris (1636-57) established an enclosed area meant 'for the honest recreation' of the Knights.

This was the Maglio, a long stretch of ground, surrounded by a wall, where the Knights could pursue their leisure activities.

It is believed that this area was restricted for the Knights mainly to play the game known as Pall Mall, from the Italian *Pallamaglio*, hence the gardens' name. It is believed that this game, which was very popular during the 17th Century, was introduced in France in the early 14th Century, where it was known as *paille-maille*. Originally it was an indoor game which became so popular that it eventually started being played out in the open. Eventually it was introduced in Scotland from where it spread to other countries in Europe. Croquet, another game played in the open, also owes its origins to the original *paille-maille*.

Today, the gardens are different to how the Knights had originally planned them. There are two parallel paths separated by ornamental trees, flowers, fountains and monuments, along the whole length. Although the boundary wall around the area was meant to offer a sense of privacy to those within, for the local population it meant a long detour around the garden to cross from one side of Floriana to the other. Thus in 1871, a breach was made in the wall to allow those going to or leaving St Publius Church to cross from one side to the other of the gardens without any hindrance.

The end of the Order's rule in Malta was to bring another change in the



function of the gardens. During the administration of Sir Alexander Ball, in 1805, this place was turned into a public garden. Among those who contributed to this transformation was the Rev. Carlo Giacinto, a Genoese friar of the Discalced Carmelites, who headed the Chair of Botany at the University of Malta and who was responsible for the botanical garden that was also located in Floriana. The botanical garden, which had originally been set up during the 17th Century in the ditch of Fort St Elmo, was re-instituted in Floriana, adjacent to the Church of Sarria, during the early years of British administration. It was around this time that the above-mentioned clergyman planted a number of trees and shrubs in the Maglio Gardens.

During one of the worst months of the World War Two blitz, a number of bombs heavily damaged the perimeter wall, and after the war the authorities decided to dismantle the remaining structure as a safety measure.

Within the Gardens one encounters, at regular intervals, monuments commemorating nine important personalities from the 19th and 20th centuries. Just in front of the main entrance to the gardens, one used to find the monument to Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena. In 1989,

this was replaced by the Independence Monument. On entering the gardens, the first monument one comes across is actually the first erected within the Maglio Gardens, namely that of Dr Aloysio Pisani (1806-1865). The monument was erected in 1867 and is the work of Giuseppe Darmanin. Dr



Pisani came from a family of illustrious medical doctors, and by 1826, at the age of 20, he had already graduated in medicine. He led a very active professional life, and was heavily involved in the 1837 cholera epidemic. He later went on to pursue a successful career within the Medical Department. The second monument erected at the gardens commemorates the Marquis Vincenzo Bugeja, a wealthy philanthropist and politician. For a number of years, the Marquis Bugeja served as the impresario for the Manoel Theatre. Yet, he is mostly remembered for his philanthropic contribution to institutions dedicated to helping the poorer members of Maltese society, for which he was honoured by both Pope





Leo XIII and the Prince of Wales. As a politician, he favoured the Reformist Party, and made valid contributions towards amendments in commercial and criminal legislation. Bugeja died in 1890, while the monument, the work of Giulio Moschetti, was set up in 1897.

In 1904, a third monument was set up to honour the Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna (1856-1907). The Marquis Scicluna was a banker and philanthropist who founded and maintained the Fra Diego Institute in Hamrun, besides constructing a new residence for the ever increasing number of female orphans that were being housed at the Institute. Due to his commitment to various charitable works, it was decided that the monument in his honour be erected while he was still alive. A nation-wide collection of funds was initiated in 1901, and when enough money was collected, the monument was commissioned from the young sculptor Francesco Saverio Sciortino (1875-1958), brother to the more renowned Antonio, and manufactured in Tuscany.

Another Maltese personality who is commemorated at the gardens is Sir Adrian Dingli (1817-1900). Born in Valletta, Sir Adrian Dingli made a name

for himself in the legal field. He started practising law in 1842, and when in 1849 a new constitution was granted to Malta, Dingli was involved in the drafting of the rules for the conduct of the Council's meetings. In 1854 he was appointed Crown Advocate, upon which he immediately started working on the modernisation of Maltese laws. He was a well-respected jurist and regularly consulted by the British administration. Through his connections, he was influential in obtaining for Gozo the spiritual autonomy that the Church in Gozo had longed for, when it became a separate diocese. Dingli was to be involved in many other political decisions taken during the second half of the 19th Century. Eventually he was appointed Chief Justice, a post that he retained until he retired in 1894. Soon after his death a committee was set up for the erection of a monument to this "distinguished statesman". This was eventually inaugurated by King Edward VII, who was on an official visit to Malta in 1907. The monument is the work of the Maltese sculptor Antonio Sciortino (1879-1947).

The only non-Maltese commemorated with a monument at the Maglio



Gardens is Giovanni Nicolo` di Pappaffy (1792-1886). A Greek national, he arrived in Malta in 1810, at the age of 18. He specialised in finance and was an importer of cereals and other foodstuffs. He was also the wheat purchasing agent for the Maltese Government, and because of his connections was engaged by the British Government to act as the general purveyor to the British forces during the Crimean War. His monument however recognises his contribution towards helping young Maltese who wanted to emigrate through a fund known as the "Pappaffy Fund", and which was still being utilised in 1961. His monument was set up by the Government of Malta in 1956, and is the work of Vincent Apap (1909-2003).

In 1963, a monument was inaugurated to remember Sir Ugo Mifsud (1889-1942). Mifsud was both a successful lawyer as well as a politician. As a lawyer he contributed to various papers in international law journals, and attended various international conferences. As a politician, he contested the elections of 1921 and was elected on the ticket of the Unione Politica Maltese. Mifsud was to be the Prime Minister of Malta during two terms. He was knighted in 1927. Sir Ugo Mifsud died two days after suffering a heart attack while delivering an impassioned speech against the illegality of the arrest and deportation of a number of Maltese in 1942 by the British Administration. Sir Ugo's monument, the sixth to be inaugurated at the Maglio Gardens, is the work of Vincenzo Apap.

The monument commemorating Sir Filippo Scerberras (1850-1928), a patriot, was inaugurated in 1967. Scerberras was a respected Maltese personality who in

1919 rallied the various political factions to meet and organise a National Assembly. It was against the background of one of these meetings that the events of the 7th June 1919 took place. Eventually he helped to draft the Self-Government Constitution, which was granted in 1921. Sir Filippo Scerberras kept his distance from partisan politics, and for that reason he was well loved and respected. When he died in 1928 he was accorded a public funeral.

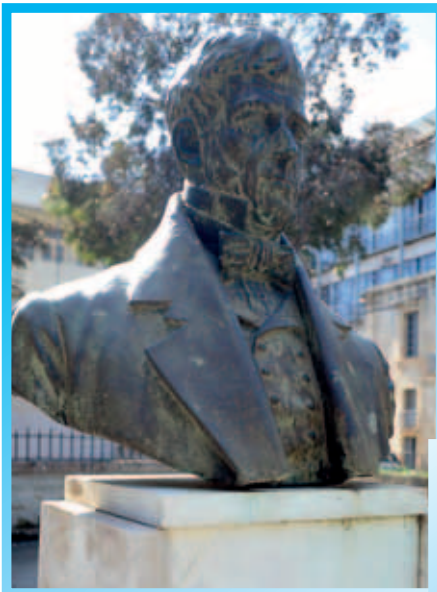
Another monument we find at the Maglio Gardens is the one commemorating Sir Luigi Preziosi (1888-1965). An ophthalmologist by profession, he was internationally renowned for his expertise, as well as for his innovative operation in dealing with trachoma. Sir Luigi was also involved in politics and contested the national elections more than once. After the end of the Second World War he was appointed President of the National Assembly in preparation for the granting of a new constitution by the British Government. After he retired from politics, he dedicated his life to his profession. Five years after his death a monument, the work of Vincent Apap, was inaugurated at the Gardens.

The last monument to be erected at the Maglio Gardens was that of Sir Hannibal Scicluna (1880-1981). Amongst his many public appointments, Scicluna held those of Director of the Museums Department and Librarian at the National Library. He was also a prolific researcher and author, and a number of his publications are still considered as important reference sources. He lived to the ripe old age of 101.



Il-Monument f'għieħ Giovanni Nicolò di Pappaffy

Fost il-monumenti li nsibu fil-Mall tal-Furjana, niltaqgħu ma' wieħed li qed ifakkar personaġġ barrani, iżda li hađem hafna f'Malta, għex kważi hađtu kollha fostna, u għen kemm seta' lil dawk li xtaqu



jibdedw hađja aħjar f'pajjiż ieħor. Dan huwa Giovanni di Nicolò Pappaffy.

Huwa twieled fis-sena 1792 f'Salonika, il-Greċja, u ta' tmintax-il sena emigra u ġie għix Malta. Dak iż-żmien, il-Greċja kienet għadha tiffirma parti mill-Imperu Ottoman. Kien iżżewweġ darbtejn; lil Carmen Micallef, u wara lil Vincenza Aquilina, li oriġinarjament kienet twieldet f'Korsika, għalkemm ta' oriġini Maltija. F'Malta, Pappaffy daħal fin-negożju u għamel suċċess enormi, speċjalment fl-importazzjoni tal-qamħ. Dan wasslu

wkoll biex ikun ikkonsultat kemm-il darba mill-amministrazzjoni Inġliża f'Malta dwar ħwejjeġ pubbliċi. Jidher ukoll li meta fl-għoxrinijiet tas-seklu dsatax ingħata bidu għall-Gwerra tal-Indipendenza Griega, Pappaffy mar il-Greċja fuq stedina tal-Gvern Inġliż ħalli jkun jista' jgħin f'din it-taqbida kontra l-Imperu Ottoman. Jidher li Pappaffy ma tantx dam fuq din il-missjoni, u rritorna lura lejn Malta. Aktar tard, l-awtoritajiet militari Inġliżi xtaqu li Pappaffy jgħu r-responsabbiltà li jkun fornitur tal-ikel għall-armata Inġliża matul il-Gwerra tal-Krimeja (1853-1856), iżda rrifjuta minhabba l-età tiegħu.

Huwa magħruf li waqt li f'Malta kienu għaddejjin it-taħdidiet u l-konsultazzjonijiet mal-Kummissjoni Irjali tal-1836, Pappaffy kien ipparteċipa f'diversi laqgħat li saru.



Il-parteċipazzjoni tiegħu waqt dawn il-laqgħat kienu dejjem favur Malta u l-Maltin. Fl-1840 irtira mill-attivitajiet kummerċjali tiegħu, iżda baqa' attiv f'diversi hwejjeġ oħra. Jidher li wara li rtira mar joqgħod l-Imdina, u ppublika diversi kitbiet b'interess partikulari dwar in-negozju u l-finanzi.

Imma, l-aktar haġa li Pappaffy kien magħruf għaliha, kienet l-għajnuna valida li huwa offra biex Maltin li xtaqu jemigraw ħalli jfittxu futur aħjar, tingħatalhom għajnuna finanzjarja. Fit-testament tiegħu huwa halla somma ta' flus biex b'hekk waqqaf fond. Dan kien magħruf bħala l-Fond Pappaffy, u s-somma kienet ta' £10,000. Il-fond kien amministrat minn kumitat li xogħlu kien li jara li l-applikanti kienu jissodisfaw numru ta' kriterji sabiex setgħu jingħataw din l-għajnuna. L-applikanti riedu jkunu rġiel Maltin ta' bejn it-18 u l-24 sena, u kien jeħtieġ li jkollhom ftit edukazzjoni, kif ukoll jifhmu tal-anqas tnejn minn dawn il-lingwi: l-Ingliz, it-Taljan, il-Franċiż u l-Grieg. Sa l-1961 aktar minn 550 persuna ngħataw l-għajnuna minn dan il-fond.

Fis-sena 1917 tpoġġiet irhama fil-ġnien tal-Mall biex tfakkar lil Giovanni di Nicolò Pappaffy, personaġġ li għen ħafna lill-Maltin. Biss, fis-sena 1959 sar monument, dak li hemm illum, biex jingħata ġieħ aħjar lil Pappaffy. Din kienet l-inizjattiva tas-Sur John Axisa, id-Direttur tal-Emigrazzjoni, li ħaseb ħalli jkun hemm monument aktar xieraq għal Pappaffy. Il-bust sar mill-iskultur Malti Vincent Apap. Giovanni di Nicolò Pappaffy miet fis-sena 1886, fl-età ta' 94 sena, u jinsab midfun fiċ-ċimiterju ta' Braxia, Tal-Pietà.



Il-Monument f'għieh Sir Hannibal Scicluna

L-aħħar monument li tpoġġa fil-Mall tal-Furjana kien f'għieh Sir Hannibal Scicluna. Imwieded fil-Furjana stess fis-sena 1880, Hannibal Scicluna ħa l-edukazzjoni tiegħu f'Malta u f'Għawdex u ggradwa mill-Università ta' Malta bħala Prokuratur Legali. Ta' 22 sena daħal jaħdem mas-servizz ċivili, fejn baqa' jokkupa diversi karigi sakemm irtira.

Scicluna ħadem f'diversi dipartimenti tal-gvern matul il-karriera pubblika tiegħu, iżda forsi l-aktar żewġ karigi li huma assoċjati miegħu huma dawk ta' Direttur tal-Mużewijiet, u Biblijotekarju tal-Librerija Nazzjonali. Fost hidmietu f'dan tal-aħħar,

Hannibal Scicluna kien membru ta' diversi għaqdiet internazzjonali. Barra minn hekk, matul il-karriera tiegħu ngħata diversi onorificenzi. Fl-1935 ingħata l-unur ta' Membru tal-Imperu Inġliż, filwaqt li fis-sena 1955 Hannibal Scicluna ngħata l-onorificenza ta' Sir mir-Reġina Elizabetta II. Għal dik l-okkażjoni saritlu ikla ta' apprezzament f'Londra mill-Assoċjazzjoni Inġliża tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann.

Fl-1936 huwa ta kollezzjoni li kellu ta' aktar minn elfejn ktieb lill-Università ta' Oxford. Din il-ġabra ta' kotba tpoġġiet fit-taqsimha magħrufa bħala l-'Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies' f'Rhodes House. Il-kollezzjoni, magħrufa bħala 'The Scicluna Collection' u magħmula minn kotba li jmorru lura għas-seklu sittax, tinkludi pubblikazzjonijiet dwar l-istorja tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann u l-Gżejjer Maltin. L-amministrazzjoni ta' din il-librerija għadha żżid ma' din



wieħed isib ix-xogħol li beda sabiex l-arkivji tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann ikunu kkatalogati kif suppost, biex b'hekk wieħed ikun jista' jagħmel użu minnhom ferm aħjar milli kif kienu qabel.



il-kollezzjoni prestigjuża, billi jew tingħata kotba, inkella tixtri pubblikazzjonijiet dwar l-istess suġġetti.

Sir Hannibal Scicluna kien ukoll awtur ta' pubblikazzjonijiet f'diversi lingwi. Wiehed mill-aktar pubblikazzjonijiet ta' prestigju li kiteb kien dwar il-Kon Katidral ta' San Ġwann, ktieb li għall-ewwel darba ttratta fid-dettal il-Kon Katidral mill-aspetti storiċi u artistiki tiegħu, minbarra li nkluda ritratt ta' kull lapida li nsibu f'dan il-lok. Dan il-ktieb kien mitbugħ kemm bl-Ingliż kif ukoll bit-Taljan. Pubblikazzjonijiet oħra ta' Sir Hannibal Scicluna ttrattaw aspetti mill-istorja tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann, kif ukoll dwar il-perjodu qasir tal-Francizi f'Malta.

Il-midalji ta' Sir Hannibal Scicluna, li kienu mogħtija lilu matul il-karriera tiegħu, ingħataw kollha lill-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, u llum dawn jinsabu esposti f'dan il-Mużew.

Sir Hannibal Scicluna miet fis-sena 1981, fl-età venerabbli ta' 101.

Il-monument li twaqqaf fil-Mall f'ġieħ Scicluna jinkludi bust impoġġi fuq pilastru ta' l-irħam. Il-monument huwa magħmul minn diversi livelli ta' xogħol fuq l-irħam li jagħtuh xejra aktar sħiħa milli kieku l-bust tpoġġa fuq kolonna waħda. Bħala kitba, kull ma hemm huwa l-isem u d-dati tat-twelid u l-mewt tiegħu. Il-bust li jfakkar lil Sir Hannibal Scicluna huwa sempliċi fl-esekuzzjoni tiegħu, iżda juri l-majestrija tal-iskultur, il-Malti Vincent Apap. Fuq in-naħa tax-xellug tal-bust, hemm il-kitba "Chiurazzi - Napoli", il-funderija fejn inħadem il-bust.



Il-Monument f'ġieħ Sir Filippo Sceberras

F'Mejju tas-sena 1967 kien ġie nawgurat monument f'ġieħ Sir Filippo Sceberras, fil-ġnien tal-Mall fil-Furjana. Il-monument li jfakkar dan il-personaġġ, li huwa xoghhol tal-iskultur Malti Vincent Apap, kien inkixef minn Dr Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Prim Ministru ta' Malta, u tbierек mill-Arcisqof Mikiel Gonzi.

Imwield f'Tal-Pietà fis-sena 1850, Sceberras kien ġej minn familja prominenti

missier Filippo, Rinaldo (1808-1845), kien għamel isem fi hdan l-Armata Ingliża. Monument biex ifakkar lil dan il-personaġġ kien twaqqaf fil-Barrakka Ta' Fuq.

Filippo studja l-medicina fl-Università ta' Malta. Hekk kif iggradwa, huwa mar ikompli l-istudji tiegħu f'Napli u Parigi. Wara li rritorna lejn Malta, beda joffri s-servizzi tiegħu bħala tabib, u kien magħruf għall-karità li kien jagħmel, partikolarment għax ma kienx jiehu hlasijiet minghand il-foqra. Jidher li bħala tabib kien rispettatt ukoll mill-awtoritajiet, u fil-fatt kien magħżul biex ikun membru ta' diversi kummissjonijiet mediċi.

Fl-elezzjoni għall-Kunsill tal-Gvern tas-sena 1888, Filippo Sceberras kien ġie elett biex jirrapprezenta lill-



u fil-fatt iz-ziju ta' missieru kien l-ewwel kardinal Malti, Mons. Fabrizio Sceberras Testaferrata (1757-1843). Fil-Katidral tal-Imdina nsibu monument biex ifakkar lil dan il-personaġġ. Camillo Sceberras, ziju iehor ta' missieru, u hu l-Kardinal, kien prominenti ħafna fil-ġlieda bikrija politika tal-Maltin kontra l-Ingliżi, sabiex dawn jingħataw l-għarfien politiku li kien jisthoqqilhom. Hu



gradwati. Minn dak in-nhar 'il quddiem l-interess u l-partecipazzjoni ta' Sceberras fil-politika kompliet tiżdied, sakemm twarrbet għal kollox il-hidma medika tiegħu. Mill-ewwel attivitajiet tiegħu fil-kamp politiku, Filippo wera li kien bniedem ta' principji sodi. Il-hidma tiegħu kienet dejjem favur il-poplu Malti, u minħabba f'hekk ġibed ir-rispett ta' kulhadd.

L-aħħar snin tas-seklu dsatax u l-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin kien perjodu intensiv fil-kamp politiku Malti. Filwaqt li diversi Maltin, ta' opinjonijiet differenti, kienu jiġġieldu u jargumentaw favur aktar libertà kostituzzjonali min-naħa tal-gvern Inġliż, l-awtoritajiet Inġliżi baqgħu jittratjenu milli jagħtu l-għarfien mistħoqq lill-Maltin. Filippo Sceberras, għalkemm ma baqgħax jikkontesta l-elezzjonijiet, baqa' involut fil-kamp politiku minħabba li fehem il-bżonn ta' għaqda nazzjonali. Fil-fatt huwa kien ingħażel ħalli jkun il-President tal-Comitato Nazionale, kumitat li twaqqaf ħalli titkompla l-ġlieda kostituzzjonali f'isem il-Maltin. Sceberras tkellem f'diversi laqgħat pubbliċi li nżammu f'dan iż-żmien. Iżda l-akbar avveniment li wieħed jorbot ma' Filippo Sceberras kien dak li seħħ fl-1919 meta twaqqfet l-Assemblea Nazionale, u fl-ewwel laqgħa li saret fi Frar, Sceberras ingħażel bħala l-President. Saru diversi laqgħat, fosthom dik tas-7 ta' Ġunju, meta ħafna Maltin daħlu l-Belt biex juru l-appoġġ lir-rappreżentanti politiċi tagħhom, u nqala' l-inkwiet. Dakinhar kienu mietu erba' Maltin. Wara dan l-inkwiet ingħata bidu għall-hidma sabiex Malta tingħata Kostituzzjoni li tirrifletti aħjar l-aspirazzjonijiet tal-poplu tagħha, u Sceberras kien involut fil-kitba ta' dan id-dokument ferm importanti.

Bl-għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni tal-1921, Malta kellha għall-ewwel darba gvern b'invoviment dirett tal-Maltin. Għall-ftuħ uffiċjali tal-Parlament, nhar l-1 ta' Novembru ta' dik is-sena, il-Prinċep ta' Wales onora lil Filippo Sceberras bit-titlu ta' Sir, anki jekk għall-bidu Sceberras ma xtaqx li jaċċetta dan l-unur.

Sir Filippo Sceberras miet fl-1928, fl-età ta' 78 sena.



Il-Monument f'għieħ Sir Luigi Preziosi

Personaġġ Malti iehor li huwa mfakkar b'monument fil-ġnien tal-Mall fil-Furjana huwa Sir Luigi Preziosi. Dan kien personaġġ iehor li rabat ismu kemm mal-kamp tal-medicina, kif ukoll ma' dak politiku.

Imwieded fis-sena 1888, Preziosi studja f'Malta, u wara kompla l-istudji tiegħu f'Oxford u f'Ruma. Preziosi speċjalizza fil-ofthalmologija, qasam li kellu jgħibli suċċess u fama. F'Malta inġatar tabib tal-ġhajnejn fl-Isptar Ċentrali, kif ukoll aktar tard professur tal-ġhajnejn fl-Università ta' Malta. Minħabba r-rispett li kellhom lejha, Preziosi kien irrapreżenta l-fakultà

Fis-sena 1924, meta huwa kien qed jaħdem fl-Isptar Ċentrali, beda jesperimenta metodu partikulari ta' operazzjoni tal-ġhajnejn. Din l-operazzjoni kellha l-ghan li tikkura l-marda tal-glaukoma. Il-metodu tal-operazzjoni li ħoloq Preziosi kellu jagħmlu famuż mad-dinja. Fil-fatt, din it-tip ta' operazzjoni kienet magħrufa bhala "Operazzjoni Preziosi". Minħabba dan is-suċċess, Preziosi beda jkun mistieden biex jittkellem dwar l-operazzjoni, kif ukoll dwar il-mard tal-ġhajnejn.

Minbarra l-hidma medika tiegħu, Luigi Preziosi kien involut sew fil-hidma politika. Is-sitwazzjoni politika f'Malta fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin kienet wahda mqanqla sew. Fl-1921 huwa kien membru tal-Partit ta' Panzavecchia, u wara x-xoljiment ta' dan il-partit, ingħaqad mal-Partit Nazzjonalista. Fl-1921 ikkontesta l-elezzjoni, iżda ma kienx ġie elett. Wara l-elezzjoni tas-sena 1927 huwa kien intgħazel bhala



fil-Kunsill tal-Università, waqt li nħatar president tal-Camera Medica diversi drabi.



r-rappreżentant tal-gradwati. Kien reġa' ntgħazel wara l-elezzjoni tal-1932. F'dik is-sena stess, huwa nħatar bħala l-President tas-Senat.

L-involviment tiegħu fil-kamp politiku kompli anki wara t-tmiem it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Fis-sena 1944 twaqqaf il-Kungress Nazzjonali ħalli jingħata bidu għall-formazzjoni ta' gvern responsabbli. Preziosi ntgħazel bħala l-President tal-Kungress, u fl-1946 ippreżenta l-abbozz ta' Kostituzzjoni li kienet tirrifletti l-aspirazzjonijiet tal-Maltin.

Fis-sena 1948 Luigi Preziosi ngħata t-titlu ta' Sir, kemm minħabba l-ħidma medika tiegħu kif ukoll għal dik politika. Jidher ukoll li ftit wara ddeċieda li jitlaq mill-ħidma tiegħu fil-kamp politiku, u kompli jiddedika ħajtu għall-kura tal-ghajnejn, xi ħaġa li baqa' jagħmel sa ffit qabel miet.

Dettal ieħor mill-ħajja illustri ta' Sir Luigi Preziosi huwa l-fatt li wara l-mewt ta' missieru, huwa wiret it-titlu ta' Konti. Ftit wara kien ġie elett membru fil-kumitat tal-Privileġġi tan-Nobbiltà Maltija, u anki għamel għaxar snin bħala l-President ta' dan il-kumitat.

Sir Luigi Preziosi miet il-Furjana fis-sena 1965. Għall-funeral tiegħu kien hemm ħafna nies. Ħames snin wara nkixef il-monument li nsibu fil-Ġnien tal-Mall, fil-preżenza tal-mara tiegħu. Kien hemm ukoll prezenti l-Prim Ministru ta' Malta ta' dak iż-żmien, Dr Ġorġ Borg Olivier u l-Gvernatur Ġenerali Sir Maurice Dorman, filwaqt lit-tberik tal-monument sar mill-Arcisqof ta' Malta, Mikiel Gonzi. Il-bust li jfakkar lil Preziosi sar fuq disinn ta' Vincent Apap.



Il-Monument f'għieħ il-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna

Monument ieħor li nsibu fil-ġnien tal-Mall huwa dak li jfakkar lill-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna, magħruf ukoll għax-xogħol filantropiku li kien iwettaq. Barra minn hekk, Scicluna kien negozjant kif ukoll bankier prominenti f'Malta. Interessanti ħafna huwa l-fatt li l-monument li jfakkar lill-Markiz Scicluna kien ġie nawgurat waqt li dan l-istess personaġġ kien għadu ħaj.

Il-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna twieled fis-sena 1855, u kien jiġi mill-famuż Giuseppe Scicluna li kien waqqaf l-ewwel bank privat f'Malta 'Josef Scicluna et Fils' fis-

minn Fra Diego Bonanno (1831-1920) li kien jgħin ħafna tfajliet li kienu jisfaw abbandunati mill-familji tagħhom, u fejn fih kienu jingħataw kenn. Bl-għajjnuna finanzjarja ta' Scicluna, setghu jinbnew faċilitajiet adegwati. Dan l-istitut għadu wieqaf sal-ġurnata tal-lum.

Il-monument, kif diġà għidna, kien inawgurat meta l-istess Markiz Scicluna kien għadu ħaj. Iċ-ċerimonja tal-inawgurazzjoni seħħet f'Diċembru tas-sena 1904. Għaċ-ċerimonja kien hemm preżenti diversi nies distinti, rappreżentanti tal-Banda San Ġużepp tal-Ħamrun, kif ukoll grupp ta' tfajliet mill-Istitut Fra Diego, sabiex juru l-apprezzament tagħhom għall-għajjnuna kontinwa li kien joffri l-Markiz lill-Istitut. Il-



sena 1830. Aktar tard, il-Markiz kellu jkun involut fit-tmexxija tal-Bank, fejn kompli jirreġistra suċċess fil-hidma bankarja, kif ukoll fin-negozju. Iżda, forsi l-aktar ħaġa li hija marbuta mal-Markiz hija l-hidma filantropika li kien jagħmel. Il-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna kien benefattur tal-Istitut ta' Fra Diego. Dan l-istitut kien twaqqaf



monument huwa wieħed sempliċi - il-bust tal-Markiz Scicluna jinsab fuq pedestal tal-irham, li jibqa' nieżel għal bażi kwadra. Il-bust huwa xogħol ta' l-iskultur Malti, Francesco Saverio Sciortino (1875-1958), li jiġi hu l-famuż Antonio Sciortino.

Apparti l-atti ta' karità li kien jagħmel il-Markiz Scicluna, ismu huwa marbut ukoll ma' residenza partikulari, Palazzo Parisio, fin-Naxxar. Huwa xtara l-Palazz fis-sena 1899, u ftit wara ingħata bidu għar-restawr ta' din il-binja. Ġab artisti u ħaddiema mill-Italja ħalli jkun jista' jżejjen il-Palazz bl-aħjar mod possibli. Sas-sena 1902 ix-xogħol kien intemm, għalkemm ma jidhrix li l-Markiz mar joqghod hemm mill-ewwel.

Il-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna għamel ukoll żmien bħala membru tal-Kamra tal-Kummerċ, barra li kien membru tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern. Kien ingħata t-titlu ta' Markiz mill-Papa Ljun XIII, titlu li seta' jintiret sat-tielet generazzjoni. Fl-1901 il-Markiz Giuseppe Scicluna żżewweġ f'Ruma, u minn dan iż-żwieġ twieled tifel, li ngħata l-isem ta' Giovanni.

Sfortunatament, il-Markiz Scicluna ma kellux igawdi wisq il-Palazz li kien spiċċa jżejjen ftit tas-snin qabel. Jum minnhom, wara ħarġa fil-kampanja bil-parilja tiegħu, Giuseppe Scicluna ħassu ma jiflaħx u miet ffit wara. Huwa miet fis-sena 1907 fl-età ta' 52 sena.



Il-Monument f'għieħ Dr Aloisio Pisani

Hekk kif wieħed jidhol fil-ġnien tal-Mall, l-ewwel monument li jiltaqa' miegħu huwa dak iddedikat lil Dr Aloisio Pisani. Il-monument huwa interessanti - jinsab impoġġi fuq pedestal dekorat, b'iskrizzjoni Latina ma' kull faċċata filwaqt li fuqu hemm kolonna ddekorata li turi diversi simboli marbuta mal-medicina. Fuq nett naraw il-bust ta' Dr Aloisio Pisani.

1813, minhabba li hu kien it-tabib tal-fqar tal-Kottonera. Fil-fatt, missieru miet matul l-epidemija ta' din il-pesta. Pisani daħal jistudja l-Università ta' Malta, u studja taħt il-Professuri Naudi u Gavino Portelli. Ta' 20 sena gradwa bhala tabib.

Fis-sena 1830 Luigi jew Aloisio Pisani mar jaħdem fl-isptar li kien hemm fuq il-gżira Manoel, magħruf bhala l-Lazzarett. Huwa dam jaħdem hemm tliet snin, jagħti l-għajjnuna kollha tiegħu lil dawk li kienu qed ibgħatu mill-mard tal-ġidri. Fl-istess ħin, biex ikun jista' jkompli jieħu esperjenza medika, hadem mingħajr hlas fl-isptar



Pisani kien ġej minn familja li għamlet isem fil-medicina. Twieled fis-sena 1806 fil-Birgu. Nannuh kien tabib, u kien magħruf għall-għerf mediku tiegħu. Missieru kien kirurgu ta' reputazzjoni ukoll. Fil-fatt dan kien involut sew fl-għajjnuna li ta matul l-imxija tal-pesta tas-sena



ċentrali. Matul l-epidemija tal-kolera tas-sena 1837 Dr Pisani ħadem ħafna u għen mhux ftit lil dawk li spiċċaw milquta minn din il-marda.

Fis-sena 1839 Dr Luigi Pisani inhatar Prinċipal fl-Isptar Ċentrali f'Għawdex u dam f'din il-kariga sas-sena 1850. F'dik is-sena huwa nħatar Supretendent tal-Isptar Ċentrali f'Malta, u baqa' jżomm din il-kariga sa ma miet fl-1865. Huwa miet fid-dar tiegħu fil-Belt Valletta. Pisani kien tabib tar-ruħ u kien jagħder lil dawk in-nies li ma setgħux ihallsu għall-kura medika. Barra minn hekk ħadem ħafna fil-qasam tat-tqala, tant li spiċċa bħala l-kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Ostetriċija. Barra dan ix-xogħol, Dr Pisani kien jaħdem ħafna privatament.

Dr Luigi Pisani miet fis-sena 1865 wara li marad bit-tifojde. Għall-funeral tiegħu kien hemm diversi nies distinti, kif ukoll poplu li ried juri r-rispett tiegħu lejn dan it-tabib. Id-difna saret fil-qabar tal-familja fil-Knisja tal-Franġiskani Minuri, fil-Belt Valletta. Jidher ukoll li mill-ewwel bdiet inizjattiva ħalli jitwaqqaf monument f'għieħ Pisani. L-ewwel ħsieb kien biex il-monument jitpoġġa fil-ġnien tal-Barrakka ta' Fuq, iżda mbagħad ittieħdet id-deċiżjoni li jitpoġġa fil-ġnien tal-Mall. B'hekk ingħata bidu għat-tradizzjoni li jitwaqqfu monumenti għal personaġġi Maltin. Id-disinn tal-monument sar minn Dr Nicola Zammit u x-xogħol fl-irħam sar minn Giovanni Darmanin, marmist famuż, filwaqt li l-iskrizzjonijiet bil-Latin saru mill-Latinist famuż Dr Don Giuseppe Zammit.



Il-Monument f'għieh Sir Ugo Mifsud

Personaġġ ieħor li tiegħu nsibu monument fil-ġnien tal-Mall il-Furjana huwa Sir Ugo Mifsud, bniedem li rabat ismu mal-istorja politika u kostituzzjonali tal-ewwel nofs tas-seklu 20.

Ugo Mifsud twieled fis-sena 1889 fil-Belt Valletta. L-istudji tiegħu saru fl-Università ta' Malta. Hekk kif iggradwa bħala avukat mill-ewwel wera l-kapaċitajiet tiegħu, tant li mhux l-ewwel darba li kiteb studji biex

imexxi laqgħat importanti fit-tletinijiet. Dan kompli jikkonferma r-rispett li kien muri Ugo Mifsud.

Il-hidma tiegħu fil-kamp politiku f'Malta kienet intensiva. Bħala rappreżentant tas-Socjetà Filarmonika La Valette, Ugo Mifsud kien jattendi għal-laqgħat tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali fis-sena 1919. Fil-fatt, matul it-tieni laqgħa tal-Assemblea huwa kien magħżul bħala Segretarju.

Meta fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 inqalgħu l-irvellijiet fit-toroq tal-Belt Valletta li fihom mietu 4 Maltin, Ugo Mifsud kien is-Segretarju tal-Assemblea li



dehru f'ġurnali speċjalizzati barra minn Malta. Il-hidma tiegħu fil-qasam legali internazzjonali kompliet matul il-karriera tiegħu. Kien membru ta' għaqdiet internazzjonali, kif ukoll attenda diversi laqgħat. Barra minn hekk, kien ikun mistieden ukoll biex



kienet qed tiltaqa' f'dak il-waqt. Jingħad li fid-diskussjonijiet li kien hemm wara dawn l-incidenti, sabiex Malta tingħata kostituzzjoni aktar qrib l-aspirazzjonijiet tal-Maltin, Ugo Mifsud kien imdaħħal fit-fassil tagħha. Ftit wara, il-Kostituzzjoni magħrufa bħala ta' Amery-Milner ingħatat lil Malta, u b'hekk għall-ewwel darba l-Maltin setgħu jkollhom *self-government*, għalkemm b'diversi ristrezjonijiet.

Ugo Mifsud ikkontesta l-elezzjonijiet ġenerali li nżammu fis-sena 1921 u kien elett fl-Assemblea Legiſlattiva. Huwa kien ħareġ fuq l-Ewwel Distrett, u kkontesta f'isem il-partit Unione Politica Maltese, immexxi minn Mons. Panzavecchia. F'dan il-gvern Ugo Mifsud kien ingħata l-Ministeru tal-Biedja u Sajd. Għall-elezzjoni tas-sena 1924, Mifsud ikkontesta għal darb'oħra, u kien ġie elett. Din id-darba ingħata r-responsabbilità ta' Ministru tal-Finanzi. Iżda ftit wara, l-Prim Ministru ta' dak iż-żmien (Francesco Buhagiar) ingħata l-kariga ta' Mhalef, u għalhekk irriżenja. Minfloku laħaq Dr Ugo Mifsud, biex b'hekk sar l-iżgħar Prim Ministru fl-Imperu Inġliż.

Fis-sena 1926 seħħet l-għaqda bejn il-partiti Unione Politica Maltese u Partito Democratico Nazionalista, biex kien ġie fformat il-Partit Nazzjonalista, li tiegħu Dr Ugo Mifsud spiċċa bħala l-kap, flimkien ma' Dr Enrico Mizzi. Mifsud kien ġie elett għal darb'oħra fl-elezzjoni tas-sena 1927, u reġa' kkontesta l-elezzjoni tas-sena 1932, fejn għal darb'oħra sar Prim Ministru ta' Malta. Hu kien ġie elett membru tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern fis-sena 1939, lejlet it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija.

Fi Frar tal-1942, waqt dibattitu urġenti fil-Kunsill tal-Gvern dwar l-internament ta' numru ta' Maltin mill-Gvern Inġliż, Ugo Mifsud tah attack tal-qalb, u jumejn wara miet. Uħud mill-internati marru jżuru personalment l-armla ta' Sir Ugo Mifsud hekk kif ġew lura mill-eżilju, biex juruha l-apprezzament tagħhom lejn dak li għamel għalihom Sir Ugo, u juruha d-dispjaċir tagħhom għat-telfa li ġarbet. Ugo Mifsud kien ingħata l-onorificenza ta' Sir fis-sena 1927.

Fis-sena 1963, quddiem miġimgha imdaqqa, inkixef monument f'ġieħ Sir Ugo Mifsud fil-ġnien tal-Mall. Il-monument tħallas mill-ammiratur u ħabib ta' Sir Ugo Mifsud, Dr Constantine John Colombos, u nħadem mill-iskultur Malti Vincent Apap.



Il-Monument f'għieħ il-Markiż Vincenzo Bugeja

Wieħed mill-akbar monumenti li nsibu jżejnu l-ġnien tal-Mall, huwa dak li jfakkar lill-Markiż Vincenzo Bugeja. Dan il-personaġġ kien rabat ismu kemm mal-politika, kif ukoll max-xogħol filantropiku tiegħu.

Bugeja biss li rnexxielu jkun elett mill-Partit tiegħu, u saħansitra lanqas il-kap tal-istess partit ma kien ġie elett. L-ewwel laqgħa tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern wara din l-elezzjoni gabet inkwiet mhux ħazin. Il-membri li ġew eletti rriżenjaw kollha bħala protest kontra l-Gvern kolonjali Inġliż. L-uniku wieħed li ma rriżenjax kien Vincenzo Bugeja. Fil-hidma tiegħu fi ħdan il-Partit Riformista, Bugeja ħadem ħafna biex jiddaħħlu diversi emendi fil-liġi kriminali u kummerċjali, li għenu mhux ftit lil Maltin li kienu fil-bżonn.

Iżda l-aktar ħaġa li hija marbuta ma' Bugeja hija l-karità li kien jgħati.



Vincenzo Bugeja twieled fis-sena 1821 u kien magħruf bħala negozjant li rnexxa, kif ukoll bħala filantropu. Kien magħruf ukoll bħala impressarju tat-Teatru Manoel.

Fil-qasam politiku, Vincenzo Bugeja kien jiffirma parti mill-Partit tar-Riformisti. Fl-elezzjoni tal-1883 kien



Kien waqqaf u bena l-ewwel skola teknika f'Malta, li wara saret magħrufa bħala San Filippo Neri. Din l-iskola teknika, li tinsab f'Santa Venera, inbniet fuq id-disinn tal-perit Malti Emanuele Luigi Galizia. Dan l-istess bini għadu jintuża sal-lum. Bugeja kien ukoll ta aktar minn 20,000 lira sterlina biex jinxtraw mediċini għall-foqra. Fuq kollox kien waqqaf istitut magħruf bħala Conservatorio Bugeja. Dan il-bini, li huwa ferm sabiħ u arjuż, inbena fuq id-disinn tal-perit Taljan, il-Konti Vespignani. Dan il-konservatorju kellu l-għan li joffri kenn adegwat lit-tfajliet foqra, li f'dawk iż-żminijiet ma kienux isibu għajjnuna mill-gvern. Apparti li hallas għal dan il-bini, Bugeja kien kompli għati l-flus sabiex l-istess konservatorju jkun jista' jitmexxa tajjeb u ma jkunx hemm problemi finanzjarji.

Qasam ieħor li l-istess Vincenzo Bugeja kien imdaħħal fih, kien l-għajjnuna li kien joffri lill-Maltin fil-bżonn li riedu jemigraw lejn artijiet oħra ħalli jkunu jistgħu jibnu futur aħjar. Huwa magħruf li Bugeja kien ħalla 20,000 lira sterlina f'fond apposta. L-għajjnuna kienet tmur biex jithallsu u jittaffew l-ispejjeż tal-vjaġġ li kienu jkunu se jagħmlu l-Maltin.

Kien fis-sena 1876 li Bugeja ngħata onorificenza minn Dwardu, il-Princep ta' Wales, filwaqt li ġie mogħti t-titlu ta' Markiż mill-Papa Ljun XIII bħala turija ta' rispett lejn il-ħidma tiegħu u għall-għajjnuna kontinwa fost min kien ikun fil-bżonn.

Il-Markiż Vincenzo Bugeja miet fis-sena 1890. Seba' snin wara mewtu kien ġie nawgurat il-monument li nsibu fil-Ġnien tal-Mall. Originarjament il-monument kellu biċċa rhama bajda kbira fuq in-naħa

ta' wara, iżda minħabba li ġarrbet ħsarat kbar ħafna waqt it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, din kienet tneħħiet. F'dan il-monument naraw il-bust ta' Vincenzo Bugeja fuq kolonna. Fil-biċċa ta' taft, quddiem il-kolonna, hemm ajkla li, filwaqt li qed iżżomm ġebbla bl-isem ta' Vincenzo Bugeja imnaqqax fuqha, fl-id l-oħra għandha diversi boroż tal-flus, li jindikaw li Bugeja kien bniedem sinjur. Ix-xogħol fuq il-monument sar mit-Taljan Giulio Moschetti, filwaqt li l-kxiif tal-monument sar mill-Gvernatur ta' Malta, Sir Arthur Freemantle.



Il-Monument f'għieħ Sir Adrian Dingli

Kien nhar il-15 ta' April 1907 li r-Re Dwardu VII tal-Ingilterra kixef il-monument li twaqqaf fil-Ġnien tal-Mall f'għieħ wiehed mill-hbieb Maltin li kellu, Sir Adrian Dingli. Adrian Dingli twieled fis-sena 1817 fil-Belt Valletta. Ħa l-istudji tiegħu fl-Università ta' Malta, u hekk kif gradwa bħala Avukat kompli l-istudji tiegħu barra minn pajjiżna. Wara li rritorna lura lejn Malta, mill-ewwel

f'taħditiet importanti. Kien involut fit-taħditiet dwar l-iżvilupp tal-Port il-Kbir lejn in-naħa tal-Marsa, kif ukoll dwar il-bini tas-suq tal-Belt, l-isptar Monte Carmeli, kif ukoll dwar il-bini tat-Teatru Rjal. Barra minn hekk Dingli kien mibgħut barra minn xtutna biex ikompli jiddiskuti dwar materji partikulari, fosthom mal-Gvern Taljan. Jidher li Dingli kien wiehed mill-personaġġi li tkellmu mal-Vatikan favur li Ghawdex ikun imwaqqaf bħala Djoċesi separata minn Malta. Adrian Dingli intbagħat it-Tuneżija u anki Ċipru għan-nom tal-Gvern Kolonjali Inġliż, fuq missjonijiet importanti.



wera l-kapaċitajiet tiegħu fil-qasam legali, u wara li kien elett membru tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern fis-sena 1849 bħala rappreżentant ta' Ghawdex, huwa beda l-hidma tiegħu fit-tfassil tar-regolamenti tal-hidma tal-Kunsill. Ftit taż-żmien wara nħatar Avukat tal-Kuruna, u beda bil-hidma tiegħu biex jimmodernizza l-ġigijiet Maltin.

Ir-rispett li l-awtoritajiet Inġliżi kellhom lejn Dingli kien muri billi mhux l-ewwel darba kien ingħažel bħala rappreżentat tal-Gvern Kolonjali



Fis-sena 1880 Adrian Dingli nħatar Prim Imħallef, u għalkemm źdiedlu x-xogħol, xorta waħda baqa' jaqdi diversi dmirijiet oħra li tant kien magħruf għalihom. Kien ukoll il-viċi president tal-Kunsill tal-Gvern, u l-mod kif kien jimxi kien imfaħħar minn kulħadd. Il-pożizzjoni li kellu Sir Adrian Dingli f'Malta kienet waħda unika. Inghata rispett u anki poteri li qabel qatt ma kienu għand persuna waħda. Tant kien personaġġ importanti, li l-oppożizzjoni għall-gvern kolonjali kienet tqies lil Dingli bħala l-Gvernatur ta' Malta, minħabba li, kif kien jingħad, hu kien jiddeċiedi l-affarijiet għall-Gvernaturi Ingliži.

Fis-sena 1894, fl-età ta' 77 sena, Adrian Dingli rtira mill-hidma pubblika tiegħu, wara 50 sena ta' hidma kontinwa. Sir Adrian Dingli miet fl-1900 fid-dar tiegħu fil-Belt Valletta, u ndifen fiċ-ċimiterju tal-Addolorata.

Mal-mewt tiegħu kien hemm diversi personaġġi li għaddew kummenti favorevoli dwar Dingli. Kien hemm ukoll minn issuġġerixxa li għandha titpoġġa rħama biex ikun imfakkar dan il-personaġġ. Iżda oħrajn kienu qalu li aktar kien ikun xieraq li jitwaqqaf monument f'post pubbliku. Il-monument huwa magħmul minn obelisk tal-granit u bust tal-bronż li juri lil Sir Adrian Dingli, xogħol il-Malti Antonio Sciortino. Interessanti li ngħidu li Sciortino intgħazel wara li rebah kompetizzjoni għall-aħjar disinn ta' monument li jfakkar lil Sir Adrian Dingli. Għall-inawgurazzjoni kien hemm preżenti, apparti r-Re Dwardu u l-mara tiegħu Alexandra, diversi personaġġi distinti oħra, fosthom il-mara ta' Sir Adrian Dingli, kif ukoll l-Isqof ta' Malta. Kien hemm diskorsi tal-okkazjoni, u anki r-Re Dwardu

kien għamel diskorsi qasir fejn semma il-ħbiberija tiegħu ma' Sir Dingli, li kienet tmur lura 45 sena.



The Intervention

by James Licari

The beginning of the conservation process is similar to the cleansing of a wound, as all superficial deposits and dust are gently removed using soft brushes and mechanical tools where necessary. Once the surfaces are clearly visible, mechanical and chemical tests are executed in order to determine the least invasive methods for the cleaning of tougher deposits, aged coatings as well as to reduce corrosion products

evaporation of the solvent. Particular care was taken during the conservation treatment to identify and remove the corrosion products, without however removing the original and artificial patinas, which would have harmed the authenticity of the monuments.

Once cleaned, the metal components were stabilised chemically to reduce the development of further corrosion.



Through these various tests, solvents were used to remove aged coatings and mechanical tools where used to reduce corrosion products on the bronze components of these monuments.

Upon completion, several coatings of a conservation-grade protective coating were applied. Most of the inscriptions which were originally filled in with colour were chromatically integrated for better legibility of the inscription. Other inscriptions originally filled in with lead were cleaned and treated.

Chemical compresses were used on many of the marble components to retain the chemical on the surface and extract and dissolve dirt during the

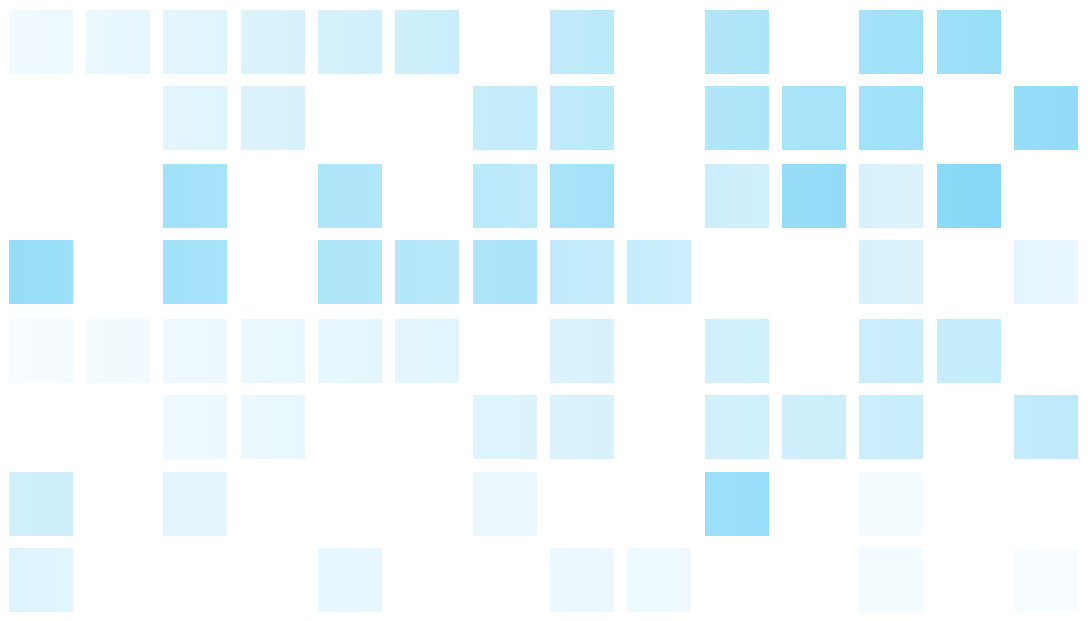




Many past interventions were observed throughout the intervention, such as filled cracks within the marble, coloured fills within the bronze busts, re-constructed parts of the marble, as well as patch fills. One can note that the monument dedicated to Sir Adrian Dingli was probably damaged by shrapnel, and was repaired in the past by means of coloured fills in the bust as well as a patch fill within the pedestal. The bust of Sir Aloisio Pisani was also repaired extensively in the past, as his chin, the back of his neck and nose, were replaced with newer marble pieces. Such interventions were noted and respected as part of the history of these monuments and the dedicated work of our predecessors.

Acts of vandalism on the monuments were reversed or removed. These included crayon marks on the pedestal of Giovanni Di Nicolo Pappaffi's monument and a substance thrown onto the bust of Sir Hannibal Scicluna. The latter material etched through the patination and aesthetically disfigured the top of the bust. Once this bust was stabilised and protected, the etched area was chromatically integrated. The vandalised nose and ear of Sir Hugo Mifsud were reproduced thanks to the assistance of the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Office of the Prime Minister, as the original plaster bust of this monument is still conserved within the National Collection.





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