

## Sette Giugno monument will not return to Palace Square



The Sette Giugno monument will not be reinstated at Palace Square upon the completion of the rehabilitation of the square, a spokesman for the Ministry of Resources has confirmed.

The spokesman said that as previously announced, since the monument was linked to the history of Parliament, it would be incorporated in Renzo Piano's plans for the building of a Parliament House.

The new Parliament House will be built on Freedom Square.

The monument is currently in storage in a government warehouse. It recalls the Maltese bread riots of 1919. As a consequence the British colonial government granted a new constitution and self-government to Malta in 1921, when the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly was held.

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### Comments

Anthony Pace Gouder (4 hours, 59 minutes ago)

@ Stephen Borg Casrdona While thanking M . Magri and Galea L . , I wish to correct Stephen's remark that the square was never planned to have monuments littering it . This is totally incorrect , for practically in line but a few meters away from the ex-Sette Giugno site there existed a stately Fountain marking the 'finale' (termination point) of the Water Supply from the Wignacourt Aquaduct . Then , practically a couple of Meters away nearer to the edge , stood a circa 50 FEET tall Column , commemorating some historic event . These are depicted in old 18th and 19th Century Paintings and engravings . See <http://www.di-ve.com> . Photo Galleries / St. Georges Square throughout the years.

Edric Micallef Figallo (12 hours, 33 minutes ago)

There were various groups protesting that day, from dockyard workers to University students. The increased price of bread due to British-imposed taxation, worker layoffs etc., were the flicker that burst the flame, at best. The merchants attacked were known anglophiles, enriched by their servilism to the Empire. Union Jacks were attacked, some taken off their masts, ripped and burned apparently, the offices of the pro-British Daily Malta

Chronicle were attacked as well. Hunger definitely played apart, but it was a result of the general British Imperial policy which was being attacked.

The Assemblea Nazionale was also meeting on that day, with its representatives trying to calm down the crowds, not taking advantage of it. Self-government was already being sought by them and discussed with the Imperial Government.

Is Lord Gerald Strickland still lording on this paper? He wanted to downplay the political importance of those riots. He certainly didn't like any expression of anti-Imperialist sentiment Decades before he had enjoyed the beating of some protesting Maltese in the so called, forgotten yet infamous, Sei Maggio.

By the way, it is Sette Giugno, not Giugno.

Finally, the moving of the monument is stupid.

Mark Galea (13 hours, 16 minutes ago)

@Galea. L  
prosit tal-qawl dwar il-mizbla ... fakkartni meta kienu jidfnu fil-mizbla ...

Mike Magri (13 hours, 49 minutes ago)

Mr. A. Pace Gouder.. Agree with you 100%...

After all, WHY do we have to spend millions of euros to build a new parliament when this could be transferred to other places in Valletta, just the same, on a much cheaper budget...!!! What is SO Important for such a new building to be in such a strategic place on the entrance to Valletta....!?!?!??

A CRAZY DECISION as far as i am concerned...

Galea. L (13 hours, 56 minutes ago)

Anthony Pace Gouder  
Excellent observation.

Stephen Borg Cardona (15 hours, 25 minutes ago)

The square was never planned to have monuments littering it. The monument looked out of place, it should have its own purposely designed space.

Victor Laiviera (16 hours, 11 minutes ago)

@ Mr C Cassar

Yes, yes, very interesting, no doubt. But you still failed to make any connection to the removal of tyhe Sette Giugno Monument.

Anthony Farrugia (16 hours, 13 minutes ago)

I cannot understand why the Government is still insisting on Piano's plans, when most of the people do not agree with it. Do we still say that the voice of the people (the voters) should be honored at all cost, or that applys during the elections only. Before starting this project a simple survey or even a national voting syetem should take place so that one will have a clear view of the public reaction regards Piano's designs. Why, for example at the Archeological Museum in Valletta where the project was displayed there was no visitors book so that one can put dow his/her comments.The Authorities are there not to do what they personally think, Malta is not theirs.They are there to serve and sadisfy the nation.

Anthony Pace Gouder (20 hours, 45 minutes ago)

How ridiculous, to excuse or justify the removal of this Patriotic Memorial with this new inappropriate theory, that it has to be complementary and attached to wherever Parliament is located ! had to hear this nonsense after 90

years ?

If that's the line of reasoning ,all the Monuments of Past Prime Ministers could follow suit !

To my knowledge , THE PALACE has always been Malta's Administrative Seat , from the time of the Knights, the colonial British Government and our Parliamentary Assembly. The Tapestry Chamber the undisputed venue, for hundreds of years .

It's also a mystery , that until to-day, nowhere and never was this monument ever mentioned in the Piano project. This is undoubtedly an afterthought .

Renzo could have made an effort to make a miniature and show it in HIS MODEL . Apparently, the only open space left in this controversial project is the STREET !!!

Adrian Borg Cardona (1 day, 1 hour ago)

@ C. Camilleri: Sorry but I do not see the connection between the price of bread and wanting independence. In fact, the demonstrators attacked the houses of the Maltese flour importers not any government building . Do you honestly believe that hungry people demonstrate to obtain independence? I think it was just that some other people grabbed the opportunity and rode on their back to make demands for better governance, I think that makes more sense. Lets study facts not myths.

Galea. L (1 day, 2 hours ago)

C Cassar

Taf x'jghid ukoll il-qawl Malti?

L "Min jichad l-art twelidu mizbla zibel lanqas tridu"

Galea. L (1 day, 2 hours ago)

C Cassar

Jekk ma tafx grajjiet pajjizek grajjiet min taf grajjiet qaddisek?

Tal-misthija kif dak kollu li huwa tifkira tal-Maltin u s-sagrificcji li ghamlu tridu teqirduh.

Isthu jekk tafu tisthu.

C Cassar (1 day, 2 hours ago)

@ Victor Laiviera: The removal of the "Stalinist" monuments signified the real and final end to the era of Soviet state communism. This was of far greater worldwide significance than a few monuments on a microscopic island such as Malta. That is fact and if one doesn't accept such facts then one can keep ones head firmly in the sand.

Malta is entering a new era. The younger generation are now regularly travelling within Europe and beyond. They will bring ideas from other nations that significantly improve the Maltese islands. That is the future and trying to resist it just emphasizes the stubbornness and lack of vision of many of the older generation.

Victor Laiviera (1 day, 2 hours ago)

@ Mr Paul Caruana By what bizarre stretch of the imagination do you equate the Sette Giugno Monument (which marked the star of Malta's road to independence) to a "Stalinist behemoth"? The mind, as they say, boggles.

c. camilleric (1 day, 3 hours ago)

@ Adrian Borg Cardona. Yes the Maltese were after cheaper bread which the colonial masters failed to provide. After the riots Lord Plumer listened to the demands made by the Maltese representatives and the British Govt finally agreed to grant responsible govt to the Maltese. As you can see these poor people also want to Govern themselves. In fact this was the first step in the long struggle for Malta Independence. Pls have a look at Maltese history to avoid writing silly things. Please history before writing.

Adrian Borg Cardona (1 day, 4 hours ago)

@ Tony Borg: "jibqa jikkomemora avveniment purament nazzjonalist - jgifieri ta grupp ta nies li riedu lil Malta indipendenti". Where did you get this idea from? Those poor people where just after cheaper bread, that's all. Punto e basta!

Gerard Cassar (1 day, 4 hours ago)

The problem would not have arisen had Parliament been programmed to be built in the area known as Main Guard, removing the U.K. or King's emblem from the facade.

C Cassar (1 day, 4 hours ago)

@ Galea. L: They are all monuments no matter where they are. In fact the ones mentioned by Paul Caruana have far more worldwide significance and are a very good example of monuments that have been removed in order for a country to move ahead into the future.

Tony Borg (1 day, 4 hours ago)

Bhala Nazzjonalist ma nistax nifhem kif festa bhal dik tas-sette giugno hallejnha tahrab minn idejna u tispicca qisa monopolju tal-PL? Dawk l-incidenti kienu frott tal-erojizmu tal-PN. Mill-ewwel bdew jigu iccelebrati mill-partitarji tal-PN. Kienet il-gwerra li nessiet dan l-avveniment u kienu imbghad studjuzi nazzjonalisti li regghu qajmu l-interess. Huwa veru li dan il-monument minn flus il-poplu sar fi zmien l-era socialista pero jibqa jikkomemora avveniment purament nazzjonalist - jigifieri ta grupp ta nies li riedu lil Malta indipendenti. Nahseb li l-gvern missu ra mill-ewwel li dan il-monument xoghol sabih ta skultur malti jiqieghed f'post prominenti. Ma nahsibx li ghandna nistenew il-bini ta parlament li ma nafux meta ser ikun lest. Ma ghandniex lanqas inhallu x'wiehed jifhem li x-xoghol artistiku jiddependi f'liema sena sar imma biss fuq il-valur veru tieghu.

Galea. L (1 day, 5 hours ago)

Paul Caruana It's disgusting how you can equate a monument to Maltese patriots shot by the foreign colonizer with the Stalinist monuments. It simply disgusting beyond belief.

c.camilleri (1 day, 5 hours ago)

I am sure that this Government will find better place for this Monument which surely will not be in harmony with the set up of the now renovated Square. St. Georges square has now been changed to a most beautiful place as befit the President's Palace. We must remember that the Sette Giugno is fondly held by the Nationalist Govt because it was the first step on the long road leading to Independence. The two prominent members at that time were Enrico Mizzi and Filippo Sceberras the former being the leader of Giovine Malta where meetings of the National Assembly used to take place. Dr Mizzi organised a collection for the wounded and families of the victims and even paid for the Monument (at the Adolorata Cemetery) made by Russian sculptor Boris Edwads. Anything said which put a bad light on the Govt is purely conjecture.

C Cassar (1 day, 6 hours ago)

@Victor Laiviera: Keep up at the back. If you read this very short article you would have realised that nothing has been discarded, simply put in storage until a more suitable location has been completed, which has already been planned: "The spokesman said that as previously announced, since the monument was linked to the history of Parliament, it would be incorporated in Renzo Piano's plans for the building of a Parliament House." The monument is not in fitting with the new design of the square. When the old square was originally designed, it was also new and replaced what was there before it. It's called progress and moving forward. If nothing changed, we would still have eyesores such as the huge ugly green kiosk in St Annes square, the ugly old Sliema promenade before it was refurbished and maintained, ugly old St Georges Bay which is now fantastic, ugly old Merchant's street before it was beautifully pedestrianised etc.

Paul Caruana (1 day, 6 hours ago)

Victor Laiviera: you ask "which European City discarded major monuments in order to modernise [sic] its squares?" Most European countries that once were on the wrong side of the iron curtain have removed the triumphalist Stalinist behemoths that once defaced their public spaces. It's good to see we're doing the same with ours.

A. Mizzi (1 day, 6 hours ago)

Hop it does not end up forgotten or mysteriously disappear like the two statues that used to adorn the old entrance of Valletta and seen on old pictures of the entrance to the City. One just wonders where those old or

should I say historical statues ended  
up.....<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Portareale.jpg> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City\\_Gate\\_\(Malta\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Gate_(Malta))

Victor Laiviera (1 day, 8 hours ago)

@ Mr C Cassar.

Could you kindly inform us which European City discarded major monuments in order to modernise its squares?

C Cassar (1 day, 8 hours ago)

@Hilary Spiteri : I couldn't agree more. Why is it that so many Maltese want to stay in the past? Time moves on and we now have a beautiful new square that reflects the 21st century. Many cities in Europe have modernised their piazzas in similar tasteful ways.

The Maltese need to embrace change otherwise they will get left behind and the islands will become a stagnant museum.

Henry Galea Souchet (1 day, 9 hours ago)

For the nth time please stop the intended aggressive stupor of a City which was the most modern amongst other European cities at the time it was built. Why mess it up now ?

If all the insistence that Piano persists with his proposed intervention, is due to the dire need that our parliamentarians badly require a Parliament where to convene, what's wrong in considering to extend the limits of Valletta to the limit of Balzunetta / Police Headquarters so as to incorporate the ex-Floriana Parade ground which has so far constituted a horrible eyesore to the viewer. I guess this area would provide an ideal place where Piano could go ahead and express his artistic solution to our Parliamentarians' requirements.

Victor Laiviera (1 day, 9 hours ago)

Naturally, this "spokesman" would not even dream of giving us the reasons why this fine artistic and historically important monument was removed. Probably because there weren't any.

The promise that it will be erected in the vicinity of the new Piano Parliament (if it ever gets built) is hardly credible. For one thing, it does not figure anywhere in the plans exhibited and, secondly, its style clashes completely with the projected gateless City Gate area.

One cannot escape the conclusion that the removal of this monument was simply an act of petty pique purely because it was erected by a Labour Government.

Nor the fear that it will be left to rot in some out-of-the-way store.

Galea. L (1 day, 10 hours ago)

As always under a PN administration, everything that reminds them of the Maltese people is put aside. This is apart from the arrogance displayed by Gonzi-Piano in continuing to go ahead against public opinion with a modern parliament which jars completely with the rest of the buildings in Valletta at an expense which we cannot afford and which as usual with all projects made under pn governments would cost several times the original estimate. Simply arrogance and bigheads that would put Humpty Dumpty to shame.

Franco Farrugia (1 day, 10 hours ago)

Jaqaw nahsbu li l-Belt Valletta hi xi parti minn darna, il-hin kollu nippruvaw nimlew u nimlew b'xi affarijiet 'cheap' li nixtru minn xi bicca hanut?

@ Charles Grech - Tidher kemm taf fuq l-arkitettura! Qas jien ma naf xejn imma almenu nipprova nitghallem u f'dan l-ispirtu, il-faccata ta' San Gwann APPOSTA hi mibnija bi ftit dekorazzjonijiet. Dan huwa bini skont l-ispirtu tal-Kavaleri ta' San Gwann. Mela allura, l-faccata APPOSTA mhix interessanti, u nhallu l-affarijiet kif inhuma, jekk joghgbook, anke n-nicec vojta!

Hilary Spiteri (1 day, 11 hours ago)

Something that fascinates me about Malta and the Maltese is that we suffer from the horror vacui syndrome: we want to fill all our public spaces and piazzas with monuments, with ornaments etc.

I believe that in such a country where everything is so densely populated we need a breath of fresh air. The Baroque and Neoclassical architecture surrounding Palace Square is already imposing and note worthy.

I agree with the reallocation of the statue but I disagree with the production of another statue in honour of La Vallette or any other personality.

I believe that the ultimate honour that Malta should give to La Vallette is not by erecting a monument. Instead, the Maltese should visit Valletta with different sight glasses: those which help us appreciate Valletta as an architectural monument and furthermore recognize the Baroque avant garde visions and projects of La Vallette.

salvu briffa (1 day, 11 hours ago)

Can't really fathom why La Vallette deserves a recognition for building a city for the knights and their glory whilst our poor compatriots falling to the bullets of the colonisers have to wait for the building of parliament to have their monument relocated. Would not it have been a good idea if it was in the meantime put up in a garden such as Hastings or upper barrakka. Besides commemorating the 1919 riots we should not forget it is the work of a great sculptor of our time.

Mr Pullicino pls note!!

charles grech (1 day, 12 hours ago)

Agree for a deserving monument to be built for Grand Master La Vallette.  
Also, two niches on the front of Saint Johns con-Cathedral are empty.  
What statues were in these? Can these be placed back or new once placed?  
These should enhance the front and make it more interesting.

Steven Camilleri (1 day, 12 hours ago)

Mr Navarro , La Vallette , no Sir, wouldn't muslims and secularists be offended with that ?

Christopher Mamo (1 day, 12 hours ago)

@ John Carmel Navarro:

motion seconded

Joe Grima (1 day, 12 hours ago)

John Carmel Navarro. Couldn't agree more. Most appropriate location for a La Vallette statue

John Carmel Navarro (1 day, 12 hours ago)

It does seem that thinking behind incorporating the Sette Giugno Statue with the new Parliament does make sense, however I do feel there is a great need for Grand Master La Vallette to be remembered in a prominent position. The newly refurbished Palace Square would certainly be an ideal venue for his statue; this shall adorn the area and serve as a tribute to a great man who had the foresight to build a unique City which has and is still serving as a focal point to copious generations on our beautiful island.