

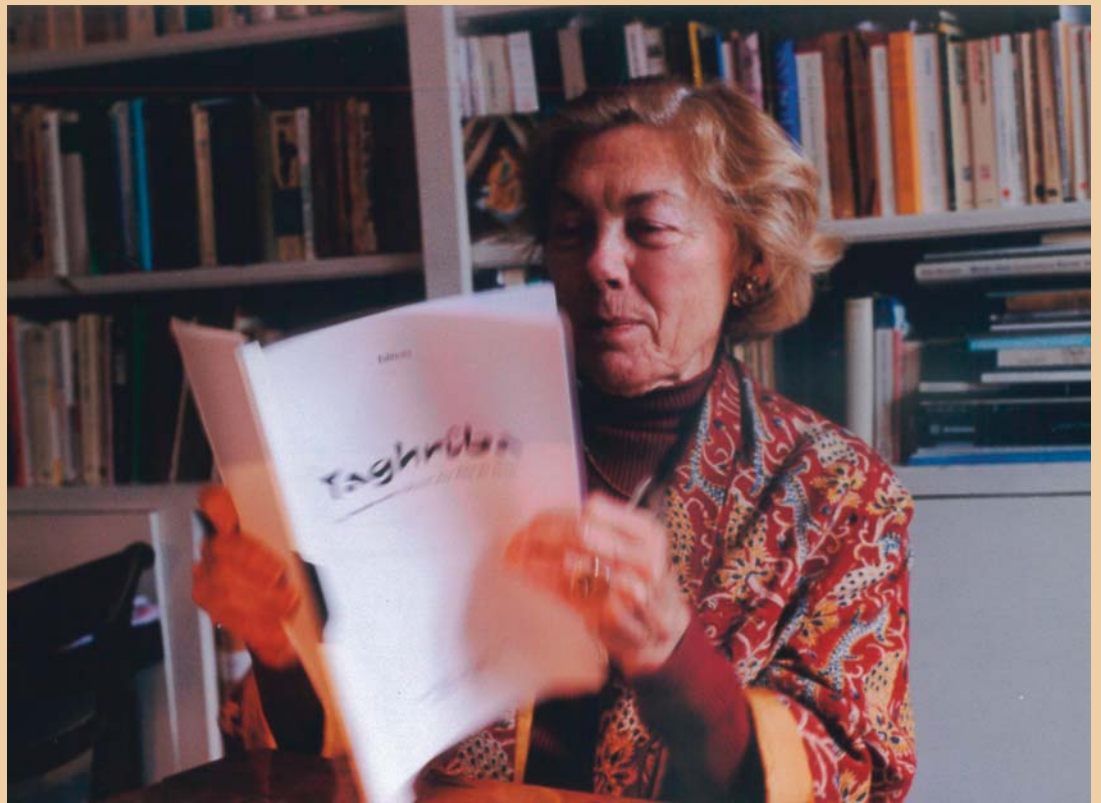
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Lea Hogg, Professor Victor Borg and Oliver Friggieri



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MICHELINE GALLEY is a French folklorist and ethnologist, now "Honorary Director of Research" at the *National Centre for Scientific Research (C.N.R.S.)* in Paris. She made frequent stays in Malta from the seventies onwards first of all as a researcher (she made a film; she published several books and various articles, some in collaboration with Guzé Cassar-Pullicino). She also came as the secretary general of the *International Association of Studies on Mediterranean Civilizations* under the presidency of the late Professor Guzé Aquilina. Two important congresses were held in Malta, bringing together various countries bordering the Mediterranean (*Proceedings* printed by St-Paul's Press in 1972) and *Interprint* (1978). The scientific and humane success of such meetings inspired Charles Camilleri to compose a solo flute: *Sama*.

Malte Un archipel au destin fabuleux

Malta has opened her mind and her heart to all the civilizations which have paid her a visit, so that nowadays the Mediterranean is hers entirely.

Such are the words uttered by the great historian of the Mediterranean, Fernand Braudel, during a congress in Malta.

Indeed, throughout history the cross-cultural exchanges at play in this small archipelago, in the middle of the Mediterranean, have created a veritable crucible of cultures.

This short essay outlines the process of the original synthesis that took place in the realms of language, religion and culture in general, while highlighting a few salient aspects of the Maltese identity.

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