

Books

Restoring Malta's temples to their rightful place in the history of mankind

SIRIUS - THE STAR OF THE MALTESE TEMPLES
Author: Lenie Reedijk
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Pages: 200

■ Noel Grima

It takes some courage to go to a country that is not your own and come up with a theory that upsets received wisdom on that country and how that country is perceived by the world.

This is what Lenie Reedijk from The Netherlands attempts to do in this book.

As Judge Giovanni Bonello writes in the foreword: "This is a disturbing book. The author defines its contents as controversial and its conclusions as surprising. I judge it to be far, but far, more than that. It is disruptive of accepted wisdom and unsettles all we believed we knew about the origin of man in Malta, of the sequences of early civilization and the histories of prehistory – not in Malta alone but throughout the whole of Europe. I started reading it in awe, at first with a deliberate effort at disbelief. By the time I was approaching the climax of the exposition, I ended as mesmerised as I was perplexed."

There are many ways to get to the core of the book's theories and the one I choose does not follow the line of the exposition as written by the author. There is a rea-

son for this that I will explain later.

The first fact to notice is the sheer amount of megalithic sites in Malta and Gozo. The author brings the total to 66 and warns there might be more.

Main sites:

1. Hagar Qim North
2. Tarxien early
3. Ta' Hagraat small
4. Skorba East
5. Bugibba
6. Tarxien East
7. Kordin East
8. Tarxien South
9. Mnajdra North
10. Kordin III Main
11. Xrobb l-Ghagin
12. Mnajdra Middle
13. Ggantija North
14. Skorba Main
15. Tarxien Middle
16. Ta' Hagraat Main
17. Hagar Qim Main
18. Ggantija South
19. Mnajdra South

Temple remains:

20. Tal-Qadi
21. Kordin I
22. Kordin II
23. Tas-Silg
24. Borg in-Nadur
25. Megaliths near Dingli Cliffs
26. Bahrija
27. Ta' Lippija
28. Xemxija Hill
29. Borg l-Gharib
30. L-Imrejbiet
31. Borg l-Imramma
32. Ghar ta' Ghejzu
33. Megaliths behind Ggantija
34. Santa Verna

Lost sites in Malta:

35. Qalet Marku
36. Bur Nahla
37. Mosta
38. Tal-Minsija
39. Tal-Qroqq
40. Il-Bidni
41. San Anard
42. Tad-Dawl
43. Hal Harrieq
44. Hal Ginwi
45. Id-Dawwar
46. South of Id-Dawwar
47. Tal-Gholjiet
48. It-Tumbata
49. Debdieba
50. Tat-Tamla
51. Bir Miftuh
52. Har Resqun
53. Tac-Caghqi
54. Sqaq il-Bal
55. Ta' Hlantun
56. Qortin l-Imdawwar
57. Wied l-Imtahleb
58. Ghajn Zejtuna
59. Marfa 'stone circle'
60. Tat-Tomna
61. Ix-Xaghra l-Hamra

Lost sites in Gozo:

62. Ta' Marziena
63. Tas-Salib
64. Qortin ta' Ghajn Damma
65. Triq Hamet
66. Ic-Cnus ta' San Gwann

This is an extraordinary amount, more so when one considers the smallness of the islands and the smallness of the population at that time. There is a very cogent argument for this: such a huge amount

of temples could not have been erected in the rather small span of time that received wisdom allows for the temple builders.

For some time now it has been generally accepted there is some correlation between the temples and alignment and orientation of the sites to the sun, moon or stars. In 2003, the late David Trump pointed to the orientation of the Mnajdra temple to rising sun at equinoxes. But, he asked his audience, if this were so, why were these principles not followed in the other temples? As it is, only the Mnajdra South temple points exactly due East at the rising sun at the equinoxes.

One has then to consider a fascinating phenomenon – that stars in the sky are not fixed in their course but shift over time. This shifting movement is very slow and hardly noticeable during a person's lifetime. But over about 26,000 years the entire sky has made a cycle. This movement is called precession.

The next building block in the author's theory is when she identified a star, Sirius, a very bright star at dawn between November and March and found out, by taking into account precession, the last time Sirius had been seen before its disappearance was in 14,600BC and it became visible once again in all its glory in 9,200BC.

The ideal location to watch the setting of this star was on a hill by the coast, allowing an unobstructed view of the southern horizon. This was where the first observatory was built. Today, it is a small ancient structure that now lies neglected in the field behind the main temple of Hagar Qim. The ground plan still reveals with a central axis 14m long pointing to the horizon where the star set. The date was 9,150BC.

Next we go to Tarxien where a

small building points to the rising of the star as it was in 9,050BC.

Next we go to Ta' Hagraat in Mgarr where the small, earlier, temple is orientated almost due south. It overlooks Gnejna Valley and points to the raised rim of the Victoria Lines in the distance where Sirius would rise, somewhat later, around 8,800BC.

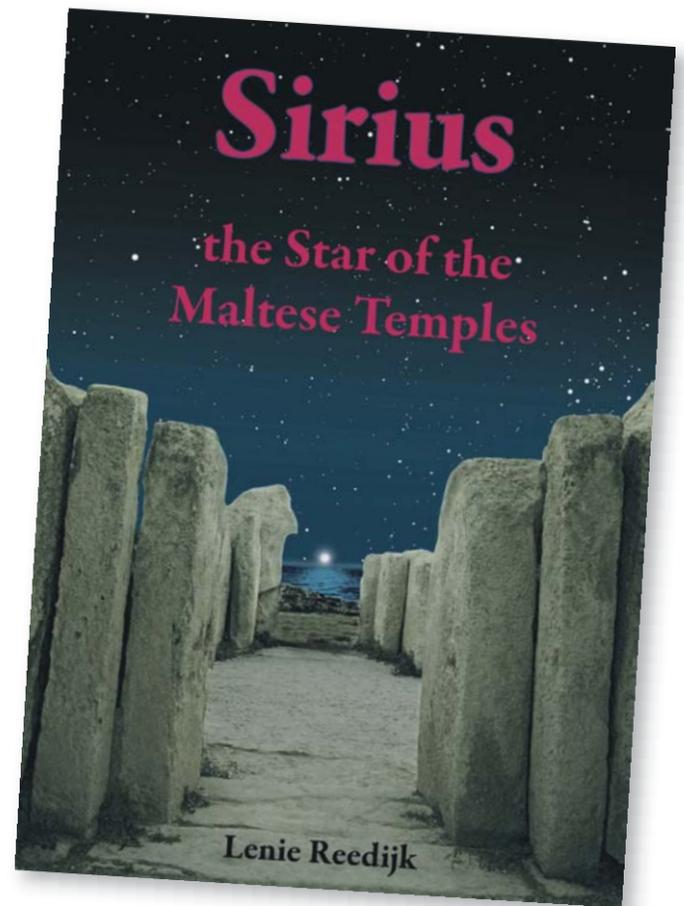
And so on and so forth. Taking the precession of Sirius as a hypothesis, we get a table (at the back of the book) listing 18 temples and giving their estimated dates of erection correlated to the appearance of Sirius all the time down to Ggantija South in 4,250BC.

So in a way, this could be one way to account for the number of temples because when the star was no longer visible, the utility of the temple decreased heavily.

It also points out the incontestable fact that the Maltese temple building epoch was in the Neolithic period (new or late Stone Age – 6,000BC to 3,000BC). Yet all over the world, all books about the Maltese temples speak of their being erected in the Bronze Age period (2,500BC to 1,500BC).

There is a dark reason behind this assertion: the aim is to portray Malta as subservient to and derived from the Cretan civilization whereas in real fact Malta's temple period was more ancient. Malta's place in the history of mankind has not yet been accepted.

Only one archaeologist had reached the same conclusions that the author of this book arrived at, 70 years later. He was Luigi Maria Ugolini whose conclusions had been pooh-poohed for years because of his Fascist leanings. Reedijk's book is a late re-appraisal of Ugolini's misjudged theories.



HealthCare Professions Act, 2003

(Act No. XII of 2003)

Elections for the Council for Nurses and Midwives

Nominations of Candidates

It is hereby notified that, for the purpose of Regulations 5 of the Council for Nurses and Midwives (Elections) Regulations 2004, the nominations of candidates to fill the posts of **five registered nurses elected from amongst and by all nurses, one of whom shall be a second level registered nurse and another shall be a nurse whose name is entered in any of the special parts of the Register of Nurses; and two licensed midwives** as members of the Council for Nurses and Midwives, in accordance with the provisions of Section 49 HCPA of the 2003 (Cap. 464) will be received by the Electoral Commission of the Council for Nurses and Midwives, at the Boardroom the Public Health Regulation Department St Luke's Hospital Level 1 Ex OPD G'Mangia Square Pieta, **on Friday 5th July 2019 between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00p.m.(noon) and on Monday 8th July between 10.00am-12.00pm (noon).**

The nomination forms for candidates are obtainable from the Council's Registrar Office from Monday 1st July 2019 to Thursday 4th July 2019 between 10,00am and 12,00pm or can be downloaded from

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/cnm/Pages/cnm.aspx>

Jesmond Sharples
Electoral Commissioner

Josianne Sultana
Electoral Commissioner

Jeffrey Ellul
Electoral Commissioner