



ROMANI AUSTRALIAN UNITED PERTH W.A.



BRINGING ROMANI CULTURE AND HISTORY TO THE WORLD

Issue No: 2

Registered No: A1012515P



NEWSLETTER

The Romani Cultural, History and Traditions exhibit took place at the Ethnic Communities Council Hall, Nth. Perth, WA Saturday 17 - 19 October 2009

The three day exhibit was an extensive, colourful and educational presentation with Romani artefacts, picture boards and history boards showing Romani life from the time Romanies were taken out of India until this day. There were also photos of paintings of Romani people from the late 1800s and PowerPoint slideshows and documentaries on Romani culture and music. Romani food and light refreshments were served on opening morning.

It was an important event for the Romani community of Perth and a great opportunity to have our culture seen and better understood by the greater public. John Hyde MLA, Shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts; Heritage; Multicultural Interests and Citizenship opened the exhibit. A short video of the exhibit is in production and will be finished sometime in November. Go to the Romani Connect website (<http://rromaniconnect.org/>) for more information and pictures.



John Hyde, MLA with organisers Yvonne Slee & Islam Abduramanoski



Exhibit co-ordinator, Dave Slee, with Islam, Avni and Yvonne



Guest Maria Osman, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests WA with Yvonne & Islam



Sinti and Roma in the Holocaust display



Display cabinet showing Romani artefacts



Romani flag and anthem with origins and descriptions display



Yul Brynner Born in Vladivostok, 7/7/1915. His grandmother was a Russian Romani. Elected honorary president of the Roma in 1972, an office he kept until his death in 1985.

Rita Hayworth American actress from the 1940s. Born New York, 1918, daughter of a Spanish Romani Flamenco dancer.

William Clinton former US president. Descended from the brother of Romani leader Charles Blythe, who was crowned 'King of the Scottish Gypsies' at Kirk Yetholm in 1847.

Bob Hoskins British film actor, born 1942. His mother's family is Sinti, from Germany.

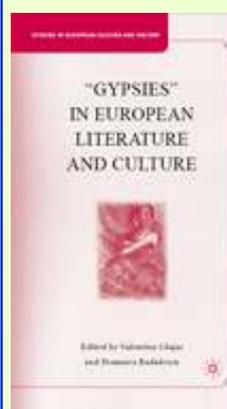
Elvis Presley Born in Mississippi in 1935. Ancestors were part of the Sinti group known as "Black Dutch." Died in Memphis in 1977.



Numerous books and articles about Romanies have been written, many of them inaccurate and practically every single one of them by an outsider. Now with the increased awareness of the Romani presence in Europe and the rest of the world, new and far more reliable publications have appeared, many of them written by Romani authors and academics.

Jobs that Romanies did

Horestraders, Metalsmiths, Basket weavers, Sieve makers, Umbrella makers, Coppersmith, Musical instrument makers, Knife grinders, Barrel makers, Blacksmiths, Musicians, Entertainers, Fortunetellers, Dancers, Artists, Actors and Acrobats.



This book traces representations of "Gypsies" that have become prevalent in the European imagination and culture and influenced the perceptions of Roma in Eastern and Western European societies.

Valentina Glajar is Associate Professor of German at Texas State University, San Marcos. Domnica Radulescu is Professor of French and Italian and Chair of the Women's Studies Program at Washington and Lee University.

Table of contents

Roma in Europe: Gypsy Myth and Romani Reality--New Evidence for Romani History--Ronald Lee * Introduction--Valentina Glajar * Bohemian Philosophers: Nature, Nationalism and "Gypsies" in Nineteenth-Century European Literature--Philip Landon * The Story of Love, Human Conditions, and the Gypsy Lifestyle in Józef Ignacy Kraszewski's Chata za Wsia [The Cottage beyond the Village]--Agnieszka Nance * Vsevolod Garshin's "The Bears": Gypsies and Russian Imperial Boundaries--Marilyn Smith * "Gypsies" and Property in British Literature: Orlando and Wuthering Heights--Abby Bardi * Guilt, Trauma, and Revenge: The Romani Holocaust in Stefan Kanfer's The Eighth Sin--Valentina Glajar * Unveiling the Origin of the Romani Holocaust: The Anarchist Tradition in Winter Time by Walter Winter--Ferdâ Asya * The Deportation to Transdnier and the Exoticization of the Roma in Zaharia Stancu's Novel The Gypsy Tribe--Lucia Cherciu * The 'Gypsy' Stereotype and the Sexualization of Romani Women--Ian Hancock * Performing the Female Gypsy - Commedia dell'arte's "Tricks" for Finding Freedom--Domnica Radulescu * Theater of the Underworld: Spectacle and Subculture in Hugo's Notre-Dame de Paris--Aimee Kilbaine * Welcome Pictures, Unwanted Bodies: Gypsy Representations in New Europe's Cinema--Dina Iordanova

Some Historical Romani Facts

In 1498, four Romanies went with Christopher Columbus on his third trip to the new world.

In 1568, Pope Pius V forbids Romanies to reside on land owned by the Roman Catholic church and has them chased off.

In 1573, Romanies in Scotland were ordered to settle down or leave the country.

In 1580, the first Romanies were recorded on paper coming into Finland.

In 1761, Empress Maria Theresa of Hungary passed the first laws in Europe to forcefully assimilate all Romanies. In December 1773, she ordered the removal of Romani children from their parents and have them placed with European families. Many Romani children ran away and tried to find their families, who had run off into the mountains to avoid being killed.

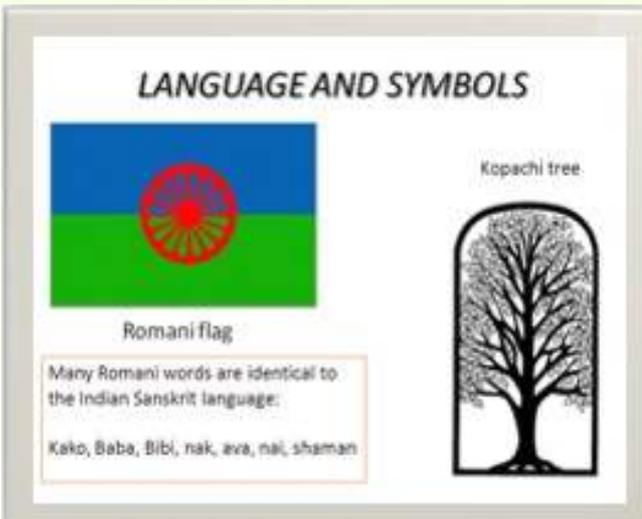
In 1907, many Roma left Germany to head for other countries in West Europe. Also in that year, Django Reinhardt, a famous Romani jazz guitarist was born in Ouchie, Belgium.





Diwali celebrations

Romanies were invited by their Indian friends to join in the Perth Indian community's Diwali celebration finale which took place at Mirrabooka on Sunday night 25th October. Guests, which included John Hyde, the Shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts; Heritage; Multicultural Interests; Citizenship and Janine Freeman, member for Nollamara joined 10,000 people to watch dance performers, live bands and a spectacular fireworks display to celebrate India's Festival of Light.



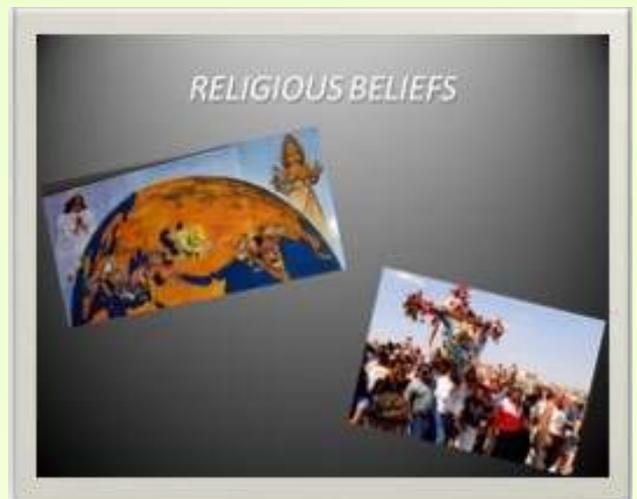
The Romani people are united under one flag. The blue represents the sky, the green is for the earth and red the Indian wheel.

The Romani are a great tree that has many branches and each branch has many clans. This ancient tree has its roots in India with many branches or nations while each nation, Kalderash, Lovara, Sinti, Romanichel, Kale, etc., has many clans or subdivisions. The individual Romani person is a leaf on the tree.

The Living Fire E Zhivindi Yag

The Fiving Fire (E Zhivindi Yag) is that spark of defiance that is the birthright of everyone. In some it has gone out; in others it is only a smouldering ember. But in a few, it blazes into an inferno of passion, creativity, rebellion and, all too often, violence.

Ronald Lee, Romani writer, lecturer and activist, Canada.



Each year, thousands of Romanies from all over Europe gather in Camargue, France to celebrate the feast of their queen. The Romanies call her Kali-Sara and associate her with Kali of India, the mother-goddess of their homeland and consort to Shiva. When they are all assembled around the statue, the pilgrims carry their divinity into the sea together with hundreds of floating candles. Other aspects of Kali as a Shakti include the protector of the oppressed and persecuted which is why Roma and Sinti attend the celebration in France. Sara is also another aspect of Kali, through Kali/Durga/Sara, a Trinity mentioned a lot in Hindu scripture. Because of persecution in Europe and Western Asia many Roma were forced to adopt the Christian and Islam religions.

'Save the Children' Meeting at Multicultural House, Nth. Perth on 15 July 2009

Members of Romany Australian United Perth, Dave and Yvonne Slee were invited by the Ethnic Communities Council of WA to the 'Save The Children' meeting to discuss issues dealing with ethnic children in WA. The Executive Officer of the Ethnic Community Council, Suresh Rajan joined Dave and Yvonne's group to talk about the lack of education in schools of ethnic identities and cultures. The Save the Children delegates who attended are forming strategies to present to the government to address these and other problems

Romanies march with Macedonians to Kings Park war memorial on 2nd August 2009



Romanies marched with Macedonians to commemorate those that died in the 1903 Ilinden Uprising against the Ottomans. After some initial successes, including the forming of the "Krushevo Republic", the uprising was crushed with much loss of life. However, the uprising and the forming of the Krushevo Republic are considered the cornerstone and precursors to the eventual establishment of the Macedonian state.



In 1773, Maria Theresia, the Empress of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ordered that all Roma children would be taken away from their parents and handed over to a Hungarian families who would take charge of their Christian upbringing. Many Roma parents retrived their children and fled to the mountains with them to hide, hence the slogan, 'Gypsies steal children'. 'Running away with the gypsies' voluntarily was also one fantasy which found its way into literature, being reinterpreted as 'stolen by gypsies'.

Romani academics and activists are now endeavoring to dispel the myths and stereotypes that have been fostered upon an ignorant public through the entertainment industry and the media for over 150 years, by presenting the Roma people in a true and accurate way with presentations such as this one and accurate literature on Roma history and culture.

Library interested in Romani reading material



WA State library recently aquired 2 copies of Romani author, Yvonne Slee's book, Torn Away Forever, one for their archives and one for public lending. They also accepted a copy of the RAUPWA newsletter and explained that they are looking for small publications from multicultural organisations as they are in the process of creating a database of this type of material for the public to access online. They asked us to send all future RAUPWA newsletters to them so that they could be added to the database.

Romany Australian United Perth WA Newsletter Editor

Yvonne Slee
 Phone: 9344 3984
 Mob. 0432348948
 Email: yvonne_slee@hotmail.com

Romani migrations to Australia



Regarding the different times Roma came into Australia: on the ships in the first fleet in 1788, after the Littleport riots in England in the 1850s where wages were so low and all the money went to the landlords and the rich and people were starving. Also, 40 years ago, a lot of Roma immigrated from Macedonia and settled in WA. After the holocaust in 1947, a number of Sinti came here. Also quite a lot of Romaniachs migrated here on the 10 pound boat trips from

Britain in the 50s and 60s. During and after the war in the former Yugoslavia in the 90s, Roma from the war torn countries entered Australia as refugees. There are also some Kalderash Roma living here as well as Romanies from other groups. In the early 1900s on Nudgee Beach near Brisbane, Romanies regularly camped by a waterhole. Romanies moved around for work here as there were many farm jobs and there was much labouring work. Nowadays, nearly all Romanies are settled in houses and have jobs, have school education and have access to all the facilities here as Australians do.

Researched by Yvonne Slee

Local Romani musician plays at Romani



History, Culture and Traditions Exhibit

Local Romani musician Sinan Sinanov brought his prodigious musical talent to the opening of the Romani Exhibit at the EC-CWA hall on Saturday 17th October. Sinan plays clarinet and saxophone regularly at various venues and clubs around Perth and has the dance floors filled with his fast paced style and non-stop routines.

Websites with lots of information on Romanies

Rom Connect: <http://rromaniconnect.org/>
 Romany Archives & Documentation: <http://www.radoc.net/>
 Sinti Romani: <http://www.sintiromanicommunity.org/>