

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE SERVICE

MANX LITERARY HERITAGE

THE ISLE OF MAN'S HISTORY IN VERSE, DRAMA & PROSE

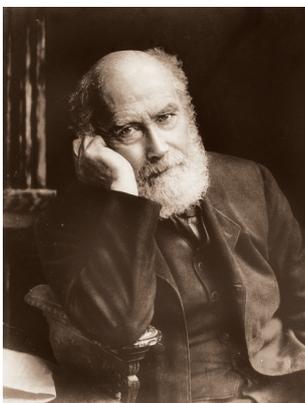
This guide has been produced to coincide with Manx Litfest 2012 and celebrates the Isle of Man's unique rich literary heritage dating back to the Chronicles of Mann written by the monks of Rushen Abbey in the Middle Ages to the enthusiastic authors, poets and dramatists writing on or about the Island today.



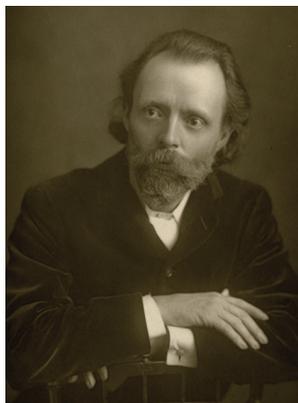
From the late 19th century / early 20th century two pillars of Manx literature stand out:

The poet, Thomas Edward Brown (1830-1897), who is the subject of a separate 'Information Sheet' and a display at the entrance to the Reading Room in the Manx Museum, Douglas.

The second is the novelist and dramatist, Thomas Henry Hall Caine (1853-1931). Hall Caine was fêted in his day and his novel "The Manxman" was made into a film by Alfred Hitchcock (recently restored by the British Film Institute).



Thomas Edward Brown
(1830-1897)



Thomas Henry Hall Caine
(1853-1931)

The works of both are held by the Isle of Man National Library at the Manx Museum, which aims to collect all published works by Manx authors and works relating to the Isle of Man by non-Manx authors.

The National Archive houses an extensive collection of Hall Caine's personal papers and associated documents and other materials relating to many Manx literary figures.

More recent Manx authors of distinction include Nigel Kneale who gained prominence when his Quatermass series was broadcast by the BBC in the late 1950s. His son, Matthew Kneale is also a respected author and his "English Passengers" recounts the experiences of Manx people in the early days of transportation and the colonisation of Tasmania.

Sir John Frank Kermode (29 November 1919-17 August 2010) was a distinguished Manx academic, widely acclaimed as Britain's foremost literary critic. A number of his publications are held in the National Library, including his memoir - "Not Entitled" - published by Harper Collins, 1996. (Library Ref: G88/KER).



A comprehensive list of literary authors (born or resident on the Isle) who have written in English, Manx Dialect and Manx Gaelic is available from the Reading Room in the Manx Museum. Details of their work and lives can be found by searching through the Manx newspapers held in the adjacent iMuseum.

“Manx Fiction: a bibliography of novels and short stories set in the Isle of Man” was prepared by Stephen Dearden in 2005 (Archive Ref: MS 12094).

“Nineteenth-century literature in English Relating to the Isle of Man”, by Ulla Corkill (pp323-331) together with “Literature in English since 1900”, by Martin Faragher (pp331-337) are published as sections within “A New History of the Isle of Man, Volume V: The Modern Period 1830-1999”, edited by John Belchem; Liverpool University Press, 2000 (Library Ref: F64/207).

“Outline of Manx language and literature”, by Robert L. Thomson and Adrian J. Pilgrim was published by Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (the Manx Gaelic Society - www.ycg.iofm.net/), 1988 (Library Ref: H.140/A153).

The records of the (now defunct) organisation “Isle of Man Authors”, (1983-2008) is also held at the Manx Museum (Archive Ref: MS 11923). Members met for talks, discussions and socialising and could call on the group for advice on all questions affecting them in their capacity as established writers.

Noted non-Manx literary figures who have written about or have some links with the Isle of Man are:

Rev. W. Awdry - The Railway Series

George Bellairs - Death Treads Softly

Arnold Bennett - Anna of the Five Towns

Sir John Betjeman - His links with the Isle of Man are recounted in “Betjemanx” by John Bowring

Agatha Christie - Manx Gold

Wilkie Collins - Armadale

Jasper Fforde – Thursday Next novels

Elizabeth Gaskell - Cranford, Mary Barton

Eliza Craven Green - Ellan Vannin

P.D. James - The Children of Men

Malcolm Lowry - Wildflowers of the Isle of Man

Sir Walter Scott - Peveril of the Peak

William Wordsworth - On Approaching

Douglas Bay (Tower of Refuge)

OPENING TIMES

MANX MUSEUM READING ROOM:

For current opening hours at the Manx Museum Reading Room and iMuseum, please check online at:

<http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/what-we-do/our-collections/library-archives/>

REGISTRATION

In order to use the Reading Room at the Manx Museum or the iMuseum you need to register your contact details. Proof of ID (driving licence or utility bill) showing your current address is required. A single registration covers the use of either or both facilities.

A range of Manx literary publications are available for purchase from the Manx Museum shop or online at www.manxheritageshop.com



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