

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE SERVICE

ARCHIBALD KNOX

(09.04.1864 – 22.02.1933)

FROM MANX SCHOOLMASTER TO LIBERTY'S DESIGNER

This guide has been revised to mark the 150th anniversary of Knox's birth at Tromode on the outskirts of Douglas.

Knox was educated in Douglas and whilst a pupil teacher also attended the School of Art. After gaining his Art Master's Certificate he taught at Douglas High School where the headmaster and amateur archaeologist Rev. John Quine encouraged his interests. He became fascinated by the Isle of Man's ancient Celtic and Norse carved crosses. Their complex interlace patterns were to remain a seminal influence for the rest of his life.

Knox left the Island to teach in London between 1897 and 1912; during this period his association began with the London Department store Liberty & Co. which specialises in exclusive designs for an upmarket clientele.

The Manx Museum has an extensive Knox collection including original designs and examples of jewellery, fabrics, papers, Liberty 'Cymric' silverware, 'Tudric' pewterware and also a large number of watercolour paintings, very much the product of his native landscape.

Towards the end of his life, living and working once more in the Isle of Man as an art teacher at Douglas High School Knox was in great demand locally as a book illustrator and designer of illuminated addresses and public memorials, examples of these commissions are held in the Museum's collections.



Archibald Knox - studio portrait PG/5515/3



Liberty Tudric pewter chamber or candlestick 2001-0073

Knox Online www.imuseum.im

Online resources at Manx National Heritage's iMuseum include:

- A selection of images from the museum's collection of Knox artwork and designs.
- Knox related photographs from the Isle of Man National Archive.
- A selection of prints of Knox artwork is available to purchase through Magnolia box
<http://www.magnoliabox.com/content/manx-national-heritage>
- Newspaper articles relating to Knox may be searched through our online newspapers and publications service [up to 1960]. This includes articles from the Journal of the Manx Museum [1924-1980].

There are numerous Knox resources in our Library and Archive collections. The following have been selected to illustrate the range available.

Archibald Knox Society
Newsletter Nos. 1-7 2006 – 2012
Library Ref L.6/ARC

Archibald Knox Society Journal
Vols 1 & 2 2008-2009
Library Ref L.6/AKSq

Arwas, Victor
The Triumph of Liberty Style
In Catalogue for the Liberty Style Exhibition pp. 194-198.
Japan Art & Culture Association, 1999
A summary background on the development of Liberty products. This article is in a liberally illustrated bi-lingual catalogue produced for a touring exhibition.
Library Ref C.20/15q

Centenary Exhibition of the work of Archibald Knox, Manx Artist and Designer
Manx Museum, 1964.
12 page catalogue giving some idea of the range of his work.
Library Ref C.20/2x

Harrison, Stephen
100 years of Heritage
Manx Museum and National Trust. 1986

pp 106-110 give a short summary of Knox's life and work with illustrations of items in the Museum collections.
Library Ref A.365/14q

Haslam, Malcolm
Arts and Crafts Carpets
David Black Oriental Carpets. 1991
pp 129-133 illustrate sketch designs for Donegal carpets by Knox.
Library Ref C.18/32q

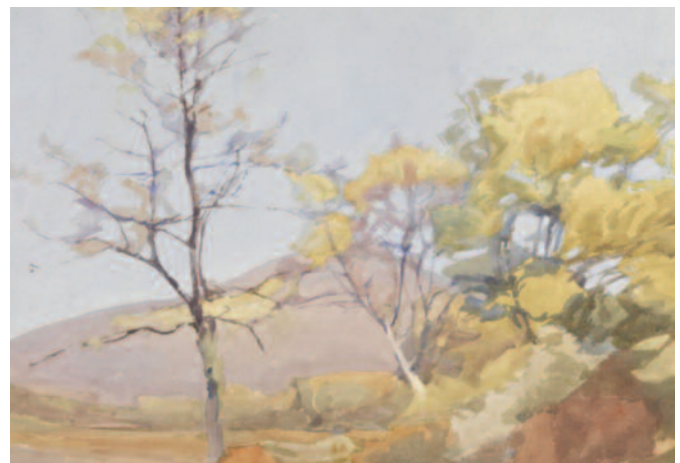
• You will find some additional references to Knox in the online library catalogue.

• Archibald Knox Society
www.archibaldknoxsociety.com

Based on the Isle of Man the mission of the society is to promote the legacy of Archibald Knox both nationally and internationally, thus furthering the artistic and cultural identity of the Isle of Man and attributing to Knox his rightful place in the history of the decorative arts as one of the foremost artists/designers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The web site includes numerous illustrations relating to Knox and his work.

Horton, Carol Elaine

The Celtic Art Revival: How it influenced Jewellery design in the late 19th and early 20th century with particular reference to Alexander Ritchie and Archibald Knox
Masters dissertation 2011.
Manuscript Ref MS 13024



A Spring landscape 1954-5651

Isle of Man Victorian Society Newsletters 1-94

These contain some references to Knox:

- No. 11. Memorial Plaque unveiled pp. 1-2
- No. 20. Alfred Collister and Archibald Knox pp. 7-10
- No. 39. A chip of the Old Block, Quayle Monumental Masons & Knox pp. 12-15
- No. 42. Some hard Knox - cautionary review of Martin book about Knox pp. 6-7.
- No. 79. Details of the James C. Beale and William Tripp Hale headstones in Braddan Cemetery. pp. 1-4. and 18-20.
- No. 80. Details of the Margaret Lace headstone at Marown pp. 1-6.
- No. 81. Richard Lace headstone at Braddan. pp. 1-3.
- No. 94. Knox Floored, comments on links with Rev later Canon John Quine contradicting the account given in Tilbrook's



book. pp. 13-14.
Library Ref L.3/VIC

Jones, Anthony

Liberty, The Celtic Revival and Archibald Knox

In Catalogue for the Liberty Style Exhibition pp 194-198
Japan Art & Culture Association, 1999
Summarises Knox links with Liberty in the peak Celtic Revival years of the early twentieth century.
Library Ref C.20/15f

Jones, Anthony

Knox of Manx and Liberty's of London: In the Ministry of the Beautiful

In Imagining an Irish Past: The Celtic Revival 1840-1940 edited by T.J.Edelstein.
David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, 1992
pp 44-63.
Library Ref C.20/7

Knox, Archibald

1. Ancient Crosses in the Isle of Man
In The Builder 30 September 1896 pp. 243-246.
Includes sketches of the designs on Manx Crosses.
Library Ref C.20/KNOF
2. The Isle of Man as a sketching ground
In The Studio, 1896 pp 142-147.
Includes pencil sketches of Manx scenes.
Library Ref C.18/6xf pp. 30-33
3. John Miller Nicholson
In Mannin Vol. 1 No. 1 May 1913 pp. 25-27.
Nicholson was an inspiration for Knox.
Library Ref L.6/MAN
4. Old Kirk Lonan
Includes sketches of Crosses.
In The Antiquary No. 97 January 1898 pp. 15-19.
Library Ref F.75/9/5

Knox, Archibald

Pages from an illuminated version of Deer's Cry or St. Patrick's Hymn / designed and executed by Archibald Knox

Manx Museum and National Trust, 1983.
Published to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Knox these are a selection from the originals in the Museum collections.
Library Ref C.20/2q

Knox, Archibald

Scrapbook of items relating to him

Containing a number of articles, catalogues for Knox Guild exhibitions and examples of his work.
Library Ref C.18/6xf

Knox Family

Papers documenting the life of Archibald Knox and the genealogy of the Knox family

Manuscript Ref MS 09974

Levy, Mervyn

Liberty Style, The Classic Years: 1898-1910

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986

Numerous references to Knox in this illustrated account which includes colour pictures.

Library Ref C.20/3

Liberty and Co. Ltd. Illustrated Catalogues

These include examples by or in the Knox style.

1. Book of Garden Ornaments

undated, 40 pp.
New and Original Terra-Cotta garden pots sundials etc. Celtic garden pottery price list and illustrations.
Library Ref C.18/6xf(p.27)

2. Cymric Gold and Silver Work

undated, 28 pp.
Headed Yule Tide Gifts it includes some Tudric Pewter designs.
Library Ref C.20/8

3. English Pewter

undated, 11 pp.
Library Ref C.20/11

4. Jewellery and Silverwork

undated, 36 pp.
Subtitled a development of the ancient Cymric type of ornament.
Library Ref C.20/10

Liberty Style

Japan Art & Culture Association, 1999

This beautifully illustrated descriptive bi-lingual catalogue was produced for the Liberty Style Exhibition which toured Japan in 1999/2000. It includes many examples of Knox's work.
Library Ref C.20/15f

Martin, Stephen A.

Archibald Knox

Art Media Press, 2001
Illustrated compilation of essays by Knox scholars writing on varied themes; an expanded and revised edition first published in 1995.
Library Ref C.20KNO

Martin, Stephen A.

Cymric Ceramics: Garden Pottery by Archibald Knox.

From Style 1900 February 2002 pp. 70-76
Library Ref C.20/KNOq

Moore, Ramsey B.

Archibald Knox: A Memoir

Manx Museum and National Trust, 1959
A concise 13 page illustrated account with portrait.
Library Ref C.20KNO

Morrison, Sophia

Manx Fairy Tales, illustrated by Archibald Knox

Manx Experience, 1994
A reprint of the second edition of 1929. Each story has a heading design by Knox.
Library Ref E.244/33



Murphy, Elizabeth

From Manx to Modern: Archibald Knox's Translation of Celtic Art into Modern Design

Masters dissertation for a degree in Fine and Decorative Arts, 2003.

Manuscript Ref MS 11094

Nichols, Sarah

Arthur Lasenby Liberty: A Mere Adjective?

In Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts 1875-1945, Summer 1989, pp 76-93.

Includes background information on Knox's work for Liberty's with some illustrations.

Library Ref C.20/6

O'Neill, Liam

Archibald Knox: A Manx Celtic Artist

Illustrated dissertation submitted for MA in Celtic Christianity, 2002.

From clarifying terms such as 'Celtic' and 'Celtic Art', it then moves on to review the Isle of Man and its cultural nationalism before describing Knox's background, life, career and influences. The illustrations include colour images of art work in private hands.

Manuscript Ref MS 10609

Quayle, W.T.

The Cymric Silver Designs of Archibald Knox

In Manx Museum Journal Vol. 6 No. 76 1959/60 p 73 and plate 238.

Brief comment on these designs which includes 3 photographs of Cymric ware.

Library Ref L.6 or available online through the newspaper/journals subscription section of www.imuseum.im

Quilliam, Leslie

Archibald Knox

In New Manx Worthies pp. 277-279.

Manx Heritage Foundation, 2006

Library Ref G.4/17f

Sayle, Norman

Archibald Knox - a modern artist

In Manninagh, No.1 May 1972 pp 23-25

Short article on how Knox fits in 20th century art.

Library Ref L.6MAN

Grave of Archibald and William Knox
PG/6392/1



Silver Studio

Collection: A London Design Studio 1880-1963

Lund Humphries in association with Middlesex Polytechnic, 1980

This Studio produced designs for manufacturers such as Liberty's and this exhibition catalogue includes designs for Liberty Metalwork 1898-1910 with some of Knox's work.
Library Ref C.20

Sykes, Marjorie

The Master

In Manx Life February 1988, pp 31-33

Article by a former pupil of Knox with illustrations of rug and buckle designs.

Library Ref L.6MLq

Tilbrook, A.J.

The designs of Archibald Knox for Liberty and Co

Richard Dennis, 1995

Second edition of Adrian Tillbrook's standard work with additional colour illustrations and pewter listings by Peter Gooday.

Library Ref C.20/15

Tuckfield, Winifred

Archibald Knox

In Mannin, No. 7. May 1916, pp 381-384.

Douglas: Manx Language Society.

A brief recollection by former student of Knox in London and secretary of the Knox Guild.

Library Ref L.6/MAN

Turner, Kate

The Memorial work of Archibald Knox in the I.O.M.

Thesis for Chelsea College of Art, 1987

An illustrated account of nearly forty memorial stones designed by Knox and his association with the Quayle family of masons.

Please note no photocopying is allowed of this item.

Manuscript Ref MS 08675 [MD 15155]

Williams, Louise

The Knox-Collister Connection: The Life and Links of two successful Manx Artists

BA Art History and Design dissertation.

Manuscript Ref MS 11036

Wren, Rosemary D.

The Knox Guild and its background

1997

A scrapbook of recollections and pictures with an archival appendix.

Manuscript Ref MS 09972



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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