



Manx National Heritage  
*Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

Library & Archive Service

## FOLKLORE OF THE ISLE OF MAN

Manx National Heritage, Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY.

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### Select Bibliography No. 5 August 2009 (Rev Ed – AF)



*Above: The White Boys at Port Erin, Christmas 1926.  
Back Row: the Doctor, the Turkish Champion, Samson.  
Front Row: St. George, Devil Doubt.*

**“Manx folklore is a curious mixture of that of various races. The population, based on a Gaelic and Pre Celtic stock, but crossed with Scandinavian and tinged with Lancashire and Derbyshire followers of the Stanleys with an infusion... of the Galloway Scots.. would necessarily inherit customs from its component parts”**

C.I.Paton - Manx Calendar Customs p.vi 1939

The following is by necessity a selection of the material available in the Library. Researchers who require access to other material should consult the Library Catalogue, primarily at class E 244.

#### MAIN SOURCES

##### BRODERICK, GEORGE

**Manx Stories and Reminiscences of Ned Beg Hom Ruy (Edward Faragher of Cregneash 1831-1908).**

Zeitschrift fur Celtische Philologie Band 38/9, 1981/2  
reprinted Douglas: Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, 1991  
33 stories in Manx with English translations together with biographical notes on Faragher.

Library Ref H140/A155

##### CASHEN, WILLIAM (1838-1912).

Manx speaker, fisherman, Assistant Harbour Master and custodian of Peel Castle, he assisted collectors of folklore material such as Moore and Morrison.

##### Manx Folklore.

Douglas: G & L Johnson, 1912

A volume prepared for press after his death by Sophia Morrison with a memoir of him. Contains many pieces in Manx: 1. Home life of the Manx; 2. Fairies, Bugganes, Giants and Ghosts; 3. Fishing; 4. History and Legend, and a section of Songs, Sayings and Riddles.

Library Ref E244/32

##### William Cashen's Manx Folk-Lore (1912).

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1993. ISBN 1 898613 00 1  
Edited selective reprint of above which leaves out introduction, a Cushag poem and the folk songs.

Library Ref E244/92

##### CLAGUE, JOHN (1842-1908).

Dr Clague was a medical practitioner in the South of the Island who collected music and sayings.

##### Manx Reminiscences.

Castletown: M.J.Blackwell, 1911

In this volume the text is in Manx and English on opposite pages.

Library Ref E244/30 and H140/K9-10

Manx Text reprinted P.Kelly: Kirk Michael, 1994

Library Ref H140/L8q

**CRELLIN, A.M.**

**Manx Folklore: Fairy Legends, Customs and Superstitions.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1994 ISBN 1 898613 06 0  
These are the collected reports of the IOMNHAS Folklore Section as published in Yn Lioar Manninagh 1893-1900, edited by Stephen Miller.

Library Ref E244/95

**GILL, W.WALTER (c.1876-1963).**

William Walter Gill was a poet, folklorist and scholar. He worked with William Cubbon, first librarian of the Manx Museum and later compiler of the Bibliography of Manx Literature and was a one time joint editor of the Manx Museum Journal.

**A Manx Scrapbook.**

London: Arrowsmith, 1929  
Contents: Well names and well lore, coast names of Rushen, old roads and road lore, place names and place lore.

Library Ref E244/36

**A Second Manx Scrapbook.**

London: Arrowsmith, 1932  
Contents: Second sight, divinations and observances, witchcraft and charming, fairies and spirits, animal and vegetable kingdoms, songs and rhymes, Hunt the Wren, sundry traditions.

Library Ref E244/37

**A Third Manx Scrapbook.**

London: Arrowsmith, 1932  
Contents: surnames, place names, dialect words and phrases, customs and traditions, cures and charms, fairies and phantoms, visions and dreams.

Library Ref E244/52

N.B. A card index to these scrapbooks is kept in the library.

**Customs and Traditions, Cures and Charms, Fairies and Phantoms.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1993 ISBN 1 898613 07 9  
Selective reprint of material from the Third Manx Scrapbook.

Library Ref E244/93

**ISLE OF MAN NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**

**Proceedings of (1906-date)**

Previously known as Yn Lioar Manninagh (1889-1905). They contain numerous references to folklife. An index is available on request at the counter.

**KERMODE, E.**

**Celtic Customs.**

Peel: Frank Quayle, 1985 ISBN None  
Notes collected in 1885, published in facsimile. Useful comparison with customs of other countries but no index.

Library Ref E244/85

**KILLIP, MARGARET I. (died 1995).**

Part time administrator and collector for the Manx Folklife survey from 1957-1984, she gathered a wealth of material.

**The Folklore of the Isle of Man.**

London: Batsford, 1975 paperback 1986  
ISBN 0 7134 3087 7 / 0 7134 5238 2

This volume includes an index of tale types and motifs.

Library Ref E244/67

See also extensive references in the Journal of the Manx Museum

**MANX MUSEUM JOURNAL (1924-80).**

This contains references to folklife: an index is available at the library counter.

**MANX SOCIETY.**

33 volumes published between 1859-1894. These contain many references to Manx Folklife. (see Cubbon vol 1. pp 496-504 for summary of volumes)

- v Vestigia Insulae Manniae Antiquiora - includes customs of Manx people in chapter 3 pp 103-156.
- xi Description of the IOM by George Waldron edited by William Harrison includes stories of Fairies and pp 48-50 dancing, sport, festivities as described by Waldron pp 105-6 Fairy cup of Kirk Malew and the Ballafletcher drinking glass
- xv Antiquitates Manniae, edited by J.G.Cumming pp 119-140 Mananan Mac Lir- connection with IOM by Richard Brash
- xvi Mona Miscellany, a selection of Proverbs, Ballads, Customs Superstitions and Legends collected and edited by William Harrison.
- xxi Mona Miscellany, second series.

Library Ref F64

**MOORE, A.W. (1853-1909).**

Member and subsequently Speaker of the House of Keys, prolific author and historian.

**Folk-Lore of the Isle of Man.**

Llanerch Publishers, 1994  
ISBN 1 897853 42 4

Facsimile reprint of 1891 edition. This is the standard work on Manx Folklore.

Library Ref E244

**Further notes on Manx Folklore.**

In The Antiquary vol 31, 1895.  
11 short pieces adding to his work on Manx Folklore above.

Library Ref E244/21

see also IOMNHAS proceedings index.

**MORRISON, SOPHIA (1859-1917).**

Sophia Morrison was prominent in the Manx Society, an authority on Manx folklore and editor of 'Mannin'.

**Manx Fairy Tales.**

Douglas: Manx Experience, 1991  
ISBN 1 873120 01 X

The second expanded edition of 1929 illustrated by Knox contains over 50 local tales.

Library Ref E244/33

**PATON, Cyril Ingram. (1874-1949).**

Primarily a naturalist but he was also interested in entomology and the Manx language.

**Manx Calendar Customs.**

London: Folk-Lore Society Vol CX c.1942.

Useful guide which includes Manx Gaelic names.

Library Ref E244/41

Facsimile reprint with obituaries: Llanerch Press, 1992 ISBN 1-86143-138-4

Library Ref E244/41A

**QUAYLE, GEORGE E. (1895-1992).**

Born and raised in Lezayre, a leading member of the IOMNHAS, a naturalist with a love of folk life and lore.

**Legends of a life time: Manx folklore.**

Privately published: 1973 (and later reprints).  
Mainly about the north of the Island.

Library Ref E244/64

See also IOMNHAS proceedings index

**RHYS, SIR JOHN (1840-1915).**

Celtic scholar, first Jesus Professor of Celtic at Oxford, prolific writer who visited the Island to study Manx language and folklore.

**Celtic Folklore, Welsh and Manx.**

Oxford: Clarendon Press: 1901  
see vol 1, chapter 4 Manx Folklore, chapter 5 The Fynoderee and his friends pp 284-353

Library Ref E244/25-6

**ROEDER, CHARLES (c.1848-1911).**

Born in Germany he moved to Manchester and whilst visiting the Island collected folklore in the south with the assistance of Edward Faragher of Cregneash.

**Contributions to the Folk-Lore of the IOM.**

In Yn Lioar Manninagh vol III part IV pp 129-191, 1897

Library Ref L6

**Manx Notes and Queries.**

Douglas: S.K.Broadbent, 1904

Library Ref E244/27 and H140/A52

These notes are based on his column published in the IOM Examiner newspaper.

**Manx Folk Tales.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1993 ISBN 1 898613 02 8  
This is a selection of folk narratives originally published in Yn Lioar Manninagh vols 1 & 3 and republished with an introduction by Stephen Miller and an annotated bibliography.

Library Ref E244/94

See also IOMNHAS proceedings index and joint publication with Morrison above.

**TRAIN, JOSEPH (1779-1852)**

**History of the Isle of Man.**

Douglas: M.A.Quiggin, 1845

Includes the following:

Mananan Beg - i, pp 50~55; Spell bound giants and black lady of Castle Rushen - i, pp 303-304; Fairies, witches, customs etc, - ii, pp 61, 102-184; Holy Wells and popular superstitions, - ii, pp 121, 142-184; Suit service of strewing rushes, - ii, pp 262-3

Library Ref F64/30

**WALDRON, JOSEPH (1689/90 -1726)**

**A description of the Isle of Man.**

London: 1744 reprinted as Manx Society Vol XI (1864)

Resident here as an official of the British Government c.1720-1730.

see Manx Society above.

**YN LIOAR MANNINAGH (1889-1905).**

The first series of proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society, these contain some folklore articles and have been reprinted in Manx Folk Tales (above) E244/94 and Crellin Manx Folklore (above) E244/95. See Index to IOMNHAS Proceedings at the counter.

Library Ref L6

## SECONDARY SOURCES

**CALLOW, EDWARD**

**The Phynodderree and other Legends.**

London: J.Dean & Son, c1882

Contains:

1. The Phynodderree
2. Fairy cup of Kirk Malew
3. King Olave the second and the great sword Macabuin.
4. The Buggane's vow: a legend of St Trinian's Church.

Library Ref E244/10

**CRAINE, DAVID (1878-1963).**

Teacher, Linguist and scholar he was asked to compile this volume by the Trustees of the Manx Museum. It provides useful background details.

**Manannan's Isle: A collection of Manx Historical Essays.**

Douglas: Manx Museum, 1955

Library Ref F64/121

See also Indices to Manx Museum Journal and IOMNHAS Proceedings.

**CUBBON, WILLIAM (1865-1953).**

Former Director and Librarian of the Manx Museum.

**A Bibliographical Account of works relating to the Isle of Man.**

Volume 1

Douglas: Manx Museum, 1933

see pp 397-410 for listing of items relating to Mythology and Folklore, pp 496-504 for summary of Manx Society volumes.

Library Ref H364

**DOUGLAS, MONA (1898-1987).**

This prolific author spent most of her long life collecting or working with folklife material particularly music and dance and was a key figure in establishing the modern Yn Chruinnaght. The following items are more collected anecdotes:

**This is Ellan Vannin: A miscellany of Manx Life and Lore.**

Douglas: Times Press, 1964  
Collected articles first published in the IOM Weekly Times newspaper.

Library Ref E244/54

**This is Ellan Vannin Again.**

Douglas: Times Longbooks, 1966

Library Ref E244/61

**We call it Ellan Vannin.**

Douglas: Times Longbooks, 1970

Library Ref E244/99

**Manx Folk-Song, Folk Dance, Folklore: Collected Writings.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1994  
ISBN 1 898613 05 2

Collection of articles written outside of her activities as a journalist for the Manx press. With an introduction by Stephen Miller.

Library Ref E244/96

**FRASER, MAXWELL (died 1980).**

Pseudonym of Mrs Dorothy May Phillips, Bard of Welsh Gorsedd, who had a strong interest in Celtic topics.

**In Praise of Manxland.**

London: Methuen, 1948

See the index for folklore references.

Library Ref F65/119

**GARRAD, LARCH S. (1936-2005)**

Former Assistant Keeper at the Manx Museum and prolific author.

See Manx Life Index and Library Catalogue.

**HARRISON, STEPHEN**

Former Director of Manx National Heritage (retired 2009)

**Voice of the People: The work of the Manx Folk Life Survey.**

In 100 Years of Heritage pp 190-205

Douglas: Manx Museum & National Trust, 1986

ISBN 0 948308 04 4

An illustrated account of the origins and work of the Manx Folklife Survey from its origins in the 1940s.

Library Ref A365

**KELLY, I. M.**

**Twas Thus and Thus they Lived.**

Castletown: the author, c.1989.

Basically a history of a Manx farming family but contains some oral traditions. A secondary source without an index.

Library Ref G4/12

**KILLIP, KATHLEEN (died 1991).**

Sister of Margaret, sometime teacher and radio broadcast scriptwriter, a native of Lonan, who was also involved with Yn Chruinnaght.

**Saint Bridget's Night.**

London: Hamish Hamilton, 1975 ISBN 0 241 89187 6  
Stories from the Isle of Man retold for children.

Library Ref E244/65

**Twisting the Rope and other folktales from the Isle of Man.**

London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1980 ISBN 0 340 24832 7

Library Ref E244/72

**KINRADE, THOMAS**

**Life at the Lhen.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1993 ISBN 1 898613 01 X

Based on manuscript notes dated 1945 on the Lhane Mooar & Largagh district of Kirk Andreas edited by Stephen Miller.

Library Ref E244/9

**MANX FOLKWAYS:**

**A GLEANING OF WRITINGS NO 1.**

Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 1994 ISBN 1 898613 09 5

Includes: Roper, C. IOM Superstitions, 1894;  
Wentz, W.Y. Taking of Evidence in the IOM, 1911 Morrison, S. Manx Folklore Notes, 1904.

Library Ref E244/97

**MANX LIFE (1971-1996).**

see card index in Library especially under Folklore and Garrad.

**PENRICE, HARRY**

**Fables, Fantasies and Folklore of the Isle of Man.**

Douglas: Manx Experience, 1996 ISBN 1 873120 26 5

Retold versions of folk lore

Library Ref E244/100

**RYDINGS, EGBERT (c.1832-1912).**

Founder of St George's Mills, Laxey and friend of John Ruskin.

**MANX TALES.**

London: John Heywood, 1895

A collection of four stories in Anglo Manx dialect set around Lonan and Laxey with a foreword by T.E.Brown.

Library Ref K12/R2/1

**WENTZ, W. Y. EVANS (1878-1965)**

**The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries.**

London: OUP, 1911

pp 117-135 Taking of evidence in Man with introduction by Sophia Morrison. Based on research submitted for BSc at Oxford in 1910 with additional material.

Library Ref E244/29

Republished in Manx Folkways above

Library Ref E244/97

**WOOD, G. W. (c 1852-1927).**

He built up a large library of Manx related material which was sold to the Museum in 1923.

**On the classification of proverbs and sayings in the IOM, with a collection of proverbs in Manx and English.**

From: Folklore Sept 1894 pp 229-274

Library Ref E244/12

