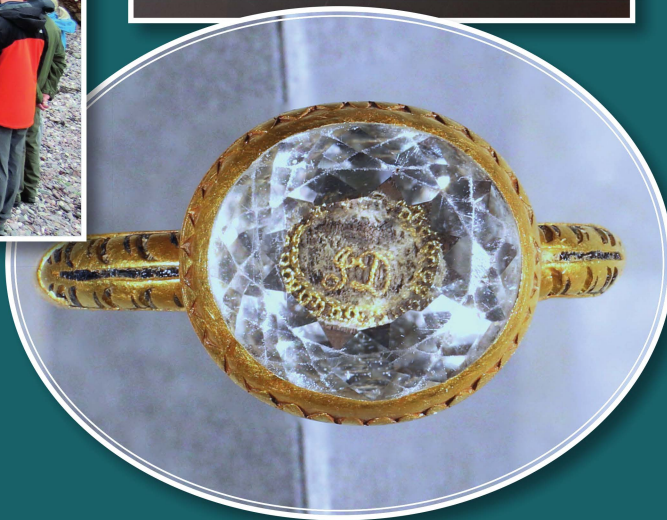
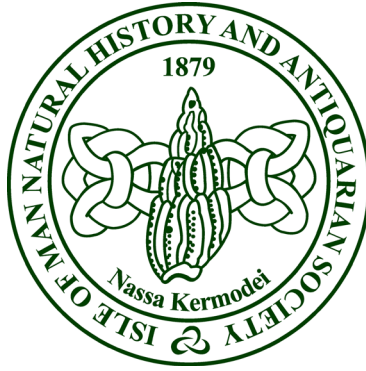


ISLE OF MAN STUDIES

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Contents

New Light on Manx Keeills: an archaeological and architectural reassessment of the structural and material remains of medieval chapels on the Isle of Man

Andrew Johnson FSA

Although the medieval keeills are icons of Manx archaeology, they are also a challenge to understand, contextualise, and even worse, to date. This paper reassesses the remains of surviving keeills from several perspectives, principally a small but significant handful of modern excavations, the author's observations made over many years, and a fine-grained reappraisal of information and interpretation recorded in the Manx Archaeological Survey. From the latter in particular, it becomes clear that there has been a tendency to generalise the physical characteristics of these buildings, when in fact there is significant variety in size, form and materials. New evidence for the structural history of several keeills is presented and discussed, and insights offered regarding roof-coverings. New analysis is brought forward to show that as complete buildings the keeills were also much more architecturally sophisticated than might be assumed from their scant and simple remains today. At the same time, current understanding of intra-site relationships between chapels, cemeteries and burials is reconsidered, and associated features - such as shrines - discussed and conclusions drawn. Avenues for additional and future research are also put forward.

24pp, 6 colour illus, 9 b&w illus, 2 maps.

Early Bronze Age Stone Battle-Axes and Axe-hammers of the Isle of Man

Amber Roy

This article offers the first functional assessment of Early Bronze Age stone battle-axes and axe-hammers from the Isle of Man. It applies use-wear analysis and a contextual assessment to examine the functionality and contexts of these implements in relation to the wider archaeological findings across the Irish Sea zone, such as the known networks of trade and exchange, and it compares the Manx implements with the data on northern British battle-axes and axe-hammers. This article further demonstrates the connectivity across the Irish Sea as well as the utilitarian nature of battle-axes and axe-hammers from the Isle of Man, thus disproving previous interpretations that they were non-functional and purely ceremonial.

10pp, 3 colour illus, 2 b&w illus, 1 table.

“Shee was the wysest woman in this lande” - Margaret Quane (1616)

Stephen Miller RBV

The only individuals in the Isle of Man known to have been judicially executed for the crime of witchcraft were Margaret Quane and her son John Cubbon in 1617. Whilst the original spiritual records have been lost, a late eighteenth century transcript of the case in part against her is known. It was made by the Rev Henry Corlett, Vicar of German between 1757–98, and appears here in full, with an introductory discussion of the background to the document followed by an overview of what can be learnt of the events that led to her trial and eventual fate.

14pp.

Neolithic street lighting, Christian symbolism or sexual metaphor: the use of quartz in the Manx vernacular built environment

Patricia Tutt

Quartz is an extraordinary material, common, but special. It's durability, whiteness and piezo-electric properties have made it notable since the earliest times as a decorative material, as a reflective wayfinding tool, and as a visual metaphor in art and culture. Additionally, chips and flakes have been used as primitive tools and it continues in use today for both mundane and highly technological purposes. In the Isle of Man, quartz has been widely used as a decorative material, from the neolithic period to the present day, but its symbolism is even more pervasive, whether in the pebbles that appear in old graves, or the charm-pieces that stand on our doorsteps.

16pp, 16 colour illus, 10 b&w illus, 1 table.

The Revival of Traditional Songs and Music in the Isle of Man

George Broderick

During the early 1960s if not earlier there took place a revival in traditional music and song, particularly in Ireland and Scotland, but also in England and Wales and in western Europe generally. The Isle of Man was no exception to this drive. In Man the Revival, also of Manx Gaelic, spans three phases: 1. From c.1870 to the First World War (c.1914), 2. Between the First and Second World Wars (c.1918-c.1940), and 3. From after the Second World War, but particularly from c.1970 onwards, in three areas running parallel: Manx language, Manx music and song, Manx dance. This article looks into the revival of Manx traditional music and song, especially between the years c.1975 and thereafter down to the present.

16pp.

‘In medio duorum animalium’, the ‘Habakkuk motif’: carved images for ‘recognising’ Christ on Viking-Age Manx sculpture as an icon in the search for Redemption

Ross Trench-Jellicoe

An image derived from the text of the *Vetus Latina* version of the Old Testament Canticle of the Prophet Habakkuk was recognised only in the later twentieth century as an important iconographic motif adopted during and after the first millennium when it appeared on sculpture, metalwork and in manuscript miniatures. It occurred throughout the British Isles and further afield and is here identified in a variety of eleventh and twelfth century forms in the Isle of Man where in excess of a dozen carved stone examples and one in metalwork are considered. On the Island sculptural programmes associated with the ‘Habakkuk motif’ often appear linked with symbols representing cloud (a metaphor for Heaven) and more rarely with pellets portraying stars in the firmament both of which appear elsewhere in Christian art suggesting that the Redeemer, either portrayed or symbolised, was not the worldly Christ Crucified but Christ in Glory, a cosmic Saviour. The desire to ‘recognise Christ’ in order to solicit His aid in winning redemption became a priority for Christians around the end of the first millennium, a time when it was believed Christ’s return to judge the quick and the dead at the Second Coming was imminent and which served as an important inspiration for some contemporary sculpture. The presence of both Habakkuk and cosmic motifs indicates that Manx sculptural practice was in the mainstream of European theological development in the eleventh and twelfth century. The location of Manx Habakkuk-ornamented monuments in interlinked and closely-focussed groups suggests that the motifs reached the Island by way of monastic connections.

42pp, 20 b&w specially drawn figs.

'Extinct' Manx butterflies

Garry Curtis

Since the collation of formal records began in 1879 the number of butterfly species said to have been recorded here is far in excess of what is found today. This paper sets out to clarify the position and explain why there appear to have been so many 'extinctions'.

6pp.

John Toland and the Druids on the Isle of Man

Euan McArthur

This article examines the historical study of the Druids on the Isle of Man. It explores a variety of writers' characterisations of the Druids and Man's place in the 'Celtic' world from the sixteenth century to today, with an especial focus on John Toland. Although ideas about the Druids grew more from guesswork than clear evidence, they were crucial in defining Manx identity and history, with enduring effects into the present.

12pp.

Manaw of the Britons: The Pre-Viking Kings of the Isle of Man

Ben Guy

As a hub of Irish Sea communication and interchange, the Isle of Man has been home to many cultures and languages over the centuries – Gaelic, Norse, English. But in the eighth century, the Venerable Bede was quite certain that Man was an island of the Britons (meaning 'Welsh'). Bede was not alone in perceiving Man in this way. Embedded within the vast and labyrinthine corpus of genealogies surviving from medieval Wales is authentic information concerning the Brittonic dynasties that ruled Man during the eighth and ninth centuries. There is evidence that these same dynasties drew on Irish legends preserved in the famous 'Book of Invasions' in order to place Manx dynastic history within the panorama of Irish and Brittonic legendary history. This article explores these themes and suggests that more can be said about Manx history during these murky centuries than is usually thought possible.

17pp, 1 colour + 5 b&w illus.

Bishop Hill's Cathedral of 1886

Peter Litman

Bishop Rowley Hill was consecrated the Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1877. By the time of his arrival the Cathedral of St German within the walls of Peel Castle was a roofless ruin, few if any services happened there. Bishop Hill began to explore the diocese's need for a Cathedral. Once the idea of restoring the ancient cathedral had been exhausted, Bishop Hill turned to exploring whether to elevate one of the Island Parish Churches, therein began a battle between Douglas and Peel communities. Peel's New Church was constructed and completed in 1884 and immediately there were suggestions that this should become the diocesan cathedral. Bishop Hill managed to get two readings of the Cathedral Bill through Tynwald to make it so; however, before the third reading of the Cathedral Bill was passed, the Bishop died in 1887. His successor did not see the need for a Cathedral, and the Bill was dropped. Bishop Straton was consecrated Bishop in 1892. Acutely aware of the controversial Cathedral Bill, Straton consecrated Peel's New Church in as 'the Parish Church of St German' in 1893. He later established the Church Act of 1895 at which his private Chapel at Bishops court became the 'Cathedral' complete with four Canons drawn from across the diocese. However, 1979 saw the sale of Bishops court into private hands, and once again a Cathedral had to be found. In 1980 St German's Parish Church in Peel was elevated to the diocesan Cathedral, 100 years or so after its original conception.

9pp, 5 colour & 5 b&w illus.

‘Kione Speeiny’ or ‘Kione Spaine’ - the conundrum of ‘Spanish Head’?

George Broderick

According to Manx tradition, the headland just south-west of Port St. Mary bearing the name ‘Spanish Head’, in Manx *Kione Spaine*, received its name allegedly from a ship of the Spanish Armada wrecked there in the autumn of 1588 following the Armada’s circumnavigation of Britain on its way back to Spain. This hypothesis was then later challenged when it was believed that all the Armada ships had been accounted for. However, in the light of recent research work into the circumstances of the Armada fleet on its return to Spain, this article looks at the matter again in order to assess the verisimilitude or otherwise of Manx tradition. 5pp.

Reviews

The Island of Extraordinary Captives by Simon Parkin, reviewed by Yvonne Cresswell

Barbed wire university by Dave Hannigan, reviewed by Alan Franklin

Clarke, Petit and St Mark’s by Philip Modiano, reviewed by Katie King

Favourite of Fortune by Andrew Bond, Frank Cowin, and Andrew Lambert, reviewed by Matthew Richardson

Spring Tides by Fiona Gell, reviewed by Andrew Brand

8pp, 5 colour illus.

Recent accessions and developments at the Manx Museum

Archaeological collections – Allison Fox

Social History collections – Katie King

MNH Library and Archives – Archives – Wendy Thirkettle

MNH Library and Archives – Library – Suzi Heslan

10pp, 19 colour + 1 b&w illus.

Society Business

The Society in 2021 and 2022 (2pp)

Excursions:

West of West Baldwin - the Treen of Balytersyn; The Langness Arch - 150 Million Years of missing time; New Light on Lag ny Keeilley; Ballacoshan; Hidden Cringle; Laxey Wheel Conservation; Transatlantic Slave Trade Peel Connections; Geophysical Site Investigation; Rollage ny Twoaie [Tholtan Restoration]; St Johns Church - is there a hidden secret?; Marine Drive Butterflies; Tynwald Chambers; Garwick Bay & its hinterland; “Uphill to Paaris”. (28pp, 52 colour + 6 b&w illus., 2 tables)

Obituary – Sandra Bolton (1pp, 3 colour illus.)

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Isle of Man Studies (Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society) is published in the Isle of Man by the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society, a charity registered in the Isle of Man no. 428.

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