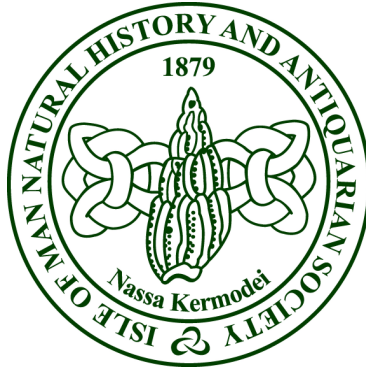


ISLE OF MAN STUDIES

Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Vol. XVI 2019





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ISBN 978-0-9519141-7-5, 208 pp, 64 colour and 63 b&w illustrations/figures, softback, retail £18.00

Contents

An osteoarchaeological assessment of Viking burial on the Isle of Man

Marie C Weale

In recent years there has been a shift in the science behind the assessment of archaeological human remains, with the advancement of techniques rapidly increasing the data that can be extracted from the people of the past. This research looks at some of the better documented Viking burials from the Isle of Man with a view to further understanding these sites by assessing the remains of the individuals who were honoured with such elaborate burials. Also considered within the project was the settlement of the Vikings, their integration with the local people and their conversion to Christianity as some of the sites chosen by the Vikings show evidence of pre-existing religious activity.

9pp, 5 colour illus.

Location, location, location: some similarities of sculptural practice in Hadeland, Oppland and the Isle of Man

Ross Trench-Jellicoe

This article hopes to demonstrate how gaining a fuller understanding of a sophisticated sculptural tradition in one part of the eleventh-century Scandinavian world may help when analysing a monumental programme encountered in another area. The study examines the relationships between decoration and runic inscriptions on seven near-contemporary monuments, two Norwegian sculptures at Dynna, Hadeland, and Alstad, Oppland, and five Manx monuments from Michael, Maughold, Braddan and Ballaugh parishes in the hope of explaining an unusual arrangement of the runic inscriptions and associated decoration on these late Viking-Age Manx sculptures.

24pp, 8 b&w specially drawn figs.

The Maughold high cross and its symbolism

David Allwood

This late medieval monument currently housed in the protective atmosphere of Maughold parish church, in the Isle of Man, has a unique place in Manx history. Although there are similar examples of carved high crosses in Britain none compare to the complex iconography and preservation of this example. The cross is made up of four parts: a plain calvary base, a narrow octagonal pillar, and highly decorated head and neck stones. The carvings of the head stone appear to show both religious and secular elements and many can be interpreted to the medieval period. The standard religious elements of the crucifixion and Mary and child are shown on two shields, there are many examples of medieval foliage, and the most enigmatic symbol, the three legs of Man appears on its own shield. The mystery of why we have the cross and its original purpose are lost and recent research has helped explain some of the complex iconography on this highly detailed and unique high-cross monument.

16pp, 22 colour illus, 1 b&w fig.

The Manx arms in Canterbury Cathedral

David M Wilson

This note introduces three early fifteenth-century images of shields bearing the painted arms of the Isle of Man to a Manx audience. Hitherto the arms, which occur on roof-bosses in the Great Cloister of Canterbury Cathedral, have only been recorded by heraldic specialists; there is no mention of them in the Manx literature. The arms post-date the Treaty of Perth of 1266, and were probably granted with the Island and the title 'King of Man' by Alexander III of Scotland, (1266-87), who with his successors intermittently held the Island and appointed its rulers until it was finally seized by the English king, Edward III, in 1333. The arms are certainly recorded during the reign of Alexander c 1275. The arms in Canterbury Cathedral were painted after 1391.

7pp, 9 colour illus. (inc. frontispiece)

African block meerschaum production at the Laxey factory 1965 to 2002

Peter Davey

From its original incorporation in 1965 the Laxey pipe factory in the Isle of Man existed in different guises and business models until its final closure in 2002. One of its most significant products was a range of meerschaum pipes aimed at the same economic level as briar users. Although produced under a Manx banner and sold directly from Laxey, a considerable proportion of the production was on behalf of well-established firms such as Oppenheimer, Comoy, Kapp and Peterson, Barling, Eric Nørding and others. One of the most popular lines was a 'do it yourself' meerschaum carving kit. The aim of this paper is to attempt a preliminary history of the works from a range of existing sources and to provide an understanding of its products and their economic significance.

29pp, 21 colour illus.

New Magic at the Old Mill: Gerald Gardner, the Manx Museum of Witchcraft & the fashioning of the Wica

John Callow

Today Wicca, or more properly the Wica, is established as a rapidly growing world religion. Yet the revival of modern witchcraft drew its most powerful inspiration from the work of Gerald Gardner (1884-1964), who lived and worked on the Isle of Man for the last thirteen years of his life. As the Director and owner of the 'Museum of Magic and Witchcraft' at Castletown he profoundly reshaped the public perception of the witch's activities and art, and helped to create a highly successful tourist attraction that was to be an important component of the industry on the island for more than two decades. Furthermore, while on the Isle, he wrote the two studies of the history and practice of witchcraft that made his name, honed and defined magical practice in his Books of Shadows, and began an intensive process of initiation in an attempt to ensure that his vision of the 'Craft of the Wise' would outlive him. The creative intensity with which he set about fashioning and publicising his vision of Paganism, from his base on the Isle of Man, enabled the

foundation of a valid, and internally coherent, world religion whose cultural values have permeated everything from the environmental and Feminist movements, down to teenage fiction, popular music, and the American television witches of Charmed, whose most treasured and powerful possession is, after all, a Gardnerian Book of Shadows. This is a powerful achievement – that has all-too-often gone unremarked - by a retired civil servant, working in the shell of a ruined mill that lay exposed to the elements on the South-East coast of the Isle, in order to achieve a new synthesis of magical beliefs that stripped away the demonic elements of witchcraft and emphasised its fresh sources in nature and tribal religions, as a fertility cult and as a source of personal empowerment.

32pp, 9 colour illus.

Is the Leisler's bat a come-over?

Nick Pinder

Records of Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) have increased in number and frequency since the species was first recorded for the Isle of Man in 1990. The apparent absence of this species until relatively recently, despite searches in the twentieth century, suggests that it might have only recently colonised the Isle of Man.

5pp, 3 colour figs.

All washed up: the surprising occurrence of otters and badgers on Manx beaches

Richard G Selman

Three badger and four otter carcasses have been found on beaches in the north-west and the south of the Isle of Man since 2008, raising questions regarding their origins. There have also been reports of live otters seen around the Isle of Man, and there are historic reports of two live badgers. There remains no formally verified live occurrence of otters on the Isle of Man and there is not considered to be an extant population of either species on the Isle of Man. The otter carcasses are most likely to have been washed in dead from elsewhere in the British Isles. Live otter reports remain mysterious and verified reports are still sought. Badger reports are considered to be escapees.

5pp, 3 b&w illus.

The potential impact of white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) on the fauna of the Isle of Man: a quantitative assessment

Nick Pinder

The diet and daily food requirements of white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) is now known in some detail, even for the differing age classes and sexes. Using published data from the West of Scotland the total annual food consumption for a putative population of reintroduced sea eagles is calculated and translated into the number of prey items consumed of each species proportionately, including lambs and carcasses. A recent census of all the Isle of Man bird species permits consideration of the impact of a reintroduced population of sea eagles on these various species.

12pp, 3 tables.

The 1733 Issue of Manx Coinage - 2019 Update

Michael Arbory

In 2011 the author presented a paper on the manufacture of the 1733 Issue of Manx Coinage - the people, the materials, production process and a list of the basic varieties. Some refinement has been made as to how the presses were used to strike the coins. A much larger sample of coins have had their composition tested by X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and this has led to a significant advance in the understanding of both the silver and copper alloys types used. It has also advanced the hypothesis that Manx mined and smelted copper alloys used in diverse artefacts can be easily identified.

12pp, 3 b&w illus, 2 tables.

Archaeological fieldwork and research summaries

Peter Davey and David Allwood

Excavations of Early Bronze Age burial mound at Cronk Guckley, Berk; excavation of Later Bronze Age roundhouse at Dreen Geeill, Lezayre; Cup-marked stones, Sulby valley and Braddan; dating of bog oaks, Sulby and Ramsey; cross-stone at Ballakewin, Malew; earthwork boundary Ballavarkish/ Ballavell, Malew; medieval earthwork bank Dreen Geeill, Lezayre; Abbey lands boundary, Fanc, Malew; medieval roadway, Narradale; Oxwath ford, Malew; Via Regia, Lezayre.

6pp, 10 b&w illus.

Reviews

Manx Crosses by David M Wilson, reviewed by Colleen Batey

The Chambered Tombs of the Isle of Man by Audrey Henshall, reviewed by Alison Sheridan

Viking Law & Order by Alexandra Sanmark, reviewed by Andrew Foxon

Isle of Man at War 1939-45 by Matthew Richardson, reviewed by Fiona McArdle

Friend or Foe by Rushen Heritage Trust, reviewed by Alan Franklin

Involuntary Guests by Alan Franklin, reviewed by Yvonne Cresswell

13pp, 6 b&w illus.

Recent accessions and developments at the Manx Museum

MNH Library and Archives – Archives – Wendy Thirkettle

MNH Library and Archives – Library – Suzi Heslan

Social History collections – Matthew Richardson

Archaeological collections – Allison Fox

4pp, 3 b&w illus.

Society Business

The Society in 2017 and 2018 (2pp)

Excursions: Purt le Moirrey – a native's view; Scarlett to Poyllvaish: a volcanic landscape; Douglas bay horse tramway and Douglas promenade; Raby keeill and farm; Buzzing bees & buildings, Shenharra; Midsummer mystery coach tour, Onchan, Baldrine, St Lukes; Tetley's quarries, Michael; Ballalonna & Michael mines & reservoir; Coronay valley; Crammag and Close farms, Sulby reservoir; Milntown; Gat-e-Whing; the Ayres National Nature Reserve. (20pp, 25 b&w illus.)

Obituaries - Allan Skillan, Peter Farrant (3pp, 4 b&w 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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