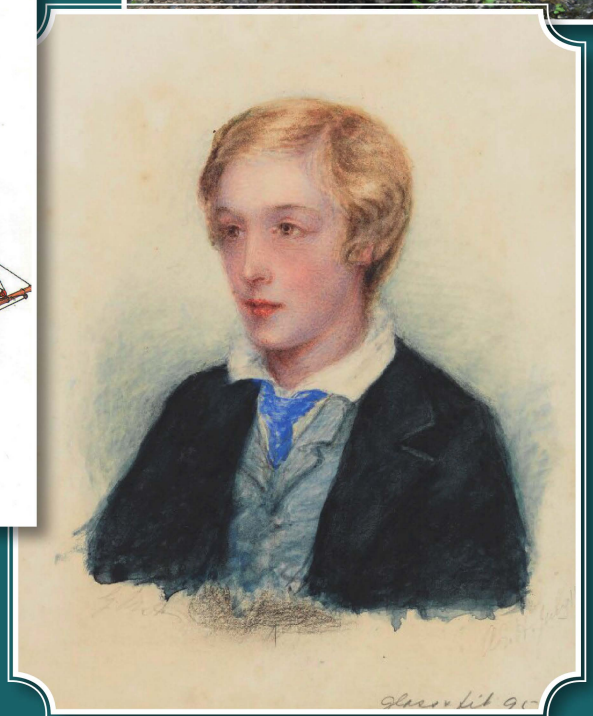
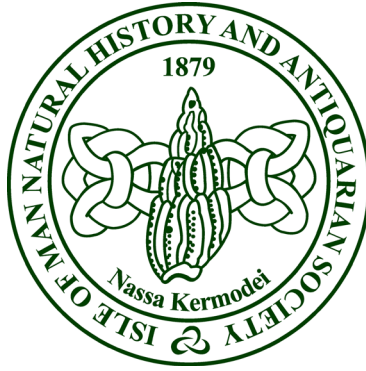


ISLE OF MAN STUDIES

Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Vol. XVII 2021





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Volume XVII (2021)

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Contents

Butterflies of the Isle of Man: Distribution and Climate Change

Gail Jeffcoate

The ecology of butterflies has been studied by professionals and amateurs for many years. In recent decades schemes have been in place to monitor the distribution and abundance of butterflies in the British Isles. The Isle of Man supports fewer species than more southerly areas, and those found here are almost all generalists. There have been declines in the abundance of many butterflies as a result of habitat loss and degradation. The effects of climate change are becoming evident. Some species have been able to extend their range northwards as a result of climate change, but most have not been able to take advantage of warmer conditions. Provision of habitats in healthy condition is necessary to ensure that butterflies and other invertebrates are able to withstand the negative effects of climate change in the future.

10pp, 6 colour illus, 1 table.

The Manx Constitution: a constitutional anomaly?

William Cain CBE, QC, TH, RBV

The Isle of Man, with a population of only 85,000, famously has its own government, courts and, what is claimed to be, the oldest continuing legislature in the world. How did this come about? It has been derided as an anomaly, at best to be tolerated provided it is not a nuisance. Others have called for the Island's historic and unusual constitution to be celebrated. This paper examines the origins of Tynwald in the ancient Norse kingdom in the tenth century, and its survival under both Scottish rule, after 1266, and rule by the Montagues and William Scrope, after 1333. The significance of the conquest by Henry IV in 1399, followed by the grant of the Island in 1406 to John Stanley and his heirs in perpetuity as vassal Lords of Man, is considered. The status of the Island as a possession of the English Crown, but not part of England (or the United Kingdom), and the role of the English (now UK) Parliament, is discussed. The evolution of the Keys in the seventeenth century, the Revestment in the eighteenth century, the advent of limited democracy in the nineteenth century and the development of representative government in the twentieth century are also considered. The paper ends by rejecting the proposition that the Manx constitution is an anomaly. On the contrary it should be celebrated.

8pp.

'I Lent Miss M. 4 MS Books to Peruse' - The Afterlife of the Clague Collection

Stephen Miller RBV

The Clague Collection of Manx folk songs was formed in the 1890s from the activities of Dr John Clague (1842–1908). After his widow's death in 1911, his personal papers passed to Kewley and a number of plans were laid out for its publication led by Sophia Morrison either on her own initiative or involving the Manx Language Society. Not all came to fruition and one incident in particular caused friction between the parties involved. A wide number of individuals were drawn into these various schemes showing the vitality of the Manx Language Revival in this period. Partial publication came first in *Mannin* and then on a larger scale in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (1924–26) edited by A G Gilchrist who had earlier been in contact with Morrison. At a remove of more than a century the collection still remains to be edited and published in full. 10pp.

Maughold Parish Church: a structural analysis

Fenella Logan

The fabric of Maughold Church has a long history, influenced by socio-religious, political and economic change. This paper presents a structural analysis of the building and a consideration of how its fixed features relate to one another; and a new catalogue of the standing architecture and loose architectural fragments. Together with documentary sources, a timeline for the evolution of the church is proposed. Our cultural, economic and political world is captured and embodied in material objects and physical structures. As one of the oldest buildings in continuous use on the Island, exploring the development of the building's material culture; its periods of growth, decline and restoration are reflective of the idea that Maughold acts as a bellwether for the Isle of Man's general prosperity and its relationship with the outside world.

28pp, 56 colour illus, 13 b&w figs

PLUS digital supplement containing Catalogue of standing architecture and loose architectural fragments at/from Maughold Parish Church, and an illustrated glossary.

60pp, 130 colour illus, 30 b&w figs.

Artefacts relating to Captain John Quilliam in the MNH collection – provenance and significance

Matthew Richardson

This article examines items in the Manx National Heritage collections relating to Captain John Quilliam, one of the most famous figures in Manx history, and is based upon a presentation given as part of the Quilliam Lecture series in 2019. Quilliam, who was born in Marown in 1771, died at the White House, Kirk Michael in 1829.

6pp, 1 colour illus.

Manx Reports of Eclipses: What scientific analysis can tell us about the Chronicles of Mann

Richard Holme

The Chronicles of Mann provides references to two eclipses of the sun, from 1133 and 1185. Modern astronomical modelling confirms the dates of the reports, but suggests that the eclipses would not have been total on the Isle of Man as the Chronicles report. However, totality was visible further north, suggesting that the reports are motivated by primary sources, but of observations elsewhere within the Kingdom of Mann and the Isles.

6pp, 4 colour illus. (inc. frontispiece)

The Spanish Head Armada Wreck – Fact or Fiction?

Adrian Corkill

This short paper aims to present some of the origins of the story of the Spanish Head Armada shipwreck in 1588 and to suggest that it may not be pure Manx mythology.

4pp, 1 colour illus.

Gerard Manley Hopkins in the Isle of Man 1872, 1873

George Broderick

According to his journals for 1872 and 1873 respectively, the English poet Gerard Manley Hopkins spent two holidays in the Isle of Man, the first in 1872 from 3rd to 20th of August, the second a year later in 1873 from 1st to 16th August, in both cases he describes what he saw of a number of features he came across there, from various tourist attractions, such as Peel Castle and the Laxey Waterwheel, to comments about the state of Manx Gaelic at the time, etc. This article seeks to expand on his observations in order to set them in context.

11pp, 1 colour illus. (front cover)

The Reformation and the Isle of Man

Tim Grass

This article offers an initial survey of the course taken by Protestant reform on the Isle of Man during the period from 1540 to 1698, in preparation for a future book on the subject. It demonstrates that the process began considerably later on the Island than in England, and that, due to the language barrier, it could be characterised as 'reformation without the word'. The article argues for greater attention to be given to the role played by parochial clergy, both incumbents and curates. On the basis of extensive and ongoing investigation of the insular clergy, certain assumptions are also questioned, notably that there was relatively little change in their ranks during the turbulent 1650s.

14pp.

Bishop Wilson's Works : Two associated letters

John Tuck

Two letters dating from 1781 and addressed to Revd Dr Thomas Wilson, son of Bishop Thomas Wilson, were recently discovered and recognised. The letters, from Revd John Clague, Vicar of Rushen, and from John Lewhellin, merchant of Ramsey, concern the recently published Bishop Wilson's Works edited by Clement Cruttwell, and provide insight into ecclesiastical matters in the Isle of Man in the late eighteenth century. There is interest for the social historian in the Lewhellin letter and to the student of the Manx language in the one by John Clague.

3pp, 1 colour illus. (frontispiece)

Votes for Women - The Isle of Man Franchise Acts 1881, 1892 and 1908

Michael Hoy MBE

The story of Manx franchise reform in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the contexts of customary women's rights in the Isle of Man and early medieval and modern Scandinavia, the suffragist movement in Manchester and the campaign for female emancipation in New Zealand.

7pp, 2 b&w illus.

Insights from 10 years of the Manx Y-DNA Study

John A Creer

This paper reviews the work carried out from 2010-2020 in the Manx Y-DNA study and highlights the new insights into Manx society and history that have been uncovered. The prime objective of the study was to identify the genetic composition and earlier origins of the male population of the Isle of Man living in the period of 1100-1350AD by undertaking Y-DNA testing of men today who bear any of the indigenous Manx family names. This goal has very substantially been achieved, but much more besides has emerged. There are new and unsuspected findings uncovered in the project analysis:-

- confirming the etymological formation of Manx family names unique to the Isle of Man,
- identifying previously unknown genetic connections between families,
- revealing unexpected consequences of the formation process of Manx Gaelic family names,
- providing new evidence on the level of possible illegitimacy within Manx society and
- repudiating the belief that the linguistic root of a Manx family name is in some way indicative of the ancestral genetic/ethnic origins of that family line.

18pp, 1 b&w illus, 6 b&w tables, 4-page colour table.

Recent excavations at Renshent, Malew

P J Davey

Ten trial trenches were excavated at Renshent between 22 July and 4 August 2019 in order to investigate anomalies identified by geophysical survey. The work was carried out by volunteers from the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society directed by archaeologists from Curragh Environmental Consultancy of Ballaugh and Northern Archaeological Associates of Barnard Castle. Evidence for prehistoric, medieval, and early modern occupation was recovered, including the remnants of early field boundaries.

12pp, 8 colour + 1 b/w illus.

Single Coin Finds in the Isle of Man to 1660

Michael Arbory

The motivation for this article came about as numismatists, historians and archaeologists at the British Association of Numismatic Societies at their Congress held in Douglas, Isle of Man, in April 2019 were using rather out of date data on single coin finds in the Isle of Man. Since about the year 2005 a number of coins have been found by metal detectorists, mostly members of the Manx Detectorist Society, and reported to the Manx Museum, Douglas, and this has considerably improved the list of known finds both in quantity and provenance. The listing has also been extended to 1660, the date of the Restoration in England, which roughly coincides with the transition from hammered to milled coinage. Over 600 coins and other treasure found as single finds and found outside the substantial hoards are now listed.

14pp

Some Trades and Occupations in Ballaugh in the nineteenth century

Fenella Crowe Bazin RBV with additional research by Sarah Christian and Ian Radcliffe

This preliminary survey of trades and occupations in the nineteenth-century rural parish of Ballaugh explores developments brought about by technology, social change, emigration and the impact of the railway, which all contributed to a dramatic fall in population numbers by the end of the 1890s.

14pp, 5 b&w illus/figs.

Archaeological fieldwork and research summaries

Peter Davey and David Allwood

Neolithic finds: Point of Ayre; Port Cranstal; East Narradale. Excavations of Mound 'C' (early Bronze Age burial mound) at Cronk Guckley, Berk. Finds: Peel Hill; Ballacain, Ballaugh; St Patrick's Isle; Ballafrog, Lezayre; Chapel Hill, Balladoole; Narradale; Ballabeg, Malew. Medieval and post-medieval: field walking finds, East Narradale, Lezayre; Greenfield Road, Douglas; Ballabeg, Malew. Archaeological evaluation at The Nunnery.

8pp, 3 colour illus.

Reviews

The Runic Inscriptions of the Isle of Man by Michael P Barnes, reviewed by Katherine Holman

The Sea Kings : The Late Norse Kingdoms of Man and the Isles by R Andrew McDonald, reviewed by Seán Duffy

Manx Patriot: The Life of Canon John Quine by Julie Quine, reviewed by Robert Fyson

The Mighty Montagus: Earls of Salisbury and Kings of Man by Derek Winterbottom, reviewed by Tim Thornton

Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas & Their Enchanted Isle by Derek Winterbottom, reviewed by Yvonne Cresswell

Living with the Sea : the fascinating story of Port St Mary and its people by Rushen Heritage, reviewed by Fiona McArdle

The Isle of Man in the Age of Sail and Musket by Matthew Richardson, reviewed by Simon Artymiuk
12pp, 7 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

6pp, 8 colour + 1 b&w illus.

Society Business

The Society in 2019 and 2020 (2pp)

Excursions: Corrody, Creggans and Lhergy Rhennie; Tops above Abbeylands and East Baldwin; Ballavrara, The Brooghs, Gansey, The Smelt and Rhenwyllan; Glen Rushen Farmlands; Gretch Veg / King Orry's Grave via Ballaragh; Andreas Village; Upland Peat Survey; Southern Keeills – Pooilvaish to Scarlett; Glen Helen Fungii; Bibaloe Glen and Ballakilmartin. (21pp, 24 colour + 2 b&w illus., 1 table)

Obituaries – Patricia Skillicorn, William Cain (3pp, 3 b&w illus.)

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