

Manx Notes 88 (2007)

“SHOUTING SOME THING THEY CALLED THE BANNAG”

EDWARD FARAGHER ON HOP-TU-NAA (1896)

I never heard of holloweve being reckoned as new years eve in the Island But there was an old custom of going about singing or shouting some thing they called the bannag in manx the young folks go about yet on hollyeve and sing some time of the same nature in english with hopjuna at the end of every sentance in the manx a spotted heifer was to be killed and broth made of her flesh was the song whoever he was tasted the broth and scalded his tongue hopdynie at the end of each line like they have it in english they generally get some pickled herrings at the houses and they sell them and have A toffy spree in the end.

Source: Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 25 June 1896, MNHL, MD 269. (The transcription of the letter extract is a diplomatic one.)



Edward Faragher of Cregneash was recounting the custom of *Hop-tu-naa*, carried out on All Hallows Eve (31 October), when groups of young people would perambulate from house to house singing what is known as the “Hop-tu-Naa” song.¹ A good number of texts are extant and will in the future be collected together here.

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VIENNA, 2007

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRINTED SOURCES

Paton, Cyril I. “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1).” *Folk-Lore* lii.1 (1941): 35–69.



¹ See 54–58 in “October 31st and November 11th,” Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore* lii.1 (1941). This calendar custom is still carried out today.