

Manx Notes 209 (2015)

“‘WHO IS MONA DOUGLAS?’” (9)
THREE LETTERS TO WILLIAM CUBBON
(1915– 16)

(1)

Repd 4/3/15
37, Bentinck St. | Birkenhead, | Cheshire.
22/2/15

Dear Mr Cubbon,

Very many thanks for the copy of “Longing” received today. It came as a pleasant surprise, for I had no idea that the Manx Society intended publishing it this year. Mrs Corlett did not tell me the tune was by Dr Clague, but it is rather curious that it should be, as he was a third or fourth cousin of mine—I’m not sure which!

As a matter of fact, I have been thinking of writing to either you or Miss Morrison for some little time. Several people have wished me to publish a small book of poems, & I wondered if the Manx Society would care to take it on. I thought perhaps if I could get it out this year, I could give profits or half-profits to one of the Manx War funds—which I should very much like. Do you think it is worth while trying? If you would like to see the MS. first I could send you a copy.

I had nearly forgotten about that extra copy of “Mannin.” I found, when I got back here, that they had cut it, so I enclose P.O. value 1/ instead.

Your sincerely—Mona Douglas

(2)

37, Bentwick St. | Birkenhead, | Cheshire.
7/3/15

Dear Mr Cubbon,

Many thanks for your letter of Friday, & for the kind advice contained therein, which I fully appreciate.

You will, I am sure, be as much surprised as I was (you could not be more!), when I tell you that since I wrote to you last I have been asked to submit a collection of short poems to Mr Erskine Macdonald of London, with a view to possible publication. Mr Macdonald is bringing out a new series of Georgian Poetry Booklets, & if I have a sufficient number of good poems he wants me to “play first fiddle.” This is confidential, of course, as I don’t think he wishes the project known yet.

Now as to the other subject. Of course you will see that an opportunity like this is

to good to be missed; but I have only sent Mr Macdonald 27 pieces, keeping back most of the “Manxest” ones. Now, to tell the truth, I would much rather have a book published on the Island than in London! So perhaps later on I would try a small volume of the more distinctly Manx verses, & see how it would “go”?

Of course Macdonalds have not definitely taken my work yet, but I think its quite a piece of luck to have the chance of submitting it, don't you?

I am glad you are getting on so well with the new T.E.B. scheme. “More power to it! An' the gran' it'll be when it's done at ye!” It is only 16 more vols. you need now, isn't it?

Yours sincerely, | Mona Douglas

(3)

Ballaragh, | Laxey, | Mann.

30/8/16

Dear Mr Cubbon,

I wish you would look through the enclosure when you have time, & see if you think it worth sending to the “Times.” I am heartily sick of these English & their nations, & feel it is quite time something were said. I have hesitated about writing because I am such a “youngster”—but nobody else seems inclined to do it, & Miss Morrison suggested that I should, as I'd like to know what you think. You needn't bother to answer this, as I shall probably be in on Friday.

Yours sincerely, | Mona Douglas

Source: (1) Letter from Mona Douglas to William Cubbon, 22 February 1915; (2) ———, 7 March 1915; (3) ———, 30 August 1918, MNHL, MS 09913, William Cubbon Papers, Box labelled “WC: Correspondence.” NB: This does not exhaust the correspondence present amongst Cubbon's papers.

STEPHEN MILLER

VIENNA, 2015

