

Manx Notes 253 (2017)

“WHO IS MONA DOUGLAS?” (11)
“GOING MANX”
(1960)

I. MONA DOUGLAS, “GOING MANX,” ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (4 FEBRUARY 1960)

The officers of Ellynyn ny Gael have read with appreciation Mary MacPherson’s letter in the “Examiner” for January 21st, and would be grateful for the hospitality of your columns to second very warmly some of her suggestions.

This society has from its inception tried to emphasise the distinctiveness of the Manx heritage, and we see no good reason why that difference should not be emphasised further in most aspects of our communal life—notably, as Mary MacPherson suggests, in our efforts to attract tourists.

Why should not the Tourist Board dress at least some of its employees in the attractive Manx costumes worn by our International Folk-song star, Joan Owen? And why should not hotels and boarding houses and cafes feature waitresses in that costume —no more expensive to supply than the ordinary dress, cap and apron seen in every British seaside resort. Our Continental cousins in Austria, Holland, Norway and France, and other countries also, are not ashamed to exploit to the full their colourful local costumes, which add considerably to the gaiety of the scene and the enjoyment of tourists.

And here’s an idea for some enterprising business man (or woman): A cafe interior reproducing an old Manx kitchen, a cuisine consisting entirely of home-made Manx food and drink (and O boy! are there some good things to be made that visitors never even hear about!); with menu-card in both Manx Gaelic and English, and service by people all dressed in Manx costume—featuring, too, each evening, or even once or twice a week, a short floor show of Manx songs and dances.

This would mean some trouble and research to establish it, but would really be that “something different” which visitors would long remember and talk about, and which would really make them feel that they had “come abroad to the Isle of Man.”

MONA DOUGLAS,

Hon. Secretary,

Ellynyn ny Gael

Mona Douglas, “[Letter Box] ‘Going Manx,’” *Isle of Man Examiner* 4
February 1960, 9g.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

