

Manx Notes 349 (2018)

A.G. GILCHRIST AND THE EDITING OF THE CLAGUE COLLECTION *

THE MINUTE BOOKS OF THE FOLK SONG SOCIETY

Anne Geddes Gilchrist (1863–1954) edited a substantial selection of Manx folk songs and hymns from the Clague Collection formed in the 1890s by Dr John Clague (1842–1908), spanning three numbers of the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* between 1924 and 1926.¹ Following under is the relevant material from the minute books of the Society drawn from the *Folk Song Society Minute Book from April 13th 1915 to March 10th 1932*, Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, Cecil Sharp House.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

1923

1. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE (3 NOVEMBER 1923)

[59] Letters from Mr C.J. Sharp (concerning his membership of the committee) and from Miss A.G. Gilchrist (concerning a collection of Manx songs) were read.

2. FOLK-SONG SOCIETY. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1923

[4] (4). [...] Journal number 28 is in the course of preparation, and will consist of the first part of a collection of Manx Songs, chiefly from the manuscripts of the late Dr Clague, edited by Miss A.G. Gilchrist.

1924

3. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE (15 NOVEMBER 1924)

[64] 7. The next journal was discussed, and, in view of the advanced state of the Manx collection, it was decided that the [*start of word deleted*] Memorial number to Mr Sharp (suggested by Dr Vaughan Williams) should be issued after the Manx collection, providing that arrangements could be made with Mr Sharp's executors.

4. FOLK-SONG SOCIETY. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1924

* I wish to thank Laura Smyth, Library and Archives Director, and of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, Cecil Sharp House, for access to the minute books of the Folk Song Society, as well to Nicholas Wall, Librarian, vWML. Research at the vWML was supported by a grant from Culture Vannin.

¹ A.G. Gilchrist, "Songs from the Isle of Man (Part i)," *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* vii 28 (1924), v–xvi & 99–198; "—— (ii)," *JFSS* vii 29 (1925), v–xi & 203–76; "—— (iii)," *JFSS* vii 30 (1926), v–viii & 281–342.

[3] (3) Members have already received *Journal* number 28 in respect of their subscription for 1924. It has met with approval and is of especial importance since it helps to preserve a language and traditions which [4] are in danger of becoming extinct. Journal number 29 will consist of the second part of the Clague Collection of Manx Songs, to be issued for the year 1925. The most grateful thanks of the Society are due to Miss Broadwood and Miss Gilchrist for the time and thought they have expended on the editing of these Journals.

1925

5. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE (18 JULY 1925)

[72] 9 Miss Broadwood announced that Miss Gilchrist had offered a donation of £5 towards the cost of printing the Journal No 28. This was most gratefully accepted, & the Secretary was instructed to write and convey the thanks of the Society to Miss Gilchrist.

6. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE (14 NOVEMBER 1925)

[75] 8 Regarding the Publication of the next Journal No 29, Miss Broadwood reported that fresh material had unexpectedly turned up from Dr Clagues Manuscripts. Part I of this collection—already published,—has one hundred and thirteen tunes. Part II will have ninety-seven tunes, but much more letter press. Miss Broadwood's idea therefore was to cut up the Collection into three parts, and to bring out Part II as for this year—Dec. 1925, and the third part a few months later—perhaps in the Summer. Miss Broadwood thought the two parts could be printed together, and the last part could be held back, and issued next year, if the Committee thought well of it, Messrs Barnicott & Pearce could be asked if there would be any difficulty in doing this. Mr White proposed that Miss Broadwood should be authorised to enquire of Messrs Barnicott & Pearce about printing the two Journals together, but to keep one back for next year, this was seconded by Mr Keel.

7. AGM (15 DECEMBER 1925)

[77] 4 The Annual Report of the Committee having by consent been taken as read, its adoption was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Keel. A discussion on the Report followed in which Miss Broadwood announced, that with regard to paragraph three, so much material had turned up for the next Journal, that it would be divided into two parts, as suggested in Minute 8, at the last Committee Meeting, and that Barnicott & Pearce had consented to print the two parts at the same time, but would hold the second part back, to be issued at any convenient time next year, and obligingly intimated that the Society could pay for the said Journal at its convenience.

8. FOLK-SONG SOCIETY. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925

[3] (4). Members have received Journals No. 29 and 30 for the years 1925–26. This completes the Collection of Manx Songs. These Journals have received some interesting press notices, among them being a long and appreciative article in the Isle of Man Examiner of May 21st, saying “That a large and [4] influential body of students, many of them positively eminent in their particular line, should be willing to let their official publication be monopolised for nearly two years by matter obtained from the Isle of Man, is highly flattering to this little community, and Manx people who prize their national heritage ought to be profoundly grateful.” A second notice in the same paper for September 3rd, 1926, deals particularly with the tune for the “Fisherman’s Evening Hymn.”

The Secretary of the Manx Museum and Ancient Monuments Trustees also writes “Dear Miss Gilchrist, I have been directed by the Library Committee of the Museum Trustees to convey to you their appreciation of the work you have done in recording Manx Folk Song. The numbers are a fine contribution to Manx Folk Music, and we are deeply indebted [*sic*] to you for the splendid result.”

For the preparation of these Journals we are indebted to Miss Broadwood and Miss Gilchrist.

(5). The preparation and editing of the Society’s Journals has depended on the labours of Miss Broadwood to a far larger extent than is generally known, and we much regret that the issue of the last Journal, No. 30, marks the end of her work as Editor of the Society’s Journals.

(6). We gratefully acknowledge donations from Miss Gilchrist and Miss Tolmie towards the expense of producing the Journals.

1926

9. AGM (27 OCTOBER 1926)

[84] 7 The account for Journal no 29 (£112–12–1) having been paid on July 29th 1926, and the balance at bank being about £69, it was decided to leave Settlement of Barnicott & Pearce account for Journal no 30 (£92–2–1) until some of the 1927 subscriptions had come in, Messrs Barnicott & Pearce having agreed to await the convenience of the Society for payment of that Journal.

[84] 11 On the motion of Mr Keel, seconded by Dr Sweeting, it was unanimously agreed that the Society moves a vote of thanks to Miss Broadwood for her services in Editing the Journals of the Society for so many years, and also to Miss Gilchrist for her invaluable help.

10. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE (1 MARCH 1925) *

[86] It was decided to send Barnicott & Pearce £50 on account of their bill for Journal no 30 amounting to £91. 2. 1.

* Entered as such in this order in the Minute Book for 1926.

11. AGM (19 NOVEMBER 1927)

[90] 8 The Hon. Secretary was instructed to pay the following—the balance owing to Barnicott & Pearce for Journal no 30—£41. 2. 1.

