

“MISS MORRISON AT THE WHEEL” (11) THE MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL 1911



In 1911, Sophia Morrison entered the Manx Music Festival—the Guild—and that year she won, as she had done once before in 1908, when the class for Traditional Manx Music (Hitherto Unpublished) was first established with the aim of encouraging the collecting of folk songs.¹ Here can be seen the rather magnificent certificate awarded her, though considerably smaller in size than the real object itself. There were seven entries in 1911 from four individuals, multiple submissions seemingly being allowed. Morrison herself entered entered just the once, as did W.H. Gill. The other entrants, Harry Bridson and Thomas Taggart, were the serial submitters, with two and three entries apiece.² Frustratingly, the titles of the songs

¹ Stephen Miller, “‘Traditional Manx Music (Hitherto Unpublished).’ The Manx Guild Class (1908–14),” *Manx Notes* 216 (2015).

² Manx Music Festival, “Traditional Manx Music (Hitherto Unpublished),” *List of Awards with Judges’ Remarks* (n.p. [but Douglas]: n.k. [but The Manx Music Festival], 1911).

are not given in the official record of the Guild's proceedings for any of the years when the class was running.

However, in this case amongst Josephine Kermode's papers there is a music manuscript in the hand of Sophia Morrison headed "Guild, 1911." and annotated "Traditional air taken down from the singing of Tommy Quane, March 11th 1911."³ The tune has no title and awaits identification. Thomas Quane was enumerated in the 1901 census as being 43 years old, a Manx speaker, and onboard of the fishing boat *Gleaner*, bound for the spring mackerel fishery at Kinsale off the south-west coast of Ireland.⁴ When not at sea, he lived at 7 Cowley Terrace in Peel with his wife and children.⁵

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

REFERENCES

- Manx Music Festival. "Traditional Manx Music (Hitherto Unpublished)." *List of Awards with Judges' Remarks*. n.p. [but Douglas]: n.k. [but The Manx Music Festival], 1911. 14b.
- Miller, Stephen. "'Traditional Manx Music (Hitherto Unpublished).'" The Manx Guild Class (1908–14)." *Manx Notes* 216 (2015): 1–3.



³ Single sheet, dated to 1911 or later. In Sophia Morrison's hand. MNHL, MS 08979, Kermode Family Papers, Box labelled "Josephine Kermode ('Cushag')." With tune in staff notation.

⁴ *Census Enumerators' Book* for Vessels 1901, RG 13/5308, fol. 154. He was onboard the same boat in 1891, *Census Enumerators' Book* for Vessels 1891, RG 12/4692, fol. 103.

⁵ *Census Enumerators' Book* for Peel 1901, RG 13/5306, fol. 80, sch. 12; *Census Enumerators' Book* for Peel 1911, RG14 PN34689 RD635 SD2 ED9/2 SN50.