

Manx Notes 513 (2021)

SOME MONA DOUGLAS CORRESPONDENCE (1937 & 1941) *

(1)

FLORENCE MOORE TO MONA DOUGLAS (1937)

1, Albert Terrace, l Onchan, l Isle of Man

17/9/37.

Dear Miss Douglas,

At the General Meeting of the F.D.S. on Monday the class were entirely in favour of keeping our night to Monday. The Committee elected for the coming year is the same as last year with the addition of Miss Griffiths –Yourself, A. I. Caine, M. Conde, M. Lace (junior), J. Miller, K. Moore, S. Taggart, M. Williamson, & myself as Sec. Treas. etc.

As you will see by my notice I have been successful in obtaining Raphael Road Gym for our classes.

The Meeting unanimously wished me to write to you and to express our very real thanks and gratitude for your selfish attendance and teaching last winter. This is not merely a matter of form we really do appreciate all that you have done for us and we realise what it must have meant to you—a real sacrifice, to stay down in town so late on winter nights when you have such a long and difficult journey home; and again we wish to thank you for making it possible for us to benefit from Miss Jones' visit.

And remember won't you that any night you care to stay in town I shall have a bed ready for you.

Yours very sincerely, l Florence Moore

[*Typescript with signature*]

(2)

MONA DOUGLAS TO [EDITH] DAVIS (1941)

20th November, 1941

Dear Miss Davis,

I am sending you herewith a copy of the dance notation of Peter-O Tavy, and am glad that you think of doing some of the Manx dances again. Unfortunately, however, I have no music beyond the air, which you say you already have. Either P.L.S., Nora or myself always used to vamp an accompaniment for most of the dances in the Ramsey days, and I think that will have to be your solution, too! Actually, Mr. Foster has done arrangements of all these dances, but they are not yet

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published and won't be until after the war, I'm afraid. That I have not got down in this notation of the dance, I see, is the very slight honour to partners which concludes each figure before resuming the body movement—I believe it was left out so that it should not be exaggerated, but it will have to go in somehow before the thing is printed, as it is rather characteristic of the dance, but can be more easily shown than explained verbally. Probably you will remember it, having done the dance before. The final honour, of course, is a more decided affair.

Did you hear that they have had a bomb on Cecil Sharp House? It's an awful mess! I think it would be nice if, sometime next year, say, our dancers over here could get up a combined effort to raise some money for their rebuilding fund, don't you?

Yours sincerely, I Mona Douglas

[Typescript with signature]

(1) Letter from Florence Moore to Mona Douglas, 17 September 1937, (2) Letter from Mona Douglas to [Edith] Davis, 20 November, 1941. MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 19, [FOLDER] Manx Folk Dance Society.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

