

EDITORIAL

The aim of this news-sheet, *Manx Notes–Folkways & Language*, sponsored by Chiollagh Books, is to provide a forum for the dissemination of bibliographical and other relevant material relating to the general areas of study of Manx folkways and Manx Gaelic.

To date, the only listing of items on Manx folklore has been that compiled by William Cubbon and published in 1933 in the section titled ‘Mythology and Folklore,’ in *A Bibliographical Account of the Isle of Man*, Vol I, 397–410 (London: Oxford University Press for the Manx Museum and National Trust Trustees, 1933).

Cubbon’s ‘Mythology and Folklore’ section (presented in date order) is not without its problems. Several entries are incorrect, many irrelevant or spurious, and a considerable amount of relevant material simply missed out altogether. Folk-song has fared better. Seemingly no material has been missed, because there are few items to cover. The entries in this case are scattered with other irrelevant material in amongst two sections, ‘Ballads and Carols,’ 957–1004, and ‘Music,’ 1031–79 in Vol II (1939) of the above work.

(For listings since Cubbon see the bibliography provided by Mona Douglas to her contribution, ‘Songs in Manx Gaelic,’ in Peter Kennedy (ed), *Folksongs of Britain and Ireland* (London: Cassell, 1975), ‘Bibliography,’ 201–02. See also James Porter, *The Traditional Music of Britain and Ireland*, Music Research and Information Guides, No 11 (New York & London: Garland Publishing, 1989), ‘Music Collections: Isle of Man,’ entries 533–39, 110–11.)

Irish folkways, those most immediately relevant to Manx folkways, have only seen a recent published bibliographical overview in Caoimhin Ó Danachair, *A Bibliography of Irish Ethnology and Folk Tradition* (Dublin & Cork: The Mercier Press, 1978). See too, Caoimhin Ó Danachair and Patricia Lysaght, ‘Supplement to a Bibliography of Irish Ethnology and Folklore,’ *Béaloides*, Vols 48–49 (for 1980–81), 1981, 206–27.

Near half a century has passed since Cubbon’s efforts. Interest in the Island’s folkways has continued. Since the Second World War the Manx Museum has sponsored a *Folk Life Survey* which has created an archive of impressive oral testimony of past life on land and at sea. A good number of articles have been published drawing on the material collected.

Several other individuals have been active in a personal capacity carrying out fieldwork and building sound archives.

Of note here is the work of *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh* who carried out a sound recording program of the last remaining native speakers of Manx.

Outside of these sound archives the Manx Museum Library has in its collections a number of manuscript resources relating to Island folkways ranging from farm account books to the personal letters of a number of Manx folklorists themselves. Another manuscript source is the personal papers of Charles Roeder, now deposited in Manchester Central Library.

There is an pressing need for a thorough bibliographical overview of Island folkways to consolidate our knowledge of this area. It is a similar situation with other areas of Manx studies. For instance, Manx Gaelic has seen a similar active development of scholarship and publication since the Second World War.

It is to be hoped that the following issues of *Manx Notes–Folkways & Language* will be found to be relevant to the needs of researchers in Manx studies. Any comments will be appreciated.

Stephen Miller