

Manx Notes 366 (2019)

“THE DIRK DANCE BY BILLY CAIN,
FROM ISLE OF MAN” *
(1937)

The *Grantham Journal* published in Lincolnshire is not the first place one would think to look for mention of the Dirk Dance, but those reading it on 9 January 1937 would have come across an advert placed there by the Lincolnshire Branch of the English Folk Dance and Song Society for an event to take place at the end of the month.¹ It was to feature English Dances presented by the National Demonstration Team of the Society and to be followed by a performance of the Dirk Dance by Billy Cain, who had travelled from the Island to be present. Come Saturday 30 January, two venues were involved, first the Baths Hall in Scunthorpe, starting at 3 pm, followed by a second display later in the evening at the Church Hall in Sleaford that began at 7.30 pm, a distance of some forty-five miles.² No further details are given but the reception of the Dirk Dance both on and off the Island still remains to be studied.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

REFERENCES

- Anon. “[Advert] English Folk Dance and Song Society (Lincolnshire Branch).” *Grantham Journal* 9 January 1937: 11c.
———. “[Advert] English Folk Dance and Song Society (Lincolnshire Branch).” *Grantham Journal* 16 January 1937: 11d.
———. “Folk Dancing.” *Grantham Journal* 6 February 1937: 2f.



* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The Dirk Dance by Billy Cain, from Isle of Man’ (1937),” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* March–April (2019), [18]. Reproduced here with sources.

¹ Anon, “[Advert] English Folk Dance and Song Society (Lincolnshire Branch),” *Grantham Journal* 9 January 1937. Repeated the following week, Anon, “[Advert] English Folk Dance and Song Society (Lincolnshire Branch),” 16 January 1937.

² Anon, “Folk Dancing,” *Grantham Journal* 6 February 1937.