

Manx Notes 405 (2019)

“JENNY THE WITCH”

(1902 & 1903) *

(1)

The 12th passed very quietly. “Hiring” at the fair is little thought of now, arrangements being made privately, particularly in the case of married men. The fearful rain completely quenched the ardour of the few—if any—who thought of going on the Hop-tu-naa. Still, many a grey head was shaken reflectively, and many a smile accompanied the memory of the day when, armed with a creel to receive the potatoes and herrings doled out by the kind hearted, boys sang from door to door of “Jenny the Witch,” and kindred subjects.

“[Arbory] The 12th passed” *Isle of Man Examiner* 15 November 1902: 8c.

(2)

Hollantide passed here almost unnoticed, and movements among cottagers have been few. In the villages an odd attempt or two was made to revive the ancient harmony regarding “Jenny the Witch,” but the hurried flight of the choristers from the doors they visited indicated that their efforts were not appreciated.

“[Arbory] Hollantide passed here” *Isle of Man Examiner* 14 November 1903: 7b.

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These are the earliest references to “Jenny the Witch” at present and both as can be seen are from Arbory. Note, however, Hop-tu-Naa being celebrated on Hollantide and thereby on the 12 November (New Style).

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019



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