

Manx Notes 414 (2020)

HYNDAA YN BWOAILLY *

Note. This is the only traditional Mx dance which seems to have survived in recent usage, except a few jigs, & they are not generally known. But this dance seems to have escaped the general ban on dancing of Methodism, & to have been looked upon either as a game, like “The Duke of York” & “Kiss in the Ring.” When I was small it used to be danced as one of the games in the road after the Ballaragh Mhella & the St. Stephen’s Day tea party, but a good many years ago both it & the games were dropped & they had a sort of a concert instead, & now I doubt if any of the young people or children could do it. Grany used to dance it as a girl & said it was always done then at weddings etc., & it was she who taught it to me, but she was far more careful about steps & figures than the Ballaragh ones were, for very often there it became just a romp around, & you hardly knew where you were in the dance. They sometimes had Johnny Maty up with his pipe to play for them but often someone just sang the tune, & those not dancing clapped their hands for the beat. Granny used to do it to Hunt the Wren & other tunes: at the Ballaragh they had a special tune which J.M. said was the right one. Later on I found that this was the tune Gill has for the Frog Dance, & I expect it was also used for that, but as its title is the name of this dance I should think this is the one it really belongs to. D^r Clague has a different tune with the same title, & this seems to give the points for the kicks better, but it is incomplete.

Mona Douglas, “[Folklore Notebook](#). | [Dances](#). | Tunes, descriptions & notes”. MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 9.

Another example of the detail to be found in the notebook kept by Mona Douglas recording her folk dance collecting, in this case, Hyndaa yn Bwoailly.

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV



* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Hyndaa yn Bwoailly,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* February (2020), [13].

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

REFERENCES