

# Manx Notes 465 (2020)

JOHN GELL  
“CORRESPONDENCE IN MANX”  
(1939)

Mr John Gell, of Huddersfield, an enthusiastic student of Manx Gaelic, in sending us the following letter, expresses the hope that Manx students and scholars in the Island will correspond in Manx, through the columns of the *Herald*, from time to time, with their fellow students on the mainland. Mr Gell writes:

Huddersfield,  
14/1/39.  
Oik Y Chaghter Vona,  
Dhoolish.  
Gheiney-Seyrey,

Ta mee er ve g'ynsaghey yn ghlare ghailckagh er dy ny tourey chaie, as ta mee lhaih ny “Idomyn as Raaghyn” gagh shiaghtin lesh foays mooar, agh er-lhiam dy beagh kuse veg naight ny coreggyrtys ayns y Ghaelg prisit dy-lane liorish ymmodee studeyryn chammah as ny lessoonyn. Cre ta studeyryn elley smooinghtyn?

Va mee ayns yn Elian er-dy-gherrit, as te cur yindys mooar orrym nagh vel brastyllyn gaelgagh ayns baljyn y cheu-yiass. Cha noddym credjal nagh vel foays erbee ec sleih ayns Purt Chiarn, Purt Noo Moirrey as Balley Cashtal er chengey ny mayrey. V'an baase jeh Mainstyr H.P. Kelly coayl trimshagh dy-jaroo, agh ta mee shickyry dy vel deiney ayn foast jargal dy ynsaghey yn ghlare.

Te cur taitnys mooar orrym clashtyn dy vel ny brastyllyn ec Purt ny Hinshey as Rhumsaa goll dy-mie; Aigh vie dave! Agh b'laik lhiam clashtyn jeh brastyl gaelgagh ayns dy-chooilley balley as balley beg cheerey ayns Ellan Vannin, as cre'n fa nagh?

Ta mee er n'gheddyn ymmodee caarjyn noa neayr's ghow mee toshiaght g'ynsaghey y Ghaelg as s'mian lhiam dy chur dave my vooise share er hon ooilley yn kenjallys as cooney currit dou. My vannaght huc as dys ooilley studeyryn gaelgagh.

Mish, lesh firrins mooar.  
J. GELL.

[Translation.]

Huddersfield,  
14/1/39.  
The *Mona's Herald* Office,  
Douglas.  
Gentlemen,

I have been learning the Manx language since last summer, and I read the “Idioms and Phrases” each week with great interest, but I think that a little news or

correspondence in Manx would be appreciated very much by many students, as well as the lessons. What do other students think?

I was in the Island recently, and I am very surprised that there are no Manx classes in the South-side towns. I cannot believe that the people of Port Erin, Port St Mary and Castletown are entirely disinterested in their mother tongue. The death of Mr H.P. Kelly was indeed a sad blow, but I am sure that there are still men about able to teach the language.

It gives me great pleasure to hear that the classes at Peel and Ramsey are going well; Good luck to them! But I would like to hear of a Manx class in every town and village in the Isle of Man; and why not?

I have found many new friends since I began to learn Manx, and I wish to offer them my best thanks for all the kindness and help given to me.

Greetings to then, and to all Manx students.

I am yours very truly,

J. GELL.

“Correspondence in Manx,” *Mona’s Herald* 24 January 1939, 5g.

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STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

