

Manx Notes 466 (2020)

BRIAN STOWELL
“MANX LANGUAGE”
(1953)

I have just started to learn Manx and I have noticed the opinions of people on Manx fall into several groups. I place the groups in order of merit.

1. The handful of fluent Manx speakers and patriots who would like to see a great language revival.

2. The people who are sympathetic and willing to lend you books on Manx, but who are usually not willing to learn the language themselves.

3. The blustering, rude group. “‘Good heavens!’ What are you wasting your time learning THAT for? An uncouth language spoken by ignorant peasants! The sooner it's swept off the face of the earth the better!”

Incidentally, it's refreshing to come up against some concrete opposition. The best thing that could happen for Manx would be for someone to try to kill it completely. We might get some interest aroused then.

4. The last group consists of, unfortunately, the vast majority of the inhabitants. They lie sluggish and seemingly immovable in their beds of apathy. They couldn't care less what language they spoke so long as they follow the crowd.

I hope someone is interested in the observations of a “fanatic” who is feeling just a little bit bewildered as to the position in which Manx stands to-day.

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Brian Stowell, “[Letter to the Editor] Manx Language,” *Mona's Herald* 19 May 1953, 2b.

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