

Manx Notes 501 (2020)

“EACH WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS” *

THE MOLLAG BAND SPOTTED IN CASTLETOWN (1881)

(1)

Every evening during the week the town has been enlivened by what is called the “molog band,” consisting of about 18 performers, all dressed from head to foot in sheepskins, and in all the colours of the rainbows, each with different kinds of musical instruments, consisting of melodeans, foghorns, drums, imitation fiddles and harps, &c. These performers paraded the streets of the town nightly, and one of their number was dressed to resemble a bear, which went through some very amusing antics.

“Christmas in Castletown.” *Mona’s Herald* 28 December 1881: 8e.

(2)

The Castletown brass band, the White Boys’ band, and the “Molog Band” have enlivened the town during the past few days by selections of Christmas music which have been much appreciated, the performances of the Molog Band in particular, under Mr Robert Kelly, Commander-in-chief, being very warmly received.

“[Castletown and District] The Castletown brass” *Manx Sun* 31 December 1881: 4f.

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These two newspaper references missed in a trawl through the newspapers due to *mollag* being spelt as *molog*. The mention in the *Mona’s Herald* in 1881 is now the earliest one of the Mollag Band to date. For further on the Mollag Band see, Stephen Miller, *The Mollag Band* (Onchan: Chiollagh Books for Culture Vannin, 2018), online at the Culture Vannin [www](http://www.culturevannin.com) site.

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