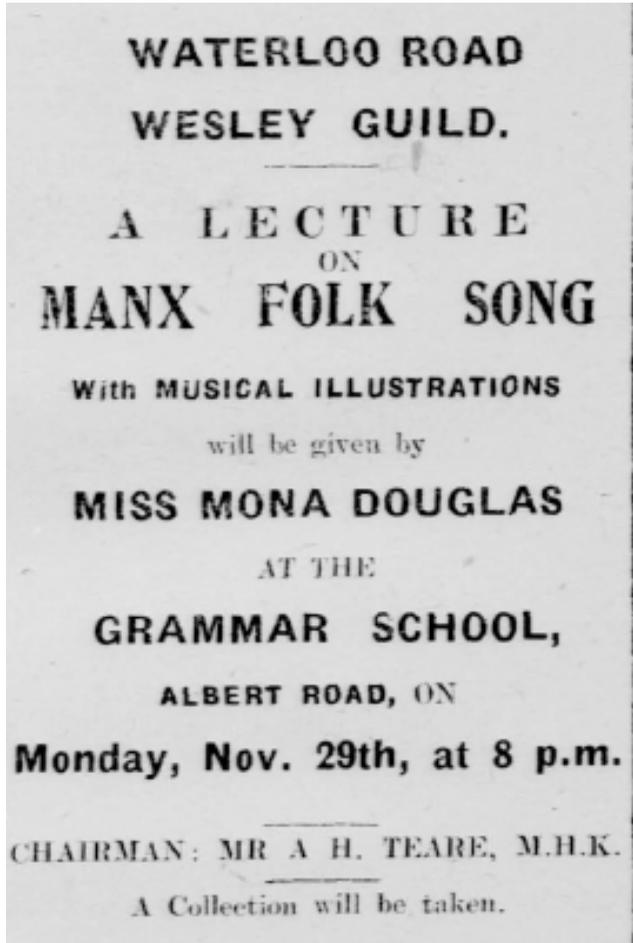


Manx Notes 558 (2021)

MONA DOUGLAS
"A LECTURE ON MANX FOLK SONG" *
(1928)



"Waterloo Road Wesley Guild. A Lecture on Manx Folk Song," *Ramsey Courier*, 26 November 1926, 4c.

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MANX FOLK SONG

At the Ramsey Wesley Guild on Monday evening, there was a goodly attendance to hear Miss Mona Douglas, the talented Manx student, lecture on "Manx Folk Song." The lecturer said that a nation possessed in its old folk song, a wealth of musical and literary material that was very imperfectly realised. The folk-songs reflected the atmosphere and aspiration of a period of which written history told us but little, and some of them seemed imbued with the wild free spirit of an age long before the dawn of history, when the animals and birds, the hills and the sky, and the sea, were real and vivid factors in the life of the common people. Many of the old songs were sung to the accompaniment of Mrs Brown and Miss Kennedy, both in Manx and in the lecturer's own excellent translations. Specially noteworthy were the lecturer's rendering of "Mylecharaine," "Kirree fo niaghtey," and "Graigh My Chree," also that splendid old carval "Drogh Vranne," the air of which, though not the words, has been suggested as suitable for a Manx National Anthem. A spirited dialect version of "Hunt the Wren," in which the audience joined, roused some amusement. At the conclusion, the lecturer said that many old snatches of songs were still unrecorded, and appealed to music-lovers to put them in written form, before the advance of a rather material age swept away these delightful reminders of the past.

Mr A.F. Teare, M.H.K. presided over the gathering. The Chairman advocated the use of Manx Songs more largely in the Schools in a more popular form and alluded to the devotion of the Scotch, Irish and Welsh people to their National Music. He paid tribute to the service of the late Deemster Gill, Dr Clague and Mr W.H. Gill the compiler of the *Manx Song Book*.

The lecturer endorsed the view that the Schools should make more use of Manx Folk Songs and Manx Music in general. Rev. C.H Brown, M.A. and Mr J.Q. Killey, L.R.A.M. also took part the latter gentleman alluding to Manx Nursery Rhymes and gave illustrations in the Manx tongue.

"Manx Folk Song," *Ramsey Courier*, 3 December 1926, 6d.

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