

Manx Notes 571 (2022)

“WHY DO YOU PUT ‘ISLE OF MAN, ENGLAND,’
AS YOUR ADDRESS?”

(1938)

(1)

Why do you put “Isle of Man, **England**,” as your address? Manxmen are certainly not English, nor is the Isle of Man in England. British Isles sounds much better.

J.D. CAIN

Ventura, California.

J.D. Cain, “[Letter to the Editor] I.O.M–England?” *Isle of Man Examiner*
29 July 1938: 4c.

(2)

[6b] Your issue of July 29th contained a letter to the Editor with the caption—“I.O.M.—England.”

The writer of this epistle apparently is hitting back at someone who so address their letters Isle of Man, England, and states that “British Isles” sounds much better. He also states that Manxmen are not English—nor is the Isle of Man in England.

All of which is very correct, but the error is a rather excusable one, especially if written by someone who does little correspondence. I note the writer of the letter I’ve referred to lives in California, and he must know that there are many people in the U.S.A.—yea, in Canada, too—who never heard of the Isle of Man.

I have known of Manx folk here who, when visiting Detroit (just over the river), when asked where they were born would reply “England.”

Yes, there are possibly some civil servants in the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service who have never heard of the Isle of Man, and the same may be said of the U.S. Postal Service. Of course, I would not say so for sure, but it is possible, and ail the fellows know England.

However, the letter of Mr J.D. Cain is timely and to the point. Letters should be addressed as “Isle of Man, British Isles,” or, as I usually use in my many letters to the Island—“Via Great Britain.” Either of these would be fairly correct.

I vividly recall when I came over here [6c] Newfoundland, but later came to Canada, and settled at Windsor.

Soon after my arrival here I crossed the river, and on being queried by the U.S. Immigration officials, I truthfully stated that I first landed at St John’s, Newfoundland. He promptly told me there was no such place—that I meant St Johns, New Brunswick, or some ether St John’s.

I insisted it was St John's, Newfoundland— but it was no use, he deported me. However, about an hour later I returned to Detroit with a map of Newfoundland, and a letter I had received from the Isle of Man. This proved my case!

This facilitated matters, and the officer who deported me apologised for his error, and I was allowed to enter the U.S.A. and had no further trouble afterwards.

I mention this only to show that even some Government officials—some probably in the postal service—are not aware of the names of some far off places.

As a matter of fact, I know some Manx folk who address their letters Isle of Man, England, so I trust the letter from J.D. Cain will be a sufficient reminder that the address is not correct and should be rectified.

I am not Manx, but I do claim strong connections with the salubrious Isle of Man as a one-time “come-over,” who spent a most enjoyable vacation there two years ago.

HUGH KELLNER

Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Hugh Kellner, “[Letter to the Editor] Isle of Man–England.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 2 September 1938: 6b–c.

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An exchange here in 1934, as to the correct manner in which a letter should be addressed for delivery to the Island.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

