

# Manx Notes 599 (2022)

MRS W.L. SCHROEDER

“ISLE OF MAN FOLK-LORE”

(1929)

(1)

[4e] Many Halifax people visit the isle of Man every year for their holidays, but few, one is sure, ever give a thought [4f] to the historical interest and ancient customs of the island. Perhaps the pleasant talk by Mrs W.L. Schroeder to the Women’s Luncheon Club, yesterday, on Manx folklore will stimulate the interest of some future tourists from this area. Although rapidly modernised during the last two or three decades, there are still on the island country people who retain a store of those fantastic legends which “overawed the reason of a credulous age” and which “excite the curiosity of our own.”

“[Trend of Things Day by Day] Isle of Man Folk-lore.” *Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian* 31 January 1929: 4e–f.

(2)

Over 200 members of the Halifax Women’s Luncheon Club met yesterday at the Queen’s Hall, and listened to a delightful lecture on “Folklore of the Isle of Man,” given by Mrs Schroeder, of Leeds. Mrs Simmons was in the chair, and in a short introductory speech of welcome reminded the Club members of a previous visit paid by Mrs Schroeder, when her subject was the poetry of Sir Rabindranath Tagore. The lecturer held her audience for quite an hour with her story of ancient Manx beliefs and customs, and tales of witchcraft, incantations, charms, and fairies. She recalled the fact that early beliefs survived longer in the island than almost anywhere else, because the Manx language had been in use up to a fairly recent date. She paid tribute to the folklore collected by Waldron, the 17th century commissioner of exports and imports, and later by Campbell, Arthur Moore (who was one time Speaker of the House of Keys—the local Parliament), and lastly, William Cashin, Custodian of the Castle of Peel.

Mrs Schroeder outlined Cashin’s romantic personal history, not the least interesting part of which was the fact that having been wrecked on one of his travels, he woke to consciousness to find a woman bending over him whose face he had seen in a dream. He afterwards married her and became harbour master, and Custodian of the Castle at Peel.

Of mermen and mermaids—and how to propitiate them—of the safety brought to house or boat by nailing on a cross made of mountain ash, of the Manx faith in “the little people”—of all these and many more the speaker told, as well as the legend

of St Patrick's ride on horseback from Ireland to the Isle of Man, and the universal belief in the "Llianan shee"—the helpful spirit which watches over the family.

"Manx Folklore. Mrs Schroeder at Halifax Luncheon Club." *Yorkshire Post*  
31 January 1929: 5c.

Stephen Miller, RBV

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