Manx Traditional Songs, Rhymes and Chants in the Repertoire of the Last Native Manx Speakers

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In the course of taking down/sound-recording material from the last native Manx speakers between 1883 and 1972 a number of lyrical texts formed part of some of the collections. A number of such texts have already appeared in print, others appear here for the first time. This article seeks to bring all such known texts together under one roof in order to serve the interests of various fields of study concerned with traditional lyric-text material.

Keywords: Native Manx speakers; songs; rhymes; chants; end-phase of Manx

1. Introduction

The purpose of this article is to present the raw material of the songs, rhymes and chants found in and recorded from Manx tradition from the last native Manx speakers between 1883 and 1972 and to make it available to scholars as a resource.

Manx Gaelic is one of the Insular Celtic languages that in recent times experienced language obsolescence, and has thereby attracted interest from scholars at an early date in the recent history of language and linguistic research. Leaving aside the early linguistic enquiries of Edward Lhuyd (1703–1704; Lhuyd 1707) and Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte (c.1856; Bonaparte 1884) into aspects of Insular Celtic (including Manx), solely in Manx terms the first known early scholastic enquiry into Manx took place in 1883 when Prof. John Strachan, University of Manchester, and Father Richard Henebry of Co. Waterford, Ireland, visited Man to take down in phonetic script the text of the traditional Manx love-song Ec ny Fiddleryn ‘at the fiddlers’ (§2.9) from a Manx tradition-bearer, fisherman Thomas Kermode (1826–1901), Bradda, Rushen (Strachan 1897). The fact that the first known scientific enquiry into Manx in modern times involved the collection of a Manx Gaelic folksong is significant in that it makes clear that the folksong was central to Manx tradition.¹ Three years later this was followed by the systematic enquiry made 1886–1893 by Prof. John Rhŷs, University of Oxford, into Manx phonology

¹ Probably also central to Gaelic tradition are the song-texts, both complete and fragmentary, collected along with prose pieces and printed in the following Irish and Scottish Gaelic dialect surveys: Irish: Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim (Holmer 1942), Teelin, Co. Donegal (Wagner 1959), Tyrone Irish (Stockman & Wagner 1965), Erris, Co. Mayo (Mhac an Fhailigh 1968), Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo (de Búrca 1970), Iorras Aithneach, Co. Galway (Ó Curnáin 2007), Scottish Gaelic: Leurbost, Isle of Lewis (Oftedal 1956), Arran (Holmer 1957), Kintyre (Holmer 1962).
comprising also a number of traditional song-fragments (Rhŷs 1895; Broderick 2018b). In addition, this can be seen in material collected later by Dr. Rudolf Trebitsch 1909; Lechleitner & Remmer 2003; Prof. Carl Marstrander 1929–1933 (HLSM/I: Texts); Prof. Kenneth Jackson 1950/1951 (Jackson 1955; HLSM/I: Texts); Clement: 1972 (HLSM/I: Texts). In addition, sound-recordings were also made by the Irish Folklore Commission during April/May 1948 and Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh (‘The Manx Language Society’) 1951–1953 (HLSM/I: Texts). Details of the song contents collected by the foregoing individuals and bodies are listed below (§1.2).

1.1 The collected material
As noted above, the following collection of Manx traditional songs and song-fragments derives from a series of scientific surveys on obsolescence in Manx Gaelic from native Manx speakers undertaken in Man between the years 1886 and 1972. These surveys involved the gathering of linguistic material, whether through phonetic notation of textual readings and questioning, formal questionnaires and/or sound-recordings, in order to enable a phonological and morphological assessment of the state of Manx Gaelic at the time. Such material also included connected prose-texts in the form of stories and anecdotes, as well as lyric-texts consisting exclusively of traditional songs, rhymes, chants, etc., either complete or in fragmentary form.

A similar undertaking was made in Ireland in 1931 by the German sound-archivist Wilhelm Albert Doegen (1877–1967)² whereby stories and traditional songs were sound-recorded from some forty-one informants from all parts of the historical province of Ulster.³ For details, see Ni Bhaoil (2010). The Manx scene as discussed here would belong to that genre.

The prose-texts and some of the lyric-texts were published in HLSM/I: Texts, both in phonetic script and in the standard Manx orthography of the Manx Bible, with English translation. In addition, many surviving song-texts from various manuscript collections, either in standard or (often) non-standard Manx orthography, have also seen the light of day (Broderick 1980 to date). The song-texts gathered here from the last native Manx speakers are brought together for the first time to enable a concise overview.

The whole is to be set in the cultural background of Manx traditional songs and music collected during the same period, essentially during the 1890s and first decade of the twentieth century, from collectors such as:

² For a chronology of Doegen’s life and times, see Simon et al. 2006.

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1. **Dr. John Clague** (1842–1908), a medical practitioner of Castletown, Isle of Man (also a colleague of Prof. John Rhŷs (1840–1915) during the latter’s visits to Man 1886–1893). For details, see Gilchrist (1924–1926); Miller (2015: *Manx Notes* nos. 198–206).⁴


5. **Sophia Morrison** (1859–1917) & **Josephine Kermode** (1852–1937). For details, see Broderick forthcoming a.


### 1.2 The collectors

Such song-texts were obtained from the various surveys and sound-recordings which took place in the following years 1883–1972:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LYRIC-TITLE</th>
<th>INFORMANT</th>
<th>LYRIC-TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ec ny Fiddleryn</td>
<td>Tom Kermode, Bradda, Rushen</td>
<td>Song complete text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiark Katreeney Marroo</td>
<td>Capt. Henry Watterson, MHK, Colby, Arbory</td>
<td>Chant complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiark Katreeney Marroo</td>
<td>Edward Faragher, Sr., Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Chant complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane Oie Vie</td>
<td>Margaret Cowle, The Rheast, Bride</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop dy Naa</td>
<td>William Killip, Clyeen, Michael</td>
<td>Chant-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop dy Naa</td>
<td>John Kermode, Surby, Rushen</td>
<td>Chant-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop dy Naa</td>
<td>William Corrin, Cronk y Doonee, Rushen</td>
<td>Chant-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop dy Naa</td>
<td>‘Paaie Vooar’ Margaret Taylor, Surby, Rushen</td>
<td>Chant-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey</td>
<td>Thomas Vondy, Ramsey (of Lezayre)</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey</td>
<td>John Skillicorn, Ballagare, Lonan</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey</td>
<td>Margaret Caine, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yn Maarliagh Mooar</td>
<td>Margaret Caine, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudgeon y Fidder</td>
<td>John Carrine, Chasm House, Rushen</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudgeon y Fidder</td>
<td>William Collister (abode unknown)</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁴ Miller’s *Manx Notes* references can all be found under Miller 2019.
⁵ Manx high court judge - GB.
⁶ For full details, see Broderick 2015, 2018b.
1909: Vienna Recordings: Kaiserliche (later Österreichische) Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna (Dr. Rudolf Trebitsch, 5–8 August 1909) (HLSM/I: Texts).<sup>1</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goll dy schoill</td>
<td>William Cowley, Douglas (of Lezayre)</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myr s’liauyr yn oie geuree</td>
<td>William Cowley, Douglas (of Lezayre)</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey</td>
<td>John Nelson, Ramsey</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yn Foleay Gastey</td>
<td>John Nelson, Ramsey</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Juan</td>
<td>Thomas Taggart, Grenaby, Malew</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane er Inneenyn Eirinee</td>
<td>John Cain, Ballamoar, Jurby</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane ny Baatyn-eeaste</td>
<td>Joseph Woodworth, Port Erin, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane ny Baatyn-skaddan</td>
<td>Edward Kennah, Ronague, Arbory</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane Oie Vie</td>
<td>Joseph Woodworth, Port Erin, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane Oie Vie</td>
<td>Thomas Taggart, Grenaby, Malew</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrane Oie Vie</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colbagh Breck er Sthrap</td>
<td>John Cain, Ballamoar, Jurby</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cre’n Sorch dy ‘Wreck’</td>
<td>James Kewley, Maughold</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graih my Chree</td>
<td>Harry Kelly, Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gubblyn</td>
<td>Thomas Crebbin, Bradda, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hie son Skylley Breeshey</td>
<td>John Cain, Ballamoar, Jurby</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiare roie, kiare ny hoie</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannin Veg Veen</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mylecharaine</td>
<td>Thomas Taggart, Grenaby, Malew</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mylecharaine</td>
<td>Joseph Woodworth, Port Erin, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nane, jees Mylechreest</td>
<td>John Cain, Ballamoar, Jurby</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey</td>
<td>Harry Kelly, Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oh, soiyeym seose syn uinnag</td>
<td>Harry Kelly, Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ooill as taarnagh</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Curse formula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeinaghyn as Snaidyn</td>
<td>Thomas Crebbin, Bradda, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe as Tombagey</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Rea</td>
<td>Harry Kelly, Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shee as fea</td>
<td>Harry Kelly, Cregneash, Rushen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Manx Fairy’ (steamboat)</td>
<td>John Cain, Ballamoar, Jurby</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Manx Fairy’ (steamboat)</td>
<td>Thomas Christian, Ramsey (of Maughold)</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Rhyme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Early sound-recordings of native Manx speech and Manx traditional songs, etc., made c. 1905–1909 (possibly till 1913) by Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh (‘The Manx Language Society’), are not included here, as (except for four cylinders containing Bible readings) they have seemingly not survived. According to the report of the Annual General Meeting (1905) of Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh, the following Manx traditional songs/chants had evidently been phonograph recorded: Ec ny Fiddleryn, Hop-dy-Naa, Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey, Mylech[a]raine. For details, see Miller 2014: 1–9.

8 References to the Texts are to be found in HLSM/III: 159–169.

9 For details of Marstrander’s Manx itinerary and his field-notes, see Broderick: 2018a.
### 1948: Irish Folklore Commission Recordings, Dublin (22 April–5 May 1948)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song-fragment</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrane ny Baatyn-eeastee</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brig Lily</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colbagh Breck er Sthrap</strong></td>
<td>Annie Kneale, Ballagarrett, Bride</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Juan Gawne</strong></td>
<td>Annie Kneale, Ballagarrett, Bride</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lhigey, lhargey</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooyll, shooyll</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song-fragment</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graih my Chree</strong></td>
<td>Tommy Leece, Kerroomooar, Malew</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tom Jack John</strong></td>
<td>Tommy Leece, Kerroomooar, Malew</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song-fragment</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Brig Lily</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graih my Chree</strong></td>
<td>Tommy Leece, Kerroomooar, Malew</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row oo ec y margey</strong></td>
<td>John Kneen, Ballaugh Curragh (of Andreas)</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row shiu ec y vargey</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Children’s rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tom Jack John</strong></td>
<td>Sage Kinvig, Garey Hollen, Arbory</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yn Graihder Jouylagh</strong></td>
<td>Sage Kinvig, Garey Hollen, Arbory</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song-fragment</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Quaaltagh Greeting</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Custom rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrane ny Baatyn-eeastee</strong></td>
<td>Ned Maddrell, Glenchass, Rushen</td>
<td>Song-fragment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.3 The texts

The body of songs and song-fragments presented here is restricted to those that were recorded either in phonetic script or sound-recorded (the latter provided also in phonetic script in transcription). That is to say, only the song material that reveals how the various texts were pronounced are presented here. Though it will be seen that many of the song-texts exist only in fragmentary form, this does not necessarily mean that the informant could not have given more. The reasons for this may be multiple: for example, the formal circumstances of the recordings, simply forgetting the texts over time, or not fully learning the texts in the first
place, etc. Nevertheless, the material available to us today is in my view sufficient to give us a good idea of what the informants could offer.

1.4 The categories
The thirty-eight Manx traditional songs and song-fragments presented here can be categorised according to type as follows:

Songs and chants to do with custom and tradition:

Children’s Rhymes:
Freeinaglyn as Snaidyn; Goll dy Schoill; Juan Gawne; Lhigey, Lhargey; Nane Jees, Mylechreest; Pipe as Tombagey; Row oo ec y Vargey; Shooyll, Shooyll yn Dooinney Boght; Va yn Dow Buirroogh.

Other rhymes:

Didactic songs:
Arrane er Inneenyn-Eirinee, Yn Maarliagh Mooar.

Love songs:
Abram Juan, Colbagh Breck er Sthrap, Ec ny Fiddleryn, Graih my Chree, Myr S’liauwr yn Oie Geuree, Oh, Soiym Seose syn Uinnag, Shannon Rea, Yn Graihder Jouylagh.

Narrative songs:
Mannin Vég Veen, Mylecharaine, Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey, Vermayd Caabyl dys yn Anker.

Satirical songs:
Cre’n Sorch dy ‘Wreck’, Hi son Skylley Breeshey, Tom Jack John, Hudgeon y Fidder.

10 A number of song-texts had tunes associated with them. These can be found in various song/music collections noted in §1.1 or in the List of References. Material appearing in the aforementioned collections (1883–1972) is not accompanied by any tunes at all, whether any texts were sung to tunes at the time of collection cannot be excluded but is unknown.
Songs of loss and shipwreck:
*Arrane mysh Coayl ny Baatyn-Eeastee, Arrane mysh Coayl ny Baatyn-Scaddan, Brig Lily.*

1.5 Earlier traditional Manx songs
As can be seen, most of the song-texts are relatively recent, i.e. of nineteenth-century provenance, e.g. the children’s rhymes, *Yn Graihder Jouylagh* (c. 1860). Some songs, however, derive from at least the eighteenth century, if not earlier. They include: *Arrane Oie Vie, Hop-dy-Naa, Kiark Katreeney Marroo, (N)Ollick Gennal, Shannon Rea* (1792), *Mylecharaine* (ms. c. 1770), *Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey* (c. 1700), *Hi son Skyley Breeshey* (ms. c. 1770), *Arrane mysh Coayl ny Baatyn-scaddan* (1787, time of composition shortly after). Of the foregoing, the two songs that have constantly appeared in Manx publications down through the years and which are firmly associated with the Isle of Man are *Mylecharaine* and *Ny Kirree for Niaghtey*, and it is therefore not surprising that the latter, for instance, was often recorded, though interestingly enough neither of the two from any of the last native Manx speakers after Marstrander.

1.6 Songs absent from the repertoire of the last native Manx speakers
What is also perhaps of interest are song-texts that are absent, e.g. *Fin as Oshin*11 (ms. c. 1770, an example of a Gaelic Heroic Tale surviving in Manx tradition, possibly falling out of that tradition in the early years of the nineteenth century); *Baase Illiam Dhone*,12 a lament on the execution of Manx patriot *Illiam Dhone* (brown-haired William)—William Christian (1608–2 January 1662 or 1663)—of c. 1663, used at least until the 1780s, if not later, as a propaganda song against the Manx establishment; *Berrey Dhone* (1820 but likely of earlier provenance, possibly a Manx version of the Irish *Caillech Bérri*?).13 Also action-songs such as *Thurot as Elliot*14 (1760, song partly written at the time, but seemingly enlarged after 1846) and *Marrinys yn Tiger*15 (1778 and popular till c. 1830) have evidently fallen out of the repertoire. In addition, of the sixty-three or so broadside ballads in English (but of English, Scottish or Irish provenance) discussed in Speers (2016), only two seem to have survived in the last throes of the Manx song tradition: *Shannon Rea* (< Ireland?) and *Yn Graihder Jouylagh* (< Scotland?).

Nonetheless, the span of the subject-matter, as can be seen, is equally as broad as those collected by Moore during the 1890s, though it becomes clear that the song

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14 cf. Moore (1896: xviii, third fn.).
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repertoire among the last native Manx Gaelic speakers (as from 1883 onwards for our purposes here) begins to diminish over time. It is noticeable that such popular songs as *Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey* and *Mylecharaine*, as noted above, are not to be found among the last fifteen native Manx speakers, recorded between 1947 and 1972.

1.7 Editorial technique

In presenting the material below I have adhered to the following schema:

1. The phonetic rendition of the texts is set out in accordance with IPA principles. Parallel to this is the equivalent in the Standard Manx Orthography of the Manx Bible. This is followed by an English translation of the text, stanza by stanza, set in square brackets.

2. The titles of each text are given in capitals, followed, if in Manx, by an English translation in round brackets, then by the lyric type (whether song, chant, children’s rhyme, etc.) also in round brackets. All form the title of the text.

3. In the following lines there then follow details of other textual versions, if any, of the text under discussion, whether in manuscript, in print, or in oral renderings, etc. These are then followed by details of any tunes associated with the text. The final section, if any, supplies details of the contents of the text in question. All or part of the foregoing may be accompanied by appropriate comment, either from myself or others.

4. So far as is known, thirty-eight separate lyric items were collected from native Manx Gaelic speakers between the years 1883 and 1972. The collected versions of each separate lyric item are then set out in chronological order, with name and abode of the informant, followed by the date of collection and reference to the source.

5. To finish, a discussion as to how the songs were sung is presented. This is then followed by a short conclusion.

2. The songs, rhymes and chants in the repertoire of the last native Manx speakers (1883–1972)

2.1 ABRAM JUAN (Abraham Juan) (song frag.)

Text: Manuscript: Clague (Bk. 5: 60–61, Bk. 10: 128v, Bk. 16: 41). A manuscript version of four stanzas is recorded in Bk. 5 (MTSSF/II: 3–5) and eight stanzas in MNHL MD900 MS 08307 (c. 1830–1840).

Tune: Clague (Bk. 2/18: 2, Bk. 2/19: 1). Includes first stanza. Informant not recorded. The tune requires the last two lines of each stanza to be sung twice.
Gilchrist (1924–1926: 173–174) prints the tune under the title *Piyr dy Lauenyn Baney* (a pair of white gloves) and adds:

The tune is a variant of the old dance-tune ‘The Hempdresser’ to which Burns wrote his song ‘The De’il awa’ wi’ th’ Exciseman’. On this account I have placed the tune and verse under dance-tunes. The verse may be nothing more than a dance-rhyme. At any rate it looks like one (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 174).

The song is bawdy in content.

**ABRAM JUAN** (song frag.).

I

\[\text{kwai tɛ ‘krɛŋkɑl ek mə γɔrəs} \quad \text{Quoi ta crankal ec my ghorrys}\]
\[\text{kwai tɛ niʃ ha de:na/yɛ:nə} \quad \text{Quoi ta nish cha daaney/ghaaney}\]
\[\text{je: mə hin ‘tɔ:n du:rt e:bram dʒɔ:n} \quad \text{She mee hene t’ayn dooyrt Abram Juan}\]
\[\text{l’ɛj pa:i ɕa le:ʊdəɡɔɾən (sic) bɛ:ʃə} \quad \text{lesh piyr dy lauenyn baney}\]

II

\[\text{ɔ: ‘lɛp ad ‘so:s ɕas gɔu rɔ:d ‘tə:i} \quad \text{Oh, lhap ad seose as gow royd thie}\]
\[\text{du:rt ɕa ʋɛdən vɛ ‘ɛ:ləŋ’} \quad \text{dooyrt yn ven veg aalin}\]
\[\text{ɔ: ‘bɛ:r l’ɛm ‘ve mɔrt ‘hin ɬa:i} \quad \text{Oh, b’are liam ve mayrt hene dy lhie}\]
\[\text{du:rt ‘e:bram dʒɔ:n o sɛ:əʃə} \quad \text{dooyrt Abram Juan y Saushey}\]

III

\[\text{ɔ: ‘dʒɔ:n, ɑ: ‘dʒɔ:n, bi: da ʋɔd / bɔd ɛd bɾiʃ’} \quad \text{Oh, Juan, O Juan, bee dty vwoid/bwoid ayd brisht}\]
\[\text{du:rt ɑ ‘ʋɛdən vɛ ‘ɛ:ləŋ’} \quad \text{dooyrt y ven veg aalin}\]
\[\text{kur ˈbɔ:ndə ‘ɛr as kʊeɾɛ ‘ɛ:} \quad \text{Cur boandey er as couyree eh}\]
\[\text{du:rt ‘e:bram ‘dʒɔ:n o sɛ:əʃə} \quad \text{dooyrt Abram Juan y Saushey.}\]

[1. Who is knocking at my door / Who is now so bold / It is myself, said Abram Juan / with a pair of white gloves.
2. Oh, fold them up and go your way home / said the fine wee girl / Oh, I would prefer to lie with you / said Abram Juan y Saushey.
3. O Juan, O Juan, your penis will then be broken / said the fine wee girl / Put a bandage on it and it will get better / said Abram Juan y Saushey].

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16 M/IV refers to Vol. 4 of Marstrander’s Manx manuscripts + page number(s). For full details of these mss., see Broderick: 2018a.

17 This ‘Scottishism’ is used here deliberately, as to my mind it translates Mx *beg* ‘little’ (G *beag*) more appropriately.

18 *y Sausheý* possibly a nickname? Otherwise obscure.
2.2 ARRANE ER INNEENYN-EIRINEE (a song on farmers’ daughters) (song frag.)


The song, didactic in tone, takes the form of a tirade against the vanity and extravagance of the young women of the period (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 253).

ARRANE ER INNEENYN-EIRINEE (song frag.).

John Cain (1850–1939), Ballamoar, Jurby, 2 February 1933 (M/IV: 2632; HLSM/I: 312–313).

Poose mee er graih hoghyr
Red nagh ren rieau jannoo mie
Poose mee toot dy ‘neen voor eirinagh
Cha row y sleih eck cummal thie

[I married for the love of a dowry / a thing that never did any good / I married a fool of a farmer’s daughter / her people could not keep house].

2.3 ARRANE MYSH COAYL NY BAATYN-EEASTEE (a song about the loss of the fishing boats) (song frag.)

Text: manuscript: Clague Bk. 4: 6–10 (6st. nos. 5, 4, 9, 6, 7, 8; st. 9 translated), Bk. 5: 102–104, frag. (first three st.), Bk. 10: 127v–128r (9st. plus part of 10th), Bk.

19 The Manx carval (cf. G carbhall) is a religious folksong or carol seemingly of Reformation provenance, though possibly descended from an older ballad/bardic tradition (cf. Quiggin 1913). A full catalogue of all extant carval mss. (dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries), is available in the Library of Manx National Heritage, Douglas.
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12: 1–5 (8st.), Bk. 16: 35–37 (9st. plus pa of 10th) MNHL MS H140 6594 (Bk. 12; 8st.), MTSSF/II: 8–11 (Bk. 16).


[...] but in spite of the title of the ballad, I am not sure that any were actually destroyed. Mr. John Gawne [1881–1977] of Fistard tells me that no lives were lost (Paton 1944: 131).

Printed versions: Under the title Yn Sterrym ec Port le Moirrey (the storm at Port St. Mary) (1st. 3 stanzas with Eng. trans.) in Moore (1896: 184 from William Cashen, Peel); also in Cashen (1912: 68–69); 1st 3 stanzas. with above title & Eng. trans.

Tune: No tune known. But as this song is in the same metre as Arrane mysh Coayln ny Baatyn-skaddan (§2.4), Gilchrist (1924–1926: 120–121) notes that the tune is often used for songs about shipwreck.

Tells of the wreck of the herring fleet at Port St. Mary in 1846.

ARRANE MYSH COAYL NY BAATYN-EEASTEE (song frag.).

duːt 'nɛdi hom 'rei
da røu a 'ʃe:ʤə 'fi: xrei
da røu a ə 'bɔː' ŕn 'keːbɔl da 'ɡaːro
a'ne: duːt 'dɔs' 'beg
biːmad 'stai iro 'ΧREG
as ɔl'u 'beit' ŕns [tɔnɔn] na 'maːro

Dooyrt Neddy Hom Ruy20

dy row eh sheidey feer chreo

dy row eh ny bare (sic) yn caabyl y girrey

Cha neh, dooyrt Jose Beg
beemayd sthie er y chreg

as oolley baiht ayns (tonyn) ny marrey.

[Said Neddy Hom Ruy / it was blowing very hard / that it would be better to cut the cable / Not at all, said Jose Beg / we’ll be in on the rock / and all (of us) drowned in the waves of the sea].

ARRANE MYSH COAYL NY BAATYN-EEASTEE (song frag.)

The following three stanzas are also to be found in Moore (1896: 184).

[1. O my good lads / we are now at home / we shall go to sea no more / we shall not forget / the storm we came through / at anchor in Port St. Mary bay.

2. Neddy Hom Ruy said / that it was blowing very hard / and we had better not cut the cable / No, said George Beg / we shall be in on the rock / and all drowned in the waves of the sea.

3. The ‘Good Intent’ / she was a boat well built / she was planked from stem to stern / it was a very sluggish crew / that was aboard the ‘Midsummer’ / and Neddy Hom Beg was the worst of them].

2.4 ARRANE MYSH COAYL NY BAATYN-SKADDAN (a song about the loss of the herring boats) (song frag.)

Text: Manuscript versions: Thomas Cowin, Ballabeg LO, 23st. ent. Arrane son Coonaghhtyn Jeh ny badyyn va Calllyt (a song for remembering the boats that were lost), dated 17 December 1820, MNHL MS 5078A; Thomas Cowin 1855 (‘went to America’) 23st. ent. Arrane Son Coonaghhtyn jeh ny baadyn va Caillyt MNHL MS 272. In Carval Book of Wm. Collister 1838–1842, 18st. no title, MNHL MS 1402A (G. W. Wood Coll.), Clucas Coll. ent. [Arrane mysh] ny Baatyn va kaillit (a song about the boats that were lost) (19st.) (MTSSF/I: 11).


21 Alternative form: Nedly Tom Peg (Nedly son of Tom, son of Peg) in Moore (1896: 184).
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Dr. Clague seems to have noted six versions, three of which, including a Dorian form, are printed in Manx National Music (32, 44, 48). The variant obtained from John Ratcliffe, The Howe, was used as a carval-tune [...]. The tune seems to have been one used for ballads of shipwreck [...] (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 121–122).


This song relates to the loss of a portion of the Manx herring fleet which happened off Douglas Harbour on 21 September 1787 when some fifty vessels were either totally wrecked or very badly damaged and twenty-one lives lost in a severe storm. The song was apparently written by a certain Quayle Vessie (Quayle son of Bessie) of Castletown (Moore 1896: xxxvi). For details of the loss, see Harrison (1872: 5–12).

ARRANE MYSH COAYL NY BAATYN-SKADDAN (song frag.)

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22 In a footnote to an English poem on the tragedy (Harrison 1872: 25 note), it would appear from stanzas IV and V ‘...that the crews of three boats [editor’s italics] and one old man only, were lost. Assuming that each boat had five men, this would only account for sixteen, whereas the other ballad [in Manx] makes the number amount to twenty-one.’
[Remember ye old and young / the year seventeen hundred / eighty-seven on
the sea at Douglas / when it came about / there was good fish to be had / and the
weather was very fine and pleasant].

2.5 ARRANE OIE VIE (Good night song) (song frag.)
Text: Clague Bk. 5: 50, Bk. 10: 130v. Printed texts: Moore (1896: 58; 2st. from
various sources, not specified), Mona Douglas (1928: 32–33: Tom Taggart, Malew,
2st.), MTSSF/II: 5 (Bk. 5).
Tune: C1/3: 1 E. Corteen, Surveyor of Roads (ent. Te traa gholl thie dy gholl dy
lhie (it is time to go home to go to bed); Thie Quiggin (Quiggin’s (ale-)house), and
to Gilchrist (1924–1926: 188), seems to belong to an early type of folktune. She
adds:

The rhythm of these short detached phrases has a foundation in nature in the
regular rise and fall of the breath - the cæsura corresponding with its expiration.
It might be called ‘breathing measure.’ In the Manx song, the rhymes come
upon these natural resting-notes (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 188).

A Manx ‘Good Night’ song traditionally of two stanzas. This would seem
to belong to a genre of convivial parting or goodnight songs found in Scotland,
Ireland and Man, but not in England, which even today has to borrow Auld Lang
Syne for the ending of festive gatherings. The Manx version recollects the older
Irish parting song Nil sé ’na lá (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 185). The Manx Te traa goll
thie (it is time to go home) is reminiscent of similar Scottish songs having short
melodic phrases, the tune attached to it a variant of ‘Geordie’. See JFSS V (1923):
110–114 for eight versions of the Manx tune.

The Manx Arrane Oie Vie was the last song sung at the end of an Oie’ll Voirrey,24
a protracted session of carval singing on St. Mary’s Eve (Christmas Eve), after
which most of the company adjourned to a local hostelry for hot-spiced ale after
which the revellers sang Arrane Oie Vie then went to bed (Gilchrist 1924–1926:
187).

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23 gy kione ‘[came] to pass/about’, as in Moore (1896: 150) and Gilchrist (1924–1926:
120).
24 Pron. /i:l ‘veri/ (G *oidhche fhéil ‘bheiridh).
ARRANE OIE VIE (song frag.)
James Cannell (1816–1903), Kirk Michael (of Peel) with wife (of Michael), 26 July 1890 (Rhŷs 6/69–70).

\[ t'h\text{e} \ t'h\text{re}: \ d\text{o} \ g\text{ol} \ t'h\text{ai} \ a\text{s} \ g\text{ol} \ d\text{o} \ l\text{ai} \\
\text{t}'a \ s\text{mal} \ d\text{o}\text{u} \ f\text{ot} \ e\text{r} \ a\text{n} \ ăi\text{l}25 \\
T'eh \ t\text{raa} \ g\text{oll} \ t\text{hie} \ a\text{s} \ g\text{oll} \ d\text{y} \ l\text{hie} \\
ta \ s\text{mayl} \ d\text{hoo} \ ʧ\text{eet} \ e\text{r} \  negó \ a\text{i}l. \]

[It is time to go home and go to bed / a blackness is coming on the fire].

ARRANE OIE VIE (song frag.)

\[ t\text{i} \ t\text{re}: \ g\text{ol} \ t\text{a}:i \\
d\text{o} \ g\text{ol} \ d\text{a} \ ă\text{e} \i \\
t'e \ 'l\text{oa} \ d\text{ou} \ a\text{a}\text{a} \ '𝑦\text{ulax} \\
ten \ 's\text{to}:l' \ t\text{e} \ f\text{o}n' \\
g\text{re}: \ d\text{o}n' \ g\text{ol} \ r\text{on}' \\
ti \ t\text{a}:n \ g\text{o}s \ t\text{re}: \ a\text{n} \ l\text{a}l\text{a}x \\
T'eh \ t\text{raa} \ g\text{oll} \ t\text{hie} \\
dy \ g\text{oll} \ d\text{y} \ l\text{hie} \\
Ta \ f\text{oaid} \ d\text{hoo} \ e\text{r} \ y \ ʧ\text{iollagh} \\
Ta'n \ s\text{toyl} \ t\text{a} \ f\text{oyn} \\
gr\text{a} \ d\text{ooi}n \ g\text{oll} \ r\text{on} \\
T'eh \ t\text{ayrn} \ g\text{ys} \ t\text{raa} \ y\text{n} \ l\text{hiabbagh}.
\]

[It is time to go home / to go to bed / the turf-sod is black on the hearth / The stool that is under us / says to us to go our way / It is getting near to bedtime].

ARRANE OIE VIE (song frag.)

\[ t\text{i} \ t\text{re}: \ g\text{ol} \ t\text{a}:i \\
as \ g\text{ol} \ d\text{o} \ l\text{ai} \\
te \ 'f\text{a}:d \ d\text{o}\text{u} \ e\text{r} \ a\text{n} \ t\text{a}l\text{a}x \\
ten \ s\text{t}:l' \ t\text{e} \ f\text{o}n' \\
gr\text{e}: \ h\text{a}:n' \ g\text{ol} \ r\text{on}' \\
ti \ t\text{a}:n \ g\text{o}s \ t\text{re}: \ a\text{n} \ l\text{a}b\text{a}x \\
T'eh \ t\text{raa} \ g\text{oll} \ t\text{hie} \\
as \ g\text{oll} \ d\text{y} \ l\text{hie} \\
Ta \ f\text{oaid} \ d\text{hoo} \ e\text{r} \ y \ ʧ\text{iollagh} \\
Ta'n \ s\text{toyl} \ t\text{a} \ f\text{oyn} \\
gr\text{a} \ h\text{ooi}n \ g\text{oll} \ r\text{on} \\
T'eh \ t\text{ayrn} \ g\text{ys} \ t\text{raa} \ y\text{n} \ l\text{hiabbagh}.
\]

[It is time to go home / and go to bed / the turf-sod is black on the hearth / The stool that is under us / says to us to be on our way / It is getting near to bedtime].

ARRANE OIE VIE (song frag.)
Joseph Woodworth (1853–1931), Smelt, Port St. Mary RU, 27 August 1930 (M/III: 1658; HLSM/I: 392–393).

Known in Manx as *Arrane Oie Vie* (‘The Good Night Song’). For the full text of two stanzas, see Moore 1896: 58.
[The stool which is under me / is trying to say to me / it is getting near to bedtime].

2.6 BRIG LILY (song frag.)


Tune: Clague C1/4: 2 ent. Brig Lily; tune widely known, e.g. in Ireland as ‘The Croppy Boy’. cf. also Gilchrist (1924–1926: 317, 323). The title is given in English by Clague but belongs to the Manx-Gaelic song repertoire.

Sailing from Liverpool and bound for Africa the brig Lily was shipwrecked on the rocks off the small island of Kitterland in the Calf Sound (between Man and the Calf of Man) on 28 December 1852. A sudden explosion of thirty tons of gunpowder, apparently caused by a forgotten candle stub left by a number of men seeking to salvage the cargo, instantly killed five crew and twenty-nine salvagers, mostly from Port St. Mary. A memorial stone to those who lost their lives stands in the churchyard of Kirk Christ Rushen (Illustrated London News, 8 January 1853), as does one erected during the 1990s at the Sound.

BRIG LILY (song frag.).
Ned Maddrell (1877–1974), Glenchass RU, 18 February 1953 (YCG/12; also PR1 (1947), IFC/40 (April/May 1948); HLSM/I: 352–353).
2.7 COLBAGH BRECK ER STHRAP (speckled heifer on a tether) (song frag.)

Text: Clague Bk. 5: 98–102; 12st. & refr. as in MNHL MS unacc. (Clarke) for Harrison (1873: 108–119) and Moore (1896: 83 ent. Car-y-Phoosee (wedding reel), MTSSF/II: 2. Moore (1896: xxii) believes that the song was written by Rev. Philip Moore (1705–1783), part-translator and editor of the Manx Bible, c. 1750.26 (Moore 1896: xxii–xxiii), but takes the view that the refrain is of much older date.


[1. The year eighteen hundred and fifty-two / this horror we have not known the like / thirty men were exterminated / very suddenly by fire and powder.
2. The Brig ‘Lily’, she was from Liverpool / to Africa she was bound / But a great storm drove her fast / in on to Kitterland island.
3. These men had been told / to save the brig and its cargo / But before they had time to save anything / the brig and men went up (exploded) off the rock.

That is all I remember of it, but I have another verse, it is about three verses, the other one I have].

26 For details of Rev. Philip Moore and the Manx Bible translation, see Thomson 1979: Introduction.
There are two other tunes of this name from the Clague Collection in W. H. Gill’s *Manx National Music* [1898: 42, *Manx National Songs* 1896: 47, 98]. Both appear to belong to a song or dance-song with a chorus (‘Chorus’ being marked in one case [1896: 98]). But the one printed here [i.e. from Thomas Kinrade, Ramsey, and John Cain, Douglas], and the melody is in 3-bar phrases instead of the usual 4-bar, as in the case of the two others. All are of lively character and in ¾-time, and appear to me to be dance tunes, under which heading I have therefore placed the above [Kinrade & Cain] version (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 173).

**Tune B:** Moore (1896: 238 Mary Ann Gawne, Peel).
The song discusses the vagaries of married life, but reveals the benefits. Moore (1896: xxii–xxiii).

**COLBAGH BRECK ER STHRAP (song frag.).**

1. Son va’n colbagh breck er sthrap
   nee hene vees souyr
   son va yn shenn vock bane cooyl y chleigh
   tayrn yn arroo ayns yn ouyr

   [Refrain]
   poost oh poost oh poost
   oh poost [oh poost] va shin
   Son v’eh foddey share ve poost
   cha nee ad ve tagloo jin

2. Haink ben y phoosee stiagh
   share y ?springbok beiy (sic)
   dy row shin er phoosey ayns traa
   cha row shin ayns stayd cha treih.

   [Refrain]: Married, oh married / oh married, oh married were we / For it was better to be married / (than) that they talk about us.

   2. The bride came in / better the springbok beast / had we married in time / we would not be in such a sad state].

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27 The reference here to the South African antelope, the ‘Springbok’ (if that is what is meant; the spoken version is not all that clear) might at first seem surprising. But South Africa was no strange place to many a Manxman who went out there to work in the mines during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (NHIM/V: 235).
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COLBAGH BRECK ER STHRAP (song frag.)
Mrs. Annie Kneale (1864–1949), Ballagarrett BR, April/May 1948 (IFC/39, also IFC/36; HLSM/I: 308–309).

I
an 'kɑ:bax 'brek ɛ: 'strap
no 're: hi:dn vis 'səau'
in 'jan bok 'bedn gə:l'e:ig'
te:'n ən 'a:ru sən 'auə'

[Refrain]
he pu:s [as 'pu:s as 'pu:s]
as 'pə:s də 'lɪnzi 'wʊnzi
as 'bɔnad 'bedn sa'l'υn
as 'kwaif 'də 'ʃa:n lə 'skədən
as 'rɪbanən spi'n'ɛ:ɡ' in 'xə:n

II
a[s] 'gaun ðə 'lmizi 'wʊnzi
as 'bɔnad 'bedn sa'l'υn
as 'quoif ðə 'ʃa:n lə 'skədən
as 'rɪbanən spi'n'ɛ:ɡ' in 'xə:n

[1. The speckled heifer on a tether / is it not itself that will be snug / The old white bok is failing / drawing the corn at the harvest.
[refrain]: Hey, married (and married and married) / and married enough were we / It is far better to be married / than to have the worst said of us.
2. And a gown of linsee woolsee / and a white bonnet of shalloon / and a quoif of old herring net / and ribbons of peeled rushes].

2.8 CRE’N SORÇH DY ‘WRECK’ (what sort of wreck) (song frag.)
Text: Clague Bk. 12: 15 (4 st.), MTSSF/II: 11–12 (Bk. 12).
Tune: No tune known.

CRE’N SORÇH DY ‘WRECK’ (song frag.)

ken səʊ'ʃə də rek də hai krog dʒeq
ə nɔrəxa məx ən gə:ˈaurə
vi dʒent ma ge: i əsk' u:n ə ve:i
son fo:si ənə:sə tourə

Cre’n sorçh dy wreck dy hie chrog Jack
cha nuirragh eh magh un geurey
V’eh jeant myr gaih erskyn y Vaie
son p(h)osey ayns y tourey.

28 linsee woolsee or linssy-wulssy: ‘cloth made of linen and wool’ (MMG/110).
29 Re: shalloon, cf. Gilchrist 1924–1926: 170 note: ‘A light kind of woollen stuff, used for coat-linings, said to have derived its name from having been manufactured at Châlons-sur-Marne.’
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[What sort of a ‘wreck’ of a house did Jack build / It will not last one winter / It was built like a toy above the bay / for a posey in the summer].

Seemingly a sarcastic reference to the Castle Mona, built in opulent style in 1804 for John Murray, Fourth Duke of Atholl and Governor of Man (1793–1830), as a place of residence. It is now a hotel. For a fuller text see MTSSSF/II: 11–12.

2.9 EC NY FIDDLERYN (at the fiddlers) *(song)*

**Text**: Oral version *(52li./13st.) in phonetic script with English translation collected by John Strachan and Richard Henebry from Tom Kermode, Bradda RU, summer 1883 ent. ‘A Manx folksong’ and published in ZCP I (1897): 54–58.³⁰

**Manuscript versions**: MNHL MD 900 MS 08307: 20–22 n.d. [c. 1830–1840] 15st. ent. *Eg ny fidleryn ayns yn Ullic* (at the fiddlers at Christmas time), Clague Bk. 5: 50, 10: 130r, 16: 154 (all contain 1st quatrain) (c. 1896) MNHL MS 450A (Archdeacon John Kewley Coll.) MTSSSF/II: 13 (Bk. 5); Clucas Coll. 6st. in hand of George Frederick Clucas (1870–1937) MNHL MS 263A, possibly copied c. 1900 from an ms. in the hand of Rev. John Thomas Clarke (1798–1888), a collector of Manx traditional songs c. 1860s (MTSSSF/I: 18–19, 6st.); MK/M19 (1905) MNHL MS 09495 (Box 4)³¹ (5st. or part quatrain).

**Printed versions**: Moore (1896: 218–221; 13st. from Strachan & Henebry with Eng. trans.); Roeder (1896: 179; frag. of 8 lines beginning *Dy row my milley er my doosey* (may my curse be on my girl), Moore (1896: 108; 4qq from Robert Gawne mss.) ent. *Márish ny Fiddleryn* (with the fiddlers).

**Tune**: Clague C1/28:1 Tom Kermode, Bradda RU ent. *She ec ny Fiddlern ayns yn Ollic* (it was at the fiddlers’ at Christmas time); C1/13: 2 John Ratcliffe, The Howe RU ent. *Ec Norree yn Fiddler* (at Norree the fiddler); C4/27: 6 W. Corlett [Minorca] ent. *Ec Ollick Ball ny Fiddleryn* (at the fiddlers’ Christmas ball; Manx version a direct trans. from the English). Other variants: C3/35: 2 Thomas Crelin, Peel, ent. *Yn Shenn Dolphin* (the old *Dolphin* [name of boat]), C3/35: 3 Mary Ann Gawne, Peel (with same title).³²

Anne Gilchrist (1924–1926: 132–134) prints four versions of the tune: 1) *Ayns yn Ollick ec Ball ny Fiddleryn* (at Christmas at the fiddlers’ ball) without accreditation [but W. Corlett above] with 1st verse taken from Moore (1896: 30 For a detailed discussion of the manuscripts and contents of this song with linguistic notes, see Broderick: 1984b.

31 For a detailed analysis and discussion of the Morrison-Kermode song collection, see Broderick: forthcoming I.

32 According to the minutes of the 1905 meeting of the Manx Language Society, the song *Ec ny Fiddleryn* was recorded on wax cylinder (apparently in 1904) from Edward Cubbon and John Cregeen, Peel, around that time. Also recorded at that time were: *Hop-tu-naa, Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey, and Mylecharaine*, cf. Miller 2014: 1–9.
108), 2) John Ratcliffe’s version, 3) Tom Kermode’s version, 4) Thomas Crellin’s version. With regard to these versions Gilchrist (1924–1926: 133–134) remarks:

[..]. Three versions of the tune are found in Moore (1896: 245, 250, 238)—the last sung to “Yn Çhenn Dolphin”. The version on p. 245, under the title “Graih My Chree” (‘love of my heart’) has a single verse probably belonging to another song, though it might have formed a refrain to the “Ec ny Fiddleryn” verses. This variant was obtained from the singer of Version 4 above [...]. Miss [Lucy] Broadwood has noticed the likeness in Versions 1, 2 and 4 to the Gaelic air “Mo rùn geal dileas, dileas, dileas” (‘my loyal brave love’). This is also evident in Moore’s version p. 238 of “Yn Çhenn” — yet another variant, though disguised by wrong barring, of Versions 1, 2 and 4 above (Version 3 appears to me to be a different tune) [...] (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 133–134).

With regard to the content of the song Gilchrist (1924–1926: 133) notes:

The story is of a false love; after a long courtship the girl, renewing her vows to her betrothed on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, marries another on Ash Wednesday morning. The only witness of their troth-plight was a dumb walnut tree; but [in] spite of her falseness, Greenland’s snow will grow red as roses before he forgets her (Gilchrist 1924–1926: 133).

John Strachan (1862–1907), Hulme Professor of Ancient Greek and Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Religion, as well as of the Celtic languages, at Owens College, later the Victoria University of Manchester, visited Man in 1883 along with Father Richard Henebry (i.e. Risteart de Hindeberg 1863–1916 of Co. Waterford), an Irish priest, Irish language activist and musician, who worked in Salford, Manchester. They interviewed Tom Kermode (1825–1901) of Bradda, Rushen, when Strachan took down from him in his own phonetic script (here in IPA script) Kermode’s version of the Manx traditional song Ec ny Fiddleryn. Strachan visited Kermode alone in September 1895 and took it down from him again. As noted above, Strachan printed the song under the title ‘A Manx Folksong’ in ZCP I (1897): 54–58. In supplying details of the background to collecting this song Strachan writes:

33 Shenn in Moore (1896: 238).
34 I am advised by Ciarán Ó Gealbháin, University College Cork, that Strachan and Henebry knew each other, as they apparently had a mutual arrangement whereby Strachan would teach Henebry Old Irish and Henebry Strachan Modern Irish (p.c. 25 August 2017).
35 Father Henebry, too, returned to Man on his own ‘six years later’ (i.e. in 1889), but to visit Edward Faragher (Ned Beg Hom Ruy) (1831–1908), according to a letter from Faragher to Karl Roeder dated 25/12/[1889] (MNHL MS 2146/6A). Henebry evidently told Faragher that he had obtained some Manx songs from Tom Kermode [in 1883], which Faragher had apparently not come across (‘but I never come across any of them’) (Miller 2019 (Manx Notes 20 (2004)): 2).
In the summer of 1883 I spent a few days at Port Erin in the Isle of Man along with Father [Richard] Henebry, from County Waterford, Ireland, who speaks Irish as his native tongue. During that time we went about among the surrounding villages to see if we could discover any of the old folksongs or folktales of Man. For the most part our search was unsuccessful. The people have ceased to care for these things, and so they have fallen into oblivion. But as a compensation for many disappointments we were lucky enough to obtain the following sweet little song from a genuine Manxman, Thomas Kermode of Bradda, near Port Erin, who, though he lost his eyesight in his boyhood, pursued till about three years ago [c. 1892] the calling of fisherman. He recited the song to us, and explained it, and we took it down as well as we could. In September of the present year [1895] I again visited Man, and I had the song recited to me again. Unfortunately Mr. Kermode was ill during part of my visit, and I was unable to see as much of him as I could have wished. Above anyone whom I met he is interested in and acquainted with the old lore of Man, though he told me that he had not heard a Manx song sung for the last forty years [i.e. since c. 1840s] (Strachan: 1897: 54).

With regard to this song, Moore (1896: xxi, footnote) adds:

This was first obtained from Thomas Kermode, Bradda in 1883 by Professor J. Strachan and Father Henebry, and was published in phonetic Manx with a good translation in the Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie, in March last. Mr. W. J. Cain has since then seen Kermode and has satisfied himself of the general accuracy of this version which he and I have translated (Moore: 1896: xxi, footnote).

Strachan then proceeds to detail his phonetic rendering of the song-text with reference to Rhŷs (1895). He then prints the text in his phonetic script and supplies an English translation.

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36 This is not quite the case, as both Rhŷs (1886–1893) and Roeder (1890s/1900s) were able to collect quite a fair bit of folklore material during their visits to Man, cf. Rhŷs: 1891, 1892; Roeder: 1904.

37 Strachan’s September [1895] visit to Man is perhaps to be seen in his wish to have a contribution from Man for the first issue of the Celtic academic journal Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie in 1897. As already noted, the song-text appeared under the title ‘A Manx Folksong’ (Strachan: 1897: 54–58). Tom Kermode was the principal singer for Dr. John Clague whom Clague met for the first time in late December 1895 (Letter Dr. Clague - Deemster J. F. Gill 25/12/1895 MNHL MS 09702 Deemster J. F. Gill Papers, Box 2) and obtained much song material from him during 1896.

38 As Miller (Manx Notes 20 (2004): 2) points out, Moore’s Manx Ballads and Music appeared during the year 1896, which would indicate that Moore’s “March last” would refer to that year. This, if correct, would imply that ZCP I came out in March 1896, and not in 1897 as listed.

39 William Joseph Cain (1826-1911), Douglas, one of Moore’s editorial assistants for his Manx Ballads and Music (Miller: 2017, Part. 8). He was also one of Rhŷs’s main informants (see Broderick 2018b: 37ff.).
Manx Traditional Songs, Rhymes and Chants in the Repertoire of the Last Native Manx Speakers

EC NY FIDDLERYN (song).

Tom Kermode (1825–1901), Bradda, Rushen, summer 1883 (Strachan & Henebry. *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* I (1897): 54–58). The text in Strachan is set out in a block of 52 lines, implying thirteen four-line stanzas as indicated by the tunes cited above. For ease of reference the text and translation are provided here in thirteen stanzas.

I

ɛk ɲə fidl´arən ɔðən ulik
ven ɕʼad vo:l vi:t mi ŋrif grai mə xri:
da graiax graiax hai jin ji:s kudgax
as hug jin tajjax dən tu:r˚i:

II

wi: ən ur˚i jin dəs kʼodn f˚ax bl˚i:ano
ve: mə yrai ns miʃ mınič mıed:le1
ns jai: d˚i: dú: l˚e:zක t˚jino folsa
na: d˚zinax i: mi də brax xr˚e:xe:l˚

III

fastɔr d˚z˚a:dũ:ni rof lei: inid
hai mi də j˚i:yan grai mə xri:
hog i nə de: leu os mə ye: leu
na bu:dax i: fer erax ax mi:

IV

heŋk mi rom tai as mə xri: də gen˚al
n˚i: erbi: ha rau d˚zin sa˚y˚an dù:s
an x˚ad ski˚al x:y:l mi ma:ri le: inid
da rau mə yrai ŋrif fer ɛl˚a pu:s

V

drau mə vi:l˚a era du:d˚i
ns mi su:ri ʊri ŋrif xwel˚an le:
tra haniκ i: na rau grai ek ɔr˚om
ɔdax i: ve ən obal tre:

VI

ha d˚zin˚am d˚z˚i:j draxlu na gwewn
ha wi˚dom dr˚axfur˚t j˚i:n də hit na re:d
ax da d˚zin i bu˚:c de ə kar˚d˚z˚on
ge da vel i ə jinu d˚z˚i:ms ax kre˚:d˚

VII

ən b˚il˚a walnut na redn r˚ju ta:lu
fin˚f erax ha rau em
m˚f te: mə yrai ə frawal da folsa
as tə mi ʄi:yt mə lumark˚an

Ec ny fiddleryn ayns yn Ollick
v˚el chied voayl veet mee rish graih my chree.

Veih yn oor shen dys kione shiaght bleaneuy
va my graih as mish mennick meeiteil
as yiall ee doosy lesh e chengey foalsey
nagh jinnaghe ee mee dy braagh hregieil.

Fastyr Jedoonee roish Laa Innyd
hie mee dy yeaaghyn graih my chree.

Haink mee roym thie as my chree dy gennal
nhee erbee cha row jannoo seaghyn doois.

Cha jinnym jeesh drogh-loo ny gweeghyn
cha wishym drogh fortchyan dy heet ny raad.
Agh dy jeaen ee boggey da e caarjyn
ge dy vel ee er yannoo jeem˚s agh craid.

Yn chied skwewl mee moghree Laa Innid
dy row my graih rish fer elley poost.

Yn billey walnut nagh ren rieau taggloo
feanish arragh cha row aym.

Nish ta my graih er phrowal dy foalsey
as ta mee faagit my lomarcan.
[1. At the fiddlers during Christmas / was the first place I met the love of my heart / lovingly, lovingly we sat down together / and began our courting.

2. From that time to the end of seven years / my love and I often met / and she promised me with her false tongue / that she would never forsake me.

3. On the Sunday evening before Ash Wednesday / I went to see the love of my heart / She put her two hands in my two hands / that she would not marry another man but me.

4. I went my way home and my heart was happy / there was nothing causing me distress / The first news I heard on the morning of Ash Wednesday / (was) that my love was wedded to another man.

5. My curse be on the hussie / and me courting her for many a day / When she saw I had no love for me / she could have refused me early.

6. I will not make bad curse or imprecation against her / I do not wish ill-fortune to come her way / but that she may give joy to her friends / although she has made a mockery of me.

7. The walnut tree that never did speak / no other witness did I have / Now my love has proved false / and I am left alone.

8. I shall make my way to Patrick’s fair / I shall dress myself like any other
2.10 FREEINAGHYN AS SNAIDYN (pins and needles) (rhyme)

Text: No other texts known.

Tune: No tune known.

FREEINAGHYN AS SNAIDYN (rhyme)

\[
tə fʁɪːnɛxn oːs sɛnədən ɛm
as lʊtʃən sən ɛə nənən
as mə dʒən ʃeːn fɪdəl əd
nɪmi kʊr 'deːu ɾə pɪŋən
\]

\[
\text{[I have pins and needles / and laces for girls / and if they will weave them / I}
\text{shall give them the pennies].}
\]

2.11 GOLL DY SCHOILL (going to school) (rhyme)

Text: C’red oo goll (where are you going?) (Roeder 1896: 178).

Tune: No tune known.

GOLL DY SCHOILL (rhyme)

\[
va kɪət də rau və dəŋə 'sɔːr gɔl erə ræd as vɪt e skɔləg 'veg də 'ɡɪlə, as vɾæi i dʒən
yɪlə kɾə:d ti goːl, as dut ən giələ rɪʃ:
\]

\[
Va kɛəlrt dy row və dooiʃeey seyr gɔl er y raad as veet eh scollag veg dy guille, as vɾie eh jɛh'n guhilley c'raad t'ɛh gɔll, as dooyrt yn guillely rish:
\]
[Once there was a gentleman going along the road and he met a young strap of
a lad, and he asked the lad where he was going, and the lad said to him: Going
to school / and he asked him / where was the book / and he said to him / in the
drawer / and he asked him / and where is the drawer / and he said to him / in
the house / and where is the house / in the field / and where is the field / on the
mountain / and where is the mountain / in the place it ever was].

2.12 GRAIH MY CHREE (love of my heart) (song frag.)

Texts: Oral versions:
2. Tommy Leece, Kerroomooar, Kerrookeil, Malew, Christmas/New Year 1950–
1951 (Jackson 1955: 135–136). See also below.

Printed texts: J. R. Moore MNHL MS 09495 1st. ent. Graih my Chree ta ayns
Ballaragh (love of my heart who is in Ballaragh), Moore (1896: 120 Thomas
Crellin, Peel, 1st. ent. O Graih my chree, O vel oo maryl: (O love of my heart,
Oh, are you with me?)).

Tune: No tune known. But see under Ec ny Fiddleryn above.

GRAIH MY CHREE (song frag.).
Harry Kelly (1852–1935), Cregneash, Rushen, 28 January 1933 (M/III: 1917–

gre:i ma 'xri: vel grei ed 'ɔrəm
te red 'beg a' nel mi 'fələm
wuʃ red 'beg həŋk red 'mu:'
as wuʃ 'ʃədnl həŋk grei əd 'lju:r
Graih my chree, vel graih ayd orrym
t'eh red beg, cha nel mee follym
Woish red beg haink red mooar
as woish shen haink graih dy liooar.

[Love of my heart, have you love for me / It is a small thing, I am not devoid
(of it) / From something small came something big / and from that there came
love in abundance].
GRAIH MY CHREE (song frag.).
Tommy Leece (1859–1956), Kerroomooar, Kerrookeil, Malew, 9 October 1952 (YCG/32; HLSM/I: 374–375).

\[
\begin{align*}
greɪ dɛ mə xri: & \text{ vel greɪ ed ɔrəm} \\
te̱d beg ha nɛl e fɔləm & \text{ t'eh red beg, cha nɛl eh follym} \\
wuʃ rid beg hɪg rid mɨr & \text{ woish red beg hɪg red mooar} \\
az wuʃ rid mɨr hɪg greɪ dɨ l'ʊr & \text{ as woish red mooar hɪg graih dy liooar.}
\end{align*}
\]

[Love of my heart, have you love for me / It is a small thing, it is not void / From a small thing something big will come / and from something big there will come love in abundance].

2.13 GUBBYLYN (clobber) (rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

GUBBYLYN (rhyme)
Thomas Crebbin (1847–1935), Bradda RU, 1–2 September 1930 (M/IV: 2557; HLSM/I: 400–401).

\[
\begin{align*}
lhɪg dũn'sɛi si:s a'so: & \text{ Lhig dooin seise [sic] ayns shoh} \\
as kūr an ɡəblan ɔrən eg l'ezjə & \text{ as cur yn gubbylyn orrin ec leisure} \\
sɔn te a'ɡəd a'so: ɖə bi: kwoi an & \text{ son ta argid ayns shoh dy bee quoi yn} \\
dũn'ə n'i: kūr 'a:sa & \text{ dooinney nee cur ass eh.}
\end{align*}
\]

[Let us sit down here / and put on our clobber at leisure / for there is money here whoever is the person who shall give it out].

2.14 HIE SON SKYLLEY BREESHEY (Hi for Kirk Bride) (song frag.)
Tune: Moore (1896: 264 from Mona Melodies (1820: 14–15). Moore (1896: xxix) supplies only the first verse of this song for the sake of the tune, ‘the adventures of the party referred to being described in the rest of the ballad in language too coarse for publication.’

\[
\begin{align*}
1. & \text{ Hi son Skill y Breeshey} / \text{ As Hi son Skill andrase} / \text{ Jurby cosney yn Dhounsyn} / \text{ dy rosh ad ooilloo er keagh.} \\
2. & \text{ As quei yn shaght vun} / \text{ Charles Moore (a poet) Balla Ratler as} \\
& \text{ Kerry Clugaish} / \text{ As Arthur Beg Brew ....} / \text{ As heie Clark wish Dhoolish [1. Hi for} \\
& \text{ Kirk Bride / and hi for Kirk Andreas} / \text{ Jurby to win the dances / (and) that they all got} \\
& \text{ drunk. 2. Charles Moore Ballaratcliffe and Kerry Clucas / And Arthur Beg Brew / And} \\
& \text{ Heie Clark from Douglas]. Evidently Moore could not make any sense of the text, as he}
\end{align*}
\]

40 A Rushen pronunciation of Mx sheese (G sios), cf. HLSM/II: 395 v.s. sheese.
41 The version Moore gives in his ms. (MNHL MS 00221A) runs as follows: 1. Hi son Skill y Breeshey / As Hi son Skill andrase / Jurby cosney yn Dhounsyn / dy rosh ad ooilloo er keagh. 2. As quei yn shaght vun / Charles Moore (a poet) Balla Ratler as Kerry Clugaish / As Arthur Beg Brew .... / As heie Clark wish Dhoolish [1. Hi for Kirk Bride / and hi for Kirk Andreas / Jurby to win the dances / (and) that they all got drunk. 2. Charles Moore Ballaratcliffe and Kerry Clucas / And Arthur Beg Brew / And Heie Clark from Douglas]. Evidently Moore could not make any sense of the text, as he
HIE SON SKYLLEY BRESHEY (song frag.).

John Cain (1850–1939), Ballamoar, Jurby, 2 February 1933 (M/IV: 2625; HLSM/I: 312–315).

I
hai sən skilə bɾiːzə
as hai sən skjən (sic) an'drə:s
ðə jirəbi as kaːslən (sic) dəʊənəː
as həi æd ðə gəl kəːx
Hie son Skylley Breeshey
as hie son Skyll Andreas
Dy Yurby as cosney'n daunsey
as hie ad dy goll keagh

II
ðə kreoː bwiː ðə skjən an'drə:s
as bəskəd wiː ðə jəːrbi
as roːzən ˈʤəɡ əs bələ̆ːɬəː:
as məʃəli əs sələbi
Ta cray bwee ayns Skyll Andreas
as baskad wee ayns Yurby
as roseyn jarg ayns Ballalaa
as meshtalee ayns Sulby

III
sadəɾ muːr ən kəlˈə
bi prəˈʃɛl ˈsæn hwiːl ən blˈːəːdnˈ
ə rəu fəd ˈɛɡə dus məlˈiːənə
ðə rəu reˈɡə əs dʒəːx əs fəːdn
Sadler Mooar ny Kella
bee preachil son whileen blein
Cha row fys echey dys mleeaney
dy row peccah ayns jough as feeyn

[1. Hi for Kirk Bride / and hi for Kirk Andreas / to Jurby to win the dance / and they went to go wild.
2. There is yellow clay in Kirk Andreas / and corn marigold in Jurby / and red roses in Ballaugh / and drunkards in Sulby.
3. Sadler Mooar (Big Sadler) of the Kella[42] / will be preaching for many a year / He did not know till this year / that there was a sin in ale and wine].

2.15 HOP DY NAA (Hollantide chant frag.)

Text (Manx): Clague (1911: 26–29 from Tom Kermode, Bradda RU ent. Hop! Ta’n Oie with Eng. trans.), Moore (1896: 68, ent. Hop-Tu-Naa, various (oral), with Eng. trans.), Roeder (1896: 184–186; versions from Ramsey (Eng.), ‘A Bannag from the Mull’ RU (Mx), Surby RU (Mx), Port Erin RU (Mx; frag.), Ramsey (Eng.; frag.), Ballaugh (Mx; frag.), Glen Maye PA (Eng.)), Paton ([1941]: 76–82).

Text (English): Train (1845 II: 123), Harrison (1873: 148 ent. Hop-Tu-Naa).


Manx Hop-dy-Naa, the name given to the last day of the Celtic year (31 October) on which children are wont to go from house to house chanting a rhyme and thereby earning sweets (nowadays money), does not appear to have any Celtic etymology.

writes ‘no sense’ to the right of each verse. To judge from his comments above, he had evidently obtained another version of the text, which to date has not seen the light of day.

[42] ‘(farm of/by the) wood’ (viz. Mx (balley ny) Keylley, G (baile na) coille), a farm near Sulby (SC391951), with ellipsis of the head word.
The phrase *Hop-dy-Naa* forms a vocable chorus to the rhyme chanted, which seems to have given its name to the event, formally *Sauin* (G *Samhain* ‘end of summer’), *Oie Houney* /ˈhɔunə/ (G *Oidhche Shamhna* ‘the night of Souney/Samhna’), Eng. (Hollantide/Hallowe’en). Many customs are associated with this event.

According to Kelly 1866 *v.s.* *Baal-Sauin*,

[...]. On this night [i.e. Hollantide] [...] ‘the women knead their dough to make cakes to the Queen of Heaven’ [...]. Much ceremony is observed in making this cake, which is sacred to love [...] and is called the ‘soddag valloo’ or dumb cake. Every woman is obliged to assist in mixing the ingredients, kneading the dough and baking the cake on glowing embers; and when sufficiently baked they divide it, eat it up, and retire to their beds backwards without speaking, from which silence the cake derives its name, and in the course of the night expect to see the images of the men who are destined to be their husbands [...] (Kelly 1866 *v.s.* *Baal-Sauin*, quoted also in Paton [1941]: 76).

Moore (1891: 125), in quoting the above, adds that the ingredients included ‘flour, eggs and egg-shells, soot, &c.’ For further details see Moore (1891: 122–125), Clague (1911: 23–31), Paton ([1941]: 76), Gilchrist (1924–26: 174–177).

Karl Roeder (1904: 17), a native of Gera, Thüringen, but then resident in Manchester, notes the following custom associated with Hop dy Naa:

On Holy Eve the girls used to go at 12 o’clock at night and carry a ball of woollen yarn in their hand, and steal to a barn without anyone knowing anything about it, and twisting the end of it round their wrist threw the ball in the darkness as far as they could; then after a little while they began to wind it up, beginning at the end twined around their wrist. If the thread was held they would cry out [in Manx]: ‘Who is holding the thread?’ and they expected whoever held it to say who he was; if there was no answer they were to be old maids (Roeder: 1904: 17, quoted also in Paton: [1941]: 77).

**HOP DY NAA (chant frag.).**

*William Killip (1834–1922), Clyeen, Michael, 3 August 1890 (Rhŷs 6/95).*

\no:x əi sɔuna, hɔp ðə ne:, hɔp ðə ne:
me:ra:x le: sɔuna, tra lɔ le:, tra lɔ le:

Noght Oie Houngey, Hop dy Naa, Hop dy Naa
mairagh Laa Souney, tra lal laa, tra lal laa.

[Tonight is *Oie Houney*, Hop dy Naa, Hop dy Naa / tomorrow is *Laa Souney*, tra lal laa, tra lal laa].

**HOP DY NAA (chant frag.).**

---

43 Rhŷs provides only the phonetic versions of his texts. The versions in Standard Manx Orthography, here as elsewhere, are supplied for convenience.
George Broderick

John Kermode (1811–1891), Surby, Rushen, 7 August 1890 (Rhŷs 6/105)

Noght Oie Houney, Hop Tu Naa
famman ny gouny, tra lal laa
kellagh ny kiarkyn, Hop Tu Naa.

[Tonight is Oie Houney... / tail of the heifer.../ cock or hens...]

HOP DY NAA (chant frag.).
William Corrin (1817–1892), Cronk y Doonee, Rushen, 8 August 1890 (Rhŷs 6/113).

Noght Oie Houney, Hop Tu Naa
shibyr ny gouny, Hop Tu Naa
cre’n goun marmayd, Hop Tu Naa
gouin spottagh breck, Hop Tu Naa.

[Tonight is Oie Houney... / supper of/for the heifer... / what heifer shall we kill... / a speckled spotted heifer...].

HOP DY NAA (chant frag.).
‘Paaie Vooar’ (Mrs. Margaret Taylor (1816–1890), Surby, Rushen, 8 August 1890 (Rhŷs 6/117–118).

Noght Oie Houney, Hop dy Naa
fiddar ny gouny, Hop dy Naa
cre’n goun marmayd, Hop dy Naa
yn ghoun veg vreck, Hop dy Naa.

[Tonight is Oie Houney... / weaver of/for the heifer... / what heifer shall we kill... / the little speckled heifer... / what quarter shall we put in the pot... / the wee end quarter... / I tasted the broth... / I scalded my tongue... / I ran to the well...].

2.16 HUDGEONY FIDDER (Hudson the weaver) (song frag.)

Text: Moore (1896: 212 from Prof. John Rhŷs).

Tune: No tune known.
Moore (1896: xxix) notes: ‘*Hudgeon y Fidder* (Hudgeon [Hudson] the weaver) is the only [known] song which gives an intimation that there was once such a thing as smuggling in the Island.’

**HUDGEON Y FIDDER** (song frag.).
John Carrine (1824–1893), Chasm House, Cregneash, Rushen, 14 August 1892 (Rhŷs 6/189).

‘At Fleshwick an old Manxman called *Carin Hurbi* (Carine of Surby) who showed us into a cave repeated to me the beginning of a ballad about a smuggler called [həʤin ə fidər] (Hudgeon the Weaver). He was a fellow with very big lips –

\[\text{V’eh goll seose eg y Chreg Ghoo} \]
\[\text{Cha row wheesh as trolloal a chione} \]
\[\text{Son va daa vecall er Hyjin [həʤin]} \]
\[\text{Kiert wheesh my daa ghoarən} \]
\[\text{As va daa roll dy hombaga} \]
\[\text{Ayns mean y vart connee.}
\]

[He was going up at the Black Rock / he was not so much as lifting his head / for there were two lips on Hudgeon / just as big as my two fists / and there were two rolls of tobacco / in the middle of his load of gorse].

There was more of this stuff and it used to be sung, as Hyjin [Hudgeon] seems to have been a noted character in these parts’ (Rhŷs 6/189).

**HUDGEON Y FIDDER** (song frag.).
William Collister (18??–18??), c/o of Edward Collister, 9–16 August 1892^{46} (Rhŷs 5/8b).

\[\text{V’eh goll seose ec yn Chreg Ghoo} \]
\[\text{Cha row wheesh as trolloal e chione} \]
\[\text{Son va daa vecal er Hudgeon} \]
\[\text{Kiert wheesh my daa ghoarn} \]
\[\text{As va daa roll dy hombaga} \]
\[\text{Ayns mean y vart connee.}
\]

[He was going up at the Black Rock / he was not so much as lifting his head /...]

^{44} As with *Y Maarliagh Mooar* above, Moore obtained this song-fragment also from Rhŷs (Moore 1896: xxx) and prints it in his *Manx Ballads* (1896: 212) under the title *Hudgeon y Fidder* (‘Hudson the weaver’), again ‘correcting’ the text.

^{45} Rhŷs’s own comments.

^{46} Place of residence of the Collisters is to date not known, but given that they were aware of the song about Hudgeon, then probably somewhere in Rushen parish. Precise date of interview unknown.

^{47} For the text see also Moore (1896: 212).
for there were two lips on Hudgeon / just as big as my two fists / and there were two rolls of tobacco / in the middle of his load of gorse].

2.17 JUAN GAWNE (rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

JUAN GAWNE (rhyme)

va 'ʃan juan 'gudn as vi 'bɛ:ə ən má:r aɪn as va jɛ: 'ɛ:sə (sic) o:n, as van taɪ 'tu:t´egˈɛ as va kə:gi house 'tu:tˈ as va bɔ:1 dən, riʃən 'ka:bɛl beg as ən 'buːə, as vi 'fi: sɔn 'bɔːːə, as vi 'ɡreː: - kɔkə kɔk, as then vi 'ɡreː:

Va shenn Yuan Gawne as v’eh baghey yn magher aɪn as va shey ?acyr ayn, as va’n thie thooit as va coigee house thooit as va boayl da’n...rish yn cabbyl beg as yn booa, as v’eh fee son baghey, as v’eh gra, ‘Cockacock’, as then v’eh gra:

[There was old Juan Gawne and he was living (in) our field and there were six acres in it, and he had a thatched house and a thatched loom house, and there was a place for the small horse and the cow, and he was weaving for a living, and he used to say, ‘Cockacock’, and then he would say:
Like an egg I am indeed / in danger of being broken / and like old shoes / that were worn out and (thrown) in a corner / left and abandoned / and my forefinger in my mouth / and like old shoes / that were worn out and (thrown) in a corner].

2.18 KIARK KATREENEY MARROO (Catherine’s hen is dead) (chant)
Tune: Moore (1896: 227 John Bridson, Colby AR).

With regard to the custom, Moore (1891: 126–127) makes the following comment:

December 6th—Laa’l Catreneey (Catherine’s feast-day) (old style). On or about this day possession must be taken on the South side of the Island of lands,
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when there is a change of occupier. A fair was held on this day in the Parish of Arbory, when the following curious distich was repeated.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Kiark Catreeney marroo,} & \quad \text{Catherine’s hen is dead,} \\
\text{Gow’s y kione,} & \quad \text{Take thou the head,} \\
\text{As yoyms ny cassyn,} & \quad \text{And I will take the feet,} \\
\text{As ver mayd ee fo’n thalloo.} & \quad \text{And we will put her underground.}
\end{align*}
\]


Clague (1911: 43–45) supplies further details:

[...] [B]efore there were any attorneys, the people of Colby Mooar put aside all their fallings out that were between them at the feast of St. Katherine, and that each party would peel (pluck) some of the feathers [from a hen] and bury them, and the case was settled.

I have heard an old man say that his mother kept a public-house, and she had told him that the men and young boys of the neighbourhood would kill a hen, and they would walk two and two, holding the hen between them, and other persons would walk two and two through the fair with their hats off, as if they would be at a funeral, and sing,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Kiark Katreeney marroo} \\
\text{Gow uss y kione, as goym’s ny cassyn} \\
\text{as ver mayd ee fo halloo}
\end{align*}
\]

They would then go to the public-house and get plenty of ale.

A wake was kept (held) over the hen, and early the next day the men went to ‘peel the hen.’ ‘The head and the feet were cut off, and they were buried. It gave them an opportunity to get a little drop on the next day. Anyone who went to the public-house (tavern) on the day after the fair, people said, ‘He is going to peel the hen.’

Moore (1896: xxi) has:

The quaint distich \textit{Kiark Katreeney Marroo} ‘Katherine’s hen is dead’ was formerly sung at a fair held on the 6th of December, this being Laa’l Katreeney ‘Katherine’s Feast Day’ at Colby, in the parish of Arbory. Those who sang it got possession of a hen which they killed and plucked, and, after carrying it about, buried. If any one got drunk at the fair it was said \textit{T’eh er goaill fedjag ass y chiark} ‘He has plucked a feather from the hen’ (Moore 1896: xxi).

KIARK KATREENEY MARROO (chant).
A Fair is [marˈge/merˈge] St. Catherine’s fair at Colby used to be held on the 6th of December and will be again probably (there is a lawsuit about the feild [sic] for holding it) and it began with a procession in which a live hen was carried about (and probably killed) and ended (next day?) by the hen being carried about plucked and dead. A rhyme was used then to the following effect:

Kiark Catr[ei:]na 'marroo
Dous/Gows yn [kjɔn] as goms ny cassyn ([kazən])
As vermayd ([vɛːrmad]) ee fo'n thalloo (Rhŷs 6/21).

[Catherine’s hen is dead, you take the head and I shall take the feet / and we shall put her under the ground].

**KIARK KATRENEY MARROO** (chant).
Edward Faragher, Sr. (1803–1890), Cregneash, Rushen, 18 September 1888 (Rhŷs 6/24).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kjarg ka'tri:na maru,</th>
<th>Kiark Katreeney marroo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gous a kjʊdn as goms nə kæzan</td>
<td>gow uss y kione as gowym's ny cassyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as vermad i fon tʰalu</td>
<td>as vermayd ee fo'n thalloo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Catherine’s hen is dead, you take the head and I shall take the feet / and we shall put her under the ground].

**2.19 LHIGEY, LHARGEY (galloping, galloping) (children’s rhyme)**

**Text:** MNHL MS 00221A/20 (A. W. Moore Coll.) (1 st.) ent. ‘The Red Petticoats,’ Moore (1896: 216–217). According to Moore (1896: xx), he received this rhyme from Miss Elizabeth Jane Graves (1851–1931), Peel, who collected song material for A. W. Moore during the 1890s (Miller *Manx Notes* 2017/4: 14–15). Moore *(ibid.*) adds, that ‘[t]he girls when playing it kneel on the ground on one knee, and strike the other knee with their right hands as they say each word.’

**Tune:** No tune recorded as the rhyme was spoken.

**LHIGEY, LHARGEY (children’s rhyme).**

---

48 *Text: Ah heu my mothee beg goll gys y kiel / Cockal y famman er mullach y kys / Drib drab fud ny laghey / Geirt er ny mraane less ny unraghyn jeargey [Ahoi my wee dog going to the church / cocking its tail on the top of its buttock / Drib drab through the mud / going after the women with the red petticoats] MNHL MS 00221A/20 (A. W. Moore Coll.)*
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ljigə ljö:ɡə gəl gəsə və:ɡə
guɨt ə nə mə:n lɨs ə nə mɨɾaːɲəŋ dʒoːɡə

Lhigey, lhargaey, goll gys y vargey
guiyr ə ny mraane lesh ny
oanraghyn iarjegy

ljigə ljö:ɡə gəl gəsə ki:ɡə
guaiɾ ə nə mə:n lɨs ə nə mɨɾaːɲəŋ griːdən

Lhigey, lhargaey, goll gys y keeill
guiyr ə ny mraane lesh ny
oanraghyn green.

[Galloping, galloping, going to the fair / following the women with the red petticoats / galloping, galloping, going to the church / following the women with the green petticoats].

2.20 MANNIN VEG VEEN (dear wee (Isle of) Man) (song frag.)


Tune: MNHL MS unacc. (supra) ‘to the tune of Barbara Allen’; Clague C2/13:1 and C3/3: 5 informants unknown, both ent. ‘In 1823 and March 23rd [day]’, the latter also ent. Hug shin seose y shiaull mean (we hoisted the main-sail); cf. the line st. 4 Eisht hrog shin shiaull erskyn nyn gione (then we hoisted the sail above us, lit. ‘our heads’). For the tune to Barbary Allen see Moore (1896: 242 Thomas Crellin, Peel). Below are the first and second stanzas respectively.

The song tells of the experiences of the Peel fishermen on their way to the herring fishing off the Calf of Man, and all ending up in Douglas in a local hostelry to celebrate the end of the herring season (September).49

MANNIN VEG VEEN (song frag.).
John Cannon (1815–?1893), Ballaugh, 15 July 1893 (Rhŷs 7/196).

manin vɛg viːdn, ta uns mɛːn y xiədən
ta ʊnʒi weɪt jɛs’tiːrən
Mannin Veg Veen, ta ayns mean y cheayn
ta aynjee weight eeasteyryn.

[Dear wee Mannin which is in the midst of the sea / in which there are lots of fishermen].

49 The Manx semi-speaker Ewan Christian (1907–1985), Peel (Broderick 2017: 48–49), told me in an interview in 1978 that he remembers Peel fishermen standing on a table in the Marine bar on Peel promenade during the 1920s and singing Mannin Veg Veen. Christian was unable to provide me with any details as to the tune, etc., other than that the song was sung with gusto.
MANNIN VEG VEEN (song frag.).

[We’ll get going for St. John’s Fair / to see if we’ll get news of herring].

2.21 ‘MANX FAIRY’, The (rhyme)
Tune: No tune known.
The ‘Manx Fairy’ was built in 1853 for the then newly-founded Ramsey (Isle of Man) Steam Packet Company [1830] by John Laird, Birkenhead, and sold in 1861 after a series of mishaps to Cunard, Wilson & Co., Liverpool. The people of Ramsey were apparently very proud that Ramsey had a boat of its own. For further details see Radcliffe (1989: 62–67).

‘MANX FAIRY’, The (rhyme).

T’eh foddey er dy henney va mish guilley veg as chionn fondagh dy shassoo er my cassy n hene tra haink shin gys Fo-slieau dy baghey. As va sleih ays n y voayl shen roin, agh v’ad foarst goll magh son cha row ad geeck y mayl. As va mee er y thaloo ard jeh’n voayl shen laa dy row as va shenn wooimney ny hoie ec yn aile, as va pohnar beg er y glooyn echey. V’eh boandyry as v’eh goaill toshireat dy goaill arrane. As shoh va ny focklyn va echey:
Va yn 'Ferrish' yn ennym jeh y chied lhong-vree va troggit son Ellan Vannin

[It is long since I was a wee lad and very sure of standing on my own feet when we came to Folieu to live. And there were people in there before us, but they had to leave as they could not pay the rent. I was on the high ground of the place one day and there was an old man sitting by the fire, and there was a wee wain sitting on his knees. He was nursing it and started to sing. These were the words he had:

The ‘Fairy’ has almost reached England / and the wheels (i.e. paddles) quickly turned.

The ‘Fairy’ was the name of the first steamship that was built for the Isle of Man.

‘MANX FAIRY’, The (rhyme).
John Cain (1851–1939), Ballamoar, Jurby, 2 February 1933 (M/IV: 2624; HLSM/I: 312–313).

The ‘Fairy’ has arrived / from the west of old England / her wheels (paddles) are quickly turning / O wee Mannin dear / your heart is full of enthusiasm / and still a good push (pushing well) to Ramsey].

2.22 MYLECHARAINE (song frag.)
Texts: manuscript texts: McLagan MS 180 (University of Glasgow); photocopy MNHL MS 5382A (6 coupl. + addl. refr.) c. 1770 in hand of Philip Moore (1705–1783); BL Addl. 11215 ‘An Old Manks Madrigal’ c. 1789 in hand of Deemster Peter John Heywood (1739–1790) (7 coupl. + addl. refr.); MNHL MD 900 MS 08307 (c. 1830–1840) (p. 2) 3st.; (p. 6) 5st.; (p. 7) 6st.; MNHL MS 2151A in hand of T. E. Brown (1830–1897) (5 coupl. 1893); Clague Bk 5: 48 (1st.) couplet beg.

51 ‘under (the) mountain’, a farm on the hillside near the main Ramsey-Laxey road (SC463933).
52 MNHL MS 2151A contains 5 stanzas written on the back of a note sent to Manx poet T. E. Brown (1830–1897) from the Ramsey Courier Office dated 26 August 1893. It is not included here, as the text derives from Harrison (1869: 57).
O Vylecharaine, c’raad hooar oo dty stoyr (O Mylecharaine, where did you find your store?). Variants range between 1 and 14 couplets.


Oral texts: Collected in phonetic script by Prof. Carl. J. S. Marstrander, Professor of Celtic Studies in the University of Oslo, Norway, during his visits to Man (1929–1930):

1. From Thomas Taggart, Grenaby, Malew, 16 June 1929\(^{53}\) (M/IV: 2231–2235) (6 st.).
2. From Joseph Woodworth, Port Erin, Rushen, 28 August 1930 (M/III: 1659–1663) (8 st.).


With regard to the content of the song, Thomson (1961: 12) notes:

The poem purports to refer to one Mylecharaine, who lived in or near the Curragh in Jurby [SC3696] in the north-west of the island, and who was supposed to have earned general execration by being the first Manxman to give his daughter a dowry instead of expecting a bride-price for her. The name, to judge from the earliest spellings, represents [G] Mac Ghille Chiaráin rather than Maol Chiaráin; the second element, however, had become identical with the common noun *carrane* (G *cuarán*), a shoe or sandal made of untanned hide, often with the hair on it, and this may have given particular point to the mention of his footwear in the course of mocking his parsimonious habits (Thomson 1961: 12).

\(^{53}\) Marstrander visited Taggart for the first time on 16 June 1929 (Dagbok 16) when presumably he obtained a version of *Mylecharaine* from him, as in collecting a (similar) version of the song from Joseph Woodworth on 28 August 1930, Marstrander cites two variants he had obtained from Thomas Taggart (MIII: 1659–1663). Marstrander visited Taggart for the last time on 27 September 1930 (MIV: 2207b–2483).
For a discussion and analysis of the text, see Thomson (1961: 10–18), Broderick (forthcoming b). As with *Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey* (below), this became one of the most renowned traditional songs in the Manx repertoire.

The name *Mylecharaine* is the Manx reflex of Gaelic *mac giolla Chiaráin*.

**Mylecharaine (song frag.)** [mɔləkə’rɛ:n]
Thomas Taggart (1846–1933), Grenaby, Malew, 16 June 1929 (M/IV: 2231–2235)

I

'ø: 'mɔlika’rɛ:n, krɛ(:)d hᵘu:ru nə te:d?
as nə lʊmarkən daag oo mē
ʃi:s / 'ʃi:s unsə kørax dˈʊ:n dˈʊ:n da ’lˈu:r
son nə lʊmarkən de:g e mī

II

'ø: 'mɔlika’rɛ:n, krɛ(:)d hᵘu:ru nə te:d?
nə du:r mī sə kørax e edər ’de: ’e:d

III

Je: de: ’pær ˈɔːːɾən as ˈɔː:n pær ræg
va ek mɔləkə’rɛ:n ʊn nə hˈiːːnə as fid’

IV

‘ø: ʃeːd ø: ʃeːd ’tæ: miʃ ’ |>ˈlɪːnə as fid’
O Mylecharaine, c’raad hooar oo ny t’ayd?
as ny lomarkan daag oo mee
Sheesh ayns y curragh dowin, dowin dy liooar
son ny lomarkan daag eh mee.

Nagh dooor mee sy curragh eh eddyr daa aaid
va ec Mylecharaine ayns hoght bleaney as feed

O yishag, O yishag, ta mish goaill nearey
dy vel oo goll gys y keeill lesh dty carraneyn graney

O vuddee, O vuddee, cha lhiass dyts goaill nearey
son ta aym’s ayns kione y koir54 ver eh orts dy gearey

Agh my vollaght, my vollaght er Mylecharaine
son v’eh yn chied dooinney hug toghyr da mraane

[1. O Mylecharaine, where did you get what you have / and alone you did leave me / down, down in the curragh, deep, deep enough / for alone you did leave me.

2. O Mylecharaine, where did you get what you have / Did I not find it in the curragh between two turf-sods.

3. It is two pairs of stockings and one pair of shoes / which Mylecharaine had in twenty-eight years.

4. O father, O father, I am ashamed / that you go to church in your ugly sandals.

5. O girl, O girl, you have no need to be ashamed / for I have in Kione y Koir that which will make you laugh.

6. But my curse, my curse on Mylecharaine / for he was the first man who gave a dowry to women].

54 LN ?coan (n)y koir ‘hollow of the chest(stone)’. 
MYLECHARAINE (song frag.).

I
'o: 'volikə'reh, kred 'hur:ru do 'stor:r?
ma 'la'maxən 'de:yu mi
va hi:s unsnə (sic) kərəx 'dəun do 'l'ur:
as ma 'la'maxən 'de:yu mi

O Vylecharaine, c'raad hooar oo dy stoyr?
my lomarcan daag oo mee
V'eh heese ayns y curragh dowin dy liooar
as my lomarcan daag oo mee.

II
'o: 'volikə'reh kre:d 'hur:ru na 'stək ?
hi:s unsnə (sic) kərəx ðədə de: vlnk

O Vylecharaine, c'raad hooar oo ny stock?
Heese ayns y curragh eddyr daa vlock.

III
'o: volikə'reh kre:d 'hur:ru ne 'təd ?
hi:s unsnə (sic) kərəx ðədə de: lə:d'

O Vylecharaine, c'raad hooar oo ny t'ayd?
Heese ayns y curragh eddyr daa foaid.

IV
je: de: 'fəər 'nə:ʒən as ð:ən pær 'vreg
va ëk molikə'reh uns 'je: 'bl'i:nə as 'fid'

She daa phiyr oashyryn as un phiyr vraag
va ec Mylecharaine ayns shey bleaney as feed.

V
va kə'reh du: mərifiant kə'reh 'bəðən
as 'pær də: 'æn q:n xələr ëk dəliʃ də'sə:n

Va carrane dhoo márish carrane bane
as phiyr jeh yn un chullyr ec Doolish Jesarn.

VI
'o: jiʒəg, 'o: jiʒəg, tæ mi go:l 'nə:ru
da 'velu go:l dəsnə (sic) kəl 'l'ɛd ëk kə'reh:ən 'gre:na

O yishag, O yishag, ta mee goaill nearey
dy vel oo goll dys y keell lesh dty carraneyn
graney.

VII
'o: in'nən mə 'xri: 'a 'l'as dət go:l ' nə:ru
son 'tæ: 'e:əm uns k 'fə:nə kərəs as n'i: kə'r 'vts ge:ə:r

O innee my chree, cha lihass dhyt goaill nearey
son ta aym ayns kione y koir55 as nee cur orts
gearey.

VIII
ax ma volax, ma volax er volikə'reh
son vi: ën k 'əd dun 'ə hug ru: ta çəd: mə're:ən

Agh my vollagh, my vollagh er Vylecharaine
son v'eh yn chied dooinney hug rieau toghyr da
mraane.

[1. O Mylecharaine, where did you get your store / alone you did leave me / It
was in the curragh deep enough / and alone you did leave me.
2. O Mylecharaine, where did you get your stock / Down in the curragh between
two blocks (of stone).
3. O Mylecharaine, where did you get what you have / Down in the curragh
between two turf sods.
4. It is two pairs of stockings and one pair of shoes / which Mylecharaine had
in twenty-six years.
5. There was one black sandal with a white sandal / and two of the same colour
when in Douglas of a Saturday.

55 ‘end of the chest’, a place name seemingly in Jurby Curragh (SC3696). Or perhaps for
coan (ny) koir (‘hollow of the chest(stone)’)? For this see under Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey
(§2.25) below.
6. O father, O father, I am ashamed / that you go to church in your ugly sandals. 
7. O daughter of my heart, you have no need to be ashamed / for I have in Kione y Koir that which will make you laugh. 
8. But my curse, my curse on Mylecharaine / for he was the first man who gave a dowry to women].

2.23 MYR S‘LIAUYR YN OIE-GEUREE (how the winter night is long) (song frag.)
Text: This is a version of Arrane Sooree (courting song), cf. MD 900 (c. 1830–1840): 19 ent. Mor s’moeur vah nee geurey buoy (how the winter’s night was long, boy) (3st, 2 half-stanzas), MD 900 19–20 no title, 7st. + part st. MNHL MD 900 MS 08307; Clague Bk 5: 94–98 (11st.), text identical with that in Moore (1896: 80–81). Also JFSS VII/28: 135–136, 29: 209–210, 30: 322 note.
Tune: Version A: Clague C1/19: 3 Mrs. Lawson, Jurby East EU. Version B: C1/22: 3 informant unknown (variant of ‘As I went out one morning clear’ C1/7: 1); C4/25: 1 John Quayle, Gordon PA, and Moore (1896: 234 John Quayle, Glen Maye PA (likely the same person; Miller (Manx Notes 2017/8: 9)). Latter two are variants of Tune B. All versions in Clague entitled Sooree.

MYR S‘LIAUYR YN OIE-GEUREE (song frag.).

[How the winter night is long / how it is difficult to spend it / I would be standing at the door / and I would be all a-tremble / My fingers would be like lats and my teeth chattering / and my love sound asleep / she would not be hearing me / I tapped on the window / and knocked on the glass / and my heart would be leaping like a bird / inside my breast / And my love, and my love / we shall go together tonight after all].

2.24 NANE JEES, MYLECHREEST (one two, Mylechreest) (children’s rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.
NANE JEES, MYLECHREEEST (children’s rhyme)
John Cain (1850–1939), Ballamoar, Jurby, 2 February 1933 (M/IV: 2633; HSLM/I: 312–313).

neːn ʤiːs 'mɔlɔ kriːs
triː kɛː' beti ˈveːt
kwɛɡ ʃeː bil nə klɛː
ʃaːtʃ hɒːx tɔm ə lɔːx
nei ʤei tɔmi ˈfei
ɛnan ʤeɡ banan wɪd

Nane, jees, Mylechreest
Tree, kiare, Betty Vayr
Queig, shey, Bill ny Cleigh
Shiaght, hoght, Tom y Logh
Ney, jeih, Tommy Faaie
Annan jeig, ben yn woid.

[One two Mylechreest / three four Betty Vayr (of the road) / five six Bill ny Clay (of the hedge) / seven eight Tom y Logh (of the lake/swamp) / nine ten Tommy Faaie (of the flatt) / eleven, woman of the penis].

2.25 NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (the sheep under snow) (song frag.)
Texts: manuscript texts: MNHL unacc. for Harrison (1869: 127) from a manuscript of John Crellin (1764–1816) of Orrisdale MI, and Harrison (1873: 176); Clague Bk 5: 48 1st stanza plus refrain only, MK/M72; 1st., M73; 1st.) (1905) MNHL MS 09495 (Box. 6).
Printed texts: Peacock (1863: 64–65); Broadside c. 1870 by J. C. Faragher, Douglas (MNHL H140 Manx Language Scrapbook); Moore (1896: 187 from Harrison 1869 & 1873, all having 8 stanzas plus refrain).
Printed sources: Barrow (1820: 22); Moore (1896: from Harrison 1869 from ms. of John Crellin, Orrisdale MI); Kennedy (1975: 190, 199 from Mona Douglas MS Coll.).

The song is about the loss of a substantial number of sheep in deep snow on the mountains above Lonan parish by Nicholas Qualtrough of Raby LO c. 1700–1705. As with Mylecharaine (above), this became one of the most renowned traditional songs in the Manx repertoire. For a discussion and analysis of the song see Broderick (1984b).

NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (song frag.).
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[refrain]
iri ū bōɣlən
də γϊł dɔðə xl’iu
t’a n kirri fo njäxtʰə
xa dɔuən as vəd ru

Irree shiu bochillyn
dy gholl dys y chlieau
ta yn kirree fo sniaghtey
cha dowin as vəd rieau.

[Arise, boys, / to go to the mountain, / the sheep are under snow / as deep as they ever were].

NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (song frag.).

Kirree fo Nıaghtey [kɪri fo n´jæ:xtθi] JSk “sheep under the snow” (folksong) (it was [a] genuine Kk. Lonan song and the hero of it was a real Lonan man; he was called [kɒlʧərax rɛ:bi] [Qualtrough Raby]. Ræbi [rɛ:bi] is a place there)”56 (Rhŷs 6/154).

[refrain]
iri ū gɪllən / b奥林
as γου ū dɔðə kliu
θa n kirri fo n’jäxtθi
ha d’ʊn as vəd riu57

Irree shiu guilllyn/boyahyn
as gow shiu dys yn clieau
ta yn kirree fo niaghtey
cha dowin as v’ad rieau.

[Arise ye boys/shepherds / and go to the mountain / the sheep are under the snow / as deep as they ever were].

NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (song frag.).
Mrs. Margaret Caine (1810–1894),58 Ramsey, Maughold, 11 August 1892 (Rhŷs 6/176).

[Rhŷs 6/176].

[refrain]
i:ri ū bɔ:xel’ən
gou ū dɔn (sic) kl’iu
ta n kirri fo n’æ:xto
as (sic) dɔun’ as vəd riu

Irree shiu bochillyn
gow shiu da’n clieau
ta yn kirree fo niaghtey
as (cha) dowin as v’ad rieau.

[Arise ye, shepherds, / go ye to the mountain / the sheep are under snow / as deep as they ever were].

56 Raby is situated just north-west of Laxey on a spur overlooking Laxey Glen (at SC4285). It means ‘boundary farm’ (Sc rá-bý) and adjoins the boundary between the treen of Alia Colby (in which it is situated) and that of Colby (PNIM/IV: 345).
57 For differing variants and a discussion of the song Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey, see Broderick: 1984c.
58 ‘She has heard it sung, but she remembers no more of it though there was a great deal’ (Rhŷs 6/176).
NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (song frag.).

I
lò:g 'gjɛurə dᵊ ’njaːxtə
as 'arax ðə ’riː:oː
va na fàn: kiri 'maru:
as no ’iː.dn veːə ’bːoː:
Lurg geurey dy niaghtey
as arragh dy rio
va ny shenn kirree marroo
as ny eayin veggey biː

[refrain]
oː iːriː fuːgil’i[ən]
as ‘gəːuːʃ ðə k’luː:
ta na kiri fo njaxtə
hn daudn as vad ’ru:
O irree shiu. guilley(yn)
as gow shiu da’n clieau
Ta ny kirree fo niaghtey
cha dowin as v’ad rieau

II
’ʃəː duːt nik ’reːbi
as ’eːi nə laːi ʃiːŋ
ta na kiri fo njaxti
uns ’brɛːid fa’reːna fiːŋ
Shoh dooyrt Nick Raby
as eh ny ihie ʧiŋ
Ta ny kirree fo niaghtey
ays Braaid Farrane Fing

III
kiri tə ’ɛːm õns nən ’l’:əːɡən
as ’gɔːiːr sə k’l’uːː rai:
kiri kói kən na ’kəː.ʃtə
nax ’dzɨːt ðə bræx ’vəːi
Kirree ta aym ayns nyn lhargan
as goair sy Clieau Ruy
Kirree keoi Coan ny Kishṭey
nagh jig dy bragh vejh

IV
ta ’mohlt ɛːm ʌnən ’ɔlik
as ’dʒiːs ʃən ə keː’ʃt
as ’ɡa nə triː ’eːla
ṣən ə trɛː jəms ’beːs
Ta mohlt aym son y Nollick
as jees son y Caisht
as gaa ny tree elley
son y tria yiowm’s baase.

[1. After a winter of snow / and a spring of frost / the old sheep were dead / and the little lambs alive.
[Refrain]: O rise up, lad(s) / and go to the mountain / The sheep are under snow / as deep as they ever were.
2. This is what Nick Raby said as he lay sick / The sheep are under snow / in Braaid Farrane Fing.59
3. I have sheep in our lhargan⁶⁰ / and goats in Slieau Ruy⁶¹ / wild sheep in Coan ny Kishṭey⁶²
4. I have a wether for Christmas / and two for Easter / and two or three others / for the time I shall die].

59 A small stream on the eastern side of Snaefell at the present Les Graham memorial shelter (SC398875).
60 ‘steep hill slope’ (ScG leargan). For the distribution of this element see PNIM/VII:
   Index of Place-Name Elements s.v. lhargan.
61 ‘red mountain’, above Laxey (SC442873).
62 ‘hollow of the chest’. A large chest-like stone in the upper part of Cornaa Glen (c. SC424888).
NY KIRREE FO NIAGHTEY (song frag.).
Harry Kelly (1832–1935), Cregneash, Rushen, 28 January 1933 (M/Cyl. 24 (lines 1–2), M/III: 1874).

I
arax do sn’a:xto
as darax do ’r:ɔ:
və na jedn kiri maru
as nə e:dn / dedn beγɔ βl’ɔ:

Arragh dy sniaghtey
as darragh dy riɔ
va ny shenn kirree marroo
as ny eayin bæɡgey biɔ.

II
i:ri vo:xələn j ’l:u: länan
as ’hai að erro ’ju:1
as huyəɔ l’e:j na kiri mɛ:ru
dəs a:xlịf va’ru:l

Irree, vochillyn Slieau Lonan,
as hie ad er y shooyl
as hug ad lesh ny kirree mərroo
dys achlish Varool.

[1. A spring of snow / and a spell of frost / the old sheep were dead / and the little lambs alive.
2. Arise, shepherds of Slieau Lonan⁶³ / and they went over (Cronk y) Chooyl⁶⁴ / and they brought the sheep with them / to the armpit of Barrule⁶⁵].

2.26 OH, SOIEYM SEOSE SYN UINNAG (Oh, I’ll sit up in the window) (song frag.)

Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

OH, SOIEYM SEOSE SYN UINNAG (song frag.)

o: seιəm 'so:s sən 'ünjag
as ke:n’əm le: as ‘i:
as ]'ədə o bo: l njım ’dəjɔrɔnt (sic)
sə:n gre: i mǐ:n mo ’xri:

Oh, soieym seose syn uinnag
as keaynym laa as oie
as shen y boayl neeym doberan
son graih meen my chree.

[Oh, I shall sit up in the window / and I shall weep day and night / and that is the place I shall lament / for the dear love of my heart].

---

63 ‘Lonan mountain’, i.e. the group of the three mountains Slieau Lhean (‘broad mountain’, G sliabh + leathan), Slieau Ouyr (‘dun-coloured’, G odhar), Slieau Ruy (‘red/brown’, G obl. ruaidh) to the north of Laxey.

64 There was a farm just below Laxey Wheel known as Cronk y Chooyl (SC432852) ‘hill of the walking’ (G cnoc a’ t-siubhail), i.e. a gathering place for shepherds as they went (walked) on to the mountain (cf. PNIM/IV: 291). Or it could be er y chooyl ‘immediately, at once’ (G. ar an tsiubhal).

65 Probably Laggan Varool (SC435902).
George Broderick

2.27 OLLICK GHENNAL (Happy Christmas) (chant)
Text: Kelly (1866) s.v. Qualtagh notes the following:

the first person or creature one meets going from home. This person is of great consequence to the superstitious, particularly to women the first time they go out after lying-in.

Cregeen (1835) s.v. Qua(a)iltagh ‘one who meets’ (10 li.). Otherwise known as ‘first foot’, Cregeen (1835: s.v. Quaaltagh) notes:

The first person met on New Year’s Day, or on going on some new works, &c. A company of young lads or men, generally went in old times on what they termed the Qualtagh, at Christmas or New Year’s Day to the house of their more wealthy neighbours; some one of the company repeating in an audible voice the following rhyme.

Moore (1891: 102–103; 10 li. with Eng. trans.). Moore (ibid.) has this to say about the occasion:

January 1, New Year’s Day [...] was the occasion for various superstitions [...]. Among these was the ‘first foot’. The ‘first foot’, called the qualtagh in Manx [G cómhdháil + tach][...]. The qualtagh (he or she) may also be the first person who enters a house on New Year’s morning. In this case it is usual to place before him or her the best fare the family can afford. It was considered fortunate if the qualtagh were a person (a man being preferred to a woman), of dark complexion, as meeting a person of light complexion at this time, especially if his or her hair is red, would be thought very unlucky [...]. If the qualtagh were spaagagh [ScG spàgach], or splay-footed, it would be considered very unfortunate. It was important, too, that the qualtagh on New Year’s Day should bring some gift, as if he or she came empty-handed, misfortune would be sure to ensue. To meet a cat first on this day was considered unlucky. It was supposed to be necessary to exercise great care to sweep the floor of the house on New Year’s morning from the door towards the hearth, so that the dust should go towards the hearth, for, if this were not done, the good fortune of the family would be considered to be swept from the house for that year. It was formerly the custom for a number of young men to go from house to house on New Year’s Day singing the following rhyme (Moore 1891: 102–103).

66 cf. G cómhdháil.

67 Nowadays the visitor brings three items: a piece of coal, a potato, and some salt, to represent fire (warmth), plenty to eat, and good health respectively.

68 The full text, as given by Cregeen (1835: 132), runs as follows: Ollick ghennal erriu as blein feer vie / Seihll as slaynt da’n slane lught-thie / Bea as gennaly eu bio ry-cheilley / Cooid as cowryn, stock as stoyr / Palchey phuddase as skaddan dy-loor / Arran as casheyn, eeym as roayrt / Baase myr lugh ayns uhllin ny soalt / Cadley sauchey tra vees shiu ny lhie / As feeackle y jargan, nagh bee dy mie [A merry Christmas to you and a good New Year / Long life and health to the whole household / Life and happiness to you and sprightliness together / Peace and love between women and men / Goods and riches, stock and store / Plenty of potatoes and
Manx Traditional Songs, Rhymes and Chants in the Repertoire of the Last Native Manx Speakers

Tune: No tune known.

OLLICK GHENNAL (chant frag.).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ollick Gennal as Blein Noa Vie} \\
\text{Seihill as fea da’n slane lught-thie} \\
\text{Arran as caashey, eeym as roayrt} \\
\text{as baase mie lugh ayns uhllin as toalt} \\
\text{Shee as fea tra erbee as hed shiu dy lhie} \\
\text{as feeacklyn ny jargan, nagh bee dy mie!}
\end{align*}
\]

[A Happy Christmas and a Good New Year / Life and rest to the whole household / Bread and cheese and butter in abundance / and a good death to the mouse in stackyard and barn / Peace and tranquillity whenever you go to bed / and the fleas’ teeth, may they not be good!].

2.28 PIPE AS TOMBAGEY (pipe and tobacco) (rhyme)
Text: No other texts known.
Tune: No tune known.

PIPE AS TOMBAGEY (rhyme)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Pipe as tombagey} \\
\text{as awree yn oarn} \\
\text{T’eh cur er ny fritleagyn} \\
\text{краа er my hoин}
\end{align*}
\]

[Pipe and tobacco / and soup of barley / it makes the rags / shake on my bottom].

2.29 ROW OO EC Y MARGEY? (were you at the fair?) (rhyme)
Tune: No tune known.

ROW OO EC Y MARGEY? (rhyme).

herring enough / Bread and cheese, butter and fat / Death like a mouse in a stackyard or barn / Sleeping safely when you are in bed / And the flea’s tooth, may it not be good!].
George Broderick

[Were you at the fair / and did you see many people / did you see Tom the Nit / riding on a pig’s back / and Juan the Mite / riding on a gander / And they were going about the fair / looking at everything that was worth seeing / and Jem the Ant would be / able to go faster / for he could fly over / the pig’s back.]

That’s all I’ve heard of it].

ROW SHIU EC Y VARGEY? (rhyme).

[Were you at the fair / did you see many people / did you see the little people (fairies) / riding on a gander - isn’t it / I was at the fair / I saw many people / but I did not see the little people / riding on a gander].

2.30 SHANNON REA (smooth Shannon) (song frag.)

SHANNON REA (song frag.).

[When I went out on Mayday / it was a fine day’s morning / the birds they were singing / and the trees were full of bloom / I met a fine young woman / I never saw one more beautiful / her cheeks were like roses / and her eyes like blackberries / She surpassed the ladies from far northern countries / To think of my heart’s love / she made me shed a tear / and close enough I was walking with her / as we went along the smooth Shannon].

2.31 SHEE AS FEA (peace and rest) (rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

SHEE AS FEA (rhyme)
Peace and quiet and good will / and a drop of drink on occasion / A great gloomy sight west to the Howe / That’s where I found me a wife.

I heard that from an old man.

2.32 **SHOOYLL, SHOOYLL, YN DOOINNEY BOGHT** (Walking, walking, the poor man) *(children’s rhyme)*

**Text:** No other text known.

**Tune:** No tune known.

SHOOYLL, SHOOYLL YN DOOINNEY BOGHT (children’s rhyme)

Walking, walking, the poor man / Running, running, the farmer / Galloping, galloping, the gentleman.

That’s what I heard the old women saying when they’d be nursing the infants.

2.33 **TOM JACK JOHN** *(rhyme)*

**Text:** oral versions:

1. Thomas Taggart, Grenaby ML, 27 August 1930 (M/IV: 2312).

Seemingly a fossilised form of *shenn* ‘old’ (*G sean(n)*) in Rushen parish (cf. HLSM/II: 398 v.s. *shenn*).
Tune: No tune known.

TOM JACK JOHN (rhyme).
Thomas Taggart (1846–1933), Grenaby ML 27 August 1930 (M/IV: 2312; HLSM/I: 388–389).

tɔ:m ʤɛk ʤɔn vɛ sɪŋal mɔr ‘lɔn
ke:ya ‘muː ‘æns ‘nˈɛ:ɾən’
bala ba’ru:l vɛ ʃɪt ɛrə ʃuːl
plʊʃə faːlt as kl’ eːʒən

Tom Jack John v’eh singal myr lhon
caɡɡeɪ moʊər ayns Nherin70
Bella Barool va ʃeet er-y-ʃooyl
pluckleɪ fɔlt as ɡliːʃən.

[Tom Jack John, he was singing like a blackbird / of a great war in Ireland / Bella Barrule came at once / pulling at her hair and ears].

TOM JACK JOHN (rhyme).

tɔ ʤɛk ‘ʤɔn vɛ sɪŋəl ‘lɔn
ar’re:nɔn ɡɪŋk wɪʃ ‘nɛrɪn’
as ‘bɛlɑ bɑ’ɛu:l vɛi ʃɪt ɛrɔ xuːl
as ‘reːβə fɔlt as kliːən

Tom Jack John v’eh singal myr lhon
arraneyn ɡaink woish Nherin
as Bella Barool v’ee ɡheet er y chooyl
as raipɛy fɔlt as ɡliːʃən.

[Tom Jack John, he was singing like a blackbird / songs which came from Ireland / and Bella Barrule she came up behind him / tearing at her hair and ears].

TOM JACK JOHN (rhyme).

‘A local verse on a half-witted lad who was terrified of the Irish, and hoped that his brother Harry of Barrule would come to rout them’ (Jackson 1955: 136).

Tom Jack John v’eh singal myr lhon
dy row caɡɡeɪ vooar ayns Nherin
as Harry Varrule v’ee ɡheet er-y-ʃooyl
raipɛy fɔlt as ɡliːʃən.

70 The caɡɡeɪ moʊər here may refer to the 1798 Irish rebellion against English rule in Ireland in which a small French army also took part (Moody & Martin 1967: 245). Or to any of the subsequent minor risings: in 1803 (ibid.: 247), in 1848 (ibid.: 262), in 1867 (ibid.: 279).
[Tom Jack John, he was singing like a blackbird / that there was a great war in Ireland / and that Harry Barrule was coming soon / tearing (at his) hair and ears].

TOM JACK JOHN (rhyme).

[Tom Jack John singing like a blackbird / of a great war in Ireland / Harry Barrule coming at once / tearing (at his) hair and ears].

2.34 VA YN DOW BUIRROOGH (the ox was bellowing) (rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

VA YN DOW BUIRROOGH (Rhyme)

[The ox was bellowing / there was a wee hat on it of copper / and large shoes of iron / When it was blowing on the bellows it was then roaring (bellowing) like a trumpet].

2.35 V’EH DOOINEYVEIH BALLAHOWIN (he was a man from Ballahowin) (rhyme)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

V’EH DOOINEY VEIH BALLAHOWIN (rhyme).
vi dũn’ə vei bal’ə ’haun’
vi bɑ’re:l’e tre: də re: ’flaun’
as vi ko:l’ax ᵇə stil də krek nən ’eirax

V’eh dooinney veih Ballahowin
v’eh baarall e traa dy rea shiawin
as v’eh coyrlagh ad still dy creck nyn eiraght.

[There was a man from Ballahowin / he was slyly spending his time / and he was advising them still to sell their inheritance].

2.36 VERMAYD CAABYL DYS YN ANKER (we’ll put the cable to the anchor) (song frag.)
Text: No other text known.
Tune: No tune known.

VERMAYD CAABYL DYS YN ANKER (song. frag.)

ve mɑid’ kɛ:bɑl dɔðə naŋkə
as ’rïgən dɔðə ’xrɔdn
g’il’ən ’e:go dusna jə:ltdìn
son te an gyi: wu:r ’je:dɔ ’ʧɔdn

[Vermayd caabyl dys yn anker / as rigging dys y chroan / guillyn aegey dys ny shialteeyn / son ta yn geay wooar sheidey çhionn.

[We shall put a cable to the anchor / and rigging to the mast / young lads to the sails / for the great wind is blowing hard].

2.37 YN GRAIHDER JOULYLAGH (the demon lover) (song frag.)
Manuscript version: MK/M34, 2st.), (38; 2½st.) (1905) MNHL MS 09495 (Box 6).
Printed versions: Moore (1896: 118 John Quayle, Glen Maye PA).

Giving the various titles as ‘A warning for married women’, ‘Demon/Daemon lover’, ‘House carpenter’, ‘James Harris/Harries’, David Speers (2016: 54 s.v. ‘Banks of Italy’) notes that the original version of the song (in English) was seemingly written in 1657 by a certain Laurence Price, though Yn Graihder Jouylagh seems to derive from ‘The Daemon Lover or House Carpenter’ (c. 1860). Speers adds (2016: 54):

[M]any variations have evolved but the basic story is of a woman pledged to her lover, who goes away to sea. When he returns after seven years as a ghost to make good the marriage vows, she says she is married (sometimes to a house carpenter). The ghost or demon tries to persuade her to leave and sail away with him (and he will take her to where ‘the white lilies grow on the banks of Italy’). She goes with him but after less than three days, she regrets having left, and when he hears this he breaks the masts and sinks the ship (Speers 2016: 54).
Tune: Clague C4/24: 8 John Quayle, Gordon PA, G/105: 4 ent. Moore (1896: 233 John Quayle, Glen Maye PA ent. Yn Graihder Jouylagh (the demon lover). Both manuscript versions of the tune have the word ‘?Manx’ to the side; G/105: 4 also has ‘Demon Lover’ pencilled in brackets. Gilchrist (JFSS VII/28: xv) notes this as one of those four songs that are a Manx version of the English original (cf. Moore 1896: 118; 7st. from John Quayle, Glen Maye PA (oral), Cashen 1912: 70).

YN GRAIHDER JOUYLAGH (song frag.).

I

trud mɛ:rəm nɪʃ, trud mɛ:rəm nɪʃ
[trud meːram] grai mɑ kri:
[as inshym’s dhyt cre haink orrym
er lhargyn Italee]

II

ʃi:ðə bɒ:¹ax vɪrɪms dɔt´ᶴ
ʃi:ðə bɒ:¹ax fʊðe: ve:
ma hɪg ʊs meːram grai mi kri:
ðʊs laːɡən itali:

III

brɛ:ɣən bɔ:¹ax vɛrməds dʊt´ᶴ
brɛ:ɣən ta ɛː ta boʊ-i (sic)
ma hɪg ʊs meːram grai mi kri:
dəs laːɡən itali:

[1. Come with me now, come with me now / (come with me) love of my heart /
(and I’ll tell you what came upon me on the banks of Italy).
2. Fine silk I will give to you / fine silk it can be / if you come with me, love of
my heart / to the banks of Italy.
3. Fine shoes we’ll give to you / shoes of yellow gold / if you come with me,
love of my heart / to the banks of Italy].

2.38 YN MAARLIAGH MOOAR (the big thief) (song frag.)

Text: oral version: Mrs. Margaret Caine, Ramsey, 11 August 1892 (Rhŷs 6/176).
Printed version: in Moore (1896: 214, 1 st., from Rhŷs). Regarding the contents of
the song, Moore (ibid. xxix) comments: ‘[it] appears to convey the moral that evil
is easily learned.’
Tune: No tune known.

Moore (1896: 214) prints the song in his Manx Ballads under the title Yn Maarliagh
Mooar ‘the big robber’, acknowledging that he had received it from Rhŷs (Moore 1896:
xxx), but with ‘corrected’ text.
YN MAARLIAGH MOOAR (song frag.).
Mrs. Margaret Caine (1810-1894), Ramsey, Maughold, 11 August 1892 (Rhŷs 6/176).

‘Aug. 11 Thursday I called on Mrs. Caine in the Mooragh Park: she is a native of Ramsey but was brought up in Maughold [...]. She gave me the beginning of some kind of ballad but she thinks there never was any music of it’ (Rhŷs 6/176):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ma:r’l’ax wūər va har sə kl’iu} \\
\text{jarax s rj’ mak re:gel’} \\
\text{hygə (ə) vak da ju:l’ na deən} \\
\text{rorj vi o e:bol} \\
\text{hugo n fo:ga erə jylin} \\
\text{as nə lərg nə Le:u} \\
\text{hugo fi:j an gl’àn nən’i:} \\
\text{as huər a n ræ:d da bræu}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Maarliagh woɔar va har sy clieau} \\
\text{yiarragh eh rish mac Regel} \\
\text{hug eh e vac dy shooiy ny dhiyyn} \\
\text{roish va eh abyl} \\
\text{hug eh yn phoagey er e yeaylin} \\
\text{as ny lurgy ny laue} \\
\text{hug eh sheese yn glion ayn(s) yn oie} \\
\text{as hooar eh yn raad dy braew.}
\end{align*}
\]

[the big thief was over on the mountain / he would call him Mac Regel / he put his son to walking the houses (i.e. go begging) / before he was able / he put the bag on his shoulder / and the stick in his hand / he sent him down the glen in the night / and he found the way bravely].

3. How were Manx songs sung traditionally?
Although we do not possess any sound-recordings\textsuperscript{72} of any Manx traditional songs at all, indicating how they may have been sung, we are fortunate in having two examples of written and one of oral evidence from various sources which we may find helpful:

1. From a descendant of a Manx émigré to the USA in 1827, made in 1845.
2. From one of the collectors of Manx traditional songs, W. H. Gill, made in 1898.
3. From two old ladies from Peel in 1977 who had attended several carval singing sessions in the Methodist chapels during the 1920s/1930s.

\textsuperscript{72} A number of cylinder sound-recordings were made 1905–1909 (perhaps to 1913) by \textit{Yn Čhesthaght Ghaileckagh} of native Manx speech and of some traditional Manx songs from Manx native speakers. Regrettably only four have survived, none containing any song material (Miller 2014: 1–9).
3.1 Diary of a Manx émigré to the USA in 1827, written in 1845

The first piece of evidence cited derives from a pseudo-diary seemingly derived from the actual diary of Thomas Kelly, Sr. and his family of Doolough, Jurby, and their emigration to Ohio USA in 1827. The pseudo-diary was apparently made by a Mrs. Mary Kelly Ames Denney, a descendant of Thomas Kelly, Jr. and his wife Jane Boyd Kelly, in which under the year 1845 (West 1965: 46) she comments as follows:

[...]

Although appearing in the pseudo-diary, the quote would need to refer to something that actually took place in order for it to be credible. If so, the foregoing suggests that back home in Jurby they used quite some ornamentation in the delivery of whatever they were singing in church/chapel, whether it be ordinary hymns or carvals, seemingly the latter. For this see §3.3 below.

3.2 Evidence of W. H. Gill, a collector of Manx traditional songs, given in 1898

The second piece of written evidence derives from W. H. Gill in his ‘Manx Music: A Sketch’, a short treatise on Manx traditional music as an Introduction to his Manx National Music (1898: v–x). Concerning the tunes Gill (1898: viii–ix) writes:

To estimate truly the intrinsic value of these melodies, especially the more ancient ones, one ought in strictness to see them as we found them [...], bare naked melodies, without harmony or accompaniment of any kind [...], without polish or setting. Moreover, to appreciate their full flavour, one ought to come upon them in their original wild state, [...]. They should be heard sung to Manx words and with the vocal intonation peculiar to the people [...]. It is delightful to hear these old men expatiate upon the superior strength and beauty of their

---

For details and a transcript of the actual diary, see Broderick: 2001.

Thomas Kelly, Sr. and family emigrated from Doolough, Jurby, in 1827 to Ohio, USA, cf. Isle of Man Examiner 4/11/18/25 October 1935. In the actual diary the son Thomas Kelly, Jr. mentions the death of his father Thomas Kelly, Sr. as taking place on 5 January 1828, aged 67, and buried two days later in Painsville ‘Burying Ground’, Ohio (Diary [38]). The last entry of the Diary (p. [38]) finishes with the shifting from Painsville to a farm recently purchased just north of Concord Township, Ohio. The pseudo-diary, written to serve the viewpoint that Manxmen left their native home reluctantly (which was clearly not the case with Thomas Kelly, Sr. and his family), continues to 1845. It is in this latter section that the above quote is to be found.

For these, see Moore: 1891. The carvals were sung traditionally on Oie’ll Voirrey /i:l ‘veri/ (G *oidhche’ll bheiridh) ‘Eve of the Nativity’, 24 December, earlier in the churches, later on in the Methodist chapels.
ancient language as compared with English - for they know both languages, and are keenly critical. At the end of a verse or a line they will suddenly stop singing and lose themselves in an ecstasy of admiration, commenting upon what they have been singing about, translating a Manx word here and there, explaining an idiom, or enlarging upon the incidents of the story [...] (Gill 1898: viii–ix).

Concerning the singers themselves and their songs Gill (1898: ix) notes:

In the singing of these old people, as well as in their recitation of poetry, of which latter they are particularly fond, we found at times almost a total absence of a definite metrical accent, and in its stead an ever smoothly-flowing rhythm, relieved here and there—often in the least expected places—by a pause of indefinite length. In fact such was the freedom of the ‘phrasing’ [Gill’s quotation marks here and elsewhere], and to such an extent was the rhythmic structure concealed, that much of their music might be appropriately represented like ‘plain song’ without any bar-lines. Nor was this vagueness due to any lack of rhythmic sense on the part of the performer, for when a dance tune had to be sung it was rendered with due precision and clearness of accent. And yet, if the tunes could be written down, as with a phonograph, exactly as we heard them, and then reproduced faithfully, with all their vagueness of tempo [Gill’s italics here and elsewhere], their uncertainty of intonation, their little quaverings and embellishments, quite unrepresentable by ordinary musical notation, if we had all these things faithfully registered, who would care for the result? Some would ask, ‘Can these dry bones live?’ Others would impatiently exclaim, ‘How different from the singing of trained singers!’ [...] (Gill 1898: ix).

With regard to the practicalities of noting the tunes Gill (1898: ix) outlines two ‘practical difficulties’, as he put it: The first only is given here as being relevant to the matter in hand:

[...]. First, as regards the raw material, the object was to obtain an absolutely true record of the melody [...] and in attaining this object the difficulty was two-fold, viz. to represent in the precise and inelastic terms of musical notation, without prejudice and uninfluenced by preconceived ideas of artistic right and wrong, the melody which, as actually heard, was often exceedingly vague and indefinite as regards both tune and time. In respect of intonation, the difficulty lay in discriminating between the peculiar tonality of the ancient ‘modes’ and that of modern music; while as regards time, the difficulty was the right placing of the bar-lines with due regard to the grammatical accent as distinguished from the artistic pause and emphasis imported by the individual singer (Gill 1898: ix).

As a trained Classical musician, Gill was clearly confronted with material that was difficult or nigh impossible to interpret in traditional ‘Classical’ staff-notation, particularly in producing on paper an accurate rendering of the vagaries of the melody, often modal in delivery, as produced by the singer.76 The fact that such

76 A developed methodology as used today by ethnomusicologists for such material can be seen in Percy Grainger (1908), also in Tocher (1971–2009), a monthly cultural...
difficulties were experienced at all would put the rendition of Manx material, as
with the Lincolnshire material noted by Percy Grainger (qv.), in a traditional music
setting.77

3.3 Evidence from two old ladies from Peel in 1977 who had attended Oie’ll Voirrey
services during the 1920s/1930s

The third piece of evidence, oral in form, was collected in 1977 when Brian Stowell
and myself interviewed two old ladies aged c. 75–80 (whose names now escape
us) then living in 7 Mona Street, Peel, who, according to them, used to attend
carval singing sessions during the 1920s/1930s. Such sessions, they said, would
be held on St. Mary’s Eve, 24 December, in the Methodist chapel. They said that
after a short service the vicar would leave the chapel and the proceedings would be
taken over by the clerk. The chapel would be brightly lit with candles and adorned
with holly and ivy to give a warm appearance. The clerk would then call for the
first carval singer, or singers (sometimes there were two who would sing alternate
stanzas). A carval could be short or long, short with around twenty stanzas, long
with up to sixty. The average carval would extend to some 35 stanzas or so. The
session would last till three or four o’clock in the morning, they said.78

We asked them whether the carvals were in Manx or in English. They said in
English—at least the sessions they attended, they said. When we asked them how
the carvals were actually sung, they had some difficulty in expressing themselves,
as it was clear they were not au fait with musical terminology. We then asked them
whether they were they sung like ordinary hymns one would sing on a Sunday.
They answered with a firm No, stating that there would be ‘frills’, as they put it, in

magazine of the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.
77 Similar comment can also be found in the work of Australian composer and
ethnomusicologist Percy Grainger (1882–1961) who recorded a number of traditional
Lincolnshire singers at Brigg Fair in May 1908. In his description of English folksong
singing styles, set in an end-piece entitled ‘English Folk-Songs Sung by Genuine Peasant
Folk-Singers’, he notes: ‘The scales and modes in which most of these tunes are cast
are quite different from any that have been employed in art-music for some centuries.
And the interpretive traditions [Grainger’s italics, also elsewhere] that genuine peasant
singers reveal in their performances are hardly less unique. Their rhythmic habits,
ornaments, and allotments of syllables to notes have a flavour all of their own, and
differ radically from the usages of art-singers; and it is a lack of knowledge of these
traditions of folk-song singing that so often makes folksongs ineffective in the mouths
of otherwise excellent artists. These records are not folksongs sung at second hand.
They are folksongs sung by [...] the very men who have passed such songs down the
centuries to us’ (Grainger: 1908; Thomson: 1972). For an assessment of Percy Grainger
as an ethnomusicologist, see Blacking: 1987.

78 Traditionally, hard dried peas would be thrown by the congregation at poor performance
by carval singers. Manx occasions by all accounts could be somewhat exuberant at
times, though the two ladies we interviewed said they had not witnessed this tradition.
the delivery of the tune and that the stanzas would be sung with some irregularity, they said.

If we take all three contributions together, the situation would seem to be as follows:

1. That the delivery of Manx traditional songs and carvals seems to have possessed a degree of ornamentation. It is difficult to say how much, but sufficient at least for it to be commented upon.

2. That there would be irregularity in the singing of each stanza, suggesting that no stanza was rendered the same as any other, that the stanzas were individual in their own right.

3. That the singer would occasionally stop suddenly in mid-song, at the end of a stanza, or of a line in a stanza, in order to explain the background to the text, or add additional information or explain this or that Manx word or idiom, etc.

4. It is clear that Gill makes a difference between trained classical singing and Manx traditional singing, implying that the difference was considerable.

5. The difficulties Gill experienced in noting down the tunes suggest that the singer’s voice affected the rendering of the tune, in such a manner as to give an impression to the layman of ‘deviation’ or ‘distortion’ in the singer’s voice or in the rendition, or that ornamentation of a sort had been employed, etc.

6. The whole would give the impression that Manx traditional songs were rendered in a similar manner to those in other branches of Gaelic tradition in Ireland and in Scotland.79

4. Conclusion

Though most of the above songs presented are in fragmentary form, they nonetheless give us a good idea of the extent of the song repertoire to be found among the last native Manx Gaelic speakers, recorded as they were between the years 1883 and 1972, as we have seen. However, as we have noted elsewhere (cf. Broderick: 2015, 2017 and 2018a & 2018b), already in Rhŷs’s time, Manx was showing signs of obsolescence (Broderick: forthcoming c), and more so as time went on.

And so with their song repertoire. That is to say that the fragmentary form of their songs would seem to parallel the obsolescence of their Manx.80 In principle, the songs in many cases could have been learned fully in early life and subsequently partially forgotten through non-use over time, or that only fragments of them were learned in the first place. Ned Maddrell, for instance, would recite, say, three stanzas of the song Brig Lily and then say, that is all he could remember of it (implying that

79 I personally have witnessed similarities to §3.1 in Conamara sean nós singing during the 1970s/80s and to §§3.2 and 3.3 above in Scottish Gaelic traditional singing during the 1970s during my time in Edinburgh.

80 In this regard, see Broderick: 1999.
he had at one time learned more, if not all, of the song). Nevertheless, the complete mastery of the song *Ec ny Fiddleryn* by Tom Kermode, Bradda, Rushen, on the other hand, makes clear what was available, and also what was possible.
### Abbreviations

#### Manx parish abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>AN</td>
<td>Andreas</td>
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<td>BR</td>
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<td>Maughold</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
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#### Other abbreviations

- **Addl.** Additional
- **beg.** beginning with
- **Bib.** A Bibliographical Account of Works relating to the Isle of Man (Cubbon I (1933), II (1939))
- **BL** British Library
- **C** Dr. John Clague Manx music and song collections (1893–1898)
- **Clague** Clague music collection (Books 1, 2, 3), MNHL MS 448A 1, 2, 3, MNHL MS 449B
- **CM** Carl Marstrander
- **Coll.** Collection
- **coupl.** couplet(s)
- **Cyl.** Cylinder(s). Ediphone wax cylinders used for sound-recordings
- **ent.** entitled
- **G** Gill Manx Music Collection (1896–1898)
- **GB** George Broderick
- **HLSM** Handbook of Late Spoken Manx (Broderick 1984–1986)
- **IFC** Irish Folklore Commission (recordings 1948)
- **JFSS** Journal of the Folksong Society
- **JRM** J. R. Moore’s Notebook of Manx traditional songs (c. 1910)
- **li.** line(s)
- **LN** Location Name
- **LSS** Linguistic Survey of Scotland (recordings)
- **M** Marstrander (MNHL MSS 05354-8), Vols. I–V
- **MK** Morrison-Kermode Collection of Manx traditional songs (c. 1905)
- **MMG** Moore, Morrison & Goodwin (1924)
- **MNHL** Manx National Heritage Library
- **BL** Manx Traditional Songs and Song-Fragments I (Broderick 1980–1981)
- **MTSSF/I** Manx Traditional Songs and Song-Fragments II (Broderick 1982a)
- **n.d.** no date
- **NHIM** A New History of the Isle of Man (5 vols.)
- **nn.** no name (of informant given)
- **obl.** oblique case
- **p.c.** personal communication
- **p(p).** page(s)
- **PNIM** Place-Names of the Isle of Man (Broderick 1994–2005)
- **PR** Private Recordings (of Manx native speakers)
- **r.** recto
- **refr.** refrain
- **SC** refers to Ordnance Survey map coordinates
- **st.** stanza(s)
- **trans.** translation
- **unacc.** unaccessioned
- **v.** verso
- **Vienna** Vienna Recordings (1909) + cylinder number
- **YCG** Yn Čheshaght Ghailckagh (the Manx Language Society)
- **ZCP** Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie
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Marstrander Dagbok. A diary of Marstrander’s field-visits to Man 1929, 1930, 1933 (MNHL MS 05358 B).

Mona Douglas Collection of Manx Music And Songs (1920s) in private hands.

Moore Collection of Manx Traditional Songs (1890s) MNHL MS 00221A. See also Moore: 1896.

Morrison-Kermode Collection of Manx Traditional Songs. The Sophia Morrison and Josephine Kermode Manx Folksong Collection (1905) (Morrison) MNHL MS 5433B/MNHl MS 09495, (Kermode) MNHL MS 08979.

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