

World of Stamps:

Island Communities: Isle of Man

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The Isle of Man has an area of 221 square miles and a population of 80,000. The island had a Celtic legacy when the Scandinavian Vikings started to settle on the island at the end of the 8th century. The Norse kingdom of Man and Sudur (Southern Isles) was created in 1079, and remained under Norwegian supremacy until it was ceded to Scotland in 1266, but it later came under England, and retained a certain degree of autonomy. Full autonomy was restored in 1866. The island's parliament, the Tynwald, was established AD 979 by the Norse settlers, and is the world's oldest continuous parliament.



1979 Millennium of Tynwald, showing arms of Tynwald (Viking ship) (Sc. 146)



2006 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, as Lord of Mann

The Isle of Man has the status of a Crown Dependency, so it is not part of the United Kingdom, but the UK takes care of foreign relations and defense, and the British parliament can enact legislation that also applies to the island, but seldom does. Queen Elizabeth II is styled Lord of Mann as

head of state of the Isle of Man.



Left to right, Isle of Man 1903 Revenue (Barefoot #32); 1966 series Isle of Man pictorial revenue; ditto, 1976 series.

young, starting in 1973, although distinct revenue stamps had been issued for the Isle of Man since 1884, with pictorial revenues introduced in 1966.

The first postage-stamps with a Manx relation were the British regional stamps, first issued in 1958, the last issued 1971. The 1958-69 issues featured a Wilding portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, whereas the 1971 issue had a Machin portrait. In addition, all regional stamps of the Isle of Man featured the island's arms, the triskelion (three running legs).



2001 souvenir sheet showing GB Sc. MH1, Sc. 300 and Isle of Man regionals Sc. 8 and Sc. 3 (souvenir sheet overprinted for Hafnia 01)

In 1973, the Isle of Man decided to take over control of postal matters and established an independent postal administration, the Isle of Man Post Office. Stamps were first released July 5, 1973. July 5 is Tynwald Day, the national day of the Isle of Man. A single stamp commemorating



1973 single for postal independence (Sc. 28)

the establishment of the independent postal administration and illustrating the Viking landing AD 938, and a definitive series illustrating scenery and symbols of the island were the first two issues.



Manx cat on 1973 definitive (Sc. 24)

A number of recurring themes, illustrating important aspects of Manx society have appeared on Manx stamps ever since the first issue. These themes include the island's unique and operating Victorian railway system, the Royal Family, the famous TT (Tourist Trophy) motorcycle race, the Island's unique institutions like the Definitive, the island's Celtic and Norse heritage, its birdlife, noteworthy landmarks like the Great Laxey Wheel, and the island's maritime heritage.

The first special stamp issue of the independent Isle of Man post-office was a set celebrating the centenary of the island's steam railroads. A 1998 set marked the 125th anniversary of the steam rail-



Clockwise: 1973 centenary of Manx steam railroad (Sc. 32); 1993 centenary of Manx Electric Railway (Sc. 556); 1995 for centenary of Snaefell Mountain Railway (Sc. 625)

roads. The centenary of Douglas' horse-drawn trams was celebrated on 1976 stamps. The 1988 definitive series was in its entirety devoted to the railroad and trams of the island. A 1993 set of four marked the centenary of Manx Electric Railway, and in 1995, the side-line of this, the Snaefell Mountain Railway also celebrated its centenary and was celebrated with a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet.

Motorcycle races were the theme of the third special stamp issue, issued for the golden jubilee of the Manx Grand Prix. The more famous Tourist Trophy race was first celebrated with a 1974 set, with further sets added 1975, and in 1977, stamps celebrated the 70th anniversary of the TT races. Already in 1982, another set celebrated the 75th anniversary of the TT Races, and a 1991 set marked the 80th anniversary of the TT Race's mountain course. A 1996 set celebrated Irish winners of the TT Races, and a 1998 set marked the 50th anniversary of the Honda motorcycle manufacturers. A 2009 set celebrated famous TT drivers using Hondas. The 50th anniversary of the Yamaha manufacturer was the theme of six 2005 stamps. A 2001 set celebrated Joey Dunlop, a TT Champion, and another champion, Geroge Formby was celebrated on 2004 stamps. 2007 saw the centenary of the TT Race, and a ten stamps



Left to right, 2005 50th anniversary of Yamaha motor bike manufacturers; 2007 strip for centenary of Tourist Trophy race; 1973 for 50th anniversary of Manx Grand Prix (Sc. 34) set of "All Time Greats" was issued.

The fourth special issue was devoted to the wedding of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips. Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee was celebrated with 1977 stamps, and a 1978 stamp marked the 25th an-



Left, 1973 Wedding of Princess Anne and Mark Phillips (Sc. 35); right, 1999 Wedding of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones (Sc. 837B)

niversary of her coronation. The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer was commemorated with two 1981 stamps. Princess Diana's 21st birthday was marked with a 1982 souvenir sheet.

The wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Fergusson was celebrated with two 1986 stamps, and the same year, three stamps were issued for the birthdays of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip. In 1990, the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was the theme of a single stamp. She was commemorated with a single stamp in 2002 when she passed away at the age of almost 102.

In 1992, stamps marked the 40th accession anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II. Her Golden Wedding was celebrated in 1997 with four stamps. The wedding of Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones was marked with five 1999 stamps. In 2000, the 18th birthday of Prince

William, the heir to the throne was celebrated with a souvenir sheet of five stamps. His 21st birthday in 2003 was also commemorated with four stamps.

The 75th birthday of Queen Elizabeth was celebrated in 2001



Above, 2003 for 50th coronation anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II; right, 2002 50th accession anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II, Lord of Mann; below, 2007 60th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip



with stamps reproducing older stamps with her portrait, and her golden jubilee as monarch was celebrated with two sets of stamps, in 2001-02. The 50th anniversary of her coronation was also marked on six 2003 stamps. Again, her 80th birthday was marked with eight 2006 stamps and a souvenir sheet, the latter including two stamps showing her presence at the Tynwald celebrations in 1979 and 2003. Her 60th wedding anniversary in 2007 was also marked, this time by six stamps, all denominated 60p.

The Norse heritage was also celebrated in 1974, when stamps commemorating the 600th anniversary of the death of Bishop William Russel, Bishop of Sodor and Man, and the 1,000th anniversary of the

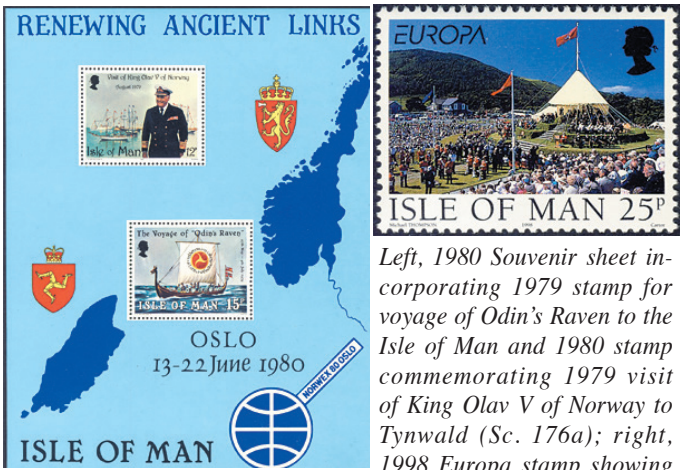


Right, 1974 for 1000th anniversary of death of King Magnus Haraldsson (Sc. 45); left, 1974 for 600th anniversary of death of Bishop William Russel (Sc. 47)



1979 Millennium of Tynwald, showing Viking raid (Sc. 148)

rule of King Magnus Haraldsson. The millennium of the parliament, Tynwald, was celebrated in 1979, with several stamp issues. One was devoted to the millennium itself, another set marked the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Tynwald, another the voyage of the Viking ship replica Odin's Raven from Norway to the Isle of Man to participate in the cel-



Left, 1980 Souvenir sheet incorporating 1979 stamp for voyage of Odin's Raven to the Isle of Man and 1980 stamp commemorating 1979 visit of King Olav V of Norway to Tynwald (Sc. 176a); right, 1998 Europa stamp showing

Tynwald Day celebrations (Sc. 786)

and yet another the visit of King Olav V of Norway. Tynwald was also the theme of the two 1998 Europa stamps. Another 1998 set was devoted to Viking longships, and in 2008, a set of six stamps celebrated the "Vikings on the Isle of Man".

The Manx Gaelic heritage was in the forefront when in 1999, a set of four stamps celebrated the centenary of the Manx Gaelic Society.



Left, 1999 Centenary of Manx Gaelic Society (Sc. 827); right, 2008 Souvenir sheet for Interceltique Festival

These showed the island's name in Manx Gaelic, Ellan Vannin. Recently, the Isle of Man joined the Interceltique festival, a celebration of the Celtic nations of Europe, and in 2008, issued a set of eight stamps, each devoted to one of the Celtic nations (Cornwall, Isle of Man, Scotland, Bretagne, Ireland, Asturias, Wales and Galicia), to celebrate the 2008 festival. These stamps were also issued as imprints on prestamped postal cards, and joined together in a souvenir sheet.

The Isle of Man was the first country in Europe to grant suffrage to women, in 1881, and a single 1981 stamp commemorated this important event.

The 1983 definitive series featured sea birds found around the island. Sea birds were also featured on a 1989 set of four. The Calf of Man Bird Observatory was highlighted on a 1994 set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet.



1981 for centenary of vote for women (Sc. 197)

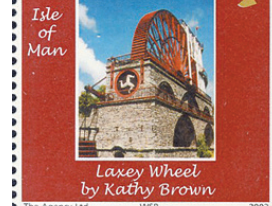
Top to bottom: 1980 Souvenir sheet for 150th anniversary of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company (Sc. 173a); 1993-96 definitive, 35p. 'Seacat' (Sc. 551A); 2005 for 175th anniversary of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company



The 150th anniversary of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company was celebrated in 1980 with a set of stamps, and two 1982 stamps marked the 150th anniversary of the awarding of a mail carrying contract to that company. The 1993 definitive series featured ships. The 170th anniversary of the Steam Packet company was again celebrated, in 2000, with five stamps, and the 175th anniversary by eight 2005 stamps.

A special feature of the Isle of Man is their tailless cats, first featured on a 1989 set of four. Another set of five was added in 1996.

The Laxey Wheel was featured already on the 1978 definitives, and in 1983 the two Europa stamps were also devoted to this engineering feat. A 2004 souvenir sheet marked the 150th anniversary of the wheel.



Laxey Wheel on 2002 photographs issue



2008 showing Isle of Man banknote

both coins and bank notes, and in 2008, a set of six stamps reproduced a number of Manx bank notes.

There have been several Manx stamps with U.S. connections, one being the 2006 "Links with Washington D.C." issue, portraying these people with Manx ancestry: Letitia Christian Tyler, wife of 10th President John Tyler, Matthew Stanley Quay, Republican Senator from 1887, and Joseph Gurney Cannon (or "Czar Cannon"), Speaker of the House 1903-11.



2006 "Links with Washington D.C."