

N A M A



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 88, No.3/4 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Fall/Winter 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT!

MESSAGE FROM KATY PRENDERGAST

I hope this mailing finds you well and in good spirits as we go into our Convention Year. As a group many of our members experienced some terrible weather in 2017 and we hope you are safe and have recovered swiftly.

It is with great excitement that we present to you the 2018 Convention Registration bulletin. As many of you are aware through the previous mailings, the 2018 convention, hosted by the Chicago Manx Society will take place in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. This is NAMA's first convention in Canada this millennium!

The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel on Thursday June 21st and Saturday June 23rd, with many great activities and programs in between. For those of you wondering, we do anticipate a church service of some kind on Sunday the 24th, however, that is still being finalized and will likely be non-denominational.

Since the announcement of this convention location we have heard from a great number of members who are excited to share their stories of their own personal trips to the island. Whenever possible we are going to share your stories, as you are the heart and soul of why this organization is still around today.

Along those lines, you may have noticed that you did not get an exclusive fall issue. As we are a volunteer-run organization we occasionally get busy, go on vacation, and run out of exciting news to tell you. If you have anything that you want to share with your NAMA friends we are always interested in more content. It might not make the next issue, but in the end Kelly, NAMA's amazing bulletin editor, does get to every story.



Translated this means Happy New Year and Good Luck!

It's also that time of year again where we are looking for new people to join our ranks and volunteer their time and their talents on the NAMA board. If you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming a NAMA Board Member, please feel free to inquire. No talent will go unused/unappreciated.

With that I wish each and every one of you and your families a very Happy New Year!

Katy

Please look at the cover of this newsletter, above your name and address; if it says "please pay" and either \$15 or \$20, make your check payable to NAMA and mail it to John Prendergast NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60643-1901 (The form is on page 6) We have set the Junior membership at just \$2 and that takes you right up to your 30th Birthday.

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 NAMA CONFERENCE LOGO!

**BE THERE OR MISS A GREAT EVENT!
JUNE 21-25, 2018 IN VICTORIA,
VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA!**

It is with great pleasure that we unveil the official 2018 convention logo. The Chicago Manx Society worked tirelessly on this with the graphic artists in Canada to create a great logo for our convention. This logo will appear on the convention polo shirts. As you can see it recognizes the three nations of our Association and the host Society – the Chicago Manx.

This issue contains information about the 2018 Convention in Victoria, Canada which is being hosted by 1st Vice President Katy Prendergast. Be sure to reserve your hotel room, book your transport to the island and if you're not Canadian or American, your ESTA in plenty of time.

The official hotel of the 2018 convention is the Hotel Grand Pacific. Convention dates run Evening Thursday, June 21st – Evening Saturday, June 23rd.

We strongly recommend that you arrive no later than Thursday afternoon as the festivities begin on Thursday night. The official room check-in time is 4:00PM, and check-out is at 11:00AM. They are able to hold your luggage should your room not be ready early.

We have a room rate for three days before the convention and three days after the convention. While we have tried to give you many of the highlights of Victoria, we do strongly encourage you to stay and visit and see things like Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, and the totem pole park.

If you have mobility issues, it is critical not only to book early, but to also ask for a handicap accessible room. There is an approximate 3-foot step to get into the tub to take a shower with no grab bars.

Reservation Procedure

Reservations should be made via the Hotel Grand Pacific reservation department at one of the following numbers:

Toll Free	1-800-663-7550
Direct	(250) 386-0450
Email	reserve@hotelgrandpacific.com

In order to qualify for the group rate, it is imperative that individuals indicate the Group Name or Group Code, and reserve by April 30, 2018.

The room rate is Can\$249/night, and you can also upgrade to a harbor view for \$40/night.

**Group Name:
NAMA Convention 2018**

Please note that the hotel requires a valid credit card as security or full pre-payment of room and taxes upon arrival. When you reserve your room, kindly provide the correct number of occupants for planning purposes, as the Chicago Society will be provided regular updates on attendance from the hotel.



VISA TO CANADA REQUIRED BY SOME

All international travelers must carry acceptable identification and a valid visa (if necessary) when entering Canada. Americans traveling on an American passport do not need an eTA. Permanent residents and people traveling on other passports must have a valid Electronic Travel Authorization or eTA. Applying for an eTA is a simple online process. Most applicants get their eTA approval (via an email) within minutes. However, some requests can take several days to process if you're asked to submit supporting documents. It is best to get an eTA before you book your flight to Canada. Here is the website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp>

HOW TO GET THERE

Air

- Via Vancouver, clear customs and get connecting flight to Victoria on Vancouver Island. The airport is approximately 18km from downtown, and there is a shuttle-bus service to the hotel, or you can take a taxi.
- Via San Francisco to Victoria, pass through customs in Victoria.
- Via Seattle to Victoria, pass through customs in Victoria.
- Float plane from Seattle to Victoria Inner Harbor (photo) in approximately 45 minutes. Not suitable for disabled people. Strict luggage restrictions



Ferry

- Car and passenger ferry from Port Angeles, WA, to Victoria, on Black Ball Ferry Line four times a day. The ferry landing is 700 yards from the hotel.
- Car and passenger ferry from Seattle, the Victoria Clipper, which takes approximately three hours. Sails three times a day. The ferry landing is 500 yards from the hotel.
- There is a car/people ferry from Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island, which lands approximately 20mi/32km outside of downtown Victoria.

Note: The ferry and float plane options will also require appropriate ID as this is international travel.

PLEASE CONSIDER AN AD IN THE CONVENTION SOUVENIR PROGRAM

This year the souvenir booklet will be compiled by the Chicago Manx Society. However, for various reasons it will be printed in Victoria, so we are starting this process early.

**A full page this year will be \$80,
and a half page will be \$40.**

Whether it's to promote your society, to celebrate an important occasion, to wish the 2016 Convention good luck, to remember a family member, or to sell a product, please consider taking an advertisement in our convention program. It's an expensive item to produce and we try to make it break even. Send your artwork or JPEG to jprendergast4cdot@yahoo.com

Dimensions and price:

Full page ad: 5.25in w x 7.25in h (133.35w x 184.15h)
\$80.00

Half page ad: 5.25in w x 3.625in h (133.35w x 92.075h)
\$40.00

If you have previously submitted art, we encourage you to provide us an updated copy, if possible. If you are unable to provide updated art, we might be able to look up from previous booklets.

Please send all art and souvenir booklet monies to:

**John Prendergast
North American Manx Association
10251 South Bell Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60643
USA**

If you provide your email address and or phone number, someone from the Chicago Manx Society will confirm that we have received your page(s).

CONVENTION ITINERARY

Select your fun activities
for the 2018 Convention!

Thursday June 21, 2018

- 12:00 Board Meeting
18:30 General Meeting and
Buffet Dinner

Friday June 22, 2018

- 9:45 Orca Spirit Whale Watching,
Adventure in Zodiac
(if registered)
10:00 Orca Spirit Whale Watching,
Sight-seeing larger vessel
(if registered)
13:30 Tea at the Fairmont Empress
(if registered)
20:00 Evening snack in conversation
in 1st Vice President's suite

Saturday June 23, 2018

- 8:00 Butchart Gardens Bus Trip,
Picnic Lunch, Group photos
14:00 Workshop: Manx Myths with
Margie Martinson
15:00 Workshop: Manx Language
class with Bill Cassidy
18:30 Seated Banquet Dinner with
cash bar

Sunday June 24, 2018

Worship at a location to be decided

Optional Group Activity – High Tea



Going to tea at the Fairmont Empress is a highlight of any visit to Victoria. Enjoy a wide variety of teas, with delicious sandwiches and light desserts. They are able to accommodate most allergies. Depending on the size of the group, we may be in a private room to enjoy the day and admire the beautiful surroundings. All who attend will receive a take-home box of specially-blended Empress tea.

Optional Group Activities (Whale Watching) Orca Spirit Whale Watching, little boat.



This is a three-hour tour in a Zodiac rigid inflatable boat. Survival suits are required and provided. The minimum age is 5 years old, there is no maximum. This option offers the maximum level of adventure!

Orca Spirit Whale Watching



This is undertaken in a larger, more mobile-friendly vessel. Depending on the numbers of you who want to participate will decide the size of the boat that we get. This larger vessel does not require survival suits and has no restrictions on age or mobility.

NAMA 2018 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DETAILS

(ONE PER PARTICIPANT PLEASE –COPY FORM IF NECESSARY)

Mr. Ms. Sir Madam

Family Name:..... First Name:.....

Address:.....

City:..... State:..... Zip:.....

Country:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

Can we include this information in the Souvenir Bulletin Yes No

REGISTRATION FEE

Become a member when registering and benefit from the discounted members' rate from now on (Sign up on Page 6 of the bulletin and check out the NAMA website for more information.

	Already member (\$USD)	Non-Members (\$USD)
Registration Fee (Thursday and Saturday food and activities)	\$285.00	\$342.00
Tea at the Fairmont Empress (Friday including taxes)	\$112.00	\$135.00
Whale Watching on the Zodiac (Friday – small boat)	\$115.00	\$138.00
Whale Watching (Friday – big boat)	\$115.00	\$138.00
Circle which applies		
Dinner for Saturday (please pick one)		
Sablefish		
Chicken		
Lamb		
Polo T-Shirt Size (please write in size up to 5XL)	Are you a member of the board	

Circle which applies

Please send checks to:

North American Manx Association
 C/O Bradley Prendergast
 2108 W Devon Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60659

Specific diet requirements (vegetarian, allergies):

NAMA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR MANX HERITAGE

Join now and make sure you keep receiving your newsletter and don't forget to mail us if you change your address!

Please print your information and mail with your check to John Prendergast at the address below.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City _____ email _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/PC _____

	Dues	Amount	Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Individual Membership			Annual	\$20	_____
Annual	\$15	_____	LIFE MEMBERSHIP		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP			Under age 50	\$325	_____
Under age 50	\$250	_____	Age 50-59	\$235	_____
Age 50-59	\$175	_____	Age 60 and over	\$200	_____
Age 60 and over	\$125	_____			
Junior (age 1-30 yrs, no bulletin)	\$2	_____			

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, please send this form and your check made out to North American Manx Association or money order to John Prendergast.

Total Remittance
(in U.S. Dollar or equivalent amount) _____

ONLY SEND MONEY TO: **John Prendergast**
NAMA Treasurer
10251 South Bell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA

Please advise John if you change your address.

..... Detach Here

LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

Honorary President

Lawrence "Larry" Fargher

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Noel Cringle, OBE, Isle of Man

Aimee Corlett, President World Manx Association

Immediate Past-President

Kelly McCarthy

Past Presidents

Norm Gill

Jack Cormode

Norm Standish

Brad Prendergast

Laurence Skelly, MHK

Sally Dahlquist

Jim Corlett

Jody Morey

President, Webmaster

Jim Kneale, Clarksville, MD

jim.kneale@gmail.com

Tel: 443-285-9844

1st Vice-President

& Bulletin Coordinator

Katy Prendergast, Chicago, IL

katyprendergast@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President

& Bulletin Coordinator

David Nixon, Greenfield, MA

carolanddavid1@verizon.net

3rd Vice President - vacant

Brad Prendergast to organize

2022 Convention

Secretary

Bill McCarthy

bill@wjmassociates.com

1006 Cameron Street,

Alexandria, VA 22314

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

John Prendergast

Jprendergast4cdot@yahoo.com

10251 S Bell Avenue,

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Meza, AZ 85202

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lucyqp@msn.com

Trustees

Dorothy Gawne, Niles, IL

Bill Cassidy, Alexandria, VA

Melanie "Mim" Blower,

Alexandria, VA

THE MANX BARD

The Manx Bard is a fairly recent revival of a very old calling. Bards were an important feature of the Celtic world, and traditionally the historians and storytellers of their communities. An audience could listen to a Bard and not be quite sure what form the entertainment would be that day. The Bard could weave a romance of the bravery of great heroes, remind their listeners of family history from distant relations, recount scurrilous gossip, or make up rude rhymes about the present company – particularly if they didn't think their patron was paying them enough. Perhaps fortunately it was considered very bad luck to harm a Bard; in an oral tradition it would be a little like burning down a library. Bard tales were almost invariably in verse (easier to remember) and occasionally, although not invariably, sung.



A Bard's robes are traditionally light blue. The colour reflects the colour of the sky, and is a symbol of peace. It is also a colour difficult to obtain using traditional dyes, so would immediately mark out the person wearing it as being in some way special. The Bardic staff was originally partly a walking stick – Bards would travel a lot, and usually on foot – and partly a quarterstaff, i.e. a means of defence. Today the staff is ceremonial; the design at the top of the Manx staff represents the eye of Manannan, the Isle of Man's traditional protector.

Modern Bards follow and celebrate the much older tradition with one or two important differences. Poetry is still the main reason for the Bard's existence, and Bards can be called on to read their work at any public event. However, the current Manx Bard also has an important PR role in promulgating all things Manx, and is supported by Culture Vannin.

Becoming Bard is a lifetime appointment, although each year a new Bard is appointed. I, for example, am the current Bard, but will always be the fourth Manx Bard, even when a new Bard is selected next year. The current Bard tends to be viewed as the 'senior' Bard for their year in office, and, consequently, tends to be busier than the other bards. However, all the bards make public appearances, either through invitation or by standing in for each other.

The post is a little what you make it and one of the 'rules' I've set myself is to write a new poem every time I'm requested to do something in my official capacity. The following is the poem I wrote when invited to contribute to the NAMA Bulletin. It's not one of my best efforts, but was put together at top speed to meet your deadline! Here it is:

MANX DIASPORA

There's a Kelly in Virginia

A Gawne in Illinois

Colorado has some Corletts

Whose life there they enjoy.

What these families have in common

Is their forebears left the fold

To seek new lives across the sea,

But did not forget the old.

Their descendants now live far away

But still give fervent thanks

That wherever they now live and work

They're proud of being Manx.

Sara Goodwins

10 November 2017

NORTH AMERICAN MANX MUSEUM

Remember, the North American Manx Museum is open to the public at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Closed Sat., Sun., & Monday.

Tuesday - 2pm - 6pm

Wednesday - 9am - 4pm

Thursday - Noon - 4pm

Friday - 9am - 4pm

The Wisconsin Manx Society has a subscription to the Isle of Man Family History Society, plus member Bill Wade donated many booklets to the museum. Research can be conducted in the Wisconsin Reading Room adjacent to the museum and soon there will be many years' worth of the Family History Society booklets for people to research. Contained in the booklets are family trees, parish histories, village and town histories, photographs, holiday customs, school information, new History Society acquisitions, and other articles. too numerous to mention.

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

Our website is www.northamericanmanx.org



Our blog is also hosted here which means you can remain updated on events of interest to Americans of Manx descent. You can check this website to find links to Manx Societies across America and Canada as well as recipes, Membership details and random Manx facts. Also a great source of information for the next Convention. Guest authors from the Isle of Man make regular additions. You should visit often!

Regional societies take note, you need to keep your content updated, so either learn how to use WordPress and get Log-in credentials from Jim Kneale jim.kneale@gmail.com, or email us your information and we will post it for you. We're also on Facebook. Our pages are called North American Manx Association and NAMA Youth.

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the North American Manx Association, please email kelly@mustgoto.com

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR NORTH AMERICAN MANX YOUTH AWARD



Please nominate a young person from your Society to receive this award at the Victoria Convention in June! The Isle of Man Department of Education created an award to be given every two years at the North American Manx Association Convention. The award recognizes young people living in North America for their contribution in maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture. The Department of Education and Children aims to encourage young people with Manx connections growing up in North America to perform Manx Music, learn the Manx language, or learn some other aspect of Manx culture and history. The prize includes a check for US\$200 and free lifetime membership of the North American Manx Association from NAMA, and an award hewn from Pooil Vaaish marble from the Isle of Man Government. The version here was awarded to Nicole Wozny for her invaluable assistance cataloguing and photographing glass lantern slides of the Isle of Man which were later donated to the Manx Museum.

The winner must demonstrate an interest in Manx culture or history by sharing their knowledge through essay, art, multimedia, performance art, etc. Nominations will be accepted via the internet or by snail mail. Each nomination must be in the form of a short description of the nominee's work that explains how this relates to the Isle of Man. Photos or video of the original work should accompany the nomination (soft or hard copies). Nominees must provide contact details for themselves and one reference that may be used by the judges to discuss the work and its authenticity. All initial contacts should go to kelly@mustgoto.com who will pass them to the Youth Award team.

BRAD'S CUFFLINKS

Archibald Knox was an artist of world-renown, born and raised in the Isle of Man. He was the principal designer for Liberty & Co., and designed hundreds of items for Liberty's lines, at the height of their success and influence upon UK and International design. Knox's pioneering and prolific work bridged the Arts and Crafts Movement, Celtic Revival, Art Nouveau, and Modernism. Most of his work for Liberty's was for the Tudric (pewter) and Cymric (precious metals) ranges. The gravestone of Liberty's founder, Arthur Lasenby Liberty, was designed by Knox.



His design talent covered a wide range of objects, ornamental and utilitarian, and included silver and pewter tea sets, jewelry, inkwells, boxes, gravestones, watercolours, graphic designs, calligraphy, a house

design, fonts and even bank cheques. There is an excellent biography of him on the Manx Museum's website, the "imuseum". Knox was a multi-talented artist, who designed everything from silver teapots to slate gravestones and grocer's bank cheques. Indeed the first known and dated piece of design work by Knox is for a gravestone (1896) in Kirk Braddan cemetery. His innovative and intricate designs were in the vanguard of the Art Nouveau movement and through his interpretation the art of the Manx crosses was transformed into iconic modern design. His work has and continues to influence many Manx artists.

His silver and enamel jewelry is highly sought after. I was lucky enough to come across a pair of buttons designed by Knox and made by Liberty & Co. Because these are made of sterling silver, I had the idea to "convert" these from buttons to cuff links. It gives a new lease on life to a pair of old buttons that are no longer in fashion. This kind of conversion was accomplished by a silversmith/jeweler, who removed the button hook from the back of the button, and soldered on a cuff link mechanism. Now, I can wear very distinctive cuff links with a close connection to the Isle of Man. For a close up view, I will wear these to the Convention in June.

Brad Prendergast

ARCHIBALD KNOX FORUM

Chris Hobdell and his wife have decided to set up The Archibald Knox Forum. The charity will have one clear objective, "the advancement of the education of the public, both in the Isle of Man and worldwide, in relation to the work and legacy of Archibald Knox, namely the Manx artist/designer of that name born in the Isle of Man in 1864 and who died there in 1933."

They are creating an Archibald Knox drop-in center at Braddan Church New Hall. This will be a place where enthusiasts can meet, discuss Knox, have access to a reference library, bring in Knox works to share their knowledge and information about the items. There will

also be the option to ask for Knox works to be brought to a subsequent meeting where there will be a chance to discuss them, handle them, draw or photograph them etc. It is envisaged that a short workshop will be held each week where topics of interest can be covered. Examples may be interpreting silver hallmarks, discussing the origins of "Cymric" and "Tudric" items, Knox enamels and the significance of their colors.

If the above format proves popular it is hoped that similar facilities will be rolled out into UK and further afield. Over the next few months a Facebook page and Forum page will be developed.

Chris can be contacted at akforum@manx.net

LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

GREATER WASHINGTON AREA MANX SOCIETY

Mann Alive! We have been having a great time celebrating our 40th Anniversary. We managed to put together the very best Birthday Party ever when Manx award-winning folk group Barrule came over to participate in the Calvert Maritime Museum's summer series of marine-influenced music. What a talented group they are and deserved winners of the Trophée Loic Raison at this year's Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany. Once we had decided to go and see them, we realized our Longship Company friends were just 30 minutes away. So we asked them if we could take out their Viking Longship. And they let us row the ship out and sail her back in. It was perfect! Here are some photos that prove it.



Photos clockwise: The Sae Hrafen (Sea Raven); GWAMS members Matthew Blower (Governor) and Kearsley Waggoner (President); Meeting Manx folk group *Barrule* in Calvert, MD; Members of the Greater Washington D.C. Area Manx Society; A Viking and his ship.

CHICAGO MANX SOCIETY

The Chicago Manx Society met at the home of Brad Prendergast and Albena Wozny on a lovely Sunday afternoon on October 24, 2017. Our traditional pot-luck luncheon was delicious, with barbeque chicken provided by the host, and all the side dishes that were brought by the members. Like any pot-luck meal, we were blessed with an abundance of desserts, and not as many side dishes to go with the meal. But that is what pot-luck is all about! The desserts were wonderful, including apple pie, cookies, ice cream.

Our President, Dorothy Gawne called the meeting to order, and our Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the last meeting, and presented the treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and approved. Our N.A.M.A. 1st Vice President, Katy Prendergast, gave a detailed account of the upcoming 2018 N.A.M.A. Convention in Vancouver. The Chicago Manx are hosting that convention, and members volunteered for many tasks that need to be accomplished in preparation for the convention.

There was discussion about transportation to the convention, including the various ways to get from Chicago to Victoria. The pros and cons of commercial flights to Victoria, float planes from Seattle and other locations, ferries, etc., were all considered. Katy wanted to remind everyone that handicapped accessible rooms are available at the hotel, and if you have any mobility issues, you should book one of those rooms early.

We had a new member!! George Ashman of Oak Park, IL, who is starting to explore his Manx roots joined us for our meeting. Welcome, George.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 1:00PM, at the home of Florence Abbinanti, in Evergreen Park, IL. If you are in the Chicago area on April 8, please try to join us. Please contact Brad Prendergast (brad@lawyerbrad.com) if you have questions/comments or need more information.

Florence Abbinanti, Secretary/Treasurer, Chicago Manx Society



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS | BY CATHERINE ROWE

In her first commission for Isle of Man Post Office, artist Catherine Rowe has done a wonderful job in capturing the spirit of Christmas in this set of twelve stamps for Isle of Man Post Office. Taking inspiration from the well-known Christmas song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', Rowe has managed to give these stamps a traditional Christmas warmth as well as a natural and earthy feel.

There is a stamp for each of the twelve days and Rowe has incorporated some intricate Celtic style detailing such as the Three Legs of Man and Manx Tartan as a small nod to the Island's heritage and culture. The gorgeous, bold color palette of the stamps is delicately contrasted through the use of metallic gold inks used on the numbers and detailing.

North American Manx Association

John Prendergast
10251 S. Bell Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60643



VICTORIA, B.C. CANADA.