

Ta daa cho-haggloo dy ve er nyn gummal ayns Aberystwyth mleeaney dy chowraghey keead blein neayr's hooar John Rh s baase. Va Rh s yn chield ard-olloo Celtish ayns Oxford, as v'eh jeant ny reejerey as ny oltey jeh'n Choonseil Follit. Va ayn vooar echey ayns cur er bun yn British Academy neesht, as t'ad cummal loayrtys bleeanoil ayns cooinaghtyn jeh dys y laa t'ayn jiu. V'eh ruggit ayns 1840 da eirinnagh boght ayns Ponterwyd ayns Ceredigion, as she Bretnish va'n chield ghlare echey. Ren eh scoillaraght scanshoil er fockle-oaylleeaght y Vretnish, er beal-arrish Cheltiagh, er screeunyn-cloaie Ogham as Gaulish, er lettyraghys mean-eashagh, as er ymmoddey cooishyn elley, goaill stiagh yn Ghaelg.

Haink Rh s dys Mannin hoshiaght ayns 1886 lurg da ve cuirrit liorish yn saggyrt as yn shennaghee ynnydoil Ernest Savage. Cur shilley er ny screeun-cloaie ogham ayns Mannin va oyr yn turrays, agh haghyr Rh s er y Ghaelg vio neesht, as ghow eh toshiaght dy ynsagh ee voish loayreyderyn dooghyssagh, va foast palçhey dy liooar ec y traas shen ayns dy chooilley skeerey. Haink eh reesht queig keayrtyn eddyr 1888 as 1893, as dagh keayrt v'eh tannaghtyn paart dy hiaghteyn as eh rouail mygeayrt yn ellan, meeiteil rish sleih va abyl lhaih yn Vible Ghaelgagh da. V'eh cliaghtey screeu sheese yn fockley-magh oc ayns aght-screeuee phonetagh as lurg da goll dy-valley, gobbragh dys anmagh er yn oie lesh fockleyr Cregeen as fockleyr Kelly dy hoiggal ny va çhymisit echey 'sy laa.

Chammah as meeiteil rish sleih er-lheh dy lhaih ayns ny thieyn oc, veagh eh bannaghey da sleih er y raad ayns dy chooilley voayl as prowal loayrt Gaelg roo. T'eh ginsh dooin dy row eh geddyn ansoor ayns Baarle son y chooid smoo, son nagh b'liack lesh ny Manninee loayrt rish joarreeyn ayns çhengey yn çhiollagh, agh v'eh lhiggey er dy re ass boayl fadane 'sy Thalloo Vretnagh v'eh çheet as nagh row monney Baarle echey. "Cha row fys aym dy row yn Vretnish cha faggys da'n Ghaelg!" dooyrt shenn ven dy row haink ny raad.

Ayns 1895 ren Rh s cooney lesh A. W. Moore dy chur magh lioar-phadjer Ghaelgagh yn Aspick Phillips. Ec jerrey yn nah lioar ta mess yn ronsaghey echey er yn Ghaelg vio, *The Outlines of the Phonology of Manx Gaelic*, çheet rish. Ta'n lioar shoh feer scanshoil son dy vel eh dy mennick jannoo imraa jeh raaghyn er-lheh cheayll eh ayns dagh ayn jeh'n ellan, as yn agh va'n fockley magh caghlaa voish skeerey dys skeerey. Ny-yeih ta cooid vooar jeh'n ronsaghey echey foast ayns ny liaryn-noteyn echey ayns Thie-lioragh Ashoonagh yn Thalloo Vretnagh.

Two conferences are to be held this year in Aberystwyth to mark the hundredth anniversary of the death of John Rhys. Rhys was the first professor of Celtic in Oxford, and he was knighted and made a member of the Privy Council. He was one of the founders of the British Academy as well, and they still hold an annual lecture in his memory. He was born in 1840 to a poor farmer in Ponterwyd in Ceredigion, and Welsh was his first language. He did important scholarship on Welsh philology, Celtic folklore, Ogham and Gaulish inscriptions, mediaeval literature, and many other subjects, including Manx.

Rhys came to the Isle of Man for the first time in 1886 on the invitation of vicar and antiquarian Ernest Savage. The purpose of the trip was to view the ogham stones in the Isle of Man, but Rhys encountered the living Gaelic speech of the island as well, and began to learn it from native speakers, who were still fairly numerous and that time in every parish. He returned five times between 1888 and 1893, and each time he stayed a few weeks, travelling round the island, meeting people who were able to read the Manx Bible to him. He would note down their pronunciation in phonetic transcription and after going home, work late into the night deciphering what he had collected with the help of Cregeen and Kelly's dictionaries.

As well as meeting particular individuals in their homes, he would greet people on the road in each area and try to speak Manx to them. He tells us that he usually got a reply in English, since the Manx did not like to speak to strangers in the language of the hearth, but he pretended that he came from a remote part of Wales and did not have much English. "I never knew Welsh was so close to Manx!" said one old woman.

In 1895 Rhys helped A. W. Moore to publish an edition of Bishop Phillips' Manx prayer book. At the end of the second volume the fruits of his research on living Manx appear, *The Outlines of the Phonology of Manx Gaelic*. This work is very important as it mentions particular phrases he heard in different areas, and the way pronunciations varied from parish to parish. Much of his research on Manx, however, is still buried in his note-books in the National Library of Wales.