

NEWSLETTER Winter 2011
Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

Mhelliagh

Celebrating the harvest in the centre of the City often seems a bit irrelevant but on this occasion Rev. Canon Robert Teare pointed out the importance of a good harvest to the country folk in the Isle of Man years ago. In his address at this year's Mhelliagh in St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street he drew on his deep knowledge and love for the Island, speaking of the genuine struggle and hardship endured by the hill farmers and their families. This fact had become poignantly clear walking near Glen Helen when he came across an old gorse shredder and pondered on how desperate the farmers were to have to shred something as inedible, hard and prickly as gorse to provide sustenance for man or beast.

The Manx fisherman's evening hymn also reminds us that the Harvest of the Sea could result in a disappointing catch and people went hungry. Starving Manx families were forced to leave their native shores in search of a livelihood. What a contrast to our frequent trips to the supermarket which sells fish, fruit and veg. all year round! We were grateful to Canon Teare for his thought-provoking message.

Stewart Christian read the lesson; Douglas Barr-Hamilton the Tynwald prayer and Maisie recited the Lord's Prayer in Manx – always a very special moment at our service. Margaret Brady again did a brilliant job on the organ: many thanks to them all.

Afterwards we all went to the Press House Wine Bar just underneath St Bride's in what appears to be an extension to the crypt. This new venue was the result of Sam's research and met with universal approval. Members enjoyed the imaginative menu and tea and coffee after the meal was enhanced by chocolate Three Legs recently acquired on the Island. It has made financial sense to hold the mhelliagh on a weekday although it is more difficult for those in employment. All the same, it was well attended including five new members and Terence and Christine frequently missed since their return to the Island, were able to come.

Preston had set an excellent quiz and we also looked at some of the questions Paul Garbutt used to prepare for us each year. The traditional Bring and Buy seems to have become a raffle but I hope this will not prevent people bringing the odd imaginative prize like the small submarine fuelled by baking soda that I won and which proved very popular with the grandchildren!
Mavis Bell

West Ruislip Cooish

A wild Manxlike morning transformed into a bright sunny afternoon and over an hour or so seventeen members found their way to Mike and Pam Fiddick's lovely cottage for a delicious lunch-time spread of dishes and desserts placed before them. The gathering included Melodie and Harry Waddingham who have joined the Society during the year so it was a case of introductions as well as reunions and reminiscences as we relaxed and chatted for a while before Margaret took charge of the keyboard and the sound of rousing singing of all the old Manx songs drifted towards the Central Line. A couple of copies of the new edition of Sue Woolley's renowned, "My Grandmother's Cookery Book" were on sale and Pam organised a raffle with her customary efficiency raising £39 towards LMS funds from variety of prizes including a Manx tartan tie, jig-saw puzzle and a bottle or two. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. As twilight fell, we sang Ellan Vannin before returning to various parts of London and beyond although the Waddinghams slipped away early later followed by Maron as all three were to attend another function that evening: the post shooting party for Quartet, a first move into film directing by Dustin Hoffman in which both Jack Honeybourne and Melodie have a part. Or was it to get away from our singing?

Douglas Barr-Hamilton

Society Remembers Animals in War

On Remembrance Day it is important to remember the men and women who have fought and died in War. We should also remember the brave and vital efforts of the animals that served alongside them. In World War 1, while ten million men perished, the death rate amongst warhorses was proportionately

higher with some 8,000,000 killed on all sides. Countless mules and donkeys also perished. Only 60,000 of the one million horses sent from Britain to France returned. Many suffered horrific deaths from wounds, thirst, starvation, disease, exposure and exhaustion.

During the First World War horses, mules and donkeys were requisitioned from civilians in all parts of the British Isles. A member of the London Manx Society recounted the story of a young Manx soldier during that conflict. When at the Front he came across a horse who became very excited when he saw the soldier. The young man recognised the horse as the one taken from his own home farm on the Isle of Man. The horse, even during the heat of battle, recognised him. The fate of the horse is not known. There are moving stories of the many heroic tasks that animals have undertaken in all conflicts and continue to perform. This includes direct battle involvement, saving lives, pulling supplies through mountains and streams, sniffing for bombs, delivering mail and messages and who remained loyal friends to British and allied soldiers. They remain vital to our armed services.

It was with this in mind that London Manx Society laid a wreath at the Animals War Memorial in London's Park Lane, on Remembrance Day this year. The monument sculptured by David Backhouse and unveiled in November 2004, is built of Portland Stone and cast bronze, measuring 58ft wide and 55ft deep. Bronze statues and carved images of the different animals used in twentieth century conflicts are incorporated into the monument. One of the names inscribed on the memorial is Charles Mc Pettridge. He had his name added in recognition and gratitude for the role mules played in saving his life during the Burma Campaign in the Second World War. His family by marriage had been regular attenders of the Beach Mission in Port St Mary on the Isle of Man since 1889. His mother-in-law attended the ceremony to unveil the depictions of the mules on the monument. Sadly he had died before the ceremony.

Beneath the main heading "Animals in War", the memorial has two inscriptions:

"This monument is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time".

The second, smaller inscription simply reads:

"They had no choice"

The London Manx Society wreath had the following dedication in Manx and English: "Ayns cooinaghtyn jeh shirveish-chaggee ny beiny oney ooilley as y surranse oc er nyn son" (In remembrance of the war service of all the innocent animals and their suffering on our behalf) and "Cha row reih erbee oc" (They had no choice)

The translation was kindly supplied by Chris Sheard, translator for the Manx Heritage Foundation. The wreath, supplied by the Royal British Legion, was laid on Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2011 by Alastair Kneale, a member of the London Manx Society
Alastair Kneale



And by coincidence ...

My very first A level pupil, Carol Roberts (now Rookwood) has a mother who was married to Charles McPetridge as a second marriage and she came from Southport to live with Charles in Ascot so I met up with the family again. Carol's mother, Carol, and indeed the whole of that side of Carol's family have gone to Isle of Man every year since the beginning of the CSSM Beach Mission (now called

Holiday Bible Club) in 1889 held in Port St Mary. Anne, about whom you wrote as she had been to the Maundy Service in St Paul's last Easter, has been, and, for all I know, is still involved with the Port St Mary venture. So, even in the Animal War Memorial, there is a Manx connection, albeit not a blood related one! If you go, please look for the name at the back. When the mules were unveiled, Princess Anne was there and Carol's Mother was also there. Sadly, Charles had died not too long before the unveiling.

All the best!

Margaret Brady

Phyllis Long

Phyllis, celebrated her 90th birthday on 18th November with a party in the home in Peel where she now lives. Her husband Fred and his father before him were president of LMS in their time and we are privileged that Phyllis continues the long connection. Belatedly, we offer our congratulations and best wishes for a happy birthday.

Her son Chris lives very close to my brother Robin in Linlithgow so West Lothian can be said to have an unofficial Manx Society!

Manx Connections in Deepest Suffolk

Stoke by Nayland is a pretty Suffolk village of about 700 people in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty about 60 miles north-east of London. It has a wonderful ancient Perpendicular church of cathedral proportions, with a massive 120 foot tower, much admired by John Constable who lived in East Bergholt, nearby.

Four longstanding residents in the village have Manx connections which, I think, is quite surprising. Furthermore, three of them attended the same school albeit at different times. Marjorie Poston, a very switched on lady in her 95th year, comes from the Cannell family who farmed Lhergyvreck, Kirk Michael. She went to Douglas High School at Park Road and remembers being taught by Archibald Knox who became very cross with their "feeble" attempts at drawing! Her father, Henry, played golf at Howstrake in the summer and Pulrose in the winter.

Hector Quine was born in London in 1926. He became Professor of the Guitar at the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music. Although he has never lived on the island he can trace his ancestry back to William Quine and Jane Quayle both born in Douglas in the early 1790s. Hector visited the island with his family for the first time about twenty years ago and was struck by its beauty. Jonquil Mieville (nee Hamer) also has a Manx connection. Her father was invalided out of the RAF and the family moved to Onchan to farm at The Grange from 1945-52. She attended the High School at Ballakermeen for two years from 1948 and must have been amongst the earliest intake of students there. She has a friend Margaret Cannell whose family farmed near Ramsey.

Finally my parents were both born on the island. My paternal grandparents came from Yorkshire when newly married. They bought Laxey Woollen Mill which they ran until the late forties/ early fifties. My father, Len Holroyd went to the High School at Park Road and worked for the Isle of Man Bank, managing Victoria Street Branch before retirement. He was a keen golfer playing at Howstrake and Pulrose and was Captain at Castletown. My mother's family were Callows and I still have Callow cousins living on the island today. I attended Douglas High School, like Marjorie and although not at the same time as Jonquil, we both remember a rather formidable French teacher called Miss Frazier!

So, in a sleepy Suffolk village in the heart of Constable country, renowned for its beautiful church and half timbered houses, Manx connections are alive and well!

Felicity Grundy (nee Holroyd)

Brian Kneen

We were saddened to learn that Brian, my predecessor for many years as Membership Secretary and, with his wife Mary, Editor of the LMS newsletter is unwell and currently undergoing chemotherapy. We send him our best wishes on behalf of the entire membership.

Colours of Cav

Cycling's Yellow Jersey (correctly le maillot jaune) is well known: worn by the rider leading the Tour de France. Less well known in Britain until 25th September is the sport's Rainbow Jersey although Tommy Simpson earned it in 1965. It's worn by the rider who has won the World Road Race Championships. This year, Laxey's Mark Cavendish, star sprinter of the brilliant British team, won the title in Copenhagen.

He'll be somebody to vote for in the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year (22nd December) and to cheer at the London Olympic Games on the first day of competition (28th July) when you can watch free but choose your spot carefully and get there early. The organisers are expecting a quarter of a million spectators.

Real Man Pizza Company

On a Friday night in the summer Sean and I met London Manx members Tania and Graham at the Real Man Pizza Company in the City of London. I'd looked at the menu on their website and liked the sound of Manx themed pizzas, the Manx mackerel pate and the king prawns in Okells batter. However, my main goal was to eat Manx ice cream in London for the first time since leaving the Island. We were welcomed warmly by the manager and shown to where Tania and Graham were sitting already. Sean immediately decided he wanted the queenie pizza. All I wanted to do was to talk about the ice cream. The manager went into the kitchen and brought out an ice cream lid and it was Davisons! The food was good and came on very attractive plates, white with a Manx flag in the centre in red. It was a shame they didn't sell Manx beers when we went, although I see from the website that they now sell Okells by the bottle. An added bonus is that anyone paying the bill with Manx money will receive a 20% discount.

91-95 Clerkenwell Road, City of London, EC1R 5BX – Telephone 020 7242 3246

www.therealmanpizzacompany.com

Wendy Ellis Kneen

Who Was Cressy Dodd?

An appeal has gone out from Manx cultural field worker, Stephen Miller, for information concerning an unrecognised Manx song collector by the name of Cressy Maud Dodd, thought to be born on the 10th December, 1887 in the parish of German to David Dodd and Lizzie Crellin, or Cringle. Little is known about her life but Stephen hopes to re-awaken readers' memories in the hope that they will be able to throw more light on the subject.

At the age of 13 Cressy (her given name) was known to be living with other members of her family at 54 Marine Parade in Peel, from information supplied on the 1901 census return.

Stephen has few details about Cressy, but correspondence between the young woman and Manx cultural activist Sophia Morrison in 1910 reveals Cressy's forgetfulness in forwarding a song, or jig, which languished at the bottom of her box. However, he does know that Cressy had been collecting from a Mr Moore in Patrick, which Stephen believes to be Joseph Patrick Moore 1845-1928. Typically both a farmer and a fisherman, Moore was a speaker of both Manx and English and lived in the house next to Knockaloe Mooar Primitive Methodist Chapel. Referred to in the preface of Morrison's 'Manx Fairy Tales', Moore was also noted for his rendition of a traditional song never before published, at a supper given by the Friends of the Manx Language Society in the Palace Restaurant in 1913. It was hoped to publish this song in a future edition of the publication 'Mannin'.

It is known that Cressy collected four songs (likely only the tunes) which were 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley' (two renditions although the first was the one he sang the most), an untitled lullaby which

begins 'Where's Your Father, diddle-dum, diddle-dum' and another untitled piece that would appear to be a skit about a man who set fire to another's haystacks!

By 1911 Cressy was living in Small Heath, Birmingham, where she worked as a certified assistant teacher for Birmingham Council. At this time she also attended classes which focused on Irish and Scottish traditional dancing, but was evidently home-sick for the Isle of Man. Correspondence between Cressy and Sophia Morrison reveals that she sent a present of 'Manx Knobs' to Birmingham which were favourably received.

If anyone believes they may have further details about the life of Cressy Dodd please contact Stephen Miller on chiollagh@googlemail.com
Valerie Caine
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Spoke to remain missing from Heathrow hub

In reply to a question in Tynwald recently Chief Minister, Richard Corkill said that flights between Heathrow Airport and the Island are unlikely to be restored as British Airways, Manx Airlines parent company, requires the slot for international flights. Jersey and Guernsey are similarly affected. Another factor is the impact an additional route would have on existing schedules especially Aer Arann's from London City.

This is my preferred route from North London and members may like to consider signing up for Aer Arann's email newsletter as one of its marketing ploys is to announce a happy hour, usually with only 24 hours notice, during which cut price fares are available. Visit www.aerarann.com.

An Island Christmas

Seasonal greetings in Manx may come in useful in the coming days so here are a few:

Nollick Ghennal	Happy Christmas
... as Blein Vie Noa	... and a Good New Year
Bannaghtyn	Blessings/greetings
Lesh yeearreeyn share	With best wishes
Lesh yeearreeyn share y Nollick Ghenna as y Blein Vie Noa	
With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year	

... and you may want to say:

Hee'm oo 'sy vlein noa See you in the new year.

... and some other phrases worth knowing:

Laa Nollick	Christmas Day
Oie'll Voirrey	Christmas Eve
Kaart Nollick	Christmas card
Carval	Christmas carol
Jough y Nollick	Christmas drink
Billey Nollick	Christmas tree
Jishag y Nollick	Father Christmas
Fer sniaghtee	Snowman

Kaart Nollick are available on www.hancoxart.com/store/manx-christmas-cards.

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Ideas for Christmas presents

Isle of Man Monopoly
£24.99 from Amazon

Books reviewed in this edition by Valerie Caine

My Grandmother's Cookbook, Volume 4

The Wreck of the Serica

Kiaull yn Theay 4

Another book

Peel a slice of time

Through Vic Bates and Bill Quine of the Peel Heritage Trust, we learn the story of Brian Mylchreest who returned to Peel in the mid 19th century after making his fortune in diamond mining but, rather than concentrating on "The Diamond King" the book is centred around his schooner 'The Phoebe'. The authors use many articles from the Peel City Guardian and interesting photographs, some previously unseen, and maps as well as recently discovered family letters. A heavy hardback costing £19.59 plus £6.50 postage and packing to UK from Lexicon and other Island bookshops, it might be worth approaching the Peel Heritage Trust (01624 844938) direct but I'm assured that members from Peel (and we have quite a number) will adore this fresh insight into the city in Victorian times. Maron Honeybourne will write us a full review for the next edition of the newsletter.

CD

'Snuff the Wind' by Manx music duo 'Shoh Slaynt' (Manx for Here's Health!) features Paul Reynolds on guitar and vocals and Ken Crellin playing a range of instruments
Available from the Lexicon and other bookshops, Manx Museum, Celtic Gold and Peter Norris Music at £11.

Miss Saigon.

Douglas Choral Union's postponed production, sponsored by Dougherty Quinn Advocates, has been rescheduled for 6-18th February 2012 at the Gaiety Theatre. Tickets from £20 can be obtained from the Gaiety Theatre, Harris Promenade, Douglas, 01624 600555, www.villagaiety.com.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Society:

Carol Radcliffe of Billericay, Essex and Mary West of Corsham, Wilts.

Mary was a guest at the Mhelliah this year and Carol a guest at the lunch a few months earlier.

Society's Website

Our website is managed by Sean and Wendy Ellis and officers have been delighted at hearing heaps of praise about it.

Island Quiz

(open to non-members through the web site)

1. What does the Island expression, 'Snuff the Wind' mean
a) an old lead mine near Glen Rushen, b) take the tram at Laxey, c) the lanes in Ramsey between Parliament Street and the harbour, d) visit the brooghs at Rue Point?
2. Which part in Les Misérables is played by a Manx person and what is the singer's real name
a) Cosette/Lisa-Ann Wood, b) Éponine/Sam Barks, c) Marius/Craig Mather, d) Thénardier/Cameron Blakeley?
3. What does Glenfaba mean,

- a) Faber's smallholding, b) favourite glen, c) Neb valley, d) sheltered valley?
 4. What was Knockaloe used for during the First World War
 a) experimental farming, b) internment camp, c) prisoner of war camp, d) rehabilitation centre?
 5. Where is the Island's Millennium Stone Cross
 a) Ballasalla, b) Cregneish, c) Douglas Promenade, d) St John's?

Answers to the editor by post or email, please. Closing date 30th December.

The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive a box of Christmas chocolates will be yours to enjoy. Colin Gill again won the prize in September but was pressed by the greatest number of rivals to date. Other members need to move faster!

His answers:

1. The Taubman family owned the Nunnery in 1823.
2. 29th September was the date of this year's Keys' elections.
3. Peter Kelly is President of the World Manx Association.
4. Renshent is in Foxdale.
5. Glenfaba contains just two parishes (German and Patrick).

Kiaull yn Theay 4

Renewed interest in Manx music has prompted the latest release of this handy-sized publication, which continues the series of books which were the brainchild of the late Colin Jerry.

Songs included in this volume continue to reflect his ethos that the songs should speak for themselves, without translation, or explanation. But for those who do not have Manx Gaelic helpful pronunciation guides will soon be available at www.manxmusic.com together with audio files for those who prefer to learn by ear.

Concentrating largely on material from the 1970s up to the present day, the extension of the Kiaull yn Theay series was developed from workshops held during the annual Manx and Inter-Gaelic festival 'Feailley Ghaelgagh', since renamed 'Cooish'.

Published in conjunction with the Manx Heritage Foundation some of its content is drawn from tunes heard on CDs, or during gigs, rather than sessions, providing a cross-section of new and old material. With contributions from all parts of the Island, many of them from young people bursting with creativity, the naming of tunes reflects episodes from modern life and external influences. Far from being an ostentatious little number, its fresh, green cover and simple design concentrates the mind on the more important aspects of the book – the tunes!

Collated by Breesha Maddrell, she has also included brief biographies of each contributor and a little detail about the songs.

Further books in this series will likely be published over time with musicians invited to share their material by contacting Breesha Maddrell at the Manx Heritage Foundation.

www.manxmusic.com

www.manxheritage.org

Valerie Caine

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(Courtesy of Manx Tails)

£6 from Manx Heritage Trust

The Wreck of the Serica

Centred around the exploits of the Cubbin family and their remarkable story of courage and endeavour, 'The Wreck of the Serica' was largely forgotten, until local writer Valerie Cottle chanced upon a commemorative tablet for two young boys in Old Kirk Braddan Church.

She sets the scene by describing Thomas Cubbin's early life in Derbyhaven, schooldays in Castletown and his meritorious rise within the Merchant Navy, opening out the story of a nineteenth century sea-faring life with great attention to detail.

His English born wife was a mariner's daughter who often joined Cubbin on his sea journeys and indeed gave birth to a number of his children whilst they sailed.

Mary boarded the 'Serica' with her husband and two sons, the youngest barely walking, leaving a number of other children to be looked after at home, and sailed from Birkenhead on the 6th December, 1867, bound for Aden. But as they navigated the Indian Ocean the 'Serica' hit one of the most terrifying hurricanes ever recorded. Forced to abandon ship, their frightening ordeal is recounted here in a personal narrative of Thomas Cubbin, which graphically describes how they set out for Madagascar, hundreds of miles away. But not everyone survived.

Harassed by sharks and hampered by worsening weather conditions their 'lifeboats' were hit by further difficulties; close to death the survivors made it to land only to discover that their problems were far from over.

Additional dilemmas awaited those who returned home to the Isle of Man and thereby hangs a second tale which is described in some detail within the book, but as the Cubbin family spread far and wide across the world one little girl, christened Serica, brought joy and happiness to some of the people involved with this tragic episode.

Valerie Caine

© November 2011

£14 from Manx Heritage Foundation

My Grandmother's Cook Book

Now in its fourth edition Sue Woolley's popular cook book can be found in many kitchens both here and overseas, but it also serves as an interesting historical testimonial to the old Manx way of life dominated by hard graft and self-sufficiency.

Some of the recipes have been handed down from the author's grandmother, Rebena Crellin, which gives the book a more personal feel, and many have a seasonal flavour, or are indicative of the time of year; such as Soddag Valloo (the Dumb Cake), Hollantide Fairings, or the Michaelmas Goose.

In addition Sue has included a selection of evocative black and white photographs (some with kind permission of Manx National Heritage), with biographical snapshots of two of the main photographers (Cowen and Southward) who sought to record the vestiges of the old way of life, many of them previously unpublished. Also included are some tantalising extracts from 'Vocabulary of the Anglo-Manx Dialect' compiled by A. W. Moore to whet the appetite of the reader. The busy Manx housewife may have had little variation in her store cupboard, but she was nothing if not resourceful. There was little waste and although plain fare her cooking was nourishing and healthy.

Many of the ingredients can be bought easily on a contemporary shopping trip, with recipes to suit all occasions, and with easy to read conversion charts at the turn of a page there's really no excuse not to rustle up a pot of Manx broth, or learn more about how to cook Tanrogans. But if you want to know more about the magnificent Dalby Sandwich you'll have to buy the book. Priced at £10.50 'My Grandmother's Cook Book' is available from the Lexicon Bookshop, the Manx Museum, House of Manannan and other Island outlets.

Valerie Caine

© November 2011

Sue has generously offered copies to Society members at a reduced price of £10, including postage and packing. Please contact Sue direct: 3 Brookfield Terrace, Ramsey.

The M.E.R. Run

On a perfect day in June
We left Douglas Bay behind.
Could not believe our luck,
The weather was so kind.

The gorse on Ellan Vannin
Is surely deeper gold
Than that across the water,
Such glory to behold.
Along the way, the hawthorn
Was a froth of creamy lace
(We really did appreciate
The railway's slower pace).

A little further on, with fuchsia
Peeping from the hedges,
Then ferns of delicate green
With tendrils curling at the edges.
As we swayed around the bend
We were filled with sheer delight –
A drift of bluebells at the side
Made such a pretty sight.

Though I was born in this fair land
And distant now by many a mile,
Each visit helps to cherish more
Sweet memories of Mona's Isle.

Maisie Sell

Bryan Corrin tells us that he read, "A boy's paradise," Maisie's poem published in our last newsletter to a Beckenham poetry group where it was well received.

Acknowledgements

The Editor thanks Mavis Bell, Margaret Brady, Adrian Cain, Valerie Caine, Bryan Corrin, Felicity Grundy, Warren Hancox, Alastair Kneale, Wendy Ellis-Kneen, Maisie Sell, for their kind contribution and also the Manx Heritage Foundation and Manx Radio. News about you and articles (of around 450 words) about Island life are welcome and of interest to all. If in doubt, please contact me – contributions can be sent at any time for inclusion in the next newsletter, if possible by email (barrhamilton@btinternet.com) otherwise 132 Bush Hill, London N21 2BS.

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Closing date for the next issue, 25th February.

Dates for your diary**London Walk**

At the recent cooish several members discussed the possibility of meeting up for an organised walk. If interested, contact Douglas or any member of the committee so arrangements can be considered.

LMS Lunch**28th April 2012**

At Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 92 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BH

Guest of honour next year will be Edmund Southworth, Director of Manx National Heritage.

Please keep the date free to come and hear our interesting speaker.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS**PLEASE SEND NEWS TO:**

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