

Reading Part 3

Read the four texts. Which text gives you the answer to each question? Choose the correct text (A-D) for each question.

A.

I'd come to the island to follow in the footsteps of a man whom history has to a large extent passed by – a man who didn't have a huge impact on the world or even on the Isle of Man. He was a king all right but a king whose realm and reign have been parked under a tarpaulin in a historical cul-de-sac for centuries, for it has been decided by others that, in the greater scheme of things, Olaf Godreson, a twelfth-century king of an ancient, forgotten nation, didn't really matter. He didn't win any major battles, execute anyone of note, invade anywhere, define an epoch or even particularly stand out in the roster of Manx monarchs. We don't know much about him at all. Indeed, we don't know much about the Norse kings of Man in general. But I'd come to the Isle to follow a journey Olaf made, a route that gives a rare, tangible link to an obscure and mysterious period of history when this small, oft-ignored island was at the centre of an empire.

B.

Olaf I was King of Mann and the Isles from 1104 until 1153. Norway's Kings Magnus Barefoot and Sigurd Jorsalfare annexed the kingdom and caused disruption in successions. For forty years, Olaf ruled them uncontested. The Kingdom of Mann and the Isles encompassed the Isle of Man and the Hebrides, extending from the Calf of Man to the Butt of Lewis. Olaf adopted the Latin style Rex Manniae et Insularum in his charters, a translation of the Gaelic title 'ri Innse Gall' (literally 'king of the foreigners' isles'), in use since the late 10th century. The islands which were under his rule were called the Sullr-eyjar (south isles, in contradistinction to Norsr-eyjar, 'north isles' – the Orkney and Shetland Islands), and consisted of the Hebrides and all the smaller western islands of Scotland, with Mann. Olaf I exercised considerable power and, according to the Chronicles of Mann, maintained close alliance with the kings of Ireland and Scotland.

C.

Close to Ronaldsway Airport, Ballasalla is another picturesque resort which contains the ruins of the Abbey of St Mary of Rushen, founded by the Viking king, Olaf, in 1134. It fell into neglect following the dissolution of the monasteries but still has its 14th century Monk's Bridge. Two other Viking kings of Man, Reginald II and Magnus, are buried here. The folk of Manxland have an abiding passion for local mythology and at Santon you will find the Fairy Bridge; any local gent crossing it will almost certainly doff his cap in deference to the Little People living below. An aviation museum adjacent to the airport tells the story of the island's aviation history while Ballasalla is the starting point for a number of walks up to Silverdale and Glen.

D.

Our Isle of Man break's like a time warp experience. Peaceful and quiet most of the time, then round a corner and wow! Inadvertently came across their Viking Festival today. A whole Viking village incongruously set up in a field adjacent to a swimming pool. Tonight there's apparently a Boat Burning event – hopefully not in the same location! There have also been battle re-enactments, bronzesmiths, and, more incongruity, takeaways to eat with wooden spoons accompanied by hot drinks from stone goblets. We were stunned so many aficionados were there – from all over the world too. But contrary to the antics of those they were celebrating, we were delighted to discover a peaceful village atmosphere with women, children and craftsmen getting on with life, as it would have been over 1000 years ago. Life at home will be very run-of-the-mill after this.

In which text does the writer:

1. include information aimed at tourists?
2. provide a rationale for his actions?
3. detail the deeds of a ruler?

Which text is saying the following?

4. Some people believe in the supernatural.
5. Historical events are sometimes ignored.
6. Some experts travel vast distances.
7. Someone's authority was never challenged.
