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## The Isle of Man and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

This display covers the period 1718 to 1807, using documents to show the Island's links with the European trade in slaves from the African coast to the Americas.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade involved ships sailing from Europe with cargoes of goods to exchange for slaves on the Guinea coast of Africa. These slaves were then transported across the Atlantic to work on the plantations which supplied Europe with tobacco, cotton, sugar and other produce.

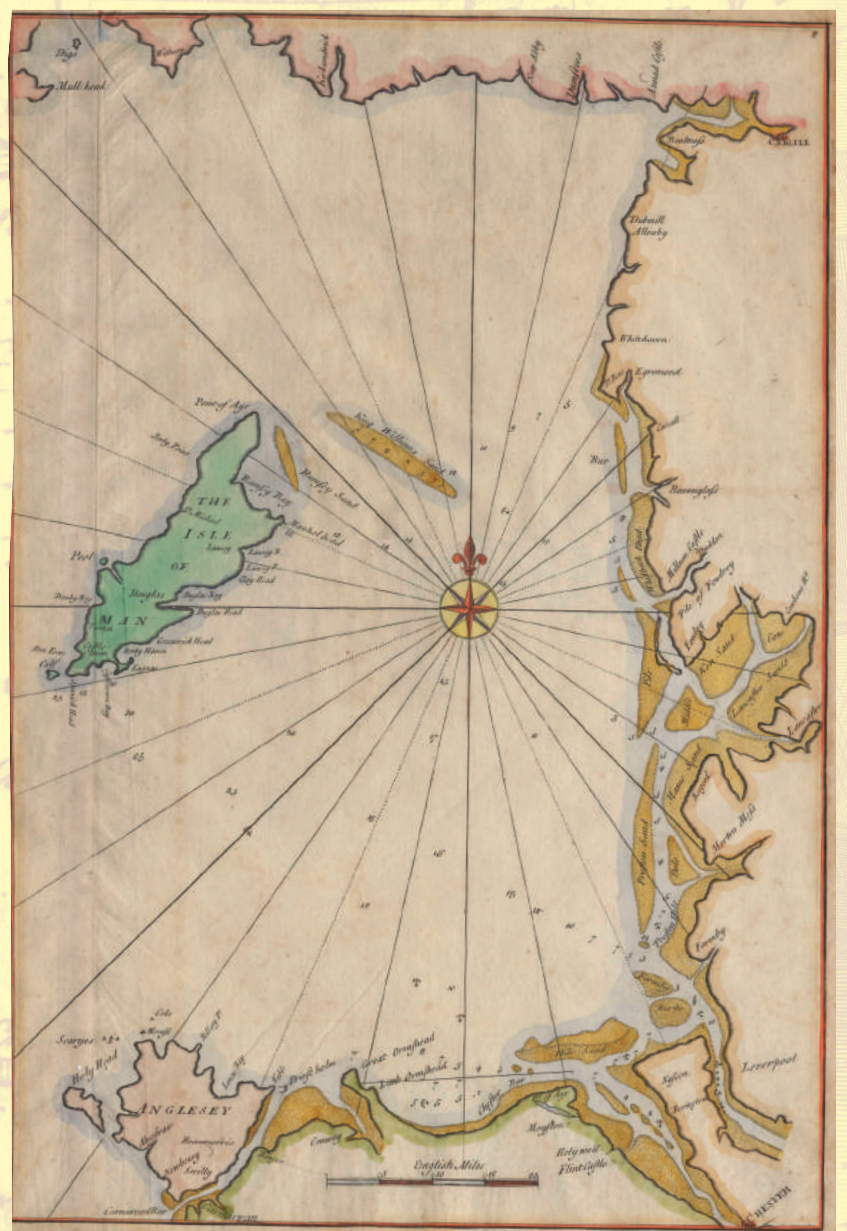
Goods from the East Indies formed a major part of the Guinea cargoes. Dutch East India goods were available in the Isle of Man until 1765. Because these goods landed from Holland were cheaper than the English East India Company goods from London, the slave trade merchants of Liverpool, Whitehaven and Lancaster purchased part of their Guinea cargoes on the Island.

Several Manx merchants made their fortunes through this trade. They also owned shares in slaving voyages, especially after 1765.

Guinea ships visited the Island en route for Africa but Manx mariners found work by sailing to Liverpool where they entered as crew on board the slavers. Towards the end of the 18th century a high proportion of the Liverpool slave ship captains were Manxmen.

Some mariners became merchants in the West Indies. Other Manxmen went directly to the Americas, where they owned plantations or worked as plantation overseers.

1728 chart featuring the Isle of Man and surrounding coastline.



Contemporary engraving of Liverpool quayside scene

