

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Peantairean le Gàidhlig

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 762. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 458 corresponds to Litir 762.

Cheannaich mi dealbh an-uiridh airson mo mhnà. Tha dà dhòbhran ann agus tha iad a’ snàmh tro fheamainn. Tha rudeigin ann mu ghluasad na feamainn, agus gluasad nan dòbhran anns an dearbh dhòigh, a bha tarraingeach dhomh. Tha thu a’ faicinn, mar gum bitheadh, sruthadh na mara. Chòrd e rium gu mòr. Agus, nas cudromaiche buileach, chòrd e ri mo bhean!

Nuair a bha sinn a’ fuireach anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, bhiomaid a’ faicinn dòbhran gu tric, agus ghabh sinn tlachd mhòr bhuapa. Mar an ceudna, tha sinn air am faicinn gu tric air a’ Chomraich, far am bi sinn a’ cur seachad mòran tìde.

’S ann dìreach às dèidh dhomh an dealbh fhaighinn a fhuair mi a-mach gu bheil Gàidhlig aig an neach a rinn e. Chuir sin ri luach an deilbh dhòmhsa. Chan e a-mhàin gun robh mi fhìn ’s e fhèin a’ faighinn an aon tlachd is toileachas bho bhòidhchead nàdair ach gun robh sinn dìleas le chèile don aon chànan is cultar cuideachd.

Thachair an dearbh sheòrsa rud dhomh le neach-ealain nach eil beò a-nise – Uilleam Mac an t-Sagairt, a chaochail còrr is ceud bliadhna air ais. A’ chiad turas a chunnaic mi dealbh aig Mac an t-Sagairt ann an gailearaidh ann an Dùn Èideann **mas math mo chuimhne**, ghlac e m’ aire ’s mo chridhe. Bha clann òg ann, agus iad a’ ruith ann an achadh làn fhlùraichean air latha brèagha samhraidh. Chuir e nam chuimhne mar a bha e dhomh fhìn nam òige air a’ Chomraich air làithean-saora.

Nas fhaide air adhart anns an aon ghailearaidh, chunnaic mi dealbh eile a ghlac m’ aire. ’S e sealladh mara a bh’ ann, le bàta is cladach is gaoth is grian, le gilead is glaisead is guirmead air am filleadh còmhla le misneachd is treunachd. Bha rudeigin ann mu stoidhle a’ pheantaidh a bha a’ cur nan *Impressionists* nam chuimhne.

Ach cha b’ e an Fhraing an seo, eadhon a’ Bhreatainn Bheag. ’S e Alba a bh’ ann. A-rithist bha mi air ais nam òige, a’ dèanamh deiseil gus falbh a-mach **airson fliùghaichean is bodaich ruadha a ghlacadh le dorgh**. Agus cò rinn an dealbh? An dearbh dhuine, Uilleam Mac an t-Sagairt.

’S ann dìreach às dèidh làimh’ a fhuair mi a-mach gun robh Gàidhlig aig Mac an t-Sagairt. Thogadh e ann an Ceann Tìre, faisg air Machair Shanais. Bha a phàrantan nan croitearan, agus ’s e mo thuigse gun robh Gàidhlig aig an dithis aca. Cho luath ’s a fhuair mi sin a-mach, bha mi a’ faireachdainn na bu dlùithe buileach ri Mac an t-Sagairt.

Nuair a bha e fhathast na dheugaire, dh’fhàg Uilleam a dhachaigh ann an Ceann Tìre. Ghluais e a Dhùn Èideann far an robh cothrom aige trèanadh fhaighinn mar neach-ealain. ’S e clann a bha nan cuspairean dha aig an toiseach ach ghluais e air

adhart gu seallaidhean tire agus seallaidhean mara, an dà chuid air an taobh an iar, agus air an taobh an ear de dh'Alba. Bha e measail air Machair Aonghais agus air Lodainn far an do rinn e a dhachaigh.

Aon turas nuair a bha e air an taobh an iar, bha Mac an t-Sagairt air a chur ann an cunnart a bheatha. Innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn an-ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan na Litreach: A' Chomraich: *Applecross*; Uilleam Mac an t-Sagairt: *William MacTaggart*; sealladh mara: *seascape*; Ceann Tìre: *Kintyre*; Machair Shanais: *Machrihanish*; seallaidhean tire: *landscapes*; Machair Aonghais: *the low flat country of Angus*; Lodainn: *Lothian*.

Abairtean na Litreach: airson mo mhnà: *for my wife*; a' snàmh tro fheamainn: *swimming through seaweed*; gluasad nan dòbhran anns an dearbh dhòigh: *the movement of the otters in the same way*; sruthadh na mara: *the movement of the sea current*; ghabh sinn tlachd mhòr bhuapa: *we derived great pleasure from them*; mar an ceudna: *in the same way*; chuir sin ri luach an deilbh dhòmhsa: *that added to the picture's value for me*; a' faighinn an aon tlachd bho bhòidhchead nàdair: *deriving the same pleasure from the beauty of nature*; gun robh sinn dìleas le chèile don aon chànan: *that we were both loyal to the same language*; thachair an dearbh sheòrsa rud dhomh: *the same sort of thing happened to me*; neach-ealain nach eil beò: *an artist who is not alive*; ghlac e m' aire 's mo chridhe: *it captured my attention and my heart [affections]*; achadh làn fhlùraichean: *a field full of flowers*; mar a bha e dhomh fhìn nam òige: *how it was for me myself in my childhood*; nas fhaide air adhart anns an aon ghailearaidh: *further on in the same gallery*; le gilead is glaisead is guirmead air am filleadh còmhla le misneachd is treunachd: *with whiteness and green-greyness and blueness plied together with confidence and boldness*; eadhon a' Bhreatainn Bheag: *even Britanny*; 's e mo thuigse gun robh Gàidhlig aig an dithis aca: *it's my understanding that both of them spoke Gaelic*; na bu dlùithe buileach: *much closer*; bha X air a chur ann an cunnart a bheatha: *X was put in danger of his life*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: airson fliùghaichean is bodaich ruadha a ghlacadh le dorgh: *to catch lythe and codling with a handline*. If you look up a dictionary you will normally see liùgh (or liugha) as the Gaelic for lythe (pollack). But in the Applecross dialect an initial 'f' is added. This is also the case with flagais for lagais 'rubbish tip'. In other dialects eg Raasay raineach 'bracken' has become fraineach. The reason is that the lenited 'f' is silent and at some point the speakers of those dialects presumed the presence of a lenited 'f' at the beginning of these words eg in the definite dative singular – leis an fhliùgh (rather than leis an liùgh). De-lenition in the nominative singular therefore assumes the presence of the initial 'f'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: mas math mo chuimhne: *if my memory serves me correctly*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA