

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Uilleam Hare (2)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,369. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,065 corresponds to Litir 1,369. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Uilleam Hare a bha an sàs ann am murt is reic chorp ann an Dùn Èideann mu dhà cheud bliadhna air ais. Dè thachair dha? A rèir aithris, dh'inns e do na poilis gun robh e **a' dol a dhol** dhachaigh a dh'Èirinn. Ach an deach?

Nochd aithrisean mòran bhliadhnaichean an dèidh sin gun robh Hare a' fuireach ann an Lunnainn. Bha e na dhèirceach dall. Bhiodh e a' coiseachd sràidean Lunnainn le cù na chois. Bha daoine a' dèanamh dheth gur e Uilleam Hare a bh' ann.

Ach cha b' e. 'S e fear a bh' ann air an robh Ware mar ainm, seach Hare. Agus tha e clàraichte an dà chuid mar Uilleam Ware agus Tòmas Ware. Thuit e a-steach a shloc aoil bliadhnaichean roimhe agus dh'fhàg sin dall e. Fhuair Ware litrichean bho na h-ùghdarrasan ann an Dùn Èideann, a' dearbhadh nach e Uilleam Hare a bh' ann. Ach **ma thogair** – bha gu leòr ann an Lunnainn a' creidsinn gur e agus cha robh iad a' dol a dh'atharrachadh am beachd!

Bha sgeul ann cuideachd gun do chaochail Hare ann an Canada. Nochd fear agus a bhean ann an sgìre ann an Ontairio. Thog iad taigh ann an innis anns a' choille, pìos air falbh bho nàbaidhean. 'S e Hare a bh' orra mar ainm-cinnidh. Agus bha iad ag ràdh gur e Pròstanaich a bh' annta. Bha Uilleam Hare na Èireannach, agus na Chaitligeach.

Bha iad ann fad ùine, a' fuireach gu socair, sàmhach nuair a thàinig Albannach a dh'fhuireach anns an sgìre. Thug e leis duilleachan anns an robh cunntas mu chùis-chùirte Bhurke. Agus, an cois a' chunntais sin, bha dealbh de Hare a chaidh a tharraing le neach-ealain.

Bha feadhainn dhen bheachd gur e am murtair a bha a' fuireach anns an nàbachd aca. Chùm iad air falbh bhuaithe. Rinn iad follaiseach dha gun robh gràin aca air.

Nuair a fhuair Hare a-mach dè bh' air tachairt, leugh e an duilleachan. A rèir aithris, chaidh a shlàinte bhuaithe sa mhionaid. Cha do mhair e beò fada. Ach mus do chaochail e, chuir e fios a-mach gu sagart a dhol thuige. Tha e coltach nach e Pròstanaich a bh' ann. Agus thuirt muinntir na sgìre gun robh sin a' dearbhadh gur e Uilleam Hare a bh' ann, ann an dha-riribh. Ach tha ceist ann mun sgeul seo – carson a ghleidheadh e ainm-cinnidh? Bha e air a bhith furasta gu leòr ainm ùr a thaghadh.

Bha sgeul ann cuideachd gun deach Hare a Bheal Feirste far an robh e an sàs ann am mèirle. Bha e air a chur an grèim agus an uair sin air a chur a-null a

dh'Astràilia. Bha e ag obair mar chiontach air oighreachd faisg air Sydney. Bha daoine eòlach air fon fhrìth-ainm 'Bonyparte'.

Nuair a bha e tinn, agus aig uchd-bàis anns an ospadal, dh'aithnich am fear anns an ath leabaidh e. 'S ann à Dùn Èideann a bha am fear sin. Dh'aidich 'Bonyparte' gum b' esan Uilleam Hare ach chaochail e tron oidhche.

Uill, sin agaibh trì cunntasan mu Uilleam Hare. Ach, a rèir beul-aithris às a' Ghàidhealtachd, thill e a dh'Alba agus bha e a' fuireach fo ainm eile ann an taobh siar Rois. Bheir sinn sùil air sin anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: ùghdarrasan: *authorities*; Dùn Èideann: *Edinburgh*; ainm-cinnidh: *surname*; Pròstanaich: *Protestants*; Caitligeach: *Catholics*; duilleachan: *pamphlet*; ann an dha-rìribh: *in reality*; Beal Feirste: *Belfast*; ciontach: *convict*; frìth-ainm: *nickname*; uchd-bàis: *the point of death*.

Abairtean na Litreach: an sàs ann am murt is reic chorp: *involved in murder and sale of bodies*; mu dhà cheud bliadhna air ais: *about two hundred years ago*; bha e na dhèirceach dall: *he was a blind beggar*; a' coiseachd sràidean Lunnainn le cù na chois: *walking the streets of London accompanied by a dog*; bha daoine a' dèanamh dheth gur e Uilleam Hare a bh' ann: *people reckoned he was William Hare*; clàraichte an dà chuid mar Uilleam Ware agus Tòmas Ware: *recorded as both William Ware and Thomas Ware*; thuit e a-steach a shloc aoil bliadhnaichean roimhe: *he fell into a lime pit years before*; dh'fhàg sin dall e: *that left him blind*; innis anns a' choille, pìos air falbh bho nàbaidhean: *a clearing in the forest, a distance away from neighbours*; fad ùine, a' fuireach gu socair, sàmhach: *for a [good duration of] time, living quietly and unobtrusively*; an cois a' chunntais sin: *as part of that account*; a chaidh a tharraing le neach-ealain: *that was drawn by an artist*; chùim iad air falbh bhuaithe: *they kept away from him*; rinn iad follaiseach dha gun robh gràin aca air: *they made it obvious to him that they hated him*; chaidh a shlàinte bhuaithe sa mhionaid: *his health deteriorated immediately*; chuir e fios a-mach gu sagart a dhol thuige: *he sent for a priest*; carson a ghleidheadh e ainm-cinnidh?: *why would he keep his surname?*; dh'aithnich am fear anns an ath leabaidh e: *the man in the next bed recognised him*; chaochail e tron oidhche: *he died during the night*; thill e a dh'Alba agus bha e a' fuireach fo ainm eile: *he returned to Scotland and was living under another name*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: gun robh e a' dol a dhol dhachaigh: *that he was going to go home*. This type of phraseology using the verb to 'go' works as well in Gaelic as it does in English. Tha mi a' dol a dhol a Lunnainn uaireigin 'I'm going to go to London someday'; tha iad a' dol a dh'fhalbh 'they are going to leave'; a bheil thu a' dol a sgrìobhadh thugam? 'are you going to write to me?'

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: ma thogair: *never mind, who cares?*

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