

# **An Litir Bheag**

**le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

*An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 667 (which corresponds to Litir 971). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

*I'm doing a series of Litrichean at the moment on the Celts. I was telling you how Celtic tribes went to Anatolia. That was in the third century BC. They gave the name Galatia to the area they settled.*

*Many of the Galatians also learned Greek. Shortly after Christ's time, Saint Paul wrote them a letter about Christianity. The letter was in Greek. It is retained in the Bible. The ninth book in the New Testament is The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Galatians.*

*But the Galatians also retained their old language. There was a report about them in the fourth century after Christ. Their language was similar to the one spoken by a tribe called the Treveri. The Treveri were living where Luxembourg is today. Most scholars reckon the Treveri spoke a Celtic language.*

*The Celts were also where Italy is today. Gradually, from the third century onwards, they came under the control of Rome. Their language disappeared.*

*They were also where Spain is today. In the third century BC,*

Tha mi a' dèanamh sreath Litrichean an-dràsta air na Ceiltich. Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu mar a chaidh treubhan Ceilteach gu Anatoilia. Bha sin anns an treas linn ro Chrìosd. Thug iad an t-ainm Galatia don sgìre far an do rinn iad tuineachadh.

Dh'ionnsaich mòran de na Galatianaich Greugais cuideachd. Goirid an dèidh linn Chrìosda, sgrìobh Naomh Pòl litir thuca mu dheidhinn Crìosdachd. Bha an litir ann an Greugais. Tha i air a gleidheadh anns a' Bhìoball. 'S e an naoidheamh leabhar anns an Tiomnadh Nuadh *Litir an Abstoil Phòil chum nan Galatianach.*

Ach ghlèidh na Galatianaich an seann chànan cuideachd. Bha aithris orra anns a' cheathramh linn an dèidh Chrìosda. Bha an cànan aca coltach ris an tè aig treubh ris an cante na Treveri. Bha na Treveri a' fuireach timcheall far a bheil Lugsamburg an-diugh. Tha a' chuid as motha de sgoilearan dhen bheachd gur e cànan Ceilteach a bha aig na Treveri.

Bha na Ceiltich cuideachd far a bheil an Eadailt an-diugh. Mean air mhean, bhon treas ceud a-mach, thàinig iad fo smachd na Ròimhe. Chaidh an cànan à fianais.

*Carthage started to create an empire there. Many Celts went to fight for Carthage against Rome. But the Romans won. The Celts in Spain gained their freedom. But, gradually, Rome influenced them. Around the time of the life of Christ, the Celts there were entirely under the control of Rome. While the Romans were governing, the language of the Celts disappeared in those countries.*

*North of Iberia was Gaul. That was a big country called 'Gaul' in English and 'Gallia' in Latin. That's the reason that people say 'Gallic', meaning 'French', even today. The Celts were there a long time ago. In the south, they came under the influence of the Greeks that were based in Massalia – where Marseille is today.*

Bha iad cuideachd far a bheil an Spàinnt an-diugh. Anns an treas linn ro Chrìosd, thòisich Carthage air ìmpireachd a chruthachadh an sin. Chaidh Ceiltich gu leòr a shabaid às leth Charthage an aghaidh na Ròimhe. Ach bhuannaich na Ròmanaich. Fhuair na Ceiltich anns an Spàinnt an saorsa. Ach, mean air mhean, thug an Ròimh buaidh orra. Timcheall àm beatha Chrìosda, bha na Ceiltich an sin air fad fo smachd na Ròimhe. Fhad 's a bha na Ròmanaich a' riaghladh, dh'fhalbh cànan nan Ceilteach anns na dùthchannan sin.

Gu tuath air Iberia, bha A' Ghall. B' e sin dùthaich mhòr ris an canar ann am Beurla 'Gaul' agus ann an Laideann 'Gallia'. 'S e sin as coireach gum bi daoine ag ràdh 'Gallic', a' ciallachadh 'Frangach', eadhon an-diugh. Bha na Ceiltich an sin o chionn fhada. Anns a' cheann a deas, thàinig iad fo bhuaidh nan Greugach a bha stèidhichte ann am Massalia – far a bheil Marseille an-diugh.