

HO RO CHALL EILE

This is an extract from a song dating from the “Montrose Wars” of the seventeenth century, possibly connected with the Battle of Auldearn, 1645. The young man rides off to war, leaving his feisty girlfriend behind!



Na hó ro hì hoireannan
Hó ro chall éile
Na hó ro hì hoireannan
Gura mis' tha fo mhulad
air tulaich 's mór m' éisleán
Na hó ro hì hoireannan
Hó ro chall éile
Na hó ro hì hoireannan

I am full of woe,
on a hillock, sorely afflicted.

Chunnaic mise mo leannan
's cha do dh'aithnich e 'n dé mi.

I saw my love
and he didn't acknowledge me yesterday.

Chunnaic mis' e 'n dé seachad
air each glas nan ceum eutrom.

I saw him passing yesterday
on a grey prancing horse.

Cha d'fhiosraich, cha d'fharraid,
cha do ghabh e dhiom sgeula.

He didn't know me, he didn't ask after me,
he didn't ask for my news.

Ach cha leigeadh a leas e -
cha robh mis' an trom dhéidh air!

But he needn't bother -
I wasn't very keen on him anyway!