

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

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 roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 514. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 210 corresponds to Litir 514.

Am measg nan daoine a th’ air an tiodhlacadh air Innis mo Cholmaig ann an Loch Innse mo Cholmaig tha Raibeart Coineagan Greumach, no Don Roberto mar a chainte ris anns an dàrna dùthaich aige, Argentina. Mura h-eil sibh eòlach air Loch Innse mo Cholmaig ’s e sin a’ Ghàidhlig air *The Lake of Menteith*. Cha b’ ann an Alba a chaochail Raibeart – ach nuair a bha e air turas ann an Argentina ann an naoi ceud deug, trithead ’s a sia (1936).

Ged a bhuineadh e do na h-uaislean, bha Raibeart na shòisealach agus na nàiseantach Albannach. An toiseach, ge-tà, bha e na bhall pàrlamaid don Phàrtaidh Libearalach. Ach, aig a’ cheann thall, cha robh iadsan fada gu leòr air taobh clì phoilitigs dha.

Cha robh e deònach cumail ri modhan Thaigh nan Cumantan agus chaidh a chur a-mach às an Taigh airson mì-mhodh barrachd air aon turas. Bha e a’ dìon còraichean nan daoine bochda agus còraichean daoine a bhith a’ togail fianais gu sìtheil air an t-sràid.

As t-fhoghar ochd ceud deug, ochdad ’s a seachd (1887), dh’fhàs cùisean mì-rianail air na sràidean. Bha crìonadh eaconamach ann agus thog mòran fianais. Cuimhnichibh gur e dìreach beag-chuid dhen phoball aig an robh còraichean bhòtaidh aig an àm.

Thàinig gnothaichean gu ceann air an treas latha deug dhen t-Samhain ochd ceud deug, ochdad ’s a seachd (1887) ann an Ceàrnag Trafalgar ann an Lunnainn. Thathar a’ cuimhneachadh an latha mar “**Dòmhnach na Fala**” – a’ chiad fhear leis an ainm sin. Rinn na poilis dochann air mòran dhen luchd-fhianais. Nam measg bha Raibeart. Ach bu choma leis a’ bhrìtheamh gun do dh’fhuiling e dochann. Fhuair e sia seachdainean sa phrìosan a bharrachd.

Bha Raibeart a’ sìor ghluasad don làimh chli. Aon turas thug e seachad òraid anns an Fhraing a bha cho radaigeach ’s gun deach a shadail a-mach às an dùthaich. Dh’fhàg e am Pàrtaidh Libearalach agus, ann an co-bhuinn ri Keir Hardie, stèidhich e Pàrtaidh Làbarach na h-Alba. Sheas e airson a’ phàrtaidh ann an Glaschu anns an taghadh nàiseanta ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad ’s a dhà (1892) ach cha deach leis. Bha a bheatha mar bhall pàrlamaid seachad.

Ach cha robh a bheatha phoilitigeach seachad. Bha e riamh a’ creidsinn gu làidir ann am fèin-riaghladh do dh’Alba. Agus, mar a bha mi ag ràdh, b’ esan a’ chiad cheann-suidhe aig a’ Phàrtaidh Nàiseanta, an SNP.

Bha beatha Raibeart taobh a-muigh phoilitigs a cheart cho inntinneach ri a bheatha taobh a-staigh phoilitigs. Fhad ’s a bha e fhathast sa phàrlamaid, dh’fhalbh e a Mhorogo leis an amas a bhith a’ marcachd tro na beanntan Atlas gu ruige baile air a bheil Taroudant. Ge-tà, bha am baile **toirmisgte do** choigrich, gu h-àraidh Crìosdaidhean. Chuir an Greumach e

fhèin ann an riochd dotair Tuirceach agus bha e faisg air Taroudant nuair a chuireadh an grèim e. Dh'innis e eachdraidh a' ghnòthaich anns an leabhar Mogreb-El-Acksa.

Sgrìobh e mòran leabhraichean air eich, siubhal agus eachdraidh agus bha e na charaid pearsanta do na h-uibhir de na h-ùghdaran is luchd-ealain as ainmeile ri a linn. Am measg nan daoine a bu mhotha dhan tug e spèis bha Aimé Tschiffely, Eilbheiseach a rinn a dhachaigh ann an Argentina. Chaidh Tschiffely còig mìle deug mìle air muin eich tro Ameireagaidh – deas agus tuath – thar trì bliadhna. Bha rud mar sin cho dlùth ri cridhe Raibeirt 's a bha eadhon poilitigs is còraichean muinntir na h-Alba. Bha Raibeart Coineagan Greumach ainmeil ri a linn, agus cha bu chòir dhuinn a bhith ga dhìochuimhneachadh an-diugh.

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Faclan na Litreach: Innis mo Cholmaig: *Inchmahome*; Raibeart Coineagan Greumach: *Robert Cunninghame Graham*; Loch Innse mo Cholmaig: *The Lake of Menteith*; mì-rianail: *disorderly*; fèin-riaghladh: *self-government*; ceann-suidhe: *president*; Pàrtaidh Nàiseanta na h-Alba: *Scottish National Party*; Eilbheiseach: *a Swiss*.

Abairtean na Litreach: ged a bhuineadh e do na h-uaislean: *although he belonged to the gentry*; bha Raibeart na shòisealach agus na nàiseantach Albannach: *Robert was a socialist and a Scottish nationalist*; deònach cumail ri modhan Thaigh nan Cumantan: *willing to keep to the ways of the House of Commons*; còraichean daoine a bhith a' togail fianais gu sìtheil air an t-sràid: *the rights of people to protest peacefully on the street[s]*; as t-fhoghar: *in the autumn*; crìonadh eaconamach: *an economic downturn*; gur e dìreach beag-chuid dhen phoball aig an robh còraichean bhòtaidh: *that it was just a minority of the population who had voting rights*; rinn na poilis dochann air mòran dhen luchd-fhianais: *the police beat up many of the protesters*; bu choma leis a' bhritheamh: *the judge was indifferent*; 's gun deach a shadail a-mach às an dùthaich: *that he was expelled from the country*; cha deach leis: *he wasn't successful*; bha a bheatha mar bhall pàrlamaid seachad: *his life as a parliamentarian was over*; a cheart cho inntinneach ri: *just as interesting as*; dh'innis e eachdraidh a' ghnòthaich: *he told the story of the affair*; na h-uibhir de na h-ùghdaran is luchd-ealain as ainmeile ri a linn: *many of the most famous authors and artists of his day*; am measg nan daoine a bu mhotha dhan tug e spèis: *among the people he most respected*; còig mìle deug mìle air muin eich tro Ameireagaidh – deas agus tuath: *fifteen thousand miles on horseback through America – south and north*; cha bu chòir dhuinn a bhith ga dhìochuimhneachadh: *we shouldn't forget him*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Dòmhnach na Fala:** *Bloody Sunday (ie Sunday of the Blood)*. *This is the Gaelic phrase by which the more recent Bloody Sunday in Northern Ireland is known so it seems a suitable phrase to use in relation to the earlier day of the same name in London (in which, interestingly, Irish nationalists agitating for Home Rule played a significant role). You might have expected Didòmhnach – but Dòmhnach can also be used, particularly in relation to a particular Sunday of the year. Dòmhnach na Càisge, for example, is Easter Sunday. Dòmhnach derives from the Latin dominica; Didòmhnach is from Dies Dominica – “The Lord’s Day”.*

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: toirmisgte do choigrich: *out of bounds [banned] to foreigners*.

Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA