

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Each week we carry the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gaidheal (103.5-105 FM), which is broadcast at 11.50 a.m. every Friday, with a repeat at 10.55 a.m. the following day. This is Litir 616. A simpler version – An Litir Bheag – goes to air around 7.00pm every Monday. Litir Bheag 312 corresponds to Litir 616. Both programmes are also available at bbc.co.uk/alba/foghlam/learn_gaelic. Ruairidh can be contacted on rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi a' bruidhinn mu ainmean-àite ann an Alba far a bheil an dreach Gàidhlig agus an dreach Beurla gu tur eadar-dhealaichte bho chèile. Gu sònraichte, bha mi a' toirt sùil air baile ainmeil ann am Fìobh. Bha e ainmeil a thaobh gnothaichean na h-eaglaise. **'S ann anns a' bhaile sin** a tha an t-oilthigh as sine ann an Alba. Agus tha e cuideachd ainmeil air feadh an t-saoghail airson a bhith na dhachaigh do gholf.

Tha mi a' ciallachadh *St Andrews* no, ann an Gàidhlig, *Cill Rìmhinn*. Thug sinn sùil air *Cill Rìmhinn* an t-seachdain sa chaidh, 's mar a dh'èirich e bho *Ceann Rìghmonadh*, "the end of the king's muir", agus mar a chaidh a chlàradh ann am meadhan an ochdamh linn ann an làmh-sgrìobhainn Èireannach, Annala Uladh. An t-seachdain seo, tha mi airson sùil a thoirt air ainm ann am Beurla, *St Andrews*.

An toiseach, bha "St Andrews" co-cheangailte a-mhàin ris an eaglais. Bha eaglais ann an Cill Rìmhinn coisrigte don Naomh Anndra. Chan eil fios le cinnt cuin a dh'èirich an ceangal eadar Anndra agus an t-àite seo. Chan eil fianais làidir ann airson sin ron aonamh linn deug.

Ach tha seann chunntas ag innse dhuinn gun deach cnàmhan aig an naomh a thoirt ann nuair a bha rìgh Cruithneach ann air an robh Ungus mar ainm. 'S dòcha gu bheil sin a' ciallachadh Aonghas mac Fhearghais a bha beò ann am meadhan an ochdamh linn. Agus 's dòcha gun robh an t-àite ainmeil aig an àm sin air sàillibh nan cnàmhan, agus gur e sin as coireach gun deach ainmeachadh ann an Annala Uladh.

A rèir sheann chunntasan, 's e fear Regulus a thug cuid de chnàmhan Anndra ann à Constantinople. Chuir e eaglais air chois aig Ceann Rìghmonadh le taic bho Rìgh Ungus. Thathar ag aithris gun robh Regulus agus seachdnar chompanach aig Ceann Rìghmonadh nuair a nochd Ungus le arm. Bha e air a bhith a' sabaid an aghaidh nàimhdean à ceann a deas Bhreatainn. Chunnaic Regulus is a chompanaich solas naomh timcheall an rìgh agus thuit iad air am beòil dhìreach leis gun robh an solas cho soilleir.

Dh'èigh aon duine, a bh' air a bhith dall bho àm a bhreith, gun robh fradharc aige a-nise agus gum faca e ainglean. Choinnich Regulus ri Ungus aig geata air an robh *Matha no Mordurus* mar ainm. Thug Ungus an t-àite do Dhia agus don Naomh Anndra. Dh'iarr e gum biodh e aca gu sìorraidh, agus gum biodh an t-àite na mhàthair don a h-uile eaglais ann an rìoghachd nan Albannach.

Tha ainm a' gheata inntinneach. Thathar a' smaoinneachadh gun tàinig Matha bho sheann chànan nan Cruithneach agus gur e an t-ainm a bh' air ann an Gàidhlig –

Mordurus no “Mòr Doras”. Thathar ag innse dhuinn gun do chruthaich Regulus agus a chompanaich manachainn an sin.

Anns an deicheamh linn chì sinn easbaig Chill Rìmhinn air ainmeachadh mar *episcopo Sancti Andree – the bishop of St Andrew* – ach dh’fhaodadh sin a bhith a’ ciallachadh dìreach ainm na h-eaglaise fhèin. **’S ann anns an dàrna linn deug** a tha sinn a’ faicinn a’ bhaile air ainmeachadh a rèir ainm na h-eaglaise, seach a rèir seann ainm a’ mhonaidh. Agus tha *St Andrews* air a bhith air chun an latha an-diugh.

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Faclan na Litreach: Gu sònraichte: *especially*; Fìobh: *Fife*; Cill Rìmhinn: *St Andrews, Kilrymont*; a-mhàin: *only*; cnàmhan: *bones*; air sàillibh: *because of*; fradharc: *eyesight*; manachainn: *monastery*.

Abairtean na Litreach: gu tur eadar-dhealaichte bho chèile: *completely different from each other*; ainmeil a thaobh gnothaichean na h-eaglaise: *famous in terms of church matters*; air feadh an t-saoghail: *throughout the world*; an làmh-sgrìobhainn Èireannach, Annala Uladh: *the Irish manuscript, The Annals of Ulster*; coisrigte don Naomh Anndra: *dedicated to St Andrew*; chan eil fianais làidir ann airson sin ron aonamh linn deug: *there is no strong evidence for that before the eleventh century*; bha rìgh Cruithneach ann air an robh Ungus mar ainm: *there was a Pictish king called Ungus*; beò ann am meadhan an ochdamh linn: *alive in the middle of the eighth century*; gur e sin as coireach gun deach ainmeachadh: *that that is the reason it was named*; chuir e eaglais air chois: *he established a church*; seachdnar chompanach: *seven companions*; an aghaidh nàimhdean à ceann a deas Bhreatainn: *against enemies from southern Britain*; solas naomh timcheall an rìgh: *a holy light around the king*; thuit iad air am beòil dhìreach: *they fell flat on their faces*; dall bho àm a bhreith: *who blind since the time of his birth*; gum faca e ainglean: *that he saw angels*; gum biodh e aca gu sìorraidh: *that it would be theirs forever*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **A rèir sheann chunntasan:** *according to old accounts. In last week’s Puing, I looked at how seann, as an adjective that precedes its noun, behaves according to the gender model eg in the nominative singular, we say an seann taigh (masc) but an t-seann eaglais (fem). It inflects in the dative singular as a noun starting with an “s” would – eg anns an t-seann bhàta, anns an t-seann chathair – and in the genitive singular also eg slige an t-seann bhàta (masc), slige na seann luinge (fem). And here in this week’s Litir we have it behaving like a noun starting with “s” in the indefinite genitive plural (following the compound preposition a rèir) ie it is lenited cf taigh-chearc (a house of hens, with cearc lenited). Many modern speakers might eschew this model and just say a rèir seann chunntasan. Cunntasan is lenited because it is preceded by an adjective.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **’S ann anns a’ bhaile sin** a tha an t-oilthigh as sine ann an Alba: *it’s in that town that the oldest university in Scotland is [situated]*; also **’S ann anns an dàrna linn deug** a tha sinn a’ faicinn a’ bhaile air ainmeachadh a rèir ainm na h-eaglaise: *it’s in the twelfth century that we see the town named according to the name of the church.*

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