

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Co-chòrdadh Pheairt (1266)

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 rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 871. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 567 corresponds to Litir 871.

O chionn seachd ceud gu leth bliadhna chaidh ainmean a chur ri co-chòrdadh a dh’atharraich Alba gu mòr. Ann an dà cheud dheug, seasgad ’s a sia (1266) chuir riochdairean na h-Alba is Nirribhidh an ainmean ri cùmhnant a chuir às do chogadh eadar an dà dhùthaich. Fo Cho-chòrdadh Pheairt, chaidh aontachadh gum biodh na dùthchannan Lochlannach ann an Alba air an toirt air ais do chrùn na h-Alba. Ach a-mhàin Arcaibh is Sealtainn.

Mura b’ e gun do thachair e mar sin, ’s dòcha nach biodh muinntir nan Eilean Siar a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig an-diugh. Cò aige tha fios. Am biodh a’ Ghàidhlig aig uchd-bàis an-diugh? ’S dòcha nach bitheadh, oir bha cuid de na Lochlannaich air taobh an iar na h-Alba air a dhol Gàidhealach mu-thrath, agus Gàidhlig aca.

Bha eileanan taobh an iar na h-Alba air a bhith fo smachd nan Lochlannach fad ùine. Chaidh sin aithneachadh gu h-oifigeil le Rìgh na h-Alba aig deireadh an aonamh linn deug. Ach cha robh rìghrean is uaislean na h-Alba toilichte mu dheidhinn. Ann am meadhan an treas linn deug, dh’iarr iad air na Lochlannaich na h-eileanan a reic dhaibh. Aig an àm sin, b’ e Alasdair II Rìgh na h-Alba agus bha Håkon IV air rìgh-chathair Nirribidh. Cha robh Håkon deònach na h-eileanan a reic.

Nuair a fhuair mac Alasdair, Alasdair III, smachd air rìgh-chathair na h-Alba ann an dà cheud dheug, seasgad ’s a dhà (1262), thòisich cùisean air gluasad air adhart. Chuir Alasdair brath gu Håkon, ag innse dha – mura reiceadh e na h-eileanan do Rìoghachd na h-Alba – gun gabhadh na h-Albannaich smachd orra le ainneart.

Cha robh Håkon a’ dol a ghabhail ri sin. Chuala e gun robh na h-Albannaich air tòiseachadh air na h-eileanan a ghabhail thairis. Chuir e cabhlach mòr ri chèile airson an dìon. Chuir **sia fichead** soitheach gu muir anns an Iuchar dà cheud dheug, seasgad ’s a trì (1263).

Stad Håkon ann an Arainn far an do thòisich còmhraidhean eadar an dà thaobh. Bha an samhradh a’ ruith, ge-tà. Rinn Alasdair cinnteach gum biodh dàil ann. Bhiodh stoirmean a’ tòiseachadh as t-fhoghar. Agus, anns an Dàmhair, fhuair cuid de shoithichean Nirribhidh ann an staing ann an droch shìde. Bha sin aig an Leargaidh Ghallta.

Chaidh buidheann Lochlannach air tìr, feuch na bàtaichean aca a chàradh. Ach bha na h-Albannaich a’ feitheamh riutha. Bha cath ann agus, ged nach do bhuannaich taobh seach taobh, bha e follaiseach do na Nirribhich gum biodh droch shìde a’ gheamhraidh a’ cur stad orra. Rinn iad air Arcaibh airson a’ gheamhraidh. Gu mì-fhortanach dhaibh, ge-tà, chaochail Håkon an sin.

Nuair a thàinig an ath rìgh, Manus VI, don rìgh-chathair, cha robh e cho misneachail ri Håkon. Dh'aontaich e na dùthchannan aige a reic do dh'Alba airson sùim de cheithir mìle marg, agus ceud marg a bharrachd gach bliadhna. 'S e sin a chaidh aontachadh ann am Peairt, trì bliadhna an dèidh Cath na Leargaidh Ghallta.

Chaidh an co-chòrdadh a dhaingneachadh ann an Inbhir Nis ann an trì cheud deug 's a dhà-dheug (1312). Bha Alba a-nise slàn, ach a-mhàin gun robh Arcaibh is Sealtainn fhathast ann an làmhan nan Lochlannach. Is math gun robh i slàn oir aig deas bha i a' tighinn fo dhùbhlan mòr aig na Sasannaich. Ach 's e sgeul eile a tha sin.

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Faclan na Litreach: Co-chòrdadh Pheairt: *The Treaty of Perth*; uchd-bàis: *death's door*; rìghrean is uaislean: *kings and nobles*; rìgh-chathair: *throne*; Arainn: *Arran*; a' feitheamh riutha: *waiting for them*; cath: *battle*; Cath na Leargaidh Ghallta: *The Battle of Largs*.

Abairtean na Litreach: O chionn seachd ceud gu leth bliadhna: *750 years ago*; chuir riochdairean na h-Alba is Nirribhidh an ainmean ri cùmhnant a chuir às do chogadh: *representatives of Scotland and Norway put their names to an agreement that put an end to war*; ach a-mhàin Arcaibh is Sealtainn: *except for Orkney and Shetland*; cò aige tha fios: *who knows*; chaidh sin aithneachadh gu h-oifigeil: *that was officially recognised*; na h-eileanan a reic dhaibh: *to sell them the islands*; gun gabhadh na h-Albannaich smachd orra le ainneart: *that the Scots would take control of them by force*; cha robh X a' dol a ghabhail ri sin: *X wasn't going to accept that*; bha an samhradh a' ruith, ge-tà: *the summer was passing [approaching its end], however*; feuch na bàtaichean aca a chàradh: *to try and repair their boats*; ged nach do bhuannaich taobh seach taobh: *although neither side won*; rinn iad air Arcaibh airson a' gheamhraidh: *they made for Orkney for the winter*; airson sùim de cheithir mìle marg: *for a sum of four thousand merks*; agus ceud marg a bharrachd gach bliadhna: *and another hundred merks every year*; chaidh an co-chòrdadh a dhaingneachadh: *the treaty was ratified*; is math gun robh i slàn: *it's good that she [Scotland] was complete*; aig deas bha i a' tighinn fo dhùbhlan mòr aig na Sasannaich: *in the south, she was being heavily challenged by the English*; 's e sgeul eile a tha sin: *that's another story*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Chuir sia fichead soitheach gu muir: *120 vessels (6x20) put to sea. This is an example of the old vigesimal counting system – but I think it's appropriate as I'm recounting happenings of 750 years ago! You can keep counting in twenties all the way to 200 eg 180 is naoi fichead, 153 is seachd fichead 's a trì-deug. Native speakers still often use this system in preference to decimal counting (particularly in reference to chapters and verses in the Bible), although they may switch to English to count as well, particularly in a non-religious context.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Mura b' e gun do thachair e mar sin: *if it hadn't happened like that.*

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