

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Rìgh Seumas IV (2)

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.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 999. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 695 corresponds to Litir 999.

Bha mi a’ dèanamh aithris air an rìgh mu dheireadh aig an robh Gàidhlig – Seumas IV. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh an t-seachdain sa mu dheidhinn dà rud co-cheangailte ris – an long-chogaidh mhòr ainmeil a thog e, agus mar a thàinig an rìoghachadh aige gu ceann.

Ann an Sasainn, fhuair Eanraig VIII an rìgh-chathair ann an còig ceud deug is naoi (1509). Thòisich e air cabhlach Shasainn a leudachadh agus thog e long-chogaidh air an robh Mary Rose. Le còig ceud tonna de chuideam innte, bha i gu math mòr.

Bha glòir-mhiann aig Rìgh na h-Alba, Seumas IV, cuideachd, ged a bha Alba beag is bochd an coimeas ri Sasainn. Ann an còig ceud deug ’s a còig (1505), dh’òrdaich Seumas **gun togte** long-chogaidh na bu mhotha na gin eile san t-saoghal. Leigeadh sin le Alba cabhlach mòr nàiseanta a bhith aice a bhiodh an sàs ann an cogadh-croise an aghaidh Ìmpireachd nan Ottoman. Bha an *Great Michael* air a h-ainmeachadh an dèidh an Àrd-aingeil Mìcheal. Chaidh a togail ann an Newhaven faisg air Dùn Èideann ann an doc’ a chaidh a dhèanamh a dh’aona-ghnothach air a son. Chaidh a cur air bhog ann an còig ceud deug is dhà-dheug (1512). Bha a dhà uiread de chuideam innte ’s a bh’ anns a’ Mhary Rose aig na Sasannaich.

Tha luchd-rannsachaidh a’ dèanamh a-mach gun robh uiread de dh’fhiodh-daraich a dhìth airson a leithid de long a thogail, ’s gun do cheannaich riaghaltas na h-Alba fiodh bhon Fhraing agus na dùthchannan Baltach, a bharrachd air mòran sgìrean ann an Alba fhèin. Bha an *Great Michael* dà cheud is ceathrad troigh a dh’fhaid agus trithead ’s a còig troighean a leud. Bha ceithir crainn oirre agus bha a slige air leth tiugh, suas ri deich troighean no trì meatairean. Bha còrr is caogad gunna oirre agus bha sgiob’ aice de thrì cheud maraiche agus suas ri mìle saighdear.

Bha i air bhog airson bliadhna gu leth nuair a chaidh iarraidh oirre dhol don Fhraing airson ionnsaigh a thoirt air àiteachan a bha le Sasainn anns an Fhraing aig an àm sin. Bidh fios agaibh gun robh Alba ann an seann chaidreabhas leis an Fhraing. Ach, airson gnothaichean a dhèanamh na bu dorra, bha Seumas pòsta aig Mairead Tudor, piuthar Eanraig VIII. Dìreach mìos an dèidh sin, thug Seumas leis armailt, le trithead mìle duine innte, thar crìochan Shasainn.

Thachair an dà armailt ri chèile aig Flodden ann an Northumberland. Chaidh an latha leis na Sasannaich. Chaidh Seumas a mharbhadh, cuide ri mìltean Albannach eile.

Bha na làithean aig Alba mar rìoghachd chumhachdach le cabhlach mòr seachad mus do thòisich iad. Nuair a chunnaic Eanraig VIII na planaichean airson a’

Ghreat Michael, dh'òrdaich e gum biodh long eadhon na bu mhotha air a togail. B' ise an Henry Grace à Dieu, ged as e 'Great Harry' a chanadh muinntir Shasainn rithe.

Agus dè thachair don Ghreat Michael? Uill, chaidh a reic do na Frangaich ann an còig ceud deug is ceithir-deug (1514), ged a bha i ro mhòr airson cuid de na puirt anns an dùthaich sin. Chaidh ainm ùr a chur oirre – La Grande Nef d'Ecosse. Tha a' chuid as motha de luchd-eachdraidh dhen bheachd gun do leig na Frangaich leatha a **dhol a dholaidh** ann am Brest sa Bhreatainn Bhig.

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Faclan na Litreach: glòir-mhiann: *ambition*; Baltach: *Baltic*; crainn: *masts*; sa Bhreatainn Bhig: *in Brittany*.

Abairtean na Litreach: an long-chogaidh mhòr ainmeil a thog e: *the famous great warship he built*; mar a thàinig an rìoghachadh aige gu ceann: *how his reign came to an end*; fhuair Eanraig VIII an rìgh-chathair: *Henry VIII obtained the throne*; thòisich e air cabhlach Shasainn a leudachadh: *he started to expand the English navy*; ged a bha Alba beag is bochd an coimeas ri Sasainn: *although Scotland was small and poor in comparison with England*; an sàs ann an cogadh-croise an aghaidh Ìmpireachd nan Ottoman: *involved in a crusade against the Ottoman Empire*; an dèidh an Àrd-aingeil Mìcheal: *after the Archangel Michael*; ann an doc' a chaidh a dhèanamh a dh'aona-ghnothach air a son: *in a dock which was made deliberately*; bha a dhà uiread de chuideam innte 's a bh' anns a' X: *she had twice the weight of X*; tha luchd-rannsachaidh a' dèanamh a-mach gun robh uiread de dh'fhiodh-daraich a dhìth airson a leithid de long a thogail: *researchers maintain that so much oak wood was required to build such a ship*; dà cheud is ceathrad troigh a dh'fhaid agus trithead 's a còig troighean a leud: *240 feet long and 35 feet wide*; bha sgiob' aice de thrì cheud maraiche agus suas ri mìle saighdear: *she had a crew of three hundred sailors and up to a thousand soldiers*; ann an seann chaidreabhas leis an Fhraing: *in an auld alliance with France*; airson gnothaichean a dhèanamh na bu dorra: *to make matters more difficult*; thug Seumas leis armailt thar crìochan Shasainn: *James took an army with him over the border[s] of [with] England*; chaidh an latha leis na Sasannaich: *the English won the day*; seachad mus do thòisich iad: *over before they began*; ged a bha i ro mhòr airson cuid de na puirt anns an dùthaich sin: *although she was too big for some of the ports in that country*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: dh'òrdaich Seumas **gun togte** long-chogaidh na bu mhotha na gin eile san t-saoghal: *James ordered that a ship larger than any other in the world be built*. Togte is the passive conditional form of the verb tog, togail 'build'. Togte means literally 'would be built'; it is created by adding the suffix -te to the verbal root, in this case tog.

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: gun do leig na Frangaich leatha a **dhol a dholaidh**: *that the French let her rot away*.

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