

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Dùghall MacIlleMhìcheil (1)

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.maclean@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,010. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 706 corresponds to Litir 1,010.

Tha làrach-lìn ann air a bheil fiosrachadh mu lus-eòlaichean ainmeil. Agus air tè na duilleagan aice, tha seo: *Carmichael, Dugald: Scottish doctor and biologist, known locally as Dùghall Bàn or Fair Dugald, and An Dotair Bàn, or the Fair Doctor*. Uill, nach eil sin ag innse dhuinn gun tàinig e à coimhearsnachd Ghàidhealach! Le ainm mar Carmichael – MacIlleMhìcheil – cha chuir e iongnadh oirbh nuair a dh’innseas mi dhuibh gur ann à Lios Mòr a bha e. Taobh a-muigh an eilein sin, ge-tà, **cha chreid mi gun cuala** mòran daoine ann an Alba mu dheidhinn.

Bha Dùghall MacIlleMhìcheil ainmeil ann an saoghal nan lus-eòlaichean. Bithear a’ gabhail ‘*Father of Marine Botany*’ air. Nise, bha mise ann an Lios Mòr as t-fhoghar airson daoine a thoirt don chladach, a choimhead air feamainn. B’ fheàrr leam gun robh Dùghall air a bhith còmhla rinn! Agus tha amharas agam nach e ‘feamainn’ a chanadh e fhèin ri *seaweed*. Chuala mi Liosach a’ cleachdadh an fhacail *rolag*, ged nach do lorg mi e ann am faclair sam bith.

Co-dhiù, tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu Dhùghall MacIlleMhìcheil. Rugadh e ann an Sròn na Craoibhe, ann an ceann a tuath Lios Mòr, anns a’ bhliadhna seachd ceud deug, seachdad ’s a dhà (1772). Bha a phàrantan nan croitearan bochda. Bho òige, bha ùidh mhòr aig Dùghall ann an nàdar, gu h-àraidh anns na lusan a bha a’ fàs ann an Lios Mòr.

Ach chan e saidheans a rinn e aig an oilthigh. Chaidh e an toiseach a **dh’Oilthigh Ghlaschu** far an do rinn e Eòlas Clasaigeach. Thathar a’ smaoinichadh gun d’ fhuair e sgoilearachd airson a dhol ann. An uair sin, ghluais e a dh’Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann airson Eòlas-leigheis a dhèanamh. Thàinig e a-mach mar lannsair.

Dh’obraich e airson naoi bliadhna mar lannsair ann an rèisimeid ris an canadh iad na h-Argyll *Fencibles*. Bha e ann an Èirinn fad na h-ùine sin, ach cha robh e riaraichte. Bha e airson tuilleadh eòlais a bhith aige air nàdar agus bha e airson a dhol a-null thairis. Mar sin, ghabh e cothrom mar shaighdear ann an rèisimeid eile – na 72nd *Highlanders*.

Bha e an toiseach ann an Ceap an Deagh Dhòchais ann an Afraga a Deas. Bha e air a bheò-ghlacadh leis na bh’ ann de lusan an sin. Ann an ochd ceud deug ’s a seachd (1807), chaidh e – gu saor-thoileach – gu Bàgh Alcoa, gu sear air a’ Cheap, faisg air far a bheil Port Ealasaid an-diugh. An sin, thòisich e air ùidh a ghabhail anns na h-èisg, a bharrachd air na lusan.

Sgrìobh Dùghall notaichean gu math mionaideach mu na craobhan is lusan a bha a’ fàs anns an sgìre sin, agus am feum a dhèanadh muinntir an àite dhiubh. Agus

dhìon e cliù nan siorcan a tha pailt sa mhuir an sin. A bharrachd air sin, tha tuairisgeul aige de dhòigh-beatha nan daoine agus dhen t-seilg a rinn e fhèin.

Ann an ochd ceud deug 's a deich (1810), bha MacIlleMhìcheil an sàs ann an iomairt armaichte aig na Breatannaich airson Mauritius a ghabhail thairis bho na Frangaich. Aig an àm sin, 's e *L'Isle de France* no Eilean na Frainge a chanadh daoine ri Mauritius. Innsidh mi dhuibh anns an ath Litir mar a chaidh do Dhùghall MacIlleMhìcheil anns a' ghnothach sin.

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Faclan na Litreach: làrach-lìn: *website*; lus-eòlaichean: *botanists*; Lios Mòr: *Lismore*; Dùghall MacIlleMhìcheil: *Dugald Carmichael*; as t-fhoghar: *in the autumn*; amharas: *suspicion*; Eòlas Clasaigeach: *Classics*; Eòlas-leigheis: *Medicine*; Ceap an Deagh Dhòchais: *The Cape of Good Hope*; gu saor-thoileach: *voluntarily*; Port Ealasaid: *Port Elizabeth*.

Abairtean na Litreach: nach eil sin ag innse dhuinn gun tàinig e à coimhearsnachd Ghàidhealach: *doesn't that tell us that he came from a Gaelic community*; a choimhead air feamainn: *to look at seaweed*; b' fheàrr leam gun robh X air a bhith còmhla rinn: *I wish X had been with us*; bha a phàrantan nan croitearan bochda: *his parents were poor crofters*; bha ùidh mhòr aig X ann an nàdar: *X was very interested in nature*; thathar a' smaoinichadh gun d' fhuair e sgoilearachd airson a dhol ann: *it's thought he got a scholarship to go there*; dh'obraich e airson naoi bliadhna mar lannsair ann an rèisimeid: *he worked for nine years as a surgeon in a regiment*; bha e airson a dhol a-null thairis: *he wanted to go overseas*; Bàgh Algoa, gu sear air a' Cheap: *Algoa Bay, east of the Cape*; sgrìobh X notaichean gu math mionaideach mu na craobhan is lus an a bha a' fàs anns an sgìre sin: *X wrote very detailed notes about the trees and plants that were growing in that area*; am feum a dhèanadh muinntir an àite dhiubh: *the use that the local people would make of it*; tha tuairisgeul aige de dhòigh-beatha nan daoine agus dhen t-sealg a rinn e fhèin: *he has a description of the way of life of the people and of the hunting he did himself*; an sàs ann an iomairt armaichte aig na Breatannaich airson Mauritius a ghabhail thairis bho na Frangaich: *involved in an armed action by the British to take Mauritius from the French*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Chaidh e an toiseach a dh'Oilthigh Ghlaschu: *he first went to Glasgow University. I've here used the preposition 'a' for 'to' (rather than, for example 'gu'). Because it juxtaposes two vowels, we put in a dh' to make it easier to say. Chaidh i a dh'Oslo 'she went to Oslo'.*

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: cha chreid mi gun cuala mòran daoine ann an Alba mu dheidhinn: *I don't think many people in Scotland [have] heard about him.*

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