

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An t-Albannach a Dh'fheuch ris a' Bhanrigh a mhurt (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.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,108. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 804 corresponds to Litir 1,108.

Tha mi air a bhith a' feuchainn ri faighinn a-mach an robh ceangal ann eadar Ruairidh MacIlleathain agus a' Ghàidhealtachd. Tuigidh sibh nach eil mi a-mach orm fhìn! Tha mo smuaintean air an fhear mu dheireadh a dh'fheuch ris a' Bhanrigh Bhictoria a mhurt – Ruairidh Eideard MacIlleathain. Tha na seann chunntasan ag innse dhuinn gur ann à Alba a bha e, ach chan eil iad ag innse càite. Bha e fhèin agus a phàrantan a' fuireach ann an Sasainn. 'S dòcha gun robh e de shliochd muinntir na h-Alba. **Cò aige tha fios.**

Co-dhiù, air an dàrna latha dhen Mhàrt ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a dhà (1882), loisg Ruairidh air a' Bhanrigh le gunna-làimhe ann am Windsor. Bha a' Bhanrigh dìreach air Windsor a ruigsinn air tràna, agus bha sluagh a' feitheamh rithe aig an stèisean-rèile. Nam measg, bha Ruairidh. Bha a' Bhanrigh, agus buill eile dhen teaghlach rìoghail, air coiseachd thar ùrlar an stèisein. Bha iad air a dhol a-steach a charbad a bha a' feitheamh. Loisg Ruairidh a ghunna. Cha do rinn am peilear cron, agus chaidh am ball-airm a thoirt bhuaithe. Bha aithrisean ann aig an àm gur iad sgoilearan à Colaiste Eton a ghabh grèim air MacIlleathain. Bha e an uair sin air a chur an grèim le poileas.

Eadar ochd ceud deug is ceathrad (1840) agus ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a dhà (1882), chaidh oidhirp a dhèanamh air beatha na Banrigh ochd tursan. B' e an oidhirp mu dheireadh an tè aig Ruairidh Eideard MacIlleathain. Ach dè bha a' gluasad an duine? Carson a bha e ag iarraidh a' Bhanrigh a mharbhadh?

Uill, bha MacIlleathain fhèin a' cumail a-mach nach robh e ag amas air a' Bhanrigh, ach air cuibhlichean a' charbaid aice. Dha rèir fhèin, bhreab an gunna na làimh agus 's e sin a bu choireach gun deach am peilear a-steach a dhoras a' charbaid. Bha e dìreach airson aire a thoirt don t-suidheachadh anns an robh e, agus e beò ann am bochdainn. Bha Bhictoria fhèin dhen bheachd, ge-tà, **gun robh an Leathanach air a bhith ag amas air a murt** ann an dha-rìreabh.

Bha gu leòr de dhaoine a' dèanamh dheth gun robh e às a rian. Bha e air a bhith a' bruidhinn ri Dia, a dh'inns dha gum biodh e uaireigin air rìgh-chathair Bhreatainn. Thug Dia an àireamh ceithir mar àireamh diomhair dha agus an dath gorm mar dath diomhair dha. Tha cunntas eile ann gun do sgrìobh e dàn don Bhanrigh. Fhuair e freagairt bho thè a bhiodh a' dèiligeadh ri litrichean don Bhanrigh, agus chuir sin cais' air. Feumaidh nach d' fhuair toradh a sgrìobhaidh am moladh a bha e ag iarraidh.

Chuir Ruairidh seachad còrr is bliadhna ann an dachaigh dhaibhsan a tha a' fulang le tinneas-inntinn. Bhiodh a bhràithrean agus a phiuthar a' cur airgead thuige, ach bha e gu math bochd. Dh'fhuirich e mar iomrallaiche ann an ceann a deas Shasainn, a' falbh bho bhaile gu baile.

Aig a' cheann thall, mar a chì sinn, thug Ruairidh air na h-ùghdarrasan-lagha ann an Sasainn 's a' Chuimrigh an lagh atharrachadh. Tuilleadh bhuam an-ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan na Litreach: Ruairidh Eideard MacIlleathain: *Roderick Edward Maclean*; gunna-làimhe: *handgun*; dàn: *poem*; toradh a sgrìobhaidh: *the product of his writing*; iomrallaiche: *wanderer, vagabond*; tuilleam bhuam: *more from me*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Tha mi air a bhith a' feuchainn ri faighinn a-mach: *I've been trying to find out*; tuigidh sibh nach eil mi a-mach orm fhìn: *you'll understand that I'm not talking about myself*; 's dòcha gun robh e de shliochd muinntir na h-Alba: *perhaps he belonged to the descendants of Scots*; bha a' Bhanrigh, agus buill eile dhen teaghlach rìoghail, air coiseachd thar ùrlar an stèisein: *the Queen, and other members of the royal family, had walked across the station platform*; chaidh am ball-airm a thoirt bhuaithe: *the weapon was taken from him*; bhreab an gunna na làimh: *the gun kicked in his hand*; gun robh e às a rian: *that he was insane*; gum biodh e uaireigin air rìgh-chathair Bhreatainn: *that he would one day sit on the British throne*; thug Dia an àireamh ceithir mar àireamh dìomhair dha: *God gave him the number four as a secret number*; bho thè a bhiodh a' dèiligeadh ri litrichean don Bhanrigh: *from a woman who would be dealing with letters to the Queen*; chuir sin cais' air: *that made him angry*; ann an dachaigh dhaibhsan a tha a' fulang le tinneas-inntinn: *in a home for those who are suffering mental illness*; bhiodh a bhràithrean agus a phiuthar a' cur airgead thuige: *his brothers and sister would send him money*; aig a' cheann thall, mar a chì sinn: *in the end, as we shall see*; thug Ruairidh air na h-ùghdarrasan-lagha ann an Sasainn 's a' Chuimrigh an lagh atharrachadh: *Roderick forced the legal authorities in England and Wales to change the law*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: gun robh an Leathanach air a bhith ag amas air a murt: *that Maclean had been aiming to murder her*. Sometimes we use a clan name without the prefix 'Mac' to mention somebody in an informal way. A Leathanach is a Maclean, a Leòdach is a MacLeod. A similar model obtains even more commonly with non-Mac surnames eg Caimbeulach (someone with the surname Campbell), Camshronach (somebody with the surname Cameron) and Moireasdanach (somebody with the surname Morrison).

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Cò aige tha fios?: *who knows?*

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