

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Griogal Cridhe (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 roddy.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,134. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 830 corresponds to Litir 1,134.

*Eudail mhòir de shluagh an domhain,
Dhòirt iad d’ fhuil an-dè,
'S chuir iad do cheann air ploc daraich
Tacan beag bhod chrè*

A bheil sibh ag aithneachadh nam faclan sin? Tha iad à fìor sheann òran – òran ainmeil a bhuineas don t-siathamh linn deug. Seo an t-sèist. 'S dòcha **gum bi sibh ga h-aithneachadh:**

*Òbhan, òbhan, òbhan-iri, òbhan-iri ò,
Òbhan, òbhan, òbhan-iri. 'S mòr mo mhulad 's mòr.*

A bheil sibh eòlach air an òran? 'S e an t-ainm a th' air 'Griogal Cridhe'. Tha e cho sean 's gu bheil barrachd air aon dreach air, agus air an t-sèist. Ged a tha an t-òran muldach, saoilidh mi gun robh feadhainn ga sheinn mar thàladh do leanaban. Seo agaibh sèist eile – a tha aig Anna Latharna NicIllÌosa anns an leabhar sgoinneil aice 'Songs of Gaelic Scotland'.

*Bà, bà, bà, mo leanaibh, bà, mo leanaibh, bà,
Bà, hù, hó, mo leanaibh,
Chan eil thu ach bà.*

Tha an t-òran mu dheidhinn bàs agus mulad. Chaidh a chruthachadh timcheall na bliadhna còig ceud deug is seachdad (1570). B' i an tè a chruthaich e Mòr Chaimbeul. 'S ann à Gleann Lìomhann ann an Siorrachd Pheairt a bha i. B' e a h-athair Donnchadh Caimbeul à Gleann Lìomhann – Donnchadh Ruadh na Fèile. Bha Caimbeulaich Ghleann Lìomhann càirdeach do Chaimbeulaich Ghleann Urchaidh, cinneadh gu math cumhachdach.

Phòs Mòr fear à Gleann Srèith faisg air Gleann Urchaidh. B' esan Griogair Mac Ghriogair no Griogair Ruadh – agus 'Griogal Cridhe' an òrain. Bha am fearann ann an Gleann Srèith aig na Griogairich le taic – agus uachdranas – nan Caimbeulach.

Tràth anns an t-siathamh linn deug, chrìon cumhachd Caimbeulaich Ghleann Urchaidh. Cha robh ceannas aca tuilleadh air na Griogaraich. Ann am meadhan an linne, thàinig fear ùr gu bhith na cheann-cinnidh aig Caimbeulaich Ghleann Urchaidh. B' esan Cailean Liath. Bha e fhèin agus a mhac – Donnchadh Dubh a' Churraic – gu math trom air an nàbannan. Bho Iarla Earra-Ghàidheal, fhuair iad cead a bhith nan uachdarain a-rithist air Griogaraich Ghleann Srèith.

Ann an còig ceud deug, seasgadh 's a dhà (1562), bha Griogair Ruadh air a dhol na cheann-cinnidh aig na Griogaraich. Chuir Cailean Liath brath thuige. Ro Latha na Bliadhna 'Ùire, dh'fheumadh Griogair gabhail ri cumhachan a' Chaimbeulaich nam biodh e ag

iarraidh a chuid fearainn a chumail ann an Gleann Srèith. Am measg sin, bha gun toireadh e seachad dithis de na daoine aige a bh' air Caimbeulach a mharbhadh.

Cha tug Griogair Ruadh na daoine seachad. An àite sin, thug e fhèin is feadhainn eile ionnsaigh air dà bhuidhinn de Chaimbeulaich a bha a' siubhal dhachaigh a Ghleann Lìomhann. Mharbh iad naoinear. Tuigidh sibh **gun deach cùisean bhuaithe** eadar na Caimbeulaich agus na Griogaraich an uair sin.

Shocraich cùisean beagan airson greis, ge-tà. Anns an ùine bhig sin phòs Griogair Ruadh Mòr Chaimbeul. Tha e coltach gun robh gaol mòr aige oirrese agus gun robh gaol mòr aicese airsan. Ge-tà, bha Donnchadh dlùth-chàirdeach do Chailean Liath. Tuigidh sibh gun robh gnothaichean a' fàs gu math fillte!

Anns an Iuchar còig ceud deug, seasgad 's a seachd (1567) chaidh cùisean bhuaithe a-rithist, mar a mhìnichas mi anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Anna Latharna NicIllòsa: *Anne Lorne Gillies*; sgoinneil: *excellent*; bàs agus mulad: *death and grief*; Mòr Chaimbeul: *Marion Campbell*; Gleann Lìomhann: *Glenlyon*; Gleann Srèith: *Glen Strae*; Gleann Urchaidh: *Glenorchy*; Griogair Ruadh: *red-haired Gregor*; chrìon: *declined, withered*; Cailean Liath: *grey-haired Colin*; Iarla Earra-Ghàidheal: *The Earl of Argyll*; dlùth-chàirdeach do: *closely related to*; An t-Iuchar: *July*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Eudail mhòir de shluagh an domhain: *great treasure of the world's people*; dhòirt iad d' fhuil an-dè: *they spilled your blood yesterday*; chuir iad do cheann air ploc daraich: *they put your head on an oaken block*; tacan beag bhod chrè: *a little way from your body*; òran ainmeil a bhuineas don t-siathamh linn deug: *a famous song that belongs to the sixteenth century*; 's mòr mo mhulad: *great is my grief*; cho sean 's gu bheil barrachd air aon dreach air: *so old that there is more than one version of it*; gun robh feadhainn ga sheinn mar thàladh do leanaban: *that some people were singing it as a lullaby for young children*; cinneadh a bha gu math cumhachdach: *a clan that was very powerful*; le taic – agus uachdranas – nan Caimbeulach: *with help – and overlordship – of the Campbells*; bha an dà chinneadh a' fuireach gu sìtheil còmhla: *the two clans were living together peacefully*; gu math trom air an nàbannan: *till-disposed towards their neighbours*; bha X air a dhol na cheann-cinnidh aig na Griogaraich: *X had become the MacGregors' chief*; am measg sin, bha gun toireadh e seachad dithis de na daoine aige a bh' air Caimbeulach a mharbhadh: *amongst that was that he would surrender two of his men who had killed a Campbell*; mharbh iad naoinear: *they killed nine people*; shocraich cùisean beagan airson greis, ge-tà: *matters settled down for a while, however*; anns an ùine bhig sin phòs X Y: *in that short period, X married Y*; gun robh gaol mòr aige oirrese agus gun robh gaol mòr aicese airsan: *that he was deeply in love with her and that she was deeply in love with him*; tuigidh sibh gun robh gnothaichean a' fàs gu math fillte: *you'll understand that matters were getting very complicated*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: 'S dòcha gum bi sibh ga h-aithneachadh: *perhaps you'll recognise it. Sèist is a feminine noun, and that is why I say ga h-aithneachadh which means 'recognising her'. For a masculine noun such as òran, I would say ga aithneachadh.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Tuigidh sibh **gun deach cùisean bhuaithe**: *you'll understand that matters deteriorated.*

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