

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An t-Albannach Fiadhaich (4)

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 1,173. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 869 corresponds to Litir 1,173.

An cuala sibh mu bhaile ann an Tir na Banrigh air a bheil ‘Gin Gin’? Tha e eadar Brisbane agus Rockhampton. Tha e ann an sgìre ris an canar *Dùthaich an Albannaich Fhiadhaich* – no *Wild Scotsman Country*. **’S ann anns an sgìre sin** a chaidh Seumas Mac a’ Phearsain a ghlacadh.

Ann an naoi ceud deug, naochad ’s a h-aon (1991), *sia fichead ’s a còig bliadhna* an dèidh a’ ghlacaidh, bha ath-achdachadh ann dheth. Bha postair ann le seo air: *‘Join in the capture of James McPherson alias The Wild Scotchman, Queensland’s only Fair Dinkum Bushranger’*.

Bha Mac a’ Phearsain ainmeil. Choisinn e cliù dha fhèin mar mhèirleach a bha modhail is dòigheil. Ged a ghoideadh e stuth, agus gunna na làimh, cha bhiodh e fòirneartach.

Chùm e ceum air thoiseach air na poilis fad na h-ùine. Chan iad na poilis a ghlac e ach fir às an àite fhèin. Ghlac iad e a chionn ’s gun robh an t-each aige ro sgèth airson cumail a dol.

Ge-tà, cha robh na poilis a’ dol a ghabhail teansa leis. Bha e ann an glas-làmh agus iarann-coise fad na h-ùine. Chaidh a thoirt a Bhrisbane, don phrìosan ùr. Bha Mac a’ Phearsain air a bhith an sàs ann an togail a’ phrìosain sin nuair a bha e na phreantas sa bhaile.

Chaidh cùisean gu math dha. Fhuairadh neo-chiontach e air casaidean de bhith a’ leòn òstair. Ach cha robh gnothaichean seachad. Chaidh a thoirt gu baile eile – Maryborough – far an do nochd e sa chùirt air casaidean de mhèirle. Fhuairadh ciontach e an turas seo agus chaidh binn-phrìosain a chur air de dh’fhichead ’s a còig bliadhna. ’S e dìreach nach robh e air a bhith fòirneartach a chùm e far na croiche.

Bha e sa phrìosan ann am Brisbane greis. Chuir athair athchuinge chun an Riaghladair, a’ sireadh saorsa airson a mhic. Ach **cha deach leis**.

Ann an ochd ceud deug is seachdad (1870), chaidh Mac a’ Phearsain a chur gu prìosan ùr – eilean ann am Bàgh Mhoretton ris an canar St Helena. Ged a dh’fheuch e ri teicheadh aon turas, bha na h-ùghdarrasan dhen bheachd gun robh e air atharrachadh. An dèidh ochd bliadhna sa phrìosan, chaidh a shaoradh.

Airson a’ chòrr de a bheatha, bha Mac a’ Phearsain air taobh ceart an lagha. Chaidh e a dh’obair le crodh is eich. Choisinn e cliù dha fhèin mar fhear a bhiodh ag obair gu cruaidh agus gu h-onarach. Phòs e agus bha sianar cloinne aige. Chaidh iad a dh’fhuireach gu tuath ann am Burketown. Sin far an d’ fhuair e bàs ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad ’s a còig (1895).

Bha a bhàs annasach. Bha Seumas air a bhith aig tiodhlacadh caraid a thuit far eich. Bha e a' tilleadh dhachaigh nuair a thilg an t-each aige fhèin e. Chaidh a chlaigeann a bhriseadh agus bha e gun mhothachadh gus an do chaochail e. B' e sin deireadh an 'Albannaich Fhiadhaich' à Srath Spè. Leis an fhirinn innse, ged a bha e na eucoireach agus gun deach E far an rathaid dhìrich, cha chreid mi gun robh e cus ro fhiadhaich.

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Faclan na Litreach: Seumas Mac a' Phearsain: *James McPherson*; An t-Albannach Fhiadhaich: *The Wild Scotsman*; Tìr na Banrigh: *Queensland*; ath-achdachadh: *re-enactment*; preantas: *apprentice*; mèirle: *robbery*.

Abairtean na Litreach: bidh muinntir an àite a' comharrachadh sin: *the local people commemorate that*; choisinn e cliù dha fhèin mar mhèirleach a bha modhail is dòigheil: *he created a reputation for himself as a robber who was polite and good-tempered*; ged a ghoideadh e stuth, agus gunna na làimh, cha bhiodh e fòirneartach: *although he would steal stuff at gunpoint, he wouldn't be violent*; chùm e ceum air thoiseach air na poilis: *he kept a step ahead of the police*; a chionn 's gun robh an t-each aige ro sgèth airson cumail a dol: *because his horse was too tired to continue*; ann an glas-làmh agus iarann-coise fad na h-ùine: *in handcuffs and leg-irons the whole time*; fhuaradh neo-chiontach e: *he was found not-guilty*; casaidean de bhith a' leòn òstair: *charges of wounding a publican*; chaidh binn-phrìosain a chur air de dh'fhichead 's a còig bliadhna: *he was sentenced to 25 years in prison*; 's e dìreach nach robh e air a bhith fòirneartach a chùm e far na croiche: *it was just that he hadn't been violent that kept him from the gibbet*; chuir athair athchuinge chun an Riaghladair: *his father sent a petition to the Governor*; a' sireadh saorsa airson a mhic: *seeking freedom for his son*; mar fhear a bhiodh ag obair gu cruaidh agus gu h-onarach: *as a man who would work hard and honestly*; phòs e agus bha sianar cloinne aige: *he married and had six children*; aig tiodhlacadh caraid a thuit far eich: *at the funeral of a friend who fell from his horse*; chaidh a chlaigeann a bhriseadh: *his skull was broken*; bha e gun mhothachadh gus an do chaochail e: *he was unconscious till he died*; cha chreid mi gun robh e cus ro fhiadhaich: *I don't reckon he was too wild*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: 'S ann anns an sgìre sin a chaidh Seumas Mac a' Phearsain a ghlacadh: *it was in that district that James McPherson was caught*. Remember that starting a sentence with 'S ann allows us to emphasize a point. 'S ann anns an Fhraing a rugadh e, seach anns a' Ghearmailt 'it was in France that he was born, rather than in Germany'. 'S ann am ball-coise a choisinn e cliù, seach ann an criogaid, ged a chluich e na dhà 'it was in football that he made a name (for himself) rather than in cricket, although he played both'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: cha deach leis: *he didn't succeed*.

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