

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIllEathain

## **Mac Gill' Eonaidh agus MacIllEathain**

*Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,207. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 903 corresponds to Litir 1,207. The Litir is also available at [www.bbc.co.uk/litir](http://www.bbc.co.uk/litir) and [www.learnghaelic.scot/litir](http://www.learnghaelic.scot/litir). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learnghaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learnghaelic.scot).*

An t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu chrìomag a leugh mi anns an leabhar ainmeil aig an Oll. Somhairle MacIain – *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*. Mus fhàg mi an leabhar sin, tha mi airson cunntas a dhèanamh de rudeigin eile a leugh mi ann.

Bha MacIain ann an Colla, agus a' fuireach aig an uachdaran agus ceann-cinnidh, MacIllEathain. Bha an taigh aige spaideil. Ach, faisg air làimh, bha seann chaisteal far an robh na cinn-chinnidh a' fuireach o shean. B' e sin Caisteal Bhreacachaidh.

Air balla a' chaisteil anns an t-seann aimsir bha seo air a shnaigheadh air clach: *Ma nochdas duine sam bith a bhuineas do Chlann Ghill' Eonaidh mu choinneimh a' chaisteil seo, ged a thigeadh e aig meadhan-oidhche, le ceann duine na làimh, gheibh e fasnadh agus dìon an aghaidh a h-uile duine ach a-mhàin an Rìgh.*

Tha MacIain a' mìneachadh a' ghnòthaich. Ri linn Sheumais II (tha mi a' dèanamh dheth gun robh e a' ciallachadh Seumas VII na h-Alba) bha fearann air a thoirt seachad leis an Rìgh do na Leathanaich. B' e fearann a bh' ann a bhuineadh do na Camshronaich.

Cha robh na Camshronaich deònach am fearann a thoirt seachad. Mar sin, chaidh MacIllEathain le feachd airson a ghabhail thairis aig bior a' chladheimh. Airson adhbhar air choreigin, thug e a bhean leis.

Bha cath ann aig ceann Loch Nis faisg air Cille Chuimein. Chaill na Leathanaich gu dubh. Chaidh bean a' chinn-chinnidh a thoirt am bruid. Bha i trom le leanabh. Bha i air a cur fo smachd aig fear Mac Gill' Eonaidh – fear a bhuineadh do na Camshronaich. Bha esan fo òrdugh aig ceann-cinnidh nan Camshronach, nuair a bhiodh an leanabh air a bhreith, gum biodh e air a chur gu bàs nam b' e gille a bh' ann. Bhiodh nighean air a fàgail beò.

Aig an dearbh àm sin, bha a' bhean aig Mac Gill' Eonaidh cuideachd trom. Rugadh leanabh-nighinne dhi. Rugadh gille don bhantraich aig ceann-cinnidh nan Leathanach. Agus rinn Mac Gill' Eonaidh suaip eatarra. Mar sin, mhair an Leathanach òg beò. Thogadh e anns an taigh aig Mac Gill' Eonaidh.

Tro thìde, fhuair e a cheannas aig na Leathanaich air ais. Bha e cho taingeil do Mhac Gill' Eonaidh 's gun do chuir e roimhe an caisteal aige fhèin a bhith na thèarmann do dhuine sam bith dhen chinneadh sin a bh' ann an cunnart. A bharrachd

air sin, bhiodh ceann-cinnidh nan Leathanach a' pàigheadh airson foghlam oighre Mhic Gill' Eonaidh.

Tha Somhairle MacIain ag innse dhuinn **gun do thachair** gun do ghabh fear de Chlann Ghill' Eonaidh brath air a' chùmhnannt sin. B' esan Eòghann Camshron. Bha e air a bhith an sàs ann an dòigh air choreigin ann am bàs fir air an robh MacMhàrtainn mar ainm.

Mar pheanas, bha Loch Iall, ceann-cinnidh nan Camshronach, air Eòghann a chur air fògradh don Fhraing airson ùine. Nuair a bha an ùine sin seachad, thill Eòghann dhachaigh. Ach cha robh Clann 'ic Mhàrtainn riarachta leis a' pheanas a fhuair e. **Mhaoidh iad air** gun robh iad a' dol ga mharbhadh. Agus theich Eòghann a Cholla far an d' fhuair e tèarmann ann an Caisteal Bhreac-achaidh.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Colla: *Coll*; o shean: *in old times*; Caisteal Bhreac-achaidh: *Breacacha Castle*; Clann Ghill' Eonaidh: *The Maclonichs*; cath: *battle*; Cille Chuimein: *Fort Augustus*; trom: *pregnant*; suaip: *swap*; a cheannas: *his leadership*; tèarmann: *refuge*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** an leabhar ainmeil aig an Oll. Somhairle MacIain: *the famous book by Dr Samuel Johnson*; a' fuireach aig an uachdaran agus ceann-cinnidh, MacIIEathain: *staying with the laird and clan chief, Maclean*; ged a thigeadh e aig meadhan-oidhche: *though he should come at midnight*; le ceann duine na làimh: *with a man's head in his hand*; gheibh e fasgadh agus dìon an aghaidh a h-uile duine ach a-mhàin an Rìgh: *he'll find safety and protection against all but the King*; ri linn Sheumais II: *at the time of James II*; bha fearann air a thoirt seachad do na Leathanaich: *land was given to the Macleans*; le feachd airson a ghabhail thairis aig bior a' chlaidheimh: *with a force to take it over at the point of a sword*; airson adhbhar air choreigin, thug e a bhean leis: *for some reason or other, he took his wife with him*; nuair a bhiodh an leanabh air a bhreith: *when the baby would be born*; gum biodh e air a chur gu bas nam b' e gille a bh' ann: *that he would be put to death if he were a boy*; rugadh gille don bhantraich aig ceann-cinnidh nan Leathanach: *a boy was born to the widow of the chief of the Macleans*; foghlam oighre Mhic Gill' Eonaidh: *the education of the heir to Maclonich*; an sàs ann an dòigh air choreigin: *involved in some way*; bàs fir air an robh MacMhàrtainn mar ainm: *the death of a man called MacMartin*; riarachta leis a' pheanas: *satisfied with the punishment*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** **Mhaoidh iad air** gun robh iad a' dol ga mharbhadh: **they threatened him** that they were going to kill him. There are two verbs commonly used to express 'threaten' – *maoidh* and *bagair*, both of which are followed by the preposition *air*. *Bhagair iad air 'they threatened him'*. Bha iad a' bagair/a' bagradh air *'they were threatening him'*. Bha iad a' maoidheadh air *'they were threatening him'*.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** ag innse dhuinn **gun do thachair** gun do ghabh fear de Chlann Ghill' Eonaidh brath air a' chùmhnannt sin: *telling us that it so happened that one of the Maclonichs took advantage of that compact*.

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