

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Nighean Aonghais Òig

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 1,225. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 921 corresponds to Litir 1,225. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun dàn *Mo Rùn Geal Òg*. An t-seachdain seo, tha mi airson sùil a thoirt air dàn eile co-cheangailte ri ar-a-mach nan Seumasach. A-rithist, bha e air a sgrìobhadh le boireannach. B' ise tè a tha aithnichte mar Nighean Aonghais Òig. Chan eil sinn cinnteach dè an t-ainm-baistidh a bh' oirre. Bhuineadh i do Dhòmhnallaich na Ceapaich ann an Loch Abar.

Bha Dòmhnallaich na Ceapaich gu math taiceil do dh'adhbhar nan Seumasach. Agus bha Nighean Aonghais Òig a' dol leis na cinn-chinnidh aice. Thathar ag ràdh gur e bana-bhàrd a bh' innte ach, gu mì-fhortanach, chan eil againn an-diugh ach aon dàn a sgrìobh i le cinnt. 'S e sin **Òran air Teachd Phrionnsa Teàrlach** 'a song on the coming of Prince Charles'.

Seo agaibh a' chiad rann. Feuchaibh ri innse an robh e air a sgrìobhadh ro Bhàr Chùil Lodair no às a dhèidh. *An ulaidh phrìseil bha uainne 'S ann a fhuair sinn an-dràst' i, Gum b' i siud an leug bhuaadhach, Ga ceangal suas leis na gràsan, Ged leig Dia greis air adhart, Don mhuic bhith cladhach nad àite, Nis o thionndaidh a' chuibhle, Thèid gach traoidhtear fo'r sàiltean.*

Tha an dàn seo gu tur eadar-dhealaichte bhon fhear anns an Litir mu dheireadh, nach eil? Bha *Mo Rùn Geal Òg* mu dheidhinn call air sàillibh blàr. Bha e air a sgrìobhadh an dèidh latha Chùil Lodair. Ach chaidh **Òran air Teachd Phrionnsa Teàrlach** a sgrìobhadh ron latha sin, nuair a bha dòchas fhathast aig na Seumasaich gum biodh buaidh aca. Thathar a' smaoinichadh gun robh e air a sgrìobhadh as t-fhoghar seachd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a còig (1745).

Tuigidh sibh gun robh Nighean Aonghais Òig fada an aghaidh nan Hanoibhèirianach, **gan samhachadh air mucan**. Sgrìobh i: *Ged leig Dia greis air adhart, Don mhuic bhith cladhach nad àite*. Rinn i soilleir gun robh a' chuibhle air tionndadh agus gum biodh an riaghaltas Hanoibhèirianach air a shaltradh fo chasan nan Seumasach.

Seo agaibh an siathamh rann: *Tha dream foghainteach, fearail, À Gleanna Garadh 's à Cnòideart, Fo n' cinn-fheadhna nach tilleadh, 'S nach gabhadh giorag ro chòmhrag, Gu borb, armailteach, lìonmhor, A' dol sìos anns a' chòmhdhail, 'S maing a tharladh for buillibh, A shìl nan curaidhean còire!*

Tha Nighean Aonghais Òig ag ainmeachadh meuran de Chloinn 'ic Dhòmhnail – à Gleanna Garadh agus à Cnòideart. Tha iad foghainteach is fearail. *They are valiant and manly.*

Seo na tha seantansan eile a' ciallachadh. Fo n' cinn-fheadhna nach tilleadh. *Under the clan chiefs who wouldn't retreat.* 'S nach gabhadh giorag ro chòmhrag. *And who wouldn't panic in combat.* Gu borb, armailteach, lionmhor. *Wild, well-armed and in large number.*

Aig a' cheann thall, cha deach an t-ar-a-mach leis na Dòmhnallaich no le Nighean Aonghais Òig. Gu mì-fhortanach, chan eil fios againn an do sgrìobh i dàn eile, a' comharrachadh deireadh iomairt a' Phrionnsa Theàrlaich.

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Faclan na Litreach: ainm-baistidh: *first (Christian) name*; air sàillibh: *because [of]*; air a shaltradh: *trampled*; meuran: *branches*.

Abairtean na Litreach: co-cheangailte ri ar-a-mach nan Seumasach: *connected to the Jacobite rebellion*; aithnichte mar Nighean Aonghais Òig: *recognised as the daughter of young Angus*; bhuineadh i do Dhòmhnallaich na Ceapaich: *she belonged to the MacDonalds of Keppoch*; a' dol leis na cinn-chinnidh aice: *agreed with her clan chiefs*; an ulaidh phrìseil bha uainne: *the priceless treasure that we lost*; 's ann a fhuair sinn an-dràst' i: *we just got it [back]*; an leug bhuadhach: *the virtuous jewel*; ga ceangal suas leis na gràsan: *set around by the graces*; ged leig Dia greis air adhart don mhuc bhith cladhach nad àite: *although God allowed the pig to dig in your place for a while*; thèid gach traoidhtear fo 'r sàiltean: *every traitor will go under our heels*; gum biodh buaidh aca: *that they would be victorious*; tuigidh sibh: *you'll understand*; fada an aghaidh nan Hanoibhèirianach: *completely opposed to the Hanoverians*; aig a' cheann thall: *in the end*; cha deach an t-ar-a-mach leis na Dòmhnallaich: *the MacDonalds were not successful in the rebellion*; gu mì-fhortanach: *unfortunately*; chan eil fios againn an do sgrìobh i dàn eile: *we don't know if she wrote another poem*; a' comharrachadh deireadh iomairt a' Phrionnsa Theàrlaich: *marking the end of Prince Charles's campaign*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Òran air Teachd Phrionnsa Teàrlach 'a song on the coming of Prince Charles': *this is how the name of the song has been handed down to us. In the modern era, we would be more likely to call it 'Òran air Teachd a' Phrionnsa Theàrlaich', employing the article and genitive forms of Prionnsa and Teàrlach, as in the final sentence of the Litir. But the 18th century poetess, or those who handed the song down to us, preferred to indicate the genitive (or possessive) form of the name 'Prionnsa Teàrlach' by leniting the first word of the phrase so that 'Phrionnsa Teàrlach' means 'of Prince Charles'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: gan samhlachadh air mucan: *likening them to pigs.*

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