

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Alasdair II, Rìgh na h-Alba

*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 1,263. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 959 corresponds to Litir 1,263. 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).*

**Sin sibh** a-rithist, a chàirdean. An-diugh, agus anns na beagan Litrichean romhainn, tha mi a' dol a thoirt sùil air dà cho-chòrdadh nàiseanta agus dà rìgh Albannach – no **dithis rìghrean** mas fheàrr leibh.

Bha rudan anns a' chumantas eadar na rìghrean. Bha an t-aon ainm orra. Dh'aontaich iad cùmhnant no co-chòrdadh le nàbaidh cumhachdach – a thug buaidh mhòr air an rìoghachd. Agus chaochail iad nuair nach robh dùil air am bàs. Tha mi a' dol gur toirt air ais don treas linn deug.

B' e a' chiad rìgh Alasdair mac Uilleim, no Alasdair a Dhà (II). Thàinig e don rìgh-chathair le bàs athar, Uilleam mac Eanraig no Uilleam Garbh. Tha esan aithnichte mar *William the Lion* ann am Beurla. Bha bàs nàdarrach aige ann an dà cheud deug is ceithir-deug (1214).

Bha Alasdair II dìreach sia bliadhna deug a dh'aois nuair a fhuair e àite air rìgh-chathair na h-Alba. Bha e air a chrùnadh ann an Sgàin. Bha Alasdair air ùine a chur seachad ann an Sasainn agus chaidh e an sàs ann am poilitigs na dùthcha sin. Ann an dà cheud deug is còig-deug (1215) chuir e armailt Albannach a-null thar na crìche.

Bha stri eadar uaislean Shasainn agus Rìgh Eòin. Bha na h-uaislean soirbheachail an toiseach. Dh'aontaich Rìgh Shasainn ris an aonta air a bheil *Magna Carta*. Fon chùmhnant sin, cha robh an rìgh uile-chumhachdach tuilleadh.

Ach chaidh Rìgh Eòin an aghaidh sin aig a' cheann thall, a' cumail a-mach gun robh e fo uallach agus fo ìmpidh nuair a dh'aontaich e ri Magna Carta. Bha cogadh catharra ann an uair sin, agus ghabh Alba taobh nan uaislean, an aghaidh Rìgh Shasainn.

Ràinig armailt na h-Alba cladaich a deas Shasainn. Ach chaochail Rìgh Shasainn ann an dà cheud deug is sia-ceud (1216) agus thàinig sìth a-rithist fo mhac Eòin – Eanraig III. Thill armailt na h-Alba dhachaigh.

Bha càirdeas doirbh eadar Eanraig agus Alasdair II na h-Alba. Bha Alasdair pòsta aig piuthar Eanraig, ach bha Eanraig ag iarraidh air Alasdair gabhail ri àrd-uachdranachd Rìgh Shasainn. Ge-tà, bha Alasdair ag agairt nan siorrachdan ann am fìor cheann a tuath Shasainn, eadar Northumbria agus Cumbria, a bhith fo uachdranachd na h-Alba.

Thàinig an dà rìoghachd gu aonta ann an dà cheud deug, trithead 's a seachd (1237). Chuir iad an ainmean ris an aonta ann an York. Mar sin, 's e Co-chòrdadh

York a thathar a' gabhail air. Ge-tà, bha co-chòrdadh eile gu bhith ann eadar Alba is Sasainn air a bheil, an latha an-diugh, 'The Treaty of York'. Bha sin ann an ceithir cheud deug, seasgad 's a ceithir (1464).

Co-dhiù, fon chòrdadh anns an treas linn deug, chaidh aontachadh gum biodh na siorrachdan eadar Northumbria agus Cumbria a' fuireach aig Sasainn. Bha cead aig Alasdair, agus a shìol, fearann a chumail ann an Sasainn fo laghan fiudalach. Agus chaidh a' chrìoch eadar an dà rìoghachd aontachadh. Bhiodh i eadar Linne Shalmhaigh air an taobh an iar agus Uisge Thuaidh air an taobh an ear. Chun an latha an-diugh, sin far a bheil a' chrìoch eadar Alba 's Sasainn. Bha dìreach dà phìos bheag fearainn taobh a-muigh sin – na 'Debatable Lands' air an taobh an iar agus baile Bhearaig air an taobh an ear.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Alasdair II: *Alexander II*; treas linn deug: *13<sup>th</sup> century*; rìgh-chathair: *throne*; soirbheachail: *successful*; càirdeas doirbh: *a difficult relationship*; piuthar: *sister*; àrd-uachdranachd: *overlordship, supreme authority*; Linne Shalmhaigh: *Solway Firth*; Uisge Thuaidh: *River Tweed*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Bha rudan anns a' chumantas eadar na rìghrean: *there were things in common between the kings*; bha an t-aon ainm orra: *they had the same name*; co-chòrdadh le nàbaidh cumhachdach: *a treaty with a powerful neighbour*; a thug buaidh mhòr air an rìoghachd: *that had a large effect on the kingdom*; chaochail iad nuair nach robh dùil air am bàs: *they died when their deaths were not expected*; air a chrùnadh ann an Sgàin: *crowned at Scone*; chaidh e an sàs ann am poilitigs na dùthcha sin: *he got involved in the politics of that country*; chuir e armailt Albannach null thar na crìche: *he sent a Scottish army over the border*; bha strì eadar uaislean Shasainn agus Rìgh Eòin: *there was a struggle between the English nobles and King John*; a' cumail a-mach gun robh e fo uallach agus fo ìmpidh nuair a dh'aontaich e ri: *maintaining he was under pressure when he agreed to*; bha Alasdair ag agairt nan siorrachdan ann am fìor cheann a tuath Shasainn: *Alexander was claiming the counties in the very north of England*; bha cead aig Alasdair, agus a shìol, fearann a chumail ann an Sasainn fo laghan fiudalach: *Alexander and his descendants were allowed to keep land in England under feudal laws*; sin far a bheil a' chrìoch: *that's where the border is*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** dà cho-chòrdadh nàiseanta agus dà rìgh Albannach – no **dithis rìghrean** mas fheàrr leibh: *two national treaties and two Scottish kings – or two Scottish kings if you prefer. You will note that in counting people we have two systems, here shown with the example of rìgh 'king'. You can use the dual case as in dà rìgh (the dual case is very similar to the singular dative) or you can use a numerical noun with the noun commanded by it in the genitive plural (dithis rìghrean, trìuir rìghrean etc). For 'four sons' you can say ceithir mic (nominative plural) or ceathrar mhac (genitive plural)*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Sin sibh a-rithist: *hi there again*.

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