

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Cabhlach Hákon (3)

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 1,268. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 964 corresponds to Litir 1,268. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

O chionn beagan Litrichean, thuirt mi gum bithinn a' toirt sùil air dà cho-chòrdadh eadar-nàiseanta a thug buaidh mhòr air Alba. **Thug sinn sùil mu-thràth** air Co-chòrdadh York ann an dà cheud deug, trithead 's a seachd (1237). Sin nuair a bha **an dàrna Alasdair** na Rìgh ann an Alba.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha sinn a' leantainn Hákon IV, Rìgh Nirribhidh, an dèidh Blàr na Leargaidh Ghallta. Bha e air a dhol a dh'Arcaibh. 'S e **an treas Rìgh Alasdair** a bh' air rìgh-chathair na h-Alba aig an àm sin. Cha robh Hákon air a bhith gu math fad greis. Agus ann an Arcaibh, air an t-siathamh latha deug dhen Dùbhlachd, dà cheud deug, seasgad 's a trì (1263), chaochail e.

A rèir choltais, bha Hákon am beachd na sgìrean Lochlannach ann an Alba a ghlèidheadh. Ach an dèidh a bhàis, thàinig a mhac, Mànus VI, don rìgh-chathair. Bha esan a' tuigsinn gun robh cumhachd Nirribhidh ann an Alba agus Eilean Mhanainn a' sìor sheargadh.

As t-earrach, chuir Mànus teachdairean a dh'Alba. Cha d' fhuair iad deagh èisteachd idir. Dh'inns iad do Mhànus gun robh Alasdair feargach mun sgrios a rinn na Nirribhich sa bhliadhna roimhe.

Fhad 's a bha teachdairean a' dol eadar an dà dhùthaich, thug Alasdair ionnsaigh air Eilean Mhanainn. Dh'aontaich Rìgh Mhanainn – air an robh Mànus cuideachd – gum biodh e dileas is taiceil do Rìgh na h-Alba. Taobh a-staigh bliadhna, bhiodh esan marbh cuideachd agus bhiodh Eilean Mhanainn fo ùghdarras Crùn na h-Alba.

Thug Alasdair ionnsaighean air na h-eileanan Albannach cuideachd. Mean air mhean bha smachd nan Nirribheach air eileanan eadar Ìle agus Leòdhas a' fàs cugallach. Ann an dà cheud deug, seasgad 's a còig (1265) chuir Rìgh Mànus dithis theachdairean cliùiteach a dh'Alba. Thuirt iad ri Alasdair gum biodh na Nirribhich riarichte nam biodh smachd aig Alba air Bòd agus Arainn. Ach bha iad ag iarraidh smachd a chumail air a h-uile eilean eile.

Uill, cha robh Alasdair toilichte le sin. Bha grunn choinneamhan eile ann, an dà chuid ann an Nirribhidh agus Alba, mus tàinig an dà thaobh gu aonta. B' e an t-aonta sin Co-chòrdadh Pheairt. Chaidh ainmean riochdairean an dà dhùthaich a chur ris ann am Manachainn nam Manach Dubha ann am Peairt air an dàrna latha dhen Iuchar, dà cheud deug, seasgad 's a sia (1266).

Fon aonta, leig na Nirribhich seachad an smachd a bh' air a bhith aca air Eilean Mhanainn agus eileanan taobh an iar na h-Alba. Bho sin a-mach bhiodh na h-eileanan sin fo ùghdarras is uachdranachd na h-Alba. Cha bhiodh na h-eileanaich a bha a' taobhadh le Nirribhidh air am peanasachadh. Agus bha iad saor gus falbh nam biodh iad air a shon.

Dè fhuair na Nirribhich às? Uill, ghlèidh iad Arcaibh agus Sealtainn. Agus fhuair iad sùim airgid – ceud marg gach bliadhna. Bha sin timcheall air seasgad 's a sia notaichean (£66) gach bliadhna – sùim glè mhòr aig an àm.

Eadar Co-chòrdadh York agus Co-chòrdadh Pheairt, choisinn Alba an ìre mhath an cumadh a th' aice an-diugh, ach gu bheil Arcaibh agus Sealtainn a-nise mar phàirt dhith. Eatarra, dhearbh an dàrna agus treas Alasdair gun robh iad am measg nan rìghrean a bu bhuadhaiche a bh' aig Alba riamh.

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Faclan na Litreach: Nirribhidh: *Norway*; Blàr na Leargaidh Ghallta: *The Battle of Largs*; Arcaibh: *Orkney*; chaochail: *died*; mean air mhean: *little by little*; dithis theachdairean cliùiteach: *two highly regarded envoys*; uachdranachd: *sovereignty*; Sealtainn: *Shetland*; ceud marg: *100 merks*.

Abairtean na Litreach: gum bithinn a' toirt sùil air: *that I would be looking at*; cha robh X air a bhith gu math fad greis: *X had not been well for a while*; bha X am beachd na sgìrean Lochlannach ann an Alba a ghlèidheadh: *X was intending to keep the Norse possessions in Scotland*; gun robh cumhachd Nirribhidh ann an Alba agus Eilean Mhanainn a' sìor sheargadh: *that the power of Norway in Scotland and the Isle of Man was steadily weakening*; chuir Mànus teachdairean a dh'Alba: *Magnus sent envoys to Scotland*; air an robh Mànus cuideachd: *who was also called Magnus*; bhiodh Eilean Mhanainn fo ùghdarras Crùn na h-Alba: *The Isle of Man would be under the authority of the Scottish Crown*; bha smachd nan Nirribheach air eileanan eadar Ìle agus Leòdhas a' fàs cugallach: *the Norwegians' control of islands between Ilay and Lewis was becoming shaky*; riarichte nam biodh smachd aig Alba air Bòd agus Arainn: *satisfied if Scotland gained control of Bute and Arran*; bha grunn choinneamhan eile ann: *there were several other meetings*; chaidh ainmean riochdairean an dà dhùthaich a chur ris ann am Manachainn nam Manach Dubha ann am Peairt: *representatives of the two countries signed in in the Blackfriars' Priory in Perth*; cha bhiodh na h-eileanaich a bha a' taobhadh le Nirribhidh air am peanasachadh: *the islanders who were siding with Norway would not be punished*; bha iad saor gus falbh nam biodh iad air a shon: *they were free to leave if they wished*; am measg nan rìghrean a bu bhuadhaiche: *among the most influential kings*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: 'S e an treas Rìgh Alasdair a bh' air rìgh-chathair na h-Alba: *it's the third King Alexander that was on the throne of Scotland. In the Litrichean I have been calling Alexander III 'Alasdair a Tri'*; similarly I've been calling Alexander II 'Alasdair a Dhà'. However, in Gaelic, there is another way of naming monarchs by number – by using the ordinal descriptor. So we can talk about 'An Dàrna Rìgh Alasdair' or 'An Treas Rìgh Alasdair'. Louis XIV would be either 'Louis a Ceithir-deug' or 'An Ceathramh Louis Deug', written Louis XIV or an 14^{mh} Louis.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Thug sinn sùil mu-thràth air Co-chòrdadh York: *we [have] already looked at the Treaty of York*.

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