

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Caisteal Loch nan Doirb (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 1,313. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,009 corresponds to Litir 1,313. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha na Cuimeanaich, leis an robh Caisteal Loch nan Doirb, cumhachdach. Nuair a chaochail Mairead, Oigh Nirribhidh, bha Iain Dubh Cuimeanach am measg nan daoine a dh'fhaodadh rìgh-chathair na h-Alba a ghabhail thairis. Ach, an àite sin, chaidh Iain Balliol a thaghadh. Thathar ag ràdh gun robh Iain Dubh Cuimeanach gu math **diombach ri** sin. Chaidh e a dh'fhuireach ann an Caisteal Loch nan Doirb far an do chaochail e anns a' bhliadhna trì cheud deug 's a dhà (1302).

Bha mac Iain Duibh – Iain Ruadh – ann an suidheachadh cumhachdach. B' i a mhàthair Eleanor Balliol, piuthar an rìgh. Nuair a chaill Iain Balliol àite mar rìgh, bha an Cuimeanach Ruadh anns a' phrìomh àite airson an rìgh-chathair a ghabhail thairis. Uill, bha a rèir a luchd-taice, co-dhiù. Ach bha fear eile ann a bha ag iarraidh a bhith na rìgh agus bhuineadh esan do na Brusaich – teaghlach cumhachdach eile.

Anns a' mheadhan, bha Rìgh Shasainn, Eideard I. Bha Eideard ag iarraidh Alba a thoirt **fo a smachd-san**. Sheas Iain Ruadh Cuimeanach na aghaidh. Ann an dà cheud deug, naochad 's a sia (1296) thug Eideard armailt leis a dh'Alba. Chaill Iain Balliol àite mar rìgh agus chaidh Iain Ruadh Cuimeanach a chur an grèim aig Blàr Dhùn Barra. 'S ann mun àm sin a chaidh Clach Sgàin a ghoid agus a thoirt a Lunnainn.

An dèidh mhìosan, chaidh Iain Ruadh a shaoradh. Ach, airson a shaorsa, bha aige ri sabaid às leth Eideird, an aghaidh na Frainge, ann am Flànras. Nuair a bha e an sin, dh'ionnsaich e gun robh muinntir na h-Alba air èirigh an aghaidh Eideird fo cheannas Uilleim Uallais agus Anndra Mhoirich. Theich e. Fhuair e air ais a dh'Alba air long. Chan eil e soilleir an robh e aig Blàr Drochaid Shruighlea far an do rinn na h-Albannaich a' chùis air na Sasannaich.

Cha robh Eideard deiseil le Alba. Ann an trì cheud deug 's a trì (1303), thug e armailt leis gu ceann a tuath na h-Alba. Ràinig e Caisteal Loch nan Doirb as t-fhoghar. Bha na Cuimeanaich a-nise fo smachd. Dh'fhuirich an rìgh anns a' chaisteal airson ùine. 'S e sin as coireach gum bi sinn ag ràdh gur e Loch nan Doirb caisteal anns an do dh'fhuirich Rìgh Shasainn, ged nach robh Rìgh Albannach riamh a' fuireach ann.

Chaidh Iain Ruadh a mharbhadh le Raibeart am Brusach ann an trì cheud deug 's a sia (1306). Bha an aon mhac aige ann an Sasainn. Bha e dìleas do Rìgh Shasainn. Chaill na Cuimeanaich an cumhachd ann an ceann a tuath na h-Alba.

Tha Caisteal Loch nan Doirb a' nochdadh a-rithist anns na leabhraichean eachdraidh anns a' bhliadhna trì cheud deug, trithead 's a còig (1335). Bha e fo shèist aig Sir Anndra Moireach, mac a' Mhoirich a dh'èirich às leth Alba aig Drochaid Shruighlea. Bha am Moireach òg taiceil don Rìgh Albannach, Daibhidh I. Bha Loch nan Doirb, ge-tà, fo smachd feadhainn a bha taiceil don rìgh Shasannach.

Beagan bhliadhnaichean an dèidh sin, bha an caisteal ann an làmhan nan Albannach. Anns na seachdadan dhen linn sin, thàinig e fo smachd fear a bha ainmeil – agus droch-chliùiteach – ann an eachdraidh na h-Alba. B' esan Alasdair Mòr mac an Rìgh – *the Wolf of Badenoch*. Bidh tuilleadh agam airsan san ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Mairead, Òigh Nirribhidh: *Margaret, Maid of Norway [heir to the Scottish throne]*; Iain Ruadh: *Red John [‘the Red Comyn’]*; armailt: *army*; Blàr Drochaid Shruighlea: *The Battle of Stirling Bridge*; as t-fhoghar: *in autumn*; Raibeart am Brusach: *Robert the Bruce*; dileas: *loyal*; droch-chliùiteach: *of ill repute*.

Abairtean na Litreach: bha Iain Dubh Cuimeanach am measg nan daoine a dh'fhaodadh rìgh-chathair na h-Alba a ghabhail thairis: *Black John Comyn was among the people who could take over the throne of Scotland*; chaidh Iain Balliol a thaghadh: *John Balliol was chosen*; b' i a mhàthair Eleanor Balliol, piuthar an rìgh: *his mother was Eleanor Balliol, the king's sister*; a rèir a luchd-taice, co-dhiù: *according to his supporters, anyway*; bhuineadh esan do na Brusaich: *he belonged to the Bruces*; 's ann mun àm sin a chaidh Clach Sgàin a ghoid agus a thoirt a Lunnainn: *it's at about that time that the Stone of Scone was stolen and taken to London*; chaidh X a shaoradh: *X was freed*; airson a shaorsa: *for his freedom*; bha aige ri sabaid às leth Eideird: *he had to fight on behalf of Edward*; an aghaidh na Frainge ann am Flànras: *against France in Flanders*; dh'ionnsaich e gun robh muinntir na h-Alba air èirigh an aghaidh Eideird: *he learned that the people of Scotland had risen against Edward*; fo cheannas Uilleim Uallais agus Anndra Mhoirich: *under the leadership of William Wallace and Andrew de Moray*; 's e sin as coireach gum bi sinn ag ràdh: *that is the reason we say*; bha an aon mhac aige ann an Sasainn: *his only son was in England*; fo shèist aig Sir Anndra Moireach: *under siege by Sir Andrew Murray (de Moray)*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Bha e ag iarraidh Alba a thoirt **fo a smachd-san**: *he was wanting to bring Scotland under his control*. The -san here after smachd is an emphatic suffix (think of the emphatic esan compared to e). Note that in the third person singular this is gender-dependent. If the English monarch had been a queen we would have required the feminine -se rather than the masculine -san i.e. fo a smachd-se 'under her control'. You can work out the emphatic suffixes by thinking of the emphatic pronouns for each person – mise (it is -sa in this case); thusa (-sa); esan (-san); ise (-se); sinne (-ne); sibhse (-se); iadsan (-san).

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Thathar ag ràdh gun robh Iain Dubh Cuimeanach gu math **diombach ri** sin: *it's said that Black John Comyn was very upset at that*.

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