

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Faclair Armstrong (1)

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 1,330. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,026 corresponds to Litir 1,330. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Ann an Litir mìle, naochad 's a sia (1096), bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Raibeart Gilleasbuig Armstrong, fear-teagaisg agus faclairiche à Siorrachd Pheairt. Rinn e faclair Gàidhlig ainmeil ann an **ochd ceud deug is còig air fhichead** (1825). Thug sinn sùil air faclan fillte bhon fhaclair sin ann an Litrichean seachd ceud, seachdad 's a còig (775) agus seachd ceud, seachdad 's a sia (776). Leis gu bheil am faclair dà cheud bliadhna a dh'aois am-bliadhna, shaoil mi gum biodh e iomchaidh agus inntinneach **sùil às ùr a thoirt air**.

Tha mi a' dol a thaghadh faclan a tha a' tòiseachadh le gach litir dhen aibidil. An toiseach, am facal *àille*. Tha e a' ciallachadh '*beauty, handsomeness, comeliness*'. Tha Armstrong a' toirt dhuinn dà eisimpleir: *thàinig i na h-àille* '*she came in her beauty*' agus *àille talmhaidh* '*earthly beauty*'. Às *àille*, tha sinn a' faighinn nam faclan *àilleach* '*beautiful*' agus *àilleachd* '*beauty*'.

Tha *àilleag* a' ciallachadh '*pretty young maid*' agus tha *àilleagan* a' ciallachadh '*a young beau*'. Tha am facal *àilleagan* ann cuideachd – '*a term of affection for a young person; a pretty maid*' agus cuideachd '*a little jewel*'. Àilleagan. Tha *àilleanta* a' ciallachadh '*beautiful, handsome,*' agus tha *àilleantachd* ann cuideachd – '*personal beauty*'. Agus *àillidh* '*bright, resplendent, beauteous, fair*'.

A-nise, an litir 'b'. Tha mi air ainm-àite a thaghadh – Baile-Mhòid le 'mhòid' air a litreachadh M-H-O fada-I-D. Tha e a' ciallachadh '*Rothsay, literally, the town where the court of justice is held*'. Dh'fhaodamaid eadhon a ràdh '*the town where the Mod is held*'! Co-dhiù, tha sin inntinneach oir, anns an latha an-diugh, tha na sgoilearan ag ràdh gur e Rothsay *Baile Bhòid* le 'b', a' ciallachadh '*the town of Bute*'. Chaidh a chlàradh mar sin ann am bàrdachd Ghàidhlig aig deireadh an ochdamh linn deug.

Fon litir 'c', tha mi air facal gu math feumail a thaghadh – *caog*. Tha *caog* na ainmear agus na ghnìomhair. Tha e a' ciallachadh '*wink*' no '*take aim by shutting the eye*' – rud a bhios boghadair a' dèanamh. Tha e cuideachd a' ciallachadh '*connive*'.

Tha am faclairiche a' toirt na h-abairt seo dhuinn: *caog ris* '*wink at him*'. Agus tha faclan eile stèidhichte air *caog* – leithid *caogach* '*winking, squint-eyed*', *caogadh* '*a winking, a conniving*', *caog-shùil* '*an eye that winks, a squint eye*' agus *caog-shùileach* '*squint-eyed, winking, blinking*'. *Caog-shùileach*.

A-nise an litir ‘d’. A bheil sibh a’ tuigsinn seo – *dearg-shùil?* ’S e facal fillte a th’ ann, air a dhèanamh de *dearg* agus *sùil*. Tuigidh sibh gu bheil e a’ ciallachadh ‘*red eye, bloodshot eye*’.

Agus, fon litir ‘e’, tha mi air seo a thaghadh – *eudach*. E-U-D-A-C-H. Tha eudach a’ ciallachadh ‘*jealous*’ no ‘*zealous*’. Ach, ann am faclair Armstrong, tha e cuideachd a’ ciallachadh ‘*clothes, dress, garment ...*’ Tha e a’ cur nar cuimhne gun robh *eudach* na sheann riochd air an fhacal *aodach*.

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Faclan na Litreach: aille: *beauty, handsomeness*; ailleag: *pretty young maid*; caog: *wink, take aim by shutting the eye*; caog-shùileach: *squint-eyed, winking, blinking*; dearg-shùil: *red or bloodshot eye*; eudach: *jealous*.

Abairtean na Litreach: fear-teagaisg agus faclairiche à Siorrachd Pheairt: *a teacher and lexicographer from Perthshire*; thug sinn sùil air faclan fillte: *we looked at compound words (nouns)*; leis gu bheil am faclair dà cheud bliadhna a dh’aois am-bliadhna: *as the dictionary is two hundred years old this year*; faclan a tha a’ tòiseachadh le gach litir dhen aibidil: *words that start with each letter of the alphabet*; chaidh a chlàradh mar sin ann am bàrdachd Ghàidhlig aig deireadh an ochdamh linn deug: *it was recorded as that in Gaelic poetry at the end of the eighteenth century*; tha X na ainmear agus na ghnìomhair: *X is a noun and a verb*; rud a bhios boghadair a’ dèanamh: *something an archer does*; bhon ainmear, tha sinn a’ faighinn a’ bhuadhair: *from the noun we get the adjective*; tha e a’ cur nar cuimhne gun robh *eudach* na sheann riochd air an fhacal *aodach*: *it reminds us that ‘eudach’ is an old form of the word ‘aodach’*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: ochd ceud deug is còig air fhichead: *this is an ‘older’ way of expressing 1825 compared to a common ‘modern’ mode – ochd ceud deug, fichead ’s a còig. However, the ‘older’ mode is still common in the community. Here are some examples – seachd air fhichead bliadhna a dh’aois ‘27 years of age’; rugadh e ann an naoi ceud deug is trì air fhichead ‘he was born in 1923; tha iad còig bliadhna’ deug air fhichead a dh’aois ‘they are 35 years of age’.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: shaoil mi gum biodh e iomchaidh agus inntinneach **sùil às ùr a thoirt air:** *I thought it would be fitting and interesting to have a new look at it.*

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