

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 50 (which corresponds to Litir 354). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Sgrìobh Teàrlach MacAoidh *The Gaelic Etymology of the Languages of Western Europe*. Ach cò e – an Teàrlach MacAoidh seo? An robh Gàidhlig aige? An robh e Albannach? An robh e ainmeil? Uill, cha robh Gàidhlig aige. Ach bha e Albannach. Agus bha e rudeigin ainmeil.

Rugadh e ann am Peairt ann an ochd ceud deug is dhà-dheug (1812). Chaochail a mhàthair nuair a bha e òg. Thog athair e.

Fhuair e foghlam ann an Lunnainn agus anns a' Bhruiseal. Bha athair a' fuireach anns a' Bhruiseal an uair sin. Nuair a bha e anns a' Bhruiseal, dh'ionnsaich e Fraingis, Gearmailtis, Eadailtis is Spàinntis.

Fhuair Teàrlach obair mar neach-naidheachd ann an Lunnainn. An toiseach bha e aig an *Sun*. An uair sin bha e ag obair airson a' *Morning Chronicle* – pàipear-naidheachd mòr. Aig an àm sin bha Uilleam Thackeray agus Teàrlach Dickens cuideachd ag obair airson a' *Chronicle*.

Bha MacAoidh trang. Sgrìobh e leabhraichean is bàrdachd. Mus robh e trithead bliadhna a dh'aois, sgrìobh e: *A History of London, The Thames and its Tributaries, Longbeard, Lord of London*, agus *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions, and the Madness of Crowds*.

Ann an ochd ceud deug ceathrad 's a ceithir (1844), fhuair MacAoidh obair ùr ann an Alba. Bha sin mar Dheasaiche a' phàipear-naidheachd, Argus Ghlaschu. Agus phòs e ann an Glaschu – tè Rose Henrietta Vale.

Às dèidh trì bliadhna ann an Glaschu, thill e a Lunnainn. Fhuair e obair anns an *Illustrated London News*. Bha droch bhliadhna aige ann an ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a naoi (1859). Dh'fhàg e an *Illustrated London News*. Chuir e pàipear-naidheachd ùr air chois – an *London Review*. Ach cha do shoirbhich leis a' phàipear sin. Agus chaochail a' bhean aige. Dà bhliadhna às dèidh sin phòs e Màiri Ealasaid Mills.

Nise, cha tuit mi facal mun Ghàidhlig. Chan eil dad ri aithris fhathast. Ni mi aithris air sin an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: Teàrlach MacAoidh: *Charles Mackay*; bha e rudeigin ainmeil: *he was somewhat famous*; rugadh e ann am Peairt: *he was born in Perth*; chaochail a mhàthair nuair a bha e òg: *his mother died when he was young*; thog

athair e: *his father raised him*; fhuair e foghlam ann an Lunnainn agus anns a' Bhruiseal: *he got an education in London and Brussels*; dh'ionnsaich e Fraingis, Gearmailtis, Eadailtis is Spàinntis: *he learned French, German, Italian and Spanish*; neach-naidheachd: *[news] journalist*; mus robh e trithead bliadhna a dh'aois: *before he was thirty years of age*; mar Dheasaiche a' phàipeir-naidheachd, Argus Ghlaschu: *as Editor of the newspaper, the Glasgow Argus*; bha droch bhliadhna aige: *he had a bad year*; cha do shoirbhich leis a' phàipear sin: *that paper did not succeed*; chaochail a' bhean aige: *his wife died*; cha tuirt mi facal mun Ghàidhlig: *I didn't say [haven't said] a word about Gaelic*; chan eil dad ri aithris fhathast: *there is nothing to report yet*.

ends