

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 70 (which corresponds to Litir 374). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha am facal *fear* air a dhol rud beag boireann. Bidh feadhainn ag ràdh *an fhear* airson *the man*, seach *am fear*. Mar eisimpleir – *sin an fhear a bha mi a' ciallachadh* an àite *sin am fear a bha mi a' ciallachadh*. Ach an e rud ùr a th' ann? Uill, chan e. Bha feadhainn ag ràdh sin tràth anns an naoidheamh linn deug.

Tha liosta aig Iain Foirbeis anns an leabhar aige *Gràmar Dùbailt Beurla is Gàidhlig*. Chaidh an leabhar fhoillseachadh ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a trì (1843). 'S e an t-ainm air an liosta *Improper Gaelic Phrases*. Tha *an fhear ud – yon fellow, that man* – nam measg.

Ach tha Foirbeis àilgheasach. Tha e ag ràdh nach eil *feagal* ceart airson “fear” no “fright”. Tha e ag ràdh gur e *eagal* a tha ceart. Agus tha e mì-thoilichte le *bhris e a chas*. Is toigh leis *bhris e a chas*. Ach buinidh na rudan seo do dhualchainntean na Gàidhlig. Agus nach eil beairteas anns na dualchainntean againn?

Tha seo aig Foirbeis: *Àrdachdainn, cruinneachdainn, cinneachdainn, ceasnachdainn ... and the like are improperly used by vulgar speakers for àrdachadh, cruinneachadh, ceasnachadh etc.* Ach 's e sin rud dualchainnteach cuideachd. Agus tha seo aige: *The erroneous practice of pronouncing adh or eadh like ubh prevails to a great extent in Ross and Sutherlandshire; as bheirubh, chuirubh, chitu ... for bheireadh, chuireadh, chiteadh...* Obh obh! 'S e a bha cruaidh!

Tha liosta de dh'abairtean Frangach aig Foirbeis. Tha a' Ghàidhlig ann air an son cuideachd. Tha mi a' dol a thoirt dhuibh na Gàidhlig. Tha mi airson 's gun can sibhse dè an Fhraingis a th' air gach abairt Ghàidhlig.

Seo a-nist iad: Ceann ri ceann. Ceann ri ceann – *tête-à-tête*. Stràc crìochnachaidh. Stràc crìochnachaidh – *coup de grâce*; Seòmar uaigneach mnà uaisle. Seòmar uaigneach mnà uaisle – *boudoir*. Ann am meall. Ann am meall – *en masse*. Gille-seòmair. Gille-seòmair – *valet de chambre*. Fear ionnsaichte. Fear ionnsaichte – *savant*. Dia 's mo chòir. Dia 's mo chòir – *Dieu et mon Droit*.

An robh sibh math orra? Bha? *Très bien!* Glè mhath. Agus a-nise, mar a chanas na Frangaich – *au revoir*.

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Faclan is abairtean: tha x air a dhol rud beag boireann: *X has gone a bit feminine*; sin am fear a bha mi a' ciallachadh: *that's the man I was meaning*; an e rud ùr a th' ann?: *is it a new thing?* bha feadhainn ag ràdh sin: *some were saying that*; tràth anns an naoidheamh linn deug: *early in the 19th Century*; Iain Foirbeis: *John Forbes*; chaidh an leabhar fhoillseachadh: *the book was published*; nam measg: *among them*; àilgheasach: *fussy, hard to please*; tha e ag ràdh gur e eagal a tha ceart: *he says that it is eagal that is correct*; buinidh na rudan seo do dhualchainntean: *these things belong to dialects*; nach eil beairteas anns na dualchainntean againn?: *isn't there richness in our dialects?*; àrdachadh: *advancement, elevation*; cruinneachadh: *gathering, collecting*; ceasnachadh: *question, interrogate*; dualchainnteach: *dialectal*; Obh obh! 'S e a bha cruaidh!: *Oh dear! It's him that was severe*; liosta de dh'abairtean Frangach: *a list of French phrases*; tha mi a' dol a thoirt dhuibh: *I am going to give you*; tha mi airson 's gun can sibhse: *I want you to say*; dè an Fhraingis a th' air gach abairt Ghàidhlig: *what the French is for each Gaelic phrase*; seòmar uaigneach mnà uaisle: *a lady's private room*; an robh sibh math orra?: *were you good at them?*; mar a chanas na Frangaich: *as the French say*.

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