

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 105 (which corresponds to Litir 409). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

An ath-mhìos bidh deich bliadhna ann bho cheannaich muinntir Eige an t-eilean aca. Anns an Ògmhios naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a seachd (1997), fhuair Urras Eige sealbh air an eilean. Roimhe sin bha mòran anns an eilean mì-thoilichte leis na h-uachdarain a bh' aca.

Bha mi ann an Eige anns na naochadan mar neach-naidheachd. Bha sin as t-samhradh, naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a ceithir (1994). Bha muinntir an eilein a' faighinn smachd air Urras Eige air an latha sin. 'S e Urras Eige a' bhuidheann a bha ag iarraidh an t-eilean a cheannach. Ach cha robh an t-uachdaran ag iarraidh an t-eilean a reic dhaibh.

Rinn mi agallamhan airson Radio nan Gàidheal. Bha sin le seann daoine a bhuineadh don eilean. Ach bha bonaid na Beurla orm cuideachd. Bha mi ann cuideachd as leth Radio Alba – seirbheis rèidio Bheurla a' BhBC. Bha mi ag iarraidh agallamh a dhèanamh leis an uachdaran, Keith Schellenberg. Choisich mi suas am bruthach don taigh mhòr. Bha Mgr Schellenberg a-staigh.

Cha robh e idir coltach ris an dealbh anns na meadhanan. Bha e uabhasach laghach. Bha e èibhinn. Bha e dòigheil. Uill, bha sin mus tug mi am maicreafòn a-mach.

Chuir mi ceistean air mun choimhearsnachd, agus gun robh iad ag iarraidh an t-eilean a cheannach. Dh'atharraich a shunnd. Dh'fhàs e feargach. Bha e a' cur sìos air "comannaich" is "comannachas". Bha droch bheachd aige air uachdranachd phoblach. Bha meas aige air na daoine a bha à Eige bho thùs. Ach cha robh deagh bheachd aige air cuid eile a bha a' fuireach anns an eilean. Agus cha robh deagh bheachd aig na daoine sin air an uachdaran.

Bha mi a' smaoinachadh nach robh Keith Schellenberg a' dol a bhith ann fada. Agus cha robh. Ach chan e Urras Eige a cheannaich an t-eilean. Nochd fear eile às an adhar. Fear air an robh "Maruma". A bheil cuimhne agaibh air?

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Faclan is abairtean: an ath-mhìos: *next month*; bidh deich bliadhna ann bho cheannaich muinntir Eige an t-eilean aca: *ten years will have elapsed since the people bought their island*; sealbh: *ownership*; roimhe sin bha mòran anns an

eilean mì-thoilichte leis na h-uachdarain: *before that many on the island were unhappy with the landlords*; anns na naochadan: *in the nineties*; smachd: *control*; a bha ag iarraidh an t-eilean a cheannach: *that wanted to buy the island*; cha robh an t-uachdaran ag iarraidh an t-eilean a reic dhaibh: *the landlord didn't want to sell the island to them*; bha bonaid na Beurla orm: *I had the English language hat on*; bha mi ag iarraidh agallamh a dhèanamh: *I was wanting to do an interview*; choisich mi suas am bruthach don taigh mhòr: *I walked up the slope to the big [estate] house*; coltach ris an dealbh anns na meadhanan: *like the picture in the media*; uabhasach laghach: *very nice*; èibhinn: *funny*; dòigheil: *reasonable*; mus tug mi am maicreafòn a-mach: *before I brought out the microphone*; chuir mi ceistean air mun choimhearsnachd: *I asked him questions about the community*; dh'atharraich a shunnd: *his mood changed*; feargach: *angry*; bha e a' cur sìos air "comannaich" is "comannachas": *he was dismissive of "communists" and "communism"*; bha droch bheachd aige air uachdranachd phoblach: *he had a poor opinion of public landlordism*; bha meas aige air na daoine a bha à Eige bho thùs: *he respected the people who belonged to Eigg originally*; chan e Urras Eige a cheannaich an t-eilean: *it is not the Eigg Trust that bought the island*; nochd fear eile às an adhar: *another man appeared out of the blue [sky]*; fear air an robh "Maruma": *a man called "Maruma"*; a bheil cuimhne agaibh air?: *do you remember him?*

ends