

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 125 (which corresponds to Litir 429). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.*

Ann an ceithir cheud deug, fichead 's a seachd (1427) bha coinneamh mhòr ann an Inbhir Nis. Bha an Rìgh, Seumas I, ann. Bha, agus na cinn-chinnidh Ghàidhealach. Bha na cinn-chinnidh a' smaoinichadh gun robh an Rìgh a' dol a chur fàilte orra. Ach cha do chuir. Chuir an Rìgh na cinn-chinnidh an grèim. Chuir e feadhainn gu bàs.

B' e an ceann-cinnidh a bu chumhachdaiche Tighearna nan Eilean. B' esan Alasdair Dòmhnallach. Bha Alasdair agus a mhàthair air an cur don phrìosan. Ach chaidh Alasdair a shaoradh. Ge-tà, bha e gu math mì-thoilichte leis an Rìgh. Nuair a bha an Rìgh air ais ann an ceann a deas na h-Alba, thog Alasdair arm a-rithist. Bha deich mìle duine aige.

Rinn e sgrios air mòran àiteachan aig a' Chrùn. Bha Inbhir Nis na bhaile rìoghail. Loisg e Inbhir Nis gu lèr.

Bha an Rìgh feargach. Chuir e fhèin arm ri chèile. Rinn e air Loch Abar. Cha robh na saighdearan aig Alasdair uabhasach dìleas dha. Dh'fhalbh na Camshronaich. Dh'fhalbh Clann Chatain. Cha robh an t-arm aig Alasdair mòr gu leòr airson seasamh an aghaidh an Rìgh. Ghèill Alasdair don Rìgh. Chaidh a chur don phrìosan ann an Tuntalla ann an Lodainn. Bha seo ann an ceithir cheud deug, fichead 's a naoi (1429).

Ach cha robh ar-a-mach nan Dòmhnallach seachad. Chuir caraid aig Alasdair, Dòmhnall Ballach, feachd ri chèile. Thachair i ri arm an Rìgh ann an Inbhir Lòchaidh as t-Sultain ceithir cheud deug, trithead 's a h-aon (1431). 'S iad Iarla Mhàrr is Iarla Ghallaibh a bha os cionn arm an Rìgh. Ach chaill iad. Thug na Dòmhnallaich buaidh.

Theich Iarla Mhàrr agus, goirid às dèidh sin, sgrìobh e an dàn '*S Math an Còcaire an t-Acras*. Ach bha e beò airson dìreach ceithir bliadhna eile. Anns an leabhar *Inverness and the MacDonalds*, tha Evan Barron ag ràdh gun do chaochail e ann an ceithir cheud deug, trithead 's a còig (1435) ann an Inbhir Nis.

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Faclan is abairtean: Bha an Rìgh, Seumas I, ann: *the King, James I, was there;* bha, agus na cinn-chinnidh Ghàidhealach: *and so were the Highland clan chiefs;* gun robh an Rìgh a' dol a chur fàilte orra: *that the King was going to welcome*

them; chuir an Rìgh na cinn-chinnidh an grèim: the King arrested the clan chiefs; chuir e feadhainn gu bàs: he put some to death [ie had them executed]; b' e an ceann-cinnidh a bu chumhachdaiche Tighearna nan Eilean: the most powerful clan chief was the Lord of the Isles; chaidh Alasdair a shaoradh: Alasdair was freed; air ais ann an ceann a deas na h-Alba: back in the south of Scotland; thog Alasdair arm a-rithist: Alasdair raised an army again; rinn e sgrios air mòran àiteachan aig a' Chrùn: he destroyed many places owned by the Crown; bha Inbhir Nis na bhaile rìoghail: Inverness was a royal burgh; loisg e Inbhir Nis gu làr: he burned Inverness to the ground; rinn e air Loch Abar: he made for Lochaber; dh'fhalbh na Camshronaich: the Camerons left; dh'fhalbh Clann Chatain: Clan Chattan left; mòr gu leòr airson seasamh an aghaidh an Rìgh: big enough to stand against the King; ghèill Alasdair: Alasdair submitted; chaidh a chur don phrìosan ann an Tuntalla ann an Lodainn: he was sent to prison in Tantallon (Castle) in Lothian; cha robh ar-a-mach nan Dòmhnallach seachad: the MacDonalds' rebellion was not finished; caraid: relation; ann an Inbhir Lòchaidh as t-Sultain: at Inverlochy in September; 's iad Iarla Mhàrr is Iarla Ghallaibh a bha os cionn arm an Rìgh: it was the Earl of Mar and the Earl of Caithness that were in charge of the King's army; thug na Dòmhnallaich buaidh: the MacDonalds were victorious; airson dìreach ceithir bliadhna eile: for only another four years; gun do chaochail e: that he died.

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