

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 130 (which corresponds to Litir 434). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh an-diugh mu reuladair ainmeil Gàidhealach. A bheil sibh eòlach air an fhacal "reuladair"? 'S e sin a' Ghàidhlig air "astronomer". Reuladair. 'S e an t-ainm a bha air an reuladair Ghàidhealach – Johann von Lamont. Bha e beò anns an naoidheamh linn deug. Bha e uabhasach ainmeil mar neach-saidheans. Johann von Lamont? Fear Gàidhealach?! Uill, feumaidh mi tuilleadh innse dhuibh. 'S e Johann von Lamont ainm Gearmailteach. Ach 's e Albannach a bha anns an duine. Ann am Beurla, b' e ainm "John Lamont".

Rugadh John ann an ochd ceud deug 's a còig (1805) ann an Coire Mhuillidh. Tha Coire Mhuillidh ann an Bràigh Mhàrr ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain. Aig toiseach an naoidheamh linn deug, bha na daoine an sin gu math Gàidhealach. Eadhon aig deireadh an naoidheamh linn deug, bha Gàidhlig aig ochdad 's a sia às a' cheud (86%) dhen t-sluagh. Mar sin, tha mi a' dèanamh dheth gun robh Gàidhlig aig John Lamont.

B' e John an aon phàiste aig Raibeart is Ealasaid Lamont. Bha Raibeart na choilltear. Bha e ag obair air oighreachd Iarla Fìobha. B' e frith-ainm seanair John "Am Fear Òg Buidhe". Agus b' e frith-ainm a shinn-sheanar "An Seanair Buidhe". Bha falt buidhe a' ruith anns an teaghlach. Bha "seanair" anns an fhrith-ainm a' ciallachadh "èildear anns an Eaglais Chlèirich". Bha an Seanair Buidhe na Chlèireach an toiseach. Ach chaidh e a-null don Eaglais Chaitligich ann an seachd ceud deug 's a còig (1705). Bha an creideamh Caitligeach làidir ann am Bràigh Mhàrr.

Bha John – an reuladair – Caitligeach cuideachd. 'S e sgoilear math a bha ann. Chaidh e gu sgoil bheag anns an sgìre. Bha ùidh aige anns na speuran nuair a bha e òg. Bha e a' coimhead air na rionnagan air an oidhche. Chunnaic e Slighe Chlann Uisnich agus na rionnagan is planaidean. Tha sinn fhathast fada bhon Ghearmailt, ge-tà. Ach thèid sinn ann an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: Tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh an-diugh mu reuladair ainmeil: *I'm going to tell you today about a famous astronomer*; bha e beò anns an naoidheamh linn deug: *he was alive in the 19th Century*; ainmeil mar neach-saidheans: *famous as a scientist*; feumaidh mi tuilleadh innse dhuibh: *I must tell*

you more; ainm Gearmailteach: a German name; 's e Albannach a bha anns an duine: the man was a Scot; tha Coire Mhuillidh ann an Bràigh Mhàrr ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain: Corriemulzie is in Braemar in Aberdeenshire; eadhon aig deireadh an naoidheamh linn deug: even at the end of the 19th Century; tha mi a' dèanamh dheth gun robh Gàidhlig aig X: I reckon X spoke Gaelic; b' e John an aon phàiste: John was the only child; bha Raibeart na choilltear: Robert was a forester; oighreachd Iarla Fìobha: the Earl of Fife's estate; b' e frith-ainm a shinn-sheanar "An Seanair Buidhe": the nickname of his great-grandfather was "the yellow-haired elder"; a' ruith anns an teaghlach: running in the family; èildear anns an Eaglais Chlèirich: elder in the Presbyterian Church; bha X na Chlèireach an toiseach: X was originally a Presbyterian; chaidh e a-null don Eaglais Chaitligich: he went over to the Catholic Church; an creideamh Caitligeach: the Catholic church; 's e sgoilear math a bha ann: he was a good student; bha ùidh aige anns na speuran: he was interested in the heavens (stars); a' coimhead air na rionnagan: watching the stars; Slighe Chlann Uisnich: The Milky Way; planaidean: planets; tha sinn fhathast fada bhon Ghearmailt, ge-tà: we're still a long way from Germany, however; thèid sinn ann an ath-sheachdain: we'll go there next week.

ends