

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 131 (which corresponds to Litir 435). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha John Lamont ainmeil mar reuladair. Bha e beò anns an naoidheamh linn deug. 'S e Albannach a bha ann. Bha e à sgìre Ghàidhealach ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain. Ach dh'fhàs e ainmeil anns a' Ghearmailt. Tha mòran eòlach air mar "Johann von Lamont".

Bha colaiste Chaitligeach Albannach ann am Babhàiria anns an naoidheamh linn deug. Aig aois dusan bliadhna, fhuair John àite anns a' cholaiste. 'S e sgoilear uabhasach math a bha ann. Bha e anns a' cholaiste beagan bhliadhnaichean. Bha e fìor mhath air Matamataig. Cho-dhùin e gun a bhith na shagart. Dh'fhàg e a' cholaiste. Chaidh gu ionad-foghlaim saidheansail ann am Munich. Dh'ionnsaich e mu shaidheans is reul-eòlas.

Rinn e adhartas proifeiseanta gu luath. Taobh a-staigh beagan bhliadhnaichean fhuair e dreuchd shònraichte – Reuladair Rìoghail Bhabhàiria. Bha prosbaig mhòr mhòr aige. Thug e sùil air na rionnagan. Rinn e mapaichean de na rionnagan. Chlàir e na mìltean de rionnagan.

Dh'fhàs e beartach. Chaidh Sagart Bhràigh Mhàrr a chèilidh air. Ghabh e iongnadh cho beartach 's a bha John. Ach bha beatha shìmplidh aige. Cha do phòs e. Cha do chosg e mòran airgid air fhèin.

Ann an ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a dhà (1852), fhuair e dreuchd eile – Proifeasair an Reul-eòlais ann an Oilthigh Mhùnich. Rinn e obair air dubhadh na grèine. Rinn e obair mhòr cuideachd air a' phlanaid Uranus. B' esan a chiad duine a rinn tomhas ceart air cuideam Uranus. Rinn e obair air Saturn cuideachd.

Fhuair John ballrachd ann an Acadamaidhean Rìoghail Bhabhàiria is Dhùn Èideann. Fhuair e ballrachd ann an Acadamaidhean na Bruiseil, Upsala is Prag – agus buidhnean acadamaigeach eile. Bha e na Ridire ann an grunn bhuidhnean. Bha e na Ridire ann am Babhàiria. Air sgàth sin, bha cead aige "von" a chur ri ainm. Bho John Lamont, dh'èirich Johann von Lamont. Bheir sinn sùil a bharrachd air an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: ainmeil mar reuladair: *famous as an astronomer*; bha e beò anns an naoidheamh linn deug: *he was alive in the 19th Century*; à sgìre Ghàidhealach ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain: *from a Gaelic area in*

Aberdeenshire; anns a' Ghearmailt: in Germany; tha mòran eòlach air mar: many people know him as; colaiste Chaitligeach: a Catholic college; fhuair John àite: John got a place; beagan bhliadhnaichean: a few years; bha e fìor mhath air Matamataig: he was excellent at Mathematics; cho-dhùin e gun a bhith na shagart: he decided not to be a priest; dh'ionnsaich e mu shaidheans is reul-eòlas: he learned about science and astronomy; rinn e adhartas proifeiseanta gu luath: he made fast professional progress; taobh a-staigh beagan bhliadhnaichean: within a few years; Reuladair Rìoghail Bhabhàiria: Astronomer Royal of Bavaria; prosbaig: telescope; thug e sùil air na rionnagan: he looked at the stars; rinn e mapaichean: he made maps; chlàir e na mìltean: he recorded thousands; Sagart Bhràigh Mhàrr: the Braemar priest; ghabh e iongnadh cho beartach 's a bha John: he was surprised by how wealthy John was; beatha shìmplidh: a simple life; cha do phòs e: he didn't marry; cha do chosg e mòran airgid air fhèin: he didn't spend much money on himself; Reul-eòlas: Astronomy; dubhadh na grèine: the solar eclipse; b' esan a chiad duine a rinn tomhas ceart air cuideam Uranus: he was the first person to accurately assess the mass of Uranus; ballrachd ann an Acadamaidhean Rìoghail Bhabhàiria is Dhùn Èideann: membership in the Royal Academies of Bavaria and Edinburgh; buidhnean acadamaigeach eile: other academic bodies; bha e na Ridire ann an grunn bhuidhnean: he was a Knight of [in] several bodies; bha cead aige "von" a chur ri ainm: he was allowed to put "von" to his name; dh'èirich: arose.

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