

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 209 (which corresponds to Litir 513). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Here's a puzzle for you. What is the "wee lass"?

*Wee lass of the fair coat
In the barn and in the kiln
The more she ate
The smaller she grew.*

Do you have it? Here it is again.

*Wee lass of the fair coat
In the barn and in the kiln
The more she ate
The smaller she grew.*

The wee lass of the fair coat is a candle. The more the candle "ate" of wax, the smaller it became

I want to tell you about an amazing Scotsman. He was Robert Cunninghame Graham. He was famous as a writer and a political person.

Robert belonged to the gentry. His mother was half Spanish. Spanish was his first language. He was at Harrow public [private] school in England.

He went to Argentina. He made a fortune as a cattle rancher. He was skilful on horseback. He was famous as a gaucho (cowboy). In Argentina he was called Don

Seo tòimhseachan dhuibh. Dè tha anns an "nighean bheag"?

*Nighean bheag a' chòta bhàin
Anns an t-sabhal is anns an àth
Mar (a) bu mhotha a bha i 'g ith'
'S ann (a) bu lugha a bha i (a') fàs
A bheil e agaibh? Seo e a-rithist:*

*Nighean bheag a' chòta bhàin
Anns an t-sabhal is anns an àth
Mar (a) bu mhotha a bha i 'g ith'
'S ann (a) bu lugha a bha i (a') fàs
'S e nighean bheag a' chòta bhàin –
coinneal. Mar a bu mhotha a bha a'
choinneal ag "ithe" de chèir, 's ann a bu
lugha a bha i a' fàs.*

Tha mi ag iarraidh innse dhuibh mu Albannach iongantach. B' esan Raibeart Coineagan Greumach. Bha e ainmeil mar sgrìobhadair agus mar neach poilitigeach.

Bhuineadh Raibeart do na h-uaislean. Bha a mhàthair leth-Spàinnteach. 'S e Spàinntis a' chiad chànan a bha aige. Bha e aig sgoil phrìobhaideach Harrow ann an Sasainn.

Chaidh e a dh'Argentina. Rinn e airgead mòr mar rainsear cruiddh. Bha e sgileil air muin eich. Bha e ainmeil mar gaucho. 'S e an t-ainm a bha air ann an Argentina – Don Roberto.

Roberto.

In 1883, his father died. Robert returned to Britain. He got involved in politics. He was a socialist. He stood as a Liberal candidate in the national election in 1886.

His manifesto was radical. He wanted rights for the workers and ordinary people. He wanted to abolish the House of Lords. He wanted all adults in the land to have the vote. He wanted to keep the working day at eight hours. He wanted self-government for Scotland.

Next week we'll look at the life of Robert Cunninghame Graham. It wasn't like a candle. It didn't diminish with age.

Ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a trì (1883), chaochail athair. Thill Raibeart a Bhreatainn. Chaidh e an sàs ann am poilitigs. 'S e sòisealach a bha ann. Sheas e mar thagraiche Libearalach anns an taghadh nàiseanta ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a sia (1886).

Bha am manifesto aige radaig-each. Bha e ag iarraidh còraichean do luchd-obrach is daoine àbhaisteach. Bha e ag iarraidh cur às do Thaigh nam Morairean. Bha e ag iarraidh bhòt a bhith aig a h-uile inbheach san rìogh-achd. Bha e ag iarraidh an latha-obrach a chumail aig ochd uairean a thìde. Bha e ag iarraidh fèin-riaghladh airson Alba.

An ath-sheachdain bheir sinn sùil air beatha Raibeirt Choineagain Ghreumaich. Cha robh i coltach ri coinneal. Cha do dh'fhàs i na bu lugha le aois.