

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 298 (which corresponds to Litir 602). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk.

It's the Rev James Stuart [also "Stewart"] who made the first translation of the New Testament into Scottish Gaelic. He was the minister in Killin in Perthshire. The New Testament appeared in 1767.

James Stuart was born in 1700. That was in Glen Fin(g)las in the Trossachs. He started as minister in Killin in 1737.

He obtained praise from Samuel Johnson, the famous Englishman. Johnson wrote to the SSPCK – Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. He criticized them. They hadn't been willing to teach the scriptures to the Gaels in Gaelic. Johnson praised James Stuart for what he was doing as a translator.

James Stuart died in 1789. That was twenty two years after the New Testament appeared. But when he died, there were still many copies of the book in Church storage. That was in Edinburgh. They weren't getting out to the Highlands.

'S e An t-Urramach Seumas Stiùbhart a rinn a' chiad eadar-theangachadh dhen Tiomnadh Nuadh gu Gàidhlig na h-Alba. B' esan am ministear ann an Cill Fhinn ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. Nochd an Tiomnadh Nuadh ann an seachd ceud deug, seasgad 's a seachd (1767).

Rugadh Seumas Stiùbhart ann an seachd ceud deug (1700). Bha sin ann an Gleann Fhionnghlais anns na Tròis-eachan. Thòisich e mar mhinistear ann an Cill Fhinn ann an seachd ceud deug, trithead 's a seachd (1737).

Fhuair e moladh bho Shomhairle MacIain, an Sasannach ainmeil. Sgrìobh MacIain don SSPCK – Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Rinn e càineadh orra. Cha robh iad air a bhith deònach na sgrìobtaran a theagasg do na Gàidheil ann an Gàidhlig. Mhol MacIain Seumas Stiùbhart airson na bha e a' dèanamh mar eadar-theangair.

Chaochail Seumas Stiùbhart ann an seachd ceud deug, ochdad 's a naoi (1789). Bha sin dà bhliadhna fichead às dèidh don Tiomnadh Nuadh nochdadh. Ach nuair a chaochail e, bha mòran lethbhreac dhen leabhar fhathast ann an stòras aig an Eaglais. Bha sin ann an Dùn Èideann. Cha robh iad a' faighinn

<p><i>James Stuart was buried in the graveyard in Killin. But he didn't have a gravestone raised for him. A hundred years after his death, however, the Gaelic Society of Perth raised a monument to him outside the church in Killin.</i></p> <p><i>The SSPCK was wanting to use Gaelic to improve literacy in English. They promoted the translation[s] of the scriptures to Gaelic. In 1776, they decided to produce the Old Testament in Gaelic. The Rev Dr Iain Stuart, minister in Luss [on Loch Lomondside], was involved in the project. He was a son of James Stuart.</i></p> <p><i>The Old Testament was completed in 1801. Eighteen thousand copies were printed. Finally, the entire Bible was in Gaelic</i></p>	<p>a-mach don Ghàidhealtachd.</p> <p>Chaidh Seumas Stiùbhart a thiodhlacadh anns a' chladh ann an Cill Fhinn. Ach cha deach clach-uaighe a thogail dha. Ceud bliadhna às dèidh a bhàis, ge-tà, thog Comunn Gàidhealach Pheairt carragh-cuimhne dha taobh a-muigh na h-eaglais ann an Cill Fhinn.</p> <p>Bha an SSPCK ag iarraidh a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh airson litearrachd ann am Beurla dhèanamh nas fheàrr. Thug iad taic do dh'eadartheangachaidhean de na sgrìobtaran gu Gàidhlig. Ann an seachd ceud deug, seachdad 's a sia (1776) cho-dhùin iad an Seann Tiomnadh a dhèanamh ann an Gàidhlig. Bha an t-Oll Urr Iain Stiùbhart, ministear ann an Lus, an sàs anns a' phròiseict. B' esan mac Sheumais Stiùbhairt.</p> <p>Chaidh crìoch a chur air an t-Seann Tiomnadh ann an ochd ceud deug 's a h-aon (1801). Chaidh ochd mìle deug lethbhreac a chlò-bhualadh. Mu dheireadh thall, bha am Bìoball air fad ann an Gàidhlig.</p>
--	--