

# **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 968 (which corresponds to Litir 1,272). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learngaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learngaelic.scot).

*'There lived on fair Loch Rannoch-side, In slated cottage neat and bright, A woman famous far an wide, For gift of second-sight.'*

*That's how a poem begins. It is giving an account of a woman. She was living in Killichonan on the shore of Loch Rannoch. She had the second sight.*

*The poem's author was the Rev. John Sinclair. He was a minister at Kinloch Rannoch. He published the poem in the book Schiehallion in 1905.*

*The minister explains the matter in a foreword under the title The Second Sight: A Rannoch Mystery'. It's 'Sarah' that he called old woman. But I understand that her real name was Rachel Cameron.*

*Her reputation spread far and wide. The Marquis of Bute took an interest in her. He was involved in the Psychical Research Society. A commissioner of the group went to Rannoch to conduct an interview with Sarah in 1895.*

*The minister was listening in. Afterwards, he made a sort of recording of what Sarah said in the form of English poetry. She was married and had a large family.*

*There lived on fair Loch Rannoch-side, In slated cottage neat and bright, A woman famous far and wide, For gift of second-sight.*

'S ann mar sin a tha dàn a' tòiseachadh. Tha e a' dèanamh tuairisgeul de bhoireannach. Bha i a' fuireach ann an Cille Chonain air cladach Loch Raineach. Bha an dà shealladh aice.

B' e ùghdar an dàin an t-Urramach Iain Mac na Ceàrdaich. Bha e na mhinistear ann an Ceann Loch Raineach. Dh'fhoillsich e an dàn anns an leabhar Schiehallion ann an naoi ceud deug 's a còig (1905).

Tha am ministear a' mìneachadh a' ghnothaich ann an ro-ràdh fon tiotal 'The Second Sight: A Rannoch Mystery'. 'S e 'Sarah' a ghabh e air an t-seann bhoireannach. Ach tha mi a' tuigsinn gum b' e a fìor ainm 'Raghnaid Chamshron'.

Sgaoil a cliù fad is farsaing. Ghabh Marcas Bhòid ùidh innte. Bha esan an sàs anns an Psychical Research Society. Chaidh coimiseanair aig a' bhuidhinn a Raineach airson agallamh a dhèanamh le Sarah ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad 's a còig (1895).

Bha am ministear anns an èisteachd. An dèidh làimhe, rinn e nàdar de chlàr air na thuirt Sarah ann an riochd bàrdachd Beurla. Bha i pòsta agus bha teaghlach mòr aice.

<p><i>There is a cemetery in Killichonan. Often, Sarah would be seeing a ghost in the cemetery. She would be seeing people getting buried. And she would be hearing the sounds of a pick or spade being used in the cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>It's not only in Rannoch that her talents were useful. A man was drowned in Loch Awe in Argyll. That's a good way from Rannoch. A squad of people tried to find his body. They failed.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, they sent a letter to Sarah about the matter. On the same day she got the letter, she made a sketch of Loch Awe. She marked the place where the man's body was. When some folk went there, his body was exactly where the [female] seer said it would be.</i></p>	<p>Tha cladh ann an Cille Chonain. Gu tric, bhiodh Sarah a' faicinn taibhs anns a' chladh. Bhiodh i a' faicinn daoine – ann an riochd thaibhsean – air an tiodhlacadh. Agus bhiodh i a' cluinntinn fuaimnean piocaid no spaid ga h-obrachadh anns a' chladh.</p> <p>Chan ann a-mhàin ann an sgìre Raineach a bha a tàlantan feumail. Chaidh fear a bhàthadh ann an Loch Obha ann an Earra-Ghàidheal. Tha sin pìos mòr air falbh bho Raineach. Dh'fheuch sguad de dhaoine ri a chorp a lorg. Dh'fhàilnich orra.</p> <p>Aig a' cheann thall, chuir iad litir gu Sarah mun chùis. Air an dearbh latha a fhuair i an litir, rinn i sgeidse de Loch Obha. Chomharraich i an t-àite far an robh corp an duine. Nuair a chaidh feadhainn ann, bha a chorp dìreach far an tuirt a' bhan-fhàidh a bhitheadh e.</p>
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