Mo Chuimhne ar Leódhas
le Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons

I was born in a village on the east side of the Isle of Lewis, by the name of Aignish—“Aignish on the machair”, as the song goes. Aignish lies in the district of Point which is tied to the rest of the island by a narrow isthmus called the “Bràighe”. On one side of the isthmus road are shore and sand and machair; on the other side, shore. On the machair side is an old graveyard where my ancestors are buried and beside it, an old church—or church ruin—named for St. Columba. It seems the church was built in the middle ages on the foundation of a chapel dedicated to St. Catan who was alive in the time of St. Columba in the 6th century. In any case, 19 chiefs of Clan MacLeod are buried in this church; my mother was a MacLeod and naturally I’m interested in her lineage.

Remembering Lewis
by Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons

Go to http://www.acgamerica.org for more information on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.
Now long, long ago Point wasn’t attached to Lewis at all. One dark winter’s night, a fearful storm came with tremendous waves that pounded and battered the west of Scotland. While these fearful waves were crashing and threshing, the Isle of Lewis began to go off with the wind into the Atlantic Ocean. The people of Point noticed this and, going against the wind, threw a rope across to the island so that it wouldn’t float away. Through time, seaweed, algae and sand settled on the rope; little by little, this accumulated until finally there was an isthmus between Point and the Isle of Lewis. For that reason, the people of Lewis are much indebted to the people of Point for saving them. That’s the story anyway—and if it’s not true, that’s how I heard it!

At the time I grew up in Lewis after the Second World War, no-one spoke of Gaelic’s being in danger. True, it was in English we received our school education but Gaelic could be heard in homes and on the streets; and opportunities existed in elementary and high schools to learn Gaelic songs and access Gaelic classes. It was in Sandwickhill School that I learned at age 8 the song that won 2nd prize for me at the Lewis Mòd, the first mòd I ever attended! Before my time, the Highland Society published a book by Duncan MacDonald, then Headmaster of Sandwickhill School, entitled “Gaelic Idioms and Expressions, with free translations,” in 1932. These are still extremely useful. Unfortunately, this same school is due for closure this year due to shortage of students.
Duilleag 3

That I have the Gaelic today is due, I’m sure, to the influence of my father’s parents in Aignish. My grandmother had only a couple of words of English and so I spoke only Gaelic with her and my grandfather all the weekends and summers I spent with them. I used to help my grandfather with the outside work (make-believe, on my part!). Years after their death, one lovely summer’s day as I was walking on the path up towards Fortress Louisbourg in Cape Breton, the sea on one side and the scent of clover palpable from a field on the other side, my grandfather came strongly to mind and I put the following lines together:

Cuimhne

‘Nam shuidh’ am bucas cairt mo sheanar
’S mi beag biodach, air mo bhruathadh a-null
‘s a-null
‘S na rothan a’ leum air clachan a’ rathaid
‘S an làir a’ toirt céim gu trom’s gu mall.

Bha an dithis againn—mi-fhìn ‘s e-fhén
(Mise faireachdain cho mór!)—‘dol an tòir air
gainmhich bho’n tràigh.
Os ar cionn adhar breac gorm ‘s a’ cionacrachadh
ar sròinteann
Fàileadh cùbhraidh na seamraig bhàin.

Mi coiseachd eadar muir is achadh
Air mòr-thìr eile, ‘s goath bhlàth na mara
A’ gluasad tarsainn air a’ raon, geal le seamragan
‘S a’ toirt mo sheanar—glan, geur, gràdhaithe—
gu m’ aire.

(an clò ann a’ GAIRM, An Dùdlachd, 1990)

Remembrance

There was I, tiny wee, sitting in my grand-
father’s cart
Jostled back and forth
As the wheels leapt upon the stones of the road
And the mare plodded, heavy and slow.

The two of us—myself (feeling so big!) and
himself—
Going to fetch sand from the sea-shore.
Above us, a speckled blue sky and, caressing
our noses,
The sweet fragrance of the white clover.

Walking between sea and plain on another
continent
With the warm sea-wind moving across the field
White with clover, bringing my grandfather—
Bright, sharp, beloved—to my attention.

(published in GAIRM, December 1990)
Liam Crouse, a student at the University of Edinburgh and recipient of one of ACGA’s 2011 university scholarships, discusses here the origins of this late 16th century epic poem. You can read the whole poem here [http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/~sm00gt00/Sealg/Oran%20na%20Comhachaig.htm](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/~sm00gt00/Sealg/Oran%20na%20Comhachaig.htm) or in Duanaire na Sracaire: Songbook of the Pillagers, the anthology of Medieval Gaelic poetry edited by Wilson McLeod and Meg Bateman who have described Òran na Comhachaig as “an exposition of the Gaelic idea of dùthchas, a unity between land, people, and culture.” (p. 393) Part 1 of Liam’s article was printed in our December issue.

Óran na Comhachaig (c.1585) le Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaithe nan Dàn

Seanchas Òran na Comhachaig
(Pàirt 2)
le Liam Crouse

A rèir beul-aithris, tha dá thionndadh ann den sgeulachd air cùl an òrain. Cha bu thric a chluinnear a’ chaid tè: gun tug bean òg shearbh comhachag do Dòmhnall aosda mar thiodhlac, a bhith na companach dha, agus an uair sin rinn e òran dhi. Tha an sgeulachd eile ri chluintinn air feadh na dùthcha. B’ ann càirdeach do Mhac ‘ic Raghnaill a bhà Dòmhnall agus mar sin, bha failte roimh aig cuirm sam bith air a’ charrannag. Thàinig an t-earran a leanas o Sheumas Dòmhnullach Ruaidh, seanchaidh Earra-ghàidheal a tha fuireach ann an Dùn Èideann. “[Aon uair, fhuair e naidheachd gu robh cuirm gu bhith ann air a’ charrannag, ged nach d’ fhuair esan brath a chionns gu ro’ robh a’ sealg air Mòinteach Rainich. A dh’aindeoin sin, chuir e roimh a dhol ann co -dhiù agus choisich e-a-null on Dubh Lochan, ri taobh Fearsaid, don Eadarloch, grunnan mhiltean a dh’astar. Ràinig esan air locha agus a’ ghrian a’ dol fodha. Bha a h-uile coit (canu beag locha) air an tarraing a-steach agus bha esan air fhàgail na aonar air oir na locha, a’ faicinn nan solasan a’ priobadh o h-ùinneagan na crannaig. Cha chuala duine sam bith a bh’ air a’ charrannag eòigheachd Dhòmhnaill agus cha tèinig duine ga thogail thar an uisge don chuirm. Na aonar agus gun chompanach a mhuinntire, rinne a rathad dhachaigh agus an dorcha a’ dùmhlaichadh. Anns an dol -seachad, chunnaic e caileach-fhodha etealaich seachad air – sealg na a h-óidheche agus spiorad aonarach mar a leithid-sa – agus rinn e òran mòr dhi.”

In another version, instead of retiring homeward, he decided to erect a fire on the side of the loch. When he put a log to the fire, an owl appears from inside the log. In a dark irony, the opening of the song comes to mind, when Dòmhnall begins his conversation with the owl: “O sad Owl of Sròn,/ tonight your bed is sad.”

Traditions of the Song
(Part 2)
by Liam Crouse

According to oral accounts, there are two versions of the traditional story associated with the song. The first one is not well-known: that a bitter, young wife gave an owl to Dòmhnall as a present to give him company, and he composed the song then to the owl. Another story is far more renowned. It seems that Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaithe was related to MacDonald of Keppoch, which meant that he would have been welcome to any feast held on the island. The following is an excerpt from James MacDonald Reid, an Argyll seanchaidh who lives today in Edinburgh: “on a certain occasion [Dòmhnall] heard of such a feast although he’d missed out on a formal invitation as he’d been away hunting on Rannoch Moor. Nevertheless, he made his way to the shore of Loch Trèig, arriving as the sun set. The boats [coitean] were already drawn up at the crannog and the feast was underway with the lights shining from the lodge windows. No one could hear his calls and so no one paddled over to ferry him across to the feast. Alone and deprived of the company of his kinsmen, he set out on the track away from the island in the darkening night. Then he saw an owl, a night hunter and a solitary spirit like himself. It is to this owl that he composed his song.” In another version, instead of retiring homeward, he decided to erect a fire on the side of the loch. When he put a log to the fire, an owl appears from inside the log. In a dark irony, the opening of the song comes to mind, when Dòmhnall begins his conversation with the owl: “O sad Owl of Sròn,/ tonight your bed is sad.”
Is e òran mòr a th’ ann, anns gach brìgh den abairt, agus
gu deimhinne tha cuid a dhaoine den bheachd gur e co-
chruinneachaidh de òrain diofraichte a th’ ann. Aig beul
an òrain, tha Dòmhnall a’ togail còmhraidh ris a’
chomhachag. Bidh còmhraidhean ri ainmhidhean a’
nochdadh gu minig an seanchas nan Gàidheal. Thuirt a’
chomhachag gur comhaois i don darach, fear de na rudan
as sine a rèir beul-aithris, agus gum faca i mac a’
Bhrithimh, Fearghus mór, agus Torradan liath na Sròine,
triùir nach aithne dhuinn an-diugh.3 Tha e a’ moladh na
seilig agus cinn-cinnidh nan Dòmhnallach, agus ag
aithneachadh ainmean-àite a bha faisg air na shaoghal,
rud a bha cumanta an seann bhàrdachd (nuair a
ghairmeadh am bàrd an ainmean, bha e gan toirt beò,
mar gum biodh).4

Aig cridhe an òrain, tha Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaigh a’
làimhseachadh agus a’ deiligeadh ri aois. Is e aois fèin as
coireach gun do ràinig esan an loch fadalach. Tha a
chòmhradh ri Aois fhèin, aig deireadh an òrain, dubhach
dhà-riribh. Tha Dòmhnall a’ cuimhneathadh nan daoine
a dh’halbh (“leis am bu mhiannach glòir nan gadhair”)
agus a’ caoidh gun do dh’fhàs e fhèin aósda: “Nuair a
bha mi air dà chois,/ ‘s moch a shiùbhlaimh bhos is thall,/ach a-nis on fhuair mi tri,/ cha ghluais mi ach gu mìn
mall.” Tha fhios aige gum bi na beanntan agus na lochan
a’ mairisinn agus e, an tim nach fada, a’ caochladh. Aig
deireadh an òrain, tha Dòmhnall seasmhachd neo-
ghèillear, ag rádh nach gabhadh Aois a bhogha,

It is an epic song in every sense, certainly some
people have held the opinion that it is a
composite of numerous songs. At the beginning
of the song, Dòmhnall starts his conversation
with the Owl of Sròn. Animal conversations
are a common bardic device in many old
Gaelic poems. The owl then states that it is of
the same age as the oak that grows on the
moor, one of the oldest living things in Gaelic
folklore, and that it has seen the Son of the
Judge, Fergus mór, and Torradan liath of Sròn,
three whom we do not recognise today.3 In
usual Gaelic fashion, he praises the hunt and
the MacDonald chieftains, as well as calling
out local placenames, another common bardic
practice.4

At the heart of the song, however, Dòmhnall
wrestles with age. It was his age which made
him late to the feast, making it so that he did
not reach the crannog. His conversation with
Age itself, at the end of the song, is jaded.
Dòmhnall remembers dead clan members with
whom he would hunt and regrets that he
himself has grown old: “When I walked on two
feet,/ early would I travel far and wide,/ but
now that I have acquired a third,/ I do not move
but slowly.” At the end of the song, Dòmhnall
is unrelenting, saying that Age will never take
If you don’t know the Gaelic for “Bookkeeper”

You can still be the new bookkeeper for ACGA!

As Bookkeeper, you will categorize deposits and checks so that we understand where our money comes from and where it goes, reconcile our various bank accounts, prepare annual budget documents and quarterly financial reports, and participate in our quarterly Board meetings. Note that the Treasurer (currently Jeanne Pendergast) actually handles the money (manages the money accounts, makes payments, etc.).

Heather Sparling has set up an excellent system using QuickBooks, by Intuit, and will train you. ACGA will provide this software if you don’t already have it.

For more details, contact Heather at heather_sparling@cbu.ca.
Welcome to spring! It’s good that the weather is becoming warm and that the ‘Wheel of Time’ is turning around to this time of year again. I hope that you all had a good winter and that you are all well.

Many things are happening this season within ACGA. The board of directors has been very busy preparing for everything coming up. Some of the upcoming events include the Mòd (and it will be the 25th this year -- more on that in the next letter), our Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, and our scholarship competition for university students who are studying Gaelic or in Gaelic. But most importantly, there will be a special event in April. The Immersion Weekend is going to happen!

Now, it will be no ordinary IW this year. No sir. We have held this event for years, but the thing that makes this year’s IW so special is that it is being organized by two groups, ACGA and The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society (NACHS). I have spent many hours steering a small committee with members from both groups to set up the IW for this year. Perhaps you all have sad memories of the IW not happening last year, and it was a lack of participants that was the cause for its cancellation. Well, I’m a-tellin’ you guys that I was not about to let that happen this year at all! Therefore, when I received an invitation to teach in Arizona, I said, “Why don’t we come together to throw this year’s IW?” And that’s what’s going to happen. This will be the first time that ACGA has put a program together with another organization (as far as I know, anyway). If all goes well, I am hoping that we will be able to do the same thing in other areas of the States and also Canada in the future!

At any rate, come one, come all to Flagstaff where you’ll get a warm welcome (and perhaps warm weather too) so that you can improve your Gaelic -- ACGA style!
Leek Soup

5 large stalks of leeks
2 medium potatoes
1 medium onion
2 tsp thyme
6 cups chicken broth
2 tbsp. butter
pepper

Melt the butter in a large pan. Cut the bottom and tops off the leeks and put into the pan with the cut up onion. Stir the mixture on medium heat until it becomes soft. Add the chicken broth. You can use Knorr's, if you like. Now add the peeled and cut up potato, the thyme and pepper. Heat the mixture gently and maintain this for 20 minutes. Put the mixture in to a blender and process it until it is smooth. You may add a dollop of cream on each portion before serving.

Duilleag 8
We were sorry to learn of the death of ACGA member Gordon Bowie on January 5. Gordon’s life was all about music, which he performed, conducted, composed, taught, and even examined for copyright in his job at the Library of Congress. But for the last several years, he was also an avid student of Gaelic, along with his wife, Mary, who wrote the accompanying letter.

Gordon and Mary’s Excellent (Gaelic) Adventure
By Mary Bowie

Gordon started Gaelic studies because he got interested in Scottish (orchestral) music; shortly after the time he began to program some Scots tunes for band at his concerts, the Library of Congress where he worked started offering a Gaelic lunch roundtable, led by Stuart Morrison Stone. Stuart may not have been a renowned Gaelic scholar, but he was an experienced teacher of foreign languages, and Gordon appreciated learning alongside of someone who knew how to teach language skills. After a couple of months, I became fascinated (as I was by anything that was important to Gordon) and I asked him to teach me a phrase or two.

Knowing how much I liked and enjoyed an occasional dram, the first Gaelic phrase that I learned from Gordon was “Tha mi ag iarraidh uisge beatha eile, mas e ur toil e.” I dutifully memorized it (appreciating its meaning wholeheartedly) and whenever any of my friends at work would say “What have you learned to say in Gaelic?” I would enjoy spouting it off.

A few months later we joined a Gaelic conversation group/class that Nick [Freer] taught once every two weeks, and the group struggled by ourselves on the off weeks. Once I retired from my full-time job I also joined Stuart’s Gaelic table at the LoC where Gordon continued to work. Mostly I followed Gordon’s footsteps and enjoyed trying to painfully learn what he seemed to pick up so very easily.

Our Gaelic study led to a desire to visit Scotland—ancestral home country for both of us—and our first trip there included a week at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as well as time on Islay and Mull. After that came a nearly annual trip to the islands (only one year out of six missed) including three wonderful weeks in the Outer Hebrides, exploring all the way from Barra to Lewis. This past year’s trip, our last together, was two weeks on Islay (our favorite of all the islands except perhaps Barra) and Mull. I think he knew, somewhere down deep, that it would be his last trip “home.”

Each trip we would bring back armloads of books. Gordon read them all, with a dictionary in one hand (at least for the beginning years) and a novel in the other. I concentrated on children’s books (which are still about my speed) and occasional forays into “teen” novels that Gordon thought I could manage. He also read the Gaelic pages of The Scotsman as often as they were published. Once our “classes” such as they were, ended, we simply trudged forward on our own — Nick’s “real” class was on Saturdays which simply didn’t fit into our schedule.

Now I have resolved to begin again with Nick’s Saturday class, and keep moving forward as best I can. It still doesn’t fit my schedule, but I’ll rearrange when I can because it’s important to me to have someone’s help in following the footsteps I so dearly loved.

There were nearly 300 people at Gordon’s memorial — I know because the funeral home set out 200 chairs and there were three rooms and a hallway packed shoulder-to-shoulder with standees. Most of them were music people, but there were many others whose lives he touched in other ways — from the Library of Congress where he worked, and from the boating community where we spent much of our time. The good wishes of the Gaelic community were there, too, although I don’t remember seeing anyone from either of our Gaelic groups. However, I was proudly wearing a scarf of the Bowie Ancient tartan, and our son was wearing his father’s signet. The Gaelic world was represented.
ACGA/Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society Joint Gaelic Immersion Weekend

Where  Holiday Inn Express, Flagstaff AZ
When   Thursday April 19th, 2012  – Sunday April 22nd, 2012

Schedule
Thursday, April 19th
- Registration, Meet & Greet Dinner (not included in price)
Friday, April 20th
- Classes, workshops
Saturday, April 21st
- Classes, workshops, evening banquet
Sunday, April 22nd
- Classes, departure 12 pm

Instructors
Muriel Fisher (Skye, Arizona)
Michael Mackay (Virginia)
Scott Morrison (Maryland)

Tuition
$275  Tuition only (includes Fri./ Sat. lunch, Fri. dinner, Sat. banquet)
$315  Tuition + Shuttle to / from PHX airport (limited availability)
$75   Non-attending family member (covers meals as above)

Accommodation
NOTE: Tuition does not include hotel cost
If you wish to stay at the event hotel (recommended for best interaction with other attendees), you must contact Holiday Inn Express Flagstaff at 1-800-315-2621 to make personal reservations for the event at $81/night, continental breakfast included. Multiple occupancy is allowed at that price.

See http://www.acgamerica.org/events-1/immersion-weekend/2012-iw-info for details and link to the registration form and PayPal payment option.

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week

Where  Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk NC
When   Sunday, July 8th, 2012  – Friday, July 13th, 2012

Schedule
Sunday July 8th
- Arrival, registration 3pm
Monday thru Friday
- Classes, workshops
Friday July 13th
- Departure 12pm

The 57th Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 12-15, 2012 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville NC. The North Carolina Mòd takes place Saturday afternoon at the games.

Instructors
Michael McKay
2 other instructors, TBA

Description
The course will consist of language and song classes at graduated levels. Other activities include special interest sessions in the afternoon, an evening ceòilidh, a silent auction, hikes in the beautiful surrounding mountains and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd which is held during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Lees-McRae College
The college is located in Banner Elk NC about 2 hours from Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

More information will become available at a later date, including registration forms. Please see www.acgamerica.org.
Mòd Chanada

Where  University of Ottowa, Ottawa, ON Canada  
When  Friday, June 8th, 2012 - Sunday, June 10th, 2012

Schedule  
Friday, June 8th  
• Speaking / Oral / Drama events (pm)
Saturday, June 9th  
• Singing / Choral / Instrumental / Art / Dance (TBC) / CD Launch
Sunday, June 10th  
• Singing workshop (am) / Mòd Cèilidh (pm)

Adjudicators  
Gàidhlig Singing / Speaking event adjudicator  
Cätriona NicÌomhair Parsons. As well as adjudicating, Catriona will officially launch her CD, Eileanain mo Ghaoil / Isles of my Love

Gàidhlig Whistle / Flute / Fiddle event adjudicator  
Kevin Dooley will return to the Mòd for a second year

Practice Chanter / Small Pipe adjudicator; Highland Dancing Commentator; Art adjudicator  
To be confirmed.

Special Guests  
Trueman Matheson of Sìol Cultural Enterprises www.gaelicbooks.com will have a booth at the Mòd.

There will be a special musical performance by Kevin Dooley.

More guests will be announced shortly.

2012 Prescribed Pieces  
• Siubhal a’ Choire (Margaret Duncan competition)  
• Seonaid NicGumaraid / Beinn Eadarra / Cairistion’ nigh’n Eoghainn (Puirt)

For more information contact Randaidh Waugh Lærach-Lin / Website: http://www.gaidhligottawa.ca  
Post-d / Email: comunngaidhligottawa@rogers.com

Mòd nan Lochan Mòra  

Where  Rodeway Inn, Medina OH / Lorain County Fairgrounds Wellington OH  
When  Friday, June 22nd, 2012 - Sunday, June 24th, 2012

Schedule  
Friday, June 22nd  
• poetry, storytelling Rodeway Inn, afternoon  
• Games Cèilidh, Lorain County Fairgrounds, 7:30pm
Saturday, June 23rd  
• Song competition: Fairgrounds, 9:30am  
• Waulking demonstration, Fairgrounds, afternoon  
• Mòd dinner & cèilidh, Oberlin Inn, Oberlin OH 6:00pm
Sunday, June 24th  
• Song workshop, Rodeway Inn, 10am – 12pm

Adjudicators  
Mòd Adjudicator & Song Workshop  
Gillebrìde MacMillan

Accommodation  
A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Rodeway Inn, Medina OH. Please mention that you are with Frances Acar’s party. Contact the Inn to book your room early, as there is limited accommodation in the area during the Ohio Scottish Games.

Rodeway Inn  
2875 Medina Road, Medina OH 44256.  
Phone: 330-725-4571 Fax: 330-725-5926

Details  
Lunch Saturday is provided at the Mòd venue. The Mòd dinner cost is included with registration.

Mòd competitors will have an opportunity to perform at both the Friday night cèilidh at the Ohio Scottish Games and the Mòd cèilidh Saturday night.

For more information, registration materials and copies of the prescribed music and poem please contact Frances Acar at frances.acar@gmail.com.
Three more stories all using the same three prescribed words or phrases and some other interesting and useful Gaelic idioms. In addition, this time we all used the same theme in one way or another--can you spot it?

Cam

‘Feumaidh mi falbh, a ghràidh,’’ thuirt e, “ach nuair a bhios airgead gu leòr agam, thig thusa a-nall agus bidh beatha urchag an Astràilia. ‘S fhheudar dhut earbs’ a chur annam, a luaidh.”

Agus dh’fhalbh e, is mise an seo, ag obair ‘s a’ feitheimh. Cha d’ fhluair mi litir sam bith buaithe, ach bha e trang. Chithinn e nam inntinn ann an caochladh shuidheachaidhean anns an ùrduthaich ùr, ag obair gu dicheal-lach agus a’ togail taighe snog air ar son. Is leis gun robh e nam inntinn fad an t-siubhail, cha rohb iongantas orrn gum faicinn a mhaic-samhail an seò ann an Glaschu bho às gu às tro na bliadhnaichean.

Ach an-diugh aig deireadh an latha, is mise air mo chloaidh, nam shuidhe air a’ bhus, chan e mac-samhail a bh’ ann ach an duine fhèin. Chan fhaca e mi fhin, oir bha e trang, a làmh air gàirdean boireannaich agus esan ag ràdh rithe, “Bidh a h-uile ni ceart gu leòr, a ghràidh; ‘s fhheudar dhut earbs’ a chur annam, a luaidh.”

Jeanne

Às na caochladh shuidheachaidhean is dhaoine ris an do thachair mi o chionn greis, tha aon uair a’ stobadh a-mach. Bha mi air bus, a’ dol gu Inbhir Nis, nuair a mthaighich mi do boireannach sònraichte. Thàinig i a-steach ann am Peart agus shuidh i faisg air toiseach a’ bhus. Bha mi cinnteach gum b’ aithne dhomh i bhao ar làitheadh sgòile. Fhad ’s a choimhead mi oirre, ’s e an smuain a bu treasa “Nach ann oirre-se a thàinig an dà latha.” Bha coltas car sean agus claoidhte oirre ged nach creidinn gun robh i na b’ aodsa na mise.

Thachair gun deach sinn far a’ bhus aig an aon às, ged a bha daoine eile eadarainn. Anns an stèisean, ge-tà, rug mi oirre agus fhluair mi a-mach nach b’ e mo charaid Eilidh a bh’ innse idir ach a mac-samhail. Nach mi a bha air mo nàireachadh.

Gu fortanach cha robh i na cabhaig, agus cha do chuir e dragh oirre gun do thòinisich mi ri bruidhinn rithe. Mhinich mi a’ chùis, agus bha sinn ri seanchas fad co-dhùiù cairteal na h-uarach. Gu h-iongantach fhluair sinn a-mach gum b’ e bràithreachan a bha urchair sinn-seanairean! Lorg mi an dà chuid co-ogha agus cara id ur an latha sin.

Glossary:
- an dà latha - changed days, a great change (one of those idioms that cannot be translated literally)
- ‘s fhheudar dhut - you should, you have to (this construction is followed by an inverted nominal)
- is leis gun robh e - and since he was
- fad an t-siubhail - all the time
- mac-samhail - facsimile, likeness, sameness
- air mo chlaoide - exhausted
- nam shuidhe - sitting (literally, in my sitting)
- air gàirdean boireannaich - boireannaich is genitive, on the arm of a woman
Anne

Uell – seo mise – ‘dol air ais dhachaigh air a’ bhus an dèidh saor-làithean a bha ro ghoirid. Bha dùil agam gum biodh an t-seachdain spòrsail – seachdain gu lèir aig a’ chladach gabhail fois, gabhail na grèine, snàmh, agus le biadh na mara de gach seòrsa ri ithe.


Glossary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>term</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>caochladh shuidheachaidhean</td>
<td>variety of situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do bhoireannach sònraichte</td>
<td>don’t lenite the following word only, and since boireannach is masculine, the adjective is not lenited here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rug mi oirre</td>
<td>from beir air, catch (up with), overtake, intercept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>na cabhaig</td>
<td>feminine, so cabhag isn’t lenited, although it is in the dative after a form of ann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mhinich mi a’ chuíse</td>
<td>I explained the situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cairteal na h-uarach</td>
<td>quarter of an hour (the Gaelic is definite, and uses the genitive of uair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gum b’ e bráithrainn</td>
<td>a bha nar sinn-seanaircean - that our great-grandfathers were (had been) brothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>co-ogha</td>
<td>cousin (for that generation, second cousins, the narrator might have said iar-ogha, but that more often means &quot;great grandchild&quot;; if you’re interested in the genealogical steps, search Dwelly-online for ogha)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Am fear a chailleas a chànan caillidh e a shaoghal.

He who loses his language loses his world.

Iain Mac a’ Ghobhainn (Iain Crichton Smith)
Here are some ways to say the equivalent of various English expressions meaning "right now"--- immediately, at once, on the spot, straightaway, this instant, just now, there and then (then and there), here and now:

- air an spot
- anns an spot (san spot, sa spot)
- anns a’ bhad (sa bhad)
- air a’ mhionaid (sa mhionaid)
- air ball
- an ceartair (also, an ceartuair)
- gu grad
- gun dàil
- gun mhoille
- an-dràsta (fhèin)
- air an uair

The following expressions are not in common use any more but might be found in reading older texts:

- (ann an) làrach nam bonn

  - rinn i an t-òran seo ann an làrach nam bonn. [Tobar an Dualchais]
  - Dh’aontaich mi ann an làrach nam bonn [SQA, so ‘nam bonn’ doesn’t change to reflect ‘person’]

Also, but much less common:

- anns an (san) t-seasamh bonn
- às a sheasamh (much more common in Irish)

And even less common:

- gun stad (Arran), gun stad no seasamh [Am Faclair Beag]

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**Dè Tha Dol?**

**Gaelic Events**

**April 2012**

**Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Easter Break Courses, April 2–6, 2012, and April 9–13, 2012**

Classes will run at all levels from complete beginner to advanced learner. These are arranged to fit step-by-step into an overall eight-stage programme which is broadly based on Sabhal Mòr Ostaig’s highly successful distance learning course, An Cùrsa Inntrigidh. For more information and to register see [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/Foghlam/Tagh-Cursa/Cursaichean-Goirid/cursaichean_caisg_en.html](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/Foghlam/Tagh-Cursa/Cursaichean-Goirid/cursaichean_caisg_en.html).

**Joint ACGA / Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society Immersion Weekend, April 19–22, 2012**

Instructors are Muriel Fisher (Skye, Arizona), Michael Mackay (Virginia), and Scott Morrison (Maryland). The weekend will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, Flagstaff, AZ. See [www.acgamerica.org/events-1/immersion-weekend/2012-iw-info](http://www.acgamerica.org/events-1/immersion-weekend/2012-iw-info) for details and link to the registration form and PayPal payment option.
May 2012
Gàidhlig Thall Thairis / Gaelic Abroad May 1–6, 2012
Gaelic singer Fiona J Mackenzie and Gaelic tutor Rhoda Meek offer you the chance to learn Scottish Gaelic and Gaelic Song in Spain at the Hotel Bandolero (www.hotelbandolero.com) village of Juzcar in the Alto Genal, Andalucia, 20 minutes from the historic town of Ronda. Spaces are limited. For more information see www.fionamackenzie.org/Events.

The Conference of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers will be held in Bloomington, IN, on the campus of Indiana University. Additional information will be posted on the NAACLT website as it becomes available (www.naaclt.org) and a call for papers will be sent out.

June 2012
Mòd Chanada 2012, Friday, June 8, 2012–Sunday, June 10, 2012
Ottawa, ON, Canada. The Gaelic adjudicator will be Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons (Lewis / Cape Breton), and Kevin Dooley will be the whistle, flute, and fiddle adjudicator. Siol Cultural Enterprises will be on site with a Gaelic books booth. For more information contact comunngaidhligottawa@rogers.com.

Féis Seattle / Féis Shiàtail June 13–17, 2012
At historic Fort Worden on the Olympic Peninsula near Port Townsend, Washington, Slighe nan Gàidheal presents 3 days of classes and workshops with traditional evening cèilidhs. For more information and to register see www.slighe.com/feis2012committee.

Mòd nan Lochan Mòra, June 22–24, 2012, Medina, OH
Gillebrìde MacMillan (South Uist) will adjudicate the Mòd and conduct a song workshop Sunday morning. Other events include a cèilidh at the Ohio Scottish Games and Mòd dinner & cèilidh. Limited accommodation has been reserved for participants (see information elsewhere in newsletter). For more information email frances.acar@gmail.com.

July 2012
Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week, July 8–13, 2012
Once again the song and language week will take place at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC. Instructors include Mairi MacInnes (Scotland). More information will become available at a later date, including registration forms. Please see www.acgamerica.org.

August 2012
A’ Cholaisde Ghàidhlig Sgoil-Shamhraidh 2012, Aug. 27–Aug. 31, 2012 (Adult Only)
This week will offer complete Gaelic immersion using the Gaidhlig aig Baile methodology of teaching the Gaelic language. Beginner, Beginner Advanced, and Intermediate as well as Advanced levels of learning will be offered. Please see www.gaeliccollege.edu/school/summer-school/courses.html#brochure for complete registration details and information on other summer courses.

September 2012
ACGA Mòd, Sept. 8, 2012
Ligonier, PA. Details TBA.

October 2012
See www.acgmod.org.
Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona
Flagstaff
Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix
Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson
Classes
Muriel Fisher
http://www.murielofskye.com

California
Sacramento Area
Classes
Donnie MacDonald
minchmusic@comcast.net

North Hollywood
Study Group
Eva Gordon
celt@celticartscenter.com

Colorado
Boulder
Study Group
Sue Hendrix
susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

Denver
Lessons
Glenn Wrightson
thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

Denver
Study Group
Reese McKay
reese-mckay@q.com

Florida
Jensen Beach
Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic
Study Group
gerhardherm@yahoo.com

Illinois
Springfield
Study Group
Bill McClain
fidheall@yahoo.com

Maryland
Chevy Chase
Song Group
Joan Weiss
sweiss@american.edu

Massachusetts
Sandwich
Classes—Thomas Leigh
www.mermaid-productions.com
Song Classes—Maggie Carchrie
www.mermaid-productions.com

New York
New York
Classes
New York Caledonian Club
www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php

North Carolina
Asheville
Study Group
Leigh McBride
lmcbride@unca.edu

Guilford
Classes (advanced beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@gmail.com

Triangle / Raleigh area
Classes (beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@yahoo.com

Ohio
Cincinnati
Study Group
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
macaoidh@eos.net

Kent
Classes
Frances Acar
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frances.acar@gmail.com

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Continued on next page
For More information about these resources and for information on long-distance courses, short courses and private instruction, see our web page at www.acgamerica.org/learn-gaelic/