

An Naidheachd Againne

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Facal Farsaing Mu Dhual-chainntean an Eilean Cheap Breatainn

le Seumas Watson

Cha chànanaiche mise agus cha bhi ann na tha sgrìobhte an seo ach beachdan glé shimplidh mu 'n chuspair a leanas. Ge-tà, 's e mo bharail-sa gu feum neach sam bith a nì beagan rannsachaidh air dualchainntean na Gàidhlig an Eilean Cheap Breatainn a thuigsinn gur ann do chaochladh cheàrn dhe 'n Ghàidhealtachd thall a bhuineas diubhar air blas Gàidhlig an Eilein. Tha e riatanach an toiseach, ma-thà, eòlas a leasachadh air gu dé na ceàrnna às an dànaig luchd na Gàidhlig bhon taobh thall agus an rian a bh' aca air tuineachadh air n-ais 'nam buidhnean a-réir bhunabhasan sóisealta mar gu robh ann mun do chuir iad cùl ri Alba. Theagamh gur e an rathad as fhasa sin a dhèanamh, beachd a ghabhail air Eilean Cheap Breatainn mar dhùthaich anns a bheil ceàrnna Gàidhealach fa leth 's iad air an sònrachadh gu h-eachdraidheil ann an nòsan agus air

A Broad Word or Two on Cape Breton Gaelic Dialects

by Seumas Watson

I am not a linguist and the following are no more than very simple observations on the following subject matter. However, I do feel that it is necessary for anyone doing a little research on Cape Breton dialects to understand that they originate in a variety of locations in the Highlands and Islands. It is, therefore, required as a starting point to develop a knowledge of those areas from which Gaels emigrated and the way in which they settled along social lines familiar to them before leaving Gaelic Scotland. Perhaps the simplest approach is to think of Cape Breton as a place having a number of Gaelic-speaking regions historically, distinguished to a degree, by cultural expression and dialect.



Cape Breton

Cam MacRae

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Go to <http://www.acgamerica.org> for more information on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.

blas-cainnte.

Ma bheirear sùil air an làraich-lìn An Drochaid Eadarainn (<http://www.androchaid.ca>, tha i air ùr-nochdadh bho chionna beagan mhiosan), chìtear gu bheil ceithir prìomh roinnean an Eilean Cheap Breatainn a tha comharraichte ann an dualchas 's dualchainnt. 'S ann air ainmeachas a tha iad mar Shiorramachd Inbhir Nis, Crìochan Chamuis Anna, Ceap Breatainn: Loch Mór nam Barrach agus Ceap Breatainn an Ear-dheas. Tha an làrach-lìn seo gu h-àraidh cuideachail gus lorg fhaighinn air diobhar bhlas a chleachdar an Eilean Cheap Breatainn gus an là seo fhéin. Air feadh na làraich, gheobhar eisimpleirean do dhual-chainnt mar chuspair a clàir anns gach earrann dhi. A bharrachd air blasadan do dhual-chainnt, tha taghadh seanchais ann a leigeas fios air an dòigh-bhruidhinn a tha air bhi anns gach ceàrnaidh àraid bhon àm a chaidh coimhearsnachd Ghàidhealach a stéidheachadh innte.

Ma shiubhlas duine air an Drochaid gu Siorramachd Inbhir Nis mar thoiseach-tòiseachaidh, tuigear gum buin sliochd nan Gàidheal anns a' roinn ud do stoc à caochladh ionad dhe 'n t-Seann Dùthaich, mar a theirte.

Tha na ceàrnan sin a' toirt a-staigh àiteachan mar a tha na h-Eileannan Beaga, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, Uibhist, Mórar, Muideart, Loch Abar agus Srath Ghlais. 'S e na cluinnear gu tric air blas Gàidhlig na siorramachd seo fuaimneachadh ris an canadh cuid "Glug Eigeach." Tha sin 'ga comharrachadh leis an litir "l" 'ga bhlasadh mar "wah" air thoiseach air, agus as deghaidh, nam fuaimreagan leathann "a, à, á, o, ò ó, u, ù."

Ge-tà, chan ann aig a h-uile neach a bha an "Glug." 'Nam fhiosrachadh fhéin, tha cuimhn' agam air feadhainn a bhuineadh do Ghleann nan Sgitheanach, agus dha 'n taobh an ear do Loch Ainslie - 's do Ghleann nam Màgan goirid do làimh - aig a robh "l" leathann air a blasadh mar tha i sgrìobhte. B' ann a chaidh na crìochan ud a thuineachadh aig Gàidheil a bhuineadh bho thùs do leithid dha na h-eileannan mar a tha Ruma, Eilean nam Muc, Muile, Tiri-odh, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus, gu ìre, do dh'Uibhist a' Chinn-a-Tuath. Cluinnear an dà dhòigh air blas na litreach seo air loidhne aig na dithist a leanas: Murchadh Dora (Gileasach) nach maireann, Gleann nan Sgitheanach, a

If we begin by referring to the website The Bridge Between Us, (<http://www.androchaid.ca>, newly launched a few months ago), it will be seen that Cape Breton Island contains four major areas of distinct Gaelic culture and dialect. These areas are identified as Inverness County, St. Ann Bay area, Cape Breton: Great Lake of the Barra Men (Bras d'Or Lake) and South-east Cape Breton. This website is especially helpful in tracking Cape Breton dialects in use to the present. Examples of dialect are present throughout the site in all of its sections. In

addition to dialect samples, there is a selection of traditional material representing the speech of each community, as has been the case since its establishment.

Setting out in Inverness County, it will be seen that the antecedents of this area's Highland descendants hailed from various parts of the Old Country, as was said.

Those regions include The Small Isles, the Isle of Skye, Uist, Morar, Moideart, Lochaber and Strath Glas. The Eigg Man's Cluck, as it is referred to by some, is often heard in this county, marked by the letter l, before and after the broad vowels a, à, á, o, ò ó, u, ù, being pronounced as *wah*.

Not all speakers had the "Glug," however. In my own experience, I can recall speakers from Skye Glen, East Lake Anslie, and nearby Anslie Glen who pronounced the letter broad l as it is written. These districts were originally settled from places such as Rum, Muck, Mull, Tiree, Skye and, to a certain extent, North Uist. The two ways that this broad l is pronounced can be heard on-line from the following: Murchadh Gillis, Skye Glen, a Skye descendant (Gael Stream Collection, (<http://goo.gl/MYM8x>) and Anna MacKinnon, raised in Sight Point near Inverness Town and a Morar descendant (An



An Clachan Gàidhealach (The Highland Village) Iona, Cape Breton
Cam MacRae

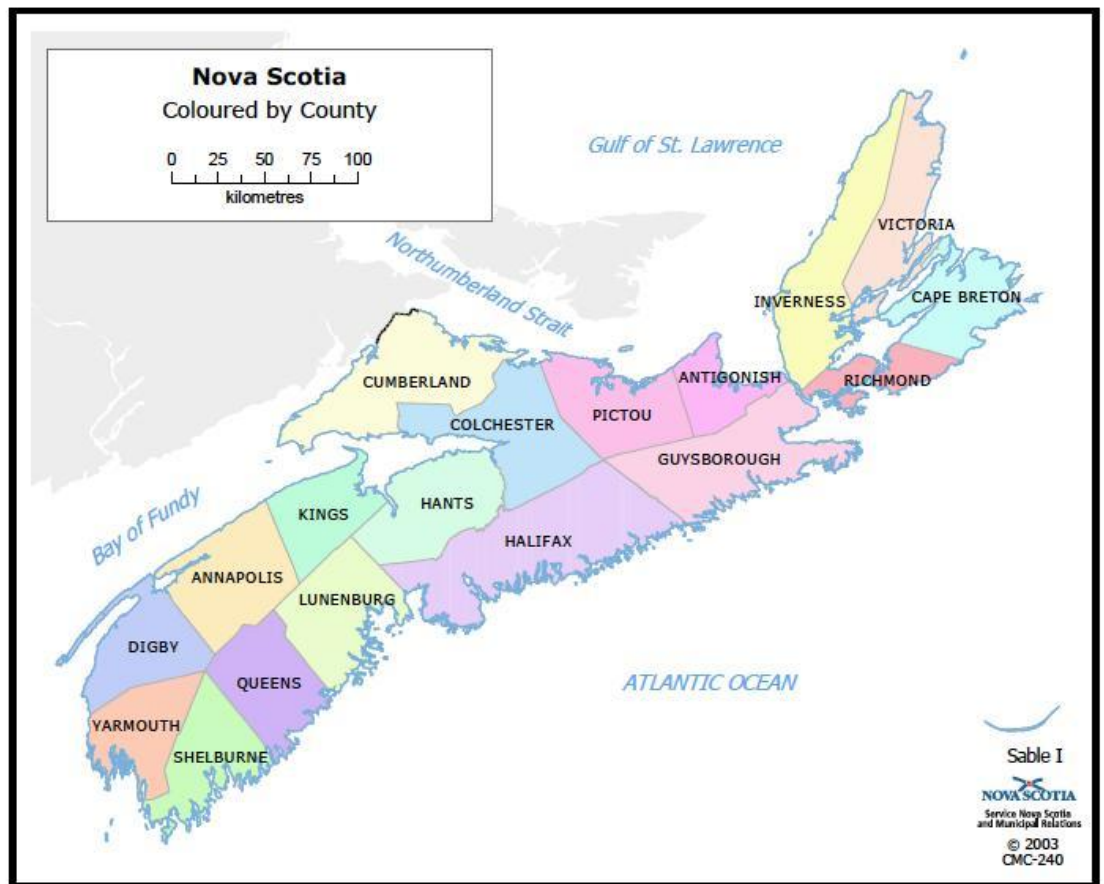
ghabh pìos dha 'n òran Gun Dug Mi Fichead Bliadhna (Sruth nan Gàidheal, <http://goo.gl/MYM8x>) agus Annag ni'n Iain Alasdair 'ic Aonghais Ailein a dh'àraicheadh ann an Rubha an t-Seallaidh, faisg air Baile Inbhir Nis (An Drochaid Eadarainn, <http://androchaid.ca/content/1/14?page=1>). B' ann às an Eilean Sgitheanach a bha cuideachd Mhurchaidh. Dh'imich sinnsearan Annaig a-nall a Cheap Breatainn às Mórar.

Ma théid sinn a-null air An Drochaid Eadarainn dha 'n earrann Ceap Breatainn Loch Mór nam Barrach, 's ann an sin a chluinnear blas na Gàidhlig a tha comharraichte le “r” fìor chaol air thoiseach air, agus as deaghaidh, na litir “i.” Tha an Glug anns a' cheàrnaidh seo cuideachd agus, mar gum bitheamaid an dùil, a-réir nan sloinnidhean is cumanta 's na crìochan mun cuairt, 's e is motha a tha 's an t-sluagh sliochd Ghàidheal à Barraidh. (Tha iarmad muinntir Uibhist a Deas ann cuideachd, mu thuath taobh Bhaghasdail.) A bharrachd air an “r” caol, tha faclan 's an ionad seo a shònraicheas “na Barraich” 'nan cainnt. Cluinnear aig feadhainn 's a' sgìre eadar Sanndra agus Am Pòn Mór, “dhuit” ann an àite

“dhut,” “caduige” ann an àite “carson” agus “caith” seach “tilgeil.” Nuair a bhios “mh,” agus “bh,” còmhla ri fuaimreag, ann aig deireadh an fhacail, tha blas an fhuaimneachaidh “oo” ann, mar eisimpleir: sibh, dèanamh, ullamh (shoo, gee-un-oo, oo-woo.) Tha deagh shamhla air an dòigh-labhairt seo r'a chluinnteil air an Drochaid Eadarainn aig té Tena ni'n Frank Mhìcheil Ruaidh, nach maireann, a mhuinntir a' Phòin Mhóir (<http://androchaid.com/content/2/7?page=2>).

Drochaid Eadarainn, (<http://androchaid.ca/content/1/14?page=1>)

Traveling across the Bridge Between Us to Cape Breton: Great Lake of the Barra Men, we can hear a Gaelic accent marked by its extremely narrow r before and after the slender vowels i and e. The *wah* is heard here as well, and as we might expect from the most common surnames, descendants of Barra settlers predominate. (Descendants of South Uist stock are also found to the north in the Boisdale area.) Lexical differ-



Government of Nova Scotia

ences are also heard here with *dhuit* instead of *dhut* and *caduige* instead of *carson* for example. The bh and mh endings of words (with vowels) gives them a final oo sound as heard in *sibh*, *dèanamh* and *ullamh* (shoo, gee-un-oo, oo-woo). A good example of this way of speaking can be heard from the late Tena MacNeil, Big Pond on An Drochaid Eadarainn (<http://androchaid.com/content/2/7?page=2>)

Bheir an Drochaid sinn cuideachd dha 'n taobh a tuath do Shiorramachd Bhigtoria, far a bheil crìochan Chamuis Anna agus a' Cladaich a Tuath. B' e na Hearaich 's na Leòdhasaich a bu mhotha a thuinich anns a' cheàrnaidh seo an cois a' Chuain Mhóir. Ged nach eil ann an là an-diugh ach glé bheag dhiubh a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig, faodar a ràdh gu robh dà dhualchainnt r'an cluinnteil am measg muinntir an àite bho chionna gu math goirid. 'S e an dà bhlas sin Gàidhlig na Hearadh agus Gàidhlig Leòdhais. Canar gur e Gàidhlig Leòdhais a bu treasa timchioll na Drochaide a Tuath agus Gàidhlig na Hearadh a bh' aig na daoine taobh a deas air Beann Smogaidh agus sìos gu crìochan Abhainn nam Frangach. Co-dhiubh, tha e furasda smaointinn, eadar pòsadh 's caidreabh, gu robh an dà bhlas -cainnte air an gròbadh a chéile aig cuid. Cluinnear gu soilleir anns na dualchainntean seo buaidh na seann Lochlannais nuair a nìhear cainnt. A thuilleadh air guth-ceòl, aithnichear, nuair a bhios an litir "c" caol ann gu bheil blas oirre coltach ri "k" agus mar sin "a' kighinn," an àite a' tighinn 's "kìr" ann an àite tìr, m.s.a.a. Gabhaidh eisimpleir air blas muinntir na Drochaide a Tuath cluinnteil air An Drochaid Eadarainn

(<http://androchaid.com/content/5/15?page=1>) aig Teàrlach Chalum Dhòmhnail Iain (Dòmhnallach.) B' ann à Leòdhas a bha a chuideachd. Cluinnear blas-cainnte Abhainn nam Frangach aig Sìne n'in Mhurchaidh Dhòmhaill bhig (NicDhòmhnail) air an Drochaid Eadarainn cuideachd aig <http://androchaid.com/content/5/13> . B' ann às na Hearadh a bha a sinnsearan fhéin.

Mu dheireadh, feumar sùil a thoirt air a' cheàrnaidh ud a tha 'toirt a-staigh taobh an ear-dheas do dh'Eilean Cheap Breatainn, a-mach 's a-staigh eadar an Abhainn Mhór (Grand River) agus Drochaid Mhira (Marion Bridge.) 'S e muinntir Uibhist a' Chinn a Tuath a bu mhotha a thuinich 's an ranntair seo, (ged a bha roinn eile ann à Uibhist a' Chinn a Deas 's Mórar. Thug iad seo a-mach fearann 's a' Mhira Mhór. Bha beagan dhaoine eile ann às an Eilean Sgitheanach, Leòdhas 's na Hearadh agus Taobh Siar Rois cuideachd, sgapte am measg an t-sluaigh Phroстанаich.)

Tha blas nan Tuathach 'ga chluinnteil fhathast sìod 's a' seo. Tha an dualchainnt seo comharraichte le "r" air leth caol fo bhuidh na fuaimreige "i." Mar a ghabhas cluinnteil aig cainnt mhuinntir Loch Mór nam Barrach, tha "bh," "mh", le fuaimreag aig deireadh an fhacail, 'gam fuaimneachadh mar "oo." Gheobhar eisimpleirean dhe 'n dualchainnt seo air An Drochaid Eadarainn aig Iain Ragnall MacIgein, nach maireann, Allt nam Breac

Should we move on to St. Ann's Bay and the North Shore, at the foot of the Atlantic, this is an area settled primarily by Lewis and Harris people. Although there are few Gaelic-speakers left here, it can be said that there were two dialects spoken by locals until quite recently. These are the dialects of Lewis and Harris. It remains to be said that Lewis Gaelic had a stronger presence around North River Bridge, while Harris Gaelic was spoken south of Mount Smokey down to French River. In any event, it is easy to imagine mixtures occurring by way of inter-marriage and socializing. When spoken, clearly heard in these dialects is the influence of Old Norse. In addition to intonation, there is also heard the sound of k replacing t in words with slender i and e. Some examples are a' *kighinn*, rather than a' *tighinn* and *kìr* instead of *tìr*. An example of North River Bridge Gaelic can be heard on The Bridge Between Us by the late Reverend Charles MacDonald, a Lewis descendant (<http://androchaid.com/content/5/15?page=1>). Jean MacKay, a Harris descendant from French River gives a sample on The Bridge Between Us as well at

<http://androchaid.com/content/5/13>

Finally, we should consider the region roughly taking in south eastern Cape Breton, extending from Grand River to Marion Bridge. This area was settled in the largest part by North Uist immigrants (although Grand Mira held a substantial community of descendants from Morar, Moideart and South Uist, while Skye, Lewis and Harris and Wester Ross folk found their way here among the Protestant population).

North Uist Gaelic is still heard here and there, marked by a very slender r, influenced by the vowel i. Similar to speakers from around the Bras d'Or, mh and bh with vowel, at the end of words is pronounced as oo. Examples of this dialect are found on The Bridge Between Us as spoken by the late John Rannie MacKeigan, of Trout Brook, (<http://androchaid.com/content/3/7?page=1> and Allan MacLeod of Catalone, (<http://androchaid.com/content/3/13> .)

(<http://androchaid.com/content/3/7?page=1>) agus Ailean Ruairidh Aonghais (MacLeòid), Catalón, (<http://androchaid.com/content/3/13> .)

Cleachdar, mar 's minig, 's a' cheàrnaidh seo cuideachd "'s mathaid" ann an àite "theagamh," air neo "ma dh'fhaidhte" agus "sen-ach" ann an àite sin.

Gus an rud beag do dh'fhiosrachadh seo a thoirt gu crìch, cuiridh mi ris dòrlach do dh'fhaclan air iasad on Bheurla a nochdas gu tric an dreach na Gàidhlig an Eilean Cheap Breatainn:

Gamalas - Siorramachd Inbhir nis (measgachadh do rudan mar a tha biadh. Chan eil fhios air bun an fhacail seo.)

Stiof - Siorramachd Inbhir Nis (air am bàs fhaighinn. 'Ga chleachdadh air beòthaichean a' bhaile a bhàsaich.)

Poidhle - Eilean Cheap Breatainn (tòrr mór)

Seansa/teansa - Eilean Cheap Breatainn (coltach, buailteach, glé dhòcha)

Steint - Siorramachd Inbhir Nis (tì air a tarraing aig an laidireachd cheairt)

Pull - Siorramachd Inbhir Nis (tàir, duilgheadas)

Cleabhar - Ceap Breatainn an Ear-dheas (tapaidh, gu sgiobalta)

Tobraichean A Bharrachd Air Loidhne:

Cainnt Mo Mhàthar

<http://www.cainntmomhathar.com/>

Sruth nan Gàidheal

<http://gaelstream.stfx.ca/>

Also heard in this area are words like "'s mathaid" rather than "theagamh," or "ma dh'fhaidhte" for perhaps/maybe and "sen-ach" instead of sin.

In conclusion, I'll include here a few English loan words often heard in Cape Breton Gaelic:

Gamalas - Inverness County (a mixture of things such as food. No one seems to know the origins of this word.)

Stiof - Inverness County (state of being dead, referring to farm animals.)

Poidhle - Cape Breton Island (a large amount of something)

Seansa/teansa - Cape Breton Island (likely)

Steint - Inverness County (describing tea steeped to the right texture)

Pull - Inverness county (having difficulty)

Cleabhar - South-east Cape Breton (smart, nimble)

Additional On-line Sources:

Cainnt Mo Mhàthar

<http://www.cainntmomhathar.com/>

Sruth nan Gàidheal

<http://gaelstream.stfx.ca/>

Seumas Watson is a tireless advocate, devoting many decades to the preservation of the language, culture and customs of the Cape Breton Gaels. He is the Manager for Interpretation for Highland Village, a living history museum near Iona, Cape Breton.

Rod C. MacNeil, Gaelic scholar, composer, and singer,

was born and raised in Barra Glen, near Iona, Cape Breton. Some years ago on a trip to Scotland he struck up a conversation in Gaelic with another passenger on the ferry to Barra. After a few minutes the other man asked, "And how long have you been away?" "Oh, about 200 years," replied Rod C.

Litir a' Chinn-Suidhe

le Scott MacIlleMhoire

Hallò a chàirdean! Tha an Samhradh a' tighinn gu crìoch a-nis agus chan fhada gus am bi am Foghar is an t-side fhionnar ann. Ach 's fìor thoigh leam fhìn am Foghar: an aimsir thlachdmhor, na dathan air na craobhan, tòiseachadh nan làithean-fèille, agus na sgoiltean a' fosgladh a-rithist!! (tuigidh na pàrantan mi! ☺)

Ach os cionn gach nì eile, nuair a thig an t-Sultain, 's ann a bhios am Mòd a' tighinn na cois! Tha mi an dòchas gu bheil sibh ag ullachadh airson a' Mhòid seo oir mar a thuir mi san litir mu dheireadh, 's ann air leth sònraichte a bhios e. 'S e an 25mh Mòd a bhios againne le mòran thachartasan agus aoi ghean ann. Chan eil sibh ro fhadalach airson a bhith an sàs ann agus ma thèid sibh chun an làraich againn air an eadar-lìon aig: www.usmod.wordpress.com, gheibhear stuthan a' Mhòid.

Leis an Fhoghar thig ann cuideachd na geamaichean Gàidhealach. Bidh ar co-luchd bhall a' nochdadh aig na geamaichean às leth ACGA a' sgapadh fios mu dhèidhinn na Ghàidhlig agus ACGA fhèin tro fhoghlam is spòrs.

Sin e bhuamsa, ma-tà. Tha mi an dòchas gur e Foghar beannaichte a bhios agaibh uile agus bidh sinn a' bruidhinn a-rithist anns an ath litir!

Le meas, *Scott MacIlleMhoire*

President's Letter

by Scott Morrison

Hello my fellow members! The Summer is closing now and it won't be long until the Fall and the cool weather will be upon us. Oh boy, do I REALLY love the Fall: the wonderful weather, the colors on the trees, the start of the holidays, and the schools opening again!! (the parents will understand me! ☺)

Above all else, however, when September comes, it's the Mòd that will be coming along with it! I hope that you are all preparing for this Mòd because, as I said in the previous letter, it will be very special. This will be our 25th Mòd with many events and guests. You are not too late to participate in it and if you go to our website on-line at: www.usmod.wordpress.com, you can get the Mòd materials.

With the Fall also comes the Scottish games. Our fellow members will be appearing at the games in ACGA tents spreading the word about the Gàidhlig and ACGA through education and fun.

That's it from me this time. I hope that you all have a blessed Autumn and we will be talking again in the next letter!

Regards, *Scott Morrison*

Criomagan

- Congratulations to ACGA's three new board members, Rachell Blessing, John Grimaldi, and Mike Moffitt. Actually, Mike is the only new member, as John was elected to a second term, and Rachel is returning to the board after a few years off.
- This year's officers will continue to serve in the coming year: Scott Morrison, president, and Randy Waugh, Vice-president. For a full list of ACGA officers check our website at www.acgamerica.org.
- Congratulations also to two new books with Cape Breton connections. Short listed for the 2011 Donald Meek Award were Seonaidh Ailig Mac a' Phearsain (John Alick Macpherson), Sydney, Cape Breton, for his autobiography *Steall à Iomadh Lòn* (Clàr in 2011) and Rody Gorman for *Beartan Briste agus Dàin Ghàidhlig Eile* (Cape Breton University Press, 2011), reviewed elsewhere in this issue. The 2011 winner was Margaret Callan for *Air Bilean an t-Shuaigh: Sealladh air Leantalachd Beul-Aithris Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Tuath*, Queen's University, Belfast, 2012.

Tè eile anns an t-sreath againn, Gaisgich nan Gàidheal. 'S i Catriona Parsons. A bharrachd air na tòrr rudan eile a tha i air dèanamh às leth na Gàidhlig, tha ceangal dlùth aice ris an fheadhainn againn a tha air buannachd mhòr fhaighinn às na clasaichean (agus an càirdeas) aice, agus ri ACGA fhèin. Dh'obraich i còmhla ri Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill gus Mòd US a chur air bhonn o chionn 25 bliadhna. Tha Aonghas a' cur ris an liosta seo le bhith ag innse dhuinn sgeul gu math pearsanta mu deidhinn.

Catriona Parsons, another in our series of Gaelic Champions. In addition to the many other things she has done to further Gaelic, she has close connections with the many ACGA members who have benefited from her classes (and her friendship), and with ACGA itself. She and Donald MacDonald worked together to establish the US Mòd which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this September. Adding to this, Angus has a personal story to tell us about the kind of person she is.

Bana-Charaid nan Gàidheal, Catriona Parsons

le Aonghas MacLeòid

Ciamar a nì mi cunntas freagarrach air Catriona Nic Ìomhair Parsons ann am beagan fhaclan? Leis a h-uile buadh a th' aice air teagasg 's seinn is eòlas air a' Ghàidhlig, 's a h-uile h-oifis a bh' aice 's a th' aice anns na h-oilthighean 's an riaghaltas, agus buaidh aic' ann an caochladh rudan a' bharrachd... chan e aiste ach leabhar a dh'iarrar!

Théid mi air rathad eile. An àite fios a thoirt dhuibh air na rinn i, 's dòcha gun urrainn dhomh beagan innse dhuibh air cuspair eile - cò i.

Tha cuimhne mhath agam air an latha a fhuair mi mo cheud eòlas air Catriona. Feasgar Sathuirne a bh' ann bha cuirm-ciùil aig a' Cholaisde Ghàidhlig, agus mise an làthair. Bha cuid dhe na sgoilearan òga ri seinn 's ri cluich, agus chaidh nighean - 's dòcha deich bliadhna' a dh'aois - suas air an àrd-ùrlar 'na h-aonar gus òran Gàidhlig a ghabhail.

Gé b' e dé a thachair, an do dhìochuimhnich i na faclan no an d' fhuair an iomaguin làmh an uachdair oirre, cha b' urrainn dhi an t-òran a chrìochnachadh. Rinn i leth-ruith gu deurach far an àrd-ùrlair. Bha mo thruaigh léir oirre.

'Nuair a thàinig i sìos cò a bh' ann, làmh air a gualainn, a' cromadh sìos gus bruidhinn



Cam MacRae

Friend of the Gaels, Catriona Parsons

by Angus MacLeod

Note: The English is translated from the Gaelic, somewhat literally, so it may seem stilted in places. I chose to do it this way so that learners can, if they choose to, use the two texts for learning purposes.

How do I make a proper account of Catriona MacIver Parsons in a few words? With all her talents in teaching and singing and her knowledge of Gaelic, every office she's held and holds in universities and government, and her accomplishments in a variety of other areas also... it isn't an article but a book that's needed!

I'll take a different route. Rather than tell you of what she's done, perhaps I can tell you a bit about who she is.

I remember well the day I first became acquainted with Catriona. On a Saturday afternoon there was a concert at the Gaelic College and I was present. Some of the young students were singing and playing and a young girl - perhaps ten years old - went up on stage by herself to sing a Gaelic song.

Whatever happened, if she forgot the words or if her nerves got the better of her, she couldn't finish the song. She half-ran tearfully from the stage. I felt very sorry for her.

When she came down who was there, a hand on her shoulder, bending down to talk with her, but Catriona. She took her aside but I could see that she was so



Janice Chan

rithe, ach Catriona. Thug i gu taobh i ach chunna mi gu robh i cho buileach fo chruadal a nàire 's nach robh feum ann an cofhurtachd dhi. Bha truas cho mór agam rithe 's gur beag a chuala mi de 'n chuir-m-chiùil... ach gu dé a ghabhadh dèanamh?

An ceann greis chaidh buidheann de sgoilearan mu cho-aoisean rithe suas gus seinn agus chunna mi Catriona 'ga brosnachadh gu dhol suas còmhla riutha. Cha robh mi cinnteach às a' ghnòthach sin, ach chaidh i suas 'nam measg.

Ghabh iad dà no trì òrain agus chunna mi i a' fàs na bu chofhurtaile mar a chaidh an ùine seachad. Bha Catriona 'na seasamh gu taobh far am faiceadh an nighean i agus is tric a laigh aire na caileige oirre. Dh'aithnich mi cò i a bha 'na mathair-uisge ath-bheòthachadh a misnich.

'Nuair a dh'fhàg iad an t-àrd-ùrlar, bha gàire an àigh oirre, a sùilean ri deàrrsadh agus nan robh deur air a gruaidh, chan e deur bròin a bh' ann. 'S i fhéin a rinn an ghnòthach, ach 's i Catriona a dh'fhosgail an t-slighe dhi.

Anns an t-saoghal mhór 's dòcha gur e rud beag a bha sin, ach ann an saoghal na caileige bige sin, cò dha 'm b' urrainn innse le cinnt dé cho cudtromach 's a bha e, 's dé am buaidh a bh' air air feadh nam bliadhnaichean ri teachd?

'S i sin Catriona Nic Ìomhair Parsons. Na 's cudromaiche leam fhìn na na rinn i ann an dreuchd ro shoirbheachail, 's e cò i a thogas mo mheas. Tha i air iomadh beatha a leasachadh is móran daoine a bhrosnachadh. Agus mise 'nam measg.

upset and ashamed that she couldn't be comforted. I felt so sorry for her that it's little I heard of the concert... but what could be done?

In a little while a group of students about her age went up to sing and I saw Catriona encouraging her to go up with them. I wasn't sure about that, but she went up amongst them.

They sang two or three songs and I saw her becoming more comfortable as the time went on. Catriona was standing to the side where the girl could see her and the girl's gaze often fell on her. I recognized who it was that was the source of her renewed confidence.

When she left the stage she was beaming, her eyes shining and if there was a tear on her cheek, it wasn't a tear of sorrow. It was she herself who accomplished, but it was Catriona who cleared the path for her.

In the large world perhaps this was a small thing, but in that little girl's world, who has the ability to say with certainty just how important it was, and what effect it had through all the years to come?

That's Catriona MacIver Parsons. More important to me than all she's done in a very successful career, it's who she is that impresses me. She's improved many lives and inspired many people. And I'm one of them.

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Catriona Parsons, educator, singer has released her first all-music CD. It contains 20 songs, a mix of old and new world airs, plus a few originals. A booklet with the lyrics, translations and notes is included. A portion of sales goes towards Gaelic scholarships.
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A' Teagasg Eachdraidh Tro Ghàidhlig

le Jason Bond

“Tha mi toilichte a bhith a’ seo còmhla ruibh agus tha mi a’ smaointinn gum bi spòrs againn anns na seachdainnean seo tighinn.” ars mise, a’ cur crìoch air òraid bheag dhan a’ chlas Eachdraidh S1 a bhitheadh agam airson an ath mhìos. Bha mi aig Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, sgoil ùr agus baile mór fiù ’s nas ùire dhomh. Cha robh mi riamh ann an sgoil Ghàidhlig agus bha e a’ còrdadh rium. Bha mi thall aig a’ bhòrd le tinneas-siubhail trom orm ach gu math toilichte leis an òraid a rinn mi nuair a chuir sgoilear a làmh suas. “Co sibhse?” dh’fhaighnich i dhomh.

Chaidh mo thumadh an saoghal na Gàidhlig bho chionn sia bliadhnaichean air ais. Thàinig mi thairis air saoghal nan Gàidheal ann an Alba Nuadh, Canada, agus dh’fhuirich mi a’ sin airson ceum urramach aig Oilthigh Naomh Fransidh Xavier. Às deaghaidh ceithir bliadhnaichean de chànan, chultar, is sheann bhàrdachd nan Gàidheal, chuir mi a-staigh airson ceum-teagaisg agus a-nis bha mi a’ cleachdadh na

dh’ionnsaich mi mu dheireadh thall! Bha feum agam air ceithir greisean-sgoile agus bha seo an té mu dheireadh agam mus ceumnaichidh mi. Crìoch iomchaidh gu ceum-teagaisg na Gàidhlig ’nam bheachd.

Fhuair mi barrachd na bha dùil agam. B’ àbhaist dhomh Gàidhlig bunailteach mar bhuadhairean simplidh is ghnìomhairean riaghailteach a theagasg air ais ann an Canada ach a’ seo bha na sgoilearan nas comasaiche. Bha an cuid as motha dhiubh air a bhith ’ga bruidhinn bho’n chròileagan agus ’s urrainn dhaibh còmhradh a dhèanamh air cuspairean mar chruinn-eòlas, eachdraidh, is chreideamh ’sa Bheurla agus ’sa Ghàidhlig gun dragh. Nuair a dh’fhàs mi cleachdte ris an sgoil, ge-tà, mhothaich mi dà rud cudtromach is brosnachail.

Teaching History Through Gaelic

by Jason Bond

“I’m glad to be here with you all and I think we’ll have fun in the coming weeks,” I said, finishing my short introductory speech to the S1 history class that I would be teaching for the next month. I was at Glasgow Gaelic School, a new school for me in an even newer city. I had never been in a Gaelic medium school and I was enjoying it. I was at the whiteboard at the head of the class, still jetlagged but quite pleased with the little speech I had given. Then a student raised her hand and asked “Who are you?”

I had been immersed in the Gaelic world six years ago when I discovered it in Nova Scotia and stayed there for a BA with honors at St. Francis Xavier University. After learning language, culture, and bardic poetry for four years, I applied for a Bachelors of Education and now I was finally making use of all that I had learned! As part of

my BED, I completed 4 practice teaching sessions and this one at the Glasgow Gaelic School was the last hurdle before receiving my teaching license. I thought it was a fitting end to a Gaelic teaching degree.

I got more than I bargained for. I was used to teaching basic Gaelic such as simple adjectives and regular verbs back in Canada but my students in Glasgow were much more adept. Most of them had been speaking Gaelic from kindergarten and they could discuss subjects like Geography, History, and Religion in Gaelic

and English without much difficulty. However, when I became used to this new environment, I noticed two things that were both important and encouraging to a new teacher.



Jason Bond

Às deaghaidh seachdainn no dhà, mhothaich mi gun robh clasaichean aig Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu car coltach ris na bh' agam ann an Alba Nuadh. Bha gràmar doirbh dhaibh, bha feadhainn ann gun mhisneach gus sgrìobhadh, agus bha sgoilearan a' dèanamh mearachdan coltach ris na thathar thairis air a' chuan cuideachd. Cuideachd, thàinig e a-steach orm gu robh a h-uile inneal-teagaisg agam feumail ach ann an dòigh eile. Air sgàth 's gun robh na clasaichean agam comasach air bruidhinn, thug mi dùbhlann dhaibh le gnìomhachdan sgrìobhaidh mar sgeulachdan beaga, artaigilean pàipear-naidheachd, agus mar sin air adhart.

Dh'obraich sinn air beagan gràmair agus abairtean feumail ach bha prìomhachas an clas air smaoineachadh mun eachdraidh agus a' cur fiosrachaidh is bheachdan an céill tro sgrìobhadh cruthachail. Thòisich sinn a' smaoineachadh air na ceanglaichean eadar faclan is dealbhan agus bha iomadh còmhradh domhainn againn. Cha d' rinn sinn sgrùdadh dhen tachartasan is daoine ainmeil a-mhàin; thog sinn sùil air beachdan is faireachdainnean a bha ceangailte riutha. Mar eisimpleir, latha a bh' ann, sgrùdaich sinn dealbh de theine mhór Lunnainn. Bhruidhinn sinn mu dheidhinn an t-seallaidh agus dé dh'inns e dhuinn agus às deaghaidh sin mu dheidhinn an dealbhadair fhéin. Chaidh ceistean fìor mhath a' chur a-mach, mar *dè seòrsa duine a dhèanadh ealain mar seo?* agus *dè bha e ag iarraidh – airgead, cliù, ri innse dé bha a' tachairt?* Bha an clas a' smaoineachadh air ìre gu math domhainn mun eachdraidh agus a' cleachdadh mòran dòighean-smaoineachaidh bho eaconomas gu feallsanachd.

Aig ceann a' mhìos, cha robh an rathad furasda ri siubhail ach b' fhiach e gun teagamh; bha barrachd ùidh aig a' chuid as motha dhen chlas air eachdraidh. Dh'ionnsaich mi mòran bho'n ghreis-sgoile seo agus thuig mi gach latha *dè cho fìor 's a tha an abairt ...'S e latha sgoile a th' ann a h-uile latha.*

After a few weeks, I noticed that Gaelic medium classes are somewhat similar to those I taught in Nova Scotia. Grammar was still difficult, some pupils needed encouragement to write, and my Gaelic students were making similar mistakes to those made across the ocean. Also, I realized that all my teaching tools and strategies were useful but in a different way. Since my classes were skilled in speaking, I challenged them with writing projects such as short stories, mock newspaper articles and so on. We worked a bit on grammar and useful phrases but the emphasis of the class was on thinking about history and conveying information and ideas through creative writing.

We also began discussing the connections between words and images that lead to many in-depth discussions. We did not just analyze events and important people; we examined the thoughts and feelings that were connected with them as well. For example, one day, we analyzed an illustration of the great fire of London. We discussed the scene and what it was telling us on the surface, then plunged into an analysis of the artist himself. Many good questions were asked, such as *“what kind of person would make art like this?”* and *“what do you think they wanted in return – money, fame, to relate what was happening?”* The class was thinking on a deep level about history and using multiple disciplines from economics to philosophy.

At the end, it had not been an easy road to travel but it was well worth it; most of my students told me that they were more interested in history before I left. I learned many things from my time at Glasgow Gaelic School especially just how true the following saying was: *“'S e latha sgoile a th' ann a h-uile latha. / Every day is a school day.”*

Is mòid rud a roinn.

A thing is the bigger of being shared.

Mur eil fhios agaibh, tha barrachd a' dol air Latha a' Bhreacain ann am baile New York na còmhlanan piobaireachd. Seo an aithris a chuir Micheal Newton thugainn air an tachartas anns an robh e an sàs.

In case you hadn't guessed, there's more to New York City's Tartan Day celebration than parading pipe bands. Michael Newton, Assistant Professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, sent us this report of an event he took part in.

Gàidhlig ann am Baile Mòr New York

*leis an Oll. Micheal Newton,
Oilthigh Naomh Fransaidh Xavier*

Air Latha a' Bhreacain (6mh an Giblean) am bliadhna, ghabh mi òraid mu bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig – anns an latha an-diugh agus anns na làithean a dh'fhalbh – aig taisbeanadh aig Taigh nam Bàrd am baile New York còmhla ri bàird Ghàidhlig Aonghas “Dubh” MacNeacail, Caomhan MacNéill, agus Crisdean MacIlleBhàin. Bhruidhinn iad-san mu'n cuid bhàrdachd fhéin, is sann a bhruidhinn mise mu bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig o shean, a' toirt iomadh air dol-a-mach nan Gàidheal ann an New York anns an naoidheamh ceud deug agus anns an fhicheadamh ceud.

Seo agaibh dà rud a chuir mi air shùilean dhaibh; is dòcha leam gum bi ùidh aig buill ACGA annta:

~

Aisling an Fhògarraich

le Niall MacDhòmhnaill, 25 Am Màrt 1896 *The Scottish-American Journal* (New York)

Nuair a chaidh mi an-raoir do m' leabaidh
Cha b'ann gu fois no gu suain
Oir bha mo chridhe trom brònach
'S mo dhùthaich fad thar a' chuain.

Ach sgith le m' osnaich 's dian dùrachd
A bhith far an d' fhuair mi mo bhreith
Thuit sgàil na h-oidhche air mo shùilean
Agus bhruadair mi a bhith aig an teach.

Chunnaic mi m' athair is mo mhàthair,
Mo bhraithrean is companaich m' òige,
Is caileag bhòidheach nan donn sùil
A thug dhomh mar àbhaist a pòg.

Chunnaic mi ceò air bharr a' mhonaidh,
Am fraoch fo mo chasan fo bhlàth

Scottish Gaelic in New York City

*by Dr. Michael Newton,
St. Francis Xavier University*

On Tartan Day (6th April) this year, I spoke at a presentation about Scottish Gaelic Poetry – past and present – along with Scottish Gaelic poets Aonghas “Dubh” MacNeacail, Kevin MacNéill and Christopher Whyte at the Poets' House in New York city. They spoke about their own poetry, and I spoke about Gaelic poetry in the past and touched upon the activities of Scottish Gaels in New York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Here are two of the items I presented, which may be of interest to ACGA members.

~

The Exile's Vision

by Niall MacDhòmhnaill, 25 Am Màrt 1896 *The Scottish-American Journal* (New York)

When I went last night to my bed
It was not for rest or deep slumber,
For my heart was heavy and sad,
While my homeland is far across the ocean.

But tired from sighing and intense longing
To be in the land of my birth
Nighttime's curtain fell on my eyes
And I dreamed about being at home.

I saw my father and my mother,
My brothers and the friends of my youth,
And a lovely brown-eyed lass
Who used to kiss me.

I saw mist over the top of the moor,
The blooming heather under my feet,

'S an smeòrach 's a' phreas binn a' freagairt
A' ghuilbnich thùrsaich bho'n tràigh.

Agus thog mi mo shùil gus na speuran
An-sin dh'amhairc mi sìos air an làr,
A-rithist mu'n cuairt air an tìr:
Cnoic, sruthan is na h-achaidhean fo bharr.

Agus dhùisg mi le lànachd mo chridhe;
Bhrist aoibhneas do-labhairt mo shuain
Agus tha mi fhathast air faontradh
O m' dhùthaich tha fad thar a' chuain.

~

From an address to the New York Gaelic Society
by Donald Currie, c.1892

Is cianail ri aithris an t-atharrachadh eagalach a thàinig air gach gleann fasgach, dosrach, an Tir nam Beann on latha thàinig Prionnsa Teàrlach air tìr am Muideart [...] Bho latha Chul-Lodair cha d'fhuair na Gàidheil fois fo chumhachd lagh agus feachd Shasann, ach a-measg gach deuchainn is cruaidh-chàs a dh'fhuiling iad cha do thréig iad an duinealas, agus cha do reic iad an gràdh no 'n spéis a thug iad do phearsa Prionnsa air na bha d'òr an Sasainn. Chaidh am fògradh á tìr an gaoil gu dùthchannan céin [...]

Cho fad 's a bhios òrain Ghàidhlig is Bheurla 'gan seinn agus innealan ciùil 'gan gleusadh, bidh Bliadhna Theàrlaich beò an inntinn nan Gàidheal. [...]

Nach muladach dà-rìreabh na glinn bhòidheach 's sathan còmhnard an-diugh a bhith dol fàs fo chaoraich 's fo fhéidh far am b' àbhaist an sùgradh is an cridhealas a bha daonnan umhail do gach deuchainn is trioblaid a chaidh a sparradh orra le luchd lagha na tìre. [...]

Tha mi toilichte cluinntinn gum bheil fìor Ghàidheil a-measg a' chomainn seo tha déidheil air litreachas, cànan, is ceòl ar n-athraichean, agus seann chleachdainnean Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba chumail beò agus ged tha sinn fada air falbh bho thìr nan àrd bheann, bitheamaid duineal, grunn-dail, cairdeil agus bàigheil ri càch a chéile.

The mavis in the bush sweetly answering
The sad curlew from the seashore.

And I raised my eyes to the heavens
Then I looked down to the ground
And again around the land:
Hills, streams, and harvest-ready fields.

And I awoke with the fullness of my heart;
Indescribable joy broke my sleep,
While I am still cast adrift
From my homeland that is far across the ocean.

~

From an address to the New York Gaelic Society
by Donald Currie, c.1892

It is depressing to discuss the terrible changes that have come upon every leafy, sheltering glen in the Highlands since the day that Prince Charles landed in Moidart. Since the day of the battle of Culloden, the Gaels had no peace from the power of the law and military troops of England, but amongst all of the trials and tribulations that they endured, they never relinquished their bravery, and they never sold their love or devotion for the person of Prince Charles for all of the gold of England. They were expelled from their beloved homeland to foreign countries [...]

The Year of Prince Charles [1745] will live on in the memory of every Gael for as long as Gaelic and English songs are sung and musical instruments are played. [...]

It is truly depressing how the beautiful glens and smooth straths are today being depopulated for sheep and deer, where there was once the human joy and bliss that overcame every trial and tribulation that was forced on them by government politicians. [...]

I am happy to hear that there are true Gaels in this society who are passionate about keeping the literature, language, and music of our ancestors, and the ancient traditions of the Scottish Highlands, alive, and although we are far away from the Highlands, let us be brave, well-grounded, friendly and caring to one another.



Herring are the “silver darlings” that sustained the Scottish fishing industry for over a century, and this very traditional recipe pairs this nutritious fish with that other Scottish staple, oatmeal.

In Scotland, coarse oatmeal would be used, but small-flake rolled oats should work just as well. If you can't get fresh herring, mackerel is a good substitute.

Sgadan Ròsta ann am Min-choirce

sgadan ùr
min-choirce
salann
ola-còcaireachd no ìm

Sgoilt an sgadan is sad às an ceann. Thoir na cnàmhan às. Nigh an sgadan is clap e gus a thiormachadh. Cuir salann air taobh a' chraicinn. Tum e ann am min-choirce gus am bi e air a chòmhdachadh. Dèan an taobh eile san aon dòigh.

Fraighig e ann an ola theth (no ìm) airson timcheall air 5 mionaidean air gach taobh.

Fritheal e le buntàta bruich is bainne. Cha bhithear a' cleachdadh sgian no forc idir.

Herring in Oatmeal

fresh herring
coarse oatmeal
salt
vegetable oil

Gut herring and discard the head. Cut open the fish and remove the bones. Wash and pat dry. Lay herring skin side down and sprinkle with salt. Dip in dry oatmeal to coat. Repeat on other side.

Shallow fry in hot oil or butter for approximately 5 minutes on each side.

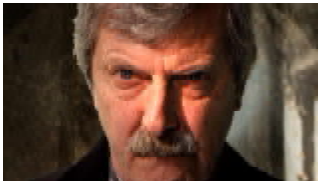
Serve with boiled potatoes and fresh milk. Traditionally no cutlery is required.



Jim Chan

Do you have a favourite recipe that you'd like to share with other ACGA members? Submit it in a bi-lingual format to one of our editors and we'll publish it in future issues of An Naidheachd Againne. Na gabhaibh dragh—we'll pass the Gaelic by a native speaker to be sure your recipe is delicious in both languages!

ACGA member Jim Lawrence tells us a bit about his new DVD, *An Cridhe Cabaireach*, starring Angus MacLeod and adapted by Catriona Parsons from Edgar Allen Poe's "The Telltale Heart".



A Gaelic Twist on an Old Tale

by Jim Lawrence

I first got the idea to attempt a Gaelic translation of Edgar Allan Poe's short story as the possible basis for a short video a little over two years ago. I struggled with it for some time (I'm embarrassed to tell you just how much time!) but I eventually came up with an admittedly primitive Gaelic version of the story.

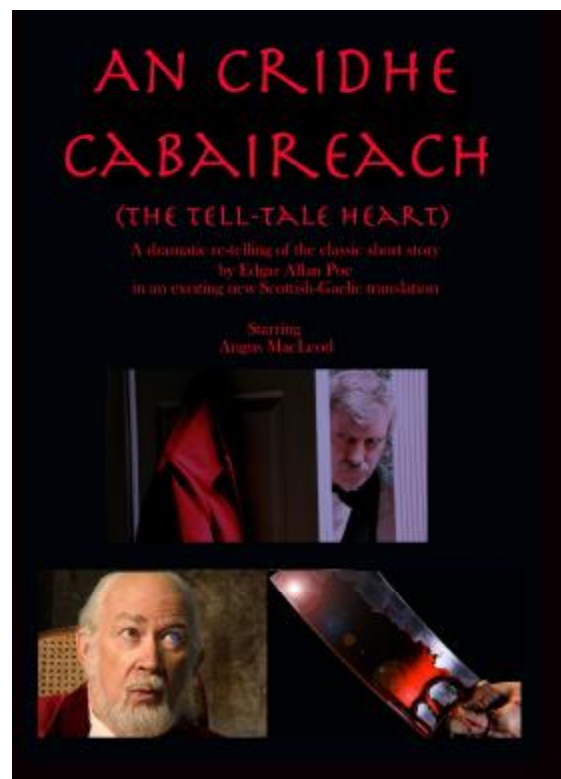
I had been taking Gaelic classes on Skype with Angus MacLeod and at some point I mentioned the project to him. He expressed interest in reading it and after I sent it to him he remarked, "If you ever make this, I'd love to play the guy who goes insane!" That's what really started the wheels turning. When I told Angus I wanted to go ahead with it, he suggested we give the script to Catriona Parsons to look over. This we did, and Catriona did an extensive rewrite, not just correcting the grammar, but re-working the Gaelic to make it more conversational and more in keeping with Poe's elevated English.

In early April Angus came down to North Carolina and we spent two days at the Gardner-Webb University studios recording the narration and shooting the more than 600 digital images that make up the video. I had decided early on to take a very stylized, semi-animated approach to this story, so Angus, Joe Webb and Matt Hand all found themselves acting like they were characters in an animation cell -- and they all did an excellent job. Everything was shot in front of a green screen so all the sets are "virtual," created in the computer.

Finally, what really pulled everything together was the evocative music score that my friend Anne Rhymer Schwabland composed especially for the video.

An Cridhe Cabaireach is 24-minutes long and is presented in three versions on the DVD -- Gaelic narration only, Gaelic narration with English subtitles, and an English narration recorded by Joe Webb with English subtitles. My goal was to produce something that was not only entertaining (and a little spooky!) but would be a valuable resource for any Gaelic speaker or learner.

The DVD is available for purchase from Amazon.com, CreateSpace, the Gaelic College Craft Shop, and other outlets.



A Bharrachd a Thaobh Albainn Nuaidh

A staple of **Cape Breton tall tales** is “Am Peata Ban,” the story of a fisherman and the herring he befriended. Click here http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2vUnWGd_6s (Gaelic subtitles) or here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5u7YPvQhgk&feature=plcp> (English subtitles) for links to “Naidheachd a' Sgadain,” a delightful short video version of this tale narrated by Lewis MacKinnon.

Visitors to Nova Scotia and Cape Breton looking for **signs of Gaelic** never have far to go. Click here http://download.acgamerica.org/ANA/ANA_2012-03_ABh_Cape_Breton_Signs.pdf for a gallery of Cape Breton bilingual road signs.

If you were in Cape Breton this summer you might have attended “**Ti is Seanchas**,” a Gaelic conversation group at Christmas Island. Click here http://download.acgamerica.org/ANA/ANA_2012-03_ABh_Mick.mp4 and here http://download.acgamerica.org/ANA/ANA_2012-03_ABh_MacNeil.mp4 for two short videos in which Mickey (Mickey John H.) MacNeil and Catherine MacNeil introduce themselves to the other participants in the group.

Cainnt Mo Mhàthar, a project of Comhairle na Gàidhlig (The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia) is a collection of hundreds of interviews with Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia, available as video and audio recordings and transcriptions at www.cainntmohathar.com.

Sruth nan Gaidheal, developed at St. Francis Xavier University, is another important resource of digitized Gaelic materials, including The Cape Breton Gaelic Folklore Collection. Indulge yourself at <http://gaelstream.stfx.ca>.

Nineteenth-century Gaelic letter. “A charaid,” begins the six-page letter Hamilton McMillan received in March 1898 from Aonghas Mac Ille-mhaoil, Glengarry, Ontario. Could McMillan, living in North Carolina at the end of the 19th century, read Gaelic? His great-granddaughter who owns the letter thinks he probably could not, and she herself recently asked Anne Landin for a translation. Landin, editor of “The Argyll Colony Plus,” newsletter of the Scottish Society of North Carolina, says this kind of newsy letter was common in the 19th century as people attempted to catch up with family and friends. Click the link for a copy of the original Gaelic letter – sorry no translation. ☺
http://download.acgamerica.org/ANA/ANA_2012-03_ABh_Glengarry_Letter.pdf

Four early 20th century **Cape Breton Gaelic newspapers** are now available on-line. Click here: <http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/newspapers/>

Reading the Signs - Readers' Contest

As you drive around Cape Breton Island and eastern Nova Scotia you quickly become aware of all the bilingual English / Gaelic road signs. Some are quite straight-forward translations. In Inverness County the sign for Lake Ainslie says *Loch Ainslidh* and Long Point is *An Rubha Fada*. Some are not what you would expect, however. In Victoria County we find *Còbh Anndra* translated as Goose Cove, and Antigonish County's *An Loch Mór* becomes St. Joseph in English. Of course there are also many place names which are based on earlier First Nation names. One of these is Benacadie in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. But what did the Gaelic-speaking settlers call Benacadie? The answer will be found within this issue of “An Naidheachd Againne,” and we're offering a prize to the first person to send us the correct answer.

The first person to email Jeanne Pendergast at jeanpe99@yahoo.com with the correct answer will win a copy of *Buatham Iamodo*, a short Gaelic novel by Iain Moireach (Acair 1998).

Dè Do Naidheachd?

by Jeanne Pendergast and Cam MacRae

Six more phrases or words and some useful idioms. Two more stories, but oh, what different situations!

Sine

Tha dà bhliadhna, ‘s **iongantach**, bhon a chaidh mi ann-- no bhon a chaidh mo chur ann an seo, bu chòir dhomh ràdh. **Cha b’ ann gum bhanais** a bha mi tighinn nuair a ghabh mi ris an fhiathachadh, a’ dùileachadh càirdeis far nach b’ àbhaist gin a bhith. Tha thu eòlach air mo phiuthar, nach eil? Uill bidh fios agad gun deach mo chur ann air thoradh air an àrdan is an droch rùn aice.

Tha an t-àite sa bheil mi glacte cianail beag **fuairidh**, àite far nach fhaicear a’ ghrian latha sam bith, sa gheamhradh no as t-samhradh. Bha mi an dòchas gun tig rud beag blàiths nuair a thàinig an samhradh, ach cha d’ fhuair mi **faochadh no faochadh**.

Cuiridh mi a-mach seo leis an fhithreach a tha a’ tadhal orm gach latha. Ma gheibh thu e, tha fhios agad càit a bheil mi agus dè tha a dhìth orm. Mura faigh, bidh mi an seo gu **Latha Luain**. Seo am pìos pàipeir mu dheireadh agam agus tha mi **fear** claoidhte, an impis an t-earball a leigeil leis a’ chraiceann.

Glossary:

’s iongantach - probably (*mur eil* is implied, so this means something like “it’s surprising if it isn’t”; in other words, “it probably *is*”)

Cha b’ ann gum bhanais - (literally) it wasn’t to my wedding

ghabh mi ris an fhiathachadh - I accepted the invitation

far nach b’ àbhaist gin a bhith - where there wasn’t any before (didn’t use to be any)

far nach fhaicear a’ ghrian - where the sun was not seen

faochadh no faochadh - no relief at all (repetition is one way Gaelic marks emphasis)

Mura faigh - if (you) don’t get (it)

an impis an t-earball a leigeil leis a’ chraiceann - expression meaning roughly “on the point of completely giving up hope”

Cam

Ràinig mi an dùthaich ann an dile bhàite. Chaidh mi san spot dhan òstail, àite-fuirich ainmeil an Dùn Èideann, ach **cha b’ ann gu m’ bhanais** a chaidh mi. Bha an togalach **fuairidh** is bha na daoine eile faramach. Mhair an t-uisge is cha d’ fhuair mi **faochadh no faochadh**. An dèidh trì làithean bha mo bhrògan fhathast fliuch, bha an cnatan orm, agus chaill mi mo sgàil-uisge. **Is iongantach** mura bithinn air falbh air an ath itealan nam biodh ticead nam phòcaid.

Air a’ cheathramh latha chaidh mi dhan Phloc far a bheil caraid dhomh a’ fuireach. Chan eil an taigh aice cho spaideil no cho mòr ‘s a ghabhas, ach abair cidsin. Bhon a’ chiad shealladh dhith -- bòrd mòr **fear** anns a’ mheadhan, dealbhan is postairean mun cuairt air na ballachan, agus cat na chadal air mullach pris àird san oisean -- bha mi fo gheasaibh. Bha an seòmar blàth is bha an coire an còmhnaidh air a ghoil is cha do sguir idir an sruth de chupannan teatha.

Nuair a thig **Latha Luain**, sann anns a’ chidsin ud a’ gabhail cupa teatha a bu toigh leamsa a bhith.

Glossary:

bha an cnatan orm - I had a cold (literally, the cold was on me)

is iongantach mura bithinn air falbh - I probably would have left (literally – it is surprising that I would not leave)

feàr anns a' mheadhan - just (exactly) in the middle

air mullach pris àird - on top of a tall cupboard (genitive phrase)

fo gheasaibh - bewitched, under a spell (the noun is *geas*, here with an obsolete plural dative ending, a form only used today in set phrases)

Latha Luain - Doomsday, Day of Judgement; can also be used to imply a day that will never come, a day lit by the moon instead of the sun

Guthan Prìseil: A Sample

It was when ACGA member Anne Landin first started coming to Cape Breton about twelve years ago that she became aware, she says, of the “wealth of Gaelic culture” in the area and she was quickly convinced that she wanted to be involved in the work of preserving the “artistic expression and idiom of Cape Breton Gaelic speakers and singers,” something which sadly had not happened in her home state of North Carolina. Over the next few years Anne met many of the older Cape Breton Gaelic tradition bearers, recording their songs and collecting and digitizing other old recordings. Her efforts resulted in a book celebrating the singers and the songs of Cape Breton. Published in 2009 by the Centre for Cape Breton Studies, Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS., *Guthan Prìseil: Guthan agus Òrain Gàidheal Cheap Breatainn (Precious Voices: Voices and Songs of the Cape Breton Gael)*, consists of the transcriptions and translations of 21 Cape Breton songs, along with background on the songs and biographical material on the singers.



Maxie MacNeill

Cam MacRae

One of the singers who befriended Anne early on in her work was Maxie MacNeil, who is credited as being a leader in the effort to revitalize the milling frolic tradition in the Iona area of Cape Breton. Maxie, still singing at Cape Breton milling frolics, was one of the original members of the Iona Gaelic Singers, who through the years have performed all over Canada and the United States. Here <http://tinyurl.com/94uwcxe> is Maxie introducing and then singing “An Oidhche Bha 'n Comhlan Cruinn,” (The Night of the Gathering) one of the songs on the CD which accompanies

Anne's book.

Our link to this recording is being made with the permission of the Centre for Cape Breton Studies, who hold the copyright to both the book and the recording. *Guthan Prìseil* is available from the Centre for Cape Breton Studies.

Guthan Prìseil: A Special Offer for ACGA Members

Long-time ACGA member and supporter Anne Landin has agreed to repeat her special offer to ACGA members regarding her 2009 book *Guthan Prìseil* (Precious Voices). Thank you, Anne!

What is Guthan Prìseil?

Guthan Prìseil is a collection of 21 songs—a CD is included. Many of the songs were composed in Cape Breton by local bards and are previously unpublished. They give us a glimpse of local history and/or genealogy and a look at the times in which the song was composed (mostly late 1800's to early 1900's). The text gives information about the story behind each song or the event which prompted its composition, information about the singer and the composer if known. It also includes the Gaelic transcription and English translation of each song.

The songs are field recordings made in people's homes and are to be valued for their historical and literary context.

Proceeds go to ACGA!

Anne has kindly offered to allow ACGA to sell copies of this book to our members (only), with ACGA making the profit (the difference between her author cost and the sale price of the book).

So here's an easy way to obtain a copy of a great book and benefit your Gaelic association at the same time. And the price (\$22.95 in either U.S. or Canadian dollars) is quite inexpensive for a book with an included CD. Shipping and handling will be an additional \$7.75 for the U.S., or \$4.00 for Canadian addresses.

How do I order?

There are three ways to take advantage of this offer:

PayPal

(for U.S. or Canadian)

Make a PayPal payment in your own currency (\$30.70 U.S. or \$26.95 Canadian) to payments@acgamerica.org.

(If you haven't yet discovered PayPal, but are comfortable doing financial transactions on-line, you may want to take a look at <http://www.paypal.com>. It's really fast, safe, and convenient.)

U.S. Mail

(for a U.S. address only)

Send a check for \$30.70 U.S., payable to "ACGA" to:

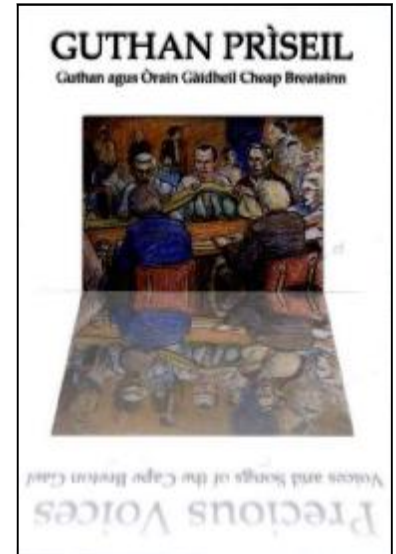
ACGA
PO Box 103069
Denver CO 80250

Canadian Mail

(for a Canadian address only)

Send a check for \$26.95 Canadian, payable to "Toronto Gaelic Learners Association" to:

ACGA c/o Janice Chan
43 Norbrook Cresc.
Toronto, ON M9V 4P7
Canada



Cha Bu Mhiste Sinn Leabhar Na Tri

Toiseach

Tòiseachaidh

le Cam MacRae

A bheil cuimhne agad air a' chiad fhacal Gàidhlig a dh'ionnsaich thu? Tha agamsa. 'S e "Bùth-leabhraichean" a bh' ann, ainm bùtha bige a reic leabhraichean ann an Geàrrloch, Ros an Iar. 'S ann anns na naochadan a bh' ann agus mise a' fuireach fad mìos ann am flat faisg air a' bhaile ud. B' ann gu math luath a dh'fhàs mi cleachdte ri dhol ann airson còmhraidh càirdeil agus cupan teatha còmhla ri Irene, am boireannach aig an robh a' bhùth. 'S e Irene a dh'ionnsaich dhomh ciamar a chanainn "bùth-leabhraichean" agus dh'innis i dhomh cuideachd gun robh daoine fhathast ann aig an robh Gàidhlig agus gun robh iad fhathast a' sgrìobhadh leabhraichean sa chànan. Abair smuain!

Uill, tiugainn air adhart còig bliadhna deug agus mise air cur romham blog a sgrìobhadh airson "An Naidheachd Againne." Cha bhi càil a tha spaideil ann, dìreach pìosan goirid neo-fhoirmeil air leabhraichean, ùghdaran, foillsichearan, agus bùithtean-leabhraichean - breice 's mortar agus mas fhìor, no virtual, mar gum biodh - ge bith dè a tha ùr agus inntinneach dhomh ann an saoghal leabhraichean Gàidhlig. [Leis an fhìrinn innse, cha bhi dùil agam a h-uile facal a sgrìobhadh mi-fhìn, ach bidh agad ri leughadh gu bonn na duilleige airson na tha nam inntinn.]

Nise, tha mi air a bhith beò-ghlacte le leabhraichean fad mo bheatha - is beag an t-iongnadh gu bheil mi ag obair ann an leabhar-lann aig an àm seo - agus nach mi a tha toil te le leabhar tiugh nam uchd no a leithid ann an srean dathach air an sgeilp. Ach, dè mu dheidhinn leabhraichean ann an cruth bog, no eileagtronaigeach? Feumaidh mi aideachadh nach robh mi buileach cinnteach aig an toiseach, ach a-nis tha mi làidir às an leth. Ciamar san t-saoghal a dh'fhaighinn *Scottish Gaelic Dialects* leis an t-Urr. Charles M. Robertson no *Elements of Gaelic Grammar* le Alexander Stewart? Mo bheannachd do dh'Amazon e-books agus Kindle! Gu ruige seo cha do lorg mi ach dà nobhail ùr ann an cruth digiteach, *Cleasan a' Bhaile Mhòir* le Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul agus *Cogadh Ruairidh* le Iain MacLean, an dà dhiubh bho Sandstone Press, ach tha mi buileach cinnteach nach e ach cìrean na tuile a th' ann an seo.

Each Journey Begins With One Step

by Cam MacRae

Do you remember the first Gaelic word you ever learned? I do. It was "Bùth-leabhraichean," the name of a small shop in Gairloch, Wester Ross. It was the 90's and I was spending a month in a flat just outside of town. I quickly developed the habit of dropping in for a friendly chat and a cup of tea with Irene, the shop's owner. It was Irene who taught me to pronounce "bùth-leabhraichean" and told me that there were still people speaking Gaelic and even writing books in Gaelic. Abair smuain!

Fast forward about fifteen years and I've decided to write a book blog for "An Naidheachd Againne," nothing fancy, just short informal pieces about books, authors, publishers, and bookstores - brick and mortar and on-line, whatever is new and interesting in the world of Gaelic books. [Actually, I don't plan to write it all by myself, but you'll have to read to the bottom of this to find out how I'd like it to work.]

Now, I've been enthralled by books and reading all my life - no surprise that I work in a library - and I love the feel of a book in my hands and the look of a whole row of them on a bookshelf. So how do I feel about e-books? I have to admit that it took a while, but I am now a true believer. How do you think I got my hands on *Scottish Gaelic Dialects* by The Rev. Charles M. Robertson and *Elements of Gaelic Grammar* by Alexander Stewart? Thank you, Amazon Kindle! So far the only new Gaelic novels I've found as e-books are *Cleasan a' Bhaile Mhòir* by Catriona Lexy Campbell and *Cogadh Ruairidh* by Iain MacLean, both from highland-based publisher Sandstone Press, but these are only the tip of the Gaelic e-book iceberg.



Cha e Kindle an aon stèidh eileagtronaigeach a th' againn. Tha an Nook le Barnes and Noble agus an Kobo Canèideanach ri do làimh cuideachd, agus tha iad uile saor an asgaidh mar luchdaidhean a-nuas dhan choimpiutair, fòn-fiosrachaidh, iPad, no iPod agad. Tha grunn leabhraichean Gàidhlig a tha à clò ri fhaotainn mar fhaidhlichean .pdf tro Google Books. A bharrachd air a sin, sgrìobh Trueman Matheson (Siol Enterprises aig www.gaelicbooks.com) o chionn goirid gun cuir e faidhlichean .pdf saor an asgaidh de *Dhàin Spioradail leis a' Bhàrd Mac Gilleain* agus *The Gaelic Bards 1825 - 1875* gu neach sam bith a chuireas post-dealain gu siol@gaelicbooks.com. Agus mura faca tu an leabhar taitneach dà-chànanach digiteach *An Gàradh aig Sìne* le Laurinda Matheson, a' bhean aig Trueman, tha ceangal ris air aig làrach-lìn Siol. An e digiteach an t-ainm ceart airson an leabhair seo? Chan eil fhios 'am, ach tha na dealbhan beòthaichte, agus 's urrainn dhut èisteachd nuair a bhios Lodaigh MacFhionghain ga leughadh dhut anns an dà chuid a' Ghàidhlig agus a' Bheurla is thusa a' tionndadh nan duilleagan. Agus chan e sin uile a th' ann. O chionn goirid nochd Clò-Fuigheagan, stèidhichte ann an 2011 le HI~Arts, le maoinachadh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus HIE – Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean. Tha dùil aig Clò-Fuigheagan leabhraichean-e Gàidhlig ùra, print-on-demand, agus leabhraichean ann an clò àbhaisteach fhoillseachadh san àm ri teachd. Aig an àm seo chan eil ach aon leabhar air an liosta aca, *Duilleag Beatha Na h-Òrain agus am Bàrdachd aig Uilleam Aonghas MacMhathain*, ri fhaotainn tro Amazon, ach mar a chanas na Gàidheil, toiseach tòiseachaidh.

A-nis, dhan a' phàirt agad. Bu toigh leinn cluinntinn bhuat dè na leabhraichean no na h-ùghdaran Gàidhlig a tha thu a' leughadh agus carson. Dè tha dol san t-saoghal leabhraichean Gàidhlig agad? Sa Ghàidhlig no sa Bheurla, tha sinn coma. Sgrìobh thugainn!

Briog an seo (<http://tinyurl.com/9e894ru>) airson liosta de leabhraichean eileagtronaigeach sa Ghàidhlig. Tha dùil againn an liosta a chumail ann an dreach làithreach, is mar sin, ma chì thu leabhar eileagtronaigeach a tha dhìth oirnn, cuir fios thugainn.

Of course, Kindle isn't the only electronic platform out there. We've also got Barnes and Noble's Nook and the Canadian Kobo to choose from, and these platforms are all also available as free downloads to your computer, smart phone, iPad or iPod. There are also quite a few older out-of-print Gaelic books available as .pdf files through Google Books. In addition to this, Trueman Matheson (Siol Enterprises at www.gaelicbooks.com) has recently announced that he will send free .pdf files of *Dàin Spioradail leis a' Bhàrd Mac Gilleain* and *The Gaelic Bards 1825 - 1875* to anyone who emails to ask at siol@gaelicbooks.com. And if you haven't seen the charming bilingual digital book *An Gàradh aig Sìne (Sheena's Garden)* by Laurinda Matheson, Trueman's wife, there's a link to it at Siol's website. Is digital the right name for this book? I don't know, but the text is animated and you can hear Lewis MacKinnon reading it to you in both Gaelic and English as you turn the pages. And we're not done yet. Last year, a new publishing house, Clò-Fuigheagan, was established by HI~Arts, with funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE. Clò-Fuigheagan have plans to publish new Gaelic e-books along with print-on-demand and traditional print books. As yet they have only one offering on their list, *Duilleag Beatha Na h-Òrain agus am Bàrdachd aig Uilleam Aonghas MacMhathain*, available through Amazon, but as the Gaels say, "toiseach tòiseachaidh."

So now we come to your part. We want to hear what new or old Gaelic books or authors you've been reading and why. You don't have to write to us in Gaelic, but please do let us know what's going on in your world of Gaelic books.

Click here (<http://tinyurl.com/9e894ru>) for a list of Gaelic books in electronic format. We'd like to keep the list up-to-date, so let us know if you see something we should add.

"Hot Off the Press," So to Speak

Giglets, Ayrshire-based e-book publisher of *Smart Reads* has just released their second Gaelic e-book, an abridged version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Their first Gaelic e-book came out earlier this year, a shorter version of Arthur Conan Doyle's classic short story, *Am Bann Breac* (The Speckled Band). We'll let you go to their website, www.giglets.net, to find out what giglets means.

Intrigued by descriptions of Rody Gorman's new book of poetry, we asked Heather Sparling, chair of the Department of History and Culture at Cape Breton University, to review it for us. It sounds like she enjoyed Gorman's word play, as did the panel who named it to the short list for the 2011 Donald Meek Award.

Gorman, Rody. 2011. *Beartan Briste agus Dàin Ghàidhlig Eile / Burstbroken Judgement-shroudloomdeeds and other Gaelic Poems*. Sydney, NS: Cape Breton University Press.
by Heather Sparling

This book is, quite simply, cool.

At first glance, it looks like many other contemporary Gaelic poetry collections: a single Gaelic poem on each page with its English translation on the facing page. But the author did something really interesting with his translations. For most of the Gaelic words, he provides multiple English translations, all run together as a single word, just as you see in the English translation of the book's title. In effect, he has made explicit what good poetry is all about: the potential for many meanings in a single word, making each poem a prism of meanings and interpretations. You, the reader, can choose a meaning and follow its trail and ultimately come to see each poem as a many-layered thing.

Cuideachd

ancestorcompanyalso

Chaidh mi a chèilidh
Air mo chuideachd
Anns an taigh-fhaire

I went to pilgrimageceilidh on
my ancestorcompany in the
carewakinghouse.

Nochd iad
Is an dèidh sin
Dh'fhalbh iad às an
t-sealladh;

They nakedappeared and then
went out of sight;

Ri bròn;
An uair sin gun ghuth
'S an uair sin a-rithist
Soraidh

Mourning; then without a bard-
tauntvowelvoiceword and then
again sorrybye,

'S iad a' gluasad leotha
gun sgur
Bhon dàrna seòmar
A-steach don fhear eile.

Moving ceaselessly from the
onesecond room into the next
manone.

Gorman's approach addresses a typical problem with translations: the translator must choose a single word to correspond to each single word in the original language. But by doing so, the translator narrows the meanings associated with the original word or, worse, creates a new set of meanings inherent in the English

word that doesn't exist in the original Gaelic. Gorman addresses this very issue in his opening, (mostly) English poem:

From the Gaelic
(après Ian Duhig)

According to Dwelly, that Strathspey-and-pibroch-loving
Sassenach

Who settled here and came to teach the Gaels a thing or two
Concerning their language, one of the words used for moon
Means a greyhound or paunch, a loin and kidney also.
The sun, meanwhile, is the bottom of the ocean,
Says our man Dwelly, or a burn or a loch
And a star's a mackerel or soil or a robust man.

Well ma-thà, m' eudail, if I say that your face
Is like a robust greyhound's loin or kidney
And your hair's as dark as the floorbed of Loch Ness
Or the very pupils of your eyes
Are like landed mackerel or Schaeffenwolken,
All I mean is: I'm trying, don't you see,
To describe you just so, according to Dwelly.

This collection consists of more than 75 poems, most quite short. The longest are around a dozen lines or so. As such, they are perfect for Gaelic learners and for those who aren't so sure that they're poetry fans: the reader doesn't become overwhelmed or lost in a long, winding narrative or dense language. The Dwelly-esque translations mean that the learner can enjoy the poems without having to check a dictionary constantly. Because they are so short, the poems offer concentrated portraits, mostly of people, but sometimes of places or other objects (such as one about a soccer ball!). The poems are highly evocative of rural Gaelic life with the occasional reference to urban experiences – but these are presented as the experiences of one visiting the city rather than of one from the city. Colour and light quality are frequently invoked. But physical descriptions are designed to reveal internal feelings and represent personal perceptions. For me, age emerged as a dominant theme: portraits of

older people, descriptions of ancient places, poems about old photos, half-remembered memories, and the loss of Gaelic. The poems do not necessarily pass judgment – rather, they focus on presenting moments of experience – but the overall impression is one of an aging and somewhat worn culture. There are, however, a few poems about youth with some charming descriptions of children’s behaviour. Even these, however, capture moments for posterity, knowing that children quickly grow up. I do not want to suggest that the book is depressing, though. It’s perhaps better described as melancholy.

This book is inspiring in that the author, Rody Gorman, is a Gaelic learner himself. He is actually from Ireland where he learned Irish Gaelic to fluency. He is now the writer-in-residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic-medium college in Scotland, and the editor of the annual Irish and Scottish Gaelic poetry anthology *An Guth*. He has not only written and published hundreds of his own poems, but has translated English poems into Scottish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic poems into English, and Irish Gaelic poems into Scottish Gaelic (and vice versa).

The book opens with a short bilingual essay by Rob Dunbar, the fluent Gaelic learner and lawyer originally from Toronto who now works as a language policy researcher at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. His introduction provides a condensed history of Scottish Gaelic poetry from the MacMhuirichs, “Gaelic

Scotland’s greatest literary dynasty” originating in the early thirteenth century, to the decline of the Gaelic aristocratic order that had patronized bards, to the radically new form of Gaelic poetry that emerged in the twentieth century. The book closes with bilingual information about the author and praise for Gorman’s poetry by well-respected Gaelic poets, some in English, some in Gaelic, and some in both.

I would certainly recommend this poetry collection to Gaelic learners and speakers of all levels. The advanced and fluent speaker will appreciate the Gaelic poems on their own, although the English translations also provide fascinating reading. The learner will appreciate the brevity of the poems (it can be challenging going through a poem even in one’s mother tongue, let alone in another language!) and the many-faceted translations. While the vocabulary and grammar are not always simple and straightforward, they are not as challenging as many older Gaelic songs. I do not mean to suggest that Gorman’s Gaelic is simple or unsophisticated. Rather, I mean to suggest that Gorman uses modern language, imagery, and topics, making his poems more accessible for learners in the same way that modern English-language poetry is often easier to understand than, say, a Shakespearian sonnet or Chaucerian verse. This book may be a bit challenging for the true beginner, but the English translations are worth reading as poetry in-and-of themselves.



Smaoinich sinn gum bu chòir lèirmheas mu dheidhinn na làrach-lìn seo a bhith sgrìobhte le cuideigin na b' òige na sgioba *An Naidheachd Againne!* Tha sinn a' toirt taing do dheugaire Erin airson a bhith deònach sin a dhèanamh air ar son.

Who better than a teenager to write a review of a website such as this one aimed at children, someone closer to the target age but able to analyze what's being offered. Our thanks to Erin for taking time to check it out and tell us what she thinks.

Bocan TV

le Erin Park

Tha Bocan TV na làrach-lìn ùr airson Dualchas na Cloinne a bha Highland Animation air dèanamh. Tha òrain, bhidiothan, cartùnaichean, geamaichean, agus sgeulachdan air. Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gur e proiseict sgoinneil a th' ann agus gu bheil iad airson rudeigin glè mhath a dhèanamh. Ach, feumaidh mi innse dhuibh nach eil an làrach-lìn seo airson luchd-tòiseachaidh. Bhiodh e na b' fheàrr airson daoine aig

Bocan TV

by Erin Park

Bocan TV is a new website made for Dualchas Na Cloinne by West Highland Animation. It has videos, cartoons, songs, games, and stories in Gaelic. Overall I think it's a great project, and its purpose is a very worthy one. First off, this website is not designed to teach beginners with very little or no knowledge of Gaelic, but it can be used and enjoyed by beginners with some knowledge/experience of the language,



<http://www.bocan.tv/bocan/index.php>

a bheil beagan Gàidhlig no tòrr Gàidhlig no, leis na h-òrain, na bhidiothan, cartùnaichean is sgeulachdan, Gàidhlig gu leòr. Cuideachd, tha e nas fheàrr airson clann – gu aois dà-dheug.

'S e na bhidiothan an rud nach do chòrd rium cho mòr. 'S e deagh bheachd a th' annta ged-tà, ach shaoil mi gun robh iad caran “creepy” agus bha e doirbh tuigsinn na bha na caractaran ag ràdh, air sgàth 's gun robh clann air an dèanamh. 'S e deagh obair a th' ann airson an luchd-obrach, ach cha robh iad cho math airson nan daoine a bha a' sealltainn orra. Ach bha a h-uile càil eile dìreach sgoinneil. Chòrd na geamaichean rium air sgàth 's gun robh mi ag èisteachd agus a' cluich. Agus bha na cartùnaichean uabhasach math – bha mi a' leughadh, a' faicinn, agus ag èisteachd ris an sgeul. 'S e deagh chothrom a th' ann am Bocan TV airson duine sam bith a tha ag ionnsachadh ach gu h-àraid clann aig a bheil Gàidhlig.

Tha mi glè thoilichte gu bheil cothrom aig clann air feadh an t-saoghail an cuid Gàidhlig a chumail air adhart.

advanced speakers, and every level in between. I'd also say that although this website may be helpful for teens, its audience and primary focus is young children (up to age 12 or so).

My least favorite aspect of the project were the videos. Although a good idea, the art looked really creepy at times and it was hard to understand what the characters were saying, because the art and the voices were done by children. I think that it would be a great experience for the makers, but not as much for the viewers. Otherwise, I thought the website was great! I liked that the games had a listening component as well as pictures, and I thought the cartoons were good because of the reading, listening, and watching components. I could go as quickly or as slowly as I wanted to, which was really helpful in understanding the stories, and that the voice was done by an adult.

I'm very happy that Gaelic-speaking children all over the world have this opportunity to learn about their culture in a unique way.



Given that each of the major smartphone platforms now boasts hundreds of thousands of software packages (“apps”) to accomplish almost every conceivable function, it was only a matter of time before we started to notice apps about Gaelic. So we decided to start a series of short reviews of these, and this is the first. Rudy Ramsey has written the first one, but reviews by others are most welcome.



Gàidhlig on the Go—LearnBots (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch)

by Rudy Ramsey

LearnBots is a fun, and rather clever, way to learn and practice verb forms with the aid of a mobile device. Before I tell you about it, though, you need to do something for me. You know that “suspend disbelief” switch in your head that helps you enjoy science fiction? (You may be using it just now for political campaigns.) Well, you may want to turn it on for a paragraph or two.

LearnBots is an app that lets you drill yourself on verb forms. It teaches you the imperative, past, future, conditional, infinitive, and verbal noun forms of 101 different verbs, with conjugation, spelling, and pronunciation by a native speaker. What, no disbelief problems yet? Ah, I almost forgot. It uses images of a rather fanciful family of robots -- including a man, a woman, a dog, and a hive of bees -- to make things interesting and to visually tie the verb root to its meaning. And in my opinion, it works, at least as a motivational aid, and perhaps as a retention aid. I am absolutely certain, however, that some folks will see this as purely a gimmick. So your mileage may vary.



After I played with LearnBots for a bit, I went to its website (www.learnbots.com) to see what sort of folks would build an app like this. I was surprised at what I found, and it's clearly relevant to understanding what's happening here. These guys (iEdutainment) are not, first and foremost, builders of iPhone apps. Rather, they're folks who work in one very

specialized compartment -- the learning of verb forms in foreign languages. They've built a whole system for this, including flashcards, posters, books and ebooks, movies, animations, audio files, learning software, board and video games, smartphone apps,

and more. They've done it for, I think, 22 languages so far, and they have a special interest in including minority languages. That's how we got on their list. They built their Gàidhlig materials, including the audio snippets that teach every pronunciation, with the aid of the several major Gaelic outfits, including Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Gaelic Books Council. The materials seem sound to me, though I'll confess that I'm not as strong in some of these forms as I would like. (Did I mention that I'm actually going to be using this app?)

If you “purchase” a free version of LearnBots through the iTunes store, you get full functionality, but for only 5 of the 101 verbs. That's certainly enough to help you decide whether or not this app is for you, though. If you decide that it is, you can do an in-app purchase of the full product, for \$4.99. Either version lets you select a verb in either Gàidhlig or English. Then you can work your way through a displayed list containing all the verb forms mentioned above. I've included screen images from both the iPhone and the iPad, to give you the idea.



You can work with the verbs all displayed, as in the second figure, or you can tap on the question mark, and the cells will all go blank. Tapping on a cell then causes its verb form to be both displayed and pronounced, so you can gradually repopulate the blanked display. And learn the verb.

LearnBots is based on a simple idea, unusually well executed, and it's worth a look by any Gàidhlig learner who uses an iDevice. It would be especially good for intermediate students, and for any advanced students who, like me, need vocabulary work. I can only hope that this verb company will soon spin off a subsidiary with a magic bullet for nouns. ☺

Summer Mòd Results

Here are the results from this summer's mòds. Look for news from the 2012 U.S. National Mòd in our December issue.

Mòd nan Lochan Mòra

June 22–24, 2012, Lorain County Fairgrounds, Wellington, OH
Adjudicator: Gillebride MacMillan

Poetry: Prescribed

Advanced

First place: Mike Mackay
Second place: Cam MacRae
Third place: Anne Alexander

Beginner

First place: Phil Clark

Poetry Sight Reading

First place: Cam MacRae
Second place: Mike Mackay
Third place: Erin Park

Bàrdachd overall scores

First place: Mike Mackay Clan Donald Award.
Second place: Cam MacRae: Great Lakes Gaelic
Society Award (Luinneagan Luaineach, the poetry
of John Macgregor)
Third place: Phil Clark

Story Telling

First place: Cam MacRae
Second place: Erin Park
Third place: Cathleen MacKay

Song Competition

Beginning women

First place: Ligaya deLeon
Second place: Carol Kappus
Third place: Karen Smith

Advanced women

Prescribed songs:

First place: Mary Wake
Second place: Anne Alexander

Combined songs:

First place: Rosemary Hedge
Second place: Judith Hedge
Third place: Mary Wake

Advanced men

First place: Mike Mackay
Second place: Seumas Gagne

Top Scores for the day

Music: Rosemary Hedge
Gaelic Mike Mackay

Top overall scores for the day, average of all Gaelic and Music scores:

Men: Mike Mackay
Women: Rosemary Hedge

To be eligible for the following awards competitors must sing all songs in their categories; i.e. an advanced singer must sing both combined and prescribed songs.

The **Margaret Mary Crystal Goblets** went to Mike Mackay for top place for Gaelic

The **Catherine Mackin Memorial Quaich** went to James Gagne for top place for Music.

North Carolina Regional Mòd

July 14, 2012, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC
Music Adjudicator: Michael Mackay
Gaelic Adjudicator: Alasdair Whyte

Women

First place: Anne Alexander
Second place: Sarah Beth Kerr
Third place: Margaret Gérardin

Overall

First place: Anne Alexander
Second place equal: Tom Terry and Sarah Beth Kerr
Third place: John Grimaldi

Men

First place: Tom Terry
Second Place: John Grimaldi

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

September 2012

Gàidhlig aig Baile, September 21 - 23, 2012 St. Ann's Cape Breton, NS.

Colaisde na Gàidhlig offers educational weekends consisting of GAB Immersion Classes for Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels. Song workshops will be offered at the Beginner / Advanced Beginner and Intermediate / Advanced Levels. Participants can choose to live in for the weekend or attend as a day student. Students traveling from a distance can also arrange to stay over Friday evening. Additional fees will apply. For more information and / or to register see

<http://gaeliccollege.edu/school/gaelic-weekends/general-information.html>

Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh, 2012 / U.S. National Mòd, September 21 - 23, 2012 Ligonier PA

*****Please note corrected date from the June issue of An Naidheachd Againne*****

25th ACGA National Mòd with adjudicator Beathag Mhoireasdan and 2011 Men's and Women's Gold Medalists from Scotland's Royal National Mòd, Gaelic song, story and poems in competition as well as cèilidhs! To register or for more information see

<http://usmod.wordpress.com/mod-bulletin-an-cuairtear-ceolmhor/>

October 2012

Fèis nan Dathan Ceilteach / 16th Celtic Colours International Festival, October 5 - 13, 2012 Cape Breton, NS

46 concerts in 33 communities around Cape Breton Island

<http://www.celtic-colours.com>

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail / Royal National Mòd, October 12 - 19, 2012 Dunoon, Scotland

2012 entry forms are now available at

<http://www.acgmod.org/nationalmod/moddetail/mod-2012-entry-forms>

Bùth-Obrach Gàidhlig / Gaelic Workshop, Saturday October 20, 2012 Dartmouth, NS

With Mary Jane Lamond, 10 am in UTC-03, Christ Church Hall, 61 Dundas St, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Price - \$25.00

Oidhche nam Bòcan/Night of the Spooks, October 25, 26, 27, 2012 Iona NS

An Clachan Gàidhealach / Highland Village Museum, 4119 Highway 223, Iona - NS. 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Come and celebrate Halloween with a special evening tour of the Highland Village by lamp light, complete with storytelling, skits and special effects. The tour is followed by a storytelling session in "The Tuning Room" with fuarag, oatcakes and more.

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/hv/en/default.aspx>

November 2012

Deireadh-seachdain Nollaig, / Gaelic Christmas Weekend, November 23 - 25, 2012 St. Ann's Cape Breton, NS.

Colaisde na Gàidhlig offers educational weekends consisting of Gàidhlig aig Baile Immersion Classes for Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels. Song workshops will be offered at the Beginner / Advanced Beginner and Intermediate / Advanced Levels. Participants can choose to live in for the weekend or attend as a day student. Students traveling from a distance can also arrange to stay over Friday evening. Additional fees will apply. For more information and / or to register see

<http://gaeliccollege.edu/school/gaelic-weekends/general-information.html>

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@g.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

Newfield / Ithaca

Conversation groups
Wayne Harbert
weh2@cornell.edu

North Carolina

Asheville

Study Group
Leigh McBride
lmcbride@unca.edu

Guilford

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

Ohio

Cincinnati

Study Group
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
macaoidh@eos.net

Kent

Classes
Frances Acar
Classes by Skype
frances.acar@gmail.com

Oklahoma

Midwest City

Study Group
Barry Acker
bearachanse@yahoo.com

Tulsa

Study Group
Adrian Martin
almarti6527@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Area

Study Group
Harry Webb
hwebb@zoominternet.net

Texas

Hurst

Classes
David Gressett
jdgressett@hotmail.com

Fort Worth

Study Group
Jonquele Jones
jonquele@flash.net

Utah

Salt Lake City

Classes by Skype
Rachell Blessing
rachell-blessing@comcast.net

Virginia

Alexandria

Classes
Nick Freer
neacalban1@aol.com

Catlett

Michael Mackay
Local in-person and via Skype
mackay@progeny.net

Washington

Seattle

Classes & Study Groups
Slighe nan Gàidheal
<http://www.slighe.com>

Canada

New Brunswick

Fredericton

Classes
Atlanta Gaelic Academy
www.gaelicacademy.ca

Nova Scotia

Halifax

New Glasgow

Port Hawkesbury

Classes
Atlanta Gaelic Academy
www.gaelicacademy.ca

Sydney

Classes
Cape Breton Gaelic Society
Heather Sparling
heather_sparling@cbu.ca

Ontario

Ottawa

Classes
Randaigh Waugh
comunnghaidhligottawa@rogers.com

Toronto

Classes
CLUINN
www.torontogaelic.ca

Québec

Montréal

Study Group
Linda Morrison
linda@lindamorrison.com

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/classes

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AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

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