A’ Tilleadh a Thiriodh

by Rhoda Meek

On a bha mi beag biodach, b’ e mo mhiann fuireach ann an Tiriodh.

Rugadh agus thogadh mi ann an Dùn Èideann.
Chaidh mi tro Fhoghlam Gàidhlig ann an Dùn Èideann agus ann an Obair Dheathain, a’ fàgail na sgoile fileanta sa Ghàidhlig.

As a teen Rhoda Meek was, among other things, a presenter on the children’s radio program Dè a-nis? but apparently always had a strong interest in the technical side of computing. Having recently moved back to the family croft on Tiree, she is now able to work from home doing design, marketing, and all sorts of technical things for Ùlpan who arrange Scottish Gaelic courses. In addition she designs posters, websites, and practically anything else that’s needed.

Returning to Tiree

by Rhoda Meek

Ever since I was a kid, I have wanted to live in Tiree.

I was born and brought up in Edinburgh. I went through Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, leaving school fluent in Gaelic.

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Go to http://www.acgamerica.org for more information on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.
Each summer, my family returned to visit Tírheadh. I have one memory of my Seanair (Grandfather), sitting in front of the fire in the house ‘Coll View’. I was only two and Seanair was ill. Maybe it’s a memory, maybe it’s a memory of a photo, but no matter, it’s my first memory of Tírheadh. Seanair passed away shortly after.

My grandmother stayed on the island alone for five years and each summer I looked forward to visiting her, and the croft. It was a safe, beautiful place for me. Coming from the big city to a stunning island, full of places to play – beaches, rocks, old buildings and more. It was an incredible place. It was a place full of hope where I could run, jump and play – both physically and mentally.

It was a more difficult place for my Dad. There was much to do as he tried to bring the croft to order; old rubbish to move, things to fix and an elderly house needing work.

I’m sure it wasn’t easy for my Mum either – she had to boil water if she wanted it hot – that’s how the house still is, but I am sure it was a good deal harder with children round her feet.

As well as the issue of the house, I was aware, even as a child, that there were many years of history to be seen within the bounds of the croft; however, it wasn’t until my Dad recently began to write about the history of the family that I started to realise how important that history is, and how valuable it is.

My Dad has an amazing memory. In his writing, he draws pictures of the old days, full of feeling and colour. Although I never met my ancestors in the stories, reading about them and their lives makes me feel close to them in a way I didn’t before. I told my Dad how much I was enjoying...
When my own circumstances changed this year, I got the chance to fulfil my dream. I moved to Tiree. Just for a week or two, to see if it suited me. I am thirty years old. I have never had a job which allowed me to work remotely, but I do now. If I don’t grab the chance now whilst I am fit and healthy, I might not get another one.

I spent the first week bringing some order to the house. I spent the second week in the garden, digging and planting potatoes and I spent the third week helping friends with the lambing.

There was no doubt in my mind. After three weeks I was certain that Tiree was where I should be. There is nowhere else on earth where I feel peace like I do when I am in Tìr an Èorna. It’s easier to breathe here than it is anywhere else. For me, anyway.

I want to stay on the island, no question. There’s a lot of work ahead of me, but after learning about the amount of work my ancestors put in over the years, and after seeing the amount of work my parents have put into keeping the house and the croft, it’s almost a duty, a good duty though, to do my part to honour it by looking after the priceless archive which has been left behind – the history of our family in Tiree.

Maybe I’ll see you there some day.

You can read more about my family history, and the history of the croft on my Dad’s blog: http://meekwrite.blogspot.com.
President’s Letter
by Scott Morrison

Well, a big welcome to summer! Hopefully the weather is warm and the days are sunny where you are, and the winter and spring months were very productive for you in terms of bringing your Gaelic along. While things may seem quiet, we’re very busy working behind the scenes preparing for the Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week in July and the U.S. National Mòd in September. I hope that every one of you have gotten the Mòd materials from the Mòd’s web page already and that we’ll see you in Ligonier in September. If you haven’t done so yet, it’s not too late to plan to attend.

Grandfather Mountain will be very special this year also. Two instructors will be coming from Scotland, James Graham and Kirsteen MacDonald, both Royal National Mòd Gold Medalists. As well as being fine singers, the two have other talents, James as a piper, and Kirsteen as a broadcaster who will also be covering the week’s activities for the BBC. There is a chance that you could appear on her program. However, you need to attend for that to happen, so register now! ACGA’s own popular instructor Jamie MacDonald is back as well, so it promises to be an excellent week. And of course, you should stay on for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on the weekend.

The second annual fund raising concert for the U.S. National Mòd took place in Alexandria VA in May. Liam Cassidy, Mike Mackay, Cathleen MacKay, Anne Alexander, John Grimaldi, Peter Walker, Erin Park and some special guests as well as myself, sang and played Scottish and Gaelic music. Highland dancers rounded out a great show! A total of $541 was raised for the Mòd, which is desperately needed to help defray the cost of flying our adjudicators from Scotland. Many thanks to Liam and to Kathy Park and the Mòd committee, as they did fantastic work organizing this program.

I also have one announcement regarding ACGA governance. We will not have an election for new members of the Board of Directors this year, as we usually do. We did not succeed in putting together an Election Committee in time to hold the election in the correct manner. Rather than disrupt the functioning of the Board altogether, the Board decided to appoint directors this year. They will sit for one year, and their seats will be regarded as vacant next summer, so they’ll need to be elected at that time if they wish to continue to occupy those seats. Three members of the Board are leaving in July: Rudy Ramsey, who is term-limited and whose seat is being eliminated to reduce the Board to 7 members, Tom Stewart, and Reese McKay. In addition, my own term as a Board member expires at this time, though I am eligible to run for office again. The Board has decided to appoint me, Jamie MacDonald, and Janice Chan for the three one-year vacancies. I’m sure you’ll recognize the names of long-time ACGA friends Jamie and Janice. Anyway, they (and I) will be sitting in the chairs for the year and there will be a proper election next year without a doubt! If you have any concerns, you can send me an e-mail and I will be very willing to explain the situation. Here is my address:

SAMmallets@netzero.com

Well, I must go, but remember not to let up on your Gaelic studies through the summer. It’s a good idea to think of the summer as an opportunity to catch up with them, or perhaps even get ahead!

Regards,

Scott Morrison
Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

Le Liam Ó Caiside

Căibidil a Tri: Fàth-Fithe

“Fath fith ni mi ort, le Muire na frithe, le Bride na brot … bho iasgaidh na talmha, bho shìghaidh na mara, ’s bho shìontaigh na gailbhe.”

„Chùm an Draoidh Mòr an gealladh a thug e do mhàthair Iain, agus thug e a làn-oideachais dha. Dh’èirich Iain agus na foghlaintich eile mus do dh’èirich a’ ghrian agus chaidh iad don leabaidh nuair a bha a’ ghealach gu h-àrd am measg nan reultan. Dh’ionnsaich iad àireamhachd, bàrdachd agus cliaráchas, agus iomadh cuspair eile: reuladaireachd, feall-sanachd, lubh-eòlas agus eòlas-leighis, iomadh seòrsa de dh’òg, cànanan leithid Laideann, Greug-gais, Fraingis agus Beurla (cha robh Beurla aig mòran de na Gàidheil aig an àm sin, gu h-àraidh far an deach Iain a thogail), agus an t-seann Gàidhlig (agus abair nach robh Gàidhlig aig na draoidhean fhèin).

Dh’obraich iad gus an robh an cinn gus sgàineadh.

A bharrachd air sin, bha na h-oileanaich a’ cleachadh draoidheachd madainn agus feasgar. Thòisich Iain agus na fòglaintich air a dh’òige le obagan simplidh agus an deòd sin orthonnann a bha na bu duilge. B’ urrainn dhaibh ceò a thogail agus frasan a tharraidh a-nuas – tachartasan nach robh neo-àbhaisteach anns a’ Ghàidhealtachd co-dhù.

Bha bàrdachd cuimhneachd dhaibh, seach gum e “buaidh na bàrdachd toiseach na draoidheachd,” mar a thuirt an Draoidh Mòr riutha. Uaireannan, bha draoidheachd ceangailte ri ceòl, agus dh’fheumadadh na h-oileanaich seinn nuair a bha iad ag ionnsachadh sheuntan, neo a’ cluish na clàrsaich neo na feadaige.

Ach an rud a b’ fheàrr, a rèir Iain, theagainn an draoidh “Fath-Fithe” dha na h-oileanaich gus am b’ urrainn dhaibh na cruthan anns an robh iad a chao-chladh agus a dhol às an t-sealladh ann am badaibh nam bonn. Thòisich iad aon mhadainn earnaich nuair a bha na balaich anns an tür, nan seasamh ri cheòile ann an cearcall.

“S e seo an draoidheachd as sine a th’ againn,” thuirt an draoidh riutha. “Tha i dol air ais cho fada ’s nach eil fios againn an-diugh cuin a dh’ionnsaich na draoidhean i. Ach tha coltas ann gun tàinig am Fath-Fithe às an àird a tuath gu Failias agus Findias, Gorias agus Murias, na bailtean caillte far an do chleachd Clann Danann draoidheachd, fios agus fàsneachd mus tàinig a’ chuid Ghàidheal thar a’ chuain a dh’Èirinn no a dh’Alba.”

An uair sin, chuir an draoidh a làmhan agus a lurgan tharta agus thuirt e ann an guth garbh glòrach:

Fath-fithe ni mi oirbh,
Le neart, le feart,
Bho chumadh ceart,
Bho chaora, bho rùda,
Bho ghobhbar, bho bhoc.

Bho mhathan màsach,
Bho chò fàsach,
Bho bhò, bho mharc,
Bho tharbh, bho earc,
Bho euntaidh an adhair,
Bho shìghaidh na talmha,
Bho iasgaidh na mara,
’S bho shìontaigh na gailbhe,
Fath-fithe ni mi oirbh.

Agus thuirt e: “Faoileag.” Mus deach aca facal a bhruidhinn, chaidh iad a-mach tron uinneig: aon fhaoleag mhòr agus tri faoileagan deug air sgèith ann am feò fuar a’ chamhanaich.

Ràinig iad sgeir ag leum am boc agus na daimh uile a-mach dhan adhar. Nuair a bha Iain cinnteach gun rachadh am marbhadh air na creagan fada shiosa chuala e guth a mhaighstir aon turas eile ag ràdh, “Iolair.” Ann an diog, bha iad air sghèith a-rìthist nan ceithir iolairean deug, a’ dìreadh suas gu h-àrd dhan iarmait air sgiathan làidir, leathan.

Thug iad an caisteal orra, agus a-steach tro uinneagan an tùir. An uair a chuir iad spòg air an ùrlar, bha iad nan daoine a-rìthist. Fhuairas na foghlaingtich an siud ’s an seo air feadh an t-seòmair – sianar nan suidhe agus seachdmar nan sinadh. Sheas an Draoidh Mòr nam measg leis an lurgan na dhòrn. Cha robh ach aon cheist aig lain. “Cuin a nì sinn sin a-rìthist?”

Bu tric a chaidh iad a-mach le chèile an dèidh sin. Cha robh seòrsa de chreutair ann a-mach dh’adh. Nuair a bh’ fheàrr air an draoidheachd fad an t-siubhail, thòisich an dithis aca ri carach air an ùrlar, agus thuirt an draoidh “Fiadh.”

“Ach cha b’ urrainn do dh’lain gun a bhith smaoineachadh air an leabhar agus na bha sgriobhte ann ma dheidhinn.”

Chaidh bliadhna seachad. Dh’fhàs Iain na b’ fheàrr air an draoidheachd fad an t-siubhail.

“Dh’ionnsaich thu barrachd ann am bliadhna na dh’ionnsaich mise ann an còig,” thuirt Ladhar Mòr ris aon latha, eud agus meas na ghuth.

Chaidh iad a-mach a h-uile cothrom a fhuar e a dh’itealaich os cionn a’ chaisteil ann an cruth fithich, an cruth-eòin a b’ fheàrr leis. Aon latha earraich, thuirt e gum bu toigh leis a dhol gu tuath agus an Cuiltheann fhaicinn, ach thug an draoidh rabhadh dha.

“ ‘S iomadh rud anns a’ Chuiltheann agus air feadh an eilein seo nach toigh leotha draoidhean,” thuirt e. “Tha sìthichean ann, agus tha iad cunnartach eadhan nuair a dh’iaid càrdeil.” Bha creutairean cunnartach ann, nàdarra agus mi-nàdarra, agus bha droch-bhuidseachan ann cuideachd, thuirt e.

“B’ iad pàirt dhen treubh a bha nan nàimhdean do na draoidhean agus do chàirbh do thús. Nam faigheadh iad cothrom, chuireadh iad air fho fhiaichbha ʼs fò gheasan thu, agus tha e coltach nach b’ urrainn dhuinn sion a dhèanamh airson do shàbhaladh.”

Shaoil Iain lair beag an cunnart dhasan cho fad ’s a bha e ag iolaich faisg air a’ chaisteal – shaoil, gus an latha a chunnaic e feadhainn àraid a’ marcachd fòdha nuair a bha e air sghèith.

B’ e sin a’ bhuidheann a bha neònach. Bha iad iad air an uidheamachadh mar thighearran agus mar mhàthair -uaisle – na fir ann an còtaichean dearga agus tartain air). “Mura biodh na faclan ceart agad, gheibheadh tu bòs anns a’ bhad.”


Chaidh bliadhna seachad. Dh’fhàs Iain na b’ fheàrr air an draoidheachd fad an t-siubhail.

“Dh’ionnsaich thu barrachd ann am bliadhna na dh’ionnsaich mise ann an còig,” thuirt Ladhar Mòr ris aon latha, eud agus meas na ghuth.
The Canadian government has presented a prestigious research award to ACGA member (and frequent ANA contributor) Dr. Heather Sparling of Cape Breton University to further and expand her work. The government website explains this very important research support: “Tier 2 Chairs – tenable for five years and renewable once, are for exceptional emerging researchers, acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.”

Her new university position is Canada Research Chair in Musical Traditions. An ethnomusicology professor, Heather will now be able to spend additional time over the next five years examining “how communities sustain musical traditions, and how musical traditions sustain communities” in relation to the traditional music and dance of Atlantic Canada. Her particular interest is in the Scottish Gaelic song and traditional dance of Cape Breton as well as disaster songs of Atlantic Canada. Heather’s extensive list of projects to be undertaken includes producing CDs and a video, writing books and articles for publication and conference presentations, and a number of other related activities.

Meal do naidheachd, Heather!

Heather Sparling
Canada Research Chair in Musical Traditions
CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY

Katheryn Gordon (http://gordonphoto.com/)

**by Mike Mackay**

Some of us in ACGA are quite familiar with a special family who appear time after time in the Gaelic Scottish news when the topic is music. Every time we look for a new song, or a new group to listen to, it seems that one of the Campbells from Greepe is involved to some extent.

Who are these Campbells? Well, perhaps if I were to say the names Kenna, Mary Ann, and Wilma, it would be quite clear who I’m talking about. If you had attended Grandfather Mountain and the week-long ACGA event that’s there every year in Banner Elk, with Kenna or Mary Ann teaching, you’d have seen how deep their knowledge is of Gaelic music and song, not only from their own home in the Isle of Skye, but from all over the Gaelic world as well. But not just knowledgeable, they are kind and generous and only too happy to give of their heritage to any who take an interest in it. Is it not amazing that this kind of family exists, especially since it’s not just these three that are so talented in music and Skye’s heritage, but it’s also true of the whole family. But where are they from? From the Isle of Skye, of course, but from what people?

You can get the answers to all these questions in a book that was published this year, “Fonn – the Campbells of Greepe,” and indeed this book is special. It really is two books, when you look inside it, because in the first part you get a truly good look at the family, from their ancestors to the present time, the way they were raised, and what they did through their lives. You will get every answer you wish in this book, and more than this, there is a CD that comes with the book containing many pieces recorded for the School of Scottish Studies, with the family singing and...
bheil CD an cois an leabhair, le iomadaich pios air a chláradh bhò Sgoil Èòlas na h-Alba, de mhuinntir an teaghlach a’ seinn órain agus a’ bruithinn. An ann Stòr nan Caimbeulach, an darna leabhar mar gum biodh, tha cruinneachadh araidh de dh’òrain a bhuinneas do na Caimbeulaich – le notaichean le Màiri Anna fhèin, a’ toirt seachad mineachadh air na faclan, na puingean, agus na grinneasan a nochdas ann gach óran.

Agus abair stòras priseil a gheibh duine a thogas an leabhar seo. Leis na th’ ann de’n stòras seo, eachdraidh an teaghlach, agus na notaichean, ’s e leabhar mòr tomadach trom a th’ ann – riochd gu math freagarraich do’n teaghlach tàlantach, ainmhe, sònraichte seo. Mar a sgriobh Iain MacAonghuis ann an ro-ràdh an leabhair, “Tha saoghal-bràth aig na Caimbeulaich a dh’òrain.” Tha fhios gum fhach e tadhal a dhèanamh air an t-saoghal seo.

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 fourth (see Fall 2012 issue for a review of Learnbots, Winter 2012 for uTalk, Spring 2013 for SGI). Rudy Ramsey has written the first four, but reviews by others, and for other mobile platforms, are most welcome.

**Gàidhlig on the Go – Briathrachan (iPhone, iPad)**

*Review by Rudy Ramsey*

This is the mobile version of MacFarlane’s Scottish Gaelic Dictionary, “Am Briathrachan Beag”. It’s a free (no-cost) app.

I don’t like carrying dictionaries around, and find this app very convenient. It allows searching or browsing from Gàidhlig or English. You type in some or all of the word you’re interested in, and the app displays the corresponding dictionary entries for the other language. This is, of course, a very old dictionary – indeed, the fact that it’s long out of copyright is the reason it’s available for this use. You won’t find words for modern technology here. 😞 The search mechanism is also very literal. If you even capitalize a word, it won’t find the entry.

I generally use the web-based dictionary, Am Faclair Beag ([http://www.faclair.com](http://www.faclair.com)), when I want to look up words from my iPhone or iPad. And there are several other web-based dictionaries available. However, if I’m in a place from which I can’t access the internet, Briathrachan is useful to have along. It’s also much quicker than web-based dictionaries, so if I’m only looking up one word, and I’m confident it will be in this old diction-
Kedgeree

Kedgeree is thought to have been introduced to the British Isles in the late 19th century by colonials returning from India. Because it can be made from leftover cooked fish and rice, it is often served for breakfast.

1 cup cooked rice
1 cup cooked fish, flaked (although smoked herring is traditional, I use salmon)
1 hard-cooked egg, chopped
1 tablespoon butter
chopped parsley
 coriander, ground cumin, garam masala, paprika, salt and pepper to taste

Mix rice, fish, chopped egg, and butter in saucepan and heat until butter is melted. Season to taste. Sprinkle parsley on top before serving.

As Ewen said: The breakfast of kings! (See Kitchen Music link in A Bharrachd)

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!

Cam MacRae

Kedgeree is thought to have been introduced to the British Isles in the late 19th century by colonials returning from India. Because it can be made from leftover cooked fish and rice, it is often served for breakfast.

1 chupa ris air a bhruiuch
1 chupa èisg air a bhruiuch agus air a bhris ann am piosan (ged a tha sgadan smocte tradaiseanta, cleachdaidh mi fhin bradan)
1 ugh, air a bhruiuch agus air a ghearradh dà unns’ ime
peirsill air a ghearradh
 coriander, cumin, garam masala, paprika, salann is piobar, a-reir a’ bhlas a thogras tu

Cuir an ris, an t-iasg, an t-ugh, agus an t-im ann am poit. Measgaich a h-uile sìon le chèile agus teasaich gus am bi an t-im air a leaghadh. Cuir am peirsill air uachdar.

Mar a thuirt Ewen: Bracaist an rìgh! (Faic an ceangal gu Kitchen Music anns a’ Bharrachd)
Dè Do Naidheachd?

by Cam MacRae and Jeanne Pendergast

Two more short stories with bolded words chosen for a variety of reasons.

Cam:

O, halo, tha sibh ann. Chuir sibh clisg orm. Tha mi dulich ach chan eil mi deiseil fhathast. Bha mi nam sheasamh an dràsta an seo ann am meadhain a’ chidsin, crogan de phicealan eugsamhail nam làimh. Ach carson picealan? Tha mi cinnteach gum bidh cuimh’n agam ann am mionaid no dhà. ’S ann anns an t-seòmar-chadail a bha mi roimhe, ach an uair sin chaidh mi dhan chidsin agus dh’fhosgail mi am fuaradair. A bharrachd air picealan tha iomadach crogan ann, ach fhuarair mi picealan eugsamhail bhon sgeilp, dhùin mi an doras, agus an ath rud, dhiuchuimhnich mi carson picealan eugsamhail. A dh’innse na firinn, b’ fheàrr leam chutney. Cheannaichinn picealan nam biodh cuideigin a’ déanamh céilidh oirnn. Thuirg an dotair rium gum e feumail dhomh notaichean a chuir air doras an fuaradair ma bhis rud sam bith cudromach a’ tachairt, ach chan eil air ach aon phios pàipeir le “’S e a’ chiaid seachd bliadh’n as miosa” sgriobhte air. Uill, tha sibh ann co-dhù. Dè an t-ainm a th’ oirbh?

Glossary:

tha sibh ann – Does the use of sibh add anything to the story?
chuir sibh clisg orm – you startled me
phicealan eugsamhail – mixed pickles
eugsamhail – different, miscellaneous, variation, various
iomadach crogan – a lot of jars (literally - many a jar; iomadach is followed, as is iomadh, by a singular noun)
A bharrachd (air) – in addition (to); (have you noticed that this is the title of our page where we gather extra bits of information related to longer articles?)
dhiuchuimhnich – I forgot (we included this for pronunciation practice; hint: it’s much easier if you don’t think about how it’s spelled)
a dh’innse na firinn – to tell the truth (an infinitive followed by the genitive)

Jeanne:

Cuimhneachan...ah...na leth-cheudan, nuair a dh'imrich mi chun na Seapaine is mi a' fuireachd an uairsin aig Sgoil na Còcaireachd....agh...bracaist...cha do chòrd picealan eugsamhail agus iasg rium idir tràth sa mhadainn. Cha mhòr nach do dhiuchuimhnich mi carson a chaidh mi ann.

Ach chaidh na bliadhnaichean seachad oirnn agus abair gur ceart an abairt: ’S e a’ chiaid seachd bliadh’n as miosa! Dh’ionnsaich mi mar a dhèanadh tu biadh Seapanach mòr-thaitneach ceart gu leòr, ach a bharrachd air an sin, mar a chleachdadh tu biadh gus nach bi mòran a’ dol a dholaidh.

Dh’ionnsaich mi Seapanais gu ire mhath cuideachd. Far an robh mi a’ fuireachd, ’s ann tearc a chitheadh tu coigreach nach robh na neach-turas, agus uaireannan chluinninn rudan bho Sheapanaisach nach robh air mo shon. Dh’haodadh iad a bhith èibhinn ach aon latha bha mi seachd searbh de “Tha i grànnda, ’s a casan cho mòr,” ’s msa. Thuirt mi ann an Seapanaisc ealanta “’S dòcha gu bheil mi grànnda ach chan eil mi mhodhail.” Nach do chuir mi stad air dithis bhoireannach mi-shiobhalta sin!
GLOSSARY:

dh’imrich – used for relocating one’s home (rather than ghluais)
chun na Seapaine – genitive construction with a definite feminine place-name (an t-Seapan)
seachad oirinn – past us, (went) by
abair gur ceart an abairt – how correct is the expression (abair puts emphasis on what follows)
‘S e a’ chiad seachd bliadhn’ as miosa! – The first seven years are the worst. (’s e is needed with the superlative adjective)
mòr-thaitneach – can mean popular but there’s also a connotation of particularly pleasing, mòr in this sort of construction providing emphasis
a’ dol a dholaidh – going to waste
seachd searbh – a shortened form of seachd searbh sgìth meaning beyond tired of something

An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach

This is the introductory column in what we hope can be a continuing series for our young readers (see request for an editor on page 13).

The title comes from the Gaelic proverb, An t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach (Early learning is beautiful learning). [There’s an implied “’s e” at the beginning that is usually omitted.]

A Bharrachd

Kedgeree

For a another version of kedgeree follow the recipe that Ewen Henderson of Battlefield Band cooks up on Temple Records’ “Kitchen Music,” at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xf1vQD81aE. The video is in Gaelic with English subtitles and also includes some terrific fiddle playing by Ewen.

Donald Meek’s Blog

The father of Rhoda Meek (“A’ Tilleadh a Thiriodh” in this issue) is Professor Donald Meek, who has been senior lecturer and professor of Celtic, Scottish, and Gaelic studies at several universities in Scotland, including the University of Edinburgh from which he retired several years ago. His blog is a treasure trove of his articles, including chapters of his in-progress autobiography, Passages from Tiree. To read chapter 6, “The Life and Work of the Croft,” and view a wonderful series of 73 photographs of Tiree, past and present, click here. http://www.meekwrite.blogspot.ca/2013/04/autobiography-chapter-6-under_1.html

Class Poetry

When set the task of writing a haiku-like poem or short prose piece, students in Cam MacRae’s beginner-level Atlantic Gaelic Academy class revealed something about their lives.

èirich agus tarrain anail
a-steach ’s a-mach
fad an latha, a h-uile latha
      ~ Sharon Goldsby

Oiteag bhlaith, adhar bhon a’ mhuir
Caistealan gainmhich
Samhradh.
      ~ Jenny Moreno

A Dhiomhaireachd mhòr
A Ghrèine, A Ghealach, A Thalmhainn, A Speuran, A Mhara
Tha sibh nam bhroinn agus mum thimcheall.
      ~ Kim Graham

Bha mi a’ coiseachd a-muigh sa mhadainn an-diugh.
Tha madainnean brèagha.
Bha a’ ghrian a-muigh agus bha na h-eòin a’ seinn.
‘S toil leam an t-earrach.
Bidh mi fhìn agus mo phiuthar a’ dol a choisachd sa mhadainn
a-màireach aig seachd uairean.
Tha còta sean agam ach tha còta urch aice; bidh sinn blàth.
      ~ Debbie MacLeod

ann an seòmar beag air cathair,
a’ sgriobhadh agus a’ leughadh
a h-aon, a cóig leabhraichean
      ~ Nick Kane

WANT ADS

Children’s Page Editor
As part of the society’s outreach to younger members, we’ve instituted “An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach” (see previous page), and we’re hoping someone will volunteer to take on the task of creating and / or finding suitable material for upcoming issues. We’ve got some ideas to get you started, so please contact Cam, Janice or Jeanne (see gray box on the last page of this issue).

Indexer
Did you know that back issues of “An Naidheachd Againne” going back more than four years are available on our forum? To help members find articles on specific issues or by particular authors, we thought a simple author / subject index would be a good idea. If any of our readers are interested in working on this project, we’re waiting to hear from you.
A few weeks ago I was looking at the row of Gaelic books on the shelf beside my desk: poetry, fiction (there’s a lot of fiction), children’s books, and periodicals. I quickly noticed that most of them have come from the same four publishers: Birlinn, Clàr (Úr-sgeul), Acair, and Gairm. Wondering just how many Gaelic publishers there are out there, I began to count, first my own books and then on-line. On my own shelves: fifteen. At the Gaelic Books Council’s website: more than 75! To tell the truth, there are actually more than that; that’s just where I stopped counting.

Seventy-five. Are you surprised? I certainly was.

Publishers need customers, and we all know that the market for Gaelic books isn’t as big as the English market or even the Irish market. The mainstays of Gaelic publishing are all based in Scotland, and most of the new books come from them. Despite this, however, books in Scottish Gaelic are also published in Ireland, England, Canada, and the U.S by university presses, historical and religious societies, and other publishers who recognize the value of a niche market. These publishers offer books for children, teens and adults; books for Gaelic learners and fluent Gaelic speakers. Their lists include fiction: novels, short stories, and graphic or illustrated novels; and non-fiction: history, natural history, collections of poetry and songs, religious themed books, and so on. Some of these have been translated from English or from Irish, and some are bilingual, but many were written originally in Gaelic. And although the vast majority still come to us printed on paper, publishers are increasingly offering electronic versions of their books.

And so back to my original question. As the entire book world (authors, publishers, booksellers, and libraries) learn to navigate the realities of a new austere economy, Gaelic Publishing, how are you doing? Buying Gaelic books has never been easier, and my choices of topic and format are wide. In my own little bubble things are looking better than they ever have. I hope I’m not deceiving myself.
Criomagan

New from Cape Breton University Press, spring 2013:
*Celts in the Americas*, edited by Dr. Michael Newton, professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. A selection of papers from the “Celts in the Americas” conference held at StFX in 2011, as well as five further chapters providing overviews of the histories, cultures, languages and literatures of Celtic peoples in the Americas.


MGAlba FilmG Awards 2013
MG ALBA, the Gaelic Media Service, has announced the winners of this year’s FilmG competition for Gaelic-language short films. You can learn more about this annual competition and watch any of this year’s 62 competition entries, including the winners, by clicking here: [http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/](http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/).

The website also provides access to all the films for the previous four years. The amount of spoken Gaelic varies considerably, and a few include English subtitles.

ACGA members will be pleased to learn that Beth Frieden, winner of the 2009 ACGA University Scholarship appeared in “A’ Coiseachd nam Bhrògan,” winner of this year’s FilmG award for “Best Drama Short.” You can watch Beth’s winning performance here: [http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/winners/adults/best-drama/](http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/winners/adults/best-drama/)

Donald Meek Literary Award 2012
And the award goes to - Dr Moray Watson for *A’ Bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig: Iain Mac a’ Ghobhainn* (Acair 2013), his comprehensive collection of the poetry of Iain Mac a’ Ghobhainn (Iain Crichton Smith). Watson is Senior Lecturer in Gaelic at the University of Aberdeen. For more information see this announcement from the University of Aberdeen. [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/news/1804/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/news/1804/)

The On-Line Faces of ACGA
Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several on-line faces, including more than one website, a Facebook page, a conversational forum, a YouTube page, and even a Twitter account.

Our main website, [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org), includes a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc. It also contains an archive of newsletters, detailed information about our major events, information about ACGA and how to join, learning resources, and more.

Our forum site, [http://forum.acgamerica.org](http://forum.acgamerica.org), is a collection of conversational forums, some public, some for members only, and some for ACGA’s internal organizational functions.

Our Facebook page (click here or search for “American Scottish Gaelic Society” on Facebook) is a public face of ACGA. Because this page is integrated into a social network, it has a very different feel from our website, and likely attracts a different crowd.

We don’t have very much video content on our ACGAmerica YouTube channel yet (we’re looking for more), but what we do have is interesting and ACGA-relevant.

Our Twitter account (ACGAgaelic) is presently used for ACGA announcements only, in Gaelic.

One of our events has its own website, too. The [ACGA Mòd](http://www.acga-mod.org) website contains a lot of information about past, present, and future Mòds.
Gaelic Events

June 2013
Mòd nan Lochan Mòra, June 21 – 23, 2013, Lorain County Fairgrounds OH
Adjudicator is Roddy Campbell from Barra. This event takes place in three different locations, but Saturday’s competitions are at the Lorain County Fairground. For more information please email Frances Acar at frances.acar@gmail.com.

Thigibh dhachaidh thugainn / Come home 75th Anniversary Celebrations, June 30 - July 6, 2013
Colaide na Gàidhlig / Gaelic College, Cape Breton, NS
Daily activities include campus tours, Great Hall of the Clans displays, cultural demonstrations, Blas Math lunchtime ceilidhs, nature walks, artisan market, children’s activities and shuttle service

Please see http://gaeliccollege.edu/event-calendar/75th-anniversary.html for schedule of special events, ticket pricing and purchase.

July 2013
Scottish Gaelic Immersion Week, July 1 - 5, 2013, Ontario School of Piping and Drumming, 15800 Yonge Street (St. Andrew’s College), Aurora ON
This program is designed for those who already have some background in conversational Gaelic. The instructor is Angus MacLeod of Cape Breton, well-known Gaelic teacher, actor, singer, storyteller and artist. Enrolment is limited to 20 people. To register see http://ospd.sac.on.ca/gaelic_program.html

The History of Scottish Gaels in Scotland, July 2 - 22, 2013, StFX University, Antigonish NS
Instructor: Dr. Michael Newton
The History of Scottish Gaels in Scotland (CELT 331) is a 3-credit survey of the history of Gaelic Scotland from earliest times to 1800, including the main social, religious, and intellectual institutions of Gaelic Scotland and some of the achievements of Scottish Gaels.
For more information including tuition costs, please email Michael Newton at mnewton@stfx.ca.

Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts, July one-week sessions, Cape Breton NS
Seisean nan Òigrìdh 1 / Youth Session 1 - July 8 - 12, 2013
Seisean nan Òigrìdh 2 / Youth Session 2 - July 15 - 19, 2013
Na Teaghlaichean / Family Session - July 22 - 26, 2013
See http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/school/summer-school/summer-school-2013.html

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, July 7 - 12, 2013, Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk NC
The week consists of song and language classes at graduated levels, with special-interest workshops in the afternoons and an evening ceilidh. Guest instructors from Scotland are singer / piper James Graham (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm-UhubHMZw) and singer / broadcaster Kirsteen MacDonald (http://www.musicinscotland.com/acatalog/MP3_Kirsteen_MacDonald_CDs.html). Popular Gaelic instructor Dr. Jamie MacDonald returns as well. An extra incentive this year, especially for fluent speakers, is that the BBC wants to do a program about the Gaelic Week, with Kirsteen likely seeking interviews with some of the Gaelic learners who attend. For more information see http://www.acgamerica.org
North Carolina Gaelic Mòd, Saturday, July 13, 2013, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville NC
The Mòd will start at 3:00 pm on Stage Number Three behind Donald’s Gaelic Ceilidh Tent. Registration forms may be picked up at the ceilidh tent at any time during the Games until 1:00 pm on Saturday. See http://www.gmhg.org/gaelicmod.htm for more information.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Various Gaelic Courses, Isle of Skye, Scotland
Please see the description for each course at the link below. In 2013, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will be marking its 40th year as a college, and there will be many special events taking place. Various levels of Gaelic language will be offered, as well as Gaelic song and culture courses. http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean-goirid/samhradh-2013.

August 2013
Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts, August one-week sessions, Cape Breton NS
Seisean nan Inbheach 1 / Adult Session 1 - August 5 - 9, 2013
Seisean nan Inbheach 2 / Adult Session 2 - August 12 - 16, 2013
See http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/school/summer-school/summer-school-2013.html.

September 2013
U.S. National Mòd, Friday, September 20 - Sunday, September 22, 2013, Ligonier PA
Adjudicator: Catriona Parsons. More information will be posted here http://usmod.wordpress.com as it becomes available.

October 2013
Royal National Mòd, October 11 - 18, 2013, Paisley, Scotland
For entry forms see http://www.acgmod.org/nationalmod/entryform.

Cha tuirt mi sin idir! Thuirt mi, “Chaidh triùir Albannach a-steach dhan bhàr.”
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
theqaelicguy@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

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
bearachanseo@yahoo.com

Tulsa
Study Group
Adrian Martin
almart6527@gmail.com

Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh Area
Study Group
Harry Webb
hwebb@zoominternet.net

Texas
Hurst
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David Gressett
jdgressett@hotmail.com

Fort Worth
Study Group
Jonquele Jones
jonquele@flash.net

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

Virginia
Alexandria
Classes
Nick Freer
neacalban1@aol.com

Catlett
Michael Mackay
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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

Port Hawkesbury School of Gaelic
Kathleen Burbidge
kathleenburbidge@hotmail.com

Sydney

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

Ontario

Ottawa

Classes
Randaidh Waugh
comunngaidhligottawa@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 http://www.acgamerica.org/learn/classes

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, ruadh@idirect.com

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An Naidheachd Againne

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