

An Naidheachd Againne

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Cha Bu Mhiste Sinn Leabhar Na Tri

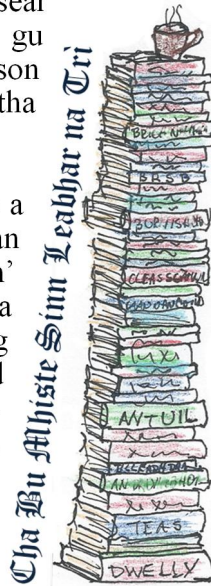
le Cam MacRae

Manga? Superman? Pokemon?

A bheil sibh measail air nobhailean grafaigeach? Nuair a thòisich leabhraichean grafaigeach a' nochdadh air sgeilpichean an leabharlainn anns an robh mi ag obair mu dheich bliadhna air ais, cha robh ùidh agam annta idir. Uill, bha mi air *Maus* a leughadh, gu cinnteach, ach bha an còrr airson na cloinne, nach robh? O, bha gu dearbh, ach feumaidh mi aideachadh gun do leugh mi *Asterix the Gaul*, cuideachd. Abair dòigh eachdraidh ionnsachadh!

Tro na bliadhnaichean mheudaich an uiread is an caochladh de leabhraichean grafaigeach againn, agus mhothaich mi gun robh an dà chuid inbhich agus clann gan leughadh. Sna làithean seo tha an roghainn gu math farsaing, bho Star Wars, gu manga, bho sgeulachdan traidiseanta gu neo-fhicsean. Agus Shakespeare. Agus Robert Louis Stevenson. Chithear dealbhan simplidh annta agus dealbhan iom-fhillte, dealbhan dubh is geal agus dealbhan làn-dhathte. Dh'innis leabharlannaiche dhomh o chionn ghoirid gu bheil iomadh tidsear measail air na leabhraichean seo air sgàth 's gu bheil e math cruthan diofraichte a bhith ann airson leughadairean eadar-dhealaichte. Agus mar a tha fhios againn: Tha leughadh bunaiteach.

“Carson,” tha sibh a’ faighneachd a-nis, “carson a tha am boireannach seo a-mach air leabhraichean grafaigeach?” Uill, 's e nobhail grafaigeach a bh' anns a' chiad leabhar Gàidhlig a cheannaich mi a -riamh. Cha robh mòran leabhraichean Gàidhlig anns a' bhùth ud, agus cha robh mo chuid Gàidhlig cho math nas motha. Nuair a dh'aithnich mi *Asterix an Ceilteach* air an sgeilp, cha b' e ruith ach leum. Air fhoillseachadh le Taigh nan Teud ann an 1989 còmhla ris na dealbhan tùsail air an dèanamh le Albert Uderzo, bha e air eadar-theangachadh le Peadar Morgan. Leis



Manga? Superman? Pokemon?

Are you a fan of graphic novels? When graphic books began to appear on the shelves of the library where I worked about ten years ago, I wasn't too interested in them. Well, I had read *Maus* of course, but the others were for children, weren't they? Sure, but I must admit that I read *Asterix the Gaul* too. What a way to learn history!

Through the years the number and variety of graphic books increased, and I noticed that both adults and children were reading them. These days the choice is quite broad, from Star Wars to manga, from traditional tales to non-fiction. And Shakespeare. And Robert Louis Stevenson. You'll see simple drawings and complex, black and white and full-color. A librarian friend told me the other day that teachers like these books because the different formats appeal to different readers, and as we all know: Reading is Fundamental.

“Why,” you are asking yourself now, “is this woman going on about graphic books?” Well, the first Gaelic book I ever bought was a graphic novel. There weren't many Gaelic books in the store, and my Gaelic wasn't that good anyway. Therefore, when I recognized *Asterix an Ceilteach*, the choice was easy. Published in 1989 by Taigh nan Teud, this translation by Peadar Morgan includes all the familiar original drawings of Albert Uderzo. The simple text and entertaining drawings made

gu bheil an teansa simplidh agus na dealbhan soilleir agus èibhinn, 'b e deagh roghainn a bh' innte airson neach-tòiseachaidh.

Bho àm gu àm tro na bliadhnaichean tha mi air nobhailean grafaigeach Gàidhlig eile a cheannach. Tha *Fo Bhruid* (2007) agus *Gnothach Annasach an Dr Jeckyll is Mhgr Hyde* (2008) bho Waverley Books stèidhichte air na leabhraichean le Robert Louis Stevenson. Chaidh an eadar-theangachadh le Iain MacDhòmhnail bho na nobhailean grafaigeach aig Waverley le Alan Grant. Tha na dealbhan le Cam Kennedy, dealbhadair aig a bheil mòr-chliù ann an saoghal nan nobhailean grafaigeach.

Mar a bha e le *Asterix*, *Fo Bhruid*, agus *Dr Jeckyll is Mhgr Hyde*, bha mi eòlach mu thràth air na sgeulachdan ann an *An Tàillear 's an Taibhse agus An Suiridhe Sith*, a bha air fhoillseachadh le Trueman Matheson (Siol Cultural Enterprises) ann an 2011. 'S e mith-sgeòil Ghàidhlig gu math aithnichte a th' annta, ach is iad na dealbhan dubh is geal a rinn Aonghas MacLeòid a thogas an leabhar seo os cionn a' chòrr. Tha na stòiridhean fhèin goirid ach bidh na dealbhan a' mairsinn nur n-inntinn fad ùine mhòr.

Feumaidh mi ràdh gur e an leabhar as ùire anns a' chruinneachadh seo an leabhar as fheàrr leum: *Cuir Stad air an Stoirm Shneachda*, air fhoillseachadh ann an 2012 le Dualchas na Cloinne. Ged a bha e air thoirt am follais ann an Alba le sgioba Albannach, thàinig an sgeul fhèin o thùs bho na Chukchi, daoine bho cheann an ear-thuath Shiberia. Rinn Gillebrìde MacIlleMhaoil an t-eadar-theangachadh bho stòiridh a sgrìobh Leaslaidh NicCoinnich, stèidhichte air an rannsachadh aig fear Waldemar Bogaras am measg muinntir Chukchi tràth san fhicheadamh linn. Tha an sgeul làn sneachda, dhraoidhean, fhuamhairean agus tuilleadh sneachda. A bharrachd air sin, tha na dealbhan le Shona Shirley Macdonald beartach is àlainn. Geal, donn, dubh, le criomagan de ghorm is de dhearg, tha iad cho cudromach 's a tha na faclan.

Cruinneachadh inntinneach ann an da-rìribh, agus tha rudeigin ann airson a h-uile duine, ach sin e, tha mi duilich a ràdh. Cho fad 's a tha fhios 'am, chan eil nobhail grafaigeach eile ann sa Ghàidhlig. 'S truagh sin, dhòmhsa co-dhiù. Tha mi cinnteach gu bheil leughadairean ann, deugairean agus inbhich, a tha a' lorg leabhraichean goirid, dealbhaichte, dibhear-saineach.

it good choice for a beginner.

Through the years I have bought more Gaelic graphic novels. *Fo Bhruid* (2007) and *Gnothach Annasach an Dr Jeckyll is Mhgr Hyde* (2008) from Waverley Books are based on the Robert Louis Stevenson classics. Both were translated by Ian MacDonald from Waverley's English-language graphic novels by Alan Grant. The full-color illustrations were done by Cam Kennedy, a well-known illustrator of graphic novels.

As with *Asterix*, *Fo Bhruid*, and *Dr Jeckyll agus Mhgr Hyde*, I was already familiar with the stories in *An Tàillear 's an Taibhse agus An Suiridhe Sith*, published by Trueman Matheson's Siol Cultural Enterprises in 2011. These are well-known traditional Gaelic tales, but it's the black and white drawings by Angus MacLeod that make this book stand out. The stories themselves are short, but the illustrations will stay with you for a long time.

I have to say that the newest book in my collection is also my favorite: *Cuir Stad air an Stoirm Shneachda*, published by Dualchas na Cloinne in 2012. Although it was produced in Scotland by a group of Scots, the story belongs to the Chukchi, an indigenous people of north-east Siberia. Gillebrìde MacMillan did the translation from a story written by Leslie MacKenzie based on the research of Waldemar Bogaras among the Chukchi in the early twentieth century. The story is filled with snow, druids, and giants, and more snow, and the pictures by Shona Shirley Macdonald are rich and beautiful. White, brown, and black, with touches of blue and red, they are as important to the story as are the words.

It's an interesting collection for sure, with something for everyone, but that's it, I'm sorry to say. As far as I know, there are no other graphic novels in Gaelic. That's too bad. I'm sure there are readers out there, teenagers and adults, looking for short entertaining illustrated books.

Links to online ACGA resources

Main ACGA Website: <http://acgamerica.org/>
ACGA Forum: <http://forum.acgamerica.org/>
ACGA Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/ACGAGaelic>
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<http://forum.acgamerica.org/viewforum.php?f=51>

AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

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An Naidheachd Againne welcomes submissions. Contact the editors for more information.



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