

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Ciste agus Kiste

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 622. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 318 corresponds to Litir 622.*

Chan ann tric a bhios mi air mo bheò-ghlacadh le prògram telebhisein, ach thachair e o chionn ghoirid le prògram às an Danmhairg. 'S e *Forbrydelsen* an t-ainm a th' air a' phrògram; tha sin a' ciallachadh “Am Marbhadh” agus 's e *The Killing* a chuireadh air ann am Beurla.

Tha e a' gabhail àite ann an Copenhagen; tha e mu dheidhinn murt agus an rannsachadh a tha na poilis a' dèanamh air. Ach tha e a' toirt a-steach iomadach fo-stòiridh – poilitigs, teaghlach, neo-dhìlseachd agus daoine le “eachdraidh” **mar gun canadh tu**. Cha chreid mi nach e sin as coireach gun do chòrd e rium uiread – nach robh fios agad dè an taobh a ghluaiseadh an stòiridh. Gu dearbh, cha robh eadhon fios aig na h-actairean fhèin cò am murtair nuair a bha iad a' filmeadh. Bha fios aig Sofie Gråbøl, a tha a' cluich a' phrìomh oifigeir poilis, Sarah Lund, nach i a rinn am murt ach b' e sin e. Cha robh fios aice chun an deiridh cò rinn e.

'S ann airson margaidh na Danmhairg a chaidh na prògraman a dhèanamh agus tha a' chainnt air fad ann an Dànais, le criomag de dh'Arabais an siud 's an seo. Chan eil Dànais agam agus bha mi, mar sin, a' leantainn a' chòmhradh le fo-thiotalan Beurla. Ach bhithinn ag èisteachd ris an Dànais agus a' togail fhaclan a tha coltach ri feadhainn a chuala mi ann an Nirribhidh no san t-Suain. Mar eisimpleir, canaidh na Dànais *tak* airson taing, mar a chanas Lochlannaich eile. Agus canaidh iad *feste* airson pàrtaidh. Tha sin co-cheangailte ri *feast* ann am Beurla agus *fèis* ann an Gàidhlig.

Ach, leis gur ann air murt a bha an sreath phrògraman a-mach, chuala mi facal eile grunn tursan co-cheangailte ri bàs. Thog e m' aire leis gu bheil e cho coltach ris an fhacal againne. 'S e sin *kiste*. Tuigidh sibh sa mhionaid dè tha sin a' ciallachadh – *ciste*, *ciste-laighe* – bogsa fiodha anns am bi dust, no corp, duine air a chur mus tèid a chur don uaigh. Tha facal co-ionann ris ann an Albais – *kist*. Tha am facal airson an aon rud anns a' Bheurla Shasannaich eadar-dhealaichte, ge-tà. Tha *coffin* a' tighinn bhon t-Seann Fhraingis *coffin*, a dh'èirich bhon Laidinn *cophinus* no “basgaid”.

Ach ciamar a tha na faclan ann an Dànais, Gàidhlig is Albais cho coltach ri chèile? Cò às a thàinig *kist* no *kiste* no *ciste* an toiseach? Uill, a rèir choltais, 's ann à Laideann a thàinig e. Tha *cista* ann an Laideann a' ciallachadh “bogsa”. Ach roimhe sin, 's e facal Greugach a bh' ann – *kiste*, a' ciallachadh “bogsa”.

Às an fhacal Laidinn *cista*, thàinig *cisterna*, amar fon talamh anns am bi uisge. Sin an tùs airson *cistern* ann am Beurla. Agus à *cista* thàinig an t-Seann Bheurla *cest*

agus an Nua-Bheurla *chest*. Tha *chest* a' ciallachadh bogsa fiodha ach cuideachd an cliabh ann am mac an duine, oir tha e coltach ri bogsa – no cliabh – anns a bheil an cridhe agus an sgamhan.

Co-dhiù, saoilidh mi gur e as coltaiche gun tàinig am facal Gàidhlig *ciste* bhon Laidinn *cista* oir bhiodh am facal air a chleachdadh gu tric o shean ann an co-cheangal ris an Eaglais. Ach ma tha fiosrachadh a bharrachd agaibh fhèin air an fhacal, chòrdadh e rium cluinntinn bhuaibh.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Faclan na Litreach:** An Danmhairg: *Denmark*; fo-stòiridh: *sub-plot*; neo-dhìlseachd: *infidelity*; co-ionann: *equivalent*; Greugach: *Greek*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** chan ann tric a bhios mi air mo bheò-ghlacadh le prògram telebhisein: *it's not often that I'm captivated/obsessed by a television programme*; a chuireadh air ann am Beurla: *it was called in English*; cha chreid mi nach e sin as coireach gun do chòrd e rium uiread: *I reckon that's why I enjoyed it so much*; dè an taobh a ghluaiseadh an stòiridh: *what way the plot would go*; cha robh eadhon fios aig na h-actairean fhèin cò am murtair: *not even the actors knew who the murderer was*; chun an deiridh cò rinn e: *until the end who did it*; tha a' chainnt air fad ann an Dànais, le criomag de dh'Arabais an siud 's an seo: *the speech is all in Danish, with a bit of Arabic here and there*; a' leantainn a' chòmhradh le fo-thiotalan: *following the conversation with subtitles*; a' togail fhaclan a tha coltach ri feadhainn a chuala mi ann an Nirribhidh no san t-Suain: *picking up words that are like some I heard in Norway or Sweden*; leis gur ann air murt a bha an sreath phrògraman a-mach: *because it's murder that the series of programmes was about*; thog e m' aire leis gu bheil e cho coltach ris an fhacal againne: *it caught my attention because it's so similar to our own word*; bogsa fiodha anns am bi dust, no corp, duine air a chur mus tèid a chur don uaigh: *a wooden box in which a person's remains are put before being buried*; an cliabh ann am mac an duine: *the human chest*; an cridhe agus an sgamhan: *the heart and the lungs*; ann an co-cheangal ris an Eaglais: *in connection with the Church*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** *While English has taken coffin from French, the likely source of the Gaelic ciste is Latin, although there are close cognates in Scots and the Scandinavian languages. Ciste can mean a box or chest (the latter being its English cognate); a ciste-mhine is a meal-chest, once to be found in every Highland household. If you want to be specific and refer to a coffin, you can say ciste-laighe or ciste-mhairbhe. A rhyming Gaelic saying is sometimes employed when we are arguing about the state of our language in the modern era – Is fheàrr Gàidhlig bhriste na Gàidhlig sa chiste (it is better to have broken Gaelic than dead Gaelic).*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** le “eachdraidh” **mar gun canadh tu:** *with a “history” as one [you] might say.*

*Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA*