

An Naidheachd Againne

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In another of our continuing series on Scottish Gaelic dialects, Thomas Stewart, ACGA board member and Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Louisville, tells us about the work of American linguist Nancy Dorian. Professor Dorian has studied the East Sutherland dialect for over 40 years, most notably in the villages of Brora, Golspie and Embo.

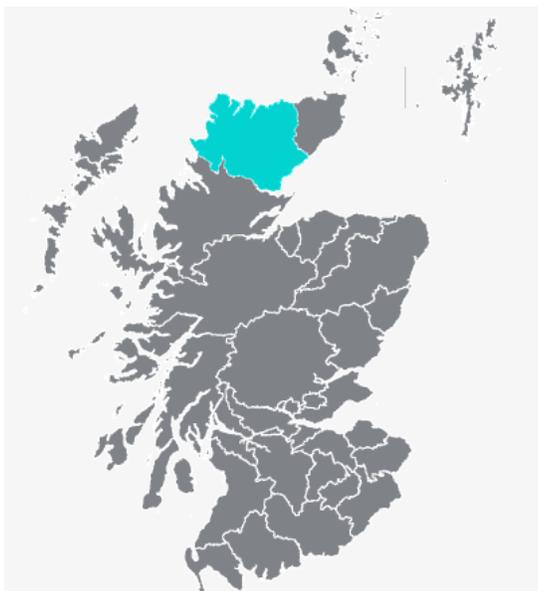
The Gaelic of East Sutherland and Nancy Dorian

by Thomas Stewart

Prof. Nancy C. Dorian's research has focused most notably on the Scottish Gaelic language with regard to its endangered status. She has drawn attention to the often hard realities that the speakers of threatened languages face, both at the community level and at the individual level, and she has done this by holding up a lens, as it were, to allow us to focus on marginalized voices. She is responsible for coining the term *semi-speaker*, a partially proficient member of a speech community who may not be immediately noticeable to the casual observer. While semi-speakers of Gaelic may not command

what might be loosely called "good" Gaelic, it is a mistake to ignore their presence and the contributions that imperfect speakers may make in the history (and future) of the language. Her concept, founded in her long-term interaction with the shrinking Gaelic community in East Sutherland, has become a standard notion in the study of endangered languages worldwide.

On a personal note, I remember how upset I was when I first caught sight of Professor Dorian's book *Language Death: The Life Cycle of a Scottish Gaelic Dialect* (U Pennsylvania Press, 1981), with the bold line drawing of a map of north-central Scotland on the cover. From my perspective as a linguist who is interested in Scottish Gaelic and its future, it struck



Highlighted area is Sutherland.

Scotland's Places

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

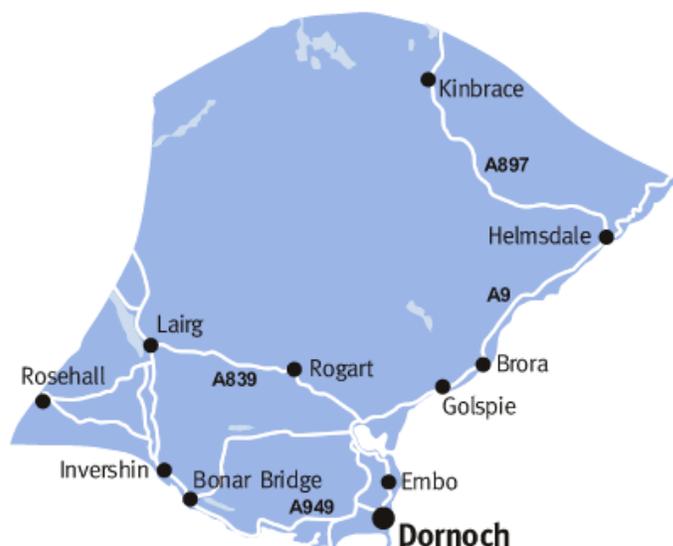
me as a bad strategic move – at the very least – to associate such a morbid-sounding title and the image of Scotland so directly for public consumption. Overcoming my initial reaction, however, I opened the book.

I quickly came to appreciate Dorian’s engaging exposition of the historical, social, and economic reasons for Gaelic’s trajectory of marginalization and loss, focused on the case of East Sutherland, but with information relevant to present and former Gaelic-speaking communities more broadly. Her work serves to demonstrate that Gaelic is worthy of sociolinguistic study in all phases of health.

By paying attention to both how the language works (in the sense of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, etc.) and how its speakers think about it (What do you most like about having Gaelic? Whom do you speak Gaelic with? What sorts of topics (if any) are “more appropriately” spoken about in English?), Dorian’s work opens up the interior life of the language in ways that may otherwise prove difficult to access. Despite the rather unfortunate metaphor of *language death* (which she did not coin), Dorian’s research is not merely a monument to something past –there is much of Gaelic’s living presence in communal history, social interaction, and family upbringing to be found in her pages.

In recognition of the scope, depth, and significance of her linguistic work with Gaelic, as well as her role in

MID & EAST SUTHERLAND



Visit Scotland

Map shows coastal communities of East Sutherland studied by Nancy Dorian.

the development of the study of endangered languages more generally, Nancy Dorian was awarded the 2012 Kenneth L. Hale award by the Linguistic Society of America. Her contributions are energizing, affirming, and they have served to place Gaelic in front of a wide reading audience. Above all, she has helped to clarify the degree to which Gaelic’s marginalization is embedded in social and economic history, and is not owing to any lack or flaw to be found in the language itself. I suppose that in the pages of this publication, Gaelic’s intrinsic value and vital potential are foregone conclusions *tha mi an dòchas gu bheil, co- dhiù.*

Rob Donn MacKay was born in 1714 in Strathmore, Sutherland. He was a monoglot Gaelic speaker who never learned to read or write but fortunately others wrote down his poetry. His poems sometimes contained ribald images that were altered by others who transcribed his work, and his Strathnaver dialect was sometimes changed into more standard Gaelic. As a result, his poetry suffered, but *The World of Rob Donn* (Ian Gimble, Saltire Society, 2nd edition, 1999) from which the following snippet of poetry is taken, corrects these errors.

Ged is socrach mo leabaidh,
Chan e ’n cadal bh’ air m’ ùidh;
’S tric mo smuaintean a’ gluasad
Don taobh tuath leis a’ ghaoith;

Is mòr a b’ annsa bhith mar riut
Ann an gleannan nan laogh
Na bhith cunntadh nan Sàileach
Ann am pàirceachan Chraoibh.

Although my bed is comfortable,
I did not want to sleep;
Often my thoughts steal
On the wind towards the northern Highlands.

How much better I should prefer to be beside you
In the little glen of the calves
Than to be counting the Sàl cattle
In the parks of Crieff.

Litir a' Chinn-Suidhe

le Scott MacIlleMhoire

Fàilte chridheil dhuibh uile. Is mise Scott MacIlleMhoire agus tha mi an dòchas gun robh samhradh math agaibh uile. 'S doirbh a chreidsinn gu bheil ceann na bliadhna a' teannadh oirnn mar thà agus na làithean-fèille a' tighinn na lùib, ach sin mar a tha e. Ged 's e seo an t-àm nuair nach bi mòran fhèisean neo mòran thachartasan sònraichte mar am Mòd neo an Deireadh-Seachdain Bogaidh a' dol air adhart, chan eil sin a' ciallachadh nach eil sinn trang. Leis an fhìrinn innse, tha iomadh comataidh ag obair a thaobh tachartasan a chumail airson na h-ath-bhliadhna. Bidh an IW ann an Arizona a-rithist, agus tha comataidh a' Mhòid gu math dripeil a' cur chuirmean ri chèile airson airgead a thogail airson Mòd 2013. 'S ann air Facebook a thèid gach còmhradh a chumail agus faodaidh sibh pàirt a ghabhail dìreach le bhith a' dol chun an làraich. 'S e Mòd Fundraisers an t-ainm a tha air a' bhuidhinn aca. A bharrachd air sin, tha mi fhèin a' bruidhinn ri dithis mu dheidhinn IWs eile a chur air bhonn a bharrachd air an tè a bhios ann an Arizona. Tha mi an dòchas gun tig rudeigin à seo ach chì sinn na thachras....

Bu chòir dhomh cuideachd ceud mìle taing a thoirt do Heather Sparling agus Randy Waugh. Tha Heather air a bhith a' cumail rian air gnòthaichean ionmhasail airson ACGA o chionn fhada! Agus 's i a tha air sàr obair a dhèanamh às leth a' chomainn againn, ar ballrachd san fharsaingeachd agus airson na Gàidhlig. Tha Randy air a bhith na iar-cheann-suidhe fhad 's a tha mi air a bhith nam cheann-suidhe agus 's mi a bhios ga ionndrainn. Gun tèid gu math leibh le chèile anns gach gnìomh anns am bi sibh an sàs agus tapadh leibh!

Ach air an làimh eile, tha cothrom ann fàilte a chur air dithis a tha a-nis air tilleadh air a' bhòrd-stiùiridh againn. Buailibh ur basan ri chèile airson Mike Mackay agus Rachell Blessing is iad air co-dhùnadh tilleadh. A Raonaid 's a Mhìcheil, tha fhios agam nach eil an seo ach iris agus nach urrainn dhuibh ar cluinntinn, ach na leigeadh sin leibhse smaoinichadh nach eil sinn a' cur fàilte chridheil oirbh

Às leth bòrd-stiùiridh ACGA tha sinn an dòchas gum bi sibh uile slàn agus gum bi Nollaig Chridheil aig a h-uile duine agaibh agus Bliadhn' Ùr Mhath dhuibh uile nuair a thig i!

Beannachdan na ràithe,
Scott MacIlleMhoire

President's Letter

by Scott Morrison

Welcome to you all. I am Scott Morrison and I hope that you all had a good summer. It is difficult to believe that the end of the year is closing upon us and that the holidays are coming, but that's just how it is. Although this is the time of the year when there are not many festivals or special events like the Mòd or the Immersion Weekend, that does not mean that we are not busy. Truth be told, many committees are working to keep up the events for next year. The IW will be in Arizona again and the Mòd committee is very busy putting together concert events in order to raise money for the 2013 Mòd. Facebook is where each conversation takes place and you all may take part by simply going there. The name of the group is Mòd Fundraisers. Besides that, I am speaking to two people about starting some other IWs besides the one that will be in Arizona. I am hoping that something comes out of this, but we'll see....

I ought to also say "100,000 thanks" to Heather Sparling and Randy Waugh. Heather has been the ACGA bookkeeper for a looooooong time! She has done marvelous work for our organization, for the members in general, and for Gàidhlig. Randy has been the vice president for as long as I have been the president and I am going to miss him. We hope that you find success in all of the endeavours in which you find yourselves involved and thank you!

On the other hand, there is an opportunity to say welcome to two people who have returned to our board. Put your hands together for Mike Mackay and Rachell Blessing since they have agreed to return. Rachell and Mike, I know this is just a newsletter and you can't hear us, but that doesn't mean that we're not giving you a warm welcome.

On behalf of the ACGA board of directors we hope that you all will be well with much success and that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessings of the season,
Scott Morrison

Seo caibideil a h-aon de sgeulachd air aithris le ar caraid Liam Ó Caiside. Tha coltas ann gur e seann sgeulachd a th' innte ach an e? Chan eil fhios againne, ach nochdaidh caibideil a dhà sa Mhàirt.

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

Le Liam Ó Caiside

Caibideil a h-Aon: Foghlainteach Ùr

“Batar iarum clanda Bethaig meic Iarboneóil Fáda meic Nemid i n-insib tuascertachaib in domain oc foglaim druidechta & fessa & fástini & amainsechta, combtar fortaile for cerdaib súithe gentliuchta.” – *Leabhar Gabhala Éirinn**

“Bha bantrach ann uair, agus bha triùir mhac aice.

A' chiad mhac, dh'fhalbh e na shaighdear. Dh'fhalbh an dàrna mac na mharaiche. Bha an gille a b' òige air fhàgail aig an taigh. 'S e Iain a theireadh iad ris, Iain Fhearchair Òig.

Balach àrd, tana le falt dubh a bh' ann, agus bha e sundach, sgiobalta. Agus bha iad ag ràdh gun robh e uamhasach glic.”

Sin mar a thòisich an sgeulaiche oidhche a bha sinn cruinn còmhla nar suidhe ri taobh a' ghealbhain aige, agus a dh'iarr Calum air naidheachd nach cuala sinn riamh.

Bu thrì a thàinig sinn air chèilidh air an sgeulaiche a' bhliadhna sin, le innealan clàraidh agus, is dòcha, botal neo dhà. Chuir sinn iomadh oidhche seachad còmhla ris, agus esan a' gabhail sgeulachdan gu latha.

“B' fhurasta dhomh sin, ged tha sibhse gu math eòlach air sgeulachdan dhen a h-uile seòrsa,” thuirt am bodach ri Calum. “Èistibh, a bhalachaibh, ris an sgeul seo. Sgeul nach cuala sibh riamh, agus nach do dh'innis mi riamh rim bheatha.”

Agus thòisich am bodach a-rithist mar a leanas.

“Aig an toiseach, bha Iain agus a mhàthair a' fuireach ann an ceàrn iomallach — cha b' fhurasta ri ràdh le cinnt càite ann an Albainn. Chan e an-dè no a' bhon-dè a bh' ann, ach tuilleadh na dà cheud bliadhna air ais, agus chan eil an saoghal mar a bha e.

Chaill a' bhantrach seo an duine aice nuair a bha Iain na leanabh. Dh'fhalbh am fear seo, Fearchar Òg, dhan arm agus cha chuala neach sam bith dè thachair dha às dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair. Dh'fhalbh na bràithrean a bu shine a dh'iarraidh am fortain, agus dh'fhàg iad am màthair na h-aonar còmhla ris a' bhalach òg.

Cò-dhiù, thàinig àmannan cruaidhe agus dh'fhàs a' bhantrach seo gu math bochd. Cha mhòr gun d' fhuair ise agus Iain am beòshlaint às an fhearann aca. Agus bha Iain a' cinntinn suas.

“Chan ann airson na bochdainn a rugadh e,” smaoinich a mhàthair rithe fhèin. “Bu chòir dhomh cosnadh fhaighinn dha.”

Ach cha robh cothroman pailt mur leanadh Iain a bhràithrean — am mac a bu shine ann an Ameireagaidh a' dol an còmhrag ris na Frangaich, agus am fear eile fad air falbh thar a' chuain.

Leis an fhìrinn innse, bu thrì a ruith smuaintean Iain gu sràidean Bhoston agus coilltean Ameireagaidh agus dha na cuantan gorma agus eileannan deòranta fada bho thìr air taobh eile an Domhain.

Sin mar a bha cùisean gus an d' ràinig Iain ceithir bliadhna deug a dh'aois. Air feasgar fann foghair,



* “An dèidh sin, bha clann Beathaich mhic Iarboneóil Fada mhic Nemhid ann an innsean tuathach an domhain a' foghlaim draoidheachd agus fios agus fàistneachd agus amhainseachd, gus an robh iad ealanta ann an ceàrdan seòlta nan cinnich.”

thàinig coigreach dhan taigh aca. Fear àrd air muin eich, air èideadh ann an dòigh fhasanta: ad mhòr, cleòca agus còta, pioraraig agus peiteag, briogais ghoirid, stocainnean sìoda, agus brògan le bucallan buidhe.

Duine beartach, a rèir coltais, ach bha e na aonar, gun shearbhanta, agus cha robh sion aige ach bata daraich cinn airgid.

Bheannaich e dhaibh anns a' Ghàidhlig agus bheannaich iad dha. Thug màthair Iain cuireadh dha thighinn a-steach agus deoch agus greim bìdh fhaighinn. Shuidh iad uile aig a' bhòrd, agus thug Iain agus a mhàthair dhan choigreach na b' fhèarr a bh' aca. Às dèidh làimh, dh'fhaighneachd a' bhantrach dheth an robh ùrachadh aige no gu dè a thug an sin e.

“’S e marsanta a th’ annam,” thuirt e riutha, “agus tha mi air an t-slighe dhachaigh. Agus tha mi ag iarraidh foghlainteach glic, gleusta gun ghruaim gun leisg.” Thuirt a’ bhantrach ris nach ruigeadh e leas a dhol na b’ fhaide. “Seo mo mhac as òige, agus is gleusta a gheibhear e,” ars’ ise. Thug an duine beartach sùil bhiorach air Iain. “Ach an leig thu leam e?” dh’fhaighneachd e. “Gheibh thu fichead punnd Sasannach ma leigeas agus fichead punnd eile a h-uile bliadhna a bhios e còmhla rium.”

Fichead punnd Sasannach — b’ e deagh fhòrtan a bha sin. Bhiodh a’ bhean gu math dheth, agus eagal air a bhith oirre gun cailleadh iad an dachaigh bheag a bh’ aca a dh’ aithghearr, is iad cho bochd.

“Leigidh,” arsa a’ bhantrach. “Ma gheallas sibh dhomh gum bi sibh nur deagh-mhaighistir dha mo mhac, agus esan gun athair agus a bhràithrean nas sine fada bhuainn air falbh.”

Chuir an duine beartach fichead punnd Sasannach air a’ bhòrd. Gheall e gun cumadh e Iain slàn, fallain. “Bheir mi sgoil agus foghlam dha agus mas e gille glic a th’ ann, thig e dhachaigh na dhuine cho beartach ’s a tha mi fhìn.”

Bha Iain deònach gu leòr. Smaoinichibh, bhiodh e dol gu Inbhir Nis neo Glaschu. Chan ann a h-uile latha a bhiodh mòd aig Mac an Tòisich, agus chan e a h-uile latha a gheibhear cothrom mar seo, bha fhios

aige. Fhuair am balach beannachd a mhàthar agus dhealaich e rithe. Suas air an t-each a chaidh e air chùlaibh an duine bheartaich agus dh’fhalbh iad. Dh’fhaoidte gu robh e car brònach, ach bha e òg, agus cha do mhair am mulad sin fada.

Cò-dhiù, ann an ceann greis stad an duine beartach agus thuirt e, “Is math am fios agam cò a th’ annad, Iain mhic Fhearchair Òig ’ic Fhearchair ’ic Iain, ach chan eil fhios agad idir cò a th’ annamsa,” thuirt e. “Is mise an Draoidh Mòr, an draoidh as fhèarr ann an Alba Mhòr. Agus tha thusa nad cheangal agam a-nise mar fhoghlainteach. Agus is còir sin, Iain, seach ’s gun deach d’ ainm a sgrìobhadh anns an leabhar dhubh agam dà cheud bliadhna mus d’ rugadh tu riamh.”

Chuir sin iongantais agus eagal air Iain, dh’fheumte aideachadh. Ach ’s e balach misneachail a bh’ ann. “Mas e draoidh a th’ annaibh, dè ’n seòrsa obrach a bheireadh sibh thugam neo dè a dh’ionnsaicheadh sibh dhomh?” dh’fhaighneachd e.

“Iomadh rud feumail agus freagarrach,” thuirt an draoidh seo, “ach a bharrachd air sin, Iain, ionnsaichidh mi draoidheachd dhut. Tha sgoil agam anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, far a bheil sinn a’ dol an-dràsta. Ach feumaidh sinn a dhol ann ann an cruth calmain.”

Bhuail e Iain ris a’ bhata daraich cinn airgid agus ann am priobadh na sùla thug iad an iarmailt orra nan calmain. Cha b’ ann anns an each anns an fhìrinn ach air pìos de bhuaghallan buidhe, agus dh’fhalbh iad sin far an do thuit e.

A-mach a ghabh iad mar aiteal na grèine thar nam beann agus tro na gleanntan, agus nuair a bha neòil dhubha na h-oidhche tighinn, agus neòil gheala an latha falbh, ràinig iad an t-Eilean Sgitheanach. Chunnaic Iain seann chaisteal fodhpa, agus chaidh iad sìos gus an deach iad a-steach tron uinneig. An uair a chuir iad spòg air ùrlar, bha iad nan daoine arithist. ’S ann an Sgoil nan Eun a bha iad, sgoil suidhichte ann an caisteal ri cùl na gaoithe agus an aghaidh na grèine, far am faiceadh iad a h-uile duine, agus nach fhaiceadh duine iad.

“Fàilte, Iain, agus ceud fàilte,” thuirt an Draoidh Mòr. “Bithidh an sgoil seo na dhachaigh dhut cho fad ’s a bhios tu nad fhoghlainteach agam.”

“Agus sin mar a thàinig Iain Fhearchair Òig do Sgoil nan Eun,” thuirt an sgeulaiche. “Deagh naidheachd,”

thuirt Eoghann, a bha na shuidhe ri taobh Chaluim. “Chan e naidheachd iomlan a th’ ann,” thuirt am bodach, “ach tòiseachadh.”

Agus thòisich e a-rithist.

Prògram fianaise ùr am foghar seo bho Mhicheal Newton.

A new documentary out this fall from Michael Newton.

A’ Seinn an Aghaidh na Balbhachd: Gàidheil na h-Albann Nuaidh / Singing Against the Silence: The Gaels of Nova Scotia

Tha Mìcheal Newton a' mineachadh gun robh e air a bhrosnachadh an gnothach seo a thogail air sgàth 's nach eil eòlas air eachdraidh na Gàidhlig neo luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig aig mòran dhaoine fiù 's ann an Alba Nuadh fhèin.

Tha iomhaigh nan Gàidheal air leth pailt ann an suai-cheantas na h-Albann Nuaidhe, gu h-àraid ann an sanasachd turasachd a tha toirt cuideim air a' bhreacan, air an fhéilidh, is air na pioban. Tha blas na firinne anns na cuing-iomhaighean seo oir thòisich coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ri imrich dha'n Mhòr-Roinn anns na 1770n agus b' iad a bu lionmhoire ann ro mheadhan an ochdamh ceud deug. Tha an romànsachas a' toirt sgleò air eachdraidh dhubhach de mheathadh, de dh'fhoill is de cho-stri. A' tarraing air agallamhan ri caochladh dhaoine, tha *A' Seinn an Aghaidh na Balbhachd* a' cur air shùilean an spàirn a rinn Gàidheil air taobh an ear na h-Albann Nuaidhe gus an cànan-sa àrach as ùr, tro shealladh iomadaidheachd cànan is dùthchais.

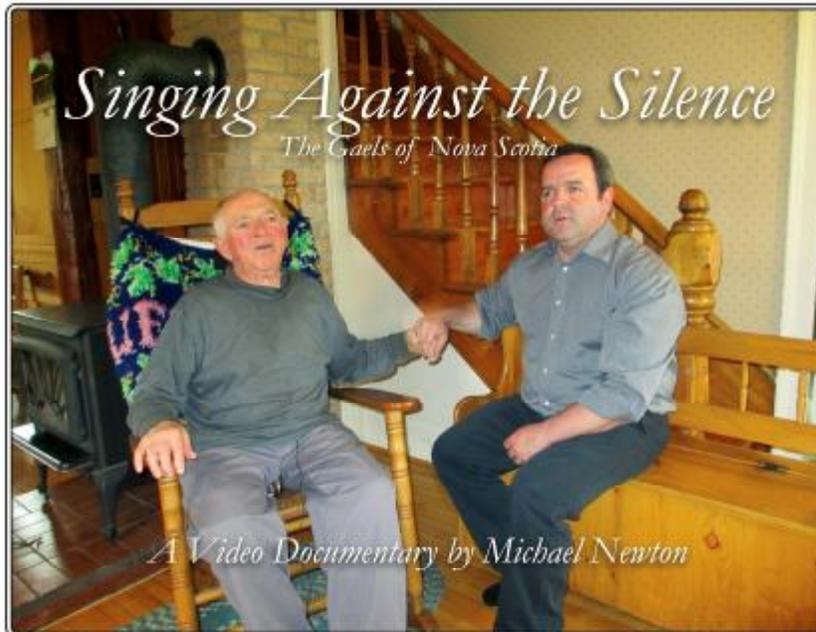
Dà-chànanach Gàidhlig-Beurla is fo-thiotalan ann, 26 mionaidean de dh'fhaid.

Assistant Professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Michael Newton explains that he was prompted to take on this project as he became aware of how many people even in Nova Scotia are not familiar with the history of Gaelic and Gaelic speakers.

The iconography of Nova Scotia is replete with the image of Scottish Highlanders, especially in tourist publications which highlight tartans, kilts, and bagpipes. These stereotypes derive from the historical fact that Scottish Highland communities began migrating to the province in the

1770s and dominated most eastern areas by the mid-nineteenth century. The romantic clichés obscure a less cheery history of marginalization, appropriation, and resistance. Through interviews with a range of subjects, *Singing against the Silence* explores the struggles of Scottish Gaels in eastern Nova Scotia to sustain and reclaim their language and puts these efforts in the larger context of linguistic and cultural diversity.

Bilingual Gaelic-English with subtitles, 26 minutes long.



A Memorable Mòd

25th Annual U.S. National Mòd Set a New Standard

ACGA Mòd Committee

The 25th Annual U.S. National Mòd raised the bar for future U.S. Mòds by gaining unprecedented attention in Scotland and capping a long record of success for the oldest event sponsored by An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach.

This September's Mòd — a three-day competition in Scottish Gaelic song, poetry and storytelling — was the first in which the coveted gold medal for best singer went to three competitors, with two women, Anne Alexander and Erin Park, sharing the women's gold medal alongside men's gold medal winner Micheal Mac Aoidh. It was the first U.S. Mòd featured in an hour-long program on BBC's Radio nan Gàidheal. And it was the first Mòd supported by a broad-based fundraising initiative.

That initiative continues as the Mòd Committee plans for a fundraising concert in Alexandria, VA, in early 2013 and special Gaelic storytelling sessions. Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh is being transformed from a long weekend into a year-round event, one that is integrated with other ACGA events such as the annual Immersion Weekend and Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week.

petitions on Friday to the singing events on Saturday and the workshops held Sunday morning, our guests took advantage of the high standard of excellence provided by the Mòd," said Cathleen Ransom MacKay, chair of the committee that organizes the Mòd for ACGA. Several first-time competitors and attendees from as far as Ohio and Florida attended the Mòd, held at the Ligonier Highland Games in Ligonier, PA, Sept. 21-23. Altogether, 36 people attended the Mòd, staying at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, not far from the games.



US Mòd Committee

Scottish Gold Medalist Niall Caimbeul, U.S. Mòd Adjudicator Beathag Mhoireasdan, and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's Coinneach MacIomhair.

This year the U.S. Mòd welcomed special guest Coinneach MacIomhair, the veteran Gaelic broadcaster and host of Radio nan Gàidheal's most popular talk show. Prògram Choinnich reaches the home and ears of practically every Gaelic speaker in Scotland, and this fall those Gaels heard a great deal about ACGA's Mòd.

Meeting special guests from Scotland has been a highlight for Mòd attendees, and this year proved no exception. The Mòd Committee hopes to bring more special guests from Scotland to expand and enrich the experience for all.

"Coinneach made an enormous difference to our Mòd this year, interviewing competitors and at-



US Mòd Committee

Children's gold medal winner Cairistiona Waugh receives her prize from Mòd Director Cathleen Ransom MacKay.

"This year, the Mòd welcomed more people than it has seen in many years, and from the literature com-

tendeeds and recording a program broadcast after the Mòd, speaking about his life and Gaelic culture on Lewis and serving as fear-an-taighe at our cèilidh and banquet,” said MacKay. “We are extremely grateful to him.”

The Mòd began Friday, Sept. 23, with dinner followed by competitions in Bàrdachd (poetry), Leughadh air a’ Chiad Sealladh (sight-reading) and Sgeulachd (storytelling). Song competitions, from prescribed songs to own choice, work songs, puirt-à-beul and a choir performance, followed Saturday. Sunday featured workshops focused on drama and acting and Gaelic song. Our adjudicator this year was Beathag Mhoireasdan of Lewis and Glasgow, who returned to the U.S. Mòd for the fifth time. This year, as in each year since 1998, ACGA welcomed a gold medalist from Scotland’s Royal National Mòd. This time our guest was Niall Caimbeul of Benbecula, winner of the men’s gold medal at the Scottish Mòd last year.

“We’re delighted by the number of competitors attracted to these competitions, which really test your abilities in spoken Gaelic,” said Liam Ó Caiside, a spokesperson for the event. “Our Scottish guests are always surprised by the number of competitors who show interest in storytelling in particular, and take the time to learn complex traditional stories. We think language arts such as storytelling and poetry are as important a part of our Mòd as the songs we sing.”

After the poetry and storytelling competitions, the Mòd reconvened Saturday, Sept. 22, for song competitions at the site of the Ligonier Highland Games. Singing is at the core of the Mòd, which was first held in Alexandria, VA, in 1988 and moved to Ligonier in 1995. Since then, the song competitions have expanded to include choirs and groups as well as solo performances in a variety of categories.

Two years ago, the Mòd began to require competitors who wish to enter the song finals to sing one prescribed song as well as one song in another category, such as a work song or port-à-beul. The prescribed songs are the same as those for the Gold Medal competition at the prior year’s Royal National Mòd in Scotland — in this case “Gur tu

mo bhean chomain” for men and “Ma’s ann ’gam mhealladh” for women.

“For many years, we resisted the idea of a prescribed song, preferring to allow singers to perform songs of their own choice,” said Ó Caiside. “But as we grew, we realized that placed an enormous burden on the adjudicator. Using a prescribed song creates a ‘baseline’ of sorts for that adjudicator to work from. And while a prescribed song is required to gain entrance to the finals, it’s not required for participation in the Mòd. We had singers this year who sang songs of their own choice but didn’t go on to the finals — and that was their decision.”

For the first time, the Mòd featured an “open competition” featuring songs of the competitor’s choice for those who didn’t wish to sing a prescribed song. Eight competitors entered the solo singing competitions. Còisir Gàidhlig nan Stàitean, the U.S. Scottish Gaelic Choir, also performed for a second year, and the impromptu group Waulkers Without Borders gave the tweed a vigorous thumping.

Although more than a dozen medals and prizes were handed out, only two can win the top U.S. Mòd awards — at least until this year. Erin Park and Anne Alexander tied in Gaelic and Music, which meant they both won the women’s gold medal and the Marietta MacLeod Quaich presented by Donald F. MacDonald, the award for the best female vocalist at the Mòd. This is the first time two competitors have shared one of the top awards at the Mòd — an unprecedented event. “We couldn’t be happier for both of them,” said MacKay. Micheal Mac Aoidh won the men’s gold medal and Herbert P. MacNeal Memorial Quaich, presented by the Clan MacNeil Society.

Whether they competed or not, everyone at this year’s Mòd was a winner, taking home a better appreciation and broader understanding of Gaelic tradition and its importance to both Scotland and North America. Plans for next year’s Mòd are under way, and expect to hear more about a Mòd concert this spring.

For more photos and information on Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh visit their website, A' Seinn Còmhla, at usmod.wordpress.com or their Facebook page, U.S. National Mòd.

U.S. National Mòd Competition Results

Friday, Sept. 21, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012

Ligonier, PA

Bàrdachd (poetry recitation, own choice)

1st Place, Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

2nd Place, Rob Greenwalt, Ohio

Leughadh air a' Chiad Sealladh (Sight-Reading)

1st Place, Liam Ó Caiside, Virginia

2nd Place, Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

3rd Place, Erin Park, Pennsylvania.

Sgeulachd (Storytelling)

1st Place, Caitlin Nic Aoidh, Virginia

2nd Place, Liam Ó Caiside, Virginia

3rd Place, Mike Moffitt, Florida.

Co-fharpais Fhosgarra (song of the competitor's choice)

1st Place, Iain Grimaldi, New York

2nd Place, Sadie Park, Pennsylvania

3rd Place, Mike Moffitt, Florida.

Òran Ainmichte (prescribed song)

Na Fir (men)

1st Place, Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

2nd Place, Liam Ó Caiside, Virginia.

Na Mnàthan (women)

1st Place, Anne Alexander, Ohio & Erin Park, Pennsylvania (tie).

Co-fharpais nan Clann (children & youth)

1st Place, Cairistiona Waugh, Ottawa, Canada.

Òran Obrach (work song — waulking, spinning, rowing, etc.)

1st Place, Liam Ó Caiside, Virginia & Erin Park, Pennsylvania

2nd Place, Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

Puirt-à-Beul (mouth music for dancing)

Na Mnàthan (women)

1st Place, Anne Alexander; Ohio

Na Fir (men)

1st Place, Iain Grimaldi, New York

Na Còisearan (choirs)

1st Place, Còisir Gàidhlig nan Stàitean (U.S. National Gaelic Choir).

Na Crìochnaichean (final song, competitor's choice)

Na Mnàthan (women)

1st Place, Erin Park, Pennsylvania

2nd Place, Anne Alexander, Ohio

Na Fir (men)

1st Place, Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

2nd Place, Liam Ó Caiside, Virginia

Na Buinn Òir (the Gold Medals)

Na Mnàthan (women)

Erin Park, Pennsylvania & Anne Alexander, Ohio

Na Fir (men)

Micheal Mac Aoidh, Virginia

Co-fharpais Air Astar (Distance Learning Competition)

1st Place, Rosg (Prose), Ted Neveln, Washington

1st Place, Bàrdachd (Poetry), Micheal Mac an t-Saoir, California



First-time competitor Iain Grimaldi sings at the Mòd.

US Mòd Committee



Mòd Special Awards

The Marietta MacLeod Memorial Quaich: This award goes back to the founding of the U.S. National Mòd in 1988. The quaich is presented annually by Donald F. MacDonald in memory of his wife, the late Gaelic singer Marietta MacLeod, or Màiri Oighrig nic Choinnich MhicLeòid, and her sister, Kitty MacLeod, to the highest scoring female singer, our U.S. Mòd gold medalist. This year, for the first time, it went to two women who tied in scores for Gaelic and music and share the honor, Erin Park of Pennsylvania and Anne Alexander of Ohio. Mealaibh an naidheachd, 's bu mhillis na h-òrain!

The Herbert P. MacNeal Memorial Quaich: This award has been presented by the Clan MacNeil Society to the highest scoring male singer at the Mòd since 1989 in memory of Herbert P. MacNeal, a founder of the Council of Scottish Clans Association and former president of the Clan MacNeil Society who died in 1988. MacNeal was a patron of the Scottish arts and was instrumental in establishing the Scottish Harp Society of America. This year the MacNeal Quaich went to Micheal Mac Aoidh of Virginia.

Searrag-Ghlainne nam Bàrd: This prize, in the form of an Edinburgh Crystal Decanter, is presented each year by Donald F. MacDonald for the best poetry recitation at the Mòd. MacDonald, along with Catriona NicIomhair Parsons, is a co-founder of the U.S. National Mòd. This year the award was presented to Micheal Mac Aoidh of Virginia.

The S.C.O.T.S. Shield: This award is presented by the Scottish Club of the Twin States (Vermont & New Hampshire) to the winners of the Òran Luaidh/Waulking competition. This year the prize went to an impromptu group, Waulkers Without Borders. The group included singers from several states and Canada.

Duais Leòdhais agus na Hearadh: The Lewis and Harris award is presented by the Lewis Highland Dance Society in memory of Donaidh M. MacIlleathain, Gaelic playwright and activist from Bac, Lewis, for best presentation of a Lewis and Harris song. This year the award went to Erin Park of Pennsylvania.

Duais Daibhidh Mhic Risnidh: The David MacRitchie award is a fairly new prize, presented by former U.S. National Mòd chair Neacail Freer in memory of his great-uncle for the best traditional story told during the Mòd sgeulachd competition. This year the award was won by Caitlin Nic Aoidh for "Tàillear nam Manachan."

Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh: The John MacRae award is one of two prizes meant to encourage original writing in Scottish Gaelic in North America. The award is presented by the U.S. National Mòd for the best original poem submitted to the Mòd. This year the award went to Michael MacIntyre. Iain Mac Mhurchaidh was an 18th century bàrd who emigrated to North Carolina.



US Mòd Committee
From left, Erin Park, Micheal Mac Aoidh, adjudicator Beathag Mhoireasdan, and Anne Alexander

Bheirear an Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh gach bliadhna airson an dàin tùsail as fheàrr. Am bliadhna, choisinn Micheal Mac an t-Saoir, ball ACGA à California, an duais airson a' cho-chruinneachaidh seo de thrì dàin. Meal do naidheachd a Mhicheil!

The John MacRae Award is presented at the U.S. National Mòd each year for the best original Gaelic poem. This year ACGA member Michael McIntyre from California earned the prize for this collection of three poems. Congratulations, Michael!

aig a cheann-tìre

le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

'S e latha gruamach
a streap mi
suas air a' chreig,
làmh os cionn làimh
tron a cheò
's an aghaidh na duibhe
a dh'aindeoin 's nach fhaca mi càil
ach doilleireachd 's sgleò.

Dh'èirich mi
fa dheòigh
chun a' mhullach
's bhon rudha sin
chithinn mi air ais
air an dòigh
a bha mi air tighinn,

's sheall mi
air mo rùn 's mo ghion
m' aineolach 's mo shàsan
mo bhoile 's mo lasan
mo shònas 's mo mhi-shonas
mo fhearg 's mo fhulangas,

's bhuail e orm
gun robh mi coltach
aig an àm sin
ri duine dall
gun tuigse
ri bhith eagal air
ris an dorchadas.

on the promontory

by Michael McIntyre

It was a gloomy day
that I climbed
up the crag
hand over hand
through the fog
and in the face of the darkness
and in spite of my not seeing anything
but obscurity and dark shade.

I raised myself
finally
to the top
and from that point
I could see back
on the way
that I had come,

and I pondered
on my secret intents and my desires,
my ignorance and my burdens
my frenzy and my passion,
my vexations and my unhappiness
my anger and my suffering,

and it struck me
that I was
at that time
as a blind man
without the sense
to be afraid
of the darkness.



a' coimhead ort

le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

Cha robh riamh anns mo bhruadaran
gur e dàn againne
gun dhealachaid riamh
ach an latha gun dh'fhàg thu
'b ann anns a' chiaradh
gun robh e doirbh
an rathad a dh'fhaicinn
oir bha an ceò a' crochadh
ìosal faisg air an talamh
sgàil a' laighe bog
gu socrach air an sneachd,
cho sàmhach ris an uaigh.

Thàinig e steach orm
gun thigeadh an latha
nuair a chumadh
sia òirleach dè luaithre
na mairidh dhè ar n-inntean
ar n-anmanna, ar miannan --
ar tighinn ri chèile
's ar sgeul gu lèir
air an t-saoghal seo
a chaidh a chruthachadh
le gaol againne.

'S ann a chionn sin
a dh'iarr mi ort fan
gus dh'èiricheadh a' ghealach
ach choimheadainn
ort falbh.

watching you

by Michael McIntyre

It was never in my dreams
that it was our fate
that we would ever separate
but on the day that you left
it was in the twilight
that it was difficult
to see the road
because the fog was crawling
low near the earth
shadows lying softly
softly on the snow
as quiet as the grave.

It came to me
that the day would come
when six inches of ashes
would hold what remained
of our minds
our spirits our passions --
our coming together
our whole story
on this world
that was created
by our love.

It's because of that
that I wanted you to wait
until the moon rose
so I could watch
you leave.



dhachaigh

le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

An latha mu dheireadh saor
mus bha 'gam a bhith a' fàgail,
sheas mi anns a' chiarradh
's sheall mi na sgàthan
dubh-glas air dubh,
na beanntan aig astar,
's cnocan ag èirigh air cùl cnuic
ag atharrachadh bho gorm
gu gorm-dubh,
suaimhneach 's cuin,

's na glas-fhaoileagan ag itealaich
timcheall nan eilein gainmheineach'
a' flod os cionn an locha duibh
's na faoile a' sigheadh 's a cliseadh
's a' siabadh 's sgiap
air mullach nan uisge.

'S dòcha gur e miann lach
a dh'fhairich mi –
cianalas air an loch air nach bi –
ach dh'fhàs mo chreideas
gun chaith mi
gu lèir mo bheatha
's chaidh an t-aon cothrom
a bha 'gam
air fìor bhith
le mì-chuimhne
mi-thuigsinn
ana-ghliocas
's gòrachas
m' òige
bho thus a chail,
's seòrsa tràillealachd
a ghabhail.

'S thionndaidh mi
bhon shealladh sin
's ath-thill mi
gu Dùn Èideann
's an dèidh sin,
dhachaigh thall thairis
far nach bi dachaigh ann.

home

by Michael McIntyre

The last free day
before I had to be leaving
I stood in the twilight
and looked upon the clouds
black-gray on black,
mountains in the distance,
and hills rising behind hills
changing from green
to dark green
tranquil and calm,

and the herring-gulls flying
around the sand island
that floated above the black lake
and the gulls gliding and skipping
sweeping and darting
over the top of the water.

Perhaps it was a duck's desire
that I felt –
a longing for the lake where I was not –
but my belief grew
that I had lost
all my life
and the one opportunity
that I had
for true existence
through forgetting
misunderstanding
a lack of wisdom
and foolishness
of my youth
a long time ago -- was lost
and a kind of slavery
gotten.

And I turned
from that sight
and returned
to Edinburgh
and then
homeward across the sea
where my home was not.

Cha Bu Mhiste Sinn Leabhar Na Tri

le Cam MacRae

Duais, sreath ùr, agus nobhailean grafaigeach...

Chaidh an Duais Dhòmhnail Meek, 2012, a thoirt do *Bhàrdachd Iain Mhic A' Ghobhainn* le Dr. Moray Watson. Thèid an cruinneachadh seo de bhàrdachd Iain Mhic a' Ghobhainn, a' chiad chruinneachadh coileanta dhen bhàrdachd aige, fhoillseachadh le Acair aig deireadh 2012.

Tha an Duais Dhòmhnail Meek, a' comharrachadh an Àrd-Ollamh Dòmhnail Meek, a bha na bhall Roinn Gàidhlig agus Gnothaichean Albannach ann an Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann fad ùine fhada, agus na chathraiche Bhòrd na Gàidhlig aig aon àm. A rèir Rosemary Ward, Stiùiriche, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, chaidh an duais seo a stèidheachadh ann an 2010 "le taic-airgid bho Alba Chruthachail agus bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, le sùil gum misnich is gun cuidich i sgrìobhadairean Gàidhlig ùra agus stèidhichte."

Bidh *Còisir nan Gunna*, a' chiad nobhail le Anndra Dunn, a' tighinn ann an 2013 bho Acair. Air an liosta goirid airson na duais Meek ann an 2011, nochdaidh *Còisir nan Gunna* mar phàirt de dh'Aiteal, sreath ùr de fhicsean Gàidhlig bho Acair. Bidh Aiteal, co-obrachadh de dh'Acair agus Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean, a' leantainn an t-sreatha shoirbheachail Ùr-sgeul.

Agus a' tighinn sa Mhàirt: Tha nobhailean graigeach airson inbheach agus cloinne buileach mòr-chòrdte aig an leabharlann far am bi mi ag obair, agus 's ann air sgàth sin nach eil iongantas mòr orm gu bheil sinn a' faicinn mòran dhiubh sa Ghàidhlig. Anns an ath iris innsidh sinn dhut beagan mu dheidhinn nan leabhraichean seo, a bharrachd air lèirmheas goirid no dhà.

Agus anns an dol seachad, dè an nobhail ghrafaigeach (ann an cànan sam bith) as fheàrr leatsa?

An award, a new series, and graphic novels...

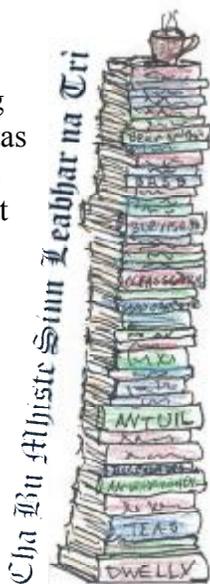
The Donald Meek Prize for 2012 has been awarded to Dr. Moray Watson for *Bhàrdachd Iain Mhic A' Ghobhainn*. This anthology of Iain Crichton Smith's poetry, the first full collection of his poetry, will be published in late 2012 by Acair.

The Donald Meek Prize, honoring Professor Donald Meek, longtime member of the Department of Scottish and Gaelic Studies at Edinburgh University and past chairman of the Gaelic Books Council, was established in 2010 with financial assistance from Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to encourage and support new and established Gaelic writers.

Coming in 2013 from Acair will be Anndra Dunn's first novel *Còisir nan Gunna*. Shortlisted for the Meek Prize in 2011, *Còisir nan Gunna* will appear as part of Aiteal, Acair's new Gaelic fiction series for adults. Aiteal, a collaboration of Acair and the Gaelic Books Council, follows on from the successful fiction series Ùr-sgeul.

And coming in "An Naidheachd Againne" in March: Graphic novels for adults and children are extremely popular in the library where I work so it's been no surprise to me to see the growing number of Gaelic graphic novels being published. In our next issue we'll give you an idea of what's out there, with a review or two.

And by the way, what's your favorite graphic novel in any language?



Originally served as a summer dessert when fresh raspberries are available, cranachan now can be enjoyed at any time of the year. We made two batches, using two different whiskies, one with a strong peaty flavor, the other much milder. We're not saying which we preferred, but there was nothing left of either!

Crannachan

ceithir spàintean-bùird min-choirce
dà chupa de dh' uachdar
dà spàin-bhùird uisge-beatha (mas toil leat)
dà spàin-bhùird mil
dà chupa shùbhan-craobh ùra
(no pacaid shùbhan-craobh reòite, leaghte)
ceithir glainneachan àrda

Tost a' mhin-choirce ann am pana os cionn teas meadhanach airson 20 gu 30 mionaid. Crath am pana bho àm gu àm gus am bi a' mhin-choirce òr-dhonn. Nuair a bhios a' mhin-choirce fionnar, measgaich a' chuid as motha dhith còmhla ris a' mhill agus còmhla ris an uisge beatha.

Aig an aon àm, buail an t-uachdar gus am bi e tiugh. Cuir am measgachadh de dh' uisge-beatha, mhill, agus mhin-choirce gu socair anns an uachdar.

Cùm na sùbhan-craobh as fheàrr airson sgeadais. Cuir an còrr anns an uachdar agus cuir e mun cuairt gu socair.

Cuir am measgachadh anns gach glainne agus cùm na glainneachan fuar gus am bi sibh deiseil an toirt seachad.

Cranachan

4 tbsp. pinhead oatmeal
2 cups whipping cream
2 tbsp. whisky (optional)
2 tbsp. liquid honey
2 cups fresh raspberries
(or a package of frozen raspberries, thawed)
4 parfait glasses or other tall glasses

Toast the oatmeal in a frying pan over medium heat for 20 to 30 minutes. Shake the pan from time to time until the oats are lightly browned. When the oats are cool, mix most of them with the honey and whisky.

Meanwhile, whip the cream until it is thick but not stiff. Gently fold the whisky, honey, oatmeal mixture into the cream.

Reserving the best raspberries to decorate the tops, fold the rest gently into the cream.

Spoon the mixture into the parfait glasses and chill until you are ready to serve.

Just before serving, sprinkle the reserved toasted oats over the cream mixture and decorate with the remaining raspberries.



Molly MacRae



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!

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 second (see Fall 2012 issue for a review of Learnbots). Rudy Ramsey has written the first two, but reviews by others are most welcome.

Gàidhlig on the Go – uTalk (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch)

Review by Rudy Ramsey

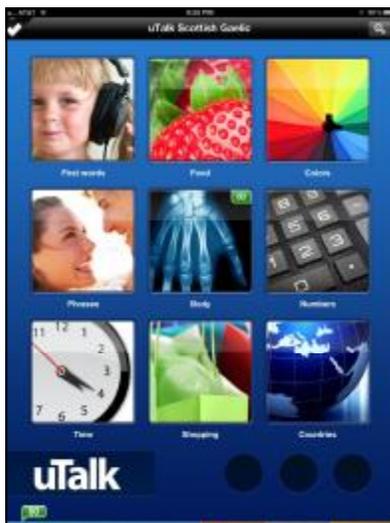
uTalk Scottish Gaelic is another iPhone app that's worth a look. This is a vocabulary practice app, but it's more motivating than the usual flash-card approach.

uTalk starts with a Word Practice mode, in which it presents a series of words or phrases with both the Gaelic and the English in writing, a picture of the object or situation, and an audio of the spoken Gaelic. You can also record your own voice speaking the Gaelic, and compare it to the original, adjusting it until it sounds the same to you. The spoken Gaelic provided with uTalk is of good quality. The words chosen are of general utility, while the phrases have a "travel phrase-book" feel.

Once you feel you have the words down, you can play a series of games, varying in difficulty from easy to difficult, in which you must recognize the word or phrase and associate it with its picture. These games are fun, and will likely embed the words in your recognition memory. The games will not help



you produce the words or phrases, so you'll get the most out of uTalk only if you also practice saying the words or phrases each time they come up. I like the first two levels of games, but the "Hard Game" seems to test my short-term memory much more than my mastery of Gaelic vocabulary. Still, it's fun, and moti-



vation is one of the keys to vocabulary learning.

EuroTalk, Ltd., the developer of this app, brings to the table a philosophy of language learning that emphasizes involving both sides of the brain (hence, pictures are used, as well as both written and spoken words), and the use of game play to make the learning enjoyable, and even addictive. They apply this approach to lots of languages (the uTalk app is available for 113 languages) and products (in addition to the iPhone app, there are 15 different books, CDs, DVDs, etc. available for Scottish Gaelic, for example).

The principal downside to this app is its fixed vocabulary of 275 words and phrases. This makes the app relevant to beginners and intermediates, but less helpful for most advanced students. However, as an advanced learner with lots of holes in my vocabulary, I found plenty to learn here, too.

At \$9.99, this app is on the expensive side by iPhone app standards. On the other hand, that's a defensible price for what you'll learn from it. And, of course, they have to charge enough to make this somewhat narrow market profitable. You'll have to decide whether or not it's a suitable investment for yourself.

If you'll excuse me now, I need to go practice my food words. ☺



Dè Do Naidheachd?

by Jeanne Pendergast and Cam MacRae

For this pair of stories, we again each incorporated the same starting words (shown in bold). However, as you'll see, we will sometimes choose a different meaning or even an alternative spelling.

Cam

Gun teagamh, 's ann fo **imcheist** a bha mi an latha ud agus pàrantan an duine agam a' tighinn gus an taigh ùr againn fhaicinn. Anns a' mhadainn fhuair mi **adag** shnog bho bhùth èisg. Thug sin misneachd dhomh, agus thòisich mi air an taigh a ghlanadh. Aig dà uair feasgar, nuair a bha mi ag obair gu **foighidneach** air na h-uinneagan, chuir na balaich, an-còmhnaidh nan cnapaich chuideachail, trì bagaichean làn bhotail agus chanaichean air a' phòirdse, sgudal a chruinnich iad às a' chladach. Dè a nì mi leis ach a thoirt do dh'**aonad** ath-chuartachaidh. Aig trì uairean is mi a' dràibheadh mun cuairt 's



Cam MacRae

mun cuairt fhathast a' sireadh an àit' ud, thàinig e a-steach orm gur e obair gun **stà** a bh' innte. Shaoileadh tu gum biodh **ainmein** orm a dhol dhachaigh leis a' chàr làn de sgudal fàileanta agus aoihean a' tighinn, ach cha robh. Dh'fhàg mi an càr beagan air falbh bhon taigh, agus bha mi air ais dhachaigh ann an deagh shunnd, agus ann an deagh àm, airson a' chiad dìinneir leis an teaghlach gu lèir san taigh ùr againn.

Glossary:

gun teagamh - without a doubt (although *gun* usually lenites what follows, the final "n" in *gun* blocks lenition in words beginning with d, s, and t)

's ann fo **imcheist** a bha mi - I was worried or anxious (more literally, it is under anxiety that I was)

adag - haddock

gu foighidneach - patiently

dà uair - two o'clock (literally, two hours; note that *dà* takes the singular)

ach a thoirt do dh'aonad ath-chuartachaidh - but take it to the recycling unit / center (literally, but its taking to center of recycling)

cnapaich chuideachail - helpful youngsters; as an adjective, however, *cnapach* means lumpy or knobby

thàinig e a-steach orm - it occurred to me (more literally, it came in on me)

ann an deagh shunnd - in a good mood (sunnd means happiness or good humor; *deagh shunnd* is even better!)

Jeanne

Latha grianach a bha seo, bha tuathanach iomallach gu **foighidneach** a' cruthachadh nan **adagan**, a' coimhead air na h-uain mun cuairt air le toil-inntinn.

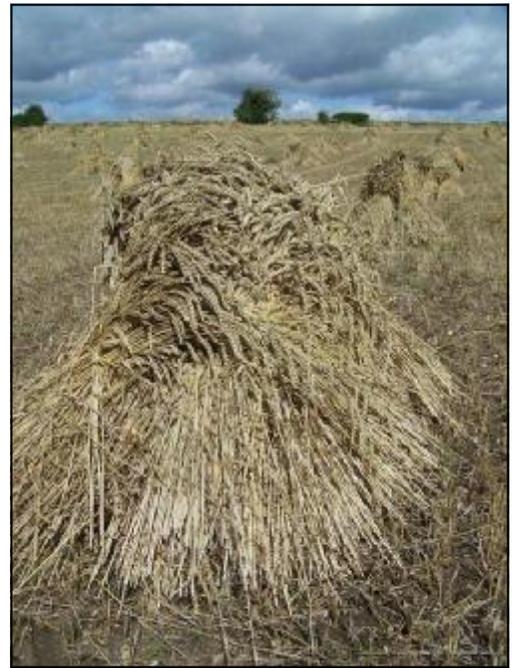
Chunnaic e bhan a' stad faisg air, is sanas oirre, **Aonad** Eòrpach an Aiteachais. Dh'innis am fear a bh' ann dha mu dheidhinn riaghailt ùr mu bhith ag àrach stoc, gum feum taga eileagtronai-geach a bhith air gach caora.

Ars' an tuathanach, "cha cheadaich mo thuarastal sin. Tha glè bheag de phrothaid agam gach bliadhna mar-thà."

Chùm an coigreach ris gu bragail, " 'S e an lagh a th' ann. Feumaidh tu."

Chuir sin an tuathanach bochd **an imcheist**, ach an uairsin dh'fhàs e dearg leis an **ainmein**. Ciamar a nì e na bhathas ag iarraidh air agus carson? Dè mu dheidhinn a theaghlach agus an dòigh-beatha aca?

Ged nach robh a bhean cho dèidheil air beatha croitearachd 's a bha esan, dh'fhàs i brònach nuair a dh'innis e dhi gum faod iad an seòl-beatha aca a chall, agus thàinig an seanfhacal gu a bilean gun fhiosta dhi: chan eil fhios air **stàth** an tobair gus an tràigh e.



Attribution: Trish Steel

Glossary:

adagan - stooks, shocks of grain (as you'll see above, *adag has more than one meaning*)

Aonad Eòrpach an Aiteachais - European Agricultural Unit (fictional)

ars' - *arsa is a defective or incomplete verb often used in relating conversation as a change from thuir*

dearg leis an **ainmein** - red with anger (note the Gaelic article with *ainmein*)

na bhathas ag iarraidh air - what was asked of him (past impersonal form of *bi*; also can be *bhathar*)

an seòl-beatha - a second way to say "life-style"

chan eil fhios air **stàth** an tobair gus an tràigh e - the value of the well is not realized till it dries
(*seanfhal, found in Dwelly*)

S math an còcair' an t-acras,
'S mairg a nì tarcuais biadh;
Fuarag eòrn' an sàil mo bhòige -
Biadh a b'fheàrr a fhuair mi riamh.

Hunger is a cook right good,
Woe to him that sneers at food;
Barley crowdie in my shoe -
The sweetest food I ever knew.

~ Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, 1431



A Bharrachd

If you're interested in hearing a bit of East Sutherland Gaelic, check out these videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irG5IC6Te1E>

Hecky's Bell and the Gaelic of Golspie. Àdhamh Ó Broin interviews Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill about the vocabulary relating to a photo of his great-grandmother, Isabella Sutherland, known as Bell aig Hecky or Hecky's Bell, because her mother's name was Hectorina. Gaelic. 2.5 minutes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJBMYFdf18E>

East Sutherland Gaelic Language. In this video a man interviews two women from Embo who are among the last speakers of East Sutherland Gaelic. Mostly Gaelic. 4.5 minutes.

Droitseach: Beating a Path Toward Scottish Gaelic Dialect Revitalisation

Have you noticed that we've been featuring different dialects of Scottish Gaelic in the last few issues of *An Naidheachd Againne*? In June an article on John MacFarlane included sound files of his native Argyll Gaelic, September focused on Cape Breton Gaelic, and in this issue we feature an article by ACGA board member Tom Stewart on Nancy Dorian's work on the demise of East Sutherland Gaelic. If we've piqued your interest in Gaelic dialects, you might want to check out Droitseach, a Facebook page dedicated to, as Àdhamh Ó Broin the man behind the effort says, beating a path toward Scottish Gaelic dialect revitalisation. On Droitseach you will find links to present-day and archival sound files along with photos and discussion of various Gaelic dialects. Droitseach is a public Facebook page, meaning that you don't have to have a Facebook account to access it. You can find Droitseach on Facebook here: <http://www.facebook.com/droitseach>. Droitseach are also constructing a stand-alone website at <http://www.droitseach.com>

Crannachan, anyone?

Cam MacRae, one of *An Naidheachd Againne*'s editors, and her sister Molly MacRae made the crannachan featured in this issue's bi-lingual recipe. If you're thinking of trying it yourself, you might also be interested in the blog Molly wrote about the project. Molly blogs about cooking on the first Monday of every month at <http://www.amyalessio.com>. The crannachan blog appeared on Monday, December 3rd.

Christine Primrose, well-known singer from Lewis, is also a cook! As part of a Temple Records video series called Kitchen Music, she recently prepared her version of crannachan and sang a couple of songs as an extra treat. You can watch the video (Gaelic with English subtitles) at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkpvDIXovt8>

Criomagan

Rònán is Ciorstag air a' chroit, sgeulachd le Michael Bauer, Dealbhan le Jim agus Owen Daily, Akerbeltz, 2012

In this original story, Rònán and Ciorstag visit their grandmother on her croft while her dog announces their arrival to all of the animals who live there. Along the way it is revealed what each animal sounds like in Gaelic - even a whale!

There is an online audio recording and a translation of the story into English for learners and parents, who might have children in Gaelic immersion, but who are not fluent themselves.

<http://www.akerbeltz.eu/books3g.html>

Available from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean <http://www.gaelicbooks.org>

Sgeulachd Eile mu Pheadar Rabaid, le Emma Thompson, Dealbhan le Eleanor Taylor, Eadar-theangachadh le Catriona Mhoireach. Grace Note Publications, 2012.

In this new tale based on the original stories by Beatrix Potter, Peter finds himself on a new adventure after he falls asleep inside a picnic basket and is carried far beyond Mr. McGregor's garden into the Scottish hills. For upper intermediate learners and above, this book is also available in English as *The Further Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Available from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean <http://www.gaelicbooks.org>

Eachdraidh Ealasaid ann an Tir nan Iongantas le Lewis Carroll, Dealbhan le John Tenniel, Eadar-theangachadh le Moray Watson. Evertime, 2012.

This Scottish Gaelic translation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* uses the illustrations from the classic book. There are some minor changes to the original text, but only where necessary, so that Gaelic puns makes sense, for example. For the advanced and fluent reader, it is available from

<http://www.amazon.com>

MG Alba FilmG 2013

This year's theme for MG Alba's FilmG short Gaelic film competition is Acras/Miann (Hunger/Desire). Entries are accepted from anywhere in the world. The adult entry deadline (18+) for 2013 is January 18. The film must be in Scottish Gaelic and be between 3 and 5 minutes in length, including title and credits

For more information and full competition rules see <http://www.filmg.co.uk>

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

January 2013

Celtic Connections, January 17 - February 3, 2013 Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, Celtic Connections, celebrates Celtic music and its connections to cultures across the globe for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events. Gaelic events include Maggie MacInnes presents The Life and Songs of Flora MacNeil (Jan. 26) and A Bhanais Ghaidhealach / The Highland Wedding with Margaret Stewart.

<http://www.celticconnections.com>

March 2013

Hebridean Tunes 2013, March 11 - 16, 2013 North Uist, Scotland

The programme will consist of instrumental tuition (bagpipes, whistle, guitar, fiddle, bodhran) taught in small groups. There will be time for learning new repertoire, improving technique, working on arrangements and playing in groups. Other components of the programme will be ceilidh dancing and an introduction to the Gaelic language. Apply and pay before January 7, 2013, for an Early Bird discount of £320 (tuition, accommodation & catering).

<http://www.hebridean-tunes.com/index.html>

April 2013

Sabhal Mór Ostaig Gaelic Song Course, April 1 - 5, 2013 Isle of Skye, Scotland

Instructor: Christine Primrose

In this 5 day residential course in Gaelic Song, students will be introduced to some basic Gaelic grammar and will also cover Gaelic pronunciation together with grammatical construction of sentences. The course will also study the historical and social contexts of the songs, together with discussions about the composers, their backgrounds and the influence of political, social and cultural circumstances at the time on their work

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/orain-ghaidhlig-01-04-2013>

July 2013

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.

Dr Newton is eager to tailor aspects of the summer course to the needs of teachers, enabling you to work on topics and issues of relevance to the Gaelic Studies courses you teach in school. You can develop teaching materials and resources for your research project for this course.

For more information including tuition costs, please email Michael Newton mnewton@stfx.ca

Sabhal Mór 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>

Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona

Flagstaff

Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix

Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson

Classes
Muriel Fisher
<http://www.murielofskye.com>

California

Sacramento Area

Classes
Donnie MacDonald
minchmusic@comcast.net

North Hollywood

Study Group
Eva Gordon
celt@celticartscenter.com

Colorado

Boulder

Study Group
Sue Hendrix
susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

Denver

Lessons
Glenn Wrightson
thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

Denver

Study Group
Reese McKay
reese-mckay@q.com

Florida

Jensen Beach

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

Illinois

Springfield

Study Group
Bill McClain
fidheall@yahoo.com

Maryland

Chevy Chase

Song Group
Joan Weiss
sweiss@american.edu

Massachusetts

Sandwich

Classes—Thomas Leigh
www.mermaid-productions.com

Song Classes—Maggie Carchrie

www.mermaid-productions.com

New York

New York

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

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
almarti6527@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Area

Study Group
Harry Webb
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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
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

Port Hawksbury School of Gaelic

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Classes

Cape Breton Gaelic Society

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Classes

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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>

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