

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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Ghruagach Dhonn

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Ghruagach dhonn a' bhroillich bha\in
Chum do cho\dhail rium Di-ma\irt,
Ghruagach dhonn a' bhroillich bha\in
Gu ma sla\n a chi\ mi thu.

Ghruagach dhonn gun gho\ gun fhoill
Chum a' choinneamh rium an raoir,
Bha mi co\mhradh riut 'sa choill
Sinn an caoimhneas di\omhaireach.

Rinn mi coinneamh riut gle/ o\g
Ann an coille dhlu\th nan cno\
'S binne leam do guth na ceo\
'S tha do pho/g mar fhighis leam.

Gu ma fallain 's gu ma sla\
Do'n te rinn co\dhail rium Di-ma\irt,
Iarguin m'aigne 's m'airsneul phra\
'S mo chion-ghra\idh da-ri\readh thu.

TRANSLATION:

Brown-haired maid with the fair bosom,
who kept an appointment with me on Tuesday,
brown haired maid with the fair bosom
I hope I shall see you in health

Brown haired maid without deceit or guile
who met with me last night
I was talking to you in the woods,
together in a secret kindness.

I met you, when we were very young,
in a dense hazel grove,
your voice is sweeter to me than music
and your kiss seems like sweet fruit to me.

I wish health and happiness
to the one who met with me on Tuesday,
the sadness of my thoughts and my depressing sorrow
and my true love for sure are you.

(I guess that third line means he's pining away for her all the time except on Tuesdays?) CC

Word list

aigne (akN'@) mind, attention, thoughts
(one of the few words in gaelic where gn is pronounced with "n" rather than nasal "r")

airsneul (ar's'nj'l) depression, weariness

ann (a:n) ann an: in. The preposition "an" is often doubled to form "ann an".

bha\in (va:n) inflected (genitive feminine) form of ba\n, fair

binne (biN') sweeter, sweetest; comparative of binn, sweet

bhroillich (vrL'x') bosom, breasts, front (gen sing of broilleach)

caoimhneas (k': (v)n'@s) kindness

ceo\l (k'o:l)] music

cion-ghra\idh.....ardent love (cion = desire,love,fondness)
(k'n %ra:j) (The trouble with "cion" is that it can mean deficiency or lack instead of love, and that's the meaning in many compounds; so learners should avoid making up compounds with it, for fear of saying the opposite of what they mean.)

cno\ (kro:) nut (nom sing), of nuts (gen plural)
coille nan cno\ = hazel grove
[k@L'e n@ gro:]
(many short words are the same in the nominative singular and in the genitive plural; you have to work it out from context; here it's preceded by the genitive plural "nan" of the definite article, so it's obviously plural.)

co\dhail (ko:%al') meeting; cum co\dhail = keep an appointment

coill [koL'] used here as an abbreviation of "coille";
not an abbreviation to be recommended, as "coill" normally means "guilt" or "sin"

coille (k'L'), (koL'): grove; wood

coinneamh (koN'u), (koN'v) meeting; cum coinneamh = hold a meeting

co\mhradh [ko: r%] conversation

chum [xum] kept, held, maintained (past indep. of cum)

da-ri\readh [dar'ir%] indeed, for sure; in earnest, serious

di-ma\irt [d'@ma:r's't'] Tuesday

di\omhaireach [d'i:ver'ox] private, secret; lonely

dlu\th [tlu:] close, near; dense, thickset

donn [do:uN], [dauN] brown; dark (of complexion)

fallain [faLaN'] sound, healthy, wholesome

figis [fikis'] fig

foill [fL']

deceit, wrong

gle/ [gle:] very

go\ [go:] fault, defect; deceit, falsehood
 gruagach [grugax] young woman, maiden
 gun [gun] without
 guth [gu] voice
 iarguin [irkin'] sorrow, grief, pain
 leam [L'um] with me, by me (prepositional compound le+mi)
 mar [mar] as, like
 nan [nan] of the (genitive plural)
 po/g [po:k] kiss
 pra\mh pra:v] dejection, weariness, sleepiness, drowsiness
 raoir [r'ir'] an raoir [@ r@r'] yesterday evening
 (an oidhche raoir: last night)
 rinn [rN'], [raiN'] did, made (past indep. of dean)
 (note velar [r], not palatal [r'])
 rium [r'um], [rum] against me (prep. compound: ri + mi)
 riut [r'uxt], [rut] against you (prep compound: ri + tu)
 sinn [s'iN']
 we, us
 sla\n [sla:n] healthy, well

CC