

## Gairm

"I have seen the film three times. That is the sort of humour we understand in Denmark," he said.

His articles, published in a Copenhagen paper, were as understanding of the Hebrides as any I have ever read. I wish some of our friends from south of the border would write as sympathetically when they visit us. But he was a humourist himself, and one needs a sense of fun to understand the Hebrides, and even more, to understand us Hebrideans. Some of the most embarrassing moments of my life have come when I addressed to a Sassanach, without a sense of humour, an apparently silly remark in which the average crofter would see at least three different meanings and three good jokes.

My surprise that a Danish journalist should make a pilgrimage to the "Whisky Galore Islands" gave me the idea that it might be worth while doing a bit of exploring on my own, so in Norway and Sweden I followed the "Whisky Galore" trail in an effort to find out what it is about the film that makes so universal an appeal.

To many minds anything associated with drink and drunkenness is funny. That is a childish attitude, and the people who liked the film were not that kind at all. Moreover, I do not think the film has created the impression that we are all inveterate toppers in the Isles. I hope not anyway, because it isn't true, although, of course, whisky has been heard of.

"Chunnaic mi an dealbh trì uairean. Sin an seòrsa àbhachd a thuigeas sinn an Denmarc," arsa esan.

Chaidh na sgrìobh e a chlà-bhualadh am paipear an Copenhagen, is tha e a' tighinn cho dlùth air a bhith tuigsinn beatha nan Eileanan ri dad a leugh mi riamh. Bu mhath gu sgrìobhadh cuid de ar càirdean Sasunnach ann an dòigh cho coibhneil nuair a thig iad a thadhal oirnn. Ach 'se duine àbhachdach a bh'ann dheth fhéin, agus feumaidh duine bhith mar sin mus tuig e na h-Eileanan, is gu h-àraidh sluagh Innse Gall. Cha robh mi riamh cho mì-chomhfhurtail 's a bha mi na turusan a thuirt mi ri Sasunnach gun àbhachdas rud faoin, ma b'fhior, as an tugadh croitear sam bith trì seaghan co-dhiùbh, agus trì abhcaidean.

Ma chuir e iongnadh orm gun deanadh fear-sgrìobhaidh a Denmarc turus do "dh'eileanan Whisky Galore," chuir e 'nam cheann gum b'fhiach e an t-saothair dhomh a dhol air chuairt sgrùdaidh air mo cheann fhéin; agus ann an Lochlainn agus 'san t-Suain lean mi lorg "Whisky Galore" fiach an tuiginn dé bha a' deanamh an dealbh cho inntinn-tharruingeach.

Ann an sùilean iomadach duine tha éibhinneachd co-cheangailte ri deoch is ri daorach. Chan eil an sin ach leanabaileachd, agus cha b'ann de'n ghnè sin a bha na daoine ris an do chòrd an dealbh. Agus cuideachd, chan eil mi de'n bheachd gun tug an dealbh a chreidsinn air daoine gur h-e na dearg dhrungaichean a tha annainn 's na h-Eileanan. Tha mi 'n dòchas nach tug co-dhiùbh, oir chan eil sin fìor, ged a chualas iomradh againn air an uisge-bheatha.