

**Coisich a Rùin - Walk my love – Orain Luaidh – Mairi Nighean Alasdair  
(published by K C Craig 1949)**

**Trans Linn Phipps**

Coisich, a rùin,  
lùb nan geal làmh,  
'S bheir soraidh bhuam,  
dha na Hearadh,

hù il oro,  
hù i a bho,  
hù il oro,  
boch orain o

Walk my love  
folding the white hands  
Take a greeting from me,  
to Harris

'S bheir soraidh bhuam,  
dha na Hearadh  
Go Seon Caimbeal  
donn, mo leannan.

Take a greeting from me,  
To Harris  
To brown haired John Campbell,  
my beloved

Gu Seon Caimbeal  
donn mo leannan  
Bu thrìc a laigh  
mi fo t'earradh.

To brown haired John Campbell  
my beloved  
Often I lay  
Under your plaid (lit: clothing)

Bu thrìc a laigh  
mi fo t'earradh.  
Ma thà, chan ann  
aig a' bhaile

Often I lay  
Under your plaid (lit: clothing)  
If so, it was not  
in public (lit: the village)

Ma thà, chan ann  
aig a' bhaile  
An lagan uaigneach  
an cluain a' bharrach

If so, it was not  
in public (lit: the village)  
(it was) in a lonely hollow  
in the birchwood

Do lamh fo m' cheann,  
t' aodach faram,  
'S mi fo chirb do  
bhreacain bhallaich

Your hand under my head,  
your clock over me  
And me under the edge of your  
tartan plaid

Gaoth nan àrd bheann  
draghadh fairis  
Uisge fìorghlan  
fuarghlan fallain

Wind of the high mountains  
drawing overhead  
A true pure water  
clean, cold, healthy rain

O theang' an fhèidh  
a nì langan  
Fluich an latha  
an diugh 's gur fuar i

O call (lit: tongue) of the deer  
that bellows  
Wet is the day  
today and it is cold

'S gun tug Clann Nill  
druim a' chuain dhith  
Mas fhior dhomh fhin

The MacNeills left  
(with their back to) over the ocean  
If that's true for myself

chi mi bhuam iad

I see them far from me

Le an longannan  
loma luatha  
Le an ulagan  
cruinne cruaidhe  
equipped)

With their ships  
really fast  
with their blocks/pulleys  
a strong mast (ie well

Le am brataichean  
gorma 's uaine  
Rèiteach a nochd  
's a' bhail' uarach,

With their banners,  
blue and green,  
Betrothal tonight  
in the upper village

Sùilean ghobhar  
an ceann nan gruagach  
'S ma dh' fhaodas mi  
's mi nì buannachd

Sharp (lit: goat) eyes  
in the heads of the young girls  
And if I may  
I will gain the advantage

Nan cluinntinn tè  
eile luaidh riut  
Spionainn bun is  
bàrr mo chuailein

If I hear another one  
mention you  
I would tear my hair from base  
to tip

'S leimeadh mo shròn  
àird na stuaigheadh  
Dh' fhalbhadh m' anail  
Na ceò uaine

And my nose would bleed  
like the big wave  
My breath vanished  
as green mist

'S tu fireannach  
liùm as docha  
Shaltair air fiar  
riamh no fochann

And you a man  
he most likely (desirable) for me  
(Who) Ever trod on grass  
without reason

Laigh air a thaobh  
deas no toisgeail  
No chuir brog ma  
cheann a choiseadh

(Who) lay on his right side  
or foremost  
Or put on a shoe  
for walking.

Mo mhil mhiochain  
's mo mhil bheachain  
Mo dhitheinean  
Eadar ghart thu

My sweet honey  
And my honey bee  
My flower  
amongst the green shoots

Mo cheòl, mo cheòl,  
mo cheòl fìdhleadh  
'S mo cheòl chlàrsaich

My music, my music,  
My fiddle music  
And my harp music

àrd is iseal

'S gura mise  
th' air mo sgaradh  
O 'n chiad Mhàrt do  
thùs an earraich  
M' òg fhleasgach donn  
Gun bhith fallain  
Chan eil feum air  
Lèigh nad bhaile

Ga tà, tha, na,  
Feum air anart  
'S mòran mòr do  
choinnlean geala

'S thug mi an oidhche  
raoir nam chaithris,  
'S bheir mi an oidhche  
nochd ann fhathast,

Go 'n tèid ùir air  
sùil mo leannain  
Ùir air sùil mo  
chiad ghràdh falaich

high and low

It's me that is  
bereft  
From the first of March to  
the beginning of spring  
My young brown haired youth  
Although not healthy  
There was no need (use) for  
A doctor in your village

However, there was, still  
Need for a linen shroud  
And a great many  
were your white candles

And yesterday I spent  
the last night in vigil,  
And I'll spend tonight  
there still

Until the burial (lit: earth over the eyes)  
of my beloved  
The burial of my  
secret first love