

Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach
'Commemoration of our Land Heroes'

Park House
Marybank
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis

27th January 1992

Joni Buchanan
219 Queen Victoria Drive
Scotstonhill
Glasgow
G13 1UU

Dear Joni

Thanks for your letter received 24/1/92. I had just posted my letter the same day.

Research: I duly note that you hope to start your research in Edinburgh next week.

Visit to Lewis: I duly note that you expect to spend the best part of February in Lewis and I look forward to talking with you. I will think about useful people for you to talk to.

Tape Recording: I thought it might be helpful if I sent you a tape recording on the subject of the Park Deer Raid and we could discuss any point later. Tape herewith.

Bilingual: Yes, the project was agreed to be bilingual from the time the committee first discussed it, but not a word-for-word translation as it is thought there is sufficient material to give scope for the piece in each language to be somewhat different and therefore more interesting to the bilingual person.

Gaelic: I duly note that you do not feel sufficiently confident to write in Gaelic and that you would prefer to write the Gaelic version in English for translation, possibly, by Annie Macsween or some other person.

Articles by John M. Macleod, 15 Balallan: I enclose English and a Gaelic article submitted by John M Macleod with my previous letter. I am sure you know John as the ex-Headmaster at Leurbost School, our Vice-Chairman, and very knowledgeable in local history. George Stewart, 2 Back is also a member of our committee and a member of the Back Historical Society. I feel it would be very profitable for you to discuss local history with him because he is very well informed. Point Drama Society put on a play of the Aignish Riot. I will make enquiries as to who is the best person to talk to.

Oighreachd Agus Gabhallas: Probably, you are aware of this Gaelic publication (Aberdeen University Gaelic Books - Donald Macaulay). John Macarthur, Point, has an article on the Aignish Riot. John M MacLeod, Balallan, has an article on the Park Deer Raid. Donald Macaulay has an article on the Bernera Riot.

The Trial of the Bernera Rioters: As an Uig person, I am sure you are familiar with the reproduction by Donald MacCormack, Bookseller, Edinburgh of this interesting little book.

Photographs and Illustrations: We are grateful for your suggestion to look for any suitable photographs in the National Library and the Central Library in Edinburgh, also the Illustrated London News as well as leaflets and pamphlets in the Records Office.

Cover: I was wondering how the illustration of the Aignish Raid would look on the cover or perhaps a drawing of a cairn, or both. We must get down to making decisions on all these issues as soon as possible.

Mrs Scott Mackenzie (nee Maclaughlan): It is possible that she may have some suitable photographs. I know her well. Thanks for the suggestion.

T.B. Macaulay's Daughters: Mr. Macaulay was a keen photographer, going back to the 1920s. It might be worth making enquiries.

Design: I agree that until all these avenues, and the Committee's suggestions etc. are investigated, we cannot have any firm ideas on design.

Words - 2,500 - 3,000: As you suggest, that sounds ok to me but I am not knowledgeable in that field and I will consult Angus Morrison, the 'Gazette' printer and the committee who expect to meet on 31/1/92 (next Friday). What you say is 2,500 - 3,000 words on each of the four English sections, and similarly for each of the four Gaelic sections, I would think on average, because there may not be such plentiful material under each heading. Also, an introduction and a reference section. I am keen to state these things precisely so that each member of the committee may get an opportunity at the outset to raise any points that are omitted, doubtful or unsatisfactory - or forever keep silent.

Fee for the Text: I duly note, with great appreciation, that you have already reduced the verbal figure you gave me on the telephone a while ago by about £300. We are also grateful to you for your suggestion to be flexible on your figure of £600-£700. I think we had better state a precise figure. It is more business-like and we are less likely to argue at the end of the day. I would think that the committee would be happy enough with the upper limit but I am in your own and the Committee's hands.

Delivery of Text: We lost some time since we last spoke about this project and I am sure a May delivery is quite good. We duly note that an election might disrupt our programme, but let's hope not.

Gaelic Books Council: I believe they require sight of the text before they consider eligibility for grant, but, meantime, we shall write to them as soon as I get their address.

As I already mentioned there is a special meeting on 31/1/92 to meet W. MacLean of Tayport, Fife to discuss designs for Cairns and such matters and if you feel that you could get a letter here before then, it would be convenient, but I doubt it can be done in the time available.

Yours sincerely
Angus MacLeod - Chairman
For Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach