

# Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies<sup>1</sup>

## Vol. 20: *Muile, Tiriodh & Colla* (Mull, Tìree & Coll)

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### Executive Summary

This publication is part of a series dealing with local communities which were predominantly Gaelic-speaking at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Based mainly (but not exclusively) on local population census information the reports strive to examine the state of the language through the ages from 1881 until today. The most relevant information is gathered comprehensively for the smallest geographical unit possible and provided area by area – a very useful reference for people with interest in their own community. Furthermore the impact of recent developments in education (namely teaching in Gaelic medium and Gaelic as a second language) is analysed for primary school catchments.

This issue is concerned with the islands in the centre of the Inner Hebrides. Gaelic remained as dominating community language on Mull and Coll as late as the Second World War; in Tìree Gaelic still plays a major role today. Gaelic on Mull seems to have narrowly escaped from the “point of no return” in recent years. The island could provide an excellent example for language resurrection if current initiatives continue - hopefully with increasing vigour. The picture of the Gaelic language on Tìree is slightly more encouraging. It still constitutes a prominent factor in local life although on a lower level than in the past. This status could be enhanced, however, much more successfully if the whole community (and all school children) would have a real chance to embrace Gaelic as part of their own lives. Linguistically Tìree looks very much divided between “locals” and newcomers.

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