

An CAILIN RUA  
(The Red-headed Girl)  
(Skara Nrae version)  
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1.

Nach doiligh domhsa mo chailin a mholadh  
'S ni he amhain mar bhi si rua  
Bhi si mar gath greine a dhul in eadan na gloinne  
Is bhi sceimh mhna na finne le mo cailin rua

(It isn't hard for me to praise my girl  
And not only because she's a red-head:  
She's like a sunbeam reflecting from a glass surface  
And she resembles the [classical] women of beauty)

Chorus:

Thug me liom i o bhaile go baile  
O gheaftai Dhoire is go Baile an Luain  
Chan fhiul aon mhile ar shiul me 'r a fad sin  
Nach dtug me deoch leanna do mo chailin rua

(I went from town to town  
From Derry's gates to Baile an Luain [?]  
And not even a mile did I walk along that road  
Without giving a drop of ale to my red-headed girl)

2.

B'fhearr liom i na bo is na bearrach  
A bhfuil da loinghis a' tarraingt chun cuain  
B'fhearr liom aris na cios cluain maidne  
Go mbeinn is mo chailin in mBaile an Luain

(I prefer her to cows and ???  
And ships drawing near to the harbors  
I prefer her too to the rent from an east-facing meadow  
[Oh] If I were with my red-headed girl in Baile an Luain!)

3.

Chuir me mo chailin go margadh Shligidh  
B'e sin fein an margadh bhi daor  
Bhi scilling agus punt ar a pheice mine  
No go dtug mise na fuinneadh do mo chailin rua

(I sent my girl to the market in Sligo  
- That one was the most expensive!  
A shilling and a pound for a peck of meal  
So I gave it to my red-headed girl for kneading)

4.

Chuaigh si siar le broga breach' uirthi  
Ribini glasuaine teannta 'ar a gruaig  
D'ealaigh si uaimse le buachaill an tsiopa  
'S a Ri, nar dheas i mo chailin rua

(Back she came with fancy shoes on  
Blue ribbons tied in her hair  
She had slipped away from me with the shop-boy  
But begod, my red-headed girl was a fine one!)