

'The College by the Sea' and its photographs

Introduction

The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (now Aberystwyth University) was founded in 1872 after years of struggle. During this period Scotland had its four well-established universities: Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow and St Andrews. England fared less well but had the ancient institutions of Oxford and Cambridge plus the newcomers Durham, King's College and University College in London, and Owen's College in Manchester. Ireland was blessed with Trinity College Dublin and the new Queen's Colleges at Cork, Belfast and Galway. Only Wales was without a place of higher education (apart from St David's College, Lampeter and other religious colleges). The effort to rectify this omission gathered pace during the nineteenth century.

The story is in many ways a romantic one. The setting up of local committees in Wales, and in English cities such as London and Manchester, helped to further the cause, and money was collected in order to establish the foundation when all the pieces were deemed to be in place. The details have been set down on a number of occasions and will not be repeated here.¹ Suffice to say that Aberystwyth was not a well thought out location for the College, and indeed would have had few supporters in a referendum. It was rather the coming of the railway, the erection of hotels en route, the economic downturn of the 1860s and the bankruptcy of the speculator Thomas Savin which led to the unfinished Castle Hotel in Aberystwyth being put up for sale. The building was purchased and after a few hesitations the University College of Wales (UCW) opened its doors to a handful of students in October 1872. Wales had its own University College at last.

To greet these few guinea pigs there were three academic members of staff: the Principal, Thomas Charles Edwards; Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, Horatio Nelson Grimley; and Professor of Classics, John Hoskyns-Abrahall. All three were men of the cloth although not all of the same persuasion. The last named survived for one year only, and Grimley, with two others, was thrown overboard to lighten the load in 1879 when the College experienced financial problems. But Thomas Charles Edwards remained at the helm for nineteen years, bolstered by the support of his two Council bulldogs, Hugh Owen of London (until his death in 1881) and John Foulkes Roberts of Manchester. These initial years were crucial for the College, with no government help and always subject to attack from both North and South Wales. The fact that it survived was due mainly to these three men, Edwards, Owen and Roberts.

By the 1920s the College had grown in size and academic stature. It was now a constituent College of the University of Wales whose charter had received the Royal Assent in 1893. In 1922 UCW celebrated its golden jubilee with confidence and anticipation. And then, a few years later, the Students'

Representative Council began the task of producing a handbook which finally appeared in 1928. The editor, Iwan Morgan, relates in the Preface the story of the delays which occurred, together with the enlarging scope of the publication. The slim handbook eventually became a book of some 352 pages, with the imposing title of *The College by the Sea*.² A glance at the contents reveals over seventy articles. One sympathises greatly with the editor in his task of commissioning, reviewing and collating all this material. He talks in the Preface of the contributors being chosen in a fairly haphazard manner, of articles being pruned to avoid overlapping and becoming 'disjointed' as a result. The articles are mainly historical in some sense or other. There are pieces on the history of the College and the pre-history of the College, on the College buildings and student residences. There are reminiscences going back to the early days from students and staff. Two pieces by deceased authors are republished. A few departments are examined in detail, as are student clubs and societies. As a book *The College by the Sea* comes over as a complete jumble, but it is nevertheless an invaluable source. It was produced at a time when there were witnesses still alive from the 1870s, and it contains quirky information which would be unlikely to appear in an official history. In the centenary volume of 1972 E. L. Ellis lamented that this 1928 publication had pre-empted the most natural title for his official history.

The object of this article is, however, not to examine the written words of *The College by the Sea*, but to investigate some of the more than seventy photographs which appear within its pages.

The photographs

The photographs can be grouped together under three main headings. There are many photographs of College buildings, the College farm and playing fields, twenty photographs of individual staff members, students and ex-students and supporters, and the remaining 34 photographs are of groups of students or staff or both, including also Council members. We shall say nothing further of the first group.

Iwan Morgan states in the Preface that he 'has aimed only at a very "rough justice" ' in his selection of photographs:

In almost every case where the writer of an article has ceased to be directly connected with the College, or is not well known to the majority of present students, his photograph (sic) has been included ...

All individuals in the second group are named and I give here the nomenclature used in the book. They include the then Principal, H. Stuart Jones, and the three ex-Principals, T. C. Edwards, T. F. Roberts and J. H. Davies. Two ardent supporters of the College are also found within, Sir Hugh Owen Kt, and Mr David Davies M.P. Members of staff are represented by Professor J. Mortimer Angus, Dr J. E. Lloyd, Professor R. W. Genese, Dr C. H. Herford, Sergeant-Major

Wakeling and Acting Principal Edward Edwards. The students and ex-students are W. R. Evans, Rev. T. T. Lucius Morgan, Mrs L. Pattrick, T. R. Dawes, Dr Thomas Quayle, C. H. Jenkins and Miss Violet Watson. A quick count would show that nineteen persons, rather than twenty, are named here. The discrepancy arises because T. C. Edwards, the first and perhaps greatest of the early Principals, appears twice. One of these photographs is the finest of this second group and shows the Principal sitting and writing at his cluttered desk.³ Alongside him is a wall of books, whilst behind his chair is a photograph in a frame. The figures are too small to be recognised but the photograph is not familiar, and somehow it seems not to be a College group at all. Perhaps it is a religious gathering. Two items of furniture are interesting. The outlines of the fireplace and hearth are visible, and the box by the side of the hearth is clearly a Victorian coal scuttle. By his side is a stand with a small receptacle at the top and a circular shelf half way down. It looks like an ash tray stand. There is a hint of a pipe on the desk in front of him.

The third group of photographs, each containing a number of individuals, has one unfortunate drawback. The photographs usually have titles (not always accurate) but no names of persons are recorded. This is a devastating omission. The editor does comment in the Preface on the lack of detail:

Unfortunately it has been found impossible to include the names of all the persons who appear in the various groups, but a full list is being prepared and may be obtained at the College Office.

Taken literally the sentence says that the list is in the process of being produced, and (if it ever gets completed) it is possible (but by no means certain) that a copy may be had at the College Office. If a list does exist (or even did exist) then it would be valuable for the evidence to be widely known. However, it is safe to say that no such list could possibly contain the names of all persons on display. At the very least not all the names of the photographed students from the 1870s could have been ascertained in 1928.

The object of the remainder of this article is to make known the names of a large number of the academic staff of UCW whose images appear in *The College by the Sea*. For the purposes of this work students will be ignored. Much could be achieved on names of students especially those students appearing as members of clubs or societies, but we shall concentrate solely on the academic staff, broadening this description to include members of the College Council as shown in the first group photograph.

Most of the information recorded here comes from the photographic archive of the National Library of Wales (NLW).

The years 1872 to 1879

(a) The College Council (about 1875)⁴

This photograph is to be found in the NLW collection where the title is 'Council of UCW, 1876-7' and all the participants are named.⁵ Again we use the nomenclature on the photograph.



Standing left to right

J. Pell Esq
Prof. Mc Kenny Hughes
Princ. Edwards
J. Griffiths Esq (Gohebydd)
J. F. Roberts Esq

Seated left to right

Stephen Evans Esq
Capt. E. H. Verney
Archdeacon Griffiths (Neath)
A. C. Humphreys Owen Esq
Rev. R. Jones (Rotherhithe)
Sir Hugh Owen

We note the presence of J. F. Roberts and Hugh Owen. Both men were originally from Anglesey, the former moving to Manchester and the latter to London. Hugh Owen now has a library on the Penglais campus named after him, whereas J. F. Roberts is virtually unknown although he was the one who was at the side of T. C. Edwards throughout his nineteen years as Principal and was his rock and champion.

(b) **Students and Professors (1877– 8)**⁶

This is a large group and the photographer took at least two photographs at the one sitting. A slightly different shot is found in the NLW collection.⁷ The main difference is that the *The College by the Sea* version has caps on and NLW has caps off, although one member of staff employs the contrary strategy.



In the University of Aberystwyth archives there is a letter dated 7 October 1912 from T. J. Rowland (a Manchester solicitor and ex-student) to T. A. Levi (Professor of Law 1901–40), in which he identifies a number of staff and students (including himself) appearing in this photograph. The staff are found in the second row up:

The row above (seated) contains the staff: Penllyn, one I can't remember, Parry, Angus, Edwards, Grimley, Ethé, Craig and Keeping (I think his name was).⁸

This list initially caused great problems. We can see the Principal sitting capless in the middle. And we recognise Horatio Nelson Grimley (Professor of Mathematics), next to him on the right, from previous work on the history of mathematics at Aberystwyth.⁹ However, as far as I am aware, all known photographs of John Mortimer Angus (Professor of Latin) showed him to have a monstrous beard,¹⁰ and the only such candidate in this photograph is three to the left of the Principal. Was Rowland plucking out names as they occurred to him? If so, who was the person sitting in the pre-eminent position on the left of the Principal? The solution comes from the next two photographs we consider but we state at this point that Rowland's list does move in an orderly fashion from left to right starting with the sixth figure from the left on the second row up. This is Evan Penllyn Jones, a native of Bala, Registrar and Librarian at UCW. He had been a master at Towyn School when interviewed on Towyn railway station by Hugh Owen. He arrived at UCW in 1872 and was at the College until his death in 1902. The person with the beard whom Rowland could not remember was

Robert Davies Roberts who appears on a number of occasions and in various guises in the Ellis centenary volume but was a temporary lecturer in Chemistry (1876–7) when this photograph was taken. He was born in 1851 at Aberystwyth and died in London in 1911. Roberts was a great enthusiast for adult education throughout his life. Next to him is Joseph Parry, the Professor of Music (1874–80) and one of the most important (and well-known) Welsh musicians of the time. Next is Angus (sans beard). He was appointed to UCW in 1873 after the departure of Hoskyns-Abrahall. Angus was born in Stepney in 1850 and remained in Aberystwyth until 1905 when he moved to Cardiff to become the Registrar of the University of Wales. His long life came to an end in that city at the age of 94.

The Principal, Thomas Charles Edwards, was born in 1837 at Bala, his father, Lewis Edwards, being Principal of the Calvinistic Methodist College there. He left UCW in 1891 to succeed his father at Bala and died nine years later. Next to him is Grimley, an ordained clergyman of the Anglican church who did not always see eye to eye with his Principal or indeed with J. F. Roberts. There were some doubts about his ability as a teacher although David Samuel, an ex-student who entered UCW in 1873, was full of praise for him¹¹ and claimed that the lectures at Cambridge 'were worse than at Aber'.¹² The nonconformist Roberts was wary of what he saw as Grimley's papist tendencies: 'pilgrimages' to the shrine at Assisi did not go down too well.

Next to Grimley is the amazing scholar Hermann Ethé who appeared in the early Calendars first as the Professor of Hebrew, Arabic and Sanskrit, then (further down the page) as Professor of German, French and Italian, before ending up as an asterisk at the bottom with the words 'Dr Ethé will be happy to read with students in other Oriental languages'.¹³ This German exile came to UCW in 1875 and spent almost forty years in Aberystwyth before he was unceremoniously banished from the town in the wake of anti-Hun hysteria during 1914. He died three years later. Ellis's comment on his death is memorable:

Despite his age, he was a casualty of war just as certainly as any young soldier killed at the Front.¹⁴

There remains first William James Craig and then Walter Keeping, respectively Professor of English and Professor of Geology. Both left in the 1879 purge along with Grimley. Craig went on to edit a notable series of Shakespeare but the verdict of one of his Aberystwyth students was:

No man knew more or could teach less.¹⁵

(c) **An untitled photograph**¹⁶



This seems to show a group of students in sports kit with perhaps one bowler hatted member of staff standing at the back. From Rowland's list we know that the owner of the bowler hat was Keeping. But why is the photograph at this point in the book for it appears to be out of place? In fact it is exactly where it should be if we remember Iwan Morgan's 'rough justice' choice of photographs, for it is placed at the end of an article by Angus entitled, 'Reminiscences of the early days', in which he makes the following statement:

Football was played from the first, in spite of the constantly recurring difficulty of securing a suitable field. I think I have played football in every field that had any pretensions to flatness within a mile of Aberystwyth.¹⁷

And there is Angus, still beardless, on the right at the front.

(d) **The staff in the early period**¹⁸



This photograph is to be found in the NLW collection.¹⁹ The title is '1877' and all participants are named.

Back row standing left to right	T. C. Edwards H. N. Grimley
Middle row seated left to right	H. Ethé J. M. Angus R. D. Roberts
Front row seated left to right	J. Parry W. Keeping W. J. Craig

(e) **An early group of staff and students, 1878**²⁰



This photograph is to be found in the NLW collection where the title is 'College group 1878–9'. There are no names given.²¹

The staff are clearly those seated on the form, with the exception presumably of the character on the right. From the identifications above we can recognize most of them. If we number them 1 to 10 starting from the left we can see the following:

2 – 6 Parry, Craig, Angus, Grimley, Edwards
8 – 9 Keeping, Ethé

Two of the three unknowns are identified elsewhere. The man on the extreme left (number 1) is Frederick William Rudler (1840–1915).²² He was appointed as Professor of Natural Science at UCW in October 1875 and remained there apart from a gap in 1877 until he resigned in 1879. One of his main achievements was the development of the College museum. We note that the second unknown (number 7) is sitting next to the Principal and is therefore of some importance. He is the great Welsh lexicographer Daniel Silvan Evans, born at Llanarth in 1818, who was appointed the Professor of Welsh at UCW in 1875 and remained on a part time basis until 1883.²³ He became Rector of Llanwrin, Montgomeryshire in 1876 and died at the rectory there in 1903.

The final unknown (number 10) is more of a problem. He could well be E. Penllyn Jones again whom we met before in photograph (b). This identification is not entirely convincing but the only other member of staff from 1878 was Henry Tanner, a professor at the Science and Art Department, South Kensington who was engaged on a temporary basis to give a course of lectures on Agriculture. No likeness of Tanner has been discovered.

The years 1879 to 1892

At the end of the 1870s the College suffered a financial crisis and, to lessen the academic outgoings, three members of staff, Grimley, Craig and Keeping, were jettisoned, and three newcomers were appointed as cheaper replacements. Grimley decided to earn his crust within the church once more. After a long working life he retired as rector of Norton (Suffolk) in 1918 and died the following year, forty seven years after he became the first Professor of Mathematics at UCW. Craig made his reputation as a Shakespearean scholar and his books are still available. He re-established his connection with UCW in the 1880s by becoming external examiner in English. He died in 1906. Keeping, the geologist, did not survive for long: he died in 1888. These three were not the only casualties, however. Joseph Parry resigned in 1880 after the Council got rid of the music students and renegotiated his contract. The teaching of music had come to an abrupt halt. The new appointments were Robert William Genese (Mathematics), Mungo William MacCullum (English) and Thomas Samuel Humpidge (Natural Science). The most enduring of these was Genese who remained at UCW until 1919, the year his predecessor's earthly life was coming to a close.

(f) **The staff at the time of the fire 1884–85**²⁴



This photograph is to be found in the NLW collection with the title 'College staff 1884-5'.²⁵ All participants are named.

The fire took place during the night of 8/9 July 1885. An account of the dramatic events is given in a *The College by the Sea* article by Joseph Brough, the Professor of Philosophy, reprinted from the *UCW Magazine* of November 1885.²⁶ Two photographs are also included, one showing the fire itself, and the other the devastation caused.²⁷ Three people died as a result of the conflagration and it seemed for a time that UCW itself would perish. The *Western Mail* (no friend of the Aberystwyth College) foresaw its demise, but the tragedy induced a great well of sympathy within Wales which led the Principal to declare that the country 'will never now let it die.'

The members of staff shown are as follows

Standing, back row left to right J. M. Angus
 W. J. Johnston (Mathematics)
 E. Penllyn Jones
 J. E. Lloyd (History and Welsh)
 T. C. Edwards
 M. W. MacCallum (Professor of
 English)

Middle row left to right	H. Ethé J. Brough (Philosophy) D. E. Jones (Physics) W. Scholle (French and German)
Seated front row left to right	R. W. Genese (Professor of Mathematics) J. W. Marshall (Classics) T. S. Humpidge (Professor of Natural Science) J. R. Ainsworth Davis (Biology)

It is immediately clear from this list that there had been a transformation in Aberystwyth's fortunes between 1879 and 1885. Not only were there three cheap professorial replacements but there were seven even cheaper appointments at lecturer level. The two main reasons for this were first, despite the founding of Bangor and Cardiff Colleges, the number of students at Aberystwyth continued to rise, and second, the government had finally capitulated and awarded UCW a Treasury grant. The fire, if anything, made Aberystwyth's position secure.

Genese was an Irishman, born in Dublin in 1848. He had applied for the Chair of Mathematics in 1872 when Grimley was appointed. On that occasion he was unsuccessful but from 1879 onwards until 1919 Genese and mathematics were almost synonymous at Aberystwyth. Not quite, because he was soon given teaching support and in 1885 William John Johnston, another Irishman, came to join him, and remained at Aberystwyth until after Genese himself had retired. Even more to the point, three quarters of the way through his stint, in 1909, Genese became Professor of Pure Mathematics when the Department of Mathematics was split into two.

MacCallum was a Scotsman, born in 1854. He left UCW in 1887 and moved to take up a Chair at Sydney University where in 1934 he became Chancellor.

Aberystwyth also lost Humpidge in 1887. It was in his chemistry laboratory that the fire of 1885 had started, although the exact circumstances were never discovered. Humpidge, in Ellis's words, was 'a fanatical worker', so much so that his health collapsed and he died at the age of 34.²⁸

W. Scholle was a lecturer in the same sense as Johnston for he was appointed to share the departmental workload in French and German under the professorship of Ethé. He resigned in 1894. On the other hand John Edward Lloyd was in post as what came to be known by the term Independent Lecturer, in other words a Professor who had a Department but not the title or the salary. Lloyd was a student at Aberystwyth from 1877 to 1881 and contributed an article to *The College by the Sea* recalling those years.²⁹ He was made a Professor in 1891 but moved to Bangor the following year. He died in 1947. On his departure the Department was split into two, Edward Anwyl becoming Professor of Welsh and Edward Edwards (Teddy Eddy) lecturer in History and Political Economy.

Another ex-student in this photograph is D. E. Jones. He too did not stay long,

leaving in 1891. The remaining three academics became Aberystwyth stalwarts especially John Wilson Marshall, who later became Professor of Greek and remained so until his death in 1923. Marshall was a very popular member of staff but he showed in 1914 that he did not flinch from being unpopular in a righteous cause. When the mob were baying for the blood of the German Ethé after the start of the First World War, Marshall was one who tried unsuccessfully to persuade them of the madness of their ways and was physically assaulted for his pains.

Joseph Brough took over the reins of Logic and Philosophy from T. C. Edwards in 1883 and was created a Professor two years later. He was a great social animal with talent in the dramatic and musical fields although this was not matched apparently in the academic or disciplinary spheres. He has had to suffer a jibe similar to that directed at Craig. Abel J. Jones passed on the supposed opinion of an external examiner that Brough did not know enough philosophy to pass his own examination.³⁰ As already mentioned it was Brough who provided a first hand account of the fire in 1885. He retired in 1911 and died in 1925.

The remaining member of this triumvirate is James R. Ainsworth Davis. He too was keen on the theatre and he and Brough were leading lights in the formation and running of the College Dramatics Club. His other claim to Aberystwyth fame was that he provided the English words for the College song (Edward Anwyl was responsible for the Welsh version and David Jenkins for the music). He resigned in 1908.

(g) Staff and students (early nineties)³¹



This photograph is also in the NLW collection.³² The title here is '1890'. No names are given but we can pick up most members of staff from the previous photographs. The staff are clearly on the second and third rows from the front.

2 nd row left to right	J. M. Angus R. W. Genese H. Ethé J. Brough W. Scholle Charles Harold Herford (Professor of English) D. E. Jones
3 rd row left to right	W. J. Johnston ? J. E. Lloyd J. R. A. Davis J. W. Marshall Henry Lloyd Snape (Professor of Chemistry) E. P. Jones

C. H. Herford (1853–1931) was a Manchester man who brought great distinction to the College during his fourteen-year stay at Aberystwyth. He left in 1901 to become Professor of English Literature at Manchester. This is the first chronological appearance of Herford in *The College by the Sea* but he is identified in the 1892 photograph later and also in his individual photograph.³³ This latter is included because Herford had contributed an article entitled, 'Impressions of Aberystwyth 1887–1901'. The Professor of English does not disappoint his audience:

My lecture room was magnificently placed on the first floor some fifty feet above those surging breakers, and I venture to say that no other Professor of English has been able to illustrate the 'Ode to the Nightingale' by simply inviting his class to look out of the window; there, before them, were the

"magic casements, opening on the foam
Of perilous seas in faery lands forlorn."³⁴

H. L. Snape was another Lancastrian and an almost exact contemporary of Herford in both mortal and Aberystwyth life. His identification comes from a photograph in the University collection.³⁵ He seems to have been more a theoretical rather than a practical chemist. Thomas Jones (T. J.) was a student at Aberystwyth in the 1890s before finding fame as Lloyd George's deputy cabinet secretary and later President of the College. He has left us a glimpse of Snape in the lecture room:

The Professor of Chemistry was a full-fledged Doctor of Science and a man of great liveliness and energy. Every limb of his body was summoned to assist him in the act of lecturing ... Not one of us ever touched or handled a liquid or a solid, ever bruised or pounded anything in a mortar, ever measured or analysed a mixture in a test tube.³⁶

T. J. deplored such passivism. Students should be actors not spectators. 'A man is not made a fisherman by buying fish at a fishmonger's'. He tells us that some years later Snape quarrelled with his Demonstrator and never visited the laboratory.

Abel J. Jones tells a similar story of friction between the mathematicians Genese and Johnston.³⁷ Jones entered College in 1898 and relates that these two had not been on speaking terms for many years. According to Jones 'a very difficult mathematical problem' had been set by one of the journals. Genese sent in a long piece proving that the problem was insoluble, but in the next issue appeared a simple solution of only a few lines from his assistant Johnston. There are superficial reasons for believing that there is some truth in the story.³⁸

The member of staff between Johnston and Lloyd is unknown. The Principal is unusually absent here but in 1890 he made a visit to the United States of America which was a great success in terms of friendships made and money contributed to equip the new College library.

(h) **Members of staff (late eighties)**³⁹



The date for this is incorrect, for the photograph appears in the NLW collection with the title '1891'.⁴⁰ No names are given although they can be filled in from previous photographs.

Back row from left to right	E. P. Jones W. Scholle J. R. A. Davis C. H. Herford W. J. Johnston J. W. Marshall D. E. Jones
Middle row from left to right	R. W. Genese J. M. Angus T. C. Edwards H. Ethé J. Brough
Front row from left to right	H. L. Snape J. E. Lloyd

This must be one of the last photographs of Thomas Charles Edwards as Principal of UCW, for he resigned in May 1891. There were 11 candidates to succeed him including a number with Aberystwyth connections. From the staff Angus, Brough and J. E. Lloyd threw their respective hats into the ring but it was the ex-Aberystwyth student Thomas Francis Roberts who won the prize.

(i) **A group of staff and senior students (1892)**⁴¹



This is also in the NLW collection where the title is 'Staff and super-finals 1892–1893'.⁴² Most of those gathered together are given names but some problems arise. This is a small group of staff and students who are not clearly physically separated and are not differentiated in the array of names. The names themselves are scrawled on the back of the photograph and are difficult to read. Finally, one name is suspect. Nevertheless we can claim the following with certainty.

Standing left to right	H. Ethé J. W. Marshall Edward Anwyl (Professor of Welsh) ? T. K. Brighthouse (student) W. Scholle Henry Holman (Education) J. Brough S. J. Evans (student) J. R. A. Davis C. H. Herford ?
Middle row seated left to right	Miss Sheavyn (student) Principal T. F. Roberts J. M. Angus ?
Front row seated left to right	? F. W. Moorman (student) Miss Partridge (student)

Here is the second Principal at the beginning of his reign. This was the prodigy from Aberdyfi, the scholar who swept all before him from the time he entered UCW in 1874. He triumphed at Oxford in 1883, moved to Cardiff to become the first Professor of Greek at the newly founded University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, and so on to gain the Principalship at Aberystwyth. In his article on the first three Principals, J. Young Evans designated them as the Theologian (Edwards), the Theorist (Roberts) and the Antiquary (J. H. Davies), or more popularly, the Preacher, the Scholar and the Administrator.⁴³

Roberts certainly had the air of a scholar with no commanding voice or presence, unlike his predecessor, but his period of office was distinguished by great progress at Aberystwyth. He was actively involved in the founding of the University of Wales, and he worked tirelessly at the forefront of the campaign to site the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth rather than Cardiff. And it cannot be doubted that UCW itself was a more impressive institution in academic terms in 1914 than it had been in 1891. But it all ended in anti-climax. The First World War cast a long shadow on the world of scholarship and Roberts in particular was affected by it. He was unable to save Ethé from the wrath of the Aberystwyth mob, and one has to wonder whether T. C. Edwards would have been similarly ineffective. Roberts suffered from poor health for many years and he died in 1919 aged 57 after a long period of suffering.

The other two newcomers were Edward Anwyl (later Sir Edward) and Henry Holman. The former became Professor of Welsh when J. E. Lloyd departed for Bangor. He became one of the leaders of the cultural life of Wales. Born in Chester in 1866, Anwyl was educated at Oriel College and Mansfield College, Oxford before coming to Aberystwyth. He resigned in 1913 to take up the post of

Principal at the newly-founded Monmouthshire Training College at Caerleon but his early death the following year precluded him from taking up the appointment. Three years before, in 1911, Anwyl had been knighted for his services to the nation. There was no doubt wide rejoicing at this honour, but according to Ellis it provided some embarrassment later in the year as the Principal, T. F. Roberts, did not receive a similar honour when the King and Queen came to Aberystwyth to lay the foundation stone of the National Library of Wales.⁴⁴ An official letter was sent from UCW to the Prime Minister asking that the honour be conferred on the Principal but Asquith would not budge. Ellis adds that Lloyd George supported the proposal although 'he does not appear to have had any great opinion of T. F. Roberts'.

Henry Holman was at Aberystwyth for two years only, from 1892 to 1894. He comes over as an energetic and inspiring leader. The creation of this forerunner of the Department of Education was largely due to the efforts of the new Principal, T. F. Roberts, who had seized upon the change in the regulations which allowed such Day Training departments to be set up. It was the ubiquitous R. D. Roberts who suggested the name of Holman as head of the new department or 'Normal Master' as he was designated. The students, elementary school teachers, were called 'normal students' although Abel Jones, who entered their ranks in 1898, thought that 'abnormal students' would be a more appropriate term, for they had two tasks rather than just one, preparing for the University examinations and for the Teacher's Certificate of the Board of Education at the same time.⁴⁵

The four queries can be dealt with in order of difficulty. The man on the left in the front row is not named at all but is clearly a student. The unknown female on the right of the middle row is designated Miss A Green (?), another student. The name of the man standing fourth from the left in the back row is illegible. He has the initial E and his surname appears to end in 'cot'. No member of staff in 1892-3 has such a name so he must be a student but no student's name has been found to fill the bill either. That leaves only the man standing on the right. His name is given as J. A. Murray, who was a member of the Agriculture Department from 1892 to 1907. Unfortunately he looks suspiciously similar to a participant in another photograph of the period, this time in the University archives, where he is named 'Wilson',⁴⁶ and Wilson was also in the Agriculture Department but for a much shorter time, from 1893 to 1896. If a mistake has been made then it is easy to suggest reasons why. These were two new members of staff in 1893 and maybe the lecturers in Agriculture did not spend too much time in College but were away in the 'seven counties' carrying out extramural work. Be that as it may, it perhaps should be added that there is a definite mistake on the University photograph even though it is just a simple matter of including the same name twice. In the circumstances it would be wise to designate this person as J. A. Murray (?).

Two of the students in this photograph became members of the UCW staff a few years later, Brighthouse in the Department of Latin and Moorman in the Department of English.

The final photograph

The 1892–3 photograph is the last of the historical group photographs of academics contained in *The College by the Sea*. The final group we shall consider brings the story close to the year of publication.

(j) **Members of the College Senate**⁴⁷



This photograph is also to be found in the NLW collection with the title 'Group of some UCW Aberystwyth Professorial and Senior Staff. Session 1926–27'.⁴⁸ It is also in the University archives with the same dated title.⁴⁹ The NLW photograph has a complete set of names.

Back row left to right

D. J. de Lloyd (Professor of Music)
V. C. Morton (Pure Mathematics)
T. H. Parry-Williams (Professor of Welsh)
G. Owen (Professor of Physics)
W. J. Pugh (Professor of Geology)
D. Evans (German)
W. King (Education)
S. Herbert (History)
W. Robinson (Professor of Botany)

Front row left to right

H. J. Rose (Professor of Latin)
R. D. Laurie (Professor of Zoology)
C. R. Chapple (Professor of Education)
G. A. Schott (Professor of Applied Mathematics)
W. Jenkyn Jones (Professor of Philosophy)
Mrs K. Guthkelch (Senior Warden)

E. Edwards (Acting Principal, Professor of History)
T. C. James (Professor of Chemistry)
J. W. H. Atkins (Professor of English)
J. L. A. Barbier (Professor of French)
H. J. Fleure (Professor of Geography)
T. G. Jones (Professor of Welsh Literature)

The Professors have been indicated above. Some of the remainder were 'Independent Lecturers' who, as already indicated, had the responsibility but not the title or the money. Such was the case for Morton and Evans. The lady in the centre in the front row had the title of Senior Warden which previously would have been 'Lady Principal'. The first 'Lady Principal' was the redoubtable Miss E. A. Carpenter who had been in post from 1887 to 1905. She had a hall of residence named after her but her likeness did not appear in *The College by the Sea*.

The Principal, J. H. Davies, had died on 10 August 1926, hence the appearance here of Edwards as Acting Principal. This in turn would have led to Herbert being Acting Head of the History Department which explains his presence in the photograph.

The only other question is why the Professor of Education (Chapple) and a member of his staff (King) are together in this group.

This gathering emphasizes how many staff had left since the 1890s. Genese had retired in 1919 but was still alive (just). He died in 1928 but not before writing an article for *The College by the Sea*. His love of puns had not deserted him, for he talked of rafters occupied by large numbers of rooks whose motto evidently was 'not without caws'. Johnston retired in 1923 and died shortly afterwards. Ethé went in 1914 as mentioned above. Brough retired in 1911 and died in 1925. Marshall was still Professor of Greek when he died in 1923 at the age of 65.

If we make a list of all those members of staff whose photographs appear in *The College by the Sea* and who have also been positively identified, we get a total of 52 individuals.

Conclusion

I should be extremely grateful to receive any comments which could take the work forward. There are still unanswered questions relating to the academic staff of UCW whose faces appear in *The College by the Sea*, and I should appreciate help in putting names to these faces. On the other hand there are many Aberystwyth academics from the period under review (1872–1928) whose photographs do not appear within this book and whose named photographs may only exist in private collections. I talked of Henry Tanner and my failure to find a photograph of him. Another lacuna concerns John Hoskyns-Abrahall, the

Professor of Classics, who went to meet those first students on that October day in 1872 with Thomas Charles Edwards and Horatio Nelson Grimley. Photographic information on these two and other obscure pioneers would be welcome.

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¹ E. L. Ellis, *The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1872–1972* (Cardiff, 1972).

² Iwan Morgan (ed.), *The College by the Sea* (Aberystwyth, 1928).

³ *Ibid.*, facing p. 112.

⁴ *Ibid.*, facing p. 18.

⁵ NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/42.

⁶ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 68. We follow the chronological order rather than the appearance order in the book.

⁷ NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/39.

⁸ T. J. Rowland to T. A. Levi, 1912, Aberystwyth University archives.

⁹ Colin R. Fletcher, *Mathematics by the Sea* (Private publication, 2002).

¹⁰ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 57.

¹¹ D. Samuel, 'College Reminiscences', *UCW Magazine* XV, no. 4 (1893), 121–7.

¹² NLW, T. E. Ellis MS 1921.

¹³ For example UCW Calendar, 1879–80.

¹⁴ Ellis, *University College*, p. 173.

¹⁵ T. T. Lucius Morgan, *Rupert of Glamorgan* (Dolgellau, [1925]), p. 62.

¹⁶ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 60.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, facing p. 55.

¹⁹ NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/37.

²⁰ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 22.

²¹ NLW, Box 1279 (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/29.

²² Aberystwyth University photographic archives, Box 14, B (ii)/84.

²³ NLW, Box 350B, PA7111.

²⁴ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 88.

²⁵ NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/36.

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- ²⁶ *The College by the Sea*, p. 47–52.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, facing p. 39, 47.
- ²⁸ Ellis, *University College*, p. 102.
- ²⁹ *The College by the Sea*, p. 70–2.
- ³⁰ Abel J. Jones, *I was Privileged* (Cardiff 1943), p. 19.
- ³¹ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 93.
- ³² NLW, Box 1279B, (J. M. Angus collection) PZ5493/40.
- ³³ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 96.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 97.
- ³⁵ Aberystwyth University photographic archives, Box 15, B(i)/17.
- ³⁶ Thomas Jones, *Leeks and Daffodils* (Newtown, 1942), p. 22.
- ³⁷ Jones, *I was Privileged*, p. 19.
- ³⁸ Fletcher, *Mathematics by the Sea*, p. 49–50.
- ³⁹ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 58.
- ⁴⁰ NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/45.
- ⁴¹ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 27.
- ⁴² NLW, Box 1279B (J. M. Angus collection), PZ5493/25.
- ⁴³ *The College by the Sea*, p. 113.
- ⁴⁴ Ellis, *University College*, p. 166.
- ⁴⁵ Jones, *I was Privileged*, p. 16.
- ⁴⁶ Aberystwyth University photographic archives, Box 15, B(i)/17.
- ⁴⁷ *The College by the Sea*, facing p. 135.
- ⁴⁸ NLW, Box 937A, PB 5738/11.
- ⁴⁹ Aberystwyth University photographic archives, Box 15, B(i)/10.