

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL / ANNUAL REPORT 1915-16

SIR JOHN WILLIAMS

1916001

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1915-16

Disgrifiad / Description

Sir John Williams

The President is continually adding to the collections which he has given to the Library, and many gifts have been made by him since the last meeting of the Court, including a complete set of the books printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press, 60 volumes, fully described in the Catalogue of Books now on exhibition, pages 67-77; and a small group of old manuscripts purchased from Mr Quaritch (Sir John Williams Deeds).

He has also given into the custody of the Library two folio volumes containing documents, newspaper cuttings and other things relating to the National Library movement from the early stages to the end of May 1916. This valuable collection of materials for a history of the National Library has been arranged and inserted in due order by Sir John himself.

Mynegai

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.

DR FINGLAND

1916002

Ffynhonnell / Source

Dr Fingland of Liverpool

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1915-16

Disgrifiad / Description

Dr Fingland of Liverpool who has given choice books to the Library from time to time has sent two further donations of books (Dept of Printed Books).

Mynegai

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`CYMRO A'R CELT LLUNDAIN'

1916003

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr T J Evans

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

A complete set of "Cymro a'r Celt Llundain" from its foundation in 1895, as the London Kelt, to the end of 1915, 24 volumes, has been given by the founder and editor, Mr T J Evans (Dept of Printed Books).

LLANOVER MSS

1916004

Ffynhonnell / Source

Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart, C.B., C.M.G., M.P.

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1915-16

Disgrifiad / Description

The Llanover Manuscripts

A notable addition to the library is the Llanover collection of manuscripts, deposited by Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., M.P. (NLW MSS 13061-185).

These manuscripts were acquired by Sir Ivor Herbert's Grandfather, Lord Llanover, the basis being the collection brought together by Iolo Morganwg (Edward Williams) who died in 1826 in his eightieth year.

They consist of 75 volumes in the hand of Iolo Morganwg, and 42 older volumes, total 117 volumes. This is the largest single collection of manuscripts received by the National Library since the Peniarth and other collections given by Sir John Williams.

The collection has been insured by the Llanover Trustees for £1,000, and it is a condition that they be kept insured for this amount against all risks while in the National Library.

It is impossible in a brief report to go into details, but I think the Court will agree that Sir Ivor Herbert has shown his patriotism in a worthy way by placing the manuscripts at the service of his fellow countrymen, an example which we may hope will be followed by others who have the custody of other collections large or small.

It is a matter for regret that a few of the Llanover Manuscripts were lent in days gone by and are missing. They may have been overlooked by those who borrowed them, but whatever the cause it now becomes a public duty on the part of the present custodians to see that they are sent to the National Library, to complete the collection to which they rightly belong.

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List Available.

HERBERT MSS

1916005

Ffynhonnell / Source

Anonymous

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Herbert Papers

We have also received a very important collection of Papers relating to Edward, 1st Lord Herbert of Cherbury, 1583-1648, and his brother, Sir Henry Herbert, 1595-1673, Master of the Revels, and their descendants (NLW MSS 5295-9E, 5300B, 5301E, 5302B, 5303-8E, 5309-11B, 5312D, 5313E).

These include the original manuscripts of three works by Lord Herbert of Cherbury, one unpublished, and one an English translation of his famous *Religio Laici* evidently prepared for publication, but not printed (NLW MS 5295E).

There is also a catalogue of his library giving the cost of each book (NLW MS 5298E).

The collection also includes unpublished works by Sir Henry Herbert, and a large number of letters and documents relating to him and other members of the family of various dates down to the middle of the 18th century.

The collection has been carefully arranged by an expert hand, and have been recently bound in Levant morocco. It is of great literary and historical interest. This branch of the Herberts were of Montgomery.

The number of volumes in the collection is 20 and four bundles of papers.

There was every likelihood that this important series of papers would be taken to the United States. Two donors who take a close interest in the National Library came forward, and secured them. The donors of this valuable gift desire to be anonymous.

Mynegai

Trefaldwyn, USA, Unol Daleithiau.

O'GRADY MSS

1916006

Ffynhonnell / Source

Anonymous

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1915-16

Disgrifiad / Description

Manuscripts of Standish O'Grady (NLW MSS 5314-68).

The late Standish O'Grady was one of the foremost Irish scholars of his time, the author of the valuable collection of Irish literature known as the "*Silva Gadelica*" in two volumes, Editor of various Irish texts

published by the Royal Irish Academy, a poet of distinction, and he as for some time engaged on a catalogue of the Irish manuscripts in the British Museum, a part of which has been printed. He died in Manchester last year.

After his death his library was sold to Messrs Sherratt and Hughes, the well known booksellers, and we are indebted to Mr Hughes of that firm for his ready help in connection with the acquisition of the whole of Mr O'Grady's MSS, consisting largely of Irish literature which he had transcribed and was preparing for publication, his collections and annotations on Irish Philology, and a few MSS of Irish literature.

The number of volumes is 53 and two bundles of papers.

They have been purchased and given to the National Library by the two anonymous donors already referred to, and add much to the importance of the Irish branch of Celtic learning.

Mynegai

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DINGESTOW MSS

1916007

Ffynhonnell / Source

Anonymous

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

The Dingestow Court Manuscripts (NLW MSS 5261-2A, 5263-7B, 5268D, 5269-71B, 5272C, 5273-4D, 5275E).

The Dingestow Court Manuscripts were brought together by Sir Bernard Bosanquet, Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1848. They have been preserved at Dingestow Court, Monmouthshire, and were sold by auction in London in July last. They numbered sixteen lots in the sale catalogue, fifteen manuscripts, and one miscellaneous collection of autograph letters, and small printed pieces.

The manuscripts include the oldest known Welsh version of the Brut or Chronicle of Geoffrey of Monmouth, on vellum, written in the XIVth century (NLW MS 5266B). I believe the credit for its discovery in recent times is due to Mr Egerton Phillimore. It was collated by Dr Gwenogvryn Evans when he was engaged on the text of the Bruts from the Red Book of Hergest, issued in his series of Old Welsh Texts, and he gives a description included in the collection of Manuscripts now on exhibition in the Great Hall.

Nearly all the Manuscripts in the Dingestow Court collection are of interest, and some are important. Thirteen of them, including the Geoffrey of Monmouth are now in the National Library. They were bought at the sale on the instructions of Mr Evan D Jones, and they are a gift to the Library from the two anonymous donors already mentioned.

Mynegai

Sir Fynwy, Llyfr Coch Hergest.

LLYWARCH REYNOLDS MSS & THOMAS STEPHENS MSS

1916008

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr Evan D Jones

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Llywarch Reynolds Library (NLW MSS 970-1E, 972-4C, 975B, 976C, 977B, 978-80C, 981B, 982E, 983B, 984-6C, 987-90B, 991-6C, 997B)

The late Mr Llywarch Reynolds was a member of this Court, and a Celtic scholar of high rank. Closely associated as he was with the late Thomas Stephens of Merthyr, and Professor Gaidox and other Celtic scholars on the continent, his library naturally contained many books of great interest. It is essentially the working library of a scholar.

With the exception of the Llyfr Hir it has no old Manuscripts (NLW MS 970E). But there is Thomas Stephens's autograph Manuscripts of a critical examination of the Welsh Triads, and all the materials for Stephens's well known work on the supposed discovery of America by Madoc ap Owen Gwynedd in the XIIth century. This work has been the subject of controversy ever since it was submitted for

competition at the Llangollen Eisteddfod in 1858. It was not printed in Stephens's lifetime. It was published by Longmans in 1893 with an introduction by Llywarch Reynolds.

The other manuscripts are mainly Mr Reynolds's own works, and translations from German of Dr Stern's Davydd ap Gwilym, Dr Zimmer's Neunius Vindicatus and other works made by Mr Reynolds's daughter, Miss Elsa Irene Reynolds, and partly revised by him (NLW MSS 973-9C).

The printed books add about 1320 volumes to the collections in the National Library (Dept of Printed Books), including works in Breton, Manx, Cornish and Irish, a valuable series of books on the Gypsies, a complete set, 40 volumes, of the publications of the Folk-lore Society, a complete set of the Academy from its beginning in 1869, and important works in English, French and German, chiefly in the domain of literature.

This library has been purchased by Mr Evan D Jones, who requested me to pick out all that the National Library requires. He offers them to the Library as a gift.

Mr Evan D Jones has also given a set of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 110 volumes (Dept of Printed Books); and a group of valuable letters, 25 in number (NLW MS 894C), seven being letters written by Rev David Jones of Llangan; five by the Countess of Huntingdon; eleven by Lady Ann Erskine; one by George Best; one by Rev Thomas Charles of Bala; and some verses written by David Jones of Llangan and sent to Mrs Bowen of Llwyngwair.

They supplement other letters of the same kind already in the Library, where there is now an interesting series of letters written by those engaged in religious work in Wales during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Closely associated with the library of Llywarch Reynolds is the gift of the manuscripts of Thomas Stephens, made by his late wife's sister and brother, Miss M M Davis, and Mr R R Davis, the surviving representatives of Mr Stephens. This gift has been made through Major Frank Treharne James, Solicitor, Merthyr.

The manuscripts number about 48 and represent the work of Thomas Stephens's busy life as a student, exponent, historian and critic of Welsh literature (NLW MSS 904-66). I have already referred to two of Mr Stephens's Manuscripts which come to us with the Llywarch Reynolds Library.

Mynegai

Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Tudful, USA, Unol Daleithiau, Dafydd ap Gwilym, Llydaweg, Manaweg, Cernyweg, Gwyddeleg.

NATHAN DYFED

1916009

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Nathan Dyfed MSS received today (NLW MSS 3271-6D, 3277E, 3278-82D, 3283C, 3284B, 3285-7C, 3288B, 3289C).