

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL / ANNUAL REPORT 1920-21

E C QUIGGIN

1921001

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1920-21

Disgrifiad / Description

Mr and Mrs Henry Gethin Lewis, of Porthkerry, generously gave £1,000 for the purchase of the library of the late Dr E C Quiggin. The following memorandum extracted from the Minutes of the Council explains the nature of this gift.

The library of the late Dr E C Quiggin of Cambridge, a Celtic Scholar of distinction, consists of the books which he collected for his own special studies and researches, and includes the literature, history and philology of each branch of the Celtic peoples, Welsh, Irish, Scotch, Gaelic, Manx, Cornish and Breton (Dept of Printed Books). The Irish section, which is the largest, includes the books brought together by Dr Quiggin for his researches in connection with the early Irish religious poems. On the Welsh side the Quiggin collection adds comparatively little to the National Library, and a proportion of the Irish, Gaelic, Breton, Manx and Cornish books are already in the Library. By the desire of the donors the duplicates were offered to the Library of the University College at Cardiff, and to the Swansea University College.

The Library has been dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the donors, the distribution being as follows: National Library 1982, University College, Cardiff 734, University College, Swansea 503, Total 3219.

A special book-plate has been designed and engraved for this collection recording the source and the donors.

Mr and Mrs Lewis become life members of the Court of Governors by virtue of their gift.

Mynegai

Porthceri, Coleg Prifysgol, Caerdydd, Coleg Prifysgol Abertawe.

NOTTAGE COURT

1921002

Ffynhonnell / Source

George E Blundell, Esq.

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 1920-21

Disgrifiad / Description

Through the liberality of George E Blundell, Esq., the present owner of the Nottage Court Estate, about 3,000 volumes, being the greater part of the library of Rev. Henry Hey Knight, have been presented to the National Library (Dept of Printed Books). Mr Blundell offered to present the books in order that they might be made available for public use. The gift adds many wanted books to the Library, and materially strengthens some sections. The following memorandum appears in the Minutes of the Council:-

The Reverend Henry Hey Knight, who died in 1856, was Rector of Neath. He was a member of the well-known Glamorgan family of Knight, and took considerable interest in the history and archaeology of his native county. He was also a good classical scholar. His best known works are the oblong folio book which he prepared in collaboration with Mr Moxham, "Specimens of the inlaid Tiles Heraldic and Geometrical from Neath Abbey", published about 1850, and "An Account of Newton Nottage, Glamorgan", 1853, re-printed from *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. Both these works are scarce and much sought after by collectors. Mr Knight's library, over 3000 volumes, has been carefully kept intact at Nottage Court, Porthcawl, by his two daughters, the late Mrs Gordon, and Miss Knight. Mr George E Blundell who succeeded to the Nottage Court estate on the death of Mrs Gordon, is a great-nephew of the Reverend Henry Hey Knight. He offered the books to the National Library believing that they would be of greater service there. Mr Blundell is himself a scholar and has kept some books in which he is specially interested, and also the valuable collection of local documents inherited and collected by Mr Knight. These Mr Blundell is arranging and calendaring.

A set of publications of the Musical Antiquarian Society, 1841-8, has been given by Mrs J Herbert Lewis, M.A. (Dept of Printed Books). These comprise:

Vol. 1. Gibbons - Madrigals and Fantasies; Morley - 1st set of Ballets; Hilton - Ayres; Bennett - Madrigala. Vol. 2. Purcell - Dido & Aeneas; Bonduca; King Arthur; Ode for St. Cecilia's Day. Vol. 3. Byrd - Mass and Cantiones Scara, book 1; Este's Psalter; Rimbault - Collection of Anthems. Vol. 4. Weelkes - 1st set of Madrigals; Dowland - 1st set of Songs; Bateson - 1st set of Madrigals; Parthenia. Vol. 5. The Works of John Wilbye. Vol. 6. Purcell - King Arthur, with pianoforte accompaniment; Weelkes - Pianoforte part to 1st set of Madrigals. Vol. 7. Bennet - Pianoforte part to Madrigals; Dowland - 1st set of Songs; Gibbons - Pianoforte part to Madrigals. and Morley - Pianoforte part to Madrigals.

The Treasurer, Sir Evan D Jones, has given a special copy (one of 25) of the important work on Welsh book-plates, prepared for him by Mr Herbert M Vaughan, and based on Sir Evan's collection of Welsh Book-plates now on exhibition in the Library.

Mynegai

Castell-Nedd, Sir Forgannwg.

D LLEUFER THOMAS

1921003

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr Lleufer Thomas

Blwyddyn / Year

Adroddiad Blynnyddol / Annual Report 1920-21

Disgrifiad / Description

Mr Lleufer Thomas has made a gift of some books with interesting associations, including:-

1. A volume of "Amryw" which belonged to, and has the autograph of, Evan John (died 1807), of Capel Nant Silin, Carmarthenshire, father, by his first wife, of Thomas Evans (Tomos Glyn Cothi), and, by his second wife, of Daniel Evans, Tirifanddu, Llanfynydd, maternal grandfather of Mr Lleufer Thomas (Dept of Printed Books?). 2. The autograph of Thomas Evans (Tomos Glyn Cothi) is found in two other volumes in the collection (NLW MSS 3637-8A). 3. In another volume of "Amryw" is a copy of Thomas Llewelyn: "An historical account of the British or Welsh versions and editions of the Bible ... London, 1768" (Dept of Printed Books?). This copy was presented by the Rev. Joshua Thomas, of Leominster, author of the well-known work "Hanes y Bedyddwyr", to William Roberts, Garregfawr, at a Cymanfa in Nevin, 27 June 1792. 4. Another volume contains, with other items - (a) a rare "Cerdd" by Dafydd William, Llandeilo Fach, and printed by Evan Powell, Carmarthen; (b) "Gorfoledd ym Mhebyll Seion", also by Dafydd William, 1st edition, printed by Rees Thomas at Carmarthen, not later than 1764; (c) "Deborah a Barac: neu ganiadau o waredigaeth", gan Griffith Howel, Caerfyrddin, 1764.

Included in the gift are copies of twenty-two Private and two General Inclosure Acts relating to land in Wales.

Mr and Mrs Edwards, of Courtland House, Merthyr Tydfil, have made a gift of valuable reports, dealing with education, and other publications including periodicals, which have been useful in helping to make up sets (Dept of Printed Books). The duplicates, with the consent of the donors, have been transferred to other libraries.

Mynegai

Nefyn, Caerfyrddin, Merthyr Tudful.

WILLIAM THOMAS ('ISLWYN')

1921004

Ffynhonnell / Source

Miss Esther E Morgan, Barry

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Five autograph poems of Islwyn (Rev. William Thomas) have been presented by Miss Esther E Morgan, Headmistress of the County School, Barry (NLW MS 2113C). These formerly belonged to Miss Morgan's father, the late Mr John Morgan, Solicitor, Cardiff, who was an intimate friend of the poet. One is in Welsh "Llinellau i'm Hanwyly"; four are in English, "The Farewell Walk", "My Sister", "Jesus Wept", and "Life".

Mynegai

William Thomas, Y Barri, Caerdydd.

EDWARD T BALDWIN & T IVON JONES

1921005

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr Edward T Baldwin, M.A., London.

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Mr Edward T Baldwin, M.A., London, has made a gift of fifteen volumes of rare books (Dept of Printed Books), including the first edition of White's Natural History of Selborne, 1789, James Howell's Londinopolis, 1657, Dibdin's Songs, 2 vols, 1792, Braithwaite's Drunken Barnabys. Four Journeys to the North of England 1805, Ariosto's Orlando Furioso in English heroic verse by Sir John Harrington (illustrated), 1634, Oratio Dominica (The Lord's Prayer in above one hundred languages), 1700, and The Golden Legend, printed by Julian Notary, 1503. The last-named book, though slightly imperfect, is a notable addition to the examples of early English printed books, a section of the library which has been greatly strengthened by the two books printed by Caxton and one by Wynkyn de Worde referred to in another part of this report.

The Rev. T Ivon Jones, Port Talbot, has presented a number of volumes from the library of his grandfather, the late John Jones (Ivon), of Aberystwyth (NLW MSS 1460A, 1469-70D), including the MS. log-books kept by David Jones, Aberystwyth (NLW MSS 1469-70D), and an account book of Tabor Chapel, Llangwryfon, beginning April 1819, and ending Nov. 1845 (NLW MS 1460A).

SIR ARTHUR DRYDEN

1921006

Ffynhonnell / Source

Sir Arthur Dryden, Bart.

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Sir Arthur Dryden, Bart., has given a copy of "Fasciculus temporum omnes antiquorum hystorias complectens", with MS. notes, one volume, quarto, printed at Lyon by Matthew Huss, circa 1482, an interesting addition to the collection of early printed books (Dept of Printed Books).

'THE SONS OF POSSEIDON'

1921007

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr Richard Wheatley, of Birmingham

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Mr Richard Wheatley, of Birmingham, has presented a striking piece of sculpture entitled "The Sons of Posseidon", being a bronzed plaster cast of an important work by his brother, Mr Oliver Wheatley, the original in bronze being in the Birmingham Art Gallery (Dept of Pictures and Maps).

THOMAS STEPHENS

1921008

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr R R Davis and Miss Davis

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

The Medals and other Eisteddfod trophies won by Thomas Stephens, of Merthyr, have been given by his Trustees, Mr R R Davis and Miss Davis (Dept of Pictures and Maps). It will be remembered that the MSS of Thomas Stephens were sent to the Library about three years ago by the same donors. The

personalia included in the present gift are exhibited in the Exhibition Gallery and have proved attractive to a great many visitors.

I should like to refer to the booklet printed for the Committee of the National Eisteddfod at Barry, 1920, placing on record the thanks of the Committee to all those who contributed to the success of that Eisteddfod. Of this booklet only 27 copies were printed one of these being presented to the National Library (Dept of Printed Books). The booklet is an excellent piece of craftsmanship.

Mynegai

Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr Tudful, Y Barri.

BRADNEY DEEDS

1921009

Ffynhonnell / Source

Colonel Bradney

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Further additions have been made to the valuable collection of deeds.

Through Colonel Bradney a number of deeds, mostly relating to the county of Glamorgan, has been given. Colonel Bradney has also made a gift of deeds and other documents (Bradney Deeds); and some printed books from his own valuable and extensive collections (Dept of Printed Books).

Mynegai

Sir Forgannwg.

WILLANS

1921010

Ffynhonnell / Source

Mr J B Willans, Dolforgan, Mont.

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Mr J. B. Willans, of Dolforgan, Mont., has deposited the older deeds, 130 in number, relating to his property, together with a copy of a schedule of them prepared for him by Prof. E. A. Lewis.

Mynegai

Sir Drefaldwyn.

Nodiadau

Schedule Available.

PULESTON

1921011

Ffynhonnell / Source

Crawshay Wellington Puleston, Esq.

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Another important addition is the Deeds relating to the Puleston estates in Flintshire and Denbighshire. These have been deposited by the present owner, Crawshay Wellington Puleston, Esq. A Schedule has been prepared of 2150 deeds; a number of others have to be cleaned before they can be deciphered. The earliest deed included in the schedule is dated 1394. A few manuscripts and some interesting correspondence of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries are included (NLW MSS 3561B, 3562D, 3563-9B, 3570-2C, 3573D, 3574-84E, 3585C, 3586-8E). These are being arranged. The whole archive will be dealt with in a later report.

Mynegai

Sir Fflint, Sir Ddinbych.

Nodiadau

Schedule Available.

DAVID DAVIES, LLANDAF

1921012

Ffynhonnell / Source

The Rev Canon David Davies, M.A., Llandaff

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Rev. Canon David Davies, M.A., (Llandaff) has given the older deeds relating to properties in Carmarthenshire belonging to his family (NLW Misc Documents, Carmarthenshire).

Deposit. The Parish Records of Machynlleth have been sent to the Library for safe custody, by the Machynlleth Urban District Council. They comprise the Poor Rate books, 1862-1916, Lighting Rate books, 1873-89, Special Expenses Rate books, 1876-94, Sanitary Rate books, 1890-3, Receipt and Payment book, 1869-84, and Collectors Monthly Statement book, 1879-92, in all 102 volumes. Similar and other local records have already been placed in the Library by other authorities.

Mynegai

Llandaf, Sir Gaerfyrddin.

Nodiadau

David Davies Deeds, Schedule Available, Miscellaneous 1.

THE EARLIEST MAP OF WALES

1921013

Ffynhonnell / Source

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

A good copy has been purchased of the Atlas published by Abraham Ortelius of Antwerp under the title *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, of which several editions appeared in the XVIth century. The one purchased is dated 1595. This book is of exceptional interest to Welsh people because it contains two maps by Humphrey Llwyd of Denbigh (1527-68), these being the first modern maps of England and Wales, and of Wales separately (Dept of Pictures and Maps).

The maps were completed shortly before Llwyd's death. He sent them to Ortelius with a letter with a letter written from his bed in Denbigh, dated August 3, 1568; four weeks later he died. The map of England and Wales appeared first in the edition of the Atlas issued in 1570, and the map of Wales in the edition of 1573.

Prior to 1570 the Atlas contained a map of the British Isles based on the Ptolemy map, and this continued to appear after the Llwyd maps were included.

Ortelius also printed in later editions of the Atlas Llwyd's *De Mona Druidum Insula*. This appears in the edition just added to the library.

A painting of Llwyd is preserved at Aston Hall of which a reproduction presented to the National Library some years ago by Lieut. General Sir Francis Lloyd, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., is included in this year's Exhibition.

The Ortelius Atlas is a fine example of the cartographical printing, all the maps being coloured, and the title pages and capital letters decorated in colour.

Mynegai

Dinbych.

PENIARTH MSS

1921014

Ffynhonnell / Source

Miss Gwendoline Davies and Miss Margaret Davies

Blwyddyn / Year

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Disgrifiad / Description

Six books and manuscripts.

When the Peniarth Manuscripts were purchased some years ago by Sir John Williams, two fine illuminated manuscripts were not included. The late Mr W. R. M. Wynne could not see his way to part

with them. These two manuscripts, two books printed by Caxton the first English printer, one printed by his successor Wynkyn de Worde, and a copy of the Great English Bible of 1539 on vellum, were the greatest literary treasures at Peniarth.

There are not many such literary treasures in all Wales. How they came to Peniarth is known. Later on it will, I hope, be possible to piece together the story. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to record that by the liberality of Miss Gwendoline Davies, and her sister Miss Margaret Davies, they have become the property of the Welsh people, and will always remain in Wales.

The following is a brief description of the volumes:-

I. A *Passionale*, manuscript on vellum, XVth century, with thirty-four large and beautiful miniatures in gold and colours (Peniarth 482). The first miniature shows the author (Jehan Jarsson) presenting his book to a sovereign. The heraldry of the illuminations proves almost to a certainty that the sovereign for whom the book was prepared was Henry VII of England. II. A manuscript on vellum, XVth century (Peniarth 481), containing (1) *The Disticha of Cato*, in English; (2) *The Wars of Alexander the Great*, in Latin, and (3) *The Story of the Three Kings of Cologne*, in Latin. This manuscript is also illustrated with full page and smaller miniatures (30 in number) and elaborate borders and initials beautifully illuminated in gold and colours. III *Speculum Vitae Christi*, printed by Caxton, 1488, one of the rarest of the books printed by him. IV *The Polychronicon*, compiled in Latin by Roger, Monk of St Werbergh's Abbey, Chester, about the beginning of the XIVth century, and amplified by Ralph Higden of the same monastery who died before 1360, and gave the book its name "*Polychronicon*". A translation of this chronicle into English prose was made and completed in 1387, by John Trevisa, a Cornish priest. Nearly a century later Caxton revised the antiquated text of Trevisa, and added a continuation bringing the history down to 1460. Caxton finished his revision and continuation of the text on July 2nd, 1482, and printed it soon after. It appears from an entry written in the book that this copy of the *Polychronicon* was deposited in the Monastery of St. Werbergh soon after it was printed. V. *The Polychronicon*, as issued by Caxton, reprinted by Wynkyn de Worde in 1495. VI. *The Great Bible*, 1539, printed on vellum. Coverdale (the translator) and Grafton (the publisher and printer) in a letter to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, dated Parish, 23 June 1538, state their intention to print "two ensamples on parchment, one of which is for your Lordship". One of these copies is in the library of St John's College, Cambridge, and is believed to have been presented by John Williams, Archbishop of York, and Lord Keeper, who practically founded and built that library. Writing of books on vellum in the libraries of Cambridge in 1878 Mr Sanders describes the St. John's College copy. He says:- "The five large titles are beautifully illuminated, all the large woodcuts are similarly treated, and hundreds of initials are delicately painted in gold and colours, the whole finished in a manner equal to the best illuminated MSS of that date. It is a truly magnificent volume, and warrants Hartshorne's assertion that it may be considered the finest book on vellum that exists".

Unfortunately, the Peniarth copy lacks the first, second, and fifth titles, and two other leaves, but in all other respects it is quite as beautiful and complete as the Cambridge copy. It is bound in wooden boards, covered with old thick pigskin, and has eight corner-pieces of pierced silver bearing the arms of the Lyttons of Knebworth through which family the volume came to the Wynnes of Peniarth.

If there were only two copies on vellum, and if, as stated, the copy in St John's College, Cambridge, be the one given to Cromwell, Earl of Essex, then this copy must be that given to Henry VIII. This point can only be settled after further enquiry.

I trust that the Court will forgive me if I offer some observations on this great gift which it is my privilege to report to you.

There can be little doubt that but for the help so promptly and readily given by the Misses Davies these valuable books and manuscripts would have found a permanent home outside Wales. The removal of such treasures makes a void difficult to fill. Environment counts for much, especially with a people striving, as the Welsh people are, after higher things. The influence of beautiful books is increased when they become public property, and can be seen and used.

The transfer of these books to the National Library will I believe influence other owners to look upon the National Library and the National Museum of Wales as the fitting repositories of such treasures of literature and art as still remain in Wales, when the private ownership and custody of them has to be relinquished. Mrs Wynne was very anxious that these books should re-join their companions at the National Library, and though only possessing a life interest, she has given most valuable help in bringing this about.

Mynegai

Caer, Caergrawnt, Efrog, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru.