

# The Welsh Political Archive

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## Peter Hain papers

The Welsh Political Archive was delighted to receive recently a very large archive of the papers of the Right Honourable Peter Hain, the Labour MP for Neath.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Mr Hain was brought up in South Africa and educated at Pretoria Boys' High School, until his anti-apartheid parents were forced to leave the country. He later obtained degrees at Queen Mary College, London and Sussex University. Originally a 'Young Liberal', he joined the Labour Party in 1977 and served as research officer of the Union of Communication Workers from 1976 until 1991. He stood as the Labour candidate for Putney in 1983 and 1987, eventually entering the Commons as MP for Neath in 1991 in succession to Donald Coleman. He was a leader of the 1997 Welsh referendum campaign as a Welsh Office Minister and then held a number of ministerial offices at Westminster before being appointed Secretary of State for Wales in 2002, Leader of the House of Commons in 2003, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in 2005 and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in 2007. Throughout this six year period he also retained his Welsh portfolio.

The archive is extremely large and complete, comprising the donor's university papers, material relating to apartheid in South Africa and a rich array of home affairs and

international issues from the 1970s. There are many papers deriving from the activities of the Young Liberals in the 1970s, including conference papers and many publications.

Later papers concern electoral reform, the trades unions, election campaigns, and the evolution of the Labour Party in the 1980s. The last-named group includes many of Mr Hain's keynote speeches. There are also more recent papers relating to the Labour Party in the new millennium, the cabinet positions held by Mr Hain, together with large groups of press cuttings and research papers connected with the donor's books and articles. Further important documents are also promised in the future.

The papers are not expected to be available for consultation for some years until they have been sorted and listed.



**The Welsh Political Archive Annual Lecture 2008**

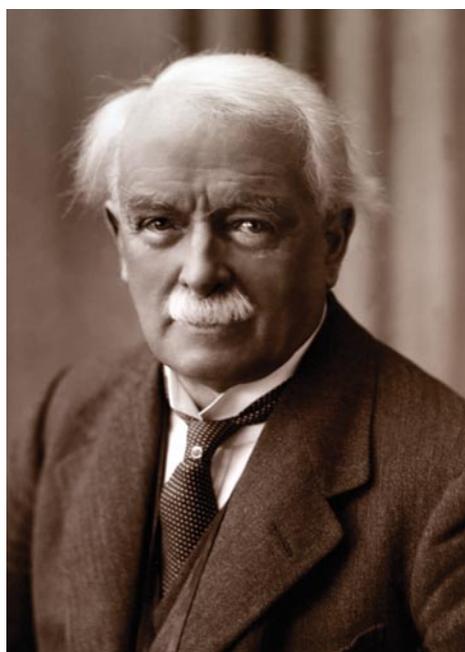
*'Some Political Reminiscences'* Lord Elystan-Morgan

Drwm, The National Library of Wales, Friday, 7 November 2008, 5.30pm

## Richard Wyn Jones, *Rhoi Cymru'n gyntaf* (Cardiff, 2007)

This substantial volume is a groundbreaking, pioneering study of Plaid Cymru's political philosophy from its foundation in 1925 until the setting up of the National Assembly for Wales. It is clearly based on many years of meticulous reading and research work.

The highly readable text is divided into two discrete sections: a general introduction to interpretations of nationalism; and a detailed, in depth analysis of the political ideas of the four most prominent leaders in the history of the party: Saunders Lewis, Gwynfor Evans, Dafydd Wigley and Dafydd Elis-Thomas. In the author's opinion, the devastating outcome of the devolution referendum held on 1 March 1979 was the major turning-point in the party's evolution. Other prominent themes discussed in the volume include the burning of the bombing school at Penyberth in 1936 and the changing relationship between Gwynfor Evans and Saunders Lewis over several decades.

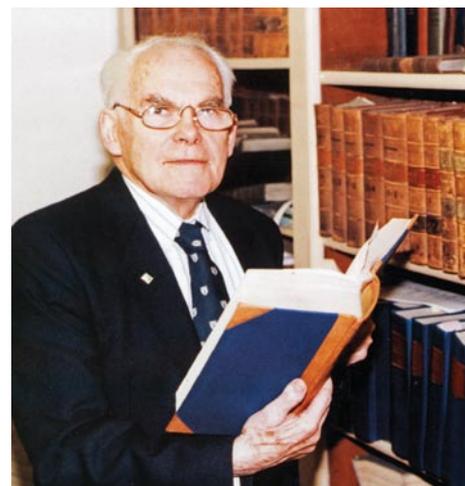


## Lloyd George Diary

The Library has been able to purchase Lloyd George's pocket diary for 1885 when he was twenty-three years of age. It contains many full entries which give a fascinating picture of his activities and pursuits. There are many entries which refer to his activities as a newly qualified solicitor and the legal cases which he took on. There are also many references to his political activities and public speaking and to the beginnings of his courtship of Miss Maggie Owen of Mynydd Ednyfed Fawr, Criccieth. There are also many references in the diary to other close members of the Lloyd George family. The diary has been added to the William George Papers.

## Dr W. R. P. George papers

Through the kindness of Mrs Greta George, Garthcelyn, Criccieth, the Library was delighted to receive a large archive of the correspondence and papers of her late husband Dr W. R. P. George CBE (1912 – 2006), the distinguished lawyer, poet and local politician. They include long runs of full desk diaries and pocket diaries and notebooks containing material for Dr George's many articles and books. There are also papers reflecting Dr George's political activities and his involvement with Gorsedd Beirdd Ynys Prydain (of which he served as archdruid from 1989 until 1992), the National Eisteddfod and various local eisteddfodau. There are also drafts and copies of poems and legal papers. Some of the papers relate to Dr George's family, including his father William George (1865 – 1967) and his famous uncle David Lloyd George (1863 – 1945).



## Cardiff Business Club lectures

Through the good offices of Mr Jeff Drake, the Library has received a large collection of more than 150 CDs of the monthly lectures delivered to the Cardiff Business Club by leading politicians and public figures during the years since 1992. These include prominent British politicians like Gordon Brown, Lord Crickhowell, Ron Davies, William Haig, Peter Hain, Neil Kinnock, Cecil Parkinson and Lord Tony Pandy. They are now in the care of the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales. The text of lectures given to the club from 1994 onwards may be downloaded from its website.

## Gwilym Prys Davies, *Cynhaef hanner canrif: Gwleidyddiaeth Gymreig, 1945 – 2005* (Llandysul, 2008)

Lord Prys-Davies has made a significant contribution to Welsh national life as a patriotic lawyer, politician and administrator. His account of Welsh politics after 1945 is grounded firmly in his own personal experiences and friendships with a host of Labour politicians in Wales including Jim Griffiths, Goronwy Roberts, Cledwyn Hughes, John Morris and Ron Davies. Two main themes are outlined here: the battle to achieve devolutionary concessions for Wales, and the long fight to grant legal status to the Welsh language.

There is interesting original material on the tenacious Parliament for Wales campaign of the 1950s, the establishment of the Welsh Office in 1964, the devolution referendum of 1 March 1979 and the setting up of the Welsh Assembly in 1999. But throughout the reminiscences are written from the perspective of the Labour Party.

## Sleeping with the enemy



The 2006 WPA annual lecture was delivered by Lord Crickhowell who, as Nicholas Edwards, served as the Conservative Secretary of State for Wales between 1979 and 1987 while MP for Pembrokeshire. His lecture was, predictably, a vigorous and entertaining defence of the record of successive governments in relation to Wales. In November 2007, Mr David Jenkins's WPA lecture examined some of the same seminal events from a rather different angle. His lecture was entitled 'Sleeping with the Enemy: Trades Unions in Wales during the Thatcher Years'.

A native of Cardiff, and a politics and economics graduate of Liverpool University, David Jenkins served as the General Secretary of TUC Wales from 1983 until he took early retirement in 2004. He served, therefore, in a key position during the 1980s when Wales

experienced so many momentous changes, and was in the forefront of the battle to save jobs in the steel and coal industries. Predictably, the lecture attracted a substantial audience in the Drwm at NLW.

In an absorbing, well delivered lecture, Mr Jenkins examined the impact of the Thatcher governments' policies upon the British steel and coal industries and their workforces, and the consequent steps taken by the membership of TUC Wales to resist the sweeping proposals by introducing new initiatives and new jobs into Wales. He paid tribute to Nicholas Edwards as Secretary of State for Wales for helping to mitigate the worst effects of Thatcherism on the Welsh economy and society.

He also looks at the important role of the Wales Co-operative Centre in attracting inward investment into Wales, the support received from the European Parliament at Brussels and the impact of the 1984 – 85 miners' strike. He paid tribute to the solidarity of the Welsh miners during the strike, 'The year long strike had gained nothing: no concessions, no agreement, and in other areas of the British coalfield the miners' union was in total disarray. But here in Wales there had at least been unity, the strike had remained solid and the miners had remained loyal to the NUM. There was something special about the Welsh miners after all'.

In Mr Jenkins's view, the 1984 – 85 miners' strike 'had joined the list of the great Welsh working class struggles: the miners' strike of 1898, the Penrhyn quarrymen's lockout that lasted from 1900 to 1903, the Cambrian coal strike between 1910 and 1911, and of course the 1926 south Wales miners' lockout that followed the collapse of the general strike. All heroic struggles, all heroic defeats'.

Those unable to be present will be pleased to know that the text of the lecture is available for consultation on the Library's web pages in the section on the Welsh Political Archive.

## Lord Pontypridd

The Library has been able to purchase a small group of correspondence, 1894 – 1913, addressed to Sir Alfred Thomas, Bronwydd, Cardiff, the Liberal MP for East Glamorgan from 1885 until 1910 who later became the first and last Baron Pontypridd. They include letters from H. H. Asquith, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Austen Chamberlain, Joseph Chamberlain, David Lloyd George and Lord Rosebery. They are now designated NLW ex 2520. A large group of Lord Pontypridd's correspondence and papers is already in the custody of the Glamorgan Archives Service.

## Sir John Herbert Lewis papers

Mrs Olwen Foreman of Menai Bridge has added several interesting items to the archive of her grandfather the Liberal politician Sir John Herbert Lewis (1858 – 1933). They include letters from Lewis to Lloyd George and from Saunders Lewis to Herbert Lewis. They also include the reminiscences of Ruth, Lady Lewis and their daughter Mrs Kitty Idwal Jones.

## Dr E. L. Ellis

Mrs Pamela Ellis of Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth, has donated to the WPA the correspondence accumulated by her late husband Dr E. L. Ellis (1922 – 2008) while he was researching his magisterial biography of Dr Thomas Jones CH (1870 – 1955), Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet from 1916 until 1930. The biography was published by the University of Wales Press in 1992. At the beginning of his research, between 1978 and 1982, Dr Ellis communicated with numerous public figures with personal reminiscences of TJ, among them David Astor, Ruth Evans (widow of UCW Principal Ivor Leslie Evans), A. J. Sylvester, Lady (Eirene) White and Marlene Yeo. They have been designated NLW ex 2563

## Wales TUC

Mr Joe England of Abergavenny has kindly donated to the Library the research materials which he accumulated while preparing the seminal volume *The Wales TUC, 1974 – 2004: Devolution and Industrial Politics* (Cardiff, 2004). These include copies of the Wales TUC General Council minutes, c. 1974 – 82, correspondence dating from the 1970s and 1980s, papers relating to the Welsh economy and various printed items. These compliment the extensive archive of the Wales TUC records already held by the Library.

## Other accessions

### Other accessions which have come to hand during the past year include:

- The Hon. Elisabeth Large, Wincanton: additional papers of her father the Baron Edmund-Davies of Aberpennar, the distinguished barrister and high court judge.
- Mr D. Leslie Davies, Aberdare: local political material, including the minute book, 1946 – 53, of the Aberdare branch of Plaid Cymru.
- The late Nans Jones, Cardiff: a substantial group of photographs depicting events organised by Plaid Cymru including conferences, summer schools, demonstrations and protests. Many feature Dr Gwynfor Evans.
- Mr Parick Hannan: a photocopy of the detailed diary kept by the late Mr Phillip Weekes from 1981 until 1984 which reflects the growing tensions in the coal industry during the build-up to the 1984 – 85 miners' strike. Added to the Phillip Weekes Papers.
- Lord Livesey of Talgarth: a copy of his lecture 'Welsh Entrepreneurs' given at the National Library on 31 January 2008 (NLW ex 2536).

- Mr Clive Betts: a large additional group of press releases, reports and correspondence, mainly concerning the political parties and the National Assembly for Wales.
- Mr Mike Steele: additional material of political interest, late 1980s – 2007, accumulated by the donor as lobby correspondent for the Community News Service at the House of Commons.
- Dr Denis Balsom: a group of opinion poll papers, election material and referenda on devolution dating from the 1970s to the 1990s (Welsh Elections Papers).
- Dr Russell Deacon: a CD of a recent extensive interview with Mrs Jennifer Longford (b. 1929), daughter of Frances Stevenson.
- Miss Joan Cooper, Cardiff: additional papers of Dr Roderic Bowen (1913 – 2001), mainly of political interest.
- Mrs Ann Williams: additional papers of the late Professor Phil Williams (1939 – 2003), mainly relating to Plaid Cymru.

## Gareth Vaughan Jones papers



Dr Siriol Colley of Nottingham has donated to the Library a substantial group of the papers of her uncle Gareth Vaughan Jones (1905 – 35), the famous researcher, journalist and author who met his death at the hands of Chinese 'bandits' in Inner Mongolia in August 1935. There are a large number of letters, postcards and messages, 1925 – 35, to his parents and family while he was travelling to distant climes. There are also pocket diaries, photographs, briefs and memoranda prepared for David Lloyd George (who employed Gareth Jones as a researcher), together with drafts and copies of articles. There are also many press cuttings of press articles by Gareth Jones. These papers compliment those donated by his sister the late Miss Gwyneth Vaughan Jones of Barry in 1987. Dr Colley has promised further papers relating to her uncle in the near future.

## Ffion Hague, *The Pain and the Privilege: the Women in Lloyd George's Life* (Harper Press, 2008)

This large tome is a marvellously captivating, detailed account of Lloyd George's relationship with the many women who played a part in his long lifetime. These include not only his long suffering wife Dame Margaret and his mistress Frances Stevenson, but also his grandmother Rebecca Samuel, his mother Betsy Lloyd, his only sister Mary Ellen Davies as well as his three daughters Mair Eluned (who died prematurely in 1907), Olwen Elizabeth and Megan Arfon.

The main theme of the book is the strains and stresses of LG's long marriage with Dame Margaret and his thirty year relationship with his private

secretary Frances Stevenson. Other ladies discussed in the book include Kitty Edwards and Mrs Tim Davies as well as a host of less well-known women in Lloyd George's colourful life. Ffion Hague has made extensive use of the rich Lloyd George archives at the NLW and displays an impressive mastery of the general political and historical background.

## WPA Newsletters

The first issue of the WPA Newsletter was published in the winter of 1985. Since then thirty-nine issues have been published to date, in a fully bilingual format from number 15 (Spring 1993) onwards. The contents of every issue have now been digitised, and all are available for consultation via the NLW web pages in the section on the Welsh Political Archive. Copies may also be printed off from this source.