THREE LABOUR POLITICIANS

The Welsh Political Archive has received the papers of three prominent Labour politicians, — those of two former Cabinet Ministers, Lord Cledwyn and Lord Elwyn-Jones, and also those of a well-known back-bench MP, Leo Abse.

Lord Cledwyn’s papers contain letters and documents covering much of his distinguished political career. Some files date from the period when he was Secretary of State for Wales, 1966–68, and Minister of Agriculture, 1968–70. However, the most important document is the diary kept intermittently by Lord Cledwyn between 1970 and 1978. Of particular interest are his notes on the resignation of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister in 1976 and the election of James Callaghan as his successor. As Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party at the time, Lord Cledwyn was responsible for organising the election.

Lord Cledwyn’s papers, which are now being catalogued, remain under embargo.

Os am fwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â’r Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig cysyllter â: Gwyn Jenkins, Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU (ffôn: [0970] 623816).


Lord Elwyn-Jones, who died in 1989, bequeathed his political papers to the National Library. He was Solicitor-General in the Wilson government of the 1960s and became Lord (continued on p. 2)
The Advisory Committee
The eleventh meeting of the Welsh Political Archive’s Advisory Committee was held on 6 April 1990.

The Chairman (the Librarian, Dr Brynley F. Roberts) reported that an important group of Lloyd George papers had been purchased recently. News of other accessions was given and possible donors were discussed.

It was resolved to invite Lord Blake to deliver the 1991 Annual Lecture.

The present members of the Committee are:
The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
Dr Denis Balsom, UCW, Aberystwyth
Professor Deidre Beddoes, The Polytechnic of Wales
Mr John Clement, formerly Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office
Mr Emyr Daniel, Director of Programmes HTV
Mr Andrew Davies, Assistant Organiser, Labour Party Wales
Mr Tom Ellis
Mr Gwyn Griffiths, Chairman Welsh Liberal Democrats
Lord Hooson
Dr Dian Hopkin, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr D Elywn Jones, Conservative Party agent
Professor Kenneth O Morgan, Principal, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr Gareth Price, Director of the Thomson International Foundation
Mr T M Haydn Rees, formerly Chief Executive Clwyd County Council
Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament
Dr Terry Thomas, SDP Development Officer
Mr Dafydd Wigley, Member of Parliament
Professor Gwyn A Williams

and from the National Library’s staff: Mr Daniel Hutt, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beli Jones, and Mr J. Graham Jones.

Appointment
Ms Lowri Jones has been appointed Research Assistant to the Welsh Political Archive on a two year contract. Lowri, a graduate of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, is at present completing her Master’s degree and will take up the post in January 1991.

Mr Hefin Williams, whose contract came to end in August, is now employed by another Department in the National Library.

Bu Hefin yn weithiwr dygn yn ystod ei gyfnod gyda'r Archif a cymunwn yn dda iddo yn ei swydd newydd.

(continued from p. 1)

Chancellor in 1974. Although some of the papers date back to the 1930s, the bulk of the correspondence dates from the 1980s. The work of listing the papers has almost been completed but in the meantime the papers are unavailable to readers.

Leo Abse’s papers comprise over 600 files reflecting the career of a most colourful and active back-bench MP. There are files on divorce reform, homosexual rights, abortion reform and on the Committee on Welsh Affairs of which he was chairman during the early 1980s. The papers will remain under embargo until they have been catalogued in full.

DARLITHIAU ARCHIF WLEIDDDOL CYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE LECTURES
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Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
Aberystwyth

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Aberystwyth
DARLITH YR ARGLWYDD CLEDWYN

Nos Wener, 2 Tachwedd, traddodiad Darlith Flynnod yr Archif Wledyddol Gymreig gan yr Arghwydd Cledwyn. Ei destun oedd 'Cymru yn y ddau Dŷ' a daeth cynulleidfa sylweddol i Hen Neuadd, Coleg y Brysyrflag, Aberystwyth, i wrando arno.

Cyhoeddir y Ddarlith gan y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn y Ffynodyn Newydd ond yn y cyfanser dyfma ychydig o ddyfrdiadau ohonn."n

Y DDADL GYMREIG

'Tuedd y Saeson a llawer o'r Cymry oedd edrych ar Gymru fel sir fawr tebyg i Swydd Efrosg, ond pan sefydloedd Herbert Morrison y ddadl Gymreig Flynnodol ym 1946, teimlai llawer yng Nghymru a thu allan fod rhywbeth chwydroadaol wedi digwydd. Ond o ddarllen y daidleuon hyn yn Hansard, a chymerais ran ynddynt am fynyddoedd, fe welwch ym fuan iawn nad oeddyn lawer mwy na mat na seremoni neu ddefod. Arferiadau'r rhelyw o'r aelodau oedd defnyddio'r achlysur i dynnry sylw at problemâu yn eu hetholaiethau ac yr oedd hynny'n deigol naturiol a diniwed. Roedd yn gyfle hefyd i aelodau Lloegr fynd gartref at eu gwraigedd am ddiwarnod.'

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG

'... yr oedd sefydlu'r Swyddfa Gymreig ym 1964 yn ddigwyddiaid hanesyddol i Gymru. Dyma'r wlad fu heb brifeddinas, heb Weinidogion y goron a heb wasanaeth si拂, o'r diwedyn yn enill rhai o hiawnderw.

Osa mai gwaith anodd fu'r ymgurh i ennill Ysgrifennydd Gwlodol a Swyddfa i Gymru, yr oedd sefydlu ac adeiladu'r Adrian newydd hon o'r llywodraeth yr un mor anodd. Nid oedd iddi lawer o gyfeillion. Nid oedd adranau eraill y llywodraeth fel Amaethyddiaeth ac Addysg yn barod i olwyn gafael ar ran o'u sylwddogaeth; roeddyn ystyr'n y fath. Dyma un enghraifft. Pan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwlodol euthum i weld y Gweinidog Amaeth — yr oedd Syr Goronwy Daniel hefo mi — i ofyn i'r Gweinidog, Mr Fred Peart ar y pryd, i drosglwyddo yr hyn Gymreig o'r diwydiannau o'r Swyddfa Gymreig. Wedi daddi hallt gwrthod a wnaeth a gwela'r fôd eu weision siâl yn gryf yn erbwn. Ymhyn ychydig fisoedd yr oeddwn yn seodd Mr Peart a daeth Mr George Thomas i ngwell gyda'r un rai. Gwaeth y sylwddogion eu gorau i'w perswadio i wrthod eto ond gwrthodais wrando arnynt a throsglwyddais cyfan yn ôl y polisi a'r addewid a wnaeth yn yr etholiad.'

TY'R ARGLWYDDI

'Gwyddog yn ddaf sôn am ddiwygio Ty'r Arglwyddi ers canrif a mwy. Ac er fod deciduaw 1911, 1949 a 1958 wedi newid ansawdd y lle a lleihau ei beuranyn yn sylweddol iawn y mae angen am ddiwygio yn dal yn gryf potai ond am y ffaith na ellir amddiffyn ail sianbr y senedd sydd â'r rhan fwyaf o lawer o'i aelodau yn etifeddol. Disgrifiad Lloyd George oedd: 'Six hundred men chosen at random from amongst the unemployed'. Ar yr un pryd y mae'r Ty fel y mae, ar waethaf ei wendiadu yn gwneud gwaith pwysig yn arbenig trwy adolygu deddfwreriaeth. Ond os bydd diwygio y mae'n bosibl y caiff Cymru a'r Alban le amlycach yn ei ddefniadau. Fe gawn weld; beth bynnag a ddiwydd, ni fydd yn plesio pawb.'

(Extracts from the Archive's Annual Lecture by Lord Cledwyn. The lecture will be published in Welsh and English in the New Year).
DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Papurau Ben G Jones
Trwy garedigrwydd Mrs Menna Wynn Jones, Llundain, daeth i law’n ddweddar grwp sylweddol o bapurau ei gwr, y diweddar Ben G Jones (1914–89), papurau sydd yn adlewyrchu ei rychwant eang o weithgarwch a diddordebau o feun y brif ddinas ac yng Nghymru fel ei gilydd. Ceir amryw o ffeiliau’n tarddu o’i ymdrechion dillino dros Anhydrededdus Gymdeithas y Cymruyddion (y bu’n Llwydd arni) dros gyfnod maith a’i gyseilffedd agos a materion Coleg Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth, y bu’n fyfrywiwr ynddo’n y 1930au cynnar.

O ddiddordeb arbenig i’r Archif Wleidyddol yw’r papurau’n ymwneud â’i ymgyrch egniol fel yr ymgawsedd Rhyddfrydol yn sir Feirionydd ym 1959 pan ddaeth o feun trwch blewyn i gipio’r sedd o ddywlo’r Blaidd Lafur, a’i gyseilffedd agos ag ymdrechion y Rhyddfrydwr i lunio polisiau radicalodd newydd yng Nghymru y m1960au cynnar. Mr Jones hefyd oedd cadeirydd Cenygar yr Iaith Gymraeg dros gyfnod egniog fawr o fodolaeth, 1973–8, a cheir niwer o ffeiliau’n tarddu o gyfarfodydd, gweithgarwch ac adroddiadau’r corff Dylanwadol hwn.

(The papers of the late Ben G Jones, prominent London-Weishman and Liberal candidate in Merioneth in the 1959 General Election have been received).

Jeffrey Thomas Papers
Through the kindness of Mrs Valerie Thomas the Archive has been fortunate to receive the papers of her late husband Mr Jeffrey Thomas (1933–89) who served as the Member of Parliament for Abertillery from 1970 until 1983. His career is of particular interest because he joined the SDP early in its history in 1981, stood as the SDP candidate for Cardiff West in the general election of 1983, and subsequently re-joined the Labour Party in 1986. The papers are wide-ranging, reflecting his early life at Abertillery and student days at the University of London, where he served as the President of the Union; the latter group includes letters from Hugh Dalton and R H Tawney.

There is a large collection of constituency correspondence, papers relating to domestic politics and legal subjects in which Mr Thomas took an especial interest, and to foreign affairs, particularly the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Much of the correspondence derives from Mr Thomas’s decision to join the SDP and the party’s early attempts at policy formulation, and his final return to Labour.

The donor’s permission is required to consult papers less than fifteen years old.

Aberystwyth Labour Party Records
A substantial group of the records of the Aberystwyth Labour Party, 1965–85, has come to hand. These include the secretaries’ correspondence files, a minute book, membership lists, circulars, and a mass of printed material deriving from the Labour Party nationally and from an array of left-wing and Socialist groups. There are files of papers reflecting the work of the Welsh Council of Labour, general election preparations and party conferences.

An embargo applies to records less than fifteen years old.

D. Emlyn Thomas Papers
Mrs Margaret Morris, Aberdare, has added a further group of papers to the D. Emlyn Thomas collection (See Newsletter, no 7). Mr Thomas (1892–1954) was the Labour MP for the Aberdare division of Glamorganshire, 1946–54. These papers comprise mainly constituency correspondence, reflecting the problems which beset the communities of Aberdare and Mountain Ash after the Second World War, and a series of pocket diaries.

Paul Flynn Papers
A further group of the papers of Paul Flynn, Member of Parliament for Newport West has been received by the Archive (see Newsletter, no 8). The papers include files on local affairs and also relating to CND and the Campaign for a Welsh Assembly.

The papers are under a fifteen year embargo.

Gwrthwynebydd Cydwbydol
Ymhliith y papurau a ddaeth i law wedi marwolaeth y cyfreithiwr radical, Ithel Davies (1894–1989), y mae dros drîchant o lythyron o’r gyfnod prydd yr oedd yn wthwynebydd cydwbydol yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Cafodd Ithel Davies ei garcharu ym 1916 ac yn ogystal â’i lythyron at ei rienti â’i gyfeillion, ceir niwer o’i cerddi a gynfanddoedd yn y canol. Hefyd ym y casgliad, y mae lythyron a phapurau yn ymwneud â gyfra weledydol liwgar Ithel Davies.

(Papers of the late Ithel Davies include prison letters dating from the First World War when he was a conscientious objector).