CAMPAIGN GROUP PAPERS

The politics of single-issue campaign groups has a peculiar interest of its own. Unlike pressure groups which grow to become permanent fixtures, single-issue campaigns usually disappear once their target has been achieved. Regrettably, in many cases, the archives of such campaign groups do not survive making any assessment of their methods and impact a difficult task for historians.

Over the years, the Welsh Political Archive has acquired the papers of numerous pressure groups and campaigns but perhaps the best example of the papers of a single-issue campaign has been donated recently by the secretary of PARC (Pembrokeshire Against Radar Campaign).

PARC was formed in March 1990 to oppose a proposed military radar installation in the Pembrokeshire National Park. In a short space of time this small local community opposition group had harnessed the support of politicians, religious leaders and the general public both in Wales and abroad, placing intense pressure on the government to reconsider. One aspect of the campaign was the lobbying it made in the United States through American supporters. It also collected expert information on scientific, technical and environmental aspects of the proposed installation. By April 1991 the campaign came to a successful conclusion when it was announced that the plans for the radar station were to be scrapped.

The secretary of PARC, Mrs Rosemary Hawley Jarman, kept all the papers accumulated during the campaign, including correspondence, minutes, newsletters and tape recordings and she has now placed these in the care of the Welsh Political Archive. The permission of the donor is required to see these papers until the year 2002.

As this Newsletter was going to press, the Archive also received a large file of papers from Plaid Cymru relating to its active support for the campaign against the radar station.
News from the Advisory Committee
The journalist and broadcaster Mr Patrick Hannan will deliver the Welsh Political Archive’s Annual Lecture in 1992. The Spring Newsletter will contain further details.

The 1991 lecture by Lord Blake ‘An Incongruous Partnership: Lloyd George and Bonar Law’ will be published shortly.

Dr Andrew Bold, Research Officer, Labour Party Wales, has replaced Mr Andrew Davies as the party’s representative on the Advisory Committee.

The present members of the Advisory Committee are:
The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
Dr Denis Baisom, UCW, Aberystwyth
Professor Deidre Beddow, The Polytechnic of Wales
Miss Beata Brookes, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party in Wales
Mr John Clement, formerly Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office
Mr Emrys Daniel, Director of Programmes HTV
Dr Andrew Bold, Research Officer, Labour Party Wales
Mr Tom Ellis
Mr Gwyn Griffiths, Chairman Welsh Liberal Democrats
Lord Hooson
Dr Dian Hopkin, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr D Elwyn 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 Clywd County Council
Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament
Dr Terry Thomas
Dr Dafydd Wigley, Member of Parliament
Professor Gwyn A Williams
and from the National Library’s staff: Mr Daniel Huws, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beti Jones, Mr I Graham Jones, and Miss Louri Jones.

DERBYNIADAU/ACQUISITIONS
Clive Betts Papers
Mr Clive Betts, Welsh affairs correspondent to the Western Mail, has donated a large group of papers to be added to groups deposited between 1978 and 1982. Many of the papers are of political interest; there are files of printed material and correspondence deriving from Welsh general and by-election campaigns, papers reflecting the development of the major political parties in Wales, and files relating to an array of governmental activity such as the economy, education, housing, transport, broadcasting and local government. There is also a group of papers deriving from Mr Betts’ period as editor of the Welsh Nation.

Conservatives in north Wales
Though the good offices of Mr Elwyn Jones, the Archive has received the records of two Conservative Party branches in north Wales.

The records of the Nefyn branch date from the 1960s and 1970s and include minute books of the branch as well as the minutes of the women’s section. The records of the Ruthin Conservatives include a minute book which documents the activities of the branch from the late 1940s onwards.

DARLITHIAU’R ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
Yr Arglwydd Cledwyn o Benthos
Cymryw y Ddraig Dy / Wales in Both Houses
Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos
£2 · 25
Darlithiau erasil y gyfres Other lectures in the series
1. John Grigg, Lloyd George and Wales (1987) £1 · 50
3. David Marquand, History Derailed? The Route to 1979 (1989) £1 · 75
Post: Ychwanege 50c on a ddarith, 75c am ddwy, e £1 am ddiwrnod bedair
Add 50p for one lecture, 75p for two and £1 for three or all four

WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE LECTURES
Cyhoeddadau erasil Other publications
Rhymer Memories, Thomas Jones £4 · 95
Cariad ac un Cialled: a discourse on the love of our country (Richard Price 1789). Cyfleithiad i’r Gymraeg ynghyd a ddiwylliant o Gymru / Translated into Welsh with a facsimile of the original.
P A L Jones (gol. / ed.) £4 · 95.
Post: Ychwane ge 50c on a ddarith, £1 · 50 am ddwy
Add £1 · 00 for one volume, £1.50 for both

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

SAUNDERS LEWIS — GWLEIDYYDD O’I ANFODD

Arbenigwr y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol ar archifau Ilintorion Cyrmraeg y ganrif hon ym Mr Dafydd Ifans, Ceidwad Cynorthwyl, Adrian Llawysgrifau a Chofysigrifau. Yn yr etholi hon y mae’n iaraf gwleidyddiaeth Saunders Lewis gan ddefnyddio’r ffynhonnell ar hanes gwleidyddol Cymru sydd ar yr gwaith ychwanegol i archifau Ilintorion y Llyfrgell.

Bu 1985 yn fwyddyn gollolus iawn i’r byd llenyddol Cymraeg. Ymhliith y rhai a gallwedd y fwyddyn honno yr oedd dau o’r cewri, dau a fuai’n gyfeillion dros gyfnod o hrigain mlynedd. Yr oedd Kate Roberts yn 94 mlwydd oed pan fu farw ym Ebrill a Saunders Lewis o fewn mis i fod yn 92 oed pan fu ymgyrach farw ym Medi.

Yn dilyn eu marwolaeth ffei daeth casgliad helafeth o bapurau a llawysgrifau Kate Roberts yn ei dddod i’r Llyfrgell trwy gyfnododd. Mewn cymhariaeth, bechann yr oedd yr archif a gadaeth gan Saunders Lewis. Yr oedd ‘y brenin’, chwedd Lewis Valentine, wedi chwynnu ei archif ym llym. Ddihiwyd ei bapurau ganddo’n ofalus i adaelu y bysorau’u unig: Ilythyrau David Jones, yr arolunydd; llawysgrifau a theipysgrifau rhai o’i ddramâu; Ilythyrau ambell gyfaill cefnogol fel Robert Williams Parry a’i gydmyn-gyrchwrff fel a Valentine. Yn hyn fefyr y oedd cyfres o lythyrau odddi wrth Kate Roberts, ac ymhliith ei harchif hitha u yr oedd ei lythyrau ymnuu at h. Oherwydd hyn, gellir ailgysylltu’r ddwy ochr o’r ohebiaeth yn weddol gyfan, o’i dechreuadu ym 1923 hyd i’l ythryr crynedig olaf ym 1983. Gobeithir cyhoeddwr’r ohebiaeth hon yng Nghymru, gyda nodiadau a rhagmadrodd, gan y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol gogyger ag Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 1992.

O ddarllen yr ohebiaeth honno cawn ollw ar Saunders Lewis y gwleidydd—un o sefydlwyr y Blaid Genedlaethol ym 1925, un a fu’n Llywyydd y Blaid o 1926 hyd 1939 ac yn olyggydr Y Dwraig Goch dros ran o’r cyfnod hwnnw hefyd. Mae’n amlwg nad oedd Saunders Lewis yn mwyynhau’r amlygrwydd a ddiol yn sgil bod yn Llywyydd. Mae’n achwyn ym 1928 fod ei waith politiaidd ym ddydd iddo “enw a rhyw fath o bwsigsgrwydd a sylw gyda’r werin bobl.” Ofnai hynny’n fawr—“rhaod iddo niwedio fy meddwl i.” Ystyrir’r gwaith o olyggydr Dwraig Goch yr groes fisol a honno’n groes drom. Dywed amdano’i hun yn 1929: “Yn fuan iawn byddaf wedi darfod â llenyddiaeth, ni byddaf ond newyddiadurwyr misol.”

Yr oedd ganddo ormod o heyn yn y tân yn ystod y dauddegau a’r tridegau, yn ôl eiphoneith a’i hun, a phob hanevn yna cael cym: ‘. . . nid oes dim a wnaf yn drwydd, na’r Blaid, na’r Ddraig, na gwaith Coleg, na llwyfau llen. . . ’ Yn rhinwedd y llywyyddiaeth yr oedd gwaith arni i fynychu cyfarfoddydd niferus i gyhoedd gi neges cenedlaetholdeb ac i sefydli gananhau newydd. Nid oedd yn hoff o’r siarad cyhoeddus hwn, yn wir tybiai ei bod yn amhosib i siaradwr poblogaidd fod yn ddynt unplyg, a bod safle o’r fath yn anghau i llenor. Aeth ymhelech na hynny ym 1923, drwy ddweud:

‘. . . ni dydweddion ar yn dramydd dros cenedlaetholdeb na Chymraeg pedwrf madd cadw’n fyw rywstut arall gwymi bach aristocratidi Cymreig a gawdai lena’r chwif y fyd ei ddigol heb faliu botwim am y werin daegonion. Onn gan nad oes digon ohonom etc., rhaid i rinnau beryglu ei celfyddydwyd a byw fel y gallom ‘sous l’oeli des barbes.’

Cadh Cymru’n hyffyf trwy ryw fath o Academi Gymreig aristocratidi oedd y ddelfryd felly, mae’n amlwg.

Yr oedd yndra rhwng y gwleidydd a’r llenor yn berwi ynddo trwy gyfnoed cyhoeddus politiaidd. Byddai’n cynhorgi Kate Roberts yn gyson i dddigol ei dawn gredigol ar drau ei gweithgarwch gwleidyddol. Yn 1926, er engraiffa, dywedodd wrthi:

‘. . . peidiwch â gadael i’r Blaid gynryd eich holl hamdden. (Peth go i od i lywyydd y Blaid ei ddweud, mi wn, ond ni yw’r llenor ynof wedi marw yw’r politician etc). Rhaid i chi orffen y nofel a nofelau eraill wedyn. Y ma e hyfryd o llawn crysedig gwaith yn y pen draw i’r Blaid ei hun ag yw sefydlu cangen.”

Ychydig o sôn sydd yr ohebiaeth am Iosgi’r Ysgol Fomio, ond ymhliith a papurau fe geir drafod llawysgrif o’r araith i’r rheithgor ym Mrawdlys Caernarfon. Erbyn diwedd yr Ail Ryfel Byd yr oedd Saunders Lewis wedi ymneillu o fywyr cyhoeddus y Blaid. Un rhewsm am wneud hynny oedd mesur o siom personol na fu i Blaid Cymru ddilyn yr arweiniadaid a rodwdd ym Mhenyberth. Yr oedd yr he ddychatith a amlygrwydd gan aerolaif iaif fainc y Blaid ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd ym anghyfrifodd â’i siaradog i. Hynny a’r ffaith iddo goll ei swydd ym Abertawe ym dilyn y carcharhad ar’i gorffododd i ymddiswyddo o lywyddiaeth y Blaid yn 1939.

parhad ar y dudalen nesaif
DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Montgomeryshire Liberal Association Records
A third group of the records of the Montgomeryshire Liberal Association has been placed on deposit in the Archive, following those deposited in 1988 and 1989 (see Newsletter, no 6).

This group comprises the Association’s minute book, 1970–80, a rich array of Liberal Party publications and policy statements, records of internal administration, and a large number of scrapbooks of press cuttings, all reflecting the vitality of local political life.

Newport West Labour Party
A further group of papers from the Newport West Labour Party has been received. It includes minutes and papers of the Newport West constituency Labour Party, papers of the Labour group on the Newport Council, and election material, both local and parliamentary.

Important Memoranda
Mr John Clement, formerly Under Secretary at the Welsh Office, has donated papers relating to the Welsh Reconstruction Advisory Council, 1942–5, and the Council for Wales, 1949–58.

The papers include important memoranda on approaches to Wales’s economic and social problems during the 1940s and 1950s.

Ted Rowlands Papers
Mr Ted Rowlands, the Labour Member of Parliament for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, has donated a large number of files dating from the period 1982 to 1990. The files relate mainly to constituency affairs but also to wider issues, both domestic and international, with which Mr Rowlands has been involved.

The papers remain under embargo for the time being.

Lord Cledwyn and Lord Tonypandy
Two of the finest collections of political papers received by the Archive in recent years are those of two former Secretaries of State for Wales, Lord Cledwyn and Lord Tonypandy.

We are pleased to report that both Lord Cledwyn and Lord Tonypandy have recently sent additional groups of papers to the Archive.