THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

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Megan and the greyhound

Apart from his academic, military, and diplomatic achievements, Philip Noel-Baker has at least two other claims to fame. He competed twice at the Olympic Games, "running one of the brainiest races that has ever been witnessed on any cinder path" to help A N S Jackson of Malvern to beat three strong Americans in the 1500 metres at Stockholm in 1912; and for a large chunk of his married life he kept up a long-running secret love affair with one of Wales's best known political figures of the mid twentieth century, Lady Megan Lloyd George. No wonder Megan and her best friend came to refer to him as 'the greyhound'**.

They were both first elected to Parliament at the General Election of 1929.

Neyland's noble son

Lord Parry of Neyland, formerly Gordon Parry, has long been a prominent figure in the Labour movement. He contested Monmouth on behalf of Labour in 1959 and Pembrokeshire in 1970 and 1974 (twice) before being created a baron in 1973; and he achieved national prominence as Chairman of the Wales Tourist Board from 1978 to 1984.

Lord Parry has kindly donated a substantial collection of his personal papers to the WPA. The papers, which date from 1956 to 1991, reflect his wide range of interests and responsibilities.

February 1956: 'I suddenly found, in an instant, that I loved Irene far more and far more deeply than I knew.'

Free at last to marry Megan, Philip drew back and finally abandoned her. The affair was over.

Love Letters

Now the lasting and touching memorials to the love story are the several hundred letters sent by Philip to Megan between 1940 and 1956 which were recently acquired by the National Library of Wales. They include more than one hundred and fifty letters which came to light only this year and which fill a sizeable gap in the whole series.

Megan Day by Day

Although she did try from time to time, Lady Megan Lloyd George never really caught the habit of keeping a diary.

It is therefore with a great deal of satisfaction that the Archive has acquired her diary for the period 30 September to 9 December 1941, containing occasional entries relating to the progress of the war and references to Winston Churchill and other contemporary figures.

The Archive wishes to acknowledge the kind co-operation of the Imperial War Museum in the acquisition of this item.
Newport West Labour
The latest group of papers received from the Newport West Labour Party comprised material, 1985-93, comprising local, general and European elections, the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, and the Labour Group on Newport Borough Council.

Labour at Cwmbran
Mrs Ismay Thomas has kindly donated a small scrapbook she compiled when she stood successfully as one of seven Labour candidates in the Llanfrechfa Upper Ward at the Cwmbran UDCE elections in April 1946.

Trade Union Activist
Ivan Monkton, a TGWU activist in Wales for the past fifteen years has donated a large collection of papers to the WPA. It dates mainly from the mid-eighties and includes papers connected with his involvement in trade union activities and the Labour Party, with particular regard to the Brecon and Radnor constituency and the Presteigne and Knighton districts.

Sir Alun Talfan Davies
Sir Alun Talfan Davies has given the Archive his personal papers and correspondence, which reflect the donor’s distinguished legal career and his wide-ranging professional and leisure interests.

Many of the letters relate to Sir Alun’s participation in the affairs of the BBC, Christopher Davies Ltd, The Commercial Bank of Wales, HTV, The National Eisteddfod, The Queen’s Silver Jubilee Appeal, the University of Wales, the Welsh Arts Council, and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

Welsh Liberal Democrats
The WPA has received a further group of papers accumulated by Mr Gwyn Griffiths and relating to both the Welsh Liberal Alliance and the Welsh Liberal Democrats, 1986-92; and a small collection of papers concerning the Monmouth Liberals and SDP from Ms Frances David of Skyniath, the Alliance candidate in the Monmouth by-election 1991 and general election 1992.

Gwilym Jones papers
Mr Gwilym Jones MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, has placed in the WPA a further group of his political papers. They belong in the main to the years 1986-7 and are not available without the permission of the donor.

Name that Village
Michael Eyers has very kindly donated a typescript copy of the original manuscript of his work, The Masters of the Cardigans: People and Place Names in Cwmelanog and Gwenl (Griffithstown, Pontypool: Village Publishing, 1992), which examines the growth of new settlements in south east Wales as a result of the industrial revolution and the naming of those settlements after the powerful families or individuals who owned the collieries. The copy contains some passages, facts, and dates which were omitted from the final published version, and with it there are associated supplementary notes, copies of documentary sources, and photographs.

The Clarion
(Pontypool & District Labour News)

Preparing for 1989
Gowers, 100 Words for a Battle on Borders... for Peace

Gewesend
The Strike Story

etc.

etc.
WALES AND THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
WELSH NATIONAL COUNCIL
PRESIDENTS:
Mr. R. T. PARKER
Mr. T. FRANCIS BELL

CALLS FOR YOUR PRESENCE AT
An All-Wales Rally
at ABERYSTWYTH
Whit-Saturday, May 20th, 1961

FOR THE REPEAL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BARR
Supporters from all parts of the Principality will converge on ABERYSTWYTH on Whit-Saturday for the first All-Wales NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT RALLY, under the Congress's banner:

COME TO ABERYSTWYTH TO SHOW THAT WALES STANDS FIRMLY FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

If the Nuclear Disarmament Movement was birthed in the Welsh Halls, it has been nurtured in Welsh Villages.

Since its formation in 1958, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been one of the highest profile pressure groups in Britain. Its origins lie in the opposition to the development of the British hydrogen bomb in the late 1950s, since when it has attracted much popular support. From the beginning the movement had its supporters in Wales. A Welsh National Council and many local groups were soon formed.

Papers donated to NLW in 1967 by Dr Mansel Davies, who was secretary of the Aberystwyth Nuclear Weapons Committee, include minutes of that committee 1988-61 and a large collection of correspondence, papers and printed material relating to CND at a local, Welsh, and British level.

In the summer of 1981, forty women walked from Cardiff to Greenham Common, Berkshire, and set up a peace camp, which became as vivid an image of anti-nuclear protest for the eighties as the Aldermaston marches had been for the fifties and sixties.

CND Cymru
CND Cymru was formed in 1982 and it enjoys autonomous nation-status in relation to the CND movement in general.

The WPA is in the process of compiling a comprehensive archive of CND Cymru papers, and we have already received substantial collections from four active members, including two former General Secretaries, Bob Cole and Veronica Wood, and CND Cymru Campaign co-ordinator, Mary Jones.

The archive includes General Executive Committee minutes, printed material, newsletters, and correspondence with other anti-nuclear movements in Britain and beyond. The many issues covered are: Molesworth, Trident, Hinckley Point, Civil Defence, CND, Greenham Common, Cherchobyl, and more specifically Welsh campaigns such as the Royal Ordnance Factory, Llanishen, Carmarthen Bunker, Trawsfynydd, and RAF Brawdy.

Other Groups
We have several collections relating to other Welsh anti-nuclear groups, which usually work closely with CND Cymru and share the same membership. The Ian and Thalia Campbell Papers contain a variety of papers relating to CND, Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance, Medical Campaign against Nuclear Weapons, Greenham Common Women, Women for Life on Earth, Women’s Peace Camps, and the Aberystwyth Peace Network. We also have separate collections of papers for the Aberystwyth Peace Network and the Preseli Anti-Nuclear Group, in addition to photographs, posters, pamphlets and press cuttings donated by Dr Sheila Owen-Jones, a prominent member of the peace movement in Wales.

ELJ
Red Roman road

In the summer of 1950, Raymond Garlick made a Holy Year pilgrimage from Pembroke Dock to Rome in the company of his wife, some camping equipment, and a little money. They sailed from Newhaven to Dieppe and hitchhiked across France to northern Italy and then via Torino, Genoa, and Florence to Rome.

The notebook which contains an entertaining account of the pilgrimage is now among the Raymond Garlick Papers at the National Library.

Having mixed with lorry drivers, cafe owners, shopkeepers, priests and pilgrims, Mr Garlick, in his notes, gives a clear impression of some common cares and preoccupations in postwar Europe: the fear of another war, the rosy picture of British affluence and the dim view of British workmanship, the well-stocked shops, and the rapid progress of reconstruction. The main talking-point on the political front is the prevalence of communism.

Big promises

At Ouzzacou-sur-Loire, there was a wall plastered with Communist posters supporting the Stockholm agreement to ban the atomic bomb. In another village further down the Loire, half of the inhabitants, according to its parish priest (who happened to be English), were Communists; 'that is to say, they had been promised motor-cars and salaries of 50,000 francs a month if they voted Communist, and they voted accordingly.'

Communist posters appeared everywhere in northern Italy and a hammer and sickle had been roughly painted in red on the great gates of Florence. At a Roman cafe a labourer made a big display of his Communist Party card and declared, 'I'm a worker; I have no home; I'm a worker; I have a home.'

All Italian lorry drivers were Communists. They could see no contradiction between Communism and Christianity. 'Tell the Papa that Communist drivers helped you to Rome, and he will understand.'

It may be gathered therefore that Mr Garlick gained a rather flattering impression of continental Communist thinking at grass roots level. Indeed, he confesses that 'only once did one come across an informed Communist, knowing his faith thoroughly from alpha to omega, and able to expound it succinctly and intelligently. And he was a student on a cycling holiday - from Maesteg.'

Yours earnestly

An addition to the Plaid Cymru Archives has been received through the good offices of Mr Daiyd Williams, former General Secretary of Plaid Cymru. It includes correspondence and papers which date mainly from the 1960s to the 1980s.

As work progresses on the preparation of a comprehensive list of the large Plaid Cymru Archive, a remarkable letter in the hand of Daiyd Wigley has come to light. From Manchester, where he was, in late 1961, a first-year Physics student, he sent off his application to join the party. After saying that he had never been a member of any other political party, he asks for every detail appropriate to a new member and wishes to know how he may help, in Manchester as well as at home in Caernarfon, in the battle to win Wales over to Plaid Cymru. He was not interested in becoming a member of the party in name only.

Cowethas Flanmank

Additional archives covering the years 1964-65 have been donated by Cowethas Flanmank, the Cornish current affairs and research group. Permission is required to consult these papers.

Printed at the
National Library of Wales