SMOOTH CROSSING TO EUROPE

The European election in June did not generate much press or public interest in Wales and most definitely lacked the excitement of a general election.

Were it not for the mass of leaflets of all shapes, sizes, colours and quality dropping through the letter-box, one could be forgiven for not realising that an election campaign was being fought at all.

Record
A record number of candidates stood in Wales—thirty-five fighting for five seats—partly due to the extra European constituency gained by Wales since the last European elections in 1989.

The five main parties fielded a full complement of candidates as did Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Natural Law Party.

The other candidates were representatives of the UK Independence Party, the Welsh Socialists, and the Communists; one Independent; and Captain Beany, runner for the European Party.

Long reach
The formidable size of most Welsh constituencies meant that many of the candidates found it physically impossible to visit every area and had to rely far more than in general elections on trying to reach the electorate through the printed word.

The Archive has been fortunate to receive copies of the election addresses published by all the candidates who stood in Wales (except Captain Beany), as well as leaflets, posters, and other ephemeral material.

Adding up
Together they make a valuable addition to the growing collection of election ephemera held by the WPA.

We wish to thank all those who were kind enough to send election literature to the Archive. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The Big Five

Mild and West Wales
Eluned Morgan (L) 78092
Marc Phillips (PC) 48888
Peter Bone (C) 31666
J Hughes (LibD) 25719
D Rowlands (UKIP) 5556
Chris Busby (G) 5938
T Griffith-Jones (INL) 988
Maj: 29234 Turnout: 48%

Eluned Morgan

North Wales
Joe Wilson (L) 88291
Dalydd Wigley (PC) 72469
G Mann Hughes (G) 33450
Ruth Parry (LibD) 14928
Patrick Adams (G) 2859
David Hughes (INL) 2965
Max Cookey (Ind) 1042
Maj: 11242 Turnout: 65%

Joe Wilson

South Wales Central
Wayne David (L) 113396
Lynn Verity (C) 109314
Gwynn Llywelyn (PC) 18827
John Dixon (LibD) 18471
C Evan Rhys (G) 4002
R Griffiths (Comm) 1075
Gabriel Duquey (INL) 889
Maj: 4663 Turnout: 59%

Wayne David

South Wales East
Glenys Kinnock (L) 119907
R Blomfield-Smith (C) 24660
C Wootton (LibD) 9963
Colin Marson (PC) 9550
Roger Ceghli (G) 4910
Siân Williams (ESOC) 1270
Ralph Bransfield (CLP) 1027
Maj: 120247 Turnout: 43%

Glenys Kinnock

South Wales West
David Morris (L) 104263
Robert Buckland (G) 19013
John Bussell (LibD) 1250
C Adams (PC) 1250
Janet Evans (G) 4714
Helen Evans (INL) 1122
Capt. Beany (CPD) 1106
Maj: 8479 Turnout: 49%

David Morris

Percentage of the vote according to party
* (SLD and SDP, 1989)
ACLAND JOURNAL

The Library received recently a typewritten transcript of the journal of Sir Arthur Herbert Dyke Acland (1847-1926), a prominent Liberal politician and educational reformer who served as MP for Rotterdmam from 1885 to 1899. The journal (now NLW MS 23249D) contains intermittent entries, clearly written retrospectively for the period January 1871 to March 1898.

Original
We understand that the original journal together with two other diaries kept by Acland from 1898 to 1926 remain with the family and that an edition of them is being prepared for publication in the near future.

Enthusiast
The journal entries reflect his enthusiasm for reform and include references to an array of prominent political figures of the period.

Welsh connections
Acland had a strong affinity with Wales. He not only owned a home at Clwnog in Caernarfonshire, but he was also a political associate of Tom Ellis and David Lloyd George, and took an abiding interest in the campaigns to secure the disestablishment of the Church in Wales and to achieve educational reform. Visiting Fishguard in August 1890, he observed, "I think helping in Welsh Liberalism is a very tangible work and I am very glad I live in Wales. The people as a whole are democratic in spirit in the main."

Helping George
He gave all his Easter recess to helping the Liberal campaign in the Caernarfon boroughs election of 1890: "We had a desperate struggle and Lloyd George beat Nanney by 18. It was a fight of a young untried man of humble birth against all the powers of land and Tory Wealth - our organisation was hopelessly bad [...] It was often said that I had been instrumental in winning the seat and I did all I could to stand by George [who] is a dynamic fellow without much tact and I don’t know what he will do in the long run."

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The Welsh Political Archive, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales SY23 3BU.

For further information please contact John Watts-Williams or Lowri Jones at the above address. Tel: 0970 623916 or Fax: 0970 615709.

The Welsh Political Archive was set up in 1983 to co-ordinate the collection of all types of material concerning politics in Wales. It collects the records and papers of political parties, individual politicians, quasi-political organisations, campaigns and pressure groups, printed leaflets, pamphlets, and other ephemera, posters and photographs, and tape of radio and television programmes. These materials are then made available for consultation by researchers subject to specified, to certain conditions of access, in one or other of the National Library’s four public search rooms.

History Review
Amongst the contributors to the latest edition of the Welsh History Review (Volume 17, parts 1 & 2) is John Graham Jones, an assistant archivist at NLW and a member of the Archive’s advisory committee from its outset. His article is entitled 'Select Committee or Royal Commission? Wales and the “Land Question” 1892'.


The Welsh History Review is available from University of Wales Press, Freepost (CF. 15289), Cardiff CF1 1YZ at £5 per part.

Labour History
In September the WPA’s research assistant, Lowri Jones, attended the annual conference of the International Association of Labour History Institutions which was held this year at the National Museum of Labour History in Manchester.

Good Reception
The WPA’s reception went off very successfully at the House of Commons on 18 May. Each of the four main parties was represented at the event and among those who attended were (below, left) the host, Mr Ted Rowlands, Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil, who is a member of the Archive’s advisory committee; (below, right) Shadow Welsh Secretary Mr Ron Davies MP and Mr Paul Murphy MP; and (bottom) Mr Rod Richards MP, Dr Dean Hopkin, and Prof. J Gwyn Williams, NLW President.
A fair Price for Doctor’s papers?
Who was called by Tom Paine ‘one of the best-hearted men that lives’, and described by John Davies (The History of Wales) as ‘the most original thinker ever born in Wales’?

**Petty connection**
None less than the eighteenth century radical, Dr Richard Price, a native of Llangenin near Bridgend, who, between 1770 and 1790, became a prominent and influential figure, partly because of his writings on political and economic matters and, more especially, because of his connection with Sir William Petty, the second earl of Shelburne, one of the most important politicians of the day.

**Spurring Burke**
Pitt’s sinking fund owed a great deal to Price’s ideas on the economy; his philosophical justification of the principle of devolved government made him many friends in North America; and it was his warm welcome for the coming of the French Revolution in 1789 which spurred Edmund Burke to produce his famous Reflections, which in turn motivated Paine to define the rights of man.

**Successful bid**
The Archive is extremely pleased to report that, when the Shelburne family archives were auctioned at Christie’s in October, the NLW made a successful bid for a group of sixty-eight letters and numerous memoranda addressed by Dr Price to the second earl.

This is a significant addition to Price’s journal 1787-91 acquired by NLW in 1971-2. Other groups of his papers are in Oxford and North America.

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INVALUABLE SCRAP

Among an array of fascinating material recently donated to the Archive by Baroness White, one of the WPA’s foremost benefactors, are three scrapbooks of extraordinary interest.

**Dr Thomas Jones CH**
One comprises about five hundred photographs, interspersed with correspondence, ephemera and press cuttings, reflecting the highly distinguished career of Lady White’s father, Dr Thomas Jones CH (1870-1955), Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet who served four successive Prime Ministers during the inter-war years.

**Annotations**
The photographs, which depict both Dr Jones’s public career and family life, have been carefully and illuminatingly annotated by his son, the late Mr Tristan Jones.

**Spot the ball**
The examples shown here are: (top) Lloyd George and Briand making a political golf ball of German reparations at Cannes in 1922; (centre) a group at the foundation of Coleg Harlech in 1927; (back row) H Morgan, W J Williams (and his son), Eirene Lloyd Jones (now Baroness White), Ben Bowen Thomas; (front row) Dr Basil Yealand, Mrs W J Williams, Thomas Jones, Sir Percy Watkins, Mr W A Hewlett; (bottom left) Thomas Jones and John Davies (of the WEA, on the right) with Dr Manniche, head of the International People’s College at Heilsinger, Denmark 1928; and (bottom right) George Bernard Shaw with TJ at Gregynog in 1933.

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John Davies of the South Wales WEA
The other two scrapbooks contain a miscellany of cuttings, photographs, a few items of correspondence, and some ephemera, c. 1921-34, assembled by John Davies, district secretary of the WEA in South Wales.

They include pen portraits of leading figures in the Labour movement of the period, telegrams sent to Mrs Ruby Davies as Labour candidate in the Wells constituency in 1929, photos of groups who attended WEA weekend schools in the mid 1920s, and programmes for concerts, theatre productions and social occasions.
SENIOR ECONOMIST

Nassau Senior (1750-1864), the first holder of the professorship of political economy at Oxford, was the author of the report on which the famous Poor Law Act of 1834 was based, a member of several royal commissions, one of the most important and influential economists of the nineteenth century. A large group of Senior papers was donated to the Library by his grand-daughter, Mrs Amy St Loe Strachey, in the 1940s.

At Christie's in October the National Library of Wales acquired the following manuscripts which supplement that group: six manuscript memoranda on such subjects as the poor law 1834-7, twenty-eight letters to the 3rd Marquis of Lansdowne 1832-59 plus a small group of related letters from others including two letters from Alexis de Tocqueville to Lansdowne 1835-6 and copies of three letters from Tocqueville to Senior 1845-9.

EARLY SOCIETY

The Archive has received from Dr John Davies, author of The History of Wales, a valuable group of papers relating to the affairs of Cyndeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg. Dr Davies was one of the founders of the society and, in conjunction with Tedi Millward, its first secretary.

In the main, the papers belong to the formative years of the society in the early and mid sixties, and include informative correspondence between John Davies and the other leaders of the infant organisation.

The correspondence bears testimony to the hard work put in by John Davies to ensure the survival and development of the society which he had played so large a part in creating. As Gwilym Tudur puts it in Wyth In a Cofo: "Indeed, John Davies did not cease to missionary for three long years. Such persistence was pretty unusual, and the work was thankless enough and often rancorous, it is difficult to imagine anyone else who would have done the job without the redeeming humour of the philosopher as part of his make-up".

ERASMUS IN WALES

Purchased at Sotheby's in July were two journals and a memorandum book of Sir Erasmus Philips, bart, (c.1700-43), which, among other things, record his elections as MP for Havering in 1726 and some of his official activities in that locality.

Green Cardigan

The capture of the Ceredigion and North Pembroke seat by Cynog Dafis standing as Plaid Cymru candidate with Green Party support, took the 1992 General Election by surprise. One who facilitated that unique alliance was Mr Ken Jones of the Ceredigion Green Party, who has kindly allowed the Archive to photostop typscopy papers 1991-2 relating to its creation.

Ponty Agents

Through the good offices of Prof. L. J. Williams of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Archive has received small groups of papers of Goronwy R Jones, Ynys-y-bwlch, and William J Fortt, Clyfynydd, both miners' agents for the Pontypidd district.

The donation also includes photocopies of the agenda and minutes of meetings 1937-59 of the South Wales District of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.

Printed at The National Library of Wales