LOST IN MONGOLIA

On 11 April (Easter Saturday) S4C broadcast a drama documentary on the life, career and tragic death of Gareth Vaughan Jones, the distinguished linguist and journalist who met his end at the hands of Chinese 'bandits' in Inner Mongolia in August 1935.

He spent some time undertaking research work for former Prime Minister David Lloyd George, travelled extensively throughout Europe, lectured widely and contributed an array of articles to journals and newspapers. Thereafter he spent much of 1931-32 as the drama documentary made extensive use of the small group of Gareth's papers - letters, diaries and press cuttings donated to the Library by his sister the late Miss Gwyneth Vaughan Jones of Barry in June 1987. It also featured the papers of Lloyd George's private

A native of Barry, and the son of prominent educationalist Major Edgar Jones (1868-1953), Gareth Jones had a distinguished academic career as an undergraduate at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He displayed formidable skills as a linguist, rapidly mastering French, German and Russian.

foreign affairs adviser to Ivy Lee and Associates at New York when he was granted leave of absence to re-visit Russia.

Gareth spent a further period assisting Lloyd George in the preparation of his War Memoirs and published widely before departing on an ambitious world-wide tour from which he never returned home.

secretary A. J. Sylvester who attempted to unravel the mysterious chain of events which led to Gareth's untimely death.

Gareth Jones was a prolific correspondent in both Welsh and English. The Archive would be delighted to receive for preservation any letters or notes which he might have written.

Parliamentary Elections in Wales, 1885-1967


Again published by Gwaeg y Loafa, Tal-y-bont, the new volume, much expanded and revised, details not only the results of parliamentary general and by-elections in Wales from 1885 until 1997, but also the outcome of the European elections, the 1975 referendum on Europe and the 1979 and 1997 referenda on Welsh devolution.

The compiler is again Mrs Beti Jones, long-serving assistant librarian in the NLW's Department of Printed Books and a member of the WPA consultative committee from its outset.

The highly attractive work is well illustrated, and includes maps, an authoritative bilingual introduction, potted biographies of Welsh MPs and MEPs, and a useful index to candidates. The volume is an essential reference work to all interested in twentieth-century Welsh history and politics. The volume sells at the bargain price of £9.95.
The Welsh Political Archive, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales. SY23 3BU. Tel: 01970 628816 Fax: 01970 615709/625718. For further information please contact John Watts-Williams, J Graham Jones or Kate Sullivan.

The Welsh Political Archive was set up in 1983 to co-ordinate the collection of documentary evidence of all kinds about politics in Wales. It collects the records and papers of political parties, politicians, quasi-political organisations, campaigns and pressure groups; leaflets, pamphlets, ephemera, periodicals, photographs and tapes of radio and television programmes.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The twenty-sixth meeting of the WPA consultative committee took place on 15 May 1998.

The present members of the Committee are: Dr Denis Balsom, Emeritus Professor Deirdre Beddoe, Dr Andrew Bold, Miss Beata Brookes, Mr Cynog Dafis MP, Mr Aled Eirug, Mr Tom Ellis, Mr Gwyn Griffiths, Lord Hooson, Dr Delan Hopkin, Professor Aled G. Jones, Mr D. Elwyn Jones, Mr D. L. Jones, Emeritus Professor leuan Gwynedd Jones, Mr Martin Mansfield, Mrs Julie Morgan MP, and Professor Kenneth O. Morgan.

Six members of the NLW staff are also members of the Committee: Dr J. Lionel Madden, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mr John Watts-Williams, Mrs Beth Jones, Mr J. Graham Jones and Miss Kate Sullivan.

Research Assistant

At the end of August, Kate Sullivan, research assistant to the WPA, since August 1995, leaves the service of the Library to return to the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, to study for an MA degree in the Department of Film, Theatre and Television Studies.

Kate has been a hardworking and popular member of the NLW staff and has made a significant contribution to the development of the WPA. All those associated with the Archive wish her well during her course next session and throughout her future career.

Kate’s successor who will join the staff on 1 September is Nia Mai Williams, a native of Llandarog in Carmarthenshire and an MA graduate of the Department of Welsh at the University of Wales, Bangor.

Nia is no stranger to the NLW. She has been a member of staff of the Department of Manuscripts on two previous occasions - as a trainee archivist in 1992-93, and as the archivist who completed the listing of the Plaid Cymru archives in 1994-95.

Subsequently Nia has spent the last three years as an assistant archivist at the Bodleian Library in Oxford where she has been cataloguing the papers of the former Conservative Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, Lord Stockton.

W. AMBROSE BEBB PAPERS

Earlier this year the Library was especially pleased to receive from his family a group of the papers of the historian and author W. Ambrose Bebb (1894-1955). To mark this auspicious occasion, a special meeting was held at the Library on Saturday afternoon, 18 April, organised by the Ceredigion Antiquarian Society. A number of Friends of the Library also attended the meeting, when a lecture entitled ‘Cyfeiriau’ was a prominent figure in the evolution of the movement for the first fifteen years.

Although he split with the party during the war years, he again

Y Ddraig Goch

The title page of the first issue of Y Ddraig Goch, August 1926.

Ambrose Bebb was delivered by his biographer Mr T. Robin Chapman.

Ambrose Bebb was one of the founder members (together with Saunders Lewis and Griffith John Williams) of Y Mudiad Cymreig at Cardiff in 1923-24, was one of the earliest members of Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru in August 1925 and, it would seem, it was he who edited the first three issues of Y Ddraig Goch single-handed.

He remained a member of the editorial team of Y Ddraig Goch until the Second World War, and stood as its parliamentary candidate for the Caernarfonshire constituency in the general election of July 1945.

The two most important groups within the papers are the long run of Bebb’s diaries which extend from 1926 until 1954, and correspondence running from 1918 until his death, in which includes important political letters from among others, Saunders Lewis, D. J. Williams and Griffith John Williams. The remainder of the papers consist mainly of drafts and proofs of his numerous history and travel books.
DESMOND DONNELLY PAPERS

A list has been compiled of the extensive papers of maverick Labour MP Desmond Donnelly (1920-74) originally deposited at the Library by his widow the late Mrs Rosemary Donnelly in 1979.

Born in India, Donnelly was educated at the Benbridge School, Isle of Wight, and served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. He stood as the Commonwealth candidate for Evesham in the general election of 1945 and as the Labour candidate for county Down in a by-election in 1946.

He was elected Labour MP for Pembrokeshire in 1950, and was initially seen as an avid supporter of Aneurin Bevan. He subsequently broke with the left and joined the Gaitskellite camp within the Labour Party. Donnelly was never on friendly terms with Harold Wilson, and predictably was not offered ministerial office in the 1964 Labour Government.

Following the infamous devaluations of the pound and the conspicuous reversal of governmental policies 'east of Suez', Desmond Donnelly resigned the Labour whip, was expelled from the party in 1967 and subsequently set up his own United Democratic Party. Standing for the new party in Pembrokeshire in 1970, he was decisively defeated by Nicholas Edwards. He then threw in his lot with the Conservatives, and was found dead in April 1974.

The papers include an extensive group of correspondence, 1950-74. Among the political correspondents are Clement Atlee, George Brown, R. A. Butler, James Callaghan, Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, Hugh Gaitskell, Jo Grimond, Edward Heath and Harold Macmillan.

A number of files concern the fortunes of the Labour Party in Pembrokeshire in the fifties and sixties, others relate to Cyprus, the Middle East, Germany and South Africa, reflecting Mr Donnelly’s extensive travels and writings. There are typescript and manuscript extracts from the diaries which Donnelly kept from time to time, papers relating to his expulsion from the Labour Party in 1967, and the formation and administration of the United Democratic Party. There is also a huge collection of press cuttings from journals and national and local newspapers, many of articles and notes penned by Desmond Donnelly himself.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY WALES ARCHIVES

The Archive was delighted to receive the first group of the records of the Conservative Party Wales. This includes twelve informative minute books chronicling the proceedings of various committees, and covering the period from 1937 until 1986. The deposit also includes a group of leaflets, pamphlets and posters deriving from the Conservative campaigns during the 1992 and 1997 general elections.

The central archives of the Conservative Party are in the custody of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The Library purchased in 1987 microfilm copies of the files relating to Wales dating from 1948 until 1964. These are designated NLW Films 743-44.

The Library also holds microfilm copies of the archives of the British Conservative Party published by Harvester (MFC 1-4, MFL 21 and MFL 48). These cover the period 1867 to 1978 and include Executive Committee and Council minutes, Annual Reports, Party Conference Minutes and Reports, General Election Campaign Guides, Committee Minutes, and Pamphlets and Leaflets.

The WPA now has custody of the central archives of all the major political parties in Wales—a major goal ever since the establishment of the Archive back in 1983. Further groups of the records of the Conservative Party Wales are expected shortly.

THE BEST FUTURE FOR WALES

Ruskin Pioneer

Through the generosity of Mr and Mrs Hugh Thomas of Bristol, the Archive has received an autograph book belonging to Noah Rees (1869-1933) of Clydach Vale, a pioneer of the South Wales Miners’ Federation and a long-serving member of the Rhondda UDC.

The book includes several contributions from Rees’s contemporaries at Ruskin College, Oxford. It has been designated NLW EX 1869.
CABINET PAPERS, 1951-64
The Library has purchased microfilm copies of the Cabinet records - PRO Classes CAB 128 (Cabinet Conclusions) and CAB 129 (Cabinet Memoranda) - of the Conservative administrations of 1951-64 headed by Prime Ministers Churchill, Eden, Macmillan and Douglas-Home.

The classes contain the minutes and memoranda of the weekly Cabinet meetings held by the Prime Minister and his senior ministers. These meetings form the apex of the whole governmental and Civil Service structure.

Among the array of important subjects illuminated by the cabinet records are Commonwealth relations, the development of the N.H.S., Cyprus, Korea, NATO and the Western Union, the balance of payments and the sterling crisis, military affairs and National Service, the Cold War, the Suez crisis, rising living standards and inflation, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis and President J.F. Kennedy.

The records are a most valuable addition to the resources of the WPA and complement admirably the Cabinet records of the post-war Attlee governments previously acquired.

Co-operative Societies
Susan Stockwell of the Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, Swansea, has kindly donated a group of the annual returns of the independent Co-operative Societies in Wales, 1937-68. Further records are expected shortly.

Lord Cledwyn Papers
Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos has added two extensive groups of papers (one from Anglesey and one from London) to the substantial archive of his material already held by the WPA.

These deposits include files of material relating to the University of Wales, the Labour Party, Welsh affairs and constituency issues. A large group of photographs has been transferred to the custody of the Department of Pictures and Maps, and nineteen cassettes, mainly of Lord Cledwyn's speeches, to the Sound and Moving Image Collection.

The many distinguished individuals who feature among the correspondents include Lord Callaghan, Lord Denning, Jo Grimond, Sir Edward Heath, Robert Rhodes James, Neil Kinnock, John Major, Sir Wyn Roberts and Lord Shinwell.

Aberdare Nationalist
Mr D. Leslie Davies of Aberdare has deposited a substantial group of additional personal papers relating mainly to the energetic activities of the local Plaid Cymru group within the Rhondda-Cynon-Taff area during the 1980s and 1990s. Many of the papers relate to local, parliamentary and European elections. They remain under embargo until the year 2020.