THE YES ROAD

The twelfth Annual Lecture of the Welsh Political Archive entitled 'The Yes Road: a Reflection on Two Devolution Campaigns' was delivered at the Old College of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, on 6 November 1998 by the distinguished political journalist and author Dr Neal Ascherson.

Ever since the 1950s Dr Ascherson has regularly contributed articles and columns to the Manchester Guardian, The Scotsman, The Observer and the Independent on Sunday. Among the many distinguished works which he has penned are The Polish August (1981), The Struggles for Poland (1987), Games with Shadows (1988) and Black Sea (1995).

He has received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Strathclyde, Edinburgh and the Open University, and among the many accolades which have come his way are the James Cameron Award in 1989, the David Watt Memorial Prize in 1991 and the George Orwell Award of Political Quarterly in 1993.

Such was Dr Ascherson's reputation and the absorbing interest of the subject that a very large audience assembled to hear a masterly exposition of the 1979 and 1997 referenda north of the border.

A keen participant in both campaigns, during the course of the lecture Dr Ascherson quoted several vivid diary entries which he had penned at the time and which captured admirably the popular mood in Scotland. He examined the social and political complexion of the years of the Thatcher and Major governments, detecting strands which helped to determine the outcome of the 1997 referendum. Members of the audience readily appreciated the many striking and revealing parallels between the Scottish situation and contemporary Welsh experiences.

The lecture will be published by the Library during 1999.

CREST CONFERENCE

The three members of staff responsible for the Welsh Political Archive attended the 1998 CREST Conference (convened in association with the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the British Academy) at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff on 18 September 1998.

The theme of the one-day conference was 'Wales and Scotland: Nations Again?'. Chaired by Huw Edwards of the BBC, the nine lectures and presentations examined various aspects of the current devolution debate, most notably the 1997 Referendum votes in Wales and Scotland, and plans to establish national assemblies in the two countries.

The brief inaugural address was delivered by M. S. Jones. Sir Richard Wyn Jones and Mr Dafydd Trystan of the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth gave an impressive analysis of the September 1997 referendum in Wales. Mr Trystan and Mr Geoff Evans of CREST, Nuffield College, Oxford, subsequently asked 'Why Was Wales Different?', comparing the outcome of the 1997 referenda with those of 1979.

The highlight of the day was the British Academy lecture 'Wales Devolution: the Past and the Future' delivered by Professor Kenneth O. Morgan FBA. Principal Derek Llwyd Morgan took the chair.

The proceedings of the Conference (together with a few additional contributions) are to be published as a volume, edited by Bridget Taylor and Katarina Thomson, by the University of Wales Press in the spring of 1999. It will be eagerly anticipated.

At the Conference WFTA displayed a small exhibition of ephemeral literature deriving from the 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns during the 1979 and 1997 referenda in Wales. It was subsequently available for inspection in the foyer of the National Library.
NEW LIBRARIAN
On 1 October 1998 Mr Andrew Green assumed his duties as the ninth Librarian of the National Library of Wales. Aged 45, and a native of Wakefield, Mr Green was formerly Director of Library and Information Services at the University of Wales, Swansea.

He is a Classics graduate of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and was also a student at the former College of Librarianship Wales at Llanbadarn Fawr. He has also held professional posts at the University of Wales, Cardiff and the University of Sheffield. He is the author of several important bibliographical works, and has served as the Chairman of the Welsh Library Association. *Ex officio* he will chair the meetings of the WPA Advisory Committee.

Mr Green succeeds Dr J. Lionel Madden who retired at the end of September after serving as NLW Librarian for four and a half years. Dr Madden was of great assistance to those members of staff who are responsible for the running of the WPA, and we all wish him a long, fruitful and very happy retirement.

LLYFR Y GANRIF
The millennium will be celebrated by the National Library with the publication, in conjunction with Y Lolfa, of a substantial 450 page volume called *Llyfr y Ganrif*.

*Llyfr y Ganrif* will chronicle the history of Wales in the twentieth century year by year by combining interesting news stories with over 750 black-and-white and colour illustrations.

According to the volume's general editor, Gwyn Jenkins, 'The content is presented in a lively and graphic way, with four pages for each year. This will be an indispensable volume for everyone who has an interest in Wales and its recent history'.

A leaflet is enclosed in this newsletter which provides an opportunity for everyone to order the volume at a discounted price of £25.

Labour History
Nia Mai Williams, assistant archivist to the WPA, was its representative at a meeting of the Archives and Resources Sub-Committee of the Society for the Study of Labour History at the National Museum of Labour History, Manchester, on 1 October 1998.

The main subject for discussion was the Buildings Gazetteer Project, an ambitious attempt to record buildings of significance in the history of the Labour movement.

The Co-operative movement was chosen as a topic for the next conference which is to be held at Manchester in April 1999. The next meeting of the sub-committee will be convened at the National Library on 11 March 1999.

For further details about the SSLH see http://facstaff.ualw.edu/sslh/home.html.

Tribute to Lloyd George
The Library has been able to purchase a lengthy typescript letter, dated 20 April 1945, from Sir Leo Amery to Frances, the Dowager Countess Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, in which he pays tribute to Lloyd George who had died during the previous month.

He went on, 'I shall never forget those months in the spring of 1918 when he and Lord Milner and Henry Wilson settled things every morning before the Cabinet meeting, mostly walking up and down the garden of Downing Street, while I walked alongside of them taking notes for subsequent action'.

Amery concluded that a comparison of Lloyd George and Churchill would be 'an interesting speculation'. Lloyd George, he felt, 'had not the same grasp of war in the narrower sense, but a much wider grasp of the many other factors which come into the picture of war on the modern scale. In other ways it would be difficult to imagine two more wholly dissimilar types of mind and character'.

Election Songs
Another recent accession is a large volume of press cuttings comprising mainly election songs in Welsh from the 'Peers v. the People' general election of January 1910 which resulted from Lloyd George's famous 'People's Budget' of the previous year.

The following verse was written in support of the candidature of Liberal candidate Henry Haydn Jones in Merionethshire:

Mae'r ffywdr wedi dyfod o ddifrif yr yw lad
A glewion felibyn rhaddodd
Yn mynd yn lleni'r gad
Cwrtynedd yr Arglwyddi
gyllideb dde: Sir Llwyd Am iddo drefu ei ddod
yn lle roi treth yr fwyd
HUW T. EDWARDS
PAPERS
A detailed catalogue has been prepared of the important group of papers of Dr Huw T. Edwards (1892-1970) originally deposited at the Library during 1973-74.

Born at Ro-wen in the Conway valley in 1892, Huw T. Edwards left school at 14 years of age to earn his living at the Penmaen-mawr granite quarry, soon afterwards running away to work in the coal mines of south Wales. He was at Tonypandy at the time of the 1911 strike and riots.

Wounded severely during the First World War, he returned to the granite quarries of north Wales where he helped to establish branches of both the Labour Party and the Transport and General Workers' Union. He acted as agent to the Labour candidate in the Caernarfon Boroughs constituency in the general election of May 1929. In 1932 he was appointed to a post with the TCWU at Its Shotton office, and served as secretary for the North Wales and Ellesmere Port area, 1934-53.

Dr Edwards was the first Chairman of the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire from 1949, dramatically resigning from this position in 1958. He was also closely associated with an array of public bodies in Wales, among them the Welsh Tourist Board, TWW, the National Eisteddfod, and the Wales Gas Board. For a time he owned the Welsh newspaper Y Faner.

A lifelong socialist and member of the Labour Party, Huw T. Edwards became an active member of Plaid Cymru from 1959 until 1965. He was also President of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg. He published two volumes of reminiscences in both Welsh and English.

The papers include a rich array of correspondence including letters from Hugh Dalton MP, Ithel Davies, Archbishop C. A. H. Green, Emrys Hughes MP, Sir Henry Haydn Jones MP, J. Arthur Price and Sir John Simon MP.

There is also an important group of papers - correspondence, memoranda, reports, policy documents and parliamentary publications - assembled by Ellis Davies as an active member of Lloyd George's Land Enquiry Committee in the mid-1920s, the body which drafted the contentious proposals of the infamous 'Green Book', The Land and the Nation (1925).

Other items of interest include papers concerning the Calvinistic Methodist Bill, 1933, a bound volume endorsed 'Addresses and Essays by Ellis W. Davies', papers relating to the activities of the Council of Action for Peace and Reconstruction in the late 1950s, speech notes, and a large group of press cuttings mainly of political interest.

Ellis Davies' career is of especial interest. On at least one occasion with David Lloyd George, he was defeated by a Coalition Liberal candidate in the 'Coupon' general election of December 1918. Much later, from 1936 until 1938, he was a member of the Labour Party, but he resigned in December of the latter year because of his opposition to the party's foreign policy. On occasion he was prone to endorse the thinking of Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru.

ELLIS W. DAVIES
PAPERS
The Archive was delighted to receive, through the generosity of Mr Richard H. Ellis Davies of Caernarfon, a substantial supplementary group of the papers of his father, Ellis W. Davies, Liberal MP for the Eifion division of Caernarfonshire, 1906-18, and Denbighshire, 1923-29.

The original group of Davies's correspondence and journals was donated to the Library following the death of Sir Idris Ffoster in 1984 (see Newsletter, no 1, p. 3).

The present group includes a rich corpus of correspondence including letters from Hugh Dalton MP, Ithel Davies, Archbishop C. A. H. Green, Emrys Hughes MP, Sir Henry Haydn Jones MP, J. Arthur Price and Sir John Simon MP.

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THEORY VIDEO
Miss Beata Brookes has presented two videos of the 1995 and 1996 Conservative Party Conferences, and a further video circulated to the constituencies by Conservative Party headquarters.

They are now in the custody of the Sound and Moving Image Collection.

PEACE SHOP
Following the recent closure of the Peace Shop in Cardiff, its remaining stocks of publications - journal issues and pamphlet material - have been donated to the Library's Department of Printed Books.

LORD Elwyn-Jones
Mr D. H. O. Owen, Registrar of the Privy Council Office at Downing Street, has kindly donated three office diaries, 1977-79, kept by former Labour Lord Chancellor Lord Elwyn-Jones (1909-89). These were accompanied by typescript lists of his speeches and overseas engagements, 1974-79. They have been added to the extensive archive of the papers of Lord Elwyn-Jones already in the custody of the Library.
A notable campaigner for housing reform and other social problems, Edgar Chappell served on a number of government enquiries before his appointment in 1912 as Secretary to the Welsh Housing Association. He published widely on housing and town planning, served on the Cardiff RDC and the Glamorgan County Council, and wrote three important volumes on the history of South Wales.

His papers reflect his wide-ranging interests and activities including housing and public health, industrial unrest, agricultural wages, local government and post-war reconstruction, and the Melingriffith Tinplate Works. There are also six scrapbooks of articles penned by Mr Chappell, correspondence files and groups of press cuttings.

The Library has also purchased a copy of a valuable Local History Diploma Dissertation by E. M. Humphreys, ‘Edgar Leyshon Chappell (1879-1949): a Biography’ accepted by University College, Cardiff in 1993. It has been designated N.L.W. faces 913.

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**John Osmond Papers**

The Archive was pleased to receive a group of papers, 1962-98, accumulated by writer and journalist Mr John Osmond, a founder member and former Chairman of the Parliament for Wales Campaign. Mr Osmond is currently Director of the Institute for Welsh Affairs.

The Parliament for Wales Campaign, which grew out of the Cardiff-based Campaign for a Welsh Senate, was a cross-party, non-party organisation, established in the wake of the 1977 general election to secure support for an elected legislative assembly or parliament for Wales.

The papers include correspondence, minutes of meetings, strategy documents, press releases and press cuttings. The correspondents include Artur Carlile, Tom Ellis, Gwynfor Evans, Peter Hain MP, Lord Hooson, Lord Prystow Davies and Rhodri Morgan MP.

Some of the papers dating from 1955-96 concern the proposed Government for Wales Bill, among them several letters written by Judge Dewi Watkin Powell. Others relate to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly.

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**Welsh Language Society**

A very large additional group of the records of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (The Welsh Language Society), spanning the period from 1963 until 1996, has come to hand.

The records derive from all aspects of the Movement's activities and include correspondence, papers concerning individual cells and regional groups, administrative records, papers relating to various campaigns and groups, financial records and many volumes of press cuttings.

The permission of the Society's officials is required in order to examine the records.

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**Dr. William George, his wife Anita and their son W.R.P. George**

Typing has been completed of the catalogue of the extensive papers of William George, brother of David Lloyd George, purchased by the Library in 1989. The catalogue, which runs to some 760 pages, contains detailed descriptions of the 8273 items within the archive. It will soon be available in the catalogue room of the Department of Manuscripts, bound in three substantial volumes.

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**Enoch Powell**

Members of the WPA Advisory Committee continue to enrich its holdings. The latest donation from Mr D. Elwyn Jones includes the texts of speeches delivered by the Right Hon. J. Enoch Powell at Scarborough in January 1970 and at Blackpool in October 1981.

He has also donated a copy of a spoof publication, the

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**Liberal Biography**


This comprehensive volume contains concise biographies of over 200 individuals who have made major contributions to the Liberal Party, the SDP or the Liberal Democrats. More than 120 writers, including J. Graham Jones of the WPA, have contributed to the work.

Among the Welsh Liberal politicians who have entries in this seminal work are Alex Carlile, E. Clement Davies, Lady Megan Lloyd George, Lord Hooson, Lord Geraint Ponterwys, Sir Rhys Hopkin Morris, Richard Livsey and Sir Alfred Mond.

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Printed at The National Library of Wales