THE NEW POLITICS
OF THE NEW WALES

Recent months, dominated by elections, have been a historic period for Wales. The first election for the National Assembly for Wales and the county council elections took place on 6 May, and the elections for Europe and the town and community councils were held on 10 June.

In spite of the low turnout on both occasions, they were exciting elections on many accounts. A new voting system was introduced, the results were unexpected in many areas, and more women candidates were elected than have previously been in Wales.

The distribution of seats after the constituency and regional votes were counted was:

- The Labour Party: 28
- Plaid Cymru: 17
- The Party of Wales: 17
- Conservative Party: 9
- Liberal Democrats: 6

European Elections

The Assembly met for the first time on 12 May and the opening ceremony was on 26 May. Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, was chosen as First Secretary of the Assembly, Dafydd Elis-Thomas as the Presiding Officer and Jane Davidson as deputy Presiding Officer.

The Cabinet comprises First Secretary and a number of Assembly Secretaries who are responsible for individual subject areas, namely Rhodri Morgan (Economy), Christine Gwyther (Agriculture), Andrew Davies (Business), Edwina Hart (Finance), Rosemary Butler (Education up to age 16), Jane Huitt (Health), Peter Law (Environment), and Tom Middlehurst (Education 16+).

The Assembly is served by subject committees, regional committees, an audit committee and a subordinate legislation scrutiny committee.

The new Labour new Wales

Llafur newydd
Cymru newydd

Europe

The European elections were also conducted using a proportional representation system, where Wales was one of 87 regions in the United Kingdom.

The five successful candidates to represent Wales in Europe are: Glenny Kinnock and Eluned Morgan (Labour); Jillian Evans and Eurig Wyn (Plaid Cymru); and Jonathan Evans (Conservative).

Election ephemera

The WPA would like to thank everyone who collected the leaflets which came into their possession for us. By now we have a reasonably complete collection of leaflets for the assembly election and for the European elections, as well as some leaflets that were distributed for the council elections. We have leaflets from the four main political parties in Wales as well as some leaflets from the Socialist Labour Party, Green Party, Natural Law Party, Tourism and Farmers and others.

THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE
ANNUAL LECTURE. 1999

Lord Prys-Davies
'Dafylygadu gwleisidiaeth Cymru yn ystod yr yngnined gairif:
[Welsh political development in the twentieth century]
The Old College, Aberystwyth
5.30 p.m. Friday, 5 November, 1999
The Welsh Political Archive, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales. SY23 3BU
Tel: 01970 632878
Fax: 01970 632883

For further information please contact John Watts-Williams or Nia Mai Williams

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, posters, photographs, and tapes of radio and television programmes.

Advisory committee members
Mr Andrew Green (Librarian), Dr Denis Baisom, Professor Deidre Beckloe, Dr Andrew Bold, Miss Beatia Brookes, Mr Cymog Dafis MP AM, Mr Aled Biriug, Mr Tom Ellis, Mr Gwyn Griffiths, Professor Delyn Hopkin, Professor Aled Jones, Mr D Elwyn Jones, Mr D I Jones, Emeritus Professor leuan Gwynedd Jones, Mr Martin Mansfield, Professor Kenneth O Morgan, Mrs Julie Morgan MP, Mr Ellis Owen, and five members of NLW staff

Look and Listen

The Welsh Political Archive in co-operation with The Sound and Moving Image Collection has recorded a number of lectures in the field during the last few months.

On 4 February a keynote address by Ron Davies MP on the subject of ‘Devolution: A Process not an Event’ organised by the Institute of Welsh Affairs was recorded at the National Museum and Gallery in Cardiff.

In February we also recorded two speeches in the Old College, Aberystwyth, one on agriculture by Dafydd Wigley MP, and a lecture by Alun Michael MP about the forthcoming Assembly.

We have also received a tape recording of Dafydd Wigley MP launching Rhodri Glyn Thomas’ successful campaign in the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency in Llanddarg in March.

The World Wide Web

Some sites of interest:
- The latest editions of the WPA newsletters
  www.nlw.org.uk/cf/leto089.htm#newsletters
- The National Library of Wales
  www.nlw.org.uk
- The National Assembly for Wales, including daily statements
  www.wales.gov.uk/assembly.dbs
- Institute of Welsh Politics, Aberystwyth
  www.aber.ac.uk/~wpwww/index.html
- HMSO
  www.hmso.gov.uk
- National Register of Archives
  www.hnc.gov.uk

CD-ROM and Microfilm

- The Library has purchased a CD-ROM of Cabinet Papers, 1957-63, during Harold Macmillan’s premiership. It is available on NLW’s CD-ROM network, and the name and subject indexes make it a convenient way to study the documents which are held at the Public Record Office, London.
- Additional microfilms of the Cabinet Papers, part 5, Oct 1964-Dec 1968, covering the Harold Wilson government have also been purchased.
- We have received a copy of the ‘Just Say No’ campaign website on CD from the web site designer Jeremy Clulow of Webs Wonder Design.

The Digital Assembly

The Sound and Moving Image Collection have been recording the Assembly sessions that have been shown so far on television and on digital S4C, and aim to concentrate on recording the Assembly proceedings once the digital S4C2 channel is set up.

Some sessions of Welsh Questions at the House of Commons, broadcast on the digital station ‘BBC Parliament’ have also been recorded.

They have also recorded extensively material relating to the recent elections, including party political broadcasts, news and current affairs programmes and coverage of the election results. Although concentrating on programmes broadcast on S4C, Radio Cymru and Radio Wales, a selection of BBC2, Radio 4 and Radio 5 programmes have also been recorded.

The collection also includes material of a more general political interest, for example material relating to General Elections, the referendum ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ campaigns, and the devolution debates in the House of Commons and House of Lords in 1978.

Department of Pictures and Maps

Among the most recent deposits to the Department of Pictures and Maps there are photographs of interest to WPA. Here is a list of the photo book numbers for the collections:
- Cledwyn Hughes, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, [2388].
- George Thomas, Viscount Towymp, [2428].
- Miss Nans Jones, Cardiff, Plaid Cymru women’s group organiser [2500].
- Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg [2885-9].

The above picture shows Gwynfor Evans, J. E. Jones and Harri Webb on a train in 1967. Gwynfor Evans was returning from his visit to Cambodia and is seen reading an article about himself in the Hong Kong Times which he had bought that morning.
(Miss Nans Jones collection. © Western Mail)

Among the items displayed were attractive photographs, diaries and notebooks kept by Ellis while he was a student, notes for some of his most important political speeches, papers relating to his election campaigns and the striking testimonial which was presented to him by his colleagues at the Liberal Party headquarters on the occasion of his marriage.

Mrs Mari Ellis kindly loaned for the exhibition a plate which was produced to commemorate T. E. Ellis’s life, and a bronze medal which was presented to school children for raising money towards the cost of constructing his statue in Bala. The monument was unveiled by the politician John Morley on 7 October 1903.

T. E. Ellis married Annie J. Davies, Cwrtmawr, Llanbedrog on 1 June 1888. Their only son, Thomas Iorwerth, was born eight months after his father’s death. His widow is Mrs Mari Ellis of Aberystwyth. It is intended to arrange a small exhibition in memory of T. I. Ellis (1889-1970) at the Library later this year.

To mark the centenary of the death of T. E. Ellis MP a substantial exhibition of documents and photographs was prepared by J Graham Jones.

T. E. Ellis was born on 16 February 1859 at Cyran, Cefnffrwd, near Bala. He was educated at Llandderfel British School, Bangor Grammar School, the UCW, Aberystwyth and New College, Oxford, where he graduated with an honours degree in modern history in 1884.

He earned a living as a journalist and a private tutor before being elected the Liberal MP for Merioneth in July 1886. From the outset he showed an interest in Welsh affairs and became an active participant in the activities of Cymru Ffald (‘Young Wales’).

In 1892 T. E. Ellis became the second whip in W. E. Gladstone’s last government, and two years later he was promoted to Liberal chief whip by Lord Rosebery. He played a prominent part in securing the appointment of the Royal Commission on Land in Wales, and the introduction of measures for the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales. He suffered from ill health for many years and died prematurely on 5 April 1899 at Cannes, when only forty years old.

The exhibition included numerous letters drafted by T. E. Ellis discussing the major political issues of the time. It also displayed letters to him from some of the leading political figures of the 1880s and 1890s, including William Abraham ( ‘Mabon’ ), Michael Davitt, Samuel T. Evans, Thomas Gee, David

drawing to a close. The press and media will probably lead this process over the coming months, but a more permanent element perhaps will be the appearance of a brand new volume entitled *Llyfr y Ganrif*.

*Llyfr y Ganrif* will be published by the National Library in partnership with the Loila in October. Its purpose is to examine Welsh history in the twentieth century year by year. It will be a weighty 450 pages, in journalistic format. As well as about a dozen stories for each year, it will contain over 750 black-and-white and colour photographs.

Naturally, the book will include a considerable amount of the century’s political history, much of it taken from sources in the WPA. It begins with Keir Hardie, who, as well as advocating socialism, called for a Welsh parliament, and finishes a century later with the opening of the Welsh National Assembly.

Also included are the stories of:
- the suffragettes, including a picture of the bomb they planted in the home of Lloyd George
- the miners’ campaigns, from Tonypandy to the Tower colliery
- Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg and CND protests
- eminent politicians from Lloyd George, Aneurin Bevan and Jim Griffiths to Neil Kinnock, Gwynfor Evans and Ron Davies.

Order a copy of *Llyfr y Ganrif* in advance for a discounted price, and have your name printed in the book. The brochure is included in this newsletter. This is the ideal gift to mark the millennium.
CO-OP

On 12 March the Library extended a welcome to the Society for the Study of Labour History Archives and Resources Sub-committee.

Members came from London and Manchester to the meeting, the first in Aberystwyth since WPA has been represented on the committee.

The main business was the arrangement of the annual conference, the theme of which this year was 'Co-operation and Consumerism', the history of the Co-operative movement.

The conference was held successfully at the Co-operative Union Library in Manchester on 24 April.

Subjects discussed included the role of the co-operative movement in adult education, the holdings of the Co-operative Union archives, the National Co-operative Film Archive, and the development of the movement outside its stronghold of north west England.

Dr Huw T. Edwards

Mrs Eleri Huws and Mr Sioned Williams have converted into a donation the papers of their grandfather, Dr Huw T. Edwards, trade union leader and public figure, previously on deposit at the Library, and lifted the restriction formerly placed on the correspondence.

An additional group of papers has also been received comprising correspondence, 1920-69, letters of condolence on his death in 1970, diaries, 1964-5, personal papers and press cuttings.

Cliff Bere

Additional papers, 1933-98, accumulated by Cliff Bere (1915-97), one of the founder members of the Welsh Republican Movement, have now been catalogued.

The papers comprise material relating to the Welsh Republican Movement, 'Coffiwr', Free Wales Army, 'Cymdeithas Cyfamod y Gwir yr Rhydd' together with other personal and political papers.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Further Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gwynedd papers, 1960-92, were deposited by Dr Dylan Phillips, Aberaeron, relating mainly to the Gwynedd division and the Ddeddf Eiddo / Property Act Committee.

RON DAVIES - 12 MIO GARCHAR DROS DDDEDF EIDDO

We have received further papers, 1997-8, relating to the Newport West Labour Party, and to local trade union activities in the constituency.

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Cynog Dafis

We have received additional papers from Cynog Dafis MP AM, 1992-7, relating to the partnership between Plaid Cymru and the Green Party in Ceredigion including correspondence with Chris Busby and Jonathon Porritt.

Cynog Dafis addressing a meeting of the World Development Movement at the National Eisteddfod, 1998 [199800492/31]

Plaid Cymru

Further papers, 1996-8, have been deposited from the Plaid Cymru office in Cardiff, and a small collection of papers relating to the activities of Plaid Cymru in Carmarthen, 1966-75, have been donated by Mr Richard Huws, Aberystwyth.

Ieuwan Wyn Jones

Further papers, 1987-96, of Ieuwan Wyn Jones MP AM, including constituency correspondence and files on specific subjects such as industry and small businesses, housing, MANWEB, Stena Sealink, care in the community and transport.

We advise readers to enquire about the conditions placed on the papers before visiting the Library. Many recent WPA acquisitions have restrictions on access or photocopying.