The National Library has just published a 95-page illustrated booklet compiled by assistant archivist Dr J Graham Jones describing the contents of the seven archives relating to Liberal Prime Minister David Lloyd George (1863-1945) and members of his family in the custody of the Library.

Back in 1910, after Lloyd George, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had awarded a government grant to develop the National Library, his colleague Sir John Herbert Lewis, MP for Flintshire, was effusive in his gratitude for this ‘courageous act’, commenting, ‘The Library will be at, I hope, a very distant date, your literary mausoleum’. By now, this hope has been largely fulfilled.

Although the most extensive Lloyd George archive is in the custody of the Parliamentary Archive at the House of Lords, the National Library is now home to no fewer than seven major Lloyd George archives, six of them acquired during the last twenty years.

The booklet outlines the contents of each of these collections and draws attention to the more historically significant items by quoting liberally from the correspondence and other documents, among them the fascinating runs of letters from Lloyd George to his first wife Dame Margaret, his brother William and his revered uncle Richard Lloyd.

The booklet also includes an outline chronology of Lloyd George’s career, details of Lloyd George archives held elsewhere (notably the Parliamentary Archive and the Public Record Office), photographs and cartoons, and a bibliography of biographies and other monographs which are especially helpful to the student of Lloyd George and the Liberal Party.

The author is a prolific writer on twentieth century Welsh political history and a specialist on Lloyd George’s life and career.

The book is available from the Library (01970 632858) for £4.99 plus postage and packing.
Out of the People: A century in Labour

The Welsh Political Archive annual lecture was held on 3 November 2000. In the year in which the Labour Party was celebrating its centenary, Professor Dai Smith was invited to be our guest speaker.

He examined the relationship between Labour politics and the culture of the Welsh working class during the past 100 years.

The provocative lecture examined the nature of the support for the Labour Party in Wales and the reasons behind that traditional hegemony in the Labour heartlands. In doing so he looked at the culture of the people from whom the Labour Party came: their history, class consciousness and ideals.

Some of the strongest influences on their politics were the General Strike of 1926, the Central Labour College and the South Wales Miners’ Federation or ‘The Fed’. Keir Hardie and Aneurin Bevan were amongst the Labour politicians who represented the people and reflected their culture.

This culture has been portrayed in literature and the arts, and Dai Smith commented on some of the portrayals of which he approved and disapproved.

Professor Dai Smith is an authority on the political and cultural history of Wales and is the author of the official history of the South Wales miners. He has also written a book Aneurin Bevan and the world of South Wales (1993), and is currently writing a study of the novelist and social historian, Raymond Williams. He is Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glamorgan.

Copies of the lecture are available from the Library (01970 632858) for £4.00, including postage and packing.
The Library has been delighted to receive the archive of the personal, political and family papers of Eirene Lloyd White, the Baroness White of Rhymney (1909-1999).

Eirene White became Labour MP for East Flint in 1950 and represented the constituency until 1970. In 1950 she was elected one of the first Welsh women MPs, along with Megan Lloyd George (Anglesey) and Dorothy Rees (Barry).

She contested Flintshire unsuccessfully in the Labour interest in 1945, and then turned to journalism by representing both the Manchester Evening News and the BBC at the House of Commons. In 1948 she married fellow Commons lobby correspondent John Cameron White (1911-1968).

When Labour returned to power under Harold Wilson in 1964 she became parliamentary private secretary at the Colonial Office, in 1966 Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and in 1967 Minister of State at the Welsh Office where she served diligently for three years, mainly under George Thomas.

Having also served as Chairman of the Labour Party during 1968-69, she resolved to retire from the Commons at the general election of June 1970, and subsequently entered the House of Lords as Baroness White of Rhymney.

During her lengthy sojourn in the upper chamber, Lady White held a wide array of public offices, among them a large number within Wales. She was also an indefatigable Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords from 1979 to 1989.

The archive
The Eirene White Papers have been divided into six classes of papers. Class P includes notably rich files of incoming letters, 1928-99, most deriving from her busy political and public life, many of them penned by prominent British and Welsh politicians and public figures.

These include James Callaghan, Dr Huw T. Edwards, Hugh Gaitskell, Lady Megan Lloyd George, Cledwyn Hughes, Roy Jenkins, George Bernard Shaw, Shirley Williams and Harold Wilson. It also contains a run of her pocket diaries, 1936-84, and files of papers deriving from her student days at Oxford and her extensive foreign travels.

Within Class L are files of papers concerning her domestic political interests and foreign affairs. Of particular interest to the Welsh Political Archive are the fascinating papers concerning the political life of the Flintshire East constituency, especially the general election campaigns of the years from 1945 to 1966. They cast important light on Labour Party organisation in a relatively marginal, semi-industrialised division which Lady White succeeded in retaining for fully twenty years, 1950-1970.

The papers in Class C relate to Lady White’s multifarious activities, interests and public work outside politics, while those in Class W concern Welsh affairs and political life.

Class E relates to educational themes, notably the activities of the University Grants Committee, Coleg Harlech and the University of Wales and its Institute of Science and Technology.

Lady White was the daughter of Dr Thomas Jones CH (1870-1955), the distinguished Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet under four successive prime ministers. Within the family papers in Class F are important letters and papers concerning him which complement admirably the magnificent archive of his papers which have previously been donated to the Library. This class also includes significant papers relating to John White’s life and journalistic career, and to some other members of the family.

Finally, Class R is composed of a large group of printed and typescript materials, including an array of press cuttings. The papers have been fully catalogued and are not subject to any restriction of access.
We have received additional papers of the late Donald Coleman, who was MP for Neath, 1964-91, mainly relating to his work in the Council of Europe, the House of Commons and the Labour Party, 1965-90.

We have purchased further microfilm copies of local Labour Party records, namely the Swansea Trades Council and Labour Party Records, 1902-84, (MFL 58) which are held at the West Glamorgan Archive Service; and the Newport Constituency Labour Party records, 1912-77, (MFL 59) which are held at the University of Wales, Swansea. Also, we have purchased additional microfilms of Cabinet papers, up to 1970 (MFL 55).

We have received further papers and correspondence of the late Lord Tonypandy, including correspondence with MPs and members of the House of Lords, 1994-95.

A copy of an unpublished typescript article on William George (1820-64), father of Lloyd George, was donated by Mr Alan Hitch FLA (NLW ex 2079).

We have collected further papers from Bert Pearce, a prominent member of the Communist Party in Wales which include minutes of the Welsh Communist Party Congress, papers relating to the Communist Party of Great Britain and the Democratic Left, election leaflets, policy documents and various papers relating to devolution and left wing organisations, c.1950-90.

Also papers, c.1960-95, from a fellow Communist in Cardiff, the late Ronald Garrett-Jones, have come to hand.

Plaid Cymru / The Party of Wales records, c.1995-2000, including papers relating to the National Assembly of Wales, elections, conferences, the executive committee, subject files, and general correspondence.

Neil Evans of Harlech has donated correspondence, 1967, discussing the TGWU and the formation of a TUC for Wales, with various newsletters and pamphlets, 1970-74 (NLW ex 2076).

We have received further papers of Clive Betts, the Western Mail’s Assembly editor, predominantly relating to the National Assembly for Wales, 1998-2000.

We were successful in acquiring additional papers of the economist Nassau William Senior (1790-1864) in an auction at Sotheby’s recently (NLW 23857-60).


Wales Nicaraguan Solidarity Campaign papers accumulated by Mike Webb, 1985-95, comprising papers relating to the Nicaraguan Election of 1990, environmental organisations and projects, Central America and the Ocotal region, the Tom Hargreaves Memorial Fund, and the Môn and Arfon Central America Group.

General Election 2001
The Prescott punch, or the results in Ynys Môn and Carmarthen East and Dinefwr? Whatever your memories of the General Election, the candidates’ election literature is kept by WPA. We would like to extend thanks to all those who responded to our successful appeal for election ephemera.

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.