

Of Princes, Power and Plots...

The annual lecture of the Welsh Political Archive, instituted in 1987, has become an important date in the Aberystwyth calendar. Each year large, enthusiastic audiences have gathered in the examination hall of the University's Old College on the prom in early November to hear a succession of unfailingly memorable, well delivered lectures, each of which has subsequently been published as a pamphlet by the Library.

The archive lecturer in November 2001 was Mr Hywel Williams, a native of Bangor, educated at Llandeilo, Swansea and St John's College, Cambridge, where he subsequently taught both English and history. A further stint as a teacher at Rugby School preceded his appointment to the staff of the *Sunday Telegraph*.

His period as a cabinet adviser on Welsh affairs during John Major's premiership gave him an unique insight into the role of an adviser. His well received volume *Guilty Men: Conservative Decline and Fall, 1992-1997* (1998) analysed the dissolution of the British Conservative Party as a party of government. Hywel Williams is currently writing Cassell's *Chronology of World History* and a companion volume *A Short History of the*



Mr Andrew Green, NLW Librarian, with Mr Hywel Williams and Dr R. Brinley Jones, NLW President

World. Many of his columns published in *The Guardian* provide its readership with the historical background to contemporary events, both at home and abroad.

In a stimulating, incisive lecture, Hywel Williams looked at the role of the governmental adviser from the time of the ancient civilisations of Greece, Rome and Egypt to contemporary Britain and the USA. With breathtaking speed and dexterity we were conveyed from the world of Machiavelli to Tsarist Russia, from the court of Louis IV to Henry Kissinger, from Lloyd George to Ay, King of Egypt, 1323-1319 BC. A perceptive, original slant was provided on the work of historian Sir Lewis Namier on behalf of Israel.

The lecturer, who served

during the remarkable period of John Redwood as Secretary of State for Wales, depicts his employer viewing 'the question of Wales' as 'an intellectual exercise in modern administration' and shrewdly capable of seeing the connections between the

functions of government 'in those pre-Assembly days of elected despotism'.

Those unable to be present at this thought-provoking lecture will be pleased to know that it is already available in print from the Library.

Welsh Political Archive

Annual Lecture 2002

Professor R. Merfyn Jones
School of History
University of Wales Bangor

The Old College, Aberystwyth

5.30 p.m. Friday, 1 November

Welsh Political Archive

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 Balsom, Mr Ian Barton,
Emeritus Professor Deirdre Beddoe,
Miss Beata Brookes, Mr Cynog Dafis
AM, Mr Darron Dupré, Mr Aled
Eirug, Mr Tom Ellis, Mr Gwyn
Griffiths, Mr Adam Higgitt, Professor
Deian Hopkin, Mr Dafydd Llyr
James, Professor Aled Jones,
Mr D Elwyn Jones, Mr D L Jones,
Lord Morgan of Aberdyfi, Mrs Julie
Morgan MP, Emeritus Professor
D. Hywel E. Roberts and five
members of NLW staff.

For further information please
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'The Visitor's Experience'

Under the banner of 'The Visitor's Experience', an initiative funded jointly by the Lottery Heritage Banner, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Library,

new facilities will soon be available for readers and visitors, among them during 2002 a new access point on ground level, a foyer, shop and restaurant, and an exhibition area to display items from our collections.

An education area for use by schools will follow. When the second phase is completed early in 2004, the Library will have a new auditorium providing conference and meeting facilities with the facility to display material from the

Screen and Sound Archive, and a further exhibition of the Library's most notable priceless treasures.



The new NLW logo

Re-structuring at the NLW

On 18 January 2002 the National Library underwent the most far reaching transformation of its internal structure in its 95 year history.

The internal re-organisation was initiated in January. The traditional curatorial departments – Manuscripts and Records, Printed Books, and Pictures and Maps – no longer exist. They have been replaced by three new departments: Collections Services (Director: Gwyn Jenkins), Public Services (Director: Dr Rhidian Griffiths) and Corporate Services (Director: Mark Mainwaring). It is to be hoped that this new structure will enable the Library to respond to the challenge of new developments and meet effectively its core functions.

The Welsh Political Archive is now located within the Archival Data Section (Assistant director: Glyn Parry) in the Collections Services Department. Dr J. Graham Jones, long serving assistant archivist at the Library and a specialist on twentieth century political history, is now responsible for the day-to-day running of the Archive and its activities.

Lloyd George goes digital

The National Library, as part of the ambitious 'Gathering the Jewels' project, is about to digitize the long sequence of 3,300 letters, spanning the years 1888–1917, from Lloyd George to his younger brother William which form part of the William George Papers purchased by the Library back in 1989.

The original letters will be microfilmed and no longer issued to readers for conservation reasons. Thereafter they will be digitized together with the detailed descriptions of each individual letter prepared some years ago.

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.

Sir O. M. Edwards Papers

A definitive catalogue has been completed of the extensive papers of Sir Owen M. Edwards (1858-1920) originally donated to the Library by his daughter-in-law Lady Eirys M. Edwards, Aberystwyth, in July 1980.

Edwards, a native of Llanuwchllyn, was educated at Bala College, the young University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Balliol College, Oxford, where he joined the Dafydd ap Gwilym Society, and became close friends with many prominent Welshmen such as Edward Anwyl, J. Puleston Jones, John Morris-Jones and D. Lleufer Thomas.

Having spent the year 1888-89 on the Continent, he was appointed Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, where he remained until 1907, rendering notably diligent service as a tutor. From 1890 onwards he also began to edit a number of periodicals among them *Cymru Fydd* (begun in 1890), *Cymru* (1891), *Cymru'r Plant* (1892), *Wales* (1894), *Y Llenor* (1895) and *Heddyw* (1897). In addition, he published several volumes such as the popular history *Wales* (1901) and re-published some of the Welsh classics. He also served as Liberal MP for his native Merionethshire in 1899-1900 as successor to Thomas Edward Ellis MP.

From 1907 until his premature death in 1920, Edwards served as the first Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales under the aegis of the new Welsh Department of the Board of Education. He was responsible for encouraging the teaching of the Welsh language and did much to improve the atmosphere of schools in Wales.

The Papers

The papers have been divided into four groups while cataloguing. Group A comprises correspondence, notably letters, 1882-1920, from O. M. Edwards to his parents, brothers, wife and children (section AF), and a very rich body of letters, 1880-1920, from a host of contemporary public figures, many discussing important themes in Welsh life (section AG). Section AD consists of diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks and



The last photograph of O. M. Edwards

commonplace books, 1875-1920, kept by O. M. Edwards.

Group B contains O. M. Edwards's professional correspondence files, 1907-20, while he was Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales, notebooks which he kept during these years giving details of visits to individual schools, and records, 1892-1920, relating to his publishing interests.

Group C comprises family papers, among them important groups of letters from Lady Ellen Edwards, and from their two children Haf and Ifan ab Owen Edwards. Group D contains various papers assembled together with a view to publishing a full-scale biography of O. M. Edwards.

BOOKS

Margaret Siriol Colley, *Gareth Jones: a Manchukuo Incident* (Newark, 2001).

A fascinating, thoroughly researched, well written volume penned by Gareth Jones's niece. The work contains the results of the author's exhaustive researches over many years into her uncle's extensive world-wide travels and the circumstances of his death at the hands of 'bandits' in Inner Mongolia in August 1935. A small group of his papers are held at the Library, donated by his sister Miss Gwyneth Vaughan Jones of Barry in 1987. Interested readers may consult the Gareth Jones website maintained by the family at www.colley.co.uk/garethjones.

Recent acquisitions



The late Robin Reeves

Robin Reeves Papers

Through the kindness of Mrs Rosanne Reeves, Dinas Powis, the Library has received a substantial group of papers of Robin Reeves (1941–2001), best known as the successful editor of the *New Welsh Review* for the last decade. Most of the papers date from the period 1978 to 1986 and many have a strong political interest. Mr Reeves was an active Plaid Cymru local councillor for many years, and maintained an abiding interest in devolution, bilingual education and economic themes. He was a stalwart of the Parliament for Wales campaign and prominent within other bodies such as the St Davids Forum. A fuller account of the papers will appear in a future number of the *Newsletter*.

Dr Thomas Jones CH

Professor Dr Adam Jones of Leipzig has added important groups of letters to the papers of Dr Thomas Jones CH (1870–1955) already held by the Library. They comprise correspondence, 1930–38, between TJ and his son Tristan (Professor Adam Jones's father), together with

letters, 1933–53, from David Astor to TJ. These have been added to classes WW2 and XX2-4 in the Dr Thomas Jones Papers.

Assembly Building

The Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG has donated an interesting group of papers, 1990–2000, relating to the selection of the architect and the design concept for the new Welsh National Assembly Building in 1998. The successful architect was eventually the Richard Rogers Partnership. Most of Lord Callaghan's papers are in the custody of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Welsh Communist Party Archive

Mr Bert Pearce of Cardiff, a former Welsh secretary of the Communist Party, has presented a further large group of papers spanning the years 1940 to 2000. They include files concerning the Communist Party and the Democratic Left, devolution, the peace movement and the Vietnam war, industry, notably coal mining in south Wales, and local and parliamentary elections. This extensive archive will be described in greater detail in a future *Newsletter*.

Water and Gas

The Board of Celtic Studies has donated a copy of an extensive research report on the Welsh water industry, primarily in north-east Wales. The research project was undertaken by Mr Owen Roberts under the direction of Professor Aled Jones and Dr Richard Coopey at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. It has been designated NLW ex 2118.

Mr Richard Davies of the Galleries of Wales has presented, on behalf of the National Museum, a large scrapbook of press cuttings taken from national and Welsh newspapers on the British gas industry between 1967 and 1969. It is now NLW ex 2114.

Ogmore by-election

Thanks to the unfailing support of our network of contacts in the constituencies, we have succeeded in acquiring a near complete set of election addresses and other ephemera circulated by the political parties during the recent by-election in the Ogmore division occasioned by the death of Sir Ray Powell. The WPA is always delighted to receive further material of this kind.

J. E. Daniel letters

Mr J. I. Daniel of Bangor has donated to the Library an important group of letters, some of political interest, addressed to prominent Welsh scholar and Plaid Cymru activist J. E. Daniel. They are now available under the call number NLW MS 23,870.

Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign

Through the generosity of Mr Ben Gregory and Mr Mike Webb, additional papers, 1985–96, have come to hand relating to the Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign and the Môn and Arfon Central America Group. Further groups of papers are expected in the near future. Mr Gregory has also donated the records, 1998–2001, of the Jubilee 2000 Wales Campaign, an international movement which advocated a debt-free beginning to the millennium through the cancellation of international debts.