Among the papers of W. Llewelyn Williams MP (1867 – 1922) recently donated to The National Library by His Honour Judge T. Michael Evans of Swansea, a member of his family, is a very detailed diary which he kept at sporadic intervals between January 1906 and November 1915. Williams was elected the Liberal MP for the Carmarthen Boroughs division in the great Liberal landslide of January 1906 and continued to represent the constituency until the end of the First World War. He was also the unsuccessful Asquithian (Independent) Liberal candidate in the famous Cardiganshire by-election of February 1921.

A former schoolmaster, barrister and journalist, Llewelyn Williams was one of the pillars of the Cymru Fydd movement from 1886 and built up a very close friendship with Lloyd George. This rapport was cruelly broken by a disagreement over the necessity to introduce military conscription in 1916, and the rift was never subsequently healed.

Following his first election to the House of Commons, Williams wrote in his diary, ‘I feel quite unworthy of it all. One feels that one can do so little, & one fears the poor people expect so much. It has, at all events, driven all cynicism out of one's nature, & made me determined to do all I can to serve Wales & her dear people faithfully & loyally... I am glad to be given the chance of taking a part in the good work’. (Diary entry for 17 January 1906.)

On the last few pages of the diary, its author reflects with great heartfelt sadness on the ruines of his erstwhile friendship with Lloyd George: ‘I have felt it bitterly. I have not slept for nights on end except fitfully & uneasily...I have followed & loved him for a quarter of a century. Now, I fear, it is all at an end... I never thought he would have so lightly thrown away a proved & loyal friendship’. (Diary entry for 26 November 1915.)

It is hoped to publish the text of the diary, with an introduction and explanatory notes, in sections in The National Library of Wales Journal during 2007 and 2008.
The autumn of 2005 saw the publication of one of the most extensive and impressive political biographies ever published in Wales – *Gwynfor: Rhag Pob Brad* by Rhys Evans, editor of *Dragon’s Eye* and a member of the WPA advisory committee. The volume, which runs to 544 enthralling pages, was published by Gwasg y Lolfa, Talybont. The main launch meeting was held at Cardiff on the evening of 9 November 2005 at a ceremony sponsored by Lord Elis-Thomas, presiding officer of the National Assembly for Wales.

A second launch meeting was convened at Y Drwm, The National Library of Wales on the evening of Thursday, 17 November 2006 when, predictably, a large audience gathered for the occasion. It was gratifying to be able to welcome several members of Gwynfor Evans’s family to the Library for the occasion. Dr Richard Wyn Jones, Director of the Institute of Welsh Politics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and an active member of the WPA advisory committee, chaired the occasion with his customary aplomb. The audience was addressed by Mr Garmon Gruffudd, managing director of Gwasg y Lolfa, Mr Rhys Evans, and Dr J. Graham Jones, Head of the Welsh Political Archive at the National Library, who had recently completed a full bilingual catalogue, now available to the public, of the extensive correspondence and papers of Dr Gwynfor Evans.

Dr Jones explained how Dr Evans’s extensive papers had been arranged while sorting and cataloguing, and drew attention to some of the more interesting items in their midst such as those relating to Tryweryn, the famous 1966 by-election in Carmarthenshire, and the campaign to reserve S4C as a channel for Welsh language programmes.

He also gave the audience a practical ‘on-line’ demonstration of how to retrieve and order individual files of documents from within the archive.

It is pleasing to be able to record that an English version of *Gwynfor: Rhag Pob Brad* is in active preparation and should see the light of day before the end of 2006.

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**The Welsh Political Archive Lecture**
**Lord Crickhowell**
Friday 3 November at 5.30pm
Drwm, The National Library of Wales

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**Gareth Vaughan Jones (1905 – 1935)**

In the summer of 2005 Dr Siriol Colley of Nottingham published a very full biography of her uncle Gareth Vaughan Jones (1905 – 35), the highly distinguished linguist, journalist and author who tragically met his death at the hands of ‘bandits’ in Inner Mongolia on 12 August 1935. The impressive, highly readable volume, entitled *More Than a Grain of Truth*, bears the hallmark of extensive research and reading and is fully referenced and illustrated with many attractive photographs taken from the Jones family album. It is an admirable companion volume to Dr Colley’s previous book *Gareth Jones: a Manchukuo Incident* (2001) which focuses on Gareth’s final around-the-world journey in 1935 and the tragic circumstances of his untimely death. Further information about Gareth Jones is available on the website at [www.garethjones.org.uk](http://www.garethjones.org.uk)

A group of papers relating to Gareth Jones is in the custody of the National Library.

On 2 May 2006 a quite unique service of remembrance to Gareth Jones was held at the chapel of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth on Penllas campus in which the President of the University Lord Elystan-Morgan and its vice-chancellor Professor Noel Lloyd took part. This was followed by the unveiling of a trilingual (English, Welsh and Ukrainian) memorial plaque to Jones in the quadrangle of the Old College at Aberystwyth where he himself was an undergraduate studying French from 1922 until 1926. This was the first plaque to be unveiled in the quad for decades.
WPA Annual Lecture

The nineteenth annual lecture of the Welsh Political Archive was held in Y Drwm at the National Library on the evening of Friday, 4 November 2005. The lecturer was Mr Cynog Dafis, the former Plaid Cymru MP for Ceredigion and Pembroke North (later Ceredigion), 1992 – 2000, and the National Assembly member for Mid and North Wales, 1999 – 2003. In a most substantial, closely argued lecture in the Welsh language, he took as his theme ‘Plaid Cymru and the Greens: Flash in the Pan or a Lesson for the Future?’.

On the same day Cynog Dafis’s detailed autobiography entitled Mab y Pregethwr, published by Gwasg y Llofa, Talybont, was launched at the National Library shortly before the annual lecture and attracted a great deal of interest and much support.

In his lecture Cynog Dafis gave a very detailed account of the events, meetings and discussions which led to the historic 1992 pact between Plaid Cymru and the Green Party and his subsequent success as a joint candidate at the polls in Ceredigion and Pembroke North. He also looked at the fruits of the joint platform at Westminster and the unfortunate circumstances which eventually led to the demise of the pact in the summer of 1995.

Among the themes discussed in the lecture were the success achieved, in collaboration with the Green Party, in passing through parliament the Home Energy Conservation Act and the Road Traffic Reduction Act. Attention was also given to the establishment of the parliamentary group GLOBE UK which is responsible for co-ordinating parliamentary work for sustainable development in Britain and throughout the world. Cynog Dafis also outlined the way in which the National Assembly for Wales, set up in 1999, was given specific responsibility for promoting sustainable development in Wales.

The full text of the lecture is already available in both Welsh and English on the Library’s web pages under the section on the Welsh Political Archive, and the Welsh text will be made available in print very shortly in the next number of The National Library of Wales Journal.

Lloyd George and Dame Margaret

On Saturday, 28 January 2006 a highly successful open day was held at The National Library of Wales. One of the events was a lecture given to the Friends of the National Library by Dr J. Graham Jones, Head of the Welsh Political Archive. The theme of his lecture, which attracted a capacity audience, was ‘Lloyd George and Dame Margaret, 1921 – 41’. Dr Nesta Lloyd, chairman of the NLW Friends, took the chair.

Using the rich runs of Lloyd George correspondence and the original typescript diaries of A. J. Sylvestor, Lloyd George’s Principal Private Secretary from 1923 until his death in 1945, held at the National Library, together with the detailed diaries of Frances Stevenson in the custody of the Parliamentary Archive at the House of Lords, Dr Jones presented an interesting re-appraisal of the most bizarre triangular love story of the twentieth century.

He concluded that LG was deeply in love with both his wife and his mistress, who responded to different facets of his complex, emotional personality. Dame Margaret had built up an independent existence focussed on her beloved Criccieth home ‘Brynawelon’, its gardens, her children and a rich array of pursuits and activities in the locality, quite separate from her stressful, fraught life with her errant husband.

Those unable to attend the lecture will be pleased to know that it will be published in October in the Transactions of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society no. 67 (2006).

FOI Requests

Mr Rhys Evans, an active member of the WPA advisory committee, has kindly donated to the Archive copies of some exceptionally interesting files of material held at the National Archives at Kew. These relate to subjects such as the background to the establishment of S4C in 1982, the miners’ strike of 1984 – 85, the arson campaigns against Welsh second and holiday homes, and the activities of the Welsh Language Society. They have been designated NLW ex 2371. Professor Duncan Tanner of Bangor, another member of the WPA committee, has also donated material relating to the Second World War also received as a result of his FOI requests.
Recent Acquisitions

Cardiganshire Liberal Association

Through the good offices of Professor P. D. G. Thomas of Aberystwyth, an additional group of the records, 1950 – 1992, of the Cardiganshire Liberal Association has come to hand. A minute book covering the years 1950 – 1967 is of especial interest, while there are also a few papers concerning Lord Geraint of Ponterwyd. Professor Thomas has also donated a small group of records of the Welsh Liberal Association dating from the 1980s. These have been added to the archive groups already in the custody of the Library.

W. Llewelyn Williams Papers

His Honour Judge T. Michael Evans of Swansea has donated to the Library a small group of correspondence, diary material, printed items, memorabilia and press cuttings relating to the politician W. Llewelyn Williams (1867 – 1922), Liberal MP for the Carmarthen Boroughs from 1906 until 1918 and a close associate of David Lloyd George until 1916. The two men then quarrelled bitterly over the necessity to introduce military conscription at the height of the First World War. More papers are expected shortly.

Mr Neville C. Masterman of Swansea has also presented some papers relating to Llewelyn Williams, together with the extensive research notes and transcripts of documents which he had amassed concerning Williams. It was originally Mr Masterman’s intention to write a full-length biography of Llewelyn Williams.

Lloyd George sculptures

The Library was very pleased to be able to purchase a bronze copy of the head of David Lloyd George (1863 – 1945) prepared by the distinguished sculptor Michael Rizzello in 1960. The original statue was placed as the national memorial to Lloyd George at Cathays Park, Cardiff. At the same time a small maquette of the statue was purchased by the Library.

Lord Howe of Aberavon

Lord Howe has kindly donated to the Archive a photocopy of a scrapbook of material relating to his early political career in the Aberavon constituency in the 1950s. The material was assembled at the time by his father. It has been designated NLW Fac 1007. Lord Howe’s extensive papers have been deposited at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

SWMF Executive

Mr M. Thomas of Bristol has donated to the Library a rare picture, preserved in very good condition, of the members of the executive committee of the South Wales Miners Federation at Plas Tal-y-garn in June 1923. He has also donated a photograph of Mr Noah Rees, one of its most prominent activists, secretary of the Cambrian Lodge and one of the instigators of the Tonypandy riots in 1910.

Welsh Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign


1910 election addresses

The Library was very pleased to be able to purchase recently a substantial group of election addresses and leaflets (preserved in pristine condition) issued by candidates in various Glamorganshire constituencies during the two general election campaigns which took place in the year 1910. They include election material issued by, amongst others, Keir Hardie, Charles Butt Stanton, J. Hugh Edwards, Edgar Rees Jones, Sidney Robinson and Clement Edwards.

Carmarthen by-election, 1966

Through the kindness of Mr Peter Hughes Griffiths, Carmarthen, the WPA has received a substantial scrapbook containing literally hundreds of letters, telegrams and messages received by Dr Gwynfor Evans following his triumphant success in the Carmarthenshire by-election of July 1966. It contains communications from Saunders Lewis, Revd. Lewis Valentine and D. J. Williams. The volume has now been designated NLW ex 2383.