Biography for Huw T.

As anticipated, a large, enthusiastic audience gathered in Y DRWM on the evening of Friday, 13 July for the launch of yet another most significant political biography written in the Welsh language. Its subject is Dr Huw T. Edwards (1892 – 1970), the well-known north Wales political agent and trades union official who was chosen to become the first chairman of the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire in 1949.

The author of the splendid biography is Gwyn Jenkins, since 2002 Director of Collection Services at the NLW and previously Keeper of Manuscripts and Records from 1992. Beginning his researches in the 1980s, he was then able to interview many of Huw T.'s political associates and personal friends, all of whom have, sadly, since died.

The volume shows evidence of wide-ranging, meticulous, careful research embracing archival material, newspapers and many secondary sources. All have been woven into a highly readable, compelling narrative which is a major contribution to our understanding of the complex course of Welsh politics in the mid-twentieth century.

The volume is enhanced by many relevant photographs and has been most attractively produced by Gwasg y Lolfa, Talybont. It sells for just £14.95.

John Clement (1920 – 2007)

John Clement, a loyal member of the WPA committee from 1987 until 1995, died on 24 May at the age of 86. He was the son of a coalminer from Velindre near Swansea, and he served in the RAF during World War Two.

After the war his career in the Civil Service developed apace, specifically in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and later in the Welsh Office. He made a major contribution to the development of devolution in Wales, especially through his contribution to the Third Memorandum of the Council for Wales (1957) which led to the setting up of the Welsh Office.

At the time he was the Council’s Secretary who undertook the research which gave the document its authority. In the mid-1960s, he served as Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, Cledwyn Hughes, and he then became an Assistant Secretary responsible for economic planning in the Welsh Office.

The Welsh Political Archive Annual Lecture 2007

‘Sleeping with the Enemy: trade unions in Wales during the Thatcher years’ David Jenkins

Drwm, The National Library of Wales, Friday 2 November 2007, 5.30pm
WPA Advisory Committee

The advisory committee to the Welsh Political Archive met for the 38th occasion on Friday, 3 November 2006. It was unanimously decided to invite Lord Elystan-Morgan, the Labour MP for Cardiganshire from 1966 until February 1974, to deliver the Welsh Medium lecture in November 2008. Lord Elystan-Morgan has very kindly agreed to speak on the theme ‘Ambell Atgof Wleidyddol’ ['Some Political Reminiscences'] on 7 November 2008 – a date for the diaries.

At the committee meeting Mr Ian Barton of Lampeter intimated that he wished to step down – after several years of devoted and loyal membership. Mr Barton’s successor, representing the Liberal Democrats, is Dr Russell Deacon, Reader in Politics at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, and the author of The Governance of Wales: the Welsh Office and the Policy Process, 1964 – 99 (Cardiff, 2002). Dr Deacon is currently completing the first major history of the Liberal Party in Wales during the twentieth century, scheduled to be published by Welsh Academic Press.

Lord Rowlands, formerly Mr Ted Rowlands, the Labour MP for Cardiff North, 1966 – 1970, and Merthyr Tydfil (later Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney) from 1972 until 2001, has also very kindly agreed to join the committee. Lord Rowlands was an active and energetic member back in the 1980s, and we much look forward to his attendance and contribution.

NLW web pages

During the spring of 2007 the NLW web pages have been substantially revised and increased in scope and have been embellished with a large number of photographs and illustrations taken from the Library’s collections. These illustrations will be changed from time to time in the future. Six of these pages are devoted to the activities of the Welsh Political Archive. The pages on the WPA may be accessed at www.llgc.org.uk /index.php?id=503.

Peace Shop

Through the good offices of Mr George Crabb, the archives of the celebrated Peace Shop, Cardiff, which recently closed its doors, have come to hand. These comprise correspondence files, financial records, annual reports, publications and promotional materials relating to the various events and functions organised by the Peace Shop. The records complement many other archive groups held in the custody of the WPA.

Rhodri Morgan Papers

The Library was very pleased to receive a group of the political papers, formerly held at Portcullis House in Westminster, which the Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan had accumulated as the Labour MP for Cardiff West between 1987 and 2001. They comprise files of correspondence relating to various bills and acts of parliament, committees (including parliamentary select committees) and working parties with which Mr Morgan was involved, and a number of varied subject files. There is also material deriving from the donor’s official trips abroad. It may be hoped that his papers relating to the National Assembly for Wales may be added in due course.

Assembly Elections

Thanks to the unfailing support of our network of contacts in the Welsh constituencies and the readiness of the Welsh headquarters of the political parties, a near complete set has been collected of the manifestos, election addresses, leaflets and flyers distributed throughout Wales during the third elections to the National Assembly for Wales, 3 May 2007.

These have been added to the Welsh Political Ephemera Collection, as series BD3, and may be examined by readers. Relevant television and radio programmes have been recorded by the Screen and Sound Archive of Wales.

Why people are backing Rhodri’s Labour team to build a better Wales

Better for families

With Labour, families will be better off. Voting Labour will mean more children, better schools, healthier school meals and more free breakfasts in primary schools. Prescriptions will be kept free and families will get more money for baby bonds. Use your votes to help build a better Wales. Vote Labour on 3 May.

Rhodri Morgan AM’s leaflet for the 2007 Assembly Election

All welcome

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.

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Coalition Diaries

The Library has been able to purchase four published volumes of the diaries of The Coalition Diaries and Letters of H. A. L. Fisher, 1916 – 1922: the Historian in Lloyd George’s Cabinet, edited by Dr F. Russell Bryant, formerly of the University of Alabama. Fisher was appointed President of the Board of Trade by Lloyd George in December 1916 and was instrumental in framing the 1918 Education Act. He worked in close proximity to Lloyd George throughout his premiership and his diaries comprise a great deal of fascinating material, including occasional references to Welsh politics.
Devolution studies

Two substantial studies of Welsh devolution have appeared during the last year. The first is the fruit of the major research project recently sponsored by the ESRC and directed by Duncan Tanner of Bangor and Chris Williams of Swansea. Entitled *Debating Nationhood and Governance in Britain, 1995 – 1945: Perspectives from the ‘Four Nations’* (Manchester University Press, 2006), and edited by Duncan Tanner, Chris Williams, Wil Griffith and Andrew Edwards, the volume contains ten impressive essays on various aspects of devolution in the United Kingdom.

Three scholarly essays by Wil Griffith, Andrew Edwards and Chris Williams look at demands for devolution, Welsh national identity and government and issues of nation and class in Wales between 1885 and the end of the Second World War. An especially valuable article by Duncan Tanner examines the attitude of the British Labour Party towards devolution from its foundation in 1900 until 1945.

A second project monograph, devoted to the theme of devolution after 1945, will probably appear during 2009.

One of the most recent volumes in the acclaimed ‘Studies in Welsh History’ series published by the University of Wales Press is John Gilbert Evans, *Devolution in Wales: Claims and Responses, 1937 – 1979* (Cardiff, 2006), a pioneering study of devolutionary demands during a key period and the various responses of successive governments. During the course of his research, undertaken during the 1980s, the author made widespread use of many of the holdings of the Welsh Political Archive.

Centenary Exhibition

On 19 March 2007 The National Library of Wales celebrated the centenary of the grant of a royal charter for its establishment by King Edward VII. At the same time a royal charter was signed for the setting up of a National Museum for Wales.

The Library has consequently arranged a wide-ranging programme of events for 2007 comprising publications in English by Trevor Fishlock and in Welsh by Mererid Hopwood, a varied lecture programme, numerous television and radio programmes, and a major centenary exhibition filling the Gregynog Gallery and the Peniarth Room where several short films will also be shown including one of the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in May 1955. On 4 July, a plaque was unveiled on the wall of 10 the Old Assembly Rooms, Laura Place, Aberystwyth – the site of the original National Library before building commenced on the Penglais site.

The centenary exhibition contains much material of political interest including an original Lloyd George diary for 1886 and a letter, December 1916, from LG to his brother William.

Baroness White of Rhymney

Through the ready co-operation of the family of the late Mr Howard Moore, Abergavenny, a small additional group of the papers of Eirene White, Baroness White of Rhymney (1909 – 1999), has come to hand.

These include extensive groups of correspondence, including interesting letters exchanged between Lady White and her late husband Mr John White, especially during her official trips abroad. There are also letters to John White from his journalistic colleagues, press cuttings and printed matter. They have been added to the Lady White Papers.
Records of the advisory board to the Welsh Language Board dating from the 1970s to 1990, including material concerning the preparation of legislation and various working parties.

Additional correspondence and papers, many of political or scientific interest, of the late Professor Phil Williams of Aberystwyth (1939 – 2003), some concerning the organisation and activities of Plaid Cymru over a long period.

Mr Lee Waters: a copy of the Government of Wales Act, 1998, signed by Ron Davies and other prominent Welsh politicians. This was displayed in the NLW centenary exhibition.

Dr Guto Thomas: CDs of interviews with Lord Harlech, the British ambassador to Washington in the early 1960s. The original interviews are in the John F. Kennedy Library, Boston.

Professor Duncan Tanner: material from the Home Office archives at TNA concerning the 1969 Investiture at Caernarfon Castle.


Memoranda of agreements, 1922, relating to the publication of the Lloyd George War Memoirs, including book rights in the British Empire and the USA.


Six bound volumes of evidence presented to the Richard Commission on the Powers and Electoral Arrangements of the National Assembly for Wales.

Election addresses and leaflets deriving from the two by-elections in the Blaenau Gwent constituency, 29 June 2006.

### Clive Betts Papers

Mr Clive Betts has added a very large group of press releases and press cuttings which he had accumulated in the course of his work for Clive Betts Associates during recent years. Most of these relate to Welsh political life, many to the work and activities of the National Assembly for Wales. They have been added to the extensive archive of Clive Betts in the custody of the NLW.

### Political interviews

Mr Cedwyn Aled of Cardiff has very kindly donated to the Library a large number of tapes of the extensive interviews which he had with many prominent Welsh politicians between 2003 and 2005 when he was preparing the two television series Wales and War and Wales in Our Time. The interviews are far longer than the extracts which were broadcast on television. Among the many politicians interviewed were Leo Abse, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (the last formal interview which he ever gave), Lord Crickhowell, Ron Davies, Michael Foot, Lord and Lady Kinnoch, Alun Michael, Rhodri Morgan, Lord Morris of Aberavon, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas and Dafydd Wigley. The tapes are in the custody of the Screen and Sound Archive of Wales at the Library.

### Lord Crickhowell Lecture

Friday, 3 November 2006, the twentieth WPA annual lecture was held at Y DRWM at The National Library of Wales when Lord Crickhowell lectured on the theme ‘The Conservative Party and Wales, 1888 – 1998’. As anticipated, a large audience gathered to hear an absorbing lecture from Nicholas Edwards who had served as the Conservative MP for Pembrokeshire from 1970 until 1987 and as the Secretary of State for Wales during the key period of the first two Thatcher administrations, 1979 – 1987. Awarded a life peerage as Baron Crickhowell of Pont Esgob in 1987, he is currently an active member of the House of Lords. In a closely argued lecture, the speaker re-examined some of the themes which he had already discussed in his well-known autobiography Westminster, Wales and Water (Cardiff, 1999). He had previously visited the NLW to open the third library bookstack in March 1982.

Lord Crickhowell began his lecture by examining the attitude of various historians towards the record of the Conservative Party in relation to Wales and then re-appraised that record from the late nineteenth century onwards, particularly in connection with the disestablishment of the Welsh church and educational reforms. He looked at party policies for Wales during the long period of Conservative governments, 1951 – 1964, and the Heath government of 1970 – 74, when the author served his parliamentary apprenticeship.

The second part of the lecture looked at the Welsh record of the Thatcher and Major governments and considered broadcasting, the Welsh language, the economy (especially the coal and steel industries), economic investment and industrial re-birth, and the far-reaching Conservative ‘Programme for the Valleys’. The speaker then looked at events in rural Wales, heritage and the arts, and the exciting development of Cardiff Bay, changes in transport, health, local government reform housing and the role of the quangos. He evaluated the individual contribution of successive Conservative Secretaries of State for Wales between 1979 and 1997. The lecture ended with a consideration of the outcome of the 1997 general election in Wales and the fate of the Conservatives.

Lord Crickhowell answered several searching questions from a diverse audience, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Mr David Melding, a member of the WPA advisory committee. A much expanded text of the lecture, containing a great deal of new material and running to some 23,000 words, can already be read on the NLW website www.llgc.org.uk and in the 2006 number of The National Library of Wales Journal.