Wales AND Europe

For the first time the Welsh Political Archive has received the papers of a Member of the European Parliament at Strasbourg.

Miss Beata Brookes, MEP for the North Wales constituency from 1979 until 1989 has kindly donated a substantial group of papers reflecting the wide range of activities in which an MEP is involved.

Many of the files relate to Miss Brookes’ working relationship with the large number of county and district councils within the North Wales constituency, and others to the activities of a number of local Conservative Associations. Some comprise papers reflecting the legal and organizational aspects of the 1979 Euro-election in a huge constituency which clearly poses formidable problems of canvassing and organization. The sphere of influence of the Strasbourg Parliament is illustrated, in particular its award of grants and loans to north Wales industries.

Some papers reflect Miss Brookes’ personal interests, especially medical matters and agriculture. The problems of the mentally handicapped receive much attention, reflecting Miss Brookes’ active involvement in the activities of a number of local societies. The problems faced by the North Wales farming community, and the supportive role of the National Farmers’ Union and Undeb Amaethywr Cymru, are apparent from other files.

A large number of photographs also donated by Miss Brookes has been transferred to the custody of the Department of Pictures and Maps.

The standard Conservative Party embargo of twenty years has been applied to the papers. Searchers wishing to consult them are required to secure the written permission of Mr D Elwyn Jones, 17 Well Street, Rhuthun, Clwyd.
The Advisory Committee
The ninth meeting of the Welsh Political Archive’s Advisory Committee was held on 31 March 1989.

The Librarian welcomed a new member of the committee, Mr T Haydn Rees, and stated that Dr Terry Thomas of the SDP had agreed to join the committee but was unable to be present.

It was agreed that the Archive’s Annual Lecture for 1990 should be in the Welsh language and it was decided to invite Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos to deliver the Lecture.

It was reported that HTV Wales were prepared to consider sponsoring the Database of Welsh Election Results Project.

A report of the sub-committee on oral history was discussed and it was agreed that the project should be a joint initiative of the National Library of Wales and the History Department, UCW, Aberystwyth.

The present members of the Committee are:
- The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
- Dr Denis Balsom, UCW, Aberystwyth
- Professor Deidre Beddor, The Polytechnic of Wales
- Mr John Clement, formerly Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office
- Mr Emyr Daniel, Director of Programmes HTV
- Mr Andrew Davies, Assistant Organiser, Labour Party Wales
- Mr Tom Ellis (Welsh Social and Liberal Democrats)
- Mr Gwyn Griffiths (Welsh Social and Liberal Democrats)
- Lord Hooson (Welsh Social and Liberal Democrats)
- Dr Deian Hopkins, UCW, Aberystwyth
- Mr D Elwyn Jones, Conservative Party agent
- Professor Kenneth O Morgan, Principal, UCW, Aberystwyth
- Mr Gareth Price, Controller, BBC Wales
- Mr T Haydn M Rees
- Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament (The Labour Party)
- Dr Terry Thomas (SDP)
- Mr Dafydd Wigley, Member of Parliament (Plaid Cymru)
- Professor Gwyn A Williams

and from the National Library’s staff: Mr Daniel Huws, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beli Jones, Mr J Graham Jones and Mr Hefin Williams.

Database of Welsh Election Results
As a result of generous sponsorship by HTV Cymru: Wales, the Archive has been able to proceed with the Database of Welsh Election Results Project.

The aim of the project is to create a database on computer of all Welsh District, County, Parliamentary and European Elections from 1973 to date. During the summer vacation two students from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Olwen Ashforth and Anwen Jones, were employed to collect local government election results. They succeeded in listing most of the county and district results in Wales from 1973 to 1989. During the next few months these will be entered on computer and floppy discs and print-outs will be made available for use by researchers.

The Archive is grateful for the statistics provided by County and District Council Returning Officers.

Viscount Tonypandy
On 25 August, Viscount Tonypandy visited the National Library to show his biographer, the Rev Edwin Robertson, the large collection of papers which he has donated to the Archive.

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The Ian and Thalia Campbell Collection
Ian and Thalia Campbell of Borth, near Aberystwyth, have been involved with the Peace Movement and with Labour and trade union politics for many years. They have now deposited an extensive collection of papers in the Archive which reflect the wide range of their activities and interests.

Thalia Campbell, well-known for her colourful poster and banner designs, was one of the founder members of the Greenham Common Peace Camp. The collection includes correspondence, papers and leaflets, etc., 1981–88, relating to the Camp, to the ‘Peace Marches’ from Cardiff to Greenham Common, to the camp at RAF Brawdy, Dyfed, and to several other women’s peace camps. There are also papers concerning CND and many related peace campaigns.

Ian Campbell was the unsuccessful Labour candidate in the Ciwyd North West constituency in the 1983 General Election and in the North Wales constituency in the 1984 European Election. Papers from both these campaigns as well as from other Labour Party and trade union activities are included in the collection.

A substantial collection of photographs of protest meetings and marches have also been placed on deposit.

WELSH WOMEN'S LAST CHANCE TO STOP CRUISE?

The final crew for Cruise are already installed in the country. Time is fast running out. The first Cruise missiles could be in their silos at Greenham this summer. It is months after landing and blocking the base we want to bring our collective energy bear together in another mass action.

SO COME TO GREENHAM ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY FOR THE WELSH DAY OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S BLOCKADE (4am–8am July 5th and 8pm)

The aim of the action is to literally disrupt all work being done there. Women will be needed equally for being legal observer supporting and blockading. We will need about 1000 which is for each day!

For further information please ring Simpletyd 30029 or Cardiff 614273 as soon as possible. There will be a workshop in Cardiff on 27th June and a briefing session at Friday Meeting House, 36 Charles St Cardiff, on Sunday 3rd July, 2pm–6pm.

The Greenham women are taking on so much all the time for all of us. Let’s take some of the responsibility...

One of the many Greenham Common leaflets in the collection

Cyfweliad â Saunders Lewis

Yn gynharach eleni cyflwynodd Mr Cynog Dafis, Talgarreg, grŵp o bapurau i’r Archif yn ymwneud yn bennaf â Chymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg a’r ymgyrchoedd i sefydlu ysgolion ddiweddarach yn Aberystwyth, Cwm Gwendraeth, Llandysul a Chastell Newydd Emlyn.

Efallai mai’r ddogfen fwyaf arbennig yn y grŵp yw Ilyfrin sy’n cynnwys y nodiadau a luniwyd gan Cynog Dafis yn dilyn ei ymwyriad â Saunders Lewis ym 1966. Ar y pryd yr oedd Cynog Dafis yn Gadeirydd Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg a Saunders Lewis yn Llywydd. Oddilen y nodiadau, o’r amcan, o agweddu Saunders Lewis at Blaidd Cymru ar y pryd a’i symudar ar sut i ddatblygu’r ymgyrchoedd dros y Gymraeg.

(Among papers donated by Cynog Dafis are notes of his interview with Saunders Lewis in 1966).

Gwent Politicians

Two groups of papers relating to politics in Gwent have been kindly donated to the Archive.

Mr Paul Flynn MP has kindly donated three files of correspondence and papers, 1974–88, relating to Newport West Constituency Labour Party, the ‘M4 Group’ of Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidates, 1984–86 and on local, parliamentary and European elections.

(ref: Paul Flynn Papers)

Mr Jon Vaughan Jones, formerly a Gwent County Councillor, has donated a file of correspondence and papers mostly relating to local affairs and to the activities of Gwent County Council’s Labour Group, 1977–89.

(ref: NLW ex 1090)

Both these groups are subject to embargo. Papers less than 15 years old are not available without the permission of the donor.
Women’s Suffrage Society
The minute book, 1914–18, of the Llangollen branch of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies has been purchased by the Library. As well as minutes of meetings, the book contains printed annual reports 1917–18 and a few letters, 1919.

The minutes provide a fascinating insight into the activities of the N.U.W.S.S. during wartime. Although actively supporting the war effort, the Llangollen branch was also aware of the opportunities presented to press for female suffrage. In July 1916, for example, the following motion was sent to Sir Herbert Roberts, Member of Parliament for West Denbighshire:

‘That bearing in mind the Prime Minister’s declaration on July 19th 1916 that a Parliament elected upon a register from which all the men serving their country abroad should be excluded, would be wanting in moral authority, this Society considers that, after the splendid national services rendered by women during the present troubles, a Parliament elected on a register excluding women would be absolutely destitute of moral force or authority, and therefore presses for the grant of the suffrage to qualified women in any Franchise or Registration Bill that may be passed at the present time’.

The work of the Society came to an end in December 1918 when it was decided to wind up the Society. Members were recommended to join the National Council of Women. (ref.: NLW 226368).

Gwyn Griffiths Papers
Mr Gwyn Griffiths, who was the last chairman of the Welsh Liberal Party before it merged with the SDP in 1988 to form the Social and Liberal Democratic Party, has donated to the Archive a wide range of papers covering aspects of Liberal Party policy-making and campaigning.

Included are files relating to the Welsh League of Young Liberals, 1975–82, the Liberal Ecology Group, 1978–84, the Campaign for Electoral Reform, 1979–88, and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, 1979–88. The donor’s permission is required to see these papers.

Cenedlaetholwr ac Heddyrchwr
Cenedlaetholwr a garcharwyd yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd am wthod ag ymuno â’r fyddin oedd y diweddar Frank Jones. Llanrhyd 1913–1970. Y mae ei baparu, a ddaeth i law yn cdiweddar, yn cynnwys dogfennau yn ymwneud â’i gais i gael ei gofrestru’n wrthwynebedd cydwybodol ar dir cenedlaetholedd Cymreig, llwyf nodiadau yangyn â’r ymgrych i gael ffurfleni’r Drth Incwm yn yr iaith Gymraeg, 1930au, a phapurau amrywiol ar genedlaetholedeb a Phlaidd Cymru.

(Papers of Frank Jones (1913–1970), a conscientious objector and Welsh Nationalist).

Peace Movement
A prominent member of the Peace Movement in Wales, Dr Sheila Owen-Jones, Cardiff, has kindly donated posters, pamphlets, photographs and press-cuttings relating to ‘Women for Life on Earth’, including the Peace Marches from Cardiff to Greenham Common and to Brawdy, the Upper Heyford peace camp and protests at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Llanishen, Cardiff.

Papurau T G G Herbert
Y mae’r Cyngor Cymru fyr Tom Herbert, Aberaeron, wedi cyflwyno i’r Llyfrgell grwp bychan o bapurau sy’n deillio o’i weithgareddau fel aelod o Gyngor Sir Aberteifi cyn 1974 a Chyngho Dosbarth Ceredigion. Yn eu plith ceir papurau etholiadol, nodiadau ar gyfer ar etholiad, gwaith ddiadau a rhagleni, a gohebiaeth, y cyfan yn adlewyrchu prysurdeb gwr cyhoeddus a gweithgarwch aelod annibynnol o gynghorau lleol.

(Papers of Councillor Tom Herbert, Aberaeron).

Papurau Plaid Cymru Aberdâr
Yn Ebrill 1989, ychwanegodd Mr D Leslie Davies, Aberdâr, at y grwpiau o bapurau a gyflwynodd ym 1980, 1982 ac 1983. Y tro hwn y mae’r papurau yn cynnwys taleni etholiadol, torion o’r wasg a phosteri ym deillio o ymgrychoedd Plaid Cymru a’r Blaidd Lafur yng Nghwm Cynon a’r Ymgrych dros Senedd i Gymru, CND Cyrmru a Grŵp Cefnogi Nicaragua. Y mae angen caniatâd yr rhoddwr i weld y papurau hyn.

(Papers relating to Plaid Cymru and pressure groups in Aberdare have been donated by Mr D Leslie Davies).

Election Leaflets
As usual the Archive has been collecting the leaflets and pamphlets produced during the elections held this year. These include leaflets from the two parliamentary by-elections at Pontypridd and the Vale of Glamorgan, the European elections held in June and the County Council elections.