CYLCHLYTHYR YR

ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

RHIF 10 HYDREF 1990 No. 10 AUTUMN 1990

THREE LABOUR POLITICIANS

The Welsh Political Archive has received the papers of three prominent Labour politicians, — those of two former Cabinet Ministers, Lord Cledwyn and Lord Elwyn-Jones, and also those of a well-known back-bench MP, Leo Abse.

Lord Cledwyn's papers contain letters and documents covering much of his distinguished political career. Some files date from the period when he was Secretary of State for Wales, 1966–68, and Minister of Agriculture, 1968–70. However, the most important document is the diary kept intermittently by Lord Cledwyn between 1970 and 1978. Of particular interest are his notes on the resignation of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister in 1976 and the election of James Callaghan as his successor. As Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party at the time, Lord Cledwyn was responsible for organising the election.

Lord Cledwyn's papers, which are now being catalogued, remain under embargo.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, who died in 1989, bequeathed his political papers to the National Library. He was Solicitor-General in the Wilson government of the 1960s and became Lord

(continued on p. 2)

Os am fwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'r Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig cysyllter â: Gwyn Jenkins, Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU (ffôn: [0970] 623816).

For further information on the Welsh Political Archive contact: Gwyn Jenkins, The Welsh Political Archive, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU (tel: [0970] 623816).

The Advisory Committee

The eleventh meeting of the Welsh Political Archive's Advisory Committee was held on 6 April 1990.

The Chairman (the Librarian, Dr Brynley F. Roberts) reported that an important group of Lloyd George papers had been purchased recently. News of other accessions was given and possible donors were discussed.

It was resolved to invite Lord Blake to deliver the 1991 Annual Lecture.

The present members of the Committee are:

The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
Dr Denis Balsom, UCW, Aberystwyth
Professor Deidre Beddoe, 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
Mr Gwyn Griffiths, Chairman Welsh Liberal Democrats
Lord Hooson
Dr Deian Hopkin, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr D Elwyn Jones, Conservative Party agent
Professor Kenneth O Morgan, Principal, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr Gareth Price, Director of the Thomson International Foundation
Mr T M Haydn Rees, formerly Chief Executive Clwyd County Council
Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament
Dr Terry Thomas, SDP Development Officer
Mr Dafydd Wigley, Member of Parliament
Professor Gwyn A Williams
and from the National Library's staff: Mr Daniel Huws, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beti Jones, and Mr J Graham Jones.

Appointment

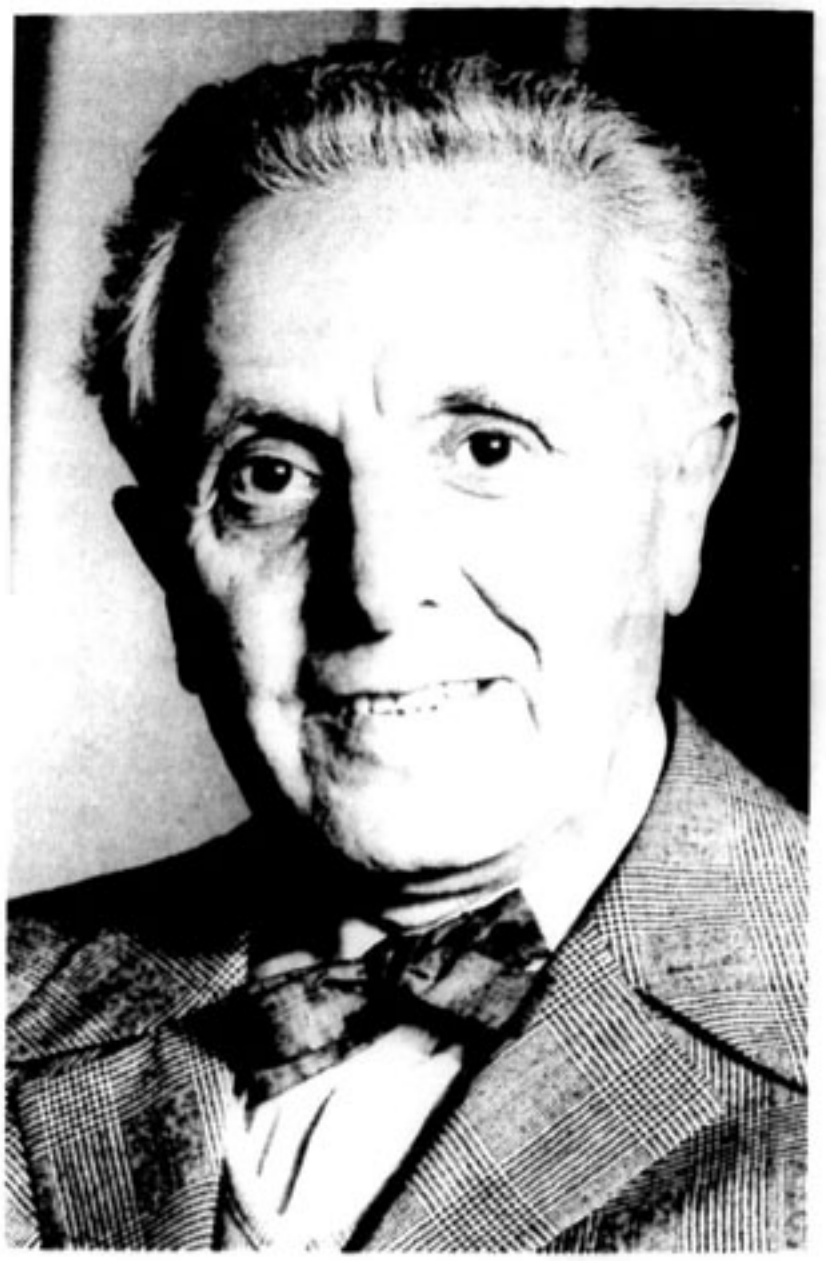
Ms Lowri Jones has been appointed Research Assistant to the Welsh Political Archive on a two year contract. Lowri, a graduate of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, is at present completing her Master's degree and will take up the post in January 1991.

Mr Hefin Williams, whose contract came to end in August, is now employed by another Department in the National Library.

Bu Hefin yn weithiwr dygn yn ystod ei gyfnod gyda'r Archif a dymunwn yn dda iddo yn ei swydd newydd.

(continued from p. 1)

Chancellor in 1974. Although some of the papers date back to the 1930s, the bulk of the correspondence dates from the 1980s. The work of listing the papers has almost been completed but in the meantime the papers are unavailable to readers.



Leo Abse's papers comprise over 600 files reflecting the career of a most colourful and active back-bench MP. There are files on divorce reform, homosexual rights, abortion reform and on the Committee on Welsh Affairs of which he was chairman during the early 1980s. The papers will remain under embargo until they have been catalogued in full.

DARLITHIAU'R ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE LECTURES

1. John Grigg, **Lloyd George and Wales** (1987). £1 · 50.
2. Kenneth O. Morgan, **The Red Dragon and the Red Flag: the cases of James Griffiths and Aneurin Bevan** (1988). £1 · 50.
3. David Marquand, **History Derailed? The Route to 1979** (1989). £1 · 75.

Post: + 50c/p y copi / per copy

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DARLITH YR ARGLWYDD CLEDWYN

Nos Wener, 2 Tachwedd, traddodwyd Darlith Flynyddol yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig gan yr Arglwydd Cledwyn. Ei destun oedd 'Cymru yn y ddau Dŷ' a daeth cynulleidfa sylweddol i Hen Neuadd, Coleg y Brifysgol, Aberystwyth, i wrando arno.

Cyhoeddir y Ddarlith gan y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn y Flwyddyn Newydd ond yn y cyfamser dyma ychydig o ddyfyniadau ohonni:

Y DDADL GYMREIG

'Tuedd y Saeson a llawer o'r Cymry oedd edrych ar Gymru fel sir fawr tebyg i Swydd Efrog, ond pan sefydlodd Herbert Morrison y ddadl Gymreig flynyddol ym 1946, teimlai llawer yng Nghymru a thu allan fod rhywbeth chwyldroadol wedi digwydd. Ond o ddarllen y dadleuon hyn yn *Hansard*, a chymerais ran ynddynt am flynyddoedd, fe welwch yn fuan iawn nad oeddynt lawer mwy na math ar seremoni neu ddefod. Arferiad y rhelyw o'r aelodau oedd defnyddio'r achlysur i dynnu sylw at broblemau yn eu hetholaethau ac yr oedd hynny'n ddigon naturiol a diniwed. Roedd yn gyfle hefyd i aelodau Lloegr fynd gartref at eu gwragedd am ddiwrnod.'

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG

' . . . yr oedd sefydlu'r Swyddfa Gymreig ym 1964 yn ddigwyddiad hanesyddol i Gymru. Dyma wlad fu heb brifddinas, heb weinidogion y goron a heb wasanaeth sifil, o'r diwedd yn ennill rhai o'i hiawnderau.

Os mai gwaith anodd fu'r ymgyrch i ennill Ysgrifennydd Gwladol a Swyddfa i Gymru, yr oedd sefydlu ac adeiladu'r Adran newydd hon o'r llywodraeth yr un mor anodd. Nid oedd iddi lawer o gyfeillion. Nid oedd adrannau eraill y llywodraeth fel Amaethyddiaeth ac Addysg yn barod i ollwng gafael ar ran o'u swyddogaeth; roeddynt yn ystyfnig i'r eithaf. Dyma un enghraifft. Pan yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol euthum i weld y Gweinidog Amaeth — yr oedd Syr Goronwy Daniel hefo mi — i ofyn i'r Gweinidog, Mr Fred Peart ar y pryd, i drosglwyddo y rhan Gymreig o'r diwydiant i'r Swyddfa Gymreig. Wedi dadl hallt gwrthod a wnaeth a gwelais fod eu weision sifil yn gryf yn erbyn. Ymhen ychydig fisoedd yr oeddwn yn sedd Mr Peart a daeth Mr George Thomas i ngweld gyda'r un cais. Gwnaeth y swyddogion eu gorau i'm perswadio i wrthod eto ond gwrthodais wrando arnynt a throsglwyddais y cyfan yn ôl y polisi a'r addewid a wnaed yn yr etholiad.'

TŶ'R ARGLWYDDI

'Gwyddoch yn dda fod sôn am ddiwygio Tŷ'r Arglwyddi ers canrif a mwy. Ac er fod deddfau 1911, 1949 a 1958 wedi newid ansawdd y lle a lleihau ei bwerau'n sylweddol iawn y mae'r angen am ddiwygio yn dal yn gryf petai ond am y ffaith na ellir amddiffyn ail siambr y senedd sydd â'r rhan fwyaf o lawer o'i aelodau yn etifeddol. Disgrifiad Lloyd George oedd: 'Six hundred men chosen at random from amongst the unemployed'. Ar yr un pryd y mae'r Tŷ fel y mae, ar waethaf ei wendidau yn gwneud gwaith pwysig yn arbennig trwy adolygu deddfwriaeth. Ond os bydd diwygio y mae'n bosibl y caiff Cymru a'r Alban le amlycach yn ei drefniadau. Fe gawn weld; beth bynnag a ddigwydd, ni fydd yn plesio pawb.'

(Extracts from the Archive's Annual Lecture by Lord Cledwyn. The lecture will be published in Welsh and English in the New Year).

Yr Arglwydd Cledwyn yn trafod y Ddarlith gyda'r Llyfrgellydd, Dr. Brynley F. Roberts a'r Llywydd, yr Athro J. Gwynn Williams.

DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Papurau Ben G Jones
Trwy garedigrwydd Mrs Menna Wynn Jones, Llundain, daeth i law'n ddiweddar grŵp sylweddol o bapurau ei gŵr, y diweddar Ben G Jones (1914–89), papurau sydd yn adlewyrchu ei rychwant eang o weithgarwch a diddordebau o fewn y brif ddinas ac yng Nghymru fel ei gilydd. Ceir amryw o ffeiliau'n tarddu o'i ymdrechion diflino dros Anrhydeddus Gymdeithas y Cymmrodorion (y bu'n Llywydd arni) dros gyfnod maith a'i gysylltiad agos â materion Coleg Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth, y bu'n fyfyriwr ynddo'n y 1930au cynnar.

O ddiddordeb arbennig i'r Archif Wleidyddol yw'r papurau'n ymwneud â'i ymgyrch egniol fel yr ymgeisydd Rhyddfrydol yn sir Feirionnydd yn etholiad cyffredinol 1959 pan ddaeth o fewn trwch blewyn i gipio'r sedd o ddwylo'r Blaid Lafur, a'i gysylltiad agos ag ymdrechion y Rhyddfrydwyr i lunio polisiau radicalaidd newydd i Gymru yn y 1960au cynnar. Mr Jones hefyd oedd cadeirydd Cyngor yr Iaith Gymraeg drwy gydol ei fodolaeth, 1973–8, a cheir nifer o ffeiliau'n tarddu o gyfarfodydd, gweithgarwch ac adroddiadau'r corff dylanwadol hwn.
(The papers of the late Ben G Jones, prominent London-Welshman and Liberal candidate in Merioneth in the 1959 General Election have been received).

Jeffrey Thomas Papers
Through the kindness of Mrs Valerie Thomas the Archive has been fortunate to receive the papers of her late husband Mr Jeffrey Thomas (1933–89) who served as the Member of Parliament for Abertillery from 1970 until 1983. His career is of particular interest because he joined the SDP early in its history in 1981, stood as the SDP candidate for Cardiff West in the general election of 1983, and subsequently re-joined the Labour Party in 1986. The papers are wide-ranging, reflecting his early life at Abertillery and student days at the University of London, where he served as the President of the Union; the latter group includes letters from Hugh Dalton and R H Tawney.

There is a large collection of constituency correspondence, papers relating to domestic politics and legal subjects in which Mr Thomas took an especial interest, and to foreign affairs, particularly the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Much of the correspondence derives from Mr Thomas's decision to join the SDP and the party's early attempts at policy formulation, and his final return to Labour.

The donor's permission is required to consult papers less than fifteen years old.

Aberystwyth Labour Party Records
A substantial group of the records of the Aberystwyth Labour Party, 1965–85, has come to hand. These include the secretaries' correspondence files, a minute book, membership lists, circulars, and a mass of printed material deriving from the Labour Party nationally and from an array of left-wing and Socialist groups. There are files of papers reflecting the work of the Welsh Council of Labour, general election preparations and party conferences.

An embargo applies to records less than fifteen years old.

D. Emlyn Thomas Papers
Mrs Margaret Morris, Aberdare, has added a further group of papers to the D. Emlyn Thomas collection (See *Newsletter*, no 7). Mr Thomas (1892–1954) was the Labour MP for the Aberdare division of Glamorganshire, 1946–54. These papers comprise mainly constituency correspondence, reflecting the problems which beset the communities of Aberdare and Moutain Ash after the Second World War, and a series of pocket diaries.

Paul Flynn Papers
A further group of the papers of Paul Flynn, Member of Parliament for Newport West has been received by the Archive (see *Newsletter*, no 8). The papers include files on local affairs and also relating to CND and the Campaign for a Welsh Assembly.

The papers are under a fifteen year embargo.

Gwrthwynebydd Cydwybodol
Ymhlith y papurau a ddaeth i law wedi marwolaeth y cyfreithiwr radical, Ithel Davies (1894–1989), y mae dros drichant o lythyron o'r cyfnod pryd yr oedd yn wrthwynebydd cydwybodol yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Cafodd Ithel Davies ei garcharu ym 1916 ac yn ogystal â'i lythyron at ei rieni a'i gyfeillion, ceir nifer o'r cerddi a gyfansoddodd yn y carchar. Hefyd yn y casgliad, y mae llythyron a phapurau yn ymwneud â gyrfa wleidyddol liwgar Ithel Davies.
(Papers of the late Ithel Davies include prison letters dating from the First World War when he was a conscientious objector).