CYLCHLYTHYR YR

ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

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TWO MINISTERS AND A PARTY PRESIDENT

The papers of two successive holders of the office of Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, and those of a former President of Plaid Cymru are among the most recent welcome additions to the WPA's holdings.

Ian Grist

Ian Grist, Conservative MP for Cardiff North, Feb 1974-1983 and Cardiff Central 1983-92, served as Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Welsh Office from 1987 to 1990, having had previous experience as PPS to the Secretary of State for Wales 1979-81. Mr Grist, who was one of the casualties in the general election earlier this year, has kindly donated to the National Library all his correspondence on constituency affairs 1974-92 together with files of letters and memoranda on subjects of wider significance such as abortion, devolution, immigration, and West Africa. These papers remain under embargo.

Nicholas Bennett

Nicholas Bennett, a former schoolmaster and London councillor, entered Parliament in 1987 as Conservative MP for Pembroke, the seat vacated by Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales 1979-87. He was a member of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee from 1987 to 1990 when he succeeded Ian Grist as Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Welsh Office. Defeated in the general election, Mr Bennett has kindly transferred to the Archive the files of papers he accumulated during his period as parliamentary representative of our most south-westerly constituency. These papers remain under embargo.

Dafydd Elis Thomas

Dafydd Elis Thomas, like Ian Grist, was first elected to Parliament at the general election of February 1974. After eighteen years as Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, and then Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, Dr Thomas stood down at the last election and recently became the first Plaid Cymru member of the House of Lords. From 1984 to 1991 he was the President of his party, and the papers he has collected over the years form an invaluable addition to the extensive Plaid Cymru Archive housed at the NLW. They amount to some 725 files on all manner of local, national and international issues. These papers remain under embargo.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The present members of the Advisory Committee are:
The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
Dr Denis Balsom, UCW, Aberystwyth
Professor Deirdre Beddoe, The University of Glamorgan
Miss Beata Brookes, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party in Wales
Mr John Clement, formerly Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office
Mr Emyr Daniel, Director of Programmes HTV
Dr Andrew Bold, Research Officer, Labour Party Wales
Mr Tom Ellis
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Mr D Elwyn Jones, Conservative Party agent
Mr D L Jones, House of Lords Library
Mr Simon Jones, Research & Administrative Officer, Wales TUC Cymru
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
Mr Dafydd Wigley, Member of Parliament
Professor Gwyn A Williams

and from the National Library's staff:
Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mr John Watts-Williams, Mrs Beti Jones, Mr J Graham Jones, and Miss Lowri Jones.

Dr Jane Morgan

It is with profound sadness that we record the death on 7 August of Dr Jane Morgan, wife of Advisory Committee member Professor K O Morgan. A historian in her own right, Dr Morgan had worked for the Board of Celtic Studies and for the Home Office at the Centre for Criminological Research at Oxford, and much of the fruit of her research is relevant to the study of Welsh political and social history. Besides two valuable guides to nineteenth and twentieth century parliamentary papers relating to Wales, Dr Morgan published three major works: (with her husband) *Portrait of a Progressive: The Political Career of Christopher, Viscount Addison* (1980); *Conflict and Order: The Police and Labour Disputes in England and Wales, 1900-1939* (1987); and (with Lucia Zedner) *Child Victims, Crime, Impact and Criminal Justice* which appeared earlier this year. We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Dr Morgan's family in their bereavement.

Prosiect

Penodwyd archifydd am ddwy flynedd i lunio catalog cynhwysfawr o gofysgrifau Plaid Cymru, yr archif fwyaf o eiddo plaid wleidyddol sydd o dan ofal y Llyfrgell. Dechreuodd David Pritchard o Nant Peris ar ei waith ar y dydd cyntaf o Fedi.

David Pritchard has begun a two-year project to catalogue the records of Plaid Cymru, the largest of the party archives so far deposited at the Library.

DERBYNIADAU/ACQUISITIONS

Ychwanegiadau gan roddwyr/adneuwyr cyson:
Additions made by regular donors/depositors:

Cynog Dafis AS: cydweithrediad rhwng Plaid Cymru a'r Blaid Werdd/*co-operation between Plaid Cymru and the Green Party.*

D Leslie Davies, Aberdâr: Plaid Cymru a'r Blaid Lafur yn etholaeth Cwm Cynon 1972-92/*Political activity in the Cynon Valley 1972-92.*

Viscount Tonypandy: correspondence 1992.

Dafydd Wigley AS: gohebiaeth etholaeth yn bennaf 1985-90/*correspondence 1985-90.*

Labour Party Wales: a fourth group of files including copies of executive committee minutes 1979-87, and other papers 1970-90 but mainly 1980s.

Newport West Labour Party: correspondence and papers 1986-92 including material concerning the recent general election.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg: papurau ychwanegol 1982-91.

Casgliadau newydd/*New collections:*

Rhymney Valley Campaign Against the Poll Tax: papers donated by its secretary, Ms B M Smith, include minutes, newsletters, correspondence, anti-poll tax songs, a script for an anti-poll tax video, and numerous other ephemera.

Point of Ayr Colliery: Mr Paul S Parry has kindly allowed the Archive to copy material he collected during the 1984-5 miners' strike with particular reference to the Point of Ayr Colliery in north east Wales.

CYHOEDDIADAU/PUBLICATIONS

Lord Blake, *An Incongruous Partnership: Lloyd George and Bonar Law* . Darlith yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig 1991. The 1991 Welsh Political Archive Lecture. £2.00. (Trwy'r post - £2.50 - By post).

Annwyl Kate, Annwyl Saunders: Gohebiaeth 1923-1983 gol. Dafydd Ifans. The Kate Roberts - Saunders Lewis letters 1923-83, edited by Dafydd Ifans. A remarkable mirror of political life. £15.00. (Trwy'r post - £16.00 - By post).

Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig
The Welsh Political Archive

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Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
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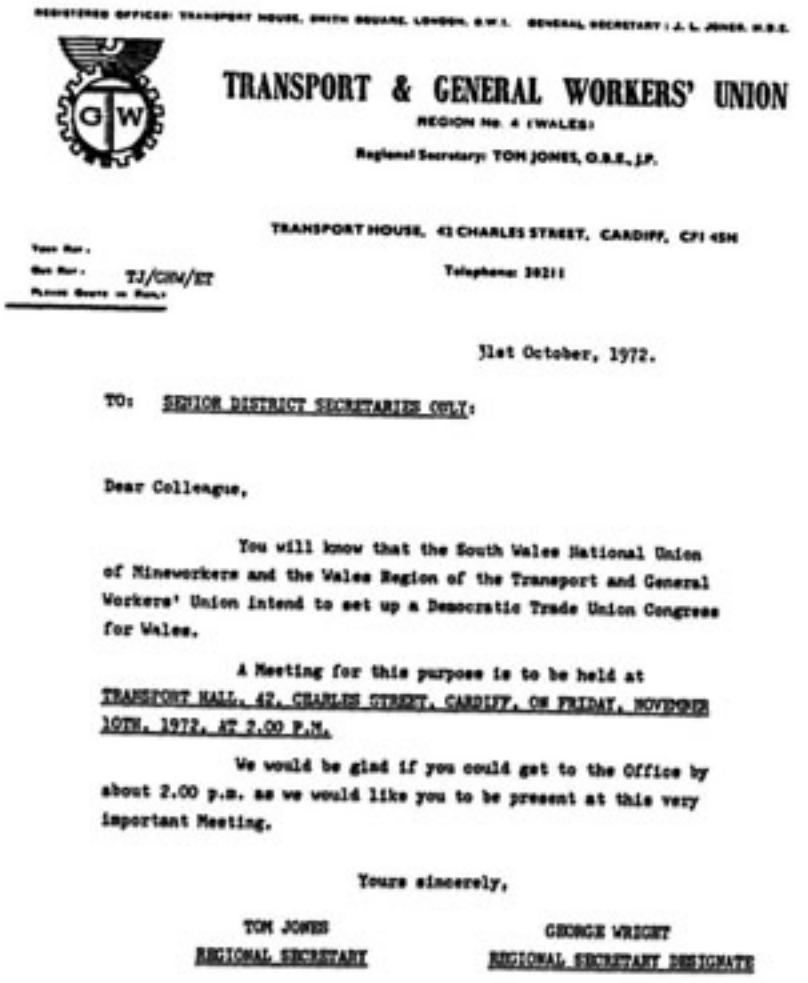
CONGRESS OR COUNCIL? THE BIRTH OF WALES TUC

The archives of Wales TUC Cymru were deposited in the WPA during the summer. This article examines how the Wales TUC came into being.

This winter sees the twentieth anniversary of a historic meeting for Welsh trade unionism. It was on 10 November 1972 that representatives of the Wales region of the Transport & General Workers' Union and the South Wales Area of the National Union of Mineworkers came together at Transport Hall in Cardiff to form "a Democratic Trades Union Congress for Wales".

The chief motivator, Tom Jones, Shotton, Regional Secretary of the TGWU in Wales, regarded the independent TUCs in Ireland and Scotland as possible models for a Welsh TUC. A Working Party was appointed at the November meeting to push the project forward, and early in January 1973 all the unions and trade councils in Wales received an invitation to send delegates to an Inaugural Congress to be held at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, on 10 February.



REGISTERED OFFICES: TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1. GENERAL SECRETARY: J. L. JONES, M.B.E.

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

REGION No. 4 (WALES)

Regional Secretary: TOM JONES, O.B.E., J.P.

TRANSPORT HOUSE, 42 CHARLES STREET, CARDIFF, CF1 4SH

Your Ref.:
Our Ref.: TJ/GW/ET
Please Quote in Reply

Telephone: 30211

31st October, 1972.

TO: SENIOR DISTRICT SECRETARIES ONLY:

Dear Colleague,

You will know that the South Wales National Union of Mineworkers and the Wales Region of the Transport and General Workers' Union intend to set up a Democratic Trade Union Congress for Wales.

A Meeting for this purpose is to be held at TRANSPORT HALL, 42, CHARLES STREET, CARDIFF, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 1972, AT 2.00 P.M.

We would be glad if you could get to the Office by about 2.00 p.m. as we would like you to be present at this very important Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

TOM JONES
REGIONAL SECRETARY

GEORGE WRIGHT
REGIONAL SECRETARY DESIGNATE

The British TUC, alarmed at the speed of these developments, made an urgent appeal to the sponsors of the proposed Wales TUC to defer action until the General Council had proceeded further with its review of TUC regional machinery. This failed to prevent the more defiant elements in Welsh trade union ranks from producing a good turn-out at Llandrindod, but did succeed in checking the momentum of events. The Working Party's recommendation that a Wales TUC should be established had an overwhelming majority in its favour, but it was passed in principle only and no further steps were taken to put the recommendation into practice at that stage.

There followed a frantic few months of discussion and negotiation in which the British TUC took more and more of the initiative. A "Second Wales Trades Union Congress" went off at Aberystwyth in May without an official launch, and by July the British TUC was able to ballot all its affiliated unions on a revolutionary document which was designed to reorganise its regional structure throughout England and Wales in line with the proposed changes in local government boundaries.

Wales was not to be allowed an independent congress comparable to the Scottish TUC. While the British TUC recognised the principality as an entity, the highest status it was prepared to concede was that of a regional council. "I do not want to see an independent Welsh TUC because that is not independence - it is apartheid" is how one speaker is reported to have put it during the debate on the issue which took place at the TUC's Annual Conference in Blackpool at the beginning of September (*Western Mail*, 'Welsh unions get council without teeth', 5 September 1973, p 6).

The drafting of the new organisation's constitution continued into the new year, and it was not until 27 April 1974 that the Wales Trades Union Council finally came into existence with Len Murray, General Secretary of the British TUC chairing the first session of its Inaugural Conference at Aberystwyth.

A verbatim transcript of proceedings at that first official conference is to be found among the Wales TUC Cymru Archive. The first elected chairman was Dai Francis of the NUM, who wound up the conference with a reminder of Wales's rich tradition of trade unionism and a rallying-cry to make the new organisation a vehicle for the realisation of Welsh workers' aspirations. Tom Jones, Shotton, was abroad and missed the conference, but Dai Francis ensured that the occasion did not slip by without a reference to "the tremendous part" he had played in preparing the way for the establishment of a Wales TUC.

DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Graham F Thomas Papers
One of the more remarkable of recent additions to the Archive is the latest group of correspondence donated by Graham F Thomas, the author of *Sudan 1950-1985: Death of a Dream*. In the 1940s, Mr Thomas, a native of Cwmavon and a graduate of University College, Cardiff, was an active Socialist, and his wife, Ismay, was well known in Wales as Women's Organiser for the Labour Party.

After standing unsuccessfully as a Labour candidate against Peter Thorneycroft in the Monmouth constituency in the 1950 general election, Mr Thomas spent some years overseas, firstly in the Sudan and then in Kenya, before returning to Britain as Warden of the Adult Management College in Buckinghamshire.

Among Graham Thomas's friends were James Griffiths (1890-1975, MP for Llanelli, 1936-70, and the first Secretary of State for Wales 1964-66) and Professor Hilary Marquand (1901-72, MP for Cardiff East, 1945-50, and for the East Division, Middlesbrough 1950-61), with both of whom he kept in touch on a more or less regular basis during his service abroad.

Over eighty letters written by Jim Griffiths between 1949 and 1972, and some sixty-five letters written by Prof. Marquand between 1945 and 1961 make up the bulk of Mr Thomas's donation. These letters not infrequently refer to current political events or trends with, naturally enough, especial regard to their effects on the fortunes of the Labour Party: in Jim Griffiths's case, for example, they range from some sharp advice to avoid the question of Irish partition in 1949 to an almost detached remark about the nationalist challenge in the valleys in 1968.

Drs D J and Noëlle Davies
One of Jim Griffiths's fellow founder members of the Labour Party in the Llanelli area was David James Davies (1893-1956) of Llandybïe, who later became one of the key figures in the development of Plaid Cymru. DJD first met his Irish wife, Noëlle (1899-1983), at the International People's College in Elsinore, Denmark in 1924, and her highly interesting and informative account of his early life and of their combined efforts in the cause of self-government for Wales between 1926 and 1956 was recently donated to the Library by Dr Ceinwen H Thomas. This complements the large collection of their papers already at NLW.

Saunders Lewis
Y mae dathlu canmlwyddiant geni Saunders Lewis a lansio'r apêl i sefydlu ysgoloriaeth er cof amdano wedi dwyn rhagor o'i bapurau i olau dydd. Prynodd y Llyfrgell lawysgrif yr anerchiad a baratowyd gan SL i'w thraddodi i'r rheithwyr yn llys Caernarfon ar 13 Hydref 1936 yn egluro paham yr aeth ef a Lewis Valentine a D J Williams i losgi'r Ysgol Fomio ym Mhenyberth, Llŷn; a thros chwe chant o lythyrau a anfonwyd gan SL at ei wraig rhwng 1914 a 1937. Ymhlith y papurau a roddwyd i'r Llyfrgell gan Mr O M Roberts y mae tri ar ddeg o lythyrau SL o'r cyfnod 1932-61, a manylion ynglŷn â Chronfa Saunders Lewis a sefydlwyd gan Mr Roberts a'r Dr Gwent Jones i'w gynnal wedi ei ryddhau o'r carchar.
(The following items relating to Saunders Lewis have been acquired: the manuscript in Welsh of the address he prepared to give to the jury in the Bombing School Arson trial at Caernarfon in 1936; over 600 letters to his wife, 1914-37; 13 letters to O M Roberts, 1932-61; and papers concerning the fund which was set up to give SL financial support after his release from prison).

Merfyn Jones
Mr Merfyn Jones has kindly donated to the Archive a group of papers assembled by him. The papers, 1921-88, concern the organisation and policy of the Liberal Party at a national, regional and local level. They contain correspondence and minutes of standing and policy committee meetings of the Liberal Party and correspondence and minutes of the Welsh Liberal Party and the Ceredigion and Pembroke North Liberal Association. There is also a small group of papers concerning the Aberystwyth Liberal Association, significant amongst these being four minute books dating from 1921-69.

Stuart Rendel Diaries
The Library has been fortunate to receive, through the agency of the British Records Association, a series of the diaries of Stuart Rendel, Liberal MP for Montgomeryshire, 1880-94. Although the diaries, spanning the years 1873 to 1880, contain mainly entries relating to domestic life and the family's commercial activities, notably ordnance and munitions work, the final volume, for 1880, describes Rendel's first months at Westminster.

The Neath Declaration
One of the most up-to-date of the Archive's acquisitions is the copy of the "Neath Declaration" kindly donated by its formulator, Peter Hain MP. The declaration, calling for the revitalisation of valley villages, was made public at a conference entitled 'A Post Mining Culture - A New Agenda for the Valleys', which Mr Hain arranged and convened at Neath Town Hall in mid-September.

Argraffwyd yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
Printed at the National Library of Wales