CYLCHLYTHYR YR

ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

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LLOYD GEORGE RETURNS TO WALES

The National Library of Wales, with the financial assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, has been able to purchase an important group of political and personal papers of David Lloyd George.

The papers, sold to the Library by Lloyd George's grandson, Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, are the third major group of Lloyd George's papers to become available to the public. The National Library already holds a large group of Lloyd George's family papers while the major collection of political papers for his career after 1912 is housed at the House of Lords Records Office in London.

This present group will be of considerable interest to historians. The papers include over a thousand letters, notes for some fifty speeches and about twenty files relating to political matters. There are some early family letters but the majority of the correspondence dates from the period 1908–20.

The correspondence includes letters from four Prime Ministers, Asquith, Bonar Law, Balfour and Ramsay MacDonald, while the speech notes include those for the Budgets of 1909, 1910 and 1911.

This is an important addition to the Welsh Political Archive and historians will find the papers to be a quarry of enduring significance. Some of the more interesting items are described on page 3 of this *Newsletter*.

Sianel Pedwar Cymru

Llynedd daeth Uned Glyweled y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol i gytundeb dra phwysig â S4C. Hyd hynny, dim ond detholiad o raglenni (a recordiwyd oddi ar yr awyr) oedd gan yr Uned ond bellach y mae copïau o'r holl raglenni a ddarlledwyd er Tachwedd 1985 ar gael.

Y mae'n amlwg y bydd casgliad cyflawn o ddarllediau gwleidyddol fel rhaglenni newyddion a materion y dydd o ddiddordeb parhaol i ymchwilwyr ac haneswyr.

Yn y dyfodol agos, fe fydd *Y Cylchlythyr* yn cynnwys erthygl ar ddaliadau amrywiol yr Uned Glyweled.

(The Library's Audio-Visual Unit has since November 1985 begun to receive videotapes of all programmes broadcast on S4C).

PARATOI AR GYFER ETHOLIAD? . . .

Ninnau hefyd. Pan ddaw, gobeithiwn sicrhau nid eich pleidleisiau ond eich cydweithrediad wrth gasglu pamffledi, taflenni, anerchiadau etholiadol ac effemera a gynhyrchir yn ystod yr Ymgyrch yng Nghymru. Llwyddiant oedd yr ymdrech ym 1983. Pan ddaw'r etholiad, a wnewch chi anfon atom gopïau o'r holl bamffledi, taflenni ac ati a ddaw i'ch dwylo, os gwelwch yn dda? Bydd casgliad cyflawn yn trysori hanes Ymgyrch yr Etholiad Cyffredinol yng Nghymru. Ein cyfeiriad yw: Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU [ffôn: [0970]3816).

PREPARING FOR AN ELECTION? . . .

So are we. When it comes, we hope to be able to secure not your votes but your co-operation in collecting the pamphlets, leaflets, electoral addresses and ephemera produced during the Campaign in Wales. We did this successfully in 1983. When the Election comes, please send on to us copies of all the pamphlets, leaflets etc which come into your possession. A complete collection would provide an incomparable record of the General Election Campaign in Wales. Our address is: The Welsh Political Archive, The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU (tel: [0970]3816).

The Advisory Committee

The Welsh Political Archive's Advisory Committee, which was set up in 1985 to assist the Archive in fulfilling its objectives, met for the fourth time in September last year.

A new member of the Committee, Mr Jon Vaughan Jones, Research Officer with the Labour Party Wales, was welcomed to his first meeting. Another new member, Dr Deidre Beddoe, was unavoidably absent.

Among the matters discussed were the contents of the *Newsletter,* the possibility of arranging public lectures under the auspices of the Archive, means of creating contacts and collecting archives relating to the EEC, and the future of the post of research assistant of the Archive.

The present members of the Committee are:
The Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts (Chairman)
Dr Denis Balsom, UCW, Aberystwyth
Dr Deidre Beddoe, The Polytechnic of Wales
Mr Geraint Talfan Davies, Deputy-Head of Programmes, HTV
Mr Tom Ellis (The Social Democratic Party)
Lord Hooson (The Welsh Liberal Party)
Dr Deian Hopkin, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr D Elwyn Jones, Conservative Party organiser in North Wales
Mr Jon Vaughan Jones, Research Officer, Labour Party Wales
Dr Kenneth O Morgan, The Queen's College, Oxford
Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament (The Labour Party)
Mrs Lorna Schärer (The Welsh Liberal Party)
Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas, Member of Parliament (Plaid Cymru)
Professor Gwyn A Williams, UC Cardiff

The Committee also includes five members of the National Library's Staff: Mr Daniel Huws, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beti Jones, Mr J Graham Jones and Mr Paul O'Leary.

Dr Denis Balsom

Since the last meeting of the Archive's Advisory committee Dr Denis Balsom has been involved in a serious car accident and has endured an extended period of convalescence. We trust that Dr Balsom will make a speedy and full recovery.

Political Archives in Clwyd

This *Newsletter* will from time to time publish notes on political archives deposited at other repositories. On this occasion we look at some of the holdings of the Clwyd Record Office.

Perhaps the most important groups of political papers at Hawarden are the Glynne-Gladstone MSS. These include over 5,000 letters from Gladstone to members of his family, as well as some 1600 letters by his son Herbert Gladstone, who was Home Secretary from 1905 to 1910. Also held are the papers of Sir Stephen Glynne, MP for Flint (1832–7) and Flintshire (1837–47), and of Sir Henry Morris-Jones, the long-serving MP for Denbighshire. The records of the Flintshire Constitutional Association, 1910–21, and of the Flintshire Conservative Association, 1921–81, are also at Hawarden.

At the Ruthin Office are the records of the Denbighshire Conservative Association, 1923–69, those of the North Wales Committee of the Wales and Monmouthshire Conservative and Unionist Council, 1938–61, the minutes of the Wrexham ILP, 1912– 21, and of the Wrexham Trades Council and Divisional Labour Party, 1915–52.

On Microfilm

Amongst the collections of published microforms acquired by the Library in recent years, political source materials are well represented. Microfilms of substantial sections of the central archives of the Labour Party, 1900–73, the Conservative Party, 1868–1969, and the Liberal Party, 1877–1963, have been purchased from Harvester Ltd, as have those of the Independent Labour Party, 1888–1975, the British Trade Union Congress, 1887–1972, and the Fabian Society, 1881–1964. These publications comprise a large number of leaflets and pamphlets, committee minutes of the parties' executives, texts of speeches, election campaign guides and annual and conference reports. Microfilm copies of most Plaid Cymru publications, 1926–78, -pamphlets, journals and conference programmes -have been acquired from World Microfilms. A recent acquisition is a microfilm series of the records of the Wrexham Trades Council and Divisional Labour Party, 1912–54. These records of political parties are in addition to certain classes of Cabinet records, parliamentary papers, and journals and newspapers of political interest.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN

Lloyd George once said : 'The chief difference between ordinary and extraordinary men is that when the extraordinary man is faced by a novel and difficult situation, he extricates himself by adopting a plan which is at once daring and unexpected. That is the mark of genius in a man of action'. Certainly Lloyd George was an *extraordinary man* and his papers reveal the complex problems which he faced and the precarious methods which he often used throughout his political and personal career. A few of the more interesting letters in the newly acquired group are described below.

The potential constitutional crisis which followed Lloyd George's 'People's Budget' of 1909 led to crucial discussions between the Prime Minister, Asquith, and the King. A letter from Asquith at Balmoral Castle, dated 7 October 1909 and marked 'Secret', reveals the King's attitude to the Budget:

The King is making, & will continue to make, every effort that is constitutionally open to him, to secure the acceptance of the Budget Bill by the Lords. He is fairly sanguine of success . . . The only part of the Budget to wh. the King now takes any serious exception, is the Death duties, which he thinks might well be eased down in the case of the more moderate-sized estates. He has nothing to say against the land & mineral taxes, or the licence duties.

Ramsay MacDonald never trusted Lloyd George but he was forced to bargain for the support of the Liberals during the Labour Government of 1929–31. In October 1930, MacDonald replied at length to the Liberal proposals set out by Lloyd George for dealing with the unemployment and agricultural situation, concluding that:

. . . I cannot refrain from expressing my disappointment that the facts, figures and arguments with which you and your advisers have been supplied have had so little influence in the formulation of the specific recommendations that you have put before me.

This, and other related correspondence, points to the uneasy relationship between the Prime Minister and Lloyd George at this time and when the National government was formed in the following year, Lloyd George, for various reasons, was excluded.

Of a specifically Welsh interest is a small bundle of letters relating to the selection of a Liberal candidate for the Swansea District By-election of 1915. There was a move to implant one of Lloyd George's colleagues, C F G Masterman, as candidate and Lloyd George unquestionably approved of this idea (letter from J T Davies, dated 7 Dec 1914). However, following an acrimonious dispute, Lloyd George claimed otherwise, stating that he was

. . . never consulted as to the advisability of running Mr Masterman for it. I have always been strongly opposed to the policy of finding seats for defeated English Ministers in the Celtic areas. It is thoroughly bad business from the point of view of the Liberal Party for an impression to be created that English leaders are not acceptable as candidates to their own fellow-countrymen, and that Liberalism has no refuge except in Scotland or in Wales.

In the event, Masterman withdrew, much to Lloyd George's disgust:

If Masterman funks I think the consequences to his own personal position will be disastrous, and I cannot help thinking that such a display of pusillanimity merits the worst that will ensue from it.

Llythyr gan Uncle Lloyd

Collodd Lloyd George ei dad pan yn blentyn a'i ewyrth Uncle Lloyd a gymerodd ei le i bob pwrpas. Bu Uncle Lloyd yn gohebu'n gyson â'i nai a cheir nifer o'i lythyrau ymhlith y papurau hyn. Ar drothwy'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, ysgrifennodd yn ei ddull dwyieithog arferol, fod pawb am gadw

. . . ein gwlad ni ein hunain o'r gyflafan-hyd y mae eithaf possibilrwydd meidrol . . . Dyna glywir ar bob llaw. Diolch mai y Rhyddfrydwyr sydd in power; ac mai y Cangellor [Lloyd George] sydd yn y lead . . . ac yn rhoi ysprydiaeth i bob symudiad heddychol dichonadwy. Gwir noddydd breiniau, achos, ac iawnderau y Bobol . . . There is not a tint of Jingoism in the public sentiment. Down against it in the Country. Never witnessed such dead against it on any such occasion. All feel that no chance will not be lost by yr arwr to keep us aloof.

Dyddiad y llythyr yw 2 Awst 1914, ond erbyn iddo ei dderbyn roedd Lloyd George yn barod wedi cydsynio â phenderfyniad mwyafrif y Cabinet bod Rhyfel yn anorfod.

(A quote from a letter to Lloyd George from his Uncle Lloyd at the outbreak of the First World War).

DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Cardiganshire Liberal Association

Cardiganshire was one of the few of the old constituencies in Wales to preserve an almost unbroken allegiance to the Liberal Party. Apart from a short interregnum (1966–74) when Labour held the seat, the constituency has returned Liberal representatives to Parliament in modern times. The Liberal ascendancy was such that occasionally during the inter-war period the only opposition candidate was another Liberal.

The records of the Cardiganshire Liberal Association, which were deposited at the Library recently, cover the period from the 1920s to the 1970s, although their volume increases substantially for the period after 1945. These records consist of minute books, a large volume of correspondence and other miscellaneous records which serve to illuminate the dynamics of local politics.

Taken together these records demonstrate the contribution of Cardiganshire politics to the Liberal Party as a whole and to the Welsh Liberal Party in particular.

Papurau'r Grŵp Hydro

Ymhlith yr ychwanegiadau at yr Archif yn ddiweddar oedd casgliad o bapurau'r 'Grŵp Hydro'. Carfan o bobl a fu'n ymgyrchu o fewn Plaid Cymru rhwng 1982 a 1986 oedd y Grŵp Hydro. Fe'i sefydlwyd yn ystod Cynhadledd Flynyddol y Blaid yn Llandudno yn 1982. Deillia enw'r Grŵp o enw'r gwesty yn y dref honno lle y cyfarfu'r aelodau am y tro cyntaf. Ceir yma ffeiliau o ohebiaeth a phapurau amrywiol yn perthyn i weithgareddau'r Grŵp.

(The Archive has received the papers of the 'Hydro Group', a pressure group within Plaid Cymru, 1982–6).

Rhondda Conservatives

One might not expect the Conservative Party to be particularly active in the Rhondda but the records of the Rhondda Conservative and Unionist Association donated to the Archive suggest otherwise. A monthly *Newsletter* published by the Association shows that the Conservatives have been especially energetic in dealing with local issues. The Records, which include minute books covering the period 1971 to 1986, are under embargo.

Mary Garbett Edwards Papers

Mrs Mary Garbett Edwards, who died last year, was prominent in Montgomeryshire public life. She acted as agent for Clement Davies during several election campaigns and assisted Emlyn Hooson to win the Montgomeryshire seat in the 1962 by-election.

Her papers reflect the wide range of her interests and included are a series of striking photographs of leading politicians notably Clement Davies, Clement Attlee, Jeremy Thorpe and Lord Hooson.

Cyngor Cymru a Mynwy

Ymhlith papurau'r Athro Richard I Aaron a gyflwynwyd i'r Llyfrgell yn ddiweddar, y mae grŵp o bapurau yn ymwneud â Chyngor Cymru a Mynwy. Yr oedd yr Athro Aaron yn aelod o'r Cyngor am gyfnod ac y mae'r papurau yn cynnwys cofnodion y Cyngor, 1959–63, a chofnodion a gohebiaeth yn ymwneud â nifer o isbwyllgorau'r Cyngor.

(Records relating to the Council of Wales and Monmouthshire, of which he was a member, are among the papers of Professor Richard I Aaron).

Left-Wing Editor

The Library has recently purchased a small group of correspondence of William Marcus Thompson, a left-wing lawyer and writer who served as the editor of the working-class newspaper *Reynold's Newspaper* and who achieved recognition for his defence of John Burns after the 'Bloody Sunday' demonstration of 1887. Now designated NLW MS. 22351, the correspondence spans the period 1886 to 1907 and includes letters from Horatio Bottomley (1889-1905), H. Hamilton Fyfe (1894), D. Lloyd George (1901), H. M. Hyndman (1893-4) and Ben Tillett (1899-1901). There are many illuminating references to the press and to political life, particularly to the activities of the Fabians, the Social - Democratic Federation and the Independent Labour Party. The papers also comprise a number of cartoons and political ephemera of interest to the student of political life during the last two decades of the nineteenth century.

Argraffwyd yn
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