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Reflections of a First Minister
WPA Lecture 2010
Lloyd George's Two Wives
Professor Deacon
Professor Duncan Tanner
Mr Tom Ellis
Lord Temple-Morris Papers
UNESO Status
David Lloyd George and Welsh Liberalism
A Lecture by Roy Hattersley
Parliamentary Papers on-line
DWB on-line
General Election 2010
Accessions
Lord Anderson of Swansea
The Living
Alun Burge Papers
Lloyd George Notebooks
Goronwy Rees Papers

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Reflections of a First Minister

As anticipated, a capacity audience gathered in the Drwm at the National Library on the evening of Friday, 6 November 2009, to hear the Rt Hon. Rhodri Morgan AM deliver the WPA annual lecture on the engrossing theme 'Ten Years of Devolution: Reflections of a First Minister'. The lecture was of special interest as it was one of the First Minister's last formal engagements before his retirement from the position.

In an incisive lecture, Mr Morgan took as his theme 'the asymmetrical development of devolution in the United Kingdom'. He saw the emergence of support for devolution in Wales by 1997 as primarily the result of Margaret Thatcher's 'one-eyed Unionism. After seventeen years of being ruled by Governor-Generals representing, among others, Worcester, Wirral and Wokingham in the House of Commons, Welsh voters wanted a clear insurance policy against that ever happening again, and the Assembly was that insurance policy'.

He defended vigorously the record of the Welsh Assembly since its establishment in 1999, arguing that it had more than justified its existence during the intervening ten years and that the recent recession had given the Assembly 'an even greater test of our capacity to lead Wales through troubled waters'.

As evidence of this, the speaker pinpointed the convention of a series of economic summits which had proved highly successful; the prioritising of primary, public and preventative health measures; and in education the adoption of the radical Scandinavian model of learn-through-play rather than learn-through-learn. Rhodri Morgan also pressed the point that the very establishment of the National Assembly was in itself 'a giant step forward as far as inclusivity is concerned'. He emphasised its bilingual nature, and the ease of approach of the Assembly Members. The fact that there are

Rt Hon. Rhodri Morgan MP

only nine Cabinet members made consultation and regular meetings, both formal and informal, much easier.

The speaker anticipated the award of greater powers to the Assembly in the near future on the grounds that 'the people of Wales have developed confidence about Wales's capacity to run its own domestic agenda without making a mess of things. … If the citizens of Wales think we are using our powers now to do a good job for them, they will willingly support further powers'.

Mr Morgan concluded by underlining his belief 'that the success of devolution since 1999 shows the remarkable strength of that pragmatic tradition, one we should all celebrate. … Our asymmetric devolution is a triumph of Britishness and our pragmatic approach to taking the peoples with us is a triumph of Welshness'.

The full text of the lecture has been published on the NLW web pages in the section on the Welsh Political Archive where it may easily be consulted.

The Welsh Political Archive Lecture 2010

'Ireland 1916; Russia 1917; Wales?; Aberystwyth graffiti circa 1978', Dr Hywel Francis MP.
Drwm, The National Library of Wales, Friday, 5 November 2010, 5.30 p.m.

Lloyd George's Two Wives

In September 2009 S4C broadcast an ambitious documentary, introduced by Ffion Hague, examining the complex inter-relationship between David Lloyd George and his two wives Dame Margaret and his former mistress Frances Stevenson, later Countess Lloyd-George. The programme included an interview with Dr J. Graham Jones, Head of the Welsh Political Archive at the NLW, who discussed some of the letters from Lloyd George to Dame Margaret and other material in the various Lloyd George archives in the custody of the Library.

This fascinating programme also featured the first ever television interview with Jennifer Longford, Frances Stevenson's daughter, born in October 1929. It also included a tour around 10 Downing Street led by Sarah Brown, the wife of the then Prime Minister. Much of the filming was undertaken at Criccieth and Llanystumdwy and one sequence on Bardsey Island, where, during a chapel outing in 1885, the young solicitor David Lloyd George was able to woo seriously for the first time Maggie Owen, only daughter of the affluent Owen family of Mynydd Ednyfed Fawr, Criccieth.

With accomplished professional expertise, Ffion Hague demonstrated how the two women provided considerable emotional and professional support for Lloyd George, but also became, in their own right, pioneering role models for women in the first half of twentieth century Britain.

THE PASSING OF FRIENDS

Professor Duncan Tanner

All those associated with the WPA were extremely sorry to learn of the death in February at just 51 years of age, of Professor Duncan Tanner of the Department of History at Bangor University. An expert on Labour and political history, he had published widely and was regarded as one of the foremost authorities on the history of Welsh devolution. In 1990, he was awarded the Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize for his first book, *Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918* (1990). He also co-edited four further volumes: *The Labour Party in Wales 1900-2000* (2000), *Labour's First Century* (2000), *Debating Nationhood and Governance in Britain, 1885-1945* (2006) and *The Strange Survival of Liberal England* (2007). In addition to being a Professor of History at Bangor, he was also a Director of Research at the University and Director of the Welsh Institute of Social and Cultural Affairs.

Duncan had served as a member of the WPA advisory committee since 2002, had regularly attended its meetings and always made a positive and constructive contribution to proceedings. He had also donated to the Library valuable papers which he had acquired during the course of his researches on Welsh devolution in the twentieth century. His place on the committee will now be taken by Dr Andrew Edwards of the same department.

Tom Ellis

We were also most sorry to learn of the death in April of the former MP for Wrexham, Tom Ellis, at the age of 86. Tom Ellis was elected as the town's Labour MP in 1970, but in 1981 he became one of the founding members of the Social Democratic Party and was always highly regarded by the so-called 'gang of four' who formed the party. He lost his seat in 1983 when he stood for the new party in the newly-created Clwyd South West constituency and came second to the Conservative candidate. Before entering Parliament, Mr Ellis was manager of Bersham colliery and Wrexham's Hafod colliery. In 2004 he published an interesting volume of reminiscences entitled *After The Dust Has Settled.*

In 2004 Tom Ellis stood down from membership of the WPA advisory committee where he had served conscientiously for several years.

David Lloyd George and Welsh Liberalism

At a meeting of the Friends of the Library convened in the Drwm at the National Library on the afternoon of Saturday, 26 June 2010, a substantial volume, running to 610 pages, entitled *David Lloyd George and Welsh Liberalism* was launched by Ffion Hague. The author is Dr J. Graham Jones, presently Head of the Welsh Political Archive at the Library, and a member of staff for over thirty years. Over this period he has made extensive use of the seven major Lloyd George archives held at the Library and other relevant source materials deposited there to research Lloyd George's career.

The volume comprises twenty-eight articles relating to various aspects of Lloyd George's wholly unique life and career, together with an essay on the Liberal Party in Wales after the Second World War and two pieces on the political careers of LG's two children Lady Megan and Major Gwilym Lloyd-George, both of whom represented Welsh constituencies.

More than a hundred people assembled at the Library to hear short addresses from Dafydd Wigley, the President of the NLW, who is the former Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfonshire, and Ffion Hague, herself the author of an important volume on Lloyd George's personal life entitled *The Pain and the Privilege*, published by Harper Books in 2008. Then Graham Jones gave a lecture to the Friends of the Library on 'The Marriage of Lloyd George and Frances Stevenson' which took place at Arlington House, Guildford Registry Office on 23 October 1943. The text of the lecture will be published in a future number of the *Journal of Liberal History*.

Copies of the book are available from the National Library at £24.99, or £22.49 to members of staff and Friends of the Library. Copies can also be ordered from all good bookshops.

Graham Jones, Ffion Hague and Dafydd Wigley at the launch

General Election 2010

As on many previous occasions, the Welsh Political Archive has made good use of its extensive network of contacts throughout Wales to acquire a near-complete set of the election addresses, leaflets and posters circulated throughout the Welsh constituencies during the May 2010 general election campaign. The only gaps which remain are for the Islwyn and Llanelli parliamentary constituencies. If readers of the *WPA Newsletter* could help to plug these gaps, we would be most grateful. All this material will be listed and added to the Welsh Political Ephemera collection as series BA8.

Through the ready co-operation of the Cardiff-based Welsh headquarters of the major political parties, the Welsh manifestos and other national publications have also been acquired. It is planned that all this material will be digitised in the near future and then available to the public on the NLW web site. This will also happen for future elections.

Every effort has also been made to digitise, at regular intervals during the pre-election and election campaigns, the websites of the Welsh political parties and the personal websites or blogs of some of the more high-profile candidates and other individuals prominent in the political life of Wales. The staff of the Screen and Sound Archive of Wales have recorded relevant television and radio programmes, documentaries, party political broadcasts and news programmes during the campaign all of which include a wealth of interesting material.

Professor Deacon

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Dr Russell Deacon, Reader in Welsh Politics and Governance at UWIC, on the award of a personal chair. Russell has been an active member of the WPA advisory committee during recent years. He is best known for his keynote publication *The Governance of Wales: the Welsh Office and the Policy Process, 1964-99* (2002), and he is currently completing for publication the first full-length study of the Liberal Party in twentieth century Wales.

Lord Temple-Morris Papers

Lord and Lady Temple-Morris visited the National Library on 1 October 2009. Peter Temple-Morris was elected the Conservative MP for Leominster in February 1974, but joined the Labour Party in 1998. He retired from parliament in 2001. Previously he had contested Newport in the Conservative interest in the general elections of 1964 and 1966.

Lord Temple-Morris donated to the Library some files of interesting papers concerning his Welsh campaigns and his subsequent search for a constituency in England. Other files concern Leominster, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Iran, the Irish question, and the internal affairs of the Conservative party under Margaret Thatcher. There are also correspondence and speech notes, party conference papers and election materials.

UNESCO status for Lloyd George film

A never-released film on the last Liberal Prime Minister *The Life Story of David Lloyd George* and the Peniarth Manuscripts are among ten items and collections to be the first-ever entries on a list of the UK's outstanding documentary heritage. The ten winning items come from across the country, span nearly 1000 years of history and embody the pivotal moments and periods that have shaped the UK.

Receiving the award: Nia Mai Daniel, Maredudd ap Huw and John Reed

A lecture by Roy Hattersley

On the evening of Thursday, 23 September 2010, Lord Hattersley will deliver a public lecture in the Drwm at the Library on the theme 'Lloyd George: the Great Outsider'. Only the previous week he will launch his substantial one-volume biography of Lloyd George, to be published by Little Brown.

As part of his research, Lord Hattersley made use of the extensive Lloyd George archives in the custody of the NLW. This is the first single-volume biography of Lloyd George to be published since Peter Rowland's mammoth tome in 1975 and will be eagely anticipated. All are welcome to attend the lecture.

Admission is by ticket (price £10) available form the Library shop (telephone (01970 632548) or on-line.

British Parliamentary Papers on-line

The National Library now subscribes to British Parliamentary Papers on-line. With all collections enabled, House of Commons Parliamentary Papers now includes over 200,000 House of Commons sessional papers from 1715 to the present, with supplementary material back to 1688. HCPP delivers page images and searchable full text for each paper, along with detailed indexing.

Dictionary of Welsh Biography on-line

The Welsh Biography Online presents the lives of eminent Welsh people who have made a significant contribution to Welsh life. It is an electronic version of the volumes published by the *Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, together with new articles commissioned by the Society. The full text of the five printed volumes, together with new articles, has been combined here in one bilingual electronic database available at http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/en/index.html. Among the many entries for eminent Welsh people from the post-1970 period are several for prominent Welsh politicians. They include Desmond Donnelly, James Griffiths, Ian Grist, Tom Hooson, Goronwy Roberts, George Thomas (Lord Tonypandy), and Eirene White. The papers of all these politicians are held by the Welsh Political Archive.

Accessions

Other accessions which have come to hand during the year include:

Welsh Women's National Coalition Papers: records, 2002-10, of the group from its inception until its demise, including minutes of meetings, reports, AGM papers, and photographs. They relate to equality for women, human rights for women and equal opportunities for the women of Wales.

Dr Siriol Colley, Nottingham: further papers of her uncle **Gareth Vaughan Jones** (1905-35) and of his parents Major Edgar Jones and Mrs Annie Gwen Jones. These include Jones's famous 'Hitler diary' for 1933.

A small album of photographs of Lloyd George, Howard de Walden, A. J. Sylvester and others.

CND Wales: a substantial additional deposit of records from Jill Gough, the movement's secretary.

Mr Ben Gregory: an additional group of the records of the **Support Nicaragua Campaign**, 1997-2008, including correspondence, publications, press releases and press cuttings.

A large framed collage depicting the **Welsh MPs** during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Learning Resources Centre, University of Glamorgan: a small group of publications and printed items relating to **Welsh politics, nationalism, devolution** etc.

Mr Dafydd Wigley: issues, 1976-79, of Cyswllt: y Blaid yn San Steffan: Plaid at Westminster.

Mr Llŷr Huws Gruffydd, Rhuthun: an interesting miscellany of publications relating to **devolution** in Wales.

Lord Anderson of Swansea

Lord Anderson has donated to the NLW a small group of his political papers, mainly concerning the proceedings of the Hutton Inquiry into the death of Dr David Kelly.

Two files concern Mr Leo Abse (1917-2008), the Labour MP for Pontypool from 1958-83, and later for Torfaen until his retirement in 1987. It is anticipated that further papers will come to hand shortly.

Dr Siriol Colley and her son Nigel at the NLW

The Living

A film about the great famine which Stalin tried to hide, but which one Welsh journalist Gareth Vaughan Jones was brave enough to expose, was screened at the National Library of Wales at 13:15 pm on Tuesday 19 January, in the presence of his niece Dr Siriol Colley of Nottingham and her son Nigel.

The Living tells the story of the tragic events in Ukraine in 1932-33 and one Welshman's attempts to tell the world what was happening. It presents a new angle on Stalin's man-made famine as Ukrainians who were witnesses to the millions who died and the millions more who suffered horrendously, tell their heartfelt stories.

Side by side with their history, is the story of Welsh journalist Gareth Jones. He travelled through Ukraine, by train and on foot, to see for himself what the people were enduring. Jones published articles in British newspapers drawing attention to the lack of even basic food in once rich Ukraine and told of the suffering and death. But on the whole he was ignored and even ridiculed for suggesting such things. Gareth Jones was killed in 1935 in Manchukuo, and some claim that his untimely death at 29 years old, was the result of Russian revenge for Gareth Jones' willingness to expose wrongdoing.

Now, the Ukrainian government, who commissioned the film to mark 75 years since the Holodomor, the Famine, wish to honour Gareth Jones' efforts to tell the world despite the fact no one listened to him.

The Ukrainian film crew, under director Serhiy Bukovsky, visited Wales for the filming. They went to Gareth Jones's home town, Barry, to Aberystwyth where Gareth was a student in the 1920s and to the National Library of Wales where many of his papers are kept.

Alun Burge Papers

Mr Alun Burge, an active member of the WPA advisory committee since 2002, has donated a substantial archive of papers reflecting his involvement in south Wales politics over many years. Perhaps the most significant relate to the work of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, and comprise interesting material on the role of Ron Davies, Wayne David, Andrew Davies and Sue Essex. Other important papers relate to the role of the Communist Party in south Wales, the executive committee of the Labour Party Wales, the Cardiff Trades Council (a significant group of papers), the Bedwellty Labour Party, Militant, and International Perspectives.

There are also papers deriving from the No campaign in 1979, the Yes for Wales campaign in 1997 and various election materials. The papers will be unavailable for consultation by readers until 1 January 2017.

Lloyd George notebooks

The Library was very pleased to be able to purchase recently six small pocket notebooks containing notes made by Lloyd George mainly during the period of the Second World War. They comprise his comments on the course of the war and occasional comparisons with the allied war effort during the First World War. There are also details of his farming and development of his extensive estate at Bron-y-de near Churt in Surrey. Unfortunately, Lloyd George's handwriting at this point is rather difficult to decipher. There are also a few notes, more legible, in the hand of his secretary and mistress Frances Stevenson. They have been designated NLW ex 2691.

Goronwy Rees Papers

A list has recently been completed of the small group of papers of Goronwy Rees (1909-79), principal of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth from 1953 until his enforced resignation in 1957. They include correspondence, articles, notebooks and photographs. They relate mostly to Goronwy Rees's literary work, his resignation as Principal of the University of Wales and his links to the Cambridge Spy Ring and Soviet espionage. The Library also holds the Goronwy Rees Enquiry Papers dating from 1956-57.