CYLCHLYTHYR YR

ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

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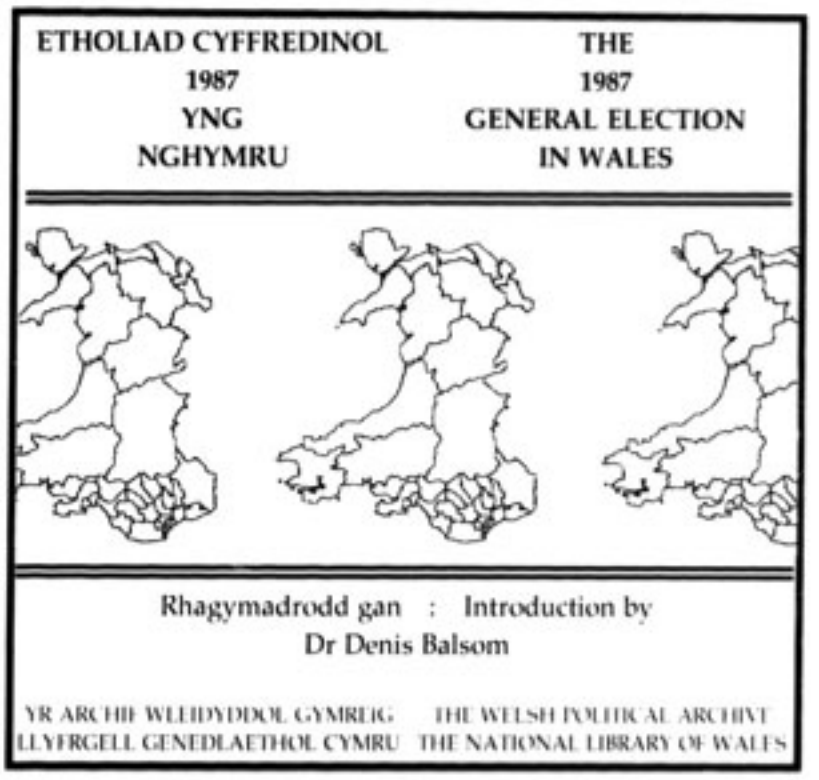
NEW BOOK ON THE '87 ELECTION

Despite the increasing influence of 'British trends' in Welsh politics, it is still possible to discern a certain Welsh identity to General Election campaigns in Wales. It is intended that a bilingual book published shortly by the Welsh Political Archive, *Etholiad Cyffredinol 1987 yng Nghymru: The 1987 General Election in Wales*, will reflect that identity.

The 1987 General Election in Wales contains a complete set of results of the 38 Welsh constituencies for 1987 and, for the purpose of comparison, those of 1983. Graphs have been used to illustrate trends in each constituency although boundary changes to the constituencies prior to the 1983 General Election have made the identification of longer term trends more difficult.

The results are preceded by a comprehensive introduction to the Election by Wales's foremost psephologist, Dr Denis Balsom of the Department of Politics, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Dr Balsom looks at the political background to the Election, including an assessment of the two by-elections held between 1983 and 1987 at Cynon Valley and Brecon and Radnor. He then looks at the campaign itself, analyses the results and finally speculates tentatively on the future pattern of



Welsh politics. Excerpts from this introduction are published inside.

The National Library's new desktop publisher *Pagemaker 3* has been used to prepare the text and graphs were produced using *Harvard Graphics* software. A particular feature of the book is the use of the Library's *Canon Colorlaser Copier* for the reproduction of colour maps and graphs.

It is intended that this will be the first of a series of booklets on election results in Wales published by the Archive and progress is being made on the setting up of a database of all elections — EEC, Parliamentary, County and District — held in Wales from 1972 when local government was reorganised.

The publication date for *Etholiad Cyffredinol 1987 yng Nghymru: The 1987 General Election in Wales* is December 1988 and copies may be ordered from the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU at £3 (£3.20 by post).

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 Welsh Political Archive's Advisory Committee, which was set up in 1985 to assist the Archive in fulfilling its objectives, met for the seventh time in April 1988.

The Chairman reported that the Archive's Inaugural Lecture *Lloyd George and Wales* by John Grigg had been published and that Dr Kenneth O Morgan had agreed to deliver the next Lecture on 4 November 1988.

It was decided to invite Professor David Marquand of the University of Manchester to lecture in 1989.

Among other matters discussed were potential acquisitions, a possible oral history project and the computerised database of Welsh election results.

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 John Clement, formerly Under-Secretary at the Welsh Office
Mr Emyr Daniel, Deputy-Head 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 Hopkin, UCW, Aberystwyth
Mr D Elwyn Jones, Conservative Party agent
Mr David Melding, Research Officer, Conservative Central Office for Wales
Dr Kenneth O Morgan, The Queen's College, Oxford
Mr Gareth Price, Controller, BBC Wales
Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament (The Labour Party)
Dr Dafydd Elis Thomas, Member of Parliament (Plaid Cymru)
Professor Gwyn A Williams (Plaid Cymru)
and from the National Library's staff: Mr Daniel Huws, Mr Gwyn Jenkins, Mrs Beti Jones, Mr J Graham Jones and Mr Hefin Williams.

LLOYD GEORGE AND WALES

John Grigg

The Welsh Political Archive Annual Lecture 1987
£1 · 50 (£1 · 70 by post)

The National Library of Wales,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3BU

Mudiadau Cenedlaethol

Yn ddiweddar, daeth tri grŵp o bapurau i law yn ymwneud â mudiadau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Drwy law Mr Karl Davies, derbyniwyd ffeil yn cynnwys gohebiaeth a phapurau'r Pwyllgor Darlledu Cenedlaethol, 1977–81. Sefydlwyd y Pwyllgor hwn i bwyso am wasanaeth darlledu teilwng i Gymru gan gynnwys gwasanaeth Cymraeg cyflawn ar y bedwaredd sianel.

Un o arweinwyr amlycaf Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg yn ystod yr 1970au oedd Rhodri Williams. Y mae Mr Williams wedi cyflwyno i'r Archif bedair ffeil yn cynnwys cofnodion, gohebiaeth a phapurau yn ymwneud â'r Gymdeithas a gronwyd ganddo rhwng 1974 ac 1980. Y mae'r ffeiliau hyn yn ychwanegiad pwysig at archifau eang Cymdeithas yr Iaith a dderbyniwyd gan y Llyfrgell eisoes.

Cyflwynodd Mr E G Millward, cyn Is-Lywydd Plaid Cymru ac Ymgeisydd y Blaid yn Etholaeth Trefaldwyn ym 1970, ddwy ffeil i'w hychwanegu at y casgliad o bapurau a ddaeth i law ym 1974. Y mae'r ffeiliau hyn yn ymwneud â Grŵp Ymchwil Plaid Cymru ar Amaeth, 1966–70, y frwydr yn erbyn boddi Cwm Dulas a'r ymgyrch i gael gwasanaeth teledu boddhaol i Faldwyn, *c* 1968–72.

(Recent accessions include papers of the National Broadcasting Committee, 1977–81, the Welsh Language Society and of E G Millward, a former Vice-President of Plaid Cymru).

A Journalist's View

A fascinating unpublished manuscript by the former Political Correspondent of BBC Wales, Mr Patrick Hannon, has been donated to the Archive (*NLW ex 1001*). It comprises drafts of six chapters on political events during that critical period in Welsh affairs, the late 1960s and 1970s.

Access to this manuscript is not restricted but none of it may be published without the express permission of Mr Hannon.

Poll books and electoral registers

J W S Gibson, compiler of the highly acclaimed *'Gibson Guides'* is preparing a definitive guide to electoral registers and published and unpublished poll books held in public repositories. At his request, a list has been compiled of such material in the Library's Department of Manuscripts and Records and this is now available for consultation in the Department's Catalogue Room.

THE 1987 ELECTION : SOME CONCLUSIONS

In his wide-ranging introduction to the new book on the 1987 General Election in Wales (described on page 1), Dr Denis Balsom includes a detailed analysis of the results. Excerpts from this analysis are printed below.

'The 1987 election in Wales produced some remarkable results. Labour captured Cardiff West, Newport West, Bridgend and also, by sensationally coming from third place, Clwyd South West from the Conservatives. The Alliance held their marginal at Montgomery but, more importantly, their recent by-election gain at Brecon and Radnor.

Brecon and Radnor recorded the highest turn-out in Britain in 1987 at 84.4%. Richard Livesey's majority of 56 is the smallest in the country and with only 5·6% of the vote cast separating the first and third candidates, Brecon and Radnor was also the most competitive seat in Britain. Further Welsh distinctions from these results include Rhondda as having the largest majority in Britain and South Glamorgan for showing the highest increase in turn out'.

* * * * *

'The highly competitive, marginal constituencies now existing in Cardiff, Newport and elsewhere are typical of the pendulum theory of electoral change and, until recently, quite atypical of Wales. On the basis of the 1987 results half the constituencies of Wales now have majorities of less than 15% and are thus vulnerable to relatively modest swings. Four party politics in all constituencies makes such calculations even more difficult, though allows particular local considerations to compete with British trends.

Although Labour regained much of its former position in Wales, if not in Britain as a whole, has the former hegemony been re-established? Labour's pattern of support in Wales has been in decline since 1966, when it secured 60.6% of the vote cast. The 1979 election which appears, in retrospect, to mark a watershed in British politics, saw Labour win 46.9% in Wales. They lost a further 9.4% in 1983 and regained 7.6% in 1987. This pattern of change is almost certainly wholly dependent upon the popular appeal of the Alliance parties and independent of the fortunes of the Conservatives. It must be re-emphasised that the level of Conservative support remains remarkably stable in Wales and has been for many years; it is the number of seats won at Westminster that varies. The Alliance gained from its British prominence in 1983, but its constituent parties are likely to suffer from its subsequent break-up following the 1987 election. Plaid Cymru ironically becomes stronger and more entrenched on a diminishing share of the vote. In these circumstances it seems unlikely that Labour will recapture its previous superiority unless accompanied by a huge British swing to Labour'.

(Extracted from **Etholiad Cyffredinol 1987 yng Nghymru: The 1987 General Election in Wales***)*

DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Agent to Bevan and Foot

Until his recent retirement, Councillor Ron Evans was for many years the Secretary of the Ebbw Vale Constituency Labour Party, subsequently the Blaenau Gwent Constituency Labour Party. He was a shrewd and indefatigable agent to Aneurin Bevan and Michael Foot as well as being a prominent County Councillor in his own right.

Councillor Evans has now donated to the Archive a substantial groups of his papers covering the period 1951—86. Although most of the correspondence with Bevan and Foot relate to routine constituency affairs, a few letters do illuminate certain aspects of their careers. In June 1954, for example, two letters from Bevan discuss the possibility of his standing for Party Treasurer against Hugh Gaitskell.

Tom Hooson Papers

Papers from the late Tom Hooson MP's office in the House of Commons have been presented to the Archive by Mr Brian Hooson. Tom Hooson was the Conservative Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnor from 1979 to his death in 1985 and the papers mainly comprise letters from individual constituents and correspondence relating to wider concerns brought to the attention of the MP by interest groups.

The papers reflect the rural nature of the Brecon and Radnor constituency, by for the largest of the Welsh constituencies and one of the least populated.

The permission of the donor is required to see these papers.

ARCHIFAU'R PLEIDIAU / PARTY ARCHIVES

Welsh Liberal Party Archive

As reported briefly in the last *Newsletter* a large group of Welsh Liberal Party papers has been placed on deposit in the Archive. Included is an incomplete set of Minutes of the WLP's Executive Committee and General Council, 1967–80, correspondence of Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran in his capacity as party treasurer and chairman of the Liberal Party's Law Panels, and a large group of subject files concerning local government, party organisation, conferences and elections. There are also files relating to individual Welsh constituency parties including minutes, pamphlets and leaflets, dating mainly from the 1970s.

Cardiff Conservatives

An additional group of the records of the City of Cardiff Conservative Associations, 1945–83, has been deposited at the Library. (See *Newsletter*, no 4). The minute books derive from a number of the party's branches within the city and illuminate social and political events organized by them. The deposit also includes the records of the Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire group of the Conservative Advisory Council, 1951–78.

Records less than twenty years old are subject to an embargo.

Caerphilly Constituency Labour Party

Through the good offices of Mr Ron Davies, MP, the Library has been able to secure a substantial group of the papers of the Caerphilly Labour Party. Comprising some sixty files of correspondence and papers, dating from 1963 to 1984, these records provide an insight into one of the Labour Party's strongholds in south Wales.

The papers are subject to the standard Labour Party embargo of 15 years.

Vale of Glamorgan Liberals

One of the more active Liberal Associations in south Wales was the Vale of Glamorgan Liberal Association. Following the formation of the Social and Liberal Democrats, the Association has donated its records along with those of its predecessor, the Barry Constituency Liberal Association. Minutes cover the period 1974–83 while among the correspondence, there are files on the relationship of the party with the SDP and the resultant amalgamation in 1988.

Labour Party (Wales) Archive

A third group of Labour Party papers has been placed on deposit in the Archive, following those deposited in 1985 and 1987 (see *Newsletters*, nos 1 and 5).

This group mainly comprises files on specific research topics undertaken by the party's Research Officer in Wales. The subjects covered include Devolution, Local Government, Rural Policy, the Welsh Language and Education. There are also files on European and General Elections.

Also deposited are records which will be of particular interest to historians studying the contribution of women to the Labour Movement. These records include minute books of the Labour Women's Advisory Councils of East Glamorgan, Flintshire and Denbighshire, and Llanelli, 1925–70, and of the Annual South and North Wales Conference and Summer School of the Labour Women's Advisory Council, 1951–73.

The Labour Party (Wales) Archive is subject to the standard Labour Party embargo of 15 years.

Montgomeryshire Liberal Association Records

Over the years the National Library has been fortunate to secure a comprehensive collection of political archives from the Montgomeryshire constituency which returned a Liberal representative to Parliament continuously from 1880 to 1979. The papers of each of the distinguished representatives from the county have been lodged at the Library — Stuart Rendel, A C Humphreys-Owen, Glansevern, David Davies, later Lord Davies of Llandinam, Clement Davies and Emlyn Hooson.

The records of the Montgomeryshire Liberal Association which were deposited at the Archive recently, span the years from 1895 to the present, although most date from the period after 1962. They comprise minute books (from 1920), financial records, correspondence files, electoral and miscellaneous material which provide a full picture of local political activity.

An embargo applies to records less than ten years old.

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