CYLCHLYTHYR YR

ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

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LLOYD GEORGE
A HUNDRED YEARS ON

This *Newsletter* will appear a hundred years almost to the day that David Lloyd George, Wales's most famous statesman, was elected to Parliament for the first time.

Following widespread reports in the press, few readers will be unaware by now that the National Library has purchased the only major collection of Lloyd George papers still in private hands.

The papers are those accumulated by Lloyd George's brother, William, the Criccieth solicitor whose support was vital in the development of Lloyd George's political career.

The papers comprise several thousand letters, diaries and family papers. Lloyd George wrote to his brother regularly and about four thousand of these letters have survived. Though mostly written in haste, they often contain frank and sometimes cutting remarks about colleagues and political opponents, as well as family news.

Twelve early Lloyd George diaries, dating from the period 1878–88, have also survived. They provide an invaluable insight into the psychological development of the young solicitor and aspiring politician. There are

references to his courtship of his future wife and on political events such as the famous visit of Michael Davitt, the Irish radical, to Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1886.

Other diaries among these papers include those of William George and of Lloyd George's uncle and mentor Richard Lloyd ('Uncle Lloyd'). William George's diaries pose a problem in that they are written in late nineteenth century shorthand and require deciphering. The Library would be glad to hear from anyone who has experience in reading such shorthand.

Extracts from the papers are printed on page 3 but the papers themselves will not be available to readers for some time yet while they are being catalogued.

Darlithydd 1990

Traddodir Darlith Flynyddol yr Archif Wleidyddol yn y Gymraeg am y tro cyntaf eleni. Y darlithydd fydd yr Arglwydd Cledwyn o Benrhos. Cyhoeddir manylion pellach maes o law.

(The 1990 Welsh Political Archive Lecture will be given by Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos)

The Advisory Committee

The tenth meeting of the Welsh Political Archive's Advisory Committee was held on 3 November 1989.

The Librarian welcomed two new members to the Committee, Dr Terry Thomas and Mr Dafydd Wigley MP. It was reported that Mr David Melding has resigned from the Committee and a replacement was nominated.

The progress of the Database of Welsh Election Results and the proposed Oral History Project was discussed.

Following the meeting, members of the Committee attended the Archive's 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 Social and 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, Controller, BBC Wales
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, Mr J Graham Jones and Mr Hefin Williams.

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).

Professor David Marquand

History Derailed?

On 3 November 1989, Professor David Marquand of the University of Salford delivered the third Welsh Political Archive Annual Lecture. Intrigued by the title of the lecture, 'History Derailed? : the Route to 1979', a large audience was present at the Old College to hear an imaginative and sometimes provocative assessment of the evolution of British politics in the twentieth century.

The lecture will be published shortly by the National Library. Copies of the two previous lectures: *Lloyd George and Wales* by John Grigg (1987) and *The Red Dragon and the Red Flag : the cases of James Griffiths and Aneurin Bevan* by Professor Kenneth O Morgan (1988) are still in print, price £1 · 50 (£1 · 70 by post).

STOP PRESS!

As this *Newsletter* goes to press, the Archive has been fortunate in receiving, in a matter of a few days of each other, the papers of three prominent Labour politicians — two former Cabinet ministers and one well-known back-bencher.

The next number of the Archive's *Newsletter* will include detailed information on these important new acquisitions.

Argraffwyd yn
Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
Aberystwyth

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Aberystwyth

LLOYD GEORGE & WILLIAM GEORGE

Isod ceir rhai dyfyniadau diddorol o Bapurau William George (gweler tud. 1).
Below are printed some interesting extracts from the William George Papers (see page 1).

Michael Davitt at Blaenau Ffestiniog, 1886
'. . . train to Blaenau to attend Davitt's meeting . . . Hall packed . . . after listening to Michael Davitt I retired & tried to spin out a speech. Got on very well. I had a few ideas upon the question so I determined to set them together with a few extempore ideas. I hit upon a good joke, I tho't, about Michael wrestling with the devil . . . I spoke with great warmth & vigour both of gesture & voice. When I sat down there was loud cheering & I felt that I had made my mark at Festiniog . . . I have made a good thing of a splendid opportunity. Regarding Michael Davitt I am very favourably impressed by his presence — he appears to be very earnest and sincere . . . he was listened to with unflagging interest & what is still more astonishing the audience caught his points tho' probably not more than ⅓rd understood him . . . told me that . . . tho' he could not understand me he knew very well that I was very eloquent.'
(Lloyd George diary, 12 February 1886)

'Home Rule' demonstration, 1890
'Just arrived here from Cardiff . . . Well as to the meetings they were a complete success . . . I got a splendid reception last night at the great demonstration. I only meant to speak for 2 or 3 minutes . . . but the audience insisted on my proceeding. They would not all me to speak in English, shouting 'Cymraeg'. There was quite an uproar.'
(Lloyd George to William George, 5 February 1890)

Is-etholiad, 1890
'Da fyddai cael Mr Osborne Morgan gyda chwi i Gonwy, lle mae yn hynod o barchus . . . Y mae yma anadl gynes iawn o'ch plaid.'
(Spinther James at Lloyd George, 21 Mawrth 1890)

Speech at Manchester, 1890
'I scored a splendid success last night . . . I roused the immense & dense audience to a wild fury of enthusiasm . . . The people seemed to be beside themselves with delight.'
(Lloyd George to William George, 5 June 1890)

Achos ysgariad Kitty Edwards : sylwadau cyfaill, 1896
'Gwn yn dda fel yr ŷch yn dioddef, ac yr wy'n gobeithio y gwna cydymdeimlad eich ffryndiau ychydig, beth bynag, i leddfu 'ch trallod. Y mae yn gysur meddwl fod genych wraig dda a thyner i'ch cynorthwyo yn hyn o adeg gyfyng. Y mae gwyr cyhoeddus yn agored i lawer o beryglon, ond ni ddyfeisiodd neb erioed peth gwaelach na hwn.'
(W Llewelyn Williams at Lloyd George, 21 Hydref 1896)

Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1912
'It was great in the House on Thursday. I could see men sitting in the strangers gallery, mostly Welsh preachers, were getting very excited & enjoying the proceedings immensely — Elvet Lewis & [D R] Daniel were there. Lord Robert Cecil cut a very poor figure.'
(The late Lady Olwen Carey-Evans to 'Uncle Lloyd', 27 April 1912)

'No patience', 1912
'. . . the muddle these Tories & *slack* Liberals have brought about. I have no patience with the Welsh MPs — like Ellis D[avies] &c. who go home & it is too much trouble to return in time for the House . . . D. always came back on Sunday evening for 15 years & not a penny piece.'
(Margaret Lloyd George to 'Uncle Lloyd', 15 November 1912)

The War, 1914
'The French have made a bad start. For the moment it looks as if they were outclassed in shere *(sic)* brain power. Still it may not to be fair to judge them on the result of a single action. Our news does not give me the impression of a serious attack upon us by the Germans. It looks much more like an effort to occupy us whilst the French were being furiously assailed.
The Germans are showing better leadership up to the present — & even more heart. It will be a long job. I entered into it most reluctantly. Nothing but Belgium would have induced me to throw in my lot with the war party — but now we are in it we must go through with it whatever the cost to us all.'
(Lloyd George to William George, 25 August 1914)

Prif Weinidog?, 1916
'"Yn y pair hyd" yn hyn. Dim wedi ei bender-fynu. Anfodlawn i fynd yn Brif Weinidog fy hun. Bonar [Law] eisiau i mi fyn'd yn P.M. Mynd yn awr i weled Bonar.'
(Lloyd George at William George, 6 Rhagfyr 1916)

DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

Monmouth Conservative Association Records

The Archive has been fortunate to receive a remarkably complete group of the records of the Monmouth Conservative Association which span the period 1903 to 1988. The records comprise minute books, financial records, correspondence, annual reports, press cuttings and various Conservative Party publications, many deriving from local branches and women's groups within the county. They reflect party organization and activities in a county in which Conservative support has consistently held firm, the division generally returning a Conservative MP to Westminster.

An embargo applies to records less than fifteen years old.

Lord Ogmore Papers

The Archive has received on deposit an important group of the papers of Lord Ogmore (1903–76).

Lord Ogmore was a Labour Member of Parliament from 1945 to 1950 but his papers cover the period after 1959 when he joined the Liberal Party. He was President of the Party in 1963–64.

Lord Ogmore was active in the moves to modernise the Liberal Party's organisation and in the development of the Welsh Liberal Party. These a substantial files of correspondence with letters from, among others, Jo Grimond, Jeremy Thorpe, Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, Lord Hooson, Lord Byers, Lord Rea and many Liberal Party activists.

The late Brynmor John MP

The papers of Brynmor John, Labour MP for Pontypridd, 1970–88, have been donated to the Library following his untimely death in 1988. The papers comprise constituency correspondence, 1970–88, and some correspondence relating to the Pontypridd Divisional Labour Party, 1919–70.

There are thirty subject files mainly concerning various political issues dating from the period 1966–71. A number of files cover Brynmor John's work as a Government Minister in the Home Office, 1976–79, and as Opposition Spokesman on Defence and Disarmament, Social Security and Agriculture, 1979–87.

The standard Labour Party embargo of 15 years applies to these papers.

Two Liberals

Dr George Morrison and Mr Gwyn Griffiths, two active figures in Liberal circles in Wales have donated papers to the Archive.

Dr Morrison's papers comprise correspondence and papers concerning the organisation and policy of the Welsh Liberal Party, including minutes of the executive committee, 1976–80, and of the Ceredigion and Pembroke North Liberal Association.

Mr Gwyn Griffiths has added to the papers donated previously (see *Newsletter* No 8). This group includes files relating to the National Executive Committee, 1980–3, the Liberal Party Council, 1978–85, the Campaigns and Elections Committee, 1980–7, the Party Assemblies, 1976–85, and the Young Liberals, 1975–8.

1984 Euro Election

Mr D Elwyn Jones has kindly donated to the Archive a substantial group of papers accumulated by him as agent to Miss Beata Brookes during the June 1984 European Election campaign in the North Wales constituency (NLW ex 1133).

The donor's permission is required to consult these papers.

SDP in Dyfed

A set of typescript minutes of the Ceredigion and Pembroke North SDP branch, 1981–87, and the Dyfed Area Party, 1981–88, has been donated to the Archive by Professor Glanville Price, UCW, Aberystwyth. Also included are a few local SDP newsletters.

The Archive continues to receive the minutes of the SDP Council for Wales and those of the West Glamorgan Area Party.

Campaign groups

The Archive continues to receive papers from a variety of groups and campaigns active in Welsh politics. Among these are: the papers of the Aberystwyth Peace Network which was established to co-ordinate various peace groups in Ceredigion; further papers relating to the women's support groups formed during the miners' strike of 1984–5; and an additional group of papers from Mr Meurig Parri (see *Newsletter* No 7) reflecting his involvement with several pressure groups relating to Ireland, Wales and the Falklands War.