

# ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

NEWSLETTER

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## THE RED DRAGON AND THE RED FLAG

*The Red Dragon and the Red Flag: the cases of James Griffiths and Aneurin Bevan* was the title of the Welsh Political Archive's second Annual Lecture held at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, on 4 November 1988. It was not surprising that a large and expectant audience had gathered at the Old Hall to hear the lecturer, Dr Kenneth O Morgan, as he had only recently been appointed Principal of the University College of Wales, and this was the first opportunity of many to witness one of Dr Morgan's lectures.

They were not to be disappointed. With his incomparable marshalling of facts and opinions coupled with the sure touch of an experienced lecturer, Dr Morgan was able to look afresh at the careers of two of Wales's most influential politicians.

Dr Morgan concentrated on examining five main aspects of Bevan and Griffiths's careers

— their origins, their role as trade unionists, party politicians and Cabinet ministers; and their attitude towards Wales. In doing so he discovered that the received wisdom of *reconciler* Griffiths and *rebel* Bevan is not entirely accurate. Bevan's approach was more pragmatic than is often imagined while there is evidence that Griffiths was more radical in his approach to foreign affairs than Bevan.

Dr Morgan came to the conclusion that James Griffiths and Aneurin Bevan embodied 'different aspects of the same Welsh Labour ethic. They reflect the attachment to community and a wider internationalism of spirit, humane pragmatism and creative imagination. There was no fundamental conflict between them'.

Those unable to be present at the lecture will be pleased to learn that it has since been published by the National Library of Wales (for full details see page 2).



*Dr Kenneth O Morgan with the President of the Library, Professor J Gwynn Williams, and the Librarian, Dr Brynley F Roberts*

### **The Advisory Committee**

The eighth meeting of the Welsh Political Archive's Advisory Committee was held on 4 November 1988.

The Librarian welcomed two new members to the Committee, Mr Andrew Davies, Assistant Organiser, Labour Party Wales and Mr Gwyn Griffiths of the Social and Liberal Democrats. It was agreed to invite Mr Haydn Rees and a representative of the SDP in Wales to join the Committee. Subsequently Dr Terry Thomas of the SDP agreed to become a member of the Committee.

A working party was nominated to investigate the possibility of setting up an Oral History Project.

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 T Haydn M Rees*

*Mr Ted Rowlands, Member of Parliament (The Labour Party)*

*Dr Dafydd Elis Thomas, Member of Parliament (Plaid Cymru)*

*Dr Terry Thomas (SDP)*

*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.

## DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

### **Legal status of the Welsh language**

Mr Tom Ellis, a member of the Archive's Advisory Committee, has kindly donated a substantial group of papers, mainly correspondence, 1971-9, between himself and the Anglo-Welsh author Mr Raymond Garlick which discuss the legal status of the Welsh language. Many of the letters refer to the court cases which resulted from the Welsh language campaign of the 1970s, the operation of the 1967 Welsh Language Act, and the activities of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg and other groups.

The correspondence is now NLW MS 22551E, while related press cuttings and printed material have been designated NLW ex 1045.

### **SDP Council for Wales**

Since the SDP Council for Wales was reconstituted in 1988, the Archive has been receiving the Council's Minutes. These are subject to a ten year embargo.

#### DARLITHIAU'R ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE LECTURES

1. John Grigg, **Lloyd George and Wales** (1987)
2. Kenneth O. Morgan, **The Red Dragon and the Red Flag: the cases of James Griffiths and Aneurin Bevan** (1988)  
£1.50 (£1.70 drwy'r post / by post)

*Hefyd gan yr Archif*

*Also by the Archive*

#### **Etholiad Cyffredinol 1987 yng Nghymru The 1987 General Election in Wales**

Rhagymadrodd gan : Introduction by  
Dr Dennis Balsom

£3 (£3.20 drwy'r post / 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).

# CASGLIAD TŶ CENEDL

Ar yr olwg gyntaf, adeilad oer a thywyll yw Canolfan y 'Sgubor yn Aberystwyth ond hyd at yn ddiweddar, cafwyd ynddi weithgareddau celfyddydol bywiog a mentrus o bob math.

Mewn un rhan o'r adeilad sefydlwyd canolfan arbennig gan y mudiad 'Cofiwn' ym 1984 gyda'r bwriad o gasglu ynghyd deunydd ar gyfer astudio a hyrwyddo Hanes Cymru a mudiadau cenedlaethol yng Nghymru. Llwyddwyd i gasglu pob math o ddeunydd — pamffledi, posteri, ffotograffau ac archifau — yn ymwneud â sawl agwedd ar hanes mudiadau cenedlaethol a gweriniaethol yng Nghymru.

Gwaetha'r modd, bu'n rhaid cau Canolfan y 'Sgubor ar ddiwedd Mawrth 1989 a chan fod Tŷ Cenedl heb gartref, penderfynwyd trosglwyddo'r holl ddeunydd a gasglwyd i'r Archif Wleidyddol.

Y mae casgliad Tŷ Cenedl yn cynnwys deunydd amrywiol yn ymwneud â dros chwarter canrif o ymgyrchu gan fudiadau cenedlaethol ymylol fel Mudiad y Werin, y Ffrynt Wladgarol Genedlaethol, Cymru Goch a Cofiwn.

Y mae archifau Cofiwn, er enghraifft, yn cynnwys papurau, gohebiaeth, pamffledi, posteri a ffotograffau yn ymwneud ag ymgyrchoedd y mudiad, fel 'Sarhad 83', sef yr ymgyrch yn erbyn Gŵyl y Cestyll, a 'Blwyddyn Goffa Llywelyn II'.



Un o bosteri Cofiwn, 1982

Dros y blynyddoedd, magwyd cysylltiadau rhwng 'Cofiwn' â mudiadau cenedlaethol ac ymylol mewn gwledydd eraill a chasglwyd ynghyd pob math o ddeunydd gan fudiadau fel AIM (American Indian Movement), UPG (Union Do Pobo Galego) a'r Scottish Republican Socialist Party.

Yn aml, nid yw archifau grwpiau pwyso a mudiadau ymylol yn goroesi ac felly y mae'r Archif Wleidyddol yn falch o dderbyn Casgliad Tŷ Cenedl ac yn arbennig gan ei fod yn adlewyrchu safbwynt gwahanol ar hanes Cymru.

*(Pamphlets, posters, photographs, letters and papers have been transferred from 'Tŷ Cenedl', Aberystwyth, to the Archive. 'Tŷ Cenedl' was set up in 1984 by 'Cofiwn' to collect material to promote the study of the history of Wales and of nationalist movements in Wales. Included are papers relating to various fringe nationalist movements such as the Welsh Republicans, the National Patriotic Front, 'Cymru Goch' and 'Cofiwn' itself.)*



Cofio Dic Penderyn ym Merthyr Tudful, 1981

## DERBYNIADAU / ACQUISITIONS

### **D Emlyn Thomas Papers**

Through the kindness of Mrs Margaret Morris, Aberdare, the Archive has received the constituency papers of D Emlyn Thomas (1892–1954), the Labour MP for the Aberdare division of Glamorganshire, 1946–54. They reveal Mr Thomas, the last former miner and miners' agent to represent the division in parliament, as a conscientious and hard-working member, ever sensitive to the problems of his constituents at a time of upheaval. They also provide a local dimension to the efforts of the Attlee government to diversify the structure of the south Wales economy through the introduction of a range of light industries, and to embark on a radical programme of slum clearance through building council properties. The papers comprise much correspondence from various government departments and ministries responding to Mr Thomas's communications on behalf of his constituents. Some letters relate to his involvement in a wide range of social and sporting activities at Aberdare.

### **Papurau Gwynfor Evans**

Yn ddiweddar daeth grŵp ychwanegol o bapurau Dr Gwynfor Evans i law, gohebiaeth a dogfennau a gronnodd yn swyddfa Plaid Cymru yng Nghaerfyrddin, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn deillio o'r ail gyfnod pan fu Dr Evans yn cynrychioli Sir Gaerfyrddin yn y Senedd, 1974–79.

Maent yn syrthio i ddau grŵp: gohebiaeth gyffredinol oddi wrth etholwyr (yn ymwneud â materion lleol yn bennaf) ac oddi wrth ffigurau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, ynghyd â chopïau o atebion Dr Evans, llawer ohonynt yn dyddio o 1977; ac, yn ail, corff sylweddol o ffeiliau'n ymwneud â phynciau arbennig, amryw'n trafod gweithgareddau a chyfrifoldebau'r Swyddfa Gymreig a Chyngor Sir Dyfed yn ogystal ag adrannau'r llywodraeth.

Rhaid sicrhau caniatâd Dr Evans er mwyn gweld y papurau.

*(An additional group of papers of Dr Gwynfor Evans, covering the years 1974–79, has been received. Dr Evans's permission is required to see these papers).*

### **Senedd i Gymru**

Ymhlith y papurau a ddaeth i law wedi marwolaeth Mr Elwyn Roberts, cyn-Ysgrifennydd Plaid Cymru, y mae grŵp sylweddol o bapurau yn ymwneud â'r Ymgyrch Senedd i Gymru, 1953–56.

Mae'r grŵp hwn yn cynnwys cofnodion y Pwyllgor Canol, 1954–56, llyfr cofnodion Pwyllgor Dinas Bangor, 1952–56, rhai cofnodion Pwyllgor De-Ddwyrain Cymru a Phwyllgor Gorllewin Cymru. Ymhlith yr ohebiaeth, ceir llythyrau oddi wrth Waldo Williams, D J Williams, Jac L Williams, Syr Ifan ab Owen Edwards a'r Fonesig Megan Lloyd George. Ceir hefyd dwy gyfrol yn cynnwys toriadau o'r wasg ynglŷn â'r Ymgyrch.

*(Papers relating to the Parliament for Wales Campaign, 1953–56, are among the papers of the late Mr Elwyn Roberts).*

### **Welsh Liberal Party Archive**

A further group of papers has been added to the Welsh Liberal Party Archive by Mr Gwyn Griffiths, the party's last Chairman, before it merged with the SDP to form the Social and Liberal Democratic Party in 1988 (see *Newsletters*, nos 5 and 6).

This group includes over fifty files of correspondence and papers dating from 1967 to 1988 mostly concerning party organisation and policy formation. There are minutes of the Executive Committee, 1975–78, correspondence and papers concerning the Annual General Meeting, 1982–87 and Annual Conferences, 1986–87.

Among the subjects covered are Elections, 1978–87, the Campaign for Fair Votes, Nationalisation, Northern Ireland, local Liberal Associations and the Women's Liberal Federation.

The Welsh Liberal Party Archive is subject to a ten year embargo.

### **Meurig Parri Papers**

Mr Meurig Parri has been actively involved with several pressure groups during the 1970s–80s. His papers include files relating to the Northern Ireland Veterans Against the War and Troops Out Now campaigns, the Stop the Falklands War Committee, 1982, the Anti-Nuclear lobby and Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg.

### **Cyncoed Conservatives**

The latest addition to the records of the City of Cardiff Conservative Associations (see *Newsletters*, nos 4 and 6) is the minute book, 1947–62, of the Cyncoed men's branch, a district which lay within the highly marginal Llandaff and Barry constituency until 1948 when it was transferred to the new division of Cardiff North. This volume again reveals the response of local Conservatives to periods of Labour and Conservative governments.