

Copy of the First Book to be Printed in Wales presented to Pope Benedict XVI

A facsimile copy of *Y Drych Cristianogawl*, a Catholic text and the first book to be printed on Welsh soil, was presented to Pope Benedict XVI at Westminster Cathedral in London on Saturday 18 September 2010.

The facsimile was produced by Julian Thomas, Manager of the Conservation Treatment Unit at The National Library of Wales. Julian is one of the leading bookbinders and facsimile makers in Britain and is regularly selected to create an elegant bound copy of each of the six shortlisted Booker Prize finalists. This facsimile was commissioned by Joseph Kelly, Chief Executive of the *Universe Catholic Weekly*. It was presented to the Pope by Bishop Edwin Regan of Wrexham as a gift from the people of Wales during a Welsh-themed service at Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday morning

18 September.

Joseph Kelly has great respect for the Catholics who produced *Y Drych Cristianogawl*.

'I have a longstanding interest in Father William Davies, the first Catholic publisher in Wales. I had always hoped that one day I could raise awareness of *Y Drych Cristianogawl*, and it is a great honour for me to be able to do that and to see the facsimile copy of that book presented to the Pope.'



NLW's Julian Thomas presenting 'Y Drych Cristianogawl' to Joseph Kelly.

Season's Highlights

Last season we were honoured to welcome an array of well-known faces to the Library. Firstly, the Labour politician and author Roy Hattersley discussed his recently published book about David Lloyd George, *Lloyd George – The Great Outsider*. The renowned travel writers and authors Jan Morris and Owen Sheers gave a fascinating insight into their work, and Dr Nick Barratt the well-known family historian talked about researching the history of your home.

One of the highlights of the season was Hollywood actor Matthew Rhys's visit to the Library to promote his recent book about his journey across Patagonia called *Patagonia – Crossing the Plain*.



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Date for the Diary

Friday 15 April 7.30 p.m.

'How do we sort out this mess?'

Robert Peston, author and BBC Business Editor, discusses the current position of the British and global economies.

Admission by ticket £10.00



Exhibitions

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday
10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Admission is free.

4 January - 2 April 2011

Small World – Travel in Wales and Beyond
A major exhibition on the history of travel and exploration in Wales and beyond through images, journals, text and items from the Library's unique collections.



The National Library in Wrexham!

Last Autumn, the National Library left its home in Aberystwyth and decamped to Wrexham – or, at least a small part of it did!

As part of its remit to ensure that people of all backgrounds are aware of the Library's collections and the work it does, members of staff collaborated with local people, clubs and societies in preparing an exciting timetable of events that were held in October and November.

Andrew Green, Librarian at The National Library of Wales, said: 'We are very proud to have gone to Wrexham this year – a town that has played a significant role in Welsh history. This year's highlights includes the opening of the *Old Photos of Wrexham* exhibition at the town's Library.'

Lorna Hughes appointed to the first Digital Collections Chair in the world

Lorna Hughes, currently Deputy Director of the Centre for e-Research at King's College London, has been appointed to a pioneering new post at The National Library of Wales. She will hold the world's first ever Chair in Digital Collections. The post, funded for five years by the University of Wales, is the first academic Chair to be established in any national library in the world.



Lorna will take the lead on academic research into the latest developments in digital resources, utilising the extensive digital collection housed at The National Library of Wales. This work spans the creation, provision, investigation, interpretation and conservation of digital collections, and will

embrace legal issues, data management, innovative research methods, and technological developments in access, search and usage.

On the Trail of the Hitch-hiker – Who was Islwyn Roberts?



A 1958 photo of a little-known hitch-hiker, Islwyn Roberts, saw him become the unlikely poster boy for the Library's big winter exhibition about travel – *Small World*. Following our request for information on the globe-trotting hitch-hiker from Llanbedr, Meirionethshire, we received many responses.

- It would seem that Islwyn Roberts had partly lost his hearing during the Second World War owing to a bomb explosion
- When travelling he carried a Red Dragon flag bearing the words "Taffy from Wales"
- He lived for a time in a corrugated iron shed next door to his brother's house in Llanbedr
- He used to sit on a bench in Llanbedr every day, where he would recount tales of his journeys to local people, especially children. Today a plaque has been installed near the bench, which bears an inscription of Islwyn's favourite expression – 'Never Cut a Friend'
- A postcard was published in the 1980s/90s which showed Islwyn sitting on the bench with the plaque
- Islwyn visited South Africa, Patagonia and Canada
- Allegedly, Islwyn met Lord Haw Haw. They spoke to each other on the bench in Llanbedr
- Islwyn died in June 1993 and his obituary appeared in the July 1993 edition of the community newspaper, *Llais Arduwy*
- He was unmarried and had no children.

4 January - March 2012

Step by Step – Tracing your Ancestors at The National Library of Wales
An exhibition highlighting the rich family history resources held at the Library.

Two NLW Collections Win UNESCO Status

Two items from the National Library were among ten items and collections chosen by UNESCO to be the first on a heritage list of exceptional documents in the United Kingdom. The items concerned were a rediscovered film about David Lloyd George, the last Liberal to be Prime Minister (*The Life Story of David Lloyd George*), and the Peniarth Manuscripts collection, which includes the famous Laws of Hywel Dda.

The Library's collections were among ten winning items from all parts of the UK which encompass almost one thousand years of history in chronicling critically important periods and events in the development of the United Kingdom.

The winner was chosen by the UK Memory of the World special committee, following a nomination and review process which began in 2009.

'We were immensely pleased to see the diversity and richness of the first nominations for the register,' said David Dawson, Chairman of the UK Memory of the World Committee. 'Considering the wealth of the UK's documentary history, I am certain that these winners do no more than scratch the surface. We hope that this will encourage more people to participate in their local museums and archives.'

Fascinating Facts 2010

The Library received almost **8,000** enquiries, **80,000** readers and visitors, **397** group visits, and over a **million** external internet users.

New look for Pen Dinas

The new-look Pen Dinas café is now open. It sells quality food, including sandwiches, panini, jacket potatoes, soups and home-made cakes, and many other tasty snacks along with all kinds of drinks such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate and juices.

In addition to the Pen Dinas café, visitors and readers can also enjoy the intimate "Caffi Bach", a small café in the Main Hall of the Library. Caffi Bach specialises in a quality cup of tea or coffee, as well as other drinks and snacks, and users are also able to bring their own food to enjoy in the neo-classical setting.

4 January - 2 April 2011

Patricia & Charles Aithie: Yemen
An exhibition of striking photographs of Yemen.

Penny Richards's use of the National Library's Flickr Commons collection

How did you hear about the National Library's Flickr Commons collection?

I heard about the Flickr Commons uploads from NLW because I've been following the Commons project since it was launched. I get a feed for all the latest uploads, so I always know what's new. I tag through many of the interesting collections, especially if they involve portraits of women, because I study women's history (I'm a research scholar affiliated with the UCLA Center for the Study of Women).

Why did you choose this photo?

I chose the Cranogwen portrait for many reasons. Her story is very interesting – a nineteenth-century woman with experience as a sea captain, teaching navigation, AND recognized for her excellent poetry at the Eisteddfod. The image is

good for shoes – nothing complicated – shoes have such a small space for collage elements that the image has to be fairly simple and clear. I like when an image can be flipped horizontally, so the shoes have mirror images on them; that makes more visual sense on shoes than identical images.

Do you intend to use more photos from the collection?

I have used other photos from the NLW collection. For about eight months my daily purse featured an image of Sarah Edith Wynne, the opera singer, wearing a plain taffeta gown. That's in my Flickr stream too.

Have you had much response to the shoes? Was your friend happy with the shoes?

She loved them! And when she read the story of

Cranogwen, she liked them even more. Her work involves teaching "navigation" in a more abstract sense of the word, so the match was good there. The paint on the shoes cracked a little, it usually does, but the image is still fine and the shoes are very wearable.

What are your thoughts on organisations offering their photographs free of charge online?

The institutions involved in the Commons project have generally been very welcoming of my remixes, so I think I must be hitting that right note most of the time.



Charles & Patricia Aithie: Yemen 25 September 2010-2 April 2011

Yemen is a country in the news today for all the wrong reasons. However, an exhibition of beautiful and candid photos of a little seen and more peaceful Yemen can be enjoyed at the National Library.

The exhibition is of photographs taken by Cardiff-born Patricia Aithie and her husband Charles. She is a photographer, painter, writer and lecturer with over twenty-five years' experience of living and travelling in the Middle and Far East who specialises in travel, culture and faith, and has written and photographed many books on art and culture. She has exhibited and lectured extensively and has taught courses on the History of World Art and Culture in the United Arab Emirates. She is a member of the British Guild of Travel Writers, and has been elected a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society and awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship.

This exhibition is part of a series of documentary photographs undertaken by Patricia and her husband Charles on a visit to Arabia with support from the Winston Churchill Fellowship and the Arts Council of Wales. In 2001, the project culminated in the publication *Yemen: Jewel of Arabia*, and a revised edition of the book was released in paperback in 2009. The photographs now form part of the national collection here at the Library.

You can also hear more about the photos and the country at a free gallery talk organised to coincide with the exhibition on 23 March 2011.

4 January - 26 November 2011

Writers of Wales: Islwyn Ffowc Elis & Gillian Clarke
An exhibition celebrating the life and work of Welsh authors Islwyn Ffowc Elis and Gillian Clarke.

16 April - 2 July 2011

John Welson & Jean-Claude Charbonel: Surrealism – the Celtic Eye
A major An exhibition of Celtic art by two leading surrealist artists from Wales and Brittany.



Dafydd Tudur

Meet the staff

What is your job title?

Rights and Information Manager.

What part of your job do you enjoy most?

Rights and information matters are relevant to many aspects of the Library's work, and as such my job gives me the opportunity to work with people in all parts of the building. So, it's a great chance to get to know other members of staff at the Library, and gain an understanding of how they contribute to its work.

What is your favourite item in the Library's collection?

I'll choose the diary kept by Lewis Jones (1836-1904) during his visit to South America in 1862-3.

This diary is an especially significant document because Lewis Jones's conclusions as to the suitability of the land for a Welsh colony proved later to be so controversial. The first migrants accused him of misleading them in his descriptions of the land in Patagonia. But apart from their historical significance, the diaries also contain very interesting details of the journey, and provide a striking portrayal of Lewis Jones as a young man crippled with longing for his wife and child back in Liverpool.

This item has been digitised and can be seen on the Glaniad website www.glaniad.com



Visit us!

The National Library of Wales welcomes readers and visitors alike.

Why not call in? Have a cup of tea at Pendinas Café and browse the Library shop.

To arrange a group visit call **01970 632 801** or e-mail amj@llgc.org.uk

Opening hours

9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Monday to Friday

10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Saturday

Guided tours

Free guided tours are held Monday morning and 2.15p.m. every Wednesday, departing from the Library shop. Please check the Library website www.llgc.org.uk for details or phone **01970 632 548** to book your place on our behind-the-scenes tour.



Archif Genedlaethol
Sgrin a Sain Cymru
The National Screen and
Sound Archive of Wales



Archive films on the BIG SCREEN

Shoppers and passers-by in the centre of the capital will be able to catch a glimpse of the Cardiff of the past.

Archive footage of Cardiff from the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales's collection is now screened on the BBC's big screen located outside St David's Hall.

In all, six films from the Archive's collection will be screened, and will include footage of the Wales Empire Pool in 1968, which was built for the 1958 Empire Games, and also 1940s footage of the docks area. It will also be possible to view footage of the centre of Cardiff during the 1930s, which include shots of the Queen Street shops, the National Museum and the buses, trams and trains which were in operation at the time.

It is hoped that the Archive's partnership with the BBC will develop further, and that local footage will be shown on the big screen in Swansea in the near future. The Archive is part of the National Library and will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2011.

Inspiring New Project

A project which the Archive is working on with Coleg Ceredigion has recently been awarded the Cultural Olympics Inspire Mark.

The project, entitled *Precious Life*, involves first year students of a BTEC media course at Coleg Ceredigion, Aberystwyth. The students will compile short films using some of the NSSAW's amateur film footage. These new films will follow one of four different themes, which will be *On the Farm*; *At the Seaside*; *Carnival* and *Racing*.

The project has been inspired by the 2012 Olympics and is a celebration of Welsh culture. It is hoped it will inspire young people to develop their creativity.

The films created by the students will be premiered in a lunchtime screening on 7 March 2011 at the Drwm in the National Library.



Student Workshop

On 11 October the National Screen and Sound Archive worked with Reel Education to deliver a film literacy workshop with students from the Additional Support Unit at Yale College near Wrexham.

The students were shown archive footage and were then given the opportunity to discuss and complete exercises based on what they had been shown.

Anwen Pari Jones from the Archive said: 'Being part of the Wrexham Outreach Programme has been a very valuable experience for us. It has given us an opportunity to take the Archive out to the community and share it with new audiences. We would like to thank the people of Wrexham for being so accommodating and the Film Agency for Wales for contributing financially towards the workshop.'

Sir Geraint Evans Archive

During the last month the Screen and Sound Archive has received some valuable archive material of the opera singer Sir Geraint Evans.

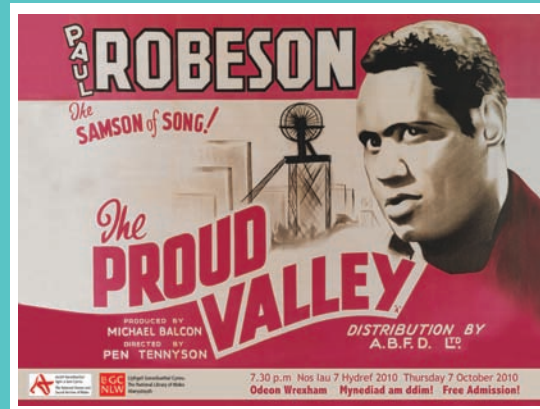
The collection includes television programmes that he appeared in during the 1970s and 80s, such as the opera *The Beach of Falesa* and also *Beneath the Christmas Tree* where Geraint Evans and guests celebrate Christmas, and documentary programmes such as *Geraint Evans in Covent Garden* in which he revisits the place where he started his career as an opera singer.

The Proud Valley in Wrexham

In October NSSAW screened the classic film *The Proud Valley* at the Odeon cinema at Eagles Meadow in Wrexham.

At the entrance to the cinema our vintage poster advertising the coal-mining story from 1940, and starring the great American singer Paul Robeson along with a host of Welsh acting talent, was displayed alongside the current crop of films such as *Made in Dagenham* and *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*. *The Proud Valley*, however, drew a full house, kicking off The National Library's month of outreach activities in Wrexham.

The audience emerged from the cinema moved and uplifted by the heroic struggle of the miners: many of those present were descendants of miners who worked in the coalfields of north-east Wales and they shared their family stories with us at the end of the evening.



Now open on Saturdays!

The Library is now open on Saturdays but with a limited service. Readers must order collections in advance.

Exhibitions – Café – Shop
www.llgc.org.uk/saturday