

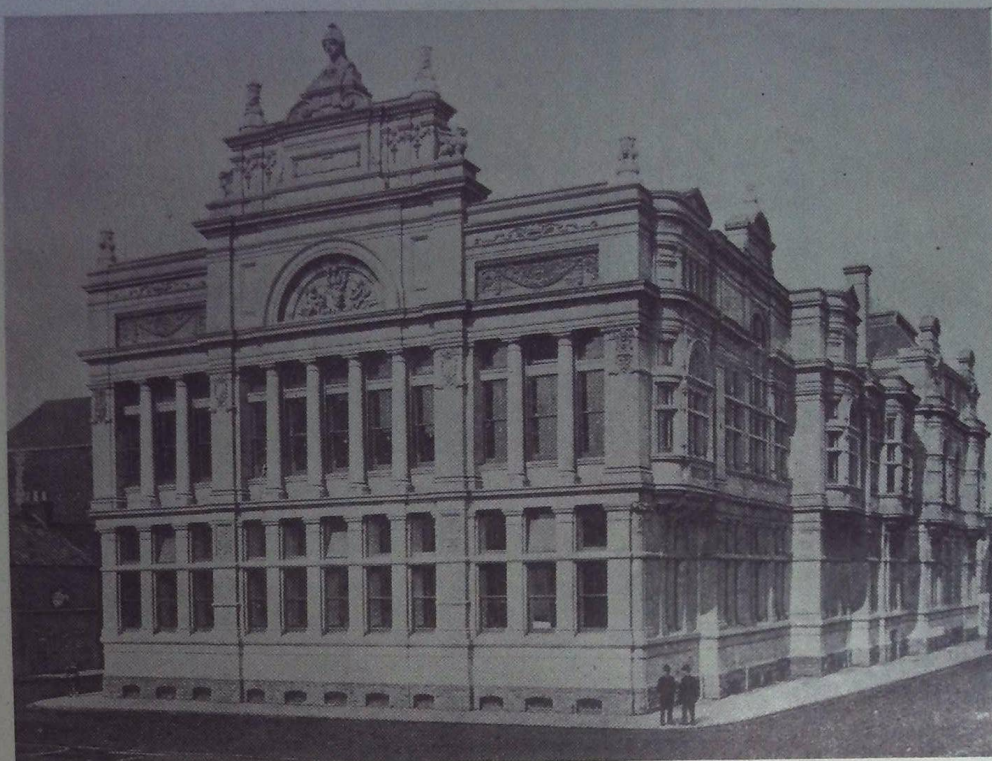
Cardiff Public Libraries

50th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
OF THE OPENING OF THE
CENTRAL LIBRARY

*A Brief Survey of the
Library Movement in
Cardiff*

PRINTED FOR THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE BY
WILLIAM LEWIS (PRINTERS) LIMITED CARDIFF

1932



THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY.
THE PRESENT CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING, OPENED JUNE 27TH, 1896.

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LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

1931-32

THE LORD MAYOR.

Chairman: Councillor W. G. HOWELL.

Deputy-Chairman: Councillor MORGAN EDWARDS.

Aldermen Sir CHARLES H. BIRD, PETHYBRIDGE, and Sir WILLIAM R. WILLIAMS; Councillors JAMES GRIFFITHS, T. J. MULLINS, STEEL, KERRIGAN, GWILYM HUGHES, MUSTON, G. BADEN SMITH, FERRIER, and FREWER.

Honorary Members:

Mrs. BRUCE, Mrs. RHODA PARKER, Miss BANKS; Ex-Alderman H. M. THOMPSON; Messrs. WENTWORTH H. PRICE, F. DASH, L. E. L. DOWNING, Rev. F. W. COLE, Rev. Father MATHEW, Messrs. J. LL. MORGAN, D. J. SKELLY, EDWARD MORGAN, and Dr. H. M. HUGHES.

Librarian:

HARRY FARR.

Deputy Librarian:

R. G. WILLIAMS.

Branches Superintendent:

E. J. REES.

THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN CARDIFF

1862 - 1882

THE modern public library movement in England and Wales dates from the passing of the Public Libraries Act in 1850. The first public lending library and reference library to be opened under the Act was the Manchester Library, which was formally opened on the 2nd September, 1852, in the presence of a distinguished company of prominent men, including the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Charles Dickens, W. Makepeace Thackeray, Sir James Stephen, Richard Monckton Milnes, John Bright, Charles Knight, the publisher, and others.

Greenwood, the historian of the library movement, says: "A more brilliant and intellectual assemblage was seldom seen," and many stirring addresses were delivered.

In Wales, Cardiff was the first town to adopt the Acts, in 1862. It was followed by Newport and Bangor in 1870, Aberystwyth in 1872, Swansea in 1874, Wrexham in 1879,



Caernarvon, Llangollen, and Welshpool in 1877, Llantarnam in 1889, and Pontypridd in 1890.

In Cardiff an unsuccessful attempt was made to adopt the Act in 1860. A voluntary library was started in 1861, and in 1862 another attempt was made, which was successful.

Plans for a permanent building for the library and museum were discussed as early as 1862, when the Act was adopted. The voluntary library started in 1861 and, taken over by the Corporation, was housed in rooms in the Royal Arcade. In 1864 schemes for building were temporarily abandoned, when an offer by the Y.M.C.A. to let their building in St. Mary Street was accepted, and the premises were leased to the Committee for ten years.

The institution grew to such an extent that in 1869 the question of providing a new building was once more pressed upon the attention of the Committee. The Secretary, Mr. Peter

Price, prepared a report and suggested the erection of a building at a cost of about £12,900. The sites suggested were in St. Mary Street and the Cardiff Arms Park. A special inquiry was held to consider the purchase of the old Infirmary building in 1875. In the meantime a new lease at an increased rental was obtained of the St. Mary Street premises.

THE PROPOSED NEW FREE LIBRARY, MUSEUM, AND SCHOOLS OF SCIENCE & ART.

The Borrowers, Readers, and Public are invited
by the Working Men's Committee to attend a

MEETING IN THE TOWN HALL,

(Lent by kind permission of his Worshipful the Mayor)

On Wednesday, April 30, 1873,

For the purpose of considering the best mode of
raising Funds towards the Erection of the
above Building.

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 7.30 P.M., BY THE

REV. DAVID HOWELL.

Cardiff, April 23rd, 1873.

D. DUNCAN & SONS, Steam Printers, "Cardiff Times" Office.

When the question was re-opened in 1879 it was proposed that one of the sites in the possession of the Corporation should be appropriated. Some difficulty arose, but on the 11th August, 1879, the Corporation decided in favour of the site on

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which the building now stands. As the result of a competition the designs of Messrs. James, Seward, and Thomas were accepted, at an estimated cost of about £8,000. The foundation stone was laid on the 27th October, 1880, by the then Mayor (Mr. J. M'Connochie).

The following description of the opening of the new building is taken from the annual report of 1881-2 :—

"THE LIBRARY.

Your Committee have to report that the New Building for the Free Library, Museum, and Schools for Science and Art was opened by the Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. Alfred Thomas) on the 31st of May, 1882, with great *éclat*, a procession being formed, comprising members of all the Corporate and Public Bodies and Trade and Benefit Societies in the Town, and the day being observed as a public holiday. The Mayor gave a *Conversazione* in the evening to upwards of 700 ladies and gentlemen in celebration of the event.

Your Committee caused a Gold Medal to be struck in commemoration of the ceremony, which was presented to the Mayor by Mr. Councillor Rees Jones, Chairman of your Committee. A Silver Key was at the same time presented to the Mayor by Mr. Councillor David Jones, the Chairman of the Free Library Building Committee.

Your Committee gave up possession of the Old Free Library Building on the 24th June last, and also of the room in the Arcade, which was used for the Classes in connection with the Schools for Science and Art. The work of removal has been well and carefully carried out by the several Officers of the Institution. The News and Magazine Rooms were opened for public use on the 26th of June, 1882. The Schools for Science and Art were opened on the 24th of August last, with the exception of the Laboratory, which will be opened on the 31st October. The issue of Books from the Library, both in the reference and lending departments, was commenced on the 27th September, and the Museum will be thrown open to the public on the 27th October."

In the "Western Mail" of 1st June, 1882, the following admirable leading article appeared :—

"OPENING OF THE CARDIFF FREE LIBRARY.

The building in Trinity Street, erected by the Corporation of Cardiff, for the combined purposes of a Free Library, Museum, and Science and Art School, was opened yesterday under circumstances of the most auspicious character. Hardly anything which could have given *éclat* to the occasion was wanting. Man appeared to have done all he could, and the elements were kindly to an unusual degree.

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DESIGN FOR THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1882

It was an event which served to keep up in full vigour the happy spirit of Whitsuntide, and a brightly smiling sky lent zest to the general enjoyment. There were bell ringings, trade and society processions, conversaziones, and speech-makings in honour of the event, all of which we give particulars elsewhere. In a word, all went as merrily as the best friend of the movement could have wished. Cardiff can now pride itself upon the possession of a place of public resort which is of a nature that does honour alike to the hearts of its inhabitants and its position as a thriving and an important commercial town. After many years of effort, rendered agreeably conspicuous by a singleness of purpose and an absence of party feeling, it has succeeded in obtaining for itself an institution which has no other aim to fulfil than the furtherance of the general good, which the humblest inhabitant may frequent and yet feel that he is no more out of place in than he who revolves in a sphere thrice or three hundred times removed.

In speaking of Cardiff as regards its Free Library, the honour must be conceded to the town of having in this, as in several other instances, taken the lead of every other in the Principality. It has the same claim to distinction, with respect to Wales, as Manchester has with respect to England; namely, it was the first borough within its own particular country to take advantage of the Public Libraries Act. This, in itself, is no small credit, but when we consider that, without any adventitious circumstances whatever, it has raised and furnished a building with which, let its defects be what they may, the Principality can show nothing else of the kind to compare, its credit is all the more enhanced. Whilst dwelling upon the way in which this result has been brought about, the Mayor struck the keynote of the whole of the previous history of the institution and of the town when he said that the day of small things had passed, and the Very Rev. the Dean of Llandaff, with a penetration ever characteristic of him, followed up the theme by announcing that the movement was a great triumph of unselfishness over the lust of money. There are lessons conveyed by words such as these which we wish—and it is in no invidious spirit we say so—that other Welsh towns would lay to heart. The existence of a central institution, where the studious of all ages, sexes, and conditions can resort to for purposes of study, is a privilege which cannot be too highly rated. Had it been viewed with an eye of parsimony, or with feelings of petty jealousy, such as one part of a great district may very quickly foster against another, a project of this kind would have been stifled in its very inception. . . . The inhabitants of Cardiff may pride themselves that they approached the question in no such narrow spirit as this. The ardour of learning would be very small indeed upon him who would

begrudge a walk of two miles or more to add to his stock, or to verify a point upon which he may be in doubt. . . . With such excellent beginnings, and such a hopeful future before it, the success of the Cardiff Free Library may be reckoned upon as certain."

It is not too much to say that the new institution has justified the high hopes which were held out at the opening. The history of the library since 1882 is one long record of continued progress in every direction, and Cardiff has ever since held its place as one of the most progressive libraries in the country.

CARDIFF FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS
1862-63.

The Mayor of Cardiff, *Chairman*.
(JOHN BIRD.)

Mr. CHARLES THOMPSON, *Deputy Chairman*.

Messieurs

WILLIAM ALEXANDER	R. H. MICHELL
JOHN BATCHELOR	WILLIAM NELL
HUGH BIRD	MORRIS PHILLIPS
HENRY BOWEN	PETER PRICE
C. W. DAVID	D. L. THOMAS
W. T. EDWARDS, M.D.	J. TOMLINSON
M. GROVER	C. R. VACHELL, M.D.
HENRY HEARD	WILLIAM VACHELL
DANIEL JONES	JONAS WATSON
S. P. KERNICK	EDWARD WHIFFEN
EDWARD MASON	

Treasurer:

Mr. WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

Honorary Secretary:

Mr. PETER PRICE.

Librarian:

CHARLES PROUSE.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS
1881-82.

Chairman:

Mr. Councillor REES JONES.

Deputy-Chairman:

Alderman TAYLOR, M.D.

Committee:

Alderman THOMAS EVANS, M.R.C.S.

Alderman DANIEL LEWIS.

Councillors

ROBERT BIRD	J. G. PROGER
ANDREW FULTON	W. J. TROUNCE
THOMAS REES	W. J. NEWBERY
DANIEL LLOYD LOUGHER	HENRY JONES

Honorary Members:

C. T. VACHELL, M.D.	PETER PRICE
Rev. W. E. WINKS	J. W. THOMAS, F.C.S.
EDWIN SEWARD, A.I.B.A.	T. H. RICHES
H. C. HARRIS, A.I.B.A.	W. H. THOMAS
PETER DAVIES	W. RONNFELDT

Treasurer:

HENRY JONES EVANS.

Hon. Secretary:

J. L. WHEATLEY, Town Clerk.

Chief Librarian:

HENRY ALLPASS, F.R.S.L.

Assistant Librarian:

WALTER E. WILLIAMS.

Junior Assistant:

WILLIAM BRIDLE.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

1882 - 1932

The Science and Art Schools were transferred to a newly-formed Technical Instruction Committee in 1890, and housed in buildings belonging to the University College, by whom the school was administered. Later the City Council took over the direct administration again and erected the New Technical College in Cathays Park.

The Museum was transferred to a separate Committee in 1893, and later was handed over to the National Museum of Wales. The Department of Archaeology continued to be housed in the Library building until 1923, when the collections were removed, and the whole of the building was taken over for library purposes, and some much-needed extensions and improvements carried out.

The needs of the library, however, could not wait for these developments, and an extension of the building was begun in 1893, and completed and opened by King Edward VII (then



Cardiff Free Library & School of Art.

Prince of Wales) in 1896. This comprised the portion of the building extending from the old entrance in Trinity Street to the Hayes.

In the newer portion of the building are the General Reading Room, the Women's Reading Room, and the Reference Library. The Lending Library occupies the ground floor, the administrative rooms the first floor, and the Research Room the top floor of the old building.

The Reference Library, which began with a nucleus of 49 volumes about 1864, has been continuously added to until it now numbers some 160,000 volumes, and ranks fifth amongst the municipal reference libraries of the country.

In addition to the main reference collections, the Reference Library includes a number of special collections.



THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1882-1896.

The most important of these is the Welsh collection. Gifts and purchases of books on the history, topography, antiquities, language, and literature of Wales are recorded continuously in the early reports. These, though at first few in number, gradually grew more numerous. This collection now contains some 50,000 volumes and pamphlets, and is only surpassed by the National Library of Wales. It is regularly used by Welsh scholars and students and others interested in Welsh subjects from all parts of the kingdom, and occasionally by students engaged in special research work from continental and other countries.

In addition to printed books there are large collections of Manuscripts, Deeds, and Documents. The MSS. proper number over 2,000, of which 110 have been calendared by the Historical MSS. Commission. They include a large number of MSS. in the Welsh language. The earliest dates from the thirteenth century and is a famous MS. known as the "Book of Aneurin," and there are other Welsh MSS. of the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. The collection also includes heraldic MSS., pedigrees and pedigree rolls, court rolls, and other historical and genealogical MSS. of considerable importance.

The Deeds and Documents number over 11,000. Every county in Wales is represented. About one hundred and fifty date before 1500.

There is also a small collection of illuminated and other MSS., including some Books of Hours, illustrated and decorated with miniature paintings.

The Library has also large collections of prints, maps, drawings, portraits, and photographs, numbering over 20,000 items. These are largely topographical and, in the main, relate to Wales.

Owing to the growth in the use of the Reference Library, and particularly in the number of readers engaged in special study and research, it became necessary to make special provision for research students, and in 1923 a special Research Room was opened and has been in constant use since by readers using rare books and MSS. and engaged in advanced studies.

In 1931 the Library was recognised as an official depository by the Master of the Rolls for manorial and other documents and public records, and some important local collections of manorial documents have already been handed over to the library for preservation.

There are a number of other special collections, nearly all of which have originated from gifts made from time to time. Amongst them are a collection of incunabula from the early printing presses of Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France, and the Low Countries; early editions of the classics; a collection of English books printed before the year 1640, and later seventeenth century English literature; an English Drama

Collection ; sixteenth and seventeenth century Italian, French, Spanish, and Dutch books, Emblem books, and other Early Illustrated books ; books illustrated by Cruikshank, and other nineteenth century English illustrated books ; books printed at the Kelmscott, Doves, and other modern presses ; a collection of early children's books and early educational literature ; contemporary French Revolutionary literature ; a collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century music, which it is hoped to develop into a comprehensive music reference collection ; a theatre collection, a collection of Quaker literature, and other smaller collections.

The Central Lending Library is a wide and comprehensive collection of books in all branches of literature, and is intended to meet any reasonable demands that may be made upon it. The standard books, text-books, treatises, and popular books on all subjects are well represented on its shelves.

Included in the Art section is a large and representative collection of Musical Works, and in the Language and Literature section a representative selection of the works of the modern European writers in the original languages, including French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Flemish, and Russian. The total stock of the Central Lending Library is over 45,000 volumes.

As the population of Cardiff grew, and the town gradually extended farther into the adjoining suburbs, demands began to be made for branch libraries and reading rooms in the outlying districts. Branch reading rooms were opened at Cathays and Roath in 1889, and at Canton, Grangetown, and the Docks in 1891. The first branch library building was erected at Splotlands in 1894 ; a building at the Docks was opened in 1898 ; new branch library buildings were erected at Grangetown and Roath in 1901, and at Cathays and Canton in 1907. The two latter were Carnegie buildings, and included large children's reading halls.

When the boundaries of Cardiff were extended, library provision was made for the added areas. Lending centres were opened at Ely, Llandaff North, and Llanishen in 1923, and a new branch library building was erected at Gabalfa and opened in 1928. The Cathays branch library was extended in 1923, the Grangetown branch library in 1929, the Docks branch library in 1930, and the Splotlands branch library in 1931. At Grangetown and Splotlands children's reading rooms were added. A temporary library building for Ely has recently been authorised and will be erected and opened during the coming winter.

The provision of a library in each of the Elementary and Secondary Schools in Cardiff was successfully carried out in 1899, under the joint control of the School Board and the Public Libraries Committee. The scheme was extended in 1902 to include the supply of picture and simple story books to the

Infants' Schools, and books specially adapted for the children in the Oral School for the Deaf, and the two departments for Defective Children. The year 1905 marked the completion of the scheme for supplying books to children by the inclusion of the non-Council or Voluntary Schools.

The immense development that has taken place in the use and provision of books in the School Libraries may best be seen in the statistics for the last complete year. During the school year ending July, 1932, the total issue was 574,487 volumes, the number of separate libraries 143, and the total stock 48,152 volumes.

The most recent development of the library movement is the establishment of regional systems of library co-operation. Last year a Regional Scheme of library co-operation for the whole of Wales and Monmouthshire was established, with its headquarters at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, but with a subsidiary scheme for Glamorgan and Monmouth, with its headquarters, called the Regional Bureau, at the Cardiff Public Library. A Union Catalogue of all the books in all the libraries in Glamorgan and Monmouth, excluding fiction and juvenile literature, is being compiled, and will be maintained at the Cardiff Central Library. Already over 200,000 books have been listed for the Union Catalogue, and the inter-lending of books has been commenced and is rapidly developing. This new scheme promises to be of very great value, and is a great step forward in the library movement.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE LIBRARIES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

The extent to which the library is indebted to a long succession of benefactors is shown in the following list. Generous gifts of books and manuscripts, or liberal subscriptions to funds, have enabled the Committee to acquire, from time to time, important collections, with the result that the library now possesses large collections of Welsh manuscripts, deeds, and documents, rare books, maps, and prints, and other special groups made up largely from private sources.

1875.

A collection of works on agriculture, numbering 210 volumes, presented by Mr. C. W. David. Some of the books formed part of the library of the Cardiff Farmers' Club in 1842.

1882.

Judge Falconer, of Usk, presented 2,000 volumes.

1884.

Publications to the value of about £160 received from the Trustees of the British Museum.

A series of books and maps relating to the Survey of Western Palestine, presented by the Marquess of Bute.

1891.

The "Tonn" library was acquired, consisting of 7,000 printed volumes and 100 manuscripts. £350 was subscribed towards defraying the cost.

Mr. H. M. Thompson presented a number of scientific works from the library of Professor Kitchen Parker.

1893.

Alderman S. A. Brain made a donation to provide books for Grangetown branch. He continued this annually until 1900, contributing in all over £125.

Towards a building fund for a new branch at Splotlands £230 was subscribed.

1896.

The whole of the Welsh manuscripts in the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps were purchased. Subscriptions towards the purchase amounted to £1,897, including £1,000 given by the Marquess of Bute and £500 by Mr. John Cory. The deeds with the Phillipps collection numbered 1,021.

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1898.

An autograph sonnet by William Wordsworth, written in connection with the re-building of St. Mary's Church, Cardiff, 1842, purchased and presented by Lord Tredegar.

Mr. Samuel Gardner presented a series of 200 photographs illustrating the history of Gothic architecture in England, mounted in three oak cabinets.

A large oil painting, the "First Reading of the Bible in England," by R. Prescott Knight, R.A., presented by Mr. John Cory, and another oil painting, the "Day of Judgment," given by Mr. Wm. Scott.

1900.

Bust in bronze of Mr. Marcus Gunn (sculptor, W. Goscombe John), presented by his friends.

1901.

The Scott Collection, comprising over 2,000 items in Welsh or relating to Wales, given by Mr. William Scott.

The sum of £391 placed to the credit of the libraries out of the surplus fund of 1870 Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition.

185 volumes of Record Office Publications received from H.M. Stationery Office.

Cast from the original designs for the National Eisteddfod Association Medal, presented by the designer, Mr. W. Goscombe John.

1902.

67 examples of books printed before the year 1500, purchased and presented by Mr. John Cory.

A collection of emblem books, examples of rare continental presses, and early editions of Italian classical writers, purchased from a fund contributed by a body of subscribers.

The Wooding Library, containing over 5,000 volumes, including many rare Welsh books, purchased.

855 duplicates from the Ashbee and other collections, presented by the Trustees of the British Museum.

1903.

A copy of the first Welsh Testament, 1567, bequeathed by the Very Rev. David Howell, Dean of St. Davids.

Cast of designs for the Llewellyn and Hughes medal, presented by the sculptor, W. Goscombe John.

1905.

Bust of Alderman William Sanders, by W. Goscombe John, presented by members of his family.

£600 from the estate of Mr. James Pyke Thompson, given by the executors, Messrs. C. and H. M. Thompson, for the purchase of books for the new Canton branch.

The Baglan Welsh Manuscripts, 17 in number, presented by Mr. R. W. Llewellyn, of Baglan Hall.

2,000 volumes in Welsh, and relating to Wales, collected by "Dafydd Morganwg" (D. Watkin Jones), purchased for the library by Sir W. T. Lewis (Lord Merthyr).

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1906.

A bust of "Talhaiarn," executed by William Davies, "Mynorydd," presented by Mr. J. H. Parry.

1907.

The sum of £10,409 given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the erection of Branch Libraries at Cathays and Canton.

Mr. John Cory gave £50 for the purchase of books and pictures for the Children's Halls at Cathays and Canton.

Books and MSS. of David Williams, founder of the Royal Literary Fund, acquired.

1908.

Mrs. Gwynn, of Bryn Ifor, Blaenavon, presented a series of 13 medals won by her father, T. E. Watkins, at various eisteddfodau.

1911.

In connection with the Bible Tercentenary Exhibition, a fund was set up, and with the subscriptions a number of rare and valuable editions of the Bible purchased.

1912.

A collection (consisting of eight manuscripts, including Welsh poems by Glamorganshire bards in the autograph of John Lewis, 1726; 189 volumes and pamphlets, and 22 maps, plans, and charts) was presented by Mr. Illtyd Nichol, of the Ham.

Mr. T. H. Thomas presented 509 volumes, mainly from the library of his father, the Rev. Thomas Thomas, D.D., of Pontypool College.

Mr. H. Jenkins Davies, of Totton, Hants., presented 34 manuscripts, 209 volumes, and 454 pamphlets, mainly Welsh, from the library of his father, the Rev. D. H. Davies, Vicar of Cenarth.

46 volumes relating to Ireland, and 42 relating to Gujarati and other Oriental languages, were received from Professor Littledale, M.A., Litt.D.

A set of the publications of the International Chalcographical Society, with other works on early engraving, were presented by Professor Claude Thompson, M.A., D.Sc.

1913.

An example of a Greek Ostrakon or Potsherd, received from Sir Herbert Thompson.

1914.

Three manuscript diaries of John Bird, Cardiff's first printer, dated 1790-1, 1792-1803, 1826, with Cardiff broadsides, received from Messrs. C. E. and A. A. Strong, executors of the will of Mrs. R. K. Chivers.

The Caley manuscripts, 348 items relating to Wales and Monmouthshire, and 678 items to the Border Counties, purchased. The documents were prepared by John Caley, Keeper of Records in the Augmentation Office.

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1915.

Notes, maps, and photographs relating to antiquarian subjects in Glamorganshire, made by Mr. G. E. Robinson, were presented by his daughter.

644 volumes and 423 pamphlets received from the trustees of the British Museum, from duplicates in that institution.

The pedigree roll of Griffith Griffiths, of Salop, collected by Morris Evans, early in the seventeenth century, presented by Mr. Guy Maynard, Saffron Walden.

1916.

For the purchase of rare items in the collection made by Mr. Robert Drane, of Cardiff, the sum of £124 5s. 0d. was subscribed. Included in the books purchased were some rare Marprelate Tracts.

1917.

Mr. James Evans, of Ynysybwl, presented a series of note books of "Eos Dâr" (Dan Evans) containing penillion, or harp stanzas, sung by "Eos Dâr" at eisteddfodau from Brecon National in 1888 to Bangor, 1915.

1918.

A series of eight early Cardiff Theatre Bills, dated 1818 to 1869, were received from Mr. F. Milnes, of Cardiff.

The famous collection of Welsh manuscripts made by Thomas Johnes of Hafod, known as the Hafod Collection, was purchased for the Library. The cost was defrayed by Mr. Edgar Edwards, of Highmead, Ely.

A Cruikshank collection, consisting of 400 volumes and 300 prints, made by Mr. Henry G. C. Allgood, was purchased by Sir William Seager and presented.

760 items from the library of Miss Metford, of Dinas Powis, including a number of works relating to the Society of Friends, were presented by Alderman H. M. Thompson.

From Mr. T. Francis Howell, on behalf of the executors of Mr. James Howell, was received eight editions of the English Bible, dating from 1540 to 1738, and a Tyndale New Testament, 1552.

1919.

Mr. Bonner Morgan presented a collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century music, numbering 52 MS. volumes, 160 printed works, and 200 songs. The music was collected by Sir Herbert Mackworth, of Gnoil Castle, Neath, and among the manuscripts are 10 scores of early Italian operas.

From the sale of Singleton Abbey, Swansea, some important items were acquired, including a sixteenth century manuscript in the hand of Llewellyn Sion of Llangewydd. This contains a transcript of "Y Drych Christianogawl," by Griffith Roberts, and a Welsh translation of "Dives and Pauper," by

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Henry Parker, from the edition printed in 1493 by Richard Pynson. Other important items are The Book of Simwnt Vychan, with armorial bearings in colour, two Civil War tracts—"The Welsh Foot Post" and "A Declaration by Sir Thomas Middleton in 1644," three volumes of ecclesiastical seals made by Miss B. Hewlett in 1826-7, and eleven volumes of music, supplementing the gift of early music by Mr. Bonner Morgan.

1920.

Manuscripts, scrap books, and papers, compiled and brought together by "Cadrawd," Mr. T. C. Evans, were presented by Mrs. T. C. Evans, of Llangynwyd.

Mrs. Treharne, of Pentre, gave 220 volumes, of which over 100 were early law books.

A further collection of 300 volumes from the library of Miss Metford, supplementing the gift made by Alderman H. M. Thompson, were received from Mr. R. E. Reynolds.

1921.

A Theological library, 484 volumes, collected by a clergyman of the Church of England, was presented by Captain and Mrs. Griffiths.

1922.

A number of manuscripts and early printed books, formerly at the Hertfordshire County Museum, were acquired.

To the collection of deeds and documents 1,750 items relating to Wales and the Border Counties were added. The cost of purchase was guaranteed by Messrs. T. W. David, John Ll. Morgan, Hugh Howell, and F. E. Andrews.

From the executors of Mr. F. A. Crisp were received 30 deeds, two relating to Cardiff, dated 1478 and circa 1450.

1923.

Sir Henry Webb, Llwynarthan, presented 100 volumes illustrating English and foreign bookbinding from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

200 volumes and three local manuscripts, registers under the Turnpike Acts, dated 1764 to 1843, given by Mr. Edgar David, Fairwater.

1924.

A further collection numbering 210 volumes, including examples of incunabula, early sixteenth century works, and series of early and modern bindings, from Sir Henry Webb, Llwynarthan.

The bequest under the will of Mr. T. H. Thomas, "Arlunydd Penygarn," of manuscripts, correspondence, books, and prints received.

The Aylward collection of music, which formed a valuable nucleus for a musical reference library, purchased.

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1926.

Letters of administration, mounted in 40 volumes and dating from 1611 to 1855, added.

1927.

Mrs. H. M. Thompson gave 73 items for the special collection of Children's Books, and a further 42 items received from Mr. E. S. Tregelles.

The number of separate issues of the "Eikon Basilike" (The King's Book), made up to 39 by the gift of Mr. F. F. Madan, of seven issues.

A bust of "Dyfed" (the Rev. Evan Rees), a medallion portrait of Lord Aberdare, and art works and photographs presented by Mr. W. W. Taylor.

1928.

Dr. Katherine R. Drinkwater presented 112 volumes of the publications of the New Sydenham Society.

80 items added to the early educational works and children's books by gift from Mrs. G. Carslake Thompson.

1930.

A series of hand-drawn maps and plans of places in the Vale of Glamorgan, presented by Mr. W. Bradley.

1931.

Dr. Erie Evans gave 263 volumes, medical works, and contemporary books.

170 volumes received from the Dean and Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral.

1932.

Manorial records and documents, numbering 250 items, deposited by the Lords of the Manors of Avon, Avon Walia, Neath, Neath Citra, Tir Iarll, and Briton.

Mr. Lloyd Richards placed on deposit his drama collection, including some rare Craig items and two theatrical masks.

CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN.

<i>Chairman.</i>	<i>Deputy-Chairman.</i>
1862-3 THE MAYOR.	CHARLES THOMPSON.
1872-3	DR. W. TAYLOR.
1877-8 THE MAYOR	CLEMENT LUCAS.
(Ald. W. TAYLOR, M.D.)	
1878-9 THE MAYOR.	DR. W. TAYLOR.
1879-80 Councillor REES JONES.	
1882-3 Ald. W. TAYLOR, M.D.	Councillor SANDERS.
1888-9	Councillor PETER PRICE.

(21)

CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN—continued.

<i>Chairman.</i>	<i>Deputy-Chairman.</i>
1889-90 Councillor PETER PRICE.	PETER DAVIES.
1892-3 Alderman REES.	Councillor SHACKELL.
1893-4 Councillor SHACKELL.	Councillor E. THOMAS.
1898-9 Councillor E. THOMAS.	H. M. THOMPSON M.A.
1902-3	W. RONNFELDT.
1907-8 Ald. W. J. TROUNCE.	
1915-6	Councillor EVAN OWEN.
1918-9 Councillor EVAN OWEN.	Councillor C. F. SANDERS.
1920-1 Ald. W. R. WILLIAMS.	EVAN OWEN.
1923-4	W. P. JAMES.
1925-6	Councillor W. G. HOWELL.
1926-7 Councillor HENRY DAVIES.	
1927-8 Councillor W.G.HOWELL.	Councillor HELLYER.
1929-30	Councillor J. GRIFFITHS.
1931-2	Councillor M. EDWARDS.

CHIEF LIBRARIANS AND SUB-LIBRARIANS TRAINED IN THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

John Ballinger	1880	Librarian, Doncaster.
Henry Allpass	1883	Librarian and Curator, Derby.
Walter E. Williams	1883	Librarian, Doncaster.
William Bridle	1887	Librarian, East Ham.
G. A. Sparke	1893	Librarian, Kidderminster
		later Bolton.
John Shepherd	1900	Librarian, Birkenhead.
J. Jones	1904	Librarian, Salisbury
		later Torquay.
Miss Hamlett	1905	Librarian, Penarth.
John Ballinger	1908	First Librarian of the National Library of Wales.
W. E. Owen		Librarian, Leamington.
Wilson Brown		Librarian, Kendal.
L. Chubb		Librarian, Ipswich.
D. Jones		County Librarian, Buckinghamshire.
H. W. Elliott		County Librarian, Dorset.
W. Hines		Librarian, Kensal Rise.
F. J. Boardman		Librarian, Rotherham.
R. W. Lynn		Librarian, Bootle.
J. H. E. Biggs		Librarian, Colne.
W. Cowdry		Librarian, Pontypridd.
I. Davies		Librarian, Colwyn Bay.
A. ap Gwynn		Librarian, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
C. Fuller		Deputy Librarian, London School of Economics.
C. Hedden		Branch Librarian, Glasgow.
C. Jackson		Branch Librarian, Birmingham.

MEMORANDA

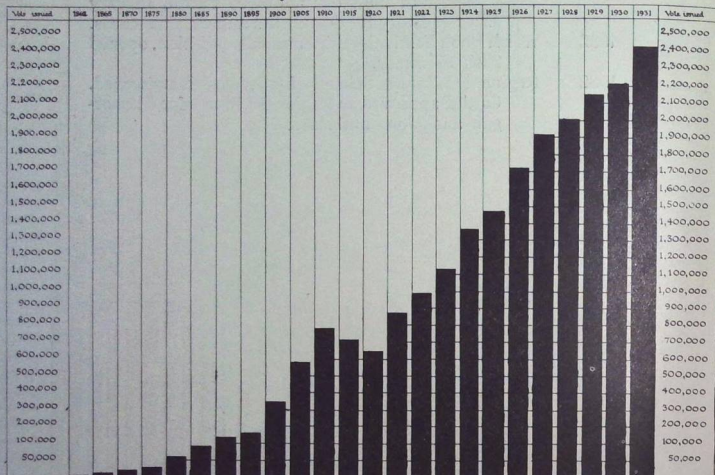
- 1861 Voluntary Free Library established to encourage adoption of Act.
- 1862 Libraries Act adopted. Cardiff was the first town in Wales to adopt the Act.
Mr. C. Prouse appointed Librarian.
- 1863 Lending Library opened 13th October.
- 1864 Library and Museum moved to building in St. Mary Street, previously occupied by Y.M.C.A.
- 1866 Science and Art School added to the Library and Museum, under the control of the Library Committee.
- 1866 Mr. C. Prouse resigned, and Mr. P. S. Robinson appointed Librarian.
- 1868 Mr. P. S. Robinson resigned, and Mr. T. J. Lean appointed Librarian.
- 1869 The Library Committee report that accommodation is inadequate, and ask the Borough Council to consider the provision of a new building.
During succeeding years the Committee continued to press the urgency of a new building upon public attention.
- 1870 Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition held for the purpose of erecting a new Free Library, Museum, and Schools for Science and Art. £1,017 was raised.
- 1873 Public meeting held in the Town Hall to consider the means of raising further funds for a new building.
In 1875 the Committee examined a proposal to adapt the Infirmary buildings for library purposes but decided they were not suitable.
- 1875 Borough extended to include Roath and Canton.
- 1876 "The Committee regret being unable to report the least progress in the matter of the new building."
- 1876 Mr. T. J. Lean resigned, and Mr. H. Allpass appointed Librarian.
- 1880 "The Committee received with much satisfaction a communication from the Council to the effect that the new Free Library, Museum, and Science and Art Schools has been commenced."
- 1881 Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition held to provide funds for the furnishing and decoration of the new building.
- 1882 The Library was moved to the new building on 31st May, the day being observed as a public holiday. This building, which cost £11,000, is that part of the present Library buildings on the north side, overlooking St. John's Churchyard.

- 1884 Mr. H. Allpass resigned, and Mr. (now Sir) John Ballinger appointed Librarian.
- 1889 Branch Reading Rooms opened at Cathays and Roath.
- 1891 Branch Reading Rooms opened at Canton, Grange-town, and the Docks.
- 1893 Extensions to Central Library building commenced.
- 1894 Splotlands Branch opened 16th October.
- 1895 Library Association Conference held in Cardiff.
- 1896 Extensions to Central Library Buildings opened by King Edward VII, 27th June. Cost of extensions £17,000.
- 1898 New buildings for Docks Branch opened 20th September.
- 1899 School Libraries inaugurated 14th April, 1899.
- 1900 Branch Lending Library opened at Splotlands, 28th May.
- 1901 Branch Reading Room opened at Cathays, 1st January; Branch Lending Libraries opened at Grangetown, 16th September; Roath, 10th October.
- 1903 Branch Lending Library opened at Cathays, 5th March.
- 1904 Exhibition of Welsh Bibles, open from March to October.
- 1905 Lectures in Branch Libraries initiated.
- 1906 The Library recognised as entitled to share in the funds available for Higher Education.
- 1907 Branch Libraries, erected with the sum of £10,409 given by Dr. Andrew Carnegie, opened at Cathays and Canton, on 7th March.
- 1908 Mr. Ballinger resigned, and the present Librarian appointed.
- 1911 Bible Exhibition held in Central Library, from March to September.
- 1912 Celebrations of Jubilee of Cardiff Libraries.
- 1913 Exhibition of early printed books held in Central Library.
- 1922 Library Association Conference held in Cardiff.
- 1923 Lending Centres opened at Ely, Llandaff North, and Llanishen.
- 1923 Extensions to Cathays Branch opened.
- 1923 Research Room at Central Library opened.
- 1927 Exhibition at City Hall, 29th July-20th August.
- 1928 Branch Library opened at Gabalfa.
- 1929 Grangetown Branch Library extended and re-opened.
- 1930 Welsh Book Festival—first annual exhibition, opened 22nd February.
- 1930 Extensions to Docks Branch Library opened.
- 1931 Splotlands Branch Library extended and re-opened.

- 1931 Welsh Book Festival—second annual exhibition, opened 21st March.
Master of the Rolls approved Cardiff Library as a repository for documents and public records.
- 1932 Welsh Book Festival—third annual exhibition, opened 26th February.
- 1932 Regional Library Scheme for Wales inaugurated. Cardiff approved as Regional Library for Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

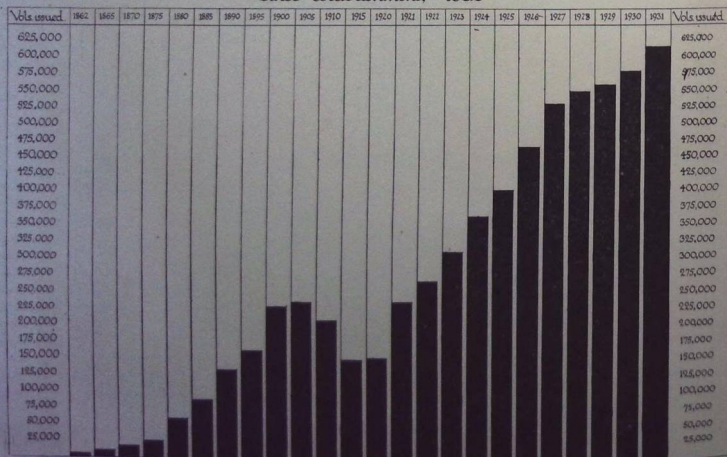
CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

This diagram shows the growth in the number of Books used annually since the first Public Library was established in Cardiff in 1862



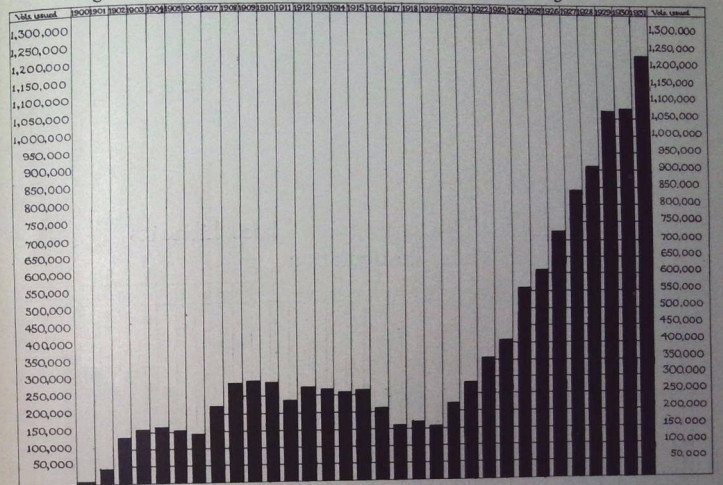
CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Diagram showing the annual issue of books from the Reference and Lending Departments of the Central Library since establishment, 1862



CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Diagram showing Development of Branch Lending Libraries



CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Diagram showing the use made of the Childrens Reading Rooms

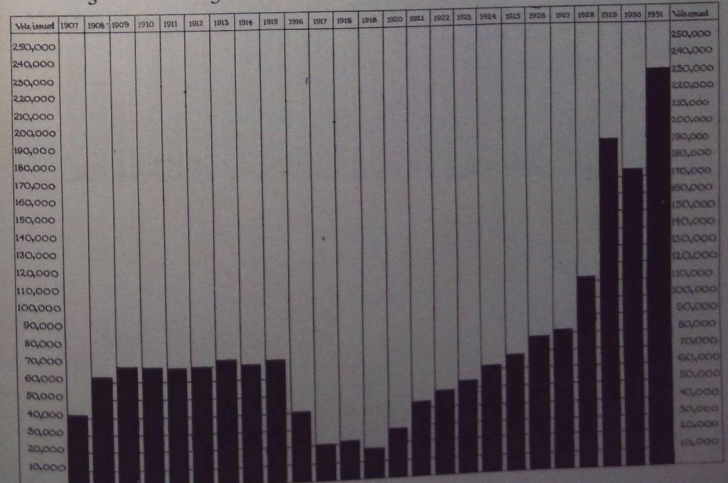
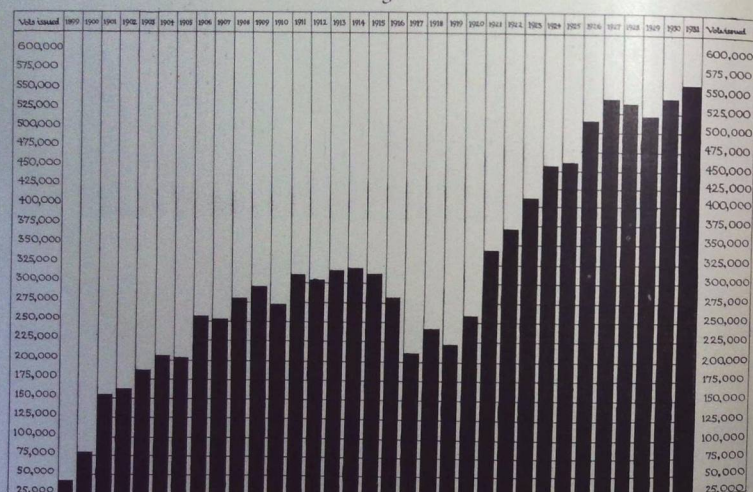


Diagram showing Development of School Libraries
since Inauguration





CITY OF CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

NOTES ON THE FACILITIES
PROVIDED FOR THE CUSTODY,
PRESERVATION AND USE OF

LOCAL RECORDS
AND
HISTORICAL MSS. *and* DOCUMENTS
AT THE
Cardiff Public Library.

CARDIFF
1932



RESEARCH ROOM, CENTRAL LIBRARY.

CITY OF CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

NOTES ON THE FACILITIES
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LOCAL RECORDS
AND
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AT THE
Cardiff Public Library.

CARDIFF
1932

LOCAL RECORDS AND THE CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Master of the Rolls, under the Law of Property Act, has included the Cardiff Public Library amongst the recognised depositories for the reception and custody of local deeds and documents.

The Library Committee desires to call the attention of all those who possess collections of historical manuscripts and local deeds and documents to the facilities provided for their safe custody and preservation in the Central Reference Library.

The Library already has a large collection of historical manuscripts and deeds and documents, dating from the XIIth century. The collection of deeds and documents covers the whole of the Welsh Counties and the Border Counties and numbers over 16,000. Of these, some 7,000 have already been calendared, and typewritten catalogues arranged chronologically under counties are available for consultation in the Research Room. Considerable use has already been made of these collections for the purposes of historical research.

The use of the Reference Library is not limited to residents of Cardiff. It caters particularly for the whole of South Wales and Monmouthshire, for which it is the natural centre. It is within easy reach of the large population of this area. It is open every weekday and in the evenings. It is already used by Welsh students and scholars from all parts of the country.

Special facilities have been provided for students and others engaged in advanced study and research. A fully equipped research room has been opened and special arrangements for the preservation, custody and use of valuable manuscripts and documents have been made, including the provision of a fire-proof strong room. A special palaeographical assistant has been appointed to help readers engaged in the study of manuscripts and to help in the archivistic side of the library's work.

The Cardiff Library is also the Regional Bureau for Glamorgan and Monmouth in connection with the Welsh Regional Library Scheme. Books not already in the Library required for special study and research may be obtained from other libraries through the Bureau for use at Cardiff.

Cardiff is a university town and the importance of a well-equipped library for advanced workers in all faculties and for post graduate studies is now generally recognised. The research student is often brought to a standstill because the library of the University in which he is a worker is unable to furnish him with the material he requires. He is obliged to wait until he can go to other centres which are better equipped. It is unreasonable to expect the libraries of the provincial university towns to rival such libraries as the Bodleian at Oxford, or the John Rylands' at Manchester.

It has however been the aim of the Committee to make the Cardiff Library a centre for advanced studies of all kinds and apart from very exceptional cases the Library will be found to meet all local requirements.

The Committee therefore appeals to local owners of historical deeds and documents to consider carefully whether they cannot hand over to the library for safe custody and preservation any manuscripts, deeds and documents which they may no longer desire to retain.

HARRY FARR,
Librarian.

CENTRAL LIBRARY, CARDIFF,
December 12th, 1932.

Library Association Record, December, 1925.

ARCHIVE NOTES.

Archives are now so much a recognised interest of the librarian that it is worth while to call attention to the notable work upon certain Local Records which is going on or in contemplation. The Deeds relating to land tenure, since Lord Cairn's Act made their preservation no longer a matter of practical moment to land-owners, have been in constant danger of destruction or dispersal; and many libraries have done notable work for local history by providing a safe asylum for them. There was considerable fear lest Lord Birkenhead's Act of 1922 should put the Court Rolls in the same position as the Deeds. This danger has, it is hoped, been averted by an Amendment which comes into force next year and which gives considerable power over the disposal of these records to the Master of the Rolls. Precisely how this will work is not yet clear, but the Master of the Rolls has made a public appeal for information (very little is known as to the extent and location of the collections in private hands, though there is no doubt that they must be enormous in quantity) and has a small committee at work at the Public Record Office, collecting information and formulating plans.

This subject and another Archive matter of local interest (the proposed concentration of the Probate Records still preserved in District Registries) occupied a large part of the time of the recent Congress of Archaeological Societies.

H. J.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL RECORDS.

DEPOSIT IN WELSH LIBRARIES.

SIR,—In July and November last I was enabled by the courtesy of the Press to make appeals to the lords and stewards of manors in England and Wales to supply the Public Record Office with particulars which will assist in the compilation of a register of the manors and their owners.

These appeals have met with considerable success, and information concerning more than 6,000 manors has been received. There are, however, many more, both existing and obsolete, and I shall be glad if owners and stewards of manors who have not yet done so will communicate with the Public Record Office without delay.

As your readers are aware, manorial documents are of great value for social, economic, and local history. The purpose of the clauses of the Acts which relate to them is to ensure that they shall not be thoughtlessly dispersed or destroyed. If the lord of the manor desires it, or if, in his opinion, any manorial documents are not being properly preserved, the Master of the Rolls is now empowered under the Law of Property Acts to direct that they be transferred to the Public Record Office or to any public library or museum or historical or antiquarian society which may be willing to receive them. There appears to be a strong feeling throughout the country, which I share, in favour of transfer to local centres.

I have therefore caused inquiries to be made, and have already found suitable places of deposit for such documents in more than twenty cities and towns, including Cardiff and

Aberystwyth, while negotiations are in progress (and I am hopeful that satisfactory arrangements may be made at others), in order that the documents may be housed in the county to which they belong or close to it. The provision of a strong room, which should be fire-proof, is of primary importance.

There are probably many lords who do not need or wish to retain manorial documents in the custody of themselves or their stewards. I ask them to request me to direct that such documents be placed in the custody of some local library, museum, or society under conditions which will render them accessible to bona-fide students of history. It would not be possible to sanction their transfer unless it were clear that the documents would be properly preserved and the rights of the lord of the manor fully protected.—I am, &c.,

HANWORTH, M. R.
(The Master of the Rolls).

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON,
June 9th.

LOCAL RECORDS FOR WELSH LIBRARIES.

Not before it was time, Britain awoke to the importance of the preservation of the written records of its past, as a means to the proper interpretation of the past to modern eyes. Such preservation is not yet as complete as we could wish, for we still read of family records, such as could throw a flood of light on period history, sold to America to grace a millionaire's collection. In these family collections sold abroad it often happens that documents are included which legally have no excuse for inclusion. It was a bad habit with many of our statesmen of earlier times to appropriate for themselves and to keep in their own archives such State documents as concerned any events they were engaged in. It is only necessary to consider some of the family collections reported upon by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (whose publications deserve much greater popularity than they receive) to find listed document after document, which certainly have no right to be in a private collection, but every right to be back where they originally belonged—in some State department. Thus, America in the purchase of family collections often acquires State documents of the greatest interest to Britain, and morally, perhaps even legally, the property of the British people. There is, however, one great source of information in the documents relating to manors and manorial courts. As the manor was fundamental to our social life throughout a great part of our separate history as a nation, and as still there is the greatest confusion as to the origin and actual functions of the manor, in these documents lie a great field of original investigation into our origins, which, fortunately, so far has suffered no depredations but those of time and neglect. The Master of the Rolls has recently called attention to these and pointed out the clauses of the Acts that tend to their preservation and to the prevention of their dispersal. By the Law of Property Act he is empowered, if the lord of the manor desires it, or if he himself is not satisfied that they are being properly preserved, to direct that the documents shall be transferred to the Public

Record Office, or to any public library or similar institution prepared to accept them. It is this last condition that proves most interesting as being a reversal of the old bad custom of centralising all such activities in London. Wales has already suffered too much from the transfer of the wealth of Welsh historical documents, as, for instance, those of the Courts of Great Sessions, to London for safekeeping. Furthermore, the Master of the Rolls announces that the libraries at Aberystwyth and Cardiff have been pronounced suitable and safe for the reception of those collections that still exist in Wales. It is to be hoped that lords and stewards of manors in Wales will take advantage of the opportunity offered, and will arrange for the storing of their records at one of these institutions. By doing this they will not only ensure the safety of the collections, but also will be bestowing a great gift on the future historians of Wales, who will have ready and easy access to the original authorities necessary for their work. There are many such original research historians in Wales, the product of our Welsh University, which encourages these studies, and they are doing good work. Greater opportunity will increase their number, and the value of their contribution to knowledge. It is of interest to record that the Cardiff City Free Library has opened a special research room for forty readers, provided already with special collections, including 6,000 deeds and documents covering the Welsh and the border counties. This shows commendable progress in an institution which has always shown itself careful for the needs of the students, and has proved itself a notable addition to our cultural resources. Of the facilities for study and research at the National Library at Aberystwyth it is supererogation to speak. Those who possess collections can now do their part.

Reprinted from *South Wales News*, June 12, 1926.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS AT CARDIFF.

With the extinction of the old manorial system under the Law of Property Act a wealth of documents of priceless historical value ceased to be of use for business purposes to the lords and stewards of manors, and the question of the preservation of those documents became a matter of lively interest to students of history and social conditions. While some manorial lords would preserve the documents in their muniment rooms, in other cases there was considerable danger that they would be destroyed or dispersed, or pass into the limbo of neglect where dust and damp would render them undecipherable and worthless. The numerous instances in which ancient landed estates have changed ownership in recent years lend emphasis to the danger. Lord Hanworth, the Master of the Rolls, in the capacity of Keeper of the Rolls at the Public Record Office, was quick to appreciate the peril which arose, and issued an appeal that the documents should be deposited in certain approved public libraries, including those at Cardiff and Aberystwyth. The response to the appeal, though it may not have been complete, has been of gratifying extent, and the Cardiff Library has become the proud possessor of an important collection of documents, about 250 in number, relating to Glamorgan manors, including Afon Wallia, Tir Iarll, Neath Citra, and the boroughs of Afon and Neath. It should be pointed out that the Cardiff Library is no mere depositary of documents; it is a properly-organised library, the contents of which, ancient and modern, are not only carefully preserved, but catalogued and made readily available to approved readers—that is to say, to persons engaged in historical research, many of whom are post-graduates who are carrying out regular schemes of study in connection with their universities.

The Cardiff Library, which suffered in no way, in status or utility, through the creation of the National Library of Wales, is, for a provincial library, remarkably well dowered with historical treasures, including deeds and documents to

the number of over 12,000 relating to the whole of Wales and the border counties, and it has a well-established position as a resort of research students. It is the aim of the library committee to make the Cardiff Library a centre for advanced studies of all kinds, and it is claimed that, apart from very exceptional cases, the institution meets all requirements of study relating to matters of local interest. Thanks are due to the donors of the manorial documents referred to above for their public-spirited action. They have taken the best possible course to ensure not only the careful preservation of the documents, but also their availability for the purposes of study.

Reprinted from *Western Mail & South Wales News*, July 25th, 1931.

OLD MANORS OF GLAMORGAN

CARDIFF LIBRARY ACQUISITION.

VALUABLE RECORDS AND DEEDS.

Lords of manors and other owners of manorial documents and historical deeds are performing an important public service in handing over for safe custody and preservation such documents to public institutions. In this way, they will be made available to bona-fide students of history. There lies in such documents a great field for original investigation, as the manorial system was a fundamental part of local government for a long period of our history.

The announcement in the *Western Mail & South Wales News* that a large collection of Glamorgan manorial records has been deposited in the Cardiff Public Library is, therefore, of great interest to all students of local history. They have been placed in the library by the joint lords of the manors concerned, namely, Mr. G. H. Bushby, of Broxbourne (Herts.), and Mr. Evan Thomas.

250 DOCUMENTS.

This collection now deposited at the Cardiff Central Library (which is included among the depositories recognised by the Master of the Rolls), covers the Manors of Afon Wallia, Tir Iarll, Neath Citra, and the Boroughs of Afon and Neath. The documents number about 250 and they have been arranged in six groups. First come the three manors, then the two boroughs, followed by a group covering the combined manors.

Within each of these groups are surveys dating from the sixteenth century, rent rolls, court books, proceedings at the manorial courts, and various other papers. When they have been examined and calendared they will undoubtedly throw much light upon the social and economic life of this section of the county of Glamorgan. In these records, now preserved at the Cardiff Library, students will be able to go back to original sources for their material.

Reprinted from *Western Mail & South Wales News*, July 25th, 1931.

