

THE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES.

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION  
AND  
REPORT ON THE PROGRESS  
OF THE  
LIBRARY

*From the Granting of the Charter to the  
31st March, 1909.*

OSWESTRY :  
WOODALL, MINSHALL, THOMAS & CO., CAXTON PRESS.  
1908.

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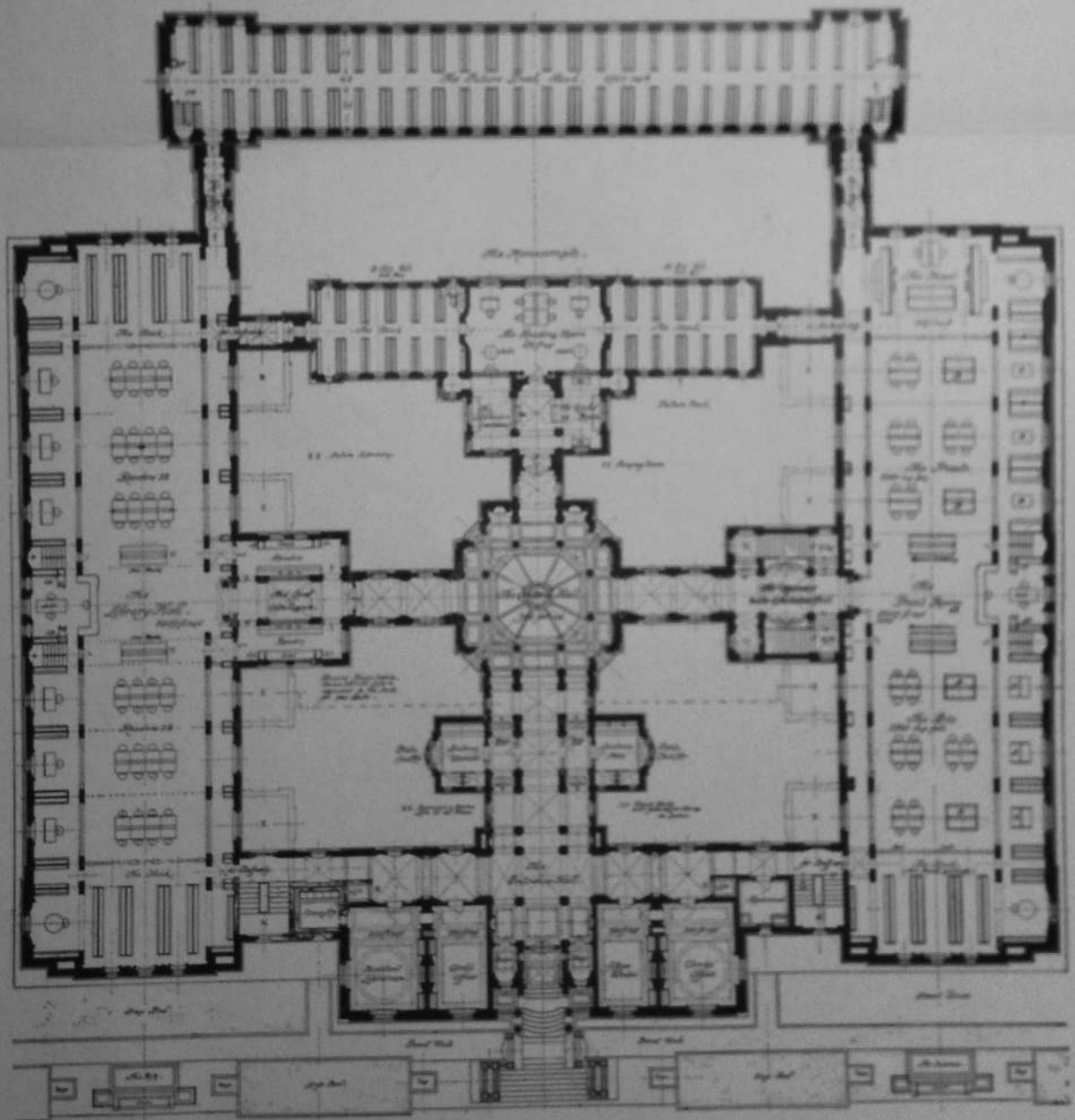
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*The end of the Library Hall      The entrance      The entrance of the General Post      The end of the Library Hall*



*Plan of the Main Floor.*

**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES.**

Accepted design.

Sidney K. Greenslade, A.R.I.B.A., Architect.



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## Charter of Incorporation.

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EDWARD THE SEVENTH by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith,

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting.

WHEREAS the Marquess of Bute, the Earl of Carrington, G.C.M.G., Viscount Tredegar, Baron Kenyon, Baron Aberdare, Baron Rendel, The Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P., The Hon. George Thomas Kenyon, Sir John Williams, Baronet, K.C.V.O., M.D., The late Sir Edward James Reed, K.C.B., F.R.S., Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P., Sir Isambard Owen, M.D., Walter Gunmow Dodd, Esquire, Robert Hughes, Esquire, Sir David Brynmor Jones, K.C., M.P., Samuel Nathan Jones, Esquire, William Jones, Esquire, M.P., John Herbert Lewis, Esquire, M.P., Edward Pryce-Jones, Esquire, Henry Rudolf Reichel, Esquire, M.A., LL.D., David Charles Roberts, Esquire, John Herbert Roberts, Esquire, M.P., Thomas Francis Roberts, Esquire, M.A., LL.D., Joseph Larke Wheatley, Esquire, and the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Cardiff lately presented to US in OUR COUNCIL a humble Petition which represented that they and many others of Our liege subjects residing in or connected by divers ties with the Dominion or Principality of Wales and the County of Monmouth (which Principality or Dominion and County were thereafter jointly called Wales) had long been desirous that a National Library for Wales should be established therein with a view to the general improvement of the intellectual and moral and aesthetic condition of the people of Wales and to granting them greater facilities and opportunities for education in all branches of science and art and more particularly with

a view to the collection, preservation, and maintenance of manuscripts, printed books, periodical publications, newspapers, pictures, engravings and prints, musical publications, and works of all kinds whatsoever, especially manuscripts, printed books, and other works which have been or shall be composed in Welsh or any other Celtic language, or which relate or shall relate to the antiquities, language, literature, philology, history, religion, arts, crafts, and industries of the Welsh or other Celtic peoples as well as all literary works, whether connected or not with Welsh subjects, composed, written, or printed in whatsoever language on whatsoever subject and wheresoever published, which might help to attain the purposes for which the University of Wales and the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, the University College of North Wales, the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire and the other educational institutions existing in Wales were created and founded especially for the furtherance of higher education within the meaning of the Education Acts of 1870 to 1902 and of literary and scientific research.

THAT the work of the University of Wales and of the said three University Colleges and of divers scientific or technical colleges and schools in Wales was impaired and hindered by the want of such a Library as aforesaid situate in some convenient place in Wales;

THAT the said University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, had agreed to give and transfer to and vest in the said National Library such portions of the existing library as might be judged rightly to belong to the National Library as distinguished from the working library of the Welsh Department of the said University College;

THAT Sir John Williams of Plas Llanstephan in the county of Carmarthen, Baronet, K.C.V.O., Doctor of Medicine, had undertaken to convey absolutely his collection of Welsh books and manuscripts and anti-



quities free of cost to such National Library as soon as a suitable building should be erected for their custody and that the said Sir John Williams had also made provision for the eventual transfer of the Peniarth Collection of books and manuscripts to the said National Library and that Sir Lewis Morris of Penbryn in the county of Carmarthen Knight Henry Owen of Poyston in the county of Pembroke Esquire Doctor of Civil Law John Humphreys Davies of Cwrtmawr in the county of Cardigan Esquire Barrister-at-Law Edward Anwyl of Aberystwyth in the county of Cardigan Esquire Master of Arts Professor of Welsh and Comparative Philology in the said University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Daniel Lleufer Thomas of Swansea Esquire Barrister-at-Law John Gwenogvryn Evans of Tremvan in the county of Carnarvon Esquire Doctor of Literature Richard Williams of Newtown in the county of Montgomery Esquire and other owners of collections of books and manuscripts had also signified their intention of handing over their collections to the said Library as soon as the building thereof should be completed subject to the condition that the National Library of Wales should always be located at Aberystwyth and that if at any time the said National Library should be removed from Aberystwyth all such books manuscripts and antiquities as belonged to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, or to Sir John Williams or to John Humphreys Davies then deposited in the said National Library should immediately revert to and become the absolute property of the said University College of Wales, Aberystwyth;

THAT The Right Hon. Stuart Baron Rendel of Hatchlands had agreed to grant certain land within a short distance of the Borough of Aberystwyth as the site of the said National Library free of any cost.

THAT a sum of money amounting in the aggregate to £20,281 15s. had been promised by divers persons and corporations towards erecting a building on the



aforesaid site provided a National Library should be located at Aberystwyth.

And that it is expedient that for the more efficient and convenient attainment of the objects of the said Library there should be created a Corporation with perpetual succession and a Common Seal to be called "The National Library of Wales."

Now know ye that We having taken into Our Royal consideration in Our Council the said humble Petition Do by Our Prerogative Royal and of Our Special Grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents for Us Our heirs and successors will and ordain as follows :—

#### ARTICLE I.—THE FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES.

1. There shall be and there is hereby constituted and founded a Library in the Borough of Aberystwyth in the county of Cardigan with the name of "The National Library of Wales" by which name the authorities of the Library hereinafter created and defined shall be and are hereby constituted and incorporated into one body politic and corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and with power without any further license in mortmain to accept take purchase and hold and also with such consent or approval as may by law be required to grant demise or otherwise dispose of real and personal property which Library shall have the constitution and powers and be subject to the regulations in this Our Charter prescribed and which in this Our Charter is referred to as "The Library."

2 Notwithstanding anything in this Our Charter the Library shall not at any time hold real property in Our United Kingdom exceeding the annual value of £2,000 (according to the value of such property at the time of its acquisition) over and above the value of any site buildings and hereditaments used and occupied for the immediate purposes of the Library.

3. It is a fundamental condition of the constitution of the Library that no officer no member of the Court of Governors and no member of the Council of the Library and no Director professor or teacher or other person employed in connection with the Library shall be required to make any declaration of his religious opinions or to submit to any test whatever thereof.

4. Women may be officers of the Library or members of the Court of Governors and the Council of the Library.

## ARTICLE II.—OBJECT OF THE LIBRARY.

The object of the Library shall be the collection preservation and maintenance of manuscripts printed books periodical publications newspapers pictures engravings and prints musical publications and works of all kinds whatsoever especially manuscripts printed books and other works which have been or shall be composed in Welsh or any other Celtic language or which relate or shall relate to the antiquities language literature philology history religion arts crafts and industries of the Welsh and other Celtic peoples as well as all literary works whether connected or not with Welsh subjects composed written or printed in whatsoever language on whatsoever subject and wheresoever published which may help to attain the purposes for which the University of Wales the University College of Wales Aberystwyth the University College of North Wales the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire and the other educational institutions existing in Wales were created and founded especially the furtherance of higher education within the meaning of the Education Acts 1870 to 1902 and of literary and scientific research. And further the creation and maintenance of duplicate and multiplicate specimens and collections to be lent and used from time to time for the purpose of exhibition and instruction at or in connection with the said Colleges and other educational institutions existing in Wales and the pre-



paration and circulation for instructional purposes of photographs and slides of such specimens and collections.

### ARTICLE III.—AUTHORITIES OF THE LIBRARY.

The Authorities of the Library shall be the President the Vice-President the Treasurer the Court of Governors (hereinafter called the Court) and the Council (hereinafter called the Council) of the Library.

### ARTICLE IV.—THE PRESIDENT.

1 There shall be a President. The President shall be Head and Chief Officer of the Library. The first President shall be Sir John Williams of Plas Llanstephan in the county of Carmarthen, Baronet, K.C.V.O., M.D.

He shall hold office for five years from the date of this Our Charter or until his previous death or resignation.

2. His successor from time to time shall be elected by the Court and shall hold office for five years from the date of his election or until his previous death or resignation.

3. The first and every succeeding President going out of office shall not be eligible to fill the vacancy thus created.

4. The President if present shall preside at any meeting of the Court.

5. In the absence of the President from any meeting of the Court the functions of the President shall be discharged by the Vice-President or in his absence by one of the members of the Court to be elected by the meeting.

6. In the absence of the President from the United Kingdom or in case of his inability or failure to act through illness or during any vacancy in his office the functions of the President shall be discharged by the Vice-President.



7. The President may of his own motion call a meeting of the Court on any week-day during his term of office provided that at least three weeks' written notice of such meeting and not less than fourteen days' notice of the business to be transacted thereat be sent to every member of the Court.

8. The President shall at all times call a meeting of the Court on a week-day some time within six weeks of his being requested to do so in writing by the Council or by any fifteen members of the Court and shall in such case cause to be sent to every member of the Court at least three weeks' written notice of the date of the holding of such meeting and not less than fourteen days' notice of the business to be transacted thereat.

#### ARTICLE V.—THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

1. There shall be a Vice-President. The first Vice-President shall be John Herbert Lewis of Penucha in the county of Flint, Esquire, M.P., a Lord of the Treasury.

2. He shall hold office for five years from the date of this Our Charter or until his previous death or resignation.

3. His successor from time to time shall be elected by the Court and shall hold office for five years from the date of election or until his previous death or resignation.

4. The first Vice-President and any succeeding Vice-President going out of office shall not be eligible to fill the vacancy thus created.

#### ARTICLE VI.—THE TREASURER.

1. There shall be a Treasurer. The first Treasurer shall be Henry Owen of Poyston in the county of Pembroke, Esquire, D.C.L.

2. He shall hold office for five years from the date of this Our Charter or until his previous death or resignation

3. His successor from time to time shall be elected by the Court and shall hold office for five years from the date of election or until his previous death or resignation.

4. The first Treasurer and any succeeding Treasurer going out of office shall be eligible to fill the vacancy created.

5. The receipt of the Treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge for any money or property payable or deliverable to the Library.

#### ARTICLE VII.—THE LIBRARIAN.

1. There shall be a salaried Librarian who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Library.

2. He shall be elected by the Council.

3. The duration of his term of office his remuneration his rights and duties and all other conditions of his tenure of office shall be fixed and defined by Statute of the Library.

4. He shall not be a member of the Court or Council.

#### ARTICLE VIII.—THE COURT OF GOVERNORS

1. The Court shall be the supreme governing body of the Library in whom shall be vested all moneys contributed by the Treasury or derived from other sources and all lands or buildings or gifts in kind devised or granted for the purposes of the Institution.

2. The Court shall consist of the following persons namely :

(a) The President.

(b) The Vice-President.

(c) The Treasurer.

(d) Nine persons appointed by the Lord President of Our Council.

(e) Three persons appointed by the University of Wales.

(f) One person appointed by the University College of Wales Aberystwyth.

- (g) One person appointed by the University College of North Wales Bangor.
- (h) One person appointed by the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire Cardiff.
- (i) One person appointed by the Central Welsh Board for Intermediate Education.
- (j) The County City and Borough Members of Parliament for Counties Cities and Boroughs in Wales and Monmouthshire.
- (k) Eight persons not being otherwise made members of the Court to be appointed by the Court of whom one at least shall be a Head Teacher of a Public Intermediate School in Wales and one at least a Head Teacher of a Public Elementary School in Wales.
- (l) One person appointed by each of the County Councils of the Counties of Wales and Monmouthshire to wit:—Anglesey Brecknockshire Cardiganshire Carmarthenshire Carnarvonshire Denbighshire Flintshire Glamorganshire Merionethshire Monmouthshire Montgomeryshire Pembrokeshire and Radnorshire.
- (m) One person appointed by the Council of the City of Cardiff and one each appointed by the Councils of the County Boroughs of Newport and Swansea respectively and one for every County Borough which may be created hereafter in Wales and Monmouthshire and one appointed by the Council of the Borough of Aberystwyth.

3. A member of the Court appointed by the Lord President of Our Council shall hold office for five years from the date of his appointment and in case of death or resignation of any such member of the Court the Lord President of Our Council shall appoint another person in his place.

4. Every member of the Court appointed by a County Council other than the Council of a County



Borough shall hold office until the general retirement at the end of the term of office of the members of such County Council and for forty days thereafter.

5. Save as hereinbefore specially provided every appointed member of the Court shall hold office for three years from the date of appointment or for such lesser time as the appointing authority or body may in making such appointment direct.

6. In the event of any one of the appointed members of the Court ceasing to be a member thereof before the term of office of such member has expired the authority or body by which the original appointment was made or their successors may appoint another person to hold office for the then unexpired residue of the term for which the person so ceasing to be a member was originally appointed.

7. No act or resolution of the Court shall be invalidated by reason of the existence of any vacancy in its membership.

#### ARTICLE IX.—THE COUNCIL.

1. The Council shall consist of the following persons :—

- (1) The President.
- (2) The Vice-President.
- (3) The Treasurer.
- (4) Three persons appointed by the Lord President of Our Council from amongst the members of the Court appointed by him.
- (5) Fifteen persons elected by the Court from among its own members.
- (6) One person appointed by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of Aberystwyth from among the members of the Court.

2. The three members of the Council appointed by the Lord President of Our Council shall hold office for five years from the date of appointment.

3. In the event of any member appointed by the Lord President of Our Council ceasing to be a member thereof before the term of office of such member has

expired the Lord President of Our Council may appoint another person to hold office for the then unexpired residue of the term of office for which the person so ceasing to be a member was originally appointed.

4. The members of the Council elected by the Court shall hold office for three years from the date of election.

5. In the event of any member of the Council elected by the Court ceasing to be a member thereof before the term of office of such member has expired the Court may elect another of its members to hold office for the then unexpired residue of the term for which the member so ceasing to be a member was originally appointed.

6. If any member of the Council elected by the Court shall cease to be a member of the Court before the expiration of his term of office as member of the Council and shall not within the space of three calendar months from the time of his ceasing to be a member thereof again become a member of the Court he shall from the time at which such period of three calendar months shall expire cease to be a member of the Council and the Court shall elect another of its members to be a member of the Council for the unexpired term of his office as a member of the Council.

7. Subject to and in accordance with the Statutes of the Library and subject to and in accordance with any Order of the Court not inconsistent with such Statutes the Council—

- (1) Shall manage and control the financial business of the Library and appoint annually an Auditor to examine and audit the accounts of the Library for each year ending on such day as shall be determined by Statute.
- (2) Shall manage and discharge the executive business of the Library.
- (3) Shall discharge such functions and have such other powers as Statutes of the Library or orders of the Court may from time to time impose upon it.



- (4) Shall have power to superintend and control the Librarian and all other officers clerks and servants of the Librarian.
- (5) Shall have the custody of the Common Seal and shall direct the affixing of the Common Seal.
- (6) Shall have the custody of the records and documents of the Library and preserve the same.
- (7) Shall present an Annual Report to the Court on or before such a day in each year as may be determined by Statute.
- (8) No act or resolution of the Council shall be invalidated by reason of the existence of any vacancy in its membership or by the omission to send a notice of any meeting to any member or his failure to receive such notice.

#### ARTICLE X.—STATUTES OF THE LIBRARY.

The Court shall within twelve months after its meeting enact Statutes for the due and proper exercise of the rights and powers conferred by this Our Charter and for the regulation of all matters connected with the government and administration of the Library and may from time to time amend or repeal any Statute so enacted and enact any additional Statute provided that no Statute enacted as aforesaid shall have any force or effect if it be repugnant to the provisions of this Charter or to the laws of the Realm, nor until it shall have been approved by the Lords of the Privy Council, of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clerk of the Council shall be conclusive evidence.

#### ARTICLE XI.—THE COMMON SEAL.

1. The form and design of the Common Seal shall be determined by Statute.
2. The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any document except by order of the Court or of the Council and in the presence of at least two persons being members of the Court or Council and of the Librarian.



## ARTICLE XII.—TEMPORARY PROVISIONS.

1. The first meeting of the Court shall be convened as soon as conveniently may be after the date of this Our Charter by the President and shall be held at Aberystwyth at a time and place to be fixed by him.

2. The President shall insert a notice or advertisement of the holding of such meeting in the "London Gazette" in two London daily newspapers and in four newspapers circulating in Wales and such notices or advertisements shall state the time and place of such meeting and shall be published at least fourteen clear days before the date thereof and such notices or advertisements shall be a sufficient notice to all members of the Court.

3. At such meeting the Court shall appoint six persons not being members of the Court to be members of the Court under the powers of Article VIII. section 2 of this Our Charter and shall make arrangements for the enacting of the Statutes hereinbefore required to be enacted and shall adjourn from time to time for those purposes and no business except as aforesaid shall be done at such meeting or any adjourned meeting thereof until the said Statutes shall have received the approval of the Lords of the Privy Council.

4. The Court shall enact the Statutes hereinbefore required to be enacted within twelve months from the date of this Our Charter.

5. The President shall convene the first meeting of the Council by notice in writing delivered or sent by post to each member as soon as conveniently may be after the meeting of the Court which shall first take place after the Statutes hereinbefore required to be enacted have received the approval of the Lords of the Privy Council.

6. Until by Statute otherwise provided ten members present at any meeting of the Court shall be a quorum.

7. The proceedings of the meeting of the Court convened as in this Article provided shall not be invalid-

ated by the fact that the full number of members of the Court shall not have been then appointed or elected.

### ARTICLE XIII.—INTERPRETATION.

In the interpretation of this Our Charter and of any Statute to be enacted under its provisions unless inconsistent with its terms or unless a contrary intention plainly appear:—

- (1) "Wales" shall be deemed to mean and include Wales and Monmouthshire.
- (2) "Welsh" shall be deemed to include and apply to persons and things pertaining to Wales and Monmouthshire.
- (3) Words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

IN witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent,

Witness Ourselves at Westminster the Nineteenth day of March in the Seventh year of Our Reign.

By warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

## Report of the Council.

*Presented to a meeting of the Court of Governors held at the Library (temporary premises), Aberystwyth, on the 28th May, 1909.*

The National Library of Wales was incorporated by Royal Charter by warrant under the King's sign manual, dated the nineteenth day of March in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven.

Immediately upon the issuing of the Charter steps were taken to secure the election of the members of the Court of Governors. The elections having been made, the first meeting of the Court was held at Aberystwyth on the first day of November, 1907. The members to be co-opted having been elected, the Court was complete. A list of the members first elected to serve on the Court of Governors is given in an Appendix to this Report.

The first business of the Court was to draft the Statutes and submit them to the Privy Council for approval. This having been done the Council of the Library was elected, and the constitution of the governing bodies provided for in the Charter was complete.

### PRELIMINARY REPORT.

The following Report presented by the Council to the first annual meeting of the Court of Governors, held at Aberystwyth on the 11th December, 1908, is inserted here for the purpose of a complete record:—

“Four meetings of the Council of the National Library have been held this year, namely, on May 29th, August 28th, October 14th, and December 11th.

“At the first meeting the Council selected a site for the Library on the Grogythan Lands, the pro-



perty of Lord Rendel. A site of four acres was finally selected, and Lord Rendel has now generously conveyed the land to the National Library, and the Deed of Gift has been completed.

“At the same meeting the Council decided to proceed to select an Architect for the new Library, and in the first place they issued an advertisement in the Architectural Journals, inviting Architects who desired their claims to be considered to send in designs of analogous buildings erected by them, for submission to the Council. A large number of Architects availed themselves of this opportunity, and at a meeting held on August 28th, it was resolved that the following six Architects be asked to prepare plans:—

A. Marshall Mackenzie and Son,  
 Sydney K. Greenslade,  
 Henry T. Hare,  
 H. Percy Adams,  
 Arthur Harrison, and  
 Wynn Owen.

These six Architects have signified their desire to enter the competition, and their plans are to be ready by the 1st of March, 1909.

“For the purposes of this competition, the Council prepared a Programme of Particulars for the Library Building, and this programme was duly submitted to, and received the approval of, the Royal Institute of British Architects. The President of the Royal Institute of British Architects has appointed an Assessor under Seal, who, together with the President and Librarian, will assess the Plans submitted by the competing Architects.

“As it will probably take two or three years to build and equip the new building, the Council was desirous of making immediate provision for starting the Library, and with this end in view they have leased the Old Assembly Rooms, in the town of Aberystwyth, as a temporary home for the

Library. The building is in many ways excellently adapted for the purpose of the Library, but it has been found essential to make an outlay of a considerable sum in order to fit it for the reception of books. It is hoped, however, that the temporary building will be adequately equipped by the beginning of 1909, and that some of the collections already given to the Library can be immediately housed there. In this connection it may be stated that the Welsh Collection of the University College of Wales, which roughly amounts to about 12,000 volumes, will be handed over immediately, and that Sir John Williams is now making arrangements for the transfer of his collection to the temporary building.

“In view of the decision of the Council to start the Library, and also in view of the continual need of expert assistance in the matter of the plans of the Library, the Council deemed it urgent to appoint the Chief Librarian at the earliest opportunity. As some doubts might arise with regard to the expenses of adapting the building, working the Library, and of paying the salaries of the Librarian and his Assistants, the Deputation appointed at the last meeting of the Court of Governors waited upon the Right Honourable D. Lloyd George at the House of Commons on October 13th, 1908.

“Sir John Williams placed the case for making a grant before the Chancellor, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply, said that, judged by what had already been done for Scotland and Ireland in the matter of national institutions by the Treasury, the case for Wales appeared to him absolutely irresistible. He did not see at all what could be said on the other side. At the same time the Treasury was bound to scrutinise all proposals for new expenditure most carefully. But in regard to the particular application before him he

could only say to the deputation what he had already said to other deputations on behalf of the National Colleges and National Museum of Wales. That was, that he would rather not make up his mind what grant he would give until he knew exactly what his general position would be at the close of the financial year. He was not in a position to decide now. The revenue at present did not look very promising. But, speaking generally, his view was that the deputation had submitted a case that was irresistible. The Welsh National Library would be a unique institution, invaluable to the world of learning and scholarship as a whole. That in itself made it worth making a sacrifice for. In the meantime he would ask them to leave him to settle the amount of the grant later on. He agreed that it was necessary to appoint a Librarian, and intimated that they could proceed with the appointment forthwith.

“The Deputation then withdrew.

“Consequently the Council proceeded to appoint the Chief Librarian. A Sub-Committee had already been appointed by the Council to make the necessary enquiries as to the mode of procedure and as to the persons best fitted for the post, and this Committee, after mature consideration, having come to the conclusion that Mr. John Ballinger, of Cardiff, was the one person who could adequately fill the post, unanimously recommended his appointment to the Council. The Council endorsed the view of the Committee, and it was decided not to advertise for applicants, provided Mr. Ballinger could see his way clear to accept the offer of the post. Due notice having been given, in accordance with the Statutes, Mr. Ballinger was unanimously appointed Chief Librarian at a meeting of the Council held on October 14th, 1908.

“Mr. Ballinger has since formally accepted the



post, and will take up his duties on the 1st January, 1909.

“During the course of the year several gifts have been made to the National Library, the chief one, however, being that of the Library of the late Mr. Richard Williams, of Newtown, which was presented by Mr. David Davies, M.P., Llandinam. Mr. Richard Williams had already in his lifetime bequeathed the manuscripts and a few of the books to the National Library, but the portion remaining over, purchased by Mr. David Davies, will be very valuable to all students of Welsh Literature, as it contains complete sets of the Welsh Historical and Archæological Periodicals, as well as a very representative collection of Old Welsh Printed Literature.”

#### PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY.

At the meeting held on the 11th December, 1908, Sir John Williams informed the Council that he proposed to hand over his collections of books and manuscripts forthwith to the National Library, and requested the Council to make arrangements for checking and packing the contents. Mr. Richard Ellis, M.A., Librarian of the Welsh Library at the University College of Wales, was engaged as a temporary assistant for this purpose, and proceeded to Llanstephan.

The Report of the Librarian on Sir John Williams' Library, printed later, gives detailed information with regard to this valuable Library, and its removal.

Meanwhile, the work of fitting up the Assembly Rooms as a temporary building for the Library was proceeded with. Steel book stacks, supplied by Messrs. Lucy and Co., of Oxford, with easily adjustable shelving, were fixed in bays across the floor of the large room and in the fireproof strong room. The book cases belonging to the Welsh Library at the College, lent to the National Library for so long as it remains in the temporary building, were arranged

around the walls, while the south end of the large room has been fitted with the bookcases from Plâs Llanstephan, presented by Sir John Williams, this portion of the building being used for his Library.

The storage space thus provided will accommodate about 80,000 volumes, and, if required, bookcases for a further 25,000 to 30,000 volumes can be provided in other parts of the building.

The collections hitherto kept at the University College, as a nucleus for the National Library, were transferred at the beginning of February. This was done in accordance with the undertaking given by the College Authorities in the following terms :—“ In order to carry out the objects of the original promoters of the Welsh Library now at Aberystwyth, and of those who have assisted in its development on national lines, the College authorities have resolved and are prepared to transfer to the National Library such portions of the existing library as may be judged rightly to belong to the National Library as distinguished from the working library of the Welsh Department of the University College, subject only to the condition that the Library is to be located and to remain at Aberystwyth.”

The Welsh Library of the College included the following collections :—

A copy of Bishop Morgan's Bible, 1588, presented to the College in the year 1872 by the Rev. W. M. Lewis, Tŷ Llwyd, Pembrokeshire, being the first book given as a contribution towards a Welsh collection, with a suggestion that a National repository for rare and valuable Welsh books was desirable.

The MSS. of William Floyd, 534 volumes.

MSS., mainly of the 17th century, presented by Dr. T. C. Edwards, first Principal of the College.

The MSS. and Books of the Rev. Walter Davies (“Gwallter Mechain”).

The Welsh Library of the Rev. Owen Jones, B.A., Llansaintffraid.



The Books and MSS. of Lewis Morris of Penbryn, bequeathed to the National Library by his descendant, the late Sir Lewis Morris, Knt., M.A.

The MSS., Autograph Letters and Books bequeathed by Mr. Richard Williams of Celynog, including the copy of Y Bibl Bach (1630), which belonged to Vavasor Powell, the Welsh Bible of 1620, and Llyfr Homiliau (1606).

The "Celynog" Library, purchased and presented by David Davies, Esq., M.P.

A collection of Books and MSS. presented by Mrs. Busch of Crosswood, to be called the "Frances Althea Trevor" Collection.

The general Welsh Library of the College (except the working portion reserved for students of the College), including numerous gifts made from time to time by various donors.

#### THE PENIARTH MSS.

The transfer of the collections already referred to was hardly complete when, through the death of Mr. William Robert Maurice Wynne of Peniarth, the valuable manuscripts known as the Hengwrt and Peniarth Collection became available for the National Library. The manuscripts were removed on the 20th February, 1909. Before removal they were carefully checked by Mr. Halsey and Mr. J. H. Davies (two of the Trustees under the deed of assignment), by Dr. John Gwenogvryn Evans, and the Librarian. Every manuscript was again carefully checked and collated after removal to the Library.

It may be convenient to briefly recite the circumstances under which these MSS. have become the property of the National Library. By a deed dated the 28th February, 1905, between Mr. W. R. M. Wynne and Sir John Williams, Bart., it was agreed, in consideration of a sum of money paid by Sir John Wil-



liams, that, subject to certain reservations, the Peniarth Collection of MSS. should, on the death of the survivor of Mr. W. R. M. Wynne and his brother, Mr. O. S. Wynne, become the property of the National Library of Wales. Mr. Owen Slaney Wynne predeceased his brother, the death of Mr. W. R. M. Wynne completed the reservations upon the trust, and the MSS. accordingly became the property of the National Library. The MSS. have to be placed in a fireproof room or building, and kept separate and distinct, under the name of "The Hengwrt and Peniarth Collection of Manuscripts."

Mrs. Wynne of Peniarth subsequently expressed her desire to present to the Library the bookcase in which the manuscripts have hitherto been kept. The bookcase, a very handsome one, was made from a large Ilex tree which grew near the house at Peniarth, and which was blown down during a gale which also caused the wreck of the Royal Charter off the Anglesey coast. A year later the Hengwrt MSS. came into the possession of Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, and he had the Ilex tree sawn up, and from it the bookcase was made, all the work, except the decorative scrolls on the doors of the lower tier of cupboards, being done by the estate workmen. The bookcase was removed from Peniarth to the National Library on the 2nd May, 1909, and has been placed in the President's room pending the erection of the permanent building.

### DESIGNS FOR NEW BUILDINGS.

Six sets of designs were received from the Architects selected for the limited competition to secure an Architect for the permanent building.

The assessor nominated by the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects was Mr. Reginald Blomfield, A.R.A., Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy. Professor Blomfield has visited Aberystwyth to examine the plans in consultation with the

President and Librarian, as provided in the programme of the competition, and the award will be submitted to the Council at the annual meeting on May 28th.

### NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

A large number of proprietors of newspapers and periodicals in Wales and the Border Counties have generously agreed to contribute a copy of each issue for the purpose of being filed in the Library. It is hoped that ultimately every periodical publication issued in Wales, as well as those in other Celtic languages, will be so filed. All these will be bound from time to time and preserved for reference. A list of those at present received is given in an Appendix to this Report.

### PRINTS AND DRAWINGS.

A beginning has been made with a Department of Prints and Drawings. This will include original drawings, engraved prints, photographs, picture post cards, and every other form of graphic delineation of matters concerning Wales and the Border Counties. Portraits of men and women, not only celebrities, but racial types and interesting characters; views of scenery, buildings, towns and villages, places of worship, bridges, and any other topographical pictures; illustrations of natural history, geology, domestic life, the arts and industries, customs, games, pastimes, religious observances, the Gorsedd, the Eisteddfod, and other national gatherings; all these and many other phases of Wales and Welsh life should be represented in this department. The pictures need not necessarily be of value as works of art, so long as they illustrate the subject. The collections in this department will be mounted, and arranged according to subject. The value of such a collection for reference will be great, and become of increasing importance.



## INSURANCE AND PROTECTION.

The books and manuscripts, and other property of the Library, have been insured with the Alliance Assurance Company, the total amount insured being £50,000. A policy has also been taken out to cover employers' liability risks.

The protection of the Library against fire and other perils has received the careful consideration of the Council. Arrangements have been made which reduce these risks to the minimum.

## ADMISSION OF READERS.

The question of opening the Library to readers has been considered by the Council, but in view of the uncertainty as to the amount of the grant available for the upkeep of the Library during the current financial year it was inexpedient to decide upon a date. The question will be further considered at the next meeting of the Council.

A number of applications for access to manuscripts has been received, and many letters of inquiry. All these have been dealt with by the Librarian. There is ample evidence that the Library will be much used for research purposes, and that its existence will contribute largely to the intellectual life of the Welsh people.

## INQUIRIES BY CORRESPONDENCE.

Arrangements are contemplated whereby people unable to visit the Library may, for a moderate payment, have copying done for them. Later on, a collection of duplicate books will be formed available for circulation to accredited persons engaged in study or research, and for educational purposes, throughout the thirteen counties. These and other developments must depend upon the amount of the funds at the disposal of the Council; there can be no question as to their desirability.



## DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

Arrangements have been made whereby certain documents relating to Wales, now in the Public Record Office, will be transferred to the National Library. The following letter has been received from the Public Record Office :—

“ I have the honour to enclose two copies of a Schedule of Documents connected with the Courts of Great Sessions in Wales which can now be acted upon, and which enables the Master of the Rolls to offer to the Governors of the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, for preservation therein, all or any of the classes of documents specified, and I am to ask you to be good enough to submit the Schedule to the Court of Governors at their next meeting with the request that they will signify their decision as to their acceptance or otherwise of the documents in question. Most of the classes can be at once despatched, and information will be given when the remainder are ready for transmission.”

## THE BUILDING FUND.

At the time the Charter was granted a sum of £20,281 15s. od. had been promised towards the Building Fund. The sum of £9,677 3s. 10d., representing subscriptions paid with dividends and interest on subscriptions invested, was in hand on March 31st, 1909. The outstanding subscriptions are now being collected. A printed list of subscribers to the Building Fund has been issued. Some donations have been made since the list was printed, viz. :—J. Herbert Lewis, Esq., M.P., Vice-President, £100; E. D. Jones, Esq., £105; the Directors of the National Provincial Bank, £100; W. Owen Jones, Esq., Bowdon, £50; D. Lleufer Thomas, Esq., £21 (increased from £5); Mr. David Watkins, Aberystwyth £5; His Honour Judge Moss, £2 2s.; Austin Keen, Esq., Cambridge, £5; and the Rev. David Adams, Liverpool, £5. Further contributions to this fund are much needed.

## GIFTS OF BOOKS.

Mr. Evan D. Jones, J.P., has purchased and presented the Library of the late Mr. Davies, Compton House, Aberayron, which contains some rare books and pamphlets and a few manuscripts, including a Register of the Aberayron Club, 1785 to 1856, and a Register of the Religious Society of Llanddewi Aberarth, 1812 to 1826. The preservation of these records in the National Library is very desirable, and it would be an excellent thing if those who are in possession of such things would send them to the Librarian.

A valuable volume, containing the Archæological Survey of Pembrokeshire, prepared by Henry Owen, Esq., D.C.L., and Edward Laws, Esq., F.S.A., was presented by Dr. Henry Owen.

An interesting addition is a small collection of books which belonged to Lewis Hopkin, the poet, author of "Y Fêl Gafod," and other works, and a member of the same family as "Wil Hopcyn," the lover of the Maid of Cefn Ydfa. For these, the Library is indebted to the Rev. Lemuel James, M.A., Vicar of Ystrad Mynach.

By the direction of the Council an application was made to the Trustees of the British Museum, who generously presented to the Library all their publications. The following letter was received from the Principal Librarian (Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, K.C.B., D.C.L., etc.) :—

"I beg to inform you that I have laid your letter of the 16th March before the Trustees of the British Museum, and I am directed by them to assure you that they have great pleasure in acceding to your request, and that copies of their publications, as far as they are available, will be presented and transmitted to the National Library of Wales forthwith."

In response to a similar application the Librarian of Congress, Washington (Herbert Putnam, Esq.), has



sent a complete set (78 volumes) of the publication of that Library.

The University of Oxford has promised to present books to the value of £100 from the publications of the Clarendon Press.

The Library has also received a number of gifts from various donors, and the Council confidently appeals to all who have the best interests of Wales at heart for further contributions. All gifts received are duly credited to the giver in the official register of gifts, and in the volumes presented. A list of donors is given in an Appendix.

#### VACANCIES.

Mr. John Andrew Doyle, the representative of the Brecknockshire County Council, died before the first meeting of the Court, and Professor J. Young Evans, M.A., was appointed to the vacancy. Mr. J. Austin Jenkins, B.A., was elected by the University of Wales to the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Ballinger. Mr. Evan D. Jones, J.P., was elected as the representative of the Pembrokeshire County Council in the room of Dr. Henry Owen, who already sat on the Court as Treasurer of the Library. The elevation of Mr. J. Wynford Philipps, M.P., to the peerage, as Lord St. David's, created a vacancy to which Mr. Walter P. Roch, M.P., succeeded automatically under the terms of the Charter. Merthyr Tydfil having been raised to the rank of a County Borough became entitled to a representative on the Court, Alderman D. W. Jones, J.P., being selected. The death of Mr. W. R. M. Wynne of Peniarth created a vacancy, to which the Lord President of the Council appointed Mr. Morgan Stuart Williams, of St. Donat's Castle, Glamorgan. With these exceptions, the Court of Governors stands as first elected. There has been no change in the Council.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

JOHN WILLIAMS,

*President.*

28th May, 1909.



## Sir John Williams' Library.

The Library of Sir John Williams, which has now been transferred to the National Library, was the first collection to be actually placed here, though others were removed as soon as the work of fitting up the book-cases was completed.

For the greater part of his life Sir John has had visions of a great Library for Wales, and, happily, has lived to see his dreams realised. To their realisation he has himself been the chief contributor, not only by the gift of his own Library, but also by his persistent efforts to bring about the establishment of a Library on a National basis, supported by an annual contribution from the Government.

### THE SHIRBURN LIBRARY.

The Shirburn Collection of Welsh books and manuscripts is the most valuable addition which Sir John Williams made to the Library at Llanstephan. For 150 years these valuable books remained undisturbed in the possession of the Earls of Macclesfield at Shirburn Castle, Oxfordshire, down to 1899, when they were sold. The collection was formed between the years 1690 and 1740 by the Rev. Samuel Williams, a Cardiganshire Vicar, and by his son, the Rev. Moses Williams, Vicar of Devynock in Breconshire, who was a Fellow of the Royal Society and an eminent man of letters. On the death of Moses Williams, his library was sold by his widow to William Jones, F.R.S. (father of Sir William Jones, the Oriental scholar), who bequeathed it, with his own library, to the second Earl of Macclesfield in 1749.

Richard Morris, brother of Lewis Morris o Fôn, was familiar with the Shirburn Collection. He was well acquainted with William Jones, the Mathematician, one of the former owners of the Collection, and was employed by him to index the MSS. In this way he

acquired an intimate knowledge of their contents, and in later years, after the MSS. had become the property of the Earl of Macclesfield, he and his brother Lewis made repeated efforts to see and transcribe them. The Earl, however, though himself a distinguished scholar, could not see his way to agree to their requests and the manuscripts remained in the unopened boxes in which they had been received. The brothers Lewis and Richard Morris, in writing to one another, continually refer to the Collection, and express the hope that the Earl would present them to the British Museum. Fifty years later Hugh Maurice, nephew of Owen Jones, the London furrier, who published the *Myvyrian Archæology*, obtained permission to copy some of the manuscripts, and these copies were secured for the British Museum a few years ago. From the year 1804 up to recent times they were not inspected by any Welshman until Mr. Egerton Phillimore and Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans, through the kindness of the late Earl of Macclesfield, were given access to them.

The manuscripts are 154 in number. Many of them have been described fully in the Report on Welsh MSS., Vol. II., Part II., prepared for the Historical MSS. Commission by Dr. J. Gwenogvryn Evans. They include MSS. in Welsh and Cornish of great value. One of the most valuable MSS. is the earliest Welsh translation of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History*, which was written between 1225 and 1250, a time when Wales was still under the authority of its native Princes. Another interesting MS. is the *Red Book of Talgarth*, presented to the Rev. Moses Williams on September 19th, 1719, by John Powell of Talgarth, Brecknockshire.

This MS. is in the same writing as large portions of the *Red Book of Hergest*, now preserved at the Bodleian Library, and it was probably written about 1400. It contains a few poems by Dafydd ap Gwilym, probably representing the oldest version extant of the poetry of that celebrated bard. It is in excellent condition, and is a fine example of Welsh calligraphy. Another MS. in the collection was written by the cele-

Cân o Senn iw hên Feistr

# TOBACCO

A Gyfansoddodd Gwasanaethwr Ammodol  
iddo Gyn't pan dorodd ar ei Ammod ac  
ef, ynghyd a'r Rheffymmeu paham y deff-  
ygiodd yng wasanaeth y Concwerwr beu-  
nyddiol hwnnw. Ar hen Dôn ac oedd dri-  
gannol yn y Deyrnas hon Lawer Blwydd  
yn faith Cyn Tirio'r crwydryn yn thi-  
ag a Elwid y *Frwynen lās*, neu *Dan y Coed*  
a *Thany Gwydd* Y mae'r 8 sylaf gyntaf  
o'r breichiau yn groes rowlog o'r draws  
gyhydedd, a'r berreu'n anlaf yn Cyfocho-  
ri.

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*Argraphwyd yn Nhre-Hedyn, gan Isaac Car-  
ter yn y Flwyddyn 1718.*

*The first book printed in Wales.*



brated poet Gutyn Owen, in the years 1455 and 1456. There are also in the Collection four very large MSS. of Welsh poetry written by one hand in the 17th century. These MSS. are folios, containing respectively 646, 652, 672, and 806 pp. The largest MS. in the Collection is one written about the year 1700 by Samuel Williams, and his helpers: It measures 14 in. by 9 in., and contains between 1,200 and 1,300 Welsh poems.

All the printed books in the Shirburn Collection are before 1750, when the books became the property of Lord Macclesfield. Owing to their careful preservation the books are in magnificent condition. When the Williamses, father and son, gathered their library, book collecting in Wales was unknown, and they had the pick of everything which came in their way. And, too, books were extant then of which practically all the copies have since perished. An illustration of this is afforded by the earliest known printed book in the Welsh language, "Yny Lhyvyr hwnn," a Welsh primer by Sir John Price, printed in 1546, and an undated collection of Welsh Proverbs by William Salesbury. Both these works are in the Library, and no other copies are known.

The first book printed in Wales (see illustration) is also in the Shirburn Library, and no other copy is known. The supposed earliest piece of Welsh printing was dated 1719, but this little book from the press of Isaac Carter at Trehedyn is dated 1718.

And so with many other rare volumes, like "Kyn-niver llith a ban" and the Dictionary of William Salesbury, either they are unique, or nearly all the other known copies are imperfect. Of the twenty-two books known to have been printed in Welsh before 1600 eighteen are in Sir John Williams' Library, and one, making nineteen, is in another collection transferred to the National Library.

#### MSS. FROM OTHER SOURCES.

To supply other MSS. in the Collection several not-

able Libraries have been laid under contribution. From the Libraries of Lord Ashburnham, of Sir Thomas Phillipps of Middlehill, of Mr. Breese of Portmadoc, Sir Lewis Morris, Gwallter Mechain, Jenkins of Kerry, and many others, MSS. have been derived. For many years Sir John has had the first refusal of all MSS. and rare books relating to Wales passing through the hands of Mr. Quaritch, the famous bookseller, and other well-known dealers.

The number of MSS. is about 500. Though the Shirburn MSS. form the most important section of the Llanstephan Collection there are other manuscripts of great interest and value in it. Sir John is the owner of an autograph MS. of the Treatise of Lordship Marchers in Wales, written by George Owen, the versatile historian of Pembrokeshire, and he has also some interesting autograph MSS. of Edward Llwyd, the father of modern philology.

Among the Breese MSS. purchased by him is a small book of poetry composed and written by William Salesbury of Bachymbyd in 1655. This was the Salesbury who heroically held Denbigh Castle for the King during the Civil War, and refused to capitulate until he had the written permission of the King to do so. He is known to Welsh history as Salesbury of the Blue Stockings. After the King's defeat and death Salesbury retired to the country and devoted himself to good works. Among other things he collected the poems and songs of Vicar Prichard of Llandovery. This collection is still extant, one MS. being at the British Museum and the other in the Llanstephan Collection.

#### THE PARRY LLANARMON LIBRARY.

In the pursuit of books Sir John Williams, like the famous bibliophile, Sir Thomas Phillipps, has more than once bought up a whole library in order to secure a comparatively small number of rare books contained in it. Some readers will remember John Parry of Llanarmon, who, twenty years ago, was known



throughout the Principality as a trenchant speaker on Disestablishment. In private life Parry was a farmer and Methodist deacon in Flintshire, one of the last descendants of a race of sturdy yeomen who had been leaders of Methodism for generations in Wales. Few people, however, realised that John Parry was one of the most voracious collectors of Welsh books, and no mean authority on Welsh bibliography. He had imbibed a taste for collecting from his ancestors, who had bought Williams of Pantycelyn's hymns and elegies, Robert Jones of Rhoslan's lesson books, and Charles of Bala's catechisms as they were issued, and preserved them carefully for their descendants. Each generation added to the stock of books, so that when John Parry himself began collecting he had in his possession the nucleus of an excellent library.

After Parry's death the collection was bought by Sir John Williams, who himself catalogued the books and kept them apart from the rest of his Library, separately labelled as the "Parry Llanarmon Collection." It is hoped that they will be so preserved in the National Library as an illustration of the high degree of culture and the love of reading of a Puritan farmer of the 19th century. This collection alone contains about 4,000 volumes.

#### BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS.

The Library is particularly rich in Bibles, Prayer Books, and Hymnology. Every Welsh Bible printed before 1800, and many of those later, is included. There are two copies of the first Bible, 1588, one, the Shirburn copy, is probably the tallest and finest in existence, and the second is also a very fine one. The Salesbury New Testament, 1567, is also represented by two copies, both perfect and in fine condition. The volume of the Psalms, translated by Bishop Morgan and printed in 1588, the same year as his Bible, is extremely rare, only six copies being known, two of these being in Sir John's Library. Still rarer is the translation



of the Psalms by Edward Kyffin, printed by Thomas Salesbury in 1603, the only copy known being amongst the treasures now transferred to the National Library. Mention has already been made of the earliest Welsh book, 1546, Sir John Price's Primer, which contains the first portions of Scripture ever printed in Welsh, and the "Kynniver llith a ban," 1551, containing the Gospels and Epistles for Sundays and Holydays to be read at the celebration of the Holy Communion.

The Prayer Books are in their way even more notable than the Bibles, as they include, with three quite unimportant exceptions, every issue down to 1800, including the first translation by Richard Davies, Bishop of St. David's, and William Salesbury, 1567, of this only two other copies are known.

There were five editions of the Prayer Book before 1664, viz., 1567, 1588, 1599, 1621, 1634. All these are rare, and all are here. The Prayer Book of 1621 contains at the end the metrical version of the Psalms by Edmund Prys, Archdeacon of Merioneth, the first time for this version to appear. The Archdeacon's version of the Psalms has retained its popularity down to the present day, and was formerly included in every edition of the Bible.

There are two copies of the 1621 Prayer Book, one in a handsome gold-tooled binding, with the royal arms on the sides, and engraved clasps, was probably bound for presentation to the king, James I.

+ + +

The Library is rich in works by the great writers connected with Wales, and in works dealing with specific periods, such as the Civil War and the Eighteenth Century Revival. Of individual writers there is an extensive series of the works of Henry Vaughan, the Silurist, including first editions of "Olor Iscanus," 1654, and "Hermetical Physic," 1655, a work translated by Henry Vaughan. Thomas Vaughan, the

Silurist's brother, is also well represented, practically all his mystical and magical writings and most of his tracts written during the Civil War being in the Library.

Other important writers fully represented are William Williams of Pantycelyn, the great hymn writer; Rhys Prichard, Vicar of Llandovery, author of "Canwyll y Cymru"; John Penry, the Breconshire man, who was put to death for his independent views in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and whose books are extremely rare; Morgan Llwyd of Wrexham, the mystic, whose works have just been reprinted in the Guild of Graduates series; John Owen, the epigrammatist; John Davies of Kidwelly, and James Howell. Welsh books are a strong feature of the Library. It contains a very large number dated before 1800 not to be found in Rowlands' Cambrian Bibliography. The student of purely Welsh literature will find precious and rare and unknown books without end, while the student of the Celtic languages will find books relating to the literature and philology of Gaelic, Irish, Cornish and Breton.

#### BOOKS FROM WELSH PRESSES.

An interesting feature of the Library is the large number of rare books printed at native presses. From the first press set up in Wales at Adpar, near Newcastle Emlyn, from the Carmarthen printers, the Bodedern press, the private press set up by Lewis Morris in Anglesey, the Bala printers, the Trevecca press, the early Pontypool press, and many others come rare books, which will be of great value in elucidating the history of literature and printing in Wales.

#### KELMSCOTT PRESS.

The Library includes a perfect set of the publications printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press. Sir John Williams was one of the original subscribers for the works of this press, and all his copies are in choice condition. He is also the possessor of a good copy of the second folio of Shakespeare.



## OLD WELSH TEXTS.

Of the series of Old Welsh Texts edited and published by Dr. John Gwenogvryn Evans, there is a set printed on the finest vellum. These are amongst the best examples of modern printing, much of the work being done at Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans's own press.

## BALLADS AND OTHER WELSH POETRY.

This is also a large section, and it would be difficult to name any poet, however rare his works, who is not represented, while the number of ballads is very large.

## GEORGE BORROW.

Early editions of the works of George Borrow, the versatile genius who wrote "Wild Wales," and loved the bards of Wales as he loved its hills, streams and valleys, are much sought after by collectors, and there are Borrowians who will make journeys to the National Library expressly to gaze upon and examine the books by and relating to him in the Llanstephan Library. For not only has Sir John been able to secure copies of all the rare editions, but some of them have Borrow's autograph, and the Collection includes books from Borrow's own library. Here, for example, is the copy of Dafydd ap Gwilym's poems with Borrow's notes, and many other books in Welsh, English, and French which belonged to him.

## ARTHURIAN LITERATURE.

There is a fine collection of books and MSS. bearing on the Arthurian Romances, the earliest printed book being "Lancelot du lac," 1488, with several of the other romances in the Arthurian cycle printed before 1600. The MSS. include some which will probably be edited for publication within the next few years.



## ROBERT RECORDE.

Sir John Williams has made a special point of buying the works of Robert Recorde of Tenby, the writer on Arithmetic and other scholastic subjects. Recorde was one of the famous sons of Wales, too little known nowadays. Amongst his works are "The Castle of Knowledge," 1556, "The Whetstone of Witte," 1557, and "The Pathway of Knowledge," 1551.

It is impossible in a brief report to do more than indicate the main lines of the collections made by Sir John Williams. They represent the devotion of a life time. The full extent of the success which has crowned this fine effort will be seen when the MSS. and Books have been catalogued.

## The Hengwrt and Peniarth Manuscripts.

The important manuscripts which for just half a century have been kept with care and pride at Peniarth, the ancestral home of the Wynnes in Merionethshire, have been removed to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and are now, through the generosity of Sir John Williams, Bart., public property.

The history of the collection is interesting. The story begins with Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt, born 1592, died 1666, a man of scholarly tastes, educated at Oxford, with a leaning to antiquarian and genealogical pursuits, the friend and correspondent of such men as John Selden and Archbishop Usher. His tastes naturally led him to collect the manuscripts of the early Welsh writers and others, which, through the break-up of the Monasteries, and the disruptions of the Civil War, were in considerable danger of perishing. The Peniarth collection is made up of over five hundred manuscripts in Welsh, Cornish, English, and Latin, and of these rather more than four-fifths were in the Hengwrt Library, and except for a few additions made by his descendants were brought together by Robert Vaughan.

The manuscripts remained in the family up to the death of Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, Bart., of Nanneu, Hengwrt, and Rûg, who bequeathed them to his great friend, Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, of Peniarth, and on his death they passed to his eldest son, the late Mr. W. R. M. Wynne. There being no direct heir Mr. W. R. M. Wynne in 1905 sold the manuscripts to Sir John Williams, subject to the life interest of himself and his brother, Mr. Owen Slaney Wynne, on condition that they were to become the property of the National Library of Wales if established at Aberystwyth. Mr. Owen Slaney Wynne died before his brother, and on the death of Mr. W. R. M. Wynne in January, 1909, the manuscripts passed to the National Library.



The Welsh MSS. in the collection have been fully described in Reports prepared for the Historical MSS. Commission, by Mr. John Gwenogvryn Evans, M.A., D.Litt.,\* who says the collection is "undoubtedly the premier collection of Welsh manuscripts, both in extent and quality. Here we have the oldest MSS. of the Laws of Wales in Latin and Welsh; the oldest versions of the Mabinogion, as well as of the Arthurian and other Romances; the oldest and only perfect copy of the Holy Grail; an early translation of a portion of the Gospel of Matthew; an immense body of poetry, ranging from the Black Book of Carmarthen down to the 18th century; Historical works like the Brut y Tywysogion; and a large number of the theological works current in the Middle Ages. We have here also not only the most extensive collection of pedigrees, but by far the oldest manuscripts with authentic contemporary accounts and references to sources of information."

Again, writing of Robert Vaughan, Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans says:—"No student can refrain from paying him a most sincere tribute of admiration and gratitude for his prescience and skill in bringing together the noblest monuments of Kymric history and literature. Though it is true that his collection of Welsh MSS. is the finest in existence, still his merit was not in making it the biggest collection, but in securing nearly every manuscript of importance in the language, leaving transcripts to others."

The "Black Book of Carmarthen" is the glory of the Hengwrt Library, as indeed it would be of any library possessing it, for it is the oldest MS. in the Welsh language, and one of the MSS. denominated the "Four Ancient Books of Wales." It is on vellum, and written in several hands of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the oldest portions being at least as early as 1195. The Priory of St. John at Carmarthen was founded for

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\* Historical MSS. Commission. Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language, Vol. I, Parts ii, and iii., London 1899—1905.

gylch ar y blat heb ef ath a lech  
 yz hollan heden ar kyuanhed  
 ual y buant oren. Ac yua kyuo  
 di aorn ynten ac edrych. Aphan  
 edrych ef abelei yz holl blat yu  
 gyuanhed ac yn gyber o y holl  
alauoed ay haneden. Pa r y b bal  
 canaeth y bu pryderi ariannon  
 yndab heb ef. Pryderi au ydei ac  
 yz dorth uyllys i am yu yubgyl.  
 Ariannon au ydei angubereu  
 yz eslym bedy bydyu yn kytem  
 guer am y mynubgyl hithen. Ac  
 y uelly y bu eu carchar. Ac o ach  
 abs y carchar h bumb y gelbit y  
 kyuarbydyt h bumb mabmogi  
myner a mynord. Ac y uelly  
 y teruyna y gemg hom y ma  
 or mabmogy. — || —

**M**ath uab mathonby oed ar  
 gloyd ar byned. A pryderi  
 uab byll oed argloyd ar un can  
 tref arugent yny deheu. Sef  
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 . tyri. Ac yu yz oes homio. math  
 uab mathonby ny bydei u y b  
 uan yu tra uei y deud roet y uil y c  
 aoth morbyn onyt kyubryf ry  
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 rbyu gyt ac ef. goebm uerch fe  
 bu odol pebm yn aruon. A hou  
 no tectaf morbyn oed yny hoes  
 or abydit yno. Ac yuteu y gkaer  
dathyl yn aruon yd oed y bafra

"Mabinogion": The end of Manawyddan, son of Llyr, and the  
 beginning of Math, son of Mathonwy. Written circa 1280.

From "Llyvyr Gwyn Rhydderch" ("The White Book of Roderick"),—  
 Hengwrt MS. 408 = Peniarth MS. 4, fol. clxxxix., col. 81.



Ac ar hynn ymluthab aoruc  
 pb vchydic ydanab yny ytted  
 ary warthaf. Adodi ylab ary  
 sledyf ae viathu yny ysgel. Ac  
 yndiang y santab. Acham or  
 uchel lef galb or cabi ary du  
 b val hynn. cy ahumet. cy a-  
 humet. vyn dub. i. canhyrth  
 bya vni canys y abz honn yz  
 byf warb. Ac aydusrech hon  
 no vdweth ys aracamett yyl  
 slyfyet ef gantunt yz cast-  
 ell. Ac yd ymhoeles rolond yn  
 vach at ynuer. Ac yndian-  
 not kyichu ygaer aorugant  
 ygyt ar saracamett aoeodyt  
 yndbyn corff ycabz. Asvedy  
 llad ycabz val hynn. ygaer  
 ar castell a orelgyrnassant.  
 ar sbyr arydhaab d oc eu m  
 chan.....

svedy vchydic o amf  
 ydathanbyr yz amher  
 abdyr wt Ebrahyn vie-  
 hin cordibi. Abrenhin sibli. Ac  
 altumoz afoessynt hynn ohyn  
 ay opanpilon. yny arhos. Ac  
 yny ragot. ar odev vbydiab  
 ac ef. Amuer seich dinas ga-  
 tunt. Allunyeithab bydyr  
 a ome charlys yn eu herbyn.  
 Aphan dweth vcordibi ae lu.  
 ganthab ydweth ybrenhin<sup>dy</sup>  
 becpbyr vchot. ac eu lluoed-  
 gantunt yn aruabc ar tew  
 nulltyr allan or gaer. Ac ysg-

bylch d oc mil oed lu ys aracu  
 neit. Ac ysgylch chbe mil oed  
 o g'stonogyon. Ac yna ysbuaeth  
 charlys tew bydm. Ar vydm  
 gyntaf or marchogyon dotuo  
 raf. ar eil ogedyt. ar tryded o  
 marchogyon ereill. Ac welly ygo  
 ruc ys aracamett. Aphan ytted  
 ed vbydm gyntaf o arch charlys  
 yz kyichu ys aracamett. dyfor  
 peddtyr rac biomn pb marcha  
 bc vduint agbalgabt lauabc  
 coruabc amamunt kyffelyb  
 ydieuyl. Athelyuev yn llab pb  
 vni onaduunt yn eu canu. Aphan  
 gislev meirch yristonogyon  
 ylleislev hynn. Ac ysgbellant  
 eu haurythyon walgodveu. dyrch  
 ynw aorugant byt na aller eu  
 marchogyon eu hattal. Aphan  
 belas ydby vydm ereill yuto.  
 ymhoelet aorugant byntev.  
 Aphan belas charlys hynn yz  
 uedu aoruc odieichyr mod. y  
 ny aduabu yz achabs oed hyn  
 ny. Allabenthav aoruc ys ara-  
 camett. ac eu hynlit. ac ym  
 erbyr ydweth yristonogyon  
 yvnyd a oed ar dby vilttyr or  
 gaer. Ac yna okytunudel yz  
 vunglymavd yristonogyon  
 y eu hnos ar vbydi. Aphan  
 bellant y saracamett hynn  
 bylyab diacheuyn vchydic a  
 orugant. ac yna ytnubys  
 yristonogyon eu pbyllen byt

Charlemagne's Expedition to Spain. Written circa 1330.  
 From "Llyvyr Gwyn Rhydderch" ("The White Book of Roderick").—  
 Hengwrt MS. 411 = Peniarth MS. 5, fol. Lxxxv.

Black Canons about the year 1148, and in its Scriptorium the Black Book was compiled or copied, it is hard to decide which, for some of the compositions belong to an earlier age. The poems are a compound of Mythology, Religion, History, and Literature. The first poem in the MS. is a dialogue between Myrddin and Taliesin, the subject being the battle of Arvderydd. The text of the Black Book has been ably reproduced with an introduction by Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans —(Pwllheli, 1907).

Another of the "Four Ancient Books" is also in the collection, "The Book of Taliesin," written on vellum, probably at Neath or Margam, circa 1275, and containing the poems attributed to the Welsh Bard, Taliesin, the subject of much controversy in the middle of the 19th century. Thomas Stephens of Merthyr and Professor Skene have, unfortunately, not lived to see the day when this and other MSS. in which they were keenly interested are available for research workers, but the opportunity of studying the original of this precious MS. will attract other scholars to the National Library. A facsimile of this MS. will be included in the Series of Old Welsh Texts, prepared by Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans.

Of first importance amongst literary manuscripts is the "Llyvyr Gwyn Rhydderch," or the White Book of Roderick, containing the Mabinogion and other Romances, copied in several hands of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The Mabinogion stories in the White Book are earlier than the same stories in the Red Book of Hergest, and there is internal evidence that the scribe of the Red Book either used this MS. or that both may have been transcribed from an earlier original now lost. The White Book also contains the Charlemagne cycle of stories, Bown of Hampton, the Purgatory of Patrick, the Gospel of Nicodemus, an account of a series of miracles wrought by the Blessed Virgin and St. Edmund of Canterbury, the history of Pilate and Judas, and several other pieces of mediæval literature in Welsh.



Among the older Welsh MSS. described in Dr. Gwengvryn Evans' Report is the MS. containing the odes of Kynddelw, Kyvoesi Merlin, and other pieces, written partly between 1230 and 1250, and partly about 1300, and one a little earlier, circa 1225, with fragments of the Mabinogion, and the Romance of Geraint ap Erbin. Another MS. gives the romances of Peredur and Charlemagne and the "histories" of Adam, the Crucifixion, Pilate, and Judas Iscariot, transcribed in the fourteenth century; another transcript of the Charlemagne romance belongs to the same period, and yet another to a somewhat later date.

The gem however of the romance series is the *Ystoryaeu Seint Greal* (see illustration), a noble volume, on 280 leaves of fine vellum, written some time before 1400, strongly bound in leather, with clasps. This MS. was printed under the supervision of the Rev. Robert Williams of Rhydygroesau in 1876. The opportunity of consulting the original will be a boon to scholars engaged in the study of romance literature.

In MSS. containing the Laws of Hywel Dda the collection is very rich, there being altogether 23 copies. A few of these, it should be stated, are partial transcripts. MS. 29, *Y Llyvr Du o'r Waun*, or the Black Book of Chirk, is the oldest copy of the Laws in Welsh, and MS. 28, a Latin version, written in the last quarter of the twelfth century, is the oldest of all existing transcripts. This MS. has numerous illustrations of great historical value. MS. 31, an early fourteenth century copy, is remarkable for the ornamental bordering enclosing the writing of the first page, a decoration which Dr. Evans considers unique in the case of Welsh MSS. Besides the one just mentioned, there is another of the fourteenth century, while five belong to the thirteenth. There are two seventeenth century transcripts, one being in the hand of John Jones, Gelly Lyvdy, and the other in the autograph of Robert Vaughan.

In the collection are two Latin MSS. of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia*, one of them being of the first quarter of the thirteenth century. There are numerous



adwabt yna. Peredur heb hi. dabre yna y eistedd ymy  
oityngho githres yr heut. ac ynteu aareth ymybn. a chyt  
cu aozuc mybn gvehy. ac eulyoef hi aberis tymu yar  
neu y amdnab. agvedy kyfscu ruthur o honab. In aedffaw  
es. ac aerdhys dymchafel bbrod y vmet y vkyta. 2lc uelth y  
gonucpvyt. ac ny dwelci ef enroet lle oukallach o bop da.  
2lphan erchnef diast. ef aducpvyt gbra idab.

**R**pued uu gan beredur. gael gvu. kamps ymyr amlet  
hōmū nyc oed chweith gvu ymbryttaeu uaw o  
ny bei yulle trachyuoethawc. Sef aozuc peredur yuet  
y gvu yuffest. a medbi odiethy? messur. 2lc yna edrych  
aozuc ef vulliget y umbennes rac tecket y gwelei. kamps  
nykydyat ef enroet thelet y bu kyndecket a hi. 2lchynhof  
fet vugantual ef hi. ac yradlygawo idl y charyat. agwneu  
thur ydab. 2llytheu aenackaabo ef. y peir idab vot yu chy  
amogach idl. ac yud idiffyc y ymbrihabo ef aly. 2lphan y  
gveles hi efo gvedy kyynpab ymy charyat hi. hi adwabt  
wrthab. peredur heb hi gvybyd di yulle gbur nasknafi yrot ti  
dun ony rody ditheu dy gret ar uot yu bu tuab y gyt amby  
ynerbyn bop dyn. ac nasknelych dun onyt a archwyfi. Na  
knaf yroti adub heb ynteu. ac ar hymy ymgredu aozugat.  
Yna hitheu adwabt. Peredur heb hi. gvybyd di yulle gbur  
nat kyuhoffet genyrt ti byugkaeli. achenyrti dy gael di.  
2lc yna hi aerdhis oegweithyon gvu uchur y gvehy. 2lc yna  
y gvehy albnaethpvyt ymyr ued y pebyll. ac y gvehy hōmū  
yo aethant peredur ar borbyn ygyfgu. 2lphan ytoed beredur

"Ystoryaeu Seint Greal."—Written at the end of the 14th century.

Hengwrt MS. 49 = Peniarth MS. 11., fol. 47.



copies of Brut y Brenhinoedd. Of the Bruts, two belong to the thirteenth century. A late fifteenth century Brut is interesting in that it is ornamented with large rubric initials and coloured illustrations of the kings mentioned in the text, from Eneas to Cadwaladyr Vendigait. A late MS. of the Brut is in the autograph of William Kynwal, another was written by Dr. John David Rhys. Four are in the hand of John Jones, three having been written while he was a prisoner in the Fleet.

There are several MSS. of Brut y Tywysogion, the earliest of which belongs to the first quarter of the fourteenth century. A MS. written circa 1400 is, in Dr. Evans' opinion, a direct transcript of the Brut in the Red Book of Hergest, and another copy has paragraphs not to be found in the Llyfr Coch. A sixteenth century transcript is in the autograph of William Kynwal. To the same period belongs a copy which was once in the possession of Thomas Wilkins, a seventeenth century antiquary, who owned Llyfr Coch Hergest, Llyvyr Agkyr, and other valuable MSS.

The collection contains over forty manuscripts in the autograph of John Jones of Gelli Lyvdy, who was the friend and contemporary of Robert Vaughan, to whom John Jones bequeathed his MSS. Unknown, save to a few specialists, and not even accorded a place in the "Dictionary of National Biography," John Jones of Gelli Lyvdy was remarkable for many things, and Wales owes him a great debt for his skill and industry in copying manuscripts, many of which only survive in his transcripts. He excelled as a penman, writing his texts with a fine hand, and embellishing them with capitals and head- and tail-pieces which are really beautiful. His life-story presents points of interest amounting to romance. Bred up to the law as an Attorney in the Court of the Marches, he early withdrew himself from practising because, so it is stated, he had too much honesty to pursue it. Possessed of sufficient private means in early life to make the following of his profession a matter of choice rather than

necessity, he nevertheless spent a large part of his life in the Fleet Prison in London, though this did not interrupt the work of copying; many of his transcripts bear notes of their being written while he was a prisoner. His tastes were catholic to a degree. The copying of MSS. must have been the absorbing passion of his life. He seems to have copied every MS. he could get hold of, whatever the subject. Hence it is that he has left in his transcripts a mine where students of Welsh poetry, history, genealogy, and many other subjects may delve. In one MS. we may find pedigrees of the half mythical kings and saints, in another an interlude, here a mediæval religious paraphrase of the Crucifixion or the finding of the cross, and there the travels of Sir John Mandeville, a copy of an early Calendar, or of the Laws of Howel Dda. Numerous as are the manuscripts of John Jones in the Peniarth Library, there are nearly as many more in other collections. Many are bulky tomes of 800 to 1,000 pages, often folios. It will be seen therefore that his industry was prodigious.

The manuscripts in the autograph of Sir Thomas Williams of Trevriw reveal another instance of devotion to Welsh studies, pursued in the face of innumerable difficulties, and a constant struggle with poverty and bad health. Dr. Gwenogvryn Evans says there is no more pathetic case in literature than that of Sir Thomas Williams, who graduated M.A. at Oxford in 1573, in which year he was a curate at Trevriw. A near neighbour of William Salesbury, the first translator of the New Testament into Welsh, Williams was drawn to Salesbury's favourite studies, and devoted the remaining thirty-four years of his life to compiling and illustrating by quotations a dictionary of Latin-Welsh and Welsh-Latin. The Latin-Welsh part of the work is in the Peniarth collection, a bulky work in three volumes, representing an enormous amount of industry which has never met with its due meed of recognition. On this work is based the Dictionary of Dr. John Davies of Mallwyd, printed in 1632, but the printed book is an



abridgment of the original, which yet awaits the enterprise of some rich society or private patron. The Welsh-Latin portion, though not in the Peniarth collection, still survives.

Other manuscripts of the same hand are a commonplace book in which are written numerous notes and quotations for the Dictionary; and a miscellaneous collection containing a copy of the Laws extracted from the White Book of Hergest, Charters relating to Anglesey, Carnarvon, Merioneth and Bardsey, Poetry, Lives of the Saints, etc.

It is impossible in a brief report to describe the innumerable documents and other materials for elucidating the history, topography, genealogy, land tenure and other matters relating to Wales or parts thereof. One volume, for example, contains copies of papers dealing with the Court of the Marches in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and the jurisdiction of that court over the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Monmouth and Salop, with observations here and there upon the arguments by Sir Francis Bacon.

There are two MSS. in the Cornish language, one being of exceptional importance, a Cornish mystery, written in 1504, of which this is the only text extant. It was edited and translated by the late Dr. Whitley Stokes in 1872. The discovery of this manuscript amongst the Peniarth collection about the year 1869 created quite a stir among philologists, Cornish being represented by a very limited written literature, to which this drama was an important addition, especially as a record of the state of the language at the end of the fifteenth century.

The Hengwrt and Peniarth collection includes about two hundred MSS. in Latin, English and French, some being of considerable value and importance. There is one, for instance, of the thirteenth century, closely and beautifully written, containing a number of letters and charters relating to the monastery of Burton-upon-Trent, and in the same volume is a collection of letters and charters of the Saxon kings of England. There

is a folio MS. on vellum of the Chronicle of Henry of Huntingdon, which is quite one of the oldest, if not the oldest, text of that Chronicle, and also an early MS. of Bede. Both these are small folios, on vellum, with rubricated capitals throughout, and the Bede has a good illuminated initial letter.

Among other MSS. in English may be mentioned a transcript of Sir Philip Sidney's translation of the Psalms, and a little volume with regulations for royal and other funerals, processions, etc., including the programme of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth.

Of the English MSS., however, interest centres most in the MS. of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, a folio, on vellum, of about the year 1420 it is conjectured. This fine volume, three inches thick, has had a bad time with rats or mice, the top being freely nibbled away, yet the text of the MS. has almost entirely escaped injury. Either the rats did not relish the ink, or some scholar or housewife came to the rescue in the nick of time. Professor Skeat writes of this MS. as follows: "The Hengwrt MS. of the Canterbury Tales is known to be one of the best. It stands second among the seven MSS. selected and printed by the Chaucer Society. An examination of its contents shows that it is unique, not only in the arrangement of the Tales, but in particulars relating to the Tales themselves."

From the monastery of Evesham came a curious and interesting volume on vellum containing tracts on astrology, the "Secretum Secretorum" of Aristotle, and other pieces; while some religious house or institution may have been the original owner of a pretty volume bound in oak boards and neatly covered with stamped leather, containing the "Consuetudinary of Sarum." A tract in English by John Alcock, bishop of Ely, in the fifteenth century, bears the quaint title "This is ye Abbey of ye holy gost yt is fonded in a place yt is cleped ye consciens."

Astrology, Astronomy and Arithmetic are represented by several manuscripts, some of them very curious. Science, in the middle ages, was mainly concerned with



Sane al the compaignis grete and smalle  
Thus hane I quyt the mylke in my tale

Here enseth the Feves tale

The prologe of the Cookes tale

**T**he cook of London, whil the Feves spak  
Ffor roye hym thoughte, he dalked hym on the bak  
Haha quod he, for Cristes passion  
This mylke hadde a sharp conclusion  
Op on his argument of herbergage  
Wel seyde Salomon, in his langage  
ere dryng nat every man, in to thyn hous  
Ffor herberdyng by nyghte is pilous  
Wel oghte a man, auyssed for to be  
Whom yt he broghte, in to his pmetee  
I pray to god, so yeve me sorwe and care  
If ever outh I sighte hogge of Ware  
Herde I a mylke, bette yset alke  
he hadde a rape of malice, in the deye  
But god forbode that he stynken heere  
Ffor if ye, souche stuf to heere  
A tale of me, that am a poure man  
I wol yow telle, as wel as ene I kan  
A litel rape, that ful in onye citee  
E Dure hooft auyssede, and seyde I graunte it thee  
Rold tel on Roger, doke that it be good  
Ffor many a pastee hastoll laten blood  
And many a jake of Douce hastoll coold  
That hath been tories hoot and tories coold  
Of many a pilgrim, hastoll Cristes cure  
Ffor of thy psle, yet they faye the woz  
That they han eten, with thy stubbil goos  
Ffor in thy shoupe, is many a flye loos  
Rold tel on, gentil Roger, by thy name  
But yet I praye thee, be nat wjoot for game  
A man may seyde ful sooth, in game and pley  
A howe cast ful sooth, quod Roger by my fey

Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales."—Written circa 1400.

Hengwrt MS. 154=Peniarth MS. 392, fol. 56.2. Reduced

But sooth pley quade pley, as the Flemmyng seith  
And they fore heny Bailly, by thy feith  
Se thou nat swooth, er we depayten heer  
Thogh þt my tale, be of an hostiler  
But natheles I wol nat telle it þit  
But er we parte, þis thow shalt be quyt  
And they with al the lough, and made cheere  
And seyde his tale, as ye shal after here

### Þe bigynnyng the Cook his tale

**A**rentis, whilom dwelled in oure citee  
And of a craft of vitailles was he  
Gauland he was, as goldspynch in the shalke  
Broun as a beye, a gre short felake  
With lokkes blake, þeumbis ful fetisly  
Dauncen he boude so wel and iolily  
That he, was clepyd þerbyn reuelow  
He was, as ful of loue and þamony  
As is the hye, ful of houn, where  
Wel was the wench, þt et hym myghte meete  
At every bndale wolde he synge & hope  
He loued bet the dauene, than the choyse  
For, whan they any nyng, was in choyse  
Out of the choyse, thider wolde he lepe  
Til þt he hadde, al the righte þeyn  
And daunced wel, he wolde nocht come ageyn  
And gadred hym, a meynce of his cozt  
To hope and synge, and maken which disport  
And they, they setten stonene, for to meete  
To pleyen at the dees, in which a steepe  
For in the tobyn, nas they no þentys  
That fayer, boude caste a paye of dys  
Than þerbyn boude, and they to he was flee  
Of his dyspense, in place of þynnetee  
That found his maistry, wel, in his chaffaye  
For ofte tyme, he found his boy, ful brye  
For akely, a þentys reuelow  
That haunterh dees, wot, or þamony



the first two branches, arithmetic as a subject of education, coming somewhat later. The state of the science of arithmetic in the sixteenth century can be gleaned from the title of one little manuscript, "The Arte of Arithmeticke set fourth by John Martine, Siliceus, and devided into two partes, that is unto speculation or theoricall and the other unto practicall arithmeticke; Very profitable to all kinde of men and allso necessary to be read and learned." The date of this is somewhere about 1600. Other treatises on arithmetic of slightly earlier date are in the collection.

This very inadequate summary necessarily leaves unmentioned many important MSS. To do justice to the collection would require time and research, and involve writing, not a report, but a book. The Report on the collection published by the Historical MSS. Commission, which deals only with MSS. in the Welsh language, fills 1,130 pages. The two parts of this valuable Report can be obtained from the King's Printers for three shillings and sevenpence.

In making this noble collection of Manuscripts the property of the National Library of Wales Sir John Williams has fittingly crowned his other great gifts to the Nation.

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# List of Newspapers and Periodicals filed at the National Library.

## ANGLESEY.

### *Llangefni.*

Y Clorianydd.  
Y Wyntyll.

## BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

### *Brecon.*

Brecon and Radnor County Times.  
Brecon and Radnor Express.

## CARDIGANSHIRE.

### *Aberystwyth.*

Aberystwyth Despatch Directory and Cardigan  
Bay Visitor.  
Aberystwyth Observer.  
Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard.  
Dragon.  
Greal.  
Holy Trinity Parish Monthly Magazine.  
St. Michael's Parish Magazine.  
Welsh Gazette.  
Ystwythian.

### *Cardigan.*

Cardigan and Tivy Side Advertiser.

### *Lampeter.*

Children's Pearl.  
Perl y Plant.  
St. David's College Magazine.  
Yr Haul.

### *Llandyssul.*

Yr Ymofynydd.

## CARMARTHENSHIRE.

### *Carmarthen.*

Carmarthen Weekly Reporter.  
Journal.  
Seren Cymru.  
Y Cyfaiil Eglwysig.



*Llanelly.*

Llanelly and County Guardian  
 Llanelly Mercury.  
 Seren yr Ysgol Sul.  
 South Wales Press.  
 Y Diwygiwr.

## CARNARVONSHIRE

*Bangor.*

Gwalia.  
 North Wales Chronicle.  
 Holyhead Chronicle.  
 Winllan.  
 Yr Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd.

*Carnarvon.*

Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald.  
 Herald Cymraeg.  
 North Wales Observer and Express  
 Y Genedl Gymreig.  
 Yr Eco Cymraeg.  
 Y Werin.  
 Papur Pawb.  
 Cymru.  
 Y Drysorfa.  
 Y Geninen.  
 Y Llusern.  
 Monthly Treasury.  
 Trysorfa y Plant.

*Llandudno.*

Llandudno Advertiser.  
 Llandudno Directory and Visitor.

## DENBIGHSHIRE.

*Abergele.*

Abergele and Pensarn Visitor.

*Conway.*

Y Cronicl.

*Denbigh.*

Baner ac Amserau Cymru.  
 Denbighshire Free Press.

*Llangollen.*

Llangollen Advertiser.

*Ruabon.*

Rhos Herald.

*Wrexham.*

Cymru'r Plant.

Y Cerddor.

Yr Ymwelydd Misol.

Wrexham Argus and North Wales Athlete.

*Colwyn Bay.*

Colwyn Bay and Welsh Coast Pioneer.

North Wales Weekly News.

## FLINTSHIRE.

*Holywell.*

Flintshire Observer.

*Rhyl.*

Rhyl Journal.

Y Gwyliedydd.

## GLAMORGANSHIRE.

*Aberdare.*

Aberdare and Mountain Ash Weekly Post.

Aberdare Leader.

Tarian y Gweithiwr.

*Bargoed.*

Bargoed Journal.

Caerphilly Journal.

*Barry.*

Barry Herald.

*Cardiff.*

Cardiff Journal of Commerce.

Maritime Review.

South Wales Daily News.

Western Mail.

Cardiff Stock and Share List.

Baptist Messenger.



Llandaff Diocesan Magazine.  
 Nationalist.  
 Roath Road Record.  
 South Wales Investment Circular.

*Cowbridge.*  
 Bovian.

*Hengoed.*  
 Rhymney Valley Record.

*Merthyr Tydfil.*  
 Merthyr Express.  
 Y Tyst.  
 Cenad Hedd.

*Neath.*  
 Mid Glamorgan Herald and Neath Gazette.

*Penarth.*  
 Penarth Times.

*Pontypridd.*  
 Glamorgan County Times.  
 Glamorgan Free Press.  
 Pontypridd Observer.

*Porth.*  
 Porth Gazette.

*Swansea.*  
 Cambrian.  
 South Wales Daily Post.  
 South Wales Weekly Post.  
 Swansea Gazette and Daily Shipping Register.  
 Swansea Stock Exchange.  
 Mumbles Weekly Press.

*Tonypandy.*  
 Rhondda Leader.  
 Yr Efengylydd.

*Ystalyfera.*  
 Llais Llafur.

*Bridgend.*  
 The Chronicle.

## MERIONETHSHIRE.

*Blaenau Festiniog.*

Y Rhedegydd.  
Y Glorian.

*Bala.*

Y Seren.  
Yr Wythnos a'r Eryr.  
Tyst Dirwestol.

*Barmouth.*

Seren Gomer.

*Dolgelley.*

Y Goleuad.  
Y Gymraes.  
Y Dysgedydd.  
Y Lladmerydd.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE.

*Abergavenny.*

Abergavenny Chronicle.  
Abergavenny Mail.

*Abertillery.*

South Wales Gazette and Newport News.

*Chepstow.*

Chepstow Weekly Argus.

*Monmouth.*

Monmouthshire Beacon.  
Monmouth Guardian.

*Pontypool.*

Pontypool Free Press.

*Newport.*

South Wales Daily Argus.  
South Wales Weekly Argus.  
The Wesleyan Methodist Magazine.



## MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

*Llanidloes.*

Montgomery and Radnor Echo.

*Newtown.*

Montgomery Express and Radnor Times.

*Welshpool.*

Montgomery County Times.

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

*Fishguard.*

County Echo.

*Haverfordwest.*

Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Telegraph.

Pembrokeshire Herald.

Pembroke County Guardian.

*Isle of Caldy.*

Pax.

*Pembroke Dock and Pembroke.*

Pembroke Dock Gazette.

Pembrokeshire Times.

Ward Davies's Free Press and Economic Advertiser.

*Tenby.*

Tenby and County News.

Tenby Observer.

## RADNORSHIRE.

*Llandrindod Wells.*

Radnorshire Standard.

## ENGLAND.

*London.*

Cymro a'r Celt.  
 Athenæum.  
 Bird Notes and News.  
 Great Western Railway Magazine.  
 Publisher's Circular.  
 Spectator.  
 Yr Herald Cenadol.  
 Ymwelydd Misol Jewin.

*Liverpool.*

Y Brython.

*Manchester.*

Manchester Courier.  
 Manchester Guardian.

*Oswestry.*

Border Counties Advertizer.

*Shrewsbury.*

Salopian.

## SCOTLAND.

*Edinburgh.*

Fiery Cross.

*Glasgow.*

The Scottish Review.

*Greenock.*

Alba.



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