

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

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DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)



Y DDRAIG GOCH

A DDYRY CYCHWYN

April 4th, 1974.

The 41st Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, sponsored
by The Hebron Welsh United Presbyterian Church of
Chicago. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2, 3, 1972.

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TO: Jack Meadows, Secretary,
The W. N. G. A. Inc.,
Cleveland,
Youngstown, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Jack:

It was good to hear your voice last night, and in regards to the letter of March 14th from Swansea, I agree with your pencilled notation that the head table guests should be the Officers and their ladies, plus the Chairman of The Endowment Fund and wife. Unfortunately our Immediate Past President the late beloved Emlyn Lloyd will not be present, and I will miss his kind advice and experience very much.

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. John O Morgan of Detroit, and as the Secretary, I think that a reply from you would be very appropriate. Also enclosing a letter which I sent to you, returned to me in a very damaged envelope. Also as suggested, I will send in an advertisement to "Y D R Y C H" for the June edition.

Regards for now,

Owen C. Roberts, President.

OR/C.

Encl.

P.S. I have not yet replied to Mr. Morgan, I will enclose you a copy of my reply
O.C.R.

Detroit,
Michigan 48224, U.S.A.

March 25, 1974

Mr. Owen C. Roberts,
President,
The Welsh National Gymanfa
Ganu Association Inc.
Lacine, Quebec, Canada

Dear Mr. Roberts,

I thought it would be to your personal interest to read the enclosed letter which I received in January. It was my intention to bring this letter to the attention of our departed and very dear friend Emlyn Lloyd. I called him a few days after receiving this letter when Mrs. Lloyd told me he was in hospital for his annual checkup. I did not want to burden him with this matter when in hospital, hoping he would be refreshed some days later when he was expected home. Unfortunately, as all of us who knew him, he never made it home again. We miss him very much, and still feel sad that he had to leave without opportunity to finish much of his work on behalf of the gymanfa and the community involvement to which he gave so much of his heart.

Without him, the work of the National Gymanfa has to go on. The traditions of Wales are demanding for their perpetuation, though time is afforded for the memory of those who served and endeavored to make more prominent their meaning. There were occasions when I worked closely with Mr. Lloyd. As a newspaperman I was able to help him with public relations work for the Welsh Society here and perhaps more importantly during his term as president of the National Gymanfa.

The new hotel mentioned in this letter will be a part of a new complex now under construction on the Detroit riverfront. It will be called the Renaissance Center, and as you will see from the accommodation chart, there would be ample room for all the functions of the Gymanfa. This comes as a sort of early awareness of what there will be in store here, and I think it will have interest for the national executive. I have not replied to the letter, feeling it would be better acknowledged by one of the national officers.

Without reaching for other opinions nationally and locally, I don't quite know if it would be feasible to hold the Gymanfa here. The Welsh community is not so numerous in numbers as in former years. Our folk generally are getting on in years. Our Welsh Church is in danger of disintegrating with the sad possibility that we may not worship as a distinctive Welsh congregation after this coming June. However, that does not mean that the Welsh influence will terminate here. There will be other means for the continuation of our particular identity. It is quite possible that with guidance and help from the parent organization there would be people here who would work,

give of their time and succeed in sponsoring a National Gymanfa on the scale that has been known here in former years. While I cannot visualize a potential leader at the moment, we Welsh are blessed with a national character for sprouting a leader even from a circle of limited numbers. For the moment, I thought it might be just enough to bring this letter to your attention.

You may not know me, but I had the pleasure of meeting you in Toronto one night with Emlyn Lloyd and John Roberts. Of course, at the business meeting, I was impressed with your balanced control of the discussions which at one time threatened to become factional. Happily, you were able to steer the tone away from a possible disaster. Your diplomacy was more than commendable, a compliment which was afterward echoed by Mr. Emlyn Lloyd and others.

I may be numbered in the minority when I have to announce that I deplore the idea of taking the Gymanfa out of North America--meaning for this summer's event in Swansea. At a time when the Gymanfa was experiencing greater support here, I feel it was a mistake to plan this coming visit to Wales. Not all the supporters can afford to go to Wales, and it certainly deprives a great many of the opportunity to attend the annual festival at a North American city. I know this was planned before your election to the presidency, and cannot be faulted regarding this observation. Quite a number around here feel the National Gymanfa belongs to Canada and the U.S. and nowhere else. I hope no material damage will be done to the organization this year, but I would like to think that there will be no repetition of the current arrangement. I apologize for these remarks, but as others are similarly concerned, I thought your review of the objection would be justified.

I sincerely hope that your term in office will be both happy and rewarding. Every effort expended will mean a better future for the Gymanfa. It was founded in precarious times, nurtured by people who believed in its existence, and if we all honour the principles of our musical traditions, each new Gymanfa should be better than the one before. It is just possible we shall meet at Niagara Falls. I think I shall make it there this time.

With kindest personal regards,

Jack
John C. Morgans

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April 6th - 1974.

The 41st Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, sponsored
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TO: Mr. John O. Morgans,
1d Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Morgans:

Many thanks for your most interesting letter of March 25th. I too share your grief at the sudden death of our late beloved Immediate Past President, Emllyn Lloyd, I shall miss him greatly.

Your comments concerning the new hotel complex in Detroit are very interesting, and I have sent a copy of your letter plus the literature to our Secretary, Jack Meadows.. We have been most fortunate in being able to secure very good sponsors for our future Gymanfa Ganu Festivals for the years, 1974 Swansea Wales (International) October 1974 Cleveland (North America), 1975 New York City, 1976, Philadelphia (Bi-centennial) and 1977 Ottawa, Canada's Capital City. This is the first time we have had our Gymanfa Ganu sponsorship firmly committed so far in advance.

Concerning your comment re having the Gymanfa Ganu held in Wales, at the time this matter came up for discussion, every one of the Trustees were very vocal on behalf of their own territory, to have it held in Wales as soon as possible, in fact many of them said they wished to have it held while they were still around and able to travel. This year we are most fortunate in having Cleveland again host the Gymanfa Ganu. This will give our delegates who cannot make it to Wales, the opportunity to attend the Cleveland Gymanfa this time to be held in mid October. Our Swansea Gymanfa this year although lacking the very historic appeal of an Investiture, will tie in with the Royal National Eisteddfod being held in nearby Carmarthen, thus giving our

delegates a rare chance to visit their homeland, or the Land of their Fathers, as in my case, under the most favourable of circumstances, and take part in both the National Gymanfa Ganu and also to attend the Royal National Eisteddfod, and also to take part in a pilgrimage to what must ^{be} the most hallowed and historic spot in all of Wales to the Cathedral of our Patron Saint David of Wales.

We feel and hope that an occasional sponsored Gymanfa Ganu held in Wales will also help to create a closer liason between the people of Wales and also between the people of North America of Welsh descent. The future of our Association depends on our enrolling many more new members. In the U.S.A. immigration of Welsh people is very slight, in Canada, we are more fortunate, therefore this leaves future possible membership from people of Welsh descent. Our very active Vice President, Gwyn Parri of Milwaukee a few years ago established the Welsh-American Youth Organization, its growth we hope will continue for the sake of our future. We also hope these junior members will make the trip to Wales and through the exposure of being in Wales and attend these fine cultural events, we hope that they will be so proud of their ethnic origins, that they will better understand the work and efforts of all who have helped make the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association of North America and Canada, the very fine international organization we are now.

You intimate in your letter that you will be present at the Niagare Falls, Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Festival, I also will be present, and I would be very pleased if you would contact me so that we could have what I hope would be a good verbal face to face discussion. Thank you for your very kind remarks. I remain,

Yours very cordially,

Owen C. Roberts.

OR/P.