

WELSH SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO

April Progress Report for the 1998 National Gymanfa Ganu

Columbus, Ohio, September 3 through 6, 1998

*Submitted by Mary Ellen Morgan
and
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April 3, 1997*

Location

All events will take place at either the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, at the corner of North High Street and Nationwide Boulevard, or at the Convention Center, which is attached to it. One will only have to walk 20 feet from the door of the Market Place to the door of the room where we will have the Grand Concert and the Sunday Service.

The Hyatt Regency is within the outerbelt, towards the north end of downtown. It is in a safe area which has a lot of foot traffic, so people watching is fun. Many of you will remember that this was our same venue for our '86 Gymanfa, but we will make it easier for attendees by staying under 1 roof this time.

We will still have our after singing on the staircase, as we did in 1986. The stairs are part of the Convention Center, but seem to be a part of the hotel, and will hold several hundred singers comfortably

Gymanfa Marketing Plan

Creation of a Logo

The advertising firm of Conrad, Phillips and Vutech of Columbus was chosen to help us design a logo and to aid in the distribution of public relations material locally and nationally.

1. Because of the ubiquitouness of the red dragon, and because our committee's graphic expert was weary of it, we have elected to stress the daffodil as our primary symbol.
2. Our logo will feature a quarter note with its flag being a daffodil, superimposed over a series of wavy lines, which may be interpreted as
 - a. A musical staff
 - b. The Atlantic Ocean, which Columbus sailed
 - c. The Scioto River, on which Columbus lies

Above the wavy lines, three of Columbus' skyscrapers appear in silhouette.

Implementation

This logo will be used on all of our documents, handouts, mailers, badges, tickets, etc. Please note the miserably xeroxed copy attached.

Gymanfa Entertainment

The Grand Concert

Carolyn Abels and her entertainment committee are almost ready to release their two top recommendations for choirs. This should be a fait accompli within a month.

Noson Lawen

Because we are placing an emphasis on both Ohio products and family, and because we are hoping to draw more young people, we are incorporating more young people in our Noson Lawen

Among our acts will be:

- A mother and son singing duets [she has three compact discs recorded, and has a lovely voice]. In fact, she just sang for our St. David's Day Dinner, and was wonderfully well received
- We propose to get two sisters from Wales, who are terrific entertainers. The elder sister holds a degree in music, and has been recorded on several c.d.s
- For pure fun and good musicology, we will have our own - and yours, too - Lloyd Savage and his "magic" accordion.
- We also propose to get members of the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club Alumni to perform.
- We have a delightful gentleman from the north of Wales in mind as our M.C. He's perky, gentlemanly, humorous, and has a superb twinkle in his eye.

It is our hope that these acts, and two or three more, will perform for 10 to 12 minutes each, and will provide a variety of music, styles, and enjoyment.

The Grand Banquet

The Grand Banquet will be in the Ball Room of the Hyatt Regency.

We will have a fabulous bell ringer, who astounded one and all at our most recent Gymanfa in Columbus with his gorgeous and peaceful renditions of Welsh hymns. We would also like to invite Dafydd Edwards, the famous Welsh tenor, who also has numerous tapes and c.d.s to his credit, and who is well known and well loved here in Ohio

We had hoped to invite Dafydd Wiggle as our banquet speaker, but since he is part of the Milwaukee Gymanfa, this position is still under discussion. We would be grateful to each of you for any suggestions for interesting speakers.

Sunday's Gymanfa Sessions

We will split the conducting honors between our own Lloyd Savage and the conductor of what ever male voice choir is chosen.

Eisteddfoed

WSCO would very much like to provide you with an Eisteddfoed, and our Immediate Past President, George Richards has agreed to chair this committee. We are exploring this and have made a tentative commitment to it. We will know by the time of the 1997 National in Milwaukee if we will have one

Additional Attractions

The same weekend as our Gymanfa, our fabulous Greek Orthodox Cathedral, which is directly across from our hotel, will have its annual three day **Greek Festival**, complete with whole roasted lamb, baklava, moussaka, and potent Greek coffee.

On Friday night, beginning two blocks north of the hotel, the monthly **Gallery Hop** will take place. More than a dozen galleries open their doors and provide refreshments for the crowd. This is a real happening, and draws thousands of people every month. This area is populated with scores of restaurants, coffee houses, delis, etc. and is a fun place to relax and watch the crowd.

During the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the Gymanfa, the Germania Club of Columbus will sponsor its annual **Octoberfest**, with oompah bands, draft German beer, brats, weiss wurst, strudel, and other German delicacies.

Within four blocks of our hotel are the following restaurants:

Tapatio, which focuses on Caribbean food and great margaritas

Strada del Orto, which features bistro food (their pork chops covered with lingon berries are worth the trip alone)

The Japanese Steak House, which has teppanaki cooking (done on a large griddle in the middle of each table). It has some of the most tender beef this side of Kobe.

Martinis, a part of the 6 restaurant group of local restaurateur, Cameron Mitchell (36ish). The food is novel without being odd. Portions are large and delicious. This house caters to those who either are, were, or want to watch the young and the beautiful.

Barley's, a microbrewery with it's own casual menu. It's usually crowded at night, but quite accessible during the day.

Morton's of Chicago, a destination steak house with dark paneling, expensive cigars (although the non-smoking area is large, and a relief to many of us).

Rigsby's Cuisine Volatile, one of Columbus's top three restaurants. It's open kitchen invites inspection and guarantees that food is properly prepared and served. It's Cappellini Natasha renowned, as is its pasta D'Angelo

Mac's Authentic Scottish Pub, Lots of British beers, especially those of Scotland, darts, relaxed atmosphere, and no haggis.

Fifty-Five on the Boulevard, is an exceptional restaurant which specializes in seafood and fine service. Its house salad is an institution in Columbus

The Flatiron Building, owned by Kent Rigsby, owner of *Rigsby's*, this establishment has meats, pastas, four star desserts, and a relaxed atmosphere.

The Holiday Inn Hotel, has several in house restaurants, and they are well thought of.

The Hyatt Regency Hotel, also has several restaurants, and they are very good

The Convention Center Restaurants. An independent assemblage of fast food locales for children and adults in a hurry. One of our favorites is Schmidt's Sausage House

One block away is **North Market**. The last of Columbus' farmers' markets. It is a feast for the eyes, nose, and mouth. One of the bakeries even has Welsh tea cakes every Saturday. It's a good way to spend a morning. There is a restaurant upstairs, and it is reputed to be quite good.

Dining on Sunday will be easy at any of the above restaurants, plus the additional ones within a mile of the venue.

New Offerings

Oral History

We are actively exploring the possibility of taking oral or video histories of anyone attending the Gymanfa. Our concern is where to place the material so that it will be properly sorted, stored, and indexed. WSCO feels that we are losing so many older members so quickly, that soon their stories will be lost. The Welsh-American experience is unique and should be preserved.

We hope to set up a program that would be easy to follow for future Gymanfas, as well as for local Welsh groups.

The indefatigable Mary Morris Mergenthaler has generously given us several ideas for repositories of our gathered material, and we have a Ph.D. who did oral histories for her dissertation checking on many of these aspects.

Think how wonderful it would be if we had our grandparents' stories to review!

Continuous Welsh Cinema

We propose to allocate a room with comfortable sofas and chairs, as well as a large screen TV so that attendees will be able to see any of the 40 or 50 selected films about Wales, or filmed in Wales, or about the Welsh. We are seeking permission from the distribution companies to show their films without cost. Should that permission not be available, we will have to drop non-approved films from our offerings.

This area is to be a place to meet people, see films that are hard to find, get off one's feet for an hour or two, or for younger children to get a TV fix.

International Television Simulcast

Lloyd Savage has been exploring the possibility of a simultaneous television hookup with a child's choir in Wales during our Sunday Gamanfa. He proposes that we sing to them and they sing to us, and then we will all join in several hymns.

Extremely large screen televisions would be provided so that everyone could see the faces of the children. This innovation promises to be really exciting.

Venue

As noted earlier in this report, the main activities, i.e. seminars, Market Place, Grand Banquet, after singing, etc. will be in the newly refurbished Hyatt Regency, located at 350 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Their number is 614-463-1234.

While their current rack rate for rooms run from \$172 per night for a single, one person occupancy room; \$197 for a double , two person occupancy; \$205 for a deluxe king room; \$625 for a one bedroom hospitality suite; all the way for \$1,000 for a two bedroom deluxe suite, **we have negotiated a flat rate of \$85 per night for standard rooms with one to four occupants.** This should encourage people to bring their children, as there will be no extra accommodation cost.

We are also currently negotiating with the Hyatt to give our attendees a 10% reduction on any food ordered from room service.

WSCO has been amazed at the flexibility of the Hyatt as to its standard charges being reduced. We have, and are continuing to negotiate various charges in order to make attending a less costly venture.

The Columbus Convention Center is connected to the Hyatt, and seems as if it's all one building. All onsite activities will take place on the second floor of the hotel, as well as on the second floor of the Battelle Hall, so that one need walk only 20 feet to get to the Gymanfa Sessions and to Sunday Service.

Registration Committee Chairman Bob Penry has designed a four star Web Site for WSCO that will promote our Gymanfa, and he has also customized a registration program for our attendees. Bob's ahead of us all.

Master Card and Visa Accepted

WSCO has entered into negotiation with BankOne to underwrite our credit card charges for the entire Gymanfa. This will save the group a projected \$3,000. to \$4,000. Mary Ellen Morgan and Marietta Riggs-Schumann met with officers of the bank early last winter, and are currently awaiting a favorable reply.

Mothers' Room

We will provide closed circuit broadcasts of the Grand Banquet speaker and entertainment, the Grand Concert, and both Sunday Gymanfa sessions in a

quiet, close, and comfortable location so that fussy babies and exuberant children and their parent(s) may have an alternative location, and not disrupt others at these events.

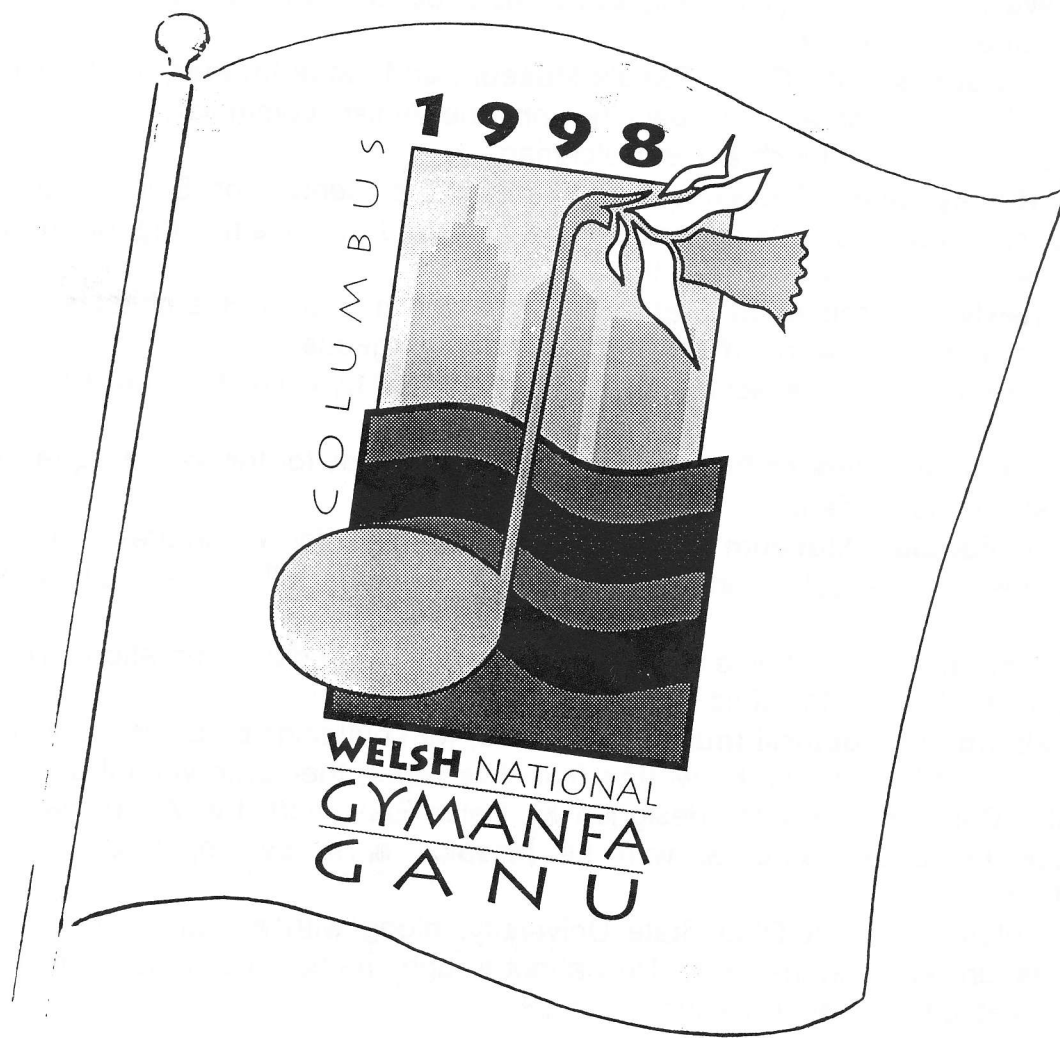
Tours and Seminars

We are gathering a consensus on both of these areas, but to date tour proposals have included:

- **The Welsh Museum at Oak Hill**, as well as a tour of the old Welsh churches and cemeteries in that area;
- **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Museum and I-Max theater**; the Welsh Hills with lunch at an old coaching inn; the Amish community and their artisans, along with lunch at Der Dutchman;
- **The Heisey Glass Museum and Factory**; the Center for Science and Industry, which has 100s of hands-on exhibits, and which is moving into new quarters with new exhibits later this year;
- The newly restored **Ohio State House**, which had over 8 architects, no master plan, and a wonderful history - it is now gorgeous;
- **The Santa Maria**, an exact replica of the one sailed by Columbus now sits on the Scioto River
- **The Columbus Park of Roses**, which is world famous for the variety, quality and size of its gardens.
- **The Columbus Museum of Art**, which is noted for its impressionistic galleries and its collection of paintings by George Bellows, a Columbus native
- **The Columbus Zoo**, home of Jack Hanna and a world class operation. This is a great place for the child in all of us.
- **A walking architectural tour of Columbus**, with buildings by Louis Sullivan, designer and builder of the world's first skyscraper, the controversial design of the Convention Center designed by Peter Eisenman, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox cathedral with its mosaics done by imported Italian craftsmen
- An athletic event at Ohio State University, along with a tour of this, the largest university in the world. How about a rugby game? Perhaps someone will be able to explain Buckeye Fever.

As you will note, many of these activities are also appropriate for, and of interest to, W.A.Y. members, not to mention younger people.

1998: COLUMBUS DISCOVERS WALES.



COME EXPLORE OUR RICH MUSICAL HERITAGE
THE 1998 WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU
IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA.

SEPTEMBER 3 - 6, 1998