

THE 1978 MINNEAPOLIS WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU



A PROGRESS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1978

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DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)



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The St. David's Society of Minnesota

and

The Minnesota-Iowa Gymanfa Ganu Association

welcome you to the 47th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu
on September 1, 2 and 3, 1978.

DATE: September 1, 1978

TO: The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association Board
of Trustees

FROM: The 1978 Minneapolis Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu
Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Progress Report on 1978 National

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First, we extend to the National Board of Trustees our appreciation for the opportunity to host the 1978 National Gymanfa Ganu. We consider it a privilege to have planned for this first National Gymanfa Ganu ever to be held in Minnesota.

Second, this Progress Report will briefly summarize what our Committee has done to prepare for the 1978 National. The information is presented in such a way that perhaps future planning committees might have an idea of what is involved with such an undertaking.

The original invitation to hold the 1978 National in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was extended by the St. David's Society of Minnesota in 1975. The Society inserted an ad in the 1975 New York National Gymanfa Ganu Program Booklet to call attention to the invitation. During 1975 and 1976 the Minnesota-Iowa Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association added its support to the invitation and it became a joint project of the two organizations.

In April, 1976, the first official meeting of the Planning Committee was held in Minneapolis. A second meeting of the Planning



Committee was held in June of that year at which the responsibilities of the seven persons on the Committee were tentatively assigned. The Committee also agreed to encourage persons from Minnesota to attend the 1976 National in Philadelphia to become more familiar with what was involved with the operation of such an event.

In Philadelphia, the National Board of Trustees officially accepted the invitation and wished the Committee well in drawing up its plans. Approximately 15 persons attended the Philadelphia National from Minnesota, the largest number in many years. An ad in the Philadelphia National Official Program Booklet helped to alert people about the location of the 1978 National so that people might begin to plan ahead to a "first time in Minnesota."

The Planning Committee met six times during the next 12 months and drew up a rough outline of the general schedule. Responsibilities of the Committee members were more precisely defined and again the Committee embarked on a "campaign" to encourage more Minnesota persons to attend the National in Ottawa.

Prior to the 1977 Ottawa National, the Committee members assumed responsibility for consulting with their counterparts on the Ottawa Committee for suggestions, if possible. Over 50 persons from Minnesota attended the Ottawa National and much discussion was held among them about what might be done at the 1978 National in Minneapolis.

At the 1977 Ottawa National, in addition to a full page ad in the official Program Booklet, an information table was available for persons wanting more information about the 1978 National. Information request sheets were distributed for persons to return to the official address--Box 8, St. Peter, Minnesota. Just under 100 persons from across Canada and the United States did mail in the request sheets.

Late in the fall, 1977, as the plans became more finalized, a Preliminary Information brochure was prepared and distributed in response to the written requests and for any other persons or groups. A copy of that Preliminary Information brochure is included with this report. As will be noted in the brochure, the Planning Committee urged the readers to not only subscribe to Y Drych and to Ninnau but, most importantly, to join the National Gymanfa Ganu Association so as to be on the official mailing list.

In February, a mailing was distributed to all persons on the National Gymanfa Ganu Association mailing list requesting financial support in the form of contributions and/or memorials. Each person received a letter, a contributions sheet, a self-addressed envelope, and a copy of the Preliminary Information brochure. Copies of these materials are enclosed with this Report.

During the summer of 1977, National Secretary Jack Meadows met with the Planning Committee when he was in Minneapolis. On March 4, National President Eluned Thomas met with the Committee when she was in Minneapolis to attend the St. David's Day Banquet.

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In the spring of 1978 the Planning Committee completed work on the General Schedule and began working out the detailed schedule. Late in the spring,

an Informational Schedule Brochure was prepared and early in June it was mailed to all members of the National Association along with hotel reservation cards, a Minneapolis-St. Paul Tours sheet, and a second contributions sheet. A copy of that set of materials is also enclosed with this report.

Reservations for the various events at the 1978 National began arriving late in June. During the summer a Reservations Committee met four times to process the ticket requests. A "Summary of Pre-registration Ticket orders" sheet is enclosed with this report to show the rate of responses as of certain dates.

During June and early July information for the Program Booklet was put in final form; it was taken to the printer on July 15. Galley proofs were reviewed by the Committee and returned to the printer on August 1; page proofs were prepared, reviewed, and returned to the printer on August 10; the final printed copies of the Program Booklet were delivered on August 25, four days ahead of schedule.

In addition to the information sent to all members of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association, ads and articles were prepared for Y Drych and for Ninnau. Hundreds of copies of the Preliminary Information brochure and the Informational Schedule brochure have been distributed across both Canada and the United States. Locally, news items have been given to radio, television, newspapers, and churches. Members of the Planning Committee have appeared on television and radio programs and have been interviewed for newspaper articles. As might be expected, a tremendous number of persons from the local area have become interested in "Welsh Days" as proclaimed by Minnesota's Governor Rudy Perpich earlier in August. It has been surprising to the Planning Committee at how many persons have indicated that they are of Welsh descent! It is very encouraging to see how many have already registered for the various activities.

Barring unforeseen problems or complications, all should go smoothly. As soon as the persons attending the Gymanfa Ganu have registered, they will receive the official Program Booklet. It will provide them with information about each activity that has been scheduled. The Program Booklet has been assembled with the assumption that it will be the "prime resource document" for and from the 1978 National. Some highlights from the Program Booklet are:

- General Schedule on page 7
- Hotel floor maps on pages 9, 10, 11
- Detailed daily schedules starting on page 13--note label in upper corner of each page.
- Pictures and biographical sketches of principal persons next to their specific program.
- Names and addresses of persons on all Special Committees on page 41
- A brief historical sketch of "The Welsh in Minnesota" on pages 42-45
- A map of downtown Minneapolis inside the back cover with an enlarged map of the Hotel Leamington area on page 14.
- Copies of all three National Anthems inside the back cover.

From the beginning, the objective of the Planning Committee has been to provide a setting and schedule for the 1978 National Gymanfa Ganu which will enable the visitors and members to have another memorable event in the long history of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu. We hope that we have succeeded. Thank you again for this opportunity to help.