

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

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Y DDRAIG GOCH

DDRYR CYCHWYN

The 1993 Northeastern Pennsylvania Gymanfa Committee
Invites You to the 62nd WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU
September 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1993

October 4, 1993

Elfed Roberts, Director
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Frenhinol Cymru
Parc Ty Glas
Llanisien
Cardiff, Wales CF4 5WU

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association (WNGGA) has, from its beginning in 1929 been a strong supporter of Welsh activity in the USA and Wales. Our board has for some years been supportive of the efforts of Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Frenhinol Cymru (Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales). In every way possible, we publicize this annual event as a national and international treasure to be cherished by Welsh from all parts of the world. Within our resources, this moral support is supplemented with an annual contribution.

One of the main highlights of the Eisteddfod for foreign visitors is attendance at the Welcoming Ceremony. This is the most famous recognition of the everlasting ties which exist between the Welsh of the homeland and the Welsh of the rest of the World. My own experience at the Welcoming Ceremony in 1973, 1974 and 1978, with a stage filled with overseas visitors and the Eisteddfod arena filled to capacity, will be forever remembered as a most significant and emotional part of my Welsh being.

It is sad to say that we have received reports indicating that this year's Welcoming Ceremony seemed to have lost its significance and importance. Attendance on the stage and in the audience was reported as very sparse. There is an indication that the movement of the Welcoming Ceremony from the Friday near the end of the Eisteddfod to the opening day, Saturday, is the cause of this for the following reasons: Saturday and Sunday are travel days, People particularly those from overseas have not yet arrived (tours are unlikely to arrive for the first day [Saturday] especially when the Eisteddfod is not open on Sunday, and a reduction in television and press coverage for an event so early in the schedule and so poorly attended.

continued



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Mr. Elfed Roberts

October 4, 1993

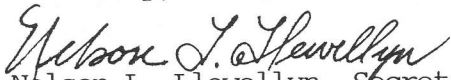
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We are aware of the reasons for the change in the schedule to accomodate the major events; the crowning, the chairing, and the new recognition for prose. However, there remains Tuesday and Thursday which are available and more appropriate for the Welcoming Ceremony with the Eisteddfod activities in full operation.

The above comments are offered in a most constructive sense. They evidence our deep concern over the future of the Welcoming Ceremony. They express our fond hopes that it will continue under conditions most conducive to binding the Welsh of the World together in an expression of our mutual ties.

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association strongly recommends that the governing body of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Frenhinol Cymru take the steps necessary to reschedule the Welcoming Ceremony to Thursday of the week of the Eisteddfod with Tuesday being a reluctant second choice.

Sincerely,



Nelson L. Llewellyn, Secretary

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