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(Come, Sing to the Lord)



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WELCOME to the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu of the N.G.G.A. sponsored by the Philadelphia Gymanfa Ganu Association, at Philadelphia, Pa., September 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1964

4. Endowment Fund

G. ROBERTS
Standard Building
land 13, Ohio

Press release: August 2nd 1964.
Collins Healy, FLanders 2-7320
Garrett Rd., Upper Darby, Pa.

Philadelphia To Welcome
Myriad Welsh Singers

Philadelphia will welcome 10,000 Welsh singers and their appreciative friends in Hall Convention from September 3rd to 6th at the 33rd annual convention of the National Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of United States and Canada, according to John Ellis Rosser, convention chairman, 310 Shadeland Ave., Drexel Hill, Pa.

Two planeloads of Welsh singers from London will participate in the polyphonic singing of other Welsh groups coming from Vancouver, San Francisco, Detroit, St. Petersburg and Palm Beach, Montreal, Buffalo, Scranton, Salt Lake City, Cleveland, Toronto, San Diego, Akron, Denver, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Wheeling, and innumerable Welsh settlements in Canada and the United States.

This convention will provide the first opportunity in ten years for the Delaware Valley area to hear a talented race of singers sing in four part harmony their ancient hymns to more ancient melodies. The singers will be provided with an opportunity to visit a city founded by a Welshman's son, William Penn, in which the first draft of the Declaration of Independence was written by another Welshman's son, Thomas Jefferson, and in which the Constitution of the United States was finally drafted by another Welsh-American, Gouverneur Morris. Greetings will be exchanged among five continents...30...

(Sent to 109 Sunday Editions of large city papers in Canada and U.S.A.)
Collins Healy

Press Release : August 15, 1964.
Collins Healy, [redacted] Upper Darby, Pa.
FLanders 2-7320

Over 6,000 Welsh-American singers will gather from the United States and Canada for their 33rd Convention of the National Gymanfa Gamu Association (guh-MAN-vah GAN-ee) in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel and Philadelphia's Convention Hall on September 3rd through 6th, according to chairman, John Ellis Rosser, [redacted] Drexel Hill, Pa.

A banquet on September 4th, a Noson Lawen (merry night) on September 5th, Welsh and English services on Sunday morning, September 6th, and two sessions of four-part harmony singing of Welsh hymns in Welsh and English on Sunday at 2:30 P. M. and 7:30 in Convention Hall constitute the main events. There is no admission charge of any kind for the public at the hymn-singing sessions.

The program of events in Philadelphia begins with registration at 10:30 A. M., Friday, September 4th at Hotel Bellevue Stratford, continues with a banquet there that evening; on Saturday, after the annual meeting at 9:30 A. M. the Welsh will sing hymns by the eagle at John Wanamaker's Store at noontime, ^{travel} on historic tours of Valley Forge at two o'clock, and enjoy a merry evening, Noson Lawen, at the hotel at 7:30; and continues on Sunday with Welsh worship services at the Welsh Presbyterian Church, 1617 Girard Avenue, Philadelphia by Rev. O. R. Williams of Youngstown, Ohio, at 10:30, and English worship services at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church at Pine and Fourth Streets, Philadelphia, by Rev. R. J. Williams D. D. of Scranton, Pa., at 11:00, and concludes with Gymanfa Ganu sessions of four-part hymn-singing of Welsh hymns at 2:30 P. M. and 7:30 P. M. in Philadelphia's Convention Hall under the Conductor, Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans of Cardiff, Wales.

*Please
see next page.*

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WELCOME to the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu of the N.G.G.A. sponsored by the Philadelphia Gymanfa Ganu Association, at Philadelphia, Pa., September 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1964

1964

Dear colleague in Cymric cultural achievement!

(sent to local committee members)

Kindly accept with our compliments a ^{*}copy of the press release we prepared on certain aspects of the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu of the N.G.G.A.

We mailed to Y Drych (with some photographs), and to over forty other Welsh newspapers, as well as to a few English newspapers in Liverpool, London, Birmingham, Bristol, and Manchester, other copies of this press release. Indeed, important details were omitted both by reasons of space limitation and by reason of the writer's inadequate information.

All of us walked taller, smiled more serenely, and grew great, but godly so, as we recaptured the rapture of our Cymric and Celtic heritage in the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu. Many too felt the fulfillment of the promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them."

It was your contribution of prayer, kind, time, effort, and money under the leadership of our efficient, dedicated, and indefatigable president John Ellis Rosser that made the Convention a religious, cultural, social, and financial success.

Gratefully yours,

Collins Healy

October 29th 1964.

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WELCOME to the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu of the N.G.G.A. sponsored by the Philadelphia Gymanfa Ganu Association, at Philadelphia, Pa., September 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1964

Press release.
Collins Healy
100 Garrett Rd.
Upper Darby, Pa., USA

The 33rd annual convention of the National Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of the U.S. and Canada at Philadelphia Convention Hall and Hotel Bellevue Stratford on Sept. 4th, 5th, and 6th proved a cultural, social, and financial success. Colonel H. Llewelyn Roberts of Pelham Manor, New York, was president of the national body, and John Ellis Rosser is president of the Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of Philadelphia. Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans of the University of Wales faculty at Cardiff conducted with masterly musical perfection and radiant cultural devotion the two gymanfa ganu sessions on Sunday, Sept. 6th, at Philadelphia Convention Hall.

Delegates attended the convention from Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Boston, New York, Utica, Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Atlantic City, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Miami, St. Petersburg, Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Akron, Warren, Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, Youngstown, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside of California, San Francisco, and most of the major cities of U.S. and Canada. Men and women of Cymric origin or affection forgathered in keeping with their association's motto, Canwn i'r Arglwydd, but were humanly enriched as well by the fellowship with old friends and the sharing of religious and esthetic values with new friends.

The national officers, in addition to the president, Col. H. Llewelyn Roberts, included: Mrs. Trevor Lloyd Roberts, vice president; George Bundy, executive secretary;

The Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of Philadelphia under its efficient, dedicated, and indefatigable president John Ellis Rosser included: four vice presidents, Mrs. William H. Pritchard, national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America; Mrs. Edgar W. Cox, president of the Phila. Women's Welsh Club; William B. Pugh, Esq., past president of the Welsh Society of Phila., Inc., and J. Edwin Thomas, also a past president of the Welsh Society; treasurer R. Charles Davies, deputy commissioner of insurance for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; secretary, David J. Jones of Ardmore, Pa.; finance cochairmen Allen C. Thomas Esq., and Hon. James M. Davis; Nosen Lawen chairman, Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith; legal advisory unit, George Brinley Richards, Esq., and George O. Phillips, Esq.; hospitality unit, Mr. Thomas H. Rowland, Jr., and Mrs. William H. Pritchard; music and entertainment chairman, Dr. Carlton Jones Lake; hotel and reservations chairman, Hon. James Milbourne Davis; religious activity, William B. Pugh, Jr., Esq., and Judge Edward J. Griffiths; physical arrangements, John Ellis Rosser and R. Charles Davies; program chairman, James H. Williams; publicity committee chairman Dr. Francis K. Davis, Mrs. William H. Pritchard, James H. Williams, and Collins Healy; reception chairman Mrs. Edgar W. Cox, Mrs. William H. Pritchard, Miss Ruth Cress, Mrs. Idwal Lewis, and Mrs. Ivy B. Davies; refreshments chairman, Mrs. Joseph Wonderland; reservations chairman, Mrs. William Thomas; hostess chairman, Mrs. William Humphreys; decoration chairman, Mrs. David Jeremiah; banquet hostesses cochairmen, Mrs. Francis Bottonley and Mrs. Edward T. Rees; and transportation chairman, William C. Lloyd.

The program of the convention included business meetings and the election of national officers and trustees; historic tours of the Welsh-founded birthplace of American liberty; community singing of Welsh hymns and songs in the John Manmaker Store of Philadelphia; the evening banquet for five hundred guests in the grand ballroom of Hotel Bellevue Stratford; the Nosen Lawen; the divine services on Sunday in Welsh at the Welsh Presbyterian Church and in English at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church; and the afternoon and evening sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu, proper, in Philadelphia Convention Hall.

Greetings were received from Pennsylvania Governor William V. Scranton, Philadelphia Mayor James E. J. Tate, and other American dignitaries. The Arch-druid of Wales, Cynan, Rev. A. E. Jones, C. S. E., D. Litt., graciously sent his message

The Sunday sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu at Philadelphia Convention

Hall admirably reflected the historic thousand-year-old tradition of Wales's cultural achievement of polyphonic vocal music. Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, the conductor, proved himself a charming perfectionist not alone in his self-discipline but also in the pure diction, the tonal qualities, and the superb yet restrained renditions which he demanded and which he secured from the singers. Many of those who have been attending the Gymanfa Ganu sessions for many years expressed their delight with the manner in which the Welsh singing groups achieved, under Dr. Evans's baton, the very high standards of the 33rd National Convention. Those who listened to the replaying of the recording tapes made by the Magnetic Service of Columbus, Ohio, were reassured of their previous assessment of the splendor of the sessions.

The program of the afternoon session with the director, Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, included prayers and benediction by Rev. O.R. Williams, M.A., B.D., Youngstown, Ohio, brief introductions by Col. H. Llewelyn Roberts, Gustave H. Rosser, and Judge Edward Griffiths, solos from Handel's Messiah, "Comfort Ye My People" and "Every Valley" by Howell Zulich, and the Philadelphia Gymanfa Ganu Choir with conductor Dr. Carleton Jones Lake in Shaw's With a Voice of Singing. The organist, Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith of Philadelphia, and the pianist, Mrs. David E. Armstrong of Doylestown, accompanied both sessions, and their artistry was acclaimed by the critics.

The hymns sung in the afternoon session were: Hyfrydol, Sychu Dagrau, Milwaukee, I Sing as a Bird, Joanna, Tre Salem, Sandon, Ebenezer, Crugybar, Groeswen, Trewen, Pen Y Bryn, Andalusia, Nes i Dre, Penpark, and Aberystwyth.

The program of the evening session with the director, Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, included prayers and benediction by Rev. R.J. Williams, D.D., Scranton, Pa., brief introductions by the N.G.G.A. national secretary George Bundy, John Ellis Rosser, Judge John Morgan Davis, Mrs. Trevor Lloyd Roberts president-elect of the N.G.G.A., and George Richards, 1965 N.G.G.A. sponsoring committee chairman, a solo by Marie Powell Wolfe Mendelsohn's Hear Ye, Israel, and the Philadelphia Gymanfa Ganu Choir with conductor Dr. Carleton Jones Lake in R. Vaughan Williams's For All the Saints.

The hymns sung in the evening session included: Cwm Rhondda, Rhosymedre, Blodwen, Bryn Calfaria, Calon Ian, Rhydygroes, Llef, Maesgwyn, Malvern, Y Delyn Aur, Huddersfield, Caersalem, Deemster, Diadem, Dies Irae, and Rachie. The session closed with the Halleluia Chorus.

The Welsh service on Sunday morning at the Girard Avenue Welsh Presbyterian Church with Pregethwr Gwadd Rev. O.R.Williams, Arweinydd y Gan Edward T. Rees, Organydd Elisabeth E. Griffith was well attended. The Rhagfawl ar y organ was Variations on Y Delyn Aur followed by Galwad i addoli by Y Parch.O.R.Williams with Yr Hen Ganfed and A Gweddî'r Arglwydd, Darllen yr Ysgrythyr (Genesis 22:1-14), and Y Fendith. Y bregeth was "Gweledigaeth Mynydd Duw"(Genesis 22:14) by Y Parch. O.R. Williams. The hymns were Lledrod, Penpark, Bryn Calfaria, and Y Delyn Aur. Miss Griffith as the postlude played R.Cochrane Pennick's Prelude on Blaenhafren.

The English language service at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church was also very well attended. Rev.Dr.R.J.Williams of Scranton,preached on the "Stillness and the Knowledge of God"(Psalms 46:10). The organist, Mrs. David E. Armstrong, rendered T. Tertius Noble's Prelude on an Ancient Welsh Tune,R.Vaughan Williams's Rhos Y Medre, and Richard Purvis's Fantasia on Ton y Botel. The hymns selected were Joanna, Aberystwyth, Cwm Rhondda, and Abide with Me. ^{DR. CARLTON LAKE} D.Pugh Evans sang ^{D. PUGH EVANS'} ~~Dr. Carlton Jones Lake's~~ arrangement of Lead Kindly Light.

The banquet on Friday evening in Hotel Bellevue Stratford's Grand Ballroom was served to five hundred guests. The master of ceremonies was Clarence L. Walker, Esq. , the soloists were Miss Ethel A. Turnbach and the boy soprano Robert Rodgers, and the accompanist was Mrs. William L. Williams. The success of the event was a tribute to Mrs. Edgar W. Cox, chairman of the banquet committee and her efficient committee from the Women's Welsh Club of Philadelphia. The many distinguished guests including Her Britannic Majesty's consul in Philadelphia, Terrence Grady, were seated at the dais.

In the Burgundy Room of the same hotel the opportunity was afforded to guests and members to subscribe for the Welsh American paper, Y Drych,

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a table conducted by Miss Esther Harriet Elias of Pittsburgh, Pa. Another cultural opportunity that proved enriching to the visitors was the displays of Welsh imports of phonographic recordings, song books, greeting cards, scenic calendars, souvenirs, and national costumes supplied and supervised by the Welsh importer Emyr Morris of Oak Park, Illinois. The Irish International Airlines contributed 2,500 copies of airmailed copies of several newspapers from Cardiff and other Welsh cities, and several thousands of Welsh family-name maps for the several shires of Wales. The Irish Airlines also supplied card maps of Philadelphia, Welsh telephone directories, Welsh bus and train timetables, and a twenty-two foot long banner greeting those who attended the Noson Lawen and the Gymanfa Ganu sessions. They and other business firms helped in supplying the advertising for one of the most esthetically satisfying program books yet prepared. James H. Williams was the program book chairman, and John Ellis Rosser designed the cover.

The program at the John Wanamaker Store in Philadelphia, afforded the N.G.G.A. delegates ^{THE OPPORTUNITY} to hear Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith play the famed Wanamaker mammoth organ. Dr. Carlton Jones Lake led over a thousand voices singing Welsh hymns and songs in four-part harmony on Saturday, September 5th at twelve noon. Dr. Lake directed from his podium over forty feet above the main floor of the store where the singers gathered in huge groups about the twenty-foot metal eagle in the center of the store. Miss Griffith played the organ accompaniment at the same level about thirty feet northeast of Dr. Lake's podium. The sounds of the singing swelled up through the twelve stories of that city-block-size store.

The impact of the Welsh singing was noted in several church and cultural publications. Rev. Cuthbert Pratt, ^{D.D., S.T.D.,} rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, in his message to his church and Radio Congregation: " (Sept. 8, 1964) What a wonderful opportunity existed over the past weekend to go on Sunday afternoon and evening to Convention Hall and to hear the 33rd Annual National Gymanfa Ganu of the Welsh peoples of Canada and the U.S.A. Although Convention Hall is an impossible place in which to sing - sing they did - under effective direction aided by an electric organ and a piano, hundred of people singing in Welsh

and in English, gave all Philadelphia a lesson in congregational singing. It was splendid - the old were not reluctant and the young did not hold back. Complete participation was the order of the day. "

"This moving experience recalled two things to my mind. I can remember being in the English Midlands in the fall of 1926 and hearing the Welsh miners standing together on the street corners singing, as I had never heard men sing before, for pennies to send home to the members of their starving families in the coal valleys of Wales. A human tragedy - a depressed people and yet for all of that they lifted their voices in the singing of their hymns and national songs. The 33rd Gymanfa Ganu led me to recollect how truly and how well did the author of "How Green Was My Valley" write when he penned the words - "For song is in my people, like sight is in the eye!" " Rev. Dr. Pratt, prominent Episcopalian divine and scholar, had heard the reports of the Welsh singing in the Wanamaker Store and he decided to attend the Gymanfa Ganu sessions at Convention Hall the next day, Sunday. His reactions were similar to others expressed by the non-Welsh television program viewers who heard the special interviews and singing presentations arranged by Dr. Francis K. Davis Jr., with the cooperation of John E. Rosser, Miss Elizabeth E. Griffith, R. Charles Davies, and Dr. Carlton Lake over several Philadelphia TV stations.

The Noson Lawen conducted by Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith, prominent piano teacher and artist of Philadelphia who was born in Slatington Pa. and who spent her childhood in Rhyl, Wales, was acknowledged to be the best planned event of its kind in the living memory in America. Possibly some of the talented vocalists were induced to sing several encores, but the master of ceremonies, Lewis Edwards of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, who is president of The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Assn., pleased both the audience and the artists with his Welsh verbal felicity and charm. Through Miss Griffith's planning, prescience, and precision, each factor from the 290 loaves of bara brith which Mrs. Joseph Wonderland baked in the traditional way to the registration of each prospective member of the Noson Lawen audience spelled out the success of the event. The precision, for which the Welsh are favorably regarded in America, and the cooperative effort for the commonweal or the Welsh heritage were amiably exemplified in the work of the Women's Welsh Club of Phila.

Possibly one of the more interesting but unplanned aspects of the N.G.G.A. 33rd Convention was the gathering ^{of DELEGATES} on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights in the Burgundy Room of Hotel Bellevue-Stratford from 10:30p.m. till after one o'clock in the morning singing Welsh hymns and songs in Welsh. On Friday and Saturday evenings Mrs. Ada Thomas, Wife of Col. E.G. Thomas of Salt Lake City, Utah, volunteered as precentor and as pianist. On Saturday evening, she was assisted as precentor by young Rev. Fenneth Jones of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City. Emyr Morris of Oak Park, Illinois, was among those who enthusiastically applauded Mrs. Ada Thomas for making the ^{hymnsinging} gatherings in the Burgundy Room the cultural delights they were. On Sunday evening, Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, after generously giving of his energy in making the afternoon and evening sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu the successes they were, led the hymnsinging in the Burgundy Room, explaining as he went from hymn to hymn the effects he sought and the nature and history of the hymns. The five to six hundred who attended on each of the three evenings feel a deep and enduring gratitude to both Dr. Evans and Mrs. Ada Thomas.

Many of the delegates took the historic shrines tour and the Valley Forge tour conducted by a local commercial tour agency. Most of the delegates relished the opportunity to visit the spots hallowed by a nation's fight to freedom. However, the more critical few regretted that the contribution of the Welsh to the establishment of Philadelphia, and the part played by Welsh-American patriots in the founding of the United States of America was not particularized at all by the tour guides. Collins Healy, teacher of the Welsh and Irish languages at St. John's Night School, Philadelphia, is preparing a descriptive itinerary of the places of Welsh interest and hopes to have it printed by the summer of 1965. Though the Swedes, the Scots, and the Irish have erected bronze plaques on The City Hall to memorialize their part in building and freeing Philadelphia, the Welsh have not yet done so. Yet William Penn, who founded it, had planned to name it New Wales in honor of his Welsh ancestors. Here, Thomas Jefferson, whose father was Welsh, wrote the Declaration of Independence, and Gouverneur Morris, another Welsh-American, wrote the final draft of the U.S.A. Constitution. Here, in the Duffryn Mawr they established Meriön, Haverford, and Radnor in 1682. William Penn promised the Welsh 40,000 acres as a refuge from religious persecution and as a bastion for rebuilding Welsh civilization based on Welsh laws, Welsh language, Welsh blood, and Welsh character. The placenames of Wales here abound.