

# Sir Cennydd Traherne, K.G., T.D., Ll.D., 1910-95

The society records with regret the death of its President, Sir Cennydd Traherne, on 26 January, 1995 at the age of eighty-four. Several obituary notices have appeared in national newspapers. He was educated at Wellington College and at Brasenose College, Oxford, and received a legal training. His distinguished wartime career in the army included a landing in France on D-Day plus one, and a later mention in dispatches. He was associated with many organisations at national and local level as patron, president or chairman, and he gave them his committed support. The story has been related how he acquired his name 'Cennydd': apparently his Scottish mother wished to name her son 'Kenneth' after an ancient Scottish king, but the Welsh-speaking clergyman officiating at the christening wrote down the form 'Cennydd' in the parish register, and so bestowed a name which proved particularly appropriate to its bearer, who took a lifelong pride in his Welsh ancestry and gave devoted service to his country.

Sir Cennydd became Lord-Lieutenant of Glamorgan in 1952, and was Lord-Lieutenant of the Three Counties of Glamorgan from 1974 until his retirement in 1985. He was knighted in 1964 and made a Knight of the Garter in 1970.

As Lord-Lieutenant, Sir Cennydd was *Custos Rotulorum* or Keeper of the Rolls, a title which carries responsibility for the care of the county's archives. As *Custos* he chaired the Glamorgan Records Committee, later the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee, from 1952 to 1985. He took a keen interest in the work of the Record Office and supported its efforts to safeguard the area's all too vulnerable archival heritages. In 1956, in conjunction with Dr Richard John, he helped retrieve and promote the publication of a Glamorgan County History, a project which had been suspended at the outbreak of war in 1939 after the appearance of volume I. Over the following three decades five further volumes of the series were successfully published by the Glamorgan County History Trust.

When Sir Cennydd delivered his Presidential Address to the Cambrian Archaeological Association in 1983, he took as his subject 'The Conquest of Glamorgan'. He examined the legend of Fitzhamon and his Twelve Knights, and in the light of his legal knowledge he advanced the theory that the story had come

into being in response to a pressing need for great landowners to show 'proof of possession' in accordance with the Statute of 1278.

Sir Cennydd was a Glamorgan man who took great pride in his ancestry, tracing his direct line through the Trahernes of Castellau, near Llantrisant (the original family home) to an Edmund Traherne in the sixteenth century. Although not brought up to speak Welsh, he and his wife Lady Rowena (who predeceased him) made valiant efforts to learn to use the language.

Sir Cennydd's home was Coedarhydyglyn, an elegant Regency mansion on the outskirts of Cardiff, with a magnificent view over the Ely valley to the Uplands beyond. There he and Lady Rowena created an important arboretum. Sir Cennydd had also, in 1937, purchased the Duffryn Estate to safeguard its gardens. He later granted Duffryn House and its Mawson-designed gardens on a long lease to Glamorgan County Council.

Sir Cennydd Traherne was quiet-spoken, unassuming and approachable, a courteous country gentleman. His many friends will be sad at his passing and his contributions to the affairs of his county and of Wales as a whole will be greatly missed.

*Patricia Moore*

# TRAHERNES

Anna Maria  
ESMONDES  
1760-1797

Charlotte  
ESMONDES  
1766-1796

① John Llewellyn ②  
TRAHERNE

Barbara  
MANNING

Charlotte  
Louisa  
Mansell  
TALBOT

John Montgomery  
= TRAHERNE

Charlotte  
Frances

Maria Eleanor  
= Wm B KNIGHT

Louisa T  
1794-1870

George  
TRAHERNE = Ellen  
ROYDS

GCS Montgomery  
TRAHERNE

Llewellyn Edmund  
TRAHERNE  
1832-1912

Llewellyn Edmund  
Traherne

Sir Cynffyl  
d1995

Rhodri