

FOREWORD

Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig hyd 1940, which appeared in 1953, was followed in 1959 by *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940*, an English edition which also contained corrections, updates and additional entries. Though it did not prove possible to produce further volumes at ten-yearly intervals as had been originally intended, work on the project continued with the enthusiastic support and encouragement of the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion after the publication of these two volumes. *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1941–1950* was published in 1970 and *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1951–1970* in 1997, both of which incorporated in appendices further updates, amendments and some new, additional articles.

The late Professor R. T. Jenkins, who had been involved in the Welsh National Biography project since 1937 and who had worked with Sir John Edward Lloyd, the first Editor, and with Sir William Llewelyn Davies, the Associate Editor, to produce the first Welsh and English versions, was responsible for much of *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1941–1950*, especially the amendments. He retired from the editorship in 1965 but retained his active interest in the work up to his death in 1969. His colleague, and then his successor as Editor, was Dr E. D. Jones who completed the task of compiling and editing the entries and saw the book through the press. He immediately began work on the next proposed volume, gathering material and commissioning articles. He was the ideal choice as Editor – an experienced editor and leading archivist who was involved in many aspects of Welsh public and academic life – and he succeeded in bringing together the majority of the articles for *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1951–1970* before his untimely death in March 1987, leaving, however, some articles yet to be written and a number to be edited. It was a matter of great regret that E. D. Jones did not live to see the fruits of his labours published. I was invited to become Editor some months after Dr Jones's death, and though I received unstinted support and co-operation both from Dr Jones's family and from Dr Auronwy James, his assistant, the publication of *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1951–1970*, was inevitably delayed; and this, in turn, has led to a delay in the publication of the present volume.

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography, 1941–1970, is essentially an English version of the corresponding Welsh dictionaries. Most of the articles have been translated from the Welsh but others were written in English in the first instance. The amendments found in the appendices to *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1941–1950* and *1951–1970* are included here, usually in the Supplement except where it has proved possible to incorporate them in the relevant article. The few articles in *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig hyd 1940* which were omitted from *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940* are now included in the Supplement as are some further amendments and updates which were noted after the publication of the Welsh versions.

The Council of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion wishes to record its gratitude to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for his encouragement and practical support for this project, and wishes to acknowledge, once again, the generosity of the Pilgrim Trust and the valuable support of the Principality Building Society. I am grateful to all those who have assisted in the production of this work: to those who drew attention to omissions and suggested amendments, and to the volunteers who undertook the task of translating a number of the Welsh articles. Without their assistance this volume would have been delayed even longer. My two colleagues have shared fully in the preparation of this book and they have played an essential part in all aspects of its production. In particular, Mr Gwyn Davies has seen the work through the press, while Dr Auronwy James's experience as a researcher has been of great value. The responsibility for the errors which remain must, however, be laid at my door. I wish to thank Cambrian Printers (Aberystwyth) for their interest in the project and for their willing co-operation in this complex and protracted undertaking, but I owe the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion a special debt of gratitude both for entrusting the editorship of *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography* to me and for their support and forbearance.

From time to time users of *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography* (and of *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig*) have expressed interest in having a list of contributors and their articles. I am very grateful to Dr Auronwy James for undertaking this task also and her valuable 'Contributors' Index' is included in this volume.

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