

MEDAL Y CYMMRODORION 2016 / THE CYMMRODORION MEDAL 2016

*Presented to Jan Morris
9 October 2016*

The Welsh historian, author, and travel writer, Jan Morris CBE FRSL FLSW, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday in October 2016, was awarded the Medal of the Cymmrodorion Society during a ceremony held at the Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre in Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth, on Sunday 9 October 2016. The Medal was awarded ‘for her distinguished contribution to literature and to Wales’.

Following an introduction by the Society’s President, Professor Prys Morgan, the Presentation Address was given by Professor Jason Walford Davies of the School of Welsh at Bangor University, who spoke of Jan Morris’s immense contribution to Welsh writing in English and of the value of her work and its cultural significance in Welsh, British, and international contexts.

Jan Morris, who lives in Llanystumdwy with her partner, Elizabeth, has been writing and publishing books since the 1950s. She is known particularly for the *Pax Britannica* trilogy (1968–78), a history of the British Empire; for various books on Wales, including *Wales: Epic Views of a Small Country* (first published as *The Matter of Wales* in 1984); and for portraits of cities, notably Oxford, Venice, Trieste, Hong Kong, and New York.

Jan Morris has received honorary doctorates from the University of Wales and the University of Glamorgan, is an Honorary Fellow of Christ Church, Oxford, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Learned Society of Wales. She was appointed CBE in 1999 and, in 2005, she was awarded the Golden PEN Award by English PEN for ‘a Lifetime’s Distinguished Service to Literature’.

The Cymmrodorion Medal

The medal was awarded for the first time in 1883. On the obverse is the coat of arms of the Society and its motto, *Cared doeth yr encilion*. On the reverse are the words, *Wales, and all things great, wise and holy*. Appropriate words referring to the recipient of each medal are engraved around the rim, which incorporate the sentiment of ‘notable work for Wales’.

A list of recipients of the medal can be found at:

<http://www.cymmrodorion.org/the-society/cymmrodorion-medal/>

Jan Morris – Select Bibliography

Travel

- *Coast to Coast* (1956: winner of the 1957 Cafe Royal Prize)
- *Sultan in Oman* (1957; new edition, 2008)
- *The Market in Seleukia* (1957)
- *South African Winter* (1958)

- *The Hashemite Kings* (1959)
- *Venice* (1960: winner of the 1961 Heinemann Award)
- *The Presence of Spain* (1964)
- *Spain* (1964)
- *Oxford* (1965)
- *The Great Port: A Passage through New York* (1969)
- *The Venetian Empire* (1980)
- *A Venetian Bestiary* (1982)
- *Spain* (1988)
- *Hong Kong* (1988)
- *Sydney* (1992)
- *Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere* (2001)
- *The World: Life and Travel 1950-2000* (2003)
- *Contact! A Book of Encounters* (2010)

Essays

- *The Road to Huddersfield: A Journey to Five Continents* (1963)
- *The Outriders: A Liberal View of Britain* (1963)
- *Cities* (1963)
- *Places* (1972)
- *Travels* (1976)
- *Destinations* (1980)
- *Wales: The First Place* (1982, reprinted 1998)
- *Journeys* (1984)
- *Among the Cities* (1985)
- *Locations* (1992)
- *O Canada!* (1992)
- *Contact! A Book of Glimpses* (2009)

History

- *The Pax Britannica Trilogy*:
 - *Heaven's Command: An Imperial Progress* (1973). Book 1.
 - *Pax Britannica: The Climax of Empire* (1968). Book 2.
 - *Farewell the Trumpets: An Imperial Retreat* (1978). Book 3.
- *The Spectacle of Empire: Style, Effect and the Pax Britannica* (1982)
- *Stones of Empire: Buildings of the Raj* (1983)

Memoir

- *Conundrum* (1974)
- *Wales, The First Place* (1982)
- *Pleasures of a Tangled Life* (1989)
- "Herstory" (1999)
- *Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere* (2001)
- *A Writer's House in Wales* (2002)

Fiction

- *Last Letters from Hav* (1985: shortlisted for the 1985 Booker Prize Fiction)
- *Hav of the Myrmidons*. Published together with *Last Letters from Hav* as *Hav* (2006)
- *A Machynlleth Triad / Triawd Machynlleth* (with Twm Morys) (1993)
- *The Upstairs Donkey, and Other Stolen Stories* (1961)

Miscellaneous

- *Coronation Everest* (1958)
- *Manhattan '45* (1987)
- *Over Europe* (Weldon Owen, 1991) - Jan Morris provided the text for this post-Cold War photographic project
- *Fisher's Face* (1995)
- *Fifty Years of Europe: An Album* (1997) - published in 2006 as *Europe - An Intimate Journey*
- *The Oxford Book of Oxford* (editor)
- *Wales: Epic Views of a Small Country* (1998)
- *Lincoln: A Foreigner's Quest* (2001)
- *Our First Leader* (2000)

Llyfrau a Dderbyniwyd / Books Received

James Pierce, *The Life and Work of William Salesbury*. Talybont: Y Lolfa, 2016. William Salesbury (c. 1507–c. 1584) was Deputy Attorney General for Wales from 1532 and one of the most famous humanist scholars of his time. A strong supporter of the Welsh language, despite the best efforts of Henry VIII to marginalize it, Salesbury produced the first Welsh-English dictionary and the first translation of the New Testament into Welsh. Pierce's accessible account of Salesbury's life and his intellectual endeavours during the threatening decades of the Tudor monarchy captures the extent of Salesbury's achievements and the flavour of his life among contemporaries such as Sir John Prise and Gruffudd Dwnn. The book concludes with a survey of Salesbury's reputation as a scholar in the twentieth century and the controversy provoked by the often archaic Welsh orthography in his New Testament.

Ann M. Ridler (ed.), *George Borrow's Second Tour of Wales 1857*. Wallingford: The Lavengro Press, 2017.

George Borrow's tour of Wales which resulted in his well-known book, *Wild Wales* (1862), was undertaken in 1854. Three years later, he went on a second tour of Wales which has not been so well documented. Ann Ridler presents us with the first full transcription and edition of the two notebooks in which Borrow kept an account of his 1857 travels in Wales. Working with the original notebooks, one held in the National Library of Scotland and the other in the Borrow collection in the library of the Hispanic Society of America in New York, Ridler has attempted a faithful transcription of the texts with comments and notes. The result is an intriguing insight into Borrow's thoughts and observations as he travelled, including many comments on topography, the Welsh language (including some remarks in Welsh), and the people he met on the way.

Ann Carlton, *Penny Lane and All That: Memories of Liverpool*. Talybont: Y Lolfa, 2017.

Liverpool has long been the home of families of Welsh descent and in this coming-of-age memoir Ann Carlton sets her Carmarthenshire background in the context of growing up in the Penny Lane area of the city in the 1940s and 1950s. A city of rich history and great cultural diversity, Liverpool inherited from the nineteenth century significant divisions in terms of economics and religion. Carlton's lively memories of friendship amidst deprivation, rivalries between Protestant and Catholic communities, and the social revolution caused by the arrival of the National Health Service form the backbone of the book. A journalist and political historian, Carlton writes with humour and compassion about the social context that produced the Beatles.

Brian MacDonald, *Wildlife Diary: A Year in the Old County of Meirionydd*. Llanbedr: Wildlife Wales, 2016.

A welcome addition to the genre of what has been termed 'psychogeography', this

book records a series of observations and encounters in a specific landscape, the area of Ardudwy in the former Welsh county of Meirionnydd (now part of the local authority area of Gwynedd). Based on a weekly wildlife diary published in a local newspaper, the book describes a series of walks in the region, from river estuaries and moorlands to woods and mountains. Wonderfully illustrated with engravings by Charles Tunnicliffe, the diary captures the luminescent beauty of the region and its rich natural resources.