

## Llyfrau a Dderbyniwyd / Books Received

Georgia Henley and A. Joseph McMullen (eds). *Gerald of Wales: New Perspectives on a Medieval Writer and Critic*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2018.

This is the first comprehensive assessment of the work of the twelfth-century historian Gerald of Wales, presented as a series of fifteen focused essays by leading scholars and specialists. From the manuscript tradition of Gerald's work to his reception in Wales, Ireland, and Tudor England, the essays consider Gerald's major works, including his *Journey Through Wales* and *Description of Wales*, from perspectives such as local history, genealogy, style, religion, national identity, and humour.

Patrick Sims-Williams (ed.). *Buchedd Beuno: The Middle Welsh Life of St Beuno*. Medieval and Modern Welsh Series, vol. xv. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 2018.

This is the most recent book published in the Dublin Institute's 'Medieval and Modern Welsh' series, the indispensable series of scholarly editions of Welsh texts for use by students and learners. The editor, Patrick Sims-Williams, the pre-eminent Celtic scholar, has made the text as user-friendly as possible, with a generous introduction, a thorough glossary, notes to the text, and even a short grammar of Middle Welsh to assist the absolute beginner. The life of St Beuno, a north Welsh saint who flourished in the seventh century, is quite short and linguistically fairly simple but it also has a pacy narrative which makes it an ideal text for those new to Middle Welsh prose.

Rhys Davies. *Selected Stories*. Library of Wales. Cardigan: Parthian Books, 2018.

Born in the Rhondda in 1901, Rhys Davies was one of the most prolific and accomplished prose writers of Wales. Before his death in 1978, Davies published more than twenty novels and around 100 short stories which chronicle the world of the south Wales valleys during the middle decades of the twentieth century. Accompanied by a perceptive introduction by Tomos Owen, this new edition of some of the best of Davies's short stories, in the 'Library of Wales' series, showcases Davies's piercing observations of the small mining communities of the valleys. Full of insights into the lives of women as well as the men who dominate them, the stories reveal the human emotions that simmer below the surface of daily lives.

Hywel Griffiths. *Llif Coch Awst*. Cyhoeddiadau Barddas, 2018.

An academic geographer as well as a writer of prose and poetry, Hywel Griffiths won the Crown at the National Eisteddfod in 2008 and the Chair in 2015. This second volume of his poetry includes 'Gwe' ('Web'), his winning poem of 2015, and about seventy further poems which reflect on the landscapes, communities, and history of Wales from the vantage point of his home near Aberystwyth.

John Osmond. *Ten Million Stars are Burning*. Llandysul: Gwasg Gomer, 2018.

This powerful novel by one of Wales's leading writers tells the story of two people, a journalist and a language activist turned television producer, during the decade of the 1970s. Culminating in the referendum of 1979, the novel traces the struggles within Wales to form a modern identity, one grounded in the politics and cultural trends of the time. For anyone interested in Welsh devolution and its consequences, this novel, the first in a planned trilogy, describes the background to that decision through the interconnected lives of recognisable and sympathetic characters.

Ioan Roberts. *Philip Jones Griffiths: Ei Fywyd a'i Luniau*. Tal-y-Bont: Y Lolfa, 2018.

Philip Jones Griffiths (1936–2008) emerged from Rhuddlan to become one of the world's most renowned photo-journalists, known particularly for his images of war zones. This biography by Ioan Roberts tells of a life devoted to photography, from Griffiths's early work for *The Observer* to his presidency of the Magnum agency. The biography reprints many of Griffiths's most famous photographs, including images from the Vietnam war that are both striking and moving. His entire archive of photographs was donated to the National Library of Wales in 2015.