

Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones
1933–1992

Bedwyr Lewis Jones died suddenly on August 29, 1992, aged 58. His untimely death dealt a great blow to Welsh studies in general and to Welsh onomastic studies in particular.

Although born in Wrexham, Bedwyr was brought up in Anglesey and received his early education there, at the Pen-sarn Primary School in Llanelian and at secondary schools at Amlwch and Llangefni. In 1950 he entered the University College of North Wales, Bangor, reading Welsh under Sir Thomas Parry. He then went on to Jesus College, Oxford, and later for a year he was a teacher at Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau. In 1959 he was appointed a lecturer in Welsh at University College, Bangor, and he spent the rest of his working life there. In 1974 he was appointed Professor of Welsh at Bangor, following the death of Professor Melville Richards. In effect he took over two mantles—those of Professor of Welsh, and guardian of the Melville Richards place-name archive.

For the following nineteen years he combined teaching, writing and lecturing in a variety of fields, including Welsh literary, linguistic and onomastic studies. He will be best remembered perhaps for his linguistic and onomastic notes in scholarly and popular journals and newspapers, his studies of Welsh Arthurian legend, and his writings on the lives and literary works of Goronwy Owen and Robert Williams Parry. A complete bibliography of his writings, compiled by Huw Walters, has already been published. It can be found in *Ysgrifau Beirniadol*, 19 (edited by J. E. Caerwyn Williams, 1993), 331–49.

His chief contribution to Welsh life, however, was undoubtedly his never-ending effort to make Welsh studies popular amongst ordinary Welsh people in all walks of life—by addressing societies and groups throughout Wales, by broadcasting in Welsh on radio and television, and by publishing books and articles in newspapers and journals. He was a natural broadcaster, and his contributions to the radio programme *Yn ei Eifen* ('In his/its element') were immensely popular over many years. He also readily gave of his time to learners of Welsh, and these many extra-curricular activities may well have contributed to his early death.

He served as President of the Council of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and, shortly before his death, he had been elected the first Vice-President of the newly-formed Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland. Although he was heavily involved in public life in Wales and deeply committed to the staff and students of his department, he was also a family man and managed to spend much time with his wife, Eleri, and their children. The Society extends its deep sympathy to them on their tragic loss.

Tomos Roberts