

Abertawe



Swansea

ARWEINIODD y caledi economaidd at donnau o fudo pellach i'r Amerig a'r dominiynau gan greu ethos o edrych tuag allan gartref yng Nghymru. Byddai'r ymfudwyr yn dueddol o ymgartrefu yn yr un ardaloedd, gan gadw cysylltiadau â'r famwlad trwy gymdeithasau a chyfnodolion Cymreig. Yn ogystal â chynnal eu heisteddfodau eu hunain, cyfrannodd nifer at eisteddfodau yng Nghymru.

Ym 1926, noddodd Cymdeithas Gymraeg Shanghai gadair yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Abertawe. Gwnaed hon gan grefftwyr Tsieineaidd o goed tîc ac mewn darnau ar gyfer ei chludo'n hawdd a'i chyfosod ar ôl cyrraedd pen y daith (167). Y bardd buddugol oedd Gwenallt (David James Jones), a enillodd eto ym Mangor ym 1931. Roedd yn fab i weithiwr tunplat yng Nghwm Tawe, ac aeth ymlaen i fod yn ddarlithydd ac yn fardd o bwys cenedlaethol.

Ymdrechwyd hefyd i wella ysblander y trefniadau. Ym 1918, yng Nghastell-nedd, nododd ymwelydd o Sbaen yn *The Welsh Outlook* (cyf.): 'Dyma basiantri'r Eglwys yn y Parc. Onid yr Archdderwydd yw'r Pab; y Derwyddon yw ei Gardinaliaid, a beth yw'r Orsedd ond yr Offeren?'. Yr oedd wedi ei siomi gan y gwisgoedd a'r seremoni. Fodd bynnag, roedd seremoni cyhoeddi a gorymdaith Abertawe ym 1925 yn fwy urddasol mae'n debyg. Teithiodd yr Arwyddfardd ar gefn ceffyl a rhesi o aelodau'r Orsedd mewn gwisgoedd a ddyluniwyd gan 'Mam o Nedd' (Winifred Coombe Tennant), Meistres y Gwisgoedd, a orymdeithiodd gyda'r faner ar y blaen. Yr oedd hi'n rhan o'r sefydliad Rhyddfrydol a chafodd ei denu gan ddefodau'r Eglwys Babyddol gan ddwyn i gof mewn traethawd iddi 'wylio'r seremonïau mawr crefyddol a gwladol yn yr Eidal, Ffrainc a Sbaen. Yr oeddwn yn ymwybodol mor wefreiddiol oedd pasiantri a fynegai draddodiad a delfryd ysbrydol [cyf].'

DIFFICULT economic times stimulated further waves of emigration to both America and the dominions and this was allied to an outward-looking ethos at home. Expatriates often settled in the same localities, like all emigrants, and retained links with the homeland through Welsh societies and periodicals. As well as holding their own *eisteddfodau*, many participated in events in Wales.

In 1926 the Shanghai Welsh Society sponsored the chair for the National held in Swansea. It was made in teak by Chinese craftsmen and was dismantled for safe transport and re-assembled on arrival (167). The victor was Gwenallt (David James Jones), who won again at Bangor in 1931. The son of a tinplate worker in the Swansea Valley, he became a lecturer and poet of national significance.

Efforts to improve the splendour of the proceedings continued. In 1918 a Spanish visitor at Neath observed in *The Welsh Outlook* that 'Here is Church pageantry in the Park. For what is the Archdruid but a Pope; what are the Druids but his Cardinals, and what is the Gorsedd but a High Mass?'. He had been unimpressed by the costumes and ceremony. However, the Swansea proclamation ceremony and procession of 1925 was apparently more dignified. It featured the Herald Bard on horseback and columns of Gorsedd members in attire designed by 'Mam o Nedd' (Winifred Coombe Tennant), the Mistress of the Robes, who marched in front of the banner. She was part of the Liberal establishment and very attracted to Roman Catholic rites, recalling in an essay that 'I had watched the great religious and civic ceremonies in Italy, France and Spain. I knew how moving pageantry which expressed a tradition and a spiritual ideal could be.'