

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attn: Arts Editors/Local News Writers

Date: 11.2.10

A Piece of History Returns to Carmarthen

A recently-discovered icon of Welsh culture has been returned to its original home.

The first bardic chair known to have been made specifically for an eisteddfod – the bardic chair of Dyfed – was made by David Morley of Carmarthen for the ceremony held in the Ivy Bush Hotel in 1819.

The inventor of the Gorsedd – Iolo Morganwg – always insisted on sleeping in this chair when he stayed at Carmarthen.

It was kept at Llangunnor Vicarage, and has descended in the family of Canon Griffiths. The present owner, who lives in Oxford, wanted to see it returned to its rightful place and it will be displayed in Carmarthenshire County Museum in Abergwili.



The chair came to light during the research for a new bilingual book on the history of bardic chairs written by Richard Bebb and Sioned Williams ('The Bardic Chair – Y Gadair Farddol') and was part of a display at Dinefwr Castle for the book's launch in October. Richard, who lives in Kidwelly, said: 'The oak chair made in 1819 in the town of Carmarthen itself is one of the most important Welsh artefacts of the period. It is right that it should be on public display in Carmarthenshire, which is, of course, still a centre of eisteddfod activity.'

Councillor Gwynne Wooldridge, Carmarthenshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Children Services, said: "We are delighted that this very important piece of Carmarthen and Wales' history has come home to us. This is a great opportunity for local residents and visitors to see this wonderful chair.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further information, pictures and captions, contact Serretta Bebb at Saer Books, 01554 890328 and info@welshfurniture.com
www.welshfurniture.com
2. Iolo Morganwg is the bardic name of Edward Williams (1747-1826). He was the inventor of the Gorsedd rituals, which were incorporated for the first time into an eisteddfod at Carmarthen's Ivy Bush in 1819.
3. David Morley of Carmarthen was the town's most prominent cabinet makers in the early 19th century.