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ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
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А.П. Александрова

SOME FACTS ABOUT WALES AND THE WELSH

Учебное пособие для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов



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Рецензенты:

кандидат филологических наук, доцент кафедры английской филологии Орловского государственного университета Т.В. Новикова;

кандидат филологических наук, доцент кафедры иностранных языков ФГОУ ВПО
«Государственный университета – учебно-научно-производственный комплекс»
О.Н. Сатковская

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В данном пособии предлагаются наиболее важные и интересные факты из истории и культуры Уэльса.

Предназначено студентам языковых вузов для самостоятельной подготовки к практическим занятиям по курсам «История и география Великобритании и США» и «Культура Великобритании и США». Может быть полезным для преподавателей вузов и школьных учителей, ведущих практический курс английского языка, а также для всех, кто владеет достаточными навыками чтения на английском языке и интересуется вопросами страноведения Великобритании.

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Уэльс, расположенный в юго-западной части Великобритании – край великолепных пейзажей и величественных средневековых замков. На каждый квадратный километр их здесь приходится больше, чем где-либо в мире.

Хотя в политическом отношении Уэльс связан с Англией с 1536, являясь составной частью Соединенного Королевства Великобритании и Северной Ирландии, валлийцам успешно удалось сохранить самобытность, язык и элементы самобытной культуры.

В данном пособии представлены интересные факты, обычно остающиеся за пределами учебников истории, показаны особенности национального характера валлийцев.

Пособие составлялось по различным аутентичным источникам, учебникам по лингвострановедению, интернет-сайтам, список которых представлен в конце.

Учебное пособие предназначено для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы по курсам «История и география Великобритании и США» и «Культура Великобритании и США» студентов факультета иностранных языков. Оно может быть использовано студентами, гуманитарных специальностей, владеющих английским языком, учащимися старших классов специализированных школ, а также всеми, кто интересуется вопросами страноведения Великобритании, и рекомендуется преподавателям вузов и школьным учителям, ведущим практический курс английского языка.

WALES – FACTS IN BRIEF



“Landscape creates nations, and nowhere is this truism truer than in Wales, Cymru. Almost everything about Wales has been decreed by its terrain; certainly if the countryside had been different the Welsh people as we know them would never have existed.”

Jan Morris “The Matter of Wales”

MORE THAN ANYTHING, WALES AND “WELSHNESS” IS ABOUT ORIGINAL THINKING

An original language, an original people, an original spirit. The Welsh have gathered together just some of the original thoughts from and about Wales – their history, business community, lifestyle, language and culture.

How do you like the Welsh castles? Norman, Gothic or Victorian? They've got 641 castles to choose from in Wales. More per square kilometre than any other European country. Many of their castles were built by invaders to rule over Wales. They got rid of the invaders, but kept their castles.

Sometimes an original thought is so good it sticks. Forever. The dragon is the perfect symbol of their original thinking: bold and imaginative. Maybe that's why they're the only country in the world to be using the same symbol on their national flag in the third millennium that they had when they entered the second millennium.

Officially beautiful. Almost 25% of Wales' land surface is designated as either National Park or as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A COUNTRY ON A HUMAN SCALE WITH MORE THAN ENOUGH SPACE

Wales is a country on a humanscale, somewhere where you will find more than enough space to enjoy yourself. It's also a place with plenty of variety with something different just around the corner – and that “something different” is usually something special. They have three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (that's a posh way of saying “beautiful landscape”. And it's official.)

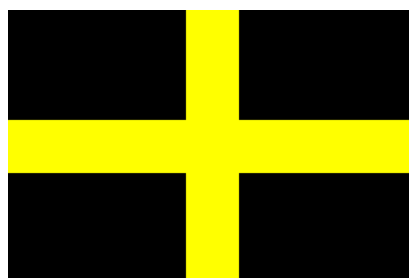
In 2012 Wales becomes the first country in the world to open a dedicated path running along its entire coast – all 870 miles of it.



<i>CYMRU</i>	
Motto	Cymru am byth (English: Wales for ever)
Anthem	Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (English: Land of my fathers)
Capital	Cardiff
The largest city	Cardiff
Other major towns	Swansea, Newport, Wrexham
Official languages	Welsh, English
Government	Devolved Government in a Constitutional monarchy
Monarch	Elizabeth II
Area	20,779 km ²
Population	3,064,000
Currency	Pound Sterling (£)



The *Welsh flag* is a green and white bicolor (the white stripe is on top) picturing a large, red dragon. The red dragon is a symbol of Wales. The dragon symbol has been used in Wales since the Romans invaded and occupied Wales (in the 1st century AD, almost two thousand years ago). Although Wales officially united with England in 1536, Wales still retains its own ancient national flag.



St. David's cross

The gold cross on black of *St David* has never had an official status in Wales. According to H. Gresham Carr's 1961 book, *Flags of the World*, a black cross on gold was used by Welsh Anglican churches until 1954. The Cross of St David has also become an established flag for representing Wales outside Wales.

Wales is a small, upland country in western Britain. It is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. *Cardiff* is the capital and the largest city. Wales has been united with England for more than 450 years, and the English language is widely used in business, legal, and administrative circles. But the Welsh people, especially in areas away from English influence, have kept their own language, literature, and traditions. The people call their country *Cymru*, which comes from their word for *fellow countrymen*. They call themselves *Cymry*. The name *Wales* comes from a Saxon word meaning *strangers*. In literature, Wales is sometimes called by its Latin name, *Cambria*.

The *patron saint of Wales* is *St. David* (*Dewi* in Welsh). On March 1, many Welsh people celebrate St. David's Day by wearing *daffodils* and *leeks*, the *national emblems of Wales*.



Possibly the reason why the *daffodil* is used as an emblem is that the word for daffodil and for leek are the same in Welsh (Cenhinen = Leek, Cenhinen Pedr = Daffodil). This confusion means that both have been adopted as national emblems. Since the early 20th century the daffodil has been one of the national emblems of Wales.

The connection between Wales and the leek is obscure. Most authors trying to trace the link come up with one or other of the legends that show it was used by the Welsh as a cap badge in battle to show friend from foe.

One version is that St David advised the Britons on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps so that they could easily distinguish friend from foe. This apparently helped to secure a great victory.

Another version has the same thing happening at the Battle of Agincourt, when Welsh archers fought with Henry V against the French. The leeks in their caps distinguished them from their enemies.

In any event the leek is firmly associated with the Welsh today. Leeks are worn on St David's Day. It is still a surviving tradition that soldiers in the Welsh regiments eat a raw leek on St David's Day, because it is believed that when St. David spent many days as a hermit he lived on leek and water.



It is said by some that the daffodil is encouraged more by the English government, as it does not have the nationalistic overtones that the leek has, with its association with the defeat of Saxons.

THE LAND

Location and Size. On the north and west, the *Irish Sea* and the *St. George's Channel* separate Wales from Ireland. In the South, Wales faces the *Bristol Channel*. Wales covers about one-twelfth of the total area of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Physical Features. The Cambrian Mountains cover about two-thirds of Wales. They are made up of a series of grass-covered and unusually beautiful *plateaux*. Above the plateau stand mountains, such as *Snowdon*, which rises to 1,085 metres above sea level. Snowdon is the highest point in Britain south of Scotland.

The government maintains the area around Snowdon as *Snowdonia National Park*.

The plateau lands include wide upland pastures, grassy plains, and swampy areas. Many clear lakes and sparkling waterfalls add to the beauty of Welsh scenery.

River valleys and coastal plains cover about a third of Wales. These are the best farming areas. Beyond the mountains of Snowdon lie the lowland area of the *Lleyun Peninsula* and the *Isle of Anglesey*.

The *Severn* and the *Wye* are the longest rivers of Wales. They rise in the central Wales and flow into the *Bristol Channel*. The *River Dee*, in the north flows into the Irish Sea. Other important rivers are the *Teifi*, the *Towy* and the *Usk*.

Much of the coast is jagged and lined with high cliffs.

Natural Resources. *Rich coal beds* in the valleys of north-eastern Wales are the country's greatest natural resource. These deposits have been mined for more than 150 years. A smaller coalfield lies in north-eastern Wales. Wales was until recently a major supplier of coal, and many towns and villages depended on the mines for their existence. But the coal industry has now been dismantled and large amounts of coal are imported, so that mines all over the UK have closed down. Wales especially was badly affected, leading to high unemployment in former mining areas. Some towns, however, have succeeded in attracting new industries and the beautiful mountainous scenery brings increasing numbers of tourists.

Both coalfields have important *iron* and *steel* works. North-western Wales has one of the largest *slate quarries* in the world. Wales has many forests, but much of the timber has been planted since 1919.

THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE

The People. The earliest inhabitants of Wales were short, dark, and long-headed. Historians believe that they came from Mediterranean lands, including the *Iberian Peninsula* (present-day Spain and Portugal). Many other peoples have settled in Wales. They include Celtic, Norman, English and Flemish peoples.

The Welsh language belongs to the group of Celtic languages. It does not use the letters *j, k, q, v, x* and *z*. Many Welsh words contain double *l*'s and double *d*'s. The *ll* is pronounced something like *thl*. The *dd* is pronounced like *th* in *this*. Most Welsh people now speak English. About one person out of every three speaks both English and Welsh.

Ways of Life. Welsh people take pride in their *kindness* and *warm hospitality*. Many people are interested in all aspects of education, religion, science, and the arts. They honour historians, singers, poets and musicians. Almost every village and town has its own *choral group*.

Food. Popular foods include butter, cheese, lamb, honey and many kinds of breads and cakes. *Welsh rabbit* is melted cheese and butter served on toast. Two traditional Welsh delicacies are salmon from the rivers, and a vegetable dish made from *algae*.

Recreation. *Rugby, football* and *association football* are most popular sports in Wales. For their holidays, the Welsh visit Welsh seaside resorts, such as Aberystwyth, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, etc. Others travel farther afield.

Religion. The people are deeply religious. Most Welsh people are *Protestants*, and many belong to the *Welsh Methodist Church*. By 1811, so many Welshmen belonged to the Methodist Church that it is formally separated from the Church of England. In 1914 a law provided that the Church of England would no longer be the state church in Wales.

THE ARTS

Most Welsh people like to sing. Church services *feature singing*, and most Welsh songs have a hymn-like quality. Wales has its own national anthem, "*Land of my fathers*". People sing the Welsh national anthem and the British one on all occasions.

During the Middle Ages, the people held contests called *eisteddfodan* for the poets and harpists. The custom was revived in the 1800s. Today, the National *Eisteddfod* of Wales meets for a week every August. The festival is held in various centres, in northern and southern Wales. Thousands of Welsh people from many

countries attend the eisteddfodan. Artists compete for prizes in literature, poetry, music, and painting. Prizes are also awarded for pottery, embroidery, knitting, and some other crafts. In 1947, an International *Musical Eisteddfod* was established at Llangollen. It is held every summer, and attracts competitors from all over the world. It concentrates on singing and folk-dancing.

The tradition of Welsh music and poetry goes back to the days of the *bards* (wandering singers). At school, children learn ancient folk stories, such as the stories of *King Arthur* and *his knights*. Today many Welsh authors write in English. *Dylan Thomas*, the novelist and playwright, and *Emlyn Williams*, the playwright, wrote in English.

THE NATIONAL CHARACTER

- There is no other part of the British Isles where *national spirit is stronger, national pride more intense or national traditions more cherished* than in Wales.

- Welsh people are the remnants of those pugnacious Celtic people who were subjected to centuries of Roman rule, who *underwent the invasions of the Saxons*, who *endured the Norman conquerors* without ceding one iota of their cultural independence. As the Welsh proverb says “The Celt always fights and always loses”. Militarily and politically this has been true of the Welsh but out of the centuries of ceaseless struggle the Welshman emerged victorious spiritually – they preserved their highly developed *artistic sense*, their *indefinable passion for music and poetry* and their distinguished record in poetry, song and drama. With extraordinary tenacity Welsh people cling to their traditions, customs, their language and their own way of life.

- The typical Welshman, called Taffy¹ by the English, is on average *shorter, darker, livelier and quicker to react* than the latter. *The liveliness is mental as well as physical, emotional, poetic*. The Welsh language is a singing, *musical language*; the language of the people devoted to singing. Among the best-known Welsh characteristics are a *certain romanticism and love of poetry and music*. The annual bardic festival known as the National Eisteddfod² of Wales has a 1200-

¹ (humor, sometimes offensive) an English nickname for a Welshman. The name comes from the Welsh pronunciation of Dafyd, the Welsh form of David, which is a popular name in Wales.

² [ais'teðvɔd] – is any of cultural events held every year in Wales at which there are competitions for poets and musicians. The date of the first Eisteddfod is a matter of much debate among scholars, but boards for the judging of poetry defiantly existed in Wales from at least as early as the twelfth century, and it is likely that the ancient Celtic bards had formalized ways of judging poetry as well. The first Eisteddfod can be traced back to 1176, under the auspices of Lord Rhys, at his castle in Cardigan. There he held a grand gathering to which were invited

year-old history; choral singing, and particularly the singing of hymns, is a national art. The art of oratory seems to flourish more among the Welsh than among any of the other British peoples. [«Страноведение: Великобритания», О.А.Леонович]

- The Welsh are *highly-gifted in the art of poetry and drama*, they *speak fluently and confidently*. The Welsh are *a nation of singers*. They like singing together. Every village has more than one choir. They sing in competitions, on holidays and every time they want to sing. Welshmen sing louder than anybody.

- The Welsh as well as the Scots still *proudly wear their national dress* on festive occasions. A Welsh woman wears a red cloak, a long black skirt, an apron and a high black hat on her head. The men do not have a national costume. They smile, “We have no money after we have bought clothes for our wives!”

- The Welsh call their country Cymru, and themselves they call Cymry, a word which has the same root as comrade, friend. [«Страноведение: Великобритания, В.А.Радовель]

poets and musicians from all over the country. A chair at the Lord’s table was awarded to the best poet and musician, a tradition that prevails in the modern day National Eisteddfod. The earliest large scale Eisteddfod that can be proven beyond all doubt to have taken place, however, was the Carmarthen Eisteddfod, which took place in 1451. To ensure the highest standard possible, Elizabeth I of England commanded that the bards be examined and licensed. As interest in the Welsh arts declined, the standard of the main eisteddfod deteriorated as well and they became more informal. In 1789, Thomas Jones organised an eisteddfod in Corwen where for the first time the public were admitted. The success of this event led to a revival of interest in Welsh literature and music.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WALES AND THE WELSH

The following facts, well known to all true Welshmen, are not as well known as they should be to those unfortunate enough to have been born outside Wales.

1. Welshmen may have settled America before Columbus. It is now well known that Viking explorers reached parts of the eastern seaboard of what is now Canada about the year 1100 and that Norwegian Leif Erikson's Vinland may have been an area that is now part of the United States. What is less known is that a Welshman may not have been too far behind Erikson, bringing settlers with him.

According to Welsh legend, Madog ab Owain Gwynedd was a 12th century prince from Gwynedd who sailed westward with a group of followers seeking lands far away from the constant warfare of his native Wales. His eight ships made landfall at what is now called Mobile Bay, Alabama in 1169. Liking what he found, Madog then returned to Wales for additional settlers, who consequently left with the explorer in a small fleet of ships. Sailing westward from Lundy Island in 1171, the courageous little band was never heard from again, at least in Europe.

Welsh tradition has it that the adventurers settled in the Mississippi Valley, befriending the natives, whom they showed how to build stone forts. Some of these mysterious forts and stone walls can still be found in the area. Some sources describe the Welsh explorers as moving northward through Alabama and battling the Iroquois in Ohio, with a remnant moving westward where they were discovered at the time of the Revolutionary War as the light-skinned, bearded Mandan Indians of North Dakota.

During the reign of Elizabeth I, Welsh interest in the New World was stirred by the writings of scholar John Dee (1527-1608), a London Welshman. Dee publicized the traditions involving Prince Madog's supposed discovery of the New World. After the American Revolution fresh interest in the Madog legend was rekindled in Britain.

In 1858 antiquary and literary critic Thomas Stephens completely refuted the Madog myth. However, it remained far too good a legend, and far too engrained in their consciousness for Welshmen to dismiss it as mere fantasy.

Perhaps the legend may indeed contain elements of truth about the arrival of the Welsh in the New World long before the voyages of Columbus.

2. Canada was explored and mapped by a Welshman.

Not only John Evans helped map the North American continent, but another Welshman, David Thompson could rightly be called "the man who measured Canada." Almost on his own, this prodigious explorer surveyed most of the Canadian-US border during the early days of the country. Thompson defined one-fifth of the North American continent. His 77 volumes detailing his studies in

geography, biology and ethnography entitles him to the title of one of the world's greatest land geographers.

Though born in Wales, Thompson was educated at a charity school in London, immigrating to Canada to work for the Hudson Bay Company in 1784. At the time, the map of Canada was mostly blank. He was taught the art of surveying from a colleague and the skills of wilderness survival from native Canadians. In 1797 he joined the North Company at Montreal and began his explorations of the vast continent to the West. In 1807, Thompson discovered the source of the Columbia River, becoming the first European to explore the river's entire course. He later helped the commission that set the border between Canada and the United States.

In 1810, his discovery of the Athabasca Pass provided a navigable route to the West Coast. Not much of a socializer and preferring to hide from the spotlight, Thompson was known as an outsider, "that Welshman," staying aloof from the close clan of explorers and traders. He deserves to be remembered as one of North American's founding fathers.

3. America may have taken its name from a Welshman.

According to research conducted by an English College professor, America did not take its name from Amerigo Vespucci, but from a senior collector of Customs at Bristol, the main port from which English voyages of discovery sailed in the late 15th century. Dr. Basil Cottle tells us that the official was Richard Amerik, one of the chief investors in the second transatlantic voyage of John Cabot, which led to the famous navigator receiving the King's Pension for his discoveries.

John Cabot landed in the New World in May 1497, becoming the first recorded European to set foot on American soil. As far as Amerik's Welsh connection is concerned, the word "Amerik" itself seems to be derived from *ap Meuric*, Welsh for *the son of Maurice*. There was a large Welsh population in Bristol in the late 15th century.

New countries or continents are never named after a person's first name, always after his or her second name. Thus, America would have become "Vespucci Land" if the Italian explorer really gave his name to the newly discovered continent.

John Cabot was the English name of the Italian navigator whose voyages in 1497 and 1498 laid the groundwork for the later British claim to Canada. He moved to London in 1484 and was authorized by King Henry VII to search for unknown lands to the West. On his little ship *Matthew*, Cabot reached Labrador and mapped the North American coastline from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland. As the chief customs official in Bristol, Richard Amerik could well have had his name attached to these maps; so the newly discovered continent, in England at least, became known as "Amerik's Land." Vespucci's voyages did not lead to the exploration or mapping of North America, maps of which were mainly British.

Vespucci had met and been inspired by Columbus. His voyages in 1499-1500 and 1501-1502 took him along the coast of South America where he discovered the Rio Plata. He discovered that the coast was that of a continent and not part of Asia (as John Cabot had thought). It was suggested in 1507 that the new lands be called America, but the name was only applied to South America, and it could very well have been taken from that already given the more northerly regions explored and mapped by Cabot.

4. Pennsylvania is not named after William Penn.

Most Americans are taught that Pennsylvania, one of the earliest American states to be settled by Europeans, was named after the Quaker William Penn or his father, Admiral Penn. It is not so. Had William Penn, the Quaker leader, not ignored the advice of his secretary, the new colony would have been called New Wales.

In the late 17th century, many Welsh emigrants braved the horrors of Atlantic passage to flee religious persecution. The Welsh Quakers, in particular, sought lands where they could practice their own form of religion and live under their own laws in a kind of Welsh Barony. One of their leaders, surgeon and lawmaker Dr. Griffith Owen, who came to the colonies in 1684, induced William Penn to set apart some of his land grant for the settlement. The project envisioned as a kind of “Holy Experiment,” involved an oral understanding with William Penn and the Society of Friends (a pact made in England before the Welsh sailed to the New World). The oral understanding set aside 40,000 acres of land in what is now southeastern Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, this agreement was never put into writing and later became a source of bitter controversy between Penn and the Welsh Quakers.

Even before Penn’s arrival to take up lands granted to him by the Duke of York in payment of a debt to his father, Welsh settlements had begun to spread out on the west side of the Schuylkill River around the nucleus of the new city of Philadelphia.

However, in 1690, in this so-called “Welsh Tract,” the Colonial government abolished the civil authority of the Welsh Quaker meetings in order to set up a regular township government. William Penn himself refused the legality of the Welsh Quakers’ appeal for self-government.

To the bitter disappointment of many of the early Welsh settlers, even the name of the colony was changed. In a letter written one day after the granting of the Charter, Penn wrote to his friend Robert Turner, giving particulars of the naming of the new province: *This day, my country was confirmed to me under the great seal of England, with privileges, by the name of Pennsylvania, a name the King would give it in honor of my father. I chose New Wales, being as this, a pretty, hilly country, but Penn being Welsh for head as in Penmanmoire (sic), in Wales, and Penrith, in Cumberland, and Penn, in Buckinghamshire . . . called this Pennsylvania, which is the high or head woodlands; for I proposed, when the secretary, a Welshman, refused to have it called New Wales, Sylvania and they*

added Penn to it, and though I opposed it and went to the King to have it struck out and altered he said it was past . . . nor could twenty guineas move the under-secretary to vary the name.

Thus Pennsylvania was named after a Welsh word for head and not, as the usual history books have it, after William Penn himself or after his father, Admiral Penn. (The cunning Penn must have known that the Welsh word for “head” is “pen” with a single “n” thus we have to admire his duplicity.)

William Penn himself was not Welsh (though his ancestors may have been from Wales before settling in Ireland). On a plaque mounted on the east facade of the imposing Philadelphia City Hall, the following inscription is found: *Perpetuating the Welsh heritage, and commemorating the vision and virtue of the following Welsh patriots in the founding of the City, Commonwealth, and Nation: William Penn, 1644-1718, proclaimed freedom of religion and planned New Wales later named Pennsylvania. Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, third President of the United States, composed the Declaration of Independence. Robert Morris, 1734-1806, foremost financier of the American Revolution and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Governor Morris, 1752-1816, wrote the final draft of the Constitution of the United States. John Marshall, 1755-1835, Chief Justice of the United States and father of American constitutional law.*

According to the Welsh Society of Philadelphia, 16 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Welsh descent. The list includes: George Clymer, Stephen Hopkins, Robert Morris, William Floyd, Francis Hopkinson, John Morton, Britton Gwinnett, Thomas Jefferson, John Penn, George Read, John Hewes, Francis Lewis, James Smith, Williams Hooper, Lewis Morris, and William Williams. In addition to Jefferson, there were many more leading citizens of Welsh descent who played instrumental parts in the subsequent history of the nation. They include Presidents James Monroe, Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge, and Richard Nixon as well as Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

We should also mention General Morgan Lewis, quarter-master general of the US Army and governor and chief justice of New York State; Oliver Evans, inventor and early industrialist; Thomas Cadwallader, co-founder of the Philadelphia Library; Joshua Humphries, builder of the US Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia; John Morgan, Physician-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army and founder of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School; Robert Wharton, Mayor of Philadelphia for 15 terms beginning in the late 1700's; Frank Lloyd Wright (one of his masterpieces was named after the medieval Welsh bard Taliesin); and a host of others including the founders of Harvard, Yale and Brown Universities.

Others of Welsh descent have made valuable contributions to the field of American and world entertainment and the arts. They include: Bob Hope, Myrna Loy, Anthony Hopkins, Richard Burton, Ray Milland, Tom Jones, Jess Thomas, Frederick March, Shirley Bassey, Glynis Johns, Jonathan Pryce, Sir Geraint Evans, Bryn Terfel, Harry Secombe, Margaret Price, Denis O'Neil, Gwyneth Jones and many, many other distinguished actor, singers and musicians.

As far as the idea of a New Wales is concerned, though the Welsh settlers were numerous enough to be of great influence in the subsequent development of the colony, the refusal of William Penn to grant them self-government was ultimately of little consequence as their lands were soon swallowed up in the great wave of immigration from other European countries, particularly Germany.

But the Welsh, wherever they settled in the US (unlike the Irish and Scots, for example), were all too few to keep a separate identity. There was no great wave of immigration to the colonies from a country whose total population in the late 18th century hardly reached half a million. Therefore, we have to consider the influence of those Welsh who did emigrate to the United States to be out of proportion to their small numbers.

5. St. Patrick was a Welshman.

On March 17th, when St. Patrick's Day is widely celebrated in so many communities in the United States (where much more fuss is made than is found in Ireland), most Americans assume that Patrick was an Irishman. It is not so.

Though Patrick's birthplace is debatable, most scholars seem to believe that Patrick (Patricius or Padrig) was born in the still Welsh-speaking Northern Kingdom of Strathclyde of Romano-Brythonic stock around 385 AD. His father was a deacon, Calpurnius. Not much is known of Patrick's early life, but it is believed he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland. Escaping to Gaul, he then underwent religious instruction under Germanus and returned to Ireland to join other early missionaries, probably settling in Armagh. In his *Confessio*, a spiritual biography, Patrick describes his early adventures. His seventh century biographers claimed that he converted all of Ireland to Christianity.

In "The Life", Patrick is told of coming to Wales as a bishop and vowing to serve God at Glyn Rhosyn (now St. David's). But, he was warned in a dream that the place was reserved for someone who would arrive thirty years later. He was then shown Ireland in the distance by an angel as he stood on a rock called "the seat of St. Patrick." Patrick's mission was to evangelize the distant land, a task that he carried out in a remarkably short period.

Rhigfarch is also responsible for what little we know of St. David, adopted as the patron saint of Wales in the 18th century. David died about 590 AD with March 1st, the reputed day of his death, celebrated by a holiday in Wales. St. Patrick's Day is much better known. It has become an American national festival celebrated with monstrous parades silly green hats, fake shamrocks and prodigious amounts of alcoholic beverages.

6. Wales is not represented on the British Flag.

Wales is an integral part of the British Kingdom, yet it is not represented on the national flag, the Union Jack. The standard of Wales consists of a red dragon on a green and white background. As such, it will not fit easily into the design of the Union flag, composed of the red upright cross of St. George on a white background; the white diagonal cross of St. Andrew on a blue background; and the

red diagonal cross of St. Patrick on a white background. This represents England, Scotland and Ireland respectively.

The dragon is perhaps the very first mythical beast in British heraldry. The red dragon of Wales goes back a long time, long before the Union Jack was ever put together. As a national symbol for Wales, it predates its adaptation by the Tudors. It signified their direct descent from one of the noble families of Wales. At Holywell, in Flintshire, there is a dragon carved over one of the arches beside St. Winifred's Well in honor of Henry VII, the first Tudor king. Henry's standard was white over green "with the red dragon over all." His eldest son, the Prince of Wales was to be the new King Arthur, uniting the whole of Britain, but he died before he could be crowned. During Henry VIII's reign the red dragon on a green and white background became a favorite emblem on many of the Royal Navy ships; it was also a particular favorite of Queen Elizabeth I "that red-headed Welsh harridan" as she has been called by historian A.L. Rowse. The dragon was replaced by a unicorn on the orders of James 1st, the Scot, not reappearing on the Royal Badge of Wales until 1807.

As far as the national flag of Wales is concerned (the red dragon on a green and white background), it seems to have only come into prominence in the early part of the present century, being used at the 1911 Caernarfon Investiture of Edward, the Prince of Wales. Though the red dragon had reappeared as the royal badge for Wales in 1807, it wasn't officially recognized as the national flag of the principality until 1959. The Queen was successfully petitioned for its national use.

Controversy over the correct version of the flag was settled that year when a statement from the Minister of State for Wales announced that "...only the Red Dragon on a green and white flag...shall be flown on Government buildings in Wales, and, where appropriate, in London." The Red Dragon now flies proudly over public and private buildings all over Wales and appears on all the "Welcome to Wales" signs at the various border crossings. It has endeared itself to the Welsh people as a symbol of pride in their history and their hopes for their future.

7. A pungent vegetable is the national emblem of Wales.

The leek, a member of the onion family, has a strong smell. On March 1, St. David's Day, patriotic Welsh and those of Welsh descent, wherever they reside or work, wear a leek on their clothing.

The custom stems from the plant being used by the Welsh as a national badge for many centuries. According to the legend, the leek was associated with St. David because he ordered his soldiers to wear it on their helmets in a battle against the hated, pagan Saxon invaders of Britain that took place in a field full of leeks.

A 16th century reference to the leek as a Welsh emblem is found in the Account Book of Princess Mary Tudor. That it was well known as an emblem for Welsh people is also recorded by Shakespeare, who refers to the custom of

wearing a leek as “ancient tradition” and whose character Henry V tells Fluellen that he is wearing a leek “for I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.”

Throughout the years, leeks have been associated with the practice of medicine.

The leek is worn in the caps of today’s Welsh soldiers every year on St. David’s Day. On the same day, in the prestigious Welsh Guards Regiment, a large raw leek has to be eaten by the youngest recruit to the cheers of his comrades.

One of the daffodil’s many Welsh names is Cenhinen Bedr (Peter’s leek). It is the most common spring flower found in Wales and has been used in place of the leek in many official ceremonies and on many official publications and letterheads. As far as the relative merits of the leek and the daffodil are concerned, it is purely a matter of personal choice which to wear on St. David’s Day.

8. The Welsh Language is not Gaelic.

Welsh belongs to a branch of Celtic, an Indo-European language. In heavily populated areas of Wales, such as the Southeast (Cardiff, Newport and Swansea) the normal language of everyday life is English, but there are other areas, notably in the Western and Northern regions where the Welsh language remains strong and highly visible.

The Welsh people themselves are descendants of the Galatians, to whom Paul wrote his famous letter. Their language is a distant cousin to Irish and Scots Gaelic and a close brother to Breton. Despite being widely spoken in the British Isles at one time, because the Anglo-Saxon conquest was so thorough and took so very long, the native British language was exterminated in many areas and very few words were adopted into English. (Surviving examples are coomb, coracle, eisteddfod, cromlech, avon, avalon and a few others.)

The Anglo-Saxons called the native peoples “brittas” and “brittisch” as well as “walas” or “wealas.” The latter terms denoting foreigners or those who spoke the Celtic languages. However, the Welsh people called themselves *Cymry*. The Welsh word for their country is *Cymru* *the land of the Comrades*; the people are known as *Cymry* and the language as *Cymraeg*.

Despite the increasing Anglicization of their lands, it is believed that there may be more speakers of Welsh than of any other surviving Celtic tongue.

Welsh is still used by about half a million people within Wales and possibly another few hundred thousand in England and other areas overseas. Welsh speaking people are still finding it difficult to get equality with English. It was not until 1967 that the Welsh Language Act made special reference to the use of Welsh in legal proceedings and on official forms. The Gittins Report of 1967 recommended that every child in Wales be given the opportunity to become reasonably bilingual by the end of the primary stage, a recommendation put into effect in the 1990’s.

Speakers of Welsh cannot understand speakers of Irish or Scots Gaelic and nor, without extensive study, are they able to read Gaelic. Though we might expect to find a common vocabulary, especially in words that deal with basic commodities

or geographical terms, there is very little correspondence. Yet some similarities can be readily found.

Welsh is a language whose spelling is entirely regular and phonetic, so that once you know the rules, you can learn to read it and pronounce it without too much difficulty.

9. The modern Olympics did not begin in Athens.

Ask almost anyone when the modern Olympics began and you will be told that the ancient Greek games were revived in Athens by French Baron Coubertin in 1896. What you most certainly will not be told is that Coubertin was inspired by the events he witnessed at Much Wenlock, a little village in Shropshire, just over the Welsh borders. In 1890, in an article for a Greek magazine, Coubertin stated the following: “Much Wenlock is a town in Shropshire, a county on the borders of Wales, and if the Olympic Games that modern Greece has not yet been able to revive still survive today, it is due not to a Greek, but to Dr. W.P. Brookes. It is he who inaugurated them 40 years ago, and it is he, now 82 years of age, but still alert and vigorous, who continues to organize and inspire them.”

Dr. W.P. Brookes was born in 1809 in Much Wenlock, remaining there the rest of his life. His efforts as a Justice of the Peace led to the village gaining gas lighting and the railroad. Brookes believed that a rigorous program of physical training would help make better Christians by keeping people out of the taverns. He thought that it would be a good idea to fuse the twin notions of the ancient Greek games with the rural sports practiced by English and Welsh rural classes. His knowledge of the ancient Olympics inspired him with the idea of establishing the Much Wenlock Society for the Promulgation of Physical Culture in 1841.

The first of what were to become the annual Brookes’ Olympian Games were held in 1850, with small monetary prizes being awarded for success in such sports as running, the long jump, football (soccer), quoits and cricket. Other events were gradually added, with prizes such as a pound of tea awarded for such events as a blindfold wheelbarrow race, a pig race and a medieval tilting contest. It was not long before the classical element appeared, with laurel wreaths or medallions inscribed with Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, awarded for the javelin and track events.

The fame of the Wenlock Olympics quickly spread, attracting entries from all parts of Britain. They were taken notice of in Athens, where sporting bodies corresponded with Dr. Brookes about his successful games.

In 1888, Brookes began a correspondence with Baron Pierre Coubertin whose interest in the Wenlock Olympics led him to found an International Olympic Committee. In 1890, the Baron came to see the Wenlock Games for himself. He returned home inspired by his visit and determined to carry out his shared dream of re-establishing the ancient Olympics. Thus, the Baron has received the international credit. Dr. Brookes had been invited to attend the ceremonies at the brand new marble stadium in Athens. The Wenlock Games are still held annually.

10. A Welshman invented Lawn Tennis in Wales.

At a meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, London, in August 1887, Colonel Mainwaring made the following statement: "I should like it to be entered on record that the now popular game of lawn tennis was the old Welsh game of Cerrig y Drudion."

There had been many games of "the tennis family" before the old Welsh game mentioned by Colonel Mainwaring had evolved into lawn tennis. In France and in England, real tennis had been played since the late 12th or early 13th centuries. These were indoor games, using a variety of courts, wall or roof surfaces and various rackets and balls. None of them enjoyed the luxury of a ball that could bounce on a hard; grass surface until the mid-19th century when it was discovered in Europe that balls made of rubber would do the trick.

During the later part of the century in North Wales, Major Walter Wingfield saw the advantages of adopting the old Welsh outdoor game into something far more sophisticated and of greater appeal to the general public. He was always looking for activities that would relieve the boredom and drudgery of work in the new industrial towns of Britain as well as providing healthy exercise in the open air. He found the answer on the green, manicured lawns of his home at Nant Clwyd; and in 1874 he took out a patent on his game after publishing a book of rules one year earlier. Major Wingfield called his game "Lawn Tennis." Other claims to the invention of the game soon followed, including those of the Marylebone Cricket Club of London.

The game really took off in popularity after J.M. Heathcote, an expert in real tennis, had developed a rubber ball covered with white flannel. In England, tennis was played by Kings Henry VII and VIII, and the latter's tennis court at Hampton Court Palace is still used.

However popular with kings and princes, the game of real tennis is far too complicated to watch for the average spectator and its courts too expensive to construct. It is because of Major Wingfield's imaginative adaption of an old Welsh game that Lawn tennis, with its simple rules, its speed and grace and its relative accessibility to all social classes is one of the world's most popular sports.

11. Welsh Immigrants began The Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir owes much to the efforts of Welsh pioneers in keeping alive the musical heritage of their nation.

Elders from the early Mormon Church found willing converts in Wales when the Overton Branch was formed in Flintshire in the fall of 1840. Other branches quickly spread throughout the principality mainly through the missionary zeal of Captain Dan Jones who had left Wales to settle in the Mormon settlement of Nauvoo.

Jones began his missionary work at Merthyr Tydfil, at the time the largest town in Wales. By 1846, the Welsh District consisted of 28 branches with 687 members. By 1848, there were 12 conferences, 10 branches and a membership of nearly 5,000. The next year Jones returned to the United States along with 249

Welsh converts on the Buena Vista. Many of these emigrants had rich musical backgrounds.

Of the mass emigration that took place after the missionary activities of Jones and others, and taking note of the high quality and educational level of many of the emigrants, author Charles Dickens lamented that England appeared to be “losing her finest.”

Some Welsh emigrants had left Liverpool in September 1843. As their ship, the *Metoka*, was towed out of the Mersey to enter the sea-lanes, they gave expression to their feelings at leaving their homeland by singing hymns. They continued singing when they reached the New World. Because musical instruments were not a priority on the difficult journey across the barren landscape, the blending of the human voices in the glorious Welsh hymns and melodies helped relieve the monotony. Less than two weeks after their arrival at what became Salt Lake City, the settlers completed a shelter to house their cultural activities. In this temporary meeting house, the choirs that later became united as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir sang their first program on Sunday, August 22, 1847. Under Welsh conductor John Parry, the choir soon grew in numbers and importance.

12. The Prince (Princess) of Wales is not Welsh.

In 1300, King Edward of England made his son, Lord Edward, Prince of Wales and Count of Chester. The task was made easy, for Edward because of the long inability of the native-born Welsh princes to unite their lands and form a single, unified kingdom. Up to King Edward’s proclamation, in fact, there had been many kings in Wales. However, there had been only five rulers who could justify their claim to be Kings of Wales: Rhodri Mawr, Hywel Dda, Gruffudd ap Llywelyn, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, and Llywelyn ap Gruffudd.

Edward I was determined to unite the whole of the island of Britain under his kingship and this meant he had ultimately to conquer Wales and Scotland. Llewelyn ap Gruffudd, despite his military successes, still faced formidable problems in holding together all the quarrelsome parts of his kingdom. This meant that Edward’s task was much easier than perhaps expected, considering the early defeats that the Welsh armies inflicted upon the invading English, not used to fighting in mountainous terrain. Sadly for his own ambitions, there was much resistance to Llewelyn’s authority among many of the minor Welsh princes (forever quarreling among themselves) as well as from the semi-independent Norman lords of the Marches. It was therefore not too difficult for Edward’s much larger armies to eventually wear away the forces of Llewelyn through attrition and to impose harsh restrictions upon the Welsh leader. At the Treaty of Aberconwy in 1277, Llewelyn was forced to accept humiliating terms and give up most of his recently acquired lands keeping only Gwynedd west of the Conwy River. Edward followed up his successes by building English strongholds around the perimeter of what remained of Llewelyn’s possessions. Strong, easily defended castles were erected at Flint, Rhuddlan, Aberystwyth and Builth garrisoned by large detachments of English immigrants and soldiers.

Although, Edward was now firmly in control of his Welsh territories, Prince Llewelyn was not yet finished. When the people of Wales, under his brother Dafydd, eventually rose in a massive revolt at the loss of control over their customs, their law and the restrictive and oppressive English rule, Llewelyn was the unanimous choice to lead their cause. At first, Llewelyn's revolt was successful, the castles of Builth, Aberystwyth and Ruthin fell into his hands and a large English force was destroyed in the Menai Straights in Gwynedd. Edward was forced to devote all of his kingdom's resources to deal with the "malicious, accursed" Welsh, yet it was a mere chance encounter in a meadow at Cilmeri that ended the Welsh dream. Just outside the English settlement at Builth, in Powys, Llewelyn became separated from his army. In a minor skirmish, the Welsh prince was killed by an English knight unaware of his identity. Upon discovery, Llewelyn's head was sent to London for display as that of a traitor. Edward's troubles with the rebellious Welsh, for all practical purposes were at an end. Henceforth, Wales was to live under an alien political system, playing a subordinate role as an integral part of the kingdom of England.

After the death of his brother, Llywelyn, Dafydd continued his defiance, also calling himself Prince of Wales. This was made possible by the harsh conditions under which his people suffered. Despite their grievances, however, a lack of the needed resources to conduct a long campaign ended Welsh resistance. Edward was determined to "check the impetuous rashness of the Welsh, to punish their presumption and to wage war against them to their extermination."

Dafydd was quickly captured, dying a traitor's death at the orders of the English king. Edward was now free to do with Wales as he wished. In 1284, the Statute of Rhuddlan confirmed his plans regarding the governing of Wales.

Following the Statute of Rhuddlan, sometimes referred to as The Statute of Wales, Edward embarked on his massive castle-building program, creating such world-heritage sites of today as Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech and Beaumaris in addition to the not so-well known structures at Flint and Rhuddlan. By rule of their new invaders, the Welsh were forbidden to inhabit such "boroughs" or to carry arms within their walls. With the help of the architect Master James of St. George, and with what must have seemed like limitless resources in labor and materials, Edward showed his determination to place a stranglehold on the Welsh. Thus, it was that in 1300, when his wife gave birth to a son at Caernarfon Castle the king brazenly called the baby "Prince of Wales and Count of Chester." Ever since that date these titles have been automatically conferred upon the first-born son of the English monarch.

13. Golf's Stableford System was invented in Wales.

For countless millions of golfers the world over, the Stableford scoring system has proved to be one of their greatest blessings. During the last years of the 19th century at Glamorganshire Golf Club in South Wales (founded in 1890), Dr. Stableford was concerned about the then-current scoring system in the increasingly popular game of golf. The good doctor was concerned that, in other forms of

scoring, one bad hole could ruin the entire round, so he introduced a much fairer system that reflected the golfer's complete round, one that would enable him (or her) to recover from a high score on nine or more holes. His new system was announced in a South Wales newspaper that reported on the Golf club's first autumn meeting held 30 September, 1898.

Dr. Stableford, after a distinguished military career, played golf at his home in Wallasey, Cheshire, no doubt enjoying his scoring system with his golfing companions. A portrait of the Doctor hangs in the Glamorganshire Club, at Penarth, near Cardiff where a memorial plaque also tells of his gift to the golfers of the world.

14. A Welshman was responsible for 19th century US industrial might.

On the 4 July, 1840, a blast furnace constructed under the management of a recent immigrant from Wales at Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, produced its first run of iron using anthracite for fuel. Thus David Thomas, from South Wales, showed that anthracite, known scathingly throughout the iron industry as "stone coal" could be successfully used to produce high quality iron.

For almost two centuries, iron masters had been trying to utilize the vast anthracite coal fields of eastern Pennsylvania with only limited success. The right combination of fuel, furnace size, blast pressure and temperature had not been found; thus enormous sums were paid for imported iron in an age where the metal was desperately needed to supply the fledgling iron-ship building and railroad industries.

Thomas had perfected a method that used a hot blast to produce good quality iron from West Wales's anthracite. Urgently needed in Pennsylvania, and promised a good contract, the 43 year-old iron master sold his property in Wales and with his wife and family embarked on the *Roscius* at Liverpool to begin a new career across the Atlantic.

In 1854, Thomas formed the Thomas Iron Company at Hokendauqua, on the Lehigh River, where the production of pig iron per furnace was greater than at any other iron works in the country and perhaps in the entire world. For over 20 years, anthracite was used more than any other fuel in the United States to produce iron. And, using iron rails, now no longer imported from Wales, more railroads were built here than existed in the entire rest of the world.

One of the most influential men in the growth of American industry in the 19th century, David Thomas deserves the title of "Father of the Anthracite Iron Industry in the United States."

15. The Holy Grail is to be found in Wales.

Wales has preserved a wondrous legend connected with the holy man, that of the Grail itself. At Nant Eos (Stream of the Nightingale), not far from Aberystwyth, there stands an old mansion house that was lived in by the Powell family for centuries. In 1876, the Powells put one of their ancient heirlooms on public display. It was a battered, old cup made of wych elm that supposedly came

from nearby Strata Florida Abbey at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The relic is a Holy Grail, supposedly made out of the wood of the true cross and brought to Britain by Joseph.

For centuries, pilgrims had been drinking out of this wooden vessel to partake of its healing powers. Last displayed in 1960, the cup was found to have been badly worn with many pieces having been broken off and kept for good luck by those who came to enjoy its healing powers. Having lost its silver rim, placed to protect the cup from damage, the Grail is said to have now lost its miraculous powers.

There is an interesting story connected with the Welsh Grail. It has been told that the great composer Wagner stayed at Nant Eos in 1855, and inspired by the presence of the cup and the legend of the knights who undertook many courageous adventures on the quest to find it, began work on his opera "Parsival".

16. A Welshman co-founded the New York Times.

It is not generally known that the New York Times, that most American of US newspapers, owes its origin to a Welshman, George Jones. Jones was born in the Welsh state producing area of Poultney, Vermont, the son of an immigrant from Montgomeryshire, Mid-Wales. Orphaned at the age of 13, George worked as a clerk and errand boy for a store owner who published the Northern Spectator, a newspaper that also employed Horace Greeley as a printer's apprentice. When Greeley established the New York Tribune in 1840, Jones worked with him for a short while but declined a partnership in the paper. His friendship with Henry J. Raymond gave them the idea of beginning their own newspaper. The first issue of the New York Daily Times was published on September 18, 1851. Jones was publisher and business manager, remaining with the paper, which became the New York Times, for over 22 years.

17. A Welsh-American invented the first automobile.

Oliver Evans was born to a family of Welsh settlers in New Castle County, Delaware in 1755. After an apprenticeship as a wheelwright, he began to experiment with steam power, inventing many labor-saving devices in his flour mills on the Brandywine River. Evans patented his high-pressure steam engine early in 1804, originally intending it for use on waterways, not roads, though he had dreamed of some kind of bus to carry passengers on land. By 1806, he had constructed over 100 steam engines, and, following his example, steam-driven flour mills were rapidly proliferating in the former colonies.

Trouble in receiving credit and patents for his inventions culminated in a disastrous fire at the Mars Iron works that destroyed many of his plans and machinery. Nevertheless, we have his brilliant, inventive mind to thank for the first automobile to be built (and driven successfully) in the United States, his *Orukter Amphibolos* (Amphibious digger). Though Evans had built his leviathan with the sole intention of dredging the river to make it available for ships, he had, in fact, created the first automobile.

18. The world's largest second-hand bookstore is in Wales.

Though Wales is visited primarily for its magnificent scenery impressive castles and charming sea-side resorts, the fourth most popular destination, attracting over a million visitors a year, is a little town on the River Wye, appropriately called Hay-on-Wye. A proliferation of book shops has earned the town the title of "largest second-hand book shop in the world," for the whole town seems to be one massive collection of books, a bibliophile's dream.

The whole thing began in the early 60's when resident Richard Booth opened an antique store in which he also sold some books. The books sold far better than the antiques and soon the clever entrepreneur was buying up every available piece of property in town to store and sell books. He bought the old cinema, the firehouse, the workhouse, a chapel and even the ruins of the ancient castle. It wasn't long before Mr. Booth began to advertise himself as "the world's biggest second-hand book seller." Mr. Booth informs us that even in the 17th century, Hay-on-Wye was a book town, allowing malefactors locked up in the stocks to read while they endured their punishment.

The initial success of Booth's books brought other book merchants to town eager to take advantage of the low rents and warehouse costs. Booksellers were too anxious to move into town, which continued to grow in reputation as the place to find any book you wanted, but couldn't find elsewhere.

In 1989, the first Hay-on-Wye Festival of Literature was held in the Welsh town that, thanks to Richard Booth, had firmly established itself in the world of books.

The proliferation of antique shops and restaurants that have sprung up in the shadow of the second-hand bookshops has led to declining towns in other parts of Britain and abroad to seek Booth's assistance. So far, 30 towns in Europe and another 30 in the US have taken advantage of his ideas and promotional schemes.

19. Thanks to a Welshman, Britain has no Death Penalty.

On February 17, 1956, the Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, after a long debate, voted to abolish the Death Penalty. Parliament had been heavily influenced by a single book arguing against the Death Penalty, even for heinous crimes. Michael Eddowes, a well-known criminal lawyer, wrote the book, *The Man in Your Conscience*. Its subject was a Welshman who, the author argued had been wrongly hanged for murder.

Timothy Evans was born in South Wales, in 1924. He could not read or write and had trouble finding employment. Moving to London with his wife to try to better their lives, he had the misfortune to seek lodging at 10 Rillington Place, North Kensington, an address that was later to become one of the most infamous in the annals of British crime. This was the home of John Reginald Christie.

The police picked up Mr. Christie in 1953. Quiet, unassuming, looking more like a timid bank clerk than one of the biggest mass murderers in British history, Christie had been the subject of a massive manhunt after body after female body had been found in his house in Rillington Place. Three years earlier, Mr.

Evans had been hanged on a charge of strangling his wife at the same address. He had bitterly protested his innocence. When Christie eventually came to trial, he confessed to murdering poor Mr. Evans's wife. After Christie's execution on July 15, 1953, the Evans case was raised in fierce debate in the House of Commons. Abolitionists saw in the case their great hopes from success in getting rid of Britain's Death Penalty. It was then that the bombshell of the book appeared. The publication of *The Man in Your Conscience* began a crusade for justice. The amendment to abolish the Death Penalty was carried by a majority of 31 votes. It has never been restored in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

20. The names of three geological divisions are derived from Wales.

The three oldest geological divisions in the Paleozoic era, the Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian, are derived from the Latin name for Wales (Cambria) and for Celtic tribes living in Wales during the Roman invasions (the Silures and Ordovices). Eocks and fossils of the first period of the Paleozoic era are found in Wales, the little, mountainous country is one of the oldest geological regions on the planet.

21. The largest Iron-Age fort in Northwestern Europe is in Wales.

On the slopes of a mountain named Yr Eifl (the forks) in the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales, overlooking the Irish Sea is the largest Iron Age fort in northwest Europe. At a height of 400 metres above sea level, the settlement has considerable remains of a 150 stone huts constructed some time around 200 BC, but still occupied at the time of the Roman invasions of Britain some 300 years later. The stone wall surrounding the fort is still as high as four metres in parts.

22. A Welshman translated the first account of the New World.

On Sebastian Cabot's second voyage to the Americas in 1526, he had a Welshman aboard, Roger Barlow of Slebech, Pembrokeshire, West Wales. Barlow translated the Spanish Suma de Geographi, the first account of the New World to appear in the English Language.

23. The world's longest name of any railroad station is on the Isle of Anglesey in Wales.

Though trains do not stop there any more, thanks to the drastic curtailment of British rail services in the 1960's, and the village is now by-passed by the main highway to the port of Holyhead, the railway station at *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyll-llantisiliogogogoch* continues to draw a stream of visitors daily. Translated, the name reads: the Church of Mary in a white hollow by a hazel tree near a rapid whirlpool by the church of St. Tisilio by a red cave.

24. Welshmen invented two important mathematical symbols.

It is not generally known that the symbols for equality (=) and the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter (π) came from the imaginative minds of two Welshmen. First was Robert Recorde who invented the mathematical sign for equality around the year 1550. Recorde was physician to King Edward VI and Queen Mary. The second Welsh mathematical genius was William Jones. He is credited for being the first to use the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet, (π), to represent the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle. π appears as a constant in a wide range of mathematical problems.

25. Welshmen founded three of the world's leading universities.

It was not only *Yale University* in New Haven, Connecticut that owes its existence to a Welshman, but also *Brown University* in Rhode Island and *Beijing University* in China. Elihu Yale, the main benefactor of Yale University, was the son of Welsh immigrant parents in Boston. Joint founder of Brown University was Morgan Edwards, who came from Pontypool, Glamorgan. Lastly, Beijing University grew out of the city's language school set up in 1869 by missionary Hopkin Rees, from Cwmafan, Glamorgan.

26. Wales is the most important sheep raising area in Europe.

Despite its small size, Wales raises more sheep than any other area in Europe. Its 11,000,000 sheep represent about 15 percent of the sheep in the European Community. Because of the relatively poor soil of much of the land and high rainfall, about 80 percent of Wales is designated as "less favored areas" by the European Community. The conditions, however, are ideal for the raising of sheep.

27. The world's first mail order shopping began in Newtown, Wales.

Some time in 1859, astute businessman Pryce Pryce-Jones, of Newtown, Montgomeryshire (Powys) began to cater to the needs of many of his rural customers by offering goods for sale through the mail. Many of the area's farmers lived in isolated valleys or in mountain terrain and had little time or suitable transportation to come into town for their many needs. The Pryce Jones Mail Order business was the perfect answer. The Newtown Warehouses, packed with goods, began a service that quickly caught on in the United States.

28. A Welshman was the last Briton to die in WWI.

On Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, Able Seaman Richard Morgan of Devauden, Gwent (Monmouthshire) died while serving on HMS Garland. He thus became the last British serviceman to die in the World War I and the last of 40,000 Welshmen who lost their lives in the fighting.

29. Welsh gypsies were the last to speak Romani in Europe.

In the early 1900's, John Sampson, an expert on Gypsy lore, discovered that a family in Wales still spoke the "deep" or inflected Romani that had died out

among the rest of the gypsy groups in Europe. Sampson wrote that the descendants of an eponymous ancestor, Abram Wood, reputed King of the Gypsies, born before the close of the 17th century, had religiously kept the dialect intact in Cambria. The Wood family, outstanding musicians, helped to keep alive many musical traditions that were forced underground during the 18th century Methodist Revival. One member of the family was chief harpist to Queen Victoria and another member taught this century's most famous traditional Welsh harpist, Nansi Richards. The Wood family was fluent in three mutually unintelligible languages: Romani, English and Welsh.

30. A Welshman wrote the music for the 1998 Academy Awards.

During the 1998 Academy Awards ceremony that gave so many honors to the movie Titanic, the music of Welsh-born composer Michael J. Lewis accompanied the tribute to those Hollywood greats who had died during the past year. This was only one of the great honors bestowed upon Lewis, from Wales, who has composed music for many outstanding films.

In addition to providing the music for many other films, Lewis also scored the music of many television productions. In honor of his Celtic heritage, he has produced *The Romantic Splendour of Wales*, a celebration of Welsh music at its best.

31. A Welshman discovered the link between Asian and European Languages.

In the late 18th century, a Welsh scholar employed by the East India Company, Sir William Jones, discovered that many words in Sanskrit were similar to words in Welsh. Further research, carried out by the German brothers Grimm and others, later revealed that most European languages and some Indian ones have a common ancestor, now known as Indo-European.

Other notable Welsh philologists were missionary David Jones who first put the Malagasy language of Madagascar into writing; John Davies who published the first grammar and dictionary of Tahitian; Dr. David Samuel, who made the first written record of the Maori language of New Zealand. Nearer Wales, Robert Williams compiled the first comprehensive dictionary of the Cornish language, and Bishop John Phillips translated the Book of Common Prayer into Manx.

32. Yr Ardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru (the Welsh National Botanic Garden) is a landmark project.

In West Wales, on the wooded slopes of the River Towy valley, one of the most ambitious environmental projects ever undertaken in Wales is taking shape. This valley is already green, the overgrown, neglected landscaped gardens and parkland of Middleton Hall, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire. Out of the wilderness of scrub and marshland, neglected for a century, will rise a national garden for Wales that will seriously rival and in many ways surpass any national botanical garden

presently found in the world. A landmark project of international significance, the garden will be a spectacular, living museum for the present and the future.

The projected garden will create a blend of scientific education and artistic beauty, combining science, education and aestheticism to fulfill the vision of a team of Welsh and international scientists, botanists and horticulturists. Their aim is to create a world class, modern botanical garden whose primary focus is on conservation and reproductive biology.

Towering over all will be the Great Glasshouse, 100 metres in length and 60 metres wide that will encompass under a single roof a comprehensive range of the most spectacular Mediterranean floras from all part of the world.

33. The earth's highest mountain is named after a Welshman.

In Wales, any height over 1,000 feet is considered a mountain, and the highest mountain in the country is Yr Wyddfa (Mt. Snowdon) at 3,560 feet (1,085 metres). Mt. Everest was recognized as the highest point on earth in 1852 following a government survey of India when the awesome mountain was named Peak XV. It became Mt. Everest in 1865, named for Sir George Everest, surveyor general of India, a native of Gwernvale, Breconshire, Wales, who had conducted the first triangulation survey of central India.

34. The world's first wireless transmission took place in Wales.

At age 12, the Italian Marconi dreamed of the day when these (radio) waves might furnish mankind with a new and powerful means of communication. His dream came true on May 13, 1897, when he transmitted messages, without the use of wires between Lavernock, Wales and the Island of Flatholm. The incredible achievement represented the final phase of wireless communication following many years of trial and error by such brilliant pioneers as Preece, Clark-Maxwell, Hertz and Tesla.

35. A Welsh amputee conquered Everest.

The first amputee to successfully climb Mount Everest, the highest peak on earth was Welsh teacher Tom Whittaker. Tom who lost his right foot in a car accident in 1979 made the successful trip to the 29,028 foot mountain after a three-day climb. International lecturer on outdoor activities, the intrepid Welshman has been mountaineering for 25 years and was determined not to let the mere loss of a foot stop his adventures.

36. Welshman overdosed on Valium.

Howard Smithin Montgomeryshire, not only sold his house after overdosing on Valium, but went to live in a hovel with goats.

Seeking medical help in the late 1980's after suffering headaches caused by a head injury, Smith had been prescribed two and a half years' supply of the wonder drug for a period of only two months. The former postman, following instructions, gobbled down the pills, prescribed to him in bottles of 500 by a

psychiatric doctor, since retired. His strange behavior after taking the pills alienated his friends and neighbors. His personality change led to his being described as mad as a hatter, in a toxic confusional state. An out-of-court settlement agreed to between Howard's lawyers and the Powys Health Care Trust and Dyfed Powys Health Authority awarded the poor man the sum of 50,000 pounds.

37. Murray the Hump was a Welshman.

Al Capone's chief lieutenant, known as "Murray the Hump" was one of the most successful criminals in US history. He was born in Chicago of Welsh parents from Mid Wales. When Capone was imprisoned in 1933, Murray was described as America's Public Enemy Number One. His master mind and superior intelligence were greatly admired by Capone and his gangsters, and it was Murray who organized the syndicate's successful infiltration of legitimate businesses.

38. A Welsh prison was an IRA "Training College."

After the Easter Rising of 1916, many of those who had taken part were interned at Frongoch in North Wales. The British interned more than 1,800 Irishmen. Inspired by hearing the locals speak Welsh, the internees conducted their meetings in Gaelic and planned the post-war government of Ireland. They included many key figures in the IRA. The camp provided a hard core of disciplined men who were ready to organize the armed resistance necessary to win Irish independence.

39. The oldest ethnic society in the US is Welsh.

The Welsh Society of Philadelphia claims to be the oldest ethnic society in the US. In 1729, a small group of Welsh people living in the city founded the Society of Ancient Britons to honor St. David, the patron saint of Wales. Benjamin Franklin often attended their banquets, for which he printed the tickets. After the Revolution, in which many Welsh fought for independence, the group re-organized under its present name. It has been extremely active in Welsh-American affairs for the past 260 years.

40. Cardiff has the world's largest retractable-roof arena.

Rapidly being completed in time for the World Rugby Cup competition to be held in Cardiff, the Welsh capital, during the 1999-2000 season, is the Millennium Stadium. It contains a rugby museum, a riverside walk, a public plaza and is suitable for all sporting events and concerts. With total seating capacity of 74,500, it is the third largest stadium in the Six Nations Championship behind the Stade de France and Twickenham, which is the largest. It is also the second largest stadium in the world with a fully retractable roof, and was the second stadium in Europe to have this feature

41. The “Ugly House” was built and inhabited in one day.

Situated on the A5 road between Betws y Coed and Capel Curig, in Snowdonia, North Wales, the “Ugly House” was built around 1475. At the time, a loophole in the law allowed a tenant to own the property if he could build a house complete with fireplace and chimney between sunrise and sunset and have smoke coming out of the chimney. Using undressed boulders, four local brothers completed the task to take possession, not only of the stone building, but also of the land upon which it stood for as far as they could throw an axe from each side of the house.

42. A Welsh coracle crossed the English Channel in 1974.

Designed for use in the swiftly flowing streams of Wales, the coracle has been in use for centuries. In 1974 as part of a publicity stunt, a Welsh coracle managed to cross the Channel to France, piloted by Bernard Thomas in 13 and one half hours. The journey was undertaken to demonstrate how the “bull-boats” of Mandan Indians of North Dakota could have been copied from Welsh coracles introduced by Prince Madog in the 12th century.

43. The Mumbles Swansea Railroad was the first in the world to accept paying passengers.

On March 25, 1807, the Mumbles to Swansea railroad, begun three years earlier to carry limestone and other materials to the docks, began accepting paying passenger on a regular basis, thus making it the world’s first.

44. A Welshman was the first man in the world to transmit and receive radio waves.

History has credited Italian-born Guglielmo Marconi as the inventor of the wireless radio, and German scientist Heinrich Hertz as the one whose name was given to radio waves, yet eight years before Hertz, a Welshman named David Edward Hughes became the first to transmit and receive radio waves. Hughes, who died in 1900, also invented the printing telegraph utilized in the USA by the West Union Telegraph Company in 1857 and that became the adopted standard in Europe.

SEVEN WONDERS OF WALES

1



Pistyll Rhaeadr (meaning “spring of the waterfall”) is an enchanting waterfall in the Berwyn Mountains, just inside Wales, west of Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

Pistyll Rhaeadr is formed by the Afon Disgynfa’s falling, in three stages. The tallest stage is estimated at about 40 metres. At 240ft (80m) high it is the UK tallest single drop waterfall.

The 19th-century author George Borrow, in his book *Wild Wales*, remarked of the waterfall: “What shall I liken it to? I scarcely know, unless it is to an immense skein of silk agitated and disturbed by tempestuous blasts, or to the long tail of a grey courser at furious speed. I never saw water falling so gracefully, so much like thin, beautiful threads as here.”

This much-loved waterfall captivating all who visit it. People have returned, generation after generation to take in the spirit and presence of this Special place. Many visitors mention how quickly they come to a sense of peace and reverence within themselves, seldom found in today’s busy and fragmented world. It is a great place to explore the Berwyn Mountains and surrounding hills, with many walks on all levels to suit a variety of walkers. There is car parking space at the foot of the waterfall for people who want to explore the waterfall, with a café and a B&B (A *bed and breakfast* is a small lodging establishment that offers overnight accommodation and breakfast, but usually does not offer other meals.) alongside.

2



Wrexham Steeple is a short distance by modern super highway from the English city of Chester to the Welsh market and industrial center of Wrexham, by far the largest town in North Wales. The steeple of the famous rhyme, which can be seen for many miles as the tallest building in the town, turns out to be not a steeple at all, but the 16th century tower of the Church of St. Giles. Wrexham’s town planners believe the church is at the historic heart of

the town although today it's very much on the edge. This, they believe, is revealed in the street patterns which show how the town grew out from the boundary of the churchyard.

Although referred to as a steeple in the Seven Wonders of Wales rhyme, it is actually a tower, the first of which collapsed in the 1300s. In fact it was rebuilt again in the early 1500s following a fire which largely destroyed the whole church.

3



Snowdon's Mountain is the highest mountain in Wales, at an altitude of 1,085 metres above sea level, and the highest point in the British Isles outside Scotland. It is located in Snowdonia National Park in Gwynedd, and has been described as “probably the busiest mountain in Britain”. It is designated as a

national nature reserve for its rare flora and fauna.

Snowdon boasts some of the best views in Britain, and the summit can be reached by a number of well-known paths. The summit can also be reached on the Snowdon Mountain Railway, a rack and pinion railway opened in 1896 which carries passengers the 4.7 miles (7.6 km) from Llanberis to the summit station.

The name *Snowdon* is from the Old English for “snow hill”.

4

Overton Yew Trees are twenty-one very ancient trees at St Mary's Church, Overton, that date to the 12th century, when the first stone church is said to have been erected. According to research by Clwyd Family History Society, the earliest reference to the church is found in Public Records from 1402, in which Overton was declared to be a chapelry of the parish of Bangor-on-Dee.



The yew trees themselves date back to medieval times. In 1992 the Queen planted a young yew tree in the churchyard, to commemorate her visit to Overton as part of 700th anniversary celebrations (the 700th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to Overton by Edward I in 1292).

The yew trees are traditionally one of the Seven Wonders of Wales and commemorated in an anonymously written rhyme:

*Pistyll Rhaeadr and Wrexham steeple,
Snowdon's mountain without its people,
Overton yew trees, St Winefride wells,
Llangollen bridge, and Gresford bells.*

5



St. Winifred's Well is a holy well located in Holywell, in Flintshire in Wales. It is the oldest continually visited pilgrimage site in Great Britain.

The well is believed to be connected to St Mary's well and chapel in Cefn Meiriadog, Denbighshire. In that it is one of the few locations mentioned by name in the anonymous medieval alliterative poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

The holy spring of St Winifred, an important center of medieval pilgrimage still venerated today, is said to have risen where St Beuno restored his niece St Winifred to life after her head had been severed by Cardoc, a rejected suitor. St Beuno is a well-attested 7th-century

figure, responsible for bringing Celtic monasticism to much of north Wales.

The shrine was first mentioned as a place of pilgrimage in 1115, and from 1240 to the dissolution it was part of the possessions of Basingwerk Abbey. Henry V made the pilgrimage in 1415 before his victory at Agincourt, as did Edward IV before Towton Moor in 1461. The

future Henry VII, too, is thought to have made a secret visit before winning his crown at Bosworth in 1485.

The present remarkable and architecturally unique building, set into a hillside, dates from the late 15th century. It was probably built for Margaret Beaufort, Henry VII's mother, to replace an earlier structure, and is richly ornamented on the exterior with a frieze of animals, and the badges of Henry VII and Thomas Stanley

(Margaret Beaufort's third husband); the quality of the workmanship suggests that royal masons may have been employed.

The building consists of two floors. The well-chamber is open on the downhill (northern) side, while there is level access from the south into the chapel above. A copious spring of clear water rises in a central basin in the shape of a truncated eight-pointed star, with steps in the front for access by the sick. The water flows away beneath the surrounding walkway into a more recent swimming

pool. The basin is enclosed by a low wall from which columns rise to form part of an elaborately ornamented vault of unusually complex design, matching the form of the pool below.

The chapel has a north aisle and an apsidal chancel. The three bays of the aisle mirror the three arcades of the vault in the well-chamber below, although stairs linking the two floors are now blocked.

6

Llangollen Bridge is believed to be the first stone bridge over the River Dee. The bridge was built in 1345 by Bishop of St Asaph John Trevor I, before being rebuilt during the Elizabethan period. It's said that the structure remains the same today.

The first major rebuilding of the structure took place during the period of Cromwell's Protectorate in 1656, with the cost of 250 pounds indicating a great deal of work was required.

Despite this, the bridge was still only a mere 8ft wide and by 1873 wasn't coping too well with the increase in traffic brought about by Llangollen's industrialisation. It was therefore decided to double its width, with all the necessary work undertaken on the up-river side of the structure, faithfully reproducing the original design.

Llangollen Bridge is an extremely important structure in terms of historical importance and practical use and is one of the town's true icons. It is also a superb viewing platform for the international canoeing events now returning to the town.



7

Gresford Bells are the bells of All Saints, the parish church of Gresford. The church's own website records that the earliest record of the six bells goes back to 1775 when the parish register noted that the two bells had been returned after being recast. The church itself is much older, having being mentioned in the Domesday Book, but it's not known whether it was on the present site at this time.

Not only are the peal of bells of note, listed it is said for the purity of their tone, but the church itself is remarkable for its size, beauty, interior church monuments, and its churchyard yew trees.



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Анжелика Паруйровна Александрова

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и самостоятельной работы студентов*