

ANGLESEY: A Bibliography
Gwynedd County Council: Library Service: 1979
ISBN 0 904853 13 X

INTRODUCTION to 1979 Edition

The collecting and preservation of local history material has long been accepted as an integral feature of the library service. Local history has always been a subject of considerable interest, not only to students and historians, but also to visitors and newcomers to the area. Compared with some other areas, published material on Anglesey is not extensive - a deficiency which the Anglesey Antiquarian Society sought to rectify by publishing historical monographs in the series 'Studies in Anglesey History' - a project which was given full support and financial assistance by the former Anglesey County Council. The last history of Anglesey - in general form - was published nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, but articles and books which have since been produced are of considerable value to the researcher. The aim of this bibliography is to indicate the existence of such material and to promote further study into the history of the island and it is hoped that the absence or scarcity of material on a particular aspect of Anglesey might induce or encourage a local historian to undertake research to make good such a deficiency.

SCOPE. This bibliography lists secondary sources published on Anglesey subjects which appeared in print before 31 December 1977. It does not include a bibliography of Anglesey authors, which could well be the subject of a separate work. Some analytical entries were made for articles which appeared in the Clorianydd and Herald Cymreig, but it became increasingly obvious that the mass of valuable information which appeared in local newspapers, and in such dailies as the Liverpool Daily Post, demanded separate treatment and that it would be a tremendous boon to local history research if detailed indexes to these fertile sources could be produced.

The inclusion of apparent ephemera may be criticized - perhaps with some justification; it is not however a bibliographer's task to assess or evaluate - his role is merely to record as far as is possible (and there are bound to be omissions) all available material on a subject, ephemeral or otherwise. The existence of an annual report for a society or institution for a particular year perhaps implies the existence of printed reports for other years, but since only those reports I have actually examined could be included, many gaps will be noted for entries for these publications. Printed annual reports exist for most Anglesey chapels, but so many gaps appeared in the collections available for inspection that it was decided to omit them from this work.

LOCATION. Unless otherwise stated, all the printed material listed is available either at the UCNW Library, Bangor, the Anglesey Central Library at Llangefni or at the National Library of Wales - in most cases, they are available in all three repositories.

INDEXES. Indexes to subjects, places and authors have been included merely to expedite the retrieval of information quickly and the entries have no bibliographical relevance whatsoever. No effort has been made to distinguish between authors of the same name - to have done so would have involved considerable research and would have prolonged the completion of the work for little purpose. An index to persons written about has not been included as the majority of these are listed in Part three.

PART ONE. The first part is devoted to Anglesey subjects in general. Some cross-classification of subjects was difficult to avoid and in a few instances it was found necessary to duplicate entries in order to obtain adequate coverage. Cross-references have rarely been made for related subjects as these have been brought together in the subject index.

PART TWO. Subjects confined to particular parishes are entered in Part 2. Parish boundaries were sometimes altered and in order to provide some degree of uniformity, parish boundaries as delineated in the map provided with the Royal Commission Inventory on Anglesey (1937, reprinted 1960) have been adopted for this work. The map used by the Commission was printed at the turn of the century, and excludes, for example, Carreglefn which was constituted in 1907 and which was until then part of Llanbadrig parish. The map also shows several parishes which were later abolished, such as Llanbedrgoch and Llangwyfan.

It was considered expedient to list at the heading of each parish, the existence of certain primary sources available to searchers. These are chiefly geneological aids found in parish registers and land tax assessments which are available for consultation at the Anglesey Area Records Office unless otherwise stated. Current parish records (some of which date back to the turn of this century) are of course still in the hands of the church authorities. It was also considered pertinent to make analytical entries for articles in five or six nineteenth century topographical works as searchers often tend to overlook the important contemporary information found in them. The spelling of place-names throughout this compilation would appear to be inconsistent, but every effort has been made to transcribe accurately the spelling found in each individual book or article. In main headings, the spelling of place-names as found in the Anglesey Atlas has been adopted with some exceptions.

PART THREE. The third part consists of material available on Anglesey people. It was difficult to determine the selection of biographees, but in general, persons born in Anglesey and those who had lived in the island for over twenty years and had made some contribution to the cultural and spiritual life of the community, were selected. There may be many more who should have been included but are not listed due to my ignorance of their existence or my unawareness of their Anglesey connections.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Obviously I am extremely grateful to Gwynedd County Council, and in particular to Mr. Geoffrey Thomas, B.A., F.L.A., the County Librarian not only for giving me the opportunity to realise an ambition I was unable to achieve during my service as County Librarian and Archivist of Anglesey*but also for his constant encouragement and advice. The ever-increasing involvement of library and archive services in the cultural life of the community and in particular, their efforts to foster and develop interest in local history, are highly commendable and are proving to be valuable contributions to local history research and scholarship.

I am also grateful to Mr. John Clifford Jones, A.L.A., Assistant County Librarian for Anglesey, for his interest in the project, and to Mr. Dafydd Williams, A.L.A., Development and Training Librarian of Gwynedd for his practical assistance in dealing with the technical aspects of producing this work. My thanks also to Mr. Bryn Parry, M.A., D.A.A., Gwynedd County Archivist for arranging for the inclusion of primary source material from the County Records; to Mr. Gwilym Trefor Jones, B.A., of the UCNW Education Department, for classifying the entries on geology; Dr. Ward of the Nature Conservancy for checking the entries on natural history, and to Mr. Gareth O. Watts, B.A., of the National Library of Wales for many helpful suggestions in the original draft. Finally, my sincere thanks to Mrs. Gaynor Williams, of Caernarvon, for typing the final draft so assiduously and with meticulous attention to detail. Needless to add perhaps, that I am entirely responsible for any omissions, errors, inaccuracies, anomalies and academic short-comings that, undoubtedly, will have crept into this work.

Dewi O. Jones

22 Lon Ganol
Menai Bridge
19 June 1979