

PREFACE

Four years ago it was my privilege to write a Preface to *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1951-70*. Here is the English version. It could be said that the Cymmrodorion Society's greatest gift to Welsh scholarship has been the creation of a Welsh dictionary of biography on the pattern of the English monumental *Dictionary of National Biography*. After the memorable effort, largely under the inspiration of Sir John Cecil-Williams, of producing the first volume, down to 1941, and having seen its enthusiastic welcome, it was incumbent upon the Society to carry on with this great venture, first in Welsh and then in English. By now these volumes are an essential part of the very stuff of Welsh history, and the Cymmrodorion is firmly committed to their continuance.

Contributions, mainly a labour of love, have come from scores of scholars to whom we are deeply indebted, but we pay a special tribute for the skilled and dedicated work of the editors. Dr E.D.Jones of the National Library of Wales had completed most of the work on the Welsh version before he died in 1987, and he was ably assisted in this by Dr Auronwy James. The editorial work continued under the scholarly direction of the then National Librarian, Dr Brynley Roberts, and this volume is largely the fruits of his labours. The Society can only record its gratitude for his completing this arduous task, and for the fact that he is already engaged on the subsequent volume. Throughout this venture the National Library has given us an inestimable service.

We are also indebted to Mr Gwyn Davies for seeing the work through its printing and publishing, and to all those who assisted in translating and proof-reading. On behalf of the Society of Cymmrodorion I am proud to present another memorable chapter in the history of Wales.

EMRYS JONES
President

*The Dictionary of Welsh Biography, 1941-1970, is essentially an English version of the corresponding Welsh dictionaries. Most of the articles have been translated from the Welsh but others were written in English in the first instance. The amendments found in the appendices to *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig, 1941-1950* and *1951-1970* are included here, usually in the Supplement except where it has proved possible to incorporate them in the relevant article. The few articles in *Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig* from 1940 which were omitted from *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography* down to 1980 are now included in the Supplement as are some further amendments and updates which were noted after the publication of the Welsh versions.*