

HUMPHREYS, EDWARD MORGAN (1882 - 1955), journalist, writer and broadcaster

Name: Edward Morgan Humphreys
Date of birth: 1882
Date of death: 1955
Spouse: Annie Humphreys (née Evans)
Parent: Elizabeth Humphreys
Parent: John Humphreys
Gender: Male
Occupation: journalist, writer and broadcaster
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Performing Arts; Printing and Publishing
Author: Gwilym Arthur Jones

Born 14 May 1882 in Dyffryn Ardudwy, Merionethshire, eldest son of John and Elizabeth Humphreys. His brothers were Humphrey Llewelyn and John Gwilym. His mother was the niece of [Edward Morgan](#), Dyffryn, preacher and writer, and a cousin of [R.H. Morgan](#), Menai Bridge, pioneer of short-hand in Welsh. His great-grandfather was [Richard Humphreys](#), a preacher noted for his wit, a teetotaler and a pioneer in education. E.M. H. was educated at Barmouth and Porthmadog county schools. He began his career as a solicitor at Porthmadog but abandoned it because of his poor health and returned home to Maeldref, Dyffryn Ardudwy, where his father farmed. The family moved to Liverpool where he began to write and take an interest in journalism. He became a correspondent for the *Barmouth Advertiser* in 1904. After a short period on the staff of a Runcorn newspaper he had the experience of following the revival meetings of [Evan Roberts](#) as correspondent for the *Liverpool Courier*. His impressions also appeared in *Y Genedl Gymreig*. He became friendly with the evangelist but was not moved in the heat of the revival. He was also correspondent for the *North Wales Observer* under the editorship of [William Eames](#). When [Eames](#) joined the sub-editorial staff of the *Manchester Guardian* E.M. H. accepted an invitation to be editor of *Y Genedl Gymreig* and the English newspaper at the Caernarfon office, and in this period he became friendly with [T. Gwynn Jones](#) who worked at the time in the same office. He wrote English verse (including sonnets) and an occasional Welsh poem. In January 1908 he was elected president of the Caernarfon Fabian Society. He was editor of *Cymru* for a short period and of *Y Goleuad* on two occasions. In 1918 he returned to *Y Genedl*, maintaining his connection with the paper until 1930 when he resigned to be a freelance writer. From 1919 he regularly contributed articles to the *Liverpool Daily Post* under the pen name 'Celt' and in 1927 he became special correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian*, contributing an uninterrupted series of reports from the national eisteddfod and other matters relating to Wales. He was a keen eisteddfod supporter and never missed the national event between 1919 and 1953. His eloquence and sonorous voice soon won him a place as a broadcaster. Despite his frail health he was a diligent and methodical worker and contributed a number of articles to the *DWB*. It was he who discovered the story-telling gift of [W.J. Griffith](#), Henllys Fawr. He served the Caernarfonshire Agricultural Committee as assistant executive officer, 1939-49, and continued to write and lecture in his spare time. He was a tutor with the Workers' Educational Association. He received an hon. M.A. (Wales) in 1927, and O.B.E. in 1953. He was a vice-president of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, a member of the Welsh panel of the British Council and the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art. He was not prominent in the Presbyterian Church of Wales but he attached great importance to the dignity of the pulpit and he disliked untidiness. He was a member of Engedi church, Caernarfon, and was a well-known figure in the town because of his dignified appearance. He was diverting company and read widely. He married Annie Evans, daughter of E.J. Evans, former minister of Walton Park Welsh Presbyterian church, Liverpool, but they had no children. He won the friendship of some of the leaders of the nation and [D. Lloyd George](#) thought highly of his opinion. [R.T. Jenkins](#) 'enjoyed a quarter century of pure friendship' with him.

He was one of the pioneers of the detective novel in Welsh and had the gift of composing acute biographical articles. He published *Dirgelwch yr anialwch* (1911); *Rhwng rhyfeloedd* (n.d.); *Yr etifedd coll* (n.d.); *Y llaw gudd* (1924); *Cymru a'r wasg* (1924); *Dirgelwch Gallt y Ffrwd* (1938); *Detholiad o lythyrau'r hen ffarmwr* (1939); *D. Lloyd George* (1943); *Ceulan y llyn du* (1944); *Y wasg yng Nghymru* (1945); *Gw r enwog gynt*, (1950), 2 (1953); *Profiadau golygydd* (1950); and *Gorse glen* (transactions of [Hugh Evans](#) ' *Cwm Eithin*; 1948). He was an independent person and his life was a constant struggle against ill health. He wrote swiftly and concisely in Welsh and English. As John Eilian commented, 'having a sincere warm love towards the old country which his senses could comprehend - the excitement of Snowdonia, the peace of Merioneth and the sound of the western sea ', that was patriotism to him. He died 11 June 1955 at Caernarfon. [D. Tecwyn Evans](#) another of his friends, officiated at his funeral. His remains were buried in the town cemetery.

Author

Gwilym Arthur Jones, (1925 - 1998)

Sources

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Baner ac Amserau Cymru, 15 June 1955

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Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol, 10, 1931

The Times, *Manchester Guardian*, *The Liverpool Daily Post*

E. Morgan Humphreys Manuscripts at the University College of North Wales at the University College, Bangor, nos. 15747-65

information from R. Maldwyn Thomas

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Edward Morgan Humphreys](#)

Additional Links

NLW Archives: [Edward Morgan Humphreys Papers](#)

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