

JONES, THOMAS OWEN ('Gwynfor ', 1875 - 1941), librarian, dramatist, actor and producer

Name: Thomas Owen Jones
Pseudonym: Gwynfor
Date of birth: 1875
Date of death: 1941
Parent: Ellen Jones
Parent: William Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: librarian, dramatist, actor and producer
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Performing Arts
Author: Thomas Elwyn Griffiths

Born 19 January 1875 in Pwllheli, Caernarfonshire, son of William and Ellen Jones, New Street. He was educated at the town council school and then apprenticed in a local grocery shop. Between 1916 and 1917 he kept his own business at Caernarfon before being appointed county librarian on a salary of £130 per annum. This was the first county library established in Wales and was located in two rooms at Plas Llanwnda, Castle Street, Caernarfon. It appears that the appointment was a temporary one at first but Gwynfor visited the headquarters of the Carnegie Trust in Dunfermline for a while to equip himself for the new post, in a period when scant attention was paid to librarianship as a profession. Gwynfor excelled in the field of drama and he became famous throughout Wales as an actor and producer with his drama company, Y Ddraig Goch. He published a number of his own plays, *Y briodas ddirgel* (1915), *Trem yn ôl* (1920, 2 ed.), *Perthnasau* (1922), *Y llo aur a lloi eraill* (1925), *Eiddo pwy?* (1935), *Troi'r byrddau* (1935), *Tywydd mawr* (1939), and a book of short stories, *Straeon* (1931). He was good company with a stock of stories and traditions about Y Maes (Castle Square) in Caernarfon. He was a keen follower of eisteddfodau and he was a drama adjudicator at the national eisteddfod many times. His office at the library became a popular meeting place for leading literary figures in the area, like [E. Morgan Humphreys](#), [Meuryn](#) (R.J. Rowlands) and [Cynan](#) (Sir Cynan (Albert) Evans-Jones). He was one of the first to broadcast in Welsh from Manchester in the 1930s. He died 22 August 1941 and was buried in Llanbeblig cemetery, Caernarfon : his epitaph reads ' Actor da, Cymro da, Cristion da ' (A good actor, Welshman and Christian).

Author

Thomas Elwyn Griffiths

Sources

'Caernarfonshire and its libraries; development of the first County Library in Wales', *Caernarvonshire Historical Society Transactions*, 1972

O. Llew Owain, *Hanes y ddrama yng Nghymru, 1850-1943* (Liverpool 1948)(1948)

local newspapers

[E. Wyn James in *Ysgrifau Beirniadol*, 23 (1997), 208-40]

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20734512](#)

Published date: 2001

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

