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## OBITUARIES

### **PROFESSOR EMERITUS D SIMON EVANS, MA, BD, BLitt, DLitt** 29 May 1921 - 4 March 1998

In the death of Professor D Simon Evans, Carmarthenshire has lost a very distinguished son, and Wales one of its most outstanding scholars. I mention his connection with Carmarthenshire first because, like many of us, the place of his birth and childhood had a decisive influence on his character and career. He was born in the little village of Llanfynydd, some nine miles from Llandeilo and five from Dryslwyn. It was there he first went to school - *yr ysgol ddyddiol*, the day-school, as we used to call it - and to Sunday School in the Calvinistic Chapel where he and his brother (now Professor Emeritus) D Ellis Evans and their parents spent a considerable amount of their time, participating in a culture superficially different from mine in a coal-mining village not very far away, yet fundamentally the same, thoroughly Welsh and thoroughly Nonconformist. It was there at a very early age he felt the call to become a minister of the gospel. From the primary school at Llanfynydd he went to the grammar school at Llandeilo, becoming 'head boy' before he left to enter the University of Wales, Swansea, where he won the Mary Towyn Jones Scholarship, and where he graduated in Greek and Latin in 1942 and with first class honours in Welsh in 1943. He remained at Swansea as a research student on a University of Wales studentship for a year, but then proceeded to the United Theological College of his denomination at Aberystwyth where he graduated as Bachelor of Divinity in 1947 after a three-year course.

From Aberystwyth he went to Jesus College, Oxford, for the session 1947-8, but by October 1948 he was back at the University College of Wales, Swansea, as assistant lecturer in the Welsh department (and for a few years as honorary lecturer in Hebrew). Evidently the Professor of Welsh, Henry Lewis, had been impressed by his former student's exceptional ability and was anxious to give him the opportunity to share in his own enthusiasm for research into the grammar and syntax of the Welsh language. From Swansea, Simon Evans went as Professor of Welsh to University College, Dublin

(1952-62), then as lecturer in Welsh to St David's College, Lampeter (1962-6), and afterwards as head of Celtic Studies in the University of Liverpool. From 1974-88 he was Professor of Welsh at St David's, Lampeter, by then St David's University College of Wales, Lampeter. He did not sever his connection with the college on his retirement but continued to act as director of the Research Centre which he had helped establish.

For four years before he retired Simon Evans had been Deputy-Principal and his wisdom and efficiency in that office were generously acknowledged by Principal (now Lord) Brian Morris in the *Festschrift* in his honour which appeared in two volumes in 1990.

The *Festschrift* also contains a bibliography of his many contributions to Welsh scholarship. All his work was characterised by scrupulous conscientiousness, great attention to detail and wide-encompassing thoroughness. His Welsh and English grammars of Middle Welsh have become classics, and his *Historia Gruffud vab Kenan*, one of the primary texts submitted for his D.Litt degree, is typical in that although the text is just over thirty pages, the introduction runs to over 300 and the notes and indexes to more than another 100 pages.

But it must not be thought that his interests were merely linguistic. In the fields of the history of religion in Wales, his Welsh and English editions of the Welsh life of St David, his edition of Doble's *Lives of the Welsh Saints*, and his *Medieval Religious Literature* are important. He published more than one article on the Carmarthenshire hymn-writer Morgan Rhys, and it is significant that his last volume was a history of the Presbyterian Chapel in Llanfynydd to which he was always ready to acknowledge a profound debt. It was a matter of great satisfaction to him that he was helped to produce that volume by his son, Dr Dafydd H Evans, who has already proved himself a scholar worthy of his father.

J E Caerwyn Williams  
Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies,  
Aberystwyth

**THE REVD PROFESSOR ROBERT TUDUR JONES, DPhil, DD, DLitt  
(1921-1998)**

Ever since the eighteenth century, Welsh Nonconformity has been well served by its historians: Joshua Thomas, Thomas Rees and Dr Thomas Richards to mention but three, but of them none surpassed R Tudur Jones in the scope,