



A MATTER OF  
GREAT INTEREST TO  
WELSH-AMERICANS

AMGUEDDFA GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES

## A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST

**T**HERE are great numbers of Welsh men and women in America. Some families have been settled in the United States for many generations—others left the Principality during more recent times. All, however, are justly proud of their Welsh descent, and in every Welsh-American heart there is a yearning for “the land of my fathers.”

The mountains of Snowdonia, the rugged heights of Brecknockshire, the rounded hills of Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire, the fertile lowlands of Anglesey, Pembrokeshire, and south Glamorgan, the wooded hillsides of Radnorshire, the salmon rivers and trout streams in almost every county, are unchanging.

But the life of man in those parts of Wales subject to industrial developments and in the seaside resorts has changed out of all recognition in recent years. Even in the small townships, the remoter village communities, and the farmsteads and cottages, the march of change is making itself felt to an increasing degree ; on the one hand we have the welcome spread of higher education in the rural districts, on the other increasing imports of mass-produced implements and utensils, of cheap building materials and house

fitments : these and other obvious factors are slowly but surely modifying the old order of things, and the Wales our forebears knew, and many of us remember, is passing.

How urgent and important it is, therefore, that a picture of life and work in old Wales should be preserved for all time. To create such a visible record is the duty of THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, and it is there that future generations will be able to study the past of the Welsh people, and the evolution of their culture.

The work of the Museum extends beyond this. It collects material bearing on the life of man in Wales before records were written ; and on the history of the Celtic-speaking peoples, from the time of their arrival in Wales—probably about 500 B.C.—down to the end of the Middle Ages.

The collections also illustrate art in Wales. In the Entrance Hall is a wonderful series of the carved stone crosses of the country, and in one wing of the building are displayed works by Welsh artists and portraits of Welsh people, together with water-colour drawings and engravings recording the scenery of the Principality. The collection of Swansea and Nantgarw porcelain is world-famous.

All this deals with man in Wales, but the Museum's functions are much wider, and in the Science Departments are exhibited and stored large collections of rocks, fossils, and minerals ; plants, mammals, birds, insects, etc., from all parts of the Principality.

The illustrations in this appeal are chosen to indicate the range and interest of the Museum collections thus briefly described.

The Museum's duty is to "teach the world about Wales, and the Welsh people about their own fatherland," and even at this early stage of its existence it is succeeding in a marked degree in performing this function.

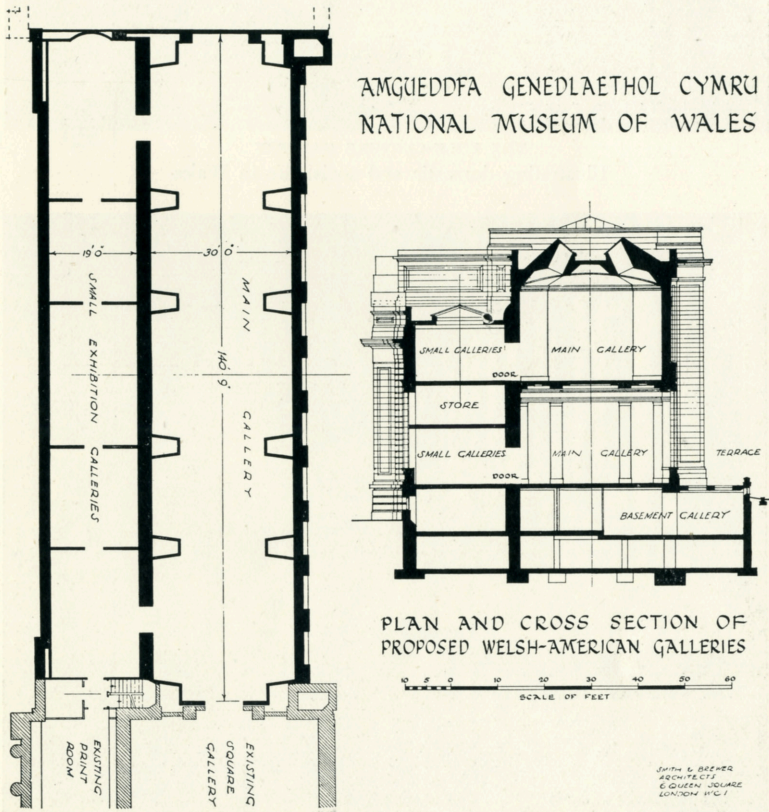
America understands Museum technique ; in many ways she is leading the world in Museum matters—Welsh-Americans will be glad to know that the National Museum of Wales was reported by an investigator commissioned by the Carnegie Trustees to be one of the two most progressive museums in the British Empire (*The Times*, September 25, 1933).

King George V (accompanied by Queen Mary) laid the foundation stone of the Museum in 1912, and they also opened the building to the public in 1926. Six years later the Duke of Kent opened the East Wing extensions. Additional galleries are urgently required to exhibit collections and specimens already in possession. The Court of Governors of the Museum would whole-heartedly welcome a "Welsh-American" range of galleries—for all time this section of the building would be known as the Welsh-American Section ; and in different ways the names of all contributors would be perpetuated and recorded (see p. 15).

IT'S A GREAT SCHEME—IT'S A SPLENDID SCHEME. The people of the old country have done a great deal : they have raised, State aid apart,

\$800,000, and at the moment can do no more. The American Committee therefore asks Welsh-Americans to take advantage of this opportunity of testifying to their pride and interest in the country from which they sprang.

No single institution can do more, if adequately supported, to preserve the national culture, to extend knowledge of the natural history of the Principality, and to create interest in the national art, than THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES.



PLAN AND SECTION OF PROPOSED NEW GALLERIES (see p. 13)