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EDITORIAL

The North American Journal of Welsh Studies was first published in 2001. It represents the continuing interest in North America in the origins of its immigrants, and also provides a valuable and important transatlantic link to scholars working on Welsh studies in Wales and Britain more generally.

The journal took a short break between 2006 and 2010 despite the continued activity of its founding body, the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History. NAASWCH holds biennial conferences, with the first in 1995. Since the last edition of the journal, conferences have been held in Swansea in 2006, in Toronto in 2008, and in Arlington, Virginia in 2010. These are exciting and vibrant events – multi-disciplinary and international – as well as being incredibly sociable as well.

It is, therefore, with much pleasure that I accepted the editorship of the journal with the remit to bring it back to life. In the past, the journal contained articles first presented at NAASWCH events but we have opened our pages to all and now welcome submissions from scholars in any field of Welsh Studies.

We also wish to act as a supportive forum for postgraduates to publish as well, encouraging research students to offer book reviews and essays. As an on-line journal we can be flexible as to word length – indeed we consider that varied lengths of contribution are likely to enliven reading. Equally, we are happy to publish calls for conference papers as well as reports of events, publications and exhibition relating to Welsh studies.

This new edition seeks to represent the diversity of Welsh studies, though it is a little weighted towards my own field of Welsh history. Two of the essays were presented at the NAASWCH conference at Marymount University in Arlington, but two were not. For this first edition, contributors from the United Kingdom are over-represented, but we hope in future that the journal will be more equally balanced.

Kate Gramich explores, from a literary perspective, the way in which Welsh history was made into a national narrative. Martin Johnes considers methodological questions in writing contemporary Welsh history. Ron Lewis examines the experiences, cultures and identities of miners of Welsh origin in the United States. Finally, Jodie Matthews analyses George Borrow's writings on his visit to Wales in the mid-nineteenth century. We are delighted that the articles in this first new edition cover such a considerable range of Welsh studies.

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