

of Swansea University (who also co-edited volume 4), and Andy Croll of the recently re-christened University of South Wales, based at the Treforest campus. For the daunting task they have assembled an impressive team of nineteen scholars, most of these acknowledged experts in their fields. All the chapters show evidence of wide reading and extensive research, and all are lucidly and compellingly written, which are certain to command the respect of a wide range of disparate readers.

The coverage, too, is admirably wide-ranging and complete, paying due attention to almost all aspects of the county's history – the two world wars; industrial, commercial and rural changes; evolving patterns of local government; linguistic, social and communal patterns; religious, cultural and educational evolution; literature; and political developments. Most, but not all, of the authors, also succeed very commendably in tracing their themes right through to the end of the twentieth century. Little attention is, however, devoted to domestic and urban architecture, the county's musical culture, and local painters and artists. The important theme of trades union activity, too, has to be teased out from various chapters, while the significant topic of public health and hospital provision is rather neglected.

It is gratifying that that the two world wars are given individual chapters, both by the same author – Peter Strong, formerly of the Caldicot Comprehensive School. Not only military, but social, communal and political developments are fully discussed here. Over 5,000 servicemen from Monmouthshire lost their lives in the first conflict, and even more in the second.

In a fully documented study by master craftsman Trevor Boyns, the contraction of the county's coal industry is carefully examined, as are technological changes and their social implications, especially in the aftermath of the industry's nationalization in 1947. Local colliery closures followed in rapid succession (see the table on pp. 50-1), a pattern which led to a drop in the population of the industrial towns and villages. There follows an overview, arranged chronologically, of the major companies of the iron and steel and aluminium industries which were operative in the county. Ben Curtis, author of a recent monograph on the south Wales coal industry, adds to his growing reputation by dissecting the complex theme of manufacturing industry, a substantial employer in parts of Gwent, much of it owned by overseas companies by the 1970s. Concomitant changes in road, rail and sea transport are covered and the occupational distribution of male and female workers, are meticulously dissected. Rural themes – arable farming and horticultural culture, 'co-operative' farming, rural manufacturing industries, agricultural workers' organization and governmental intervention – occupy the attention

greater autonomy for Wales, and support for the Welsh language of which Margaret knew not a word.

Still, she was a courageous and principled pioneer of feminism. She faced down blinkered male prejudice in business, politics and the press; she was also a genuine internationalist who worked closely with women overseas like the American Alice Paul. She exposed gender discrimination everywhere, and shared in major victories such as the vote being extended to all adult women in 1928. One ultimate male sanctum has been penetrated. Today's House of Lords not only contains nearly 200 women, and a female Lord Speaker. It actually contains Margaret herself, since her portrait now hangs in the peers' dining room. 'Lady Roundabout' presides over a living legislature, while the prejudices of Lord Birkenhead fester in the dustbin of history.

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GARETH JONES: EYEWITNESS TO THE HOLODOMOR, by Ray Gamache. Cardiff. Welsh Academic Press, 2013. 241 pp. Illustrated. Hbk. £48.00.

This highly impressive volume is the first monograph to be published by Ray Gamache, Assistant Professor of Journalism in the Department of Mass Communications at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Its compelling, absorbing theme is the efforts of investigative journalist and intrepid traveller, Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones (1905-35), to publicize the circumstances and horrendous results of the man-made famine known as the Holodomor on the USSR and the Ukraine in the early 1930s.

Gareth Jones was a proud native of Barry, one of the three children of Major Edgar and Annie Gwen Jones, his father the headmaster of the distinguished Barry Boys' County School from 1899 until 1934. Jones enjoyed an extraordinarily brilliant scholastic career as a linguist at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, before stubbornly asserting his avid determination to shun academic life and forge a career as a widely travelled journalist. His exuberant ambition propelled him into service as a researcher for David Lloyd George between 1929-31 and then as an adviser in foreign affairs to New York based Ivy Lee and Associates. He was able to make several trips to the USSR and also published seminal, widely-read articles in *The Times*, the *Manchester Guardian* and several top-rate journals.

