

# The Meriwether Lewis Memorial Eisteddfod Foundation

The Meriwether Lewis Memorial Eisteddfod Foundation (MLMEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, founded in 2009 to celebrate and publicize Welsh-American heritage, history, art and culture.

**The MLMEF fulfills its mission by supporting the arts and operating AmeriCymru.net, an online social network with more than 4,000 members worldwide.**

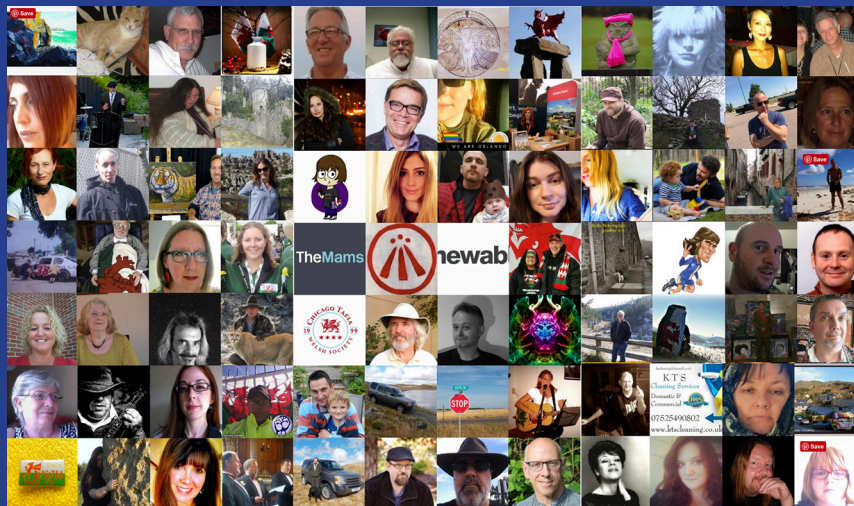


# AmeriCymru



The name AmeriCymru is a combination of *America* and *Cymru*, the Welsh word for Wales.

Membership is open to anyone of Welsh birth or ancestry, or with an interest in Wales.



Most AmeriCymru members are in the United States and Wales but we are proud and honored to have members all over the world: in Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, India, Japan, Mongolia and most European countries.

Through AmeriCymru, we connect people with each other, with Welsh societies near them and with educational and cultural resources they might not otherwise have known existed.

# AmeriCymraeg

The MLMEF supports learning the Welsh language by offering and promoting resource links on AmeriCymru and by sponsoring AmeriCymraeg, an online Welsh language course taught by native speaker John Good, a Welsh language teacher and specialist in Welsh folk music living in Arizona. Classes are available at three levels: beginning, intermediate and advanced, through video conferencing and written lesson plans.

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## MLMEF supports the arts

and emerging artists through online competitions on AmeriCymru. We currently have yearly competitions in short fiction and poetry with prizes for first and second place winners in each category. Every entrant has an opportunity to have their work and their bio published on the site and broadly publicized.

Short fiction winners may have their works published in an addition of *eto*, a short fiction anthology whose publication is a joint effort by the MLMEF and StoryForge Press of Portland, Oregon.

Poetry winners may have their work published in *The Seventh Quarry* magazine, published by Welsh poet Peter Thabit Jones.

# The West Coast Eisteddfod

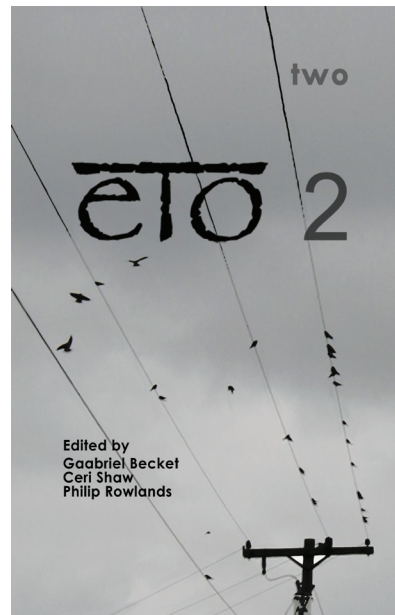
From 2009 to 2013, MLMEF presented the West Coast Eisteddfod, a Welsh performing arts festival, bringing Welsh and Welsh-American writers, poets, artists and musicians to audiences in the Pacific Northwest and Los Angeles, as well as cultural presentations on Welsh literature, film, language, Welsh-American immigration.

We were honored to have the participation of Dr. Jack Bevil, recently deceased, the American authority on the Welsh crwth at our 2011 event in Los Angeles and the participation of Welsh authors Niall Griffiths and Chris Keil, Welsh poet Mike Jenkins, musicians John Good, vocalist Paul Child and Welsh-American painter Jen Delyth at other events. We hope to bring this event back in the future.





MLMEF partners with StoryForge Studios of Portland, Oregon and writer and teacher Philip Rowlands of Wales to publish *eto*, an anthology of short fiction and poetry by new and emerging Welsh and Welsh-American authors.



*eto* was fortunate to have also had the gracious inclusion of stories by established authors Lloyd Jones (Mr Vogel, Water, Y Daith, My First Coloring Book) and Cynan Jones (The Long Dry), both of whom were participants in the very excellent New Stories From the Mabinogion series, from Welsh publisher Y Llofa.

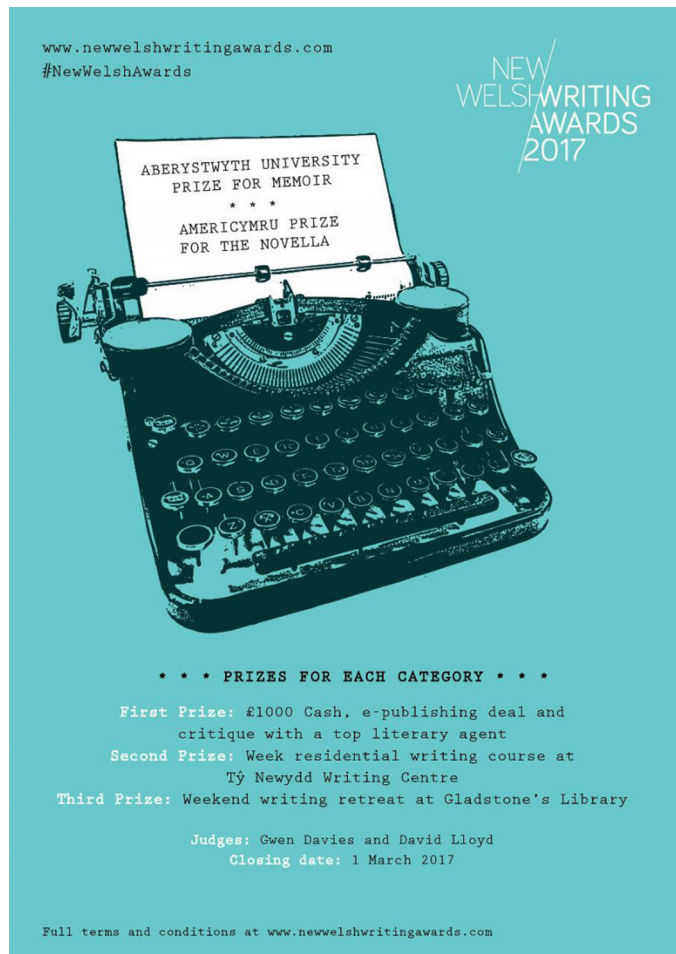
By happy accident, Volume II turned out to be “the Rhondda edition,” as it contained almost entirely work by new authors from the Rhondda Valley.



In 2017, the MLMEF will continue to build and grow AmeriCymru and will hold its ninth annual short fiction and poetry competitions. AmeriCymru is developing its Welsh-American bookstore, which include exclusively Welsh authors.

StoryForge Press will publish eto Volume III in 2017. This collection will feature short fiction and poetry almost entirely by female writers in Wales and the Americas.

MLMEF has committed to supporting the 2017 *New Welsh Review's* New Welsh Writing Awards by sponsoring the AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella.



David Lloyd, AmerCymru member, author and director of the Creative Writing Program at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, will be a co-judge of this category.

The prize will be awarded at the 2017 Hay Book Festival in Hay-on-Wye, Wales and, for the first time, this category is open to writers in America and Canada.  
<http://www.newwelshwritingawards.com/>

In the near future, we hope to:

develop and begin a weekly podcast which would include stories of Welsh and Welsh-American history, interviews, music, literature and more;

develop a school curriculum for St David's Day and offer free packets for teachers and homeschoolers to download from AmeriCymru that include lesson plans and activities by grade level;

research and produce a series of books and multimedia resources on Welsh history, Welsh immigration to the western hemisphere and biographies of notable men and women in history of Welsh birth or ancestry; and

add a genealogy feature to AmeriCymru to allow people to explore their personal connections to Wales and to each other.

We hope you will join us and see what the MLMEF and AmeriCymru have to offer.  
Your participation is very welcome.