



SEE PAGES 2 & 3

Rhagfyr i Ionawr  
1998

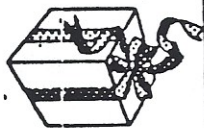
December to January  
1998

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver



Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg

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Radolig L Lawen



a

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

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A Merry Christmas



and

A Happy New Year

i/to

Cin Darllentwyr / Our Readers



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## A Captain Remembers

This morning I would like to share with you one of my experiences during nearly 30 years of seafaring.

In November 1952, my ship was in the port of Otaru on the northern island of Hokkaido, Japan. My officers were British, the deck and engine crew from Bombay and the stewards from Goa - a Portugese enclave on the west coast of India, now part of India. All the stewards were Roman Catholics, and the deck and engine crews were Muslim and worshipped Allah, the most devout praying 5 times a day, facing Mecca.

On November 19th, an engine crew member had a fatal heart attack . Formalities had to be undertaken to prove to the local authorities that the man had not died of a communicable disease. When this was accomplished we obtained *pratique* , which is a licence for the ship to hold intercourse with the port, and get permission to enter the port to discharge its cargo, after satisfying the authorities that it is safe to do so from the health standpoint.

In Otaru, Buddhism is practised and only cremation is allowed due to lack of space for the burial of coffins. The Muslim crew flatly refused to allow their dead shipmate to be cremated - this indeed was a major problem and called for all the diplomacy one could muster. After 2 days of negotiating - myself as a Christian, Chief Steward as a Roman Catholic , the Ship's Agent and Head Monk of the Monastery Buddhist - it was agreed that a burial would be allowed in the cemetery half way up the mountain near the monastery behind the town, but no Buddhist ceremony would be held..

Wood was supplied by the ship's agent and the ship's carpenter made a coffin. In order to bury the coffin we had to have a grave dug. The Monks refused to do so and I had to persuade the Ship's Crew who were then supplied with pick-axes and shovels to dig through the hard rock on the mountain side. The weather was cold with intermittent snow and the Indian crew were not used to such cold weather and I envisaged my crew catching pneumonia.

I consulted the Bosun, who had sailed with me for over 7 years, regarding the formality of a Muslim burial ; he informed me that the body had to be buried head towards Mecca. I then instructed the Third Officer to take one of the small compasses from one of the lifeboats up to the cemetery so that the grave could be dug in the right direction.. All this was explained to the Head Monk, and fortunately, my Japanese was sufficient then to hold a conversation, which was appreciated. A makeshift hearse was found on the 24th of November to carry the coffin from the ship to the foot of the mountain, and then it had to be carried up to the cemetery site by the ship's crew.





















3:00 p.m. Sun. 13th  
 @ Granville Island  
 Vancouver Orpheus  
 Male Voice Choir  
 Free performances

**December 1998**  
**Mis Rhagfyr 1998**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 11 a.m. Church and to back 2:00 p.m. Children's Xmas Party	14	15	16 W.A. (noon)	17 Orpheus Male Choir Musical Fort Langley info: 513-4777	18 Dylan Thomas Circle Cambrian Circle S. Van Deus Gdns. 8.00—9.00p.m.	19 Welsh Men's Choir @ McCallum Rd Abbotsford Red Dragon Closed till Jan 2nd
20	21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Boxing Day Closed
27	28	29	30	31	Blyddysm Newydd Dda!	

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society  
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**January 1999**  
**Mis Ionawr 1999**

3	4	5 7:30 p.m. Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsal	6 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	7 Welsh Folk Dancing Thursdays	8 Cambrian Circle Singers rehearsal	9 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
10 Church 11 am Service	11	12	13 7:30 p.m. General Mtg	14	15 Cambrian Circle Singers rehearsal	16 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.