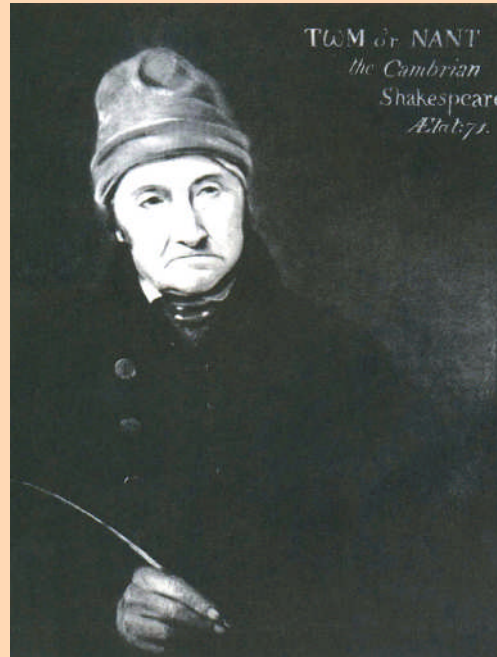


LETTER TO EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS



Bard – Thomas Edwards, aka Twm O'r Nant

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Historical Plays

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Bard

'the life and times of poet/dramatist Thomas Edwards, aka 'Twm O'r Nant,' covers the latter part of the 18th century. It echoes the passionate beliefs of the American and French revolutionaries. Jones's play,

Iolo

Named after the radical Welsh reformer and scholar, Edward Williams, of the same period, also considers the new democratic spirit of the age.

The Hanging of Richard Parker

The tragic story of rebel seaman Richard Parker, in *The Hanging of Richard Parker*, reflects the savagery of the reactionaries of the day. But, in death, Parker became a glorious martyr for succeeding generation of 'underdogs.' With the works of Tom Paine still of widespread influence, it is amazing how close Britain was to becoming a republic again.

End of Kings

The first republic was called 'The Commonwealth' and its first 'president' was Oliver Cromwell. In *The End of Kings*, (full length) the progress of this revolution from 'King' to 'Lord Protector,' is vividly recalled. It also outlines the life of John Bunyan, Parliamentarian dissenter and writer, another great English martyr for freedom.

Pilgrim's Progress

Bunyan's classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, has also been adapted by Jones as a musical, *Celestial Rock*, with lyrics fully written up – so sing with *Celestial Rock* in all its glory!

The Paradise Man

Included in this republican perspective is another great radical, John Milton, in *The Paradise Man*, a one-act play which tells the story of Milton's arrest and near execution.

Barbara Villiers

Side by side with Milton lived the brilliant voluptuary, Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Portsmouth, the restored Charles II's favourite mistress. Barbara (one-act) exemplifies the luxury and voluptuousness which took the place of the strict Puritan ethic.

Margaret Fell

But the new protestant movement took great heart from the establishment of the Quaker community, launched by Margaret Fell, the real founder of

feminism in England, and the charismatic George Fox, her husband, whose sermons converted people en masse. The Quakers flourished in spite of vicious persecutions. These accounts of vice and virtue are particularly effective if read side by side.

The Women of Pilleth

A different excursion is taken in *The Women of Pilleth* set in mediaeval times. This play is more about the Bacchae and their furies rather than the Anglo-Welsh wars. Don't miss the *Ladies of Rage*! Quite terrifying!

Owain Glyndwr

At the same time, in *Owain Glyndwr*, the progress of the first Welsh War of Independence, is laid out. Wales's great national hero, Owain Glyndwr, who never lost a battle although he lost the war, still sleeps, waiting for the call to lead his people to freedom!

Mary Kingsley

To take another leap – this time into the late great British Empire of the Victorian Age. Mary Kingsley was the most remarkable of all the explorers of the day. She rejected the idea of a Colonial Empire, championed the 'natives' and died for her pains as a nurse in the Boer War. A towering figure of her times, dead before forty. A tour de force monologue!

Underdogs and Troublemakers

All of these and more, are portrayed in the full-length plays *Underdogs and Troublemakers*, a sort of montage of many of the figures who have defended the ancient freedoms of the British Islands throughout the centuries.

The events in these historical plays and the truths they embody, endure to this very day. Indeed, never has their story had such contemporary relevance! Try them on stage and find out!