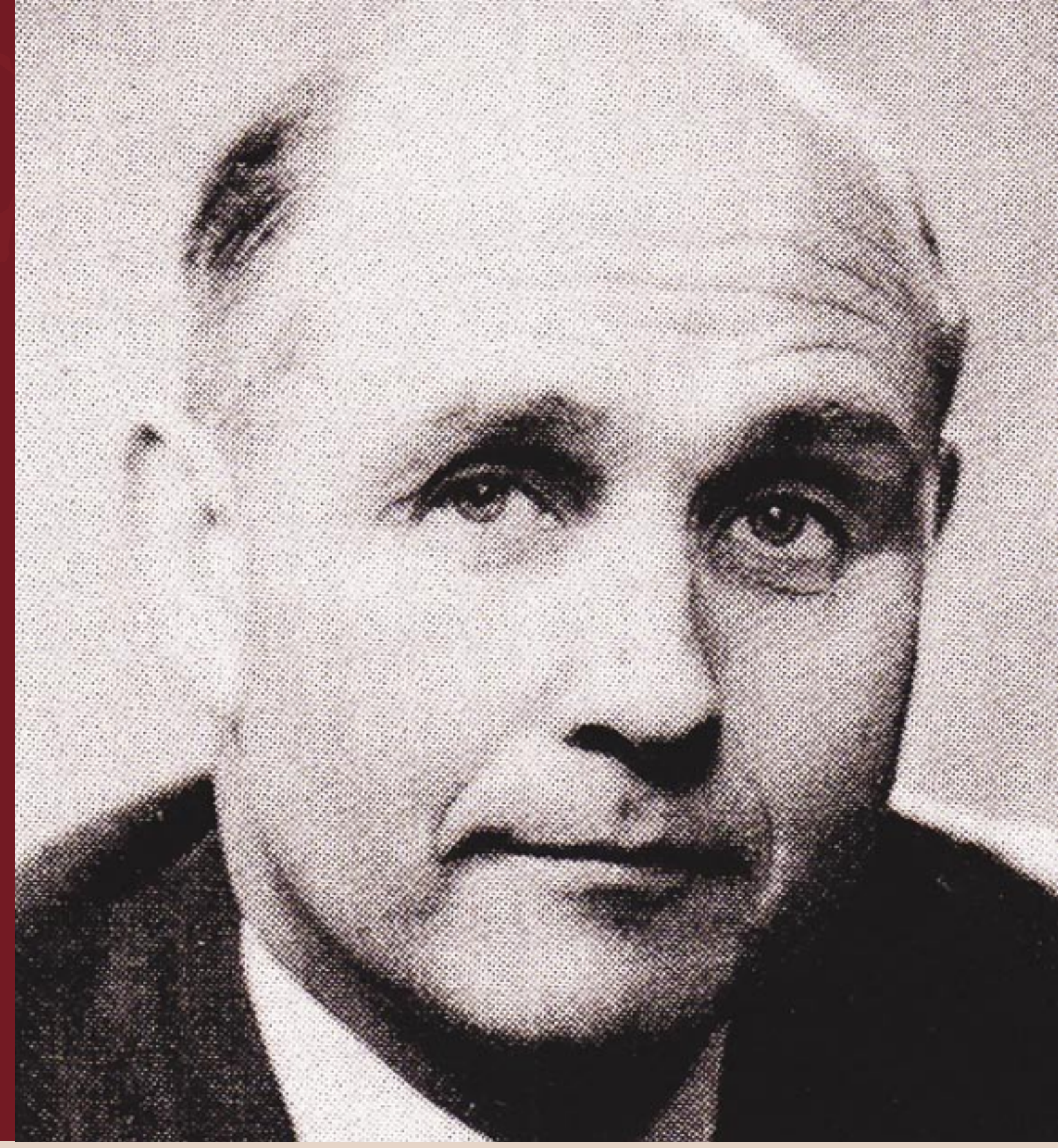


R.E. Jones

Ysgolhaig, Llenor,
Bardd a Gwleidydd

Scholar, Man of Letters,
Poet and Politician



Ganed R. E. Jones yn Rhwng y Ddwyffordd, Llangernyw. Roedd yn ddisgybl disglair yn Ysgol y Sir Llanrwst. Yn ôl pob son reodd ei allu i ddysgu ieithoedd yn syfrdanol a gallai farddoni yn rhwydd yn Lladin. Lluniau gywyddau Cymraeg yn arddull a thraddodiad y beirdd.

Wedi derbyn sawl ysgoloriaeth aeth yn fyfyrwr i Goleg Prifysgol Cymru, Bangor a graddiodd gydag anrhydedd yn y Gymraeg a Lladin. Bu'n cyfrannu i fywyd y coleg drwy olygu cylchgrawn y coleg, yn ysgrifennydd y Gymdeithas Ddrama Gymraeg, gan drosi nifer o ddramau ar gyfer eu perfformio. Ef oedd llywydd y Cymric, llywydd cangen Plaid Cymru a llywydd Cyngor y Myfyrwyr o 1930'31.

Roedd yn enillydd cyson yn adran lenyddol yr eisteddfodau rhyngolegol ac isod gweler englynion o'i eiddo allan o Awdl Rhiannon a ddyfarnwyd yn gyntaf gan Cynan gan ddweud ar y pryd eu bod yn deilwng i'w gosod o blith englynion yn awdlau gorau'r genedl.

R.E. Jones was born in Rhwng y Ddwyffordd in Llangernyw. He was a brilliant pupil at the County School in Llanrwst. It is said that he had an astonishing ability to learn languages and he could write poetry easily in Latin. He also composed poems in the style and tradition of the bards.

After winning a number of scholarships, he went to The University of Wales in Bangor, where he graduated with honours in Latin and Welsh. He contributed to the life of the college by editing the college magazine, secretary of the Welsh Dramatic Society where he translated a number of plays for them to perform. He was the president of the "Cymric" (Welsh Society), president of the Plaid Cymru branch and president of the Student Council from 1930-31.

He was a regular winner in the literary section of the Inter College Eisteddfod and below are "englynion" (verses in strict meter) taken from a larger work called Rhiannon, which won him the first prize judged by Cynan the adjudicator to be some of the finest in the Welsh language.

Yr angau biau'r byd – ei urddas
A'i holl harddwch hefyd
Ei fwyaf dethol olud
Is sêr ei geinder i gyd.

Chwithau a ydych weithian- yn ifanc
Yn nwyfus, yn fuan
Rhoi'r dan glai mud yn fudan
Efo'r llu yng ngladdfa'r llan.

Diwedd difreg degwch – gwedd a phryd
A golud ac elwch
A chryfder a thynnerwch
Yn y man yw'r llan a'r llwch.

Wedi gadael Bangor, dychwelodd i Ddyffryn Conwy a bu'n athro yn ysgolion Tal y Bont a Dolgarrog. Bu'n weithgar ym mywyd cymdeithasol, diwylliannol a chrefyddol y dyffryn. Ysgrifennodd dwsinau sriptiau ar gyfer ragleni radio a chyhoeddodd nifer o erthyglau gwleidyddol a chenedlaethol ynghyd a llyfrau o'i waith a rhai llyfrau i blant.

Bu'n ysgolfeistr yng Nghwm Penmachno a Llanberis, yn is lywydd Plaid Cymru ac yn ymgeisydd seneddol yn etholaeth Arfon.

After leaving Bangor, he returned to the Conwy Valley and was a teacher at the schools in Tal y Bont and Dolgarrog. He was active in the social, cultural and religious life of the valley. He wrote dozens of scripts for radio programmes a number of national and political articles well as books of his works and some children's books.

Later he became the headmaster of the schools in Cwm Penmachno and Llanberis and the Plaid Cymru candidate for the Arfon parliamentary constituency.

Off to School and into Digs

(based on a lecture given by R E Jones at the invitation of Gwynedd Library Service).

Children who moved up to the county school in Llanrwst took "digs" in the town during the week. He used to pay three shillings a week for lodgings from Monday to Friday. For this he got his bed, but nothing else but tea to drink, so he did his own shopping for food. He shared a bed with two other boys from Llangernyw. He was a Methodist and his bed mates both belonged to the Church in Wales. "Quite an ecumenical arrangement," he comments.

The County School then had about 150 pupils and seven teachers. He speaks appreciatively of the thorough instruction and insistence of high standards of the headmaster H Parry Jones who taught Latin and Greek and the Welsh master O R Hughes. His praises for his education in Llanrwst contrasts with his criticisms of his earlier schooling in Llangernyw. "The 1920 disestablishment of the Church in Wales had not yet arrived and the church controlled village school strove to impose English speaking Britishness. If children were caught talking Welsh, they were caned." R E Jones remembers his brother being so punished.

Rhwng y Ddwy Ffordd

