

MEDALS NOTES

The **Learned Society of Wales** is the national academy for arts and sciences.

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Frances Hoggan Medal



Dr Frances Hoggan was a pioneering Welsh medical researcher, social reformer and a significant player in the battle for women to study medicine in the nineteenth century. Born in Brecon in 1843, Frances Hoggan (nee Morgan) began her medical studies in London in 1866, and subsequently at the University of Zurich in 1867, the only university in Europe at the time to accept female medical students. When she graduated in March 1870 and she was only the second woman in Europe to have been awarded a Medical Doctorate.

She spent the first years of her medical career as a practitioner working with Dr Elizabeth Garrett at the New Hospital for Women in London. In 1874, she married Dr George Hoggan and together they established the first husband and wife medical practice in Britain, publishing forty-two medical research papers. Frances became a specialist in women's and children's diseases.

The Hoggan Medal is sponsored by the Welsh Government.

The Dillwyn Medals



The Dillwyn medals are named in honour of the distinguished Swansea-based Dillwyn family who achieved outstanding distinction across several fields of intellectual activity, both in the arts and sciences.

The Dillwyn family's association with Wales dates back to the 18th century and the arrival of the Abolitionist campaigner, William Dillwyn. His son, the talented botanist Lewis Weston Dillwyn, published several important scientific studies in addition to producing fine artistic pottery and porcelain. Lewis, who was a Fellow of the Royal Society, created at his

home at Penllergare and later at Sketty Hall "a cultural climate in which all his children, boys

and girls, could flourish, and could pursue their scientific and artistic interests without limitations of time and expense". In 1848, he helped host the first British Association for the Advancement of Science to take place in Wales.

Lewis's son, John Dillwyn Llewellyn excelled in a number of technological and academic fields including photography, botany and astronomy. Several members of the family used the Penllergare estate as a base for their various interests in science, astronomy, politics, botany, photography and philanthropy. Unusually for the era, women also played a prominent role in science and business. These included Mary Dillwyn who was Wales' first female photographer, Thereza Dillwyn Llewellyn an astronomer and photographer, and Amy Dillwyn, an early female industrialist and an iconoclastic novelist.

The awards are supported by Airbus Corporate Technical Office.

Hugh Owen Medal



The **Hugh Owen Medal** is named in honour of Sir Hugh Owen (1804-1881).

The award is supported by **Welsh Government**, and is awarded in recognition of significant contributions to educational research, or the application of research to produce significant innovations in education policy and/or professional educational practice in Wales.

Sir Hugh Owen was a significant Welsh educator, philanthropist and pioneer of higher education in Wales. He was the main founder of the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth.

Active within the work of the British and Foreign School Society in Wales and the Cambrian Educational Society in the 19th century, Owen enthusiastically supported the opening of more such schools in Wales. As the number of such schools increased, Owen saw the need for colleges to train teachers in Wales, and he was one of the leaders of the campaign to establish Bangor Normal College in 1858, a similar college in Swansea, and the Aberystwyth University College in 1875.

One of Hugh Owen's last benefactions was the establishment in 1880 of the North Wales Scholarship Association, a fund to provide financial assistance for children from north Wales to attend secondary schools.

In 1881, he laid the basis for a complete scheme for secondary education in Wales, which after his death was carried into effect, by means of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act of 1889.

Menelaus Medal



The **Menelaus Medal** is named after the mechanical engineer and general manager of the Dowlais Iron Company, **William Menelaus** (1818-82).

The award is supported by **South Wales Institute of Engineers Educational Trust (SWIEET)**.

The **Menelaus Medal** is awarded annually in recognition of excellence in any field of engineering and technology to an academic, to an industrial researcher, or to an industrial practitioner who is resident in Wales, of Welsh birth or who otherwise can demonstrate a particular connection with Wales.

William Menelaus was born in 1818 in East Lothian Scotland and moved to Wales about 1850 to join the Dowlais Iron Company, as an engineer-manager of the mills and forges department.

A successful manager, Menelaus invented several mechanical handling devices and designed the massive new two-directional Goat Mill for iron rolling. He was the driving force behind the foundation of the South Wales Institute of Engineers in 1857, and also of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain. His reputation as an engineer derived from innovations that he devised and introduced at Dowlais. In May 1881, Menelaus was presented with the Bessemer gold medal, in recognition of his services to the iron and steel industry.