PATRYMAU PATRIARCHAIDD?

SWYDDOGAETHAU A PHROFIADAU MERCHED AR YSTADAU TIRIOG CYMRU

PATRIARCHAL PARADIGMS?

THE ROLES AND EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN ON THE LANDED ESTATES OF WALES

Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru, Plas Middleton, Sir Gaerfyrddin
National Botanic Garden of Wales, Middleton Hall, Carmarthenshire

Dydd Sul, 25 Tachwedd 2018 | Sunday, 25 November 2018

Tocynnau | Tickets (£6):
https://bit.ly/2z0sv8p

Am genedlaethau bu merched yn chwarae rhan allweddol ym mywyd cymdeithasol a diwylliannol ystadau tiriog Cymru. Trwy eu swyddogaethau a'u rhwydweithiau teuluol, ac fel tirfeddianwyr eu hunain, aeresau, noddwyr diwylliant, morwynion, tenantiaid a llafurwyr amaethyddol, roedd merched yn chwarae rhan ganolog ym mywyd a gweithgareddau ystadau a phlastai. Yn aml roedd ganddynt ddylanwad eithriadol dros hunaniaeth a ffawd ystadau unigol, a gallent chwarae rhan bwysig o ran y cysylltiadau rhwng y plastai, cymunedau lleol ac agweddau ehangach ar gymdeithas. Mae bywydau rhyfeddol a chyraeddiadau merched dawnus megis Arglwyddes Llanofer, y chwiorydd Davies o Gregynog, Catrin o Ferain a 'Merched Llangollen' yn cael eu cydnabod yn gynyddol fel rhannau pwysig o hanes Cymru. Yr un modd, mae'r diddordeb eang mewn hel achau a hanes teuluol yn y degawd diwethaf wedi bod yn fodd i feithrin cydnabyddiaeth o fywydau'r miloedd o ferched a gyflogwyd gan berchenogion ystadau Cymru - fel morwynion, cogyddion, glanhawyr a mamaethod i'w plant. Fodd bynnag, yn gyffredinol, mae'r cyfraniadau a wnaed gan ferched i ddylanwad ac effeithiau cymdeithasol, gwleidyddol, diwylliannol a chrefyddol ystadau yng Nghymru wedi cael eu hesgeuluso'n ddybryd gan hanesyddiaeth drwodd a thro, sydd wedi rhoi'r lle blaenaf i bortreadu'r profiad patriarchaidd.

Bwriad y gynhadledd un-dydd hon yw unioni'r diffyg hwnnw. Ei nod yw gosod sylfaen ar gyfer y genhedlaeth nesaf o ymchwil i'r modd y gall profiadau merched gyfrannu tuag at ddealltwriaeth fwy cynhwysfawr o hanes, diwylliant a thirweddau Cymru.

....

For generations, women played a critical part in the social and cultural life of Wales' landed estates. Through their familial roles and networks, and as landowners in their own right, heiresses, cultural patrons, domestic servants, tenants and agricultural labourers, women were central to the functioning of estates and country houses. They often exerted profound influences on the identities and fortunes of individual estates, and could play a significant role in shaping the nature of interactions between the country house, local communities and wider aspects of society. The extraordinary biographies and achievements of elite women such as Lady Llanover, the Davies sisters of Gregynog, Catrin of Berain and the 'Ladies of Llangollen' are increasingly recognised as important parts of the story of Wales. Similarly, the widespread interest in family history over the last decade has played its part in fostering a recognition of the lives of the thousands of women who were employed as domestic servants – maids, cooks, housekeepers, charwomen and wet nurses – by the landed proprietors of Wales. However, in general, the contributions made by women to the wide-ranging social, political, cultural and religious roles and impacts of estates in Wales have been severely overlooked by the established historiography, which tends to be dominated by portrayals of the patriarchal experience.

This one-day conference has been set up to redress the balance. Its objective is to establish a frame of reference for the next generation research into how the experiences of women can contribute towards a more comprehensive understanding of the history, culture and landscapes of Wales.