

In the footsteps of European Travellers in Wales

Prof Carol Tully: Professor of German/Pro-Vice Chancellor (Students), Bangor University; Rita Singer: Research Officer, **Bangor University**, and Susan Fielding: Senior Investigator (Historic Buildings), **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales**

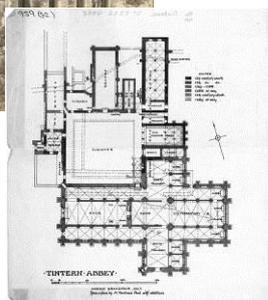
'European Travellers to Wales 1750-2010' is an AHRC-funded project that began in 2013 as a collaboration between Bangor University, the University of Wales Center for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and Swansea University. The project has uncovered a vast number of travel accounts to Wales in this period, the majority of which are written in French or German. The researchers discovered a broad variety of reasons for European travellers to have come to Wales: from those seeking a romantic idyll, to industrial spies, POWs and refugees.



Left: Alphonse Dousseau, 'Barmouth', Drawing Volume 405, Wikimedia Commons, National Library of Wales. **Right:** Aerial photograph of Barmouth, Coflein, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.



Tintern Abbey resources in the collection of the Royal Commission used in creating a virtual reality.



In summer 2017, the project and its new partner, the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Wales, began to develop a brand new website for use by prospective tourists as much as a general audience interested in the heritage and modern history of Wales. The website

contains ten themed trails stretching across the whole of Wales and gives tourists the chance to explore Wales through the eyes of Romantic and Victorian travellers. It features authentic travel writing by German and French travellers of the past, together with historical documents such as paintings, photographs and old maps found in the

extensive collections of the Royal Commission. In addition, new digital products recreate the Wales of two hundred years ago.

Modern tourists will be able to explore a virtually reconstructed Tintern Abbey and how it appeared to night-time visitors during the Romantic period as well as the fiery spectacle of Merthyr Tydfil's ironworks.

The 'European Travellers' project and the Royal Commission are proud to launch this new website on the occasion of this year's Digital Past conference.



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