



**THE ORIGINS AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE  
SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE DE CARDIFF  
1905 - 1918**

**John Martin**

**A Supplement to the previously published  
*Centenary of the Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff 1906-2006***



**ENGLISH VERSION**

## **Acknowledgements.**

All illustrations, except where explicitly stated otherwise, are from the archives of the Society or its members, or from the Barbier archives, which from summer 2017 have been housed in the Special Collections and Archives section (SCOLAR) of Cardiff University Library.

I would like to thank Delphine Isaaman for her generous assistance over several visits in 2016-17 in tracking down relevant documents in the Barbier family archives.

The help given by the staff of Cardiff University Library is gratefully acknowledged. I would particularly mention Duncan Montgomery, who read an early draft and made many useful suggestions, and Philippa Bartlett of Cardiff University, who was engaged to make a preliminary survey of the Barbier archives, for discovering further relevant letters and documents.

## **Cover illustrations:**

Top: original artwork from the flyer (French version) of 1906 promoting the Society (Barbier Archives);  
Bottom left: Professor Paul Barbier outside Main College building, Cardiff University (Barbier Archives);  
Bottom right: the coal port of Cardiff (Library of Congress, Bain Collection:  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ggb2004010368/> ).

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# The Origins and Early History of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff

## Part 1: The Launch and Early Years of the Society

### Chapter 1: Introduction

In 2006 the Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff celebrated its centenary. To mark the occasion, a *centenary history* of the Society was produced. The authors of that history – Arlette Ragody-Hughes and John Martin – used all the records that were available to them at the time. A major part of the history was based on a talk given to the Society in February 1999 by Arlette, itself extensively researched. This was supplemented by research done by John Martin, using sources found in Cardiff Central Library and the National Museum of Wales for the early years, and more recent records of the Society to cover the years 1999 to 2006. Attempts were also made to track down the families of the three founders – Paul Barbier, W E Thomas and Max Wideman – to see if any family archives existed. This led to a meeting with Max Wideman's grandson, also called Max Wideman, who was living in Canada. This provided some further photographs of Max Wideman and some additional family history. No contacts with the families of Paul Barbier or W E Thomas were established.

The records available in 2006 were in fact quite extensive. The most serious gap in the records was that the minutes books prior to 1916 had been lost. Hence the history of the foundation of the Society was based on only a few other documents, together with the traditional account of the founding and early years which Arlette Ragody-Hughes had heard from her parents, who had been closely involved with the Society from 1910 onwards.

The centenary history opened by addressing three questions concerning the founding of the Society – WHEN, WHY, and HOW. The answer given to the first question was simple; it was in 1906. This had appeared on all the Society's programme cards dating back to the earliest one known, from 1910. It also appeared on the annual membership fiche – a small booklet possessed by each member – of which the earliest surviving example dated from 1908. It was therefore taken as firmly established that 1906 must mark the date of the start of the Society. However, as we shall see, this introduced a small but significant error.

The second question – the WHY – was answered by quoting from an early programme.

*“For the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between the peoples of France and Great Britain, primarily by encouraging the study of the French language and culture”.*

As the centenary history noted, it was the time of the Entente Cordiale. This was particularly significant for Cardiff since the coal trade was at its height and a large proportion of the coal exported went to France. As a result of this trade a number of French people came to the ports of South Wales to learn English, the shipping business and the coal trade. A sizeable French colony grew up in Cardiff, reflecting the commercial rapport between France and Britain.

In addition to the aim quoted above, which reflects the overall purpose of the Society, the membership fiche for 1908 gives the five specific objectives listed in the constitution:

- (1) *Cementing the friendly relationship between Englishmen and Frenchmen.*
- (2) *Providing suitable furnished premises as a social meeting-place.*
- (3) *Providing newspapers of both countries and establishing a library.*
- (4) *Providing lectures, musical and literary evenings.*
- (5) *By any other means endeavour to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries*

The answer to the third question, which is the HOW, was given as follows;

*Professor Barbier was the first person to hold the chair of French at the University of Cardiff; Mr Max Wideman was a docksman, originally from France, an important man, very well respected and a Francophile; Mr W. E. Thomas was also a docksman and also a Francophile and was an eminent man. It*

was these three people who founded the Society. Prof. Barbier was the first president, Mr Thomas the vice-president.



Professor Paul Barbier,  
Professor of French,  
Cardiff University,  
first president of the Society



W E Thomas,  
Cardiff agent for the Compagnie  
Générale Transatlantique,  
first vice-president of the Society

For the centenary history, the local papers were searched for any references to the early meetings of the Society. The earliest reference was that found in the Western Mail of Thursday, 4 October 1906.

## ANGLO-FRENCH SOCIETY

The second session of La Societe Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff was opened on Wednesday at the rooms, 3 Park Place, by a successful concert, which was largely attended. The society has a membership of 220 and an interesting programme of lectures has been drawn up for the session. Madame Winter Hamon, Madame Elsa Tostia, Mr H. L. Francis, Mr Pritchard, Mr T. Lewis, Mr W. R. Jones and Mr W. Nolan were among the artists.

**Western Mail, Thursday 4 October 1906**

Reports of four further meetings – on 24 October, 15 November, 10 December, and 13 December – were also found in the Western Mail in 1906.

The reference to the *second* session in the report of 4 October appeared to confirm that the Society did in fact commence its activities in 1906, and that it had a full programme with several meetings held in both halves of the year. This was consistent with the first printed programmes known, which covered the winter session in 1910 and the spring session in 1911, for which a total of 14 lectures were planned. It was assumed that the Society had made special efforts to ensure that the meetings in the second half of 1906 were reported in the press, but perhaps had not done so in the first half.

The centenary history also noted that the Society had its own rooms from the start. For the first few months these were rooms at 3 Park Place. For the next few years, the Society moved to 31 Park Place. After that, the Society had its own house at 36 Park Place, first as tenants, then as owners, and then again as tenants. It remained at 36 Park Place until 1948. The possession of rooms at 3 Park Place was confirmed by the newspapers reports of

October 1906. The possession of rooms – or an entire house – at 31 Park Place was confirmed by the 1908 membership fiche. The possession of the house at 36 Park Place was confirmed by later programmes, for example, the one from 1915, as well as by the minutes books from 1916 onwards.

The member's fiche from 1908 was a rich source of information. The constitution showed that the Society intended to provide rooms from the outset. The membership fee was set at one guinea, and given the rapid rise in membership in the first year to more than 200, the income of the Society was in excess of £200 per annum. This was a large sum at the time, ample to rent a house or even to buy one.



Max Wideman,  
Cardiff docksman,  
founder member

The 1908 fiche also confirmed the positions of Professor Paul Barbier as president and of W E Thomas as vice-president. Max Wideman was a member of the committee, but he clearly made his mark as one of the prime movers in the Society and was remembered as such by Marcel Ragody (Arlette's father, who was president in 1912 and a member at least as early as 1910).

This then was the account of the origins of the Society given in the centenary history. About 40 copies of the history were produced for members of the Society, and the history was placed on the Society's web site. The centenary history (in English and French versions) may be downloaded from the Society web site: [www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk](http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk). A copy of the centenary history and many of the supporting documents were later deposited in Glamorgan Records, the local county archives, where they could be consulted by the public. The authors did not expect that any further material would turn up relevant to the early days of the Society. Ten years later, in 2016, they were proved wrong.

## Chapter 2: The Barbier Family Archives

In June 2016 the Secretary of the Society, Judy Martin, was contacted by Delphine Isaaman. Delphine Isaaman explained that she was the great grand-daughter of Professor Paul E E Barbier, the founder and first president of the Society, and that she was the custodian of the Barbier family archives, dating back to the 1860s. The archives were substantial, comprising 37 boxes of correspondence and a further quantity of ledgers, documents and photographs. Delphine Isaaman hoped that these papers might be placed in a permanent archive in Cardiff, and this was achieved in summer 2017 when the archives were placed in the Special Collections and Archives section of Cardiff University Library.

Up to this point the Society was completely unaware of the existence of these archives. They clearly represented an important historical resource. At one level, it was a full account of the history of a Franco-British family covering five generations from the 1860s to the present day. There was material of interest about academic studies of French at British universities over a period of fifty years. Professor Paul Barbier père had been appointed the first professor of French at the University of Cardiff in 1897; Professor Paul Barbier fils had been professor of French at the University of Leeds from 1903 until the late 1940s and was a distinguished scholar of the French language. There was a very extensive record, through postcards and letters, of the experiences of the Barbier family during World War I. Professor Barbier père had had eight children, most of whom served in France either as soldiers or as nurses, or as interpreters to the British army.

Delphine Isaaman had used the archives to produce three booklets. One recounted the life of Georges Barbier, the father of Paul Barbier père, a colourful character who originated in the Doubs region of France, but eventually came to London as a protestant pastor where he spent many years in Soho. The other two booklets are entitled "Barbier Voices from the Great War". They build on an unrivalled collection of letters, diary entries, postcards and reminiscences of the Barbier family members who found themselves engaged in the war in France. There are two booklets, each some 100 pages in length, which reflects the large amount of original material available.

The Society was aware that Professor Barbier père had been active throughout his life in associations and societies promoting Anglo-French friendship, French culture and language, and modern languages generally. It therefore hoped to find that the archive would contain some material which could enhance our knowledge of the early history of the Cardiff society.

The Secretary and the Treasurer of the Society visited Delphine Isaaman on two occasions in the summer of 2016 and once more in spring 2017. She had searched the archive for documents relevant to the Society and had recovered about a dozen items. Although not a large number, they enabled a much fuller account of the founding of the Society to be compiled, which went far beyond that of the centenary history. This account will be developed, with the supporting documents, over the next few chapters.

### Chapter 3: The Launch of the Society: 1905-06

The first documents of interest from the Barbier archives are two newspaper cuttings from 1905 reporting on the first meeting of the Society. Note the date. When the centenary history was compiled, the press records for 1906 had been thoroughly searched. If only it had not been assumed so completely that the first meeting *must* have been in 1906!

Both of the local papers, the Western Mail and the South Wales Daily News, reported the first meeting as follows:

#### CARDIFF AND THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

The first reunion of the Societe Franco-Anglaise, which has been formed in Cardiff on the initiative of Professor Barbier, with the objective of furthering the interests of the entente cordiale in this district, was held on Saturday evening at the Cardiff Y.M.C.A.-rooms. Messrs. Kernick, Williams, Knight, Powell, Evans, W. E Thomas, W. Davies, V. Robinson, jun., Budd, and Harper (English members), and Messrs. Valette, de Bussy, G Barbier, Wiedmann, Ricard, Rabouin, Pigeonneau, Aubertin, Rochard, and Aubepin (French members) have been elected members of the committee. The subscription has been fixed at 5s. for the first hundred members. Persons desirous of joining are requested to apply to the secretaries, Messrs. Lanoire et Richard, Y.M.C.A.-buildings.

**Western Mail, Monday 30 October 1905**

#### Cardiff Anglo-French Society.

The first general meeting of the Anglo-French Society, formed recently in Cardiff on the initiative of Professor Barbier, with the objective of strengthening in the district the entente cordiale, was held on Saturday evening. Messrs. Kernick, Williams, Knight, Powell, Evans, W. E Thomas, W. Davies, V. Robinson, jun., Budd, Harper (English), and Messrs. Valette, de Bussy, G. Barbier, Wiedmann, Aicard, Rabonin, Pigeonneau, Aubertin, Rochard, and Aubepin (French) have been elected members of the committee. The subscription has been fixed at 5s. for the first hundred members. Persons desirous of becoming members are requested to communicate with the secretaries, Messrs. Richard and Lanoire, Y.M.C.A. buildings.

**South Wales Daily News, Monday 30 October 1905**

These two reports were evidently prepared on the basis of the same press release. The name Aicard of one of the French members is incorrectly spelled Ricard in the first report. This was in fact Pierre Emile Aicard, who is referred to in the centenary history as the grandfather of Pauline Thompson, then a current member of the Society.

We can thus be certain that the launch meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 28 October 1905 and so the Society would have been entitled to claim that it was founded in 1905 rather than 1906. However 1906 appears to have been its first full year with sessions of lectures and other activities.

We also note that Professor Paul Barbier is credited with taking the initiative in founding the Society. He was a well-known figure in Cardiff at the time and appeared frequently in the press in reference to such topics as the teaching of French, Welsh cultural events, Shakespeare's plays and support for the entente cordiale. He was evidently known to the local newspaper editors since the following item appeared in the South Wales Daily News in the week before the first meeting of the Society.

Professor Barbier, of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, who has done lasting service in the promotion of l'entente cordiale, and may be termed an international patriot, has now given another example of his desire to foster a better understanding between this country and France. He is the moving spirit in the promotion of the Franco-Anglaise Society of Cardiff, the object of which is the promotion of the study of the French language and literature, and to provide facilities for the discussion in French of subjects of commercial and general interest. We cordially welcome this expression of the movement with which the name of Professor Barbier has been for so long associated. All that the society needs to make it a power in the direction indicated is public support, and we trust that this will now be forthcoming. Full information will be supplied to those interested by the Secretary, La Societie Franco-Anglaise, Y.M.C.A. Buildings.

**South Wales Daily News, Tuesday 24 October 1905**

After these newspaper cuttings were discovered in the Barbier archives, a further search was carried out in Cardiff Central Library of the November and December 1905 issues of these two newspapers. In the South Wales Daily News, there was a report of a second meeting of the Society on 15 December 1905, just seven weeks after the first meeting. Confusingly, this is also headlined as the first meeting.

## CARDIFF L'ENTENTE CORDIALE

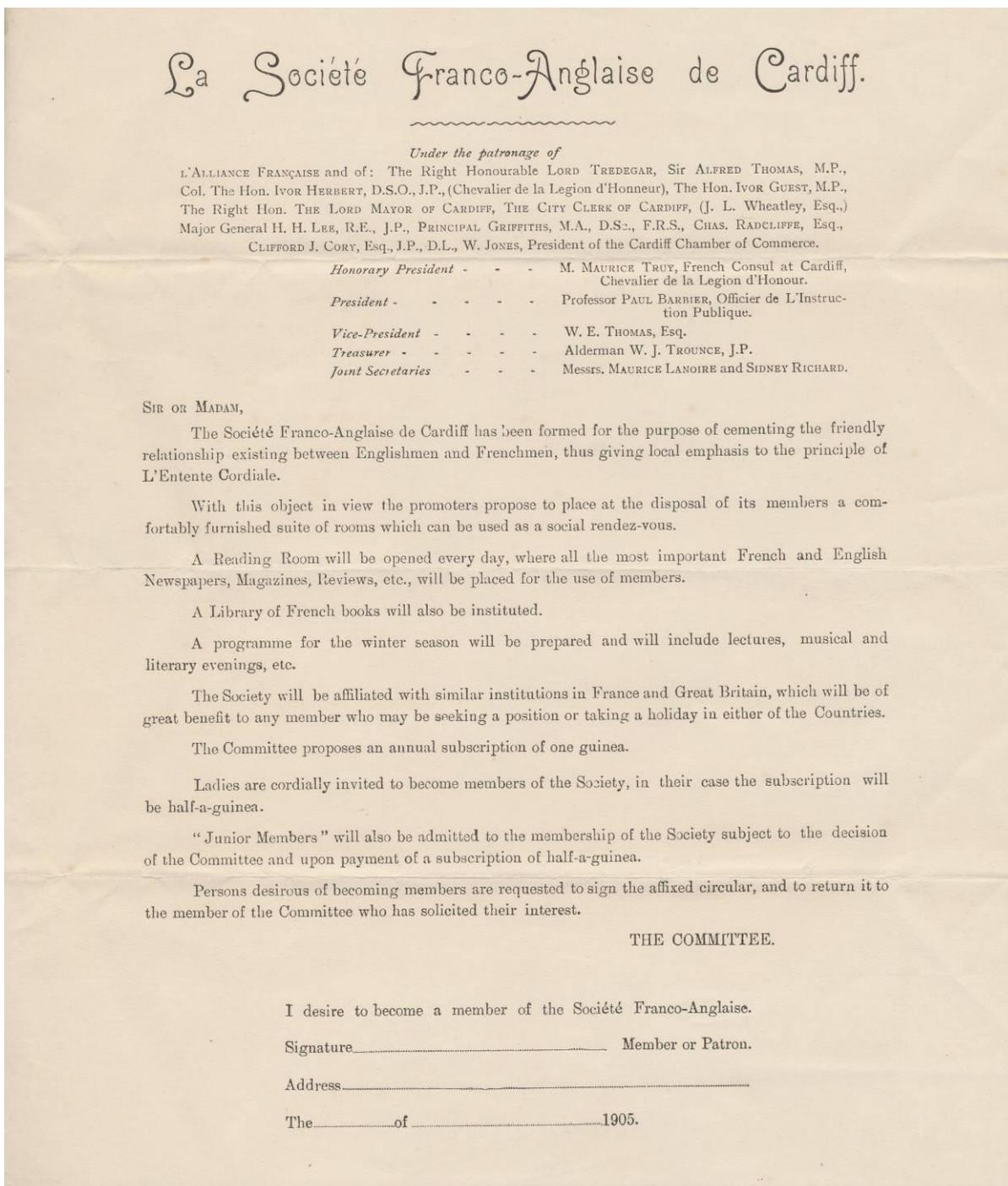
### First Meeting of the New Society

The first general meeting of the Cardiff Franco-Anglaise Society was held on Friday night at the Park Hall. Professor Barbier presided over a large gathering, which included several ladies. The proceedings were conducted chiefly in French. Upon the proposition of Mr David, solicitor, seconded by Mr Vivian, the existing committee was re-elected en bloc. M. Aubepin read the rules of the society, which were adopted. Mr Tillett and Mr Quinton were re-elected as auditors. Professor Barbier made a speech, in which he thanked M. Truy, the French Consul, for his hearty support of the movement, which has for its aim the encouragement of good relations between the French and English populace of Cardiff, on the principle of the national l'entente cordiale. M. Truy responded, and in a graceful speech expressed the wish the society would be a great success, and would help to foster good relations between the two countries. Details of arrangements for rooms, and the like, were relegated to a committee.

**South Wales Daily News, Saturday 16 December 1905**

These newspaper reports from 1905 demonstrate that the creation of the Society was identified as an expression of the spirit of the entente cordiale. It is clear that the press were completely at home in discussing the entente cordiale, even if they did have considerable difficulty in agreeing on the actual name of the new society.

The Barbier archives also contain flyers, in English and in French, inviting those interested to become members of the Society. The flyer in English is dated 1905, and we may assume that it was prepared in time for the launch meeting in October, if not some time earlier. We therefore look at it first:



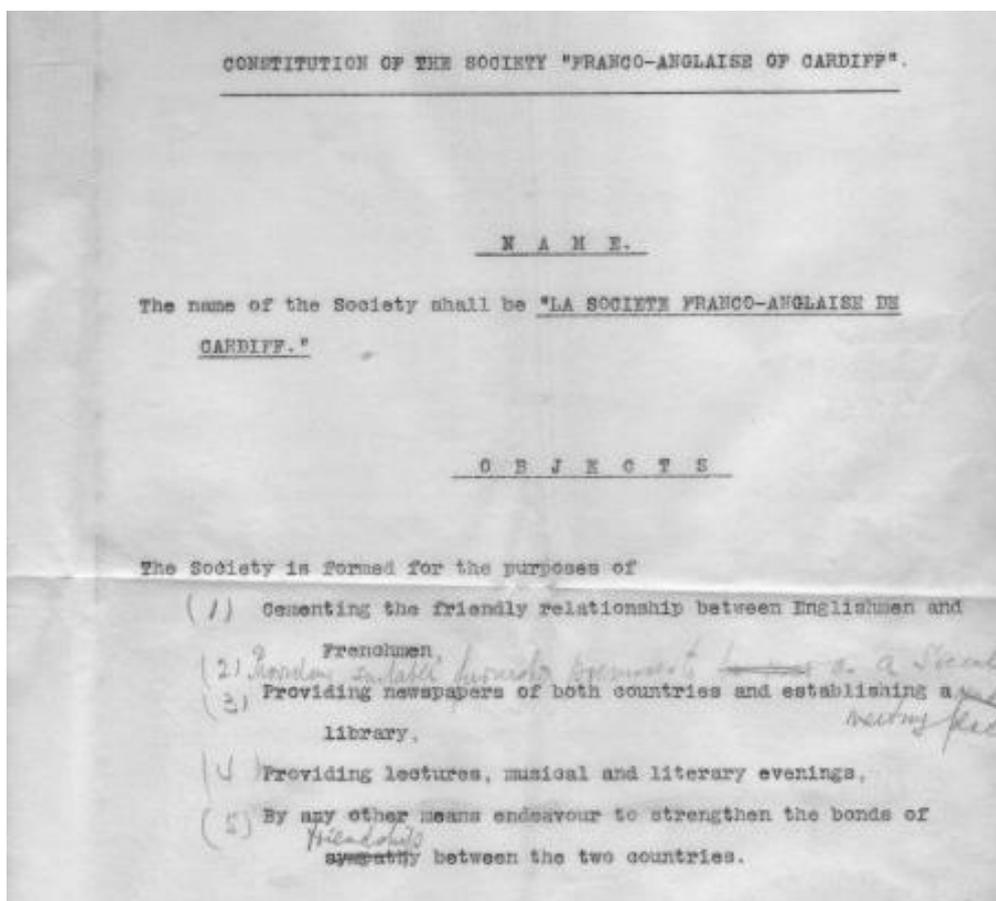
**Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (English Version 1905)**  
**[A transcript of this flyer is given in the Appendices.]**

We can note the following points:

1. The Society had already arranged for an impressive list of patrons in advance of its first meeting. It had also ensured that it would be affiliated to the Alliance Française.
2. The flyer emphasizes that the purpose of the Society is to foster good Anglo-French relations in the spirit of L'Entente Cordiale. This emphasis doubtless strongly appealed to the local dignitaries who were persuaded to become patrons.
3. The posts of president, vice-president and secretary had already been filled. This flyer confirms directly the centenary history account, that Professor Barbier was the first president and W E Thomas the first vice-president.
4. The two secretaries Lanoire and Richard are those mentioned in the newspaper reports.
5. The subscription is proposed to be one guinea. There is no mention here of the initial offer of a reduced subscription of 5s. to the first hundred members.

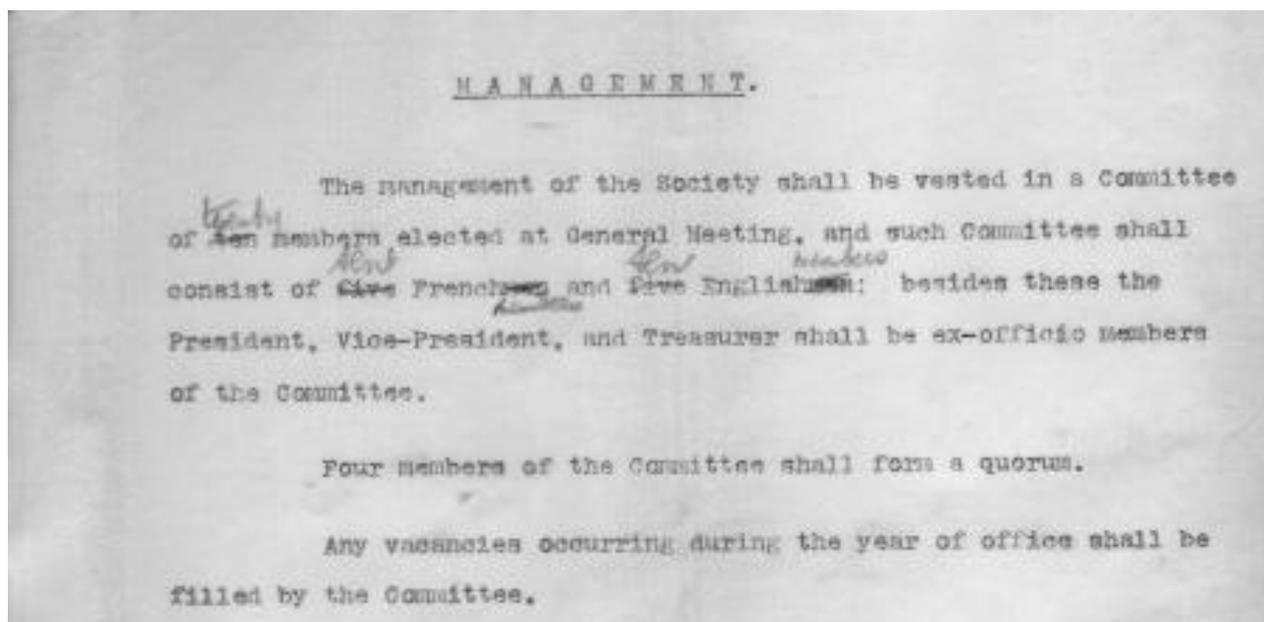
The first meeting, in October 1905, was clearly the launch meeting of the Society. The second meeting, in December 1905, must be regarded as the first AGM, albeit only seven weeks after the launch itself. Park Hall was a well-known public venue situated at the end of Park Place near the Park Hotel. It hosted public concerts and lectures most weeks and was suitable for an event at which several hundred people might be expected.

The report of the general meeting on Friday, 15 December states that the rules of the society were read by M. Aubepin. These rules, or constitution, had been drafted previously. A copy of the draft constitution has been found in the Barbier archives. It is a carbon copy of a typewritten draft running to some six pages, and a number of amendments had been handwritten on it in pencil. The first two pages are shown below:



**1905 Draft Constitution of the Society, page 1**  
**[A transcript of these extracts from the draft constitution is given in the Appendices.]**

We see that an additional aim had been inserted as point 2, namely "Providing suitable furnished premises as a social meeting place". The task of finding suitable rooms was noted at the December meeting and delegated to a committee. In fact the Society had moved quickly to find its premises. It placed a small advertisement in the Evening Express on 8, 9 and 11 December 1905 seeking "Rooms (two large and one small) in W Central position to be used as literary club rooms, rent about £50 inclusive". The result was that the Society found its first premises in 3 Park Place which it was able to use from February 1906 onwards.



**1905 Draft Constitution of the Society, page 2 (part)**  
**[A transcript of these extracts from the draft constitution is given in Appendices.]**

From the outset, it was envisaged that the committee would comprise equal numbers of French and English members. This is testimony to the size of the French colony at Cardiff and their support for the new society. The handwritten amendments show that the original number of five each was increased to ten. Also, the assumption that they would all be men was written out, being replaced by the neutral word members. As early as 1906 we know that there were in fact several women members of the committee.

The draft constitution which was found in the Barbier archives is in all essential points the same as the constitution printed in the membership fiche for 1908, which was reproduced in the centenary history. There are some minor changes to administrative details, but the aims and the composition of the committee are exactly those given on this draft constitution, *including the pencilled amendments*. It is not known who drafted this constitution, but it appears to be largely based on a standard form of society constitution from this period. Clearly, considerable thought had been given to the proposed activities of the society, and this is reflected in the aims.

We are now in a position to describe the events surrounding the formation of the Society, up to the end of 1905. It appears that the prime mover was Professor Paul Barbier. The notion of such a society was well received in Cardiff, and a number of prominent local figures were willing to become patrons. It was possible to find individuals willing to serve as officers and committee members of the Society.

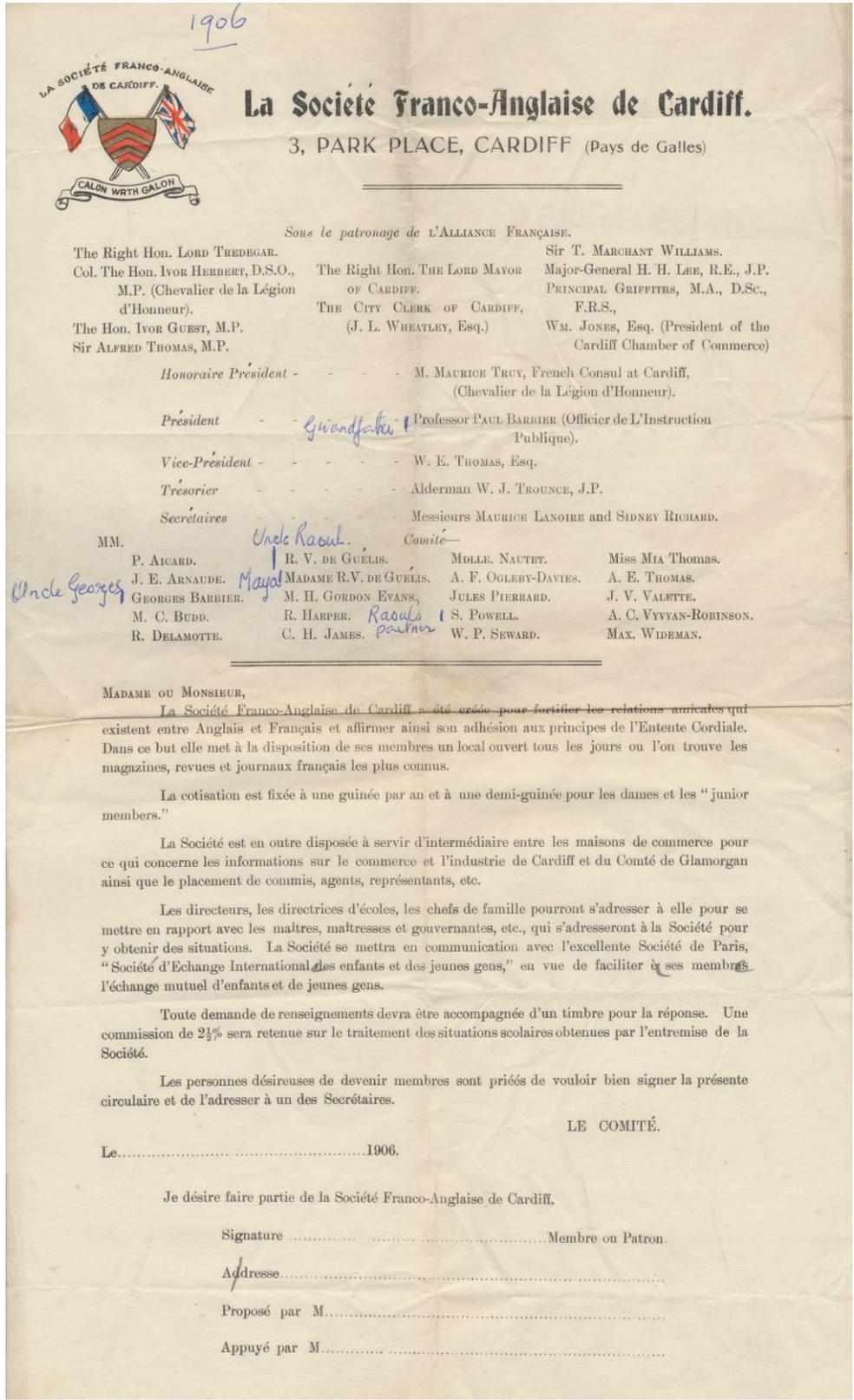
A flyer – in English – was produced which explained the aims of the Society and invited those interested to become members. The launch meeting of the Society was held in the Cardiff YMCA premises on 28 October 1905. The officer positions had been filled prior to the meeting, but at the meeting a committee of twenty was elected. These comprised ten French members and ten English members. As an inducement to sign up, the subscription for the first hundred members was set at the reduced rate of five shillings.

Seven weeks later, on 15 December 1905, the first general meeting of the Society was held in Park Hall. By this time the constitution had been drafted. It was read to the meeting and adopted. The existing committee of twenty members was re-elected en bloc. M. Truy, the French consul at Cardiff, was introduced to the meeting as the first honorary president. His support for the new Society was acknowledged by Professor Barbier, and M. Truy responded by wishing the Society great success. The newspaper report notes that the proceedings were mainly in French. Possibly this was due to M. Truy's presence.

All of these events of 1905 were unknown when the centenary history was written; it is thanks to the Barbier archives that we can now fill in this history of the launch of the Society.

The launch of the Society was clearly a great success; only twelve months later it had a membership of over 200.

We now turn to the start of 1906. We saw above that the Society had produced a flyer in English, dated 1905, inviting people to become members of the Society. A similar flyer was produced in 1906, this time in French. There are two copies of the French flyer in the Barbier archives, of which we reproduce one below.



**Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (French Version 1906)**  
**[A transcript of this flyer is given in the Appendices.]**

We do not know exactly when in 1906 this flyer was produced. However, there are many significant changes compared with the 1905 flyer which suggest that it was probably several months later. For example, by the time of the second flyer the Society had acquired an address (3 Park Place), a letterhead and a crest. The members of the committee are listed, but there are many changes compared with the end of 1905, including the presence of three women. The Society was now also prepared to offer its services as an intermediary either for businesses seeking trade contacts in South Wales or for student exchanges. A commission of 2.5 per cent would be payable as a result of these introductions. No subsequent references to this scheme have been found, so perhaps it did not in fact produce much business.

Finally, we note that both the English and the French flyers announce the Society as being “under the patronage of L’Alliance Française”. By 1905 there were several branches of the Alliance Française in Britain, most notably in London, and it is possible that the Society was affiliated to one of these. However, it is more likely that the Society had arranged this link directly with the Alliance Française in Paris. There is evidence that Professor Barbier had been in contact with the Alliance Française in Paris for several years. On May 11, 1896 a letter from Professor Barbier appeared in *The Times*, in which – “*at the request of the Alliance Française*” – he gave details of a programme of lectures and visits on French language and culture which were available in Paris to English students of French. This was probably only one of several such letters, because in 1897 he received a letter from the Secretary-General of the Alliance Française in Paris thanking him, on behalf of the Council, for his efforts in promoting the activities of the Alliance in the British press. (Letter dated June 1, 1897 in the Barbier archives) Two years later, on April 12, 1898, he wrote again to *The Times* about the same programme of lectures and visits. This time, however, he referred to himself as “*délégué of the Alliance Française*” – an official status.

Both the membership fiche for 1908 and the programme cards for 1910-1911 describe the Society as “*sous le patronage de l’Alliance Française*”, although this is not found on the cards for 1915-16 and 1924-25. However, the links continued throughout this period. One regular speaker was Professor Salmon of Reading University, who in autumn programme for 1916 was described as “*Président de la Fédération Britannique de l’Alliance Française*”. And in 1924 and in 1925 there were lectures given “*sous les auspices de l’Alliance Française*”.

## Chapter 4: Activities of the Society between 1906 and 1918

In the 1905 flyer the Society promised that "A programme for the winter season will be prepared and will include lectures, musical and literary evenings, etc." The opening meeting was held on Friday 2 February when the premises at 3 Park Place were used for the first time. A report of this meeting appeared on the following day in the Western Mail.

### ANGLO-FRENCH SOCIETY FOR CARDIFF.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING : INTEREST- ING SPEECHES.

The Societe Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff was opened at No. 3, Park-place, on Friday night by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Robert Hughes). Professor Barbier, who is the first president, occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. W. E. Thomas (vice-president), Alderman W. J. Trounce, the town-clerk (Mr. J. L. Wheatley), Mr. H. Wood-Davey (representing the chamber of commerce), and others. There was a good attendance, and among the company were a number of ladies.

The President said the object the society had in view was the strengthening of the friendly feeling which existed between the peoples of their respective countries, and to affirm the principle and inspiring ideas arising out of the entente cordiale. England and France comprised the heart and mind of intellectual Europe, and were the pioneers of Western civilization. In the premises in which they were assembled the members would meet and would find French and English periodicals, as well as French classical literature. It was intended that lectures should be given on social and literary subjects, and that information should be supplied to English and French merchants on the commercial possibilities of the district.

[Continues ....

... continued.]

The Lord Mayor stated that there had always been a friendly feeling between the French and British residents in Cardiff, and he attributed that in great measure to the influence of Professor Barbier. (Applause.) He hoped that the society which they were inaugurating that night would tend to still further cement the good feelings between the two nations. The citizens of Cardiff could learn a great deal from their friends across the Channel. They could learn to make life a little brighter and happier. He hoped the society would flourish, and he would be very glad to know from time to time that the membership was increasing. It now afforded him great pleasure to declare the room open. (Applause.)

The Town-clerk stated that the institution which was opened that night was one that was required in a town like Cardiff, and he was sure that, with Professor Barbier at its head, the committee would in the course of a few months require more extensive premises. (Applause.)

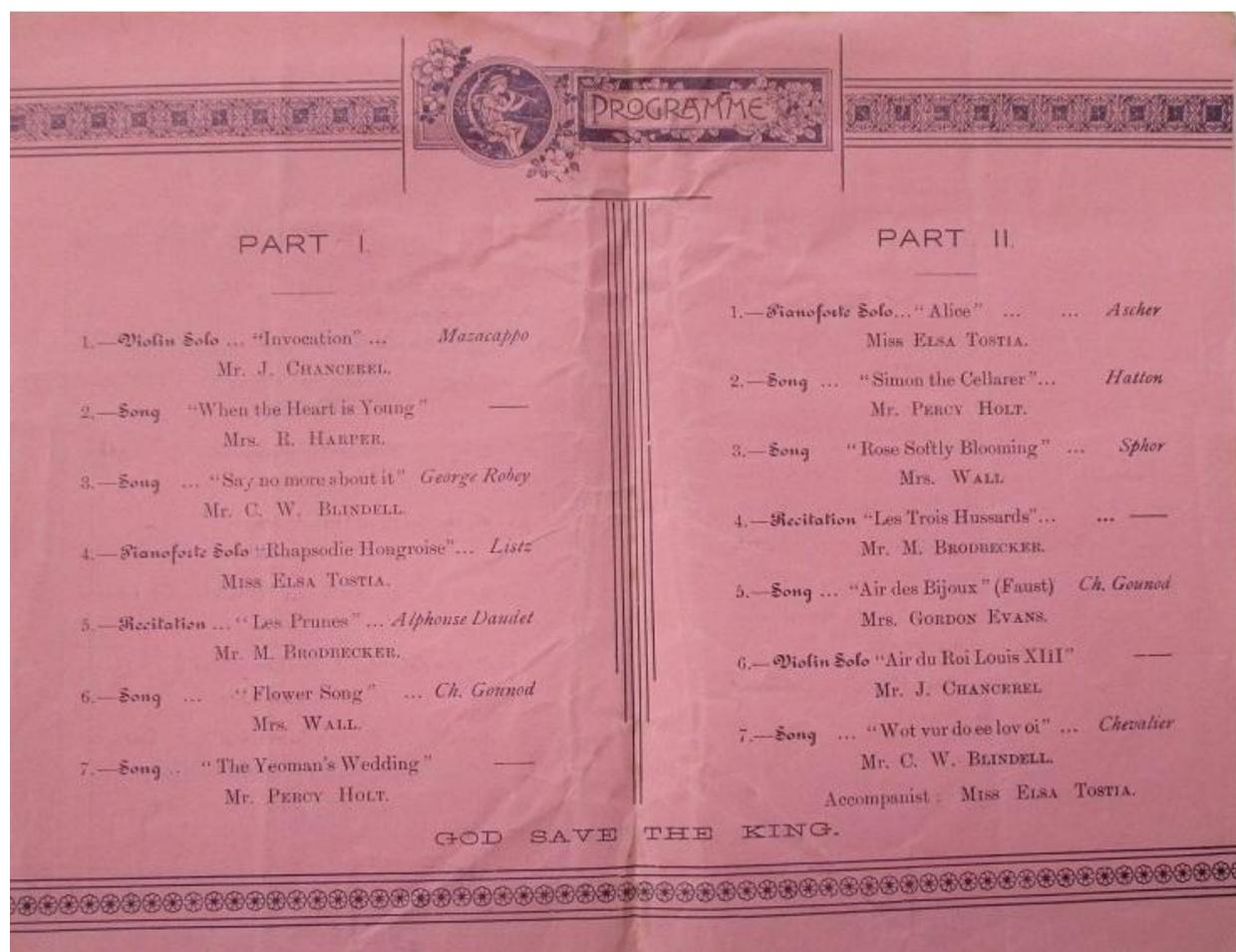
Mr H Wood-Davey, who spoke in French, approved very heartily the objects of the society.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Lord Mayor, the town-clerk, and Mr. Wood-Davey for attending, and the "Marseillaise" and "God Save the King" were then sung.

A concert of vocal and instrumental music followed.

Western Mail, Saturday 3 February 1906

A copy of the programme for the musical concert has been found in the Barbier archives, and is reproduced below:



### Programme for the concert given at the inaugural meeting of the Society on Friday 2 February 1906

This inaugural meeting also attracted attention outside Cardiff: The Times of London carried a lengthy report on the following Monday. (5 February 1906)

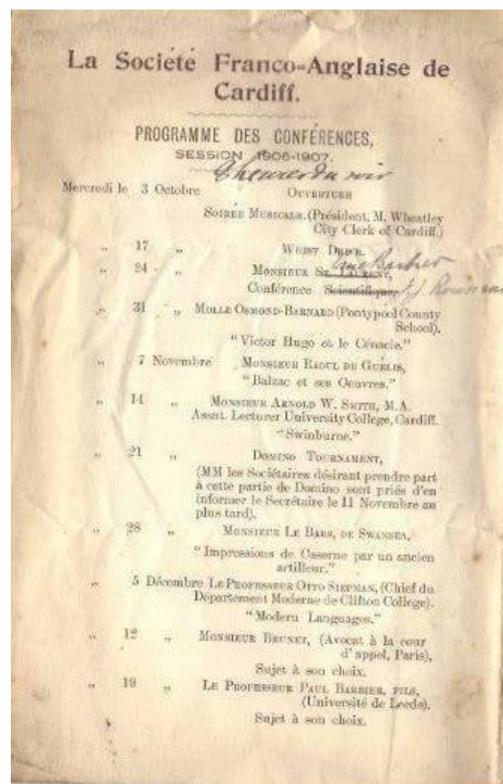
The next reported meeting took place on Friday 23 March, when one of Professor Barbier's colleagues in the French Department of University College Cardiff spoke. This was M. Maurice Lanoire and he gave a lecture in French on political parties in France in the nineteenth century. This meeting took place only a few days after the news of the Courrières mine disaster in Northern France when over one thousand miners were killed. The meeting therefore resolved that the Society should hold a fund-raising concert for the benefit of the widows and children affected by the disaster. This concert was held on 17 May at Park Hall and raised a total of £110, a very significant sum for the time.

For the second half of 1906 we have much more complete information. The Society produced a printed programme for the 1906-07 season, of which a copy was found in the Barbier archives. This is probably Professor Barbier's own copy, complete with some hand-written changes. It is reproduced below.

We see that, by the second half of 1906, the Society had fulfilled its promise of drawing up a full programme. Events had been arranged for 21 evenings between October and March. Thirteen of these were lectures, the majority being in French and on literary topics. (Compare this with recent programmes, which typically announce 13 evenings of which seven are lectures.) In addition there were two musical evenings, three games evenings (whist and dominoes), a ladies evening, and a literary evening (Scènes et Récits). If this was not enough, the Society held French conversation evenings (or debates) every Saturday.

The winter programme in 1906 opened on 3 October with a Soirée Musicale. Thereafter there were lectures or social evenings scheduled for most Wednesdays as follows:

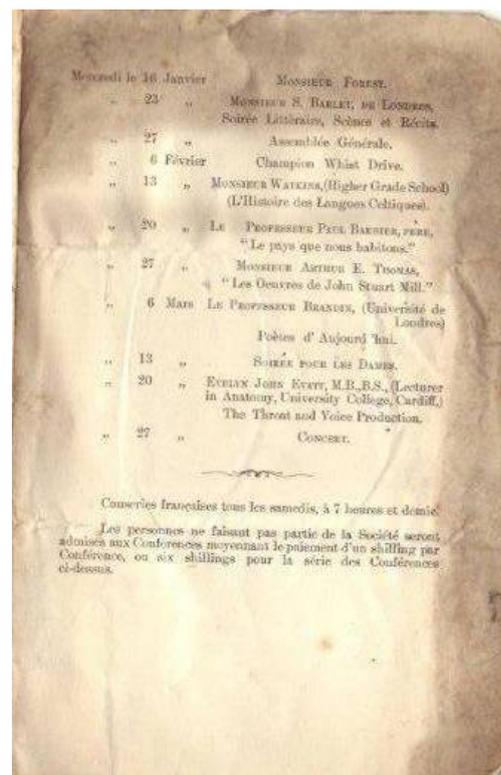
17 October	Whist Drive
24 October	M. St Laurent, Conférence Scientifique
31 October	Mlle. Osmond-Barnard "Victor Hugo et le Cénacle"
7 November	M. Raoul de Guélis "Balzac et ses Œvres"
14 November	M. Arnold W Smith "Swinburne"
21 November	Domino Tournament
28 November	M. Le Bars "Impressions de caserne par un ancien artilleur"
5 December	Le Professeur Otto Siepman "Modern Languages"
12 December	M. Brunet, Avocat
19 December	Le Profesor Paul Barbier fils.



**Programme for winter 1906**  
[A transcript is given in the Appendices.]

The spring programme for 1907 followed a similar pattern:

16 January	M. Forrest
23 January	M. S Barlet Soirée Littéraire
27 January	Assemblée Générale Annuelle
6 February	7 Champion Whist Drive
13 February	M. Watkins "L'Histoire des Langues Celtiques"
20 February	Le Profesor Paul Barbier père "Le Pays que nous habitons"
27 February	M. Arthur E Thomas "Les Œuvres de John Stuart Mill"
6 March	Le Professeur Brandin "Poètes d'Aujourd'hui"
13 March	Soirée pour les Dames
20 March	Evelyn John Evatt "The Throat and Voice Production"



**Programme for spring 1907**  
[A transcript is given in the Appendices.]

The programme for the year ended with a Concert on 27 March.

Prior to discovering the programme for 1906-07 in the Barbier archives, the earliest known programme dated from 1910-11. The format was quite similar: Twenty evenings were advertised, of which twelve were lectures in French. Thus the form of the Society's annual programme was established in its very first year, and has continued until the present day.

It is apparent that the Barbier family made a large contribution to the programme in 1906-07. There was a conférence by Prof. Paul Barbier fils on 19 December, and one by Prof. Paul Barbier père on 20 February. In fact, a report in the Western Mail shows that Prof. Barbier also stepped in to give the conférence on 31 October in place of the advertised speaker. He spoke on Lamartine. Another report in the Western Mail says that a M. de Guelis gave a well-received lecture on "The Commune" on 14 November. This was in fact Raoul de Guélis, Prof. Barbier's son-in-law.

It should be emphasised that we only see the true scale of the Society's activities from its programme cards, and we would get an incomplete picture if we relied on the reports in the press. In the first year of the Society, 1906-07, the Western Mail and the Evening Express did give reports on some of the Society's meetings; six of the eight meetings in the autumn were reported, but only four out of eight in the spring term. In subsequent years, the reporting of ordinary meetings declined further, although the Western Mail or the Evening Express usually carried a report of the AGM which was held regularly in January. Thus by using a combination of occasional reports in the press and the few extant Society programme cards, we can sketch out the Society's progress and some of its activities in these early years.

The Western Mail (28 January 1907) reported on the AGM. It noted that "*the President [Prof. Barbier], in his address gave a resume of the work accomplished by the society, stating that after being in existence only five months they were enabled to forward £100 for the relief of the sufferers at the Courrières Colliery explosion*". The report continues by saying that "*lectures in French had been given nearly every Wednesday during the winter by well-known Frenchmen, and that on Saturdays debates had been held in French which had been well-attended. The membership was growing. Over 200 members were on the society's books, including 50 ladies.*" It is interesting to observe that Professor Barbier also remarked at this meeting that the society had been in existence for only five months. This suggests that in fact the programme of activities had commenced only in the *second* half of 1906. If this is so, then in fact we possess a copy of the very first programme card which the Society produced.

Ten days earlier (18 January 1907) the Western Mail had reported that the Society was about to establish a foreign library at its rooms in Park Place, which would be open to non-members at a small cost.

The final report from the spring of 1907 followed the Concert evening which closed the Society's programme. The Western Mail (28 March 1907) reported that "*a diversified programme afforded great pleasure to a large gathering.*" The object of the evening had been to provide stage accessories for a new branch of the association in furtherance of dramatic entertainments. It is clear from all these reports that the Society was proving to be vigorous and successful.

In July 1907 there was a visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to Cardiff, and the Society was prepared to play its part. Large banners were made, with inscriptions such as "Vive le Roi" and "Vive l'Entente Cordiale", and these were hung across Park Place outside the Society's rooms. A choir of members stood at the windows, and on a signal from Professor Barbier at the approach of the royal car, sang verses from the Marseillaise and the National Anthem.

At the start of the 1907-1908 session the Evening Express carried a report (14 October 1907) on the opening meeting and concert of the Society. These were in its new premises in 31 Park Place.

Following the AGM held in January 1908, the Western Mail (1 February 1908) carried a very brief report. This AGM was held at 31 Park Place, which had now become the new premises of the Society. The membership was about 150. Professor Barbier and W E Thomas were re-elected as president and vice-president. The new French consul at Cardiff, M. Neltner, became honorary president. We might speculate that the decline in membership had something to do with the end of the five-shilling introductory offer rather than the full rate of one guinea.

In June 1908 the actress Sarah Bernhardt appeared in Cardiff. As reported in the Evening Express (18 June 1908), the Society made a presentation to her during the entr'acte of her performance and gave her a bouquet and card inscribed with the Society's motto "Calon wrth Galon".

The Evening Express continued to report occasionally on lectures given by the Society. Also, on 27 January 1909, it carried a report of the AGM. Professor Barbier was accorded the title president fondateur. M. J Neltner, the French consul, continued as president d'honneur. W E Thomas was elected president, and Max Wideman and

Reuben Harpur became vice-presidents. Mme Yvonne Darre became the Society's librarian. The report also gave a complete list of the names of the committee.

The Western Mail did not carry reports of the AGM in either 1909 or 1910. However, in early 1910 it carried a lengthy report (7 February 1910) of a lecture by Professor A P Huguenet on Jeanne d'Arc. The professor – clearly an anglophile – explained at length that, contrary to common opinion, “*the Maid of Orleans had not been burnt by the English. Rather Charles VII, the Burgundians, and especially the Holy Inquisition, were severally responsible for her cruel death and martyrdom*”. The lecture was well-received and the pro-English interpretation probably accounts for its being considered newsworthy.

We have considerably more information about the 1910-11 season. To start with, a copy of the programme card for this season had been discovered in 2006 in the Society file in Cardiff Central Library.

Programme.		Hiver 1910.	
1910.		1910.	
Vendredi 14 Octobre	Réception à la Société de tous les Membres par le Président, précédée d'une causerie.  "De tout et du reste" par M. F. Le Bars, Licencié-es-lettres ; suivie d'une soirée musicale et dansante.	Samedi 19 Novembre	De la frontière d'Espagne à Madrid (avec projections) Mr. F. Novion, Secrétaire Général de la Fédération de l'Alliance Française.
Samedi 29 Octobre	Probablement représentation en matinée de pièces classiques françaises A. Roubaud et sa troupe.	Vendredi 11 Novembre	WHIST DRIVE. (Members, 1/6, Non-Members, 2/-)
Samedi 5 Novembre	"Victor Hugo à Jersey et Guernesey," avec projections, par M. Maurice Souriau, professeur de littérature à l'Université de Caen, Salle des Conférences du Y.M.C.A.	Vendredi 2 Décembre	"Paris par un Parisien," R. M. Gardeur, Université de Manchester.
		Samedi 17 Decembre	"Les Gaulois et la Nationalité Française." Prof. A. V. Salmon, Président de la Fédération de l'Alliance Française.
		Vendredi Dec. 30.	Soirée musicale, Dansante etc.

Programme		1911.	
1911.		1911	
Samedi, 14 Janvier à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof. A. V. Salmon Les Gaulois et la Nationalité Française.	Jedi, 2 Mars à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof. J. C. Andre Barbier. La poésie en France sous le Second Empire.
Vendredi, 20 Janvier, à 8 heures	Conférence du Rev G. Ramette, B.A., B.D. La femme Française à travers histoire	Vendredi, 10 Mars, à 7 heures et demie	Bridge Drive. Membres 2/- Invites 2/6
Vendredi, 27 Janvier. à 8 heures	Assemblée Générale, comptes rendus de l'année et élections.	Vendredi, 17 Mars. à 8 heures	Conférence de Mme J C André Barbier La musique (avec illustrations)
Vendredi, 3 Février, à 8 heures	Conférence de Mr. R. M. Gardeur, L. es L. Chateaubriand.	Lundi, 27 Mars, à 8 heures	Conférence de Mr. G. Lacour Gayet, Professeur d'histoire a l'Ecole Supérieure de Marine de France, La reine Marie Antoinette.
Samedi, 11 Février, à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof Yvon Calviou L'époque Napoleonienne	Vendredi, 7 Avril. à 8 heures.	Conférence de M. F. L. Bars L. es L. Sujet à son choix.
Vendredi 17 Février à 7 heures et demie	Whist Drive Membres 2/- Invités 2/6.	Vendredi, 21 Avril à 8 heures.	Soiree littéraire musicale et dansante.
Sauf avis contraire les conférences auront lieu à la Société à huit heures précises du soir. Pour les Whist Drives, Soirees, Lectures, Conférences, Représentations, on peut obtenir des billets à la Société.			

### Programme of the Society for 1910-11 Season

[This programme card was also reproduced in the centenary history.]

This is a full and varied programme. Again we may note the contribution of the Barbier family, this time through Prof. J C André Barbier (another *filis*) and his wife.

There was also an upswing in the number of reports in the Western Mail. This may have been due to the energy of Max Wideman who became president at this time. The first report (15 October 1910) is of the opening meeting and confirms that the Society was still based at 31 Park Place. The next item was an excursion into the French theatre. In the programme this was announced as "*Probablement représentation en matinée de pièces classiques françaises – A Roubaud et sa troupe*". The report (31 October 1910) in the Western Mail shows in fact that this was a most enterprising and ambitious occasion.

#### FRENCH COMEDY PRESENTED AT CARDIFF

Through the commendable enterprise of the Societe Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff, of which Mons. Wideman is the popular president, the French community in the Welsh metropolis together with students of French – and their number is legion – were able on Saturday to enjoy at the Theatre Royal a production of a French classical comedy, in four acts, entitled "Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon." The play was produced by Mon. Roubaud's Parisian Company, including M. Duparc, de l'Odeon, et Mlle. Martha Gravill, of the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, who came over from Paris especially at the invitation of the Cardiff society. The audience, who showed their repeatedly marked approval of the production, included the French, Italian, Spanish, and Mexican Consuls, Captain Lindsay (the chief constable of Glamorgan), and a number of other citizens outside the role of the society's membership.

#### Western Mail, Monday 31 October 1910

There was a brief report (7 November 1910) on the lecture given by Prof. Maurice Souriau on "Victor Hugo in Jersey and Guernsey". This lecture was given in the YMCA rooms, presumably because it was a public lecture given under the auspices of the Federation of British Branches of the Alliance Française and hence a larger audience was expected.

The final report for this season (28 January 1911) was a brief report on the AGM. A new president (Reuben Harper) and vice-presidents were elected. A new librarian, Miss Margaret Davies, was also elected. Max Wideman became an honorary president of the Society.

There were no further mentions of the Society in 1911, but in 1912 there were a total of six separate reports in the Western Mail. The first (4 January 1912) commended the coming programme. It singled out talks by M. Gaston Deschamps on 21 February on "Les Femmes de Lettres de Paris" to be held in the YMCA Hall and by Madame Barbier on 14 March on the history of the harp, with examples of the chromatique system given by Mlle. Jeanne Dallies of Paris. This report was also the first to record that the headquarters of the Society were now in 36 Park Place.

The AGM was reported on briefly (19 January 1912). The membership had increased during the year to 229, although the president, Reuben Harpur, said that it was far from reaching its high water mark. Mr Ragody of Rochefort [the father of Arlette Ragody-Hughes] was elected president. Mr W E Thomas (Transatlantic) took the position of treasurer.

The lecture by Gaston Deschamps was reported on enthusiastically and at length (22 February 1912). The report said that "*It is difficult to imagine a greater literary treat than an hour or so's listening to a brilliant French critic discoursing with consummate art on the literary Frenchwomen of today.*" This was, presumably, one of the public lectures since the French consul, M. Neltner, presided and there was a large audience gathered in the YMCA Hall. The report continues: "*M. Deschamps, who is the literary critic of "Le Temps", proved quite an apostle of the feminist movement in literature. With gentle chivalry and occasional charming humour, he dealt at length with the women writers, of which modern France is so prolific – writers of politics, biography, essays, belles-lettres, poetry,*

and, not least, the romantic school of novelists." Following the lecture, there was a dinner at 36 Park Place with M. Deschamps as the guest of honour.

There was a report in March (21 March 1912) on the Society's concert evening. Finally there was an enthusiastic report (23 April 1912) on the Society's fancy-dress ball. Under the headline "Anglo-French Conviviality at Cardiff" the Western Mail gave the following glowing testimonial to the Society's success in Cardiff: "No one in these days can doubt the existence of a bond of real friendship between the countrymen of Napoleon and those of Wellington, and in Cardiff at least the extremely flourishing state of the Societe Franco-Anglaise, which has its headquarters in Park Place, is living testimony to the entente cordiale. All through the year this very-much-alive club holds interesting soirees, lectures, dances, and the like, and at the Whitehall Rooms on Monday evening there was a well-attended "fin de saison" fancy dress ball. Mr. Roberts's orchestra supplied the music. Two prizes for the best fancy dress costume were awarded to Miss Fownes and Mr. Berg." In the centenary history there is a picture from around this time which demonstrates the high quality of the costumes which the Society members were capable of producing.



In 1913 there was just a single mention of the Society in the Western Mail, a short report on the AGM (15 January 1913). The report gives the names of the thirteen conferenciers to give lectures scheduled between January and April, and additionally announces a soiree dansante for 23 January. The Society showed no signs of slacking in the pace of its activities.

The 1914 AGM was reported on extremely briefly (19 January 1914). In a game of musical chairs, W E Thomas became president, Max Wideman vice-president, and Reuben Harpur chairman. There was an equally brief report (26 January 1914) on the lecture by M. F Novion on "Balzac et [le] roman psychologique" which received an "enthusiastic ovation".

The Society's regular forays into the theatre featured in the next report (16 February 1914). Under the headline "French Plays at Cardiff" it continues: "One of the most attractive functions arranged by the Anglo-French Society at Cardiff is the annual presentation of French plays. A good deal of interest centred in the production of the one-act comedy, "Le Pharmicien", by Max Maurey, and Jules Sandeau's comedy in four acts, "Mademoiselle de la Seigliere", at the Theatre Royal on Saturday. There was a large audience. Both plays were presented by Mons. A Roubaud's company, and the performances were most enjoyable. The acting of M. Dumestre in the title role of "Le Pharmicien" and as the Marquis in "La Seigliere" was particularly creditable, and Mdlle. Clydia as Helene de la Seigliere was also a distinct success."

There were two brief reports on the Society in 1915, both in February. The first (1 February 1915) noted that M. Le Bars, the French vice-consul at Swansea had spoken on "Our Heroic Defenders". He explained that the French government kept him at Swansea but his wish was to be at the front. The second (8 February 1915) concerned a lecture by Joseph de Gehet, a Belgian refugee, on "Small details about the Army and Civic Guard in Belgium". At this time, of course, the First World War was in full swing.

We now come to period in 1915-16 when the Society's activities are again well-documented. We have copies of the programme for the three semesters from October 1915 to December 1916. [These programme cards were also reproduced in the centenary history.]

PROGRAMME.	
<p><b>Octobre.</b></p> <p>Mercrèdi 13. Conférence de Monsieur G. STIENON. <b>La Danse à Travers les Ages.</b></p> <p>Samedi 23. Conférence de Madame D'ORLIAC BOHN. Vice Principal de l'Institut Français du Royaume Uni. <b>Les Pays Scandinaves.</b> Recitations de Melle. Teissier (du Théâtre du Vieux Colombier). At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff.</p> <p>Samedi 30. Conférence en Anglais de M. le Professeur A. SALMON. (Président des Comités de l'Alliance Française) <b>Le Martyr de la Cathédrale de Reims.</b> (Avec projections lumineuses). At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff.</p> <p><b>Novembre.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 4. Concert organisé par les soins de Monsieur R. J. RIMELL. (Vice-Président de la Société Franco-Anglaise).</p>	<p><b>Novembre.</b></p> <p>Mercrèdi 10. Conférence de Monsieur PROUMEN. Délégué de l'Institut Français. Professeur aux Facultés de Bruxelles. <b>Le Roman Historique, Vigny, Hugo, Dumas.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 18. WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invites 6d. extra.</p> <p>Samedi 27. Conférence de Monsieur F. LE BARS (Dès-l). Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de La France. <b>"POILUS et TOMMIES."</b></p> <p><b>Décembre.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 2. Conférence de Monsieur VAILLANT. Licencié en Droit Avocat au Barreau de Lille. Délégué de l'Institut Français. <b>Causes de la Guerre de 1914.</b></p> <p>Samedi 11. Conférence de Monsieur JACOB. Etudes de Mœurs à Paris.</p> <p>Samedi 18. Soirée Musicale et Littéraire.</p>
N.B.—Lectures and Concerts will commence at 8 p.m. Whist Drive 7.15 p.m.	

Programme of the Society for October-December 1915

PROGRAMME.	
<p><b>Janvier.</b></p> <p>Mardi 4. Réouverture du Cercle de Lecture (Sous la présidence de Mons. STIENON ) <b>Livre—" La tulipe noire " (Dumas)</b> Chez Dyer 1/-. (à suivre) <b>Grandeurs et Servitudes Militaires— Alfred de Vigny.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 13. Mons. FIRMIN VAN HECKE. <b>Villes d'art en Belgique</b> (avec projections lumineuses).</p> <p>Jeu-di 20. Assemblée Générale Annuelle.</p> <p>Lundi 24. Mdlle. MARIE DE NYS (du Théâtre Antoine et du Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt), <b>Alfred de Musset</b> (avec auditions).</p> <p><b>Février.</b></p> <p>Samedi 5. Dr. J. LYNN THOMAS, C.B. <b>The British Red Cross Society</b> with Lime Light projections. At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff. Chairman—Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor (Dr. R. J. SMITH).</p> <p>Mercrèdi 16. Mons. GEORGE ALIEZ (Prof. de lettres au Lycée de Londres). <b>Un tour en France</b> (Impressions et Anecdotes).</p>	<p><b>Février.</b></p> <p>Samedi 26. Mons. le Professeur A. SALMON (Président des Comités de l'Alliance Française) <b>Les Gloires Militaires de la France</b> (Avec projections lumineuses).</p> <p><b>Mars.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 2. WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invites 6d. extra.</p> <p>Samedi 11. Mons. PIERRE MOCAËR (Secrétaire de la Section d'Economie Politique et Sociale de la Fédération Régionaliste de Bretagne). <b>L'Idée Celtique, Pays de Galles et Bretagne.</b></p> <p>Mercrèdi 15. Mons. LOUIS BOURGEOIS (Prof. de Chant à la Schola Cantorum de Paris). <b>Le Chant Français Moderne</b> (Mélodies Modernes Fauré, Duparc, Debussy.)</p> <p>Samedi 25. Mons. le Professeur FABRICE POLDERMAN (De l'Université de Birmingham). <b>L'art Belge Contemporain</b> (Avec projections lumineuses).</p> <p><b>Avril.</b></p> <p>Jeu-di 6. Mons. F. le BARS (L és L) (Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France). <b>Les Femmes Françaises et la Guerre.</b></p> <p>Mercrèdi 12. SOIREE MUSICALE</p>
N.B.—Lectures and Concerts will commence at 8 p.m. Whist Drive 7.30 p.m.	

Programme of the Society for January-April 1916

Despite it being wartime, a full programme had been arranged as usual, although a couple of the lectures were on war-related topics.

The AGM in 1915 was well-reported in the Western Mail (21 January 1915). The effects of the war were beginning to become noticeable in the Society's account of the year. Apart from the usual programme, the Society had entertained numerous parties of wounded soldiers at its rooms, and some thirty members of the Society (French and English) were away on active service. R J Rimmel was elected president, and Reuben Harpur became treasurer.

<i>Programme---Octobre-Décembre, 1916.</i>	
<b>Septembre.</b>	
Mardi 19. (8 h.)	Re-ouverture du Cercle de Lecture (Sous la présidence de M. STIENON.) Livre Choisi—"Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard" (Anatole France.) Chez Dyer 1/-
<b>Octobre.</b>	
Lundi 2. (8½ h.)	Mlle. MARIE DE NYS (des Théâtres Antoine et Sarah Bernhardt). Les Fables de La Fontaine.
Jeudi 12. (8 h.)	Soirée de Re-ouverture (Whitehall Rooms, Park Hotel) Discours par Monsieur T. E. Watson, (Président de la Chambre de Commerce.) Membre de la Société.
Jeudi 19. (8 h.)	M. PIERRE MOCAËR, H.E.C. "Un Breton à l'Eisteddfod d'Aberystwith Impressions et Souvenirs."
Samedi 28. (8 h.)	Séance Musicale—Madame TURCK. Selection d'œuvres de Massenet accompagnée d'une causerie par M. J. de Smedt.
<b>Novembre.</b>	
Mercredi 1. (8½ h.)	Monsieur L. BAERT (Prof.essor de diction). "Les Poètes de la Guerre" (Les Etoiles éteintes.) (avec Auditions).
<b>Novembre.</b>	
Samedi 11. (8 h.)	Profr. A. SALMON (Président de la Fédération Britannique de l'Alliance française). "Les femmes de France à la culture de la Terre." (avec projections).
Jeudi 16. (8 h.)	Prof. P. DIVERRÈS, D. Litt., M.A. "Influence de la littérature galloise sur la littérature française au Moyen-Age."
Jeudi 23. (7½ h.)	WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invités 6d. extra.
Samedi 25. (8 h.)	Monsieur F. le BARS (L ès L) (Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France). "Les journaux anglais et français pendant la Guerre."
<b>Décembre.</b>	
Vendredi 1. (8 h.)	Prof. POLDERMAN (de l'Université de Birmingham). "La Poesie française en Belgique."
Mercredi 6. (8½ h.)	Monsieur MAURICE THIÉRY (de la Société des Auteurs). "Mme. Sarah Bernhardt: la femme, l'artiste, l'écrivain."
Jeudi 14. (8 h.)	M. RENÉ TURCK. "Les Prisonniers anglais de Napoléon en France."
Lundi 18. (8 h.)	Soirée Musicale.

### Programme of the Society for September-December 1916

Thus the Society maintained a full lecture and social programme throughout this period. This is something which we would *not* have learnt from following the reports in the press. The Western Mail ran reports on only three of the meetings in this eighteen-month period. Two of these were on the lectures by Prof. Fabrice Polderman on "L'Art Belge Contemporain" (27 March 1916), and by M. Le Bars on "Les Femmes Françaises et la Guerre (7 April 1916), which dwelt on the contribution of every adult in France to the war. The third was a report (13 April 1916) on the concert evening. At this meeting the president, R J Rimmell, had spoken on the tenth anniversary of the Society and its contribution to the war effort. He noted that the founding of the Society came "*soon after the inception of the Entente by King Edward.*" His report reflected the circumstances of the war in which Britain and France were engaged. However, he felt that the Society "*had maintained their lectures and meetings at a very high standard. They had organised two very successful charity lectures and realised substantial sums. Besides this, during the past session they had entertained parties of wounded soldiers on a number of occasions.*"

In January 1917, the Society arranged a lecture by Major-General Sir Ivor Herbert MP on the subject of the Anglo-French Alliance. Sir Ivor was one of the original patrons of the Society, as can be seen from the flyers of 1905-06. In announcing this lecture the Western Mail (11 January 1917) noted that "*he had the reputation of being the finest linguist in the British Army ... [as well as] the most fluent French conversationalist in the House of Commons.*" His address was covered at length in the paper's subsequent report (15 January 1917). He particularly stressed the value of the Entente Cordiale and the importance of learning foreign languages as a way to promote understanding between different nations. He commenced by saying that "*the Cardiff society was among the first fruits of the sympathetic and patriotic work of our late beloved King Edward VII, who had so deeply at heart the creation of a really cordiale and intimate Entente between France and the United Kingdom.*" He deplored the insularity of Great Britain which "*was aggravated by an unfortunate fault in our educational system by which we never learnt foreign languages. That was a peculiarity that ought not to exist in Cardiff, where everyone ought to be able to speak two languages, and there ought to be no difficulty for them to learn a third.*" He was convinced that if only the European

nations and their statesmen had possessed the ability to communicate with and understand each other then the great catastrophe of the war would not have befallen them. He praised the Society in saying that "*By aiding in the cultivation of the knowledge and appreciation of the language and literature in which the genius of the French people was shown the Cardiff Society had created a local atmosphere and prepared men's minds for the great events of today*". A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Sir Ivor which was accorded with great cordiality. There is no record of any reaction of the members to the suggestion that, because everyone in Cardiff ought to be already fluent in two languages (presumably English and Welsh), they should easily be able to add further ones.

Just two days before this lecture, there is a report (11 January 1917) of the Society organising a concert for the French sailors in the port of Cardiff. There was large gathering at the Seaman's Institute including many British soldiers who were stationed at the docks. Many of the best-known artistes in Cardiff gave their services.

There was a brief report of the AGM (22 January 1917). The president, R J Rimmel, acknowledged the assistance given by Lord Rhondda, Sir Ivor Herbert and Mr T E Watson (President of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce) during the year. He also spoke of the large contributions of garments sent to the French hospitals and of the lectures provided for members.

The AGM in 1918 was also reported in the *Western Mail* (January 21 1918). The secretary stated that the membership stood at 270, and the treasurer, R Harpur, said that the Society had never been so prosperous financially. Mr W Mervyn Howell was elected as the new president, Mr Harpur continued as treasurer, and Margaret Davies was re-elected as librarian. There was a sale of literature and Max Wideman bought a large quantity of magazines and newspapers for the benefit of the French sailors who visited the Seaman's Institute.

This concludes our survey of the society's progress and activities in its first twelve years, from 1906 to 1918. It is clear that it was a thriving association from the very beginning, with a membership reaching 200 in the first year and climbing to over 270 by 1918. It had established itself in premises at 36 Park Place which it was to occupy for the following thirty years. Each season it arranged a packed programme of lectures and social events. It was well integrated into the social life of Cardiff and introduced French theatre into the city. It was charitably active both before and during the First World War.

This account has only been made possible through the discovery of the Barbier archives. These provided the documents from the launch of the society as well as the programme for the first season. It also stimulated a search of the newspaper archives in Cardiff Central Library and Cardiff University Library which yielded the reports above. For technical reasons, only a very limited search of these archives had been possible in preparing the centenary history. In early 2006, the newspaper files in the Central library were consulted and this yielded the reports relating to the second half of 1906. However, at that time the newspaper files consisted of the original newsprint which was extremely fragile. In mid-2006 these newspapers were then sent to the National Library in Aberystwyth for microfilming, and hence were no longer available to be consulted during the remaining preparation of the centenary history.

# The Origins and Early History of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff

## Part 2: The Evolution of The Entente Cordiale

### Chapter 5: The Entente Cordiale of 1904

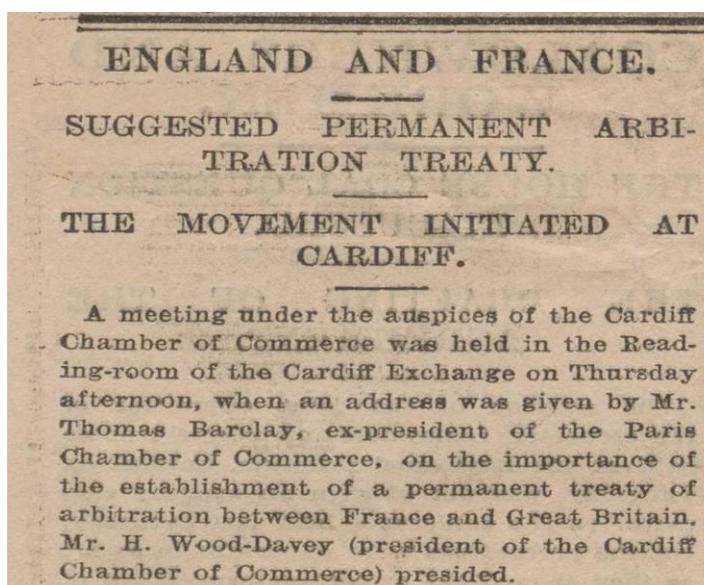
We have seen that the launch of the Society was regarded as an important expression in Cardiff of the spirit of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. The Society's own documents make repeated references to the Entente as do the reports in the press. But what exactly was the Entente Cordiale?

History books tell us that the Entente Cordiale is the name given to a set of diplomatic accords signed by the British and French governments in April 1904. These accords dealt with a number of issues of colonial policy, particularly in North Africa, where there had been a potential for friction or hostilities to arise between the two countries. The main points were an agreement that Morocco should be regarded as within the French sphere of influence while Egypt would remain under British control. There were also some further agreements covering arrangements elsewhere in Africa and around Newfoundland. These accords were preceded by the signing of a Treaty of Arbitration between Britain and France in 1903. Together, the diplomatic accords and the Treaty of Arbitration signalled a new era of improved relations at governmental level.

However, alongside the diplomatic agreements of the Entente Cordiale, there was a wave of popular feeling unleashed on both sides of the Channel, reflecting a new era of rapprochement and warm friendship between the two countries. This atmosphere of goodwill towards France and all things French also became known as the Entente Cordiale, and it was reported on in the press on almost a daily basis.

Thus there were two distinct and different aspects to the Entente Cordiale. One was the improvement of relations between the two governments leading to *a reduction in tension over contentious issues*. The other was a *wave of Francophilia* which swept over the British press and public. Both aspects were significant to the launch of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff.

We can start by considering the improvement in intergovernmental relations. During the 1890s, relations between Britain and France had been uneasy and colonial rivalries sometimes threatened to break out into military confrontation. This was a matter of immediate concern to the commercial life of Cardiff, in that the trade with France accounted for the largest traffic through the Cardiff docks. There is an interesting newspaper cutting in the Barbier archives, from the Western Mail of 30 January 1903, which shows the awareness of the threat to Cardiff's trade which any such confrontation might cause. It is a report of a well-attended meeting held in the Coal Exchange building, in support of a proposal by the Chambers of Commerce for a permanent arbitration treaty between Britain and France.



Western Mail, Friday 30 January 1903

The main speakers lost no time in explaining why the proposal was important. Mr Wood-Davey, in opening the proceedings, mentioned that *“France was Cardiff’s best customer, and 3,000,000 tons of coal was sent there each year”*. Mr Thomas Barclay, speaking in support of the proposed treaty, said *“It was not an idealist’s scheme, but a pounds, shillings, and pence movement.”*

Mr Barclay reminded his Cardiff audience of the Fashoda affair of 1898, when France and Britain came close to conflict. The newspaper account of his speech continues, *“No doubt, they [his audience] remembered it; perhaps they did not know how near they were to war about it. They might suspect it, but he would give them facts. Immediately after communication of the British ultimatum the French Government took steps to place the Channel ports on a war footing. Everything was prepared at Calais, Dunkirk, Havre, Cherbourg, and Brest, down to the ambulance beds, for immediate hostilities. The French Mediterranean fleet, full steam up and lights extinguished, passed Gibraltar in the dead of night without the English knowing their whereabouts. The British fleet was somewhere east of Malta. A mere spark would have plunged the two nations, perhaps others, into the horrors of a European war.”*

War with France! 3,000,000 tons of coal exports lost! And all because of colonial rivalries in a far-off country (Fashoda is in South Sudan). No wonder that the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce was one of the keenest supporters in Britain of the proposed treaty.

Mr Barclay hoped that expressions of support for the proposed treaty in Britain might persuade the British government to come to terms with the French government. The report continues, *“The French Government, he could affirm on most excellent authority, would respond most warmly to any overtures on the subject which the English Government might make to it. (Applause.)”*

Mr Wood-Davey followed this by moving a resolution: *“That this meeting warmly approves the agitation for the conclusion of a treaty consolidating and perpetuating peace and amity between this country and France, and requests the chairman to take measures to constitute a local committee, with power to add to its numbers, for the purpose of co-operating in any joint action for this object.”* Several speakers then spoke in favour of the resolution. One said that *“they in Cardiff were constantly in close touch with Frenchmen, and probably, they knew the Frenchman better than some people who were living in inland towns, and he thought it of the greatest importance that they should prevent any outbreak of hostilities with France. (Hear, hear.)”* Another said that *“he thought the matter ought to be brought to the knowledge of the British Government, as he could not help feeling that the British Government would be prepared at least to meet the French Government half-way. (Applause.)”*

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Earlier, Mr Barclay had referred in his speech to a certain anti-French sentiment prevalent in Britain; *“In this campaign the interests of peace with France were pitted against sentimental and school-book prejudice against France.”* This was echoed from the floor by a contribution from Paul Barbier. The report reads: *“Professor Barbier said he had come there that afternoon out of gratitude to Mr. Barclay to thank him for endeavouring to bring together the two nationalities on a peace footing – (hear, hear) – on a footing that would drive out of the minds of their English friends – and there were a few in Cardiff – the prejudices that they had inherited from the text-books which they studied in school. (Laughter and “Hear, hear.”)”* Professor Barbier was a well-known figure in Cardiff and himself the author of a number of school French texts.

Thomas Barclay played an important role in years leading up to the Entente Cordiale. Based in Paris, he had been a prominent campaigner for the arbitration treaty in France and England since 1901. In England he sought the support of the Chambers of Commerce, many of whom, like Cardiff, passed special resolutions in its favour. He gained a similar support in France. His efforts were rewarded when the Treaty of Arbitration was signed in October 1903 and his role was recognised by a knighthood in June 1904. A biographical note on this remarkable man is given in the appendix.

Finally, as an illustration of Paul Barbier’s standing in Cardiff as a well-known teacher of French, we may note that, the day following the Chamber of Commerce debate, the Western Mail chose to reprint the following cartoon by the cartoonist J M Staniforth. Originally entitled ‘The Peacemaker’, the Western Mail now linked it to the name of Professor Barbier.



### QUOTING AN ENGLISH COPY-BOOK

Dame CARDIFF: "Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword."

(Respectfully dedicated to Professor Barbier.)

**Western Mail, Saturday 31 January 1903**

We now return to the second aspect of the Entente Cordiale, that is, the popular wave of mutual sentiments of goodwill which swept France and Britain from 1903 onwards. This is due principally to the personal support of Edward VII for the Entente.

Since he was Prince of Wales, Edward had enjoyed spending time in France. He enjoyed French life, especially the life of a *bon viveur*. He was at home in Paris and Biarritz, at the best restaurants, at the theatre and the races. He liked good food and champagne. He had many French friends, spoke good French, and had a particularly soft spot for Frenchwomen.

When it became apparent that the French and British governments were negotiating a draft accord, Edward VII decided to use his influence to make it a reality. He did so with great skill. In May 1903 he went to Paris for an extended royal visit. The French government played its part by arranging for cheering crowds whenever he appeared. Paris was decorated with flags and window displays. The press went overboard. Countless souvenirs and postcards were produced. Edward made many official and less formal visits, always speaking in French, flattering his hosts, emphasising his love of France and his desire for better relations. One history (Tombs and Tombs (2007), p. 438) describes this as "*the most important royal visit in modern history.*"

The visit of Edward VII to France was immediately followed by the visit of President Loubet of France to London. Although a far more sober character than Edward VII, he was also met by cheering crowds and the visit was a great success. In the press, it was announced that this was the era of the Entente Cordiale, a period of warm and friendly relations with France. In the wake of this popular sentiment, the diplomatic accords were finalised and signed the following April. They, too, acquired the name of the Entente Cordiale.

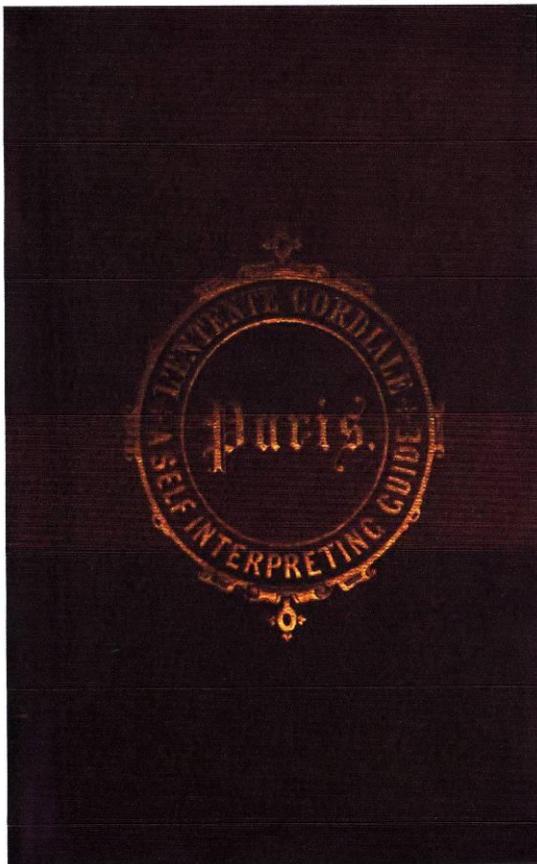
In the following years, the press automatically linked any activity promoting friendship with France as an example of the Entente Cordiale in action. This can be seen throughout the reports of the first meetings of the Society in 1905. It also meant that the founders of the Society could present their aims in terms of the Entente Cordiale. No further explanation was needed; everybody understood what the Entente Cordiale was all about.

## Chapter 6: The Rise of the Felicitous Expression “L’Entente Cordiale”

It is often assumed today that the expression “Entente Cordiale” originated in 1904. This is not so. It has had a much longer history.

In their comprehensive history of Anglo-French relations, *That Sweet Enemy* (Heinemann 2006, Pimlico 2007), Robert and Isabelle Tombs give an account of the earlier history of this phrase. It appears that the first person to use the phrase *Entente Cordiale* in writing was François Guizot, the French ambassador in London in 1830. This was shortly after *les trois glorieuses* which brought Louis-Philippe to power. It was a reference to Louis-Philippe’s desire to bring about warmer relations with Britain, which was welcomed by some, but by no means all, British statesmen. Some historians refer to the period as the “first entente cordiale.” Relations with Britain did improve for a time, culminating in the visits of Queen Victoria to France in 1843 and 1845. In 1843 Louis-Philippe again used the phrase “entente cordiale” in his official speech. However, as a basis for policy, the entente cordiale Mark 1 was short-lived. This is often blamed on Palmerston, with his innate anti-French feelings. Whatever the truth of this, it ended definitively with the overthrow of Louis-Philippe in 1848.

None the less, the phrase *entente cordiale* continued to be used in Britain. For example, during the Crimean War, it was used in parliament to refer to the military alliance of France with Britain against Russia. Politicians also believed that Napoleon III was in favour of better relations with Britain, and one politician said that “we cordially approve the exertions of the succeeding ministry [i.e. Napoleon III as the successor to Louis-Philippe] to restore the *entente cordiale*.” When Napoleon III decided to host an Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1855, the English language guide (229 pp) to the Exhibition and its 1500 British exhibitors was given the title *L’Entente Cordiale*.



**L’ENTENTE CORDIALE:**  
▲  
**SELF-INTERPRETING GUIDE**  
TO  
**PARIS,**  
FOR THE EXHIBITION, 1855.  
With a Plan of Paris and of the French Railways.  
BY  
**M. B. DE VALENCY.**

LONDON:  
ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE & CO.  
PARIS: STASSIN & XAVIER. NEWCASTLE: W. B. FRANKLIN.  
LIVERPOOL: GEORGE PHILIP & SON.  
MANCHESTER: A. HEYWOOD. BIRMINGHAM: J. HENDERSON.  
BRISTOL: EVANS & ARROWSMITH.  
EDINBURGH: J. MENZIES. GLASGOW: T. MURRAY & SON.  
ABERDEEN: J. SMITH. DUBLIN: G. MASON.  
MDCCC LV.

246. f. 78. 1

**Catalogue to the British Exhibitors at the Paris Exhibition of 1855.**

Retrieved from archives.org, identifier lententecordiale00valeogoo.

Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century the phrase *entente cordiale* became widely used by politicians and in the press. Its meaning also broadened. It was of course chiefly used to refer to better relations between France and Britain. However, it was also applied on many occasions to understandings between other

powers which fell short of a formal treaty. Finally, by extension, it was used about any two groups of people particularly where rivalry was being tempered.

However, in the second half of the 1890s the name *L'Entente Cordiale* began to appear regularly in *The Times*. This was *not* a reference to relations between the two countries. It was in fact the name adopted by a London-based association whose aim was to promote friendly relations between Britain and France. This association was founded in 1896, with the aim of promoting "more cordial relations between the United Kingdom and France". It is of particular relevance to the history of the Cardiff Société because of a document found in the Barbier archives which shows that Paul Barbier of Cardiff was an active member of this association as early as 1899.

The founding of this association was followed by the setting up of a sister organisation in Paris, the *Association pour L'Entente Cordiale*. Reports of the setting up of the Paris-based association show that the expression *entente cordiale* was in common use in French political circles, signifying a policy of aiming for closer relations with Britain. Indeed, the earlier version of the entente cordiale was still remembered; at a banquet of the Paris Chamber of Commerce in 1897, one speaker expressed the hope that there would be between the two countries "*cette entente cordiale dont nous parlions tant il y a quarante ans*" and followed this by hoping it would be "*plus durable qu'elle ne fut alors*". (de Lanessan (1916), p.234)

## Chapter 7: L'Entente Cordiale Society: The Anglo-French Association of London

The late nineteenth century saw the establishment in the UK of numerous societies promoting the French language, French culture, and friendship with France. The Alliance Française de Londres, itself founded in 1884, published an article on its web site in 2014 entitled *130 Years of the Alliance Française de Londres*, which includes an overview of these early years. It lists many societies which sprang up in and around London in the years after 1884: *Le Centre de Londres, Le Comité du Sud de Londres, La Concorde, Le Trèfle, La Gauloise, L'Amical, Les Concerts Français* together with a further six societies based in London districts. Similar societies were established in the provinces at the same time, and the article notes the *Société Littéraire française Alliance Française of Liverpool*. It also notes that this was a difficult time for Anglo-French relations. Indeed, there were currents of anti-French feeling in British political circles and in the population at large.

The *L'Entente Cordiale* (also known as the Anglo-French Association) was founded by John Roper Parkington in 1896. Whilst firmly francophile, it was markedly different from the French circles which were linked to the Alliance Française. It was based in the City, and was politically, commercially and socially well-connected. It also had discreet royal support. As a French writer noted, "*Il se forma à Londres, avec les encouragements du prince de galles.*" (de Lanessan, p.218) It operated at a high political and diplomatic level. It aimed to recruit influential politicians and other prominent people who had pro-French sympathies. The initial start in London was promising; many well-known figures, including a dozen MPs, joined up. Roper Parkington was a Conservative himself, but he took care to ensure that these MPs were evenly divided between the Conservative and Liberal parties. One such person was C P Scott, a Liberal MP but better known as editor of the *Manchester Guardian*.

Following this success, moves were made to set up a parallel association in Paris. Once again, this was "*sous la direction discrète du [prince de galles]*", according to the same French writer (de Lanessan, p.229). There was a meeting at the Grand Hôtel in April 1897, which was well attended by French political, diplomatic and business figures and by Roper Parkington and Philip Stanhope MP from the British side. The meeting enthusiastically endorsed the proposal to set up an "*Association pour L'Entente Cordiale*" in Paris. A committee was formed and set to work. A French politician and former colonial governor, Jean-Louis de Lassenan, was elected president. Back in England, the London-based Association held its first public meeting in June (Reports in *The Times* of 5 June 1897 and 12 June 1897). Many new supporters were announced, including the Lord Mayor of London, more MPs and members of the House of Lords. William Gladstone, the former prime minister, apologised for not attending in person on account of his age (he was then 87) but sent a letter of support.

However, this promising start was not maintained. Progress in France soon stalled; unlike in England, none of the French politicians were willing to declare their pro-English sympathies in public. In fact, on both sides of the Channel the political climate rapidly became cold. For the next few years anti-French sentiment in England grew as a result of the Fashoda and Dreyfus affairs; in France the ruling politicians perceived the government of Lord Salisbury as being opposed to any agreement with France and were attracted to the idea of a Franco-German alliance which Kaiser Wilhelm was offering.

In England as in France, even the keenest supporters of the *Entente Cordiale Association* realised that the political climate had changed and was now wholly unfavourable. The question was what to do next. For two years the Association was inactive, but then in 1899 the Association in London decided to form a Literary and Social Committee. The first evening to be organised by this committee was a soiree with the famous French actress (and friend of the Prince of Wales) Sarah Bernhardt (Reports in *The Times* of 13 June 1899 and 21 June 1899). At this time, the Association adopted the long name of the *Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale)* and this is how it was reported in *The Times*. In most subsequent reports this was shortened to the more convenient *L'Entente Cordiale*.

The renewed activity of the Association in London was in distinct contrast to the situation in Paris. The Paris Association faded away. The adherents of entente saw that it would give them no influence in the current political climate. However, it had awoken the strongest interest from the business community, and this offered a way ahead. Thomas Barclay had become president of the Paris Chamber of Commerce in 1899 and he became a leading proponent of the idea of an arbitration treaty. From 1901-2 onwards he conducted his campaign on both sides of the Channel, and we have already seen the impact which his visit to Cardiff in 1903 made.

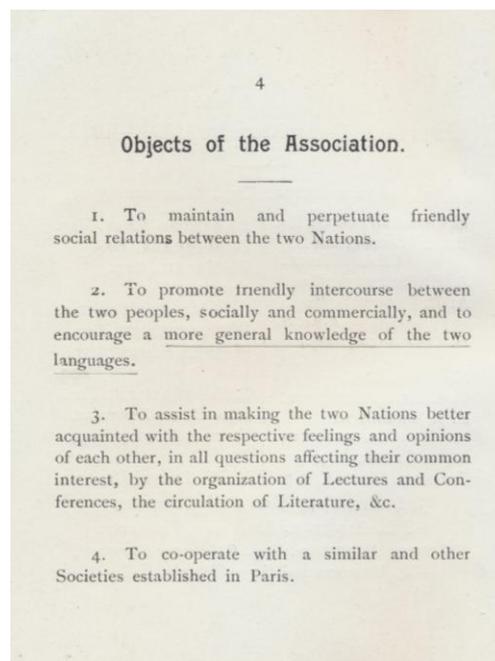
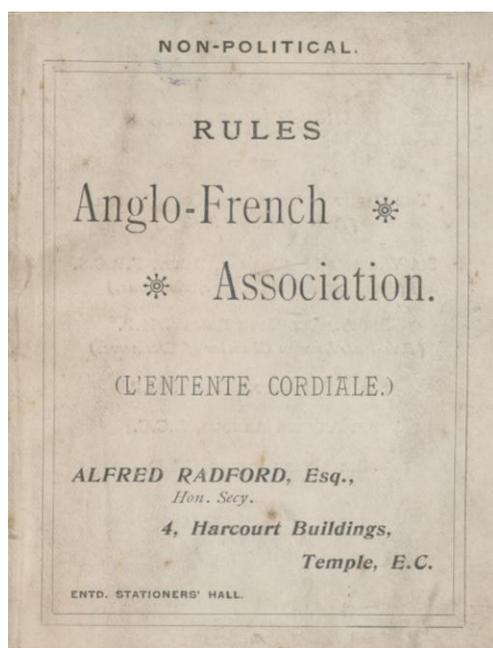
However, we can now make a more direct connection between the *L'Entente Cordiale Association* of London and Cardiff. In the Barbier archives there is a membership fiche for the Association for the year 1899/1900. This gives the new name of the Association, and lists the members of the Literary and Social Committee. Amongst these names we find Paul Barbier Esq, and in the list of Association members his address is given as 21 Dumfries Place, Cardiff.

We do not know how exactly Paul Barbier became a member of the Association and of its Literary and Social Committee. It is possible that it was through Professor Victor Spiers of King's College, London, who was the chairman of the Literary and Social Committee. Victor Spiers became a very prominent member of the Association and attended its social occasions. On the other hand, Paul Barbier was well known in educational circles and was prominent in the Modern Languages Association which was formed at about this time.

Over the next few years the Association appears to have developed two distinct strands to its activities. On the one hand it was given to extravagant social gestures; on the other hand it fostered the learning of French at school and university level. A few examples of the grand gestures will suffice. In December 1899, in the course of a charity soiree, Victor Spiers was despatched to send a telegram to the Queen, which received a gracious reply. In January 1900, Victor Spiers was again despatched to send a telegram, this time to President Joubert of France. Another gracious reply was received. In May 1903, during the famous visit of King Edward VII to France, the Council of the Association telegraphed their congratulations to the King. A gracious and warm reply was received. In November 1903, the Association in Paris presented a silver medal to the members of a British parliamentary delegation to Paris. The medal presented to Guy Pym MP is now in Bedfordshire Archives.

The other side of the Association's activities may be seen from a report in *The Times* (2 June 1902) on its AGM. The new chairman, Barton Kent, reported that the Association now offered travelling scholarships to students of French. The scholarship of £10 was expected to enable the recipient to spend at least a month in France. By 1905 this had increased to two travelling scholarships of £10 and two university scholarships of £20. These latter were open to established students in their second or third year. Since they were awarded by open examination, properly conducted, they soon were regarded as prestigious awards. Universities would record officially when their students had won one, and the recipients would mention the award on their CVs. The 1902 AGM also reported that the Association had a membership of 250. With a subscription of half a guinea, this led to ample income to support the scholarship scheme. It is obvious that Paul Barbier, with his position as university lecturer and former grammar school teacher, would have been familiar with the scheme. It is possible that he had a hand in setting it up. Certainly it became widely advertised, also being reported each year in *Modern Languages Teaching*.

We now look in more detail at the aims and organisation of the Association, as these would have been familiar to Paul Barbier and might well have influenced his thoughts for the Cardiff Society.



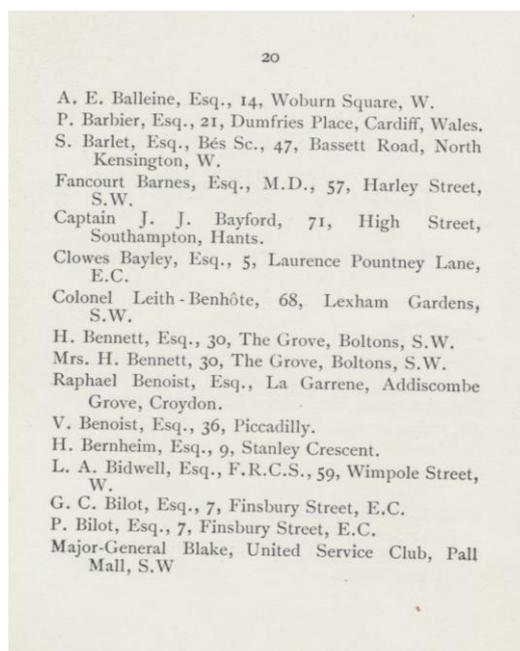
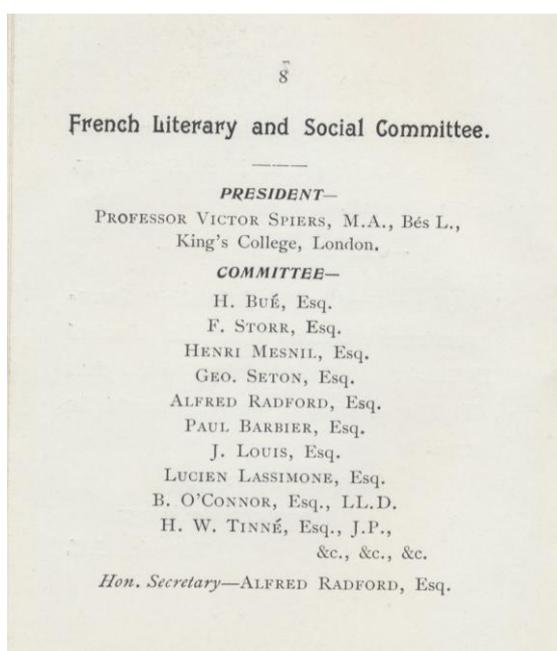
### Membership Fiche 1899/1900, Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale)

This is a copy of the fiche which was found in the Barbier archives. We may note that it clearly labelled "Non-Political". This is in contrast to the Association's launch, and reflects the fact that the original founders had concluded that it was not a suitable vehicle for gaining political influence, especially in France. The objects of the Association are, however, broadly similar to the original aims put forward in 1896. They emphasise the "social and commercial" relations between the two countries. This reflects the fact that the Association originated – as at Cardiff – in the import-export trade. There was a sizeable French community in London engaged in trade through the City and the docks and a corresponding number of Englishmen also engaged in trade with France. Note that the address of the secretary in Temple, E.C. is firmly in the City of London.

The aims also include encouraging a better knowledge of the languages and in organising lectures, but without the obvious enthusiasm of the French circles. The final object – to cooperate with a similar and other societies established in Paris – is a clear reference to the *Association pour L'Entente Cordiale*.

In many ways this fiche is similar in format to those of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff. The main difference is that is not filled in with the name of the individual member. However, it was reprinted each year with the names of the officers and members for that year. The fiche in the Barbier archives is for the year 1899/1900. It does not give the year of foundation, but we know that this was 1896. Thus the Association was just three to four years old, but the list of members in it already contained as many as 185 names.

Amongst the names of members we find that of Paul Barbier, with his address given as 21 Dumfries Place, Cardiff. His name also appears as a member of the French Literary and Social Committee. In fact the fiche only lists two sub-committees; the other one is the Ladies Committee. Hence we may conclude that the French Literary and Social Committee had the main responsibility for organising a programme of lectures and other events throughout the year.



### **Membership Fiche 1899/1900, Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale)**

The fiche runs to 32 pages, and a complete copy is given in the appendix. It gives a list of the names and addresses of members. Paul Barbier is one of very few who did not live in London or in the home counties. In contrast to the launch in 1896, the Association now down-played any political connections. However, its superb social connections can be seen in the list of vice-presidents; they comprised the president of the Royal Society, the president of the Royal College of Surgeons, the president of the London Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the London County Council, a vice-president of the Royal Society of Arts, and Sir Henry Irving, the famous actor-manager. Amongst the ordinary members there is only one MP; this is Philip Stanhope, who had accompanied Roper Parkington to Paris in 1897 to help set up the Association there.

It is perhaps curious that the name of Roper Parkington does not appear anywhere in this fiche, although he is known to have continued to be very active in Anglo-French relations and was knighted in 1902. Also, there is no mention of a president of the Association, although there are several vice-presidents. A biographical note on Roper Parkington is included in the appendices.

In the following years the Association was active and successful. The signing of the Entente Cordiale accords in 1904 brought this expression into widespread use and would have given the Association greatly increased 'brand recognition'. The membership grew to over 700. In 1905 the Association held a dinner to celebrate the Entente. The report in *The Times* (23 May 1905) states that over 500 French guests of the *L'Entente Cordiale*, including 200 women, were entertained in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, where the gardens were illuminated for the evening by specially installed electric lighting. Clearly, the Association was as interested in the grand social occasions as ever, and had the means to fund them.

The *L'Entente Cordiale* Association of London had thus become well-established by 1905. Professor Barbier, being both a member and on the main programme committee, would therefore have been well-placed to observe its success. In particular, its programme of scholarships became well-known in educational circles, and would have interested both teachers of French in leading schools and the staff of French departments in the universities. This programme started in 1902, when two travelling scholarships of £10 each (sufficient for a month's study in France) were offered. In 1905 a further two scholarships of £20 each to established university students were added.

There are no documents to indicate that the *L'Entente Cordiale* Association of London was used as a direct model for the Société Anglo-Française de Cardiff. However, it is instructive to look at some of the similarities between them.

1. They both arose from the background of a substantial import-export trade with France. In Cardiff this was the coal trade. In London, Roper Parkington was the major partner in a firm of champagne and brandy shippers.
2. In addition to the overall aim of promoting friendship between France and Britain, they shared the aim of promoting good relations between the French and British communities in their respective cities.
3. Prior to their launch, they both obtained the patronage of leading figures; the London Association was especially well-connected.
4. The subscriptions were set at a high level for the time: one guinea for the Cardiff Society and one half-guinea for the London Association. The target membership was clearly middle-class and prosperous. This gave them a substantial income. This enabled the London association to award a number of travelling scholarships; it enabled the Cardiff Society to have its own premises and to function as a members club. The Cardiff subscription was so high that it did not need to be increased for more than fifty years.
5. They both held charity fund-raising events, and during World War One contributed to the war effort.
6. They both had the specific aims of holding lectures and providing a library of French books and magazines. The Cardiff Society appears to have been the more active in this respect. Lectures in French were held weekly in Cardiff, whereas the London Associations appears to have held its *réunions* on a monthly basis. Also, the Cardiff Society had its own rooms, which made the provision of a library more practical.
7. They shared the aim of holding social events. There are records of musical evenings, theatre events, dinners and banquets. The London Association moved steadily upmarket; initially the meetings were held in Langham's Hotel. Later the meetings moved to the Grafton Galleries, followed by a "house supper" at the Café Royale. In the early years dinners were held at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Trocadero. In later years, dinners were held at Claridge's.
8. Both constitutions mention the specific aim of being in contact with similar societies in France, and in Paris in particular. The London Association had its sister Association in Paris, which was revived after 1904. The Cardiff Society makes reference in its 1906 flyer to the "excellent Paris Society", the *Société d'Echange International des enfants et des jeunes gens*.
9. Both appear to have offered honorary membership to increase their range of influence. The Cardiff Society gave membership to two editors and two journalists from the main local daily newspapers, the Western Mail and the South Wales Daily News. The London Association gave membership to the British Consuls in various French ports: Bordeaux, Bayonne, Calais, Dunkirk, and St Malo. The London Association did not give any ex officio memberships to the press, but amongst the list of members we may note the name of C P Scott of Manchester, the legendary editor of the Manchester Guardian.

There are also some differences which we should note:

1. The Cardiff Society provided meeting rooms to function as a social club.
2. The London Association launched a programme of university scholarships for promising students of French.
3. The London Association had a specific aim to encourage the learning of the two languages. However, unlike the Alliance Française, it does not appear to have instituted any classes. Perhaps it regarded the provision of scholarships as fulfilling this aim.
4. The Cardiff Society aimed for equal French and British membership of the main committee (ten members each). The London Association did not have this explicit aim, but in fact had a mix of French and British members.

5. The London Association was founded in a time when anti-French feeling was widespread. The association aimed to counter this. In a later description of the Association (entry in the Literary Yearbook UK, 1908) we find that its aims had been expanded to include “corrections of erroneous statements made in the press.”

These differences show that the Cardiff Society was not a mere copy of the London Association. However, the Cardiff Society had similar aims and we can be certain that Paul Barbier was very familiar with the London Association.

Both the Cardiff Society and the *L'Entente Cordiale* became well-established in the years before the First World War, but their subsequent histories show a considerable contrast. The Cardiff Society (as recounted in the centenary history) has remained active under its own name until the present day - accepting the minor change of name in 1995 to Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff. It has continued a programme of lectures and events throughout this period. The most significant change in its activities occurred in 1948 when it no longer was able to have its own premises in Park Place, and hence ceased to act as a club and reading room.

The *L'Entente Cordiale*, on the other hand, was restructured in 1922 by Lord Derby, after he returned to London from being the British Ambassador in Paris. He found that there were three Anglo-French societies in London which he regarded as having overlapping ideals, and which he wanted to regroup as a single active whole. He described these three societies as one founded before the war (*L'Entente Cordiale*), one founded during the war (*Association of Great Britain and France*), and one founded after the war (*Anglo-French Society*). At a meeting in February 1922, he formed a committee of all the active Anglo-French bodies with himself as president (report in *The Times*, 25 February 1922). This committee, under the title of the United Associations of Great Britain and France, took over the activities of these three associations, and also maintained links with other associations – the Institut Français, the Alliance Française – which remained independent. Within a few years, the United Associations of Great Britain and France was running a programme of meetings and dinners similar to those held earlier by *L'Entente Cordiale*. In 1925 a sister organisation - l'Association France-Grande-Bretagne – was set up in Paris. The United Associations created branches in many British towns, particularly those along the south coast. It also formalised its links with existing regional societies, and in *The Times* (19 October 1925) it was reported that Lord Treowen, president of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff, had accepted an invitation to join its Council. [Lord Treowen was the former Sir Ivor Herbert.] The United Associations was even better connected than the *L'Entente Cordiale* had been; guests at their annual dinner included Austen Chamberlain and the French Ambassador (1926), M Gaston Doumergue (former President of France) (1932), Marshal Pétain (1935), Winston Churchill (1936), and M Daladier (1937). In March 1937 it was announced that the King and Queen had agreed to become patrons.

After the liberation of France, the British government realised that the United Associations could play a valuable role in post-war relations between France and Britain. In September 1944, at the request of the Foreign Secretary (Anthony Eden), the United Associations was reformed under the name Franco-British Society with a remit to educate public opinion on the need for friendly relations with France (report in *The Times*, 22 September 1944). Lord Derby was to continue as president but new vice-presidents – Mr Atlee, Mr Eden, and Sir Archibald Sinclair – were appointed. The representation on the Council was broadened to include the TUC, the BBC and the British Council. The treasury found £10,000 as a grant to the new society. The Franco-British Society, which continues to be active, is thus the direct descendant of the *L'Entente Cordiale*.

**ORIGINS AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE  
SOCIETE FRANCO-ANGLAISE DE CARDIFF  
1905 - 1918**

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1:            Transcript of 1905 Flyer of the Society (English)**
- Appendix 2:            Transcript of 1906 Flyer of the Society (French)**
- Appendix 3:            Transcript of Extracts from 1905 Draft Constitution of the  
Society**
- Appendix 4:            Transcript of the Society Programme for 1906-07**
- Appendix 5:            Membership Fiche for 1899/1900 of the Anglo-French  
Association (L'Entente Cordiale)**
- Appendix 6:            Biographical Note on Sir Thomas Barclay**
- Appendix 7:            Biographical Note on Sir John Roper Parkington**
- Appendix 8:            Sources and References**

**PRINTED AS A SEPARATE SUPPLEMENT**

- Appendix 9:            Chronological References to the Société Franco-Anglaise de  
Cardiff**
- Appendix 10:           Chronological References to the L'Entente Cordiale Society:  
Anglo-French Association of London and to its Successors**

## Appendix 1

### Transcript of 1905 Flyer of the Society (English)

This appendix contains a transcript of the scanned copy of the Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (English version 1905) which was reproduced in Chapter 3.

# *La Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff.*

*Under the patronage of*

L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE and of: The Right Honourable LORD TREDEGAR, Sir ALFRED THOMAS, M.P., Col. The Hon. IVOR HERBERT, D.S.O., J.P., (Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur), The Hon. IVOR GUEST, M.P., The Right Hon. THE LORD MAYOR OF CARDIFF, THE CITY CLERK OF CARDIFF, (J.L. Wheatley, Esq.,) Major General H.H. LEE, R.E., J.P., PRINCIPAL GRIFFITHS, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., CHAS. RADCLIFFE, Esq., CLIFFORD J. CORY, Esq., J.P., D.L., W. JONES, President of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce.

<i>Honorary President</i>	-	-	M. MAURICE TRUY, French Consul at Cardiff Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur
<i>President</i>	-	-	Professor PAUL BARBIER, Officier de l'Instruction Publique.
<i>Vice-President</i>	-	-	W.E. THOMAS, Esq.
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	-	Alderman W.J. TROUNCE, J.P.
<i>Joint Secretaries</i>	-	-	Messrs. MAURICE LANOIRE and SIDNEY RICHARDS

SIR OR MADAM

The Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff has been formed for the purpose of cementing the friendly relationship existing between Englishmen and Frenchmen, thus giving local emphasis to the principle of L'Entente Cordiale.

With this object in view the promoters propose to place at the disposal of its members a comfortably furnished suite of rooms which can be used as a social rendez-vous.

A Reading Room will be opened every day, where all the most important French and English Newspapers, Magazines, Reviews, etc., will be placed for the use of members.

A Library of French books will also be installed.

A programme for the winter session will be prepared and will include lectures, musical and literary evenings, etc.

The Society will be affiliated with similar institutions in France and Great Britain, which will be of great benefit to any member who may be seeking a position or taking a holiday in either of the Countries.

The Committee proposes an annual subscription of one guinea.

Ladies are cordially invited to become members of the Society, in their case the subscription will be half-a-guinea.

"Junior Members" will also be admitted to the membership of the Society subject to the decision of the Committee and upon payment of a subscription of half-a-guinea.

[Continued below ....

..... continues]

Persons desirous of becoming members are requested to sign the affixed circular, and to return it to the member of the Committee who has solicited their interest.

THE COMMITTEE

I desire to become a member of the Société Franco-Anglaise.

Signature ..... Member or Patron

Address .....

The ..... of ..... 1905.

**Transcription of the Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (English Version 1905)**

## Appendix 2

### Transcript of 1906 Flyer of the Society (French)

This appendix contains a transcript of the scanned copy of the Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (French version 1906) which was reproduced in Chapter 3.

## La Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff.

3, PARK PLACE, CARDIFF (Pays de Galles)

*Sous le patronage de L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE.*

The Right Hon. LORD TREDEGAR.  
Col. The Hon. IVOR HERBERT, D.S.O.,  
M.P., (Chevalier de la Légion  
d'Honneur).  
The Hon. IVOR GUEST, M.P.  
Sir ALFRED THOMAS, M.P.,

The Right Hon. THE LORD MAYOR  
OF CARDIFF  
THE CITY CLERK OF CARDIFF,  
(J.L. WHEATLEY, Esq.,)

Sir T. MARCHANT WILLIAMS  
Major General H.H. LEE, R.E., J.P.  
PRINCIPAL GRIFFITHS, M.A., D.Sc.,  
F.R.S.,  
WM. JONES, Esq. (President of the  
Cardiff Chamber of Commerce)

<i>Honoraire Président</i>	-	-	M. MAURICE TRUY, French Consul at Cardiff Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
<i>Président</i>	-	-	Professor PAUL BARBIER, (Officier de l'Instruction - Publique).
<i>Vice-Président</i>	-	-	W. E. THOMAS, Esq.
<i>Trésorier</i>	-	-	Alderman W. J. TROUNCE, J.P.
<i>Secrétaires</i>	-	-	Messieurs. MAURICE LANOIRE and SIDNEY RICHARD.

MM.

P. AICARD.  
J. E. ARNAUDE.  
GEORGES BARBIER.  
M. C. BUDD.  
R. DELAMOTTE.

R. V. DE GUÉLIS.  
MADAME R. V. DE GUÉLIS.  
M. H. GORDON EVANS.  
R. HARPER.  
C. H. JAMES.

Comité

MDLLE. NAUTET.  
A. F. OGLEBY-DAVIES.  
JULES PIERRARD.  
S. POWELL.  
W. P. SEWARD.

MISS MIA THOMAS.  
A. E. THOMAS.  
J. V. VALETTE.  
A.C. VYVYAN-ROBINSON.  
MAX WIDEMAN.

MADAME OU MONSIEUR

La Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff a été créée pour fortifier les relations amicales qui existent entre Anglais et Français et affirmer ainsi son adhésion aux principes de l'Entente Cordiale. Dans ce but elle met à la disposition de ses membres un local ouvert tous les jours où l'on trouve les magazines, revues et journaux français les plus connus.

La cotisation est fixée à une guinée par an et à une demi-guinée pour les dames et les "junior members."

[Continued below ....

..... continues]

La Société est en outre disposée à servir d'intermédiaire entre les maisons de commerce pour ce qui concerne les informations sur le commerce et l'industrie de Cardiff et du Comté de Glamorgan ainsi que le placement de commis, agents, représentants, etc.

Les directeurs, les directrices d'écoles, les chefs de famille pourront s'adresser à elle pour se mettre en rapport avec les maîtres, maîtresses et gouvernantes, etc., qui s'adresseront à la Société pour y obtenir des situations. La Société se mettra en communication avec l'excellente Société de Paris, "Société d'Echange International des enfants et des jeunes gens," en vue de faciliter à ses membres l'échange mutuel d'enfants et de jeunes gens.

Toute demande de renseignements devra être accompagnée d'un timbre pour la réponse. Une commission de 2½% sera retenue sur le traitement des situations scolaires obtenues par l'entremise de la Société.

Les personnes désireuses de devenir membres sont priées de vouloir bien signer la présente circulaire et de l'adresser à un des Secrétaires.

LE COMITÉ

Le .....1906

Je désire faire partie de la Société Franco-Anglaise.

Signature ..... Membre ou Patron

Adresse .....

Proposé par M .....

Appuyé par M .....

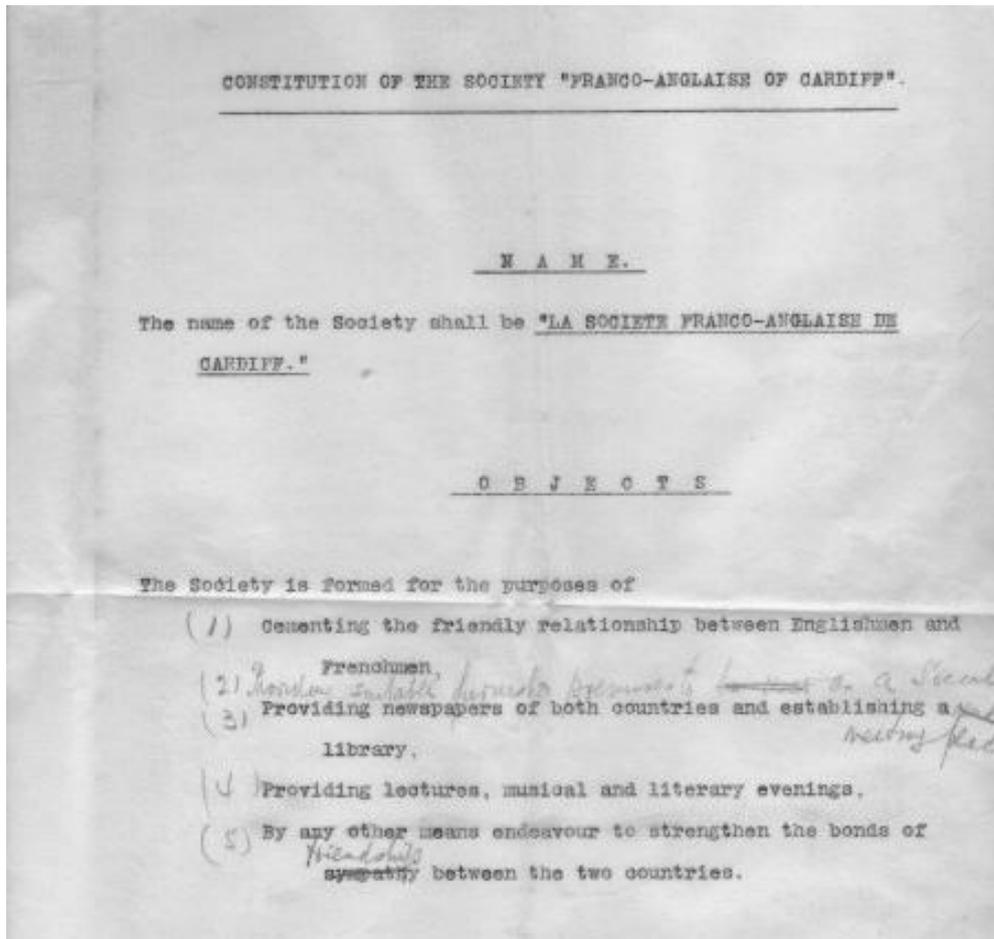
### Transcription of the Society Flyer and Invitation to Join (French Version 1906)

This copy from the Barbier archives has been annotated by a member of the Barbier family. It thus identifies Professor Paul Barbier as "Grandfather", his son Georges as "Uncle Georges", his son-in-law R. V. de Guélis as "Uncle Raoul", and his daughter Marie (Madame R. V. de Guélis) as "Maya". S. Powell is identified as "Raoul's partner". This was in the coal exporting firm of Sam Powell and de Guélis. The annotator has also corrected some but not all of the misprints in the French version.

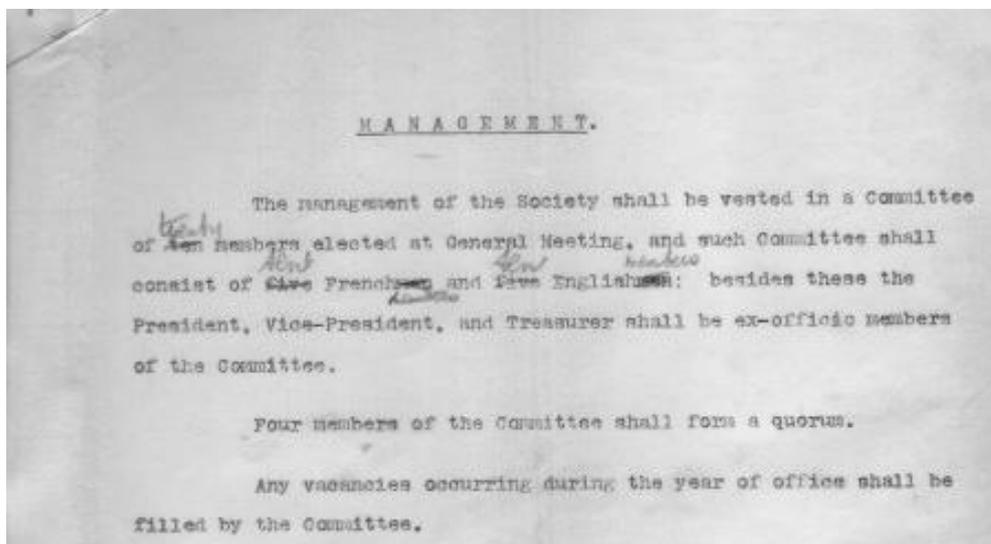
## Appendix 3

### Transcript of Extracts from 1905 Draft Constitution of the Society

This appendix contains a scanned copy of extracts from the 1905 draft constitution, together with a transcript.



1905 Draft Constitution of the Society, page 1



1905 Draft Constitution of the Society, page 2 (part)

This is a carbon copy of a typewritten draft of the constitution. These two extracts have a number of amendments written on them in pencil. The final version of the constitution, as found for example on the 1908 membership card, is essentially the same as this draft, *including the pencilled amendments*. Also, the flyers above include the aim of "providing suitable furnished accommodation". We can therefore assume that this draft constitution dates from no later than 1905, and that the pencilled amendments had been accepted prior to the launch meeting.

The transcripts of these two extracts follow; the pencilled amendments are indicated in italics.

### Page 1

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY "FRANCO-ANGLAISE OF CARDIFF"

---

##### N A M E

The name of the Society shall be "LA SOCIETE FRANCO-ANGLAISE DE CARDIFF."

##### O B J E C T S

The Society is formed for the purposes of

- (1) Cementing the friendly relationship between Englishmen and Frenchmen.
- (2) *Providing suitable furnished accommodation as a social meeting place.*
- (3) Providing newspapers of both countries and establishing a library.
- (4) Providing lectures, musical and literary evenings.
- (5) By any other means endeavour to strengthen the bonds of ~~sympathy~~ *friendship* between the two countries.

### Page 2

##### M A N A G E M E N T

The management of the Society shall be vested in a Committee of ~~ten~~ *twenty* members elected at General Meeting, and such Committee shall consist of ~~five~~ *ten* Frenchmen ~~members~~ and ~~five~~ *ten* Englishmen ~~members~~: besides these the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Four members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

Any vacancies occurring during the year of office shall be filled by the Committee.

## Appendix 4

### Transcript of the Society Programme for 1906-07

This appendix contains a transcript of the scanned copy of the Society Programme for 1906-07 which was reproduced in Chapter 4.

<b>La Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff</b>	
<b>PROGRAMME DES CONFÉRENCES</b>	
<b>SESSION 1906-07</b>	
Mercredi le 3 Octobre	Ouvertures  Soirée Musicale (Président M Wheatley City Clerk of Cardiff)
Mercredi le 17 Octobre	Whist Drive
Mercredi le 24 Octobre	Monsieur St Laurent Conférence Scientifique
Mercredi le 31 Octobre	Mlle Osmond-Barnard (Pontypool County School) "Victor Hugo et le Cénacle"
Mercredi le 7 Novembre	Monsieur Raoul de Guélis "Balzac et ses Œuvres"
Mercredi le 14 Novembre	Monsieur Arnold W Smith, M.A. Asst. Lecturer University College Cardiff "Swinburne"
Mercredi le 21 Novembre	Domino Tournament (MM les Sociétaires désirant prendre part à cette partie de Domino sont priés d'en informer le Secrétaire le 11 Novembre au plus tard.)
Mercredi le 28 Novembre	Monsieur Le Bars, de Swansea "Impressions de Caserne par un ancien artilleur"
Mercredi le 5 Décembre	Le Professeur Otto Stedman (Chief du Département Moderne de Clifton College) "Modern Languages"
Mercredi le 12 Décembre	Monsieur Brunet, (Avocat à la cour d'appel, Paris) Sujet à son choix
Mercredi le 19 Décembre	Le Professeur Paul Barbier, Fils (Université de Leeds) Sujet à son choix

Mercredi le 16 Janvier	Monsieur Forest
Mercredi le 23 Janvier	Monsieur S Barlet, de Londres Soirée Littéraire, Scènes et Récits
Mercredi le 27 Janvier	Assemblée Générale
Mercredi le 6 Février	Champion Whist Drive
Mercredi le 13 Février	Monsieur Watkins (Higher Grade School) "L'Histoire des Langues Celtiques"
Mercredi le 20 Février	Le Professeur Paul Barbier, Père "Le Pays que nous habitons"
Mercredi le 27 Février	Monsieur Arthur E Thomas "Les Œuvres de John Stuart Mill"
Mercredi le 6 Mars	Le Professeur Brandin, (Université de Londres) "Poètes d'Aujourd'hui"
Mercredi le 13 Mars	Soirée pour les Dames
Mercredi le 20 Mars	Evelyn John Evatt, MB, BS, (Lecturer in Anatomy, University College, Cardiff) The Throat and Voice Production
Mercredi le 27 Mars	Concert

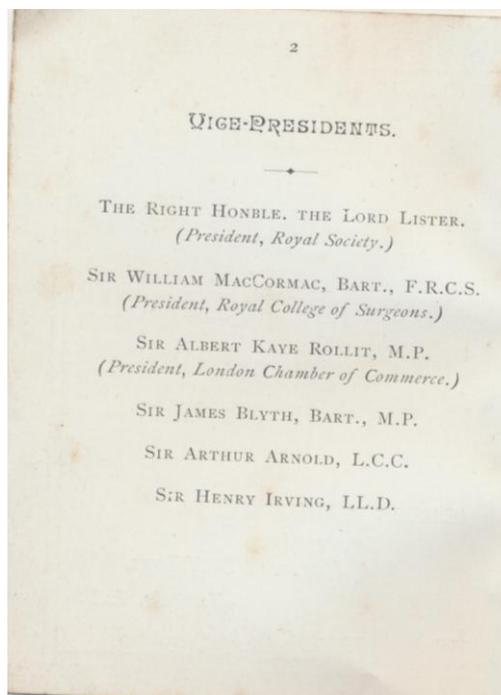
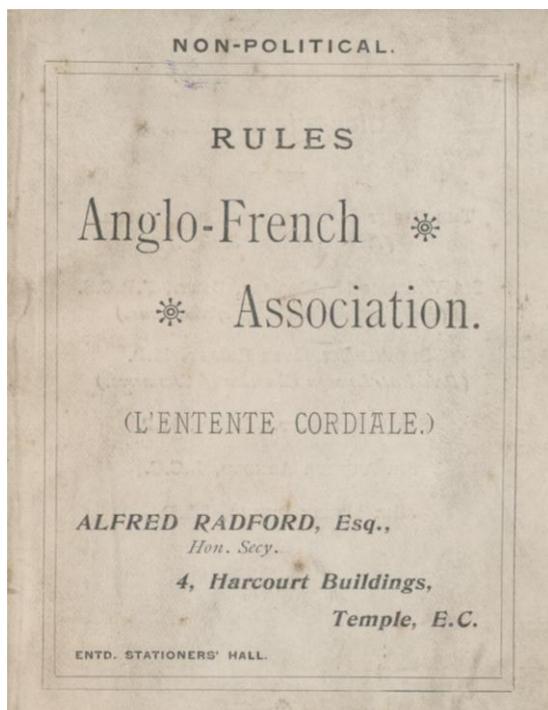
Causeries françaises tous les samedis à 7 heures et demie.

Les personnes ne faisant pas partie de la Société seront admises aux conférences moyennant le paiement d'un shilling par conférence ou six shillings pour la série des conférences ci-dessus

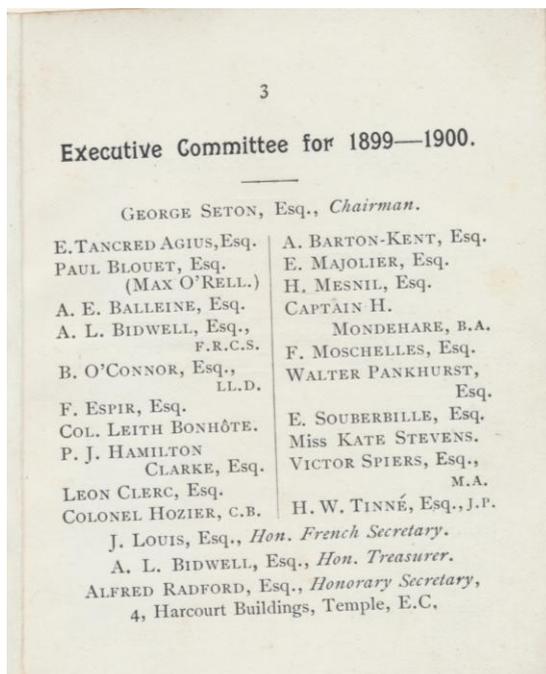
## Appendix 5

### Membership Fiche for 1899/1900 of the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale)

This appendix contains a scanned copy of all pages from the membership fiche for 1899/1900 found in the Barbier archives. Some blank pages are omitted.



Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 1-2



Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) p. 3

### Objects of the Association.

1. To maintain and perpetuate friendly social relations between the two Nations.
2. To promote friendly intercourse between the two peoples, socially and commercially, and to encourage a more general knowledge of the two languages.
3. To assist in making the two Nations better acquainted with the respective feelings and opinions of each other, in all questions affecting their common interest, by the organization of Lectures and Conferences, the circulation of Literature, &c.
4. To co-operate with a similar and other Societies established in Paris.

### Cette Association a pour buts principaux.

1. D'entretenir et de développer les relations personnelles et commerciales entre Anglais et Français.
2. D'encourager une connaissance plus générale de la langue française en Angleterre, et de la langue anglaise en France.
3. D'amener, au moyen de conférences, de réunions publiques, de brochures, etc., etc., les deux pays à se mieux connaître et à se mieux renseigner sur toutes les questions affectant leurs intérêts réciproques.
4. De co'opérer, pour atteindre ces buts divers, avec les Sociétés de même nature, fondée à Paris.

#### Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 4-5

*Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to join the Association are invited to communicate with Alfred Radford, Esq., 4, Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, E.C., to whom the annual subscription of not less than half a guinea can be made payable. Life Members, £5 5s.*

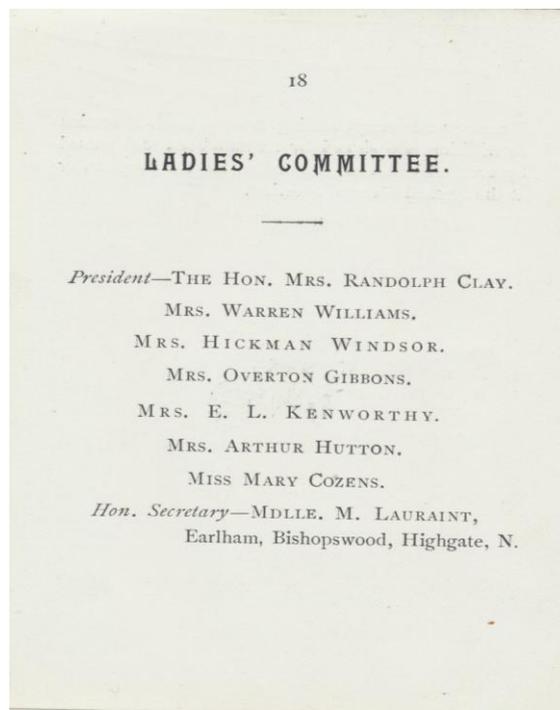
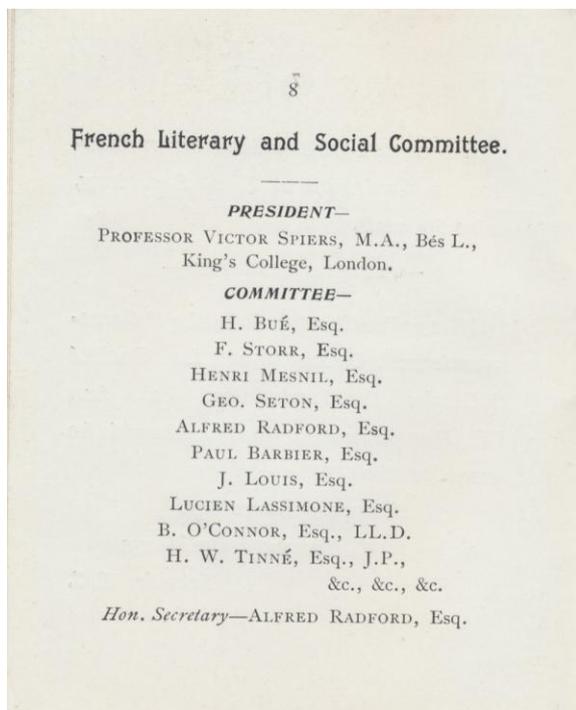
*Les dames et les Messieurs désirant être admis comme Membres de l'Association sont priés de s'adresser pour tous renseignements et pour leur admission comme Sociétaires à Mr. Alfred Radford, 4, Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, E.C., qui est chargé de recevoir la cotisation annuelle fixée à dix schellings six pence (13f. 10c.) au minimum. Membres à vie cinq guinées (frs. 131.25).*

**Badges can be obtained on application to Chairman or Hon. Secretary, price 5/- each.**

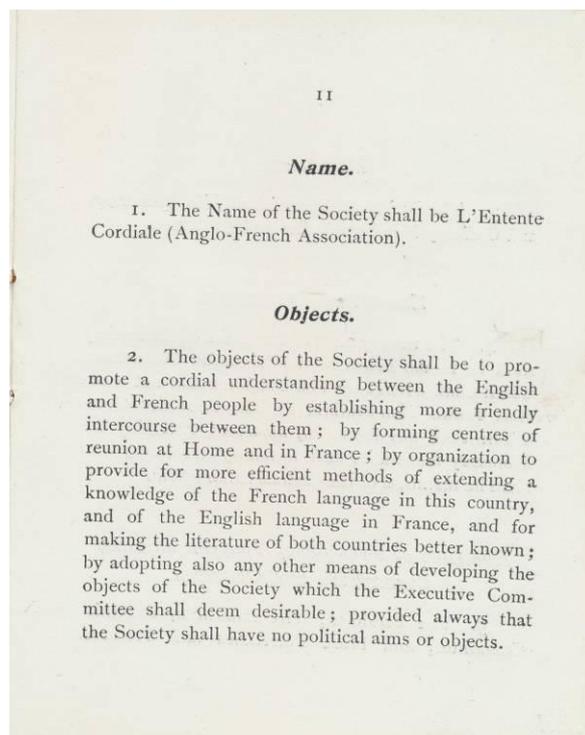
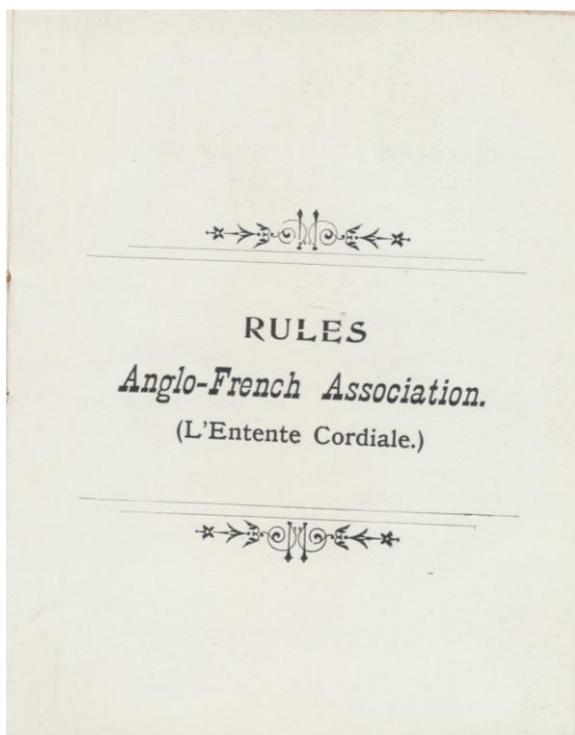
**All applications to join the "Correspondence Union" of La Société D'Etudes Internationales, &c., &c., 77, Rue Denfert, Paris, should be made to the**

**Honorary Secretary,  
4, Harcourt Buildings,  
Temple, E.C.**

#### Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 6-7



**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 8 and 18**



**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 9 and 11**

**Members.**

3. The Society shall consist of Life, Honorary, and Ordinary Members, ladies and gentlemen.

**Executive Committee.**

4. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, which shall consist of The President and not more than twelve Vice-Presidents; The Executive Committee shall not exceed 24 members, excluding the Honorary Secretaries and Honorary Treasurer, who shall be members of the Committee *ex officio*.

**Election of President, Vice-Presidents, Committee and Officers.**

5. The President, Vice-Presidents, Executive Committee, and Hon. Secretaries and Treasurer

shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, the Election to be by show of hands; and they shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, but be eligible for re-election.

Vacancies may be filled up by the Executive Committee.

**Election of Members.**

6. Members shall be elected at any meeting of the Executive Committee by a majority of two-thirds present at such meeting; and shall be proposed and seconded by written notice to the Hon. Secretary.

**Quorum.**

7. Five members shall constitute a Quorum at all Executive Committee meetings.

**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 12-13****Members' Subscriptions; Entrance Fee; and Notice of Withdrawals.**

8. Members shall pay a subscription of not less than 10s. 6d., payable yearly in advance on the 1st January. New members shall pay their first subscription within two weeks of receiving notice of their election.

After the first 500 members have been elected, an Entrance Fee of 10s. 6d. shall also be paid by members joining the Society.

Notice of withdrawal (which must be in writing to the Hon. Secretary) must be given before the 31st day of December, or members shall be liable for the next year's subscription.

**Honorary Members.**

9. Honorary Members may be elected at any meeting of the Society, or of the Executive Committee.

**Life Members.**

10. Life Members become so on payment of one sum of five guineas, and are not liable to pay the annual subscription.

**Annual General Meeting.**

11. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of May, the day to be fixed each year by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may call an Ordinary Meeting at any time; and they shall call an Ordinary Meeting upon the written request of 25 members sent to the Hon. Secretary.

Notice shall be sent to members by the Hon. Secretary of the Annual General Meeting and of all Ordinary Meetings at least seven days previously.

**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 14-15**

***Cancelling of Membership.***

12. The Executive Committee may cancel the membership of any member by resolution (of which one week's notice shall have been given) to be passed by not less than two-thirds present at the meeting.

***Proof of Acquiescence in the Rules.***

13. The payment of an Entrance Fee or subscription shall be taken as proof of acquiescence in the Rules of the Society.

A copy of these Rules shall be sent to every member when notice of his election is given him.

***Alteration of Rules.***

14. These Rules shall not be altered or added to unless on 10 days' written notice sent to the

Honorary Secretary, stating the proposed alteration or addition and signed by 14 members, and passed by a majority at a meeting called for the purpose, or at the Annual General Meeting.



**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 16-17**

***List of Members.***

Wm. Acworth, Esq., 47, St. George's Square, S.W.  
 E. T. Agius, Esq., 3, Belsize Grove, N.W.  
 E. T. Agius, Esq., 1, Carl's Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
 J. S. Anderson, Esq., Helvetia, Eltham, Kent.  
 Sir Arthur Arnold, D.L., J.P., 45, Kensington Park Gardens, W.  
 H. Autran, Esq., 21, Mincing Lane, E.C.  
 H.B.M. Consul, Bordeaux, France.  
 H.B.M. Consul, Bayonne, France.  
 Miss Lucie Baillon, 1, Unique Villas, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

A. E. Balleine, Esq., 14, Woburn Square, W.  
 P. Barbier, Esq., 21, Dumfries Place, Cardiff, Wales.  
 S. Barlet, Esq., Bés Sc., 47, Bassett Road, North Kensington, W.  
 Fancourt Barnes, Esq., M.D., 57, Harley Street, S.W.  
 Captain J. J. Bayford, 71, High Street, Southampton, Hants.  
 Clowes Bayley, Esq., 5, Laurence Pountney Lane, E.C.  
 Colonel Leith-Benhôte, 68, Lexham Gardens, S.W.  
 H. Bennett, Esq., 30, The Grove, Boltons, S.W.  
 Mrs. H. Bennett, 30, The Grove, Boltons, S.W.  
 Raphael Benoist, Esq., La Garrene, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon.  
 V. Benoist, Esq., 36, Piccadilly.  
 H. Bernheim, Esq., 9, Stanley Crescent.  
 L. A. Bidwell, Esq., F.R.C.S., 59, Wimpole Street, W.  
 G. C. Bilot, Esq., 7, Finsbury Street, E.C.  
 P. Bilot, Esq., 7, Finsbury Street, E.C.  
 Major-General Blake, United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 19-20**

T. Boué Blandy, Esq., Ventnor Villa, Marshland Road, Brooklands, near Manchester.  
 Paul Blouet, Esq., 8, Acacia Road, N.W.  
 Sir James Blyth, Bart., M.P., 33, Portland Place, W.  
 John Boring, Esq., Fuel Works, Tilbury, and 1, Lansdowne Square, Rosherville.  
 P. Boucheroy, Esq., 5, Fenchurch Street, E.C.  
 Rev. J. S. M. Brooke, Shantock Hall, Herts.  
 Flint Browne, Esq., 30, Watling Street, E.C.  
 H. Bué, Esq., Bés L., Christ's Hospital, Newgate Street, E.C.  
 Bury Chamber of Commerce, Bury, Lancashire.  
 J. M. Bush, Esq., 7, Hyde Park Street, W., and Bishops Waltham, Hants.  
 H.B.M. Consul, Calais, France.  
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**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 21-22**

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**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 29-30**

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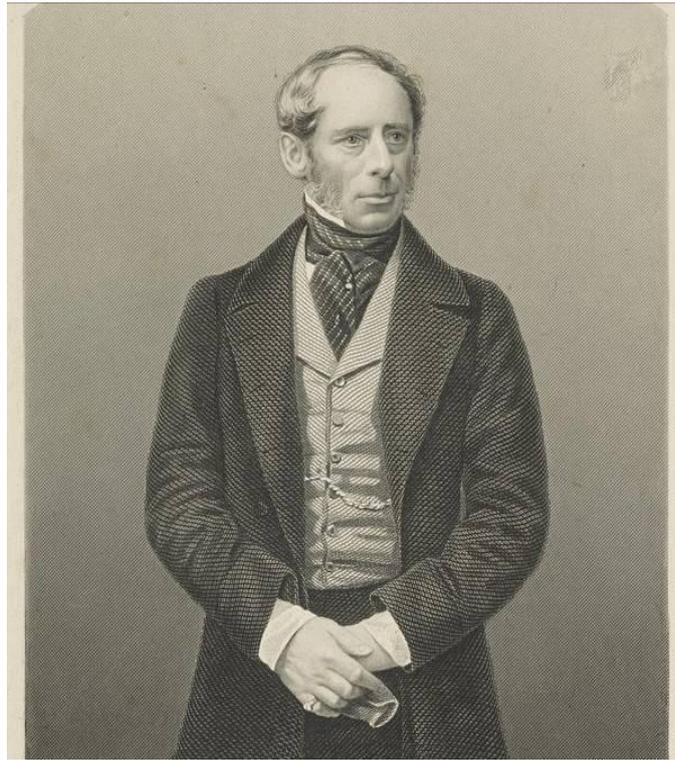


**Membership Fiche for the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) pp. 31-32**



## Appendix 7: Biographical Note on Sir John Roper Parkington

### Sir John Roper Parkington (1845-1924)



**Artist unknown, Sir John Roper Parkington (1845-1924), National Galleries of Scotland**

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/38508/sir-john-roper-parkington-1845-1924>

John Roper Parkington founded the association *L'Entente Cordiale* in London in 1896. It is said that he did so with discreet encouragement from the Prince of Wales. This followed a very successful visit, arranged by Roper Parkington, of the Lord Mayor of London in 1895 to the Bordeaux region to promote trade and commerce.

Roper Parkington was educated at private schools in England and France and was a convert to Catholicism. He entered the wine trade in London and founded a firm of shippers of champagne and brandy. He became active in the companies in the City of London, and was elected master of several of them. These included the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, and the Fanmakers. He stood for the office of sheriff in the City of London, but he was opposed on account of his being a catholic.

Roper Parkington was both a francophile and a promoter of good relations with other nations generally. He was involved in foreign trade, and he became consul-general for Montenegro and vice-president of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce. He received many foreign honours: he became an Officier d'Academie Française and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour; he received further honours from Serbia, Montenegro, Spain and Portugal.

Roper Parkington was well-connected socially. He was a member of the Conservative party and was offered the nomination for the seat of Haringey, which he declined. He was an honorary colonel in an Essex regiment and a JP in the City of London. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and the Royal Colonial Institute. He received a number of honours from the Catholic church. He was knighted in 1902.

When he founded, in 1896, the Anglo-French Association, *L'Entente Cordiale*, he was able to attract leading figures in London's political, cultural and business life. Thus the vice-presidents included, amongst others, the President of the Royal Society, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, the President of the London Chamber of Commerce, and the Leader of London County Council.

## Appendix 8: Sources and References

### Chapter 1: Introduction

From the *centenary history*:

*Centenary of Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff*, Arlette Ragody-Hughes and John Martin, 2006

Download (English version) from:

<http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk/history/centenary-history-en.pdf>

Download (French version) from:

<http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk/history/centenary-history-fr.pdf>

A copy of the *centenary history* has been deposited in the Society archives which are held by Glamorganshire County Archives: [www.glamarchives.gov.uk](http://www.glamarchives.gov.uk) document reference D593/11/1.

### Chapter 2: The Barbier Family Archives

Since summer 2017, the Barbier archives have been held in the Special Collections and Archives section (SCOLAR) of Cardiff University Library.

For the majority of the period during which this history was being compiled (2016 to spring 2017) the Barbier archives were held by Delphine Isaaman of Marlborough, the great grand-daughter of Professor Paul Barbier.

### Chapter 3: The Launch of the Society: 1905-06

From the *Barbier family archives*:

Flyer (English version, 1905) of the Society,

Flyer (French version, 1906) of the Society,

Draft constitution of the Society.

From *contemporary newspaper references*:

A great deal of information about the launch of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff, as well as the activities of the French community at Cardiff in the years prior to the launch, has been obtained from contemporary reports in the press. Many of these are identified in the text of chapter 3. A full list is given in Appendix 9: *Chronological References to the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff*. Appendices 9 and 10 will be published together as a separate document and will be available to download from the web site [www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk](http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk)

### Chapter 4: Activities of the Society between 1906 and 1918

From the *Barbier family archives*:

Musical programme for opening evening on 2 February 1906

1906-07 programme of the Society.

From the *Local History Collection of Cardiff Central Library*:

1910-11 programme of the Society,

From the Society records deposited in *Glamorgan Archives, Item D593/11/7*:

1915 (Oct-Dec) programme of the Society,

1916 (Jan-Apr) programme of the Society,  
1916 (Sep-Dec) programme of the Society.

From the *Ragody-Hughes Family archives*:

Photograph of Society members in fancy dress.

NB: As of summer 2017, these archives are being catalogued by the Ragody-Hughes family with a view to their subsequent placement in a public archive.

From *contemporary newspaper references*:

A great deal of information about the activities of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff has been obtained from contemporary reports in the press. Many of these are identified in the text of chapter 4. A full list is given in Appendix 9: *Chronological References to the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff*. Appendices 9 and 10 will be published together as a separate document and will be available to download from the web site [www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk](http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk)

## Chapter 5: The Entente Cordiale of 1904

For a general historical reference:

Tombs and Tombs (2007)  
*That Sweet Enemy*, Robert and Isabelle Tombs,  
London, Pimlico, 2007  
ISBN 9781845951085.

There are two published memoirs, written by key participants in the events leading up to the Entente Cordiale of 1904, which have provided much detailed and relevant information for this chapter. Firstly, a memoir written by a Scotsman:

Barclay (1914)  
*Thirty Years Anglo-French Reminiscences (1876-1906)*, Sir Thomas Barclay,  
Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914,  
retrieved from archives.org, identifier thirtyyearsanglo00barc.

This is a wonderful book of memoirs about “*the genesis and fulfilment of the Entente*” by a man “*who has been very close to the stage*”.

Secondly, a memoir written by a Frenchman:

de Lanessan (1916)  
*Histoire de l'Entente Cordiale franco-anglaise*, Jean-Louis de Lanessan,  
Paris, Librairie Félix Alcan, 1916.  
Subtitled: *Les Relations de la France et de l'Angleterre depuis le XVIe Siècle jusqu'à Nos Jours*,  
par J-L de Lanessan, Ancien Ministre, Ancien Gouverneur générale de l'Indo-Chine.  
Bibliothèque nationale de France, downloaded from:  
<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k112785s.pdf>

A wide-ranging history. It is not until chapter 6 that we reach “*Les Relations de la France et de l'Angleterre de 1890 à 1915*” and “*Les premiers pas vers l'Entente Cordiale*”.

In Barclay (1914) there is information of relevance to the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce meeting on 29 January, 1903 described in chapter 5. On pp. 346-353 Barclay lists the organisations and individuals who lent support to the movement for a treaty of arbitration. Cardiff is mentioned three times; the Chamber of Commerce (p.346), the Municipal Council (p.350), and the Special Committee (p.351). The entire text of the Treaty of Arbitration, as signed on 14 October, 1903, is given on p.354. It is slightly less than one page long.

## Chapter 6: The Rise of the Felicitous Expression “L’Entente Cordiale”

For a general historical reference:

Tombs and Tombs (2007)  
*That Sweet Enemy*, Robert and Isabelle Tombs,  
London, Pimlico, 2007  
ISBN 9781845951085.

Pages 332-3 describe the first appearance of the phrase ‘entente cordiale’ in 1830; pages 340-346 describe the more formal attempts by Louis-Philippe during 1841-46 at a rapprochement with Britain which is described as ‘the First Entente Cordiale’.

## Chapter 7: L’Entente Cordiale Society: The Anglo-French Association of London

From the *web site of the Alliance Française de Londres*:

Article *130 years of Franco-British friendship in London...and counting!*  
Downloaded from  
<http://www.alliancefrancaise.london/130-years-of-the-Alliance-Francaise-de-Londres.php>

From the *Barbier family archives*:

1899/1900 membership fiche of the Anglo-French Association.

From *de Lanessan (1916)*:

de Lanessan devotes a whole section of his memoir to “L’Association pour l’Entente Cordiale”. (Chapter VI, section V: pp. 218-41) Apart from newspaper reports, this is the only document which I have discovered describing the origins of L’Entente Cordiale Association.

He gives due credit to Roper Parkington for his role in the successful visit of the Lord Mayor of London to France in 1895, and to setting up the Association with its parallel societies in London and Paris. There are detailed descriptions of the founding of the L’Entente Cordiale Society in London in 1896 (pp. 218-9) and the inaugural meeting of the sister *Association pour l’Entente Cordiale* in Paris in 1897 (pp.229-31). de Lanessan was chairman of the initial meeting of the Association in Paris and was elected as president of the Association. He makes reference to being sent a leaflet (in English) in November 1896 which proposed the establishment of the Association, and which gave the aims as follows:

1. *To cooperate in maintaining and perpetuating the friendly relations that now happily exist between the two Nations.*
2. *To use its influence to develop a better knowledge and a higher appreciation of the French Nation in England, as also of the English Nation in France, by the organisation of Public Meetings, Conferences, and the circulation of Literature, etc.*
3. *To promote friendly intercourse and common action between the representatives of the two peoples, socially and commercially.*
4. *To ensure a more accurate knowledge of the respective feelings and opinions of the two Nations in all questions affecting their common interests.*

These are similar to the aims of the Association as printed on the membership fiche of 1899/1900. However, on the fiche, the fourth aim is replaced by “*To cooperate with a similar and other Societies established in Paris.*”

From the *Bedfordshire Archives*:

Reference PM3032  
Online at <http://bedsarchivescat.bedford.gov.uk/Details/archive/110417281>

Medal (and Case) of Anglo-French Association de L’Entente Cordiale issued to Guy Pym to

commemorate the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation to Paris. Date: 25-30 November 1903.

From *The Literary Year Book UK 1908*:

Book digitized by Google from the library of the University of Michigan.  
Downloaded from

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-90100-90090634/the-literary-year-book-uk>

This contains the following entry:

**Entente Cordiale, L** (*Anglo-French Association*). 1897. *Objects - To develop and maintain friendly social and commercial relations between the French and English peoples; to encourage a more general knowledge of the two languages; and to make the two nations better acquainted with the respective feelings and opinions of each other. Publications-Pamphlets containing information as to parts of France worth visiting by English people, or on subjects of public interest to both nations, and corrections of erroneous statements made in the press. Subscription - Not less than half a guinea yearly, due 1st January. Entrance fee - 10s. 6d. President - Lord Colebrooke. Chairman of Council - A. Barton Kent, Esq, Treasurer - H. S. A. Foy, Esq. Honorary Secretary - W. H. Sands, Esq., 6 Fig-Tree Court, Temple, E.C.*

From the *Imperial War Museums Web Site*:

[www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/325](http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/325)

This item does not feature in Chapter 7, but it none the less sheds light on the grandiose activities of the Association. It describes a memorial at Norman Cross in Cambridgeshire, located just off the present-day A1, erected in 1914 at the expense of the Association. The inscription reads in part:

/THIS COLUMN/ WAS ERECTED ad 1914 TO THE MEMORY OF/ ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY/ SOLDIERS AND SAILORS/ NATIVES OR ALLIES OF FRANCE/ TAKEN PRISONER OF WAR DURING THE/ REPUBLICAN AND NAPOLEONIC WARS/ WITH GREAT BRITAIN AD 1793-1814/ DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI/ ERECTED BY THE ENTENTE CORDIALE SOCIETY AND OTHER FRIENDS/ ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE LATE W H SANDS ESQ./ HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY

Norman Cross was the site of a Military Depot which served as a Prisoner of War Camp during the Napoleonic Wars. The number of 1770 prisoners refers to those who died while imprisoned there. The memorial was unveiled on 28 July 1914 by Lord Weardale, the President of the Society.

From *contemporary newspaper references*:

The history of the Anglo-French Association (L'Entente Cordiale) has been reconstructed almost entirely from contemporary reports in the press. Many of these are identified in chapter 7. A full list is given in Appendix 10: *Chronological References to the L'Entente Cordiale Society: Anglo-French Association of London and to its Successors*. This will be published as a separate document and will be available to download from the web site [www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk](http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk)

## Appendix 6: Biographical Note on Sir Thomas Barclay

From obituary in *The Times*:

*The Times*, Thursday 6 February 1941, p. 7.

From *Barclay (1914)*:

*Thirty Years Anglo-French Reminiscences (1876-1906)*, Sir Thomas Barclay, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914, retrieved from archives.org, identifier thirtyyearsanglo00barc.

This gives detailed accounts of his work in promoting the Treaty of Arbitration (chapters 17-20, pp.175-236) and in founding the Franco-Scottish Society (appendix 11, pp. 359-77).

From *de Lanessan (1916)*:

de Lanessan makes a several references to Thomas Barclay. He notes the attempt, via the Franco-Scottish Society, to recover the Scots College in Paris and to hold scholarly meetings in Edinburgh and Paris. He notes that this hit the same resistance in France as the Entente Cordiale society. The meeting in Paris was cancelled due to the Fashoda affair. The president of the French section, an eminent legal scholar, explained this to Thomas Barclay by saying “*qu’il ne garantirait pas que nous ne serions pas sifflés, si nous nous réunissions avant que le ressentiment fût apaisé.*”

## Appendix 7: Biographical Note on Sir John Roper Parkington

From the National Galleries of Scotland:

Portrait of Sir John Roper Parkington, 1845-1924, artist unknown.

Catalogue number : EP VII 6.1

Downloaded from <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/38508/sir-john-roper-parkington-1845-1924>

From obituary in *The Tablet*:

*The Tablet* 19 January 1924.

Obituary of Col. Sir John Roper Parkington JP DL. This states that “He founded, in 1896, the Anglo-French Association, l’Entente Cordiale.”

From obituary in *The Times*:

*The Times* Tuesday 15 January 1924, p.14.

Announcement of the death of Roper Parkinson JP DL. Knighted in 1902. Founded L’Entente Cordiale, the Anglo-French Association, in 1896. Officer of the French Academy and a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

From *de Lanessan (1916)*:

de Lanessan gives a detailed description of Roper Parkington’s role in the successful visit of the Lord Mayor of London to France in 1895 (pp.209-10), and in founding the L’Entente Cordiale Society in London in 1896 with its parallel societies in London and Paris (pp.218-35).

From Barclay (1914):

There is only one direct mention to the Anglo-French Association. He accords it no role in achieving the Entente Cordiale, but acknowledges it as one of the societies which are to be commended for the “*constant cultivation of the spirit of friendship between the two countries*”, the other being the Alliance Française under Professor Salmon. His final remarks are the following: “*Under the chairmanship of Mr Barton Kent it shows an activity in London which compares well with the excellent work which is being done in Scotland by the Franco-Scottish Society. It was founded by Sir Roper Parkington about the same time as the Franco-Scottish Society.*” (pp.303-4) In other word, he sees the Franco-Scottish Society (founder Thomas Barclay) as an excellent model to which others may aspire, whilst not a word of praise is due to Roper Parkington.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Delphine Barbier for her generous assistance over several visits in tracking down relevant documents in the Barbier family archives.

The staff of Cardiff University Library have been most helpful in a number of ways. Firstly, they have provided access to online databases of a number of newspapers. In the case of *The Times*, the text is fully searchable up to 1985. This was invaluable in reconstructing the history of the *L'Entente Cordiale* Association until 1922; its incorporation in the *United Associations of Great Britain and France* in that year; the subsequent history of the *United Associations* until 1944 when it was renamed the *Franco-British Society*; and the outline history of that Society in the early post-war years. Cardiff University Library staff also introduced me to *Welsh Newspapers Online*, a service of the National Library of Wales. The extent of digitisation at the time of my searches in early 2017 was limited. For example, the *Western Mail* had been digitised only up to the year 1900. However, another Cardiff paper, the *Evening Express*, had been partially digitised up to the year 1910 and it was possible to locate references to key-words and to see them in the context of the article. In this way I found over fifty references and much useful material about the *Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff* and its founder members from the period 1898-1910. It is to be hoped that this project will resume in the future and the digitisation of the remaining back-numbers will be extended further into the twentieth century. A particular mention is due to Duncan Montgomery of Cardiff University Library who read an early draft of this document and made many helpful suggestions. Finally, the Special Collections and Archives section of the Library received the Barbier archives in summer 2017 and I was able to meet Alison Harvey and Pip Bartlett who have commenced the task of summarising and cataloguing this collection.

I would also like to thank the staff of Cardiff Central Library for their help. Cardiff Central Library held microfilm copies of the local newspapers during the period of my searches from summer 2016 to spring 2017. I searched particularly in the *Western Mail* and to a lesser extent in the *South Wales Daily News*. It is very time-consuming to work through the microfilm copies compared with digitised archives. My searches in the *Western Mail* and the *South Wales Daily News* were therefore targeted on what I considered to be likely dates for reports on the Society's activities. For example, the Annual General Meeting was required by the constitution to be held in January, and in most years it took place late in the month. I would not pretend for one second that my microfilm searches have been comprehensive and there may well be additional references to discover.