

The Swansea History Journal (Minerva) has reached Volume 19

It has gone from 96 pages to 112, and for the second year running is in full colour throughout. (We are able to do this through the generosity of an anonymous donor, and are immensely grateful). **What's in it ?** In the Mayor's parlour in the guildhall hangs an 1840 view of Swansea by A.F.Rolfe – it has never been reproduced in colour before, and it had to be our cover picture. It links closely with an excellent article about the Swansea artists, Paul and John Weir Padley. The Journal has a name for publishing on ceramics, and we are delighted to include a fine piece on Swansea Etruscan ware and a note a Cambrian Pottery caberet set. (And W.J.Grant Davidson's remarkable *The Pottery of South Wales* is reviewed.) On music, there is a biography of the noted Plasmarl-born cellist David Ffrangcon Thomas. We have a very thorough investigation of the horrific wreck of the Swansea-owned copper ore vessel the *Queen* on Gull Island, Newfoundland in 1867, and the alleged cannibalism that followed. Does the architecture of the Civic Centre (formerly County Hall) entrance you ? - we have an account of it which may well help you look with new eyes. It being seventy years since the blitz on Swansea, there are the memories of a man who tangled with the barrage balloons above the town and its docks, and of a town lad evacuated to Pennard, where he had to tangle with horses and a bull. Swansea Bay was guarded by batteries of guns at Mumbles from at least 1663 – we have the story up to 1918. You can also read the history of the observatory at Penllergaer, beloved of John Dillwyn Llewelyn and his daughter Thereza. And there is a fascinating 1947 drawing of Swansea, an interesting photo of the North Dock basin, information on the Clyne Valley Community Project, Llandarcy oil refinery and recent museum acquisitions. As well as other book reviews covering the Grand Theatre, copper works, stained glass and the Home Front....

A warning ! Last year the Journal sold out by Christmas – people often give them as presents. How do you get one ? Come to the Journal launch (local history talk, refreshments) on Thursday 13th October, 7.30, at Swansea Museum. You can buy one at the RISW table at the Local History Bookfair (Saturday 29th October, 10-4.00). After that, you can buy them at Swansea Museum, the National Waterfront Museum, West Glam Archives, Uplands Bookshop, Cover to Cover (Mumbles), Pennard Stores and the Gower Wildflower Centre (Blackhills). If you have trouble obtaining one, try the editor at 38 Woodland Avenue, West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5LY or on g.gabb@ntlworld.com