

District WELSH NATIONAL

Tartan Designer D.M. Richards

Date 1967

Wales, a nation of the United Kingdom, has a long and often violent history which became less turbulent after it became fully united with England in the sixteenth century. The principality of Wales is renowned for its mountains, Offa's Dyke and medieval castles. Its world famous coalmines, the product of the Industrial Revolution, are today declining in numbers to be replaced in the Welsh economy by modern technological industries.

A land of song, poetry and drama, its national eisteddfods are highly regarded. Spoken Welsh language is soft and lilting and great efforts are made today to keep it a living language at a time when English is becoming the medium of international communication.

The word 'Welsh' derives from the Anglo-Saxon *waelisc*, meaning foreign. It was as foreigners that the Anglo-Saxon invaders regarded the Welsh speaking Celtic people of western Britain.

The feeling of separate nationhood speaks today and the Welsh tartan is symbolic in this respect. The Welsh tartan owes its origin to a Society formed in Cardiff in 1967. Its aims were mainly cultural, but partly political:

1. To be fully united with other Celtic countries
2. To preserve the particular identity of the Welsh nation
3. To strengthen Celtic ties and to give visible signs of being an individual nation in culture, language and dress.
4. To make every endeavor to allow Wales to have greater and more individual representation in the affairs of the United Kingdom

In pursuance of these aims, this Welsh Society designed a tartan for a national Welsh kilt. The colors selected were those of the Welsh flag, a red dragon on a green and white background.

Taken from "District Tartans of Scotland", by Gordon Teall & Philip Smith, Shephard-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd.

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