

**ARTHUR MORLEY DAVIES**  
**DSc FGS**

**(1869-1959)**



**Born Swansea 1869 - Died Watford 1959**

## Arthur Morley Davies DSc FGS (1869-1959)

### I. Introduction

Limited information only is available for Arthur Morley Davies. His Wikipedia entry reads:

*Arthur Morley Davies (1869-1959) was a British palaeontologist and author or co-author of books on the subject. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and Reader in palaeontology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London. Awarded the Lyell Medal in 1929.*

*Davies was a critic of creationism. His book *Evolution: And its Modern Critics* was a reply to the arguments of creationists such as Douglas Dewar.*

The Abstract of a 1935 notice in *Nature* on the Retirement of Prof. A. Morley Davies adds:

*After more than thirty years service as demonstrator, lecturer and assistant professor, Dr Arthur Morley Davies will shortly retire from the Department of Geology Imperial College of Science and Technology and readership in the University of London. Opportunity was taken by his colleagues in the Department to make him a presentation on Tuesday, June 25. Prof. Boswell recalled that Prof. Davies joined the College fifty-one years ago, and became a member of a stimulating group of students which included such well-known figures as H. G. Wells, R. A. Gregory, A. T. Simmons, A. E. H. Tutton and A. V. Jennings. Tribute was paid to Prof. Davies for his long and devoted services to geology, to the College and to learned societies. The Royal Geological Society conferred honorary fellowship on him, and the Geological Association, honorary membership, as a mark of appreciation of his help and counsel during many years; and the Geological Society awarded him its Murchison Fund and, later, its Lyell Medal in recognition of his original work. Prof. Davies is the author of textbooks on geography, local geology, palaeontology and recently of two volumes on the Tertiary faunas which will long remain a standard work of reference.*

Davies was also the editor of the Proceedings of the Geological Association for the years 1893-96.



Arthur Morley Davies in the centre flanked by Dr Reginald Stanley Cox (1897-1965) and Dr Francis Harry Moore (1899-1990).

The Preface to Morley's *An Introduction to Palaeontology* is worth repeating here if only for the linkage of Palaeontology and Astro-physics:

*My object in writing this book has been to introduce the principal facts, problems, and results of Palaeontology to those who have to study it as a self-contained science, whether as students of Geology or amateur fossil collectors. Though, from an academic point of view, Palaeontology cannot claim the status of even a branch of Biology, being an aggregate of accidentally detached fragments of that science; yet, from a practical point of view, its special technique and application give it an individuality as worthy of recognition as that, for instance, of Astro-physics. Valuable as a preliminary training in general Biology is to a student of palaeontology, I have tried to show that the latter, even when studied by itself, need not be reduced to a mere descriptive catalogue of fossils.*

*My ideal (not always attained) has been, in treating each group of fossils, first to describe with some fullness a few common species from which an idea of the general characters and range of variation may be obtained; and then to give a brief systematic account of the group. The reader should not be*

satisfied unless he actually handles the selected species and compares them, point by point, with the description. When he cannot obtain the actual species described, he should take the nearest allied form accessible, and determine precisely how it differed from that described. Only by such definite practical work can he begin to qualify himself to become a palaeontologist.

## 2. Arthur Morley Davies and the Shrewsbury Museum

According to the 1991 assessment of the Shrewsbury Museum fossil collection, Arthur Morley Davies helped with the identification of specimens and donated Ordovician fossils from Shropshire. The only fossil recorded within the Shropshire collections is a brachiopod:

*Harknessella subplicata* (Ban.) (shyms: G.1977/0531)

Some 31 fossils donated by Davies are to be found in the Sedgewick Collection.

## 3. Family

Arthur Morley Davies was born in Swansea, Glamorgan to Daniel Davies a school inspector. His uncle William Davies was a Congregational Minister. Davies married Camberwell born Lucy Halpin Greville in Lambeth in 1868 – no children are evident.

Daniel I Davies m. Margaret ?  
1839- 1846

b. Llandovery, Carmarthenshire  
School inspector

|  
Arthur Morley Davies m. Lucy Halpin Greville  
1869-1959 1868-  
b. Swansea b. Lambeth

Davies lived in London while teaching at the Royal College of Science (Imperial College) and, on marriage, was resident in Mortimer Street Marylebone before retiring to Amersham in Buckinghamshire. He died in 1959 his death being recorded in Watford.

Dr J. A. Gosling  
September 2018

## Publications

Davies A M (1909, 1929) *A geography of the British Isles* Macmillan & Co.

Davies A M (1912) *Buckinghamshire with Maps, Diagrams and Illustrations* Cambridge University Press.

Davies A M (1912) *An Introduction to Palaeontology* Thomas Murby, London.

Davies A M (1927) *Local Geology A Guide to the Sources of Information for the Geology of the British Isles* Thomas Murby, London.

Davies A M (1934) *Tertiary Faunas A text-book for Oilfield Palaeontologists and Students of Geology Vol. 1 The Composition of Tertiary Faunas* Thomas Murby, London (1971 reprint by Allen & Unwin).

Davies A M (1935) *Tertiary Faunas A text-book for Oilfield Palaeontologists and Students of Geology Vol. 2 The Sequence of Tertiary Faunas* Thomas Murby, London (1971 reprint by Allen & Unwin).

Davies A M (1937) *Evolution: And its Modern Critics* Thomas Murby, London.

Davies A M (1945) *An Introduction to palaeontology* Thomas Murby, London.

Davies A M, Stubblefield C J (1961) *An Introduction to Palaeontology* Thomas Murby, London.

Buckman S S, Davies A M (2015) *Yorkshire Type Ammonites Volume III: The Original Descriptions Reprinted and illustrated by Figures from Types* Forgotten Books.

## **Sources**

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Nature (1935) *The Retirement of Prof. A. Morley Davies* Nature **136** 59.

Cleevely R (1983) *World Palaeontological Collections*

Proceedings of the Geological Society of London 1959 No. 1572.