

## The Welsh Settlement in Patagonia

E Wyn James



Perhaps the best known of all Welsh emigration ventures was the establishment in 1865 of a Welsh Settlement in Patagonia, in what is now the Province of Chubut in Argentina. The preservation of Welsh identity was central to the Patagonian project, which aimed to create a new Welsh-speaking, self-governing Wales overseas, founded on Christian and democratic principles. Although the project did not develop along the lines the founders had envisaged, perhaps as many as 5,000 of the inhabitants of Chubut still speak Welsh or have some ability with the language, and Welsh culture remains an important element in the province's identity and for its tourist industry. This talk gives an overview of the development of the Welsh Settlement in Chubut down to the present day.

Professor Emeritus E. Wyn James lectured on Welsh literature and culture of the modern period in the School of Welsh at Cardiff University. He was also co-Director of the University's Centre for Welsh American Studies. Professor James is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, of the Welsh Hymn Society, and of the International Ballad Commission. In 2012 he was a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University.