

## ROBERTSON, EDWARD (1880 - 1964), professor, linguist, and librarian

**Name:** Edward Robertson  
**Date of birth:** 1880  
**Date of death:** 1964  
**Parent:** John Robertson  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** professor, linguist, and librarian  
**Area of activity:** Education; History and Culture; Literature and Writing; Scholarship and Languages  
**Author:** Gwilym Henry Jones

Born 1880, at Cameron, Fife, Scotland, son of John Robertson, the local schoolmaster. After attending his father's school in Cameron and Madras College, St. Andrews, where he excelled in mathematics, he went to St. Andrew's University, graduated M.A. and B.D., and proceeded to the universities of Leipzig, Berlin and Heidelberg; he also went to Syria for a year to learn Arabic. He returned to St. Andrew's for a year (1905-06) to assist the professor of Hebrew, and then became a Carnegie Research Scholar and Fellow before being a lecturer in Arabic at Edinburgh University (1913-21).

He came to Wales as Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages at the University College, Bangor (1921-34), 'Jock', as he was called, was a popular teacher at Bangor, and he made a gallant attempt at mastering Welsh; he immortalized himself by making a tiny slip and calling **Dr Thomas Richards**, the well-known College librarian, *llyfrgellydd*, a *llyfrgollydd* - 'book-loser'. He was vice-principal of the college (1926-28) and Dean of the Faculty of Theology (1922-34). He left Bangor for the Chair of Semitic Languages at Manchester University (1934-45), where he was also pro-vice-chancellor (1944); he was the Librarian of the John Rylands Library (1949-62). He gained a D.Litt. degree of St. Andrew's in 1913, and received a number of honours: he was Gunning lecturer at Edinburgh University (1929-32), had an hon. D.D. degree of the universities of Wales and St. Andrew, and LL.D. of the University of Manchester, and was made president of the Society for Old Testament Study.

His field was manuscripts in the Semitic languages, on which he published several studies; he also edited *the Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*. After retiring he emigrated to Canada to be with one of his two daughters, and he died there 29 April 1964.

### Author

Reverend Gwilym Henry Jones

### Sources

*Who was who?*

*Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, 45 (1963), 273-5; 47 (1964), 1-2

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Edward Robertson](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20746771](#)

**Published date:** 2001

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/>

LGC  
NLW

LLYFRGEL  
THE NATION



Ysgrifeddiadau  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Copied by  
Welsh Government