

William Morgan

Eighteenth Century Actuary, Mathematician
and Radical

Nicola Bruton Bennetts

Series: Scientists of Wales

To meet William Morgan is to encounter the eighteenth-century world of finance, science and politics. Born in Bridgend in 1750, his heritage was Welsh but his influence extended far beyond national borders, and the legacy of his work continues to shape life in the twenty-first century. Aged only twenty-five and with no formal training, Morgan became actuary at the Equitable, which was then a fledgling life assurance company. Known today as 'the father of the actuarial profession', his pioneering work earned him the Copley Medal, the Royal Society's most prestigious award. His interests covered a wider scientific field, and his papers on electrical experiments show that he unwittingly constructed the first X-ray tube. Politically radical, Morgan's outspoken views put him at risk of imprisonment during Pitt's Reign of Terror. This biography, using unpublished family letters, explores Morgan's turbulent private life and covers his outstanding public achievements.

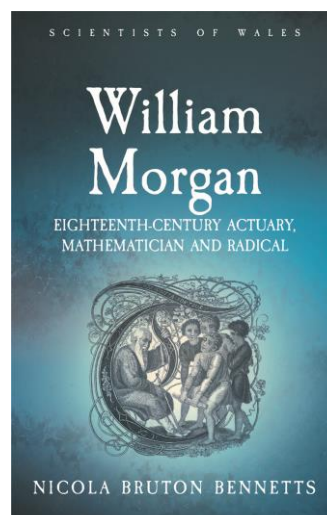
'A delight from beginning to end. Nicola Bruton Bennetts not only brings a complicated and endearing character to life in a remarkably vivid way, but also secures his place at the heart of Georgian radical thought.'

- Adrian Tinniswood, author of *The Royal Society and the Invention of Modern Science*

Nicola Bruton Bennetts is an independent scholar with a background in teaching and journalism.



GWASG PRIFYSGOL CYMRU
UNIVERSITY OF WALES PRESS



October 2020

£16.99 • PB •

9781786836182 •

216x138mm • 272pp

University of Wales Press
University Registry
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff, CF10 3NS
Tel: (0)29 2037 6999

www.uwp.co.uk

Wales Distribution
Books Council of Wales
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