AUGUSTUS, WILLIAM ('Wil Awst'), a prescientific weather forecaster and translator

Name: William Augustus
Pseudonym: Wil Awst
Gender: Male
Occupation: a prescientific weather forecaster and translator
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Nature and Agriculture; Scholarship and Languages; Science and Mathematics
Author: Emrys George Bowen

He lived at Cil-y-cwm, near Llandovery, Carmarthenshire, at the close of the 18th century. The precise dates of his life are unknown, but he was living in 1794 when John Ross of Carmarthen printed *The Husbandman's Perpetual Prognostication*. This work is a curious collection of weather lore written partly in Welsh and partly in English. The source of the Welsh portion (which is largely a translation of a well-known English text) is acknowledged by Augustus at the close of the section in the following terms: 'Rhai o'r pethau hyn a argraphwyd yn Saesneg ac a gyhoeddwyd yn gyffredinol mewn llyfyr a elwir " *A Prognostication for ever made by Erra Pater* ".'

Apart from this publication we know little of Augustus except the great reputation which he possessed locally for his ability to forecast (within the hour, it is said) the onset of rain, frost, gales, or thunderstorms. William Augustus would appear to be in the succession of the ancient Greek meteorologists, and, as the title of his work indicates, he writes (as they did) primarily for the husbandman, who from primitive times belonged to the class most likely to be directly concerned with weather prognostication.

Author

Professor Emrys George Bowen, (1900 - 1983)

Sources

W. Rowlands, *Cambrian Bibliography* (Llanidloes 1869), 689-90

Edward Jones, *Rhestr gyda nodiadau byrion, o Enwogion Cymreig o 1700 i 1900* (1908)

J. H. Davies, *Rhai o hen ddewiniaid Cymru* (Llundain 1901)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: William Augustus

Additional Links

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