

BIRCHINSHAW (BYRCHINSHA, BYCHEINSHA), WILLIAM (fl. 1584-1617), poet

Name: William Birchinshaw
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: David Jenkins

A native of the countryside around Denbigh, he was possibly related to Maurice Birchinshaw who graduated B.Gramm. in 1511, and B.C.L. in 1515, from Magdalen College, Oxford, and became rector of Denbigh in 1543; he died 1564. In N.L.W. MS. 5272 (185), is preserved a letter by [William Myddelton](#) to 'his cousin Wilm Birchinsha and Owen Meurig ', wherein he advises them to be civil to their tutor. And as for Birchinshaw, says [Myddelton](#), 'while he is capable of writing a good cywydd he will never learn one good habit.' Both of them, it seems, prefer making love to the fair sex, and tipping, and 'to procure gold they live as wandering minstrels.' On p. 182 of the same manuscript an *englyn* to Rhys Grythor (Rhys the Fiddler) by Birchinshaw is dated 30 November 1584, and in *Chirk Castle Accounts 1605-66* (4) appears a reference to rents paid for land held by four men, of whom one, named Burchinshawe, may be the poet. Sometimes called ' Sir ' W. Birchinshaw, he was, perhaps, trained for the priesthood. He was a contemporary of [Morris Kyffin](#). Most of his poems have been preserved in N.L.W. MSS. 567, 1553, and 5272.

Author

Dr David Jenkins, (1912 - 2002)

Sources

W. M. Myddelton, *Chirk Castle Accounts, A.D. 1605-1666* (St. Albans 1908)

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714*, 126

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [William Birchinshaw](#)

Additional Links

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Published date: 1959

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