

## CYFFIN, ROGER (fl. c. 1587-1609), a poet

**Name:** Roger Cyffin  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** a poet  
**Area of activity:** Poetry  
**Author:** Ray Looker

about whom varying details are given - e.g. *Enwogion* ([Foulkes](#)) names him as parson of Llanberis in 1571; Panton MS. 58 (87), gives him as a gentleman from Chirk; Llanover MS. B 2 (602) contains a note in the handwriting of [Iolo Morganwg](#), stating that he was a native of Denbighshire, curate of Flemingston, Glamorganshire, and of somewhere in Carmarthenshire, and parson of Llanberis during the latter part of his life. No proof of the preceding statements remains, and only one of his poems refers to himself - Mostyn MS. 147 (612). In it the poet bade farewell to his home in Gartheryr, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, and to that particular district of Denbighshire. Some misfortune had befallen him, he had sold his land, and was ready to leave for South Wales, to live under the patronage of [John Vaughan](#) of Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire. Two of his free metre poems and a number of *cywyddau* and *englynion* are preserved in manuscript. The strict metre poems include eulogies, elegies, begging poems (to persons from North and South Wales), religious, moral, and love poems. Poetic controversies or *ymrysonau* took place between him and [Gruffudd Hafren](#) (Cwrtmawr MS. 206 (101)), [Richard Davies](#), bishop of S. Davids (Cwrtmawr MS. 222 (28)), and [Dafydd Llwyd](#) of Dolobran (Aberdare MS. 1 (578)). He also wrote poetry on topical themes, e.g. a *cywydd* written in judgment on the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and in praise of king James I (Pen. MS. 112 (189)), and an *englyn* giving advice to William Cyffin on his departure for Ireland with the earl of Essex in 1599 (Jes. Coll. MS. 18 (42)). One holograph poem is found in Christ Church MS. 183 (39b) (N.L.W. MS. 6494 is a photostat copy of this manuscript). It is not known whether he was related to [Morus](#) and [Edward Cyffin](#)

### Author

Ray Looker

### Sources

*Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru* (1870)

J. Jones ('Myrddin Fardd') *Enwogion Sir Gaernarfon* (1922)

*Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum* 14880, 14898

*Cardiff Manuscripts* 12, 13

*Cwrtmawr Manuscripts at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth* 21, 224, 312

*Jes. Coll. MS. at the Bodleian Library, Oxford* 18

*Llanover Manuscript at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth*, B 1, B 2 (N.L.W.)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 11: Poetry](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 120: The Book of Jaspar Griffith](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 122: Poetry](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 123: Poetry](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 125: Poetry](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 145: Poetry](#)

NLW Archives: [Llanstephan MS 155: Poetry, apocryphal gospels, &c.](#)

*Mostyn MSS. at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth* 148, 161

*NLW MSS* 278, 1553, 1559, 1674, 11816, 11993

*Peniarth Manuscripts at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth* 72, 73, 87. 91, 93, 104, 144, 151

Plas Nantglyn MS. 4 (N.L.W.)

### Additional Links

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