

DAFYDD BENWYN (second half of the 16th century), one of the bards of Glamorgan

Name: Dafydd Benwyn
Gender: Male
Occupation: bards of Glamorgan
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Griffith John Williams

His contemporary, [Sils ap Siôn](#), says that he was from Llangeinor. His bardic teacher was [Rhisiart Iorwerth](#) (Rhisiart Fynglwyd), Llangynwyd, son of [Iorwerth Fynglwyd](#). Some of his work, in his autograph, is in Cardiff MS. 10 and [Llanstephan MS 164](#) , and there are extant two large collections of his *awdlau* and *cywyddau*, the one in Cardiff MS. 2 (277) and the other in Jes. Coll. MS. 13. He was the most prolific of the bards of Glamorgan; he sang the praises of most of the landed families of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire. Although he was the bardic disciple of [Rhisiart Iorwerth](#) (and, possibly, of [Lewis Morgannwg](#) also) and inherited the lore of the older chief bards (penceirddiaid), his poems are commonplace and stereotyped. No better way can be found of illustrating the deterioration in Glamorgan in the second half of the 16th century than by comparing his *awdlau* and *cywyddau* with those of [Lewis Morgannwg](#) and [Rhisiart Iorwerth](#). Nevertheless, they are important - for two reasons. In the first place they contain the genealogies of many of the families of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire; in the second place they give us the Welsh forms of place-names in those regions. A small selection was published by J. Kyrle Fletcher in 1909 - *The Gwentian Poems of Dafydd Benwyn*. Other poems by the bard were published by [T. C. Evans](#) (Cadrawd) in [Cyfaill yr Aelwyd](#) .

Author

Emeritus Professor Griffith John Williams, (1892 - 1963)

Sources

Hopkin-James and T. C. Evans, *Hen Gwndidau, Carolau, a Chywyddau* (Bangor 1910), 271-3

D. Rhys Phillips, *The History of the Vale of Neath* (Swansea 1925), 527-32

G. J. Williams, *Iolo Morganwg a Chywyddau'r Ychwanegiad* (1926), 123-4

G. J. Williams, *Traddodiad Llenyddol Morgannwg* (1948), 75-95, 124

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Dafydd Benwyn](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q13127762](#)

Published date: 1959

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

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

