DAVIES, JOHN (1625 - 1693), 'of Kidwelly,' translator

Name: John Davies
Date of birth: 1625
Date of death: 1693
Parent: William Davies
Gender: Male
Occupation: translator
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Scholarship and Languages
Author: William Llewelyn Davies

Born at Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, the son of William Davies, 'yeoman,' on 25 May 1625 according to Anthony Wood - but Sidney Lee in *D.N.B.* suggests 1627 as being the more likely year because Davies described himself as 19 years of age in the year 1646. He entered Jesus College, Oxford, 16 May 1641, but, because of the Civil War, migrated to Cambridge, matriculating as of S. John's College, 14 May 1646. He afterwards travelled in France, learnt the language well, and after returning to London (c. 1652) devoted himself to the task of translating books on behalf of booksellers.

These translations, nearly all of works in French, are numerous - the *D.N.B.* lists over thirty of them, the British Museum catalogue over thirty, whilst the National Library of Wales has at least twelve. In date they range from 1654 (*Treatise against the Principles of Descartes*) to 1680 (*Blondell's Pindar and Horace compared*) or even later. Letters by him are prefixed to works by his friend John Hall of Durham, poet, whom he first met at Cambridge. He is sometimes credited with the authorship of *A History of the Civil Wars of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1661; he seems to have edited *Enchiridion*, 1686, the work of his friend Henry Turberville.

Author

Sir William Llewelyn Davies, (1887 - 1952)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

and the sources cited therein

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: John Davies

Works

Marin Cureau de La Chambre, John Davies (tr.), *The art how to know men. Originally written, by the Sieur de La Chambre, counsellour to His Majesty of France, and Physician in Ordinary. Rendred into English by John Davies of Kidwelly* (London 1665)

Juan Eusebio Nieremberg, Francois d' Obeilh (tr.), John Davies (tr.), *Prudential reflections, moral considerations, and stoical maximes. In three centuries: written originally in the Spanish tongue, and thence put into French by a R.F. of the Society* (London 1674)

Additional Links

VIAF: 17367538

Wikidata: Q6228770

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-RUU/1.0/

PDF Print Cite

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.

Donate

APA Citation

×

Davies, W. Ll., (1959). DAVIES, JOHN (1625 - 1693), 'of Kidwelly,' translator. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 3 Oct 2024, from https://biography.wales/article/s-DAVI-JOH-1627

Copy to Clipboard

Privacy & Cookies
Copyright
The Project
Help
Contact

LLYFRGELL
THE NATIO

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government