

GWILYM RYFEL (12th century) poet

Name: Gwilym Ryfel
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

All that remains of his work are two chains of *englynion* of intercession to [Dafydd ab Owain Gwynedd](#). These belong to the period 1174-75 when [David](#) ruled over the greater part of Gwynedd, including Anglesey. Gwilym Ryfel was one of the friends lamented by [Gruffudd ap Gwrgenau](#) in a chain of beautifully written *englynion*, and from this work (Hendregadredd MS. 76a, [The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales](#)^[↗], 257a) it appears that he came from Powys, and that he was killed far from his home, where his blood could not be avenged by his kin. Like [Gwalchmai](#) he appears to have been both poet and soldier. It is certain that much of his poetry is lost, for [Iorwerth Beli](#), writing a century or more after his time, names him ([The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales](#)^[↗], 317b) one among four, with [Llywarch](#) (Brydydd y Moch), [Cynddelw](#), and [Dafydd Benfras](#), as 'splendid chief poets, fine sons of rare talent,' which means that he was reckoned among the greatest of the poets of the princes.

Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

Sources

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 6680B: Llawysgrif Hendregadredd](#), 73ab

The Myvyrian archaiology of Wales (Denbigh 1870), 195b-197a

J. E. Lloyd, [A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest](#) (London 1911), ii, 551

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Gwilym Rhyfel](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q3331150](#)

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