

HERBERT, EDWARD (1583 - 1648), 1st baron Herbert of Cherbury

Name: Edward Herbert

Date of birth: 1583

Date of death: 1648

Spouse: Mary Herbert (née Herbert)

Child: Richard Herbert

Parent: Magdalen Herbert (née Newport)

Parent: Richard Herbert

Gender: Male

Occupation: 1st baron Herbert of Cherbury

Area of activity: Land Ownership; Royalty and Society

Author: Richard Ithamar Aaron

Born 3 March 1583, at Eyton-on-Severn, son of [Richard](#) (died 1596 and Magdalen Herbert, of Montgomery. He entered University College, Oxford, in May 1596, married Mary Herbert in 1599, living at first in London but returning in 1605 to Montgomery where he was appointed magistrate and sheriff. In 1608 he made the first of many journeys to Europe which he describes so vividly in his *Life*, one of the earliest autobiographies in the English language. In 1619 he was appointed English ambassador at Paris and lived there in great state until his dismissal in 1624. Created lord Herbert of Cherbury in 1629, he seems to have been disappointed by the rewards which followed his services to the Crown. In the Civil War he remained neutral and refused repeated invitations to join the Royalist cause. His castle falling to the Parliamentarians, Herbert moved to London and died there 20 August 1648.

A handsome, vain, sensitive man, a bold and profound thinker, Edward Herbert was a strange mixture of philosopher and buffoon. His is a rich personality moulded by an age of transition from the activity of the Elizabethan age to the rationalism of the late Stuart period. His *De Veritate*, 1624, bridges the gulf between Renaissance thought and that of the modern age, and his writings on religion point the way to deism and to the liberal theology of a later period. His *Life* informs us that he could speak Welsh.

Author

Professor Richard Ithamar Aaron, (1901 - 1987)

Sources

Baron Edward Herbert, Lee (ed.), *The autobiography of Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury* (Gregynog Press 1928)

Smith (ed.), *The Poems, English & Latin, of Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury* (Oxford 1923)

M. H. Carre (trs. and ed.), *De Veritate* (1624, 1937)

De Causis errorum una cum tractatu de Religione Laici, et appendice ad Sacerdotes nec non quibusdam poematibus. (De vita humana disquisitio (1645)

H. R. Hutcheson (trs. and ed.), *Lord Herbert of Cherbury's De religione laici* (1944)

De Religione Gentilium, errorumque apud eos causis (1663)

Wright (ed.), *Religio Laici*

Modern Language Review, 28, 1933

R. I. Aaron in *Modern Language Review*, 36, 1941

R. I. Aaron in *Mind*, 54, 1945 (dealing with Herbert MSS.)

On Herbert's philosophy cf. introduction to M. H. Carre and H. R. Hutcheson (above) and Sorley, in *Mind*, iii, 1894

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Edward Herbert, 1st Baron Herbert of Cherbury](#)

Works

Baron Edward Herbert, Horace Walpole (ed.), *The life of Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury: written by himself* (Twickenham 1764)

Additional Links

VIAF: [46608](#)

Wikidata: [Q713004](#)

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](#).

