

HOLLAND, ROBERT (1556/7 - 1622?), cleric, author, and translator

Name: Robert Holland
Date of birth: 1556/7
Date of death: 1622?
Spouse: Joan Holland (née Meyler)
Parent: Jane Holland (née Conway)
Parent: Hugh Gwyn Holland
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric, author, and translator
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Conway (christened there 18 January 1556/7), third son of [Hugh Gwyn Holland](#) - see [Holland families \(1\)](#). He matriculated from Clare College, Cambridge, at Easter 1577, graduated from Magdalene in 1577/1578, and proceeded M.A. from Jesus in 1581. On 15 January 1580/1 he was ordained deacon (on a title from his father) at Bangor; he was priested at Ely in April 1580, and licensed curate of Weston Colville; he was also schoolmaster at Dullingham, near Newmarket. His preferments in Wales are not easy to date with confidence (parish records are lacking), but both [Stephen Hughes](#) (in 1677) and [Moses Williams](#) make him parson of Llanddowror - this, presumably, would be before 1595. Again, though the list of Pembrokeshire parsons in *West Wales Records* contains not a single reference to Holland, [Foster](#)'s *Index* of parish clergy (based on P.R.O. records) says that he was instituted at Prendergast 6 November 1591 (*West Wales Records* has another rector there in 1608), at Walwyn's Castle 5 March 1607/8, and in addition at Robeston West in 1612. He would seem to have died in 1622 - [Foster](#) has another incumbent at Robeston in 1622, and *West Wales Records* has another at Walwyn's Castle on 15 November 1622. Holland had married Joan Meyler of Haverfordwest, and founded the [Holland](#) family of Walwyn's Castle; [William Holland](#) was a descendant of his.

Holland published at least six books: (1) *The Holie Historie of our Lord* (etc.), 1592, a metrical paraphrase of the Gospel narrative; (2) *Dau Gymro yn taring yn bell o'u gwlad*, a dialogue against soothsayers and conjurers, conjecturally dated c. 1595, but known only from the reprint by [Stephen Hughes](#) at the end of his edition of *Canwyll y Cymru*, 1681; (3) a translation of the *Exposition of the Lord's Prayer* by William Perkins (see in *D.N.B.*), entered (with no title) at Stationers Hall 25 June 1599 - again no copy is known earlier than [Stephen Hughes](#)'s revised reissue (1677) under the title *Agoriad byrr ar Weddi'r Arglwydd, in his Cyfarwydd-deb i'r Anghyfarwydd*; (4) a book called *Darmerth, neu Arlwy i Weddi*, recorded by [Moses Williams](#) in 1717 as Holland's work, published at Oxford in 1600 - the view that this was identical with (3) is not now accepted; (5) a translation of Perkins's catechism *The Foundation of Xtian Religion*, also reissued, 1672, by [Stephen Hughes](#) (as *Catechism Mr. Perkins*) - he says that Holland translated it 'some 70 years' before; (6) *Basilikon Doron*, 1604, a translation of king James's work made with the assistance of [George Owen Harry](#) - this was intended to be the first part of a book including also [Harry's Genealogy of the High and Mighty Prince](#) (etc.), but [Harry](#) published that independently, in the same year.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914), 341

Conway Par. Reg.

Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*

A. Ivor Pryce, *The Diocese of Bangor in the sixteenth century being a digest of the registers of the bishops, A.D. 1512-1646* (1923)

Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society, ii, 273-4, and 172, 181, 207, 211, 223, 230

information furnished by the Keeper of Printed Books at N.L.W., and by Mr. Walter Morgan of N.L.W.

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