

ITHEL DDU (fl. second half of 14th century), poet

Name: Ithel Ddu
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

was most probably an Anglesey man - 'of the land of [Meilyr](#),' says [lolo Goch](#), though [lolo](#) also locates him in Llŷn, and indeed further transports him to Bardsey. [lolo](#) styles him 'a famous poet,' but all that we have to substantiate that claim is a single *cywydd*, preserved in two copies, Pen. MSS. 77 (441) and 78 (135). It would indeed seem that Ithel was no professional bard, but rather a quasi-squire, a mighty hunter and a boon companion (according to [lolo](#)), and like the rest of his class a patron of bards. It was by his command (says [lolo](#)) that lolo Goch composed the very scurrilous lampoon, printed by [Charles Ashton](#) in his edition of [lolo](#) (no. xl), upon the mother of the poet [Gruffydd Gryg](#) - see further the article on [Gruffydd](#). An 'elegy' by [lolo](#), on Ithel's supposed death on Bardsey - assassinated, so it is hinted, by [Gruffydd Gryg](#) - can hardly be regarded as historical evidence; it is pretty clearly a 'leg-pull,' in the same *genre* as the lampoon mentioned above.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

H. Lewis, introduction to *Cywyddau lolo Goch ac Eraill, 1350-1450* (Bangor 1925), liv-lvi

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