

JOHN, HENRY, or HARRI SION (1664 - 1754), hymnist

Name: Henry John
Date of birth: 1664
Date of death: 1754
Gender: Male
Occupation: hymnist
Area of activity: Poetry; Religion
Author: Arthur Gray-Jones

Born at Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, he was one of the early members of the Baptist church there. He removed later to Pontypool. His *Rhai Hymnau ... Duwiol* was published by Farley in 1747. A collection of his hymns, *Amryw Hymnau Dymuniadol a Phrofiadol ...*, to which were added some by other writers, was published in [1773] by S. Farley of Bristol who had from 1740 to 1742 printed at Pontypool a number of Welsh works, at the instigation of **Miles Harry**. A second edition appeared at Carmarthen in 1773 and a fifth in 1817, but the hymns are more remarkable for their piety than for their poetry. His 'Can am Briodas' was printed in William Secker's *Y Fodrwy Briodas* (Trevecca, 1791). **Benjamin Francis** wrote an elegy to his memory, and **Joshua Thomas** in his *Hanes y Bedyddwyr* (1778), 249, gives high praise to Harri Siôn for the depth and sincerity of his religious convictions. He died 20 September 1754, aged 91, according to his tombstone.

Author

Arthur Gray-Jones

Sources

J. Ifano Jones, *A history of printing and printers in Wales to 1810, and of successive and related printers to 1923* (Cardiff 1925)

information from the Rev. Gomer M. Roberts

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