

JONES, JOHN (EMLYN) (Ioan Emlyn; 1818 - 1873), Baptist minister, poet, and man of letters

Name: John (Emlyn) Jones

Pseudonym: Ioan Emlyn

Date of birth: 1818

Date of death: 1873

Gender: Male

Occupation: Baptist minister, poet, and man of letters

Area of activity: Eisteddfod; Literature and Writing; Poetry; Religion; Scholarship and Languages

Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Newcastle Emlyn. He was apprenticed to a watchmaker at Crickhowell (a town of which he sketched the history in *Golud yr Oes*, 1863), and while there was one of the ' Cymreigyddion ' of Abergavenny (1838) and of Llangynidr. From Crickhowell he moved to Cardiff, to the staff of *The Principality* - there he translated parts of Gill's Biblical commentaries.

It is not known when he began preaching - indeed, precise dates of his career are in general hard to come by; but he ministered successively at Pontypridd, Ebbw Vale, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, and Llandudno, returning finally to Ebbw Vale, where he died in January 1873, aged 55. His literary activity was considerable: he was editor of *Y Bedyddiwr* and of *Seren Cymru* at different times, brought out an enlarged edition of *Hanes Prydain Fawr* (by [Titus Lewis](#)), published *Tiriad y Ffrancodym Mhencaer* in 1856 and *Gramadeg Cerddorol* in 1860, not to speak of other books. He undertook the resumption of *Y Parthsylydd*, a large-scale treatise on geography which had been begun by [John Jenkins](#) of Hengoed and [Thomas Williams](#) (Gwilym Morgannwg), but failed to complete it (it was completed in 1875 by [J. Spinther James](#)).

Two bardic chairs fell to him - at Denbigh National Eisteddfod (1860) and at a regional eisteddfod in Anglesey (1871) - and he published in 1871 a collection of *awdlau* submitted unsuccessfully at other eisteddfodau. But his name lives today solely on account of his poem ' Bedd y Dyn Tylawd ' ('the Poor Man's Grave'). He was given the honorary degree of LL.D. by Glasgow University in 1863.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Y Gwyddoniadur Cymreig (1889-96), 2nd ed., x, 652-3

Y Traethodydd, 1903, 434

A roll of the graduates of the University of Glasgow from 31st December, 1727 to 31st December, 1897 With short biographical notes (Glasgow 1898), 300

Y Geninen, March 1893

Images

NLW: [Memorial of John Emlyn Jones \(Ioan Emlyn\) at Glyn Ebwy](#)

Additional Links

VIAF: [16950318](#)

Wikidata: [Q20733348](#)

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](#).

