



LLYWELYN FARDD (fl. c. 1150-1175), poet

Name: Llywelyn Fardd
Parent: Cywryd
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

His dates and list of works are not easily fixed. *Cerdd Dafod* gives c. 1185 - 1220, but [J. Lloyd-Jones](#) has c. 1155 - 1200. It may be suggested that there were two poets of the same name, one in the 12th century, and the other in the 13th century, and that that is why the ' Red Book of Hergest ' refers to ' Llywelyn Fardd, son of Cywryd.' This poet was the earlier, and apparently a native of Merioneth. In an elegy to Cedifor he refers to himself as a soldier of [Madog ap Maredudd](#) (died 1160), and in addressing [Owain Fychan](#), son of [Madog](#) (died 1187), he claims that he was older than that prince. In a poem to [Owain Gwynedd](#) he states that he had been with him on Southern soil, but [Owain](#) did not fight in South Wales after 1138. According to the ' Red Book ' it was Llywelyn who sang the elegy to [Owain](#)'s retinue which is attributed to [Cynddelw](#) in [The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales](#)  Llywelyn Fardd composed several religious poems, his best being his 'Ode to Cadfan,' which is a panegyric to the church of Towyn and a splendid description of its religious life during the abbacy of Morfrân, who was alive in 1147.

In a short poem in *Llsg. Hendregadredd* and [The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales](#)  to [Llywelyn the Great](#), by Llywelyn Fardd, the prince is styled as ' eagle of Clwyd,' a title which would be but scant praise if used much after 1206. This composition reads like the effort of a young poet, and indeed he described himself as an ' eloquent youth.' It is suggested that this second Llywelyn Fardd was then on the threshold of his career and that it was he who lived to sing the praises of [Owain ap Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn](#) a prince who was alive as late as 1274.

Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

Sources

Llawysgrif Hendregadredd (1933), 1933

[The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales \(1801-1807\)](#), i, 355-362

The Poetry in the Red Book of Hergest (Llanbedrog 1911)

H. Lewis, *Hen Gerddi Crefyddol* (Cardiff 1931)

J. Lloyd-Jones, *The Court Poets of the Welsh Princes*

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