

## MEILYR BRYDYDD (fl. c. 1100-1137), chief court-poet

**Name:** Meilyr Brydydd  
**Child:** Gwalchmai ap Meilyr  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** chief court-poet  
**Area of activity:** Poetry  
**Author:** David Myrddin Lloyd

to [Gruffudd ap Cynan](#) at Aberffraw. He is considered the earliest of the 'Gogynfeirdd.' Meilyr, and [Gwalchmai](#) (his son), and his grand-children, appear to be the likeliest known instance in Wales of a line of hereditary poets, as was usual in Ireland, holding land in return for their eulogies of a particular line of rulers. Trefeilyr and Trewalchmai remain as place-names in Anglesey. [Sir J. Morris-Jones](#) noted a chronological difficulty in accepting as the work of Meilyr Brydydd the elegy to [Trahaearn ap Caradog](#) and [Meilyr ap Rhiwallon](#) who were slain at Mynydd Cam (1081). The only other remaining poems by him are the elegy to [Gruffudd ap Cynan](#) (1137) and the poet's own death-bed lament. In the former, as [Sir J. E. Lloyd](#) observed, we have the earliest extant expression in Welsh poetry of the spirit of the Welsh re-awakening which accompanied the rise of the princes of Gwynedd in the 12th century. In the lament Meilyr expresses a wish to be buried on Bardsey. It does not seem probable that he long survived his chief patron, and we know that his son, [Gwalchmai](#), was of age to receive the patronage of Gwynedd princes before 1132 (see Hendreg. MS. 13a).

### Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

### Sources

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J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest* (London 1911), Vol. I

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

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Meilyr Brydydd](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q2670636](#)

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