

PHILLIPS, JOHN (Tegidon; 1810 - 1877) printer and poet

Name: John Phillips
Pseudonym: Tegidon
Date of birth: 1810
Date of death: 1877
Gender: Male
Occupation: printer and poet
Area of activity: Poetry; Printing and Publishing
Author: William Rowlands

Born 12 April 1810 at Bala. He was educated at Bala, where he was also apprenticed as a printer with [Robert Saunderson](#). He later moved to Chester where for a period he supervised the printing works of [John Parry](#) (1775 - 1846), who published *Y Drysorfa* and *Goleuad Cymru*, to which Tegidon contributed many articles. About 1850 he moved to Portmadoc as secretary to the Welsh Slate Company; later he became the chief agent of the Company, a position he retained for twenty years. As a printer he helped [Robert Isaac Jones](#) (Alltud Eifion), to establish his printing press at Tremadoc in 1854. He wrote much to *Y Drysorfa*, *Y Gwyliedydd*, *Y Geiniogwerth*, *Seren Gomer*, *Y Methodist*, and *Y Traethodydd* (1849-54). He was sub-editor of *Y Gwyliedydd*, and was editor of the poetry in *Goleuad Cymru*, 1822-38. He did much to promote the study of Welsh literature and music at Portmadoc, and was a prominent public speaker. He wrote a good deal of poetry in free metre, and some of his poems, also his translation of Wordsworth's 'We Are Seven,' became popular. He also composed hymns for special occasions; some of these are included in the *Welsh Congregational Hymn Book* and the *Methodist Hymn Book*. He wrote many songs for children and young people, and published several popular books, e.g. *Y Ddeilen ar y Traeth*, 1868; *Y Tlws Arian*; *Y Gelyn a'r Frwydr*; *Y Cenhadwr*; *Yr Eglwys yn y T* (a translation of a book by J. Hamilton); *Seppely Bach a'i Feibl* (translation of a Swiss tale). He died 28 May 1877 at Portmadoc, and was buried at Llanycil.

Author

William Rowlands

Sources

Hanes Porthmadog (1913), 187-8

Cymru (O.M.E.), vi, 111-3, xi, 121-3, lix, 30

Y Gestiana, 88

Beirdd y Bala (1911), 93-8

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

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Published date: 1959

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