

POWEL, JOHN or SION (died 1767), a weaver-poet

Name: John Powel
Date of death: 1767
Gender: Male
Occupation: weaver-poet
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Poetry
Author: Ray Looker

Of Rhyd-yr-Eirin, in the parish of Llansannan, Denbighshire. According to Owen Williams, *Awduron Sir Ddinbych*, he was born in 1731. It is said that he was a sexton also. One of the closest friends of [Evan Evans](#) (Ieuan Fardd) when the latter was curate of Llanfair Talhaiarn, he also regarded him as his bardic teacher. A number of his poems are found in Swansea MS. 1 ('*Y Piser Hir*'), now in N.L.W., these being ten *cywyddau* and one *awdl*. They include a poem on Christ's passion, one complaining of the contemporary neglect of old poetry, an elegy to a greyhound, poems addressed to [Siôn ap Rhisiart](#) of Bryniog, Ieuan Owain of Dyffryn Aur, Rhobert Burchinshaw, two to [Ieuan Brydydd Hir](#), and one to [Dafydd Jones](#), Trefriw, requesting a copy of *Y Cydymaith Diddan*. This last *cywydd* and the letter, written 13 October 1766, which accompanied it, is published in *Llythyrau at Ddafydd Jones o Drefriw* (ed., [G. J. Williams](#)). Other *cywyddau* composed by him are found in N.L.W. MS. 562, and a poem in free metre in Cwrtmawr MS. 230. No details regarding his life are available, but it is known that he was buried in Llansannan churchyard on 7 May 1767. The elegy composed by [Ieuan Fardd](#) to him is found in the poet's own hand in Panton MS. 2. See also under [David Jones](#), 1732 - 1782?.

Author

Ray Looker

Sources

Cwrtmawr Manuscript in the National Library of Wales 230 (159)

NLW MS 562 (65, 85b, 214)

Panton Manuscript at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 2 (127)

Swansea Manuscript 1 (187-203)

T. Gee, *Gwaith y Parchedig Evan Evans (Ieuan Brydydd Hir)* (Caernarfon 1876), 104

Y Brython, v, 113

Robert Ellis, *Registers of the Parish of Llansannan 1667-1812* (Liverpool 1904)

Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru (1870)

Aneurin Lewis, 'Evan Evans (Ieuan Fardd), 1731-88: hanes ei fywyd a'i gysylltiadau llenyddol' (M.A. thesis, University of Wales, 1950, now in N.L.W.)

G. J. Williams, *Llythyrau at Ddafydd Jones o Drefriw* (*The National Library of Wales Journal*, Suppl. Ser. iii, no. ii)

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