

RICHARD, EDWARD (1714 - 1777), schoolmaster, scholar, and poet

Name: Edward Richard
Date of birth: 1714
Date of death: 1777
Parent: Gwenllian Richard
Parent: Tomos Richard
Gender: Male
Occupation: schoolmaster, scholar, and poet
Area of activity: Education; Poetry; Scholarship and Languages
Author: David Gwenallt Jones

Born at Ystradmeurig, Cardiganshire, March 1714, son of Tomos Richard, tailor and inn-keeper, and Gwenllian ('Auntie Gwen' as she was commonly called), his wife. Edward was taught Latin and Greek by his brother, Abraham; then went to the Queen Elizabeth grammar school, Carmarthen, and afterwards to Pontygido to a clergyman of the name of Pugh who was a distinguished Greek scholar. About 1735 or 1736 he returned to Ystradmeurig, where he opened a school which became famous, turning out a number of pupils who subsequently played an important part in many spheres. He died 4 March 1777.

Edward Richard showed his first pastoral to **Ieuan Brydydd Hir**, **Lewis Morris**, and **Richard Morris**, and it was first published in the 1767 *Almanac of Gwilym Howel*. In 1776 there was published in Shrewsbury, by J. Eddowes, *Bugeilgerdd, Yr Ail yn y Iaith Gymraeg gan Edward Richard. Awdur y Guntaf*. Bound up with this in a copy in the National Library is a manuscript copy (though not in the author's handwriting) of the 'first' pastoral; **Ieuan Brydydd Hir**'s translation of this pastoral into English will be found in Panton MS. 2 (193-200). **Morris Williams** (Nicander), in his edition of *Gwaith Dafydd Ionawr*, has attributed one of Edward Richard's *englynion* to **Dafydd Ionawr**. Edward Richard is the author of the *englyn* which **Saunders Lewis** has printed in his book, *A School of Welsh Augustans*, and **NLW MS 5487B**, 'Diaries of the Rev. Timothy Davies' (son of **David Davis**, Castellhywel) proves that this is so. See the two *englynion* in *Blodeugerdd o'r Ddeunawfed Ganrif*, 35. Edward Richard's works were printed in 1803, 1811, 1813, 1851, 1856, and 'Cyfres y Fil,' 1912; and several of his letters appear in *Additional Morris Letters*.

Author

David Gwenallt Jones, (1899 - 1968)

Sources

D. G. Osborne-Jones, *Edward Richard of Ystradmeurig with the story of his school and its associations under its successive masters 1734-1934* (Carmarthen 1934)

D. Emrys Evans *Y Beiriniad: cyhoeddiad trimisol, er egluro gwyddoriaeth, gwlyddiaeth, llenyddiaeth a chrefydd*, vii, 252

Saunders Lewis *A School of Welsh Augustans being a study in English influences on Welsh literature during part of the 18th century* (Wrexham 1924)

Further Reading

Edward Richard, David Richards, *The poetical works of the late Mr. Edward Richard, schoolmaster in Cardiganshire; with an account of his life / Yr eos: sef, gwaith prydyddawl Mr. Edward Richard o Ystrad-meurig yn Sir Aberteifi* (London 1811)

Wikipedia Article: [Edward Richard](#)

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