

ROBERTS, GRIFFITH (Gwrtheyrn; 1846 - 1915), littérateur

Name: Griffith Roberts
Pseudonym: Gwrtheyrn
Date of birth: 1846
Date of death: 1915
Child: Margaret Ellen Hughes (née Roberts)
Gender: Male
Occupation: littérateur
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Music; Poetry
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born 7 October 1846 at Hendrebach, Gwytherin, Denbighshire. After very little schooling, he was apprenticed at 10 with a weaver at Ysbyty Ifan, and benefited greatly from the vigorous literary and musical life of Pentrefoelas in those days. He was afterwards for a while at Llanrwst, in the employ of [Gwilym Cowlyd](#), but returned to his weaving, living after his marriage (1869) in the house attached to Cwmtirmynach Calvinistic Methodist chapel, and afterwards at Cefn-ddwysarn, and working in the woollen-factories at both places. But in 1877 he and his wife were appointed master and mistress of the workhouse at Bala; and he remained in that charge until about two years before his death on 20 January 1915. He was a man of many gifts; for one thing a fine singer and a zealous fosterer of music in the places in which he lived. In poetry, he was well disciplined in the strict metres, and although his own volume of verse, *Caneuon Gwrtheyrn*, 1873, does not rank very high, his work as an instructor of poets was of great importance in the life of his region - for instance, [Dewi Havhesp](#) owed much to his criticism. His articles in the Liverpool *Brython*, on the old *cywydd* poets, and the manuscripts of his which are now in the National Library, show his great interest in the older literature. In a totally different field, he published in 1897 *Pum Plwy Penllyn*, a most useful history of Poor Law administration in Penllyn from 1720 till 1897.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Y Brython (Liverpool), 4 February 1915

Y Seren (Bala) 6 and 13 February 1915

information from the family

personal acquaintance

Additional Links

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