

TRAHAEARN BRYDYDD MAWR, a poet of the first half of the 14th century

Name: Trahaearn Brydydd Mawr

Parent: Goronwy ap Rotbert

Gender: Male

Occupation: poet

Area of activity: Poetry

Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

In a poem in which he is satirised his pedigree is given as Trahaearn ap Goronwy, ap Rotbert, ap Bledri (*R.B.H. Poetry*, 1343). Certain phrases in the same poem suggest that, like [Cynddelw](#), he was called 'Prydydd Mawr' because of his physical size (e.g. 'A giant who is offended' and 'The son of Goronwy is bigger than I am'). In the *Cambrian Biography* ([Owen](#)), it is supposed that he is the same person as [Casnodyn](#); [Iolo Morganwg](#) maintained that he was a native of Llangyfelach, and that he presided over the 'Chair of Morgannwg' about 1300. But in the elegy to Trahaearn (*R.B. Poetry*, 1229/30, and *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales* [↗](#), 277), ascribed in the *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales* to [Gwilym Ddu o Arfon](#), he is associated with Merioneth. In this elegy, also, he is placed in the succession of the *penceirddiaid* or highest-grade poets, but Trahaearn, like [Casnodyn](#), his contemporary, belonged to a period when the rigid separation of pencerdd and satirist was not fully observed. Trahaearn sang to Hywel of Llanddingad in Ystrad Tywi, and to God, in the elevated style of the pencerdd, and to 'Cadwgan and his son-in-law' in the scurrilous and ribald manner of the satirist. Trahaearn suffered abuse in a poem, whose author, probably a South Walian, is not known, and from this poem we learn that he was a North Walian singing in the South. He is called an exile, a buffoon, a poet of low degree, a vagabond, and is exhorted to stay at home.

Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

Sources

The Myvyrian archaiology of Wales (Denbigh 1870), 277, 331

The Poetry in the Red Book of Hergest (Llanbedrog 1911), 1222-3, 1229, 1343-5, 1357

G. J. Williams, *Traddodiad Llenyddol Morgannwg* (1948), 5-6

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