

WILIAM PENLLYN (fl. c. 1550-1570), chief harpist


Name: Wiliam Penllyn

Gender: Male

Occupation: chief harpist

Area of activity: Eisteddfod; Music; Performing Arts; Poetry

Author: David James Bowen

His name is included in the list of harpists in the province of Aberffraw, given in Pen. MS. 147 (203), and he graduated chief harpist (and instructor, Pen. MS. 144 (267)) at the Caerwys eisteddfod, 1568. An entry in Moelyrch manuscript (Pen. MS. 103 (66)) by Wiliam Penllyn states that he entertained there 'when Christmas fell on Friday' (i.e. 1551, 1556, or 1562) in company with other harpists and players of the crwth - [Huw Dai](#), Robert ap Siôn Llwyd, Wiliam Penfro, Wiliam Goch Grythor, Wmffre Grythor, Morus Grythor, Tomas Grythor of Cegidfa, and Hywel Gethin. He wrote englynion to Lewis Gwynn, constable of Bishop's Castle (died 1552) (Pen. MS. 114 (109)) and [Gruffudd Dwnn](#) of Kidwelly ([Llanstephan MS 133](#)  (881)). A transcript of his music-book in the hand of Robert ab Huw is extant (B.M. Add. MS. 14905). See also Bodewryd MS. 2 (313), Cardiff MS. 7 (252), B.M. Add MS. 14998 (32); N.L.W. MS. 5247.

Author

Professor David James Bowen

Sources

Henry Lewis (ed.), *Musica neu Beroriaeth, the Music of the Britons ... transcribed by Robert ap Huw ... from the original by Wiliam Penllyn* (B.M. Additional MS. 14905) (Cardiff 1936) (*Additional Manuscript in the British Museum* 14905)

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