

CYFFIN, ROGER (fl. c. 1587-1609), a poet

Name: Roger Cyffin
Gender: Male
Occupation: a poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Ray Looker

Varying details are given about him - e.g. *Enwogion* (**Foulkes**) names him as parson of Llanberis in 1571; Panton MS. 58 (87), gives him as a gentleman from Chirk; Llanover MS. B 2 (602) contains a note in the handwriting of **Iolo Morganwg**, stating that he was a native of Denbighshire, curate of Flemingston, Glamorganshire, and of somewhere in Carmarthenshire, and parson of Llanberis during the latter part of his life. No proof of the preceding statements remains, and only one of his poems refers to himself - **NLW MS 3050D** (612). In it the poet bade farewell to his home in Gartheryr, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, and to that particular district of Denbighshire. Some misfortune had befallen him, he had sold his land, and was ready to leave for South Wales, to live under the patronage of **John Vaughan** of Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire. Two of his free metre poems and a number of *cywyddau* and *englynion* are preserved in manuscript. The strict metre poems include eulogies, elegies, begging poems (to persons from North and South Wales), religious, moral, and love poems. Poetic controversies or *ymrysonau* took place between him and **Gruffudd Hafren** (**Cwrwmawr MS 206B** (101)), **Richard Davies**, bishop of S. Davids (**Cwrwmawr MS 222D** (28)), and **Dafydd Llwyd** of Dolobran (Aberdare MS. 1 (578)). He also wrote poetry on topical themes, e.g. a *cywydd* written in judgment on the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and in praise of king James I (**Peniarth MS 112: Llyfr cywyddau Siôn ap William ap Siôn** (189)), and an *englyn* giving advice to William Cyffin on his departure for Ireland with the earl of Essex in 1599 (Jes. Coll. MS. 18 (42)). One holograph poem is found in Christ Church MS. 183 (39b) (**NLW MS 6494D** is a photostat copy of this manuscript). It is not known whether he was related to **Morus** and **Edward Cyffin**

Author

Ray Looker

Sources

Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru (1870)

J. Jones ('Myrddin Fardd') *Enwogion Sir Gaernarfon* (1922)

Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum 14880, 14898

Cardiff Manuscripts 12, 13

NLW Archives: **Cwrwmawr MS 21B**, **Cwrwmawr MS 224B**, **Cwrwmawr MS 312B**

Jes. Coll. MS. at the Bodleian Library, Oxford 18

Llanofer Manuscript at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, B 1, B 2 (N.L.W.)

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 11: Poetry**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 120: The Book of Jasper Griffith**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 122: Poetry**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 123: Poetry**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 125: Poetry**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 145: Poetry**

NLW Archives: **Llanstephan MS 155: Poetry, apocryphal gospels, &c.**

NLW Archives: **NLW MS 3051D**, **NLW MS 3057D**

NLW Archives: **NLW MS 278B**, **NLW MS 1553A**, **NLW MS 1559B**, **NLW MS 1674B**, **NLW MS 11816B**, **NLW MS 11993A**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 72: Genealogies**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 73: Barddoniaeth**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 87: Barddoniaeth**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 91: Barddoniaeth**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 93: Llyfr Cadwaladr Wynn**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 104: Barddoniaeth**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 144: Barddoniaeth ac achau**

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 151: Brith-waith**

Plas Nantglyn MS. 4 (N.L.W.)

Additional Links

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