

DURSTON, THOMAS (died 1767), bookseller and printer at Shrewsbury.

Name: Thomas Durston Date of death: 1767 Gender: Male

Occupation: bookseller and printer

Area of activity: Business and Industry: Printing and Publishing

Author: William Llewelyn Davies

Although there is no certainty that Thomas Durston was Welsh-speaking, he printed so many Welsh books and ballads at Shrewsbury that he deserves a short mention in this work. He started to print Welsh books in 1711 (for example Y Lyfr Gweddi-Gyffredin, Y Cydymmaith Goreu; yn y ty a'r stafell, cystal ac yn y Deml) and continued to be in business until he died; he was buried 26 September 1767. He had become a freeman of the 'Cornbrethren of Saddlers' at Shrewsbury on 23 May 1714. For his malpractices in regard to the publications of some fellow-printers see J. H. Davies, 'Early Welsh Bibliography,' in The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1897-8; for the titles of some of his Welsh publications, including ballads, consult the source-books listed below.

Author

Sir William Llewelvn Davies. (1887 - 1952)

Sources

W. Rowlands, Cambrian Bibliography (Llanidloes 1869)

W. Rowlands, Y Traethodydd, 1850

J. H. Davies, A Bibliography of Welsh Ballads printed in the 18th century (London 1908-11)

Ifano Jones, A history of printing and printers in Wales to 1810, and of successive and related printers to 1923 (Cardiff 1925)

Llewelyn C. Lloyd, 'The Book-Trade in Shropshire' in Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1935, 1936

Works

Y Brif addysg i ddarllain gyntaf, neu. Brimer Cymraeg a osodwyd allan yn gyfattebol i'r Llyfr Gwedi Gyffredin(Shrewsbury c.1730)

Thomas a Kempis, Hugh Owen (trnsl.), Pattrwm y gwir-Gristion: neu, Ddilyniad Jesu Grist (Mwythig c.1730)

Lewis Bayly, Rowland Vaughan (trnsl.), Yr Ymarfer o Dduwioldeb, yn cyfarwyddo dyn i rodio fal y rhyngo ef fodd Duw (Llundain 1630)

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Published date: 1959

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Davies, W. Ll., (1959). DURSTON, THOMAS (died 1767), bookseller and printer at Shrewsbury.. Dictionary of Welsh Biography. Retrieved 16 Nov 2024, from https://biography.wales/article/s-DURS-THO-1767

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