

## GWILYM RYFEL (12th century) poet

**Name:** Gwilym Ryfel  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** poet  
**Area of activity:** Poetry  
**Author:** David Myrddin Lloyd

All that remains of his work are two chains of *englynion* of intercession to **Dafydd ab Owain Gwynedd**. These belong to the period 1174-75 when **David** ruled over the greater part of Gwynedd, including Anglesey. Gwilym Ryfel was one of the friends lamented by **Gruffudd ap Gwrgenau** in a chain of beautifully written *englynion*, and from this work (Hendregadredd MS. 76a, *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, 257a) it appears that he came from Powys, and that he was killed far from his home, where his blood could not be avenged by his kin. Like **Gwalchmai** he appears to have been both poet and soldier. It is certain that much of his poetry is lost, for **Iorwerth Beli**, writing a century or more after his time, names him (*The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, 317b) one among four, with **Llywarch** (Brydydd y Moch), **Cynddelw**, and **Dafydd Benfras**, as 'splendid chief poets, fine sons of rare talent,' which means that he was reckoned among the greatest of the poets of the princes.

### Author

**David Myrddin Lloyd**, (1909 - 1981)

### Sources

NLW Archives: NLW MS 6680B: *Llawysgrif Hendregadredd*, 73ab

*The Myvyrian archaiology of Wales* (Denbigh 1870), 195b-197a

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest*(London 1911), ii, 551

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Gwilym Rhyfel](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q3331150](#)

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