

## HUGHES, RICHARD (c. 1565 - 1619), poet

**Name:** Richard Hughes  
**Date of birth:** c. 1565  
**Date of death:** 1619  
**Parent:** Huw ap Rhisiart ap Dafydd  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** poet  
**Area of activity:** Poetry  
**Author:** David Gwenallt Jones

Son of **Huw ap Rhisiart ap Dafydd** of Cefn Llanfair, Caernarfonshire. (**Huw Llŷn**, sometimes confused with **Huw ap Rhisiart**, was a different person.) He went to London, joined the army, and it may be deduced from one of his *englynion* that he took part in 1596 in the successful British attack on the port of Cadiz in Spain - being one of the 150 Caernarvonshire Welshmen involved in that enterprise. We know, too, that he was one of queen Elizabeth's 'pedisequi,' that he later served James I in the same capacity, and that after the death of John Hedde he was given a pension of £50 a year.

No *awdl* or *cywydd* of his has survived, but some of his *englynion* are still extant. His most important poems, however, are those written in the 'free' metres. His work is to be found in *Cymdeithas Llên Cymru*, i, *Carolau Richard Hughes*, and *Cymdeithas Llên Cymru*, v-vi, *Caniadau yn y Mesurau Rhyddion*, where on p. 49 we have three stanzas of his ballad, 'Bywyd y Bugail,'; see *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, ii, 243, 'An Early Printed Welsh Ballad.' His work is also found in *Cynfeirdd Lleyrn*, in *Canu Rhydd Cynnar* (T. H. Parry-Williams), and in *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* iii, 128, 'Cyfeiriadau at Richard Hughes, Cefn Llanfair.' He was a poet of love; a poet of love who preceded **Huw Morys** and his school. He employs only three metres in his poems, most of which are in the form of dialogues. The tang of the countryside is to be found in his poetry. He died between early February and early May 1619 and was buried in Llanbedrog church; **Gruffydd Phylip** wrote an elegy upon him (*Y Cymmrodor*, xlii, 199).

### Author

**David Gwenallt Jones**, (1899 - 1968)

### Sources

Thomas Parry, 'Tri Chyfeiriad at William Salesbury,' in *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, ix, 108  
and J. E. Griffith, *Pedigrees of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire Families* (1914), 224

### Further reading

Nesta Lloyd (ed.), *Ffwrtman hoff: cerddi Richard Hughes Cefnllanfair* (Cyhoeddiadau Barddas 1998)

### Additional Links

English Broadside Ballad Archive: [Byd Y bigail](#)

VIAF: [33952158](#)

Wikidata: [Q19325211](#)

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