

HUW MACHNO (fl. 1585-1637), poet

Name: Huw Machno
Child: John ap Huw Machno
Child: Robert ap Huw Machno
Child: Owain ap Huw Machno
Parent: Margaret ferch Robert ap Rhys
Parent: Owen ab Ieuan ap John
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: Evan David Jones

Son of Owen ap Ieuan ap Siôn of Penmachno, Caernarfonshire, descended from Dafydd Goch of Penmachno, an illegitimate son of **David**, prince of Wales. His mother was Margaret, daughter of Robert ap Rhys ap Hywel. The date of his birth is not known, but he is said to have died in 1637, and a gravestone inscribed 'H.M. obiit 1637,' in Penmachno churchyard, is believed to be his. He appears to have been a pupil of **Siôn Phylip**, as in his elegy upon the latter's death, in 1620, he acknowledges having received much from him during an acquaintanceship of thirty-five years. They, therefore, began their association in 1585. **Richard Phylip**, in a poem, complains that he lost his fellowship when he became married. He was kinsman and poet to the families of **Gwydir**, **Llechwedd Hafod**, and **Dulasau**, and he sang much to them. The gardener at **Gwydir** is said to have depicted the bard on horseback in a topiary there. He also sang to other families in Gwynedd and Denbighshire, and as far south as **Gogerddan**, Cardiganshire. He was engaged in a poetic contention with **archdeacon Edmund Prys**, and **Siôn Phylip** tried to reconcile them. The latter emphasized Huw Machno's learning, his knowledge of Latin, and of the bardic diction, maintaining his excellence in poems to women, in eulogy, and in descriptive verse. Over 150 of his poems have been preserved in manuscript. The following manuscripts contain examples of his autograph, **NLW MS 433B**, **Peniarth MS 327**, Mostyn. MS. 146, B.M. Add. MS. 14998, Cardiff MS. 83 (the Book of **Sir John Wynn** of Gwydir), Christ Church MS. 184, and he wrote practically the whole of **NLW MS 727D**, which contains much of his own poetry. He gave this book to Evan Lloyd of Dulasau, father of **Sir Richard Lloyd**, 1606 - 1676. Among elegies composed by him are poems on the death of **Katherine** of Berain, 1591, **John Tudur**, 1602, **bishop William Morgan**, 1604, **Siôn Phylip**, 1620, and **Thomas Prys** of Plas Iolyn, 1634. He had at least three children, Owain (who died 1619, aged eleven, when his father wrote an. elegy upon his death), Robert, and John.

Author

Evan David Jones, (1903 - 1987)

Sources

Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru (1870), 705

the manuscripts cited above

NLW Archives: **Peniarth MS 288**: Pedigrees

Additional Links

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