

MEILYR BRYDYDD (fl. c. 1100-1137), chief court-poet

Name: Meilyr Brydydd
Child: Gwalchmai ap Meilyr
Gender: Male
Occupation: chief court-poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

to **Gruffudd ap Cynan** at Aberffraw. He is considered the earliest of the 'Gogynfeirdd.' Meilyr, and **Gwalchmai** (his son), and his grand-children, appear to be the likeliest known instance in Wales of a line of hereditary poets, as was usual in Ireland, holding land in return for their eulogies of a particular line of rulers. Trefeilyr and Trewalchmai remain as place-names in Anglesey. **Sir J. Morris-Jones** noted a chronological difficulty in accepting as the work of Meilyr Brydydd the elegy to **Trahaearn ap Caradog** and **Meilyr ap Rhiwallon** who were slain at Mynydd Cam (1081). The only other remaining poems by him are the elegy to **Gruffudd ap Cynan** (1137) and the poet's own death-bed lament. In the former, as **Sir J. E. Lloyd** observed, we have the earliest extant expression in Welsh poetry of the spirit of the Welsh re-awakening which accompanied the rise of the princes of Gwynedd in the 12th century. In the lament Meilyr expresses a wish to be buried on Bardsey. It does not seem probable that he long survived his chief patron, and we know that his son, **Gwalchmai**, was of age to receive the patronage of Gwynedd princes before 1132 (see Hendreg. MS. 13a).

Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

Sources

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J. Lloyd-Jones, *The Court Poets of the Welsh Princes*

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Meilyr Brydydd](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q2670636](#)

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