

RHYS GOGH ap RHICCERT.

Name: Rhys Gogh ap Rhiccirt
Gender: Male
Area of activity: Poetry; Literature and Writing
Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

The only reliable information about him which we have is contained in pedigrees (e.g. [Peniarth MS 178](#)) from which we learn that he was a grandson of [Einion ap Collwyn](#) who lived in Glamorgan at the time of the Norman Conquest, and that he was an ancestor of [Rhys Brydydd](#) of Llanharan and other well-known poets of the same line, such as [Lewys Morgannwg](#).

Twenty poems are attributed to him in *Iolo MSS.*, 1848, 228-51, which [Edward Williams](#) (*Iolo Morganwg*) claimed to have found in a manuscript book in the possession of [John Bradford](#). *Iolo* also claimed that Rhys Goch had retained the use of the original Welsh metres, and as the Normans (according to *Iolo*) had brought the influence of the troubadours to Wales, he held that a romantic school had arisen in Glamorgan early in the 12th century (see *Llanover MSS.* C21 (134), C30 (121), C36 (246), and that Rhys Goch was thus a forerunner of [Dafydd ap Gwilym](#).

Doubts have been cast on this account by a number of Welsh scholars in turn, from [Thomas Stephens](#) to [J. H. Davies](#), [J. Glyn Davies](#), and [Sir Ifor Williams](#), and it was completely disproved by [G. J. Williams](#) in *Y Beirniad*, viii, 211-26, where it is revealed that *Iolo* had refurbished five old poems, and composed the other fifteen himself. All of them contain many of the words and expressions which are characteristic of *Iolo*'s work, and there is no evidence that the historical Rhys Goch ap Rhiccirt ever composed a line of poetry.

Author

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