

ROBERTS, WILLIAM JOHN (Gwilym Cowlyd; 1828 - 1904), poet, printer, bookseller, bibliophile, and eccentric

Name: William John Roberts
Pseudonym: Gwilym Cowlyd
Date of birth: 1828
Date of death: 1904
Parent: John Roberts
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet, printer, bookseller, bibliophile, and eccentric
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Eisteddfod; Literature and Writing; Poetry; Printing and Publishing
Author: Henry Parry Jones

Born at Trefriw, Caernarfonshire in 1828, the son of John Roberts, Tyddyn Gwilym. He was a nephew of [Ieuan Glan Geirionydd](#).

He founded the Gorsedd of Geirionydd (1863), in opposition to the established Gorsedd of the Bards, which he denounced as heretical. Under his presidency as 'Chief Bard Positive,' Arwst Glan Geirionydd, a counter-eisteddfod, with its own gorsedd, was held annually near lake Geirionydd, near the reputed birthplace of [Taliesin](#).

Among his productions are 'Mynyddoedd Eryri' and 'Murmuron.' He published the life and works of [Ieuan Glan Geirionydd](#), the works of [Owen Gethin Jones](#) (*Gweithiau Gethin*), and *Dilliau'r Delyn* (old *penillion*).

He died early in December 1904 at Llanrwst, and was buried on 8 December in St. Mary's churchyard there.

Author

Henry Parry Jones

Sources

T. R. Roberts, *Eminent Welshmen: a short biographical dictionary of Welshmen... from the earliest times to the present* (1908)

E. D. Rowlands, *Dyffryn Conwy a'r Creuddyn* (Liverpool 1948), 125-8

Owen Williams, *Awduron Sir Ddinbych a'u gweithiau* (1937), 1937

Baner ac Amserau Cymru, 7 and 14 December 1904

Y Geninen (Gŵyl Dewi), 1907

Y Geninen, April 1906

Works

Evan Evans, William John Roberts and Richard Parry (Gwalchmai) (eds.), *Geirionydd: Cyfansoddiadau Barddorol, Cerddorol, a Rhyddieithol y diweddar Barch. Evan Evans (Ieuan Glan Geirionydd). Wedi eu Casglu a'u Trefnu gan ei Nai, W. J. Roberts, Trefriw, gyda Nodiadau ar ei Fywyd a'i Weithiau Llenyddol* (1862)

Additional Links

NLW Archives: NLW MS 12007B: Llawysgrif 'Gwilym Cowlyd'

NLW Archives: NLW MS 12008B: Llyfr barddoniaeth 'Gwilym Cowlyd'

VIAF: 41615893

Wikidata: Q13132359

Published date: 1959

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PDF Print Cite

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APA Citation



Jones, H. P., (1959). ROBERTS, WILLIAM JOHN (Gwilym Cowlyd; 1828 - 1904), poet, printer, bookseller, bibliophile, and eccentric. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 12 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-ROBE-JOH-1828>

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