

SEISYLL BRYFFWRCH (fl. 1155 - 1175), poet

Name: Seisyll Bryffwrch
Date of birth: 1155
Date of death: 1175
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet
Area of activity: Poetry
Author: David Myrddin Lloyd

The earliest known event in his career is the bardic contest against *Cynddelw* for the office of chief court poet to *Madog ap Maredudd*, prince of Powys (died 1160). The *englynion* of this contest are to be found in the *Hendreg. MS.* (71b-72a) and in *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales* (154a) Seisyll declares in one of these *englynion* that he is of the stock of *Culfardd*, who is probably to be identified with the 'Culfardd hardd hen' mentioned by *Iolo Goch* (*I.G.E.*, xvii, 36). Seisyll sang elegiac odes on the death of *Owain Gwynedd*, and of *Iorwerth Drwyndwn*, a son of that prince, and father of *Llywelyn the Great*. This second elegy is a main source of our scanty knowledge of *Iorwerth* (see *Lloyd, A History of Wales*, 549-50). This poet also sang the praises of the 'lord' *Rhys* in a poem where he refers to the strife against the five Norman lords in 1159, and to other events in *Rhys's* career as late as the fighting in *Cyfeiliog* in 1167 and in *Brecknock* in 1168.

Author

David Myrddin Lloyd, (1909 - 1981)

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