

THOMAS, EVAN, or IFAN TOMOS RHYS (c. 1710 - c. 1770), poet and boot-maker

Name: Evan Thomas
Date of birth: c. 1710
Date of death: c. 1770
Parent: Thomas Rhys Siams
Gender: Male
Occupation: poet and boot-maker
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Poetry
Author: Geraint Bowen

son of Thomas Rhys Siams of Llwyndafydd, Llandysiliogogo, Cardiganshire. For some years he worked at his trade at Llanarth. We do not know when he began to write verse, but he published 'Y Maen Tramgwydd,' which is in the form of a ballad, some time between 1757 and 1761. Two of his poems appeared in *Hymnau Cymwys i Addoliad*, 1768, and one in *Blodau Dyfed*, 1824. A volume of his poetry, *Dilliau Awen*, was published in 1842 under the editorship of William Hughes Griffiths of Llandysiliogogo with an introduction by Brutus. For the most part he writes in the 'free' metres and the form of his poetry is clearly influenced by the ballad; the topics of the day provide him with his subjects. Only five of his *englynion* have survived and these show that he had not mastered the art of writing in the classical metres; he also wrote a number of halsingod. Lewis Morris met him in 1761, at which time he was not 'above 50 years of age.'

Author

Dr Geraint Bowen

Sources

Griffith Jones (Glan Menai), *Enwogion Sir Aberteifi* (1868), 130

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The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1946

NLW MSS 19, 609

Cardiff Manuscript 56 (48, 67)

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