

## TRAHAEARN BRYDYDD MAWR, a poet of the first half of the 14th century

**Name:** Trahaearn Brydydd Mawr

**Parent:** Goronwy ap Rotbert

**Gender:** Male

**Occupation:** poet

**Area of activity:** Poetry

**Author:** David Myrddin Lloyd

In a poem in which he is satirised his pedigree is given as Trahaearn ap Goronwy, ap Rotbert, ap Bledri (*R.B.H. Poetry*, 1343). Certain phrases in the same poem suggest that, like *Cynddew*, he was called 'Prydydd Mawr' because of his physical size (e.g. 'A giant who is offended ' and 'The son of Goronwy is bigger than I am '). In the *Cambrian Biography* (*Owen*), it is supposed that he is the same person as *Casnodyn*; *Iolo Morganwg* maintained that he was a native of Llangyfelach, and that he presided over the 'Chair of Morgannwg' about 1300. But in the elegy to Trahaearn (*R.B. Poetry*, 1229/30, and *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, 277), ascribed in the *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales to Gwilym Ddu o Arfon*, he is associated with Merioneth. In this elegy, also, he is placed in the succession of the *penceirddiaid* or highest-grade poets, but Trahaearn, like *Casnodyn*, his contemporary, belonged to a period when the rigid separation of *pencerdd* and satirist was not fully observed. Trahaearn sang to Hywel of Llanddingad in Ystrad Tywi, and to God, in the elevated style of the *pencerdd*, and to 'Cadwgan and his son-in-law' in the scurrilous and ribald manner of the satirist. Trahaearn suffered abuse in a poem, whose author, probably a South Walian, is not known, and from this poem we learn that he was a North Walian singing in the South. He is called an exile, a buffoon, a poet of low degree, a vagabond, and is exhorted to stay at home.

### Author

**David Myrddin Lloyd**, (1909 - 1981)

### Sources

*The Myvyrian archaiology of Wales* (Denbigh 1870), 277, 331

*The Poetry in the Red Book of Hergest* (Llanbedrog 1911), 1222-3, 1229, 1343-5, 1357

G. J. Williams, *Traddodiad Llenyddol Morgannwg* (1948), 5-6

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