

EVANS, THOMAS (1739-1803), and EVANS, THOMAS (1742-1784), two London booksellers,

Name: Thomas Evans
Date of birth: 1739
Date of death: 1803
Gender: Male
Occupation: booksellers
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Literature and Writing
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

are commemorated in the *D.N.B.*

The elder Thomas Evans is famous for his fight with Oliver Goldsmith (1773). He is usually called 'a Welshman', and is said, in the *D.N.B.*, to have been born in Wales, but confirmation of this is lacking - unless, indeed, the fact that Goldsmith had to pay £50 'to a Welsh charity' (presumably the Welsh Charity-school) may be so regarded.

The younger Thomas Evans is nowhere specifically called a Welshman, though he did, in 1774, publish a new edition of the *History of Wales* by **William Wynne**. But remembering that his place of business was in the Strand, one may feel inclined to identify him with the 'Thomas Evans, Strand', who was a member of the Cymmrodorion Society in 1778. His qualification for membership then was that he had a 'Welsh father'; this description implies that he was not himself born in Wales.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

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