

ITHEL ap RHOTPERT or ROBERT (fl. 1357-1382), archdeacon

Name: Ithel ap Rhotpert Or Robert
Parent: Adles wraig Rhotpert ap Iorwerth ap Rhirid
Parent: Rhotpert ap Iorwerth ap Rhirid
Gender: Male
Occupation: archdeacon
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

A friend and patron of **Iolo Goch**, who addressed two *cywyddau* of petition to him (printed in *I.G.E.*, 1st ed. 55-61, 2nd ed. 49-55), and commemorated him in an elegy, printed in **Ashton**'s edition of *Iolo*, 344-53. Ithel's family seat was Coed-y-mynydd in Ysgeifiog parish, Flintshire; he was well-born - **Ashton** (op. cit. 267, 325-6) prints, from **Dwnn** and **Powys Fadog**, relevant details of his pedigree. On both sides, he was of the family which, in more modern times, has borne the surname **Mostyn**; his father, Rhotpert ap Iorwerth ap Rhirid, had a brother, Madog, otherwise known as 'Matthew de Englefield,' who was bishop of Bangor 1327-57 (**Browne Willis**, *Bangor*, 74-5; Le Neve, *Fasti*, i, 99); his mother, Adles, was cousin to **Dafydd ap Bleddyn**, bishop of St Asaph. Ithel is styled B.C.L. in one record; but nothing is known of him before 1357, when the chapter of Bangor elected him bishop in succession to his uncle - the pope, however, quashed the election, and 'provided' otherwise. Ithel was canon of Bangor and a 'portioner' of Llanynys in the vale of Clwyd. In 1375 he petitioned the pope for a canonry at S. Asaph, to be held along with his Bangor preferments, and succeeded (**Thomas**, *A History of the Diocese of St. Asaph*, i, 247); in the same year we find him archdeacon in that diocese (Le Neve, i, 84). As a successor to him appears in 1382, it may be that he died in that year, though **Pennant** (*Whiteford and Holywell*, 119, 308), says that he lived till 1393. He is said to have been buried at Basingwerk. Iolo Goch, who refers to him as *archddiagon deugor* (an archdeacon belonging to two cathedral chapters), records that patron and poet had been pupils of the same master in their youth. Iolo's dependence upon Ithel seems indeed to have become something of a byword among the bards - **Tudur Aled** has three references to it (*G.T.A.*, i, 115 and 182, ii, 469).

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

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