

A WELSH CLASSICAL DICTIONARY

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People in History and Legend
up to about A.D.1000

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INTRODUCTION

This dictionary is effectively a series of notes arranged alphabetically under personal names and a few place-names. They are the result of many years of working in the field of early Welsh history, legend and fiction, and are to some extent biased towards subjects which were of personal interest to the author. For example there is perhaps a leaning towards genealogy and to the development of historical ideas (historiography). Thus old ideas which were current in the middle ages, but now superseded, are referred to in order to explain their occurrence in old manuscripts and books. In particular the fictions of Geoffrey of Monmouth, and those who followed him and added to his stories, are included, but the inventions of Annius of Viterbo (1498) and his imitators, as well as those of Iolo Morganwg (Edward Williams, d.1826), have only occasionally been mentioned, although each of the last two fabricators was taken seriously for a century or so.

An attempt has been made to give the essential outlines of legends and fictions, generally telling the stories without comment, interpretation or speculation.

Some trouble has been caused by the changes in county names, in which some old Welsh names have been resurrected, making the use of 'Dyfed' and 'Powys', for example, somewhat ambiguous. It has been the practice here to use old terms in the sense used in *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units* by Melville Richards, Cardiff, 1969, and to avoid the use of old county names except in the case of Radnorshire.

The term 'Welsh' in the title might be more accurately replaced by 'Brythonic', because the dictionary strays occasionally to the Brythonic people of all Britain as well as Brittany. As English is the language used the alphabetical order employed is that appropriate to an English dictionary. 'Ab' or 'ap' and 'ferch' have been used for 'son' and 'daughter' in the case of Welsh names. Modern forms of names are normally used, unless unknown, or in quotations, but in the case of Breton names the medieval forms have been used, e.g. Gurthiern, Iudual, Tudual. In the spelling of names, there is sometimes uncertainty, for example, as to the use of -n- or -nn-, -i- or -y-.

In translations of the Welsh an authority is generally given. Quotations from the 'Mabinogion' are based on the translation by Gwyn Jones and Thomas Jones without specific acknowledgements. Other translations where no authority is given are the author's. Dates from Brut y Tywysogion are shown as corrected in the editions of Thomas Jones.

It is aimed to give some kind of authority for every statement. As it is not practicable to use footnotes authorities are given in round brackets at the end of each statement as relevant. The best authorities have been given as far as possible, but it has not always been possible to keep up to date as regards editions and discussions.

It is hoped that these notes may be of use to non-professionals in the various fields, by giving fundamental information and pointing to further sources. They could perhaps be the nucleus of a more professional dictionary.

I am grateful to Dr. Michael Siddons without whose encouragement this work would never have come to fruition.

A WELSH CLASSICAL DICTIONARY

Chronology

I have been advised to give some kind of date, even (if possible) for legendary and fictitious characters, when this is not clear from the context of an article. In the case of persons appearing in the genealogies an estimate can often be made, and then an approximate date of birth seems most appropriate, as very often a 'floruit' can be rather meaningless. In such cases the estimated date of birth, which can be very rough, is shown in round brackets at the head of the article. I have accepted, with some minor reservations, the chronology suggested by Wendy Davies in her book *The Llandaff Charters*, Aberystwyth, 1979.

The fictitious kings of Geoffrey of Monmouth in his *Historia Regum Britanniae* are a problem. Geoffrey only gave regnal lengths for his first fourteen kings, and even there he enters synchronisms which are inconsistent. None of the later attempts to construct a chronology are satisfactory; in fact no entirely satisfactory chronology is possible. Either one must sacrifice the identification of Geoffrey's Brennius with the Brennus who is said to have taken Rome in 390 B.C. or one must ignore the strange list of twenty five kings between Catellus and Heli, which is hardly more than a featureless catalogue. I have chosen the second alternative, supplementing Geoffrey's regnal years by those given by John Hardyng in his *Chronicle*, (edited by Henry Ellis, London, 1812) up to Elidurus, and the regnal years given in Cotton MS.Cleopatra B.v from Regin (Rhys) to Catellus (Cadell). For the Interregnum between Gorbodugus and Dunwallo Molmutius Hardyng gives 40 years, Cleopatra none. To accomodate the Brennus identification I have allowed 222 years. This leaves only 29 years for the 25 kings between Catellus and Heli (Beli Mawr)(!). For four fictitious kings I have had to produce my own regnal years, and have indicated the fact by adding 'PCB'.

Peter C. Bartrum, Berkhamsted, 16 October 1992.

A WELSH CLASSICAL DICTIONARY

ABBREVIATIONS

- AC *Annales Cambriae*. Text A (Harleian MS.3859) ed. E.Phillimore, Cy. ix (1888), 152-69. Texts B, C (with A) ed. J. Williams ab Ithel, Rolls Series, 1860.
- AoW *The Arthur of the Welsh*, ed. Rachel Bromwich, A.O.H.Jarman and Brynley F. Roberts, Cardiff, 1991.
- Arch.Camb. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, The Journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, 1846 onwards.
- ASC *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. A revised translation, ed. Dorothy Whitelock, etc. London, 1961.
- AU *The Annals of Ulster*, ed. Sean Mac Airt and Gearóid mac Niocail, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1983.
- BBC *The Black Book of Carmarthen*, reproduced and edited by John Gwenogvryn Evans, Pwllheli, 1906. References are to pages in this edition.
- BBCS *The Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, The University of Wales.
- BL The British Library.
- BLD *The Text of the Book of Llan Dâv*, ed. John Rhys and John Gwenogvryn Evans, Oxford, 1893.
- Bruce *The Evolution of Arthurian Romance* by James Douglas Bruce, 2 vols, Göttingen, 1923, (Second edition 1928).
- BT *Facsimile and Text of the Book of Taliesin*, reproduced and edited by John Gwenogvryn Evans, Llanbedrog, 1910.
- ByB Brut y Brenhinedd. Unless otherwise stated, references are to *Brut Dingestow*, ed. Henry Lewis, Cardiff, 1942. Other references are to *Brut y Brenhinedd*, Cotton Cleopatra Version, edited and translated by John Jay Parry, Cambridge Massachusetts, 1937. Another text in RBB.
- ByT Brut y Tywysogion. Unless otherwise stated references are to *Brut y Tywysogyon*, Red Book of Hergest version, edited and translated by Thomas Jones, Cardiff, 1955. The corrected dates by Thomas Jones are quoted.
- CA *Canu Aneirin* by Ifor Williams, Cardiff, 1938.
- C & M *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* by R.G.Collingwood and J.N.L.Myres, Second edition, Oxford, 1937.
- CB *Celtic Britain* by John Rhys, Second edition, revised, London, 1884.
- CGH *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae*, Vol.1, ed. M. A. O'Brien, The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1962.
- CLIH *Canu Llywarch Hen* by Ifor Williams, Cardiff, 1935.
- CMCS *Cambridge Medieval Celtic Studies*, University of Cambridge, renamed *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* from 1993.
- CO(1) *Culhwch ac Olwen*, ed. Rachel Bromwich and D.Simon Evans, Cardiff, 1988.
- CO(2) *Culhwch and Olwen*, ed. Rachel Bromwich and D.Simon Evans, Cardiff, 1992.
- CT *Canu Taliesin* by Ifor Williams, Cardiff, 1960.
- Cy. *Y Cymmrodor*. The Magazine of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, London.
- DAB *A Biographical Dictionary of Dark Age Britain*, by Ann Williams, Alfred P. Smyth and D. P. Kirby, London, 1991.

A WELSH CLASSICAL DICTIONARY

- DCB *The Dictionary of Christian Biography*, edited by William Smith and Henry Wace, 4 Vols., London, 1877.
- DNB *The Dictionary of National Biography, from the earliest times to 1900*, 63 vols., London, 1885-1900. Reprinted in 22 vols., Oxford, 1921, etc.
- DWB *The Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940*, under the auspices of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, London, 1959.
- EIHM *Early Irish History and Mythology* by Thomas F. O'Rahilly, The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1964.
- EWGT *Early Welsh Genealogical Tracts* edited by P. C. Bartrum, Cardiff, 1966.
- HB *Historia Brittonum*, edited by Theodor Mommsen, Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auct. Antiq., Tom. xiii (= Chron. Min. Saec. iv-vii, Vol.3), pp.111-222, Berlin, 1898. The Harleian text (H) is quoted unless otherwise stated. See s.n. Nennius.
- Hib.Lect. *The Hibbert Lectures, 1886*, by John Rhys, Third edition, 1898.
- HRB The *Historia Regum Britanniae* of Geoffrey of Monmouth,
(1) edited by Acton Griscom, New York and London, 1929.
(2) edited by Edmund Faral, *La Légende Arthurienne*, Tome 3, Paris, 1929.
- HW *A History of Wales*, by J.E.Lloyd, 2 vols., London, 1911.
The pagination of the two volumes is continuous.
- Iolo MSS. *The Iolo Manuscripts*, edited by Taliesin Williams (Ab Iolo), 1848.
- LBS *The Lives of the British Saints*, by S.Baring Gould and John Fisher, 4 vols., London, 1907-13.
- LD *Heraldic Visitations of Wales* by Lewis Dwnn, edited by S.R.Meyrick, 2 vols., Llandovery, 1846.
- LL *The Book of Leinster*, ed. R.I.Best, etc., 6 vols., The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1954-83. References are to columns of the manuscript or to pages of the printed edition.
- LlCh *The Llandaff Charters*, by Wendy Davies, Aberystwyth, 1979.
- LlH *Llawysgrif Hendregadredd*, ed. John Morris Jones and T.H.Parry-Williams, Cardiff, 1933.
- MA *The Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, edited by Owen Jones (Myvyr), etc. 3 vols., London. 1801-7; Second edition, in one volume, Denbigh, 1870.
- NLWJ *The National Library of Wales Journal*, Aberystwyth.
- Oman *England before the Norman Conquest* by Charles Oman, London, 1921.
- OP *The Description of Penbrokeshire (1603)* by George Owen, edited by Henry Owen, London, 1892-1906. References are to notes by Egerton Phillimore. The pagination is as for two volumes.
- PCB Peter C. Bartrum, Opinion of.
- PKM *Pedeir Keinc y Mabinogi* by Ifor Williams, Cardiff, 1930.
- PP₁ 'Pedigrees of the Welsh Tribal Patriarchs' by P.C.Bartrum, NLWJ XIII, pp.93-146 (1963).
- PP₂ 'Pedigrees of the Welsh Tribal Patriarchs, continued' by P.C.Bartrum, NLWJ XV, pp.157-166 (1967).
- PW 'Parochiale Wallicanum' by A.W.Wade-Evans, in Cy. 22 (1910), pp.22-124.
- RBB *The Text of the Bruts from the Red Book of Hergest*, ed. John Rhys and John Gwenogvryn Evans, Oxford, 1890.

A WELSH CLASSICAL DICTIONARY

- RBP *The Poetry of the Red Book of Hergest*, edited by John Gwenogvryn Evans, Llanbedrog, 1911. References are to columns.
- Rhestr *Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd*, A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-names, edited by Elwyn Davies, Cardiff, 1958.
- RM *The Text of the Mabinogion* and other Welsh Tales from the Red Book of Hergest, edited by John Rhys and John Gwenogvryn Evans, Oxford, 1887. References are to pages in this edition.
- RWM *Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language* by John Gwenogvryn Evans, Historical Manuscripts Commission, London, 1898-1910. The pagination is as for two volumes.
- SEBC *Studies in the Early British Church*, edited by Nora K. Chadwick, Cambridge, 1958.
- SEBH *Studies in Early British History*, edited by Nora K. Chadwick, Cambridge, 1954.
- SG 'Stanzas of the Graves' by Thomas Jones, The Sir John Rhys Memorial Lecture, 1967, *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Vol.LIII, London, pp.97-137.
- Sommer *The Vulgate Version of the Arthurian Romances*, edited by H.O.Sommer, 7 vols., Washington, 1908-1916.
- TYP *Trioedd Ynys Prydein* by Rachel Bromwich, Cardiff, 1961.
- Vinaver *The Works of Sir Thomas Malory*, edited by Eugène Vinaver, Second edition in 3 vols., Oxford, 1967. Pagination continuous.
- VSB *Vitae Sanctorum Britanniae et Genealogiae* by A.W.Wade-Evans, Cardiff, 1944.
- WATU *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units* by Melville Richards, Cardiff, 1969.
- WCO *Welsh Christian Origins* by A.W.Wade-Evans, Oxford, 1934.
- WG 1 *Welsh Genealogies A.D.300 - 1400* by Peter C.Bartrum, 8 vols., Cardiff, 1974. Second edition on Micro-fiche, Cardiff, 1980.
- WM *The White Book Mabinogion*, edited by John Gwenogvryn Evans, Pwllheli, 1907. References are to columns in this edition.

† The symbol after a name indicates that it is often omitted in the genealogies.