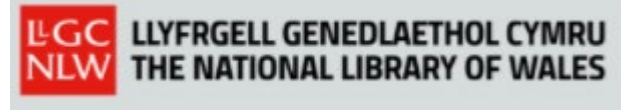
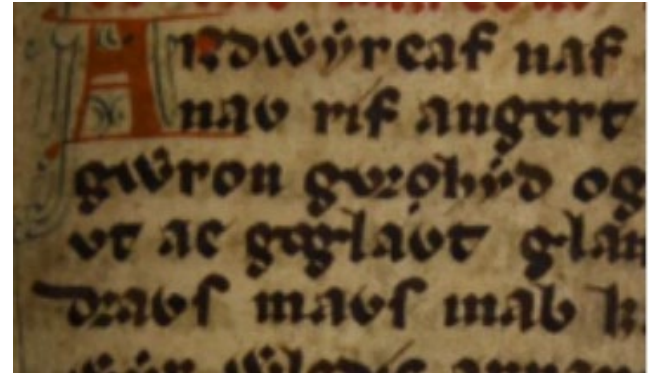


Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr

- By far the most prolific of the Poets of the Princes, judging by what has survived
- From Mechain in Powys
- Not from a bardic family?
- The son of Trahaearn, and had at least two sons himself, Llywarch and Dygynnelw
- A *pencerdd* who trained other poets
- He praised patrons in Powys, Gwynedd and Deheubarth



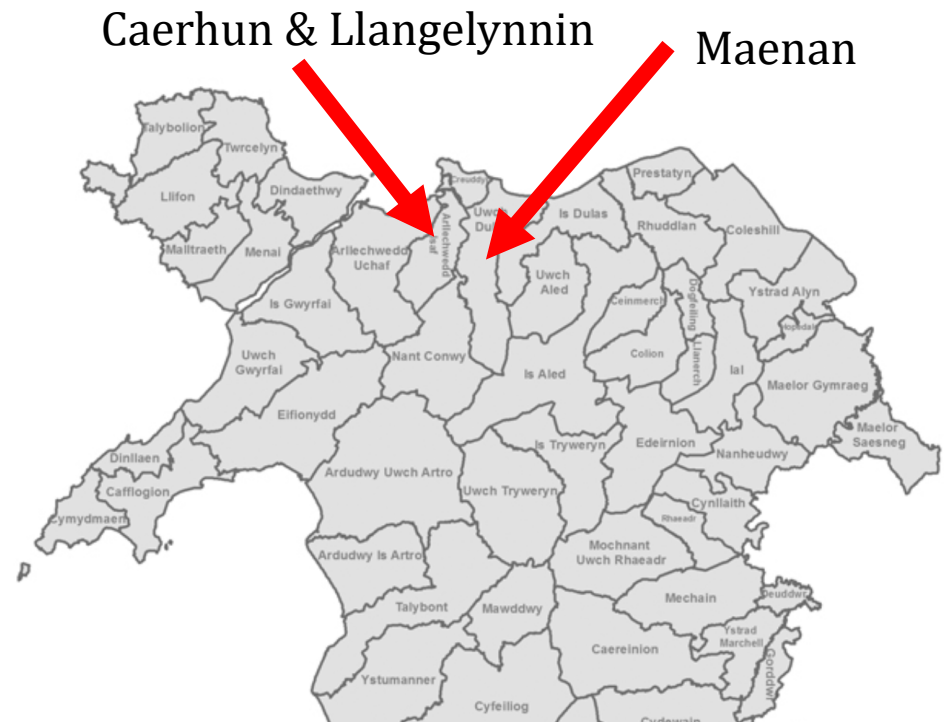
His home

-
- A map of Wales divided into its 22 local government areas (LLUs). The areas are labeled with their names in Welsh. Two red arrows point to specific areas: one points to Meirionnydd (labeled 'Meirionnydd' on the map) and the other points to Ceredigion (labeled 'Ceredigion' on the map).

His later home?

- Later records show that Cynddelw's descendents held land at Caerhun and Llangelynnin in the later Middle Ages, having been obliged to move there from Maenan (late 13th-century).
- He could have been given the land in Maenan by Owain Gwynedd, one of his patrons.

- Patrons included:
 - Madog ap Maredudd (d. 1160) and other members of the ruling dynasty of Powys
 - Owain Gwynedd (d. 1170)
 - The Lord Rhys of Deheubarth (d. 1197)



His family (I)

- A debate poem between Cynddelw and Seisyll Bryffwrch was supposedly performed ‘for the *penceirddiaeth* of Madog ap Maredudd’ (title in Hendregadredd manuscript)

- It contains this *englyn* (in the voice of the latter) :

Mi biau bod yn bencerdd

O iawnllin iawnllwyth Culfardd,

A hŷn Cynddelw Fawr, cawr cyrdd,

Ohonu ni henyw beirdd. (CBT IV, 12.21–4)

It is I who have the right to be *pencerdd*, / of the true lineage of the true clan of Culfardd, / and as for the ancestors of Great Cynddelw, a giant among poets, / from *them* have no poets sprung.

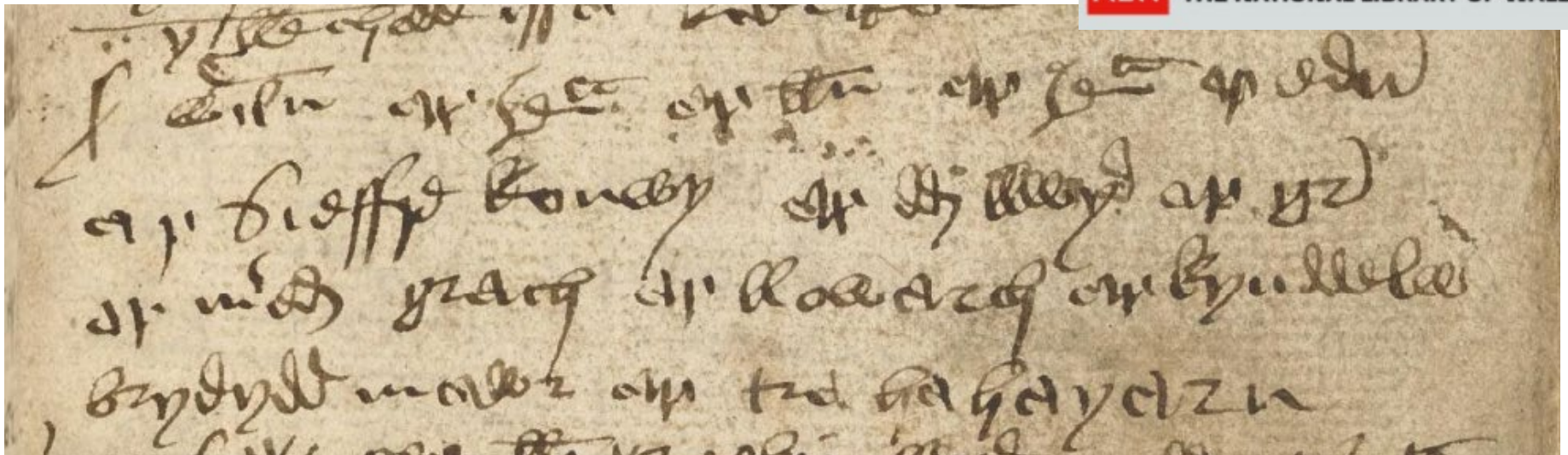
- It may not be genuine, but may well reflect a lingering tradition about Cynddelw’s background and status, as Nerys Ann Jones has discussed (CBT IV, pp. 226–7).

His family (II)

- Cynddelw's lineage was recorded by Gruffudd Hiraethog in the manuscript Peniarth 176, p. 275.
- Hiraethog obtained it from Syr Wiliam ab Ieuan ap Llywelyn of Caerhun, Sir Gaernarfon, before 1553.
- Wiliam ab Ieuan ap Llywelyn ab Ieuan ab Ednyfed ap Sieffre Conwy ap Dafydd Llwyd ap Gruffudd ap Maredudd Grach ap Llywarch ap Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr ap Trahaearn.



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His family (III)

- One of Cynddelw's poems is a short elegy (three *englynion*) for a son called Dygynnelw who died young, perhaps in battle:

*Yng nghynosod clod, claer ddylaith—byddin,
Ni byddud wrth gyfraith;
Oedd anawdd, llafn adrawdd llaith,
Dygynnelw, dy ganhymdaith. [&c]*

In a praiseworthy, leading attack, splendid defender of
an army, / you'd be a law unto yourself; / it was difficult
– death-speaking blade –, / Dygynnelw, to travel along
with you. [&c.]

His dates: *floruit* c.1155–c.1195

- All the evidence comes from his poems
- His earliest poems include those addressed to Madog ap Maredudd, who succeeded his father in 1132 and reigned until his death in 1160
- Composed elegies for Madog (1160) and for Owain Gwynedd (1170)
- His poems to the Lord Rhys have been dated to the period 1191–5 on the basis of references to his having captured St Clears (1189) and Nevern (1191); both were lost in 1195.
- Did not compose an elegy for the Lord Rhys or Owain Cyfeiliog (d. 1197)

His name

cynddelw

[*cyn*-+*delw*, fel yn yr e. prs. *Cynddelw*]

eb.g. ll. cynddelwau.

Patrwm neu gopi gwreiddiol, cynffurf, cynllun, model, esiamp; delweddiad, cynrychioliad, eilun, delw:

original pattern or copy, prototype, archetype, model, example, exemplar; representation, image.

GPC Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru
A Dictionary of the Welsh Language

- Cynddelw ‘the great poet’, or ‘the large poet’ (or both!)

His status and persona

- Debate poem for the ‘penceirddiaeth’
- He refers to himself as a *prydydd* (‘trained/chief poet’):
- *Credaf-i Beryf nef yn elfydd*

A'm gwnaeth o burawr yn brydydd!

I believe in the King of heaven on earth / who transformed me from an ordinary bard into a chief poet!

(‘Canu Tysilio’, ed./trans. Ann Parry Owen, ll. 209–10;

<https://saint2.llgc.org.uk/texts/verse/TysilioCBM/edited-text.eng.html>)

- Reference to contests and education:

Gnawd o'm gwawd gorfod yn amryson

Mal pan orfydd Lleu yn llyfr canon;

Canaf yn esgud, ys gwn pa hôn,

As gwddant ein dysg ein disgyblon! (CBT III, 21.184–7)

It is usual for me to win in a bardic contest through my poetry / as when Lleu wins in a canonical book; / I sing skilfully, I know how, / our pupils know their lessons!

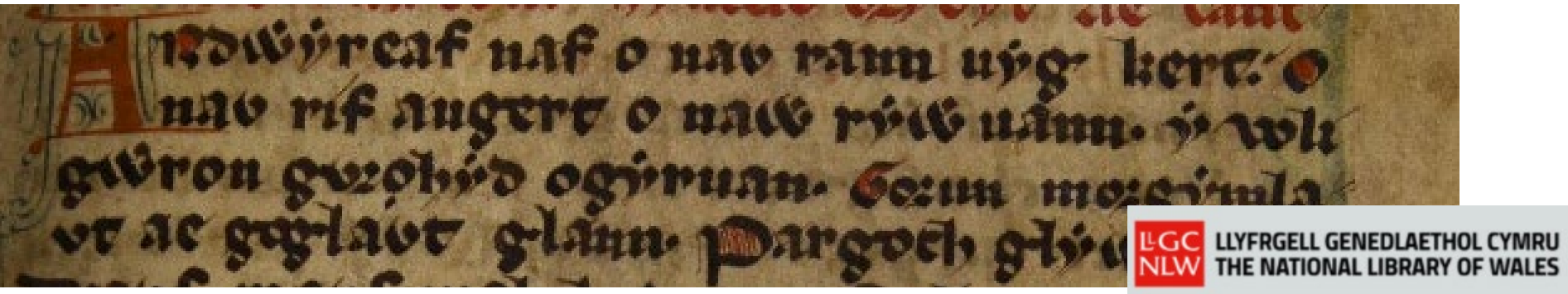
Madog ap Maredudd

- Madog inherited Powys in 1132 and maintained it as a strong kingdom until his death in 1160
- Married Susanna, daughter of Gruffudd ap Cynan (and sister of Owain Gwynedd)
- He benefited from weakness of England's rulers during the 'Anarchy' (1138 to 1153) when Stephen and Matilda, the nephew and daughter of Henry I, contended for the throne



- He extended his territory into the Oswestry region in the 1140s; this may have been a consequence of his assistance for Matilda in the battle of Lincoln (1141)
- Later conflict with Gwynedd (building of Tomen-y-Rhodwydd in Iâl in 1149)
- Allied himself with the earl of Chester and Henry II (Matilda's son)

Arwyrain Madog ap Maredudd (I)



- An early poem? 'Simplicity' of style suggests Cynddelw was quite young? Perhaps as early as c.1150.
- Praise of generosity (especially at New Year)
- Praised as a warrior
- Cynddelw also praises his own poetry!
- Note how strongly he appears as a character in this poem

The manuscript:

Llawysgrif Hendregadredd, folio 47r–v (and some later copies)

Written by the first of the manuscript's scribes, called α ('alpha') by Daniel Huws, , in the years following 1282

<https://www.library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/manuscripts/the-middle-ages/hendregadredd-manuscript>

Arwyrain Madog ap Maredudd (II)

- An *awdl*, in two specific metres:
 - Mostly ***cyhydedd naw ban***
= lines of nine syllables, with the same end-rhyme
 - ***toddaid*** x 3 (ll. 1-2, 15-16, 29-30)
= couplets of 10 + 9 syllables; in the first line the rhyme comes before the end and is separated from the end (in modern editions) by a dash. The bit after the dash is called the *gair cyrch*. This can be 1, 2 or 3 syllables long, e.g.:



Arddwyreaf naf o naw rhan—fy ngherdd,
naw rhif angerdd, o naw rhyw fan,
I foli gwron gwryd Ogrfan,
Gorun môr-gymlawdd a'i goglawdd glan

- Things to look out for
 - Use of *cymeriad*, i.e. linking devices, at the start of lines (e.g. beginning with same letter)
 - Adornment of lines with internal rhymes, matching of consonants (at beginning of words and within words), or both!
 - Use of figurative language - metaphors and extended metaphors
 - What does the poem tell us about the poet and his world?