

Beirdd yr Uchelwyr

Poets of the Gentry/Nobility

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Used to describe the many 100s of known poets who sang between the early 14th and late 17th centuries

Patrons, after the fall of Llywelyn in 1282: the uchelwyr

Artificial boundary? To be discussed!

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Mainly used cywydd metre, e.g.
Poem 8

Sometimes known as the
cywyddwyr, lit. 'cywydd writers'

Refinement and codification of
cynghanedd (more on that later!)

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Some famous examples:

14C: Dafydd ap Gwilym, Iolo Goch, Llywelyn
Goch ap Meurig Hen

15C: Guto'r Glyn, Dafydd Nanmor, Lewys Glyn
Cothi, Gutun Owain (see gutunowain.cymru)

16C: Tudur Aled (also late 15C), Gruffudd
Hiraethog, Wiliam Llŷn

17C: Siôn Phylip, Huw Machno, Siôn Dafydd
Laes (d.1695)

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Genres similar to those of Beirdd y Tywysogion

Love poetry associated with poets' apprenticeships

Proliferation of mawl and marwnad, with plenty of gofyn a diolch

15C famously described by Saunders Lewis as Y Ganrif Fawr ('The Great Century'): how valid is this?

Dafydd ap Gwilym

By far the best-known of all
medieval Welsh poets

Flourished c.1330–c.1350 (and
perhaps later), the early period
of the cywydd

Primarily associated with Ifor
Hael of Gwernyclepa near
Newport

Iolo Goch

Flourished c.1345–1400+

i.e. he saw the beginnings of the revolt of his patron, Owain Glyndŵr

Most famous for his cywydd in praise of Glyndŵr's llys, Sycharth

Guto'r Glyn

Flourished c.1435–90 (a long career)

Known to have served as an archer in France in the 1440s

Perhaps most famous for his meditations as an old man, blind and bed-bound, at Valle Crucis abbey