

Welsh Medieval Praise Poetry

Session 8

This eighth session contains:

1. Lecture 8, In Praise of Wiliam ap Gruffudd of Cochwillan - recorded lecture with Powerpoint
2. Poem In Praise of Wiliam ap Gruffudd of Cochwillan – text and translation in a PDF file
3. Video explaining how to use the Guto'r Glyn website – www.gutorglyn.net.
4. A Biography of Guto'r Glyn – this comes from the website, but I've saved it as a PDF file, with page numbers, so that you can reference it if you choose to write about Guto'r Glyn in your second assessment.
5. Food and Drink – an article by Alaw Mai Edwards (from *Gwalch Cywyddau Gwŷr*, ed. Barry J. Lewis, Ann Parry Owen and Dylan Foster Evans (Aberystwyth, 2013)). This article discusses the items of food and drink available in Wales at the time, and its symbolic meaning in the poetry. Very readable!

Before launching the Powerpoint please could you ...

- have a printout of the poem and translation to hand (from the PDF provided):
- take a look at the Guto'r Glyn website (item 3 above). This website is fully bilingual – and will give you access to many poems, manuscript versions, information about the patrons, and will also give you a link to “Guto's Wales”, an independent website which explains about the material culture of Wales in the fifteenth century, as seen through Guto's eyes, and those of contemporary fifteenth-century poets.
- this week's poem can be seen in: <http://www.gutorglyn.net/gutorglyn/poem/?poem-selection=055&first-line=097> – click on the tab “patrons and poets” on the extreme left of the screen to read about William am Gruffudd (“close” the window by clicking the tab again), then you can access the notes etc from the tabs on the right side of the screen.

During the project

I've set you two short transcriptions for this week – they were both copied in the second half of the 16th century, but they look quite different to each other, and one of them is particularly difficult. You can use the edition to help you

(although the spelling is different, of course). Have a go, and see how you get on – we'll look at them together at the beginning of the next session:

I won't set you a transcription for this week, but if you have time what about opening some of the transcriptions on the website and placing a manuscript image at its side, as I showed you in the video. Then you can look at a variety of different hands, and get a feel for 16th and 17th century script. And if they look really difficult, just take your time, and work out individual letter shapes, and build up from there. (If you find any mistakes in the transcriptions on the website, I would love to hear about them, so that I can correct them!)

