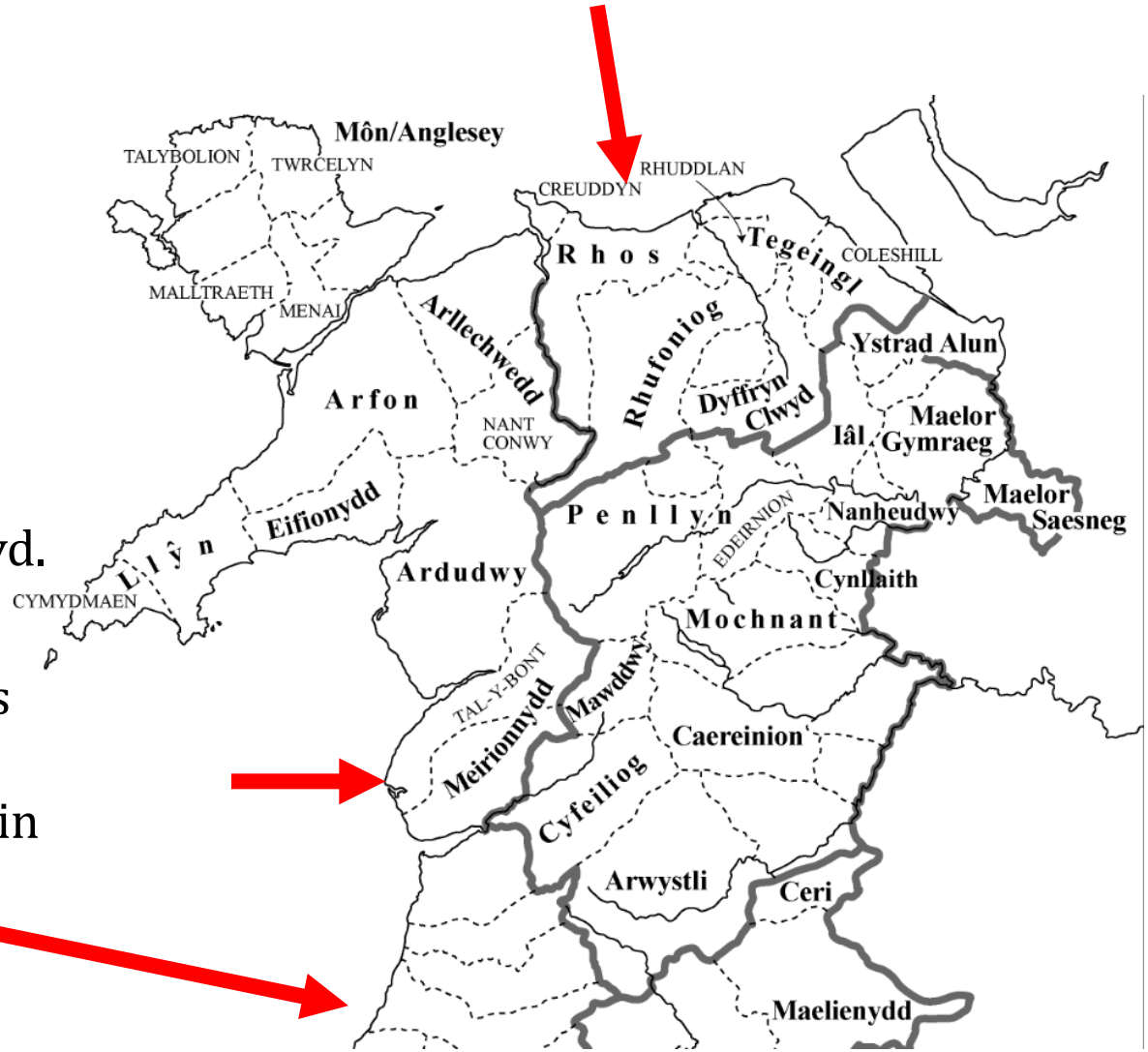
Owain Gwynedd (*c*.1100–1170)

- Son of Gruffudd ap Cynan and Angharad, daughter of Owain ab Edwin of Tegeingl (Flintshire).
- During Gruffudd's old age (1120–30) Owain and his elder brother Cadwallon strengthened and enlarged Gwynedd, adding to it Meirionnydd, Rhos, Rhufoniog, and Dyffryn Clwyd.
- Cadwallon died in 1132.
- Allied with Gruffudd ap Rhys of Deheubarth and others against the Normans to regain Ceredigion (battle of Crug Mawr, 1136)



Owain Gwynedd (*c*.1100–1170) (II)

- Gruffudd ap Cynan died in 1137.
- Owain becomes king - his younger brother Cadwaladr seems to be a kind of sub-king.
- Cadwaladr (first mentioned 1136) had been made lord of Meirionydd, and later northern Ceredigion
- Cadwaladr went with Madog ap Maredudd of Powys (his brother-in-law twice over) to fight at the battle of Lincoln in 1141 - Owain did not!

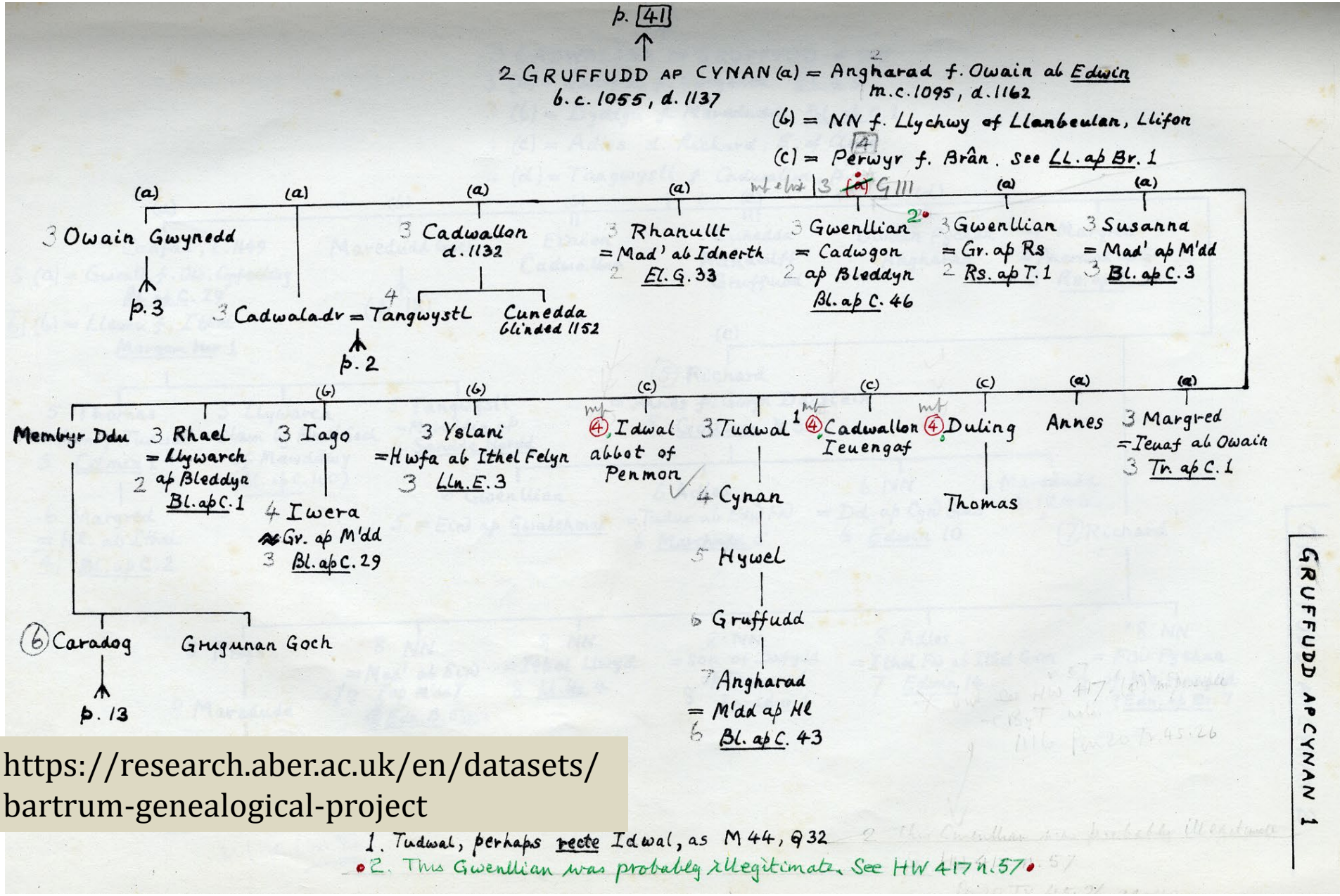
- Cadwaladr married Adeliza, sister of the earl of Chester (and widow of Richard fitzGilbert de Clare, former lord of Ceredigion)
- Despite his sister being married to Madog, Owain's ambition brought him into conflict with Powys...
- By 1149 he had acquired Tegeingl and Iâl
- Madog ap Maredudd and the earl of Chester oppose him in 1150, unsuccessfully

Owain Gwynedd (*c*.1100–1170) (III)

- Owain suffered his only major defeat at the battle of Coleshill in 1157 by Henry II's forces.
- He yielded Tegeingl and Iâl and accepted the overlordship of Henry II.
- He recaptured Tegeingl in 1167!

- Owain died in 1170 and was buried in Bangor Cathedral.
- Cadwaladr died 1172 and was buried alongside him.

His family (I)

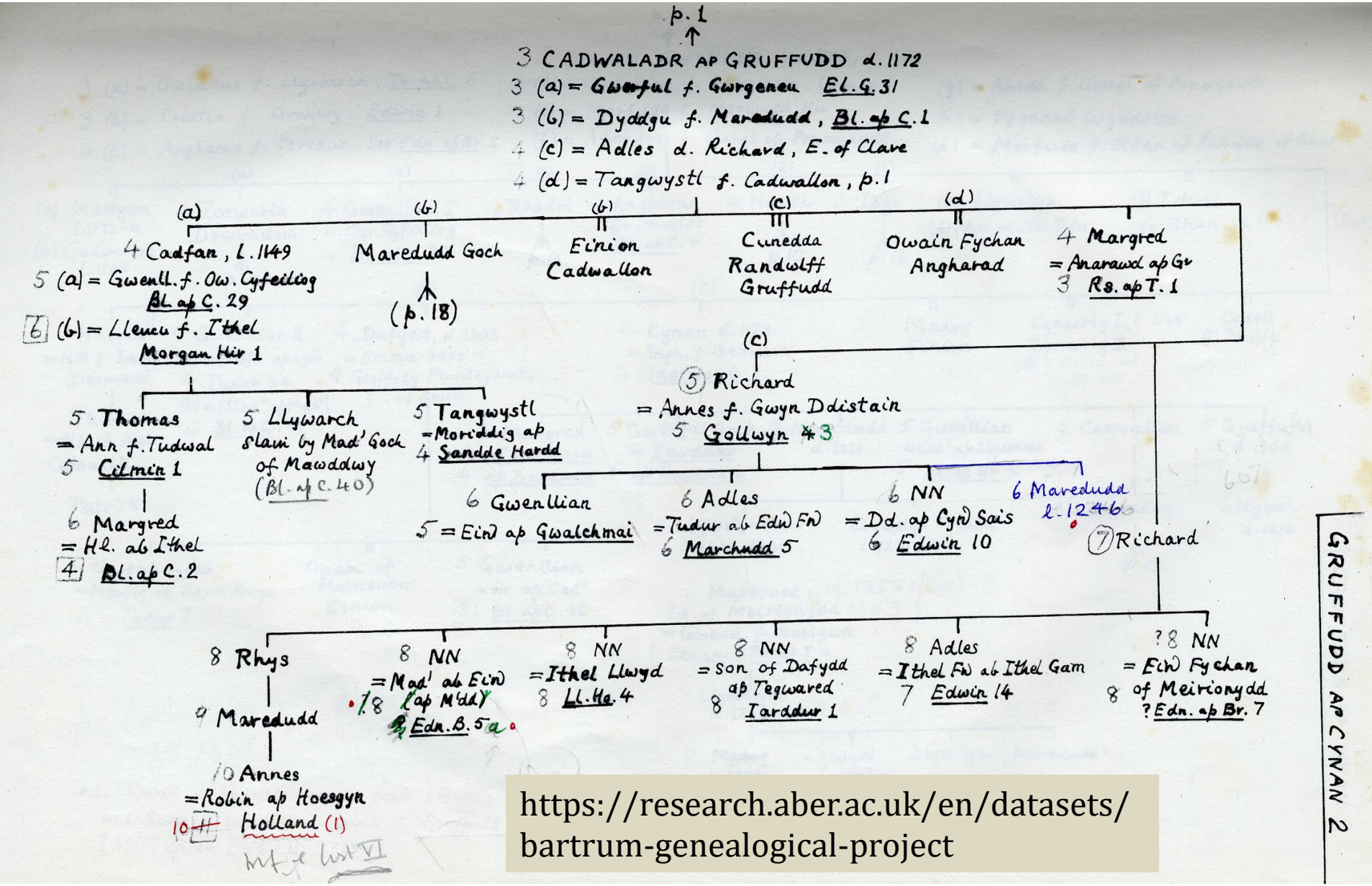


https://research.aber.ac.uk/en/datasets/bartrum-genealogical-project

1. Tudwal, perhaps recte Idwal, as M 44, Q 32

2. This Gwenllian was probably illegitimate. See HW 417 n. 57

His family (II)



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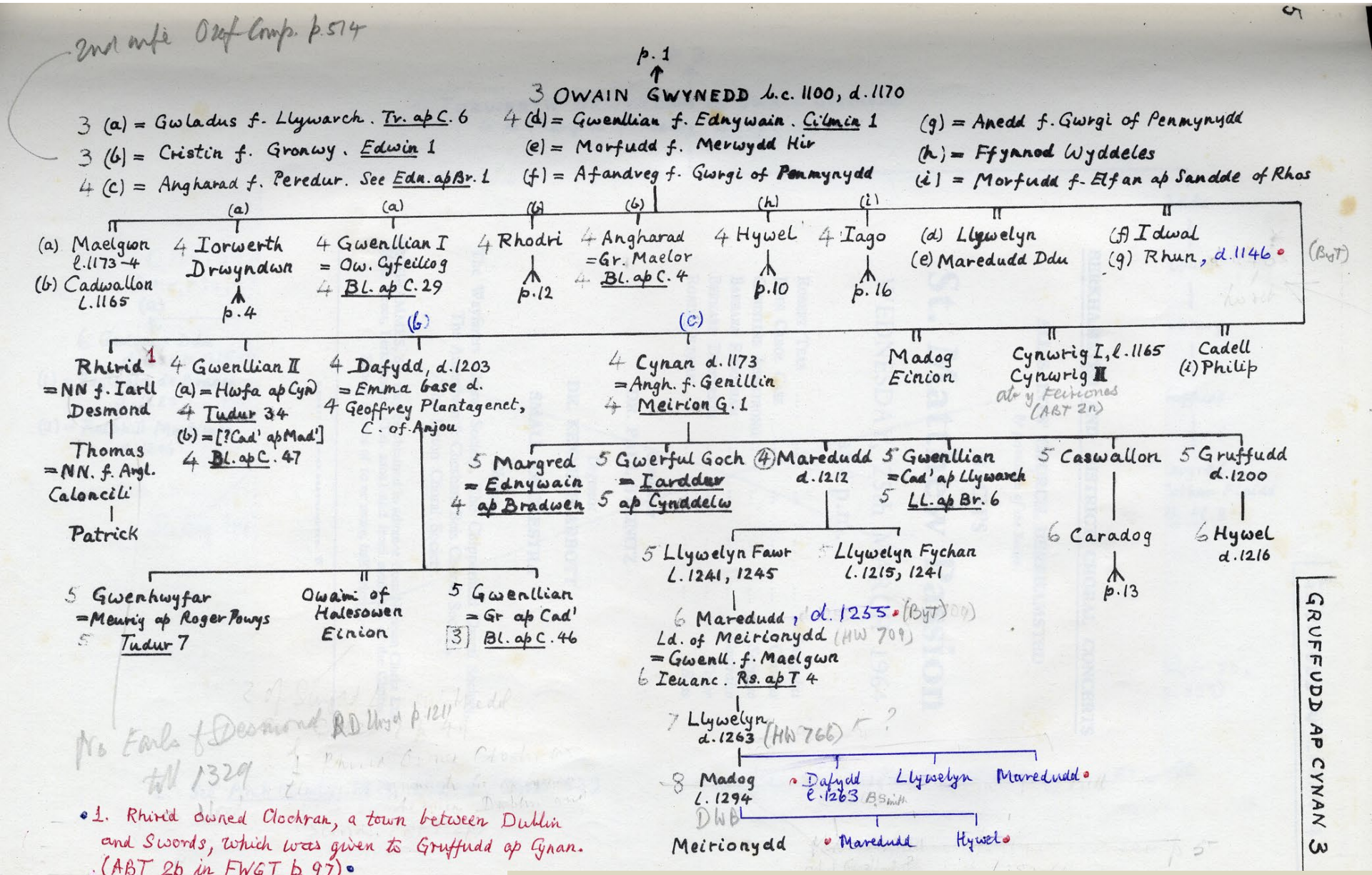
His family (III)



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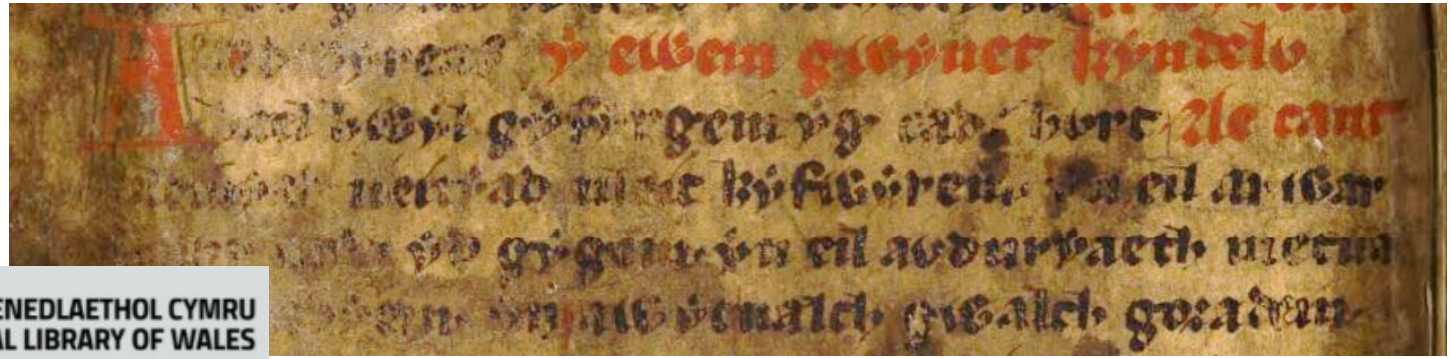
Arwyrain Owain Gwynedd (I)



LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
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- One of three praise poems composed by Cynddelw for Owain (he also composed his elegy).
- Mainly praise of Owain as military leader
- Internal evidence for its date (but hard to interpret); probably not before 1157, could be celebrating victory of 1167:
  - fighting in Tegeingl, a dragon from the east (1157 (defeat)? or 1167 (victory?); or earlier (1149??))
  - battle of Bryn Deganwy
  - fighting at Rhuddlan
  - battle above Coed Llwyfain (1157 or 1167)
  - the Battle of Cardigan (1136?)
  - campaigning at Pembroke(!) and Pennardd?
- Was Cynddelw really an eye-witness to all of this? Or just echoing Taliesin?

The manuscript:

Llawysgrif Hendregadredd, folio 33v–34v (and some later copies)

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

Arwyrain Owain Gwynedd (II)

- An *awdl*, in three specific metres:
  - Mostly ***cyhydedd naw ban***
    = lines of nine syllables, with the same end-rhyme
  - ***toddaid*** x 4 (ll. 1–2, 31–2, 39–40, 49–50)
    = couplets of 10 + 9 syllables, with a *gair cyrch* at the end of the first line
  - ***cyhydedd hir*** x 3 (ll. 11–12, 21–2, 59–60)
    a double line of nineteen syllables, subdivided on the pattern 5+5 and 5+4. The first three subunits are linked by internal rhyme or consonsance, whilst the fourth sustains a consistent end-rhyme throughout the awdl.

    Cyfarfu ag Eingl | am Degeingl diredd,

    Gwaedlaw ar ddarwedd, | gwaed ar ddarwain.