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Awdur  
Author

Teitl erthygl

"Author's notes on the frontispiece, maps  
and facsimile"

Article title

Teitl cylchgrawn  
Journal title

*Y Cymmrodor (1900-1951)*  
*Y Cymmrodor the magazine of the*  
*Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*  
*(1900-1951).*

Rhifyn  
Issue

Vol. 34, (1924), p. iv-vi.

url

Crëwyd a chyhoeddwyd y fersiwn digidol hwn o'r cylchgrawn yn unol â thrwydded a roddwyd gan y cyhoeddwr. Gellir defnyddio'r deunydd ynddo ar gyfer unrhyw bwrpas gan barchu hawliau moesol y crewyr.

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JISC



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AUTHOR'S NOTES ON THE FRONTISPIECE, MAPS  
AND FACSIMILE.

The gap in the cliffs at Aber Lleinawc is some 180 yards wide. At its northern end is Carreg Cynhadvan, which stands 32 yards landward of the high-water line on the very edge of the Pool: above it is the Mound where the cliff ends. The Pool is now divided into two. The rubbish shot into the southern half has obscured the original outline. Apparently there was a channel behind the shingle bank stretching towards the brook.

The small map shows Aber Lleinog Castle and Mordrei Gwyneð where catraeth was fought. The xxxxxxx-chain marks the line of palisading which ran from the Cliff Mound to beyond the Castle. There are traces of a footway cut into the sloping ground behind the palisading, in front of which there was a perpendicular drop (of varying height) with a ditch at the base, which seemingly served the Pool with water from the morass higher up. The ground north of the palisading rises all the way from the Pool to the Castle, which is

a high, round Mound of earth, surmounted by a stone rampart (one of the earliest) of great thickness. A deep ditch surrounds the Castle base.

The larger Map is a rough sketch of Deeside around 1100, when Hugh Lupus was dominant. According to the "Domesday Survey" most of this region was "waste" and, therefore, we cannot look for well-defined boundaries: rivers do not even mark them. Cheshire, the two Moryals, and Edernion lie on both banks of the Dee. Gwynedd\* was fixed, and the Bervedwlad formed a sort of buffer state between the Conwy and the Clwyd. The "Domesday Survey" and the "Book of Aneirin", between them, give a fairly full account of the old hundred of Atiscross, the shifting scene of many actions. The term Coleshill comes down from 1089, and if it was co-extensive with the present hundred, its area coincided with the Aneirin Ceint country, dominated by the extensive Moel y Gaer, alias *Caer Ceint*, "the most perfect of British Camps in North Wales". The Estuary of the Dee from above Chester had various and varying channels as well as lagoons which the bore, mentioned in Ormerod's "History of Cheshire", filled, and added to their number on the river banks.†

The Facsimile from Harl. MS. 3859 gives the first page of the "Additional Matter", or *Additamenta* which follow the Saxon Genealogies, but are wholly unconnected with both the Saxon and Welsh Genealogies. Note carefully that Nennius had nothing to do with any one of the three.

\* Prof. Lloyd quotes an English and a Welsh passage for "Gwynedd is Conwy". There is also a third which mentions "Gwynedd uch Conwy", but the three are late, and it is regrettable that currency should be given to this unhistorical and undefineable division.

† No map, drawn nowadays, could represent the old channels; our sketch is very defective in this respect.

## AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

\*\_\* Controversy has the merit of creating interest in a subject, and to be interested is the first step to gaining knowledge of it. Cordial thanks are therefore due to the Cymmrodorion Society and its devoted Editor for providing an opportunity of discussing the origin of Welsh Literature. The question of origin is generally a thorny one, and it is difficult to handle thorns without pricking hands in the attempt to clear the ground. If I have carelessly flung about uprooted scrub to the discomfort of onlookers I apologize, and plead the bad example set before me. Still, I hope the matter will make amends for the manner, and will prove not unworthy of the hospitality of *Y Cymmrodor*.

\*\_\* I have to thank Mr. David Owen of the Midland Bank at Pwllheli for motoring me to Aber Lleinog and assisting me to photograph the Frontispiece in a strong wind. Dr. Richard Owen, now of Bangor, also took me to "Rhyd y Merdyn". *Murdyn* = 'a ruin', and *Murδin* = 'a walled fort'. The passage across the Menei is repeatedly called *Rhyd* in *Aneirin*. It would be interesting to find evidence that this Rhyd was once known as *Rhyd y Murδin*.

# Y Cymmrodor.

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VOL. XXXIV. "CARED DOETH YR ENCILION." 1924.

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## Taliesin, or The Critic Criticised.<sup>1</sup>

BY

J. GWENOGVRYN EVANS, M.A., D.Litt.

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*"The language of the poetry assigned to the sixth century is not much older than the MS. on which it is written."*

Sir John Rhys.

*"Dr. Evans . . . . . notes that Ida founded the kingdom of Northumbria in the year 547 and died in 559 . . . . He looks the fact straight in the face . . . ."—Sir John Morris-Jones.*

I AM a small farmer. One frosty morning in the autumn of 1919 I noticed that my geese looked pinched. I fetched some corn which I took to the field. I was received with hisses, and menaced by the gander. I tried to make manifest that the contents of my basket were good white oats, which I displayed in little heaps as near as I could get to the flock. My manœuvres served but to increase the hissing, for the juniors joined the old birds, and I was unanimously pursued and literally hissed out of the field. When I closed the gate behind me there arose such a triumphant jubilation that my heart sank within me. No one likes to be hissed, not even by geese. I reflected that the quality of my grain was of the very best, that it had been harvested by the sweat of my brow, that it had not

<sup>1</sup> For Table of Contents, etc., see p. 119.