LITERATURE SINCE 1500
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1. General

R. Gwyndaf, ‘Traddodiad y stori werin yng Nghymru’, Cof Cenedl, 22:69–98, is a useful introduction to the main aspects of the story-telling tradition in Wales. David Jenkins, Ar Lafar, Ar Goedd, Aberystwyth, Cymdeithas Lyfrau Ceredigion, 198 pp., is a sociolinguistic study of rural south Carmarthenshire and the second chapter, tracing the use and significance of the word ‘gwerin’ (folk) in medieval and modern literature, is of pertinence to this section.


The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

C. James, ‘Llenwi pig y pelican: “Hanes bagad o Gymru a aethant yn amser y Frenhines Elsbeth ... i’r Gorllewŷn India”’, Lic, 30:100–43, is an illuminating, detailed textual and contextual analysis of this remarkable, and largely forgotten, Elizabethan ballad recalling the adventures of W. sailors fighting against the Spanish in the Caribbean. It includes diplomatic and edited versions of the ballad.

John Gwynfor Jones, Creffydd a Chymdeithas: Astudiaethau ar Hanes y Ffydd Protestannaidd yng Nghymru 1559–1750, Cardiff, Univ. of Wales Press, xvi + 460 pp., is a collection of articles (three previously unpublished) on aspects of W. religious life in the early modern period.
with reference to the literary contributions of writers such as Maurice Kyffin, Huw Lewis, William Morgan and Rhys Prichard.

R. G. Gruffydd, ‘Dau lenor Cymraeg alltud: Maurice Kyffin a Huw Lewys’, LlC, 30:144–60, is a comparative study of W. exiles Maurice Kyffin and Huw Lewys, in which Gruffydd argues that their objective in translating humanist prose was to consolidate the Protestant faith in Wales and to produce in W. work of the standard they were familiar with in English and other European languages. Ceri Davies, O Lanferres i Fallwyd: Cyfraniad Dr John Davies, Llys yr Eisteddfod, 24 pp., outlines the life and career of Renaissance scholar John Davies (1567–1644).


3. The Eighteenth Century

The survey year saw the emergence of five substantial and groundbreaking volumes stemming from the UWCASWC project on Iolo Morganwg and the Romantic Tradition in Wales:

The Correspondence of Iolo Morganwg, ed. Geraint H. Jenkins, Ffion M. Jones and David C. Jones, Cardiff, Univ. of Wales Press, 3 vols, lx + 852, xxiv + 884, xxvi + 869 pp. This colossal achievement is the first complete edition of Iolo’s correspondence consisting of 1,230 letters, 499 of which were penned by Iolo himself. A lucid introduction is provided by G. H. Jenkins, and with the translations of W. letters and the accompanying explanatory, contextual notes, this will be an invaluable resource for further research.

In the context of current critical interest in romantic forgery and explorations of textual authenticity, the compelling study by Mary-Ann Constantine, The Truth against the World: Iolo Morganwg and Romantic Forgery, Cardiff, Univ. of Wales Press, xvii + 231 pp., focuses on Iolo Morganwg’s own readings and opinions on aspects of forgery and the direct influences and connections between Iolo and other literary forgers of the 18th c., notably Chatterton, Macpherson and La Villemarque.

Cathryn A. Charnell-White, Bardic Circles: National, Regional and