

13. Concluding Comments

In just two centuries, this corner of Wales has delivered a diversity of poetry representing most of the styles and genres active during the period of study. One can see that south Ceredigion was a place known for patrons who would support poets on the circuit of Wales. It is evident that some poets preferred to keep themselves local, almost being ‘in residence’, such as Dafydd Nanmor in Tywyn, while Lewys Glyn Cothi, Rhys Nanmor and Deio ap Ieuan Du were well known in the area yet moved about and received a welcome much further afield.

In most cases there are only the poems of the poet to bear witness to their character and life history. While it is often possible to establish dates and places from the mention of other people and events documented by history; poetry is a notoriously precarious tool for the provision of the kind of facts that might satisfy a historian or judge. Yet, poetry is also the richest manifestation of description that language can provide. The works of these ten poets offer a revealing look into the lives of the *uchelwyr* and their families, with some brief forays into the political pressures of the time. Even when there are only one or two poems from a poet one sees a tantalising glimpse of their style and approach, a feel of their voice stretching across the years.

The assembling of the material in one place offers an opportunity for further investigation and comparison. Already the connection between some families has been noted, the knowledge and camaraderie between poets has been simply revealed just by having the material collected together. The appendices offer a compendium of the places and people referenced in the poems. These point towards the mix of traditions, religious, legendary, European, Welsh and other influencing the poetry.

The next step is to make this material digitally accessible, with a web page for each poet, glossaries and indexes that make use of existing resources such as the *Geiriadur Prifysgol*

Cymru and The National Library of Wales on line journals and indexes of medieval poetry... The use of maps to show where the patrons lived, the routes of poets journeys and the places of key events would make some of the texts come even more alive.

Finally, there are probably another six or seven poets and many more poems to include if the whole county of Ceredigion is to be completed...