On Welsh and Cornish Calendars

History. "In your passion for reform you have, so to speak, abolished the Proper of the Diocese, one of the most ancient and most glorious of the Martyrologies of France."

At Tréguiet, the founder, S. Tudwal, is eclipsed by the Advocate S. Yves "advocatus sed non latro"; yet everywhere, to the Breton people, each saintly founder might appeal in the words of the apostle, inscribed under the statue of Tudwal at Tréguiet: "Et si alis non sum apostolus, sed tamen vobis sum; scitis quæ præcepta dediderim vobis per Dominum Jesum." 57

III. ON WELSH AND CORNISH CALENDARS

In drawing up calendars of the Celtic saints of Wales and Cornwall considerable difficulties have to be encountered. A good many of the saints who founded churches, or to whom churches have been dedicated, do not find their places in any extant ancient calendars; and it is not possible to rely on many of the modern calendars that do insert the names of the early Celtic saints, as trustworthy. Too often these names have been inserted arbitrarily and without authority. We will give a list of such calendars as exist, and which have served more or less for the composition of the calendar that we have drawn up; and for attribution of day to each Saint.

I. THE WELSH CALENDAR

The Patronal Festival or Wake of a parish was ordinarily called in Welsh Gwyl Mabsant, "The Feast of the Patron," and in more recent times it began on the Sunday following the festival proper, and lasted the whole of the week, though in the early part of last century it seldom exceeded the third or fourth day. There were but few, if any, parishes wherein its observance survived the sixth decade of last century. It lost its distinctively religious character with the Reformation, and thenceforth became merely an occasion for a fair, rustic games and sports, and every kind of merry-making. Where there are to-day several fairs held in a parish, that on the Feast of the Patron is frequently spoken of as the Fair of such-and-such a Saint's Festival, e.g. Ffair Wyl Deilo at Llandeilo Fawr. The fair was held, Old Style, on the Saint's Festival, as entered in the calendar; New Style, it is eleven days later. To take S. Teilo's Fair at Llandeilo. It was formerly held on his day, the 9th of February; now it is on the 20th.

57 1 Cor. ix, 2; 1 Thess. iv, 2.

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There are, however, instances of the fairs being held, or, more correctly, begun, on the eve of the Saint's Festival; e.g. at Llanrwst (S. Grwst, December 1), a fair was held November 30, O.S., now it is December 11; at Tregaron (S. Caron, March 5), fairs are now, or were, held on March 15, 16 and 17; and at Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant (S. Dogfan, July 13), fairs are held on July 23 and 24. Similarly, fairs were held at Nevin (S. Mary) on eves of the Festivals of the B.V.M., and at Abergele (S. Michael) on Michaelmas Eve. Sometimes the fair date was not altered, N.S., as at Llanwnnen (S. Gwynen, December 13) and Llandaff (S. Teilo, February 9); and in like manner, old fairs on Festivals of the B.V.M. were still kept, N.S., on those days at Rhuddlan and Swansea.

From this it will be seen that one cannot always rely upon the fair day in fixing the Saint's Day when the calendars are at variance, as they not infrequently are.

The following Welsh calendars have been made use of in the present work:—

A. British Museum Cotton MS. Vespasian A. xiv, of the early thirteenth century. The calendar, which is at the beginning of the MS., is a very legible one. The festivals entered are not many, but they are those of the principal Welsh Saints.

B. British Museum Additional MS. 14,912, of the fourteenth century, prefixed to a copy of Meddygon Myddfai. Imperfect; begins with March, which is indistinct, and the months of November and December have been transposed. It contains the festivals of but few Welsh saints.

C. British Museum Additional MS. 22,720, of about the fifteenth century. The festivals of Welsh Saints are but few, and are in a somewhat later hand. The Welsh entries are in the earlier part of it.

D. Peniarth MS. 40, written circa 1469. It is printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfrin Evans' Catalogue of Welsh MSS., i, pp. 374-5. It contains but few festivals of Welsh Saints.

E. Peniarth MS. 191, of about the middle of the fifteenth century. It is printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfrin Evans, ibid., i, p. 1019. December is wanting. Sometimes the festivals are a day late.

F. A calendar in the Grammar of John Edwards, Junior, of Chirkeslande, now in the Plâs Llanstephan Library. It is dated 1481, and occurs at fo. 83 of the MS.

G. Peniarth MS. 27, part i, of the late fifteenth century, by Gutyn Owain. It is in part stained; January very illegible; a somewhat full calendar.

H. Peniarth MS. 186, of the late fifteenth century, also by Gutyn
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Owain. Printed in part in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, i, p. 1013. It is considerably fuller than G.

I. Mostyn MS. 88, written 1488–9, also by Gutyn Owain. It is printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, i, pp. 16–17. These three calendars are not mere copies of each other.

J. Jesus College (Oxford) MS. cxli = 6, of the fifteenth century, printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, ii, p. 36. Imperfect, only May—October. It is apparently one of Gutyn Owain's calendars.

K. Jesus College MS. xxii = 7, of the late fifteenth century, printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, ii, p. 38.

L. Iolo MSS., pp. 152–3, taken from "a MS. written circa 1500, in the possession of Mr. Thomas Davies, of Dolgelley." December is imperfect. This is one of the fullest of the Welsh calendars.

M. Sir John Prys, *Ymy lthywyrr hwnn*, London, 1546, reprinted Bangor, 1902, under the editorship of Mr. J. H. Davies, M.A., for the Guild of Graduates of the University of Wales, from the unique copy in the Plas Llanstephan Library. The work is to all intents and purposes a Prymer, and was probably the first book ever printed in the Welsh language. The calendar is often inaccurate, but contains a few rare entries.

N. Peniarth MS. 60, of the sixteenth century. This does not contain many entries.

O. Peniarth MS. 172, of the sixteenth century, printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, i, pp. 967–8.

P. Peniarth MS. 192, of the sixteenth century. It begins with December 17, and is followed by January to September 15. The remainder is lost. The entries are not many.

Q. Plas Llanstephan MS. 117, of the middle of the sixteenth century, printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, ii, pp. 571–2.

R. Plas Llanstephan MS. 181, written circa 1556, and printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, ii, pp. 770–1. It is a complete calendar, but begins with May and ends with April. It belongs to North Wales.

S. A Demetian calendar, of which there are three MS. copies: (a) Cwrtmawr MS. 44, of the second half of the sixteenth century, and (b and c) Panton MSS. 10 and 66, of the eighteenth century; and four printed copies: (a) *Y Greal*, 1806, pp. 287–8, (b) *Cambrian Register*, 1818, iii, pp. 219–21, (c) *Y Gwyliedydd*, 1825, pp. 343–4, and (d) *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 1854, pp. 30–2. This is a list, not a calendar proper, and the entries are not arranged in any order, except in the Cwrtmawr MS. as *printed* in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, *ibid.*, ii, p. 936. November, with its fifteen entries, is by much the fullest
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month. July and September have no entries. Some of the entries are peculiar to this calendar; others supply details of the saints that are not found elsewhere. The following, among others, are noteworthy festivals: Rhystyd, Padarn and Teilo (movable), “Fidalis and Bidofydd” (April 26), Pumpsaint, Cynddilig, Gwryd Frawd (the three on All Saints’ Day), “the Festival of the man who died on Trinity Sunday, preceded by a great vigil on the Saturday night, when it is customary to bathe for the cure of the tertian ague.” The words “Gwyl y gwr a fu farw” (probably the correct reading) of the last quoted entry are converted in some of the copies into “S. Gwyr-farn” and “Y Gwyryfon” (the Virgins). The list may be described as a Demetian calendar, as most of the saints commemorated belong to Dyfed, but more especially Cardiganshire. The first entry is “Gwyl Geitho,” which probably gives a clue to its origin.

T. British Museum Additional MS. 14,882, written in 1591 by “William ap Wm.” This is a perfect calendar.

U. Peniarth MS. 187, written in 1596, and printed, but only in part, in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, ibid., i, p. 1014. This is a full calendar. Some of the entries are curious, e.g. for January, “The first day of this month the tops of the mountains appeared to Noah”; 7th, “Christ turned the water into wine”; 10th, “Nebuchadnezzar’s war against Jerusalem.”

V. Hajod MS. 8, of the late sixteenth century, printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, ibid., ii, p. 311. It is a meagre calendar.

W. MS. marginal entries in the calendar to a copy of the Preces Private, published in 1573, in the Library of S. Beuno’s Jesuit College, near S. Asaph. The entries are in at least three different hands, of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and are by persons who lived in north, or rather north-east, Wales, for the majority of the festivals, as well as fairs, entered belong to that part.

X. Peniarth MS. 219, circa 1615, in the handwriting of John Jones of Gelli Lyfdy. It is printed in Dr. J. Gwenogfryn Evans, ibid., i, pp. 1043-5, where its festivals are entered with those of Peniarth MSS. 27, 186 and 187.

Y. The calendar prefixed to the Llyfr Plynain, or Prymer, of 1618 (fifth edition). This is a full calendar, but a leaf was missing for April and May in the copy seen. It frequently corroborates L in some of its isolated entries.

Z. The calendar prefixed to the Llyfr Plynain, or Prymer, of 1633, edited by Dr. John Davies.

ZA. The calendar prefixed to Alwydd neu Agoriad Paradwys i’r Cymru, a Roman manual published at Liège in 1670. The Welsh
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saints are marked with an asterisk to distinguish them from saints of the Roman calendar.

Zb. Welsh almanacks of the latter part of the seventeenth century and the eighteenth century give the festivals of Welsh and other saints more or less fully. The first Welsh almanack was that published for 1680, at Shrewsbury. We have consulted a great many from that for 1692 down. From about 1780 these festival entries became fewer and fewer, and have gradually disappeared almost entirely from the ordinary Welsh almanack.

Zc. Wm. Roberts (Nefydd), in his Crefydd yr Oesoedd Tywyl, Carmarthen, 1852, gives the festivals of such Welsh saints as occur in the Welsh almanacks of the eighteenth century.

Zd. The calendar in Williams ab Ithel, Ecclesiastical Antiquities of the Cymry, London, 1844, pp. 301-3. It is based upon the festivals given in Rees, Essay on the Welsh Saints, 1836, and is not always correct.

To these may be added the following, which, however, contain but few Celtic or Welsh entries:—

A Welsh Martyrology in Trinity College, Dublin, Library (MS. 50), of which Mr. H. Bradshaw speaks with enthusiasm in his Collected Papers, pp. 477-8. "It turns out to be one of the most precious monuments of the Welsh Church yet discovered." It was written by Ithael, and the initial letters were painted by Johannes, brother of Rhygyfarth (died 1097). It is actually the Martyrologium Hieronymianum, with entries of Celtic saints, Irish and British. The MS. was once in the possession of Bishop Bedell, who lent it to Archbishop Ussher, and it was owing to this happy accident that it was saved from the destruction which befell almost the whole of Bishop Bedell's library after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1641.

We are indebted to Mr. R. Twigge for kindly examining this Martyrology for us. It unfortunately contains no other entries of Celtic saints than these: March 17, S. Patrick; July 28, S. Samson; September 17, "In Britannis Socris et Stephani"; December 17, "Depos. Judichaili Confess."

A Martyrology of British Saints, "very peculiar," in the Bodleian Library, of the fourteenth century (MSS. Gough Coll., 1833), imperfect; from March 17 to May 23 is all that exists.

A Llanthony Abbey Calendar, in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

We give below a calendar of the Welsh saints carefully compiled from the foregoing, noting in each case the particular calendars which contain the commemoration. They often vary, but the oldest calendars may be presumed to be the most reliable.
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The ordinary festivals of the Western Church have not been included.

JANUARY.

4. S. Maelrys, or Maelerw, C. (zd).
7. S. Gwenog, V. (s, Addit. MS. 14, 886).
10. S. Ylched (zd).
14. S. Cyndeyrn, or Kentigern, B.C. (uwYza).
15. S. Ilar, B.C. (s).
16. S. Llawddog, or Lleuddad, Ab.C. (z).
19.
20.
21.
22.
24. S. Catwg, or Cadoc, Ab.C. (ALNV XYZzza).
26.
27. S. Silin, B.C. (s).
28.
29.
31. S. Aeddan Foeddog, or Aidan, B.C. (zd).
33. S. Melangell, or Monacella, V., Abss. (HILTUX).
34. S. Einion, K.C. (o).
37. SS. Y Trisaint, or The Three SS. CC. (v).

FEBRUARY.

1. S. Ffraid, or Bridget, V. Abs. (in most of the Calendars).
2. S. Ina, Knt. C. (s).
4. S. Dilwar, V. (q).
5. S. Tyssul, B.C. (s).
7. S. Teilo, B.C. (MX).
8. S. Cigwa, or Ciwa, V. (AY).
10. S. Teilo, B.C. (CDELNVYZZA).
12. S. Ffinan, B.C. (za).
16.
17. S. Ffinan, B.C. (za).
18.
19.
20.
22.
23.
24.
25.
27.
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MARCH.

1. S. Dewi, or David, B.C. (all the Calendars).
3. S. Non, or Nonita, Wid. (ACELQS UVXYZ).
4. S. Gistilian, B.C. (c.).
5. S. Caron, B.C. (ELSYZ).
8. S. Deifer, or Dier, C. (za).
9. S. Rhiain, B.C. (c).
14. S. Cynog (za).
15. S. Padrig, B.C.
16.
17. S. Padrig, B.C.
25. S. Padarn, B.C. (blsw2).
26. S. Padarn, B.C. (e).
27. S. Padarn, B.C. (e).
28. S. Padarn, B.C. (e).
29. S. Padarn, B.C. (E).
30.
31.

APRIL.

4. S. Brynach, or Byrnach, Ab.C.(ALSVZA).
5. SS. Llywelyn and Gwrnerth, CC. (GHILMOQRUXYZZA).
6.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15. S. Padarn, B.C. (aza).
16. S. Padarn, B.C. (blsw2).
17. S. Padarn, B.C. (e).
25.
26. SS. Fidalis (Vitalis on 28th) and Bidofydd, CC. (s).
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MAY.

1. S. Asaph, B.C. (Izza).
   S. Tyfrig, Ab.C. (s).
2. 
3. 
4. S. Melangell, V. (Luzza).
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
   S. Melyd, or Melydyn, C. (qw).
   S. Ylched (r).
10. 
11. 
12. SS. Mael and Sulien, CC. (m).
13. SS. Mael and Sulien, CC. (EHIJLQRSUWXZZA).
14. 
15. S. Carannog, Ab.C. (sza).
17. S. Carannog, Ab.C. (u).
   S. Cathan, or Cathen, C. (zd).
18. 
19. 
20. S. Anno (LUXYZ).
22. S. Collen, C. (m).
23. 
24. SS. Dyfan and Ffagan, CC. (zd).
25. 
26. 
27. S. Garmon, B.C. (LUYZ).
   S. Melangell, V. (EGHIJLMOPQRSTUWYZ).
29. Translation of S. Dyfrig, or Dubricius, Ab.C. (za).
   S. Erbin, C. (GHIJLMOPQTUWXYZ).
31. 

JUNE.

1. S. Tegla, V. (GHIJLMOPQRSTUVWXYZ).
2. S. Cwyfen, C. (z).
   S. Tegla, V. (k).
   S. Pedrog, or Petroc, Ab.C. (LUVZza).
6. SS. Y Trisaint, CC. (fx).
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 
   SS. Curig and Julitta, MM. (ds).
   S. Trillo, C. (GHIJKLPOURTUWXZZA).
16. SS. Curig and Julitta (or Ild, Elinidan), MM. (in most of the Calendars).
18. 
19. 
20. 
21. 
22. Decollation of S. Gwenfrewi, or Winefred, V.M. (GHIJKMOPQRSTUVWXYZ).
23. 
24. 
25. 
   S. Twrog, C. (XYZ).
   S. Tyynog, C. (LUVZ).
27. 
28. 
29. S. Eurgain, Matron (HJTXTYZ).
   S. Trunio, C. (H).
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JULY.

2. S. Cewydd, C. (s). Gwyl y Gwlaw (k).
   S. Oudoceus, B.C. (za).
   S. Peblig, C. (v).
4.
5.
6. S. Erfyl, or Urfyl. V. (hiloxyz).
7.
9.
10.
   S. Dwynwen, V. (q).
   S. Garmon, B.C. (m).
   S. Elyw (m).
   S. Garmon, B.C. (jquyz).
15. S. Cewydd, C. (d).
16.
   S Eliw (t).
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
27. S. Peris, C. (zd).
29. S. Bleiddian, or Lupus, B.C. (zd).
30. S. Garmon, B.C. (p).
31. S. Garmon in Yale, or Germanus, B.C. (ghiqlmqrstuwxyz).

AUGUST.

1. S. Eiliwed or Almedha, V.M. (zd).
2.
3.
5. S. Ceitho, Ab.C. (s).
6.
7.
   S. Flagan, C. (zd).
   S. Illoc in Hirnant, C. (hjloqrtuxyz).
9.
10.
11. S. Llwni (s).
12.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
20.
21.
24.
25.
26.
   S. Meddwid, or Moddwid (luwxyz).
28.
29.
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SEPTEMBER.

1. S. Siin (=Giles), Ab.C. (ghijklqortuxyzza).

3.
5.

Gwyl y Ddelw Fyw, "The Festival of the Living Image" (h, later hand, lrxyz).
11. S. Deiniol or Daniel, B.C. (ghjklopqrtuvwxyzza).

12.
13.
15.
16.
17.
18.
21.
22.
23. Ordination of S. Padarn, B.C. (A).

S. Tegla, V. (jgw).

S. Tegla, V. (lyz).

S. Meugan, C. (ghilmoruxyzza).

S. Meugan, C. (jt).
28.
29.

OCTOBER.

1. S. Garmon, B.C. (hijklmoqrtuvwxyz).

S. Siin, Ab.C. (ghijklmoqrtuvwxyz).
2.
3.
4.
5. S. Cynhafal, C. (ghijklmoqrtuvwxyz).

6.
8. S. Cain, or Ceinwen, V. (lmv).

S. Cammarch, C. (lz).
S. Cynog, M. (yz).
9. S. Cynog, M. (l)
S. Tanwg, C. (yz).
11.
12.
13.
S. Tudur, C. (yz).
S. Tudur, C. (l).

16.
17.
18.
19.
20.

21. S. Llyr, V. (s).

S. Urw, or Wrw, V. (s).
SS. Y Gweryddon, or Eleven Thousand VV. (ghijklmoqrtuxy).
22. SS. Gwynog and Noethon (or Nwython), CC. (ghijklmoqrtux).

SS. Y Gweryddon, VV. (o).
23. SS. Gwynog and Noethan, CC. (lyz).

SS. Gwynog and Noethon, CC. (o).
25.
26.
27.
28.
29. S. Teuderius, C. (a).
NOVEMBER.

4. S. Gwenfaen, V. (h).  
5. S. Cybi, Ab.C. (giklmqorsuwxyza).  
18. S. Meugan, C. (s).  
24. S. Meugan, C. (s).  
27. S. Gallgo, C. (fgihklmoqrtuxyza).  
30. S. Aelen, C. (y).  

4. S. Gwenfaen, V. (h).  
5. S. Cybi, Ab.C. (giklmqorsuwxyza).  
18. S. Meugan, C. (s).  
24. S. Meugan, C. (s).  
27. S. Gallgo, C. (fgihklmoqrtuxyza).  
DECEMBER.

   S. Llechid, V. (FLYZ).

2. ...

3. ...

4. ...

5. S. Cowrda, or Cawrdaf, K.C. (HLOGUYZ).
   S. Gwrda (za).
   S. Justinian, or Stinan, H.M. (A).

6. ...

7. ...

8. S. Cynidr, B.C. (AMYZ).

9. ...


    S. Fînan, B.C. (v).
    S. Peris, C. (FHTUWXYZZA).
    Dydd llas Llywelyn, " The day on which Llywelyn was slain " (k).

    Llywelyn (2).

    SS. Gwynân (-en) and Gwynws, CC. (szd).

II. THE CORNISH CALENDAR

No Celtic Calendars for the West of England have been preserved, and the Exeter Calendars almost wholly ignore the local saints whose names are not found in the Roman Martyrology.

1. In 1478, however, William of Worcester made a journey through Devon and Cornwall, and examined the Calendars of Tavistock, Launceston, Bodmin, and S. Michael's Mount. From these he made extracts. His Itinerary has been preserved in Corpus Christi College Library, Cambridge. William wrote an execrable hand, and scribbled rather than wrote in his notebook, which he never transcribed. Nasmith published the Itinerary in 1778, having deciphered the scrawl with great patience, and, on the whole, correctly. But he made many mistakes, and he made occasional slips. Thus, in transcribing the Calendar of Bodmin, he omitted from May 28 to July 31. He saw under May 28 the entry " S. Germanus Episc. Conf., " and the same entry under July 31, the first being the entry of Germanus of Paris, and the latter that of Germanus of Auxerre. By an oversight he did not transcribe all that intervened. Through the courtesy of the Librarian we have been able to collate Nasmith's edition with the original text.

2. A Calendar of Exeter Cathedral of the twelfth century (MS.