

The Secret Script

Iolo Morganwg, the mastermind behind the Gorsedd of the Bards, claimed to know the secrets of the Ancient Druids. He said they had their own alphabet and wrote their texts on thin wooden sticks held in a special frame, called a *peithynen*.

The bardic alphabet was designed by Iolo Morganwg for the language Welsh. However, you can write secret messages in English using the bardic script, just pick the symbol that is closest to the sound you want.

Anyone can master the bardic alphabet! Here it is:

a	a	b	c	ch	d	dd
short, as in: can, man, hat	long, as in: calm, father	as in English	hard, as in: can, music, kite	as in the Scottish word: loch	as in English	as in: this, bathe, Gwynedd
e	e	f	ff	g	ng	h
short, as in: pet, bed, men	long, as in: late, cane	as in: English 'v'	as in: English 'f' or 'ph'	hard, as in: big, good, dog	as in: the nasal mutation of 'g' in Welsh	as in English
i	l	ll	m	n	nh	o
'ee', as in: wheel, machine	as in English	as in the Welsh names: Llangollen, Llywelyn	as in English	as in English	as in: the nasal mutation of 't' in Welsh	short, as in: top, not, gone
o	p	ph	r	rh	s	t
long, as in: bone, oppose	as in English	as in: the aspirate mutation of 'p' in Welsh	as in English	as in the Welsh names: Rhos, Rhys, Rhiannon	as in: this, us, miss	as in English
th	u	w	w	wh	y	y
as in: the aspirate mutation of 't' in Welsh or as in: thorn, faith	'ih', as in: bin, miss	short 'oo', as in: good, wool, pull	long 'oo', as in: fool, moon	as in: wheel (with a pronounced 'h'))	long 'u', as in French: mur, sur, une	short 'u', as in: bud, gun, ton, birch

A simple phrase:



Welcome to Wales

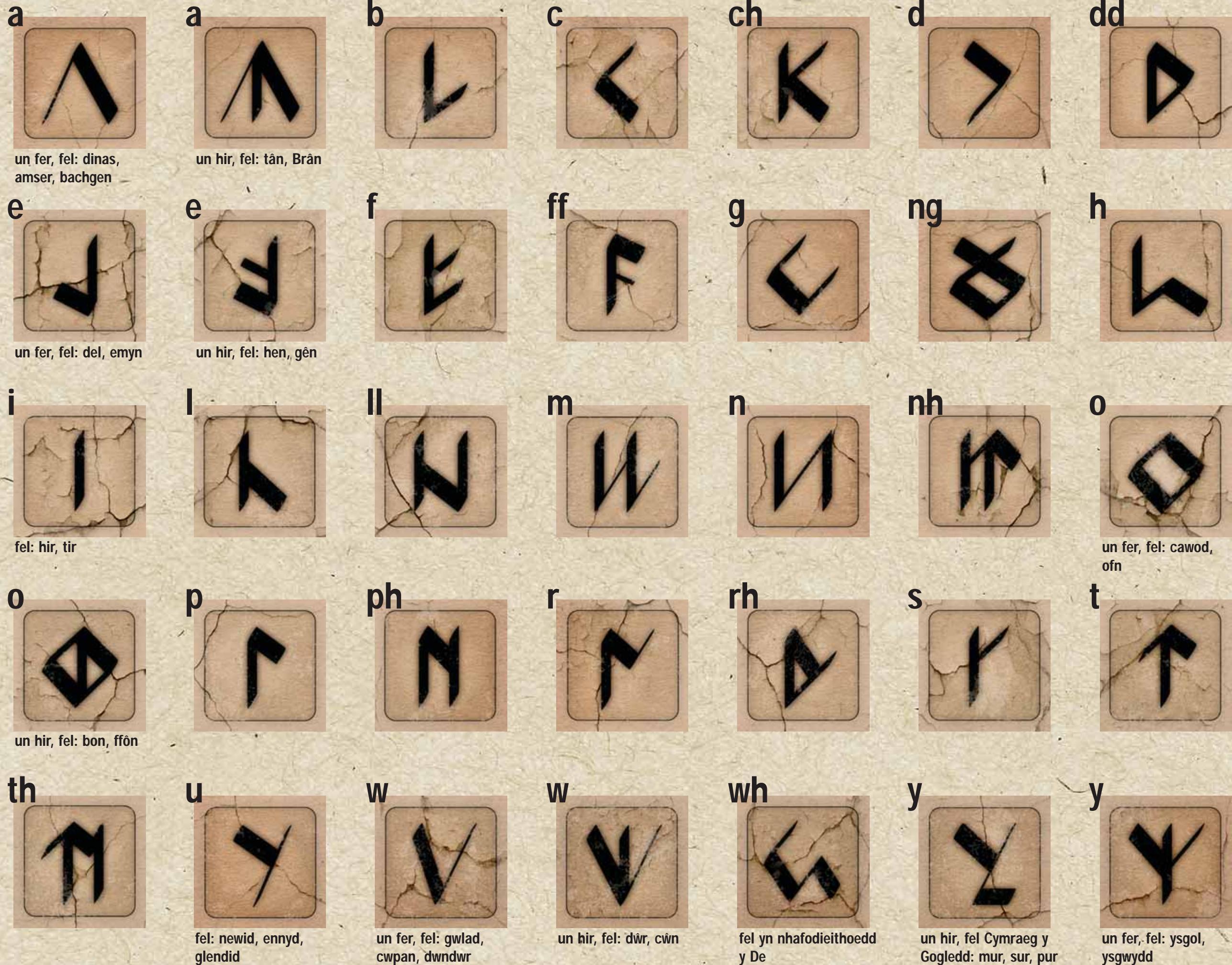
Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the bards had their own alphabet. The symbols look like a cross between Viking runes and masons' marks, which is not surprising because Iolo Morganwg was a trained stonemason!

Coelbren y Beirdd

Roedd Iolo Morganwg, yr athrylith a sefydloedd Orsedd y Beirdd, yn honni ei fod yn gwybod cyfrinachau'r Derwyddon. Dywedodd fod ganddynt eu gwyddor eu hunain a'u bod yn ysgrifennu eu testun ar ffyn pren main mewn ffrâm arbennig, a elwid yn beithynen.

Dyfeisiwyd gwyddor coelbren y beirdd gan Iolo Morganwg, ac mae symbol ar gyfer pob cytsain a llafariaid yn y Gymraeg. Roedd symbolau hefyd ar gyfer 'ngh', 'mh' ac 'm' pan ddigwyddai treiglad trwlynol o 'c', 'p' a 'b' nad ydynt wedi eu cynnwys yn ein fersiwn syml o'r wyddor farddol.

Gall unrhyw un feistrol i'r wyddor farddol! Dyma hi:



Rhai dywediadau syml:



Croeso i Gymru

Yn anffodus, nid oes tystiolaeth fod gan y beirdd eu gwyddor eu hunain. Mae'r symbolau'n edrych fel croestoriad rhwng llythrennau'r Llychlynwyr a marciau seiri maen, a hynny'n fawr o syndod gan fod Iolo Morganwg wedi ei hyfforddi fel saer maen!