

The 1st Gorsed, or Ordination of Poets by the Chair
Glamorgan, on Tylau Roper Field Cowbridge Glamorgan-shire

The Members of the Society met at the Social Room (Masons Arms) at 10 o'clock Friday morning 22nd March 1839 being Alban Eilir, or the Vernal Equinox, & following day after their 3rd Anniversary. after receiving several names of Candidates, the Gorsedion or Gorsedion ⁽²⁾ or two presiding Bards who acted officially for the day Mr W. E. Jones, Cardiff, Athraw Cadeirig (Presiding Chairman): & Mr. Jones Williams, Solo Fard Glas, Bard Braint (Bard of Presidency), walked with sword in hand, the members & others following, until they were opposite the spot, which passing on by the road 100 yds or more above for the Gateway, & then over the summit & high of the field ⁽³⁾ to the spot which was a conspicuous place, a small mound on an eminence in the North part of the field above the Mail road & west Turnpike Gate & houses, in the eye of the light & in the face of the sun (which at such meetings must have been above the horizon) where several were waiting to see the new event, to which place from the field beneath small stones & another large one were fetched by the School boys, to form a Circle (of 12 stones called Meini Gwynion, Meini Cyngrair, or Meini Crair) which was abt. 12 yds diameter, called Cych Cyngrair, or Circle of Federation, the large stone placed in the centre is called Maen Gorsed Maen Llog, & Crair Gorsed; then the whole assembly kept the out side of the circle while the Gorsedion uncovered their heads the inside & stood by the Maen Gorsed; then the Old Bard took a paper from his pocket & stood on the said Stone & read the Proclamation of the Gorsed; while the Athraw stood by with the point of his sword resting on the Stone, & when the Bard had finished the Athraw addressed the Assembly in an elaborate speech explaining the nature & antiquity of a Gorsed, & the requisitions in a Candidate before ordained at such place to be of a good moral character, composer of Poetry, & careful to increase in the same before the next Gorsed, or else he should undergo the strictest discipline & be excommunicated, when concluded he asked if any intended to offer themselves as Candidates for Bardic honours when Mr. Donne the Secretary read the name of ⁽⁴⁾ ~~James~~ ^{Bardic name} of Mr. W. Jones (Gwilym Idd) the Athraw then moved to save him from the Centre & with others at the time the outside of the Circle, this eminent Welsh Poet recd. a very high compliment from the Athraw, when he said he had the pleasure in stating

It was not requisite to go through the usual ceremony of questioning one whose great talents of bardic production was well known to all through the press - so after turning round & ask if any there had an objection of admitting him as a Bard? no answer he led him by the hand bare-headed to the Stone of Covenant, where the Athraw asked if any more wish for that honour when Mr. Evan David Iwan Myfyr lewch Celli's name was read, when after undergoing the same high compliment for his public abilities, &c. they both stood with the Gorsedogion by the Stone where the Athraw took hold of the Sword hilt & the Bard of the two intended Bards took hold in the sheath. ^{slowly} Iarnsheathed it with great solemnity; then the Athraw told Gwalin Lleu to take hold in the hilt of the naked sword whilst he held the other part, & said to him that he was then by him publicly ordained as Bard Braint according to the custom of Bards, & that he was not to shed blood with the sword. according to the covenant now made above this Stone. the Senior Bard at the time tying a sky blue ribband on his right arm above the elbow as a sign of his grade, taken that day - his companion Mr. E. David also underwent the same ceremony, so they were included in the number of presiding Bards at this Gorsed. The newly created Bard (G. I.) made a very able speech upon the different Bardic grades such as Bard, Druids & Ovates, &c. and related the following stanza -

O'dia yu hon er adfer - yn Eifell
 Hen defod oleufer
 A Chawdaf, nod af dan Ner
 I farneu'n oes ar Fryn Rôper.

The Athraw ask'd if any was intended as Ovate & Druids at the meeting when Mr. John Jones (Joan Churym) private pupil in Divinity to Dr. Williams of the Free School was named, the Athraw naked sword in hand moved towards ~~the Circle~~ before him & asked if he could recite Poetry of his own, when he was answered in the affirmative & recited his stanza as did all the others that was ordained after him - & after the question was put to the assembly & no one objected to his admittance, he was led by the hand bare-headed to the Stone & underwent the same as those before him - his baze was a white & green ribband, on the right arm - ^{2. Mr. James Reynolds was a Bard of the Gorsed at this time as was Mr. John Jones} ~~the same~~ ^{the same} as those before him - his baze was a white & green ribband, on the right arm - ^{the only distinction was a sky blue ribband on the left arm} ~~of four Disciple Bards underwent the same~~ ^{of four Disciple Bards underwent the same} the only distinction was a sky blue ribband on the left arm - 1. Mr. Tho. Arnold (Phaguryn Glas Hafren -

1. There was 4 grand & solemn Bardic days of ancient usage - the two equinoxes & the two solstices.
2. Bard Braint after presiding at 3 Gorseddau, was denominated one of the Gorseddau, or Bard Gorseddau, or simply Bard Gwy Prydain - P. XXXVII.
3. The ancient Britons were fond of hills & high places because the lofty summit elevated the mind into grandeur of thought - J. 105
4. Solo Morgan says that circles ^{were} found in his days of a very small stones, or pebbles such as may be carried to the spot in one man's pocket; Caerod of our Athenians said if they were as large that we could see them without spectacles that they would do but those would not been deemed sufficient by those who formed the stupendous Bardic Circle of Stone henge the Ghowa Gigantum there one of the chief wonders of Britain which was considered one of the three mighty works of Great Britain, rising the Stone of Cetti; we find that stones of these ^{various} sorts are found in most every part of y: world, some of which so large that it is requisite to have 20 Oxen to draw 3 of them - certain that this custom is of great antiquity, we find that Jacob after sleeping on a stone fixed it as a monument & poured oil on its head - also the same person when making a Covenant with Laban took a stone & rose it as a monument. Moses also built an altar below the mountain with 12 pillars, according to the 12 tribes of Israel. Joshua also when he renewed a covenant between the Israelites & the Lord, wrote the words in the book of the Law of God, & took a great stone, & set up there under an oak, that was by the Sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord, which he spake unto us; it shall therefore be a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. The Patriarchal mode of worshipping spread all over the western world. When the Romans came to Britain they found the Druids in the places of worship in the land, & also in serving as Judges or daymen to settle every controversy public or private -

2. Mr David Evan (Dewi Hiran) 3. Mr Evan Harry (Ieuan Iwan
 sant) 4. Mr Edward Thomas (Iolo Iwan)

Also Ten Creators were graduated ^{with} distinction a green
 ribbon on ^{the} their right
 arms

1. Mr David Williams — Irlaw Goch
2. Mr Matthew Donne — Dawn Meryanwy
3. Mr David Rees — ab Poludian
4. Mr Edward Williams — Iolo Dawen
5. Mr Bassett Edmund Thomas — Baped ab Caradoc
6. Mr David Richard — Dewi Bars Bro
7. Mr William James — Gwiliam Glan Ddawen
8. Mr Thomas Thomas — Caniadau Glan Ddawen
9. Mr Jonathan Thomas — Jonathan Idu
10. Mr Richard Williams — Guehyt Galanmail

The Athraw asked if there were any more that
 wished to come forward as Candidates amongst the Ladies
 & Gentlemen to receive any grade, when it was understood
 that no one was to come, the meeting was concluded in
 able speeches by the newly created Bard Gwiliam Idu &
 the Athraw, who, ^{published another} ^{on 7, said that in a year} ^{one day &} ^{of noble}
 actions & particular to increase in the Muse or poetical
 talent, then after a short prayer the sword was returned
 to its sheath in the same solemn manner as it was
 taken out, the procession left the field in the same
 orderly manner in which they had entered it, though
 rather augmented by the newly created bards to the
 number of 23 in all. The meeting through the
 whole was most solemnly conducted.