

The Positive Dating of Arthmael/Athrwys ap Meurig

Modern day historians have refused to recognise Athrwys, the son of Meurig ap Tewdrig, as the King Arthur of legend and history for, according to their interpretation of the early Welsh genealogies, he lived in the wrong century.

This misunderstanding is due to serious errors made by several respected academics, which has resulted in Athrwys ap Meurig being pushed into the seventh century, thus disassociating him completely from Arthur and his contemporaries. Until these mistakes are recognised the truth of the matter will continue to be ignored. The following statement is given as a very simple way of placing Athrwys ap Meurig in his correct time period.

Arthmael and Athrwys ap Meurig (Arthur) may be positively dated by the seventh-century Vita Samsonis. St Samson was the son of Anna of Gwent, who was the daughter of Meurig and the sister of Athrwys. Therefore, St Samson was the nephew of Athrwys ap Meurig.

St Samson was the witness of a grant, listed in the Llancarfan Charters, made by Meurig ap Tewdrig to St Catwg and his family. The witness of St Samson whilst Abbot of Llanilltud Fawr, makes the original of this charter to have been composed prior to the 22nd February 521, when he was consecrated bishop by St Dyfrig.

Saints Samson and Arthmael were involved in the negotiations with the Frankish king Childebert (d.558) for the release of Judwal, the rightful king of Armorican Domnonia, in order to raise an insurrection against the usurper Marcus Conomorus. An army was gathered and Conomorus was defeated and killed in 555.

In 557 St Samson attended the third Council of Paris where he signed his name 'Samson peccator episcopus' on the acts of the Council among the names of the other bishops. He died in 565.