

in his Chronology in the *Book of Llan Dav* 500-900, The National Library of Wales Journal XVI (1969/70). He concluded that the gap between Morgant filius Athruis (Morgan the son of Athrwys) and Morcant pater Iudhail (Morgan the father of Ithel) may be due to the loss of a document, possibly a book of the Gospels, which contained memoranda covering the entire seventh century, and disappeared in a series of calamities hinted at in the Book of Llandaff on page 192; but once the two Morcants are separated by a century, the chronological difficulty disappears.

Furthermore, the compiler was no doubt misled by the *Welsh Annals*, which give the death of St Dyfrig as 612 and the death of Morgan Mwynfawr as 665. St Dyfrig was in fact born c.450 and retired to Bardsey Island about twenty years before his death at the advanced age of 96 years in 546.

As a result, the compiler of the Book of Llandaff made one 'King Morgan' out of two men bearing the same name. The first was Morgan Mwynfawr ('the Courteous') ap Athrwys and the second was Morgan Morgannwg (the father of Ithel), who re-united the kingdom and died fighting the second Battle of Mons Badonicus (Mount Badon), which is recorded in 665.

This confusion led the compiler of the Book of Llandaff to post-date the early kings of Glywysing and Gwent, and consequently the genealogists have stretched the pedigrees in order to accommodate Morgan Morgannwg, who died in 665, but as soon as the two Morgans are separated by a century the chronological difficulty disappears.

Such confusion no doubt caused Professor Hector Munro Chadwick, when he was constructing his genealogy of the dynasty of Gwent, to misplace Meurig ap Tewdrig, king of Glamorgan and Gwent, creating an anomaly which post-dated his son Athrwys by more than a hundred years, thus pushing him into the seventh century. Another error was caused by the late John Morris, who had Athrwys's son, Morgan Mwynfawr, instead of Morgan Morgannwg, fighting the second battle of Mons Badonicus in 665.

The comment has been made that has Meurig's reign was exceptionally long, and that his son Athrwys must have died early in his reign. However, Athrwys did not die young and he no doubt spent considerable time away from Wales, fighting battles, while Caradog Freichfras ruled Gwent during Meurig's semi-retirement. It is certainly true that Meurig was still the nominal king of Gwent and he was still making grants.

Mistakes are so easily made when there is a duplication of names and we can show that two Tewdrigs and two Meurigs have been confused, this being yet another factor which led to Athrwys ap Meurig ap Tewdrig being placed in the seventh instead of the sixth century.