

JONES, ABEL (Bardd Crwst; 1830 - 1901), ballad writer and strolling ballad singer

Name: Abel Jones
Pseudonym: Bardd Crwst
Date of birth: 1830
Date of death: 1901
Parent: Jane Jones
Parent: Abel Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: ballad writer and strolling ballad singer
Area of activity: Music; Performing Arts; Poetry
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Llanrwst, son of Abel Jones, 'carrier,' and of his wife Jane - both died, aged 74, in 1876; his brother William (died 1893) was also a 'character.' Abel was a one-eyed man; there is a portrait of him in *Cymru (O.M.E.)*, xxvii, 173 and in *Cerddi Cymru* (n.d.), vol. i. He is known to have been singing at least as early as 1864, and **Elfyn** (R.O. Hughes) heard him singing at Abergele in the early part of 1901. At one period he lived at Mold, 'in a court off the High-Street,' and **Ellis Edwards** recounts how he would drop into **Daniel Owen** the novelist's shop for a chat. He travelled throughout Wales - several of his ballads (of which we have seventy-one) are concerned with events in South Wales. He has been called 'the prince of ballad-singers,' and when we consider how recent were his activities (many who are still alive have heard him) we may regard him as being in a sense a historical figure in Welsh social life - the last of the 'great' balladists. He died in the workhouse at Llanrwst in 1901, 'aged 71,' and was buried 22 June.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Frequent allusions in *Cymru (O.M.E.)*, e.g. xxii, 30, xxvii, 173, et alibi, xxviii, 303, xlix, 41

David Samuel, *Cerddi Cymru casgliad o ganeuon Cymreig, hen a diweddar*, preface

B. B. Thomas, *Baledi Morgannwg* (1951) (ballad xxxi)

list of his ballads in *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, vii, 64-70, viii, 104

register of S. Mary's, Llanrwst (by the kindness of the rector)

information from Mr. A. Morley Jones, Llanrwst

Further reading

Tegwyn Jones, *Abel Jones, Bardd Crwst* (Capel Garmon 1989)

Works

Abel Jones, *Cân ar deimladau siomedig ar ôl colli'r trên* : "Y calla o'r tri yn colli'r train."

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