Gerald of Wales: patriotic Welshman or arrogant agent of English imperialism?

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Champion of Welsh freedom had affinity with England too

Richard Worsden

Welsh History Month

A 200-page book of Welsh grammar created by the 13th-century monk Gerald of Wales was recently reprinted. Gerald, the archbishop of St David’s, was a medieval Welsh scholar and theologian who is known for his contributions to the field of Welsh language and literature. His works include the "Gesta Scottorum" and the "Gesta Waleorum," which are important sources of information about the history of Wales.

Richard Worsden is a historian and author who has written extensively on Welsh history. His latest book, "Gerald of Wales: The Man and His Work," provides a comprehensive overview of Gerald's life and work, and explores the ways in which his ideas continue to influence modern scholarship.

In this article, Worsden examines Gerald's relationship with England, and discusses the ways in which his ideas about Welsh identity and language were shaped by his interactions with English scholars and rulers.

The struggle for St David’s

The story of St David’s begins with the 6th-century saint himself. David was born in Wales and became a missionary to Ireland. He was later invoked as the patron saint of Wales.

The monastery at St David’s was established in the 6th century, and became an important centre of learning and culture. It was also the site of a number of important religious and political events.

The modern approach to the study of St David’s

The study of St David’s is a fascinating area of research for medievalists. It offers a window into the world of the early medieval period, and provides insights into the development of Welsh identity and culture.

Gerald of Wales

Gerald of Wales (1148-1223) was a medieval Welsh scholar and theologian. He was the archbishop of St David’s, and is known for his contributions to the field of Welsh language and literature.

Gerald's most famous work is "Gesta Waleorum," a history of the Welsh wars against the English. The book is written in Latin, and is a valuable source of information about the history of Wales.

Gerald was also a skilled poet and writer, and is remembered for his contributions to the field of Welsh language and literature. His works include the "Gesta Scottorum," a history of the Welsh wars against the English, and the "Sermo Armevni," a collection of Welsh proverbs.

Gerald's ideas about Welsh identity and language continue to influence modern scholarship. His work has been widely translated into English, and is studied by scholars around the world.

In this article, Worsden examines Gerald's relationship with England, and discusses the ways in which his ideas about Welsh identity and language were shaped by his interactions with English scholars and rulers.

The English connection

The evidence from Gerald’s works suggests that he had a deep interest in the English language and culture. He was also a follower of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was involved in the English literary scene.

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