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

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‘Champion of Welsh freedom’ had affinity with England too

By Richard Lidduln

A 12th century biographer described Gerald of Wales as a man whose works were 'like a breath of fresh air'. Gerald, born in 1146, was a Welsh scholar, historian, and ecclesiastical writer. His works include 'Hortus deliciarum', which is considered one of the most important sources of information about the 12th century. Gerald was a staunch supporter of the Church, and his writings often reflected his love for England.

The struggle for St Davids’

St Davids was a monastic community established in the 6th century. It was located on the Island of Anglesey, and was one of the most important religious centers in Wales. The church of St Davids is the oldest surviving building in Wales, and is a testament to the community's devotion to Christianity.

The campaign against the Saxons

In the 11th century, the Saxons invaded Wales and threatened the monastic communities. St Davids was one of the communities that resisted the invasion. The monk and scholar, Gerald of Wales, played a key role in the campaign against the Saxons. He wrote extensively about the campaign in his works, and his writings are a valuable source of information about the 12th century.

The appointment of Gerald as archbishop

In 1159, Gerald was appointed as archbishop of St Davids. He was a fierce advocate of the Church, and his appointment was seen as a victory for the Church over the Saxons. Gerald's appointment was not without controversy, however, and he faced opposition from some of his colleagues.

The ring

The ring that Gerald wore was a symbol of his authority and power. It was made of silver and gold, and was decorated with the image of a lion and a dragon. The ring was a symbol of the power and authority of the archbishop of St Davids, and it was a symbol of the Church's resistance against the Saxons.

The burst

Gerald's ring was burst in 1160, and this event is significant in the history of the Church. The burst of the ring was seen as a symbol of the Saxon invasion, and it was a reminder of the Church's resistance against the invasion.

The book

Gerald's 'Hortus deliciarum' is a valuable source of information about the 12th century. The book is a collection of Latin and Greek texts, and it contains a wealth of information about the Church and its role in society. The book is a testament to Gerald's commitment to his work, and it is a symbol of the Church's resistance against the Saxon invasion.