

Acts of the Native Welsh Rulers, 1132-1283.

A Critical Edition.

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The study of Welsh *acta* has often been, with a few honourable exceptions, the poor relation in comparison to studies and editions of similar Anglo Norman or Scottish material, and yet the surviving Welsh *acta* provide a chronologically and geographically diverse body of documentation, illuminating many facets of twelfth and thirteenth century Wales. Whilst editions of Welsh charters do exist, they are in disparate collections, and only recently, in K. L. Maund, *Handlist of the Acts of the Native Welsh Rulers 1132-1283* (Cardiff, 1996) has an attempt been made to calendar all the documents from this period. The current project, based at the University of Wales, Bangor, and funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust, seeks to build on the *Handlist* and provide a critical edition of all the charters and other acts issued by Welsh rulers from the earliest twelfth century example, issued on behalf of Gruffudd ap Cynan, to the death of Dafydd ap Gruffudd in 1283. The edition is being prepared by Charles Insley, who transcribed most of the documents while employed as a research assistant on the project, and Huw Pryce, who will carry out the remaining editorial work. The edition is intended primarily as a research tool for work on twelfth and thirteenth century Wales, and as such will also contain English summaries of the texts, and identifications of persons and places mentioned therein, which should broaden the edition's usefulness to those with little knowledge of Latin or diplomatic. It goes without saying that the collection in one volume of several hundred witness lists will be of great interest to those working in the field of Welsh prosopography, allowing, as it does, the possibility of reconstructing not only the families of the Welsh princes, but those of their leading laymen.

It is also intended to incorporate the use of a database manager into the project, partly to store and index what is a relatively large amount of material (about 400 surviving texts), and partly, should the edition be made available in electronic form, to enhance the ability of the user to search for particular items or even related items.

The use of a database manager will also aid the production of a diplomatic introduction to the edition. This introduction will address the age-old question of which agency produced the documents, or whether a variety of agencies were involved, as well as assessing the influence of Anglo Norman and Angevin diplomatic on native documents. The edition will cover documents produced not just by the major Welsh polities of Gwynedd, Deheubarth and Powys, but also those of smaller units such as Arwystli, Cedewain, Ceredigion, Edeirnion, Gwynllwg, Meirionnydd, Morgannwg and Senghenydd. Anyone who wishes to pass on references or who has specific queries should contact the General Editor, Dr Huw Pryce (email: a.h.pryce@bangor.ac.uk) at the School of History and Welsh History, University of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DG; tel. 01248382151.