

OWEN, JOHN (1564? - 1628?), epigrammatist

Name: John Owen
Date of birth: 1564?
Date of death: 1628?
Parent: Thomas Owen
Gender: Male
Occupation: epigrammatist
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Poetry
Author: John Henry Jones

son of [Thomas Owen](#) of Plas-du, Llanarmon, Caernarfonshire, and nephew of [Hugh Owen](#) (see the article [Owen](#) of Plas-du). Scholar of Winchester, 1577, he matriculated at New College, Oxford, in 1582, and became a jurist Fellow of the college in 1584; B.C.L. 1590. Owen was schoolmaster at Trelleck, Monmouth until, in 1595, he became headmaster of Warwick school. Although his ten books of epigrams were published between 1606 and 1613, nothing is known of his life after 1595. He may have given up his post to live on patronage. But, as no other headmaster is known at Warwick until 1628? he may have taught there to his death in that year and Wood's statement that he died in 1622 may be doubted. His patrons included lady Arabella Stuart, the prince of Wales, and Robert Cecil.

His epigrams were best sellers in their day, the first collection of three books being reprinted within a month. Although they were put on the 'Index Expurgatorius,' their popularity was greater on the Continent than in Britain and they influenced particularly German writers of epigrams. They were translated into English, French, German, and Spanish.

Author

John Henry Jones

Sources

Anthony Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses* (1813–20), i, 400-01

The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 1940, 130-43

Myth Stories of Greece and Rome (Glasgow 1941), x, 1941, 65-73

E. Urbanus, 'Owenus u.d. deutschen Epigrammatiker,' in *Literarhistorische Forschungen*, heft. xi, 1900

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Owen](#)

Additional Links

VIAF: [41879107](#)

Wikidata: [Q1230607](#)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

