



**The Four Ancient Books of Wales, Vol. 1:  
Containing the Cymric Poems Attributed to the  
Bards of the Sixth Century (Classic Reprint)**

*William Forbes Skene*

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Excerpt from The Four Ancient Books of Wales, Vol. 1: Containing the Cymric Poems Attributed to the Bards of the Sixth Century

The dissolution of the religious houses in Wales in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and the dispersion of their libraries, led to many Welsh MSS., which had been preserved in them, passing into the hands of private individuals; and collections of Welsh MSS. soon began to be formed by persons who took an interest in the history and literature of their country.

The principal collectors in North Wales were Mr. Jones of Gelly Lyvdy, whose collection was formed between the years 1590 and 1630, and Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt, author of a work termed *British Antiquities Revived*, published in 1662, who died at Hengwrt four years after, in 1666 ;and in South Wales, William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who formed a collection at Raglan Castle in 1590 ;and Sir Edward Mansel, whose father had received a gift of the priory of Margam in Glamorgan, in 1591.

The collections of Mr. Jones and Mr. Vaughan became united at Hengwrt, an arrangement having been made between them that the MSS. collected by each should become the property of the survivor.

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