

'Y Pedair Camp ar Hugain': material in the hand of John Lloyd, Caerwys, n.d.

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"Y Pedair Camp ar hugain" Or the 24 Games of the Old Britons. Out of *Dr. Davies*.¹

Out of these 24 Ten are reckoned Manly game[s] (Gwrolgampau) Ten Juvenile Games, (Mabolgampau) and Four subgames. (Gogampau.) ———

Of the 10 manly Games, 6 depend upon bodily ability. 1st Strength to raise weights. 2^{dly} Running, 3^d leaping, 4th Swimming, 5th wrestling, 6th Riding.

Four out these Six, viz, Running, Leaping, Swimming, wrestling, are called Father-games (Tadogion Gampau) and they are so called, because no Instrument whatever is necessary to perform either of them, but only the man naked as he was born.

The other 4 manly games depend upon Skill in Arms & they are. 1st. Shooting, 2^d playing with the sword & Buckler, 3^d Playing with the two handed Sword, 4th "chwarae ^a Ffon ddwybig"² (Qu: an quarter staff). ———

Amongst the 10 Juvenile Games are three species of chace 1st. Coursing with a Greyhound, 2^d Fish hunting, 3^d Bird hunting. – The remaining 7 are Domestick Games. The 1st is Poetry, (Barddoniaeth) 2^d Playing upon the Harp, 3^d Reading Welsh, 4th Singing a Cywydd³ with music, 5th Singing a Cywydd between Four,⁴ with acc#nts. 6th Drawing Coats of Arms, 7th Heraldry. ———

The 4 ^that are Call^d. Sub-games. 1st "chwarau ^b, Gwyddbwyll"⁵ 2 ^C chwarau Tawlbwrdd,⁶ 3^d ^d chwarau Ffristial⁷ 4th Achyweiriaw Telyn. ie: Tuning the Harp. ———

a Ffon dwybig signifies a two pointed staff. I believe the game was something similar to what is now called playing with the Quarter Staff, because they use each end of the stick &c

b Gwyddbwyll. This is translated by *Richards*. The play at Chess. How truly I know not. For *Davies* does not under the word give any Satisfactory account of it. For my part I think it is the Game that goes under the name of the Fox & Goose. Whatever it was it had its men. for we meet with the expression Gwerin y wyddbwyll which Signify the men of the Wyddbwyll.

C "chwarau Tawlbwrdd" This comes from Tawlu or Taflu to Throw & Bwrdd a Table. This is supposed to mean the Game of Back gammon. which from it's name seems to be of British Origin: Vid. the word Tawlbwrdd in *Richards's Dictionary*

d – "chwarau Ffristial." This game like the two former had it's Table men. And this most certainly was played with Dice. For Ffristial signifies a dice bo[...].x.

I must observe that it is impossible at this Time to determine with any degree of Certainty, what these Games were. I am convinced that Dr Davies himself did not know what they were otherwise he would have told us.

Editorial Notes

¹ Pennant draws on this material in his description of 'Antient Games' in *A tour in Wales 1770 [1773]* (1778), II, pp. 309–11.

² 'to play with a pitchfork; quarterstaff'. See *GPC* s.v. ffon ddwybig.

³ A poem or song in rhyming couplets and, in later times, using a system of consonance known as 'cynganedd'. *GPC*.

⁴ 'Cywydd pedwar', one of the various forms of the *cywydd* metre. *GPC*.

⁵ 'playing chess'.

⁶ 'playing 'tawlbwrdd', a game akin to chess. See *GPC* s.v. tawlbwrdd.

⁷ 'playing at dice or backgammon'. See *GPC* s.v. ffristial.