'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. 2dly Running, 3d 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, 2d playing with the sword & Buckler, 3d 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, 2d Fish hunting, 3d Bird hunting. – The remaining 7 are Domestick Games. The 1st is Poetry, (Barddoniaeth) 2d Playing upon the Harp, 3d Reading Welsh, 4th Singing a Cywydd[3] with music, 5th Singing a Cywydd between Four,[4] with acc#nts. 6th Drawing Coats of Arms, 7th Heraldry. ———

The 4 ^that are Calld. Sub-games. 1st "chwarau ^b, Gwyddbwyll"[5] 2 ^C chwarau Tawlbwrdd,[6] 3d ^d chwarau Ffristial[7] 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 tranlated by *Richards*. The play at Chess. How truely 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 'cynghanedd'. *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.