The Journal of Celtic Studies


Offprint

BREPOLS
Plaints in mediaeval Welsh law

SARA ELIN ROBERTS
University of Wales, Swansea

When Aneurin Owen compiled his edition of the Welsh laws in *Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales*, published in 1841, he split his work into two sections, published as two volumes in the quarto edition. In his first volume, he set out the texts which in his view constituted a basic statement of mediaeval Welsh law, in three 'codes' or redactions. His second volume contained texts which he had gleaned from the same manuscripts used for the first volume, but which did not fit into his basic code and was therefore additional material. The misleading title, ‘Anomalous Laws’, given to the second volume has stuck, but, far from being anomalous, the content of this second volume includes much interesting matter, some of it later laws found in fifteenth-century manuscripts of Welsh law. Much may have derived from an oral legal tradition in which lawyers were trained; much would have had practical use for the people for whom the manuscripts were produced.

Owen divided his second volume into a number of Books and usually dedicated a book to a genre or a single manuscript; thus Books IV–VI consist of *damweinian*, sentences listing exceptions to the rules found in the main text of the laws, and Book XI he gave to the tail of additional texts found in London, British Library, MS. Additional 22356 (siglum S). Book XII consists entirely of plaints.

Very few manuscripts of mediaeval Welsh law contain plaints; in fact, a collection of plaints occurs in only three manuscripts, and a single plaint is found in two other manuscripts. The first printed version of the plaints was in *Leges Wallicae*, with a Latin translation, published in 1730; the plaints were taken from Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS. Peniarth 258 (siglum G).  

---

3 Manuscripts will be referred to by the sgiu given to them by Aneurin Owen or others. I shall be concerned in particular with texts in the following manuscripts: Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS. Wynnstan 36 (siglum Q); NLW MS. Peniarth 258 (siglum G), a copy of Q; London, British Library, MS. Additional 31055 (siglum D); NLW MS. Peniarth 40 (siglum K); Boston (MA), Free Library, MS. 5 (siglum Bost); and the ‘Book of Treve Alun’.
4 *Cyfreithion Hywel Dda* or *Leges Wallicae Etchmiadzinae et Ciriles Hoeli Boni et Alonium Wallicae*.
In 1806, William Owen Pughe included a copy of the collection found in ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ in *Y Great*.\(^5\) Finally, all the existing plaints appeared in 1841 in Aneurin Owen’s *Ancient Laws*.\(^6\)

Plaints are found, with one exception, in manuscripts of *Llyfr Blegywyrdd* (henceforth *Bleg*).\(^7\) The seventeen manuscripts of Welsh law containing this version date from between 1300 and 1500; so all of them were written after the conquest of Wales in 1282–4.\(^8\) All the manuscripts containing the plaints were written in the fifteenth century. Following the Conquest, Welsh law was officially abolished in most cases, but certain types of disputes were still heard according to the Welsh system.\(^9\) The one region, following the Conquest, where Welsh law was still commonly used, albeit alongside sections of English law, was the March of Wales. The borders of Wales consisted of several lordships, and they were more or less free from the jurisdiction of the Crown.\(^10\) Several of the fifteenth-century manuscripts of Welsh law can be seen to have originated in the March, and each of the manuscripts containing the plaints has Marcher origins. \(^K\) was probably written at Cefn Llys in Radnorshire, ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ was probably produced in Dyffryn Clwyd, and, although \(^Q\) was written in Cantref Bychan, that is an area which was very close to the March. One might say, then, that the plaints, as well as being evidence for the survival of Welsh law in the fifteenth century, have strong links with the March of Wales.\(^11\)

**WHAT IS A PLAIN**

To put it simply, plaints were the initial address to the court made in the presence of the plaintiff and the defendant. They usually consist of a paragraph, explaining what the incident was (it may have been theft, or an injury, for example) and

---


\(^5\) *Y Great* (London 1806), pp. 281, 321–2. ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ occurs in three manuscripts: each states that it is a manuscript in the hand of Guto Owain, owned by Mr Trefor of Trev Alun. It contains six plaints, located in North Wales, which I have edited in an article forthcoming in *The Journal of Celtic Studies*.

\(^6\) *Ancient Laws*, ed. & transl. Owen, II,450–75 (‘Book XII’).

\(^7\) Owen divided his first volume of *Ancient Laws* into three Welsh ‘codes’; they are now referred to by their modern titles. The texts of *Llyfr Blegywyrdd* (*Bleg*) are Southern and the manuscripts date from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century. The exception is \(^K\), a copy of *Llyfr Isowerth* (*Iowr*) but one with a Southern origin and ‘Blegywyrdd’-features such as a large triad-collection.


where and when it happened. Then the due compensation is listed, with a statement of any circumstances which might affect it (for example, the status of an injured person), and the plaints usually end with a request for legal action to be taken. The plaints are models rather than genuine incidents. The form of the plaints is similar to that of English model-plaints, but the substance is largely drawn from earlier Welsh texts, especially *Blegydd*.* They exhibit thus one particular mix of English and Welsh elements in fifteenth-century Wales.

These model-plaints may have been used for teaching someone how to write or state a lawful plaint. This idea is not at all unusual; there are also model-arguments (*cynghansedd*, 'pleading'). A parallel is found in mediaeval English law. Maitland and Baildon edited a text which they called 'The Court Baron', whose prologue tells us that it sets out how each stage of a 'court baron' is held. The document was written for a particular lordship, and it is comparable with the plaints found here; it too includes models of plaints. The plaints also compare closely in style and purpose with the *Nonae narrationes*, which are examples and models of counts. The *Nonae narrationes* are Anglo-Norman documents and are models of the first step of a legal process -- the count, or the statement of the plaintiff's case. As with the Welsh plaints, some of the *Nonae narrationes* are fictional, and some occur in small, pocket-sized books, for use in the court. The legal process usually began with a 'count'. This was the initial statement, addressed to the judge in court: the claimant stated his case, detailing the time, place, and exact nature of the offence, and gave the value of the offence. Then followed the defendant's answer, with more than one possibility allowed: for example, he might confess or deny the charge. Some of the examples in 'The Court Baron' have prologues asking the claimant to step forward and 'count against' the defendant. In 'The Court Baron', therefore, we have mediaeval English parallels to our models.

We can also turn to English law for examples of plaints themselves. Bills were letters sent from the complainants to the sheriff or local official, who then

---


forwarded them to the judge. These letters, in French, were often badly written by people not familiar with writing legal French, and the hands are usually far from being clerical. The bills are statements of the wrongs done and a request for justice. It seems that these constituted the first version of the count, which would be read out or repeated in the court. The fact that the Welsh plaintiffs are only the plaintiff's complaint, and that there does not seem to be an answer by the defendant as would be expected, suggests that they may have been the initial complaint to the lord/judge, like the English bills, not a statement made in court. This conclusion may be supported by evidence from the lawbooks: in Owen's 'Book IX' it is stated that a plaint, the first part of the legal process, is made to the lord. The defendant's answer would come in the next step, once the case had been taken to court. This takes us to *Llyfr Cynghawsedd*.

THE AREAS OF LAW FOUND IN THE PLAINTS

In the English evidence there seems to be a very close link between the counts and the pleading, or arguing the case, which follows. The counts come first, and the legal argument follows. Can we say the same about these Welsh plaintiffs? Turning to the lawbooks, we find examples of pleading. Owen's Book VII is called *Llyfr Cynghawsedd*, a title found in some of the manuscripts, and his 'Book VIII' comprises mainly examples of the same genre. A concept also found as a short section of *Llyfr Ionwrth (lor)*, *cynghawsedd* originally seems to have meant the setting out of the case, an assertion and offer of proof; but by the time of *Llyfr Cynghawsedd*, the meaning had changed; rather than being the assertion, it came to mean the manoeuvring and arguments, called pleading in English law. The subjects for which there are *cynghawsedd* are land-law, suretyship, theft, and the detention of something which has been borrowed. These subjects are also found in the plaints, but the plaints have a wider scope in that there are personal actions too, such as plaints of *sahbaed* and *galanas*. In his discussion of *cynghawsedd*, T. M. Charles-Edwards has argued both that models of pleading were composed in Welsh law slightly earlier than in English law and that *cynghawsedd* changed from meaning the assertion and offer of proof to mean the pleading and arguing of the case. *Cynghawsedd* in the northern Welsh *lor*-texts meant counting; but by the time of *Llyfr Cynghawsedd*, it was the pleading; the plaints could therefore fill the

19 *Ancient Laws*, ed. & transl. Owen, II.230–1 (IX.iv.1) and 232–3 (IX.vi.1).
gap left by supplying model-counts to match the model-\textit{cyngawsedd}. The original \textit{cyngawsedd} in \textit{Ior.} (meaning 'count') and the \textit{cyngawsedd} in Owen's 'Book VII' ('pleading') are Northern, but copies moved south; for example, Owen constructed 'Book VII' from text in \textit{J} (Oxford, Jesus College, MS. 57), and \textit{G} (Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS. Peniarth 35), both Southern manuscripts. The plaintiffs found in \textit{Q} mostly follow the Southern (\textit{Bleg.}) text, although the idea of the original count was Northern.

The plaintiff, then, is the initial count, as found in English law with the bills and in the 'The Court Baron'; it was the original statement, and it would be followed by \textit{cyngawsedd}. Evidence of this is found in \textit{Llyfr Cyngawsedd} itself; in a section explaining how to make a lawful claim, the first step is a plaintiff to the lord.\textsuperscript{23}

One of the plaintiffs, a plaintiff of theft regarding a horse, found in \textit{D}, has an interesting and unique section called 'counter-plaint and answer' (\textit{gwrthladd ac ateb}) immediately following the plaintiff. The plaintiff is found in \textit{Q}, but Owen did not give variant readings from \textit{D} or include the counterplaint and answer. All the plaintiffs in Owen's \textit{Ancient Laws} end with the description of the cause and set out the compensation due; the counterplaint in \textit{D} is the reply by the defendant to the plaintiff, and then follows the response by the claimant to the defendant's reply. This is not \textit{cyngawsedd} as found in the lawbooks, and it occurs only in this one version of the plaintiffs. It may not belong with plaintiff \textit{X}, however, as the counter-plaint and answer do not match the information found in the plaintiff. As the plaintiff which it accompanies has blanks rather than names, it may be that this section is not a genuine case, but a model once again.

\textbf{IS THE LAW IN THE PLAINTS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE LAWBOOKS?}

Generally, the contents of the plaintiffs in \textit{Q} and \textit{D} follow the legal ideas in \textit{Bleg.} very closely; \textit{camwresgyn} (wrongful taking of possession), for example, is not found in \textit{Ior.;} the idea was phased out, but there are three plaintiffs of \textit{camwresgyn} in \textit{Q}. The payments are usually the same, and there are occasionally direct quotations from \textit{Bleg.} for example, in the plaintiff of \textit{sarhaed}. The explanation of the legal terms in triads is also found in \textit{Bleg.}, and the \textit{sarhaed}-plaint follows word for word the example of possible payments for a serious injury.\textsuperscript{24}

However, there are a few differences. The plaint of \textit{ach ac edryd} (kin and descent) outlines the descent of the claimant and defendant from the common

\textsuperscript{23} \textit{Ancient Laws}, ed. & transl. Owen, II.230 (IX.i.xi) and 232 (IX.vi.1).

\textsuperscript{24} This is not true of the plaint of \textit{sarhaed} in 'The Book of Tre'r Alun', which does not include the quotation and does not have the set injury given in \textit{Bleg.}. See n. 5, above.
ancestor; and the counting of the generations is interesting in that it does not follow the lawbooks as closely as might be expected. There is disagreement between the lawbooks about how to count the generations in ach ac edryd: Ior. includes the claimant, by counting forwards, beginning with the common ancestor; but Bleg. states tair oes rieni (three generations of ancestors), so that the common ancestor is the first, his offspring the second, the second's offspring the third (and the claimant, not included, the fourth). This number three, tair, is exclusive of self. The claimant in the plaint is called the fifth man, which is not according to Bleg's method of counting the generations.

Some of the words in the plains are found in Llyfr Cynghausedd – for example, defnydd ac aebhos (substance and cause). Pairs of words are very popular, and there are set ways of starting the plaint (greeting the court-officials) and ending the plaint – these are always identical in the plains in Q. The closest comparison with these formulas is again the English bills; they state that the defendant or claimant is 'present', in the same way as the plains do, and they also have formulae for greeting the court. Although the plains in the Welsh manuscripts deal with Welsh law and were probably written by someone with detailed knowledge of it, they are influenced by English procedure and models of formulaic bills.

'BOOK XII' OF OWEN'S ANCIENT LAIFS, AND ITS SOURCES.

Owen's 'Book XII' consists entirely of plains, and it is an edition of all the plains known from manuscripts of Welsh law. They are only seventeen. Owen's first ten plains are from Q, with variant readings given from C (a copy of Q) and D for two of the ten. The eleventh plaint is a singleton, occurring in K, Bost, and D, as is the sixteenth, only occurring in D, and the remainder claim to derive from 'The Book of Trev Alun'. The table below shows the subject-matter and numbering of the plains in Owen's 'Book XII', and the other manuscripts in which they appear have been given, for comparison.

---

26 Ancient Laws, ed. & transl. Owen, II.156–7 (VII.i.45).
27 However, they are not always found in the plains from 'The Book of Trev Alun'; see n. 5, above.
28 The Court Barou, edd. & transl. Maitland & Baidon, p. 27: '... Henry of Coombe, who is here, complaineth of Stephen Carpenter, who is there ...'. For an example of greeting the court, see Select Bills in Eyre, ed. & transl. Bolland, p. 6: 'Dear sir, I cry mercy of you who are put in the place of our lord the King to do right to poor and rich ...'.
29 See n. 5, above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancient Laws, Book XII</th>
<th>Q and C</th>
<th>Trev Alun</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>K, Bost.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Ach ac edryd</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Camwresgyn</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Camwresgyn trwy orcheidwat</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Camwresgyn trwy y perchen</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Aredig tir yn anghywarch</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Torr Coet</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Sarhaet</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Anghywarch</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Mach a chynogyn</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Iletrat</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Galanas</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Singleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. Amobyr</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. Tor croes</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV. Camgroes</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV. Anghywarch</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVI. Ach ac edryd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVII. Sraad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: scheme for Ancient Laws, Book XII. The plaints are numbered according to the order in which they occur in each manuscript.

The plaints in Q and C contain place-names, personal names, and saints’ days, and the place-names can be located in Cantref Bychan, which became the Marcher Lordship of Llandovery. The names of the three old manors are given (Mydddfai, Gwynfe, Maenor Fabon), and some sites are referred to: Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, Llanymddufri, Llanddeusant, and Llandydyfylty. The saints’ days are also recognisable, many of them local again – SS. David and Teilo are used – but the personal names are probably imaginary: in I (ach ac edryd) the parties in dispute are both sons with fathers of the same name, and their common ancestor also has the same name as his own father. These plaints are not copies of genuine plaints written for courts; they survive in manuscripts of Welsh law rather than court-records; and they are too formulaic to be genuine statements or reports, although

---

30 The plaints in ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ will be dealt with separately. See n. 5, above.
31 The plaints from D are not numbered in this table as they do not have separate entries in Owen’s Ancient Laws. In my edition, variant readings are given for the plaints when they are similar to those in Q. See nn. 5 and 30, above.
they may be based on real incidents. Therefore they are models, written for a particular lordship – Llandovery.33

One interesting point is a place-name which occurs in Q: Llandydystyl is a church which no longer exists, but it was the one which served the manor of Macnorfafon.34 The name is preserved in that of the farm Capel-ty-dyst near the present village of Bethlehem.35 The saint, Tydystyl, was a martyr and virgin, and one of the daughters of Brychan.36

The single plaint found in K, Bost, and D is similar to those in Q and ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ and has formulaic language. Names are given, but again it is unlikely that we have a genuine case. There is also a plaint found only in D, a plaint of ach ac edryd, given in Ancient Laws among the Trev Alun plaints, but the plaint does not appear to originate from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’. In that plaint, the names of the claimant and the defendant are omitted, but names are given for the sons – possibly to avoid confusion, as ach ac edryd is a complicated process which would require the stating of ancestry. Models of plaints, then, may not have been unusual in Welsh law, and there is a direct textual relationship between plaints from at least two of the Marcher lordships.

Table 1 shows some overlap between the contents of the manuscripts: some of the plaints in ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ also appear in Q; and most of the plaints in D also appear in Q, with the exception of galanus, and ach ac edryd. The plaints of sarhoed and anghysfarch (surrogation) appear in each of the manuscripts. How similar, then, are the versions in the different manuscripts? The South Welsh plaints in Q are usually longer than the Northern versions in ‘The Book of Trev Alun’, and the opening formula of the plaint is different in the two regional

33 The plaints from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ can also be located by the place-names used, but this time in North Wales, in the commotes of Isaled and Llanerch (auntef of Rhufoniog and Dyffryn Clwyd respectively). The personal names are interesting in the Northern plaints: three plaints (XIII, XIV, XV) are an action by John Holland against Ieuan Llwelyn ap Madawg – again, this use of the same defendant and claimant suggests that the plaints are models rather than genuine plaints. Unlike the plaints in Q, only one saint’s day is used (Michael the Archangel); so one feature which localises the plaints in Q is lacking from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’.


35 Ibid.

36 G. Evans, ‘The story of the ancient churches of Llandovery’, Transactions of the Honorable Society of Cymruadigion (1911/12) 42–250, at pp. 45–6. There is a possible connexion between our two collections of plaints: Llandudlyst yn y Traean is a town about half a mile into England from the Denbighshire-border and close to the locality discussed in the plaints from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’. However, it is unlikely to be the same saint – the town is called Dodleston in English, and the Welsh name may be an imaginative translation. I wish to thank Dr Aliki Pantos (Oxford English Dictionary) for her comments and her assistance with the place-name evidence.
versions.\textsuperscript{37} Although the wording of most of the plaints is close, D often lacks the prologue and the closing formula, and the names are not filled in – they are usually given as N or X. In one plaint, the suggestion is made that the names would be supplied under normal circumstances.\textsuperscript{38} There are two types of models possible – models giving examples, as in Q, and models supplying what is common to all plaints but omitting the uncommon elements. Because of the absence of names, D seems to be closer to the second type. What is certain is that we do not have the prototype of the models in any of these manuscripts. Both Q and D derive their texts from other manuscripts, but in D names and places are lacking so that its model could be adapted for use in any lordship.

The formulae and their sequence are very similar, in each of the plaints in Q.\textsuperscript{39} There seems to have been a set way of writing a plaint, although some parts of this formula can be either in an order different from the one given below or even left out of some of the plaints. For example, the introductory address to the court is found only in three of the ten plaints in Q: I, V and VI; the remaining plaints start with defnydd ac achos.

A. Introductory address

1. Address to the court, naming parties

B. Definition of the plaint

2. Defnydd ac achos (‘substance and cause’)

3. Maint (‘measure’ / ‘amount’)

4. Y mod a’r ffurf (‘the ways and means’)

5. (a) Amser (‘time’ / ‘dating’)

(b) Amser y edryd (‘the time when reparation is / was due’)

C. Preliminary requirements before plaint

6. Parties competent in law

7. Plaintiff applied to defendant – denied

D. Final plea

8. Request for a timely answer

The wording of the formulae is often identical in each of the plaints from the same manuscripts, and the formulae are generally not found in the lawbooks, although there is one exception: defnydd ac achos (substance and cause) is found in

\textsuperscript{37} The plaint of anghysarn is a little closer in Q and ‘The Book of Trev Alun’, but again the subject is slightly different. See above, n. 5.

\textsuperscript{38} See plaint IX, variants from D: ‘...yr cyndrychol N dyuat mewn dydhl hysys nyt amgen nor dydh a vynnch ar amser ar lhe dr wbwydd ar amser ar lhe dr canghelloiaeth ...

\textsuperscript{39} Similar formulae are also found in the plaints in ‘The Book of Trev Alun’; see n. 5, above.
Table 2: the manuscripts where the plaints are found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Siglum (given by Owen or others)</th>
<th>Plaints (AL XII)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NLW Wynnystay 36</td>
<td>xv¹</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>I–X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLW Peniarth 258</td>
<td>xv²</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I–X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL Add. 31055, copy of</td>
<td>xvi²</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>II, VI–XI, XVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The White Book of Hergest</em></td>
<td>xv</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLW Peniarth 40</td>
<td>xv</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>XI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>xv¹</td>
<td>Bost</td>
<td>XI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Book of Trev Alun</em></td>
<td>xv</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>XII–XVII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Llyfr Cynghanedd*. As the plaints are mainly in the third person narrative, they may have been written by a qualified person, a lawyer perhaps; but the fact that the author regularly slips into a first-person narrative suggests that there was some sort of co-working between the scribe, or author, and the claimant.

**The manuscripts**

Q contains only Welsh law. The early history of the manuscript is largely unknown. It is in a professional hand, the volume is large; so it may have been made for a library. Q is in double columns throughout, with headings in red. The plaints appear on 129ra6–134vb8 between triads and darnweinion. Q was the principal manuscript used by Aneurin Owen for *Book X* and *Book XII.i–x*.

The earliest known provenance of Q is in London: Meredith Lloyd referred to it in a letter, stating that he owned it, and we know that he gave it to William Maurice. The names of both men appear in the manuscript, and Maurice’s notes are found throughout. The manuscript bears a note stating that it was the property of the Watkins Library at Llanforda; the house and library were bought by Sir William Williams in 1665 and became part of his Wynnystay-estate.

The dating of Q is problematic, as Owen incorrectly stated that the plaint of galanas was in Q. The plaint in K has a regnal year, 2 Henry IV (September 1400–September 1401) and Owen stated a variant, supposedly from Q, with the regnal year 8 Edward IV (March 1468–March 1469); so Owen probably dated Q to the beginning of the fifteenth century on this basis. On the other hand, the

---

40 Ancient Laws, ed. & transl. Owen, II.156–7 (VII.i.45).
44 Handbook of Dates for Students of English History, ed. C. R. Cheney (London 1945; 3rd rev. imp.,
script and orthography suggest that Q was written in the first half of the fifteenth century. Both 'The White Book of Hergest' and K are linked to Lewys Glyn Cothi – he is said to have been the scribe of some parts of both manuscripts, and, if this is true, both can be dated before 1489 (the year of his death).  

Owen gave variant readings from D and E, another law-manuscript, was called S.3 by Wootton and Williams; formerly in the Sebright collection, it is now NLW MS. Peniarth 258. It is a very close copy of Q, made in the second half of the fifteenth century. Aneurin Owen quoted some variant readings from E, but very inaccurately.

The manuscript called D by Aneurin Owen is a copy of the lost 'White Book of Hergest'. The contents of The White Book are known to us, as there are lists in three other manuscripts, but the book itself was burnt in 1810 in a fire in a bookbinder’s shop in London. 'The White Book of Hergest' is thought to have been partly in the hand of Lewys Glyn Cothi, and it probably originated from South Wales. There are several copies, but, of these, D is the only one containing the plaintiffs, although MS. Peniarth 225 has a note of where the plaintiffs should be. D is in the hand of Thomas Wiliems (†1622?), and it contains many extracts from The White Book as well as bits from 'The Book of Aneirin', some poetry, and some triads. The plaintiffs follow Breuddwyd Macsen and are listed the heading Cynnon ym yr hun gyfraith gymreig ('plaints in old Welsh law'). There is also a section called gythlad o ab o'r ('counterplaint and answer'), between two plaintiffs, which was not published in Owen's Ancient Laws, and one of the plaintiffs is a singleton, a fact which is not noted in Ancient Laws as Owen makes it appear as if the plaintiff occurs in 'The Book of Trev Alun'. The plaintiffs in D are not identical to those in Q, and the orthography is different; for example, the scribe used db for /ð/.


46 Leges Walliscæ, ed. Wotton & Williams, no page numbers given; see p. 3 of the Notitia.  
49 Huws, Medieval Welsh Manuscripts, pp. 96–7.  
50 NLW MS. Peniarth 225, p. 104. Following the text of The Statute of Rhuddlan, which was in The White Book, the scribe notes: 'Yman ygelly ossot furv Cynmon yn K y Cymry val yd escruenir yn y llywer arall'. According to the list of contents of The White Book given in NLW MS. Llanstephan 74, folio 3B, the plaintiffs should have followed the Statute; so the scribe of MS. Peniarth 225 was probably referring to The White Book as 'the other book'.  
plaints in common with Q; the plaint of *galanas* in D is also in K. Aneurin Owen only noted variants from D for the plaints on *cawwresgyn* (II) and *anghysarch* (VIII), but the versions in D of the plaints on *tor coed*, ‘cutting timber’ (VI), *sarhaed* (VII), *mawch* *a chynogyn*, ‘surety and debtor’ (IX) and *lledrad*, ‘theft’ (X) are variants of the corresponding texts in Q; however, the prologue and end of the plaint are not in D. D also lacks the place-names, dates, and personal names.

Apart from the first ten plaints published in Owen’s *Ancient Laws* from Q, there are seven which are not in Q. The plaint of *galanas*, XI, was stated by Owen to be from K, Q and D, but it is not in fact in Q. However, it is in Bost., of which NLW MS. 11125a is a copy.\(^{52}\) This plaint of *galanas* is the earliest copy of a plaint, as Bost. is earlier in date than any of the other manuscripts containing plaints. Both K and Bost. are law-manuscripts, and both are associated with South Wales. K is thought to be in the hand of Lewys Glyn Cothi, and the main law-text in the manuscript is preceded by a poem of Lewys to the Lord of Cefn-Llys in Breconshire. The plaint is found at the end of the manuscript, as it is in Bost.; there are no place-names in the plaint. The first eleven plaints in Owen’s *Ancient Laws* have a South Welsh origin, and all are from Marcher lordships. The remaining plaints in *Ancient Laws*, with the exception of XVI, were, according to Aneurin Owen, taken from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’, in the hand of Gutun Owain, a manuscript whose whereabouts are not now known.\(^{53}\)

These plaints are interesting because they are models of the way to make a plaint, for a particular lordship in the case of Q, with connexions with copies of plaints from other lordships. In the case of D, there were no place-names, and so they could be supplied as applicable.\(^{54}\) The plaints are significant as they are examples of Welsh law after the conquest of Wales, but in a time when there was still considerable interest in the Welsh lawbooks. The plaints are ‘additional’ law, often found in the ‘tails’ of additional material found in later lawbooks, and they are typical of that type of text as they have a practical use — they demonstrate how to begin a particular legal procedure.\(^{55}\) Although they have close links with the March, the plaints seem to be typically Welsh — in contrast to the fifteenth-century legal customs found outside the Welsh lawbooks\(^{56}\) — and they represent the final interest in Welsh law before that tradition came to an end.

\(^{53}\) See n. 5, above.
\(^{54}\) The plaints from ‘The Book of Trev Alun’ contain references to two lordships — Denbigh and Dyffryn Clwyd. See n. 5, above.
\(^{55}\) James, ‘Golygfa o BL Add. 33256’, pp. xxxv.
The following plaints are the ten which are found in Q. The text follows Q throughout, but two short sections, found only in D, are also added, the *gwrthladd ac ateb*, not found in Owen’s *Ancient Laws*.

Variants are given from C, but they are very few as C is a faithful copy of Q, made within fifteen years of Q’s completion, and rarely deviates from the text of Q. The orthography of Q was also copied closely. The only variants, therefore, are when C corrects the text of Q, and an occasional mistake. A second copy of Q, made around the same time as C, is P, NLW MS. Peniarth 259A. P is not as close a copy as C, but the scribe attempted to imitate the bicolumnar format and the script of Q. The end of P is now wanting, and therefore the plaints are lost. It should be noted that Owen’s apparatus in *Ancient Laws* is misleading in that he noted variants from C where there are none, and omitted to note any variants at all from D for most of the plaints.

Variants from D are given where the plaints occur there. The orthography of this late fifteenth-century manuscript is too different from that of Q to encourage reporting of mere spelling variants, but any differences in wording are noted in the apparatus.

Dr Sara Elin Roberts
Department of Welsh
University of Wales
Singleton Park
Swansea
SA2 8PP
U.K.

---

Translation

1. This is a plaint of kin and descent,

1. That is to say, the present Morgan Ddu ap Morgan ap Trahaearn is the pursuer of a lawful plaint to the lord of this court-session, and to his officers, and particularly to the eunghellor, him who maintains the privilege of this court-session today, against the present Dafydd Fychan ap Dafydd ap Maredudd, his kinsman, who is in the position of defending party and bound to answer his plaint.

2. The substance and cause of his plaint is that the present Dafydd is wrongfully holding a certain amount of Welsh free land from within the maenor of Llan y Deusant, against the right of the present Morgan Ddu.

3. This is the measure of the land: one thousand acres of furrow-land to the measure of the rod of Hywel Dda, and a thousand acres of uncultivated land and woodland and hay-land and pasture-land, to the measure of the same rod.

4. This is the manner and form in which the present Dafydd is wrongly holding the aforesaid land against the present Morgan Ddu: namely that someone previously was the true owner of the said land from within the said maenor, in no other way than that Cadwgan Fychan ap Cadwgan ap Gruffudd, one of the ancestors of the present Morgan and also the present Dafydd Fychan, by carrying the lineages as far back as the aforesaid common ancestor; and that in the way in which that land should be claimed by kin and descent, namely that the aforesaid Cadwgan Fychan, the common ancestor, had two sons, legitimate and genuinely his, namely Hywel ap Cadwgan and Gruffudd ap Cadwgan.

5. And the aforementioned Hywel [son of Cadwgan] had a genuine and legitimate son called Trahaearn ap Hywel, and the aforementioned Gruffudd [ap Cadwgan] had a genuine and legitimate son called Maredudd ap Gruffudd.

6. And the aforementioned Trahaearn [ap Hywel ap Cadwgan] had a genuine and legitimate son called Morgan ap Trahaearn, and from the other side, the aforementioned Maredudd [ap Gruffudd ap Cadwgan] had a genuine and legitimate son called Dafydd ap Maredudd.
Text

1. Llyma gôyn o ach ac etryt,¹

   1. Namyn, y kyndrychaâl Vorgan Du ap Morgan ap Trahacern yssyd ganlynaâdyr kôyn kypreithaâl 6rth arglôid yr orsed honn, ac 6rth y sôydogyon ynteu, ac yn enôedic 6rth y kynghellaâr, yr hônn yssyd yn cadô breint yr orsed honn heidiô, rac y kyndrychaâl Dauid Vychan ap Dauid ap Meredud, y gar, yr hônn yssyd ynghyfle amdifynnbleit, yn rèymedig y ateb o’e gôyn.

   2. Defnyd ac achaâs y gôyn yô am vot y kyndrychaâl Dauid yn camgynnal meint hyspys o vrebyrdir Kymereic o vyôn y vaenor Lann y Deussant, yn erbyn kyfyaânder y kyndrychaâl Vorgan Du.

   3. Sef meint yô y tir: mil o erôyd o dir rychaâl y vuessur gôialen Hoôel Da, a mil o erôyd o 6yllir a choetir a gôeirdir a fforuadir, y uessur yr vn ryô 6ialen.

   4. Sef yô mod a’r fflyrîf y mae y kyndrychaâl Dauid yn camgynnal y tir râ ² y dôydeddic yn erbyn y kyndrychaâl Vorgan Du: nyt amgen vod no bot neb yn gynt yn ôir perchen ar y dôydeddic tir o dy vyôn yr dôydeddic vaenor, nyt amgen no Chadôgaôn Vychan ap Cadôgaôn ap Grûffuth, vn o hyneïf y kyndrychaâl Vorgan ac yr kyndrychaâl Dauid Vychan heuyt, gan arôein yr achoed hyt ar y dôydeddic kyff kynhalaôdyr; a hynny yn y mod y dôyliir gouyn tir trôy ach ac etryt, nyt amgen no bot yr dôydeddic Cadôgaôn Vychan y kyff kynhalaôdyr deu vab gyfreithaâl briodolion, nyt amgen no Hoôel ap Cadôgaôn a Grûffuth ap Cadôgaôn.

   5. Ac yrô Hoôel vchot⁴ y bu vab priodol kypreithaâl a elôit Trahacern⁵ ap Hyôel,⁶ [ac yrô Grûffuth uchot y bu vab priodol kypreithaâl a elôit Meredud ap Grûffuth].⁷

   6. Ac yrô Trahacern uchot y bu vab priodol kypreithaâl a elôit Morgan ap Trahacern, ac o’r part arall, yrô Meredud vchot y bu vab priodol kypreithaâl a elôit Dauid ap Meredud.

¹ plaint from Q, C
² na C
³ 3 Y, Q
⁴ 3 uchoc Q
⁵ C; Meredud Q
⁶ 6; Grûffuth Q
⁷ The bracketed passage is a gloss in a later hand in Q.
7. And the aforementioned Morgan ap Trahaearn had a genuine and legitimate son, namely the present Morgan Ddu, and from the other side the aforesaid Dafydd ap Maredudd had a genuine and legitimate son, namely the present Dafydd Fychan ap Dafydd ap Maredudd, the one who is wrongfully holding the land against the aforesaid, he and his ancestors, against the aforesaid, time and again, against the present Morgan Ddu, unlawfully, and previously against his ancestors, the which land would descend to the present Morgan in part, because of his ancestors before him, namely the fourth share in accordance with [the succession of] heirs.

8. And that would be the known amount of land which we named before, within the manor of Llan y Deusant, which is held under the rod of this court-session.

9. And because the present Dafydd is holding the aforesaid land against the present Morgan and is refusing to restore it to him as would be appropriate in accordance with sharing and pedigrees, and he [Morgan] for his part coming in time, and before the closing of law between him and his land, and he being the fourth man from the common ancestor, and after having made commotion and damage for the land, he and his ancestors before him, namely breaking ploughs on the land, and plaints, because he, Morgan Ddu, is always ready to take the land when it is returned.

10. And there was always denial on the part of the present Dafydd, and that is the reason for the present Morgan's plaint.

11. And because of leaving those things in concealment and deprivation – in one of the three deprivations which are against the law: depriving a man of his right and his entitlement, beyond the time for restoring it.

12. The time to restore it was when the lawful Morgan asked before [making his] plaint.

13. This is the amount of time during which the present Dafydd was wrongfully holding that land against the present Morgan, namely twenty-four years to the last Mayday.

14. And also that the present Dafydd is a person competent in law so that he ought to give justice and receive it at all times, and that the present Morgan is always ready to offer proof by oath of elders of the country that he derives from the common ancestor, if there are any who doubt it, since the present Morgan is a person competent in law at all times so that he should receive justice and give it.
7. Ac y' r Morgan ap Trahacarn uchot y bu uab priodol kyfreitha6l, nyt amgen no'r Morgan Du kyndrycha6l, ac o'r parth arall y' r Dauid ap Meredud dy6ededic, y bu vab priodol kyfreitha6l, nyt amgen no Dauid Vechan ap Dauid ap Meredud kyndrycha6l, yr hôn nh yyyd yn camgynnau y tir ra6 y dy6ededic, ef a' e hynëf, ra6 y dy6edegi6ion, e6ers drag6ers o'r blæn yn erbyn y Morgan Du kyndrycha6l, yn aghyfreitha6l, ac yn erbyn y hynëf o'r blæn, yr hôn dir a disgynei y' r kyndrycha6l Vorgan o ran, o bleid y hynëf o'r blæn, nyt amgen no' r bed6ared rann her6yd etüed6yon.

8. A hynny vydei y meint hyspy6 o tir a enôysom8 o'r9 blæn, o vy6n y vaenor Lann y Deussant, yr hôn tir a genhelir y dan Gialen yr orsed honn.

9. Ac am vot y kyndrycha6l Dauid yn kynnal y dy6ededic tir yn erbyn y kyndrycha6l Vorgan, yn y anu6yd o' e etryt id66 ual y perthyn eu6 yn gyf6reitha6l, her6yd ran ac her6yd ached6, ac ynteu yn dyu6t yn amser, a chyn caeu kyfreith ryngha6 a' e dir, ac ef yn bed6oryd dyn o' r ky6f kynhalad6yr, a g6ely g6neuthur t6ry6f ac enï6et am y tir, ef a' e hynëf or blæn, nyt amgen no thori etry6d ar y tir, a chôyn eu6, am y vot ynteu, Vorgan Du, bob amser yn barot y gymryt y tir 6rth y etryt.

10. A negydaeth a vu bob amser o barthro6t y kyndrycha6l Dauid, ac am hynny y mac kôyn y kyndrycha6l Vorgan.

11. Ac am ada6 hynny myôn golof a diebryt, yn y try6y6l diebryt yyyd yn erbyn kyf6reith: diebryt dyn o' e iaôn a' e dylyet, dros amser y etryt.

12. Amser y etryt oed pan y gouynâ6d y kyfreitha6l Vorgan kyn kôyn.

13. Sef meint o amser y kyndrycha6l Dauid yn kynnal y tir hôn nh ynghâm yn erbyn y kyndrycha6l Vorgan, nyt amgen no phedir blyned10 ar hugëaint y du6 kalan Mei 6ibathaf.

14. A huyet bot y kyndrycha6l Dauid yn person cô6yl ygkyfreith val y dyl6e66 6neuthur iaôn a' e gymryt bob amser, a bot y kyndrycha6l Vorgan yn barot bob amser y orchôiro y dông hênaduryeit gôlat y hau6ot o' r ky6f kynhalad6dr, or by6d a' e hameuo o vot Morgan kyndrycha6l yn person cô6yl ygkyfreith bob amser val y dyl6e6i gaffel iaôn a' 66neuthur.

8 Q; râvssom C
9 Q; ce C
10 C; phywed Q
15. Petition to have an answer in law, because it is within the season when the law for land is open, which it is claimed through kin and descent, namely the ninth day from Mayday.

16. And if Dafydd is so impudent as to deny [it], the present Morgan is ready to offer proof in the most high-ranking place which the law may judge in accordance with memory and judgment and verdict.

II. A plaint of wrongful taking of possession

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is in none other than that the present Ieuan ap Dafydd wrongfully took possession of an amount of Welsh free land from within the manor of Llan y Deusant, the which manor is held under the rod of this court-session, namely one thousand acres of furrow-land to the measure of the rod of Hywel Dda for measuring sharelands and a thousand acres of uncultivated land and woodland and hay-land and pasture-land to the measure of the same rod, by one of the three wrongful takings of possession which are against the law: wrongfully taking possession of what belongs to me, against my will and without judgment, is a wrongful taking of possession in the law [of Hywel].
15. Deisysf atteb kyfreitha6l, her6yd y bot yn amser agoret kyfreith am tir, a ovyner tr6y ach ac etryt, nyt amgen no a6u6t y o galan Mei.

16. Ac or byd kyhaertlu6t Dawid a g6adu, parot y6 y kyndrycha6l Vorgan y orch6iro lle m6yaf y barno kyfreith her6yd cof a barn a detryt.

II. C6yn cam6rescyn1

1. Defnyd ac acha6s vyngh6yn y6 nyt amgen vod no bot y kyndrycha6l 2Ieuan ap Dawid3 yn cam6resgynny meint hysys o vreheyrdir Kymreic4 o'r ty vy6n 4y vaenor Lan y Deusant,5 yr h6nn uaenor6 a gynhelir dan 6ialen yr orsed honn, nyt amgen no mil o er6yd o dir rycha6l, y vessor 6ialen Ho6el Da y vessor6 randired a mil o er6yd o 6yllir a choytir a g6eirdir a fforuadir7 y vessor yr8 ry6 6ialen, yn y trylyd cam6rescyn yssyd yn erbyn kyfreith: 9cam6rescyn yssyd yn y gyfreith9 cam6rescyn, 10ar vy mherchnogaeth, o'm10 hanu6d a heb vra6t.

1 plaint from Q, C, D
2...2 Q, C; N, D
3 Q, C; Cymreic D
4...4 Q, C; yr the hau ar the D
5 Q, C; not in D
6 vessor y D
7 Q, C; phonadir D
8 Q, C; yr vy D
9...9 Q, C; not in D
10...10 Q, C; ar perchennogaeth dyn or D
2. The time when the present Ieuan wrongfully took possession of the land, namely the Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday immediately after the last feast of Teilo which has passed during this year, and that the present Ieuan is holding this in concealment and deprivation, as one of the three deprivations which are in the law: the deprivation of a person's right and entitlement, beyond the time for restoring it.

3. The time to restore it was the Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday which I named before.

4. And also that the present Ieuan is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and I am a person fully within the law to receive it and to give it, if there be anyone who demands it of me.

5. I addressed Ieuan to know whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of Ieuan, and my plaint is about Ieuan's denial.

6. And a petition for a timely answer.
2. Amser y cambrescynnod y kytrychaol Ieuan y tir,11 nyt amgen,12 dyd Llun a13 dyd Ma6rth a dyd Merchyr nessaf 6edy du14 g6yl Deilo15 dibethaf a lithrod 16 o'r ty yw'n y'r16 vlo6dyn honn, a bot y kytrychaol Ieuan17 yn dala hynn18 my6n colof a diebryt, 19 yn y19 trydyd diebryt yssyd20 yn y gyfreith: diebryt dyn 21 o ia6n a'e dylyet,21 dros amser y etryt.

3. Amser y etryt oed y22 dyd Llun a23 dyd Ma6rth a dyd Merchyr y24 menegais25 o'r blaen.

4. A heuyt26 bot y kyndrychaol Ieuan yn person c6byl yngghyfreith27 y6neuthur ia6n ac y gyrrt;28 a mineu yn person c6byl yngghyfreith29 y gyrrt20 ac y 6neuthur,31 32 o'r byd a'm gofyno.32

5. Kywarch Ieuan33 a 6neuthym33 y 6ybot a 6nele ai a6n kyn k6yn,34 a negyddaeth a vu bob amser o35 barthret36 yr Ieuan,36 37 ac am a negyddaeth Ieuan y mae vy ngh6yn.37

6. A deissyf atteb amserol.38
III. A plaint of wrongful taking of possession through an occupier

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Gruffudd ap Philip wrongfully took possession of a known amount of Welsh free land from within the _maenor_ of Myddfai, the which _maenor_ is held under the rod of this court-session, by means of one of the three wrongful takings of possession which are against the law: wrongful taking of possession through an occupier, against the truly entitled person, against his will, and without judgment.

2. The way in which the present Gruffudd wrongfully took possession of the aforementioned land against the right of the present Dafydd ap John is precisely that Philip ap Llewelyn, the father of the aforementioned Gruffudd, handed over possession of one thousand acres of furrow-land according to the measure of the rod of Hywel Dda by the measure used by participants in joint-ploughing, one thousand acres of uncultivated land, meadow-land, woodland, and pasture-land, according to the measure of the same rod, and subject to a contract that the said Dafydd or his heir should receive the land when they asked without any gainsay by Philip or his heir.

3. The known time when the present Gruffudd ap Philip wrongfully took possession was precisely the next Monday and Tuesday after last Ascension Thursday which has passed during this year, and that the present Gruffudd was holding those things in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: depriving a man of his right and entitlement beyond the time to restore it.

4. The time to restore it was the Monday and Tuesday which I mentioned before, and that Gruffudd was a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and the said Dafydd a person competent in law to give and to receive.

5. That Gruffudd was addressed to see whether he would give justice before plaint, and denial was always forthcoming from Gruffudd, and the plaint is about Gruffudd's denial.
III. Côyn camôrescyn trôy orcheid6at

1. Defnyd ac acha6s vy nghôyn yô nyt amgen vod no bot y kydrycha6l Gruffuth ap Phylip yn camôrescynny meint hysyps o vreheydir Kymreic o ty u6yn y vaenor Vyduei, yr honn vaenor a genhelir dan ôialen yr orsed honn, yn y trydyd camôrescyn yssyd yn erbyn kyfreith: camôrescyn trôy orcheid6at, ac yn erbyn iaôn dylyeda6c, o y anuod, a heb vra6t.

2. Mod y camôrescynod y kytrycha6l Gruffuth y dyb6ededic tir yn erbyn kyfia6nder Dau6d ap Ihon’ kytrycha6l nyt amgen vod noc Philip ap Lle6elyn, tat y Gruffuth vchot, ystynnny perchenogaeth o vil o erôyd o dir rycha6l y vesur góialen Ho6el Da y vesur kyfarôyr, mil o erôyd o dylltir, go6irdir, coetir a phoruadir, y vesur yr yn ry6 ôialen, a hynny dan amot y'r Dafydd2 ne y etiued gafel y tir pan y gouvynyt heb erbyn dyb6edut dîm ar Philip ne y etiued.

3. Amser hysyps y camôrescynod y kytrychol 3Gruffud ap Philip,3 nyt amgen no duô Lllen a duô Maôrth nessaf 6edy duô Ieu Kychafel dibethaf ar a lithrod o’r ty u6yn y’r v6ydyn honn, a bot y kytrycha6l Gruffuth4 yn dala hynny myôn colof a diebryt, yn y trydyd diebryt yssyd yn erbyn kyfreith: diebryt dyn o’y iaôn a’c dylyet dros amser y etryt.

4. Amser y etryt oed y dyd Lllen a dyd Maôrth y menegais o’r blæn, 5a bot5 Gruffuth yn person c6byl yngghyfreith y ôneuthur iaôn ac y gymryt, a’r Dauûd yn person c6byl yngghyfreith y gymryt ac y ôneuthur.

5. Kyuarch y Gruffuth y ôybot a ônelei iaôn kyn kôyn, a negydaeth a vu bob amser o barthret y Gruffuth, ac am anegydaeth Gruffuth y mae y kôyn.

1 plaint from Q, E
2 E; Philip Q
3...3 E; Dauid ap John Q
4 E; Dauid Q
5...5 my emendation; a bot a bot Q E
IV. A plaint of wrongful taking of possession through the owner

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Rhys ap Llewelyn ap Hywel is wrongfully in possession of a known amount of Welsh free land, from within the commote of Hirfryn, the which land is held under the rod of this court-session, by means of one of the three wrongful takings of possession which are against the law: wrongful taking of possession though the owner, and against the truly entitled person, against his will, and without judgment.

2. The time when the said land was wrongfully taken into possession: the next Wednesday and Thursday and Friday after the last feast of Dewi which has passed during this year.

3. And also the present Rhys ap Llewelyn is holding those things in concealment and deprivation by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: the deprivation of a man of his right and entitlement, beyond the time to restore it.

4. The time to restore it was the Wednesday and the Thursday and the Friday which I mentioned before.

5. And also that the present Rhys is a person fully competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I am a person fully competent in law to give justice and to receive it.

6. Rhys was addressed to see whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was denial on the part of Rhys, and my plaint is about Rhys's denial.

7. Petition for a timely answer.
IV. Cōyn camōrescyn trōy y perchen

1. Defnyd ac achos vy nghŷyn nyt amgen no bot y kytrycha6l Rys ap Lle6elyn ap Ho6el yn camōreskynny meint hyspys o vrehydir Kymreic, o’r ty vy6n y cōmōt Hirvryn, yr hôn’n dir a gynhelir dan biaen yr orsed honn, yn y trydyd camōrescyn ysyd yn erbyn kyfreith: camōrescyn trōy y perchen, ac yn erbyn ia6n etiued, o anuod, a heb vra6t.

2. Amser y camōrescyn6yt y dy6ededic dir: dyd Merchyr a dyd Ieu a dyd G6ener nesa6f 6edy du6 g6yl De6i di6ethaf ar a lithrod o’r ty uy6n y’r v16ydyn hon.

3. A heuyt y kytrycha6l Rys ap Lle6elyn yn dala hynny my6n colot a diebryt yn y trydyd diebryt ysyd yn erbyn kyfreith: diebryt dyn o ia6n a’y dlyet, dros amser y etryt.

4. Amser y etryt oed y dyd Merchyr a’r dyd Ieu a’r dyd G6ener y meonegis o’r blaen.

5. A heuyt bot y kytrycha6l Rys yn person cōbyl ynghyfreith y 6neuthur ia6n ac y gymryt, a mineu yn person cōbyl ynghyfreith y 6neuthur ia6n ac y gymryt.

6. Kyuarch Rys y 6ybot a 6nelei ia6n kyn kōyn, a negyddyeth a vu o barthret y Rys, ac am anegyddyeth Rys y mae vy ghŷyn.

7. Deissyf atteb amserol.

1 plaint from Q, C
2 Q, a C
V. A plaint for ploughing land without permission

1. I am the pursuer of a lawful plaint to the lord of this court-session, and to his officers, and to the principal officer among them, the cunninglor, the one who maintains the special status of the rod of this court-session today, against the present Dafydd ap Llewelyn ap Gwilym, who is in the position of defending party and bound to answer my plaint.

2. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Dafydd came on one day, namely the next Monday after the last Candlemas which has passed during this year, to the place where I was the owner of land within Maenor Fabon, the which maenor is held under the rod of this court-session; and that the present Dafydd came with six oxen, and a plough and irons, and he himself in the status of ploughman, with a caller, and he turned one thousand measured furrows without permission against my interest, and against the protection of a lord.

3. This surreption was shown to whosoever it ought to be shown, namely to the land-borderers and the officers of the lord, and that the said Dafydd is holding that in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three depriations which are against the law: to allow injury to a man or to his property without making compensation or reconciliation for it.

4. And I am seeking compensation for that injury in accordance with what the law says, that is, four legal pence for placing the plough on the land, and four legal pence for taking the plough from the land, and a curt penny for the length of each furrow which the plough turned, and, as the lord's packhorse, the six oxen and the plough and the irons and their yokes and the value of the right foot of the ploughman and the value of the right hand of the caller.

5. And also that the Dafydd here present is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I am a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, if there be any who demands it.

6. Dafydd was approached to know whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was always denial on his part, and my plaint is about the denial of Dafydd.

7. Petition for a timely answer.
V. Cōyn am eredic tir yn anghyurch

1. Kanlyna6dr kōyn kyfreitha6l 6yf i 6rth argl6yd yr orsed honn, ac 6rth y s6ydogyon ynteu, ac yn bennaf s6yda6c o hanyyn, 6rth y kyghella6r, yr h6n yssyd yn kynal breint g6ialen yr orsed honn hedī6, rac y kyndrycha6l Daud ap Lle6elyn ap Gwllim, yr h6n yssyd yghythfe amdiffynableit, yn r6ymedic y ateb o Mao kōyn.

2. Defnyd ac acha6s vy gh6yn y6 nyt amgen vod noc y kytrycha6l Daud dyyot myōn dyd hyspis, nyt amgen no dyd Llun nessaf g6edy d66 g6yl Veir y Kan6hyleu di6tha6f ar a li6thod o ty v66n y6r yllodyn honn, y6r lle doydôn perchenoc y dir o6r ty uy6n y vaenor Vabon, yr honn uaenor a genhelir dan 6ialen yr orsed honn; ac y6r kytrycha6l Daud dyyot a h6ech ychen, ac aradyr a heynn, ac ef ehun ymreint amae6th, a geil6at, ac ymhoityt mil o g6ysseu messura6l yn anghyurch arna6f, a thros na6d argl6yd.

3. Yr anghyurch hōnn a dangoset y’r neb ydlyt y dangos, nyt amgen noc y aminogeu tir ac y s6ydogyon yr argl6yd, a bot y dy6cedic Daudyn yna dala hōnn6 myōn colof a diebryt, y6n y trydyd diebryt yssyd yn erbyn kyfreith: ada6 argybed ar dyn neu ar y eida6 heb 6neuthur ia6n na hed6ch ymdana6.

4. Ac yngthyfeir yr argybed hōnn6 vy mot yn deisyf 2 at6erth, mal y dy6etto kyfreith, sef y6 hynny, peuder keina6c kyfreith dodi yr aradyr yn y dayar, a phedeir keino kyfreith diot yr aradyr o’r dayar, a cheina6c conta yngthyfeir paladyr pop kōys ac ymhoelod yr aradyr, ac, yn bemarch yr argl6yd, y h6ech ychen a’r aradyr a’r heyrn a’e g6ede a g6erth y droet deheu yr amae6th, a g6erth y lla6 deheu yr geil6at.

5. A heuyt bot y kyndrycha6l Daudyn yn person cōbyl yngthyfreith y 6neuthur ia6n a’y gymyrt, a minneu yn person cōbyl yngthyfreith y 6neuthur ia6n ac y gymyrt, o’r byd a’m gouyno.

6. Kyuarch Daud y 6ybot a 6nelei ia6n kyn kōyn, a negydaeth a vu bob amser o’r barthret, ac am negydaeth y Daud y mae vy gh6yn.

7. Deisyf ateb amserol.

\(^1\) plaint from Q, C
\(^2\) C, deif Q
VI. A plaint of cutting timber

1. That is to say, the present Dafydd ap Llywelyn is bringing a lawful plaint to the lord of this court-session, and to his officers, and to the principal officer of them, the cynhelor, the one who maintains the special status of the rod of this court-session today, against the present Morgan Fychan ap Morgan Ddu, who is in the position of defending party, bound to answer my plaint.

2. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Morgan came within one day, the next Tuesday after the last feast of Dewi which has passed during this year, to the place where I was the owner of the woodland from within the manor of Gwinfai, the which manor is maintained under the rod of this court-session, and the present Morgan came with a wood-axe of steel and iron and cut two of the branching oaks, each of which was worth sixty curt pennies, every one of them, and twelve of the white hazels, each of which was worth fifteen curt pennies, every one of them, and six of the blackthorn, each of which was worth seven and a half pennies, every one of them, and nine of the willow, and ash, and alder, each of which was worth six curt pennies, every one of them.

3. And that the present Morgan is holding those things in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: to allow an injury on a man or on his property, without either giving justice or making peace for it.
VI. Cöyn o dorr coet

1. Namyn, y kyndrychaöl Dauid ab Llebelyn yssyd yn kynhebróg köyn kyfreithaöl 6rth arglyd yr orsed honn, ac 6rth y sôydogyon ynteuc, ac yn bennaf sôydoc o hanyn, 6rth y kyghellaër yr hönn yssyd yn kynal breint gâialen yr orsed honn hediš, rac y kyndrychaöl Vorgan Vychan ap Morgan Duy, yr hönn yssyd ygyfft y amdiffynbleit, yn rôymedic y attæb o’im köyn.2

2. Defnyd ac achaős vyghöyn y6 nyt amgen3 yvod noc y’r kyndrychaöl Vorgan3 dyuot 4myöönd ydyd hysps, duöö Ma6rth nessaô5 6edy duöö gôyl De6i dîbethaf ar aolithrod o’r ty uyöönl y’r vâbydyn honn, y’r4 lle yd oedöl5 perchenoc y coet 6o’r ty uyöönl y vacnor 6invei,7 yr höonn vañnoar a gynhelir dan gîalen yr orsed honn,6 ac y’r kyndrychol 8Vorgan dyuot8 a b6ell gynt o dur a hayarn a thorri dôy o gat deri, a g6erth9 ydyi hêuegiân o’r keinoegu côtaoan,10 pob vn o honunt, a deuedec11 o bîngyl,12 a g6erthiyei xv.13 o’r keinoegu côtaoan,13 pop vn o honunt, a hêech o dudrin,14 a g6erthydyei seith a dimei, pop vn ohonunt,15 a naö o helic,16 ac ynn, a g6ern,16 a g6erthydyei hêech keinoic o’r17keinoegu côtaoan,17 pob vn ohonunt.

3. A bot y kyndrychaöl Vorgan18 yn dala hynnuy myöönl colof a diebryt,19 yn y19 trydyd diebryt yssyd yn erbyyn190 kyfreith: ada6 argyöed ar dyn neu ar21 y eida6, heb 6neuthur na iaöñ na hedoch22 ymdana6.

---

1 plaint from Q, E, D; Cwyn am goet D
2...2 Q E; not in D
3...3 Q E; noo y N, D
4...4 Q E; ac eunì dyth ym y vâlydyn or the a vynych D
5 Q E; oedhun i D
6...6 Q E; not in D
7 Q; 6ini E
8...8 Q E; N, D
9 E D; g6öth Q
10 Q E; not in D
11 Q E; xii D
12 Q E; yðlh D
13...13 Q E; or na rhyw arian D
14 Q; ndryñ E; idráin D
15 Q E; ohonunt or na rhyw arian D
16...16 Q E; not in D
17...17 Q E; or vn rhyw arian D
18 Q E; N, D
19...19 hynn Q; yr hînn ysgylh D
20 Q E; erbyn y D
21 Q D; not in E
22 Q E; hedrhyca D
4. This injury was shown to whomever it ought to be shown: the land-borderers, and the officers of the lord.

5. And also that the present Morgan is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that the present Dafydd is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, if there be anyone who demands it.

6. Morgan was addressed by Dafydd to know whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of Morgan, and my plaint is about Morgan's denial.

7. Petition for a timely answer.
4. Yr argyged hôn a dangoset\(^{23}\) y'r neb y dyltyt\(^{24}\) y dangos;\(^{24}\) y aminogeu\(^{25}\) tir, ac y sêdydogon yr arglwyd.

5. A heuyt bot\(^{26}\) y kytrychaöl Vorgan\(^{26}\) yn person\(^{27}\) yng kyfreith \(^{28}\) 6neuthur iaôn\(^{29}\) ac y gymryt, a bot Dauid kyndrychaöl yn person cbôl ynghyfreith y 6neuthur iaôn ac y gymryt, o'r byd a'e gouyno.

6. Kyuarch o Dauid Vorgan y 6ybot a 6nelei iaôn kyn kôyn, a negydyath a vu pop amser o parthret y Morgan, ac am anegydyath Morgan y may vyghôyn.

7. Deisyf ateb amserol.

---

23 Q E; \textit{dhangosais i D}
24...24 Q E; not in D
25 Q E; \textit{ambinoigion D}
26...26 Q E; N. D
27 Q E; \textit{berson cythyl D}
28 Q E; \textit{mal y dyfy D}
29 D ends here.
VII. A plaint of *sarbaed*

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is none other than that Llewelyn ab Ieuan ap Llewelyn came within a certain day, namely the next Tuesday after the last Mayday which has passed during this year, to a certain frequented place, namely in Llanfair ar y Bryn, within this *cyngbellaeth*, and the present Llewelyn committed a *sarbaed* through injury, namely by drawing a dagger and striking me on my head until he broke the flesh and skin and bones as far as the brain; and that the present Llewelyn is holding that in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: to allow an injury on a man or on his property, without giving justice or making peace for it.

2. This injury was shown to whomever it ought to be shown, namely the officers of the lord.

3. And in regard to that *sarbaed* and injury, I am seeking compensation for my *sarbaed* according to my status, namely that I am an *ailt breyr*.
VII. Cōyn sarhaet

1. Defnyd ac achos vygh6yn y6 nyt amgen vod no dyuot 3Lle6elyn ap Ieuuan ap Lle6elyn my6n dyd hispís, nyt amgen no d6 Ma6rth nessaf 6edy d6 Calan Mei dibethaf ar a lithrod o'r ty uy6n y'r vōydyyn honn, my6n troyte 3 hispìs, nyt amgen noc yn Llanveir ar y Bryn, o'r ty uy6n y'r gyngellhoraeth honn, 2 ac y'r kytrychaél Lle6elyn 4 6neuthur sarhaet tr6y 5 argy6ed, nyt amgen no thyny dagyr a'm tar6 ar vy mhenn hyt pan Torres kic a chroen ac eskyrn hyt yr ymhenyd; a bot y kytrychaél Lle6elyn 7 yn dala hynny my6n colof a diebryt, 6yn y troydyd diebryt ysyd 8 yn y erbyn kyfreith: ada6 argy6ed ar dyn neu ar y cida6, heb 6neuthur ia6n na hed6ch ymdana6.

2. Yr argy6ed honn a dangoset y'r neb adlyt 9 y dangos, 9 nyt amgen noc y s6ydogon yr 10 argl6yd. 11

3. Ac yghyfeir y sarhaet a'r argy6ed honn6, vy mot 12 yn deissyf a6berth vy sarhaet her6yd vy mreint; nyt amgen no'm bot yn eillt 13 brey. 14

---

1 plaint from Q, C, D
2 3 Q C; Je6 ap dd i le enwidi hyspes or enwi y lle ar dyth D
3 C D; troyth Q
4 Q C; Je6 D
5 Q C; ag D
6 Q C; hovyw D
7 Q C; Je6 D
8 8 Q C; yr hovy ysyd dyth diebty D
9 9 Q C; not in D
10 Q C; not in D
11 Q C; argl6yd or y wybydici cynwir D
12 Q C; not innau D
13 Q C; di6h D
14 Q D; brey C
4. This is the amount of my *sarbaed*: a cow and a half, and thirty of the curt pennies, and three pounds of the same money along with the *sarbaed* in recompense for seeing the brain, four pennies for a pan to make medication, four pennies for tallow, four pennies for bandages(?), a penny for lighting every night, a penny for the food of the doctor every day, a penny for the food of the patient every day, four pennies for every bone above the cranium which was taken from the head, provided it sounded in a bronze dish; and all those are paid by curt pennies; for every bone below the cranium, four legal pennies.

5. And that the present Llewelyn is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I am a person competent to receive justice and to give it, if there be any who demand it.

6. Llewelyn was addressed to know whether he would make compensation before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of Llewelyn, and my plaint is about Llewelyn's denial.

7. Petition for a timely answer.
4. Sef y 615 meint y sarhaet:15 by6ch16 a hanner, a dec ar hugein17 o'r18 keinogeu cóttaon, a their punt o'r yn ry6 arany gan a'r sarhaet yghyfeir g6elet yr ymhenyd, 19 pedeir keina6c19 patell,20 21 pedeir keinoc21 dros 6er, 22 pedeir keinoc22 dros gynhyneu, keinoc23 dros oleuat beunoeth, keinoc24 dros v6yt y medic beunyd, keinoc25 dros v6yt y claf beunyd, 26 pedeir keinoc26 o27 bob asg6rn y6ch creuau 28 a dynner o'r penn28 or a seino my6n ka6c efyd; a hynny oll o'r keinogeu cóttaon; o bob asg6rn is kreuan, 29 pedeir keinoc29 kyfreith.30

5. A bot31 Lle6elyn kyndrychael yn person c6byl ynghyfreith y ôneuthur ia6n ac y gymryt, a mineu yn person c6byl y gymryt ia6n ac y ôneuthur, o byd a'e32 gowyno.

6. Kyuarch Lle6elyn y 6ybot a ônelei ia6n kyn k6yn, a negydyaeith a vu bob amser o barthret y Lle6elyn, ac am anegydyaeith Lle6elyn y mae vy gh6yn.

7. Deisyf atteb amserol.
VIII. A plaint of surreption

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present John came within a certain day, namely the next Monday after the last Christmas Day which has passed during this year, to a frequented place in the manor of Myddfai, the which manor is maintained under the rod of this court-session, where I was the owner of a proper 60d grey horse, and a yellow ox of the same price, having all the required properties, and a black cow of the same price having all the required properties, and the present John removed the said livestock from my possession in an act of surreption.

2. Had I seen the said livestock openly, I would have been ready to apprehend and make sworn appraisal, as I should according to law.

3. As they were not seen openly, I seek compensation for them, as the law says: that is, sixty of the curt pennies for every one of them.

4. And also that the present John was holding those things in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: to take something from a man without returning it afterwards.

5. And that John is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I am a person competent to receive and to give, if there be any who demand it.

6. John was addressed to know whether he would make compensation before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of John, and my plaint is about John's denial.

7. And petition for a timely answer.
VIII. C6yn anghyfarch

1. Defnydd acacha6s vy ngh6yn y6 nyt amgen vod noc yr kytrycha6l Iohn2 duatn my6n ddy hysy6, nyt amgen no ddy Llun nessaf 6edy du6 Nadolic di6ethaf 3ar a lithrod o'r t6 u6 y'r wlydyn h6nn, 4'r t6 hysy6 y maenor Vyduei, yr h6nn vaenor4 a genelir dan 6ialen yr orsed honn, yr5 lle y doyd6n perchenoc y varch glas teithiol trigeinol, ac ych melyn ny6 gyfla6n teithirol6 o'r v6n ry6 bris, 7a8 bydch dury9 deithia6l o'r v6n ry6 bris, ac yr10 kytrycha6l Iohn11 symut y dybededid da o'n gorescyn i yngb6ethret anghyfarch.11

2. Bei y dybededid da h6nn612 a 6el6n ar y lli6, parot oed6n y 6neuthur dala a damd6ng amdana6,13 mal y dyly6n her6yd kyfreith.

3. Pryt nat ydyn ar y lli6, deissysf at6erth mal y dybetto kyfreith; sef y6 hynny, triu6en o'r keinogeu c6ttaon dros14 pob vn ohonunt.

4. A heuyt bot y15 kytrycha6l Iohn15 yn dala hynny my6n colof a diebryt, y trdyd diebryt ysyd yn erbyn kyfreith: d6yn peth rac dyn heb y etryt tracheuen.

5. A bot Iohn16 yn person c6byl yghyfreith17 y 6neuthur i66n ac y gynmyt, a mineu yn person c6byl y gymryt ac y 6neuthur, o'r byd a'm gouyno.

6. Kyuarch y Iohn' y 6ybot a 6nelei i66n kyn k6yn, a negydyeth a vu bob amser o barthret y Iohn', ac am anegydyeth Iohn' y mae vy gh6yn.

7. A deissysf at6eber amserol.

1 plaint from Q, C; Cwyn anghyfarch am varch D
2 Q C; N, D
3...5 Q C; a lithrodly y vlyd y honn D
4...5 Q C; mewn t6 hyspy6 nyt amgen no llyr a wynnych yr honn D
5 Q C; not in D
6 Q; yr C D
7...7 Q C; not in D
8 Q C; yr ym D
9 Q C; not in D
10...10 Q C; yr N. honn D
11 C D; anghyfarch Q
12 Q C; not in D
13 Q C; not in D
14 Q C; am D
15...15 Q C; dybededid N. D
16 Q C; N. D
17 Q C; ete D; D ends here.
IX. A plaint against surety and debtor

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Gwilym ap Rhys came one day, namely the next Monday after the last Michaelmas which has passed during this year, in a frequented place, namely in the Plas Glas in Llanymddyfri from within this *cynghelloriaeth*, that the present Gwilym came and became a surety-debtor to me for two pounds of curt pennies on behalf of Dafydd ap Llewelyn, to be paid on the eighth day from the Monday which I mentioned earlier, unless Dafydd ap Llewelyn, for whom this Gwilym became a surety, paid, and the specified time when Dafydd should have paid passed by, and, because Gwilym was a detained surety for me, as a consequence of his inability to force Dafydd to pay, and that the said Gwilym was holding those things in concealment and deprivation by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: depriving a man of what is due to him, after the time for payment.

2. The time of payment was the day which I mentioned before.

3. And that the present Gwilym was a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I was a person competent in law to receive it.
IX. C6yn raכ mach a chynogyn

1. Defnyd ac achos vygh6yn y6 nyt amgen vod n6c y'r kytrycha6l Gw6lim ap Rys2 dyuo6 my6n dyd hyspis, nyt amgen no 6du6 Llun nesaf 6edy du6 g6yl Vihangel di6ethaf ar a lithro4 o'r ty uu6n y'r v6ydyn honn, my6n troetle hyspis, nyt amgen n6c yn y Plas Glas yn Llan Ymdyfr6i o'r ty uu6n y'r kyghelloryaeth honn,3 ac y'r kytrycha6l Gw6lim6 dyuo6, a mynet yn vach kynoc ym ar d6y punt o'r7 keinogu c6ta6on dros 8Dau6d ap Lle6elyn,9 9 ar dalu yr 6ythuet9 dyd o'r dyd Llun10 y menegi6s11 o'r blaen, ony thalei yr12 Dau6d ap Lle6elyn12 13 y daeth y Gw6lim13 yn veiche14 drosto, a lithro15 amser yr16 oteu y dlyet17 Dau6d18 talu, ac am hynny bot y Gw6lim19 yn vach diebredic ym,20 yn ll6r6 na allod gymell Dau6d21 y dalu, a bot y G66lim22 yn dala hynny my6n colof a diebryt yn y trydyd diebryt yssyd yn erbyn kyfreith: diebryt dyn o'r dlyet, dros amser y talu.

2. Amser y talu oed y dyd y menegi6s o'r blaen.

3. A bot23 y kytrycha6l Gw6lim23 yn person c6byl24 yghyfreith y 6neuthur i6n ac y gmyrtyt, a mineu yn person c6byl yghyfreith y gmyrtyt.

---

1 plaint from Q; C, D; C6yn raс mach D
2...3 Q C; N, D
3...3 Q C; ry n6n nor dyth a vynych ar amser ar the ar rhychdyyn ar amser ar the ar canghbolioaeth D
4 Q C; y lithro6 C
5 Q C; syndycho Dai D
6 Q C; N, D
7 Q C; o D
8...8 Q C; neb vv M, D
9...9 Q C; ar dalo cyn yr sythuet D
10 Q C; not in D
11 Q C; a vannogais i D
12...12 C; J6wau ap Lle6elyn Q; yr enwedig N, D
13...13 C; y daeth y 6wau Q; yr oethai of D
14 Q C; vach D
15 Q C; llithrau yr D
16 Q C; ar D
17 Q C; dyfanthai D
18 C; J6wau Q; N, D
19 Q C; N, D
20 Q C; not in D
21 C; J6wau Q; N, D
22 Q C; N, D
23...23 Q C; N, D
24 Q C; c6byl mewn K, D; D ends here.
4. Gwilym was addressed to know whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of Gwilym, and my plaint is regarding that.

5. Petition for a timely answer.

X. A plaint of theft

1. The substance and cause of my plaint is nothing other than that the present Dafydd ap Philip came on a certain night, namely the next Friday after the Feast of the Cross on Mayday which has passed during this year, to the place where I was the owner of a runcey horse having all the required properties, near Llan Dydystyl within Maenor Fabon, the which maenor is maintained under the rod of this court-session, that the present Dafydd ap Philip removed the said horse from my possession in an act of theft, and he walked byways and avoided main roads, and he did this for his own advantage and my disadvantage.

2. And that the present Dafydd is holding that in concealment and deprivation, by means of one of the three deprivations which are against the law: to take something from a man without returning it afterwards.

3. Had I seen the horse openly, I was ready to apprehend and make appraisal for it, as I should according to law.

4. As it is not seen openly, I seek compensation for it, namely a hundred and twenty curt pennies, and as the lord's packhorse, seven pounds, because it is not a theft in hand.
4. Kyuarch y Gwâlîm y bybot a ònelei iaôn kyn köyn, a negyndaeth a vu pob amser o barthret y Gwâlîm, ac am hynny y mae vy ghôyn.

5. Deissyw ateb amserol.

X. Côyn lletrat

1. Defnyd ac achen vyghôyn yô nyt amgen vod² noç y'r kytrychaöl ³Dauid ap Philip³ dyuoat myôn³ nos6eith hyysps, ⁴nyt amgen nos 6ener nessaf ⁵ceed y duô gôyl y Groc ⁶clan Meô⁷ diôethaf⁸ ar a lithrod o'r ty uyôn y'r vlodëyn honn, y'r⁹ lle y doedôn perchenoc y varch rônsi ¹⁰teithiol, ymyl Llan Dydystyl o vyôn y vaenor Vabon, yr hôn vaenor a genhelir dan ôilen yr orsed honn,¹¹ ac y'r ¹²kytrychaöl Dauid ap Philip¹³ symut y dyôdedednic¹⁴ varc'h o'm gôrescyn¹⁵ i y gôethret lletradeid, a cherdet gochelffyrôd¹⁶ a gochel prifffyrôd, a gôneuthur y les ef, a'm hafles yneu.

2. A bot y kytrychaöl Dauid¹⁷ yn dala hynny myôn colof diebryt, yn y trydyd diebryt yssyd yn efbyyn kyfreith; dôyn peth râc dyn heb y etryd drachefyd.

3. Bei y¹⁸ march a ðelôn ar y lîô, parot oedôn y òneuthur dala a damdôn ymdanaô, mal y dlyôn herôyd kyfreith.

4. Pryt nat ydiô¹⁹ ar y lîô,²⁰ deissyw atberth ymdanaô, nyt amgen no hîeugein²¹ o'r keinogeu câottaon, ac yn benuarch yr arglôyd, seithpunt, am nat ydyô yn lletrat yn llaô.

---

¹ plaint from Q, E, D; Côyn lletrat am varch D
² Q E; not in D
³...³ Q E; N. D
⁴ Q E; not in D
⁵...⁵ Q E; not in D
⁶...⁶ Q; clain E
⁷ Q; diôethaf Q
⁸...⁸ Q E; not in D
⁹...⁹ Q E; ac yr enwedîc N, yr syndrybel N. D
¹⁰ Q E; enwedîc D
¹¹ Q E; meddiant i ac ôm gôrescyn D
¹² Q E; gochel hwyrbrau D
¹³ Q E; N. D
¹⁴ Q E; drachefa amser y etryt oedô y dyôb enwedîc a vanegais i or blaen D
¹⁵ Q E; pai yr D
¹⁶...¹⁶ Q E; not in D
¹⁷ Q; hîeugein E; x D
5. And that the present Dafydd is a person competent in law to give justice and to receive it, and that I am a person competent to give justice and to receive.

6. Dafydd was addressed to know whether he would give justice before plaint, and there was always denial on the part of Dafydd, and my plaint is about Dafydd's denial.

7. Petition for a timely answer.

Here is the counter-plaint and answer to the claim above.

For the claim which N made, taking tonguemanship on himself in the course of [viz., while acting as his own advocate], saying in the force of his plaint that N came one night, namely the next Friday night after the Feast of the Cross which has passed during this year, to where he was owner and moved that from his possession in a deed of theft. For that claim and request, here is a response with an answer, so that N should not lose, being out of time. This is how it is so: there is uncertainty in his claim, in that he did not say in his plaint that the horse which was stolen is the one which the law calls a runcy. According to what he said in his claim, the horse was the owner of the claim, and it was not he [the claimant] who was [owner]. And because of that, there is uncertainty in the claim according to judgment.

The counter-plaint of the defence.

The defence does not stand for anyone and does not prevail unless it is timely according to the memory of the court and truth, according to the judgment of the country and what pertains to it rightly according to judgment. Your defence is incomplete and disconnected in law. The reason is that I named a horse of teithi, and there is no six score pence unless it is for a runcy horse. And because of that my defence is complete, and that according to judgment.

\[18\] This and the previous sentence are unclear in the text, but it seems that the point being made is that the claimant did not specify what kind of horse had been stolen. This is in fact not the case in the plaint in Q, as it is stated that the horse is a runcy. Further evidence is to be had in the original claimant's counter-plaint, where he states that he specified the horse's legal worth and that the only horse to have a legal worth of 120d was a runcy (cf. Bdg., 91.11). Although the counter-plaint and answer given in D are supposed to go with plaint X, they do not seem to match the content of that plaint.
5. A bot y kytrycha6l Dauid yn person c6byl ynghyfreith y 6neuthur ia6n ac y gymryt, a mineu yn person c6byl y gymryt ia6n ac 6neuthur.

6. Kyuarch y Dauid y 6ybot a 6nelei ia6n kyn k6yn, a negydyaelh a vu bob amser o barthret y Dauid, ac am anegydyaelh y Dauid y mae vy gh6yn.

7. A deisyf ateb amserol.

Llyma wrthladh ac ateb yr hawl vchot.20

Am yr hawl a wnaeth N. yn lhwrrw tavadogaeth drosto ehun, gann dywedyt yngrym ei gwyn y N. dyuot noswaith llysps nyt amgen no nos Wener nessaf wedy Gwyl y Groc diwethaf a lithrodd yn y vlywydlyn honn yr’r lle yr oedd ef berchennawc a sumut hwnnw o’i oresgyn ef yngweithret lhetrat. Am yr hawl hynny a’r govyn, llyma wrthw gann ateb, hyt na dyl y N. golhi odicith ar amser. Sef modh yw hynny: bot anyspsyrwdh yn y hawl, lle na dhywawt ef yn y gwyn ðwyyn march, yr hwyn a eilw kysreith yn rwnsi. Herwyd a dhywawt ef yn ei hawl, y march oedd berchen yr’r hawl, ac nyt ef oedd. A herwyd hynny bot anyspsyrwdh yn y hawl herwyd barn.

Gwrthladh yr amdifen.21

Ny saif y amdifin y neb ac ny thycia ony bydh amserawl herwyd cof lhys a gwir, herwyd deturut gwlal a’i berthyn yn briodawf herwyd barn. Angcwbyl yw dy amdifin a dygys<lh>14 edici22 yng kysreith. Sef modh yw y mi enwi march teithiawl, ac nat oes wheugain onyt am rwnsi o varch. A herwyd hynny bot vy amdefin i yn gwbly, a hynny herwyd barn.

19 Different ending in D (instead of §§5–7):
A bot y cyndrachawl N. yn berson cwbyl yng K mal y dyl wyched awyn ai olyn a bot y cyndrachawl M. yn berson cwbyl yng K mal y dyl wyched awyn ac atteb. Cyuarch y cyndrachawl N. a wneuthur ia6n y u6bot a u6et awyn cynn olyn. A negydyaelh a vu bob amser o blygry ac ony negydyaelh ef y mae yngwyn i deisyf ateb amserawl herwyd cof non vyrh non dedryt.
20 From D; not in Q E
21 From D; not in Q E
22 My emendation; dysgychi bol D