The indexing of Welsh personal names

Donald Moore

Welsh personal names sometimes present the indexer with problems not encountered when dealing with English names. The Welsh patronymic system of identity is the most obvious; this was normal in the Middle Ages, and traces of its usage survived into the mid-nineteenth century. Patronymics have since been revived as alternative names in literary and bardic circles, while a few individuals, inspired by the precedents of history, are today attempting to use them regularly in daily life. Other sorts of alternative names, too, have been adopted by writers, poets, artists and musicians, to such effect that they are often better known to the Welsh public than the real names. A distinctive pseudonym has a special value in Wales, where a restricted selection of both first names and surnames has been the norm for the last few centuries. Apart from the names themselves, there is in Welsh a linguistic feature which can be disconcerting to those unfamiliar with the language: the 'mutation' or changing of the initial letter of a word in certain phonetic and syntactic contexts. This can also occur in place-names, which were discussed by the present writer in The Indexer 15 (1) April 1986. Some of the observations made there about the Welsh language will be relevant here also.

Indexing English names

According to English practice a person is indexed under his or her surname. First names, taken in alphabetical order, word by word, are then used to determine the sequence of entries when the same surname recurs in the index ('first' = 'Christian' = 'baptismal' = 'given' = 'forename').

When an individual has no surname, his or her unique personal name (or regal name) is used as guideword, followed by any epithet which might aid recognition. Ordering then may be helped by the initial letter of an epithet. Single names may also be distinguished by the individual's place of origin, e.g. Anne of Brittany, as distinct from Anne of Cleves.

The surname system in England reflects male pre-eminence in society. Marriage has normally obliged a woman to abandon her maiden surname and assume her husband's. Moreover, strict etiquette demands that when describing herself as 'Mrs', she should not use her own first names, but her husband's, before her new surname, unless she is widowed or divorced. This means that indexers may have difficulty in establishing the complete female identity of a married woman. Conventions, however, are changing as more married women pursue independent careers, sometimes retaining their maiden name for business, sometimes amalgamating their own names with their husbands', and sometimes using their own first names before their husband's surname.

An indexer may face problems in the ordering of medieval names preceded or followed by de or fitz. The main criterion is whether the second of a pair of names has become a fixed surname; if it has not, the first name becomes the guideword, e.g. 'Ralph de Chaddesdon' appears under 'R' and 'Edward FitzOtho' under 'E', but 'Fitzwarin family' under 'F' and 'Sir John de la Mare' under 'D' (the last, though French, being domiciled in England).

Indexing Welsh names

English conventions of nomenclature apply today in Wales as much as in England, but there are three circumstances where Welsh personal names may cause special difficulties for the non-Welsh indexer: (a) where patronymics, male or female, are used, (b) where words change their initial letter, (c) the extent to which pseudonyms are used in certain activities.

It need hardly be said that when Welsh names are indexed in an English-medium publication, they normally obey the conventions of the English alphabet. In a Welsh-language context they will be indexed according to the Welsh alphabet, which differs from the English in some respects. Certain sounds (some strange to English) are expressed by means of double letters, or digraphs: ch, dd, ff, ng, ll, ph, rh, th, which stand as letters of the Welsh alphabet in their own right. The letters k and v, once found in Welsh, have been superseded by c and f respectively, and ff has virtually supplanted ph; j is used only in borrowed words, and there is no x. The complete alphabet of 28 letters is reproduced below.

A, B, C, Ch, D, Dd, E, F, Ff, G, Ng, H, I, L, Li, M, N, O, P, Ph, R, Rh, S, T, Th, U, W, Y.

Welsh mutations

There exists in Welsh a system by which a word may change or 'mutate' its initial letter (or sometimes its last) so as to indicate its relationship with a preceding or following word. The nature of the change depends to some extent on the sounds concerned, and also, in the case of nouns and adjectives, on the gender of the word.
(Welsh nouns are either masculine or feminine). This phenomenon is deeply rooted in speech and writing.

The present context concerns only nouns and adjectives used side by side, or nouns together in apposition. The second element in each case may be affected by the 'soft mutation' or 'lenition'. Not all letters are involved. The top line of the table below shows those consonants which are liable to change when serving as the initial letter of a word. The lower line shows the forms which they take when changed. It will be noted that the ‘G’ disappears altogether.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of soft mutations in Welsh</th>
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<tr>
<td>Radical form</td>
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<td>Softened form</td>
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The Welsh patronymic system

A person’s status in Welsh medieval tribal society depended on his or her descent in a kindred, and this had to be remembered or recorded. Since society was male-orientated in land-holding, custom and law, it was essential for a man to know the names of his father, his father’s father, and so on, as well as collateral relations. A typical example may be cited from the fifteenth century: ‘Rhys ap Llywelyn ap Rhys ap Llywelyn ab Ieuan’ was a Beadle or Bailiff Itinerant for the King in the royal county of Carmarthen. He was the son of Llywelyn, who was the son of an earlier Rhys, who was the son of an earlier Llywelyn, who was the son of Ieuan. The fact that he knew the names of his great- and great-great-grandfathers will appear remarkable today.

The word meaning ‘son’ is ap (used before consonants) and ab (before vowels); there is no need for ‘of’ in Welsh, since the genitive is expressed by the juxtaposition of nouns (there are no case endings in Welsh). Ab is a shortened form of mab, which may also appear in its mutated form fab; mab corresponds to the Gaelic mac and the Norman-French fitz. There was much repetition of names, both in alternate and successive generations (which is not peculiar to the Welsh), but it is particularly confusing to find sons of the same father bearing the same name as the father and each other. For example, a certain David ap Llewellyn (Anglicized spelling) had two sons, each named David. Epithets were added to distinguish one son from the other: the first was called David Goch (from coch = ‘red-haired’), and the second David Vychan (from vychan = ‘younger’).

By the fifteenth century Anglicized forms of Welsh names and borrowed English names were becoming common, replacing in popular favour the older and more sonorous heroic names such as Cadwaladr, Caradog and Gwenhwyfar, some of which had survived from pre-Roman times. The spelling of names in documents, even when referring to the same person, was far from consistent. Efforts have been made to classify variants under standardized forms for modern listing; these will be discussed later.

The explicit sign of the male patronymic, ab or ap, gradually disappeared, but the idea behind it remained a widespread and powerful influence on naming practice for a long time. Between the true patronymic and the modern surname there was an intermediate stage lasting from the late-seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth when it was common to use a Christian name followed by an unfixed surname, the latter determined according to the old patronymic custom, usually the father’s Christian name, but sometimes the grandfather’s, or even the father’s and grandfather’s together. For example, the great Methodist leader John Elias (who died in 1841) was the son of Elias Jones, who was the son of John Elias. An allied phenomenon was the alternative unfixed surname, such as ‘David Morgan Huw’ of Tre-filan, Cardiganshire, who was also known as ‘David Morgan’.

Such an entry will require a finding-reference under one or the other form. There is an example from Glamorgan in a report of the Charity Commissioners, dated 1837, quoting a charitable bequest by a certain David Thomas of Eglwysilan parish, in the hundred of Caerphilly, by Will dated 16 March 1709 ‘to his son William David’. The latter is clearly a patronymic without ap, and it may safely be assumed that the father’s name was such also.

Women’s names in the patronymic system

A woman could be described as the daughter of her father, the daughter of her mother (less often), or, if married, the wife of her husband, or his widow. She was not expected to substitute part of her name for her husband’s, as in a surname system, and it would have been ridiculous for her to ‘adopt’ her husband’s father’s name. Thus she stood in her own line of descent. The Welsh for ‘daughter’ is merch; in its ‘softened’ form verch (modern spelling ferch), it formed the link word between the daughter’s name and the father’s. So ‘Gwladys verch Ithel’ would be ‘Gwladys, daughter of Ithel’. In matrilineal descent, ‘Gwenleian vergh Angharat vergh Mally’ provides an example with three female names in succession. Verch (or vergl) is frequently found in abbreviated forms, such as vch, uch, vz, ver’, and ach. The usage has died out and there has been no attempt to revive it. Syndantically, the use of ferch should soften the initial letter of the following word, but this rule was not always observed in the case of proper names.

The term verch became confused with ap. An instance occurred in Cardiff in a document dated 1514, where a mention of ‘Amabilla Verz David ap Howell ap Jevan’ was endorsed ‘Amabilla ap David’, no doubt by a clerk whose knowledge of Welsh was limited.

The next historical stage in the development of women’s names was the omission of the link word, verch, with the result that the daughter’s Christian name simply
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The soft mutation in patronymic expressions

The foregoing discussion on the soft mutation anticipates a wider issue of the same kind. While each name in a patronymic chain is usually single, occasionally a noun or adjective may be added to a name to denote occupation, place of origin or personal characteristic. Such words may look like surnames (and at a certain stage of historical development they often became so), but at first they are simply descriptive. Another Itinerant Bailiff recorded in the county of Carmarthen was ‘Gru-

ffydd W hyster ab Ieuan ap Gruffydd ab Ieuan’.8

‘Wystyd’ was not a surname, but an occupational
description, from gwehydd, a ‘weaver’. The mutation is
carried because there is a noun in apposition immediately
following the personal name. The same rule applies to
adjectives similarly used.

The epithet tw, meaning ‘fat’, might be applied to a
person called Dafydd, and he would become ‘Dafydd
Dew’. The following examples of epithets attached to the
name ‘Dafydd’ all occur in the index to The Principality
of Wales in the later Middle Ages:9

Fychan, from bychan, meaning ‘small’; Anglicized into
‘Vaughan’, which was eventually used as a surname
and Christian name

Gam, from cam, meaning ‘bandy’, or possibly ‘squint-
ing’

Goch, from coch, meaning ‘red-haired’; eventually
used as a surname: ‘Gough’, ‘Goff’ and other forms

Hir, unchanged from hir, meaning tall

Hyna ap Llywelyn ap Hywel; this Dafydd was the
‘eldest’, hynaf, which has lost its final f

Leiaf, from lleiaf, meaning ‘youngest’

Llwyd (not mutated here), meaning ‘grey’ or ‘light
brown’, became a fixed surname as early as the
fourteenth century; widespread today as ‘Lloyd’ and
‘Floyd’, less frequently as ‘Loyd’

Nanmor, a proper noun referring to the birthplace of
this Dafydd, near Beddgelert, Gwynedd

Sais, meaning generally ‘Englishman’; often curiously
applied to obvious Welshmen, where it must mean
‘English-speaking’ or ‘having lived in England’.

The decline of the patronymic system

and the formation of surnames

The steady penetration of Wales by influences from its
much larger and more powerful neighbour from the
fifteenth century onwards had two consequences as far as
personal names were concerned. First, names within the
patronymic system frequently became Anglicized, and
many of the older Celtic names fell into disuse. Secondly,
the patronymic system itself was undermined by pressure
to conform with the surname system, which had taken
root earlier in England.

In passing it may be noted that Welsh names were
often ‘Latinized’ when cited in medieval documents, just

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as English names were. This process took them further from their original Welsh sound, and if anything, nearer to English. For example, ‘Griffinus’ was common for ‘Gruffydd’ and ‘Leolinus’ for ‘Llewelyn’. The same person might be cited in a Welsh, Latin or English form, and one cannot be sure which form, if any, was considered definitive at the time.

One obvious way of calling a halt to the patronymic succession and creating a surname was to adopt the father’s name as such. Many surnames of this kind incorporated a vestigial consonant, b or p, from ab or ap. Thus ‘ab Owen’ gave ‘Bowen’, ‘ap Hywel’ gave ‘Powell’ and ‘ap Rhys’, gave ‘Pryse’, ‘Price’ and ‘Preece’. But the old habit was tenacious, and the fact that ap had already been assimilated in a name presumably used as a surname did not prevent that name being recycled into the patronymic system. Thus we find among the tenants of Popham manor near Barry, Glamorgan, in 1584, a Jenkins ap Poel and a Hoel ap Poel. On the other hand, names without a vestigial consonant often became surnames: for example, Owen, Howell, Rees and Rice to parallel the forms cited above. In some cases there was a temptation to add a genitive ‘s’ to do duty for the ap. These included Evans, Jones and Davies. Occasionally a ‘familiar’ (‘hypocoristic’) form of a Welsh name formed the basis of an Anglicized surname, such as ‘Gutyn’, from Gruffydd, which gave ‘Gittins’. Epithets, too, became surnames. Already mentioned is vychan, which gave ‘Vaughan’. Finally, some surnames were formed from the names of places of origin; for example, Barry, Picton and Mostyn.

In the adoption of surnames the Welsh gentry led the way. As they came into increasing contact with their counterparts in England, they found it unfashionable and inconvenient to be without surnames. The most noteworthy example was Owain ap Maredudd ap Tudur ap Gronw Fychan (c. 1400–61), who took his grandfather’s name ‘Tudur’ as his fixed surname. He was the grandfather of Henry Tudor, who became King Henry VII. Had Owain chosen to be Owain Maredudd, England would have had a ‘Meredith’ dynasty, to use the Anglicized form. In sixteenth-century Glamorgan Sir Roger Williams, who was the son of Thomas ap William, took the name of his grandfather, with the genitive ‘s’. In the following century Sir Leoline Jenkins took his father’s name; he was the son of Jenkin ap Llew’ ap Gwilym Gwyn. Colonel Philip Jones of Fonmon was the son of David Johns, son of Philip ap John; here the ‘ap John’ became ‘Johns’ and then ‘Jones’.

The dominance of the father’s name in the patronymic system meant that the surnames which developed out of it were from male names. There were exceptions, for reasons which are not certain. Forms of ‘Gweirful’ and ‘Gwenhwyfar’, for instance, can be traced as surnames. Another phenomenon relating to women’s names is the incorporation of a surname from the female line into a family name for reasons of inheritance, as in the Williams Wynn family of Wynnstay, where the ‘Wynn’ is derived from an heiress. Unconnected with this is a modern Welsh custom of including the mother’s surname before that of the father in a family name, e.g. ‘Robert Williams Parry’. For a detailed treatment of these and similar topics the reader is referred to T. J. and Prys Morgan, Welsh surnames (Cardiff, 1985).

Indexing historic patronymic names

In the original patronymic form the first name is the significant one and becomes the guideword. Since most recorded Welsh patronymics belonged to the Middle Ages, they will tend to occur in works on Welsh history, where the narrative function has received more attention than the classification of names. Attempts to standardize methods of indexing names have been few and unconcerted. There is great variation in practice. Some indexers put a sequence of surnames before a sequence of patronymics, some after. Some make separate sequences for ab and ap, some amalgamate. Some make a separate sequence for single names followed by epithets, others incorporate them into a combined ab and ap sequence. Finally, some incorporate all forms in one sequence.

J. G. Edwards in Littere Wallie (Cardiff, 1940) made two sequences of entries under ‘Dafydd’, separating ap forms from names with added epithets, viz.

Dafydd ap William
Dafydd ab Ybryth
Dafydd ab Ydean

Dafydd Fychan
Dafydd Goch

James Conway Davies in The Welsh Assize Roll, 1277–1284 (Cardiff, 1940) attempted the same thing (though with a few anomalies), taking Gruffydd ap David through to Gruffydd ap Rewathlan Llywd, and then beginning a new sequence with Gruffydd Ddu Foel.

J. E. Lloyd in A history of Carmarthenshire (Cardiff, 1939) had three sequences, for ab, ap and those with epithets; e.g., Mareudd ap ———, Mareudd ap ———, Mareudd Ddall (from dall = ‘blind’). T. I. Jeffreys Jones in Exchequer Proceedings...(Cardiff, 1955) made one sequence for Griffiths and variants with ap, another for Griffith and variants without ap, and a third for Griffiths (with ‘s’) as a surname.

However, E. A. Lewis and J. Conway Davies in Records of the Court of Augmentations . . . (Cardiff, 1954) made three sequences under Lewis: first, Lewis as a surname, secondly, Lewis as patronymic with ab or ap, and thirdly, Lewis with added epithets.

A quite different procedure was followed by Ralph A. Griffiths in The Principality of Wales . . . (Cardiff, 1972), who consolidated all patronymics, whether with or without ab or ap and including those with epithets, so
that the sequence was determined by the initial letter of
the second name or the epithet, thus:

Dafydd ap Gwilym ap Llywelyn Llwyd (ap before
consonants)
Dafydd ap Gwilym Payn
Dafydd ap Gwilym ap y Person (y Person = 'the
Parson')
Dafydd Gwyn (Gwyn here either adjectival = 'fair or
white-headed', or proper name of father, with ap
missing
Dafydd Gwyn ab Ieuan ap Madog (ab before vowel)
Dafydd Gwyn ab Ieuan ap Morys (different
individual, since grandfather is different from
previous)
Dafydd Hir ap Llywelyn ap Philip (hir = 'tall')
Dafydd Hyna ap Llywelyn ap Hywel (hyna =
‘eldest’)
Dafydd Hywel (ap lost)
Dafydd ap Hywel
Dafydd ap Hywel ap Cadwgan

There were no surnames in the form of Dafydd in this
index, but elsewhere in the same work a separate
sequence was used for surnames, if needed. This practice
was followed also by T. B. Pugh in *The Marcher Lord-
ships of South Wales* (Cardiff, 1963). George T. Clark in
*The genealogies of Morgan and Glamorgan* (London,
1886) consolidated not only ab and ap forms and epi-
thets, but also surnames in the same sequence. The
foregoing examples are from indexes in historical publi-
cations.

The reader will wonder what efforts have been made to
produce systematic indexes of Welsh names which might
serve as patterns to follow. Three significant works may
be cited: first, the massive work in manuscript and
typescript (facsimile edition), by Peter C. Bartrum,
*Welsh genealogies A.D. 300-1400*, ten volumes. (Cardiff,
1972), and *Welsh genealogies A.D. 1400-1500*, eight
volumes (Aberystwyth, 1983). For the present purpose
Volume XII: 'Index of surnames', and Volume XIII
onwards: 'Index of persons' are the relevant sources.
*Names* are grouped under standardized forms and
indexed according to the English alphabet.

A more accessible and much smaller publication is
*Indexes to schedules: introduction*, published by the
Department of Manuscripts and Records of the National
Library of Wales (Aberystwyth, 1978, 25pp). This is
simply an introduction to the extensive card index relat-
ing to the schedules (not documents) held by the Depart-
ment. The section pertinent to the present enquiry is the
select personal-name index, which is divided into two
parts: the Welsh index and the English index. The Welsh
index is based on first names, i.e., patronymics. For the
standard forms modern Welsh spelling is used, and the
index follows the modern Welsh alphabet. *Ap* and *ferch
(or their equivalents) do not affect the ordering.

Presumed patronymics without *ap* etc. are all included in
the one sequence. Thus under the standard form
‘RHYS’, a sample part of the sequence runs:

(Rees Hywel Harri
(Rys Howell Parry
(Rees Powel Harry
(Rees Powel Parry
Res Hywel Harri Goch
Rys Howell Goch Parry
Rees Howell Llwyd ap Harri
Ris Goch ap Howell ap Harry

The bracketed names are exactly equatable and have to
be ordered according to date.

The English index lists persons and families along
familiar lines, and deals primarily with surnames, except
in the case of persons without surnames, e.g. monarchs
and saints, if they do not appear to be Welsh. This index
follows the English alphabet. As with first names in the
Welsh index, standard forms are adopted; for instance,
‘Jones’ includes ‘Johnes’, ‘Morriss’ includes ‘Maurice’ and
‘Morys’ and ‘Rees’ includes ‘Rhys’ and ‘Rice’. Hyphenated
surnames are normally entered under the second
element.

Thirdly, a recent publication, *Welsh surnames*, by T. J.
Morgan and Prys Morgan (Cardiff, 1985), deals not only
with surnames, but inevitably with their sources, includ-
ing the patronymic system. Again, the authors adopt
standard forms and group variants within them. For
example, ‘Gruffydd’ covers ‘Gruffudd’, ‘Griffith(s)’, ‘Guto’,
‘Gittins’, ‘Griffyn’ and so on.

The *International Genealogical Index*

An index of personal names still to be considered is the
International Genealogical Index (IGI), published by the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in micro-
fiche; hence its popular description, ‘the Mormon fiche’.
It is a world-wide project, containing some 88 million
names which date from the early 1500s to c. 1875. It has
been created for religious reasons (which need not be
elaborated here), but at the same time it can prove a
useful tool for genealogical research generally. The infor-
mation has been gathered from parish registers, Wills,
etc. A consolidated edition for Wales was published in
1984, divided into two sections: ‘Surnames’ and ‘Given
Names’. An update appeared in 1988, classified under
the old counties of Wales and Monmouthshire.

The introductory matter of the IGI acknowledges the
existence of patronymics before 1900 in Scandinavia, the
Netherlands and Wales, and enters a caveat: ‘the Genea-
logical Department uses arbitrary guide-lines for assign-
ing patronymic surnames’. A clue to the policy regarding
Welsh cases is given by an entry under Caernarvonshire
(1988 edn.): ‘Ap Robert, see ‘Robert’. In short, the
second element of a patronymic is taken to be the
guideword. The information is there, but has to be found
by inspecting the recorded name of the child and com-

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paring it with the name of the father, as in the example 'Ellis, Ann [daughter of] Ellis Williams and Margaret' (dated 20 October 1805).

It does not follow that ap or verch was still in use when these ‘hidden’ patronymics were recorded in the parish registers, but hidden or explicit, many patronymics should be traceable in the ‘Given Name’ index.

The compilers clearly knew something about the formation of Welsh surnames, since they index ‘Bellis’ under ‘Ellis’, ‘Bowen’ under ‘Owen’ and ‘Powell’ under ‘Howell’. However, ‘Beynon’ appears under ‘B’, not under ‘E’ for ‘Eynon’. The introductory rubrics include the useful advice: ‘This means you must be alert’.

Modern patronymics

In the nineteenth century there was a revival of patronymics not as a self-sufficient naming system, but as additional names or ‘ornamental aliases’. This was largely inspired by patriotic and antiquarian feeling, but it had a practical value in helping to distinguish between numerous individuals bearing the same humdrum name. *The dictionary of Welsh biography* records no less than seventeen individuals named William Williams whose lives fell wholly or partly into the nineteenth century, and most of these fortunately bore a recognized bardic name or other epithet.12

For their ‘secondary’ name some chose a form exactly following the old patronymic. Taliesin Williams (1787–1847) took the name ‘Taliesin ab Iolo’ after his more famous father, ‘Iolo Morganwg’, otherwise Edward Williams, stonemason, antiquarian, poet and founder of the Gorsedd of the Bards of the Isle of Britain, now an inseparable feature of the National Eisteddfod of Wales. ‘Iolo’ is a familiar or ‘hypocoristic’ form of ‘Iorwerth’, which is a Welsh equivalent for Edward.

The Reverend John Williams (1811–62), high churchman, eisteddfod-promoter, transcriber of manuscripts and joint founder of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, achieved fame under the pseudonym ‘Ab Ithel’, which he adapted from his grandfather’s surname ‘Bethell’. This was a patronymic without a main identity. The same kind of half-patronymic was adopted by William Williams the artist (1801–69), who was a nonconformist minister. A capital ‘A’ was used in each of the above cases because the expression stood alone.

As distinct from ‘ornamental aliases’ invented for bardic and eisteddfodic purposes, a new category of patronymics has emerged in the twentieth century, names devised by nostalgic language enthusiasts seeking to establish a modern identity for themselves in the old style. In the 1930s a well-known Welsh headmaster, Evan Thomas Griffiths, used to address letters to his son, a student at Aberystwyth, in the form Islwyn ab Ifan (‘Ifan’ = ‘Evan’). The son did not retain this style in later life, but found it of some advantage in college to distinguish himself from another student of the same name but of different parentage.13

Indexing modern patronymics

In the modern world the making of indexes is not confined to the last few pages of a printed book, it is part of the machinery of daily life. In a hospital, a doctor’s surgery, a bank, an office or any context where personal service is dispensed on a large scale, the retrieval of names is crucial to the effectiveness of the service. In a society which assumes the existence of definitive surnames transmitted from one generation to another (which still applies when a woman changes her name by marriage), the idea that a full identity resides in one personal name is incomprehensible; this is assumed to be a ‘first’ name and therefore not capable of becoming a guideword. When the patronymic principle is explained, it becomes obvious that the second name, the father’s, is quite inappropriate as a guideword, so that leaves only ab or ap. This last is the solution chosen by the telephone directory, where separate sequences are adopted for ab, ap and agglutinated forms. In the volume for North West Wales dated July 1987, the patronymic entries were arranged as follows under ‘A’ (punctuation of British Telecom):

Ab Eurig Arfon Wyn (Arfon Wyn being two first names)
Ab Ifor G. (G being the initial of a first name)
Ab Iorwerth R.

Ap Cynan M
Ap Gomer Elfed
Ap Griffith Dafydd
ap Gwilym E
Ap Iorwerth H. M
Ap Rhobert D. Li
Ap Thomas E
Ap Thomas G
Ap Thomas Dr I
Ap Thomas Partnership
Ap Tomas

Aphys Dr T. Li (presumably the subscriber’s chosen form)
Ap-Thomas D. R (in Telecom rules the hyphen evidently joins rather than separates for the purpose of indexing)
Ap-Thomas I

This practice is followed in *The phone book* for other parts of Wales. As would be expected from the geographical distribution of Welsh users, the north-west...
has produced more entries of this kind than elsewhere. In the south-west one subscriber has seen risks in the situation: the firm ‘Ap Gwent & Co.’ has one entry under ‘A’ and another under ‘G’, as ‘Gwent Ap & Co.’. This expression shows the patronymic tradition in terminal decline: first, it refers to a corporate institution, not an individual, and secondly, the indispensable first name is not mentioned.

When the sons of the present generation of patronymic subscribers wish to be entered in the telephone directory, they will have to decide whether to substitute the father’s name for that of the grandfather (and thus probably move the entry in a different place in the Ap sequence), or to allow the grandfather’s name to become a quasi-surname preceded by Ap, hyphenated to Ap or amalgamated with Ap. This was essentially the dilemma of the Welsh in the late Middle Ages, when patronymics first became surnames. Of course, if a craze for patronymics swept the Welsh nation, and half the telephone directory came to be filled with Ab and Ap entries, the compilers might be induced to adopt a true patronymic sequence with the subscriber’s first name as guideword. Unfortunately, the prevalent use of initials rather than first names would seriously hamper such a move. A choice would next have to be made on whether to include patronymics within the main sequence or deal with them separately.

Other Welsh personal names affected by mutation

Many biblical and non-Welsh historical personages have been given Welsh names, and under the appropriate conditions mutation may take place, as in the names of Welsh people. Indexers familiar with Welsh will not find this a problem, but others might like to be forewarned in case such expressions are quoted in an English text. In English ‘William the Conqueror’ would be indexed under ‘W’, with a possible finding-reference ‘Conqueror’ under ‘C’. The Welsh equivalent is ‘Gwilym Orchwyrgrw’; the second element has mutated from its radical form gorchwyrgrw (= ‘conqueror’) because it is in apposition to ‘Gwilym’ and if given as a finding-reference it should be in the radical form under ‘G’. Similarly, ‘John the Baptist’ is ‘Ioan Feddyddwr’ in Welsh; the radical form of feddyddwr (= ‘baptist’) is beddyddwr, to be indexed under ‘B’. However, in the case of ‘Dewi Sant’ (= ‘Saint David’), the ‘S’ does not mutate (see table of mutations already given). ‘Dewi’ is an earlier Welsh form of ‘David’ than ‘Dafydd’ and is always used for the patron saint. In Welsh, ‘Dewi Sant’ is indexed under ‘D’, while in English ‘St David’ will sometimes be under ‘S’ and sometimes under ‘D’, according to the nature of the work indexed. Mutated names will obviously create difficulty in computer word-searches.

Welsh ornamental aliases

The Welsh have never been backward in inventing extra names for themselves and their compatriots. Some of these names arose from a spirit of humour or satire, some were designed to make the holder feel grander than his normal name would suggest, and some were needed to distinguish between a host of individuals bearing the same name. These were not the names entered in the parish register at the time of birth and death, not the names that gave an individual a legal and fiscal identity.

The Welsh edition of the dictionary of Welsh biography, Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig hyd 1940 (Cymrerdorion, 1953), contains a list by M. Beatrice Davies of nearly 500 pseudonyms referring to prominent Welsh people included in the dictionary who had lived at any date up to 1940. Apart from a handful of medieval origin, the vast majority originated in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with the preponderance in the latter. This is hardly surprising, for the population was then increasing greatly and Welsh cultural awareness and national consciousness were reaching a climax. At that time, too, real names in Wales demonstrated the ultimate in dullness and repetition, with David Davieses and John Joneses by the thousand. Most of those who received or gave themselves such additional names were intellectuals of one kind or another—writers, poets, painters, ministers of religion, musicians and so on.

What were the sources of inspiration for these pseudonyms? The old patronymic style has already been mentioned, and various other examples have appeared in the text. Some celebrities took names from Welsh history, such as ‘Caradog’, ‘Giraldus’ and ‘Gwrgant’, others from classical tradition, such as ‘Brutus’, ‘Nicander’ and ‘Vulcan’. The teacher and bard David Richards (1751–1827) was called ‘Dafydd Ionawr’ because his birthday was in January (Ionawr). John Ceiriog Hughes (1832–87) used his middle name ‘Ceiriog’, which referred to a river near his birthplace. In the twentieth century the Reverend Albert Evans Jones is much more recognizable in Wales under his bardic name ‘Cynan’, and the Reverend William Evans as ‘Wil Ifan’. Both served as Archdruids of the Gorsedd. Such names may well be the principal form used in a publication and thus require indexing as guidewords carrying the main entry. This occurs in W. J. Gruffydd’s anthology of Welsh poetry, Y Flodeugerdd Gymraeg (Caerdydd, 1946).

Bardic pseudonyms are not just a phenomenon of history; they are created in significant numbers annually as new members are admitted to the Gorsedd of the Bards of the Isle of Britain by examination or honoris causa at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. Not only poets and writers but public figures of distinction are honoured.

Conclusions

Amidst all the complexities of Welsh names, what simple rules can be offered in summary to the indexer? While certain basic principles can be commended after examining many divergent practices, it has to be admit-
ted that in this field, perhaps more than in others, one has to take a relativist position. Much depends on the purpose of the index itself, if it stands alone, or of the publication which it is to serve. Quite opposite conclusions may be reached in different cases.

A true patronymic, whatever its length, should undoubtedly be indexed under its first element; any other solution destroys its identity. Thus 'Llywelyn ap Gruffydd' will appear under 'L' in an English work and under 'LI' in a Welsh; similarly, 'Gwenllian ferch Madoc' will appear under 'G' in either language. In the case of an incomplete patronymic, i.e. one without the first element, as 'Ab Ithel', there is no alternative but to index it under 'A' (examples beginning Ferch do not occur); since such forms are invariably alternative names of recent creation, they can be cross-referred to a conventional surname. So, too, when Ap has become an integral part of the second name to form a quasi-surname, e.g. 'Aphrys', the name appears under 'A'. Difficulty arises when some modern administrative decision places all names containing ap under 'A' regardless. Such a situation can only be discovered from experience. Another difficulty is in recognizing a patronymic at all in a possible example where no connecting ap or verch is present. It is not practicable to offer rules on how to recognize a 'hidden' patronymic; only experience, knowledge and a scrutiny of the context can provide the answer, and even then not every time.

The real problem with patronymics is to decide how many sequences there should be. Strict adherence to general indexing conventions would indicate five: (a) names with ab, (b) names with ap, (c) names with ab or ap understood but not expressed, (d) names followed by an epithet before ab, (e) names followed by an epithet before ap. However, since ab and ap are identical in meaning and function and their omission is merely an accident of history, commonsense and ease of retrieval would impel one to make a single sequence, provided the purpose of the publication was not specifically to demonstrate the relative frequency of ab, ap, etc.

It can be argued that surnames are a different kind of name and deserve a separate sequence from patronymics. This is the point of view of P.C. Bartrum and the National Library of Wales in their large-scale classificatory systems. On the other hand, in a relatively short index to his Genealogies, G. T. Clark opted for one sequence for patronymics and surnames. Next is the matter of mutations. These will normally be expected in epithets following a Christian name (though not in all initial letters). Exceptionally, an obvious mutation is found in a Christian name, and it can also occur in the historical development of surnames. The normal aim should be to retrieve the radical form for the main entry, and, if the variant is considered to be sufficiently important, to give a finding-reference, e.g. 'Wenllian, see Gwenllian'.

In any classification of Christian names or surnames, some grouping of cognate forms may be necessary, with a standard version as guideword. The three indexes, Bartrum, National Library of Wales and Morgan can offer useful precedents, though they will not be unanimous in every particular.

Finally, the question of pseudonyms will loom large in works of Welsh interest relating to literature, history, religion and certain cultural activities. Usual indexing practice places the main entry under the real name and gives a finding-reference under the pseudonym, but again the nature of the publication or classification involved will have to be taken into account. In many works on Welsh literature, whether in Welsh or English, pseudonyms (bardic names) are used as main references in the text; in such cases the index must reflect the text and use the pseudonyms as guidewords, with finding-references, if thought appropriate, under the real names. Happily, one is not likely to be troubled by variants or by mutations in this category.

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Commander Donald Moore, RD, BA, MEd, FSA, FMA, RNR (Retd.) is a Past President of the Cambrian Archaeological Association; he has been Convener of the Association's Index Sub-Committee for more than thirty years and has seen through the press two volumes of the Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis. A third volume, covering the years 1961 to 1980, is about to be printed. He has written or edited numerous publications on archaeology, art, museology and local history. Since retiring from the post of Keeper of Pictures and Maps at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1984, he has worked as a consultant on various projects concerned with art and museums in Wales.

References and bibliography
4. Information from Dr Prys Morgan.
Father of the man

'I've often seen a cat without a grin,' thought Alice; 'but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life.'

By the same token, an index without a book may be deemed to be much more unusual, not to say curious, than the oft-lamented phenomenon of a book without an index. An example came my way recently—like most good things in life, in the course of looking for something else.

To dispel some of the mystery at the start, the 'book' in question was not printed, but in manuscript. Had it been published, then the chances of its being no longer in existence would obviously be much smaller. The 'Book of Miracles' was a volume among the papers of George Fox, the Quaker, which has since disappeared and may be presumed to have been destroyed. But not 'lost without trace'; nor, indeed, in one sense any longer 'unpublished', since in 1948, some two and a half centuries after Fox's death, its text was reconstructed and edited by Henry J. Cadbury.*

Following Fox's death in 1691 an 'Annual Catalogue' of his papers was compiled, complete with an alphabetical index. Cadbury's Introduction describes how the index was arranged and the way in which he was able to reconstruct from it a large part of the missing 'Book of Miracles'. This process was, as Cadbury says, 'so unusual that it must be described' and may be so here largely in his own words.

Fox's surviving papers were arranged in a series of collections, each represented in the index by a letter or letters (both upper and lower cases being used), with a key to these identifying symbols. Entries in the index were by key words, e.g. a surname, arranged alphabetically and followed, 'according to the manner of the time', by 'the first and last words of the passage containing it and a reference to the collection and page in Fox's writings in which the cataloguer found it.'

Against the letter 'O' in the key to symbols Cadbury found the entry: 'Gffs miracles, fol. bound mst', which was elucidated and confirmed by a reference in the index itself to 'Gffs book of miracles'. This pointed clearly to a bound volume entitled 'The Book of Miracles', to which index entries with the symbol 'O' referred. As an example of such an entry, Cadbury quotes:

Foster
  Mary Foster one of her... restored to health 15 0
  Mary Foster who lives in L... to the praise of the Lord 63 0

Cadbury inferred from this that 'on p. 15 of the "Book of Miracles" was one narrative which began and ended with the words given on the first line, and on p. 63 another narrative about the same person using the words of the second line.'

Of the 15,000 entries in the index, about 350 referred to this 'Book of Miracles', each relating some case of a 'miraculous' cure or similar event; and by identifying multiple references to the same incident, this figure was reduced to a total of 171 incidents. Partly by conflating index entries referring to the same incident and partly from parallel sources such as Fox's Journal, Cadbury was then able to reconstruct most of the missing volume and to publish it as a text resurrected from the dead.

Even if the index was not the only source for the reconstruction, it was the major one, without which the existence of this collection of miracle stories would never have been suspected. Whether any other 'lost text' has ever been recovered in such a way, I cannot say; but Cadbury's achievement prompts the thought that one criterion of a really effective index may be the extent to which it would make this possible.


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