

# IMCS JOURNAL

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FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE EARLY MAPS



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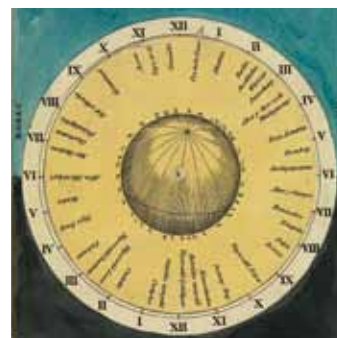
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*Front cover* Detail of 'Nouvelle Mappede-Monde avec La representations des deux Emispheres Celestes...', Nicolas Bailleul, Lyon, 1750, 510 x 725 mm, Juha Nurminen Collection. The decorative borders left and right are not shown; each side displays five cosmographic diagrams illustrating the movements of the sun, the moon, the eclipses, the winter and summer solstices as well as the theories of Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Ptolemy and Descartes.

# ‘DARLUNIAD Y DDAEAR’

## *Pre-twentieth-century Welsh language maps of the world*

Huw Thomas

The history of mapping in Welsh is irrevocably bound to the fight to protect Welsh language, culture and identity over the past 450 years.

The first printed map to use Welsh was Humphrey Llwyd's (1527–1568) ‘Cambriae Typus’ (1573). Published by Ortelius after Llwyd's drawings, it included a number of place names rendered into Welsh, English and Latin.<sup>1</sup> Llwyd was from Denbighshire, a county which, as will be seen, played an important role in the story of Welsh mapping. Llwyd is perhaps one of the most important figures in sparking the renewed interest in Welsh cultural history out of which grew the impetus for the production of world maps.

Despite Llwyd's pioneering work it was to be over a century before the first map, wholly in Welsh, was printed, however, rather than depicting Wales, as might be expected, it was of the world. ‘Darluniad y Ddaear’ (A delineation of the Earth) was first published in the third edition of *Y Ffydd Ddi-ffuant* (The Unfeigned Faith), in Oxford in 1677. A book on Christian apologetics and history, it was written by Charles Edwards a ‘Puritan man of letters’ from Llansilin in Denbighshire.<sup>2</sup>

A double hemisphere map, measuring 13.5 x 20.5 cm, with limited information, it includes diagrams and text explaining both solar and lunar eclipses as well as a generalised description of climatic zones. The content is not unusual for the time: California is presented as an island; Tierra Del Fuego is possibly attached to Antarctica; the Northern Australian coastline is poorly delineated and shown as connected to Antarctica (Fig. 1).

This map is a simplified version of one engraved by Robert Vaughan, another Denbighshire man, which was in turn a reduced version of John Speed's world map published in the ‘Prospect’ in 1627.<sup>3</sup> Its London engraver, printseller and publisher was Richard Palmer (fl. 1673–89), a former apprentice of Richard Blome who had also worked for John Overton and John Seller among others.<sup>4</sup>

The map was reissued in the book's fourth edition. Remarkably, the original copper printing plate has

survived and is now held in the Rawlinson Collection at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

As a visual aid in a religious text the inclusion of a map was already well established in the seventeenth century and the places on the map are mentioned in the text. This use of maps to illustrate other works, rather than being produced as distinct publications, is a feature of the history of Welsh language mapping in this period.

The next world map printed in Welsh was not produced until 1805, drawn by Robert Roberts (1778–1836) of Holyhead, probably while he was working in London as an author and publisher.<sup>5</sup> It has two similarities to its predecessor: firstly the title is the same, ‘Darluniad y Ddaear’ and once again, the original copper printing plate has survived (Figs. 2 & 3).<sup>6</sup>

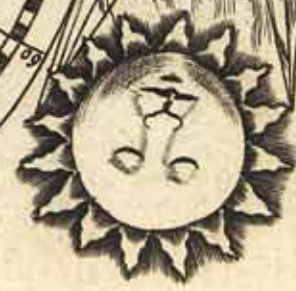
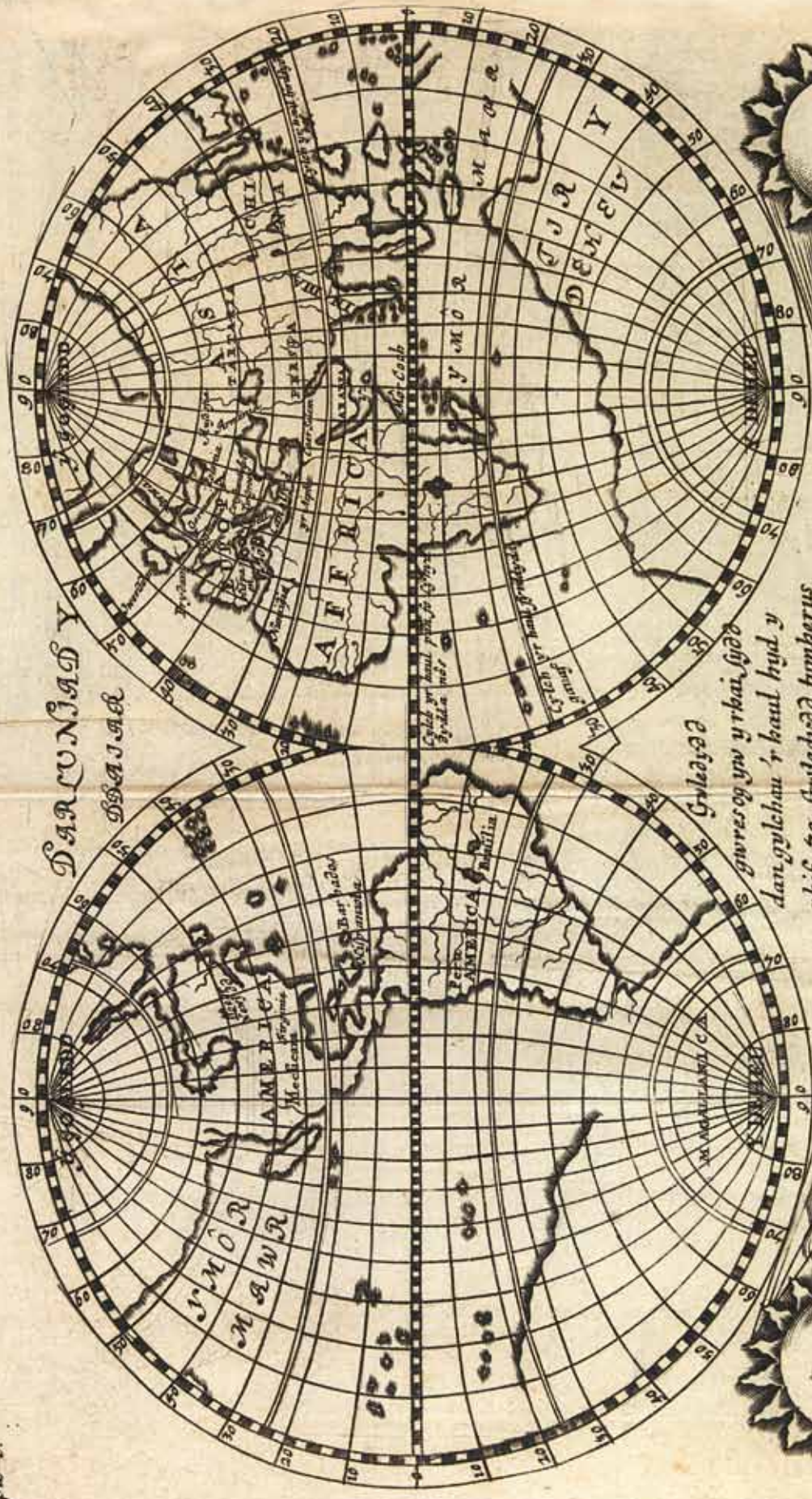
The map was drawn for the Rev. Thomas Charles, a leading Welsh Calvinistic Methodist. Charles was concerned to help the Welsh speaking population to a better understanding of the Bible and in their education more generally. In order to achieve this goal, he produced *Y Geiriadur Ysgrhythrol* (The Scripture Dictionary). This substantial work was originally published in four volumes between 1805 and 1811; despite the title, it was more of a general encyclopaedia: thus the inclusion of a world map.

The map states in Welsh that it was drawn by Roberts for inclusion in the *Geiriadur*, yet the imprint is in English: ‘Engraved by C. Taylor, No 108 Hatton Garden, London. Published by the Rev. T. Charles, Bala. Jan. 1. 1806’. It is clear that it was engraved in London by Charles Taylor and probably also printed there, rather than in Bala where the text was printed.

This double hemisphere map is larger, measuring 21 x 35 cm, and more detailed than the Palmer engraving. It displays the advances in geographical knowledge which had occurred since the publication of the 1677 map. Apart from the northern reaches of North America and the southern coast of Australia, the world is largely as we know it today. The original source for this map is unknown; there were many double-hemisphere



# DARUNIAU Y DDEU



Digwydd Pelys ar yr haul panfo'r  
Heuad rhwythno ef a'r ddaiar



R Palmer sculp lleill.

rhif 30. Gwledydd tymberus  
yw y rhai sydd oddiyno hyd y rhif 70  
tua'r gogledd a'r deheu o  
ddautu'r ddaiar, a  
thra-berlyd yw'r



Eclips y llouad a berir pan  
ddaiar yn sefydlu rhwythno hi a'r haul



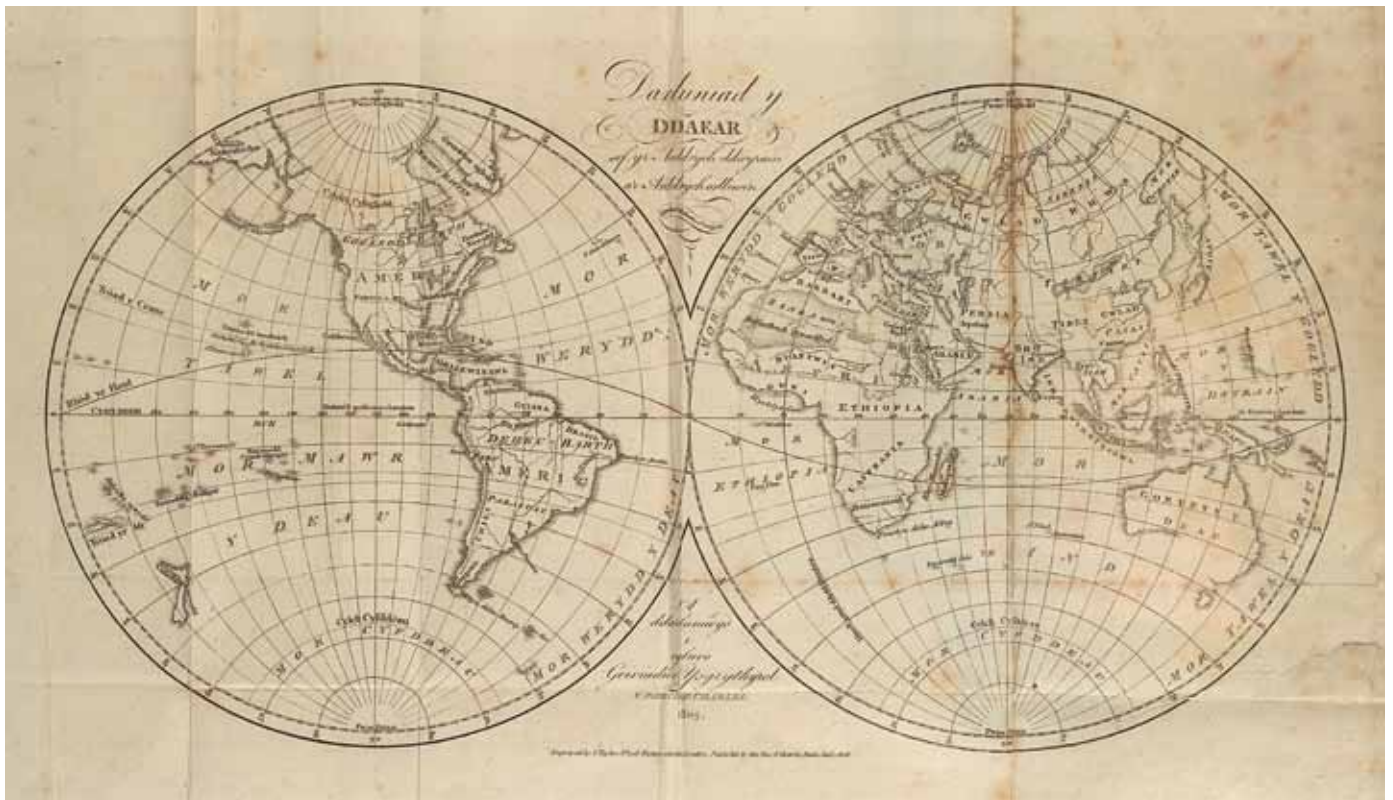


Fig. 2 'Darluniad y Ddaear' by Robert Roberts, 1805, 21 x 35 cm. Image © Copyright National Library of Wales, 2017.

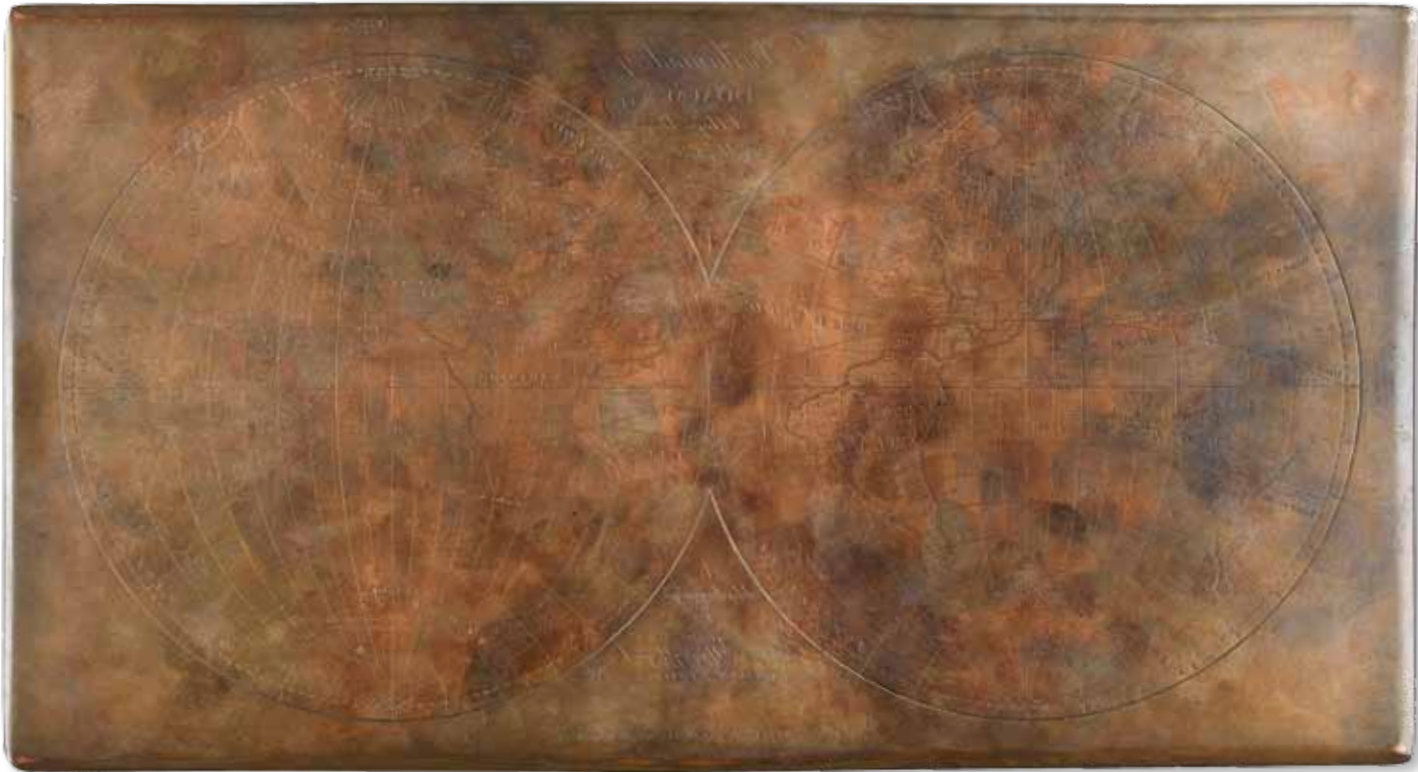


Fig. 3 'Darluniad y Ddaear' by Robert Roberts, 1836, with Robert Saunderson's imprint. Printing plate 22 x 39 cm. Image © Copyright National Library of Wales, 2017.