"I AM NO FRIVOLOUS MINSTREL": THE WELSH BARDs AND KING EDWARD I

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Abstract:
After his military and economic defeat of the Welsh in 1282, King Edward I of England realized the most effective means of controlling Wales was by undermining the efficacy of its culture. This thesis argues the definitive role of the Welsh bardic tradition in the historical context of Edward's understanding that cultural domination was as vital to the total sublimation of the Welsh as were their military and economic defeats. While many historians have examined Edward's military and economic campaigns against the Welsh, few have concentrated on his understanding that dominating thirteenth-century Welsh cultural coherence was Edward's most important methodology.

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The original Welsh title of the lullaby was “Ar Hyd y Nos.” It is sung to a tune recorded in the Musical and Poetical relics of the Welsh Bards by Edward Jones. The lyrics are attributed to John Ceiriog Hughes. We have included all the verses of this beautiful lullaby that we could find though Amy generally sings only the first four. Though I roam a minstrel lonely All through the night My true harp shall praise sing only All through the night Love’s young dream, alas, is over Yet my strains of love shall hover Near the presence of my lover All through the night. Hark, a solemn bell is ringing Clear through the night Thou, my love, art heavenward winging Home through the night Earthly dust from off thee shaken Soul immortal shalt thou awaken With thy last dim journey taken Home through the night.