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Morgan *ab* Athrwys

(*d. c.* 665/710)

David E. Thornton

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Morgan *ab* Athrwys (*d. c.* 665/710), king of Glywysing, was son of Athrwys ap Meurig. He ruled the kingdom of Glywysing, probably incorporating a large part of south-east Wales, during the second half of the seventh century. Though he had long been identified with the Morgan who died in 665, more recent analysis of the charters in the Book of Llandaff (from which most of the information about him derives) would suggest he ruled from about 670 until about 710. He has also been regarded as the eponym of the later kingdom of Morgannwg, though this honour should probably go to his descendant Morgan Hen ab Owain. Morgan's land grants recorded in the Book of Llandaff are scattered throughout south-east Wales, identifying the extent of his landholding and possibly also that of his royal authority. It appears that there were a number of other kings and sub-kings in this region at that time (including Morgan's brother Ithel), but Morgan was probably the predominant ruler. He seems to have succeeded his father Athrwys ap Meurig (*c.* 670), though his grandfather Meurig ap Tewdrig was still active after this point. One incident in the Book of Landaff describes Morgan slaying his uncle Ffriog ap Meurig, possibly about 675, and then (allegedly) submitting to Euddogwy, bishop of Llandaff. That the two kinsmen had previously sworn oaths to keep the peace between them indicates that relations had not always been amicable. Ffriog is not entitled king, though their rivalry may have been dynastic in origin. Morgan's wife may have been one Ricceneth, and his sons were called Ithel and Gwyddnerth. On his death, whether in 665 or about 710, Morgan was succeeded by Ithel from whom the later kings of Morgannwg claimed descent.

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