

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Beulan

(fl. c. 1000–c. 1050)

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/2316>

Published in print: 23 September 2004

Published online: 23 September 2004

Beulan (fl. c. 1000–c. 1050), priest, was probably the master (*magister*) of the scriptorium or monastic school responsible for the creation of the recension of the early ninth-century Cambro-Latin *Historia Brittonum* which first attributes its authorship to Nennius and has been followed in this error by later scholars. Internal analysis of this recension suggests that the monastery in question was located in north Wales, possibly on Anglesey; though it was probably not at Llanbeulan (in Llifon commote, Anglesey), which rather was the church of a Peulan (Poulan), not a Beulan. Despite some computational calculations which might be taken to imply that the recension was drawn up in the early tenth century, most evidence would suggest that this work, and therefore Beulan's *floruit*, should be placed in the first half of the eleventh century. The scribe who drew up the recension under the direction of Beulan was probably called Euben (for Old Welsh Euen, now Owain). Euben was also the author of two short Latin verses in honour of a fellow cleric Samuel, described therein as the *infans* of Beulan. It is not certain, however, that Samuel was the biological son of Beulan (a fact not impossible for an early medieval Welsh cleric) or simply his spiritual disciple.

Sources

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