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PUBLISHING IN WALES

Renaissance and Resistance

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Publishing in Wales

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ABSTRACT: The creation of texts preserves culture, literature, myths, and society, and provides invaluable insights into history. Yet we still have much to learn about the history of how those texts were produced and how the production of texts has influenced modern societies, particularly in smaller nations like Wales. The story of publishing in Wales is closely connected to the story of Wales itself. Wales, the Welsh people, and the Welsh language have survived invasion, migration, oppression, revolt, resistance, religious and social upheavals, and economic depression. The books of Wales chronicle this story and the Welsh people’s endurance over centuries of challenges. Ancient law books, medieval manuscripts, legends and myths, secretly printed religious works, poetry, song, social commentary, and modern novels tell a story of a tiny nation, its hardy people, and an enduring literary legacy that has an outsized influence on culture and literature far beyond the Welsh borders.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/rawlins

KEYWORDS: publishing, history of the book, history of wales, welsh language, history of printing

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