

## MAILOC

*Melville Richards*

At first sight the name of this bishop, noted in 572, would appear to be exactly cognate with the Welsh name *Maelog*. *Maelog* is a derivative of the W *Mael* 'prince, chief, leader', which occurs both as a common noun and as a personal name. The suffix *-og* < \**-acos* through *-awc*, *-awg* > *-og*. This is why it is difficult to accept *Mailoc* in 572, since the change from *-awc* (*-awg*) to *-oc*, *-og* did not occur in Welsh until some centuries later.

However, *Mael* and its derivatives are firmly established in Welsh in various forms. *Maelog* as a saint's name is found in *Llanfaelog* in Anglesey, and with the hypocoristic prefix *-ty* in the name *Tyfaelog*, as in *Llandyfaelog* in Carmarthenshire and Breconshire. *Maelog* itself may be an affectionate diminutive, since we know that another well-known saint was familiarly known as *Cadog*, but that his official name was *Cadfael*. *Maelog* may therefore stand for a full two-element name like *Maelien* (*Maglo-* + *genos*) or *Maelgwn* (*Maglo-cunos*), but there is no definite evidence to prove this.

*Maelog* was also apparently known as *Meilyg* (later *Meilig*), and patron saint of Llywes in Radnorshire, but there may have been early confusion between two different persons. *Meilyg* could < \**Maglocu*, the nominative case of \**Maglocunos*.

The hagiographic details may be found in Baring-Gould and Fisher, *The Lives of the British Saints*, Vol. III, s.n. *Maelog*.