Hywel Dda laws. Marriage was considered an agreement, not a holy sacrament. Divorce was permitted by common consent. There was no punishment for theft - if the sole purpose was to stay alive. Illegitimate children received the same rights as legitimate sons and daughters. You were allowed to pick up three things if you found them in the road - a horseshoe, a nail and a penny. It was sold by the Massachusetts Historical Society of Boston. Tenth century Welsh ruler Hywel Dda (Hywel The Good) created the country's first uniform legal system. A sense of fairness ran through the laws, includin Hywel Dda 'the Good' is one of the outstanding figures in early Welsh history. Hywel was born in around 880, the son of King Cadell of Seisyllwg. Cadell had been appointed as King of Seisyllwg by his father, Rhodri the Great of Gwynedd, who became steward of Seisyllwg following the death by drowning in 872 of his brother-in-law,Gwon, the last king of Seisyllwg. King Cadell died around 911,after which his lands were divided between his two sons Hywel and Clydog. After being drawn up at Ty Gwynhe the Laws of Hywel were deposited at Dinefwr Castle later in the tenth century . Hywel's reign was a violent one, but he achieved an understanding with Athelstan of England whereby Athelstan and Hywel ruled part of Wales jointly. This Branch, like all the others in the Mabinogi, draws on a mixture of pagan mystery tale and traditional tribal history, all of which will be considered below. Otherworld relationships of another kind feature of the first section of this Branch, in which the hero Pwyll changes places with Arawn, a king from the faery underworld of Annwfn. In the broader scheme of the Mabinogi (or at least the version which has survived to us today) the First Branch introduces a number of themes which play themselves out in the Branches to come. The inter-related concepts of the Indigenous Underworld and the Ancient South have been discussed more fully in Chapter 2 of my study of the Four Branches of the Mabinogi.