Unique is the adjective that may properly and unhesitatingly be used to describe the feat accomplished by Richard Bebb. Dr Sioned Williams and Saer Books in making this sumptuous book. *The Bardic Chair* is an example of strikingly fine craftsmanship enhancing a notable piece of work that fixes our attention, as never before, on the prime celebratory symbol of the Welsh poet’s place in the life of his nation over many centuries.

Dr Sioned Williams’s expertise wedded to Richard Bebb’s proven scholarship vouches for the firm foundation on which this book stands and the expert commentary accompanying an extensive series of illustrations is beyond doubt illuminating. As for the quality of the illustrations it is unfailingly splendid. Richard Bebb deserves unstinting praise for opening a gallery that exhibits the iconic draw and mystique of the bardic chair whatever the status of the competition it serves to promote.

Guided by a newly minted curiosity, he has discovered for himself how this particular chair impacts as an authentic signifier of the distinctiveness of Welsh culture. He has realized that an understanding of the context which gives this age-old symbol its power and hold on the popular imagination cannot be overstated. The chair is no mere historical fact; it is a living concept, an ideal and a continuous challenge. Under its spell, the makers of this book have fashioned a work of art whose beauty should renew our pride in the onliving tradition that long ago made ‘winning the chair’ the pre-eminent target for a Welsh poet’s aspirations.

*The Bardic Chair* merits the last tribute of a classical Welsh praise poem. In the short term we can best show our appreciation by acknowledging that we have been given a book to treasure and buying it in our many hundreds.

*Hywel Teifi Edwards*