

interests as an author were by no means exclusively Celtic. Indeed, even when composing the *Itinerarium Kambriae* he had already begun writing a major political work, the *De Principis Instructione*, focused primarily on the reign of King Henry II, as well as the *Speculum Ecclesiae*, a wide-ranging critique of the Church and especially the religious orders, both of which were finally completed only in retirement in Lincoln (in c. 1217 and c. 1220 respectively).⁸⁸ The diversity of his literary output reflects his ability to encompass the two worlds represented by Wales and England. Indeed, his adoption of the role of author and scholar can be seen, to a significant degree, as a creative response to the difficulties he encountered in crossing the boundaries between those worlds. Sensitive to the conflicts inherent in Anglo-Welsh relationships, Giraldus's own life is a remarkable testimony to one individual's attempt to transcend ethnic and cultural borders in medieval Europe.

⁸⁸ Giraldus, *Opera* 6 pp. 47, 53; Bartlett (as n. 6) pp. 219-20.