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9576. Thomas (Neil): The Celtic wild man tradition and Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Vita Merlini*: madness or *contemptus mundi*?

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The Merlin material in the *Vita Merlini*, seen in the tradition of the Celtic saints' lives, shows how the image of Merlin, originally that of a psychological casualty of the battle of Arfderydd, is modified to take on the positive profile of a Celtic holy man.