

# Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales



## Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Berta Ruck Archive, (GB 0210 BERTRUCK)

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Description follows NLW guidelines based on ISAD(G) 2nd ed.; AACR2; and LCSH

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## Gwybodaeth grynodeb | Summary information

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<b>Lleoliad   Repository:</b>	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
<b>Teitl   Title:</b>	Berta Ruck Archive,
<b>ID:</b>	GB 0210 BERTRUCK
<b>Virtua system control number [alternative]:</b>	vtls004641750
<b>Dyddiad   Date:</b>	[c. 1890]-[1974x1978] / (dyddiad creu   date of creation)
<b>Disgrifiad ffisegol   Physical description:</b>	62 vols.
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	English
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	German
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	French
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	Welsh
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	Italian
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	Hungarian
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	Swedish
<b>Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu   Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	
<b>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</b>	Title based on contents.

## Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

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### Nodyn | Note

Berta Ruck (1878-1978), novelist, was born Amy Roberta Ruck in the Punjab, India, on 2 August 1878. She was the eldest of the eight children of Lieutenant (later Colonel) Arthur Ashley Ruck (1847-1939) of Esgair and Pantlludw, Merioneth, and Elizabeth Eleanor (née D'Arcy, 1852-1928). She came to Britain aged two to live with her grandmother in Merioneth, then with her father's return from India the family moved to Lancashire. In 1888 Col. Ruck was appointed Chief Constable of Caernarvonshire and the rest of Ruck's childhood was spent in Caernarfon and Bangor, where she attended St Winifred's School

as a boarder. She then studied at Lambeth School of Art, the Slade School of Fine Art (from 1901) and at the Académie Colarossi in Paris (1904-5). In 1909 she married fellow novelist and Slade alumnus Oliver Onions (1873-1961) (he changed his name by deed poll to George Oliver in 1918). They had two children, (George) Arthur Oliver (b. 1912) and William Richard ('Bill') Oliver (1913-2007). Meanwhile Merioneth continued to play an important part in Ruck's life with her parents having returned permanently to Esgair in 1912. In 1903 Ruck began a career as an illustrator for magazines such as *The Idler* and *The Jabberwock*. From 1905 she began to contribute short stories and serials to magazines such as *Home Chat*. One such serial was published as a full-length novel, *His Official Fiancée* (London, 1914), and its success marked the beginning of Ruck's career as a popular romantic novelist. She produced up to three books annually, as well as short stories and articles; her last novel, *Shopping for a Husband* (London, 1967), appeared when she was nearly ninety. She also published several memoir-style works: *A Story-Teller Tells the Truth* (London, 1935), *A Smile for the Past* (London, 1959), *A Trickle of Welsh Blood* (London, 1967), *An Asset to Wales* (London, 1970), and *Ancestral Voices* (1972). In later life she was a public speaker and occasional radio broadcaster and in 1970 she appeared in a documentary for the television series *Yesterday's Witness*. Between the wars she lived in Henley on Thames, Windsor and Hampstead and was active in London society; she was friends with various writers, artists, actors, aviators and other notables of the day. Her interests included aviation; her son Bill became an RAF and airline pilot and she herself enjoyed flying. She travelled widely in Europe, especially France, Germany and Austria (she was particularly fond of Vienna where she stayed often and had many friends) and visited the United States. In September 1939, with the outbreak of war, she and her husband left London and settled in Aberdyfi, Merioneth, where she lived for her remaining years. She died a few days after her one-hundredth birthday in 1978.

## Hanes Gwarchodol | Custodial history

Purchased (with the exception of NLW MSS 20677C, 24031D) by Fortune Green Bookshop, London, from Berta Ruck's grand-daughter, in several groups over a number of years.

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## Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

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Papers, [c. 1890]-[1974x1978], of Berta Ruck, including notebooks containing journal entries, ideas for fiction, newspaper cuttings and ephemera, 1906-1973; literary and autobiographical manuscripts, typescripts and photocopies, [1950x1955]-[1974x1978]; letters, [c. 1890]-[1972]; poetry, [1920s]-[1930s]; and sketches, [1900x1920].

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## Nodiadau | Notes

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### Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

### Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

NLW MS 20677C; Berta Ruck; Aberdovey; Donation; May 1971

NLW MSS 23306-23309; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase (with NLW MS 22003E, ff. 154-62); February 1995; B1995/6.  
NLW MSS 23376-23378; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase; April 1995; B1995/20.  
NLW MS 23437B; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase; September 1995; B1995/41.  
NLW MS 23523B; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase; April 1996; B1996/19.  
NLW MSS 23569-23573; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase; December 1996; B1996/50.  
NLW MSS 23715-23727; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase (with NLW MS 23699E, ff. 31-32); May 1998 B1998/18.  
NLW MSS 23733-23744, 23746E, Berta Ruck papers 10; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase; August 1998; B1998/28.  
NLW MSS 23745D, 23780-23783, Berta Ruck papers 1-9, 11-14; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase (with 0199900916-17); January 1999; B1999/3.  
NLW MS 23790C; Fortune Green Bookshop; London; Purchase (with NLW MS 23699E, f. 100); September 1999; B1999/21.  
NLW MS 24031D; C. Bebbington, A Piece of History; Chichester; Purchase; August 2012; 006299020.

### **Trefniant | Arrangement**

Arranged at NLW into two groups: Berta Ruck manuscripts and Berta Ruck papers.

### **Cyfyngiadau ar fynediad | Restrictions on access**

Readers consulting modern papers in the National Library of Wales are required to abide by the conditions noted on the 'Modern papers - data protection' form issued with their Readers' Tickets.

### **Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use**

Usual copyright laws apply. Information regarding the ownership of Berta Ruck copyright can be found at <http://tyler.hrc.utexas.edu/> (viewed September 2009).

### **Disgrifiadau deunydd | Related material**

For other papers of Berta Ruck see NLW MS 22003E, ff. 154-62, NLW MS 23699E, ff. 31-32, 100, NLW ex 1994, and the currently uncatalogued NLW MSS 18954B, 20806-7; an album and family photographs, including a framed colour photograph of Ruck (0199900916-17), and a sketchbook (006299025), are also in NLW. Other notebooks of Berta Ruck, 1928-1929, 1934, 1937, are Newark, Delaware, University of Delaware Library Special Collections, Berta Ruck Travel Journals 1-6.

### **Nodiadau eraill | Other notes**

- **Statws cyhoeddiad | Publication status:** Published
- **Dynodwr sefydliad | Institution identifier:** Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales

## Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Archives. (pwnc) | (subject)

## Llyfryddiaeth | Bibliography

Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan, 'Berta Ruck (1878-1978) of Aberdyfi: Novelist', *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society*, 15 (2007), 210-219.

## Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

Cod cyfeirnod   Ref code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Statws mynediad   Access status	Cynhwysydd   Container
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### Sub-fonds NLW MSS vtls004938690: Berta Ruck manuscripts

Dyddiad | Date: [c. 1890]-[1974x1978] (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content:

Manuscripts of Berta Ruck, [c. 1890]-[1974x1978], including notebooks, 1906-1946; manuscripts and typescripts of literary and autobiographical works, 1955-[1974x1978]; letters, [c. 1890]-1971; poetry, [1920s]-[1930s]; and sketches, [1900x1920].

The notebooks typically contain notes and ideas for fiction, drawings and sketches, pasted in letters and ephemera, and journal entries. These detail her home life and travels and give news of her sons Arthur and Bill Oliver, husband Oliver Onions and other family and friends.

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 48 volumes.

Nodyn | Note:

Title based on contents.

Nodyn | Note:

The notebooks are arranged in order of accession, the correct chronological order is as follows: NLW MSS 23782B, 23733C, 23715B, 23734C (ff. 1-11), 23376C, 23734C (ff. 12-16), 23377-8, 23569iB, 23735C, 23523B, 23734C (ff. 17-36), 23736-41, 23790C, 23716-7, 24031D, 23742C, 23437B, 23570B, 23571B, 23743C, 23718D, 23572B, 23719-24, 23573D, 23744D.

Nodyn | Note:

Preferred citation: NLW MSS

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points:

- Oliver, Arthur. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Oliver, William Richard, 1913-2007. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Onions, Oliver, 1873-1961 (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Correspondence. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Diaries. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck family, of Pennal.
- Pen drawing -- 20th century. (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)
- Pen drawing, British. (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)
- English fiction -- 20th century. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Love stories, English. (pwnc) | (subject)

Trefniant | Arrangement:

Arranged according to NLW MSS reference numbers: NLW MSS 20677C, 23306-9, 23376-8, 23437B, 23523B, 23569-73, 23715-27, 23733-46, 23780-3, 23790C, 24031D.

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids:

The contents of NLW MSS 23306-9, 23376-8, 23437B, 23523B, 23569-73 are indexed in greater detail in Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, vol. 9 (Aberystwyth, 2003).

**Ffeil / rhestr eitemau | File / item list**

Cod cyfeirnod   Ref code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Statws mynediad   Access status	Cynhwysydd   Container
NLW MS 20677C. vtls004970349	File - An Asset to Wales,	[1969x1970] /		NLW MS 20677C; \$q - Leaves missing between ff. 26 and 30.
NLW MSS 23306-23308E. vtls004642058	File - A Smile for the Past,	[c. 1957] /		NLW MSS 23306-23308E.
NLW MS 23309D. vtls004642078	File - Study of Berta Ruck,	1969 /		NLW MS 23309D.
NLW MS 23376C. vtls004642108	File - Notebook,	1918-1919 /		NLW MS 23376C.
NLW MS 23377C. vtls004642116	File - Notebook,	1919-1920 /		NLW MS 23377C.
NLW MS 23378B. vtls004642129	File - Notebook,	1920-1921 /		NLW MS 23378B.
NLW MS 23437B. vtls004642146	File - Notebook,	1935-1936 /		NLW MS 23437B; \$q - Leaves excised after ff. 46, 53, 55.

NLW MS 23523B. vtls004642168	File - Notebook,	1924-1926 /	NLW MS 23523B.
NLW MS 23569iB. vtls004642204	File - Notebook,	1921-1924 /	NLW MS 23569iB.
NLW MS 23569iiC. vtls004958209	File - Letters and papers,	1921-1933 /	NLW MS 23569iiC.
NLW MS 23570B. vtls004642257	File - Notebook,	1936 /	NLW MS 23570B.
NLW MS 23571B. vtls004642313	File - Notebook,	1937 /	NLW MS 23571B.
NLW MS 23572B. vtls004642339	File - Notebook,	1939 /	NLW MS 23572B.
NLW MS 23573D. vtls004642357	File - Notebook,	1942-1945 /	NLW MS 23573D; \$q - Four leaves excised after f. 34..
NLW MS 23715B. vtls004404322 (WIAbNL)0000404322	File - Notebook,	1914-[1922] /	NLW MS 23715B; \$q - Original front cover lost and replaced at NLW; binding repaired at NLW.
NLW MS 23716D. vtls004910137	File - Notebook,	1932-1933 /	NLW MS 23716D.
NLW MS 23717B. vtls004910162	File - Notebook,	1933-1934 /	NLW MS 23717B; \$q - Bindings disintegrating; leaves removed between ff. 96 and 97, 112-113, and after f. 137.
NLW MS 23718D. vtls004910172	File - Notebook,	1938 /	NLW MS 23718D; \$q - Covers lost; leaves missing at beginning and end; bindings disintegrating.
NLW MS 23719B. vtls004910265	File - Notebook,	1939 /	NLW MS 23719B; \$q - Leaves removed between ff. 50 and 51 and at end.
NLW MS 23720B. vtls004910304	File - Notebook,	1939 /	NLW MS 23720B; \$q - Leaf removed



			between ff. 50 and 51.
NLW MS 23721B. vtls004910327	File - Notebook,	1939-1940 /	NLW MS 23721B; \$q - Affected by damp; some leaves loose.
NLW MS 23722B. vtls004910344	File - Notebook,	1940-1941 /	NLW MS 23722B; \$q - Some leaves loose.
NLW MS 23723C. vtls004910354	File - Notebook,	1941-1942 /	NLW MS 23723C.
NLW MS 23724B. vtls004910370	File - Notebook,	1942-1943 /	NLW MS 23724B; \$q - Many leaves removed; f. 2 loose.
NLW MS 23725E. vtls004910397	File - A Smile for the Past,	1955-[1959] /	NLW MS 23725E.
NLW MS 23726D. vtls004910405	File - Ancestral Voices,	[c. 1970] /	NLW MS 23726D.
NLW MS 23727E. vtls004910414	File - Autobiographical writings,	[1955]- [1974x1978] /	NLW MS 23727E.
NLW MS 23733C. vtls004404326 (WIAbNL)0000404326	File - Notebook,	1907-1914 /	NLW MS 23733C; \$q - Many leaves removed; front cover detached; back cover lost; bindings disintegrating.
NLW MS 23734C. vtls004924807	File - Notes,	1914-1926 /	NLW MS 23734C; \$q - Many leaves missing.
NLW MS 23735C. vtls004925338	File - Notebook,	1921-1923 /	NLW MS 23735C; \$q - Leaves removed before f. 1 and after ff. 31, 49 and 61; f. 50 loose.
NLW MS 23736C. vtls004927933	File - Notebook,	1926-1927 /	NLW MS 23736C; \$q - Many leaves removed or lost; bindings disintegrating; covers lost.
NLW MS 23737B. vtls004934550	File - Notebook,	1927 /	NLW MS 23737B.

NLW MS 23738D. vtls004947207	File - Notebook,	1927-1928 /	NLW MS 23738D; \$q - Bindings disintegrating; some leaves loose; affected by damp.
NLW MS 23739D. vtls004948776	File - Notebook,	1930-1931 /	NLW MS 23739D; \$q - Leaves removed between ff. 8 and 9, 10 and 11, 92 and 93; many folios torn out with stubs remaining; f. 1 loose.
NLW MS 23740D. vtls004957242	File - Notebook,	1931, [1935] /	NLW MS 23740D; \$q - Many leaves torn out after f. 51; ff. 49, 52-55 loose; bindings disintegrating.
NLW MS 23741E. vtls004957906	File - Notebook,	1931-1932 /	NLW MS 23741E; \$q - Many leaves torn out between ff. 17 and 18, 20 and 21; ff. 13-14, 16-17, 21-28 are stubs only.
NLW MS 23742C. vtls004959295	File - Notebook,	[1904?]-1935 (mostly 1935) /	NLW MS 23742C; \$q - Bindings disintegrating.
NLW MS 23743C. vtls004959870	File - Notebook,	1937-1938 /	NLW MS 23743C; \$q - A few leaves torn out with stubs remaining.
NLW MS 23744D. vtls004967396	File - Notebook,	1945-1946 /	NLW MS 23744D; \$q - Covers missing; leaves missing at end; bindings disintegrating.
NLW MS 23745D. vtls004969316	File - The Reckless Elopement,	1972 /	NLW MS 23745D; \$q -

			Surface damp damage on covers.
NLW MS 23746E. vtls004972584	File - Sketches,	[1900x1920] /	NLW MS 23746E; \$q - Some folios damaged, and repaired at NLW.
NLW MS 23780C. vtls004960217	File - Colonel A. A. Ruck,	[1920s]-1939 /	NLW MS 23780C; \$q - Spine damaged; several letters torn.
NLW MS 23781D. vtls004960825	File - Letters,	[c. 1890]-[c. 1934] (mainly [1928]-1934) /	NLW MS 23781D.
NLW MS 23782B. vtls004923764	File - Notebook,	1906 /	NLW MS 23782B; \$q - Many leaves loose; leaves torn out after ff. 21, 25 and 26; ff. 1, 12-15 torn.
NLW MS 23783F. vtls004972821	File - Miscellaneous papers,	1902-[early 1970s] /	NLW MS 23783F.
NLW MS 23790C. vtls004958299	File - Notebook,	1931-1932 /	NLW MS 23790C; \$q - Leaf removed between ff. 18 and 19; bindings disintegrating; affected by damp.
NLW MS 24031D. vtls006299020	File - Notebook,	1934-1935 /	NLW MS 24031D; \$q - One pasted-in item has been torn loose (f. 33).

### **Sub-fonds 1-14. vtls004626027: Berta Ruck papers,**

Crëwr | Creator: Berta Ruck.

Dyddiad | Date: [20 cent., third ¼] / (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content:

Papers of Berta Ruck, [20 cent., third ¼], comprising volumes of notebooks, 1951-1973, and a photocopy, [20 cent., third ¼], of a 1907 children's story 'The edge of the world'.

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 14 vols.

Nodyn | Note:

Title based on contents.

Nodyn | Note:

Preferred citation: 1-14.

Trefniant | Arrangement:

Arranged at NLW into two groups: notebooks; photocopies.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use:

Usual copyright regulations apply.

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids:

A hard copy of the catalogue is available at the National Library of Wales in NLW, Minor Lists and Summaries 1999, pp. 68-69. The catalogue can be accessed online.

**Ffeil / rhestr eitemau | File / item list****Cyfres | Series 1-13. vtls004943291: Notebooks,**

Crëwr | Creator: Berta Ruck.

Dyddiad | Date: 1951-1973 / (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content:

Thirteen notebooks, 1951-1973, containing journal entries; letters and postcards, many from relatives, literary agents and the media (relating in particular to her broadcasts on Welsh regional BBC programmes); photographs; ideas for fiction; and press cuttings of book reviews.

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 13 vols.

Nodyn | Note:

Title based on contents.

Nodyn | Note:

Preferred citation: 1-13.

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points:

- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Correspondence. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Ruck, Berta, 1878-1978 -- Diaries. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)
- English fiction -- 20th century. (pwnc) | (subject)

- Love stories, English. (pwnc) | (subject)

Trefniant | Arrangement:

Arranged chronologically.

**Ffeil / rhestr eitemau | File / item list**

Cod cyfeirnod   Ref code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Statws mynediad   Access status	Cynhwysydd   Container
1. vtls004938939	File - Notebook,	1951-1956 /		1 (1); \$q - Covers missing, bindings disintegrating; many leaves removed or torn.
2. vtls004938944	File - Notebook,	1957-1960 /		2 (1).
3. vtls004943275	File - Notebook,	1960-1961 /		3 (1).
4. vtls004943276	File - Notebook,	1962-1964 /		4 (2).
5. vtls004943278	File - Notebook,	1964-1965 /		5 (2).
6. vtls004943279	File - Notebook,	1966 /		6 (3).
7. vtls004943281	File - Notebook,	1967 /		7 (3); \$q - Covers missing.
8. vtls004943282	File - Notebook,	1967-1968 /		8 (3); \$q - Covers missing.
9. vtls004943283	File - Notebook,	1968-1969 /		9 (3).
10. vtls004943284	File - Notebook,	1970-1971 /		10 (3).
11. vtls004943285	File - Notebook,	1971 /		11 (4).
12. vtls004943287	File - Notebook,	1971-1972 /		12 (4).
13. vtls004943288	File - Notebook,	1972-1973 /		13 (4).

**Cyfres | Series 14. vtls004949576: Photocopies,**

Crëwr | Creator: Berta Ruck.

Dyddiad | Date: [20 cent., third ¼] / (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 1 vol.

Nodyn | Note:

Title based on contents.

Nodyn | Note:

Preferred citation: 14.

<b>Ffeil / rhestr eitemau   File / item list</b>				
Cod cyfeirnod   Ref code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Statws mynediad   Access status	Cynhwysydd   Container
14. vtls004943320	File - The Edge of the World,	[20 cent., third ¼] /		14 (4).