



Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Dr Roderic Bowen Papers (GB 0210 RODBOW)

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Language of description: English

Iaith y disgrifiad: Saesneg

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Dr Roderic Bowen Papers

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Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

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| Lleoliad Repository: | Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales |
| Teitl Title: | Dr Roderic Bowen Papers |
| Cod cyfeirnod Reference code: | GB 0210 RODBOW |
| Virtua system control number [alternative]: | vtls004260109 |
| GEAC system control number [alternative]: | (WIAbNL)0000260109 |
| Dyddiad Date: | 1901-2002 (dyddiad creu date of creation) |
| Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description: | 0.028 cubic metres (3 boxes) (July 2002); 3 bundles (September 2007) |
| Iaith Language: | English |
| Iaith Language: | Welsh |
| Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | August 2002 |
| Nodyn Note [generalNote]: | File 13 contains papers dated after Roderic Bowen's death in 2001 since they relate to the preparation of a programme on him in the Secret Papers series during 2002. |

Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

Nodyn | Note

Evan Roderic Bowen (1913-2001), a native of Cardigan, was educated at local schools, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth and St John's College, Cambridge. He was called to the bar by the Middle Temple in 1936 and commenced practising on the South Wales circuit in 1937. Following active service during the Second World War, Bowen was elected the Liberal MP for his native Cardiganshire in the general election of July 1945. During most of the 1950s he was one of a tiny group of only five or six Liberal MPs left at Westminster. He remained the MP for the county until his defeat in 1966. From the outset he was seen as a right-winger, strongly opposed to any flirtation with Socialism and the Labour Party. He was a witty, entertaining debater, generally popular at Westminster.

At the same time Bowen continued his highly lucrative legal work, building up an extensive legal business in south Wales. He took silk in 1952, was appointed Recorder of Carmarthen in 1950 and Recorder of Merthyr Tydfil in 1953. He failed to succeed Clement Davies as leader of the Liberal Party in the autumn of 1956 when Jo Grimond was chosen. Thereafter relations between the two senior Liberal Party politicians were at best frosty. Bowen became Recorder of Swansea in 1960 and Recorder of Cardiff in 1964. In October 1965, against the advice of his party hierarchy, he accepted the position of Deputy Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee at Westminster, a highly controversial decision which was hotly debated both at Westminster and in his constituency during the run-up to the 1966 general election when he was narrowly defeated by Elystan Morgan (Labour).

Thereafter Roderic Bowen's involvement in party politics was at best minimal. In 1966 he was sent to Aden by George Brown to investigate interrogation procedures in the British colony. He served as National Insurance Commissioner for Wales, 1967-1986, and as a notably conscientious president of St Davids University College, Lampeter, 1977-1992. During 1971-1972 he also chaired a governmental committee set up to examine road signs policy in Wales. He was in constant demand as an adept after-dinner speaker and was a staunch supporter of the national rights of Wales.

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

The fonds consists of a disappointingly small group of miscellaneous papers accumulated by Dr Roderic Bowen during the course of his political career and public life. They include printed matter, 1901-1993, press cuttings, 1906-1992, speech notes, [1950]-[2000], letters, 1955-2001, and pocket diaries, 1985-2000. There are also files of papers relating to the work of the Committee of Inquiry on Bilingual Road Signs in 1972, which he chaired, and to the unsuccessful attempt to secure a knighthood for Dr Bowen in 2000-2001.

Nodiadau | Notes

Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Miss Joan Cooper, a close friend of Roderic Bowen, Cardiff, July 2002 and September 2007.; 0200208907

Trefniant | Arrangement

Arranged at NLW into thirteen files arranged chronologically by and within each file.

Cyfyngiadau ar fynediad | Restrictions on access

Readers consulting modern papers in the National Library of Wales are required to sign the 'Modern papers - data protection' form.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use

Usual copyright laws apply

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids

A hard copy of this list is available at NLW.

Disgrifiadau deunydd | Related material

A substantial number of photographs and pictures are in NLW, Special Collections (0200208918). The records of the Cardiganshire Liberal Association, which include extensive files of correspondence and papers deriving from the period, 1945-1966, when Roderic Bowen represented the constituency in parliament, are also held at NLW.

Ychwanegiadau | Accruals

Additional papers are unlikely.

Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- Liberal Party (Great Britain)
- Welsh Liberal Party
- Bowen, Roderic -- Archives. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Cardiganshire (Wales : Parliamentary constituency) (pwnc) | (subject)

Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

| Cod cyfeirnod Reference code | Teitl Title | Dyddiadau Dates | Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description |
|--|---|-------------------|--|
| /1 vtls004265270 (WIAbNL)0000265270 | File - Printed items <i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file comprises miscellaneous printed items, 1901-1993, accumulated by Dr Roderic Bowen during his political, legal and public career. It includes a copy of The Cardigan Record for August 1901. <i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /1 <i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210) | 1901-1993 | Folder (4 cm.) |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------|-------------------|
| /2 vtls004265274 (WIAbNL)0000265274 | File - Press cuttings | 1906-1992 | Folder (1.25 cm.) |
| <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The file comprises press cuttings accumulated by Dr Roderic Bowen. Some relate to his appointment as a Queen's Counsel in 1952, his appointment as Deputy Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in 1965 and subsequent defeat as the Liberal candidate for Cardiganshire in the general election of 1966, and his official visit to Aden in 1966.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: /2</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | | |
| /3 vtls004265315 (WIAbNL)0000265315 | File - Personalia and miscellanea | 1920-2002 | Folder (1.75 cm.) |
| <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The file consists of miscellaneous items accumulated by Dr Roderic Bowen during the course of his career. They include copies of his election address circulated to the Cardiganshire electorate in 1945 and 1951, photocopies of papers relating to Dr Bowen's appointment in 1946 to act as Judge Advocate at a military court for the trial of war criminals, a 1950 general election poster and a full transcript of an interview, 8 August 2000, between Dr Bowen and Matt Cole of Birmingham University. In this interview Dr Bowen reflects in some detail on his life and the major landmarks in his professional career.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: /3</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | | |
| /4 vtls004265319 (WIAbNL)0000265319 | File - Speech notes | [1950]-[2000] | Folder (4.25 cm.) |
| <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The file contains brief outline speech notes in the hand of Dr Roderic Bowen prepared for delivering addresses on social and political occasions.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: /4</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | | |
| /5 vtls004265330 (WIAbNL)0000265330 | File - Letters to Roderic Bowen | 1955-2001 | Folder (11 items) |
| <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Prys-Davies, Gwilym Prys Davies, Baron, 1923-2017</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The file contains stray, unrelated letters, 1955-2001, addressed to Dr Roderic Bowen. Among the correspondents are Gwilym Prys Davies, 1989, Anthony Eden, 1955, and Harold Macmillan, [1950s].</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: /5</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | | |

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|--|---|---|--------------------|
| /6 vtls004265347 (WIAbNL)000026534 | File - Committee of Inquiry on Bilingual Road Signs | 1972 | Folder (2 cm.) |
| | <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i> Evans, Gwynfor</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file comprises correspondence and papers, 1972, relating to the proceedings and report of the Committee of Inquiry on Bilingual Road Signs chaired by Dr Roderic Bowen. It includes letters from Dr Gwynfor Evans, Peter Thomas MP (later the Lord Thomas of Gwydir) and Dafydd Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /6</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | |
| /7 vtls004265388 (WIAbNL)000026538 | File - British Council | 1976-1980 | Folder (0.5 cm.) |
| | <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i> British Council</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file contains mainly letters, 1976-1980, to Dr Roderic Bowen relating to his membership of the Board of the British Council.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /7</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | |
| /8 vtls004265390 (WIAbNL)000026539 | File - Pocket diaries | 1985-2000 (lacking 12 vols 1986, 1994) | |
| | <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file consists of pocket diaries, 1985-2000, containing brief notes of engagements and appointments and a few other general notes.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /8</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | |
| /9 vtls004265405 (WIAbNL)000026540 | File - Addresses | [1990]-[2001] | Envelope (0.5 cm.) |
| | <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file consists mainly of notes of the addresses of friends and acquaintances kept by Dr Roderic Bowen.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /9</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> | | |
| /10 vtls004265407 (WIAbNL)000026540 | File - Kate Roberts, Two Old Men | 1992 | 1 vol. (1.5 cm.) |

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| | <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i> Robbins, Keith John</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file contains a copy of Kate Roberts, Two Old Men and Other Stories (Gwasg Gregynog, 1981) presented to Dr Roderic Bowen to mark his retirement as president of St Davids University College, Lampeter, June 1992, and bearing a dedication from Professor Keith Robbins, Principal of the University, and a bookplate.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /10</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> |
| /11 vtls004265409 (WIAbNL)0000265409 | <p>File - Knighthood 2000-2001 Folder (1.75 cm.)</p> <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i> Cledwyn of Penrhos, Cledwyn Hughes, Baron, 1916-2001</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file comprises correspondence and papers, 2000-2001, relating to the abortive attempt to secure a knighthood for Dr Roderic Bowen. The file includes letters from Lord Cledwyn, Lord Elis Thomas and Lord Hooson.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /11</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> |
| /12 vtls004265411 (WIAbNL)0000265411 | <p>File - Sympathy letters and cards 2001 Folder (4 cm.)</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file consists of letters and cards addressed to Miss Joan Cooper expressing sympathy on the death of Dr Roderic Bowen in July 2001. Some of the correspondents pay tribute to, and reflect on, his life and work.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /12</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> |
| /13 vtls004265416 (WIAbNL)0000265416 | <p>File - Secret Papers 2002 Folder (0.25 cm.)</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> The file consists of a letter and papers relating to the recording of a programme on Dr Roderic Bowen in the BBC Wales radio series Secret Papers.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: /13</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p> |