

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales



Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Edward and Helen Thomas manuscripts (GB 0210 MSEDWMAS)

Cynhyrchir gan Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.3.0
Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.3.0

Argraffwyd: Mai 06, 2017
Printed: May 06, 2017

Wrth lunio'r disgrifiad hwn dilynwyd canllawiau ANW a seiliwyd ar ISAD(G) Ail Argraffiad; rheolau AACR2; ac LCSH

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

<https://archifau.llyfrgell.cymru/index.php/edward-and-helen-thomas-manuscripts>
archives.library.wales/index.php/edward-and-helen-thomas-manuscripts

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
Allt Penglais
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
United Kingdom
SY23 3BU

 01970 632 800

 01970 615 709

 gofyn@llgc.org.uk

 www.llgc.org.uk

Edward and Helen Thomas manuscripts

Tabl cynnwys | Table of contents

Gwybodaeth grynodeb Summary information	3
Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol Administrative history Biographical sketch	3
Natur a chynnwys Scope and content	4
Trefniant Arrangement	5
Nodiadau Notes	4
Pwyntiau mynediad Access points	6
Llyfryddiaeth Bibliography	6
Disgrifiad cyfres Series descriptions	6

Gwybodaeth grynodeb | Summary information

Lleoliad Repository:	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
Teitl Title:	Edward and Helen Thomas manuscripts
ID:	GB 0210 MSEDWMAS
Virtua system control number [alternative]:	vtls004634405
Dyddiad Date:	1895-1978 (dyddiad creu date of creation)
Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description:	32 volumes.
Iaith Language:	English
Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Nodyn Note [sourcesDescription]:	The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, Vol. 8 (Aberystwyth, 1999); Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, Vol. 9 (Aberystwyth, 2003); Oxford Dictionary of National Biography WWW site.
Nodyn Note [generalNote]:	Title based on contents.

Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

Nodyn | Note

Edward Thomas (1878-1917), poet and writer, was born Philip Edward Thomas in Lambeth to Welsh-born parents on 3 March 1878. He was educated at St Paul's School, London and Lincoln College, Oxford. Having left St Paul's, Thomas studied for the civil service examination, a move which expressed parental ambition rather than his own as he had reacted against the wordly views of his father, who worked for the Board of Trade and was prominent in Liberal politics. He was encouraged in his early literary ambitions by the critic James Ashcroft Noble and Thomas's first book, *The Woodland Life*, inspired by his love of the natural world, appeared as early as 1896. Thomas married Noble's daughter Helen (1877-1967) in 1899 and, having graduated from Lincoln College in 1900, made a precarious living as a literary reviewer for the *Daily Chronicle* whilst also writing essays, anthologies, guidebooks and folk-

tales. He also published further books, including *The Heart of England* (1906), as well as biographical writings, most notably those on Richard Jefferies (1909), Maurice Maeterlinck (1911), Algernon Charles Swinburne (1912) and Walter Pater (1913). This period also produced his autobiographical works *The Happy-Go-Lucky Morgans* (1913), *The Icknield Way* (1913) and *In Pursuit of Spring* (1914). Possibly from an overwhelming feeling that his creativity was shackled and frustrated, Thomas at this time suffered recurrent physical and psychological breakdowns which once took him to the brink of suicide. It was not until 1914 that he wrote his first 'real' poem, entitled 'Up in the Wind'. The wartime collapse of the literary market at last afforded Thomas more time to write poetry; over a space of two years, he was to write over one hundred and forty poems. In 1915 Thomas joined the Artists' Rifles; he was commissioned second lieutenant the same year and volunteered for service overseas. In April 1917 he was killed during the first hour of the battle of Arras in northern France and buried the following day on the outskirts of the town; he therefore did not live to see the publication of his *Poems* (1917) (under his pseudonym Edward Eastaway), nor the subsequent *Last Poems* (1918) and *Collected Poems* (1920). His wife Helen wrote of their brief time together in *As It Was* (1926) and *World Without End* (1931). Thomas numbered amongst his poetical and literary influences Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, W. B. Yeats, D. H. Lawrence, Walter de la Mare, and W. H. Davies.

Hanes Gwarchodol | Custodial history

NLW MSS 22900-22918 were acquired from a collector who had previously acquired them from Helen Thomas in about 1960; they were subject to a ten-year embargo and became available in 1992.

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

Papers, in the main diaries and correspondence, 1895-1978, of Edward and Helen Thomas, comprising diaries of Edward Thomas, 1895-1917; correspondence, 1896-1917, of Edward Thomas and his wife Helen; letters from Helen Thomas to the writer Rex Taylor, [1950x1962], to the poet Basil Dowling, 1948-1964, and to the actor and artist Terence Cooper, 1959-1967; correspondence, 1895-1896, of Edward Thomas and his father-in-law James Ashcroft Noble; letters, 1900-1902, from Edward Thomas to Sir O. M. Edwards; letters, 1962-1965, from Myfanwy Thomas, daughter of Edward and Helen Thomas; autograph drafts of poems, 1914-1917, by Edward Thomas, all of which were published in *The Collected Poems of Edward Thomas*, ed. by R. George Thomas (Oxford, 1978); the original manuscript of *The Heart of England* (London, 1906); an autograph prose piece, 1912, entitled 'A Castle of Cloud'; and fragments of Edward Thomas's journals, memoranda, photographs, etc., 1895-1916.

Nodiadau | Notes

Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

NLW MS 10617B: Rev. Jesse Berridge; Chelmsford; Donation; March 1936.

NLW MS 21750D: Friends of NLW; Donation; November 1981; B1981/17.

NLW MSS 22900-18: Anonymous seller, per Sotheby's; Purchase; December 1981; B1981/19.

NLW MS 21859C: Anonymous seller, per Sotheby's; Purchase; August 1982; B1982/23.

NLW MS 22919B: David J. Holmes; Philadelphia; Purchase (with contributions from the Edward Thomas Fellowship); February 1992; B1992/5.

NLW MSS 22920-1A: Edward Cawston Thomas, grandson of Edward and Helen Thomas; Donation; March 1992; A1992/41.

NLW MS 23103D: Joan Stevens; Yoxford, Suffolk; Purchase; June 1992; B1992/31.

NLW MS 23077C: David Thomas, nephew of Edward and Helen Thomas; Newhaven; Donation; November 1992; A1992/197.

NLW MS 23222B: Dr Owen Edwards and Ifan Prys Edwards, per Hazel Walford Davies; Cardiff and Aberystwyth; Donation; March 1994; A1994/29.

NLW MSS 23299-300: Terence Cooper; London; Donation; December 1994; A1994/170.

NLW MS 24030i & iiA: Mrs Jennifer Thomas; Halesworth, Suffolk; Donation; August 2012; 006297149.

NLW MS 24064C: Gorringes Auction House; Lewes; Purchased at auction (with NLW ex 2879 and NLW MS 24044D, ff. 12-14), lot 30; 2-3 July 2014; 006765587.

Trefniant | Arrangement

Arranged according to NLW MSS reference numbers: NLW MSS 10617B, 21750D, 21859C, 22900-21, 23077C, 23103D, 23222B, 23299-300, 24030A, 24064C.

Ffurf arall ar gael | Alternative form available

Photocopies of the letters in NLW MSS 22914-8C are available in NLW Facs 754-758, and of the letters in NLW MS 22919B in NLW Facs 927.

Cyfyngiadau ar fynediad | Restrictions on access

Readers consulting modern papers in the National Library of Wales are required to abide by the conditions set out in information provided when applying for their Readers' Tickets, whereby the reader shall become responsible for compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to any processing by them of personal data obtained from modern records held at the Library.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use

Usual copyright laws apply. Information regarding the ownership of Edward Thomas and Helen Thomas copyright can be found at <http://tyler.hrc.utexas.edu/> (viewed February 2012).

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids

Most of the papers are described more fully in the NLW typescript list Edward & Helen Thomas Manuscripts (1993).

The contents of NLW MSS 22900-21, 23077C, 23103D, 23222B, 23299-300 are indexed in greater detail in Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, vol. 9 (Aberystwyth, 2003).

Disgrifiadau deunydd | Related material

For other papers of Edward Thomas see also NLW MSS 16098E, f. 400, 21818E, f. 47, 22003E, ff. 83-89 (letters to J. B. Pinker), 23695E (letters to the Rev. Jesse Berridge), 23981E, ff. 60-70, 24044D, ff. 12-14; NLW ex 2879; and NLW, R. George Thomas (Edward Thomas) Research Papers (transcripts and photocopies of Edward Thomas letters held in various repositories and in private hands).

Further papers of Edward Thomas are located at the following repositories: Cardiff University, Archive and Manuscript Collections, Edward Thomas Archive; Austin, University of Texas, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center; Oxford University, Lincoln College Library; Vancouver, University of British Columbia, Library; Oxford University, Bodleian Library, Special Collections and Western Manuscripts; Eton College; University of Durham, Library, Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green Section; Canterbury, King's School; Wandsworth Local History Service Library; and London, British Library, Manuscript Collections.

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

- Thomas, Edward, 1878-1917 -- Archives. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Thomas, Helen, 1877-1967 -- Correspondence. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Thomas, Edward, 1878-1917 -- Diaries. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Thomas, Edward, 1878-1917 -- Correspondence. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Thomas, Helen, 1877-1967 -- Archives. (pwnc) | (subject)

Llyfryddiaeth | Bibliography

Daniel Huws, 'Edward Thomas's private writing' in The Times Literary Supplement, 20 March 1992.

Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

Cod cyfeirnod Ref code	Teitl Title	Dyddiadau Dates	Statws mynediad Access status	Cynhwysydd Container
NLW MS 10617B vtls004569310	File - The Heart of England	1906, [?1913]		NLW MS 10617B.
NLW MS 21750D. vtls004234817 (WIAbNL)0000234817	File - A Castle of Cloud,	1912 /		NLW MS 21750D.

NLW MS 21859C. vtls004249076 (WIAbNL)0000249076	File - Fragments of journals, &c.,	1895-1916 /	NLW MS 21859C.
NLW MS 22900B. vtls004634616	File - Diary,	1900-1901 /	NLW MS 22900B.
NLW MS 22901B. vtls004634622	File - Diary,	1901-1902 /	NLW MS 22901B.
NLW MS 22902B. vtls004634642	File - Diary,	1902-1904 /	NLW MS 22902B.
NLW MS 22903B. vtls004634648	File - Diary,	1904-1905 /	NLW MS 22903B.
NLW MS 22904D. vtls004634655	File - Diary,	1905 /	NLW MS 22904D; \$q - Many leaves torn out between ff. i and 1, before diary entries were made.
NLW MS 22905B. vtls004634660	File - Diary,	1906 /	NLW MS 22905B.
NLW MS 22906B. vtls004634740	File - Diary,	1907 /	NLW MS 22906B.
NLW MS 22907B. vtls004634746	File - Diary,	1908 /	NLW MS 22907B.
NLW MS 22908B. vtls004634751	File - Diary,	1909 /	NLW MS 22908B.
NLW MS 22909B. vtls004634760	File - Diary,	1910 /	NLW MS 22909B.
NLW MS 22910B. vtls004634772	File - Diary,	1911 /	NLW MS 22910B.
NLW MS 22911B. vtls004634780	File - Diary,	1912 /	NLW MS 22911B.
NLW MS 22912B. vtls004634789	File - Diary,	1915 /	NLW MS 22912B.
NLW MS 22913C. vtls004634812	File - Diary entries,	1903-1911 /	NLW MS 22913C.
NLW MS 22914C. vtls004634832	File - Letters to Helen Thomas,	1896-1900 /	NLW MS 22914C.
NLW MS 22915C. vtls004634853	File - Letters to Helen Thomas,	1901-1913 /	NLW MS 22915C.
NLW MS 22916C. vtls004634878	File - Letters to Helen Thomas,	1914 /	NLW MS 22916C.
NLW MS 22917C. vtls004634903 cymruww1	File - Letters to Helen Thomas,	1916-1917 /	NLW MS 22917C.
NLW MS 22918C. vtls004634906	File - Letters to Edward Thomas,	1899-1911 /	NLW MS 22918C.
NLW MS 22919B. vtls004634910	File - Letters,	1895-1896 /	NLW MS 22919B.
NLW MS 22920A. vtls004634922 cymruww1	File - Draft poems,	1914-1915 /	NLW MS 22920A; \$q - Leaves removed after

			ff. 11, 155 and 159.
NLW MS 22921A. vtls004636219	File - Draft poems,	1916 /	NLW MS 22921A.
NLW MS 23077C. vtls004625261	File - Poems,	[1915x1917], [? 1978] /	NLW MS 23077C.
NLW MS 23103D. vtls004626738	File - Letters,	1949-1964 /	NLW MS 23103D.
NLW MS 23222B. vtls004630800	File - Letters,	1900-1902 /	NLW MS 23222B.
NLW MS 23299C. vtls004636257	File - Letters,	1959-1967 /	NLW MS 23299C.
NLW MS 23300D. vtls004636276	File - Letters,	1959-1977 /	NLW MS 23300D.
NLW MS 24030i & iiA. vtls006297149 cymruww1	File - War Diary	1917	NLW MS 24030i & iiA.
NLW MS 24064C vtls006765587	File - Edward Thomas proofs	1897, 1915	NLW MS 24064C.