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Thomas Letts tour journals

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Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

Lleoliad Repository:	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
Teitl Title:	Thomas Letts tour journals
Cod cyfeirnod Reference code:	GB 0210 MSTHOMLETTS
Alma system control number [alternative]:	991079025002419
Dyddiad Date:	1831-1853 (dyddiad creu date of creation)
Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description:	6 volumes.
Iaith Language:	English
Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	December 2021.
Nodyn Note [sourcesDescription]:	The following source was used in the compilation of this description: Anita McConnell, 'Letts, Thomas (1803-1873), stationer', in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, 23 September 2004 < https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/16526 > [accessed 25 November 2021].
Nodyn Note [generalNote]:	Title based on contents of fonds.

Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

Nodyn | Note

Thomas Letts (1803-1873) was a London-based stationer, best known for his firm's popular and pioneering range of diaries.

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

Journals of Thomas Letts recording tours of parts of England, 1831, North Wales, 1832-1834, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire, 1833, the Lake District and Scotland, 1847, and Europe, 1853.

Nodiadau | Notes

Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

NLW MSS 21690-1B: Sotheby's; London; Purchase; October 1980.

NLW MSS 22340-1B: Mr Gilbert B. A. Williams; Weybridge; Purchase; 1986.

NLW MSS 24168-9B: Mrs Jane Fromage, great-grand-niece to Thomas Letts; Poole; Purchase; December 2020.

Trefniant | Arrangement

Arranged according to NLW MSS reference numbers: NLW MSS 21690-1B, 22340-1B, 24168-9B.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use

Usual copyright laws apply.

Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- Letts, Thomas, 1803-1873 -- Diaries. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Watercolor painting -- 19th century. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Pencil drawing -- 19th century (pwnc) | (subject)
- Illumination of books and manuscripts (pwnc) | (subject)

Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

Cod cyfeirnod Reference code	Teitl Title	Dyddiadau Dates	Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description
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NLW MS 21690B. vtls006919721	File - Tour of North Wales	1832	iii, 155 ff. ; 190 x 130 mm. Half leather and marbled paper over boards; blind tooling on spine; 'EXCURSIONS', 'THOMAS LETTS' and '1832' (in gold on spine). <i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> Journal of a tour in North Wales, August-September 1832, by Thomas Letts, with his companion Thomas Boyce, including sixty-nine full-page illustrations in pencil, watercolour and wash, some original and some derivative. The journal commences with a description of the journey by coach, train and ship from London to Bangor, via Manchester and Liverpool, 23-25 August (ff. 2-20). Starting in Bangor the North Wales tour included visits to Conway, Capel Curig, Llanberis Pass, Snowdon, Beddgelert, Tanybwllch, Maentwrog, Trawsfynydd, Dolgellau, Cader Idris, Bala, Corwen and Llangollen, 25 August-1 September (ff. 20-142). The travellers then returned to London via Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Oxford (ff. 142-152). A 'Synopsis of Expenses, &c.' is on ff. 153 verso-154. <i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i> Usual copyright laws apply. <i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents. <i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: NLW MS 21690B. <i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)
NLW MS 21691B. vtls006919757	File - Tour of Scotland, &c.	1847	iii, 116 ff. ; 195 x 130 mm. Half-leather and marbled paper over boards, with single gold fillets. <i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i> Journal of a tour of Scotland and parts of England, 20 July-20 August 1847, by Thomas Letts, travelling with his wife Emma. The volume includes thirty-four full-page illustrations in pencil, watercolour and wash, some original and some derivative. The journal begins with brief tours of Derbyshire and the Peak District (ff. 2-9) and the Lake District (ff. 9 verso-21). In Scotland they travelled from Gretna Green (f. 21 verso) to Glasgow (ff. 28 verso, 31 recto-verso, 33) and Loch Lomond (f. 35), as far west as Loch Awe (f. 42), north to Killiekrankie (f. 55), back through the Trossachs (ff. 67 verso-71), then to Stirling (ff. 72-75) and Edinburgh (ff. 76 verso-84). They returned to London through the Scottish Borders (ff. 83 verso-96 verso) and parts of eastern England, including Lincoln (ff. 101-105). Also included in the volume are seven printed engravings, mostly of Lincoln (ff. 102-104, 106-108, 111). <i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i> Usual copyright laws apply. <i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents. <i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: NLW MS 21691B. <i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)
NLW MS 22340B. vtls004315756 (WIAbNL)0000315756	File - Tour of North Wales and the Marches	1833	iii, 173 ff. (bound in incorrect order; f. 6 of NLW MS 22341B should be after f. 54 of this volume) ; 195 x 130 mm. Cloth covers.

	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Journal of Thomas Letts, September 1833, describing a tour in North Wales and the area around Bristol, Ross, Chepstow and Gloucester, with illustrations in pencil, watercolour and wash. The tour included Bath (ff. 3 verso-4, 11-13), Bristol (ff. 4 verso-19 verso passim), Monmouthshire (ff. 19 verso-28 verso passim), Ross-on-Wye (ff. 28 verso-29 verso, 31 verso-32 verso, 34 recto-verso), Gloucester (ff. 36 verso-39), Cheltenham (ff. 39-41), Worcester (ff. 42 verso-44 verso), Dinas Mawddwy (f. 56 recto-verso), Cader Idris (ff. 66-68 verso), Dolgellau (ff. 78 verso-84 passim), the Vale of Ffestiniog (ff. 88 verso-123 verso passim), Rhuddlan (ff. 149 verso, 153), St Asaph (f. 153 recto-verso), Denbigh (ff. 153 verso-154 verso, 156), Betws-y-Coed (f. 160 recto-verso), Menai Bridge (f. 161 verso), and Llanddeiniolen (ff. 163 recto-verso, 165).</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: NLW MSS 22340B.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
NLW MS 22341B.	File - Tour of North Wales	1834	iii, 123 ff. (bound in incorrect order; f. 23 should be located after f. 41 and f. 6 after NLW MS 22340B, f. 54) ; 195 x 130 mm. Cloth covers (as NLW MS 22340B).
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Journal of Thomas Letts, August-September 1834, describing a tour mostly in Caernarvonshire and Merioneth, with sixty-three illustrations in pencil, watercolour and wash. The tour included Dinas Mawddwy (f. 6 verso), Dolwyddelan (ff. 23 verso, 46 recto-verso, 48 recto-verso, 52 verso-53, 112 verso-114 verso), Penmachno (ff. 31 recto-verso, 36, 71 verso, 73), Caernarfon Castle (ff. 81 verso, 83 recto-verso) and Tremadog (ff. 85 recto-verso, 88). Many of the sketches relate to the Conwy valley (ff. 7 verso-76 passim) and the Vale of Ffestiniog (ff. 59-108 verso passim).</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
NLW MS 24168B. 991078290702419	File - Tour of parts of England	1831	xiii, 140 ff. (ii-xi verso blank) ; 200 x 130 mm. Half-leather and marbled paper over boards, with single gold fillets; re-backed at NLW, 2022.
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Journal describing tours of parts of England, January-August 1831, by Thomas Letts, with illustrations, sketches and maps. The volume consists of excursions to Birmingham, 26-[30] January 1831, mainly to inspect various factories and canals (ff. 1-36 verso); and to Cambridge to visit his brother John at Sydney [i.e. Sidney Sussex] College, 20-[28] February 1831 (ff. 37-59 verso); brief excursions to Sevenoaks, Kent, 7-8 May 1831 (ff. 60-70), and to Windsor, Berkshire, 2-[4] July 1831 (ff. 70 verso-90 verso); and</p>		

	<p>a tour of Coventry, Warwick, Birmingham, Lichfield, Burton upon Trent and Derby, [17]-22 August 1831 (ff. 91-137 verso). The volume includes eighteen full-page illustrations in pencil, watercolour and wash, mostly original and a few derivative; twenty-one smaller diagrams and sketches in ink and pencil (the majority on ff. 8 verso-34 verso passim), and ten manuscript strip maps in ink and watercolour, all relating to the final tour (ff. 95, 106, 113, 128, 133). Pasted into the volume are a printed map of England and Wales (ff. xii verso-xiii), and printed street maps of Birmingham, 1829 (tipped in on f. xiii verso), and Cambridge (ff. 42 verso-43).</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>
<p>NLW MS 24169B. 991078711302419</p>	<p>File - Tour of Germany and the continent 1853 xvi, 221 ff. (original pagination 1-341 (with errors) continued to end; ff. iii verso-xvi verso and pp. 74-80, 301-321 blank) ; 195 x 135 mm. Binding as NLW MS 21691B.</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Illustrated journal of a tour of Belgium, Germany and parts of the Austrian Empire (now Austria and the Czech Republic), 19 August-17 September 1853, by Thomas Letts, accompanying his son Thomas Alton Letts to Vienna to take up a job at a printers in the city (pp. 1-60, 81-300). The journal contains numerous anecdotes concerning individuals encountered on the journey, as well as descriptions of churches, cathedrals, castles and other sights visited. Letts travelled by carriage, rail and steamer, with cruises along the Rhine (pp. 84-92), the Danube (pp. 163-209) and the Vltava and Elbe (pp. 264-278). The itinerary included Calais (pp. 3-8), Gand [Ghent] (pp. 11-22), Anvers [Antwerp] (pp. 23-34, 38-51), Brussels (pp. 34-38), Cologne (pp. 56-60, 81), Koblenz (pp. 85-90), Wurzburg (pp. 107-119), Nuremberg (pp. 122-132), Munich (pp. 133-161), Ratisbon [Regensburg] (pp. 166-175), Walhalla (pp. 177-182), Passau (pp. 189-204), Vienna (pp. 209-238), Brunn [Brno] (pp. 240-252), Prague (pp. 252-264) and Berlin (pp. 284-287). The journal was partly written up during the journey but was only completed on 22 October 1853 (see p. 300); there are occasional later corrections and additions in pencil and ink. The volume also contains twenty-one pages of illustrations and sketches in pencil, watercolour and wash (pp. 61-73 passim, 234a, 322-340 passim) and another twenty-two thumbnail sketches and diagrams accompanying the text (pp. 15-299 passim). Also bound into the volume are copies of Ethelbert Müller, Donaustauf and Walhalla (Ratisbon, 1846), a tourist guide (pp. 343-428), and the 'Railway Chronicle Travelling Charts: Basingstoke, Winchester, Gosport' (pp. 429-430; a single leaf folded twenty-six times).</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>