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## Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Vernon Watkins Manuscripts, (GB 0210 MSVERNWAT)

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# Vernon Watkins Manuscripts,

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## Tabl cynnwys | Table of contents

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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 .....	5
Disgrifiad cyfres   Series descriptions .....	6

## Gwybodaeth grynodeb | Summary information

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<b>Lleoliad   Repository:</b>	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
<b>Teitl   Title:</b>	Vernon Watkins Manuscripts,
<b>ID:</b>	GB 0210 MSVERNWAT
<b>Virtua system control number [alternative]:</b>	vtls003844392
<b>Project identifier [alternative]:</b>	ANW
<b>Dyddiad   Date:</b>	[1920s]-1988 / (dyddiad creu   date of creation)
<b>Disgrifiad ffisegol   Physical description:</b>	70 volumes.
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	English
<b>Iaith   Language:</b>	German
<b>Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu   Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	
<b>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</b>	Title based on contents.
<b>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</b>	Some letters to Gwen Watkins and a few other items relating to Gwen Watkins and Ruth Pryor post-date Vernon Watkins' death.

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

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### Nodyn | Note

Vernon Phillips Watkins (1906-1967), poet, was the second of three children of William and Sarah Watkins. He was born in Maesteg, Glamorgan, on 27 June 1906 but grew up in Swansea, Glamorgan, and on the Gower. He attended Repton School, Derbyshire, 1920-1924, then (for one year) studied modern languages at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was briefly a clerk at Lloyds Bank in Cardiff but after a breakdown he returned home to Swansea and moved to the Lloyds Bank branch in St Helens. He served with RAF Police and Intelligence, 1941-1946, but otherwise remained with Lloyds for the remainder of his working life. In 1941 he published his first collection of poems, *Ballad of the Mari Lwyd* (London, 1941), followed by *The Lamp and the Veil* (London, 1945), *Selected Poems* (Norfolk, Conn., 1948), *The*

Lady with the Unicorn (London, 1948), The Death Bell (London, 1954), Cypress and Acacia (London, 1959), Affinities (London, 1962), and Fidelities (London, 1968) which appeared posthumously. As a poet he was scrupulous, working through numerous drafts to reach a final version and often undertaking further revision after publication. In addition to original poetry he translated European verse into English, including Heine's *The North Sea* (London, 1955), and wrote essays on other poets. He corresponded widely with literary figures and became friends with the likes of W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, Philip Larkin and, in particular, Dylan Thomas. In 1944 he married Gwendoline (Gwen) Mary Davies (b. 1923), a colleague at RAF Intelligence, and they had five children. Following his retirement in 1966 he lectured at the University College of Swansea. He was then appointed Visiting Professor of Poetry at the University of Washington but died on 8 October 1967, shortly after arriving in Seattle to take up his post. Some of his previously unpublished and uncollected works appeared in *Uncollected Poems* (London, 1969), *Selected Verse Translations*, ed. by Ruth Pryor (London, 1977), *The Breaking of the Wave* (Ipswich, 1979), and *Ballad of the Outer Dark*, ed. by Ruth Pryor (London, 1979).

## Hanes Gwarchodol | Custodial history

NLW MSS 23752-62 : Papers gathered together [by Dylans Bookstore, Swansea] from the estate of Vernon Watkins's sister, Dorothy, and from 'sundry other sources'.

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## Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

Papers, [1920s]-1988, of Vernon Watkins, comprising drafts of poems published in collections and elsewhere, 1934-1967, unpublished poems, [1920s]-1967, and verse translations from German, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish and Hungarian, [1920s]-1967; drafts and translations of verse dramas, [1920s]-[1940x1967]; prose articles and essays, [1935]-1967; radio scripts, 1948-1967; talks and lecture notes, 1947-1967; correspondence, 1937-1988, including letters to Gwen Watkins following her husband's death; diaries, 1931, 1966; bibliographical lists of his poetry, [?1941]-1967; and some literary material relating to posthumous publications, 1976-1978.

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## Nodiadau | Notes

### Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

### Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

NLW MSS 21263-6E; Bertram Rota Ltd; London; Purchase; [1974]

NLW MSS 22440-89; Dylans Bookstore; Swansea; Purchase (along with proofs, printed material and ephemera, now part of NLW ex 1003); January and August 1983, April 1986; B1983/4, 24, B1986/20.

NLW MSS 22552-3E; Dylans Bookstore; Swansea; Purchase; July 1988; B1988/25.

NLW MSS 22728-9; Sotheby's; London; Purchased at auction, lot 170 (along with proofs of published works, now part of NLW ex 1003); 14 December 1989; B1989/50.

NLW MS 22841E; Dylans Bookstore; Swansea; Purchase; May 1991, February 1992; B1991/13, B1992/6.

NLW MSS 23752-62; Dylans Bookstore; Swansea; Purchase; September 1998; B1998/30.

### **Trefniant | Arrangement**

Arranged according to NLW MSS reference numbers: NLW MSS 21263-21266E, 22440-22489, 22552-22553, 22728-22729, 22841E, 23752-23762.

### **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 ownership of Vernon Watkins copyright can be found at <http://tyler.hrc.utexas.edu/> (viewed June 2010)

### **Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids**

The manuscripts are described more fully in the NLW typescript lists Vernon Watkins Manuscripts, Group I (1979) and Group II (1988, [2001]).

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

Further papers include NLW MSS 20787E, 21694D, 23136D, 23185D, 23979D; NLW ex 1003, 2551; NLW Minor Deposits 722B; NLW, David Jones (Artist and Writer) Papers; British Library, Add. MSS 54157-54167; Hull, Brynmor Jones Library, DX/73/1; Swansea University Archives, LAC/120. Printed books owned by Vernon Watkins acquired as part of the archive are also in the National Library of Wales.

### **Ychwanegiadau | Accruals**

Accruals are not expected.

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

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

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### **Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points**

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- Watkins, Vernon Phillips, 1906-1967 -- Archives. (pwnc) | (subject)
- English poetry -- Welsh authors. (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)
- English poetry -- 20th century. (ffurfiau dogfennol) | (documentary form)

## Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

Cod cyfeirnod   Ref code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Statws mynediad   Access status	Cynhwysydd   Container
NLW MS 21263E. vtls004500403	File - Drafts for Ballad of the Mari Lwyd etc.,	[?1936]-1965 /		NLW MS 21263E.
NLW MS 21264E. vtls004500424	File - Drafts for Affinities,	1948-[1962] /		NLW MS 21264E.
NLW MS 21265E. vtls004500463	File - Drafts for Fidelities,	1934-1967 /		NLW MS 21265E.
NLW MS 21266E. vtls004500475	File - Drafts for Uncollected Poems,	1945-1967 /		NLW MS 21266E.
NLW MS 22440E. vtls004273223 (WIAbNL)0000273223	File - Poetry,	1935-1967 /		NLW MS 22440E.
NLW MS 22441E. vtls004273264 (WIAbNL)0000273264	File - Poetry,	1937-1967 /		NLW MS 22441E.
NLW MS 22442E. vtls004273269 (WIAbNL)0000273269	File - Poetry,	1946-1978 /		NLW MS 22442E.
NLW MS 22443C. vtls004273282 (WIAbNL)0000273282	File - Early poems,	1927 /		NLW MS 22443C.
NLW MS 22444B. vtls004273287 (WIAbNL)0000273287	File - The Prisoners,	1927-1928 /		NLW MS 22444B.
NLW MS 22445C. vtls004273291 (WIAbNL)0000273291	File - Repton,	1928 /		NLW MS 22445C.
NLW MS 22446B. vtls004273315 (WIAbNL)0000273315	File - Early poems,	1928 /		NLW MS 22446B.
NLW MS 22447B. vtls004273320 (WIAbNL)0000273320	File - Journal and poems,	1931-1936 /		NLW MS 22447B.
NLW MS 22448C. vtls004273325 (WIAbNL)0000273325	File - Poems,	1933 /		NLW MS 22448C.
NLW MS 22449A. vtls004273330 (WIAbNL)0000273330	File - The Harz Mountains,	1933 /		NLW MS 22449A.
NLW MS 22450A. vtls004273335 (WIAbNL)0000273335	File - The Harz Mountains,	1933 /		NLW MS 22450A.
NLW MS 22451A. vtls004273344 (WIAbNL)0000273344	File - Poems,	1934 /		NLW MS 22451A.
NLW MS 22452B. vtls004273346 (WIAbNL)0000273346	File - Poems,	1934 /		NLW MS 22452B.

NLW MS 22453B. vtls004273348 (WIAbNL)0000273348	File - Prose and verse,	1936 /	NLW MS 22453B.
NLW MS 22454A. vtls004273351 (WIAbNL)0000273351	File - Poetry,	1937 /	NLW MS 22454A.
NLW MS 22455B. vtls004273358 (WIAbNL)0000273358	File - Poems,	[c. 1941] /	NLW MS 22455B.
NLW MS 22456B. vtls004273363 (WIAbNL)0000273363	File - Poetry,	1941 /	NLW MS 22456B.
NLW MS 22457A. vtls004273372 (WIAbNL)0000273372	File - Poems,	1942 /	NLW MS 22457A.
NLW MS 22458E. vtls004273377 (WIAbNL)0000273377	File - Ballad of the Deluge,	[1920s]- [1950s] /	NLW MS 22458E.
NLW MS 22459E. vtls004273378 (WIAbNL)0000273378	File - The Prisoners in the Green Land,	[c. 1927] /	NLW MS 22459E.
NLW MS 22460E. vtls004273386 (WIAbNL)0000273386	File - The Sleeper,	1937-1943 /	NLW MS 22460E.
NLW MS 22461E. vtls004273396 (WIAbNL)0000273396	File - Poems of the Sea,	1938-1965 /	NLW MS 22461E.
NLW MS 22462E. vtls004273399 (WIAbNL)0000273399	File - Ballad of the Fall of Sodom,	[1950s]-1966 /	NLW MS 22462E.
NLW MS 22463E. vtls004273407 (WIAbNL)0000273407	File - Early poems,	1924-1930 /	NLW MS 22463E.
NLW MS 22464E. vtls004273408 (WIAbNL)0000273408	File - Poems,	1931-1967 /	NLW MS 22464E.
NLW MS 22465E. vtls004273410 (WIAbNL)0000273410	File - Verse drama,	[?1920s]- [1940s] /	NLW MS 22465E.
NLW MS 22466E. vtls004273415 (WIAbNL)0000273415	File - The Influences,	1935-1938 /	NLW MS 22466E.
NLW MS 22467E. vtls004273493 (WIAbNL)0000273493	File - The Influences,	1935-1947 /	NLW MS 22467E.
NLW MS 22468E. vtls004273502 (WIAbNL)0000273502	File - Verse translations,	1947-1951 /	NLW MS 22468E.
NLW MS 22469E. vtls004273511 (WIAbNL)0000273511	File - Verse translations,	1933-1966 /	NLW MS 22469E.
NLW MS 22470E. vtls004273607 (WIAbNL)0000273607	File - Verse translations,	1941-1966 /	NLW MS 22470E.

NLW MS 22471C. vtls004273694 (WIAbNL)0000273694	File - Verse translations,	1936-1937 /	NLW MS 22471C.
NLW MSS 22472-22473E. vtls004273728 (WIAbNL)0000273728	File - Verse translations,	[1920s]-1967 /	NLW MSS 22472-22473E.
NLW MSS 22474-22475E. vtls004273809 (WIAbNL)0000273809	File - Verse translations,	[1920s]-1967 /	NLW MSS 22474-22475E.
NLW MS 22476E. vtls004273940 (WIAbNL)0000273940	File - Verse translations,	[1930s]-1966 /	NLW MS 22476E.
NLW MS 22477E. vtls004273956 (WIAbNL)0000273956	File - Verse translations,	1958-1966 /	NLW MS 22477E.
NLW MS 22478E. vtls004274027 (WIAbNL)0000274027	File - Radio scripts,	1949-1967 /	NLW MS 22478E.
NLW MS 22479E. vtls004274034 (WIAbNL)0000274034	File - Talks and lectures,	1947-1967 /	NLW MS 22479E.
NLW MS 22480E. vtls004274038 (WIAbNL)0000274038	File - Notes for poetry readings,	1953-1967 /	NLW MS 22480E.
NLW MS 22481E. vtls004274041 (WIAbNL)0000274041	File - On Wilfred Owen,	[c. 1935]- [1966] /	NLW MS 22481E.
NLW MSS 22482-22483E. vtls004274049 (WIAbNL)0000274049	File - On W. B. Yeats,	[c. 1940]- [1967] /	NLW MSS 22482-22483E.
NLW MS 22484E. vtls004274066 (WIAbNL)0000274066	File - Stories for children,	1929-1932 /	NLW MS 22484E.
NLW MS 22485E. vtls004274070 (WIAbNL)0000274070	File - Correspondence,	1938-1968.	NLW MS 22485E.
NLW MS 22486E. vtls004274250 (WIAbNL)0000274250	File - Correspondence,	1939-1976.	NLW MS 22486E.
NLW MS 22487E. vtls004274442 (WIAbNL)0000274442	File - Correspondence,	1937-1977.	NLW MS 22487E.
NLW MS 22488E. vtls004274601 (WIAbNL)0000274601	File - Correspondence,	1939-1968.	NLW MS 22488E.
NLW MS 22489B. vtls004274643 (WIAbNL)0000274643	File - Diary,	1966 /	NLW MS 22489B.
NLW MS 22552E. vtls004277758 (WIAbNL)0000277758	File - On Dylan Thomas,	1948-1967 /	NLW MS 22552E.



NLW MS 22553E. vtls004277779 (WIAbNL)0000277779	File - Correspondence and papers,	1944-1967.	NLW MS 22553E.
NLW MS 22728C. vtls004280354 (WIAbNL)0000280354	File - Vernon Watkins letters,	1940-1967 /	NLW MS 22728C.
NLW MS 22729E. vtls004280360 (WIAbNL)0000280360	File - Poetry and prose,	1941-1963 /	NLW MS 22729E.
NLW MS 22841E. vtls004280755 (WIAbNL)0000280755	File - Poetry, prose and correspondence,	[1940s]-1988 /	NLW MS 22841E.
NLW MS 23752E. vtls006009645	File - Published poems,	[1944]-[1954] /	NLW MS 23752E.
NLW MS 23753C. vtls006009663	File - Taliesin,	[1920x1939] /	NLW MS 23753C; \$q - Staples removed and bindings re- stitched at NLW.
NLW MS 23754B. vtls006009671	File - Unpublished early poems,	1924 /	NLW MS 23754B; \$q - Leaves cut out between ff. 47 and 48, 54 and 55; bindings repaired at NLW.
NLW MS 23755E. vtls006009674	File - Unpublished poems,	1930-1964 /	NLW MS 23755E.
NLW MS 23756E. vtls006009679	File - Unpublished poems,	[1930s]-1967 /	NLW MS 23756E; \$q - Some folios damaged, and repaired at NLW.
NLW MS 23757E. vtls006010124	File - Light verse and prose,	[c. 1944]-1967 /	NLW MS 23757E.
NLW MS 23758C. vtls006010135	File - Modern Poetry lectures,	1966 /	NLW MS 23758C; \$q - Staples removed and bindings re- stitched at NLW.
NLW MS 23759A. vtls006010138	File - Notebook,	[?1948]-1967 /	NLW MS 23759A.
NLW MS 23760B. vtls006010143	File - Notebook,	[?1941]-1967 /	NLW MS 23760B; \$q - Many leaves cut out; staples removed, bindings

			re-stitched and covers repaired at NLW.
NLW MS 23761C. vtls006010170	File - Verse translations,	1938 /	NLW MS 23761C; \$q - Staples removed and bindings re-stitched at NLW; leaf torn out after f. 5.
NLW MS 23762E. vtls006010183	File - Translations and drama,	[1940s]-[1967] /	NLW MS 23762E.