

LIST OF VERNON WATKINS MSS (Group I)

Purchased 1971 and 1974

Compiled by Graham Thomas, 1979

This list brings together two groups of Vernon Watkins manuscripts, the one acquired by NLW through the Welsh Arts Council (NLW MS 20787E) and the other purchased by NLW from Mrs Gwen Watkins in 1974 (NLW MSS 21263-6E).

The material described in this list is complementary to the larger group of Vernon Watkins papers in the British Library, Add. MSS 54157-67. These are described in Jenny Stratford, *The Arts Council Collection of Modern Literary Manuscripts, 1963-1972* (London. 1974), pp. 63-66.

NLW MS 20787E

These drafts were received by NLW as part of the Welsh Arts Council collection of manuscripts, in two groups, numbered WAC MSS 30 and 37. These two complementary manuscripts were merged in one when the WAC collection was bound, hence the two old sets of folio numbers, both superceded by the stamped foliation leaves.

This volume contains manuscript and typescript drafts by Vernon Watkins for poems published in *Fidelities* (London, 1968). The arrangement of the drafts of each poem, now all brought together, is still so that the final or latest draft comes first, the others following in reverse chronological order. This is Mrs Watkins' arrangement of the drafts. (This arrangement has been reversed in NLW MSS 21263-6E, where an attempt has been made to arrange the drafts in chronological order.) The number of drafts or part drafts of each poem is given in brackets after the title in the contents list below. This volume supplements NLW MS 21265B.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|
| ff. 1-9 | Preliminaries | |
| ff. 10-12 | Two Sources of Life | (3) |
| ff. 13-15 | Earth and Fire | (3) |
| ff. 16-17 | The Sibyl | (2) |
| ff. 18-20 | The Parthenon | (3) |
| ff. 21-33 | Phaedra | (10) |
| ff. 34-35 | Semele | (2) |
| ff. 36-45 | Eyes of an Eagle | (9) |
| f. 46 | Falaise | (1) |
| ff. 47-54 | Poem for Conrad | (7) |
| ff. 55-68 | The Guest | (10) |
| ff. 69-71 | The Razor Shell | (3) |
| ff. 72-78 | The Crinoid | (9) |
| ff. 79-84 | Fisherman | (6) |
| ff. 85-86 | Fingernail Sunrise | (2) |
| ff. 87-88 | Hurdy-Gurdy Man in Winter | (2) |
| ff. 89-93 | The Sure Aimer | (5) |
| ff. 94-96 | Taliesin at Pwlldu | (2) |
| ff. 97-104 | Sea Chant | (8) |
| ff. 105-112 | Dialogue | (8) |
| ff. 113-124 | The Life Thread | (12) |
| ff. 125-133 | Swan Narcissus | (9) |
| ff. 134-138 | The Compost Heap | (7) |
| ff. 139-145 | For a Wine Festival | (10) |
| ff. 146-159 | Cornfields | (20) |
| ff. 160-164 | Movement of Autumn | (5) |
| ff. 165-166 | Exegesis | (2) |
| ff. 167-171 | Englyn | (14) |
| ff. 172-173 | A Neglected Grave | (2) |
| ff. 174-183 | Trees in a Town | (9) |
| ff. 184-188 | Sonnet | (5) |

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------|
| ff. 189-192 | Rebirth | (4) |
| ff. 193-200 | The Stubborn and the Ornate | (10) |
| ff. 201-206 | She that is Memory's Daughter | (6) |
| ff. 207-215 | The Snow Curlew | (10) |
| ff. 216-233 | Means of Protection | (20) |
| ff. 234-235 | Vultures | (2) |
| ff. 236-241 | The Stayers | (12) |
| ff. 243-251 | Swallows | (9) |
| ff. 252-253 | Against Controversy | (2) |
| f. 254 | The Colosseum | (1) |
| ff. 255-262 | The Catacombs | (11) |
| ff. 263-275 | The Stone Circle | (10) |
| ff. 276-293 | Resting Places | (13) |
| ff. 294-296 | Strictness of Speech | (5) |
| ff. 297-299 | Postscript | (3) |
| ff. 300-307 | Unity of the Stream | (9) |
| ff. 308-325 | Fidelities | (18) |
| ff. 326-338 | Deposition | (13) |
| ff. 339-353 | Belief and Praise | (14) |
| ff. 354-373 | Injustice and Praise | (18) |
| ff. 374-377 | At Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry | (4) |
| ff. 378-381 | To a Shell | (4) |
| ff. 382-418 | Digging the Past | (28) |
| ff. 419-424 | The Red Lady | (7) |
| f. 425 | Napkin and Stone | (1) |
| ff. 426-450 | Orbits | (17) |
| ff. 451-462 | The Measure Moves | (12) |
| ff. 463-470 | The Beaver | (8) |
| ff. 471-492 | The Bloodhound | (19) |
| ff. 493-505 | Triads | (13) |

The following poems do not appear in *Fidelities*:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ff. 238, 241 | The Pupil |
| f. 238 | Rhadamanthus |
| f. 242 | Four lines from Rilke |
| f. 413 ^v | The Peopled Night |
| f. 460 | The Muse of Homer |

NLW MS 21263E

This volume contains manuscript and typescript drafts by Vernon Watkins for poems published in the following five books:

1. *Ballad of the Mari Llwyd and Other Poems* (London, 1941)
2. *The Lamp and the Veil* (London, 1945)
3. *The Lady with the Unicorn* (London, 1948)
4. *The Death Bell: Poems and Ballads* (London, 1954)
5. *Cypress and Acacia* (London, 1959)

The poems are arranged in the order in which they occur in the printed collections. An attempt has been made to arrange the drafts for each poem in chronological order. The number of the drafts or part drafts of each poem is given in brackets after the title in the contents list below. A few carbon duplicates are included. Some proof copies and cuttings of poems which have appeared in newspapers and journals have been added.

1. *Ballad of the Mari Llwyd and Other Poems* (1941)

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|
| f. 1 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (1) |
| f. 2 | The Collier | (1) |
| f. 3 | Empty Hands | (1) |
| f. 4 | Indolence | (1) |
| f. 5 | The Fountain | (1) |
| ff. 6-7 | Two Decisions | (1) |
| ff. 8-9 | Earth-Dress | (1) |
| f. 10 | A Note on 'Earth Dress' | (1) |
| ff. 11-12 | Thames Forest | (1) |
| f. 13 | Atlas on Grass | (1) |
| ff. 14-17 | The Windows of Breath | (4) |
| f. 18 | The Mother and Child | (1) |
| ff. 19-44 | Ballad of the Mari Llwyd | (1) |

2. *The Lamp and the Veil* (1945)

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|
| f. 45 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (1) |
| ff. 46-58 | Yeats in Dublin | (6) |

3. *The Lady with the Unicorn* (1948)

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----|
| f. 59 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (1) |
| f. 60 | Returning to Goleufryn | (1) |
| f. 61 | Llywelyn's Chariot | (1) |
| f. 62 | Birthday Sleep | (1) |
| f. 63 | The Return of Spring (?) | (1) |
| f. 64 | Foal | (1) |

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----|
| f. 65 | Tears wear time down | (1) |
| f. 66 | Reprisals of Calm | (1) |
| f. 67 | The Betrothal | (1) |
| f. 68 | Gravestones | (1) |
| f. 69 | Arakhova and the Daemon | (1) |
| f. 70 | The Sinner | (1) |
| f. 71 | The Yew-Tree | (1) |
| ff. 72-73 | The Lady with the Unicorn | (1) |

4. *The Death Bell* (1954)

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| ff. 74-78 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (5) |
| f. 79 | Title Page and Contents | (1) |
| f. 80 | The Strangled Prayer | (1) |
| ff. 81-82 | Time's Deathbed | (1) |
| ff. 83-85 | Egyptian Burial: Resurrection in Wales | (2) |
| ff. 86-88 | The Turning of the Stars | (1) + 1 printed |
| ff. 89-94 | Music of Colours: The Blossom Scattered | (6) |
| f. 95 | Testimony | (1) |
| ff. 96-99 | Niobe | (1) |
| f. 100 | Climbing Above the Cave | (1) (printed) |
| ff. 101-102 | A Prayer | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 103-106 | The Caryatids | (4) |
| f. 107 | The Dead Shag | (1) |
| f. 108 | The Heron | (1) |
| ff. 109-111 | Woodpecker and Lyre Bird | (3) |
| f. 112 | A Book from Venice | (1) |
| ff. 113-114 | Epithalamion | (1) |
| ff. 115-116 | The Shell | (2) |
| ff. 117-118 | Art and the Ravens | (1) |
| f. 119 | Taliesin in Gower | (1) |
| f. 120 | Cantata for the Waking of Lazarus | (1) |
| f. 121 | Ballads (part-title page) | (1) |
| ff. 122-125 | Ballad of the Rough Sea | (2) |
| ff. 126-127 | Ballad of the Equinox | (2) |
| ff. 128-134 | Ballad of Crawley Woods | (4) |
| ff. 135-143 | Ballad of the Three Coins | (3) |
| ff. 144-153 | Ballad of Hunt's Bay | (3) +1 printed |
| ff. 154-159 | Ballad of Culver's Hole | (2) |
| ff. 160-163 | Ballad of the Trial of Sodom | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 164-169 | Ballad of the Two Tapsters | (3) |
| ff. 170-178 | The Death Bell | (2) +1 printed |
| f. 179 | Note of 'The Death Bell' | (1) |

5. *Cypress and Acacia* (1959)

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| ff. 180-187 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (9) |
| ff. 188-192 | Preliminaries | (5) |
| ff. 193-197 | Ode | (5) |
| ff. 198-199 | Dust in Balance | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 200-208 | Pegasus and the Child | (9) |
| ff. 209-210 | Loiterers | (1) +1 printed |
| f. 211 | Three Harps | (1) |
| f. 212 | Taliesin and the Spring of Vision | (1) |
| ff. 213-215 | A Man with a Field | (2) +1 printed |
| ff. 216-219 | The Mare | (4) |
| ff. 220-222 | The Scythe | (3) |
| ff. 223-226 | Call it all names, but do not call it Rest | (4) |
| ff. 227-232 | The Spring | (5) +1 printed |
| ff. 233-235 | Peace In the Welsh Hills | (2) |
| ff. 236-238 | Hunt's Bay | (2) +1 printed |
| ff. 239-244 | A Wreath for Alun Lewis | (5) |
| ff. 245-247 | Poet and Goldsmith | (2) +1 printed |
| ff. 248-250 | The Sloe | (2) +1 printed |
| ff. 251-253 | Trust Darkness | (3) |
| ff. 254-257 | The Return | (4) |
| ff. 258-259 | The Exacting Ghost | (2) |
| ff. 260-261 | Serena | (2) |
| ff. 262-264 | Before a Birth | (3) |
| ff. 265-267 | Birth and Morning | (3) |
| ff. 268-271 | The Immortal in Nature | (4) |
| ff. 272-276 | The Curlew | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 277-279 | Kestrel | (3) |
| ff. 280-284 | Christ and Charon | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 285-286 | Angel and Man | (2) |
| ff. 287-291 | Swedenborg's Skull | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 292-296 | Hunter | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 297-301 | Erinna and the Waters | (4) +1 galley |
| f. 302 | The Tributary Seasons | (1) (printed) |
| ff. 303-306 | Moonrise | (3) +1 printed |
| ff. 307-309 | The Mask of Winter | (3) |
| f. 310 | Touch with your Fingers | (1) |
| ff. 311-313 | Bread and the Stars | (3) (printed) |
| ff. 314-315 | Buried Light | (2) |
| ff. 316-325 | For a Christening | (7) |
| ff. 326-331 | The Replica | (6) |
| f. 332 | Ruth's Lament for Naomi | (1) |
| ff. 333-338 | I, Centurion | (3) |
| ff. 339-346 | In the Protestant Cemetery, Rome | (4) |

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| ff. 347-348 | Ode at the Spring Equinox | (1) |
| ff. 349-350 | Good Friday | (1) +1 printed |
| f. 351 | Great Nights Returning | (1) |

The following poems do not appear in these five books:

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-----|
| f. 115 ^v | Eyes of an Eagle (from <i>Fidelities</i> (1968), pp. 21-22) | (1) |
| f. 327 ^v | Wind the clock with a long long chain | (1) |

NLW MS 21264E

This volume contains manuscript and typescript drafts by Vernon Watkins for poems published in *Affinities* (London, 1962). The poems are arranged in the order in which they occur in the printed work. An attempt has been made to arrange the drafts for each poem in chronological order. The number of the drafts or part drafts for each poem is given in brackets after the title in the contents list below. A few carbon duplicates are included. Some proof copies and cuttings of poems which have appeared in newspapers and journals have been added.

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| ff. 1-3 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (3) |
| ff. 4-6 | Waterfalls | (2) +1 galley |
| f. 7 | The Precision of the Wheel | (1) |
| f. 8 | The Interval | (1) |
| f. 9 | Rewards of the Fountain | (1) |
| f. 10 | Ironies of the Self | (1) |
| f. 11 | Vine | (1) |
| ff. 12-15 | Affinities | (3) +1 proof |
| ff. 16-20 | Demands of the Poet | (5) |
| ff. 21-24 | Demands of the Muse | (3) +1 galley |
| ff. 25-26 | Sonnet | (2) |
| ff. 27-28 | Muse, Poet and Fountain | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 29-35 | The Crane | (6) +1 galley |
| ff. 36-42 | Ode to Swansea | (7) |
| ff. 43-62 | A True Picture Restored | (8) |
| ff. 63-64 | Ode to Nijinsky | (2) |
| f. 65 | A Bell Unrung | (3) |
| ff. 68-75 | Three Sonnets for Charles Williams | (8) |
| ff. 76-77 | Ode | (1) |
| f. 78 | Zennor Cottages | (1) |
| ff. 79-81 | Ballad of the Mermaid of Zennor | (2) (printed) |
| ff. 82-84 | Heloise | (3) |
| ff. 85-86 | To Hölderlin | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 87-91 | To Heinrich Heine | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 92-95 | Wordsworth | (4) |
| ff. 96-97 | The Death of Keats | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 98-102 | Browning in Venice | (4) +1 printed |
| ff. 103-115 | The Childhood of Hölderlin | (4) |
| f. 116 | Angelo's Adam | (1) |
| ff. 117-123 | The Fossil | (6) +1 printed |
| ff. 124-129 | Expectation of Life | (4) |
| ff. 130-132 | The Smoke of Cities Passed | (2) +1 printed |
| ff. 133-134 | Bishopston Stream | (2) |
| ff. 135-136 | The Present | (2) |
| f. 137 | Taliesin's Voyage | (1) |
| ff. 138-150 | Taliesin and the Mockers | (6) |
| ff. 151-152 | Words to Artemis | (1) +1 printed |

| | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| ff. 153-161 | Music of Colours (see also NLW MS 22475E, f. 79 ^v) | (7) |
| ff. 162-163 | Quem Quaeritis | (1) +1 proof |
| ff. 164-166 | Five Poems of Magdalenian Darkness | (2) |

Revisited Waters

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|
| ff. 167-174 | 1. The Constant Stream | (5) |
| ff. 175-177 | 2. Dedication | (2) +1 proof |
| ff. 178-184 | 1 and 2 combined | (3) |
| ff. 185-188 | 3. Praise | (4) |
| f. 189 | 4. Origins | (1) |
| ff. 190-238 | 1-4 combined | (12) |
| ff. 239-258 | Returning from Harvest | (20) |

The following poem does not appear in *Affinities*:

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-----|
| f. 248 ^v | Swan Narcissus (from <i>Fidelities</i> (1968), p. 44) | (1) |
|---------------------|--|-----|

NLW MS 21265E

This volume contains manuscript and typescript drafts by Vernon Watkins for poems published in *Fidelities* (London, 1968). The poems are arranged in the order in which they occur in the printed work. An attempt has been made to arrange the drafts for each poem in chronological order. The number of drafts or part drafts for each poem is given in brackets after the title in the contents list below. A few carbon duplicates are included. Some proof copies and cuttings of poems which have appeared in newspapers and journals have been added. This volume supplements NLW MS 20787E.

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| ff. 1-3 | Contents in Mrs Watkins' hand | (3) |
| ff. 4-7 | Two Sources of Life | (4) |
| ff. 8-12 | Earth and Fire | (5) |
| ff. 13-15 | Phaedra | (2) |
| ff. 16-21 | Semele | (6) |
| ff. 22-47 | Eyes of an Eagle | (26) |
| ff. 48-52 | Falaise | (5) |
| ff. 53-55 | Poem for Conrad | (2) +1 proof |
| ff. 56-57 | The Guest | (2) |
| ff. 58-59 | The Crinoid | (1) +1 printed |
| ff. 60-69 | Fingernail Sunrise | (10) |
| ff. 70-81 | Hurdy-Gurdy Man in Winter | (12) |
| ff. 82-91 | Taliesin at Pwlldu | (9) +1 printed |
| f. 92 | Sea Chant (?) | (1) |
| ff. 93-106 | Dialogue | (15) |
| ff. 107-110 | The Life Thread | (4) |
| f. 111 | The Compost Heap | (1) |
| ff. 112-157 | Movement of Autumn | (46) |
| f. 158 | Trees in Town | (1) |
| f. 159 | Sonnet | (1) |
| f. 160 | The Stubborn and the Ornate | (1) (proof) |
| ff. 161-162 | She that is Memory's Daughter | (2) |
| f. 163 | The Snow Curlew | (1) |
| f. 164 | Means of Protection | (1) |
| ff. 165-170 | Swallows | (6) |
| f. 171 | Against Controversy | (1) (printed) |
| ff. 172-177 | The Colosseum | (6) |
| ff. 178-198 | The Catacombs | (21) |
| ff. 199-200 | 'The Colosseum' and 'The Catacombs' combined on one Sheet | (2) |
| ff. 201-206 | Resting Places | (6) |
| ff. 207-209 | Belief and Praise | (3) |
| ff. 210-212 | Injustice and Praise | (2) +1 proof |
| ff. 213-214 | At Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry | (2) |
| ff. 215 | Cwmrhydyceirw Elegiacs | (1) |
| ff. 216-218 | The Red Lady | (3) |
| ff. 219 | Napkin and Stone | (1) |

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ff. 220-234 | Orbits 1 | (11) +1 printed |
| ff. 235-241 | Orbits 2 | (7) |
| ff. 242-243 | Orbits 1 and 2 combined | (1) |
| ff. 244-247 | The Measure Moves | (4) |
| ff. 248 | The Beaver | (1) |
| ff. 249-252 | The Bloodhound | (4) |

The following poems do not occur in *Fidelities*:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|
| f. 19 ^v | Dylan Thomas: Always when He, in Country Heaven | (1) |
| f. 84 ^v | Many have raised their voices, and Compelled | (1) |
| f. 187 ^v | Written to an instrument | (1) |
| f. 246 ^v | The Scythe (from <i>Cypress and Acacia</i> (1959), p. 25) | (1) |

NLW MS 21266E

This volume contains manuscript and typescript drafts by Vernon Watkins for poems published in *Uncollected Poems* (London, 1969). The poems are arranged in the order in which they occur in the printed work. An attempt has been made to arrange the drafts for each poem in chronological order. The number of drafts or part drafts for each poem is given in brackets after the title in the contents list below. A few carbon duplicates are included.

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------|
| f. 1 | Contents in Dr Ruth Pryor's hand | (1) |
| ff. 2-3 | Dedicatory Poem | (2) |
| ff. 4-8 | Air | (5) |
| ff. 9-11 | Second Air | (3) |
| ff. 12-44 | The Sea Wake | (20) |
| f. 45 | Why do words in my Ears | (1) |
| ff. 46-49 | Tradition | (4) |
| ff. 50-68 | Lightning and the City | (19) |
| ff. 69-80 | Roots | (12) |
| ff. 81-85 | Ode at the Autumn Equinox | (5) |
| ff. 86-98 | Resisting the East Wind | (13) |
| ff. 99-105 | The Coin | (7) |
| ff. 106-120 | Excess Luggage | (15) |
| ff. 112-118 | The Revolutionary | (8) |
| ff. 129-133 | Blossom of the Apple | (4) |
| ff. 134-142 | Apple Tree | (9) |
| ff. 143-146 | Mozart at Zell-am-See | (4) |
| ff. 147-160 | Sonnet | (14) |
| ff. 161-170 | Hymn | (10) |
| ff. 171-183 | The Instant | (13) |
| ff. 184-199 | Restitution | (16) |
| ff. 200-210 | Candle Constant | (11) |
| ff. 211-231 | The Debt | (21) |
| ff. 232-234 | The Prairies | (3) |
| ff. 235-258 | First Sight of the North West | (23) |

The following poems do not appear in *Uncollected Poems* or in any of his collected works:

| | | |
|--------|---|---------------|
| f. 259 | Translation of Dante, <i>Inf.</i> , XIII, 58-75 <i>Purg.</i> XXXI, 49-63 | (1) (printed) |
| f. 260 | A Question of Time (published in <i>Partisan Review</i> , Summer, 1964) | (1) (proof) |