

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFYDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 214 D253

Title: PONTYPRIDD LITERARY PAPERS

Dates 1872-c.1935

Level of description: Fonds (level 2)

Extent: 2 vols, 3 boxes; 0.042 cubic metres

Names of creators Thomas Jones (Arfonfab), Thomas Lewis (Ap Lewis), Thomas Williams (Brynfab) and anonymous

Administrative/Biographical history

All records were previously held in Pontypridd Library as part of a small collection of manuscript literary papers relating to the Pontypridd area.

Scope and content

All of the records with the exception of a small number of items are of a literary nature, especially the drafts and final copies of poetry of Thomas Jones (Arfonfab), Thomas Williams (Brynfab) and Thomas Lewis (Ap Lewis), most of it in Welsh. Most of the material is written into booklets and lack close dates suggesting that the individual poems and essays were compiled over several years by their authors. Some of the poetry, particularly that of Thomas Lewis (Ap Lewis) is of a mediocre literary nature. There is a short entry for Brynfab in *The New Companion to the Literature of Wales*, ed. Meic Stephens (Cardiff 1998) and an essay 'Thomas Williams (Brynfab, 1848-1927) in *Cwm Rhondda* (Gomer. Llandysul 1995).

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records offered have been accepted and listed

Conditions governing access

Open access

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/Scripts of material

Welsh and English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Mainly booklets and volumes with some loose papers in varying physical condition.

Finding aids

Detailed list available

Related units of description

Date of description

February 2004

Manuscripts of Thomas Jones (Arfonfab)

Thomas Jones was born at Gatehouse, Bangor, co Caern, 1860 and first competed in eisteddfodau at the age of 19 contributing literary work to a number of magazines including 'Y Genedl' and 'Y Faner'. He worked initially at the Penrhyn quarries, Bethesda, until the industrial strike 1900 when he moved to Mountain Ash, later to Pontypridd to work at the Maritime and Great Western Collieries. He contributed to the shortlived religious revival in 1906 by writing 'Yr Adfywiad a'i wersi' (The Revival and its lessons). Arfonfab won several minor bardic chairs.

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| D253/1/1, 2 | <p>The Manuscripts of Thomas Jones (Arfonfab): poetry in Welsh of Arfonfab in his own script of various dates with a short introductory biography compiled before 1935
Bookplate of Pontypridd UDC Public Libraries
Reference W891.6611 JON
[2 vols; manuscript and typescript; fair condition]</p> | late 19cent-
c.1935 |
| D253/1/3 | <p>Photograph of Arfonfab sitting in bardic chair and wearing bardic cap
Formerly enclosed in D253/1/1
[1 photographic print; good condition]</p> | c.1930-35 |

Manuscripts of Thomas Lewis (Ap Lewys)

Lewis was born in Llanfyrnach, co Pemb, 1866; his family moving to Carmarthen but his father departed for the United States of America and never returned. Lewis moved to Rhondda and worked in Albion Colliery and became acquainted with Brynfab and others in literary circles in the Pontypridd area. He had had no education after age 9 but later made up for this by attending night schools. Lewis was an active trade unionist and served as Labour councillor in Pontypridd. In later life he lost his sight and died in 1935.

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| D253/2/1 | <p>Miscellany of Lewis's poetic compositions in Welsh and English, including 'The Gallant Lifeboat Men'; 'The Great Western Colliery Disaster'; a poem 'Er Coffadwriaeth am John Jones (Maldwynog)' (who lost his life in the Albion Colliery explosion); and a 'Bridal-song on the marriage of Miss S. Roberts, niece to the Rev. E. Roberts, D.D.'
with enclosed papers containing additional poems, cuttings and lists, and an obituary of Lance Corp D.J. Lewis, missing at Gallipoli, 8 Aug 1915
[1 vol 11 with loose papers; poor condition]</p> | late 19cent-early
20cent |
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| D253/2/2 | <p>Photograph of Lewis and his wife, then living at 14 Dorothy St, Coedpen-maen
 M. Zeldice, photographic artists, 16 Station Terrace, Cardiff.
 Printed by Thomas Forrest & Sons, Pontypridd
 [1 photographic print mounted on card; good condition]</p> | c.1910 |
| D253/2/3 | <p>Certificate of Thomas Lewis for first class in elementary phonography, issued by the Technical Instruction Committee, Glamorgan County Council
 [1 printed paper; fair condition]</p> | 1899 |
| D253/2/4, 5 | <p>Nofel Gymraeg. 'O'r Bwthyn i'r Plas neu Rhamant Dyffryn Tywi', by Thomas Lewis, Ap Lewys, Merthyr Road, Pontypridd
 The two bdles have not been compared in detail but the second appears to be a greatly expanded version of the first
 [2 bdles; manuscript; fair condition]</p> | 1904 |
| D253/2/6, 7 | <p>'The Devil's Chair', a story by Thomas Lewis, Ap Lewys
 Manuscript drafts
 [2 bdles; fair condition]</p> | early 20cent |
| D253/2/8-13 | <p>Bundle of poems in Welsh and English:
 'Yr Iaith Gymraeg'
 Pastoral poem. 'Rhiwallon of the Van-lake'
 'Tutankhamen' (English)
 'The Legend of Ogmoré'
 'Bywyd'
 'Our object Lesson Day'
 [1 bdle; poor/fair condition]</p> | late 19-early 20 cent |
| D253/2/14-21 | <p>Bundle of poems and stories in Welsh and English:
 'Yr Englyn Hanner-Coron!'
 'The Soldier's Dream'
 'Annerchiad i Mr H.H. Evans ar ei ddarlith ar Ceiriog [John Ceiriog Hughes 1832-1887, poet] o flaen Cymrodorion y Bont', 31 Oct 1913
 'On the Rocks' describing his experiences in meeting a group of unemployed men in the Memorial Park
 'Eisteddfod Penygraig', 29 Feb 1912
 'Tri phenill i Tabernacl, Pontypridd'
 'Tom the Shoemaker'
 Hen bererin. 'Dyma borthiad i bechadur ..'
 [1 bdle; poor/fair condition]</p> | early 20cent |

D253/2/22-29	<p>Bundle of poems</p> <p>'The League of Nations'</p> <p>'The Rhondda Battalion' to the air 'The red, white and blue'</p> <p>Translation: 'The poor man's grave. Bedd y dyn tlawd', 1920</p> <p>'The National strike', 23 Oct 1920</p> <p>'The Revival of 1904 & 1905'</p> <p>'Casana's awel falmaidd/Holl degwch daiar bon ...'</p> <p>'The tragic summer of 1927', 1927</p> <p>'The Daisy'</p> <p>[1 small bdle; fair condition]</p>	c.1920, 1927
D253/2/30	<p>Chair poem 'Longing (Hiraeth)' at Nantgarw Eisteddfod, Glanyllyn Hall, Taffs Well'</p> <p>[6 papers; fair condition]</p>	10 Jun 1919
D253/2/31	<p>Poem: 'The Murmur of the Sea' by 'Neptunus' (in Lewis's script)</p> <p>[3 papers; fair condition]</p>	c.1920
D253/2/32	<p>Poem: 'Sunset at Sea' by 'Voyager' (in Lewis's script) at Caerphilly Eisteddfod, Whit Monday, May 20th 1907</p> <p>[2 papers; fair condition]</p>	1907
D253/2/33-36	<p>Miscellaneous poems:</p> <p>'April Showers' at Brecon Eisteddfod</p> <p>Limericks: 'To the "Old Bridge" Pontypridd', March 1921</p> <p>Requiem recited at the unveiling of the tablet to the memory of the late pastor Joshua Thomas and his wife at Coedpenmaen Baptist Church, 22 Nov 1906. Versed by Ap Lewis</p> <p>'Remembrance Day', 10 Nov 1926</p> <p>[1 small bdle; fair condition]</p>	1906, 1920-1
D253/2/37	<p>Poem on the Great Western Colliery Disaster, 1893</p> <p>[3 papers; poor condition]</p>	c.1893-4
D253/2/38	<p>English translation by Virgilian (in Lewis's script) entitled 'The Dawn' of Testyn y Gadair 'y Wawr'. Eisteddfod Darllenfa y Gweithwyr Pontlottyn. 19 July 1909</p> <p>[6 papers; poor condition]</p>	c.1909-10

Thomas Williams (Brynfab)

Thomas Williams (1848-1927) was apparently born at Y Fforch Aman, in Cwmaman, Aberdare, although there is no mention of his family there in the 1851 census. Soon afterwards they appear at Fforch Orci farm, near Treorci. He was a farmer at Hendre, in Eglwysilan, for most of his life. Brynfab was a member of Clic y Bont ('the bridge clique'), a circle of poets and musicians associated with the Pontypridd area and the Pontypridd Cymrodorion, edited the poetry column in 'Tarian y Gweithwyr' for many years, contributed to several magazines and was a keen eisteddfodwr including the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. He wrote a novel *Pan oedd Rhondda'n Bur* (1912) describing life in the Rhondda valley before industrialisation. There is a short entry for him in *The New Companion to the Literature of Wales*, ed. Meic Stephens (Cardiff 1998) and an essay 'Thomas Williams (Brynfab, 1848-1927)' by Dafydd Morse in *Cwm Rhondda*, ed. Hywel Teifi Edwards (Gomer. Llandysul 1995)

D253/3/1	Poem: 'Dafydd Sion y Teilwr' [1 paper; printed; fair condition]	
D253/3/2	Cyngherdd Tysteb "Brynfab". Tabernacl, Pontypridd Illustration of Brynfab on cover [1 paper; printed; fair condition]	7 Oct 1918
D253/3/3	Beirdd Cymru. Papur a ddarllenwyd o flaen Cymdeithas Cymrodorion, Pontypridd, gan Brynfab [1 booklet; printed; fair condition]	1896
D253/3/4	Pryddest Goffadwriaethol am y diweddar Mr W. Hopkin, U.C.Dr. Testyn yn Eisteddfod Mountain Ash, Nadolig 1877. Beirniad Dewi o Essyllt [8 papers; fair condition]	1877
D253/3/5	Pryddest Goffadwriaethol am y diweddar Canon Jenkins, Aberdar. Testyn yn Eisteddfod Iforaidd Treherbert, Dydd Gwyl Dewi, 1877, gan Brynfab [1 printed booklet with uncut pages; printed; oor condition]	1877
D253/3/6	Miscellaneous poetry including 'Ffugenwau Treorky', 'Streic – Llandinam', 'Y Gwleidydd', etc [1 notebook; poor condition]	late 19cent
D253/3/7	Cywyddau 'Trydaniaeth' ac 'O Fon i Fynwy' [1 booklet; poor condition]	late 19cent

- D253/3/8 Odlau a chywyddau, including 'Awdl ar Gydwybod'; 'Abraham yn offrymu Isaac'; 'Hen Gadarn y Getrys'. Dyffryn yn Eisteddfod Gwaelod-y-garth, etc
[1 booklet; poor condition – front board missing]
- D253/3/9 Notebook of Thomas Williams, Forchorky, Treorky, 1872
containing poetry including 'Cyfaill cywir ydoedd Ifor..'; 'Y Gneuen', 'Y Pren Rhos' with note 'Eisteddfod Treherbert Llungwyn 1872', etc
including draft letter regarding an eisteddfod referring to Mr Llewellyn and Evan Jones, etc
Scribbled notes on boards including 'America Francisco'
[1 notebook; poor condition]
- D253/3/10 Booklet containing poetry: 'Mores Cule! Maes ei oes fu – o'i oll sydd/Dau haul serch yn glasu...', etc. late 19cent
At rear: testimonial to Mr Morgan Rees recorded in minutes of Craig yr Hseg Lodge of True Ivorites
[1 booklet and loose gathering; poor condition]
- D253/3/11, 12 ?Draft poetry in Welsh written into 2 booklets bearing c.1906-7
details of 1906 and 1907 calendars
[2 booklets; poor condition]
- D253/3/13 Poem cut from newspaper: " The Mermaid. 'Lundy Light' ". Brynfab's Swan-song translated for remembrance by G.R. Thomas
[1 paper; poor condition]
- D253/3/14 Gwledd Cymdeithas Cymrodorion Pontypridd, Yng 27 Feb 1914
Ngwesty y Butchers' Arms
[1 folding card; printed; fair condition]
- D253/3/15 Poetry: 'Bugeilger Gomer Glyngwyn neu Fugail Craig y early 20cent?
Llyn'; 'Y Rhaiadr'; 'Newyrth Sion a Modryb Sian'; 'Hen Gapel y Glyn', etc
[1 booklet and 2 loose papers; fair condition]
- D253/3/16 Poetry: 'Mae Arthur yn huno yn Ynys Afallon ...', etc early 20cent?
[1 booklet; poor condition]
- D253/3/17 Poetry: 'Mae i adgofion lawer o swynion ...', etc
[1 booklet; fair condition]
- D253/3/18 Poetry: incomplete poem '... sydd yn gweithio a'u pennau'; early 20cent?
'Y Cyfreithad'
[1 booklet; poor condition]

D253/3/19	Text of lecture: 'Tua dechreu y ganrif diweddaf canai Jac o Lanygors [1 booklet; fair condition]	c.1900
D253/3/20	Text of lecture: 'Arferion Gwledig Cymru Fu' – 'Tua dechreu y ganrif diweddaf, canai Jac o Lanygors ...'	c.1900
D253/3/21	Poetry: 'Gwlad y Bryniau' contributed to Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Llundain [1 booklet, some loose pages; poor condition]	1910
D253/3/22	Poetry: 'Fy Ngwlad'; 'Llys Ifor Hael', etc [1 booklet with 8 loose papers; poor condition]	late19/early 20 cent
D253/3/23	Poetry: 'Dedwyddwch' etc [1 booklet; 6 loose papers; fair/poor condition]	late 19cent
D253/3/24	'Hanes Treorci' (incomplete) [1 bdle; fair condition]	early 20cent
D253/3/25	Historical notes or essay on literature, enclosed in school exercise book of Thomas Williams, Hendre Farm [1 booklet; Welsh; fair condition]	early 20cent
D253/3/26	Cutting from The Western Mail: 'Triciau ffawd mewn eisteddfod. Brynfab a'r Ceffyl a Enillodd Cyfail', gan J. Seymour Rees. Reminiscences of Brynfab [1 paper; poor condition]	?1934
D253/3/27	Cutting with poem by Brynfab: 'Ap Gwyddon (The late Dr. Rees, Caersws)' [1 paper; poor condition]	early 20cent
D253/3/28	Verse by Brynfab: 'I'm meddyg, am y moddion, - a'i ddiogoll / Lawfeddiaeth dirion, / Moethus o dir amaethlon / I'w fwrdd ef yw yr wydd hon' [1 paper; poor condition]	Oct 1923
D253/3/29	Verse by Brynfab: 'Gweddud i wn o'n gwyddau – grynhoi saig / Ar wyn sofl y grynnau / I'n meddyf sy'n cymysg cau / Y mur rhyngom a'r angau' [1 paper; poor condition]	early 20cent
D253/3/30	Verse by Brynfab: 'I'm meddyg, dyma iddo – am iechyd. / 'Sennau moelwyn et: / Byw iawn yw Bardd bar na bo / Afiechyd yn ei feichio' addressed to Dr J.M. Rees [1 paper; poor condition]	early 20cent

PONTYPRIDD LITERARY PAPERS**D253**

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| D253/3/31 | Verse by Brynfab: 'Wele wydd yn olewydd fawrhad, i'm Meddyg / Am iddo yn wastad / Ein gweini, a rhoddi'n rhad / Ar ddolur ddiarddeliad'
[1 paper; poor condition] | early 20cent |
| D253/3/32 | Englynion gyfansoddwyd gan Brynfab ar dderbyniad Rhybudd Coch oddiwrth swyddogion Cynghor Lleol a Phlwyf Pontypridd yn bygwth gwys os na fyddai yn talu ei drethu mew pump diwrnod'
[1 paper; fair condition] | early 20cent |
| D253/3/33, 34 | Newspaper cuttings relating to death of Brynfab
[3 photocopies; good condition] | 1927 |
| D253/3/35 | Incomplete page from bibliography in 'Traddodiad Llenyddol y Rhondda' by Menna Davies
[1 photocopy; good condition] nd | |
| D253/3/36, 37 | Incomplete list of papers of Brynfab taken from card indexes
[2 photocopies; good condition] | nd |
| <u>Unidentified author</u> | | |
| D253/4/1-8 | Script of novel 'The Royal Tewdwrs'
[8 booklets; typescript; fair condition] | ?1930 |
| D253/4/9 | Loose amendments and additions to same
[small bdl of papers; fair/poor condition] | ?c.1930 |