



Modryb Martha, Modryb Nellie a Modryb Gwenno Casgliad John Thomas (jth02772)
Aunt Martha, Aunt Nellie and Aunt Gewnno. John Thomas Collection

FFOTOGRAFFAU

Y CASGLIAD CENEDLAETHOL O FFOTOGRAFFAU CYMREIG

Ers ei sefydlu yn 1907, mae Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn casglu ffotograffau, gan ganolbwyntio ar luniau sy'n cronico pobl a lleoedd yng Nghymru neu fywyd yng Nghymru yn gyffredinol. Bellach mae tua 800,000 o ddelweddau yn y Casgliad yn ymestyn o ddyddiau cynharaf ffotograffiaeth hyd heddiw. Hwn yw'r casgliad mwyaf a'r cyfoethocaf o ffotograffau o ddi-ddordeb Cymreig mewn bodolaeth ac felly'n sylfaen i'r Casgliad Cenedlaethol o Ffotograffau Cymreig. Caiff ymchwilyr weld y ffotograffau yn Ystafell Ddarllen y De, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru. Ni ellir benthg y ffotograffau ond gellir atgynhyrchu copïau ohonynt at y rhan fwyaf o ddi-benion a gellir chwilio'r mynegai a gweld copïau digidol o nifer ohonynt yng nghatalog y Llyfrgell - <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/>.

DAGUERREOTYPE MARGAM

Y "daguerreotype", a gyhoeddwyd ym Mharis gan ei ddyfeisydd Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre yn 1839, oedd y broses ffotograffig lwyddiannus gyntaf. Yr enghraifft Cymreig gynharaf y gellir ei ddyddio'n fanwl yw daguerreotype plât cyfan o Gastell Margam a dynnwyd gan y Parchedig Calvert Richard Jones ar 9fed Mawrth 1841.

Hyd y gwyddom, dyma'r unig daguerreotype o waith Calvert Jones sydd wedi goroesi

PHOTOGRAPHS

THE NATIONAL COLLECTION OF WELSH PHOTOGRAPHS

Since its foundation in 1907, the National Library of Wales has collected photographs, concentrating on pictures which document people and places in Wales or Welsh life in general. The Collection now numbers about 800,000 images dating from the earliest days of photography to the present. It is the largest and richest collection of photographs of Welsh interest in existence and represents the foundation of the National Collection of Welsh Photographs. Photographs may be seen by readers at the South Reading Room, National Library of Wales. They are not lent out but copies can be produced for most purposes. You are able to search the index to the collection and view many digital images of the photographs via the Library's full catalogue - <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/>.

THE MARGAM DAGUERREOTYPE

The first successful photographic process was the daguerreotype, announced in Paris by its inventor Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre in 1839. The earliest Welsh example that can be accurately dated is a fine whole-plate daguerreotype of Margam Castle taken by the Reverend Calvert Richard Jones on 9th March 1841.

This is the only daguerreotype by Calvert Jones known to have survived, and shows the



Castell Margam, ffotograffydd: Calvert Richard Jones (gcf02996)
Margam Castle, photographer: Calvert Richard Jones

hyd heddiw. Ynndo gwelir cartref ei gyfaill Christopher Price Mansel Talbot. Creai proses Daguerre ddelw bositif ar blât metal â haen o arian drosto.

FFOTOGRAFFIAETH GYNNAR ABERTAWE, 1840-1860

Yn y diwedd byddai ffotograffiaeth yn datblygu cystadleuydd o broses arall, un **William Henry Fox Talbot**, a greodd ddelwedd negyddol ar bapur y gellid gwneud llawer o brintiau positif ohono. Mae gan y Llyfrgell gopi anghyffawn o Pencil of Nature o waith Fox Talbot a chopi o'i Sun Pictures

home of his friend Christopher Price Mansel Talbot. Daguerre's process produced a positive image on a silvered metal plate.

EARLY SWANSEA PHOTOGRAPHY, (1840-1860)

Ultimately photography would develop from the rival process of **William Henry Fox Talbot**, which produced a negative image on paper, from which many positive paper prints could be made. The Library has an incomplete copy of Fox Talbot's Pencil of Nature and a copy of his Sun Pictures in Scotland. These were the first two books

in Scotland. Y rhain oedd y ddau lyfr cyntaf i'w darlunio â ffotograffau. Treuliodd Fox Talbot lawer o'i ieuencid gyda'i gefndryd Cymreig yng Nghastell Penrhys, Gŵyr. Trwy ei gefnder Christopher Talbot daeth i gysylltiad â Calvert Jones, a daeth y ddau yn gydweithwyr agos. Oherwydd y cysylltiadau teuluol hyn, lledodd ton o frwdfrydedd am ffotograffiaeth trwy amryw o deuluoedd cefnog Cymreig. Trwy waith Calvert Jones a John Dillwyn Llewelyn yn arbennig, gwnaeth Gymru gyfraniad nodedig i ffotograffiaeth gynnar.

Mae casgliad Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn cynnwys pedwar albwm yn cynnwys ffotograffau gan John Dillwyn Llewelyn o Benllergaer yn bennaf. Yr oedd ei wraig Emma yn gyfnither i William Henry Fox Talbot ac fe'i gwelir yma.

Yr oedd teulu Nicholl yn perthyn i deulu Talbot ac i deulu Dillwyn Llewelyn, ac mae gan y Llyfrgell enghreifftiau o waith **E.P. Nicholl**, ficer Lacock, a'i frawd **S.P.T. Nicholl** o Ferthyr Mawr. Yr oedd teulu Vivian o Abaty Singleton yn gyfeillion agos i deulu Llewelyn a cheir ffotograffau o waith Graham Vivian yng nghasgliad y Llyfrgell. Un arall o'u cydnabod oedd **J.W.G. Gutch** ac mae gan y Llyfrgell albwm wych o olygfeydd yng Ngogledd Cymru a dynnwyd ganddo yn 1857 a 1858. Cyfyngwyd ffotograffiaeth ar bapur yn y dyddiau cynnar i amaturiaid cefnog tebyg i gylchoedd teuluol clos tîrfeddianwyr de Cymru.

CARTES-DE-VISITE

Daeth ffotograffiaeth o fewn cyrraedd mwy o bobl yn ystod y 1850au o ganlyniad i ddiddymu cyfyngiadau patent ac wrth

illustrated by photographs. Fox Talbot spent much of his youth with his Welsh cousins at Penrice Castle, Gower. Through his cousin Christopher Talbot he came into contact with Calvert Jones, who became one of his closest associates. Family connections produced a surge of photographic enthusiasm among the members of many Welsh landed families. Through the work of Calvert Jones and **John Dillwyn Llewelyn**, in particular, Wales made a distinguished contribution to early photography.

The Library's Collection includes four albums of photographs mainly by John Dillwyn Llewelyn of Penllergaer. His wife Emma was a cousin of William Henry Fox Talbot and is pictured here.

The Nicholl family were related to both the Talbot and the Dillwyn Llewelyn families and the Library has examples of the work of **E.P. Nicholl**, vicar of Lacock, and his brother **S. P.T. Nicholl** of Merthyr Mawr. The Vivian family of Singleton Abbey were close friends of the Llewelyn family and photographs by Graham Vivian are included in the Library's collection. Another acquaintance was **J. W. G. Gutch** and the Library has a fine album of North Wales views taken by him in 1857 and 1858. Photography on paper was practised largely by rich amateurs, typified by the close-knit family circles of the landed gentry of south Wales.

CARTES-DE-VISITE

During the 1850s photography became more accessible due to the ending of patent restrictions and the spread of a new process – the collodion or wet-plate process, which produced a high quality glass negative from which prints could be made. Professional

i broses newydd gael ei lledaenu, sef y “colodion” neu broses y plât gwlyb, a gynhyrchai negydd gwydr o safon uchel y gellid gwneud printiau ohono. Yn fuan iawn sefydlodd ffotograffwyr profesiynol stiwdios mewn trefi a phentrefi ledled Cymru. Gyda hyn daeth yr arfer o gasglu portreadau bychain, a elwid “cartes-de-visite”

photographers quickly set up studios in towns and villages throughout Wales. The collecting of small portraits – called ‘cartes-de-visite’ – showing one’s friends and relatives became enormously fashionable and fuelled the new photographic businesses. The boom in portrait studios may be traced through the Library’s index to pre-1914 photographers



Emma, wife of John Dillwyn Llewelyn (dii00109)
Emma, gwraig John Dillwyn Llewelyn

ac a ddangosai gyfeillion a pherthnasau, yn boblogaidd dros ben gan hybu'r fasnach newydd mewn ffotograffiaeth. Gellir olrhain twf y stiwdios portreadau trwy fynegai'r Llyfrgell i ffotograffwyr cyn-1914 yng Nghymru (yn Ystafell Ddarllen y De). Mae casgliad y Llyfrgell yn cynnwys albymau cartes-de-visite a gesglid gan deuluoedd amlwg megis teulu Pryse, Gogerddan, a theulu Johnes, Dolaucothi, ynghyd ag albymau sydd o ddi-ddordeb yn bennaf oherwydd eu cysylltiad ag unigolyn neilltuol, megis yr arlunydd a'r bardd David Jones, neu ŵyr llên o Gymru megis Gutyn Arfon, Talhaiarn neu Anthropos. Ceir albymau eraill sy'n arbennig am eu portreadau o enwogion neu am bynciau arbennig.

JOHN THOMAS, (1838–1905)

John Thomas, a aned yng Nghellan, Sir Aberteifi, oedd un o'r ffotograffwyr Cymreig mwyaf adnabyddus o oes Victoria. Sefydlodd ei "Cambrian Gallery" yn Lerpwl a chrwydrai Gymru benbaladr i dynnu ffotograffau. Gwnâi ei fywoliaeth trwy dynnu lluniau pobl gyffredin a thrwy werthu portreadau o bobl Cymieig adnabyddus hefyd. Tynnodd hefyd olygfeydd yn dangos bywyd yn nhrefi a phentrefi Cymru o'r 1860au hyd y 1890au. Prynwyd casgliad o dros 3,000 o'i negyddion gorau gan Syr O. M. Edwards a'i gyflwyno ganddo i'r Llyfrgell. Casgliad John Thomas yw un o'r ffynonellau cyfoethocaf i ddarlunio'r bywyd Cymreig tua diwedd oes Victoria.

GOLYGFYDD AR GYFER TWRISTIAID

Braidd yn wahanol yw'r darlun o Gymru a geir yng ngwaith y cwmnïau ffotograffig mawr fel y rhai a sefydlwyd gan **Francis Frith**, **Francis Bedford** neu

in Wales (in the South Reading Room). The Library's Collection includes albums of cartes-de-visite collected by eminent families such as the Pryse family of Gogerddan or the Johnes family of Dolaucothi, and albums which are of interest mainly because of their connection with a particular individual, such as the artist and poet David Jones or such Welsh literary figures as Gutyn Arfon, Talhaiarn or Anthropos. Other albums specialise in portraits of celebrities or other topics.

JOHN THOMAS, (1838–1905)

One of the best known of the Welsh Victorian photographers was John Thomas. Born in Cellan, Cardiganshire, he established his 'Cambrian Gallery' in Liverpool and travelled throughout Wales to take photographs. He earned his living taking pictures of ordinary people and selling in addition portraits of celebrities, but he also took views showing life in Welsh towns and villages from the 1860s to the 1890s. A collection of over 3,000 of his finest negatives was bought by Sir O. M. Edwards and presented by him to the Library. The John Thomas collection is now one of the richest sources of illustration of life in late Victorian Wales.

PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES FOR TOURISTS

A rather different picture of Wales may be found in the work of the large photographic companies, such as those established by **Francis Frith**, **Francis Bedford** or **James Valentine**. They concentrate on the picturesque scenery which had drawn visitors to Wales since the eighteenth century and often show the same locations as those



Hen wragedd, Llangeitho. Casgliad John Thomas (jth02480)
Old Ladies, Llangeitho. John Thomas Collection

James Valentine. Canolbwytiaï'r rhain ar y golygfeydd hardd a oedd wedi denu ymwelwyr i Gymru ers y ddeunawfed ganrif ac yn aml gwelir ynddynt yr un manau ag a ddarluniwyd mewn printiadau topograffig oes gynharach. I ymwelwyr yn bennaf y byddent yn gwerthu eu lluniau, gellir gweld amryw o enghreifftiau ohonynt yn y Llyfrgell ynghyd â chasgliad mawr o'r cardiau post a gymerodd eu lle yn gynnar yn yr ugeinfed ganrif.

CAMERA I'R DYN CYFFREDIN

Yn dilyn dyfeisio'r broses plât sych a'i datblygu ymhellach i greu negydd ar ffilm

depicted in the topographical prints of an earlier age. Many examples of their work, which was sold largely to visitors, may be seen at the Library, together with a large collection of the picture postcards which took their place early in the twentieth century.

CAMERA FOR THE COMMON MAN

The invention of the dry-plate process and its development to create negative on celluloid film made possible the snapshot camera towards the end of the nineteenth century. Just as the carte-de-visite had brought the

seliwloidaeth yn bosibl tua diwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg i greu camera ar gyfer y dyn cyffredin. Yn yr un modd ag y daethai'r carte-de-visite â'r ffotograff o fewn cyrraedd llawer, y camerâu blwch a arloeswyd gan Kodak ddaeth â ffotograffiaeth o fewn cyrraedd trwch y bobl. Tua'r un adeg bu'r ysgol 'pictorialist' o ffotograffwyr yn ailystyried posibiliadau ffotograffiaeth fel celfyddyd. Gwelir eu dylanwad yn amlwg yng ngweithiau cain platinoteip **John Wilkes POUNDLEY** o Kerry. Treuliodd y ffotograffydd nodedig o America, **Alvin Langdon COBURN**, ran helaeth o'i oes yng Nghymru ac mae gan y Llyfrgell nifer o'i luniau yn ogystal ag amryw o'r llyfrau a ddarluniwyd ganddo.

photograph within reach of many, the box cameras pioneered by Kodak now made it possible for ordinary people to practise photography for themselves. At around the same time the 'pictorialist' school of photographers reassessed the possibilities of photography as an art form. Their influence is plainly seen in the fine platinotype studies by **John Wilkes Poundley** of Kerry. The noted American pictorialist photographer **Alvin Langdon Coburn** lived in Wales for much of his life and the Library has a number of his photographs in addition to a number of the books illustrated by him.



D C Harries a'i feibion gyda camerâu, ca.1900 (dha01275)
D C Harries and sons with cameras, ca.1900.

FFOTOGRAFFWYR PROFFESIYNOL

Gwelir gwrthygerbyniad trawiadol yn aml rhwng gwaith amaturiaid sy'n anelu at gywreinrwydd a'r ffotograffau mwy syml a wnaed gan ffotograffwyr proffesiynol. Mae casgliadau mawr o negyddion a grynhowyd gan ffotograffwyr proffesiynol lleol fel **D. C. Harries o Llandeilo** bellach ym meddiant Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru. Canolbwyntia casgliad **Elwyn Jenkins** ar **Lanymddyfri**, **Arthur Lewis** ar **Aberystwyth**, **P. B. Abery** ar **Lanfair-ym-Muallt** a **William Harwood** ar **Gricieth**. Cadwai'r rhan fwyaf o'r ffotograffwyr hyn siop yn y dref berthnasol ac mae eu casgliadau yn gofnod cyfareddol o fywyd eu hardaloedd dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd lawer. Gwnaed printiau o ddetholiad o negyddion o'r casgliadau hyn a gellir eu gweld yn y Llyfrgell.

GEOFF CHARLES, (1909-2002)

Math arall o ffotograffydd proffesiynol yw'r newyddiadurwr-ffotograffydd. Bu'r Llyfrgell yn ffodus dros ben o gael trwy rodd gasgliad o dros 120,000 o negyddion a grynhowyd gan Geoff Charles yn ystod gyfira o ddeugain mlynedd fel ffotograffydd y wasg. Hyfforddwyd Mr Charles fel newyddiadurwr a throes at ffotograffiaeth yn y 1930au er mwyn darlunio ei straeon newyddion. Gan gymryd ei ysbrydoliaeth o gyhoeddiadau fel Picture Post, a chan weithio yn bennaf i Woodalls Newspapers (North Wales Newspapers bellach), yn enwedig i'r papur newydd Y Cymro, crynhodd gasgliad nad oes ei ail o ran ehangder a safon, sy'n darlunio bron bob agwedd ar fywyd yng Nghymru o 1939 hyd 1979. Caiff ymchwilyr edrych trwy brintiau a gymerwyd o'r negyddion a thrwy fynegai i'r casgliad yn y Llyfrgell.

THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

The work of the aesthetically minded amateur often contrasts sharply with the more matter of fact photographs of the professional. The National Library of Wales has acquired large collections of negatives built up by local professional photographers such as **D. C. Harries of Llandeilo**. The **Elwyn Jenkins** collection centres on **Llandoverly**, **Arthur Lewis** on **Aberystwyth**, **P. B. Abery** on **Builth Wells** and **William Harwood** on **Cricieth**. Most of these photographers kept a shop in the town concerned and their collections form a fascinating record of local life over a period of many years. Prints have been made from a selection of negatives from these collections and may be viewed in the Library.

GEOFF CHARLES, (1909-2002)

Another type of professional photographer is the photographic journalist. The Library has been very fortunate to acquire as a donation the collection of over 120,000 negatives formed by Geoff Charles during a career of over 40 years as a press photographer. Mr Charles was trained as a journalist and turned to photography in the 1930s to illustrate his news stories. Inspired by publications such as Picture Post, and working mainly for Woodalls Newspapers (now North Wales Newspapers), particularly for their newspaper Y Cymro, he built a collection unrivalled for its depth and quality and illustrating nearly all aspects of life in Wales from 1939 to 1979. Researchers may consult contact prints of the negatives and an index to the collection at the Library.

The National Collection of Welsh Photographs at the National Library of Wales continues to grow. Important historic items

Parhau i dyfu mae'r Casgliad Cenedlaethol o Ffotograffau yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru. Prynir eitemau hanesyddol o bwys mewn arwerthiannau neu yn breifat, ac yn ogystal, prynir detholiad bychan o enghreifftiau o waith ffotograffwyr sy'n dal yn fyw. Fodd bynnag, trwy roddion y daeth y rhan fwyaf o'r Casgliad i feddiant y Llyfrgell. I haelioni ei chymwynaswyr, a gyflwynodd y trysorau hyn i'w gofal dros y blynyddoedd y mae'r diolch fod treftadaeth ffotograffig gyfoethog Cymru ar gael heddiw i ymchwilwyr yn y Llyfrgell.

are purchased at auction or privately and a small selection of examples of the work of living photographers is purchased in addition. But the vast majority of the Collection has been donated to the Library, and it is thanks to the generosity of its benefactors who have entrusted these treasures to it over the years that the Library is today able to make available to researchers Wales's rich photographic heritage.



Geoff Charles gan Ron Davies. 1969. (cyfeiriad/ reference: PE878).
Geoff Charles by Ron Davies. © 1969

FFOTOGRAFFAU AR Y WEFAN

Erbyn hyn mae modd gweld nifer helaeth o ffotograffau o gasgliad Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, a dysgu mwy am hanes ffotograffwyr a'u lluniau trwy dudalen we arbennig - www.llgc.org.uk/ffotograffau. Mae cynnwys gwybodaeth bellach am ffotograffau **D. C. Harries** yn ardal **Llandeilo**, **John Wilkes Poundley** (1873-1932) yn ardal **Kerry**, ffotograffau o **drafnidiaeth** (llongau, rheilffyrdd, ceir ac awyrenau) a ffotograffau o **Batagonia**.

Cewch hefyd weld nifer fawr o ffotograffau yng ngasgliad Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn ddigidol ar y Drych Digidol - www.llgc.org.uk/ffotograffaudigidol er enghraifft:

- Ffotograffau gan **P. B. Aberly** o sir Frycheiniog a'r Gororau.
- Casgliad **Ffotograffau Mewn Casys** (Ambroteipiau, Daguerreotypes a ffotograffau eraill mewn casys, o ganol y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg tan ddechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif).
- **Ffotograffiaeth Gynnar Abertawe** (1840-1860).
- Ffotograffau gan **Carleton E. Watkins** (1829-1916), un o brif ffotograffwyr tirlun America yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.
- Tir a phobl Cymru trwy gamera **John Thomas** (1838-1905), Lerpwl.
- Archif enfawr y ffoto-newyddiadurwr **Geoff Charles** (1909-2002).

PHOTOGRAPHS ONLINE

It is now possible to view a large number of photographs from the National Library of Wales's collection, and learn more about the history of the photographers and their photographs through the web link - www.llgc.org.uk/photographs. It contains further information about **D. C. Harries'** photographs of **Llandeilo**, **John Wilkes Poundley** (1873-1932) photographs of **Kerry**, photographs of **transportation** (ships, railways, cars and aeroplanes) and photographs of **Patagonia**.

You are also able to view many photographs in the Library's collection on the Digital Mirror - www.llgc.org.uk/digitalphotographs for example:

- Photographs by **P. B. Aberly** o Brecknockshire and the Marches.
- A collection of **Photographs in Frames** (Ambortypes, Daguerreotypes and other photographs in frames, from the mid nineteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century).
- **Early Swansea Photography** (1840-1860).
- Photographs by **Carleton E. Watkins** (1829-1916), one of the most prominent photographers of American landscapes in the nineteenth century.
- The land and people of Wales through the camera of **John Thomas** (1838-1905), Liverpool.
- The enormous collection of the photojournalist **Geoff Charles** (1909-2002).

www.llgc.org.uk
gofyn@llgc.org.uk
enquiry@llgc.org.uk
t: 01970 632800