



Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Dorothy Bonarjee papers (GB 0210 BONARJEE)

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Dorothy Bonarjee papers

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Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

Lleoliad Repository:	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
Teitl Title:	Dorothy Bonarjee papers
Cod cyfeirnod Reference code:	GB 0210 BONARJEE
Alma system control number [alternative]:	994844168102419
Dyddiad Date:	[c. 1896]-2022 (dyddiad creu date of creation)
Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description:	0.013 cubic metres (1 small box, 1 ringed box)
Iaith Language:	English
Iaith Language:	French
Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	September 2023.
Nodyn Note [sourcesDescription]:	The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: The Hindu Bard: The Poetry of Dorothy Bonarjee, ed. and introduced by Mohini Gupta and Andrew Whitehead (Aberystwyth, 2023); Beth R. Jenkins, 'Bonarjee, Dorothy Noel ('Dorf') (1894-1983), poet and lawyer', Dictionary of Welsh Biography < https://biography.wales/article/s12-BONA-NOE-1894 > [accessed 4 September 2023]; Andrew Whitehead's Blog < https://www.andrewwhitehead.net/blog > [accessed 6 September 2023]; Andrew Whitehead, "'She is beautiful but she is Indian": The student who became a Welsh bard at 19', BBC News, 28 December 2020 < https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-55430717 > [accessed 6 September 2023].
Nodyn Note [generalNote]:	Title based on contents of fonds.

Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

Nodyn | Note

Dorothy Noel (Dorf) Bonarjee was born in Bareilly, India, on 29 August 1894 the second of the three children of Debendra Nath and Janet Bonarjee. The family moved to London in 1904, when Dorothy was ten. She and her elder brother Bertie enrolled at UCW Aberystwyth in 1912, graduating in 1916. She played an active part in academic life there but is most noted for winning the chair at the 1914 college eisteddfod for a poem on Owain Lawgoch, being simultaneously the first woman and the first non-European to do so. Some nineteen of her poems were published in the journals *The Dragon*, 1913-1917, and *The Welsh Outlook*, 1914-1919. In 1917 she became the first woman to gain an internal law degree from University College, London.

Bonarjee subsequently moved to France and married the artist Paul Surtel in 1921. They had two children, Denis who died in infancy and Claire Aruna (1925-2009). The marriage ended in divorce in 1938.

Bonarjee spent her remaining days at Jaubergue, her house and vineyard in Gonfaron, Provence. Bonarjee appears to have continued to occasionally compose poetry in France but none appears to have been published in her lifetime; she also co-translated Aurobindo's *Heraclitus* into French (see *Shri Aurobindo, Heraclite*, preface by Mario Meunier, trans. by D. N. Bonarjee and Jean Herbert (Paris, [1944])). Dorothy Bonarjee died in 1983.

A selection of her poetry was published in *The Hindu Bard: The Poetry of Dorothy 'Dorf' Bonarjee*, ed. and introduced by Mohini Gupta and Andrew Whitehead (Aberystwyth: Honno, 2023).

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

Papers of, and relating to, Dorothy Bonarjee, [c. 1896]-2022, including poetry, letters, photographs, family documents and printed material.

Nodiadau | Notes

Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

Sheela Bonarjee, niece of Dorothy Bonarjee; Leicester; Donation; April 2023; 994844168102419.

Cyfyngiadau ar fynediad | Restrictions on access

Readers consulting modern papers in the National Library of Wales are required to abide by the conditions set out in information provided when applying for their Readers' Tickets, whereby the reader shall become responsible for compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General

Data Protection Regulation 2018 in relation to any processing by them of personal data obtained from modern records held at the Library.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use

Usual copyright laws apply.

Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- Bonarjee, D. N. -- Archives (pwnc) | (subject)
- English poetry -- 20th century (pwnc) | (subject)
- English poetry -- East Indian authors (pwnc) | (subject)

Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

Cod cyfeirnod Reference code	Teitl Title	Dyddiadau Dates	Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description
1.	<p>File - Poetry: black notebook</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>A notebook containing copies of forty-one poems by Dorothy Bonarjee, [1913]-[20 cent., second ¼], numbered by her 1-11, 13-41 (a final poem, 'The Lights', is possibly No. 42; No. 12 is a blank page). The poems are mostly manuscript, typescript and printed copies pasted into the volume; the remaining few are written directly into the volume (Nos 24, 30, 37, [42]). Thirteen of the poems (Nos 1, 4-7, 9-10, 18, 21, 24, 35, 38-39) were published in <i>The Dragon</i> (1913-1917) and <i>The Welsh Outlook</i> (1914-1919), while thirty-one (Nos 1-4, 6-10, 14-[16], 19-24, 26-29, 31-32, 36-[42]) appear in <i>The Hindu Bard</i> (2023). There are miscellaneous memoranda in French and English inside the covers.</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>	[1913]-[20 cent., second ¼]	17 ff. ; 205 x 165 mm. Black cloth over boards.
2.	<p>File - Poetry</p> <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Davies, Linda, 1896-1984 Cory, William Johnson, 1823-1892 Lear, Edward, 1812-1888</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Copies of some thirty-four poems by Dorothy Bonarjee, mostly holograph, [1914]-[1970s], consisting of further drafts or copies of fifteen poems present in her black notebook (Bonarjee 1) (ff. 1-17) and nineteen additional poems not recorded elsewhere (ff. 1 verso, 5 verso, 18-36), together with a few</p>	[1914]-[1970s]	39 ff. Placed in melinex sleeves within ringed box at NLW.

	<p>other fragments (ff. 1 verso, 37 recto-verso). A note concerning the end of her engagement to a Welsh boy whose parents said 'She is very beautiful and intelligent but she is Indian', thought to be associated with her poem 'Renunciation', is on f. 8 verso. The copies of 'Menelaus' Lamenting' and 'Renunciation', [1970s] (ff. 16-17), are in the hand of Bonarjee's college friend Linda Davies, while 'Clarach' (f. 2) is a typescript copy, [?1975], [by Sheela Bonarjee] of a transcript sent to her by Davies (see Bonarjee 3, f. 14 verso); all three are transcripts of the printed versions. Ten of the poems were published in <i>The Dragon</i> (1913-1917) and <i>The Welsh Outlook</i> (1914-1919) (ff. 1-2, 5-8, 10, 12-13, 16-18), while twenty-three appear in <i>The Hindu Bard</i> (2023) (ff. 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, 17-19, 25-26, 29-35). Also included are a copy of William Cory's poem 'Heraclitus' in Bonarjee's hand (f. 38) and a typescript of 'Le Hibou et la Poussiquette', a French translation of Edward Lear's 'The Owl and the Pussycat' (f. 39).</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>
3.	<p>File - Correspondence 1929-1984 18 ff.</p> <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Bonarjee, Janet Anna, -1942 Gohier, Urbain, 1862-1951 Meunier, Mario, 1880-1960 Surtel, Claire Aruna, 1925-2009 Bonarjee, Sheela Bonarjee, N. B., 1901-Davies, Linda, 1896-1984</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Fourteen letters and telegrams, 1929-1984, addressed to Dorothy Bonarjee, 1929-1943 (10), and to Sheela Bonarjee, 1975-1984 (4). They comprise letters to Dorothy from Urbain Gohier, 15 May 1929 (ff. 1-2), her mother Janet Bonarjee, December 1940-July 1942 (ff. 3-10), her brother Neil, 17 February 1943 (f. 11, telegram informing her of their mother's death), and Mario Meunier, 21 September 1943 (f. 12, concerning her French translation of Sri Aurobindo's Heraclitus); and letters to Sheela from Dorothy's college friend Linda [Davies], Ruthin, April 1975 (ff. 13-14, concerning Dorothy, and enclosing a copy of her poem 'Clarach'; see also Bonarjee 2, f. 2), and [Claire] Aruna [Surtel], Marseille, 20 October [n.d.] (ff. 15-16) and 4 November 1984 (f. 17, telegram concerning Pierre's death).</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>
4.	<p>File - Official documents and other papers 1921-2009 17 ff.</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Copies of official documents and other papers relating to the Bonarjee family, 1921-2009, comprising a typescript copy, [?mid-20 cent], of the sale deed (dated 1874) of Rampore Grant No. 18, the property purchased by Dorothy Bonarjee's grandfather; declarations, 1921, by DNB's parents, relating to her forthcoming marriage to Paul Surtel; a typescript copy, [mid-20 cent], of the will (dated 17 February 1942) of DNB's mother, Janet Anna Bonarji [sic]; certified copies of the marriage certificate (dated 1921) of DNB and Paul Surtel, 1943, 1958, 1960, 1968, 1978, of the marriage certificate (dated 1946) of Alexandre Milein Mileff and Claire Arouna [sic] Surtel, 1956, and of the divorce certificate of DNB and Paul Surtel, 1958, 1960; certificate of French nationality of DNB, 19 April 1979; and the newspaper death notice for Claire Aruna Surtel, 2009.</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd / Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Usual copyright laws apply.</p>

	<p><i>Nodyn Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
5.	File - Photographs	[c. 1896]-2013	1 envelope.
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys Scope and content:</i> Some thirty-nine photographs, [c. 1896]-2013, including a portrait of Dorothy as an infant with her mother, [c. 1896], an UCW Aberystwyth group photo, a portrait of 'Dorf (Dorothy) Bonarjee, Holborn', [1910s], nine photographs taken at various times at Jaubergue, [20 cent, last ¼]; and copies, printed in 2013, supplied by Claire Aruna's half-brother Quentin Surtel, of twenty-four family photos, mostly [1920s]-[1930s], including Dorothy and her children Denis and Claire Aruna. Also included are two wine bottle labels for 'Egrappé de Jaubergue'.</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd Conditions governing use:</i> Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
6.	File - Printed material	1916-2022	59 ff. (copies of poetry foliated 1-24)
	<p><i>Crëwr Creator:</i> Bonarjee, D. N. (Debendra Nath), -1941 Das, Harihar, 1895-</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys Scope and content:</i> Photocopies, printouts and a single original cutting, 1916, [20 cent., last ¼]-2022, of Dorothy Bonarjee's published poems from <i>The Dragon</i> (1913-1917) and <i>The Welsh Outlook</i> (1919) (ff. 1-24); together with copies of three publications, namely <i>The Indus: The Indian Students' Union and Hostel</i>, 2.5 (November 1922), including an article by Harihar Das on 'The Poetry of Dorothy Noel Bonarjee' (on pp. 50-53) containing lines from two poems not recorded elsewhere (12 pp.), and a modern photocopy of the entire issue (13 ff.); <i>The Trial of the Landowners, Being a Criticism of Colonel J. C. Faunthorpe's Report on the Eka Movement in Oudh. By an Indian Barrister [Debendra Nath Bonarjee] (Lucknow, [1922])</i> (16 pp.); and <i>D[ebendra] N[ath] Bonarjee, Should a Government Honour its Bond? The Story of a Case Arising out of the U. P. Government's New Tenancy Legislation (Allahabad, [1938])</i> (8 pp.).</p> <p><i>Amodau rheoli defnydd Conditions governing use:</i> Usual copyright laws apply.</p> <p><i>Nodyn Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
7.	File - Research papers	2010-2020	52 ff.
	<p><i>Crëwr Creator:</i> Whitehead, Andrew (Journalist) Bonarjee, Sheela</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys Scope and content:</i> Papers, 2010-2020, relating to Dorothy Bonarjee accumulated by Sheela Bonarjee and Andrew Whitehead, including miscellaneous notes, printouts of Andrew Whitehead's blogs on Bonarjee, etc., 2010-2017; items, 2019, relating to the UCL Laws Graduation Dinner on 4 July 2019, attended by Sheela Bonarjee and Andrew Whitehead, and to the related Inspirational Women Exhibition featuring Bonarjee;</p>		

and a typescript collection entitled 'Dorothy Bonarjee - poems in full', dated September 2020, assembled and edited by Andrew Whitehead, containing some sixty-five of her poems (a few stray poems are omitted, see Bonarjee 2, ff. 5 verso, 21, 30 verso).

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Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:

Title based on contents.

Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:

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