



Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - George Owen's 'Description of Penbrokeshire', (NLW MS 13212D.)

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Allt Penglais


Aberystwyth

Ceredigion

United Kingdom

SY23 3BU

 01970 632 800

 01970 615 709

 gofyn@llgc.org.uk

 www.llyfrgell.cymru

George Owen's 'Description of Penbrokeshire',

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Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

Lleoliad Repository:	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
Teitl Title:	George Owen's 'Description of Penbrokeshire',
Cod cyfeirnod Reference code:	NLW MS 13212D.
Virtua system control number [alternative]:	vtls006007988
Dyddiad Date:	[1602x1603] (dyddiad creu date of creation)
Disgrifiad ffisegol Physical description:	138 ff. (old foliation [i-iii], 1-5, 5(1)-(8), 7-47, 49-65, 67-115, 121-35) Limp vellum covers.
Lleoliad ffisegol Physical location:	ARCH/MSS (GB0210)
Iaith Language:	English
Iaith Language:	Latin
Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	June 2010.
Nodyn Note [generalNote]:	Title based on contents.
Nodyn Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: NLW MS 13212D.

Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

Nodyn | Note

George Owen (1552-1613), antiquary, was born at Henllys, near Newport, Pembrokeshire. His most important work, *The Description of Penbrokeshire*, was begun in December 1602.

Hanes Gwarchodol | Custodial history

The manuscript was formerly in the library of the Marquis of Bute (H.M.C. Third Report, pp. 202-3). It had previously been in the Sebright collection (seal and number '51') (see Eiluned Rees and Gwyn Walters, 'The Dispersion of the Manuscripts of Edward Lhuyd', in *The Welsh History Review*, Vol. 7, No.

2, 1974, pp. 148- 78). The name 'John Owen Esq.' occurs on the cover and on f. 138 verso are the names 'John Owen', 'John Lewis', and 'Erasmus Saunders de Kilrhedin in Com' Carmarthen gent.'

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

An early seventeenth century manuscript containing the first book of the 'Description of Penbrokeshire' by George Owen of Henllys. The date at the beginning of the text, following the list of contents, is 'Lune 13 Decembr' 1602' and at the end is the inscription 'finis 18 Maij 1603' followed by 'Opus iij Mensu[m] Magna per Intervalla'. There are a number of directions to the copyist and Harleian MS 6250, the text edited by Henry Owen in the Cymmrodorion Record Series, No. I (1892), is probably a fair-copy of the present manuscript. There are also marks indicating that George Owen checked the copy in late July-August 1603. Comparison with the text edited by Henry Owen shows that a few sections (underlined or crossed out, etc.) in the present manuscript have been omitted in Harleian MS 6250, viz. the passage in chapter 1 which is quoted by Henry Owen on p. 239 of his edition, n. 1, a paragraph on ff. 23 verso-24 recto (anc. 13 verso- 14 recto) of the present manuscript beginning 'Giraldus Cambrensis writinge of the nature of the people of this Countrye hath these wordes', a list of fish on ff. 65 verso-66 verso (anc. 56 verso-57 verso), and a section in chapter 21, ff. 95 verso- 96 verso (anc. 87 verso-88 verso), beginning '& gave them his said deputies his absolute power to execute all thinges in his absens . . . by the kinges maties [sic] that nowe is kinge James kinge of England Scotland Fraunce & Ireland &c' (cf. Henry Owen, op. cit., p. 167, n. 2). Loose inside is a description of the manuscript by 'H.G.' [? Henry Gough], 19 Dec. 1871.

Nodiadau | Notes

Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

Gyflwr ffisegol | Physical condition

Folios 6, 48 (?blank), 66 (blank) and 116-20 (=chapter 26) wanting; f. 75 torn.

Ffurf arall ar gael | Alternative form available

Text

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids

The description is also available in the Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, Volume IV (Aberystwyth, 1971).

Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

- **Dynodwr sefydliad | Institution identifier:** Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- [Giraldus, Cambrensis, 1146?-1223? \(pwnc\) | \(subject\)](#)
- [Gough, Henry, 1821-1906 \(pwnc\) | \(subject\)](#)
- [Pembrokeshire \(Wales\) -- Description and travel -- Early works to 1800 \(pwnc\) | \(subject\)](#)

Llyfryddiaeth | Bibliography

See B. G. Charles, *George Owen of Henllys* (Aberystwyth, 1973), pp. 189-90, 193, et passim, and *Annual Report of the National Library of Wales, 1971-1972*, pp. 57-8.