



**Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Dyer family manuscripts and papers (GB 0210 MSDYER)**

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# Dyer family manuscripts and papers

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## Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

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**Lleoliad | Repository:** Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales

**Teitl | Title:** Dyer family manuscripts and papers

**Cod cyfeirnod |  
Reference code:** GB 0210 MSDYER

**Virtua system control  
number [alternative]:** vtls004641162

**Dyddiad | Date:** [c. 1722]-1948 (dyddiad creu | date of creation)

**Disgrifiad ffisegol |  
Physical description:** 8 volumes.

**Lleoliad ffisegol |  
Physical location:** ARCH/MSS (GB0210)

**Iaith | Language:** English

**Dyddiadau creu,  
golygu a dileu | Dates  
of creation, revision  
and deletion:** March 2009 and June 2022.

**Nodyn | Note  
[sourcesDescription]:** The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, Volume IX (Aberystwyth, 2003); Oxford Dictionary of National Biography WWW site.

**Nodyn | Note  
[generalNote]:** Title based on contents of fonds.

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## Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol | Administrative history | Biographical sketch

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### Nodyn | Note

William Hylton Dyer Longstaffe (1826?-1898) of Gateshead and Darlington was a solicitor and antiquarian, known for his history of Darlington. He was the great-grandson of Elizabeth Gaunt, daughter of the poet John Dyer.

## Hanes Gwarchodol | Custodial history

The notes in Dyer's hand (NLW MSS 23294-23295) apparently came into the possession W. H. D. Longstaffe by direct descent but he also had sight of other manuscripts, now lost, perhaps through the Rev. John Meade, [?a descendant of John Dyer's brother Thomas]. The Dyer manuscripts and their dispersal are discussed in Ralph M. Williams, *Poet, Painter and Parson: The Life of John Dyer* (New York, 1956); see also *John Dyer: Selected Poetry and Prose*, ed. by John Goodridge (Nottingham, 2000).

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## Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content

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Papers, [c. 1722]-1948, of, or relating to, poet and artist John Dyer and his family, brought together by W. H. D. Longstaffe, including notebooks, [c. 1722]-1756, of John Dyer; transcripts, [1847x1855], of his poems; a manuscript compiled by his nephew William Charles Dyer, 1761-1763; copies, [19 cent., second ¼]-1854, of letters addressed to his nieces; genealogical notes, 1756-1948, by W. H. D. Longstaffe and others relating to the Dyer family; and a collection of engravings, dated 1736-1841.

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## Nodiadau | Notes

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### Nodiadau teitl | Title notes

### Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition

NLW MSS 23294-7: Mr Fabian T. Smith, great-grandson of W. H. D. Longstaffe; Cottingham, North Humberside; Donation; December 1994.

NLW ex 3067-70: Hawleys Auctioneers and Valuers; Brough; Purchased at auction, lot 1264, 1266 (part); 7 August 2021; 992294509902419.

### Trefniant | Arrangement

Arranged at NLW as follows: John Dyer manuscripts (NLW MSS 23294-7); Dyer family papers (NLW ex 3067-70).

### Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use

Usual copyright laws apply.

### Disgrifiadau deunydd | Related material

Thirty-three books purchased with NLW ex 3067-70 are also in the National Library of Wales (shelfmarks Wing B3637A; Wing U92; OXA 1849-53; OXB 585, 590; OA 4619-22, 4625-8, 4637; OB 1741-50, 1754-6, 1759; OC 1083-6; 2021 LDA 7322, 8106; 2021 LDB 9653, 9668; and 2021 LDC 1905).

## Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

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

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## Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

- Dyer family, of Aberglasney and Kidwelly
- Longstaffe, W. Hylton (William Hylton) -- Archives (pwnc) | (subject)

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## Disgrifiad cyfres | Series descriptions

### **Cyfres | Series NLW MSS 23294-23297.: John Dyer manuscripts**

Crëwr | Creator: Dyer, John, 1700?-1758

Dyddiad | Date: [c. 1722]-[c. 1855] (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content:

Papers, [c. 1722]-[c. 1855], of, or relating to, poet and artist John Dyer, including notebooks, [c. 1722]-1756, of John Dyer containing farming accounts, draft poems, extracts and miscellaneous memoranda; with additional material by W. H. D. Longstaffe which includes genealogical notes, [c. 1850], relating to John Dyer, and transcripts, [1847x1855], of his poems.

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 4 volumes.

Iaith y deunydd | Language of the material:

English

Nodyn | Note [generalNote]:

Title based on contents.

Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points:

- Dyer, John, 1700?-1758 -- Archives (pwnc) | (subject)

Trefniant | Arrangement:

Arranged according to NLW MSS reference numbers: NLW MSS 23294-23297.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use:

Usual copyright laws apply.

Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids:

The contents are indexed in greater detail in Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, vol. 9 (Aberystwyth, 2003).			
FFeil / rhestr eitemau   File / item list			
Cod cyfeirnod   Reference code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Disgrifiad ffisegol   Physical description
NLW MS 23294D. vtls004641178	<b>File - Notes</b>	[c. 1726]-1756, [1847x1855]	180 ff.Loose sheets, formerly belonging to various notebooks, assembled in their present order, mid 19 cent., by W. H. D. Longstaffe, who pasted many of them onto plain paper sheets or guards, now removed; original vellum covers of two notebooks are ff. 179-80; guarded and bound in quarter-leather at NLW.
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Miscellaneous notes, [c. 1726]-1756, by John Dyer, including farming accounts and memoranda, draft poems, extracts from devotional and secular literature, prayers and meditations, and various jottings, together with transcripts, [1847x1855], by William Hylton Dyer Longstaffe of poems and related material from other Dyer manuscripts, now dispersed.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: NLW MS 23294D</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
NLW MS 23295A. vtls004641192	<b>File - Notes</b>	[c. 1722]-1724, [1850x1855]	65 ff.Loose sheets removed from a notebook and assembled in their present order by W. H. D. Longstaffe, mid 19 cent.; bound in quarter-leather at NLW.
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Notebook, [c. 1722]-1724, of John Dyer containing extracts from the works of John Milton and Edmund Spenser and from the Old Testament and Apocrypha, together with a few drafts of devotional poetry and miscellaneous notes.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Preferred citation: NLW MS 23295A</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
NLW MS 23296B. vtls004641195	<b>File - Genealogical notes on Dyer family</b>	[c. 1850]	45 ff.Fasciculed.
	<p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p>		

	Notes, [c. 1850], on the ancestors of John Dyer, compiled by William Hylton Dyer Longstaffe and written on the reverse of blank legal forms. <i>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents. <i>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: NLW MS 23296B <i>Lleoliad ffisegol   Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)
NLW MS 23297B. vtls004641204	<b>File - Poetry of John Dyer</b> [c. 1855] 102 ff. Guarded and filed at NLW. <i>Natur a chynnwys   Scope and content:</i> Transcripts of variant texts of the poems of John Dyer, [c. 1855], compiled, with related notes, by William Hylton Dyer Longstaffe from Dyer manuscripts now lost and used by Robert Aris Wilmott for his 1855 edition of the poetry. <i>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</i> Title based on contents. <i>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</i> Preferred citation: NLW MS 23297B <i>Lleoliad ffisegol   Physical location:</i> ARCH/MSS (GB0210)

### Cyfres | Series NLW ex 3067-3070. 992294509902419: Dyer family papers

Dyddiad | Date: 1736-1948 (dyddiad creu) | (date of creation)

Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content:

Papers relating to the Dyer family of Aberglasney, Marylebone, Abbess Roding, etc., 1736-1948, including a volume of poetry in the hand of William Charles Dyer, 1761-1763; copies, [19 cent., second ¼]-1854, of letters from Fanny Morgan, Wales, to the Dyer family of Marylebone; genealogical papers, 1756-1948, accumulated by W. H. D. Longstaffe; and engravings, dated 1736-1841.

Disgrifiad ffisegol | Physical description: 4 volumes.

Iaith y deunydd | Language of the material:

English

Nodyn | Note [generalNote]:

Title based on contents.

Trefniant | Arrangement:

Arranged according to NLW ex reference numbers: NLW ex 3067-3070.

Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use:

Usual copyright laws apply.

Disgrifiadau deunydd | Related material:

The papers were auctioned by Hawleys as part of a wider John Dyer collection (lots 1260-1278); lots 1266 (books) and 1267 (a self portrait of John Dyer) were also purchased by the Library.

**FFeil / rhestr eitemau | File / item list**

Cod cyfeirnod   Reference code	Teitl   Title	Dyddiadau   Dates	Disgrifiad ffisegol   Physical description
NLW ex 3067.	<p><b>File - William Charles Dyer manuscript</b></p> <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Dyer, William Charles, 1741-1828Shenstone, William, 1714-1763Marvell, Andrew, 1621-1678Lyttelton, George Lyttelton, Baron, 1709-1773Ashbrook, William Flower, Viscount, 1744-1780</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>A volume (ff. i, 1-68) containing transcripts, 1761-1763, of poetry, and some prose, in the hand of William Charles Dyer, nephew of John Dyer, dating from his time as an undergraduate at St Edmund's Hall, Oxford, where he matriculated in February 1761. Amongst the poems are 'On the Earth-Quakes at Lisbon', a version of John Dyer's 'On the Destruction of Lisbon' [see NLW MS 23297B, f. 53] (f. 1), 'The Princess Elizabeth' by [William] Shenstone (ff. 22, 23), 'The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn' by [Andrew] Marvell (ff. 32-37), 'Virtue and Fame' by [George] Lord Lyttelton (ff. 37-38), and three poems, in English and Latin, ascribed to fellow students at Oxford, including William Flower, 2nd Viscount Ashbrook (ff. 39-50). The remaining poems are unattributed but seem to be broadly contemporary. Also included are items found loose within the manuscript, including a letter to 'The Revd Mr Dyer' from Bennett Langton and notes on Langton in the hand of W. H. D. Longstaffe (ff. 69-72) as well as loose items removed from other books acquired with the volume, including a manuscript poem 'To Dyer (the Poet)', [1860s] (watermark 1863), and further notes by Longstaffe (ff. 73-82).</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>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Most of the additional loose items were removed from a copy of John Dyer, <i>The Fleece</i> (1757) (ff. 73-74) and of Sir James Dyer, <i>Reports of Cases in the Reigns of Hen. VIII, Edw. VI, Q. Mary, and Q. Eliz</i>, 3 vols (Dublin, 1794), I (ff. 75-80).</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>	1761-1763, [1860s]	i, 82 ff. (text on rectos only; ff. 58 verso-68 verso blank) ; 185 x 120 mm. Quarter-leather and marbled paper over boards; 'Wm Chas Dyer 1761' (ink inside front cover).
NLW ex 3068.	<p><b>File - Fanny Morgan letters to the Dyer family</b></p> <p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p>	[19 cent., second ¼]-1854	1 file (modern numbering 4-6, 1-3, 7-176) Non-archival plastic sleeves placed within ringed box at NLW.



	<p>Morgan, Fanny, active 1759-1775 Dyer, Thomas, 1782-1852 Dyer, Catherine, 1740-1768 Dyer, Elizabeth, 1746-1814 Dyer, Armine Anne, 1749-1827 Phillips, Sarah, -1804</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Transcripts, [19 cent., second ¼]-1854, in the hands of the Rev. Thomas Dyer (1782-1852) of Abess Roding and W. H. D. Longstaffe, of letters, 1759-1775, of Fanny Morgan, Wales and Cross Inn, primarily to Catherine (Kitty), Elizabeth and Armine, daughters of the Rev. Thomas Dyer (1700-1780), Marylebone, and to Sally Dyer (later Phillips) of Court Henry, their cousin. The letters were copied by the younger Thomas Dyer, in no particular order, into two notebooks formerly belonging to Elizabeth. W. H. D. Longstaffe dissected the notebooks to reassemble the transcripts in chronological order, recopying portions as necessary. These were then pasted onto guards, and annotated by Longstaffe, and apparently assembled into a volume; this was subsequently also disbound and the individual leaves put in the present plastic sleeves. The elder Thomas Dyer (1700-1780) was the younger brother of John Dyer, the poet; the younger Thomas Dyer (1782-1852) was his grandson and the nephew of the three Dyer sisters.</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>		
NLW ex 3069.	<b>File - Genealogical papers</b>	1756-1948	1 file (4.5 cm.) Non-archival plastic sleeves placed within ringed box at NLW.
	<p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Williams, Ralph M. Nowell, William</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Genealogical papers, 1756-1948, mainly collected by W. H. D. Longstaffe, relating to various branches of the Dyers and related families, together with some notable but unrelated individuals such as George Dyer and Sir Edward Dyer. The papers include pedigrees, notes, transcripts and memoranda by Longstaffe and others, 1854-1875 and [n.d.]; manuscript and printed articles by Longstaffe, [c. 1865]-1883; some thirteen letters addressed to Longstaffe, 1846-1872, together with carbon copies of six letters from him, 1854-1876; a manuscript poem to Kitty Dyer [Catherine Dyer, later Cresswell], [c. 1760], and manuscript items and drawings by her sister Elizabeth Dyer, 1776-1785; a copy of William Nowell, A Sermon Preached at The Parish Church of Wolsingham ... (Newcastle, 1756, ESTC T47628); two manuscript booklets, [19 cent.], containing 'Gilbert Wakefield's notes to Gray's poems' and a poem in English entitled 'Qui Capit ille facit'; and offprints of articles, 1941-1948, by Ralph M. Williams on the Dyer family and John Dyer, presented by him to Ronald Hylton Smith.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>Title based on contents.</p> <p><i>Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:</i></p> <p>A few notes, [?late 20 cent], are in the hand of Fabian T. Smith.</p> <p><i>Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:</i></p> <p>ARCH/MSS (GB0210)</p>		
NLW ex 3070.	<b>File - Engravings</b>	1736-1841	1 file.
	<p><i>Crëwr / Creator:</i></p> <p>Hogarth, William, 1697-1764 Dighton, Robert, 1752-1814 Dighton, Richard, 1795-1880 Houbraken, Jacobus, 1698-1780 Smith, Ronald Hylton, 1888-1961?, collector</p> <p><i>Natur a chynnwys / Scope and content:</i></p> <p>One hundred and two engravings, some dated 1736-1841, comprising (i) twenty-seven topographical and architectural views, 1755-1841 and [n.d.], eighteen of which relate to County Durham and the surrounding area; (ii) nineteen portraits, 1740-1832 and [n.d.], including five by Jacobus Houbraken;</p>		

(iii) eight satirical cartoons, caricatures, etc., 1736-1816, by William Hogarth, Robert Dighton, Richard Dighton, and possibly others; (iv) forty-two heraldic coats of arms, bookplates, etc., [n.d.]; (v) a map of 'The Boundaries of the City of York & the peculiar District called Ainsty...' [by Francis Drake], [1736]; (vi) and five miscellaneous others, [n.d.]. Also included are (vii) a title deed on vellum (partly illegible) and a leaf containing sketches in pen, ink and pencil.

*Nodyn / Note [generalNote]:*

Title based on contents.

*Lleoliad ffisegol / Physical location:*

ARCH/MSS (GB0210)