

# Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales



## Cymorth chwilio | Finding Aid - Letters, (NLW MS 23567C.)

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Cynhyrchir gan Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ar Chwefror 17, 2022

Generated by The National Library of Wales on February 17, 2022

Language of description: English

Iaith y disgrifiad: Saesnesg

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**Tabl cynnwys | Table of contents**

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Gwybodaeth grynodeb   Summary information .....	3
Hanes gweinyddol / Braslun bywgraffyddol   Administrative history   Biographical sketch .....	3
Natur a chynnwys   Scope and content .....	4
Nodiadau   Notes .....	4
Pwyntiau mynediad   Access points .....	5

## Crynodeb o wybodaeth | Summary of information

<b>Lleoliad   Repository:</b>	Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru = The National Library of Wales
<b>Teitl   Title:</b>	Letters,
<b>Cod cyfeirnod   Reference code:</b>	NLW MS 23567C.
<b>Virtua system control number [alternative]:</b>	vtls004657750
<b>Dyddiad   Date:</b>	1904, 1956-1966 / (dyddiad creu   date of creation)
<b>Disgrifiad ffisegol   Physical description:</b>	21 ff. Fasciculed.
<b>Lleoliad ffisegol   Physical location:</b>	ARCH/MSS (GB0210)
<b>Dyddiadau creu, golygu a dileu   Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	May 2009.
<b>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</b>	Title based on contents.
<b>Nodyn   Note [generalNote]:</b>	Preferred citation: NLW MS 23567C.

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

### Nodyn | Note

Augustus Edwin John, artist, was born at Tenby, Pembrokeshire, on 4 January 1878. He studied at the Slade School in London between 1894 and 1899. A diving accident in 1897 caused severe head injuries, reputedly affecting his personality and painting style. He married Ida Nettleship in 1901 and they had five children. At about the same time, he was appointed to teach art at the University of Liverpool, where he was taught the Romani language. Periods of travelling throughout England and Wales in a gypsy caravan inspired much of his work before World War 1. In 1902, he met Dorothy MacNeill, giving her the Romani name Dorelia. She became his most important model and lifelong inspiration; she moved to Paris with Augustus's sister, the artist Gwen John, the following year. Augustus based himself mainly in Paris in 1906-1907. After Ida's death in 1907, Dorelia became John's partner (they never formally married). They had four children together, both before and after Ida's death. His early period of work was characterised by drawings from life, notably of contemporaries including Ida and Dorelia and his sisters,

as well as portraits in oils influenced by the Old Masters and an experimental series of etchings. He was elected President of the National Portrait Gallery in 1914. During World War 1 he spent a brief time in France, employed by the Canadian government as a war artist, and was official artist at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. After a period of painting landscapes and employing a more modern impressionistic idiom, he became increasingly successful as a portrait painter. His subjects included Thomas Hardy, T. E. Lawrence, George Bernard Shaw, and David Lloyd George. He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1928, resigned in 1938, and was re-elected in 1940. He was elected President of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art in 1934 and President of the Gypsy Lore Society in 1938. In 1942 he was awarded the Order of Merit for services to art. He died at Fryern Court, Hampshire, his home since 1927, in 1961.

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## **Natur a chynnwys | Scope and content**

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Eleven letters and a telegram, 1956-1961, from Augustus John to his son Robin (ff. 1-13); together with a letter, 1961, to the same from his elder brother David John, recounting the death of their father (f. 14); a letter, 1966, from his aunt Ursula Nettleship (f. 20); and a photograph, 1904, of Augustus John, presented to the artist by the art collector Charles Rothenstein (f. 21).

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## **Nodiadau | Notes**

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### **Nodiadau teitl | Title notes**

### **Ffynhonnell | Immediate source of acquisition**

Sotheby's; London; Purchased at auction, lot 211; 16 December 1996; B1997/9.

### **Lleoliad y gwreiddiol | Location of originals**

See NLW Michael Holroyd Research Papers 3/4 for photocopies of the letters from Augustus John and David John.

### **Cyfyngiadau ar fynediad | Restrictions on access**

Readers consulting modern papers in the National Library of Wales are required to abide by the conditions noted on the 'Modern papers - data protection' form issued with their Readers' Tickets.

### **Amodau rheoli defnydd | Conditions governing use**

Usual copyright laws apply.

## Rhestrau cymorth | Finding aids

The contents of NLW MSS 22853-23691 are indexed in greater detail in Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, vol. 9 (Aberystwyth, 2003).

## Nodiadau eraill | Other notes

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

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## Pwyntiau mynediad | Access points

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- John, Augustus, 1878-1961 -- Correspondence (pwnc) | (subject)
- John, Robin, 1904-1986 -- Correspondence. (pwnc) | (subject)
- John, Augustus, 1878-1961 -- Death and burial. (pwnc) | (subject)
- John, Augustus, 1878-1961 -- Photographs. (pwnc) | (subject)
- Rothenstein, Charles. (pwnc) | (subject)
- John, Robin, 1904-1986. (pwnc) | (subject)
- John, David, 1902- (pwnc) | (subject)
- Tyrwhitt, Ursula, 1872-1966. (pwnc) | (subject)