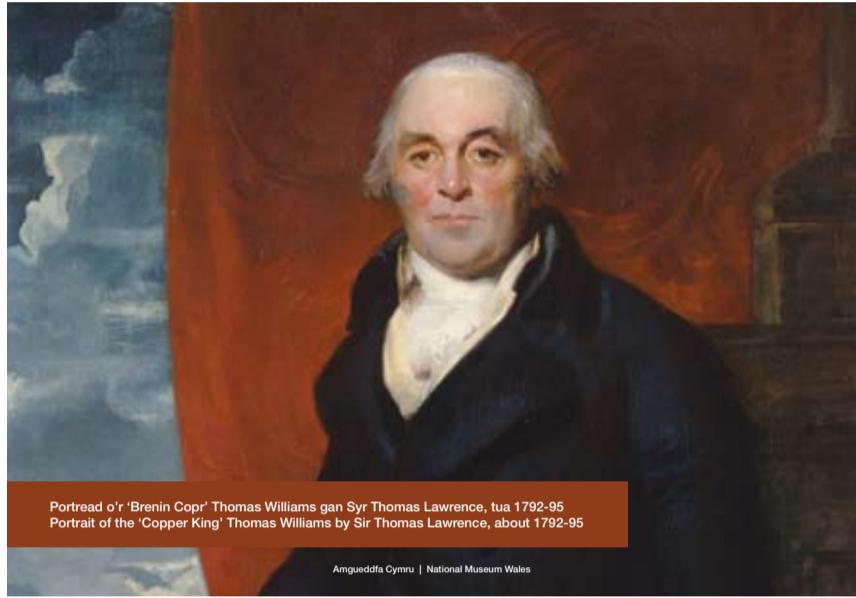


MENTER CWBL GYMREIG AN ALL-WELSH AFFAIR

Cynllun o Fwynglawdd Copr Mynydd Parys, 1786
Plan of Parys Mountain Copper Mine, 1786



Hawffraint y Goron: CBHC | Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Portread o'r 'Brenin Copr' Thomas Williams gan Syr Thomas Lawrence, tua 1792-95
Portrait of the 'Copper King' Thomas Williams by Sir Thomas Lawrence, about 1792-95

Amgueddfa Cymru | National Museum Wales

Wrth i dechnoleg mwyndoddi a choethi wella yn ne Cymru, cynyddodd y galw am gopr. Roedd mwy o gymhelliant i ddod o hyd i ffynonellau mwyn newydd. Canfu'r mwyngloddwr Roland Puw wythien gyfoethog o fwyn copr yn 1768 ym Mynydd Parys, Sir Fôn. Cychwynnodd hyn oes aur yn hanes copr Cymru.

Ffurfiwyd Cwmni Mwyngloddio Parys yn 1778. Y rheolwr oedd Thomas Williams, cyfreithiwr o entrepreneur o Lanidan, Sir Fôn. Yn y 1780au a'r 90au Parys oedd mwynglawdd mwyaf cynhyrchiol y byd, yn cynhyrchu tua 44,000 tonn y flwyddyn ar ei anterth. Gwnaeth hyn fwyngloddiau Cernyw'n rhai eilradd.

Roedd gan Williams fonopoli copr rhwng 1778 a 1792. Roedd yn rhedeg mwyngloddiau yn Sir Fôn, mwyndoddwyr yn Abertawe a de Swydd Gaerhirfryn, melinau yn Nyffryn Greenfield a Threffynnon, ac yn Nyffryn Tafwys, de Lloegr.

Roedd gan Williams swyddfeydd a warysau yn Llundain, Birmingham a Lerpwl gan roi rheolaeth lwyr iddo dros fasnachu, cynhyrchu a chludo copr. Yn y cyfnod hwn Cymru oedd yn dominyddu marchnadoedd copr y byd.

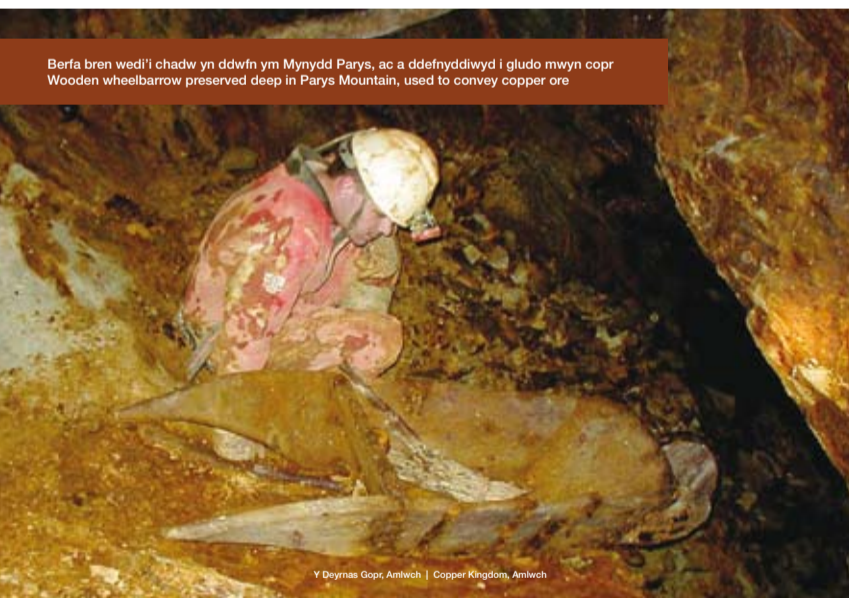
As smelting and refining technology improved in south Wales, the demand for copper increased. There was a greater incentive to find new sources of ore. Miner Roland Puw discovered a rich seam of copper ore in 1768 at Parys Mountain, Anglesey. This started a golden chapter in the story of Welsh copper.

The Parys Mine Company was formed in 1778, under the management of Thomas Williams, a lawyer-entrepreneur from Llanidan, Anglesey. In the 1780s and 90s Parys was the world's most productive copper mine, producing about 44,000 tons a year at its peak. This output eclipsed that of the Cornish mines.

Williams held a copper monopoly between 1778 and 1792. He operated mines in Anglesey, smelters in Swansea and south Lancashire, mills at Greenfield Valley and Holywell, Flintshire, and in the Thames Valley, southern England.

Williams had offices and warehouses in London, Birmingham and Liverpool giving him complete control over copper trade, manufacture and transport. In this period Wales dominated the world copper markets.

Berfa bren wedi'i chadw yn dclwfn ym Mynydd Parys, ac a ddefnyddiwyd i gludo mwyn copr
Wooden wheelbarrow preserved deep in Parys Mountain, used to convey copper ore



Y Deyrnas Gopr, Amlwch | Copper Kingdom, Amlwch

“Let me advise you to be extremely cautious in your dealings with Williams. He is a perfect tyrant and not over tenacious of his word and will screw damned hard when he has got anybody in his vice.”

Rhybudd gan Thomas Wilson i James Watt, y ddau'n cydoesi â Thomas Williams, 15 Medi 1790.

A warning from Thomas Wilson to James Watt, both contemporaries of Thomas Williams, 15 September 1790.

J.R. Harris, *The Copper King: Thomas Williams of Llanidan* (2003)