

# Dylan Thomas:

## An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953
- Title:** Dylan Thomas Art Collection
- Dates:** 1937-1956, undated (bulk circa 1942)
- Extent:** 38 items
- Abstract:** The collection consists of twenty-seven caricatures and sketches by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. Also included are portraits of Thomas, a watercolor, and an illustrated print, all by other artists.
- Call Number:** Art Collection AR-00273
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull Art Collection materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please contact the Center's staff at [art@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:art@hrc.utexas.edu). Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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## **Administrative Information**

**Acquisition:** Purchase, 1968

**Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

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## Biographical Sketch

For a biographical sketch of the Welsh writer and poet, see the finding aid for the Dylan Thomas Collection (MS-4203).

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of twenty-seven caricatures that include quick, sometimes narrative, sketches by Dylan Thomas. The drawings were formerly in the possession of Peter Price, who knew Thomas in London during World War II when they were working in films with Ivan Moffat and John Banting. The four men began sketching while drinking in a pub together around 1942. One sketch of Stephen Spender is by John Banting. Also included are portraits of Thomas by Alfred Janes, Mervyn Levy, and Gordon Stuart. A print by Peter Grippe illustrates one of Thomas's poems, which Thomas wrote in his own hand into the copper plate; an artist's proof of this etching can be found in 21 Etchings and Poems (AR-05368). There is one work by an unidentified artist.

The collection is organized into two series: Series: I. Original Works by Dylan Thomas, and II. Works by Other Artists.

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## Related Material

The Ransom Center holds additional works by, about, and of Dylan Thomas in the following collections: Dylan Thomas Collection (MS-4203), Dylan Thomas Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02774), George Barker Art Collection (AR-00014), Zdzislaw Czerwinski Art Collection (AR-00057), Peter Evershed Art Collection (AR-00083), Rosa Freedman Art Collection (AR-00094), T.E. Hanley Art Collection (AR-00114), Stephen Longstreet Art Collection (AR-00165), Ivan Opffer Art Collection (AR-00197), John Bromfield Gay Rees Art Collection (AR-00219), and Oloff de Wet Art Collection (AR-00058). An artist's proof of 87.80 can be found in 21 Etchings and Poems (AR-05368).

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## Index Terms

### People

Banting, John, 1902-1972.

FitzGibbon, Constantine, 1919-1983.  
Grippe, Peter, 1912-2002.  
Janes, Alfred.  
Levy, Mervyn.  
Moffat, Ivan.  
Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972.  
Priestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894-1984.  
Rota, Bertram, 1903-1966.  
Sitwell, Edith, 1887-1964.  
Spender, Stephen, 1909-1995.  
Stuart, Gordon, 1924-2015.  
Thomas, Caitlin.  
Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953.

**Subjects**

Bars--1940-1950.  
Portraits--1940-1960.

**Places**

City of London (England).  
New York (N.Y.).

**Document Types**

Pencil works--1940-1960.  
Caricatures--1940-1960.  
Etchings--1930-1940.  
Paintings.  
Photolithographs.  
Sketches--1940-1960.

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**Series I. Original Works by Dylan Thomas, circa 1942-1952**

**Accession Number: 68.6.1** Indigent Chef, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Location**  
Flat Files

**Accession Number: 68.6.2** A Man After Money, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.3** Man Enjoying Chu Chin Chow, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.4** Edith Sitwell, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.5** A Priestly Creature [J.B. Priestley smoking a pipe], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.6** Suspicious Man Having a Drink, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.7** Untitled [bird-like caricature of man's eyes, nose, and hair], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.8** Untitled [man in hat], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.9A** Untitled [man with bow tie or cravat], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.9B** Untitled [man's head], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.10** Untitled [three persons in hats, one holding cup], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.11** Untitled [person wearing round hat with bow tie or cigarette], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.12A** Untitled [man wearing fedora and bow tie], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.12B** Untitled [abstract person], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.13** Untitled [abstract man wearing a bow tie], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.14** A Prig, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.15** I've debated him, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.16** Three caricature sketches: A Man After Money; Indigent Chef; Man Enjoying Chu Chin Chow, circa 1942. Serigraph, 15.9 x 50.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.18** Dear Sir [illegible] [self portrait], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.19** Ivan at 6pm any evening, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 16.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.20** Thomas and Ivan drinking at 12pm at The Gargoyle Club, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 16.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.21** Fire at 1 Golden Square at 3am, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 20 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.22** 1 Golden Square's smoldering remains at 8am, circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 20 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.23** Untitled [abstract figure], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 20.3 x 12.7 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.24** Untitled [man with cigar and glasses], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.25A** Untitled [man handing out money at Betram Rota's offices], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 17.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.25B** Untitled [three men underneath clock], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 12.7 x 17.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 68.6.26** Untitled [three men and a woman entering a bar], circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 20.3 cm x 25.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 78.191** Queen Edith Sitwell and Princess Marianne Moore on their first meeting, 1952. Photolithograph, 12.4 x 19.1 cm.

**Series II. Works by Other Artists, circa 1937-1956**

**Accession Number: 68.6.17** Banting, John, 1902-1972. Every night I think about my dead friends (Stephen Spender), circa 1942. Pencil on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm. **Location**  
Flat Files

**Accession Number: 87.80** Grippe, Peter, 1912-2002; Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953. The Hand That Signed the Paper Felled a City, circa 1951-1953. Etching, 50.5 x 42.9 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.176** Janes, Alfred, 1911-1999. Portrait of Dylan Thomas, 1953. Oil on wood board, 111.8 x 83.8 cm. **Location**  
Screen  
Storage

**Accession Number: 65.20** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas, 1932. Charcoal on cardboard, 33.7 x 24.8 cm. **Location**  
Flat Files

**Accession Number: 65.21** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas Sleeping, 1946. Charcoal on cardboard, 31.8 x 24.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.58** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas, 1952. Charcoal on paper, 29.8 x 22.9 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.377** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas [portraits on recto and verso], 1946. Charcoal and pastel on paper, 34.9 x 25.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 69.5** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas, 1948. Charcoal on paper, 31.1 x 24.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 95.3.2** Levy, Mervyn. Dylan Thomas, 1944. Charcoal on paper, 33.7 x 25.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 67.54.1** Stuart, Gordon, 1924-2015. Dylan Thomas, undated. Oil on canvas attached to card board, 44 x 38 cm.

**Accession Number: 67.54.2** Unidentified artist. Constantine Fitzgibbon's House, undated. Watercolor on paper, 21.3 x 27.6 cm.