



FACTsheet 20

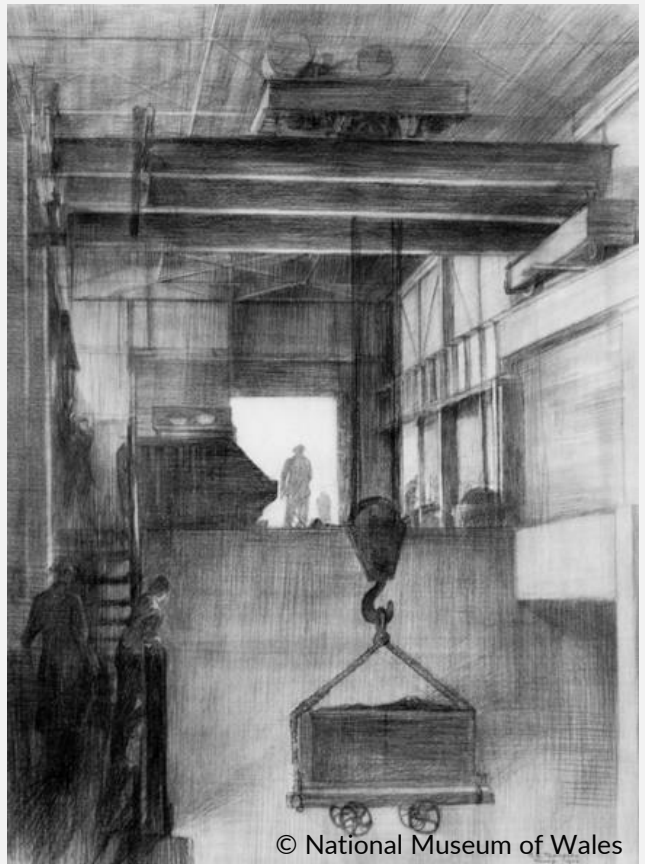
Artist in the quarries

This beautiful pencil drawing of an electric crane in Penmaenmawr quarry mill is one of a large series by Elizabeth Mary Thompson, who sought to capture the slate and quarrying industries between 1949 and 1951.

Elizabeth attended St Albans School of Art before going on to study drawing and sculpture at the Academy in Brussels. Elizabeth was born with Dwarfism and she found her study of sculpture increasingly difficult due to the physical stress it was putting on her body.

She decided to pursue drawing as her main medium and after returning to the UK, she settled in Bethesda. There, Elizabeth learned Welsh and spent a lot of time watching and sketching the quarrymen at work.

She also drew the industrial landscapes and workers at Penmaenmawr, Penrhyn, Trefor, Pen-yr-orsedd, Mountsorrel and Croft quarries.



© National Museum of Wales



Artist in the quarries

Elizabeth's collection of drawings were deposited in the National Museum of Wales in 1954. In the same year, she moved to Tunbridge Wells to be closer to her family. Gradually, Elizabeth's mobility decreased and she was unable to continue her love of drawing after 1969. She died in 1981, at which time a booklet showcasing her work was published by the Welsh Arts Council.

Elizabeth's drawings form part of an important record of the industrial history of Wales and in many cases they capture intricate details of toolmaking and industrial workings that may otherwise have been lost.

Copyright of the images on this factsheet and Elizabeth's collection of drawings belongs to National Museum Wales.

