



FACTsheet 7

Penmaenmawr's theme tune

A while ago we found some sheet music entitled 'Penmaenmawr'. A little research led us to find out more about the composer and some of the museum's social media followers kindly played it for us and recorded their rendition for us to use in the museum.

The music was composed by Sarah Geraldine Stock in 1887. She was born in Islington in 1838 and most of her work is associated with the interests of the Church Missionary Society, for whom she composed hymns, worked as a Sunday School teacher and edited books.

Her prose works include: Lessons on Israel in Egypt (1874), The Child's Life of Our Lord (1879), Bible Stories from the Old Testament (1882), The Story of Uganda and the Victoria Nyanza Mission (1892).

We are not certain how many times Sarah visited Penmaenmawr, but in 1887 she composed a triple hymnlet that was named after the town. Later that year she went on to write lyrics to accompany the music, for 'India's women'.

In 1894 Sarah was asked to revise her book, 'The Story of Uganda', by re-writing the last chapter and bringing the story up-to-date. She seemed to be in the process of writing when she returned to Penmaenmawr in 1898. When she was here, she fell ill and died after three days. The book's last chapter was completed by Dr Harford-Battersby and it was published after her death.

Penmaenmawr must have inspired her to make repeat visits and compose a tune with the town name as its title. Please drop in to the museum next time you're in town, and we'll play you Penmaenmawr's own theme tune.



Penmaenmawr's theme tune

Penmaenmawr, CMD

Sarah Geraldine Stock, 1887

