

MASGYNHYRCHU A MASFARCHNADOEDD

MASS PRODUCTION AND MASS MARKETS

Soho Manufactory Matthew Boulton, Handsworth, Birmingham
Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory, Handsworth, Birmingham



Datblygwyd nifer o ffyrdd newydd o gynhyrchu nwyddau copr yn Birmingham o'r 1770au ymlaen. Daeth nwyddau bach fel botymau, addurniadau, teganau a byclau pres, ac eitemau newydd i'r tŷ fel sosbenni, tegellau a chyllyll a ffyrw wedi'u harianblatio yn fforddiadwy i lawer mwy o bobl erbyn 1800. Roedd ar beirianeg stêm hefyd angen llawer iawn o bres ar gyfer ffitiadau megis berynnau a falfiau.

Sefydlodd gwneuthurwyr Birmingham megis Matthew Boulton waith Birmingham and Rose, neu'r Ynys, yn Abertawe ym 1793 yn benodol er mwyn diwallu'r galw hwn. Erbyn dechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg achosodd prinder darnau arian farchnad arall. Roedd Bathdy Soho Boulton yn cynhyrchu mwy o ddarnau arian ac arian cwmni ar gyfer marchnadoedd Prydain a thramor na Bathdy Brenhinol Llundain.

Roedd caethfasnach yr Iwerydd yn ffynhonnell arall o alw masnachol cynnar am gopr. Byddai rhodenni, llestri a manilau copr a phres yn cael eu defnyddio i brynu caethweision o Orllewin Affrica.

Sefydlodd Thomas Coster o Fryste waith y Graig Wen yn Abertawe ym 1737 yn rhannol i elwa ar y fasnach hon. Roedd siwgr India'r Gorllewin, oedd yn cael ei dyfu, ei brosesu a'i ddistyllu gan gaethweision, hefyd yn yn gwneud defnydd sylweddol o gopr Cymru.



Canwyllbrennau Plât Sheffield wedi eu gwneud o gopr â haen denau o arian arnynt, gan Boulton a Fothergill, tua 1770
Sheffield Plate candlesticks made from copper with a thin layer of silver, by Boulton and Fothergill, about 1770

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Many new ways of manufacturing copper products developed in Birmingham from the 1770s. Small objects such as brass buckles, buttons, ornaments and toys, and new household items such as saucepans, kettles and silver-plated cutlery, became affordable for many more people by 1800. Steam engineering also required large quantities of brass for fittings such as bearings and valves.

Birmingham manufacturers such as Matthew Boulton established the Birmingham and Rose, or Ynys, works in Swansea in 1793 purely to feed this demand. By the early nineteenth century a shortage of coins opened another market. Boulton's Soho Mint produced more coins and tokens than London's Royal Mint, for British and foreign markets.

Another early commercial demand for copper came from the Atlantic slave trade. Copper and brass rods, vessels and manillas were used to purchase enslaved West Africans.

Thomas Coster of Bristol established the White Rock works in Swansea in 1737 partially to profit from this. West Indian sugar - grown, processed and distilled by slaves - was also a major consumer of Welsh copper.

Gwaith copr y Graig Wen, Abertawe, a ddarluniwyd tua 1774
White Rock copperworks, Swansea, drawn about 1774



Adeffion planhigfa siwgr yn St John, Virgin Islands
Ruins of a sugar plantation in St John, Virgin Islands

