THE MODERN RECORDS CENTRE

INFORMATION LEAFLET NO. 12

SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF CYCLING

The National Cycle Archive was established in 1990 by the Cyclists’ Touring Club with funds from a bequest by Frank Whitt. Its primary aim is the preservation of archives, books and journals relating to cycles and cycling. The National Cycle Archive Fund is administered by the trustees of the Cycle Touring and Countryside Trust. The archive is housed at the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library.

The National Cycle Archive comprises books, journals and archives deposited by many cycling bodies and individuals. The books and journals or magazines are catalogued on the University Library Catalogue. They can be found at http://webcat.warwick.ac.uk/search. Researchers can search by author, title or keyword. A subject search citing Cyclists’ Touring Club, National Cycle Archive, or National Cycle Museum will give details of the material belonging to each of these bodies. A brief description of the archives follows. For further details see: http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk/328umb


British League of Racing Cyclists (formed in 1942. It amalgamated with the National Cyclists’ Union in 1959 to form the British Cycling Federation). Minutes, 1949-1959. MSS.328/BLRC. See also MSS.328/BCF, BU, M/NCU, N10 and N17.

National Cyclists’ Union (formed in 1878 as the Bicycle Union. It amalgamated with the Tricycle Union in 1882, and in 1883 was re-named the National Cyclists’ Union. It amalgamated with the British League of Racing Cyclists in 1959 to become the British Cycling Federation). Archives, mainly minutes, 1878-1958. MSS.328/BU. See also MSS.328/BCF, BLRC, M/NCU, N10 and N17.

Cyclists’ Touring Club (formed 1878-ongoing). Minutes, reports and associated papers of Council and other committees, including constitution, articles and memoranda of association, agreements, membership papers, correspondence, financial papers, administrative files and papers, legal papers, scrapbooks, photographs, prints and drawings, in particular those of Frank Patterson, printed books, serials and pamphlets, journals and magazines, 1774-2006, (mostly from 1878). The full catalogue of the Club’s library of books and serials is available at http://webcat.warwick.ac.uk/search. MSS.328/C. See also MSS.328/ N31 below.

George Drake (1839-1899). Memoranda book, with references to his working life in the cycle business and sketches of various cycle parts. Biographical details. MSS.328/D.

Centaur Cycle Company. Article and three press cuttings about George Gilbert and his cycle company, 1904, 1915 and 1996. MSS.328/G.

National Cycle Museum Trust Archive. Cycle club records and catalogues, three boxes of correspondence, files of records relating to racing, etc., thirty boxes of press cuttings, a scrapbook, six boxes of photographs, and printed magazines, etc., 20th century.
Included are some original drawings of Frank Patterson (1871-1952), cycling artist. National Cyclists’ Union: cycle racing: application forms, lists of riders holding licences to compete, posters, programmes, journals, printed matter and correspondence, etc., 1897-1900. MSS.328/M and MSS.328/M/NCU.

Neville Whall (known as Hodites), assistant secretary of the CTC. Lecture material, 1920s-1950s. MSS.328/N1.

Cycle manufacturers' trade catalogues, arranged alphabetically. MSS.328/N2.

Cycle accessories' catalogues, including tyres, 1898-20th century, arranged alphabetically. MSS.328/N3.


Alexander Arthur Josey, (b. c. 1910), cycling journalist. Correspondence, scripts and broadcasts, research papers, publications, his personal cycling papers, advertisements and technical reports on cycling. Includes papers of the Essex Cycling Union Ltd (from 1899 the Essex and Middlesex Cycling Union Ltd), 1895-1899, the Road Time Trials Council, 1937-1943, the British League of Racing Cyclists, 1943-1945, the Road Racing Council, 1926-1937, the Road Records Association, 1938-1942, the Women’s Road Records Association, 1940, and the Bicycle Polo Association of Great Britain, 1933-1940. Records about racing events and cyclists, 1895-1942, and papers and publications of many cycling clubs, 1880-1947, cycle catalogues, articles, press cuttings, scrapbooks, photographs, tours and guides, books and ephemera, 1877-1974.
MSS.328/N10.
For more information about the Road Time Trials Council, see MSS.328/RTTC and N30 below, and for the British League of Racing Cyclists, see MSS.328/BCF, BLRC, BU and MSS.328/N17.


Amateur Bicycle Club (founded 1871). Photocopies of papers, including booklets of rules, 1870s, correspondence and invoices, 1871-1929, details of Club meetings and events, cartoons, press cuttings, etc., the rules of the Dark Blue Bicycle Club, late 19th century; issue of Bicycling News, 2 February 1877. MSS.328/N13.

A. Davidson, member of the Sheffield Central Cycling Club. Time trial result sheets sent in by cycling clubs to him, 1930-1965. MSS.328/N14.


Frank W. Shorland. Cycling scrapbook, 1888-1926; two programmes and two articles about the Cuca Cocoa Challenge Cup, etc., 1893-1936. MSS.328/N16.

Charles Messenger. Papers of the British League of Racing Cyclists: 22 files of minutes, accounts, a membership list, correspondence, extracts from cycling magazines, details of races, etc., 1939-1994. MSS.328/N17.
See also MSS.328/BCF, BLRC and BU and MSS.328/N10.

Albert Winstanley of Bradshaw, near Bolton, Lancs. Copies of his articles from Cycling and The Bicycle (which was incorporated into Cycling), and Cycling World, 1954-1999. Indexed. Photograph of four cyclists, ?in the Alps, c.1880s. MSS.328/N18.


K. T. Greaves, turner and fitter at Hadfield’s, Rotherham. Three diaries, 1930-1939. MSS.328/N20.

Gill Felton: Cyclists’ Public Affairs Group file, including material from the Highways Authorities & Utilities Committee, 1986-1999. MSS.328/N21


Cyclists’ Touring Club diary for 1938. MSS.328/N23.

Catalogues of collections of cycles and of material of cycling interest, such as posters, cigarette cards including sale catalogues (non trade) and the programme of the Cycle and Motor Cycle Show at Earls Court, London, 1951–2004. MSS.328/N24.


Len James, Cyclists’ Touring Club, Councillor, chairman in 1989, and vice-president. Minutes, reports and papers of many CTC committees, 1965-1988, and of bodies with which the CTC was associated, c. 1974-1988; forty three named subject files, James’s correspondence, reports and papers, 1980-1995. MSS.328/N31.


Terry Quantrill. Cycling papers mainly relating to the Passey family of Benson, Oxfordshire, including a few papers of the Boston Veteran Bicycle Club, 1957-1979, and of the Benson Veteran Cycle Club, 1974-1977. MSS.328/N34.


Manuscript diary of the “Touring Party”: members of the Maybury family, who toured S. W. England in 1877, and Wales in 1881. Horace Maybury was later a keen cyclist. MSS.328/N36.

North Shropshire Wheelers Club runs: volume of press cuttings and manuscript additions, 1939-1949. MSS.328/N37.


Tony Hadland. Four large cartons of papers relating to research for his books, The Sturmey Archer Story and The Moulton Bicycle, and “Video, Audio and Magazines (Fornca)” and “Japan Trip. …”, 1890s-2002. MSS.328/N40.


Walter Palmer: the diary recording a tour on his safety from Bath to Weymouth in 1895, and copies of two photographs of 1893 and 1897. MSS.328/N43.


Harry Aspden (1911-2003), cyclist, author, photographer and cycling events’ organiser: printed books and journals, early 20th century, 1934-1998, thirteen histories of cycling clubs and people, 1941-?1992, handbooks and yearbooks, 1935-1997, three rule books, 1953-1955; race programmes, start sheets and result sheets, 1934-1997; meet programmes, etc., 1937-1997, manufacturers’ catalogues of cycles and accessories, 20th century. These items have for the most part been transferred to the National Cycle Archive library series, and to MSS.328/N2, N3, N26, N29 and N30. MSS.328/N47.


Frank R. Whitt (1911-1984), benefactor to the Cyclists’ Touring Club: books from the 1870s and papers about cycling, including ergonomics, aerodynamics, power output,
speed, pedalling, breathing, wheels, spokes, tyres, rolling resistance, gears, chains, and transmissions, 1890s-1980s. MSS.328/N49.


Ken Rolls: diaries of his cycling tours in Germany, 1938, and Connemara, 1948. MSS.328/N51.

British Cyclo-Cross Association: articles and photographs from Neville Billington, 1960s and ?later. MSS.328/N52.


A. W. Kempson (1902-1976) of the Essex Roads Cycling Club and CTC; photographs, cycling diaries, certificates, membership papers, a few letters, etc., 1917-1985. MSS.328/N54.


Keith Robins: a few papers relating to the licensing, manufacture and sale of the safety cycling habit skirt by Charles Henry Hart, trading as Hart & Son, ladies’ tailor, 1890s; reproductions of early cycling prints by Beehay Designs, 1986, c. 1980s; North Middlesex and Herts Cycling Gazette, April-May 1926; the Southern Counties Cycling Union: programme, 1926; Essex Roads Cycling Club, handbooks, 1951-1952. MSS.328/N56.


Central Roads Cycling Club, Wolverhampton: certificates awarded to Jim Cooper, 1936-1937. Photographs of Jim Cooper, 1930s and later. MSS.328/N60.


Cycling postcards: three reprints of early cycling posters, c. 2000; five reprints of humorous cycling postcards first produced in 1905 by Tom Browne (1870-1910), R.I.; R. B. A. MSS.328/N63.


David Holton: printed items, including CTC Liverpool District Association handbook, 1929; brief history and list of members of the Fellowship of Old Time Cyclists, January 1946; rally programme, two cigarette cards, bundle of photographs, c. 1900-?1980s; card (reproduction) showing the Simpson Lever Chain by Toulouse Lautrec, published in 1896. MSS.328/N66.

The Good Friday Gamble: booklet recording the annual meetings of the great cycle racers at the Herne Hill track, organised by the Southern Counties Cycling Union, 1903-2003. MSS.328/N67.

The Saunders Testimonial drawn by E. Fowler and subscribed to by cycling, cricket and football clubs, 1889. MSS.328/N68.

Items from the National Cycle Archive safe: Britannia, volume the first …, by John Ogilby, London, 1675. Souvenirs des travaux du Simplon, by R. Ceard, Geneva, 1837. Letter, etc. from E. Stanley Doubleday respecting his late father, John Doubleday’s Romford Bicycle Club badge, 1936, which is deposited. MSS.328/N69.

Edward Williams, bicycle chain wheel and crank manufacturers of Foundry Lane, Smethwick: French patent relating to free wheels, 1911; pattern book for chain wheel designs, c. 1920s; correspondence, cheques and three sets of Dutch advertisements for Edward Williams, 1949-1959. Five rolls of manufacturing drawings, 1903-1953. MSS.328/N70.


Other archives in the Modern Records Centre with papers relating to cycling.


Birmingham Small Arms Co. Ltd. The archives include papers of BSA Cycles Ltd., 1919-1934. MSS.19. Other BSA records are held at Solihull Library.
Cycling Archives in Repositories elsewhere

The cycling collection at Coventry Central Library includes periodicals and early cycling books, glass negatives and prints from H. W. Bartleet and elsewhere.

Clarke-Cluley & Co. Limited, cycle manufacturers: papers, 1900-1985, are held by Coventry City Archives. (Accession 1233).

Edward Williams of Smethwick: correspondence, accounts, sales, purchase, order and technical records, 1847 [sic]-1964, are held at the Staffordshire County Record Office (D4466).

National Clarion Cycling Club medals, ribbons and ephemera are held at the People’s History Museum, Manchester.

P. P. Baly of Warwick: cycling papers in the 1880s are held at the Warwickshire County Record Office.

Percy T. Stallard (b.1909), cycle manufacturer and salesman, and racing cyclist: his papers are held at Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies. (www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/archives).

The Polytechnic Cycling Club archives are held at Westminster University. See http://www.aim25.ac.uk

The Raleigh Cycle Co. archives, including the Sturmey-Archer papers, are held at Nottinghamshire Record Office

Wessex Road Club papers are held in the Special Collections Department of the University of Birmingham (GB 0150 MS 17).

For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the Archivist, Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick CV4 7AL. Tel+44 (0)24 7652 4219. Email: archives@warwick.ac.uk

URL http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk.

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