

**Papers of
Charles
Climaco Vargas**

**Reference:
ATH/CCV**

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

ATH/CCV

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

1921-1931

Personal papers compiled by the athlete Charles Vargas. The collection includes a number of scrapbooks compiled by Vargas which chart his athletic development and increasing ability during the 1920s. There is also an accompanying photograph album which depicts Vargas, and his contemporaries, at various athletics meetings including Oxford University Inter-Collegiate matches and club matches. Many reports included in the scrapbooks detail the results of races and provide an overview of the meetings attended by Vargas. Although a quarter-mile specialist (440 yards), the records also illustrate Vargas' versatility and entry into 220 yards, 110 yards and cross-country races.

The collection is a valuable research tool for athletics historians, especially those researchers interested in sprint races and inter-varsity athletics during the 1920s.

Administrative history: Charles Climaco Vargas was born in Brentford in 1905, his family originating from Bogatá, Columbia. He attended Lancing College, in Sussex, between 1918 and 1924 and was based in Sanderson's House at a time when John Fergusson Roxburgh (1888-1954) was Housemaster [in 1923 Roxburgh was appointed the first Headmaster of Stowe School]. Vargas later studied at Oriel College, Oxford and was awarded a BA degree in History in November 1927. He mainly competed for his college and university in relay races and was awarded a half-blue. He was secretary of the Oxford Rugby Fives Club and played in the first Rugby Fives match between Oxford and Cambridge: the latter team winning convincingly.

Vargas became competent at various sprinting events including the 110 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 600 yards and 880 yards although the 440 yards was his speciality. After leaving Oxford, Vargas joined the staff of The Grange, Eastbourne

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

[a preparatory school] and took over football coaching for a short time. After less than a year he felt obliged to leave the teaching profession, somewhat reluctantly, to work for the family's import and export business, Climaco Vargas Limited of Leadenhall Street, London.

As an athlete, Vargas was at one time trained by R. Meades, masseur at the Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club. He became a member of Brighton and County Harriers, London Athletic Club and the Achilles Club, the latter made up of past and present representatives of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He joined the Sussex County AAA, it is alleged, as one of the fastest quarter-milers Sussex had, at that time, ever known: newspaper cuttings included in this collection refer to Vargas as 'the quarter-mile champion of Sussex'. He was also one-time manager of the Achilles team.

Vargas married Margaret Reece in 1933 and they had one child, John D. C. (Dale) Vargas, who was born in 1939. Shortly afterwards the couple divorced and in 1944 Charles married Gwendolyn Richards and had a second child, Romany in 1945. At this time, Vargas was living in Hove. The family business, Climaco Vargas Limited, was wound-up during the 1950s due to the effect of the Second World War and currency problems. In later life he worked as a driver. Charles Vargas died in 1975.

Sources: papers of Charles Climaco Vargas; information supplied by the depositor.

Arrangement: These papers have been arranged into the following 2 series: scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings; and photographs.

2 standard boxes (comprising 9 volumes and 1 file)

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Notes: Old references: CCV; NCAL XXV.A5

Copyright: Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections (email: special-collections@bham.ac.uk). Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language: English

Creator name: Vargas, Charles Climaco (1905-1975), athlete

Custodial history: This collection was previously in the custody of J. D. C. (Dale) Vargas, transferred to the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL) and subsequently relocated to the Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections.

Archival notes: Papers arranged and described by Mark Eccleston, September 2014, in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; and in-house cataloguing guidelines.

Related material: Other archive collections, formerly held as part of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL), are catalogued as collections distinct from this collection. They comprise both institutional archives and collections of personal papers of athletes, athletics administrators, journalists and others associated with the athletics world.

Catalogues of the institutional archives

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1880-1992. Finding No: AAA;

Midland Counties Amateur Athletics Association: papers, 1900-1982. Finding No: MCAAAA;

Midland Counties Cross Country Association: papers, 1898-1985. Finding No: ATH/MCCCA;

Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1958-1983. Finding No: SCAAA.

Catalogues, or collection descriptions, of personal papers available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Abrahams, Harold Maurice (1899-1978), athlete, administrator, commentator and journalist: papers, 1902-1989. Finding No: ATH/HA;

Adam, George Mair (1898-1989), athlete, coach and athletics administrator: papers, 1909-1989. Finding No: ATH/GA;

Binks, Joseph (Joe) (1874-1966), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [1920s-1950s]. Finding No: ATH/JB;

Cardew, Martin H. (b 1927), athlete: papers, 1964-1988. Finding No: ATH/MHC;

Cullum, Dennis Noel Johnson (1913-1985), athlete and coach: papers, [1930s]-1985. Finding No: ATH/DC;

Ives, Bert (1890-1975), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, [1920s-1970s]. Finding No: ATH/BI;

Jewell, John Christopher (1912-2001), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, 1897-2002. Finding No: ATH/JJ;

Lloyd-Edgley, Ralph: scrapbook, [c 1924]-

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

[c 1931]. Finding No: ATH/RLE;

MacLean, Duncan (1884-1980), athlete and coach: papers, 1948-1977. Finding No: ATH/DM;

Monk, Walter Harry (Wal) (1896-after 1965), athlete: papers, 1918-1961. Finding No: ATH/WHM;

Morgan, Wilf (b 1935), athlete and athletics historian: papers, 1937-2012. Finding No: ATH/WM;

Newton, Arthur Francis Hamilton (1883-1959), athlete: papers, [c 1904]-[1990s]. Finding No: ATH/AN;

Payne, Howard (1931-1992), athlete: papers, 1899-[c 1975]. Finding No: ATH/HP;

Percy, Joe W. (1912-2001), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1910-1997. Finding No: ATH/JWP;

Powell, Edgar Robert Leslie (Peter), (fl 1920s-70s), athlete: papers, 1813-1988. Finding No: ATH/ERLP;

Richards, Wilf (b 1906), athlete and journalist: papers, 1924-[mid 20th century]. Finding No: ATH/WR;

Roberts, Dave (fl 1930s-1990s), athlete and statistician: papers, [1930s]-1991. Finding No: ATH/DR;

Simpson, Colin J. (1929-2011), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1945-1990. Finding No: ATH/CS;

Tatham, Wilfrid George (Gus) (1898-1978), athlete: papers, 1908-1960. Finding No: ATH/WGT;

Thomas, Dr Philip, athletics administrator and coach: papers, [c 1900]-[late 20th century]. Finding No: ATH/PT;

Ward, Leonard H., athletics coach: papers,

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

[mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/LW;

Watman, Melvyn Francis (Mel) (b 1938), athletics journalist and statistician: papers, 1980-1993. Finding No: ATH/MW;

Wight, Robert M., athletics administrator: papers, [mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/RW;

Winter, Arthur E. H. (d 1990), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [early 20th century]-1983. Finding No: ATH/AW;

Yarrow, Squire Stevens (1905-1984), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1938-1984. Finding No: ATH/SY.

ATH/CCV/1

Scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings

[1920s]-1931

Eight scrapbooks, with associated loose newspaper cuttings, compiled by Charles Vargas. The volumes exclusively comprise newspaper cuttings and many, especially in earlier volumes, are undated and unidentified. Subjects primarily relate to the development of Vargas' athletics career and the majority of cuttings detail races and athletics meetings he attended during 1925-1931, thus providing a record of his races and times. Many of these cuttings include results from races at individual meetings. Often there is more than one cutting relating to the same event. There are a few cuttings relating to cricket and football, in ATH/CCV/1/3, but the vast majority relate to track and field athletics.

There is heavy coverage of varsity athletics, particularly events between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Most meetings included were held in southern England: Oxfordshire, Sussex and London. Early volumes include many events held in Oxford and the surrounding area [whilst Vargas was a student at Oriel College] but later volumes focus on events held in Sussex.

A number of Vargas' contemporaries are

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

mentioned in articles including W. G. Tatham (see ATH/WGT). There are articles written by Arthur E. Porritt, Harold M. Abrahams and 'Jackdaw'.

Some articles refer to Vargas as 'G. C. Vargas' or 'Vargus' in error.

8 volumes and 1 file

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/1

Scrapbook

1925-1926

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Oxford University Relay Cup; numerous Oxford Inter-College matches including races against competitors from Trinity, Oriel, Wadham, Magdalen, Lincoln and Jesus colleges; various meetings held in Sussex including an open meeting organised by Horsham Blue Star Harriers; 'The Fred Jenney Testimonial' meeting at Paddington.

There is an image of Vargas collapsing in the quarter at the recent Oxford Senior Sports. Another article states that 'Vargas has done nothing of note until this year, and as a freshman never looked like doing well. But keenness and good training do their work, and in every event we can find cases of startling improvement'.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/2

Scrapbook

1926-1927

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Oxford versus Cambridge; Public School Relay Races organised by the Achilles Club; Achilles Club versus Winchester College; Sussex County Sports held in Brighton; Horsham Blue Star Harriers meeting Easter Monday 1927, included cycling; and Achilles Club versus Wiltshire County AAA.

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

Volume includes images of Oxford and Cambridge combined teams at 1926 inter-
varsity meeting; Charles Vargas; Lord
Burghley; C. F. Gates (Balliol) beating
Vargas in the 100 yards event and an
Oxford Inter-Collegiate Athletic Cup
meeting; and cartoons of G. C. Newman,
T. C. Livingstone-Learmouth and D. G. A.
Lowe.

There is also an article regarding varsity
relay races written by Harold M.
Abrahams.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/3

Scrapbook

1927-1928

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings
relating to various athletics events.
Coverage includes Achilles versus
Services Cadets from Sandhurst,
Woolwich and Cranwell; London Athletic
Club Spring Meeting held at Stamford
Bridge; Oxford versus London Athletic
Club and United Hospitals Athletic Club;
Oxfordshire Constabulary Athletic Sports;
AAA Championships; Chichester Sports;
Shoreham and District Athletic and Cycling
Club; Oxford University Athletic Club; and
London Athletic Club versus Royal Military
College.

Numerous athletes are mentioned
including Guy M. Butler, A. R. Edwards, H.
B. Stallard, V. P. Brown, H. M. O'Connor,
D. G. A. Lowe, Dr O. Peltzer, Lord
Burghley, W. G. Tatham and H. W. Kerr.

The volume also includes an article titled
'University News: Degrees Conferred at
Oxford', 26 November [1927] which lists
Vargas' awarded of a BA degree.

1 volume

Access: Open
Scrapbook

ATH/CCV/1/4

1928

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Lancing College versus Achilles Club; Sussex County AAA meeting, 25 April [1928]; London Athletic Club versus RAF Cadets; London Athletic Club versus Royal Navy and Royal Marines; Royal Engineers Inter-Battalion sports held at Chatham; Sussex versus South African Olympic team; and AAA Championships.

There are references to preparations for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games including an article regarding subscribing to fund the transport and housing of athletes representing Great Britain. Vargas is listed as providing a donation.

The volume also includes an article titled 'Sussex Athletics in 1928: a season of progress' by C. C. Vargas.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/5

Scrapbook

1928-1929

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Brighton and County Harriers; Shoreham Athletic and Cycling Club, second annual dinner; Sussex County AAA including an article stating that Vargas offered to donate medals for the championship meeting on Whit Monday; Lancing versus Achilles; sports at Sandhurst; Public Schools race at Putney; London Athletic Club versus RAF Cadet College, Cranwell; 12th Annual Christie Sports held at Leeds University grounds at Weetwood; London Athletic Club versus Belgrave Harriers at Battersea Park, 13 May 1929; London Athletic Club versus Business Houses ASA, 9 July 1929.

Numerous athletes are mentioned including Harry Payne.

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/6

Scrapbook

1929-1930

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Counties Athletic Union annual meeting; London Athletic Club versus Royal Navy and Royal Marines Athletic Club and 43rd Light Infantry, 15 June 1929; Sussex County AAA annual meeting; Sussex County Senior Championship, 7-mile amateur race at Worthing; London Athletic Club versus Royal Military College, Sandhurst; Achilles Club versus Sussex County AAA; London Athletic Club versus Belgrave Harriers; London Athletic Club versus Woolwich Cadets; London Athletic Club versus Birchfield Harriers; and the second meeting between Horsham Blue Star Harriers and the Brighton and County Harriers.

Numerous athletes are mentioned including W. G. Tatham, A. R. Edwards (Victor Ludorum at Sussex County championship meeting at Brighton) and A. M. Ellery. There is an image of Vargas racing against, and beating, J. C. Booth in a 440 yard race.

The volume also includes an article titled 'Sussex Athletics in 1929: a review of the season' by C. C. Vargas.

1 volume

Access: Open

Physical description: Parts of some pages have been cut out.

ATH/CCV/1/7

Scrapbook

1930-1931

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes London Athletic Club versus Cambridge University and the

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

Dominion Students' Athletic Union; London Athletic Club summer meeting; Achilles win the AAA mile inter-club relay; AAA championships; Brighton and County Harriers meeting; Birchfield Harriers meeting; London Athletic Club versus Aldershot Command Athletic Association; London Athletic Club versus Highgate Harriers; Inter-County Athletic Championships; London Athletic Club versus Commercial Union Assurance Company; London Athletic Club versus National Provincial Bank; and London Athletic Club versus Polytechnic Harriers, Surrey AC and Blackheath Harriers, 13 September 1930. Numerous athletes are mentioned including L. R. J. Rinkel, C. Ellis and J. E. London.

There are some loose pages inserted into the volume relating to Polytechnic Harriers; and the London Athletic Club autumn meeting held at Stamford Bridge, 12 September 1931.

The volume also includes an article titled 'Sussex Athletics: a review of the past season' by C. C. Vargas.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/8

Scrapbook

1931

Scrapbook comprising newspaper cuttings relating to various athletics events. Coverage includes Eastbourne College versus Achilles Club; Clifton College versus Achilles Club; Achilles versus Blundell's School; Achilles Club versus Cranford School; London Athletic Club versus Royal Military Academy (Woolwich); Sussex County AAA meetings; London Athletic Club versus Gloucestershire Regiment; AAA Championships; Brighton Cycling Club Sports meeting; and Achilles Club versus Essex County. Numerous athletes are mentioned including C. E. D. Goodheart, F. F. Wolff, P. O. Edwards, S. R. Perrin

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

and H. J. Cohen with accompanying image.

There is also a cutting referring to the wedding of John Archibald Blount and Muss Aubrey Dickinson. Charles Vargas listed as attending along with Mr and Mrs Pedro Vargas.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/CCV/1/9	Newspaper cuttings	[1920s]
	Various miscellaneous newspaper cuttings, some undated and unidentified but assumed to be 1920s. Largely feature Charles Vargas, detailing results of various athletics meetings he attended. Coverage includes Oxford versus Cambridge Relay Races, December 1926; various athletics meetings held at public school; numerous events involving Sussex Amateur Athletic Association, London Athletic Club and the Amateur Athletic Association Championships. The cuttings include images of A. T. Muggridge, Miss A. E. Waldron and C. C. Vargas.	
	1 file	
	Access: Open	
ATH/CCV/2	Photographs	1921-1931
	Photographs depicting Charles Vargas and his contemporaries at various athletics meetings, primarily held during the 1920s.	
	1 volume	
	Access: Open	
ATH/CCV/2/1	Photograph album	1921-1931
	Album primarily comprising photographs of Charles Vargas but also including some certificates awarded to him following various races. Photographs are captioned and dated but are not in strict chronological order. Subjects include	

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

various meetings arranged by Oxford University; Lancing College; Sussex County Amateur Athletic Association; Brighton and County Harriers; the Amateur Athletic Association; London Athletic Club; and the Achilles Club.

Comprises images of Vargas at the following meetings and with the following contemporaries: Oxford University Inter-Collegiate Cup, February 1926 depicting A. E. Porritt and K. O. Lane; Oxford University Seniors Sports, October 1926 depicting H. V. Warren and R. L. Cook;

Oxford University Inter-College Relays, November 1926 depicting V. P. Brown; Oxford University Final Trials, November 1926 depicting R. L. Cook, B. M. Norton, R. Leigh Wood and H. V. Warren; Oxford and Cambridge Relay Teams at Fenners, 26 November 1926, team photograph; OUAC Inter-Collegiate Cup, 31 January 1927 depicting C. F. Gates and W. F. Cummings; Oxford University Open 300 yards handicap, February 1927 depicting B. M. Norton and J. A. Stevens; Oxford University Sports, 7 March 1926 depicting R. Leigh Wood, R. L. Cook and H. V. Warren; Lancing College 1921, start of the inter-house cross-country race, listing names of participants; Lancing College Sports, April 1923, listing names of participants; Sussex County AAA Open Easter Meeting, 1927 at Preston Park depicting Vargas crossing line at finish of 100 yards in under 10 seconds; Brighton and County Harriers, 4 x 400 relay team at Horsham, 18 April 1927 depicting H. R. Butchers, E. H. Tattershall, H. R. Elliott and C. C. Vargas; Sussex Championships at Preston Park, 6 June 1927 depicting G. M. Butler and R. Butchers; Lancing College Athletics 1921, listing names of participants; Sussex County Championships, 1928 depicting I. H. J. Cohen, A. M. Ellery, R. Butchers and E. Cawston; AAA One Mile Relay Championship at Stamford Bridge, 1928 depicting G. M. Butler, J. W. J. Rinkel and

Papers of Charles Climaco Vargas

H. R. Elliot; Sussex County Athletic Team training at Preston Park, Brighton, 1928 depicting R. Butchers, H. R. Butchers, H. M. Martin, H. R. Elliot and C. C. Durden; Sussex versus Achilles Club, 1930 depicting J. C. Booth and C. L. Chamberlain; London Athletic Club 440 Yards Challenge Cup depicting W. D. Coltart and S. G. Eldridge; Achilles Club versus Essex County at Walthamstow, July 1931 depicting W. J. Mills; Lancing College Sports, 1923 depicting W. G. Vyner-Ellis, C. E. Mercer and R. G. Percival; team photo of Lancing College versus C. L. Chamberlain's Team, 1923; and a school photograph from Lancing College 1922 titled 'Upper V Form. Classical'.

Certificates include those awarded to C. C. Vargas from Brighton and County Harriers 1927-1928 and the Universities of Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool 'Christie Sports', 1929.

1 volume

Access: Open