Papers of Howard Payne

ATH/HP

Personal papers compiled by the athlete Howard Payne. The collection includes a small number of athletics programmes relating to meetings organised by, or held at, the University of Birmingham; items of correspondence, primarily detailing his relationships with family and friends but also including references to Payne's athletics career; and material relating to his published work on hammer throwing including draft chapters as well as a series of unrelated photographs depicting techniques for high jumping.

Taken as a whole, the collection highlights aspects of Payne's athletics career and also includes references to South African politics and society during the mid-20th century.

Administrative history: Andrew Howard Payne, known as Howard, was born in Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa on 17 April 1931. He was the son of Andrew and Agnes Payne (nee Hurlston) who had married on 3 March 1923 in St Dunstan's Cathedral, Johannesburg and he had a sister, Rhona [later Rhona Wheedon]. Howard's mother, Agnes, was the daughter of Ernest Harold Walpole Hurlston and his wife Hester. Ernest was the brother of Amy Hurlston, born in Coventry in 1865, and one-time 'Lady Editor' of the Sheffield Weekly Telegraph and regular contributor to The Lady, The Queen and The Gentlewoman publications. A number of letters contained in this collection were written from Amy to Ernest and Hester.

Howard read Chemistry and Physics and was awarded a BSc from Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg. He began hammer throwing in 1955 and was fascinated by the event and its technicalities. He represented Rhodesia at the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games where he finished fourth with a distance of 56.40. He settled in the UK in 1959, allegedly in search of better hammer throwing competition. He spent three years at the University of Birmingham studying for an MSc in Physics. In 1960 he won his first cap for Britain at the age of 29 when he finished third at a meeting against France with a distance of 58.78.

Payne won a total of 61 caps for Great Britain.
which was an impressive number considering his late start. He set a total of seven UK records, one of the best being at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games where a 68.06 throw took him into the final. He was subsequently placed tenth with a distance of 67.62. His best European Championships result was eighth, in 1969, but various Commonwealth Games saw some of his best performances and he won three titles: in 1962, 1966 and 1970. He came second in 1974. Payne achieved his ambition of throwing over 70 metres with a personal best of 70.88 which enabled him to win a match against Poland and Canada in Warsaw in 1974: he was 43. He won five AAA titles, was a medallist fifteen times and won twelve Inter-Counties Championships representing Warwickshire. He won nine Midlands titles between 1960 and 1972.

Payne married his first wife Thelma in South Africa during the 1950s. The couple divorced and he subsequently married the discus thrower (Christine) Rosemary Charters, known as Bud, on 5 February 1960. Later that year the couple had twin boys, Andrew and Russell. In his work life, after being awarded an MSc from the University of Birmingham he held positions in industry and as a school master. He later returned to the University of Birmingham as a lecturer in Physical Education. He was involved with the Birmingham University Athletics Club and was a member of Birchfield Harriers. He had a distinguished publishing record, being the author, co-author or editor of eight works on hammer throwing, weight training and athletics between 1969 and 1990. He was a one-time President of The Hammer Circle. Howard Payne died on 1 February 1992.

Papers of Howard Payne


Arrangement: These papers have been arranged into the following 3 series: athletics programmes; correspondence; and material relating to published works on athletics.

1 standard box (comprising 7 files and 39 items)

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Notes: Old references: HP; 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: Payne, Andrew Howard (1931-1992), athlete

Custodial history: This collection was previously in the custody of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL).

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
Papers of Howard Payne

of personal papers of athletes, athletics administrators, journalists and others associated with the athletics world.

Catalogues of the institutional archives available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:


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


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;


Lloyd-Edgley, Ralph: scrapbook, [c 1924]-[c 1931].

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Finding No: ATH/RLE;


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;


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;


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


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

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


The department also holds copies of Payne's books 'Hammer throwing', 1969 (reference: r GV 1094.5 P); 'Proceedings of a workshop on the science of hammer throwing, held on 28th April 1989 at the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, University of Birmingham', edited by Howard Payne, 1989 (reference: r q GV 1094.5.P76); and 'The science of track and field athletics' by Howard and Rosemary Payne, 1981 (reference: r GV 1060.5 P).

ATH/HP/1 Athletics programmes 1967-1975

Small collection of athletics programmes relating to meetings organised by, or held at, the University of Birmingham and involving the Birmingham University Athletics Club. Some programmes carry manuscript annotations and provide brief details of staff and students at the University.

4 items

Access: Open

ATH/HP/1/1 Athletics programme: track and field 10 May 1967

'Birmingham University (past and present) versus Amateur Athletic Association' held at Birmingham University Track, Edgbaston. Includes images of Birmingham University Athletics Club 1966-1967, uncaptioned; Aggrey Burke; Rod Morrod; Peter McMahon and Dinshaw Irani.

1 item

Access: Open

ATH/HP/1/2 Athletics programme: track and field 6 May [1970]
Papers of Howard Payne

'Birmingham University Athletics Club versus The Amateur Athletics Association' held at the University of Birmingham Athletics Track, Edgbaston. With minor manuscript annotations.


1 item
Access: Open

ATH/HP/1/3 Athletics programme: track and field 16 June 1974

'International Athletics: Birmingham University (past and present) versus Cornell, Pennsylvania' held at the University Track, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston. Includes images of C. Boreham, Ian Gilmore, Jack Lane and R. Smedley.

1 item
Access: Open

ATH/HP/1/4 Athletics programme: track and field 15 June 1975

'International Athletics: University of Birmingham past and present versus Harvard-Yale (men) and Irish AAA (women)' held at the University Track, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston. With manuscript annotations. Includes an article regarding Birmingham University Women's Athletics Club (BUWAC).

Includes image of Howard Payne, Bob Giegengack, Professor Maurice Stacey and Dr Kenneth W. Humphries, librarian and president of the University Athletics Club.

1 item
Access: Open

ATH/HP/2 Correspondence 1899-1975
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Family correspondence comprising a small number of letters sent to Ernest and Hester Hurlston [maternal grandparents of Howard Payne] from Amy Hurlston, 1899-1902; and letters sent from Howard Payne and family to his mother, Agnes, during the mid-20th century.

35 items

Access: Open

ATH/HP/2/1 Correspondence sent to Ernest and Hester Hurlston 1899-1902

Correspondence between members of the Hurlston family during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Letters are primarily written by Amy Hurlston to her brother, Ernest, and sister-in-law, Hester, in South Africa. Ernest and Hester being the maternal grandparents of Howard Payne. The letters discuss family relationships and concerns including the health of Amy and Ernest's sister, Cissie [Selina Cecily] who died in 1899. Comprises:

/1: letter from Amy Hurlston to her brother, Ernest, addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: expresses surprise at Ernest's recent marriage and wishes him happiness stating 'companionship means so much in life and lonliness is so horrible even when one lives for others'. States that Cissie [their sister, Selina Cecily] took the news badly and describes Cissie's failing health. Refers to 'grave crisis' in South Africa' and prays war may be averted and gives her opinion on the 'South African question'. 6 October 1899

/2: letter from Amy Hurlston to her sister-in-law [Hester], addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: expresses surprise at Hester's recent marriage to her brother and wishes her 'a thousand congratulations'. Hopes the couple will soon visit England as sister Cissie is dangerously ill. 6 October 1899

/3: letter from Amy Hurlston to Hester Hurlston, addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: glad to hear that Hester and Ernest 'had survived the horrors of that awful siege' [Siege of Mafeking]. Asks whether she has lived long in Kimberley or only since her marriage and whether Ernest is working in business. Refers to the death of Cissie
whom she describes as 'our baby' and mentions her parents. 12 April 1900

/4: letter from E. Hurlston to her daughter-in-law, Hester: refers to Ernest's health and the 'cruel war' in South Africa. States they are lonely following Cissie's death. 12 July [1900]

/5: letter from Amy Hurlston to her sister-in-law, Hester, addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: expresses pleasure at learning Hester's recent news [pregnancy] and sends a parcel including a nightgown. Regrets that other clothes had been donated to the Benedictine nuns to sell at a bazaar. Requests that Ernest writes home: 'it is rather unkind of him but he never was a very good correspondent'. Please to receive photographs and hopes to meet soon. States that her mother is planning to visit relatives in Coventry. 13 July 1900

/6: letter from Amy Hurlston to her brother, Ernest, addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: refers to her recent poor health and regrets this is a short letter. Sends love to 'the two dear little people' [Ernest's children] and 'tell the new Amy that the old Amy is sending her a lovely dollie and a little bracelet for Christmas'. 31 October 1902

/7: letter from Amy Hurlston to Ernest and Hester, addressed from 240 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield: encloses a photograph of herself. Hopes the couple will visit soon and suggests her namesake [her niece, Amy] may stay when she is older. Refers to Jack visiting England [possibly Amy and Ernest's brother, John]. Mentions her health and visiting a specialist in Birmingham before going abroad to recuperate. 7 November 1902

7 items

Access: Open

ATH/HP/2/2 Correspondence sent to Agnes Payne and family 1940-1975

Correspondence primarily sent from Howard Payne to his mother, Agnes, in South Africa. The collection also includes some letters written to Agnes from her daughter-in-law Rosemary (Bud) and her grandchildren Andrew and Russell. There are also a small number of items sent to Payne's
sister, Rhona Wheedon. Evidence from these letters indicates that Agnes Payne re-married [before 1956] and became Mrs Doug Scott.

Majority of correspondence dates from 1960s and 1970s although there are some earlier items including two papers relating to Howard and Rhona's schooling at Jeppe High School, Johannesburg. Taken as a whole, the letters focus on family relationships including Howard's marriage to Bud and provides news relating to family members including the couple's twin boys and Bud's relatives in Scotland. There are occasional mentions of life in South Africa and concerns with the political situation. There are also references to both Howard's and Bud's athletic careers and there are mentions of the couple's attendance at various meetings, including Howard's at weight-lifting contests. In addition, there are references to the Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

Papers include:

/1: mark sheet for Jeppe High School for Girls including name Rhona Payne, 4 October 1940

/2: financial statement for H[oward] Payne from Jeppe High School for Boys, 10 October 1940

/4: letter from Howard Payne to Mrs W. H. [Rhona] Wheedon, addressed from Rhodesia: discusses a recent hammer throw competition where 'I let a bronze medal slip through my fingers' [at 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Cardiff]. Describes life at the camp and celebrations held; and a reception given to athletes in the House of Lords, Westminster. 30 July 1958

/5: letter from Howard Payne to his mother, addressed from Evesham: informs her that he and Bud [Rosemary Charters] were married at Birmingham Registry Office today following his divorce. Describes the ceremony and will send a photograph. 5 February 1960

/8: letter from Howard Payne to his mother, addressed from Tokyo: describes his arrival in Tokyo [prior to the 1964 Olympic Games] and his thoughts about the city. Mentions the forthcoming competition: 'I am no longer a big fish in a little
Papers of Howard Payne

/9: letter from Howard Payne to his mother, addressed from Birmingham: mentions attending an event with the Prime Minister at Lancaster House, Pall Mall [for athletes who competed in the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games]. Describes meeting Harold Wilson. Attended a function at Buckingham but 'the food was awful. People couldn't eat the pudding it was so stiff and tasteless'. Shook hands with HM Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles and Princess Anne and spoke to Princess Margaret and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester [Princess Alice]. 20 December 1968

/19: letter from Howard Payne to his mother, addressed from Zambia: describes travel to and from Zambia and confirms that fears about his safety in Lusaka 'were unfounded' [during a stay with the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)]. Set a new all-comers record for the hammer throw. 10 May 1975

/23: letter from Howard Payne to his mother, addressed from Birmingham: mentions that Bud has recently been offered the position of 'team manageress' of Great Britain's women's team going to the Europa Cup athletics in Bulgaria. 6 July 1975

/26: letter from Bud to Howard Payne, addressed from Birmingham: concerning [Agnes'] house clearance in South Africa following her death whilst on holiday with Howard and Bud. 9 September 1975

28 items
Access: Open

ATH/HP/3 Material relating to published works on athletics

Comprises manuscript and typescript drafts of Payne's book 'Hammer throwing' which was published in 1969. Also included are a substantial number of unrelated photographs depicting various aspect of high jumping.

7 files
Access: Open
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Draft chapters</td>
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<td>Photographs</td>
<td>[c 1975]</td>
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<td>Photographs, depicting athletic techniques for the high jump, collected by Howard Payne. Subjects include Payne’s son Andrew demonstrating straddle, scissors and Fosbury techniques.</td>
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Comprises 8 images
1 file
Access: Open

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Comprises 12 images
1 file
Access: Open