

# **Papers of Squire Yarrow**

**Reference:  
ATH/SY**

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1938-1984

Papers collected by the athlete and athletics administrator Squire Yarrow. The collection includes a small number of athletics programmes relating to meetings in which Yarrow participated during the 1930s and 1940s. There are articles and newspaper cuttings concerning his athletics career as well ephemera comprising an autograph book, certificates, badges, menu cards and orders of service.

**Administrative history:** Squire Yarrow was born on 28 July 1905, his birth registered in Hackney. At the outbreak of World War One the family moved to Epping Forest, near to Wanstead Park. As a young boy he utilised the park and became a keen walker and runner. He was played hockey, cricket, squash and boxing. Following a motorcycle accident in the 1930s he took up running seriously and joined Polytechnic Harriers. Throughout this decade he ran in every Poly and Middlesex team bar one, focusing on running three, six and ten miles on the track. Squire regularly finished in second place and was a runner-up to Wally Clift, Bob Hadland, Percy Bull and Maurice Carr amongst others.

In 1938 he decided to focus on road racing and entered the 'Finchley 20', finishing second to O'Sullivan of Herne Hill. He finished second in the Polytechnic Harriers Marathon and was selected for the first ever British team to run in the European Championships, held that year in Paris. He won the silver medal in the marathon race with a time of 2 hours, 39 minutes and 3 seconds. Following the Second War, Squire attended the 1946 European Championships in Oslo. Here, aged 41, he finished seventh in the marathon race on a course which was later discovered to be one and a quarter miles short. Following the Oslo meeting, Squire and Sydney Wooderson formed the Smestad Club, intended to comprise all the British team members and enabling the group to keep in touch. Later, all full internationals were admitted and the Club held an anniversary dinner. This kept going until the formation of the IAC. He also worked alongside Ernest Neville and assisted with the formation of a club for marathon runners, the Road Runners Club.

As an administrator, Squire represented Polytechnic Harriers on the Middlesex committee and was the editor of the county handbook until 1939. He was assistant team manager to Great Britain's 1948 Olympic Games team. In 1950 he settled in the Midlands and was involved with Staffordshire County and Midlands administration. This

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led to membership of various AAA committees and the Chairmanship of Coaching, Development and Facilities. He later became Vice-President and then President of the AAA in 1978, succeeding Harold Abrahams. He took great interest in the AAA's Five Star Award Scheme held in schools; was director and referee of the London Marathon from its inception; and was also one-time President of Victoria Park Harriers.

Squire Yarrow died on 11 April 1984.

Sources: papers of Squire Yarrow; Free Births, Marriages and Deaths website accessed 8 October 2014 from <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>; Victoria Park Harriers website accessed 8 October 2014 from <http://www.vphthac.org.uk/history/vph-history-03.html>

**Arrangement:** These papers have been arranged into the following 3 series:

athletics programmes;

articles, newspaper cuttings and photograph;

ephemera

1 standard box (comprising 1 volume, 1 file and 35 items)

Access: Open

**Access conditions:** Access to all registered researchers.

**Notes:** Old references: SY; NCAL XXV.Y2

**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](mailto: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 Norwegian

**Creator name:** Yarrow, Squire Stevens (1905-1984), athlete and athletics administrator

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**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, October 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 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: MCAAA;

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;

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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]-[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;

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Vargas, Charles Climaco (1905-1975), athlete: papers, 1921-31. Finding No: ATH/CCV;

Ward, Leonard H., athletics coach: papers, [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.

ATH/SY/1	Athletics programmes	1938-1946
	Three athletics programmes from meetings attended by Squire Yarrow during the 1930s and 1940s.	
	3 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/1/1	Athletics programme: track and field	18 June 1938
	Polytechnic Harriers 'Kinnaird Trophy and Marathon Race Meeting' held at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick. With manuscript annotations.	
	Squire Yarrow is listed as a competitor in the marathon race.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/1/2	Athletics programme: road racing	15 June 1946
	Polytechnic Harriers 'Marathon Race' starting from Windsor Castle. Lists officials and competitors. Also certifies that Squire Yarrow finished fifth with a time of 2 hours, 43 minutes and 27 seconds.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	

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ATH/SY/1/3	<p>Athletics programme: track and field</p> <p>22-25 August 1946</p> <p>European Championships held in Oslo.</p> <p>Squire Yarrow is listed as a competitor in the marathon race.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> <p><b>Language:</b> Norwegian</p>
ATH/SY/2	<p>Articles, newspaper cuttings and photograph</p> <p>1979-1984</p> <p>Small number of articles, newspaper cuttings and photograph collected by, or relating to, Squire Yarrow.</p> <p>8 items</p> <p>Access: Open</p>
ATH/SY/2/1	<p>Articles</p> <p>[c 1980]</p> <p>Comprises:</p> <p>/1: 'Squire Yarrow Elected AAA President' by Mel Watman, cutting taken from 'Athletics Weekly', 18 November [1978]</p> <p>/2: Autobiography 'Squire Yarrow, President AAA' with accompanying notes [written by John Bromhead] for oral history</p> <p>2 items</p> <p>Access: Open</p>
ATH/SY/2/2	<p>Newspaper cuttings</p> <p>1980-1984</p> <p>Small number of newspaper cuttings including image of Squire Yarrow and the Marquess of Exeter [Lord Burghley] at the unveiling of a plaque to mark the centenary of the AAA; and cuttings reporting the death of Squire Yarrow and providing brief biographical details, 1984.</p> <p>5 items</p>

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	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/2/3	Photograph	1979
	Image of Squire Yarrow with Ken [Dawe], President of Midland Counties Cross-Country Association; Jack Holden; and George White, President Elect of the English Cross-Country Union, October 1979.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/3	Ephemera	1938-[late 20th century]
	Papers collected by, or relating to, Squire Yarrow comprising autograph book; certificates; menu cards and dinner invitations; orders of service; and badges.	
	1 volume, 1 file and 24 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/3/1	Autograph book	[mid-late 20th century]
	Signatures of athletes and footballers including Alan Pennington; A. G. K. [Godfrey] Brown; Bert Williams [Wolverhampton Wanderers and England goalkeeper]; Tom Richards, second in marathon at 1948 Olympic Games; Stanley Jones; Diane Leather. Signatures of unidentified competitors at 1930 Empire Games; 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games; 1936 Berlin Olympic Games; 1938 AAA marathon; 1948 London Olympic Games; and European Championships, 1950s. Also includes an image of J. Holden, 1951	
	Volume partially used.	
	1 volume	
	Access: Open	
ATH/SY/3/2	Certificates and booklet of participation	1938-1946
	Comprises booklet of participation and time certificates awarded to Squire Yarrow:	
	/1: Booklet of participation at the 1938 European Championships held in Paris, 3-5 September 1938. Includes an image and signature of Yarrow.	

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/2: Finchley Harriers 20-Miles Open Road Race, 6 April 1940

/3: Polytechnic Harriers Marathon Race, 15 June 1940

/4: Finchley Harriers 20-Miles Open Road Race, 26 April 1941

/5: Polytechnic Harriers Marathon Race, 20 June 1942

/6: Inter-Counties Team Race in conjunction with Finchley Harriers 20-Miles Open Road Race, 27 April 1946

/7: Kent County Amateur Athletic Association 20-Miles Open Road Race, 25 May 1946

7 items

Access: Open

ATH/SY/3/3      Menu cards and dinner invitations      1979-1983

Various menu cards and invitations to dinners attended by Squire Yarrow between 1979 and 1983. The majority of invitations relate to dinners held during the centenary year of the AAA, 1980, when Squire Yarrow was President. Some cards carry signatures of attendees.

1 file

Access: Open

ATH/SY/3/4      Orders of service      1980-1984

Comprises:

/1: Service of Thanksgiving for Sam Ferris, George Harrup and Syd Walter. 6 June 1980

/2: Geoffrey Dyson, [February] 1981

/3: Rupert Charles Montacute Nevill, 15 November 1982

/4: Philip Noel-Baker, 25 November 1982

/5: Squire Yarrow, 17 May 1984

5 items

Access: Open

## Papers of Squire Yarrow

ATH/SY/3/5

Badges

[c 1938]-[c 1958]

Various badges, mostly cloth, collected by Squire Yarrow during the course of his athletics career. Includes badges from European Championships, 1938; Middlesex County AAA; AAA Honorary Senior Coach; 1948 London Olympic Games; officials badge for 1958 Cardiff British Empire and Commonwealth Games. Also includes metal commemorative badge from 1948 London Olympic Games.

12 items

Access: Open