



Papers of Wilf Richards

Reference: ATH/WR

Papers of Wilf Richards

ATH/WR

Papers of Wilf Richards

1924-[mid
20th
century]

Papers compiled by the athlete and journalist Wilf Richards. The collection comprises scrapbooks; collected articles and newspaper cuttings; photographs and correspondence. The scrapbooks, compiled by Wilf Richards, cover the 1920s-1940s and comprehensively reflect many major athletics events during this time. There is heavy coverage of middle distance and long distance running, especially the marathon, although other aspects of running are also reflected. There is coverage of both international and home events and there is material relating to the 1924 Paris Olympic Games and 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. In addition, there is material relating to various contemporary athletes including significant material relating to Arthur Newton, Joe Binks, Emil Zátopek and Paavo Nurmi.

Administrative history: Wilf Richards was an athlete and journalist based in Manchester. He was born in Longside, near Manchester on 31 January 1906. From 1947 to 1959 he was editor of the publication 'Athletic Review'. He was also one-time European editor for 'Distance Running News'. He was secretary of Manchester Athletic Club when its base was at Fallowfield Stadium. He became a leading coach, was mentor to the athlete Joe Lancaster and did much to advance and promote athletics within the north-west of England. As a consequence, annual races at a local level have been named after him.

2 standard boxes (comprising 4 volumes, 2 files and 34 items)

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Notes: Old references: WR;

Papers of Wilf Richards

NCALXXV.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 Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult.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: Richards, Wilf (b 1906), athlete and journalist

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, July 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

Papers of Wilf Richards

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 and athletics administrator:
papers, 1936-1976. Finding No: HA;

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-c 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;

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

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:

Papers of Wilf Richards

ATH/HP;

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

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;

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;

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

Information about other collections of personal papers of the following will also be added in the future:

George Mair Adam (1898-1989), athletics administrator: papers. Finding No: GA.

ATH/WR/1	Correspondence	1927-1961
	Small volume of correspondence addressed to Wilf Richards from Joe Binks, Scott Hamilton and Arthur Newton.	
	23 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/WR/1/1	Correspondence from Joe Binks	1927-1946
	Letters addressed from Joe Binks' office at the 'News of the World' over a period of almost 20 years. In the correspondence Binks suggests that Wilf Richards should make an effort with the marathon, in 1927, in preparation for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games; advises	

Papers of Wilf Richards

Richards follows Arthur Newton's training advice, 'get out every day [...] never go faster than half-racing pace'; promotes slow runs during training; and refers to giving Nic Lewis, 'a West of England runner', a chance to beat the 25 mile track record in April 1941.

Some letters were written during the Second World War and refer to Richards being in Belgium during 1944. Binks notes that he is not permitted to send money out of the country and hence people are unable to subscribe to the American publication 'The Amateur Athlete'.

16 items

Access: Open

ATH/WR/1/2

Correspondence from Scott Hamilton

1960-1961

Two letters from Scott Hamilton, a distance runner. Comprises:

/1: Hamilton refers to a request from Wilf Richards to write an article about athletics on the European continent. Hamilton writes that he has qualified as an architect and is trying to secure employment in various countries across Europe. Hopes that gaining employment would not terminate his 'distance running at the age of 32'. Refers to Alvar Aalto of Helsinki and mentions the climate would be ideal for competing. Provides further details of his athletics career in America and England. 13 May 1960

/2: Hamilton refers to his work with Aalto; discusses work and personal relationships; suggests he will have to forsake athletics at the age of 33 due to professional demands; mentions working with four members of the [Finnish] Olympic kayak team's winter training schedule in running; refers to Al Lawrence, Gar Williams, Ralph Eilberg and others. 1 May 1961

Papers of Wilf Richards

2 items

Access: Open

ATH/WR/1/3

Correspondence from Arthur Newton

1958-1959

Small collection of informal correspondence to Wilf Richards from Arthur Newton. Subjects include references to Newton walking 132 miles in one week due to cold weather; submissions for publication [for 'Athletics Review']; in April 1958 Newton writes that he has invested in a television set with excellent pictures from BBC and ITV as well as referring to the Empire Games and Finchley 20; mentions [Percy] Cerutti and learning the skill of running, 'I cannot see that running is in any way different to any other sport so far as learning goes'; refers to [Joe] Lancaster and his health; lists South Africans competing in the London to Brighton race, 1959; and refers to [Jackie] Mekler.

5 items

Access: Open

ATH/WR/2

Scrapbooks

[c 1924]-
[1940s]

Four scrapbooks compiled by Wilf Richards during the 1920s-1940s. The majority of articles relate to track and field athletics although there are some references to cross-country racing and fell running. There are a number of articles concerning the Olympic Games and a significant amount of material relating to contemporary athletes and their achievements.

4 volumes

Access: Open

ATH/WR/2/1

Scrapbook

[c 1924]-[c
1929]

Undated volume mainly comprising newspaper cuttings, many captioned. Articles and images relate to Cyril

Papers of Wilf Richards

Coaffee; S. J. M. Atkinson; Fred R. Gaby; Walter Rangeley; E. Leatherland; D. McLeod Wright; V. Ritola; Albin Stenroos; D. G. A. Lowe; C. E. Blewitt; J. E. Webster; C. R. Griffiths; Paavo Nurmi; Randolph Rose; Ernest Harper; Halland Britton; S. Ferris; E. G. Sutherland; W. Nelson; W. G. George; L. E. Myers; J. E. London; H. B. Stallard; Dr A. Peltzer; George Cummings; Arthur Newton; Dorando; H. Wood; 1924 Paris Olympic Games including Harold Abrahams winning the 100 metres flat race; Hallamshire Harriers; cross-country racing; Arthur Newton's records; and material relating to 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games.

1 volume

Access: Open

Physical description: Covers damaged

ATH/WR/2/2

Scrapbook

[c 1929]

Undated volume mainly comprising unidentified newspaper cuttings. Articles and images relate to Manchester Cross-Country League; East Lancashire League; Manchester Athletic Club; Wigan Harriers; Broughton Harriers; Liverpool Civic Week Marathon, 1928; Review of 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games by Harold M. Abrahams; Sheffield's First Marathon race; Sam Ferris' British marathon record; various races in north-west England; Cross-Country International, 1929; various Midlands meetings; Birchfield Harriers; National Cross-Country Championships, 1929; American Coast-to-Coast Race; AAA Championships, 1929; Arthur Newton and Peter Gavuzzi; Walter George and Paavo Nurmi; Duncan McLeod Wright; W. Rae; H. Eckersley; Alfred Shrubbs; J. E. Webster; Len Hurst; R. E. Cole; T. Evenson; W. M. Cottrell; H. Dartigues; D. W. Smith; T. S. Dixon; H. Stourton; E. Harper; T. Kay; Lord Burghley; T.

Papers of Wilf Richards

Grattage; Harold Abrahams; W. B. Howard; George Cummings; E. W. Sullivan; H. M. Osborne; Eddie Tolan; C. Ellis; T. Riddell; Dr Peltzer; H. W. Payne; R. H. Thomas; Douglas Lowe; C. Griffiths; and C. Fisher.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/WR/2/3

Scrapbook

1929-1939

Volume provides substantial coverage of athletics, primarily in England, during the 1930s. A number of articles are dated with the source of their original publication included. Articles and images relate to Hartshead Pike Fell Race, 1929; AAA Championships, 1930; London to Brighton relay, 1930; Sheffield Independent Marathon, 1930; MAC Summer Sports, 1930; article about middle distance running by F. A. M. Webster; Northern Championships, 1930; British Games, 1930; Liverpool Marathon, 1930; Yorkshire Championships, 1931; various articles regarding developments in athletics written by Joe Binks; 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games; National Cross-Country Race, [1932]; Jesse Owens; amateur athletics in northern England; Jack Lovelock; AAA Championships, 1939; Dennis Pell; Sydney Wooderson; White City meeting, [1939]; Jack Holden; Northern races at Leyland, 1939; C. A. J. Emery; Varsity athletics; Women's Championships, 1939; AAA Indoor Championships; Northern Schools Meeting; Public Schools Meeting; young athletes; T. Maki; Paavo Nurmi; A. G. K. [Godfrey] Brown; J. E. Lovelock; Kinnaird Trophy athletics; C. B. Holmes; Birchfield Harriers; East Lancashire Races, 1937; 1936 English Cross-Country Championships; R. W. Dawson; W. B. Howard; E. B. Ham; Clarence de Mar; Ray Conger; George Simpson; Leo Lermond; L. B. Neame; W. E. Eaton; J. T.

Papers of Wilf Richards

Holden.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/WR/2/4

Scrapbook

[1930s]-
[1940s]

Partially used scrapbook primarily containing newspaper cuttings, some of which are dated during the early 1940s. There are a significant number of articles written by Joe Binks including profiles of individual athletes. Includes images and articles about Arthur Newton; W. M. Cottrell; Ernest Harper; Reggie Thomas; Jack Lovelock; Jim Alford; Sydney Wooderson; H. B. Stallard; Douglas Lowe; J. C. Stothard; Tom Hampson; Godfrey L. Rampling; A. G. K. [Godfrey] Brown and reference to brother R. K. Brown and sister Audrey Brown [Court]; Alan Pennington; Bill Roberts; Harry Hutchins; Harold M. Abrahams; Walter Rangeley; F. R. Gaby; T. P. Lavery; John Thornton; D. O. Finlay; Lord Burghley; Harold H. Whitlock; William Edward Eaton; John H. Potts; Tom Payne; Tom Evenson; Pat Dengis; Hardy Ballington; Joe Deakin; and Arthur Sweeney.

Also includes articles concerning marathon training; young athletes; long-distance feats; mountain running up Ben Nevis; track speed; memories of previous Olympics, focusing on 1896 Athens Olympic Games and 1900 Paris Olympic Games; North and South of Thames races; track statistics and records; varsity athletics; Amateur Athletic Association; Comrades race, 1941; Polytechnic Marathon and American Marathon, 1941; cross-country running during the 1930s; various athletics bests and 'wonder runners'.

Pages at rear of volume include images of Paavo Nurmi; Joey Ray; 1936 Berlin Olympic Games and Great Britain's competitors; AAA Championships, White City, 1939; Tilly Fleischer; Jack Lovelock;

Papers of Wilf Richards

Dennis Pell; Blaine Rideout; Bill Bonthron; R. L. Howlands; A. W. Sweeney; J. Hull; H. Wilson; Peter Ward; Godfrey Rampling; A. Pennington; A. W. Selwyn; Mostert; Johnny Woodruff; Jack Emery; Ben Johnson; C. A. J. Emery; Taisto Maeki; Willie Ritola; Wally Beavers; A. N. S. Jackson; Dorando; C. W. Hart; Sydney Wooderson, Joe Binks and Albert Hill; and Birchfield Harriers women's cross-country section.

1 volume

Access: Open

ATH/WR/3

Newspaper cuttings and articles

1929-[c
1970]

Various cuttings and newspaper issues collected by Wilf Richards, many including the date of original publication.

Includes article entitled 'Maxol International Marathon' by Wilf Richards from Distance Running News, September 1969; 'Middle Distance Running' by F. A. M. Webster, The Manchester Guardian, 7 May 1930; articles relating to the ancient Olympic Games; an appreciation of Paavo Nurmi; 'Basic Athletic Principles' by Arthur F. H. Newton; 'A New Outlook for Athletics' by Arthur F. H. Newton; report of 'The Princeton Invitation Meet' by John A. Lucas; pages from The Scots Athlete, World Sports, 1940s; 'Emil Zatopek' by Cordner Nelson; 'Wooderson's Amazing Mile Performance' by Joe Binks; 'Young Marathon Runners' by Bob White, October 1968; an issue of 'Scots Athlete', April 1955; 'The Harrier', 1 November 1930; and 'World Sports', December 1944-January 1945.

Also includes various articles and pieces relating to Road Runners Club; Kipchoge Keino; training issues; women's running; tactics in long distance running; Van Nelson; report from an 'Olympic Tourist' at Mexico, 1968; First International Veteran's Marathon Race' held in Baarn, Holland, 25 May 1968; John Tarrant;

Papers of Wilf Richards

Olympic Teams at 1968 Mexico Games; weight-lifting for distance runners; Dave Bedford; and Percy Cerutti.

1 file

Access: Open

ATH/WR/4

Collected research notes and reminiscences

[mid 20th century]

Miscellaneous research notes, reminiscences and biographies of athletes. The majority of papers are undated. Many are likely to have been written, or compiled, by Wilf Richards. Some papers may have been sent to him for possible publication in 'Athletics Review'. Includes biography of Arthur Newton; typescript article entitled 'Pioneer from the Past' concerning Arthur Newton; research notes about William [Billy] Snook; manuscript notes entitled 'Famous Runners' with biographies of Arthur Newton, Paavo Nurmi, Alfred Shrubbs and Ernest Harper; typescript article entitled 'Emil Zátopek seen by a Doctor'; typescript article entitled 'Emil Zátopek one of the best light athletes of all time'; typescript article concerning Emil Zátopek entitled 'The Most Successful Year of Czechoslovak Light-Athletics'; typescript article entitled 'Lay Off' concerning training methods; typescript list of 'Track Records' at 10, 11, 12, 15, 20 miles, 20,000, 25,000 and 30,000 metres and 1 hour and 2 hours, [late 1950s]; manuscript reminiscences of Norman Ashcroft with accompanying letter, 12 January 1983; typescript profile of Norman Ashcroft by Wilf Richards; typescript article 'Secrets of Running' by Paavo Nurmi, taken from Manchester Evening News, July 1932; typescript article 'The Greatest Ever: being an account of the one mile match between W. G. George and W. Cummings' by Colonel Arthur Lynch.

1 file

Papers of Wilf Richards

	Access: Open	
ATH/WR/5	Photographs Photographs collected by Wilf Richards, some captioned and dated, consisting of family snapshots, a formal portrait photograph and various images of Arthur Newton. 11 items	1924-[mid 20th century]
	Access: Open	
ATH/WR/5/1	Photographs of Wilf Richards and family Comprises a small number of photographs of Wilf Richards including a portrait photograph in military uniform, in sports kit and playing the violin. Also includes a family snapshot. With negatives. 5 items	[1930s]-[1940s]
	Access: Open	
ATH/WR/5/2	Photographs of Arthur Newton Comprises: /1: Arthur Newton, 1924 /2: Newton at 100 miles, having finished, 1934 /3: Newton and Ballington /4: Arthur Newton in action /5: Newton; Fletcher; Ballington, 100 miles road record holder; and McNamara, 100 miles track record holder /6: Photograph of stamps issued for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics [Arthur Newton was a stamp collector] 6 items	1924-[mid 20th century]
	Access: Open	

Papers of Wilf Richards