



west midlands
the regional council
for museums libraries
and archives

Pay and Power Project

The West Midlands Regional Archive Forum, the Heritage Lottery Fund and 14 regional archive repositories have joined forces to run the Pay and Power Project. Providing comprehensive physical and on-line access to information held in the West Midlands' archive collections, the project focuses on 18 collections relating to work and politics from the 12th – 20th centuries.

Project Update

Project Assistant, Helen Fisher, has completed the *Galton Collection* at Birmingham City Archives. **Project Assistant, Daisy Cunynghame**, who joined the team on 2 August, is based at Warwickshire County Record Office and has started cataloguing the *Holbech family records*. **Project Assistant, Ivar Romo**, has now completed cataloguing the *Percy Stallard collection*.



Ivar Romo at Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies

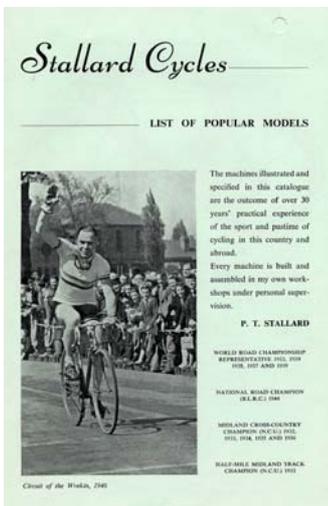
The Percy Stallard Collection

The collection of Stallard's papers held at Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies is uncommonly comprehensive. Percy Stallard entered his first proper cycle race barley 17 years of age, and from then on his devotion to the sport bordered on the fanatical. He was chosen for the British team in the 1933 world championship event in Paris, and again the next year in Leipzig.

The National Cyclists' Union adhered to a strict code of practice laid down in the 1890's. Cyclists competed against each other only on special tracks or on closed roads. By 1942 Stallard could restrain himself no longer, and he organised a massed-start race to be run between Llangollen and Wolverhampton. The NCU had claimed that such an event was against not only their regulations, but against the law. Stallard approached every chief constable through whose district the race would run, and they all gave their approval. The race was a great success.

The NCU responded by suspending the memberships of Stallard and the other riders in the event, which prevented them from entering in official races. Stallard set up the Midland League of Racing Cyclists, and for 17 years until the NCU and BLRC amalgamated into the British Cycling Federation, cyclists had to choose allegiance and compete only where their allegiance allowed. Stallard's last triumph came in 1944 when he won the BLRC British Championship, and from then on

he began to focus his energy on his bicycle business. He designed a range of lightweight cycles and hired a team of mechanics to assemble them in the workshop at 30 Broad Street. He managed to stay in business for nearly forty years.



For more information about the Stallard archives please contact:

Peter Evans, City Archivist.

Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies, 42-50 Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AG.

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/archives

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