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## **Living the Streets**

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List of the historical records  
of the  
Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety

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### List of the historical records of the Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety

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It has also organised a number of conferences to publicise its causes. In 1948 and 1949, for instance, its conference themes were 'The Safety of the Pedestrian' and 'The Safety of Young Children on the Road'. Furthermore the Association has launched such enterprises as the National Road Safety Poll whereby local authorities were circularised with questionnaires to obtain general information and their views on such subjects as pedestrian crossings and motor speed. Other practical work has included the investigation of known 'danger spots'. The press has always publicised the work of the Pedestrians' Association, and the Association itself has conducted or sponsored advertising campaigns. In 1953 for instance, it persuaded the Ministry of Transport to commission an anti-drinking poster from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Moreover it has produced a newsletter or a journal since 1931, which has included details of the Association's work and has done much to highlight the position of the pedestrian, whose interests (it claims) have all too often been subjugated to those of the motorist.

The Pedestrians' Association has also taken a close interest in establishing National Parks and increasing public access to open spaces. It helped to secure, in the Road Traffic Act of 1930, the prohibition of motoring over downs and commons; and in the same year submitted written and verbal evidence to the National Parks Committee. Although the main burden of the fight was carried by the CPRE and the 'open air' societies, the Association has been represented on the Standing Committee on National Parks since its creation in 1936. Furthermore, officials of a number of other organisations have served as Vice-Presidents or on the Committee of the Pedestrians' Association. For example, Cecil Harmsworth and Sir Lawrence Chubb, respectively Chairman and Secretary of the Commons Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, were Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Association; while Mr G R Mitchell, General Secretary of the Federation of Rambling Clubs, was an early member of the Executive Committee. The interest of the Pedestrians' Association in amenity matters however has been limited.

The Association is governed primarily by an Executive Committee consisting of 16 members elected by the Annual General Meeting and 8 representatives of affiliated organisations. In addition, it has a number of subcommittees charged with such matters as finance, publicity, etc. There are also active local branches of the Association, for example, in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Brighton and Merseyside. Bodies affiliated to the Association from its early years include the Cyclists Touring Club, the Youth Hostels Association and Holiday Fellowship. The subscriptions and donations of these bodies have been one of the Association's major sources of income; and it has only been with their continued support that it has been able to campaign successfully for the recognition of the needs and interests of the pedestrian. It has never had a large membership from the general public since its cause does not have the attraction of other issues. Nor does it provide many facilities or services other than free legal advice. Consequently, individuals' subscriptions have never provided a large income. From 1949, however, there has been financial support from another direction. Since 1945 the Pedestrians' Association has been represented (by invitation) on a number of local authority road safety committees set up following recommendations of the Ministry of Transport. As a result, local authorities were given the power to subscribe to the Association under the Local Government Act (1949).

The Association itself is affiliated to a number of bodies, including the National Council of Women, the Committee for Environmental Conservation, the National Council for Inland Transport and the Council for the Protection of

Rural England (from as early as 1931). It also plays an active role in the International Federation of Pedestrians, which was formed in 1963

#### Bibliography

Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety publications  
W Plowden, The Motor Car and Politics 1896-1970, 1971

#### Notes on the historical records

The Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety has retained a small archive.

- 1 Financial records date mainly from the 1970s, with only a ledger from before this date (1950-1965)
- 2 The formal administrative records, however, are more complete. Minutes of the Committee (which met monthly) have survived from 1931, although those for the years 1962-1969 appear to be missing. (They are in book form for the years 1931-1936, and also include some AGM minutes; the remainder consist of loose sheets which also include other printed material such as the secretary's reports.)
- 3 Publications and publicity material survive in larger quantities, although these are by no means complete. Annual reports survive for most years from 1930, and provide a very useful source for the work of the Association. Bound copies of its newsletter and quarterly journal (which replaced the newsletter in 1951) are available for the periods 1931-1938, 1946-1963 and 1970-1972. Loose copies survive which supplement most of the periods not covered by the bound volumes. These official publications provide much valuable information about the progress and activities of the Association. For example, they contain letters from members, details of publications and reports of committees and of annual meetings and conferences. They also include details of the work of local committees, press recordings of road accidents, questions and discussions in Parliament affecting the Association's interests, articles about traffic matters and items of general news of the Association.

Very few of the Association's other publications survive. It has, however, retained copies of a number of its early posters, and also possesses a videotape of the BBC TV programme entitled 'Feet First' filmed about the Association for the Open Door Series (1977). This describes the 'preventable epidemic' of road casualties, tells of the Association's 50 years of campaigning, and shows what can be done today to make towns and cities safer for the pedestrian.

Finally, the Association has retained copies of a number of miscellaneous maps, publications and reports relating to its work and to the work of similar bodies. These date mainly to the 1960s and 1970s.

- 4 The social and personal material comprises seven volumes of press cuttings, (Dec 1929-May 1931) which contain material relating to the national activities of the Association; one volume of cuttings from local papers (1933-1937) relating to activities of the Association outside London, such as meetings, speeches and inquiries and also to the setting up of local branches of the Association; and a press cutting volume of the Manchester and Salford District Branch, c 1929-1930.

The Association also possesses a miscellaneous collection of black and white photographs relating to its work, which probably date from c 1930.

### Archival note

The aim of this list has been to provide a general guide to the records of Pedestrians' Association sufficient in detail and explanation to indicate to researchers their content and potential. Items have therefore been described in a summary fashion and not in great depth. The Association has been allocated its own individual identity code (PA), and its records have been listed according to function; (that is, they have been divided into financial records, administrative records, publications and social and personal material). Items have been given a running number for retrieval and information purposes.

Until fairly recently, the Pedestrians' Association shared the offices of the Commons Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society and some of its archive was stored by the latter Society. This material was to have been moved once the Association removed to its present premises with the Ramblers' Association. However, it was listed at the Commons Society offices, and although it has been incorporated in the list with the rest of the archive, it is differentiated from it by means of an asterisk.

### Location and access

The Association is willing in principle to make its archives available for academic research. Applications for access should be made in writing to the Chairman of the Association, 1 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JL.

### Papers of T C Foley

Mr T C Foley, the original Secretary of the Pedestrians' Association and subsequently Chairman and Honorary Consultant, remained closely associated with the organisation until his death in 1979. His papers are to be given into the possession of the Association, and may be made available for academic research.

A FINANCIAL RECORDS

- 1 Ledger, Jan 1950-Jan 1965
- 2 Cash Book, Feb 1976-Dec 1978
- 3 Petty Cash Book, Apr 1963-Sep 1978
- 4 File containing petty cash vouchers, receipts, returned cheques, advice notes of dividend or interest payments etc, 1976
- 5 File containing petty cash vouchers, receipts, cheques, statements, etc, 1977

## B ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

### I Minutes

- 1 Minutes, Committee, Jan 1931-May 1934\*
- 2 Minutes, Committee, Jun 1934-Apr 1936\*
- 3 Minutes, Committee, May 1936-Mar 1938\*
- 4 Minutes, Committee, May 1938-Apr 1940\*
- 5 Minutes, Committee, May 1940-Apr 1947\*
- 6 Minutes, Committee, May 1947-Apr 1950\*
- 7 Minutes, Committee, May 1950-Apr 1952\*
- 8 Minutes, Committee, Oct 1952-Oct 1956\*
- 9 Minutes, Committee, Oct 1956-Dec 1961\*
- 10 Minutes, Executive Committee, Feb 1970-Jan 1972
- 11 Minutes, Executive Committee, Jan 1972-Jul 1974
- 12 Minutes, Executive Committee, Jul 1974-Jun 1976
- 13 Minutes, Executive Committee, Sep 1976-Dec 1978

### II Other

- 1 File containing agenda and minutes of the Executive Committee, memoranda, Secretary's reports, draft Annual Reports, and various circulars and reports, May 1969-Nov 1971



## C PUBLICATIONS

### I Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, 1930-1974

Those reports for 1933, 1935, 1969 and 1971 are missing. Since 1974, they have not been published separately, but with the Association's journal, Arrive.

### II Newsletter and Journal

- 1 Bound volume entitled Quarterly News Bulletin containing Occasional News Letter no 1-10, Dec 1931-Oct 1934; and Quarterly News Bulletin (published in Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct), no 11-26, Jan 1935-Oct 1938
- 2 Bound volume of the Quarterly News Letter (published in Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct), no 51-72, Jan 1946-Apr 1951 (2 copies)
- 3 Bound volume of The Pedestrian, Quarterly Journal of the Pedestrians' Association (published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn), no 1-18, Summer 1951-Autumn 1955
- 4 Bound Volume of The Pedestrian, Quarterly Journal of the Pedestrians' Association, no 19-34, Winter 1956-Autumn 1959
- 5 Bound volume of The Pedestrian, Quarterly Journal of the Pedestrians' Association, no 35-50, Winter 1960-Autumn 1963
- 6 Bound volume of Arrive (published three times a year in Jan, May and Sep), no 1-10, Winter 1970-Sep 1972

The Association has also retained unbound copies which almost complete the set of its Newsletters and Journal

- 7 Occasional News Letter, no 1-6, Dec 1931-Oct 1933; no 8, Apr 1934; no 10, Oct 1934\*
- 8 Quarterly News Bulletin, no 11-21, Jan 1935-Jul 1937; no 23-26, Jan-Oct 1938\*
- 9 Quarterly Newsletter, no 23-41, Jan 1938-Oct 1942; no 43-44, Jun-Oct 1943; no 47-72, Oct 1944-Apr 1951\*
- 10 The Pedestrian, no 7-8, Winter-Spring 1953; no 11-17, Winter 1954-Summer 1955; no 19-22, Winter-Autumn 1956; no 24-33, Spring 1957-Summer 1959; no 33-51, Winter 1960-Winter 1964; no 54-58, Autumn 1964-Autumn 1965; no 60-64, Spring 1966-Spring 1967\*
- 11 Arrive, no 1-10 and vol 2 no 1-15, Winter 1970-Nov 1977

### III Other publications of the Pedestrians' Association

- 1 Sir Max Beerbohm, The Fetish of Speed (Broadcasted in 1936 under the title of Speed and printed in the Listener; part published by the Pedestrians' Association as a leaflet)
- 2 Safety of Young Children on the Road. Report of the Westminster Conference convened by the Pedestrians' Association, 1949
- 3 T C Foley, 'The Mirage of Cars for All. Only public transport can solve our traffic safety problems'. Reprinted from The Pedestrian, no 47, Winter 1963\*
- 4 The Lorry and the Community. Report of a public meeting held Nov 13th 1969
- 5 National Road Safety Poll (no 2). Motor Speed nd (published on the basis of returns issued by the Association to local authorities)

#### IV Posters

Copies of 8 Association posters (2 also in Welsh), nd. Captions include 'Streets Are For People', 'Speed Kills', 'Pedestrians Defend Your Rights', 'Cut Speed At Night', 'Control your Speed', 'Keep Watching When Crossing', 'Slow Down and Live', and 'Pause and Look'.

#### V Other miscellaneous publications

The Association has retained a small number of publications other than its own. These include copies of several editions of the Highway Code (from 1931), a copy each of T C Foley's The Pace that Kills, 1934, of Road Sense for Children written by Major C V Godfrey, 1937 and of Pedestrian Protection, published by the American Automobile Association Safety and Traffic Engineering Department, 1939. The majority, however, are of much more recent date and consist largely of government, conference and technical reports on the subject of road safety and highway planning.

## D SOCIAL AND PERSONAL MATERIAL

### I Press cuttings

- 1 General press cutting volume, Dec 1929-Jan 1930\*
- 2 General press cutting volume, Jan-May 1930\*
- 3 General press cutting volume, May-Aug 1930\*
- 4 General press cutting volume, Aug 1930-Jan 1931\*
- 5 General press cutting volume, Jan 1931-Jul 1932\*
- 6 General press cutting volume, Sep 1932-Dec 1933\*
- 7 General press cutting volume, Dec 1933-May 1936\*
- 8 Volume of local newspaper cuttings relating to the setting up of local committees of the Association (for example, Croydon 1933, Merseyside 1933 and Newcastle and District, 1934); and to speeches, meetings, inquiries etc held in the localities, Sep 1933-Jan 1937  
The first 10 pages are missing
- 9 Press cutting volume of the Manchester and Salford District branch, c 1929-1930\*

### II Photographs\*

The Association has retained a small selection of miscellaneous black and white photographs, c 1930-1960

### III Film

The Association possesses a videotape of an 'Open Door' BBC programme entitled 'Feet First', 1977

This describes the preventable epidemic of road casualties, tells of the Association's 50 years of campaigning and shows what can be done today to make towns and cities safer for pedestrians