

U DX113 Papers of Sydney and Maude Buckman 1894-2000
relating to the Rational Dress Movement
and Cycling for Women

Historical Background:

Founded in February 1897 the first meeting of the Western Rational Dress Club was held at the home of its secretary, Sydney Buckman, in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, on 6 May 1897. At least seven such clubs were in existence by September of that year, and notable national supporters included Lady Colin Campbell, Lady Randolph Churchill, the Countess of Warwick and WT Stead. The basic aim was to promote dress reform whereby 'women may enjoy greater movement and less fatigue', especially when engaged in sporting activities, such as cycling, tennis and golf'. It sought to highlight accidents and dangers caused by women wearing impractical clothing. The campaign attracted much press comment, and was part of the wider movement for women's emancipation. The Western Rational Dress Club disbanded in 1899.

Custodial history:

U DX113/1-16 were copied with the permission of Peter Buckman, Abingdon, 28 April 1976
U DX113/17-20 were from Peter Buckman's papers and deposited by Don Chapman, March 2012
U DX113/21 was deposited by Don Chapman on 11 November 2014

Description:

Photocopies of material including letters and newspaper articles relating to the campaign to promote appropriate attire for women engaged in sporting activities

Extent: 9 bundles & 22 items

Related material:

Cyclists' Touring Club: Hull and East Riding District Association [Ref L DSCT]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX113/1	Letters to S.S. Buckman and his wife Maude Photocopies. From Cycle Components Manufacturing Co. Ltd.; Grace Murrell, Westminster; W.H. Norman, Clapham; Cyprian Cope, Aston on Clun; T.D. Ainsworth, New Cross (2); 'Jane', Notting Hill (2); Elizabeth T. Oliver, Malmesbury; K.J. Buckman, Notting Hill (3); Coventry Machinists Co.; 'Kitty', Andover; John Cory Withers, Bristol; Elizabeth Whittaker, Ambleside; J.W.D. Marshal, Bristol. With items relating to the Western Rational Dress Club (4) and press cuttings (12) 1 bundle	1897
-----------	---	------

Hull History Centre: Papers of Sydney and Maude Buckman

U DX113/2	Letters to S.S. Buckman and his wife Maude Photocopies. From Lady Harberton, Cromwell Road, South West, and Great Malvern (11); John C. Withers, Bristol (2); Cyprian Cope, Aston on Clun; 'K.J.H.'; Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company; Cycle Components Manufacturing Co. Ltd. With items relating to the Western Rational Dress Club; press cuttings (11); brochure of Badmington Shirt Co.; and Cycling Club Tyre Inflation voucher with list of addresses where presentable 1 bundle	1898
U DX113/3	Letters to S.S. Buckman and his wife Maude Photocopies. From Lady Harberton, Cromwell Road. S.W. (6); John C. Withers, Bristol; Edward M. Richards, Enniscorthy; W.R.J. Weir (editor, 'Lady's Own Magazine'). With items relating to the Western Rational Dress Club, and the Rational Dress League (2); 'At the Sign of the Butterfly' Vol. IV, No. 1 (October 1899); and press cuttings (2) 1 bundle	1899
U DX113/4	Letters to S.S. Buckman and his wife Maude Photocopies. From Eth. Whitaker, Bath, and Cyprian Cope. With press cuttings (2) 1 bundle	1890s
U DX113/5	Press cuttings Photocopies. Specialist cycling press but also some national and local newspapers including: CTC, Monthly Gazette, The Sketch, Braford Observer; Wheeling; The Citizen; Daily Mail; Evening News; The Queen, the Lady's Newspaper; Cycling; The Herald of health; Cheltenham Free Press and Cotswold News; The Hub; Reading Mecury; Daily Telegraph and the Berkshire Chronicle 61 items	1894-1899
U DX113/6	Price list of cycling garments from Holding & Sons, Tailors, Oxford Circus & Cheapside Photocopies. 1 item	1895-1896
U DX113/7	Pamphlet. 'The Plea of Disfranchised Women', by R. Swiney Photocopies. 1 item	Nov 1896
U DX113/8	Records of the Western Rational Dress Club Photocopies. Secretary's Report; account; notices (8). With press cuttings (12) 20 items	1897-1898

Hull History Centre: Papers of Sydney and Maude Buckman

U DX113/9	Toast List Photocopy. With cartoon, undated 1 item	4 Sep 1897
U DX113/10	Notice of a gathering of supporters of the rational costume, 4 -5 September 1897 Photocopies. With cartoon from Phil May's 'Guttersnipes', reprinted in 'Cycling Touring Club Gazette', January 1897 2 items	Jan-Sep 1897
U DX113/11	Prospectus of Cycling Touring Club Photocopy. 1 item	1897
U DX113/12	Articles by 'A. Wheeler' [S.S. Buckman or Maude Buckman?] from 'The Lady's Own Magazine' Photocopies. 29 items	1897-1898
U DX113/13	'Lady Cyclists' Association News'. No. 23, New Series Photocopies. 1 item	Nov 1898
U DX113/14	Records of the Rational Dress League Photocopies. Prospectus, account, rules 3 items	1898-1899
U DX113/15	Mss. by S.S. Buckman Photocopies. Including: a) 'The rights of Rationalists', [1899] b) 'A Cross-country Cycle Trip', no date c) Parodies of 'Little Bo Peep', 'The Minstrel Boy' and 'This is the House that Jack built', no date d) Parody. Rules of the C.T.C. ('Cover Toes Completely Club') 6 items	1899
U DX113/16	'Punch' Photocopy. Issue No 3014 including a small piece 'Lady Harberton and the Landlady' (p177). 1 item	12 Apr 1899
U DX113/17	Peter Buckman letters Colour copies of two letters from Peter Buckman 1) to Mrs Marriane Ginsberg at the Victoria and Albert Museum following a visit to discuss rational dress material 2) to Alan [???] about his great grandfather's involvement in the rational dress movement 2 items	Jan-Feb 1983

Hull History Centre: Papers of Sydney and Maude Buckman

- | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| U DX113/18 | Group of cyclists
Copy of a photograph showing a group of cyclists including some women in rational dress
1 item | n.d. |
| U DX113/19 | Newspaper articles on Peter Buckman
Photocopies of 3 articles from the 'Oxford Mail' about Peter Buckman and the Rational Dress League written by Don Chapman under the pen-name of Anthony Wood
3 items | Mar 1971 |
| U DX113/20 | 'Knickers, Eynsham, and Women's Lib'
Short article by Don Chapman about Peter Buckman and the Western Rational Dress Club published in the 'Eynsham Record' No 17 p31-33
1 item | 2000 |
| U DX113/21 | Photocopies of letters to S.S. Buckman
From F.W. Harberton, Great Malvern (2); Elizabeth Whitaker, Bath; T.D. Ainsworth, New Cross (2); Frances Cope, Aston-on-Clun (2) and Cyprian Cope, Aston-on-Clun. The letters relate to the Western Rational Dress Club and refer to forthcoming club meetings, a potential club magazine and the apparent lack of progress the movement has made (1898).
1 bundle, 8 items | 5 Jun 1897 –
31 Mar 1899 |