

Rover Sports Register pre-1950 Classic Library

The Library

The RSR owns a large and extensive collection of books and other publication material relating to Rover. Anne Marie Rowland, who used to be one of the librarians at Liverpool University library, maintains the pre-1950 Classic library. This collection currently stands at approximately 290 items including books, posters, photographs, magazine articles, technical manuals, sales literature, service bulletins and charges, handbooks, parts lists and Rover Club literature.

To give members an idea of the type of items in each section, a small example from each category is listed below:

Books and pamphlets

HOUGH & FROSTICK, *Rover memories*, 1966
OLIVER, *The book of the Rover*, 1971
PINKERTON & ROBERTS, *History of Rover cycles*, 1998
YOUNG, *Advertising Rover 1904-1964*, 1989
WILKS, *Questions on the Rover automotive gas turbine*

Posters and photographs

Rover 8 h.p. tourer
1907 TT model Rover
Nizam 1931/2 10/25
Something cool to slip into. Care le Grant presents: the exclusive Maverick styling kit.

Magazine articles

Petrol vapour (Rover 16 saloon) by J.Oliver in *The Observer*.
Rover Sixteen on the road in *The Scotsman*.
Motoring News (1938 16 model) by T.H. Wisdom in *The People*.
Rover plans for the 1937 season in *Light car 1936*.

Rover Clubs

Rover 75th anniversary 1904-79.
Rover Centenary Ride 1885-1985 souvenir programme.
RSR membership lists 1976-to date.

Technical manuals (Non-Rover)

S.U.fuel pump.
Luvax patent hydraulic shock absorbers.
Marles steering gear manual.

Technical manuals (Rover)

Timing charts for Rover engines (Models 1931-36).
Lubrication charts (Most models)
Assembly and the replacement of a rocker shaft.

Sales literature

1907 Rover cars. 2nd.ed.
1923 Rover cars - overseas models.
1931 Rover family 10.
1937 Rover - one of Britain's fine cars.

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Many of the sales literature brochures have beautiful art plates.

Instruction manuals (handbooks)

1920 8 h.p. Rover car
1931 Rover "Pilot"
1933 Rover "10" special

Parts lists

1916 12 h.p. 4-cylinder
1937 10 and 12 h.p.

These are just some of the materials available to members as a source of reference and photocopies of the originals can be made.

Freewheel

In addition to the materials listed above, there is now a complete set of Freewheel bulletins from issue 1 (1953 to date). To complement this valuable tool, there is an index of technical and other articles in database form. The pre-1950 classic librarian can handle requests from club members for information on a particular topic (e.g. sunroof restoration; Kenlowe fans; Luvax-Bijur lubrication, etc.). There are currently 960 items in the index-they can be technical (e.g. brakes, headlights, tow bars), historical (history of the Rover Co. prototypes), helpful (asbestos, fuel economy) or just plain interesting (Rover specials, Rover rallying, police Rovers or fire engines). In addition to The Freewheel database, there are two other databases - Auto readers service and Practical hints for motorists.

The Service

The service to members is a photocopying and information one and covers both the Freewheel collection and the rest of the pre-1950 Classic library. Regrettably, owing to non-return of some items previously borrowed from this library, original documents are no longer allowed out on loan.

How much will it cost?

To cover the cost of photocopying and postage and packing, a charge of 10p per page (black and white) will be made - more if a colour copy is required - with a minimum charge of £2.50 (25 B&W pages). This revenue will be used to fill the gaps in the current pre-1950 Classic library, through purchases of appropriate archive material as and when available.

How to make use of the service?

Firstly E-mail, telephone or write to the pre-1950 Classic Librarian (details on the flyleaf of Freewheel) with your enquiry/request. If the search on the database is successful, the librarian will then reply with details of the next procedure. Some of our long established members, with a Freewheel collection of their own, may even receive a free service, if all she needs to do is advise that, for example, Freewheel no. 195 (Feb 1986) from their own collection will answer the query.

(Last updated December 2001)