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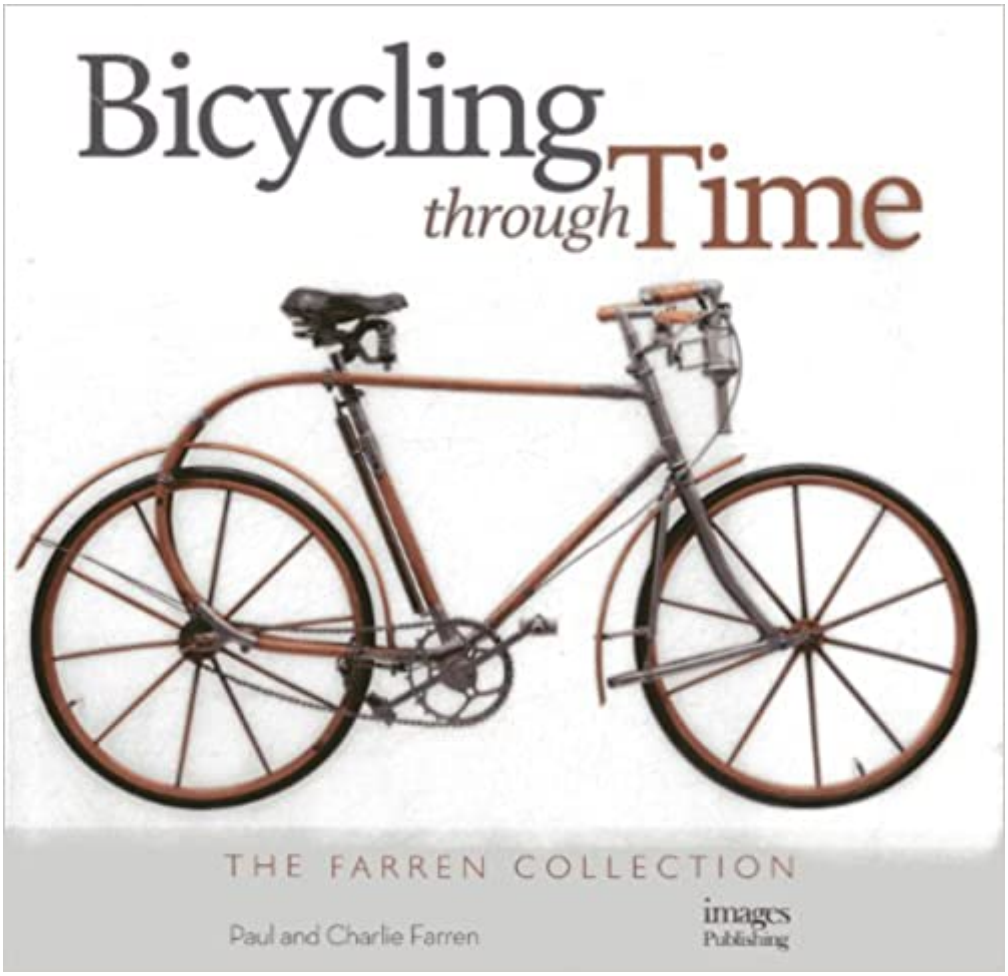
Bicycling Through Time: The Farren Collection



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Synopsis

Features full-color images of the finest bikes in the collection, together with informative text and entertaining anecdotes about how the collection came togetherAuthor Paul Farren has been collecting bicycles since the 1970s. His hobby has developed into a full-time passion and today he is one of the leading authorities on early bicyclesPaul Farren claims he and his wife Charlie have around 85 percent of the pre-1900 bicycles in Australia - all under one roof in a Melbourne warehouse-cum-museum. Thirty years of hunting them down and collecting has resulted in one of the most impressive early bike collections in the world. It includes 160 pre-1900 bicycles, including hobby horses, boneshakers and Penny Farthings, as well as early 20th-century models.The collection charts the development of the bicycle, which foreshadows the invention of the motor car in many surprising ways. It also shows wider social change and the role the bicycle has played in female emancipation, war and its progression from plaything of the wealthy to utilitarian mode of transport of the masses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book of the history of early bicycles and of a great collection.

Lots of nice illustrations . I recommend this for anyone who cant’t get enough of the bicycle design.

The book shows a wonderful collection and is a collectorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s item written by an

authority in the field. Glad to have it in my possession.

This book was all I expected.Great photos.Great descriptions.Interesting notes on provenance.Ready to do business with again.

This book is a catalogue of a private collection in Australia. While most bicycle collections are not available for public viewing this is the second title to come from Australia of show-casing private collections. The other title isÃ Â Racing Bicycles: 100 Years of Steel. While most catalogued collections tend to emphasize eccentric or unusual bicycles such asÃ Â Cyclepedia: A Century of Iconic Bicycle DesignÃ Â this collection's emphasis is on historically significant models as bicycles were being developed. The photographs are crisp studio shots of restored bicycles with 2-3 close-ups. There are 82 bikes depicted in this book with 64 of them (78%) dating between 1881-1898. 6 are from between 1817-1880 and 10 are from between 1899-1945. A number of well-known bicycles familiar to collectors and cycle historians are represented such as the Xtraordinary by Singer & Co., The Facile Ordinary by Ellis & Co and the Kangaroo Dwarf Safety by Hillman, Herbert & Cooper that are important to the history of cycles. As well as including 6 wooden/bamboo bicycles it also a large number of bicycles that have not been previously photographed in any collection before, the most breathtaking of which is on the front page and which is the only bicycle of its kind known to exist. The collection also includes the only photograph that exists of The Barb spring-frame safety from Australia (1930s) and the only picture that exists of a Massey-Harris bike, from Canada. This book has only the 2nd photograph of the 1907 Levocyclette that has been taken. The other can be found inÃ Â The BicycleÃ Â by Pryor Dodge. This book has a photograph of the best example of the original Dunlop Tire that created the revolution in pneumatic tires that exists. It has the only photograph of the only Safety Bicycle build by Quadrant, usually known for their tricycles. It contains a number of photographs that are the only photographs of bicycles that have ever been published. The photographs make you want to know more about what you are looking at. The strength of this book is the crisp studio photographs cleaned up and displayed on slick, glossy paper against a clear white page. What text there is serves to support the photographs. The first ten bicycles have between 75-100wds describing them to give you an idea. The history of the clincher is briefly mentioned like a museum display without citations. No pat# is given for the Welsh patent of 1890 that is mentioned as having "solved the repair problem" of pneumatic tires and Michelin's role is not mentioned. There are no foot-notes and only eleven entries in the glossary. If you want history go elsewhere. The book documents the

collection and the collection speaks for itself and staring at the pictures I saw things to difficult to describe in what I was looking at and I could feel myself pulled into the pictures.Instead of words to support the pictures the authors have added vintage photographs of people riding the bicycles in their collection and beautiful advertisements chosen by the largest collector of bicycle images in the World, Lorne Shields. Instead of a string of words the book uses pictures to explain pictures.This is a big, heavy book that is a great value to anyone interested in the history of technology or cyclist or anyone who wants to collect bicycles but does not have a warehouse to keep them in.

Bicycle enthusiasts Paul and Charlie Farren (Charlie's the wife) present their incomparable collection with sharp color photos by Peter Horsley, a fellow enthusiast who is a commercial photographer. Though select, the Farren collection is representative of the history, development, and types of bicycles with concentration on the latter 19th century when the most notable developments took place and bicycling was at the height of its popularity. Paul Farren has collected bicycles from around the world at auctions and antique and specialized shops. Many in his collection come from his homeland of Australia where bicycles were imported mostly from England, France, and the United States or built domestically after models and innovations from these countries. The dry climate of Australia allowed for the exceptional preservation of the antique bicycles, as the clear details of the photographs evidence.The presentation starts with "Mobility for the Nobility

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