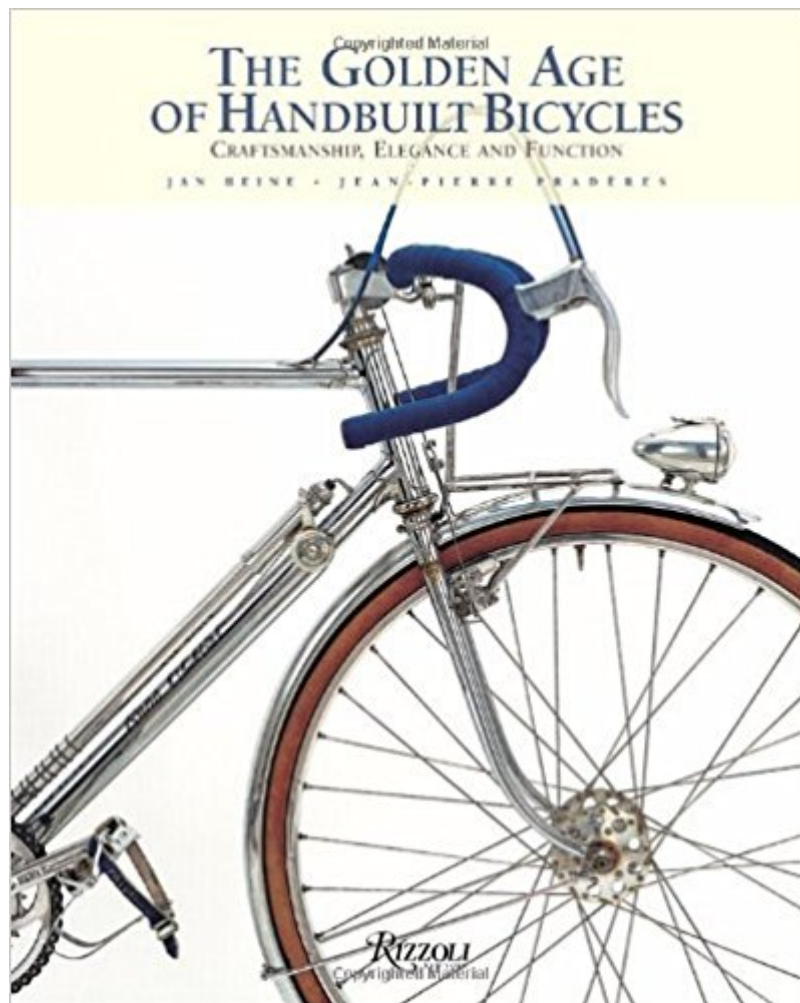




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The Golden Age Of Handbuilt Bicycles: Craftsmanship, Elegance, And Function



Synopsis

The Golden Age of Handbuilt Bicycles is a celebration of the design history and craftsmanship behind this simple but efficient two-wheeled vehicle. Featuring fifty classic models built by hand, this book unveils the bicycle's technical evolution within a historical context. Beautifully detailed are early-twentieth-century models with multi-gear systems, mid-century machines where war and postwar economy challenged craft and utility, as well as modern and contemporary bicycles. Featured artisans and brands include La Gauloise, Reyhand, Schulz, Barra, Alex Singer, and Renée Herse. With brilliant full-color images of each model and chronological text detailing the craftsmanship that went into producing these elegant machines, this book will appeal to bicycle enthusiasts and to anyone interested in design.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I was very fortunate to receive a book from Rizzoli publishers recently called "The Golden Age of Handbuilt Bicycles...While this book has been previously available, it appears that Rizzoli are bringing out a new edition." ~NYCBikeSnob.com

Jan Heine is an avid cyclist and editor of Vintage Bicycle Quarterly, a magazine devoted to bicycle history and classic models. Jean-Pierre Pradier is a freelance photographer whose award-winning work has been featured in numerous magazines and books, including The Art of the Motorcycle

Beautiful book with many unique and rare bicycles. A must get for the cyclist into retro styled bicycles and certainly for those into handmade bicycles, frame building, touring and randonneuring. The book highlights handmade bikes by Rene herse, Alex singer, and others small builders from the 1910's to relatively recent. The focus is exclusively on touring, randonneuring and porteur bikes from French builders. The craftsmanship exhibited by bikes is simply stunning. There are no geometry pictures but that can be found on Google easily.

This book was purchased for my husband as a birthday gift. He had been wanting it for a long time. I was torn between the earlier edition, especially those with Jan Heine's signature (ooooo!) but, I decided to stick with a newer edition. I'm glad I did. He enjoys leafing through this book in the evening, along with other publications by Mr. Heine and other such related bike-nerd paraphernalia. :-)

This book is an important contribution to the history of bicycles. A more appropriate title might have been, "The Golden Age of Handbuilt Touring Bicycles". A quick survey reveals that 50 of the 50 bicycles featured have fenders - 46 have luggage racks and 45 are equipped with lights/generators. Just so you know what you are getting. The machines featured are wonders of imagination - starships of their day: the lavish craftsmanship is unsurpassed. Many of these bikes are turned out in all chrome. Kudos to Jan Heine, the author, for the vision to produce this book. The text is crisp and insightful - obviously the product of years of research, uh. . . strike research, insert obsession! Kudos also to Jean-Pierre Praderes. This is a doctoral thesis on how to photograph bicycles - a perfect mix of full view shots and fascinating detail. If you are a road bike nut, such as myself, you may want to buy Jan Heine's new book, "The Competition Bicycle. It will pop up with a title search on e-bay. I do not have this book yet, but, will order it based on the quality of the one reviewed here. Such a glowing review may leave you wondering if I have some financial interest in this endeavor. No, I am just an avid reader and bicycle enthusiast who wants to share a wonderful find with other bike advocates. Seldon Bradley Indianapolis, IN

A fantastic book, I can't recommend enough how good it is. Lots of great photos of some of the most amazing bicycles ever made.

great price, fast delivery...thanks

This is a beautiful book, one that I've pored over almost constantly since receiving it. Jan Heine, who publishes and edits Bicycle Quarterly magazine, has contributed an indispensable book to the bicycling library. For that, Jan deserves the gratitude of everyone who enjoys bicycles. What I wouldn't give to own and be able to ride the Rene Herse bicycle that graces the cover of the book.

For the person who likes to view a little history of bicycles over time. A time when bicycles were hand built with love and pride. Something that seems to have gotten misplaced somewhere...

If you are familiar with Jan Heine's magazine, Bicycle Quarterly, you know what you are getting. This beautiful book showcases the best of the French Constructeurs and their most exemplary bicycles. Lots of surprising innovations, as well as a look into the history of cuclotouring and randonneuring. Be aware it only covers this range, and as such, the title may be a little misleading. It's the Golden Age of FRENCH bicycles.

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