

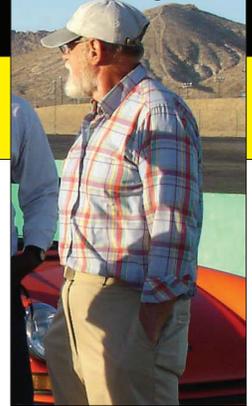
Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

PORSCHE: The Classic Era

by Dennis Adler, published September 15, 2016 by Motorbooks, Minneapolis, MN

Bruce Herrington



This is a very informative book for anyone interested in the world of Porsche, a world which encompasses more than just cars with the Porsche name on them. Porsche cars are covered from the Gmünd coupes through the last of the air cooled 993s in 1998, except that the 4-cylinder water cooled cars are not included. That coverage spans 50 out of the less than 70 years of car production, pretty expansive era.

The Porsche Company, in both its KG and AG forms, is discussed comprehensively. The life of the company(s) certainly represents an era, is absolutely about *Porsche*, but not really about the cars as one might expect from the title. Professor Porsche's career is described from his work with Lohner around 1900, through his imprisonment after WWII — not so much an era as virtually his entire life. As long as the reader is not expecting the classic era of Porsche to mean coverage of the 356s, or maybe even the Pre-As, or the REAL classics (the Gmünd coupes) you will not be disappointed in this book.

After the foreword by Ferdinand Alexander “Butzi” Porsche III, which touches on the evolution of the House of Porsche, there are thirteen chapters. The text begins with the obligatory recap of Professor Porsche's involvement in the design (and racing, himself driving) of automobiles for a complicated series of overlapping companies. The chapters dealing with Porsche cars include one on 356s, four on 911s, one all-wheel-drive, one on 914s and one on racing. The racing chapter reprises Professor Porsche's work with Lohner, Daimler-Benz and Auto-Union before dealing with the cars that carried the Porsche name. The last chapter (by PCA's own Prescott Kelly) deals with posters, brochures and other factory literature about Porsche automobiles through 1999. Included in his presentation is this reviewer's favorite, the Erich Strenger Carrera GTS Type 904 victories poster, of late 1964. All chapters are very readable and present a fascinating amount of detail.

There are many interesting pictures (some from the Porsche Archives and many by the author) well integrated into the text. It seems amazing that some of the pictures from Professor Porsche's early days still exist — e.g. Ferry Porsche as a baby! Also awe inspiring are modern

color shots of vehicles designed by the Professor that were actually built in the 1920s. There are some familiar classics from the Porsche achieves, but most of the pictures seem fresh and new to this reviewer. The photography by the author is, of course, newly seen, and some of the full page portraits display the characteristics of the cars very well.

A scary thought inspired by this book is what it implies about the U.S. economy and how the value of the dollar has changed: In 1976 the top-of-the-line ultra Porsche, the

Turbo Carrera, cost a price that could make anyone's wallet throb: \$26,000!

Though printed in China and published by an American house, the pages have a light airy European look with wide margins and generous spacing between lines of text. There is a very comprehensive index consisting of four pages of type small enough to set six columns of information on each page.

Because of the comprehensiveness of the era covered by this book, everything from Ferdinand Porsche's youth to the end of production of air-cooled Porsche automobiles, PORSCHE is an ideal book for the neophyte Porsche owner, Porsche enthusiast or even just someone associated with a Porscheophile.

Hardbound with 304, 8-1/2 x 10-3/4 inch glossy pages, by the time you read this it should be available for \$40 from your favorite bookseller (ask for it) or from <https://www.quartoknows.com/books>.

Don't forget, Christmas is coming!

