

Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

The Art of the Classic Sports Car

by Stuart Codling, photography by James Mann, published May 2017, Motorbooks



Clearly an *artsy* book, this contains many photographs (often as two-page spreads), with only a minimum of text. There are brief introductions for the four sections: Classic Roadsters, GTs, Sporting Coupes and Race Bred. Considerable effort has been made to include interior and engine compartment shots as well as portraits. Distinct from the pictures in car books, these cars are photographed with totally plain (usually black) backgrounds, truly presented as objets d'art, not cars in a real world. Open this book and the phrase *suitable for framing* comes immediately to mind because the full page shots are printed without borders. Be advised that this book requires careful handling because the vivid black on its high quality pages is very susceptible to smudges from the oils in even freshly washed fingers.

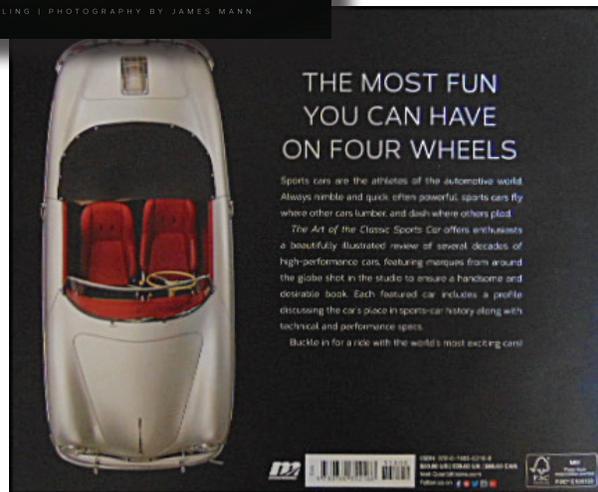
The cars covered include true classics, such as the Austin-Healey 100S, Mercedes-Benz 300SL, Ferrari 250 California, Datsun 240Z, Renault Alpine, Maserati 300S, Toyota 2000GT. In some cases old classics and new classics are presented together such as MG TC and MGA, or BMW 328 and 507. Though the art in the title would be presumed to reflect aesthetic considerations, and indeed that is the focus (pardon the expression) of the pictures, the Marcos GT is reasonably included for the engineering art of its plywood chassis. Of specific interest to Porschephiles is the extensive coverage of the 356 Speedster and of the 911 Carrera RS.

The authors selected 28 vehicles for inclusion in *THE ART OF THE CLASSIC SPORTS CAR*. The choice was theirs, and was no doubt based on personal taste as well as logistics. Some of their choices are inarguable – the 300SL is indeed a classic sports car. But with only 28 cars included out of the universe of possibilities, most every reader will be able to identify at least one glaring oversight in the selections. This reviewer's frustration is over the absence of the Porsche 904, and iconic design, a world champion racer, and a usable car on the street. A minor complaint is the selection of the Ferrari 250 California Roadster, rather than this reviewer's favorite, the 250 GT Coupe. Others will be appalled at the absence of any Co-

bra, though the antecedent AC Ace is included. And arguably, the absent XK-120/140 Jaguars are much more classic than the included XKE and XKSS, and some will quibble over the TR4 being the classic Triumph not the TR2/3 cars. Clearly it was author's choice and, irrespective of selection issues, the photographic presentation is outstanding.

Each chapter starts with a detailed listing of the technical and performance specifications of the subject car and a concise but comprehensive synopsis of history of the vehicles in question and the marque as a whole. Very informative overviews worthy of Wikipedia, are provided for those who did not live through, or do not remember that history.

Quality printing with differing pictures on the two end papers, and tear-preventing folded



edges on the dust jacket and heavy-weight glossy pages, this book is a classic in its own right.

THE ART OF THE CLASSIC SPORTS CAR is not a Porsche book, but it is truly deserving of an honored place on every sportscar enthusiast's coffee table. It consists of 208, 11 x 8-1/2 inch pages, with 110 color and 53 black & white illustrations. By the time you read this it should be available for \$50 from your favorite bookseller (ask for it) or from QuartoKnows.com.