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The Harley-Davidson Motor Co. Archive Collection



Synopsis

Who knew more than one hundred years ago that the freedom-loving, speed-hungry, cutting-edge motorcycle fanatics who founded Harley-Davidson were making history along with bikes? The Harley-Davidson Motor Co. Archive Collection, showcasing a century of bikes that shaped motorcycle history, brings that history to gleaming life in page after page of motorcycles beyond compare. This book gives motorcycle enthusiasts an opportunity to pore over the bikes in Harley-Davidson's collection, and to linger over every detail that made Harley-Davidson such an icon of American open-road power and performance. With exquisite, detailed photographs and histories of the motorcycles featured from Harley's collection, from serial number one built in 1903 to the latest low-slung Softail high-revving VRSC and touring models, this book captures the excitement of the best-known motorcycles in the world. All that's missing is the patented roar, which readers are invited to supply.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm reminded of the last scene in the film Raiders of the Lost Ark. The successfully recovered the Ark of the Covenant has been crated, loaded on a forklift, and the camera pans out to show a seemingly endless secret warehouse filled with similar crates that presumably hold other lost treasures of the world. The Harley-Davidson Motor Company Archive Collection was sort of like that: a secret warehouse filled with motorcycles for every model year, special machines that have disappeared from public view, and bikes whose very existence were mere rumor. We now know that The Motor Company has been stashing motorcycles away in secret since 1915. That was the year

in which the Davidson brothers and William Harley began saving at least one motorcycle from each model year. In 1919 they enhanced the collection by seeking out and repurchasing important motorcycles manufactured since 1903. Months before the opening of the new Harley-Davidson Museum, Randy Leffingwell set up his photography studio in this secret warehouse within the Juneau Avenue complex and began documenting the collection. This lush coffee-table book might be "the gift" for Christmas 2008. It weighs just over seven pounds and contains more lush photographs on these 407 pages than I can count. If this tome contained nothing but Leffingwell's photographs it would be well worth the \$60 price tag. However, the text written by Darwin Holmstrom provides so much unique information that this becomes an encyclopedia that's absolutely essential for any collector or restorer of Harley-Davidson motorcycles. 1912 Model X-8-A "In the summer of 2004, Archives staff cleaned this motorcycle and installed a new drive belt.

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