



# Cycle History 27





*Pierre Lallement riding his velocipede around Ansonia in Connecticut in 1867 - this is the first time a velocipede was ridden in America. (from "Pierre Lallement and His Velocipede" by Charles E. Pratt, *Outing and The Wheelman*, Vol. III, p. 9 (1884).*

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# Cycle History 27

*Proceedings of the  
27th International Cycling History Conference*

*North Haven, Connecticut, USA, 2016*



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Design and Layout by Greg Siple

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**FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION:**

An artist's conception of Pierre Lallement ca. July 1863, riding around Paris on his first bicycle prototype. Published in the October 1883 issue of *The Wheelman* to illustrate a biographical sketch of Pierre Lallement by Charles E. Pratt, then the patent lawyer of Albert A. Pope, who had purchased the Lallement patent. See paper by Herlihy in this publication (*Cycle History* 27).

**BACK COVER ILLUSTRATION:**

Group photo of participants in the 27th International Cycle History Conference that took place in the Best Western Motel in North Haven, Connecticut (USA), on June 25-29, 2016.

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## Comments on the Publication of the Proceedings of the International Cycling History Conference by the ICHC Publications Committee

The 27th ICHC was held in 2016, and this Conference marks the 27th consecutive year of these conferences. The ICHC has been fortunate throughout these years to have one organization or another step forward to publish the proceedings of each Conference until this year, and collectively these volumes of published proceedings cover virtually all aspects of cycling history thereby providing a valuable source of information for researchers of cycling history and related subjects. Until 2015 (the 15th ICHC) commercial publishers were used to publish the ICHC Proceedings, but the limited market for these volumes resulted in these publishers dropping their relationship with the ICHC after a few years' experience.

The Fédération Française de Cyclotourisme (the FFCT) headquartered in Paris, France, stepped in to do the design and publication of the 26th ICHC Proceedings for which we are very thankful. However, there was no publisher for the 27th ICHC so it was necessary to devise a new system for publishing the proceedings of our Conferences.

This new system requires the ICHC Publications Committee to act as publishers, and in the absence of a cash reserve, the publication of the proceedings of each ICHC

Conference will be limited to a digital PDF format that will be distributed free of further charge to all who register for a Conference, and for payment of an appropriate fee to others who may wish to have a copy. The advantages of this system are (a) lower cost, (b) ease of distribution, and (c) flexibility for producing 'printed' copies for archival purposes and for those persons who want a printed copy for their library. The limited amount of money needed to publish these proceedings in PDF format and to produce printed copies for selected major libraries will be generated by a small amount added to the Registration Fee of persons attending the ICHC Conferences and all actual printing of copies for individuals will be done on a pre-paid cost basis.

We hope that the new way of publishing the proceedings of ICHC Conferences will serve those who are interested in the ICHC and its valuable proceedings.

Thank you for your support of the International Cycling History Conference.

*Gary W. Sanderson    Robert Van Der Plas*

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# Notes from the Editor

**A**s Nicholas Clayton, the founder of the International Cycling History Conference (ICHC), has often said, “It is amazing that this Conference has continued unabated, and without interruption, for 27 years.” This phenomenal ongoing show of interest by historians (some professional, but including many amateurs) is marked by enthusiasm and hours of dedicated research into old newspapers, magazines, catalogs, other ephemera, and equally old bicycles themselves; work which is capped off by making an illustrated presentation to a roomful of likewise dedicated cycle historians at our annual Conferences. The intense interest shown by persons involved in the ICHC and its activities may seem odd to outsiders, but in fact, it is widely appreciated that an understanding of cycling history since the beginning of the 19th Century is critical to understanding the how, and the why, of the development of our modern means of transportation, and the world’s social customs. Certainly, the 27th ICHC contributed much to the significance of the ICHC with its array of 22 papers given, and the variety of activities and visits to many venues of historical importance that were included in the Program.

Most significant is the fact that Pierre Lallement, the author of the world’s first patent for a bicycle (US Patent No. 59915; Nov. 20, 1866), lived, worked, and rode his velocipede in and around Ansonia (his home at the time) and New Haven in Connecticut (USA) in 1866-1868, and participants in the 27th ICHC had an opportunity to retrace these first ever velocipede rides in America. Further, in addition to the Conference itself, a day-long bus tour to significant places of historical interest to bicycle historians (still standing 19th Century bicycle factories, bicycle museums, etc.) provided additional information about this area and its importance to the beginnings of the bicycle industry in America.

The 21 papers in this volume of ICHC proceedings constitute a variety of more specific subjects from the broad field of cycle history, and they make a valuable addition to the growing body of scholarly studies on subjects related to

cycle history. Each volume of the proceedings of the ICHC Conferences (published as Cycle History 1 – 27) contains papers that are both interesting and worthy of study, but collectively, the 27 volumes of ICHC proceedings are a comprehensive source of information covering virtually the entire spectrum of “cycle history”. This is recognized by complete collections of ICHC Proceedings being maintained in important libraries such as the U.S. Library of Congress (Washington, DC, USA), the British Library (London, UK), the Musée d’Art et d’Industrie (Saint-Étienne, France), the Deutsche Sporthochschule (Köln, Germany), the Patent Depository Libraries in the UK, the Joseph P. Healey Library at the University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston, MA, USA), and the Library of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL, USA).

The quality (breadth and depth) of the papers published in the ICHC Proceedings depends entirely on the authors who attend the ICHC Conferences to give presentations based on their research and to interact with other cycle historians. The ICHC has been blessed for 27 years with excellent presentations given at our Conferences, and this Editor is proud to be involved with these cycle history enthusiasts and with the publication of their work. Hopefully, the ICHC will continue to flourish for many more years continuing to increase the interconnectedness of the persons who are most interested in cycle history and to publish the conference proceedings thereby contributing to the rich body of information that is readily available to all persons who might be interested in cycle history.

Thanks to Robert Van Der Plas for the significant assistance given in all parts and stages of the production of these Proceedings. Thanks also to Rick Hyman for help with the editing process, and to Greg Siple for the design and lay-out work required to produce this publication.

Gary W. Sanderson, Editor

