

Cycle History 28



A postcard for the 200th Anniversary of the Invention of the Draisine by Karl Von Drais. Karl Von Drais on his Laufmaschine (top) and his portrait (bottom).



Momentos issued to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the invention of the draisine by Karl Von Drais: A First Day Postal Cover issued in Berlin, Germany, on July 13, 2017, to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the invention of the Draisine and a 20 Euro silver coin (front and back) issued by Germany in July 2017.

Cycle History 28

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28th International Cycling History Conference*

Mannheim, Germany, 2017



*INTERNATIONAL CYCLING
HISTORY CONFERENCE*

Editorial Committee: Gary W. Sanderson, Thomas Baker, & Jan Králik
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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

14 of the 15 riders who rode 230 km on their Draisines and Hobby Horses to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the invention of the world's first bicycle by Baron Karl Drais Von Sauerbronn in 1817. The riders dressed in early 19th Century attire while demonstrating the riding of their machines in Stanislaw Square in Nancy (France) the day before starting their 5-day ride to Karlsruhe (Germany) where the invention took place. The riders are (l-r) Stuart Mason Elliott (UK), Dirk van Luchem (Belgium), Jean-Paul Tournereau (France), Carey Williams (USA), David Gray (USA), Marco Lebreton (France), Glen Norcliffe (Canada), Keizo Kobayashi (Japan/France), City of Nancy Official (France), Jirka Fiala (Czech Republic), Diane Blake (USA), Kenneth Gray (USA), Gary W. Sanderson (USA), Bruno Guassconi (France), Alain Cuvier (France), and missing from this picture: Robert J. Hummel (Germany).

BACK COVER PHOTO:

The participants in the 28th International Cycling History Conference taken on the steps to the Technoseum in Mannheim (Germany) where the Conference took place. (Photo by Renate Franz)

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Notes from the Editors

This was a very special year, being the 200th Anniversary of the Invention of the Draisine by Baron Karl von Drais in Karlsruhe, Germany. Because the Draisine could be steered, a rider could ‘balance’ while riding on two wheels in-line for the first time ever, and so, we have the world’s first bicycle. And from this magnificent history-making invention have come bicycles that are now being ridden at almost 90 miles per hour, automobiles and motorcycles, and airplanes. The Draisine was truly one of the world’s seminal inventions. As Nick Clayton wrote in *The Birth of the Bicycle*, “In 1817, Charles Frederic Christian Louis Baron Drais von Sauerbronn undoubtedly started something big.”

“This year’s ICHC was held in Mannheim, Germany, the city from which Drais began the first long distance ride on his ‘laufmaschine’ which was to Schwetzingen and back to Mannheim - 30 Km.” Appropriately, the first two papers presented two different opinions about why this machine was invented in the first place (the first two papers in these proceedings). Over the 28 years of Conferences organized by the ICHC, many mysteries and controversies have been resolved by historians (amateur and professional alike) that are interested in the history of bicycles and related subjects, and who present the results of their research at the Annual ICHC Conferences. The controversy over why the Draisine was invented in the first place is not resolved, but the active discussion elicited by the papers presented at this 28th ICHC is stimulating further research and discussion that we are sure will ultimately resolve this question to the satisfaction of most people: this activity highlights one of the tangible benefits that emanate from the ICHC Conferences.

Another benefit of participation in the ICHC is the informal nature of the ICHC Conferences that promotes friendly interaction and discussion among those in attendance. These Conferences happen only once a year, but the relationships formed between the participants are characteristically warm and open, leading to new insights and deeper understanding of cycling history.

There is an expanding world-wide interest in cycling history, and the Proceedings of the ICHC Conferences are appreciated for the quality of the scholarship that goes into the preparation of the papers presented at each Conference. To make these Proceedings accessible to a wide audience, complete sets of the 28 volumes of ICHC Conference Proceedings are being maintained at major national libraries in the UK, France, Germany, and the USA.

These libraries are:

- The British Library in London, UK
- Le Librarie d’art et d’industrie in Saint-Etienne, France
- Zentralbibliothek der Sportwissenschaften in Köln, Germany
- The U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, DC, USA

We appreciate all the presenters of papers at the 28th ICHC Conference for the effort that they have made to make our work easier by following the Guidelines for Authors of Papers for the Proceedings of ICHC Conferences, and we hope that readers of these Proceedings enjoy their journeys into the world of cycling history. We look forward to seeing you at the ICHC Conference in London, UK, in June 2018.

General Information: The ICHC Publications Committee is composed of Gary W. Sanderson, Thomas Baker, and Jan Králik. Since losing our publisher in 2016, our Committee has taken on the responsibility of publishing the proceedings of all ICHC conferences. Accordingly, the Committee is responsible for gathering the manuscripts of all papers presented at ICHC conferences, editing these papers, and making all necessary arrangements for publication of an annual book of conference proceedings with the help of a professional publications designer that they select: Committee members serve without pay, but the selected Publications Designer (Greg Siple, Retired Art Director of the Adventure Cycling Association, Missoula, MT, U.S.A.) does his work for a very nominal fee. Each person who pays the full Conference Registration Fee gets a copy of the published proceedings of that Conference via the internet in PDF format, and printed copies are offered openly to all who are interested on a “Pre-Paid Subscription” basis.

The ICHC Publications Committee is dedicated to publishing a high quality collection of the papers presented at each ICHC conference, and we appreciate the cooperation of all who are interested in the ICHC and its conferences.

The ICHC Publications Committee and Proceedings Editors

- Gary W. Sanderson, Chairman, Verona, NJ, U.S.A.
- Thomas Baker, Tempe, AZ, U.S.A.
- Jan Králik, Prague, Czech Republic



TECHNOSEUM: State Museum of Science and Industry (Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit) in Mannheim, Germany – Organizer of the 28th ICHC

The TECHNOSEUM in Mannheim is one of the largest museums of science and industry in Germany. On a surface of 8000 square meters, the permanent exhibition not only highlights the evolution of the natural sciences and technology from the 18th century on, but it also tells the story of the social and economic changes followed by the industrialization of Germany. For example one gets insights into how a steam engine works, but also learns about the consequences steam power had on the people's life and working conditions. Many of the machines in this museum are still in working condition. Specially trained technicians demonstrate and explain work sequences and answer questions put forth by visitors.

Three interactive exhibition spaces, named "Elementa", are shaped in the style of a science center. Here, visitors can try things out for themselves, for example send mail via a pneumatic tube postal system or test their reaction rate against a robot's.

Presentations of automobiles and, of course, bicycles complement the versatile exhibition space. As the year 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the invention of the running machine invented by Baron Karl von Drais in Mannheim, the TECHNOSEUM presented a great special exhibition: *2 Wheels – 200 years. Baron Karl von Drais and the History of the Bicycle.*

The former forester and keen inventor set off on the first ride on a Draisine on June 12, 1817, which led from Mannheim to a relay station near Neckarau. The two-wheeled vehicle he invented was propelled by the rider pushing on the ground with his feet. It was the forerunner of today's modern bicycle. Using examples of authentic antique bicycles, the history and the technical development of the bicycle from 1817 until today, complemented with future prospects and the

question about bicycle friendly cities, was presented in the exhibition.

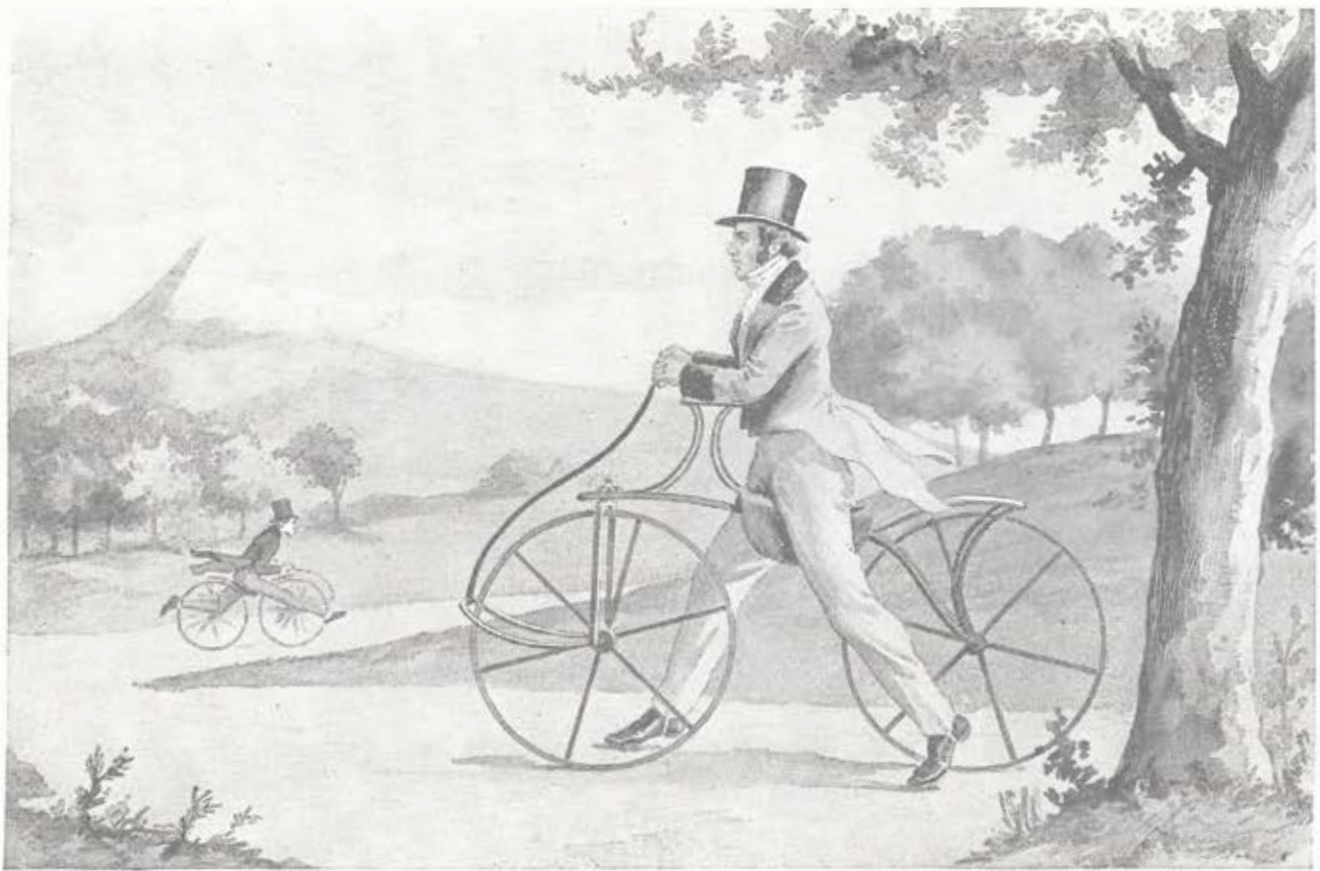
On the special occasion of the bicycle's anniversary, the TECHNOSEUM hosted the 28th ICHC from May 29th until June 1st, 2017. The conference was organized by Eva Gramlich with the help of Gary W. Sanderson concerning the formalities of the ICHC and Thomas Kosche (curator at the TECHNOSEUM) who gave the needed support for the organization of the conference and its moderation. The conference began with a bicycle tour along the Drais route through Mannheim and a guided tour through the special bicycle exhibition. The opening dinner offered a nice atmosphere to get to know each other and to meet old and new friends. After two days of



presentations, the 28th ICHC was closed by an excursion to the romantic city of Heidelberg and a guided tour of Heidelberg Palace, which is the world's most famous ancient palace.

Special thanks to Sandra Schultz (TECHNOSEUM) for helping at the conference office and the excursion, and to all participants who made the 28th ICHC another successful event.

- Eva Gramlich, The Technoseum, Mannheim, Germany



From an English print dated 1819.

Eighty Years Ago.

Astride his ancient hobbyhorse
Our worthy grandsire see!
While toiling on his cumbrous course
But little thought had he
That he the pioneer should be
Of mighty hosts awheel;
That folks of high and low degree,
Old men of three score, boys of three,
The matron grave, the maiden frize,
Should ride the steed of steel!

The Draisine was admired, and has been acknowledged as the forerunner of all bicycles, ever since the invention of this machine in 1817. (From Munsey's Magazine, Volume XV, page 129, May 1896)