

Andrew Ritchie

A Few Words of Farewell

Andrew Ritchie was born in Edinburgh in 1943, grew up in London and died in Truro, Cornwall, England, on August 13, 2021. He was a graduate of Fitzwilliam College (B.A., History of Architecture) and the University of Strathclyde earning a Ph.D. in 2008 based on his thesis titled "Cycling History". Andrew came to the attention of the cycling community with his first book *King of the Road*, published in 1975. This well researched, splendidly illustrated, and authoritative book has been, and continues to be widely read, and often referred to, by cycling historians the world over.

Andrew is also distinguished for his part in re-popularizing through his in-depth writing, the life and bicycle racing career of Marshall Walter (Major) Taylor, a person of color who became the World Champion Bicycle Racer at an International Bicycle Racing Competition held in 1899 in Montreal, Canada: So, Major Taylor became the first person of color to become a World Champion in his sport and the second person of color to become a World Champion in any sport. With his thoroughness, Andrew produced a definitive biography of Major Taylor titled *Major Taylor: The Extraordinary Career of a Champion Bicycle Racer*

published in 1988, which is another one of Andrew's books that has become a foundational work on its subject. He followed this with his 2009 book *Major Taylor: The Fastest Bicycle Rider in the World.*"

In 2011 Andrew published his book *Quest for Speed: a History of Early Bicycle Racing, 1868-1903*,

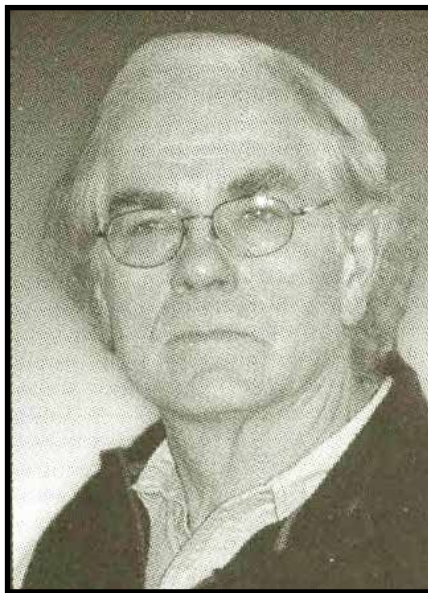
which covers the early days of bicycle racing. Again, his highly researched book serves as a standard source of information for cycle historians.

Andrew's knowledge of cycling history served him well when, living in El Cerrito, California, he became involved with the International Cycling History Conference (ICHC) and served as Editor of the ICHC Proceedings from 1999 – 2014. From 1994 to 2012 Andrew contributed eight papers to the ICHC. It was in

2012 that I began working with Andrew on Editing the Proceedings of the ICHC, and we became good friends.

Andrew moved back to England in 2018, and he became Editor of the V-CC's *The Boneshaker* in 2021 with great expectations by cycling historians everywhere. However, Andrew died later in 2022 cutting short the life of one of the giants in his field.

- Gary W. Sanderson, Ph.D



Andrew Ritchie 1943 - 2021