

The Book Exchanger will be a regular feature of the new Heat Exchanger format. Each month a new publication will be reviewed by myself or guest reviewers. Please feel free to let your thoughts on the column be known as we certainly want to please our readers. If you have a work you would like reviewed or if you would be interested in writing a review and submitting it, please definitely do so. We welcome all comers. Please limit reviews to published items, books magazines and I guess we would be remiss if we did not include Porsche focused online "publications".

Book of the Porsche 356

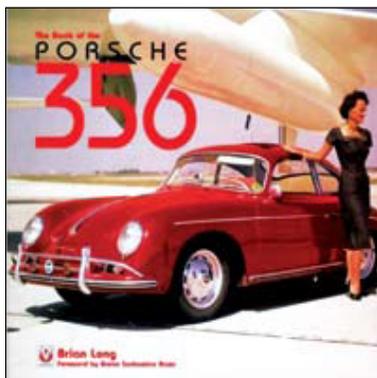
By Brian Long
Veloce Publishing
ISBN-13: 978-1-84584-035-8

Brian Long is a very accomplished member of the motoring press. **Book of the Porsche 356** is a new release of the title originally published in 1996. This is not simply a re issue. It is extensively revised and substantially expanded.

I am certainly not an authority on the 356. But I have always been a fan and though never having owned this model certainly followed with interest the development and the rise in value they have experienced over the past decade. They are lovely cars and lets face it, the original design that is really still alive in the latest sports cars from Porsche.

Honestly though, I'm a six cylinder Porsche kind of guy. I guess what I'm saying is that reviewing a book on the 356 is not what I thought my first effort for this publication would be. I just couldn't help myself.

When I first looked at this nice hardcover volume the package design really caught my eye. Having restored a few European cars and motorcycles has firmly engrained an appreciation for thorough research and a love of documented history. One of the hardest things to document on a



fifty year old vehicle is what was correct and when it came along. Porsche as a manufacturer has constantly made running production changes to the product. This kind of thing can be as subtle as a relocated clutch cable retainer or as obvious as new hood chrome. This book documents the timeline very well. Long has collected a really impressive 242 photos (145 in color) for this volume. He apologizes for the quality of some but justifies including them for the historic value and I agree completely. There are numerous factory photos as well as lots of period sales material and racing art from the entire life of the 356. This is not just a coffee table book to be browsed through with the flat screen on. The author is quite thorough about taking us through the entire run of the 356 from it's inception to the final 356C. He documents the race machines along the way and speaks to the affects developing sales markets had on development of both the 356 and the Porsche company. And there are photos of the Porsche family I had never seen before.

As any 356 fan knows there are hundreds of different iterations of these cars over its production life and the author does a valiant job of covering them with photos and descriptions. He even shows the overlap with the 911. There is a whole

chapter on modern reproductions of the 356 and they are listed and rated by company so those of us who cannot afford the real thing or just want the look but not the patina can be aware of the various quality levels and pitfalls.

There are appendixes that cover running changes on the engines, year by year detail changes, chassis numbers as well as the aforementioned replicas. The art work in the book is wonderful and a pleasure to just browse through. I smile every time I pick it up. It gets my top five star rating!

Hollywood really doesn't provide us Porschefiles with a regular focus on the object of our obsession. We have had film references to a U Boat captain and the animated 996, the occasional unauthorized exit from a Long Beach dealership and the car of choice to arrive in at Lemans...and these tinsel town teasers are spread over 30 years!

So now we have a feature length film that focuses entirely on Porsches! Andre Schafer has produced 94 minutes dedicated to our marque and it is available on DVD.



100 Porsches and Me, is Andre Schafer's quest for a "grass green" 911 that he glimpsed and became smitten with to the point of obsession. He and his film crew travel the world learning (painfully at some points) about Porsches and Porsche owners via interviews. His interviews with a vastly diverse selection of enthusiasts give us a glimpse inside the lives of collectors, restorers and the freshly initiated. Along the way, Schafer receives an enviable education from the gamut of encounters he managed to experience and generously record for our edification. I found myself both cringing and laughing as the tale unfolded. Very entertaining, I'd give it three stars.

Not really Oscar material, I think every Porsche owner would enjoy having this DVD on the shelf for viewing on those rainy cold days when spirits need a lift!

When ordering, be sure to specify North American format. Florianfilm GMBH, www.100porschesandme.com.