

News and Offers from Paul Skilleter and PJ Publishing

September 2021

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NEWS FROM PAUL SKILLETER

NEW AND IN STOCK!

XKD 603 'Though the Lens of Time'.

Written and published by the car's owner Clive Beecham, this magnificent book tells the story of the record four-times Le Mans runner XKD 603, including a detailed account of all its 19 'in period' races plus many other career highlights right up to the present day.

The most original long-nose D-type in existence, this works/Ecurie Ecosse car has been driven over the years by no less than seven Le Mans winning drivers, and itself came second at Le Mans in 1957.

Writes Clive Beecham, "My focus has been on a detailed, but not exhaustive history of the car, but specialising in particular on the stories of those that were there at the time, those privileged to experience her in her latter years and the truly great photographs captured by the likes of Klementaski, Goddard, Debraine, Cahier, Coltrin and Phil Hill, along with many of today's great contemporary lensmen.

"It is above all, a history espied 'through the lens of time', which I can only hope is delivered with a true sprinkling of both humour and soul."

Assisting in telling the story include those few remaining who were associated with the car when it was being raced – former Ecurie Ecosse mechanic Ron Gaudion, and (perhaps even more amazingly) Hugh Langrishe, now 98. He worked the stop-watches in the Ecurie Ecosse pits at Le Mans 1957 when XKD 603 achieved its momentous second place. Period factory literature, including the car's 'works' notebook, also play their part in vividly recording the car's history.

Also highly interesting is the technical description of XKD 603 by David Brazell, who has looked after her for many years. He explains the car's many original features and the evidence of how it evolved during its racing years.

The book is clearly a cost-no-object project. The production values are superlative and congratulations to Cathy Watson who worked closely with her former boss on the design – despite both being more accustomed to designing chocolate boxes! (Clive's former business was a chocolate manufacturers). The book's 340 'landscape' pages include not only Clive's heartfelt and often humorous prose, but also the 400-plus photographs he researched, many in colour and never seen in print before.

Finally, a personal footnote: XKD 603 was the first D-type I ever drove. That was back in 1973 when during a test day at Silverstone, (Sir) Anthony Bamford's star driver Willie Green installed me in 603's cockpit. He then waved me away for half a dozen laps of what was then still the original Grand Prix circuit, little changed from 17 years earlier when Mike Hawthorn drove the car in the Daily Express International International Trophy race. It is an experience I have never forgotten, and ever afterwards I have felt a special affection for XKD 603.

Just 603 standard editions, and 100 signed slip-cased books, have been printed. We really do expect it to sell out rapidly so if you would like a copy, an early order is strongly advised.

XKD 603 Through the Lens of Time by Clive Beecham.

Printed in England on 200 gsm paper.

340 pages, hardback with jacket, 252 x 295mm.

Standard edition £95.00 - FREE P&P UK, plus £9.95 P&P Europe, £21.90 P&P Rest of World. Signed and numbered slip-cased edition £145.00 - FREE P&P UK, plus £10.95 P&P Europe, £23.95 P&P Rest of World.

UPDATE – ADVANCE ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

Strictly no Admittance! The inside story of the Lightweight E-type.

This forthcoming new book by *Cat out of the Bag* and *XJ13* author Peter Wilson has now gone to press and we are eagerly awaiting delivery from the printer in late October/first week of November.

If you would like to be among the first to receive this truly remarkable ‘Lightweight’ exposé, you can place an order now.

Only 790 standard editions, and 50 slip-cased, numbered leather bound editions, will be printed, plus 12-only very special slip-cased numbered editions carrying a metal plate made in aluminium from 4868 WK, the Peter Lindner ‘Lightweight’ painstakingly restored by Classic Motor Cars of Bridgnorth (a similar edition featuring metal from XJ13 was sold out almost within days).

Full description

The book covers the evolution, design and development of Jaguar’s G.T. challenger and the XK racing engine which powered it. It is written by automotive engineer Peter Wilson who himself helped build the Lightweight E-type. His remarkable recall of those events nearly 60 years ago is reinforced by the hundreds of hours he spent in the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust’s impressive archives, and by many conversations with his former colleagues at Jaguar.

The result is a book of astonishing detail (every single engine ever used by the factory in Lightweight E-types is, for example, identified and fully documented), while Peter’s account of how the car evolved from previous models, and the technicalities of how the engine, transmissions, brakes and bodywork were built and developed, are recorded in unprecedented detail.

“The Lightweight E-type was created under the aegis of Jaguar’s founder, Sir William Lyons, and his engineering director William Heynes CBE”, writes publisher Paul Skilleter. “But the cars needed to be built and maintained, and Peter takes us into that ‘holy of holies’ and introduces us to the men who created the Lightweight E-type ‘in the metal’.

“However, in successfully persuading Peter Wilson to follow up his XJ13 book with one on the Lightweight E-type, I hadn’t realised what I had let myself in for... The sheer quantity of words, graphs, diagrams and pictures which Peter presented me with was breathtaking – as was also the huge depth of the research clearly involved, supporting Peter’s own vivid memories of events in the Competition Department nearly 60 years ago.

“The best books on Jaguar, or perhaps on any topic, are surely the ones written by those who were part of those very same events. This is what sets

Strictly No Admittance apart.”

Twenty-one appendices include a detailed listing of every engine associated with the Lightweight, and a similar listing of all 12 Lightweights built (plus several ‘sub-lightweights’ built around the same time). Illustrations approach the 900 mark.

Strictly No Admittance by Peter D. Wilson

Hardback with jacket, 31 x 23cm.

£110.00 (standard edition). **For a limited period FREE P&P UK**, and reduced rate £9.95 P&P Europe, £19.95 Rest of World. Slip-cased leather bound signed/numbered edition of only 50, **£150.00. FREE P&P UK**, reduced rate £9.95 P&P Europe, £21.95 Rest of World.

Also extra-special edition of 12 numbered slip-cased copies featuring engraved metal from 4868 WK at £975 (our similar special XJ13 edition sold out almost in hours) with FREE SHIPPING WORLDWIDE.

Note: credit/debit cards will not be processed until the book is available but those paying via PayPal will be debited by PayPal automatically.

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