

# THE BULLETIN



## VINTAGE SPORTS-CAR CLUB

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### “Bugatti –Type 10 to Type 251”

Published in the USA by [www.VelocePress.com](http://www.VelocePress.com) and can be purchased directly from their website. Price is \$74.95 plus \$5.00 S&H or you can place your order by calling 210-979-6098.

Many readers will be familiar with Brooklands Books, who have been producing compilations of technical and road test information from magazines for many years, and their latest publication is this large and heavy volume on Bugatti. Packed into its 474 pages is a wealth of information on the Molsheim marque from sources as diverse as Autocar, NZ Classic Car, Veteran & Vintage and Road & Track. The book is in three sections, Part

One, Type 10 to Type 40, Part Two, Type 41 to Type 55, and Part Three Type 57 to Type 251 and the 149 articles are arranged numerically by Bugatti Type number. Each section is preceded by an index of articles and a brief editorial giving a short description of each of the models covered, so it is easy to find information on any given model.

As an example, if information on the Type 35B were sought, there is an article from the Motor in their ‘Milestones of Speed’ series, written by none other than Laurence Pomeroy which includes the excellent Cresswell cutaway drawing of the straight eight, roller bearing engine and Pomeroy’s thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of Ettore’s design. A few pages on and Willie Green’s Track Test for Classic and Sportscar, ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ is reproduced from 44 years later, a very readable and involving description of driving a 60 year old Grand Prix car which could out accelerate a Lotus Esprit Turbo to 120 mph. Then, curiously, the first part of the Pomeroy article appears describing and appraising the chassis; it is but a minor niggle but it would have been nice to have the two parts together.



A portfolio of articles drawn from international motoring journals covering Bugatti models from 1909. The following Type are reported on: 10, 13, Brescia, Gamm, 22, 23, 30, 35a-b-c-d-e, 37a, 38, 39, 40, 41 Road, 43a, 44, 46, 49, 50a, 53a, 53, 54, 55, 57-a-b-c, Atlantic, Atlantic, 59, Grand Prix, 71a, 103-a and 251

It is inevitable that this compilation can only be as accurate as the original article and, of course, thinking and knowledge may have moved on since 1925 when the earliest section used was originally published but this does not in any way detract from the value of this book. To collect all the relevant magazines today would be a costly exercise and runs of Autocar or Motor would require an extremely extensive bookshelf as well as a deep pocket so this is a good way of collecting and collating information on a favoured make. This is not to suggest that it will only be of interest to Bugatti enthusiasts, far from it in fact, since there is a great deal of interest to anyone interested in motoring and pre-war cars.

The quality of reproduction is good given the process involved and the poor quality of some of the original magazines. Photographs do not always reproduce well but most are good and details can be clearly seen and the text is clear and easily read; the end result is certainly better than might be expected. The book is ‘perfect bound’ but the binding seems robust although perhaps there would be a market for a casebound version at a slightly higher cost.

To sum up then, a book to a formula that clearly works, telling the story of Bugatti in a different way. Any author writing a book on the marque would clearly use the same sources for research and put the information into his own words. This way uses the best writers from both contemporary and more recent times and the result is an interesting and worthwhile book which works both as a reference work and for random browsing. It is a fact of life that low volume publications tend to be expensive and £46 for a softbound book might seem a little over the top but if Brooklands Books were able to print 10000 copies in China and sell them all, the price would probably halve but that is not going to happen and the book is good value considering the amount of information contained therein. It is certainly deserving of a recommendation and will keep the reader interested for many a day.