

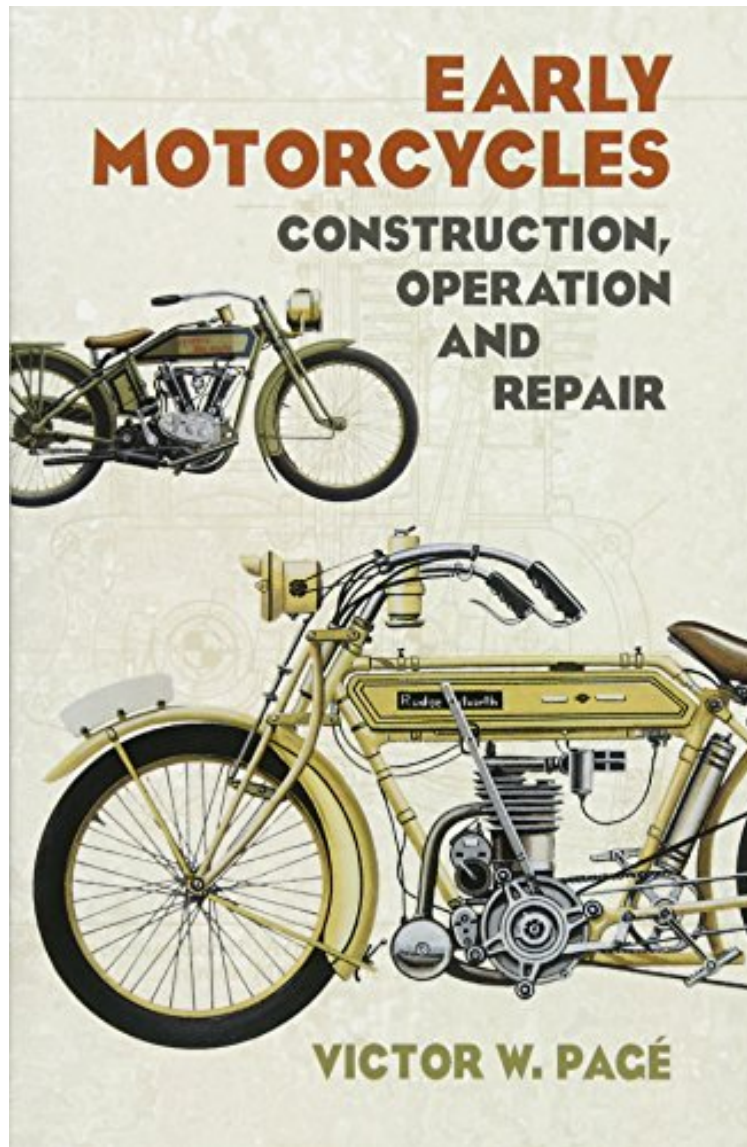
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to provide insight in the construction and operation of early motorcycles. It is more of a book on the various mechanical differences between early cycles than it is on the repair and operation of any one marque. I have other Victor Page books - Model A, Early V8 Ford - and those books, like this one, are easy to read and understand with plenty of descriptive pictures and diagrams. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Best book to use when building replicas 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Vintage Technical Reference for Early Motorcycles, not a history By Alan K. Sumrall If you want to learn the technical aspects of the first twenty years of motorcycles this book will deepen your appreciation for the type, especially if you are lucky enough to own one or an enthusiast. It creates a snapshot when the earliest motorcycles were not even antiques yet! While many motorcycles from several manufacturers are identified and shown in scale drawings, it is not a history or identification guide, but a useful book for operating these now quite desirable antiques. It is not a narrative but a description of all the various mechanical aspects of the early breed, when the mechanic had to rely more on his senses than his instruments.

When this comprehensive volume of practical information was first published in the 1920s, hundreds of thousands of motorcycles were already in use. Written by a talented automotive and aviation pioneer, the profusely illustrated, easy-to-read book was one of the first exhaustive studies done on motorcycle operation and repair, offering advice on everything from mufflers and automatic oil pumps to batteries and timing values. Following an introductory chapter on motorcycle development and design, the profusely illustrated text covers, among other subjects, various engines and power plants; theories of lubrication and carburetor design; materials employed in clutches; gear types and chain drives; frame parts, tires, and sidecars; standard motorcycle maintenance; and complete instructions for overhauling the engine. Also included is a complete chapter on the most up-to-date motorcycles of 1920. Immensely popular when it first appeared in print, Early Motorcycles will appeal just as much to today's collectors of antique cycles, dealers, and riders.