



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of the:
National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
(402)483-7551 ex. 16

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December 1, 2013

Who We Are

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska and the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Curator's Corner

Membership Outreach

During our current membership outreach we continue to see our current supporters renew their support of the museum as well as some new faces emerging.

As you have witnessed through our posting of renewing members in this newsletter, supporters of the museum continue to give. They realize the importance of our mission as the only facility to protect and display the history of our great sport. Once again we want to say a big THANK YOU to those members who year after year maintain support to our cause. It is through people like you that help us remain the top educational center for roller skating.

We now look to grow that base of support through new memberships. Anyone can join the museum to help support roller skating history. Please consider sharing this newsletter with someone you know who may have an interest in helping us preserve this great history.



Membership includes:

Bi-monthly museum e-newsletter
A 30th anniversary pin,
Access to our member-only section of the website,
one year subscription to
USA Roller Sports magazine,
and a 10% discount on store purchases.

Mail to:

National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: 402-483-7551 Ext. 16
FAX: 402-483-1465

Membership Level	1 year	2 years
Benefactor	___ \$500	___ \$950
Patron	___ \$250	___ \$475
Associate Patron	___ \$100	___ \$185
Donor	___ \$50	___ \$90
Individual/Family	___ \$35	___ \$65

Method of Payment:

___ Check payable to National Museum of Roller Skating
___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Credit Card Number Exp

Signature

Membership Info:

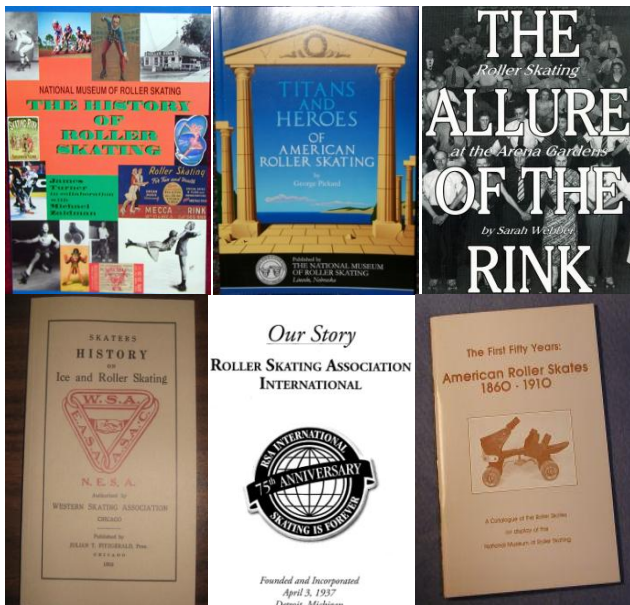
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Great Christmas Gift ideas: museum books



Our museum store sells eight different roller skating books. Certainly everyone can find one to add to their personal library. These books are listed below:

The History of Roller Skating \$15

Titans and Heroes of American Roller Skating \$20

Allure of the Rink \$7

Skater's History on Ice and Roller Skates \$15

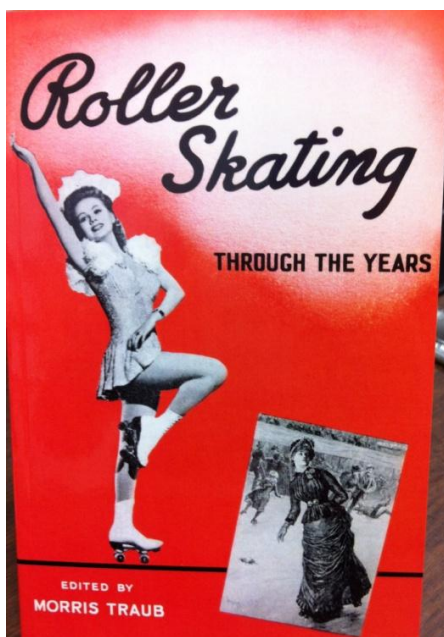
Our Story: Roller Skating Association International \$7

First Fifty Years: American Roller Skates 1860-1910 \$7

Roller Skating Through the Years \$12

These items are shipped with quick turnaround for as little as \$4 shipping. **Please consider us during your holiday shopping.**

To feature one of these excellent literary works, we will now highlight some information you will find in our book, *Roller Skating Through the Years*.



The opening page introduces the reader to the foundation of roller skating in the world. The following is the first paragraph:

The whirring sound of millions of fiber or wooden wheels skimming over maple floors in some 4000 roller rinks the country over; the impromptu, inexpensive evenings of fun, exercise and exhilaration enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of skaters; the rhythm of dancing on wheels and the grace of rolling out figures—all these things (and many more- stem back to some unknown, over-enthusiastic Dutchman of the early Eighteenth Century. The anonymous Hollander was such a lover of ice skating that he could hardly wait until winter came along to freeze the canals and indulge in his favorite sport. So, one day in the good old summertime about 200 years ago, this nameless, creative Dutchman nailed some large wooden spools to strips of wood attached to his shoes, and with this crude sort of roller skate bumped down the pavements and along the roads of old Holland. In this manner, the roller skate was born—conceived in the desire to find a substitute for ice skating which would be independent of inclement weather conditions and could be enjoyed throughout the year.

Quoting from the English newspaper *Punch* from an 1876 issue, the book editor Morris Traub captures the feeling from a British skater at the time:

Captain Harduppe skates because it's cheap. Can't afford to hunt, or to play rackets, or tennis. Rinking only costs you eighteen pence a day. Cheapest exercise there is, and never wears one's boots out as one does by walking.

Traub used another English source, a Lady Dorothy Neville and her *Recollections*, to give a contemporary account of skating at that time with the following:

In the middle seventies the mania caught hold of every class, and rinks, some improvised and some specially built, sprang up in almost every town of any importance. London, and more especially fashionable London, went mad about the new amusement. The craze, however, did not last as long as many speculators had confidently anticipated, and a great deal of money was eventually lost by those who, convinced of the permanency of the roller skating rage, had invested, or rather risked, their money in the construction of rinks. Roller skating whilst it lasted called forth many witticisms and jokes, some of them, it must be added, of none too refined a taste. Certain ladies, for instance, were said to stand on a very unsteady footing, whilst others of irreproachable conduct and stern demeanor were spoken of as constantly falling. One could not help smiling to hear that people regarded as models of decorum had recently had many a slip. The whole craze, indeed, with the comical accidents it entailed, produced general and widespread hilarity.

Rink Photo

West Side Park in Muncie, IN circa 1909



Renewing Members

Anne Pals
Elizabeth Woods
Jim Turner
Dominic Cangelosi

New Members

Bob and Jeanne Housholder

Wish List

1.) **Competition worn gear:** One of the most commented on parts of the museum collection deals with our event worn items. Whether dance costumes, speed uniforms, derby jerseys, hockey sticks, or specific skates, visitors like to see what people wear while competing in roller skating competitions.

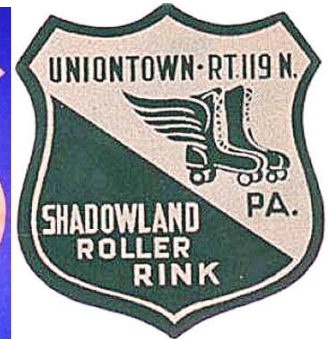
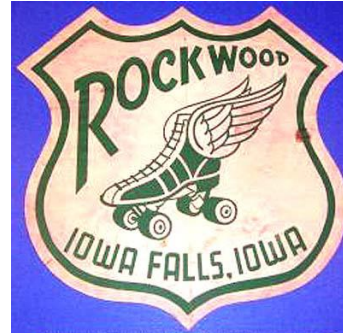
The museum is most in need of items worn while competing for a national championship or a world title. If you have anything you feel meets the criteria and are interested in donating, please contact the museum at your earliest convenience.

2.) **Original Artwork:** For those who visit the museum, we have a small collection of original artwork with a roller skating theme. We have original oil paintings from the Chicago Skate Company from the 1940s. There stands a life-size sculpture of two girls carrying roller skates. We showcase an original lithograph from Cheret, the father of poster art. These items, along with a few others, make up our art collection.

If anyone has any additional artwork with a roller skating theme, please contact the museum. We are looking to expand this part of our permanent collection.

Rink Sticker Collection

The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature different rink stickers. Here are a few examples of the numerous stickers in the collection and on display at the National Museum of Roller Skating.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

