

# 2007 IAMA Lifetime Achievement Recipient

## Karl E. Ludvigsen

Karl Ludvigsen has been active for over 50 years as an author and historian. As an author, co-author or editor he has some four dozen books to his credit. Needless to say, they are all about cars and the motor industry, Karl's life-long passion.

In addition to his extensive activities in auto media, Karl has held executive positions with GM, Fiat and Ford.

His books have focused on automotive manufacturer histories, and auto racing. Since 1997 Ludvigsen has been drawing on the photographic resources of the Ludvigsen Library to write and illustrate books on the great racing drivers. His first title in this series was *Stirling Moss – Racing with the Maestro*. He followed this with *Jackie Stewart – Triple-Crowned King of Speed* and *Juan Manuel Fangio – Motor Racing's Grand Master*. Fourth in this series for Haynes Publishing was *Dan Gurney – The Ultimate Racer* and fifth was *Alberto Ascari – Ferrari's First Double Champion*. Next came *Bruce McLaren – Life and Legend of Excellence* and *Emerson Fittipaldi – Heart of a Racer*.

In co-operation with publisher Iconografix, Ludvigsen has established the Ludvigsen Library Series of 128-page books drawing on the holdings of the Ludvigsen Library. The series now numbers 19 titles, including books on Indy racing cars of 1911 to 1939, the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the Indy Novis, Chevrolet's Corvair and Corvette, Jaguar XK120, XK140 and XK150, the Mercedes-Benz 300SL of 1952 and 1954-1964, the 300SLR of 1955, two books on Porsche Spyders, the Porsche 917, the Ferrari factory and American sports-racers: the Cunninghams, Chaparrals and Can-Am racing cars. More titles are in preparation.

Karl's Ludvigsen Library is also active in the provision of photographs and research material for authors, publishers of books and periodicals, and collectors and enthusiasts. It holds extensive original negatives and transparencies from the 1950s forward with special strengths in motor sports, American cars and sports cars. As well it holds original photos and glass negatives from the dawn of the automotive era.

On motor-industry topics Karl Ludvigsen has written books about high-performance engines, the Wankel rotary engine and the histories of American auto makers. His latest book on power units is *The V12 Engine*, published by Haynes in 2005. He was editor of *The Future of the Automobile*, the report of the 1981-1984 study of the world auto industry by M.I.T. This was named one of the best business books of the year by *Business Week*.

His introduction to *At Speed*, a book of Jesse Alexander's racing photography, won the Ken W. Purdy Award for Excellence in Automotive Journalism. His Porsche history, *Excellence was Expected*, received the IAMA for Best of the Year.

His books on Mercedes-Benz racing cars have won the Montagu Trophy (once) and the Nicholas-Joseph Cugnot Award (twice), both recognizing outstanding automotive historical writing.

In 2001 Karl again received the Cugnot award from the Society of Automotive Historians for his book about the early years of the Volkswagen and its controversial factory, *Battle for the Beetle*, a Robert Bentley publication. In 2002 the Society gave him its highest accolade, Friend of Automotive History.

The year 2008 sees the publication by Haynes of a history of the battles between Ferrari and Maserati from the 1940s to the 1960s, titled *Red-Hot Rivals*. Ludvigsen is also the author of a series of monographs on great Maserati cars.

Leading periodicals also publish Karl Ludvigsen's writings. He is a former technical editor of *Sports Cars Illustrated* (1956-57), editor of *Car and Driver* (1960-1962) and east coast editor of *Motor Trend* (1970s). His articles about cars, companies and motoring personalities are published in America by *Automobile Quarterly*, among others, while in Europe he writes frequently for *The Automobile*. He is a regular writer and columnist for *Hemmings Sports & Exotic Cars*, Just-Auto.com and WindingRoad.com.

Ludvigsen currently resides in England.