

**Reviews of *The Steam Tractor Encyclopedia*
By John F. Spalding and Dr. Robert T. Rhode**

Anyone familiar with Robert T. Rhode's work can appreciate the meticulous research which goes into all of his projects. ... The years of research and photograph collecting have paid off for these two authors. This is not only a book they can be proud of, but one we can all be proud to own. It takes us back in time to a simpler era when steam power was king on American farms. – Brenda Stant, editor-in-chief of *Engineers and Engines Magazine*

Many thanks to you and Mr. Spalding. It is awesome. – William U. Waters, Jr.

Bob and John put together a phenomenal steam book. I lack words to describe it. The photos are typical "Spalding's Corner" quality and Bob Rhode's doctorate in English brings out his typical superb quality writing. – Gary Yaeger

A THICK and weighty encyclopedia for those that like their engines stateside—the story of the gigantic steam tractors that hauled agriculture into the modern era. Richly illustrated and meticulously detailed. OG correspondent Dr Robert T Rhode and his co-author have amassed an impressive lifetime's collection of photographs and old catalogues to present a beautiful book through the eras of portable engines, steam traction engines, gasoline and kerosene tractors and a lovely chapter on gasoline (stationary) engines. – *Old Glory*

The book is well written, with a large collection of antique photographs. The articles on each of the manufacturers are quite impressive ... Once you pick it up it's hard to put back down. – Rick Logan

It is a great book. – John Hunter

[I] would like to commend you and John on this wonderful book. – Thomas Diehl

Thanks so much to you and Mr. Spalding and all involved in this effort, to give us this much needed book. – James W. Russell

Bob Rhode and John Spalding did an outstanding job on this book and I know everyone who ordered one is enjoying their copy. – Brenda Stant, editor-in-chief of *Engineers and Engines Magazine*

Wanted to tell you again what a great book *The Steam Tractor Encyclopedia* is. – Larry Powell

I would like to congratulate you on your new book, *The Steam Tractor Encyclopedia*. This great set of photographs and the history that you have provided make for a wonderful book. – Jack Alexander, author of several books on steam power

It is a superb book that has been enriched by the sharing of a great collection of old photos. – Joe Kramer, frequent contributor of articles to vintage iron magazines

It is regarded as one of the very best. – Tore Blom, Rubens Maskinhistoriska Samlingar

Thank you both so much for producing such a fine record of steam traction engines in our hemisphere. – Gary Yaeger, frequent contributor of articles and photographs to vintage iron magazines

It is a great book with many fascinating pictures. – Greg Gerle, Ontario Steam Heritage Museum

Robert T. Rhode ... is one of the world's leading experts on steam tractor history ... – *The News in English*, Indiana University

Congratulations on the second printing of your steam tractor encyclopedia. Sales for the first edition must have been very good! – Melissa Wood, Publisher's Representative, Pearson arts & Sciences

Charge more for the book, it is a great bargain. – Jack W. Suderman

I have bought three other copies of *The Steam Tractor Encyclopedia* for some of my closest friends, and all of them found your book amazing. – Davide Lorenzone

Now here is a man who has certainly earned the Hall of Fame honor for the multitudes of steam histories and agricultural equipment contributions he has given our nation and the international 'old iron' community. – Gary Yaeger, frequent contributor of articles and photographs to vintage iron magazines

It [is] CLEAR that their book stands far above ANY other that I've ever read. They knocked my socks off with this one. ... JUST BUY THIS BOOK. – Rob Skinner

Another wonderful work by two legendary historians and steam preservationists! – Jeff L. Detwiler, frequent contributor of articles to vintage iron magazines

The one and a half-inch thick book is twice that of the first edition. – *Old Glory*

I consider your expertise and publication in the steam field unparalleled. – Dr. Mark Ohlde

You are without doubt the preeminent American farm steam historian of all time. – Dr. Mark Ohlde

An amazing book. Every tractor collector or even anyone interested in American history should have a copy. – John Haley

Looks like a lot of hard work went into a great end product. Be proud! – Dr. G. Steven Baer

I'm overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of technical information on each steam traction engine and their applicable history. It will be an invaluable resource for our inspection staff. – Dean Jagger, Chief Boiler Inspector, Department of Commerce, State of Ohio

[I]t is a standard for books on the subject. – Dr. Robert Bryce, McMaster University

I have the honor of personally knowing Dr. Rhode. I am a neighbor and friend. My son, my cousin's husband and I have assisted Robert with the maintenance and operation of his Case 65. Robert's enthusiasm, concerning these steam and smoke belching giants, is contagious. Robert's willingness to share his knowledge aids both this generation and those to come. His books contain information which, if not reported, would be lost to time. – Amazon reviewer, Steven Harold Mousa

The book gives a short history of the various manufacturers of steam traction engines. There are also many vintage photos. You just can't get this amount of varied information from any other one book I've run across. Keep in mind that the book is intended for those who already know more than a little about traction engines. But even those who know nothing at all about the subject would still probably find it interesting. – Amazon reviewer, M. Shepherd

This large format book gives a complete history of the different manufacturing companies that built steam traction and stationary steam engines, which took farms and industry out of the horse age. Aside from the very complete written histories of the various companies, this book adds great value with the wonderful collection of black and white photos. Not only does one see the engines, but we see their use with the people that worked with them and what these machines were able to do. The book is printed on good paper stock which helps with the nice photo reproductions and photo captions. At the end of the book is a chapter of photos of gas engines and gas tractors that came of age during the latter part of the steam traction era. – Amazon reviewer, Steven Lang

You just can't find this wealth of information in one book any more. This book has it all. There aren't many of these machines left and even fewer people who have actually worked with them. I'll probably order another copy so I can pass them on to my grandsons so they can learn about the age of steam in American agriculture history. – Amazon reviewer, Ed Johnston

Even when you have been around steamers as long as I have—I was 4-years-old and am now 42—you never seem to have enough information about them. My husband and boys go to all the local threshing shows here in northern Minnesota with me and another out in South Dakota and we all enjoy it. He and I both have our licenses and are called into service quite often to run them at the shows. If you happen to have a copy of *Steam Traction Magazine* from Sept-Oct 2005, the "Dad's Steam Story" article is mine. Contact info is outdated. This book combined with the Crestline Series by Jack Norbeck really give even the newbie steam hobbyist a pretty good education on all the companies that jumped on the steam-power band wagon of 100 years ago. There are other wonderful books out there about how these beasts work, but these are the ones you want if you just want company information without a lot of the technical information that can tend to read like stereo instructions to someone who has never been exposed to them. This book is filled with great pictures and tons of information. A definite asset to your steam and gas tractor library. Don't pass it by! – Amazon reviewer

This book was not what I expected, IT WAS BETTER! The information covered in this volume goes beyond what most writings of the subject tell about, plus the many photographs contained in the book are more than worth the price. After first looking through the pages and stopping at every one to take in the photos then go back and read the information, I never realized before that there had been so many manufacturers of American Traction Engines. Each chapter takes you through the early beginning of the particular manufacturer, to the height of their success and the end of their

existence. The accompanying articles along with the pictures make for a most interesting treasure trove of information, the stories are as fascinating as are the pictures. Although it is not full of technical information, it is well worth having if you are interested in the subject like I am, get a copy, you will not be disappointed. – Amazon reviewer, Kevin P. Klein

No such thing as another lethargic account of endless facts and figures, this book exudes life itself. From the countless time period photographs to the well-written and researched histories of the men and the factories that spit out these smoke belching behemoths you will lose yourself in the drama that unfolds page by page. Starting in the years preceding the great Civil War visionary business men toiled alongside the common laborer to smelt the iron and shape it into useful and needed farm machines. Enduring shortages of material, financial woes, fire, drought, and floods they labored on and by success and failure made the mechanization of agriculture what we know today. Men like William Heilman, A. B. Farquhar, Oliver S. Kelly, and more are highlighted, interspersed with pictures that will take you back and lead you by the hand down dusty lanes, past threshing crews, sawmills, and heavy haulage where steam was king. Catch a glimpse of burly men and barefoot boys, bustling women and carefree girls, for after all, it is the people that make our lives large and meaningful. It's not so much about the machines and the collecting of the same but the friends we meet, the places we visit, and the memories we share. – Amazon reviewer, Howard H. Raymond

This is a fascinating book about an important period in the history of the development of agricultural technology, which adds significantly to the classic works by Norbeck and Clymer. – Amazon reviewer, Charles Engelson

The quality of the new encyclopedia is what the publishing industry calls "archival," which means that the paper is acid free (will not turn yellow or become brittle) and that all materials used in the hardcover assembly and dust jacket are of the finest grade. – *Smoke & Fumes*

The Steam Tractor Encyclopedia offers fascinating accounts of the development of the steam engine on American farms. This hardcover book provides a wonderful opportunity to see the innovations that forever changed the agricultural landscape. Readers can learn about the sheer persistence and determination captured in the encyclopedia's 600 photographs. I highly recommend this book as an example of how problem solving spawned vast industries. – Leland Hite