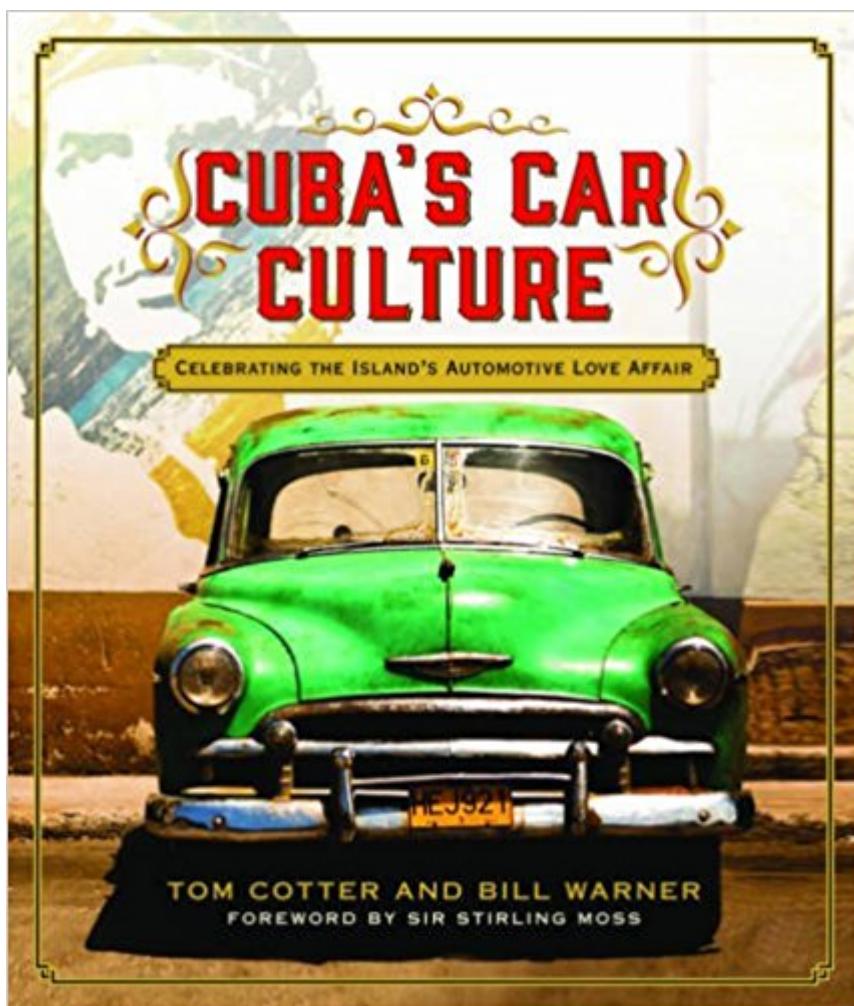


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# Cuba's Car Culture: Celebrating The Island's Automotive Love Affair



## Synopsis

Welcome to Cuba's automotive time capsule, filled with classic cars. The story of how Cuba came to be trapped in automotive time is a fascinating one. For decades, the island country had enjoyed healthy tourism trade and American outpost status, and by the 1950s it had the highest per capita automotive purchasing of any Latin American country - its middle class ensured an interesting variety of vehicles plying the roads. But when Cuba fell to communist rebels in 1959, so ended the inflow of new cars. Since then, trade embargo forced Cuba's car enthusiasts to develop a unique and insular culture, one marked by great creativity, such as: Keeping a car alive with no opportunity to acquire replacement parts; Customizing a car with no access to aftermarket parts; Drag racing with no drag strip. In many ways, Cuba is an automotive time warp, where the newest car is a 1959 Chevy or perhaps one of the Soviet Ladas. Cuba's Car Culture offers an inside look at a unique car culture, populated with cars that have been cut off from the world so long that they've morphed into something else in the spirit of automotive survival. Authors Tom Cotter and Bill Warner (founder of the Amelia Island Concours) take readers of Cuba's Car Culture on a whirlwind tour of all things automotive, beginning with Cuba's pre-Castro car and racing history and bringing us up to today's lost collector cars, street racing, and the challenges of keeping decades-old cars on the road. The book is illustrated throughout with rare historical photos as well as contemporary photos of Cuba's current car scene. For anyone who enjoys classic cars, from old Chevy Bel-Airs to Studebakers to Ford Fairlanes, a cruise around Cuba will make you feel like a kid in a candy store.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A lavishly illustrated photo history of the country's car culture...You'll see a culture frozen in time in terms of modern technology and conveniences but for vintage car buffs, you'll see a fantasyland of cars, everything from a Ford Model T to Ernest Hemingway's 1955 Chrysler convertible. You'll also learn fascinating historical trivia about Cuban car culture." - Travel Channel online

"Cuba's Car Culture...is well written, with lots of political and racing history for background and context. The photos are great and leave the reader with a real sense of what it's like there." - DeansGarage.com

"The resulting book is a gorgeous homage to an automotive life that will no doubt change as the island begins again to trade with the United States." - ShelfAwareness.com

"Writer Tom Cotter, photographer Bill Warner and automotive historian Wellington Morton give us page after page of glorious color photos and easy-to-digest narrative on the history of Cuba's cars, the country and its proud people." - theCoastNews.com

"A beautifully photographed documentary of a summer 2015 visit by authors and automotive enthusiasts Tom Cotter and Bill Warner, and a history of the island's intertwined politics and passion for cars." - San Francisco Chronicle

Before writing his first book, Tom Cotter had long been involved in nearly every end of the automotive and racing industries. From mechanic and auto salesman to heading the public relations department at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Cotter formed his own racing and automotive PR and marketing agency, Cotter Group. The agency represented some of the largest clients in NASCAR, IndyCar/CART, drag racing and road racing. He has written biographies of the legendary Holman-Moody race team, Tommy Ivo and Dean Jeffries, but is best known for his series of barn find books, such as *Cobra in the Barn*, *50 Shades of Rust* and *Barn Find Road Trip*. Cotter appears in the *Barn Find Hunter* video series, which is distributed by Hagerty Insurance. He teaches public relations at Belmont Abbey College, sits on the advisory board of McPherson College's Auto Restoration program, and is a member of the Road Racing Driver's Club (RRDC.). He is married to Pat, has one son, Brian, and lives in Davidson, N.C. Bill Warner is founder of the Amelia Island Concours and also serves as president of his own business, H. C. Warner, Inc., an industrial filtration company. He also owns and operates Bill Warner Racing. Warner won the 2002 Meguiar's Award for Collector Car Hobby Person of the Year. Warner began as a "go-fer" for a racing team as a teenager and eventually began racing his own cars, competing in a variety of events. His writing and photography have been featured in *Road & Track*, as well as several European and Asian racing publications. Sir Stirling Moss is a national treasure. Arguably the world's greatest all-round racing driver, he was a hero to several generations of schoolboys

and enthusiasts throughout the world. Moss is now so iconic his name is often used as a metaphor for a racing driver - the name alone invokes mental images of speed, bravado, the jet-set lifestyle and a bevy of beauties with whom to live it. By 1961 his career was at its peak; absolutely at the top of his game, a charismatic sportsman famous across the world.

Interesting read but quite a let down once you (the reader) realize that almost all the cars originality has been destroyed by their struggling owners trying to keep them running! I'm not so sure they "love" their cars as much as they "need" their cars and Mr. Cotter makes that point. It may be a mis-print but I believe the Austin Healey on page 109 &111 is a 100-6 not 100-4...

Almost as good as being there! Great current photography and historical photos of the pre-Castro era. Cuba was America's largest car importer in the pre-Castro era, and the Cuban love of the American automobile is apparent in the text and pictures. A must for any automotive library.

Bought for father for Christmas who is a big-time car lover! I am not an expert, so I cannot judge the content in relation to cars, but he is very much enjoying it! The photographs are wonderful but have a lot of personality.

This is a great book. The pictures are perfect and the book itself is beautiful. I bought this book for my Dad and he loves it. If you want to buy a unique book for someone that likes the older cars this book would be a great choice.

Great review of cars history in Cuba. Given as a gift was well received and read immediately. Great for car buffs

We are taking a trip to Cuba this fall and this sets the mood.

Outstanding walk through Havana and a wonderful trip around Cuba. Photographs depicting cars of the past are incredible to see. Well done.

Interesting but too much of the racing coverage and too little of daily life with the classic cars

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