FROM BICYCLE TO MOTORCYCLE

La Grange à Bécanes - Collection Lemoine explores the history of motorbikes since the invention of bicycles in partnership with the National Automobile Museum – Collection Schlumpf and the Friends of the Motorbike Museum.

Bicycles were invented in the early 19th century. Whilst industrial development was in full swing in European countries, engineers were working hard on engine specifications and the first motorised bicycles appeared on the scene. Fuelled by international competition by manufacturers and bike races, motorised bicycles became a social phenomenon in the second half of the 19th century.

The brothers Eugène and Michel Werner trademarked «Motocyclette» (motorcycle) in 1897. A 20th century cult item was born!

The piston engine became the norm. There were up to a million riders and bicycles became widespread in the city and countryside alike. Brands designed and sold more and more reliable models.

Motorised bicycles with an engine size of up to 50cc have been a real success. They are sturdy, inexpensive and have provided generations of riders, primarily between 1960 and 1990, with affordable and easy-to-use transport. Modern scooters may have taken over from motorised bicycles, but they remain a French heritage icon.

Temporary exhibition in partnership with the National Automobile Museum - Collection Schlumpf.

Design and production: Culture and tourism department - Tourism and Museum service; Friends of the Motorbike Museum.

Curator: Catherine Fuchs-Roucher-Sarrazin.

Documentary and iconography research: Evan Lek, Marion Méraud.

