

Book Reviews

On the Trail of Discovery

Jason Wright Researches the history of his Giulietta and find treasure

One of the most enjoyable adjunct to the purchase of a historic car is reascerching its previous life. Recentlywhile contemplating the purchase of an Alfa Giulietta Sprint, I embarked on a voyage of discovery that led me to afew books that are probably not easily available outside of Italy , but which are bound to be of interest to some of our readers. I started off with *Alfa Romeo Giulietta* byAngelo Tito Anselmi but, as it's been around for years, I won't bother to elaborate. Next on my list was *Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint* a slim little 95-page volume by Giancarlo Catarsi and published by Giorgio Nada. Unfortunately this is only available with an Italian text, but in addition to the wealth of the period photos, it provides a very useful chronology of changes to the modelsas well as a list of serial numbers pertaining to the various model variant. As myresearch became more focused I came across an incredible tome titled *La Targa Florio della Giulietta* by Gino Giugno, wich is subtitled *Le Alfa Romeo Giulietta che hanno partecipato alla Targa Florio ed al Giro di Sicilia*. This445-page, soft cover volume indie lists everyGiulietta toh ave competed in the Targa Florio or Giro di Sicilia. Whether it be a Sprint,Sprint Veloce, Berlina Spider, SVZ,SZ,SS, they are all listedn some with chassis number, some with registration number, and some with just the driver's names. Many of the cars are photographed, which is the real wealth of the book. There is not much text, so the fact that this is Italian text only is not a big issue.

I was drawn off at a tangent of my search by Franco Scaglione Designer, edited and produced by the Automotoclub Storico Italiano, which effectively is the catalogue for a show on the career of Franco Scaglione, the designer of the Alfa Giulietta Sprint and Speciale. Again the language is not a hindrance as it is a pictorial summary of the models designed by this incredible talent designer.

My next discovery was a second book from Gino Giugno, which focused on the extremely rare Sprint Veloce Zagato and titled *Giulietta Sprint Veloce Zagato* and is both Italian and English. Without being rude, the fact someone with very little knowledge of the English language had the courage to provide an English text says something of the man's tenacity, for the translation is dreadful. I refer to this tenacity because the history of the SVZ is a dangerous subject. The cars were never produced as complete entities by either Alfa o no records were kept, and value are high compared to standard Alfa, the temptation to produce fakes is very great. A lot of Giugno's SVZ material comes from articles authored by the late Adrian Smits and published in the UK Giulietta Register's excellent magazine, the *Giuliettaletta*.

Last on my list, but a book that will appeal to a wider audience due to the years that it cover, is *La Pontedecimo Giovi 1922-1967* published by fratelli Frilli Editori (in Italian). The Giovi pass is the mountain between Milano and Genoa and the 10Km hillclimb was

a popular venue that attracted wide a variety of cars. Consequently the large format, 430 page book is a treasure trove of contemporary photos.

All these books, I not available locally can be ordered through the Libreria Autodromo at Monza www.libreria-autodromo.it