Changes awheel: Transformations in the social and cultural meanings of cycling in Belgium, 1900-1914

Stijn Knuts, PhD
Policy in Sports and Physical Activity Research Group
KU Leuven
Introduction

A new era approaching fast: Belgium, the bicycle and the Belle Epoque
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The 1897 Brussels World Fair, one of the many occasions for Belgium to boost its cultural presence on the world stage.
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Wheels of change: cycling history as a new perspective on the Belgian Belle-Epoque
Belgian and Flemish identities inscribed on a bicycle frame
A mostly bourgeois affair

- Vélocipède (1860s)
- Ordinary (1870s-1880s)
- Safety bicycle / bicyclette (1885)
A mostly bourgeois affair

Belgian King Leopold II on his tricycle at the Belgian coast
A mostly bourgeois affair

Learning to ride the safety: catalyst for an international and Belgian bicycle craze
A mostly bourgeois affair

Excursioning on safety and Ordinary in the Belgian Ardennes, 1880s
Democracy’s horse ascendent

New cycling faces in the 1900s:
an illustration of the bicycle’s fast democratisation
Democracy’s horse ascendent

A bicycle advert in *De Volksstem* from 1913: just 196 francs with the option to buy on credit
Democracy’s horse ascendent

Imagining a changing mobility culture in the automobile and cycling press, 1903
Democracy’s horse ascendent

A bicycle tax plate for Liége province, 1909: battleground and laboratory for cycling’s changing social connotations
Democracy’s horse ascendent

Receipt confirming that Henri Simon of Liège has paid his provincial bicycle tax for 1902 (Musée de la Vie Wallonne, Liège)
From international success to domestic crisis in racing

A bicycle race on the vélorama of Liége during the 1890s
From international success to domestic crisis in racing

Robert Protin (right) and Hubert Houben (left): two protagonists of Belgian international racing during the 1890s
From international success to domestic crisis in racing

Present, but decidedly less so: advertising a bicycle race in Brussels in 1900
A contested ‘people’s sport’

Cyriel Van Hauwaert at the start of Bordeaux-Paris in 1909
A contested ‘people’s sport’

Cyriel Van Hauwaert, winner of Bordeaux-Paris (1907) and Paris-Roubaix (1908): herald of a new cycling sport
A contested ‘people’s sport’

An advertisement for the La Francaise bicycle brand using Van Houwaert
A contested ‘people’s sport’

Rough, dirty and quite possibly dangerous: an unknown racer victorious in a pre-war race
The celebration of Odiel Defraeye, the first Belgian winner of the Tour de France, in Brussels in 1912
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

Encircling the nation: the trajectory of the Tour of Belgium for professionals, 1908
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

New periodicals for a new sport: a sample of Flemish and francophone sport magazines founded from 1908 onwards
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

The first issue of *Sportwereld* (1912) and its editor, Karel van Wijnendaele
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

Marcel Buysse (left) and Jules Masselis (right), two other pre-war Flemish racing icons
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

The ‘farmer-racer’ as a source of Flemish pride: Van Hauwaert and his colleagues in a rural setting
Waving *tricolores* and lion-flags

Constructing Flemish racing genealogies: a tree of Flemish ‘lions’ with Van Hauwaert as its root
Epilogue

Dark clouds gathering: a race on Brussels’ Karreveld track in the summer of 1914
Bibliography


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Contact details

- Stijn.knuts@faber.kuleuven.be
- https://kuleuven.academia.edu/StijnKnuts
- Thank you for your attention!