

DESIGN WITH WHICH MRS. P. L. HUSSEY WON THE FIRST PRIZE AT THE DAYTON CARNIVAL, OHIO.

DECORATED BICYCLES.

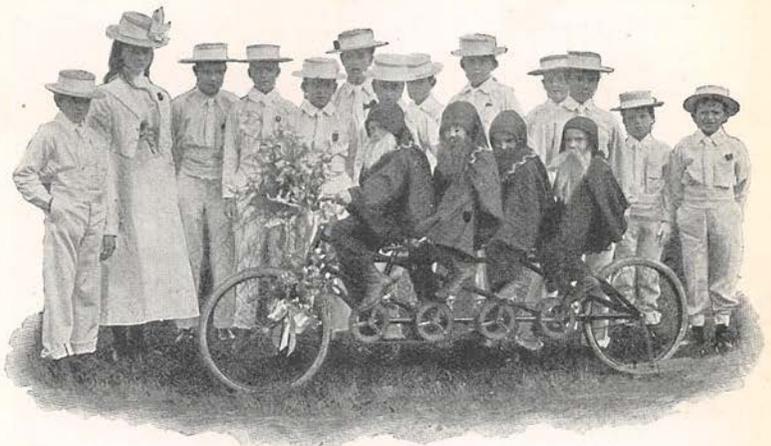
BY HAROLD J. SHEPSTONE.

now make a special feature of decorating their clients' machines for cycling carnivals.

But no better evidence can be given of the high pitch of excellence now attained in the art of decorating bicycles than the photographic representations which we reproduce of machines of prize-winners, and those who have gained special distinction at various cycling functions. For this purpose

the writer has collected photographs of the most striking designs that have appeared at carnivals and other festivals during the past season, both from the Continent as well as from America, and a glance at the result cannot fail to convince the most sceptical that the decoration of one's bicycle is no ordinary undertaking,

DECORATED bicycles have now become such a common feature at cycling carnivals and club anniversary outings, that one might be inclined to regard such a subject as the ornamentation of a bicycle as an accomplishment hardly meriting particular attention. It is true that one gets almost tired of the conventional bunch of flowers, both real and artificial, attached or dropping from the handlebar, which are to be seen at nearly every cycling festival. At the same time, however, the decoration of bicycles has now become an art, and as such can claim the attention of those who admire artistic taste and skill, as well as of those who appreciate the combination of colour and effect. It is also a well-known fact, especially in Paris and other Continental cities, that florists



THE YOUNGEST "QUAD" IN HOLLAND.

but one that calls for a considerable amount of ingenuity and skill should the designer

wish to gain a prize, or even merit special distinction.

Where flowers are expressly concerned prettiness should be the aim of the designer rather than novelty. One of our most striking photographs, a quadruplet, ridden by four children, belongs to the latter category. The riders are dressed to represent gnomes, and very quaint they look in their cloaks and hoods, while their beard appendages add much to the novelty of the effect. These four young cyclists took part in a cycling festival held last September by Dutch cyclists in honour of the accession of Queen Wilhelmina, and claim the distinction of being the youngest "quad" in Holland.

Wheels that supply some of the prettiest decorations, so far as children's bicycles are concerned, are the machines of Miss Dalma Rona and Masters Reiter and Augenfeld. These young people took part in the pageant held at Temesvar, in Hungary, in connection with the Red Cross Society. Little Miss Rona, whose machine is most artistically decorated with artificial flowers, ribbons, and bows, was dressed in blue, and rode under a triumphal arch, supported by Masters Reiter and Augenfeld,

who were uniformly dressed three and attracted at Scudia Park, where the festival took place. In our next photograph we



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TANDEM FLANKED BY SINGLES: MR. DUYL AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS AT ROTTERDAM.

have three machines, but four riders, the central one being a tandem. All three machines were firmly lashed together by wooden bars, on which the frame of the design was built. The gentleman on the rear seat of the tandem is Mr. J. C. H. Duyl, of Rotterdam, the three young ladies being his daughters. Orange

blossoms are the predominant feature of the decorations.

In events where prizes are awarded to the most striking machines, the bicycles of prize-winners should represent a high excellence in the art of bicycle decoration. That this has been attained everyone must admit after a glance at our photograph of the ordinary lady's safety bicycle with which Mrs. P. L. Hussey won the first prize for the hand-



YOUTHFUL CYCLISTS AT THE RED CROSS SOCIETY PAGEANT, TEMESVAR, HUNGARY.

somest decorated bicycle in the Merchants' Carnival Bicycle Parade, at Dayton, Ohio. This is a chariot representation, marvellously and tastefully executed. The wheels on either side of the machine did not, of course, touch the ground, escaping it by about an inch. They are made of cardboard, covered with pink tissue paper. The general frame of the chariot was covered with white cotton batting, trimmed with pink and white tissue paper, the effect being pink and white. The edges of the chariot were covered with white chrysanthemums. The parasol was also trimmed with chrysanthemums and smilax. The butterfly, too, was very striking, and was made of gauze, properly painted and in proportion to the size of the chariot. Another prize-winner worthy of mention is Mrs. Rona, whose tastefully decorated machine excited general admiration at the Red Cross Society's Festival already referred to. Wild-briar roses are the predominating feature of the decorations, but the beautiful floral arch fitted on to the frame of the rear wheel helped not a little to produce the pretty effect.

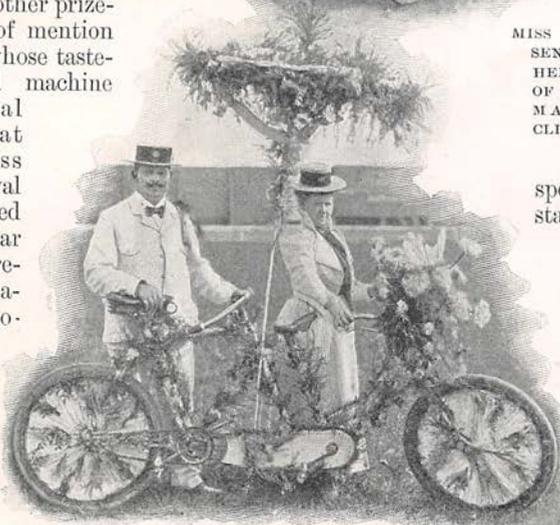
It must not be thought, however, from the foregoing views that the wheelwomen of our own country are behind their sisters on the Continent or their cousins in America in displaying taste in the decoration of their bicycles, for our own cycling carnivals have shown us many examples of exquisite skill in this direction. The photograph we reproduce of the "Floral Queen" goes to prove this statement, for the decorations are both tasteful and pretty. The rider is Miss Clara E. Finch, who has carried off many prizes in the Midlands for her skill in decorating her wheel, and everyone must admit that her efforts are decidedly praise-

worthy. Quite a variety of flowers are included — smilax, dahlias, asters, scarlet geraniums, chrysanthemums, and marguerites.

Gentlemen as well as ladies, however, have shown remarkable skill in the decoration of their machines, and what is unquestionably one of the boldest designs we have seen was the machine of Mr. Koppl, captain of the Franzensbad Cycling Club. But the photograph will speak for itself. When we state that Mr. Koppl rode



MISS BRODERSEN AND MR. HERDEJOST, OF THE HERMANN CYCLING CLUB.



BARON AND BARONESS VAN REEDE TE PARKELER AT AMSTERDAM.



MRS. RONA'S WILD-ROSE MACHINE AT TEMESVAR.

his machine with all the decorations seen in the picture, it not only testifies to his skill as an able cyclist, but also to the perfect arrangement and secure erection of the various decorations fixed to the machine. The iron framework on which the crown on the top rests was cleverly and neatly fitted to the frame of the machine, and was in itself no little weight. The drapery, palm leaves, and flowers show exquisite taste. It was a conspicuous figure in the Floral Corso, held at Franzensbad on



MR. ARTHUR THOMAS'S "SUNFLOWER" DESIGN AT THE PORTMADOC CYCLING CARNIVAL.

It often happens, however, that a less crowded machine will be equally as effective as one that is simply a mass of decorations, as is evidenced in the "Sunflower" design. The rider of this machine, Mr. Arthur Thomas, to whom the writer is indebted for the loan of his photograph, was awarded the first prize in the Portmadoc Cycling Carnival. A great amount of taste is shown in the arrangement of the flowers, and the little bicycle lamp in the centre of sunflower leaves is very novel, likewise the two flowers arranged



TANDEM RIDDEN THROUGH POTSDAM BY MR. STEFFIN AT THE GERMANIA CYCLING CLUB'S FESTIVAL.

the 3rd of July last, under the patronage of the Archduchess Maria Josepha of Austria. Altogether the carnival was a pretty sight, the machines presenting quite a picture, and well befitting the high rank taken by Franzensbad as a health resort of the *élite*. Many ladies of title took part in the proceedings, the Countess of Wurmbrand carrying off the first prize for the best decorated lady's bicycle.



MR. KOPPL AT THE FRANZENSBAD FLORAL CORSO LAST SUMMER.



A SALFORD WHEELER.

in an upright position on the handle-bar. Little sunflowers, too, may be seen shooting out from the pedals, while Mr. Thomas has not forgotten to trim his hat with the leaves of the same flower that decorates his machine. The design of the Salford wheeler, and also that of the cyclist dressed in velvet and wearing a sword, are novel and striking.

Those who have made it a practice to visit cycling carnivals must have often been struck with the fact that decorated tandem bicycles are exceedingly rare. It must be admitted at once that tandems are scarcer than singles, but considering their number, which may be said to be daily increasing, one could reasonably expect to see more of these double machines at cycling festivals than is at present the case. The only explanation we can offer for the absence of this machine at these gatherings is because it is more difficult to make a really effective picture of a tandem bicycle than is the case with single machines. One of the most striking tandem designs we have seen was the splendidly decorated machine shown in the accompanying illustration. It was ridden through the streets of Potsdam, in Germany, by Mr. Steppin, last year, on the anniversary of the Germania Cycling Club, and was applauded by thousands of spectators. The framework

consists of wooden bars secured to the frame of the machine. This framework is 5 ft. high and 22 ins. wide. The decorations consisted chiefly of thin blue and white material, such as tulle, etc., tastefully relieved by trails of creepers and dahlias. Very pretty also is the floral decorated tandem of Baron van Reede te Parkeler and his wife, of Amsterdam. Much pains and time were spent over the decoration of this machine, many varieties of flowers being called into requisition, while the canopy, which is also crowded with flowers, may be referred to as its crowning glory.

It is only occasionally that one can meet with such enthusiastic wheelmen who will endeavour to add to the novelty of decoration by combining more than one bicycle in such a way that both machines move harmoniously together. By some ingenious device Miss Brodersen and Mr. Herdejost coupled their machines

together, thus giving the riders the opportunity of indulging in a larger canopy than would otherwise have been the case. They are members of the Hermann Cycling Club, a well-known cycling institution on the Continent, and their white canopy, with its floral trimmings, caused much comment.

There is always something interesting about groups, and the five ladies of the First Dutch Ladies' Cycling Association, who were awarded the first prize in connection with the cycling carnival held in



MISS CLARA FINCH AS "THE FLORAL QUEEN."



A SALFORD WHEELER.

honour of the accession of Queen Wilhelmina, presented a very pretty picture. The group was composed of five riders, whose machines were charmingly decorated with violets and other flowers. On the centre machine was fixed a kind of pole, with a flag at the top, while directly underneath appeared a shield bearing the memorable motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." Four strings of flowers attached to the top of the pole acted as reins to the four different riders, who endeavoured to keep that length from the centre machine. All five machines kept at their proper distance, and no doubt their faultless riding had a great deal to do with influencing the decision of the jury



THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST PRIZE AT THE CYCLING CARNIVAL HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACCESSION OF QUEEN WILHELMINA OF HOLLAND.

in awarding them the first prize, a valuable gold medal. Mention has been made in this article of the Franzensbad Cycling Club's carnival, and of the elegance of the machines that took part in it, but perhaps we could not do better than reproduce a photograph showing some of the members with their machines, which has been kindly lent by the secretary of the Club. After a careful view of this picture it will hardly be necessary for the reader to be informed that the members of the Franzensbad Cycling Club are all enthusiastic cyclists, and look forward with pleasure to cycling

carnivals, when they vie with one another in the decoration of their machines.

All the foregoing bicycles have been either decorated with flowers or drapery, or by some novel design attached to certain parts of the frame. Our last photograph, however, is a lady's bicycle of the ordinary height and pattern, and, like our other illustrations, claims attention on account of its unique decorations. In this case, however, it is not flowers, but precious stones! Now, it is somewhat difficult to show to the full advantage such costly ornaments as precious stones, but on the handle-bar of the machine mentioned there are no less than four hundred and twenty-two

real precious stones. This fancy lady's bicycle was brought out by an Austrian firm, and caused quite a sensation at the Vienna Exposition of 1897, where it was exhibited, and also more recently at Turin. The whole machine is decorated in the most delicate colours, ivory white and blue, while all the plated parts, instead of being nickel-plated in the usual way, are heavily ruddy-gilt, whereby the elegant impression given to the machine is still further enhanced. The gear-case, which is shown so clearly in the photograph, is adorned with most artistic hand-paintings of Cupids on bicycles, deco-



AT THE FRANZENSBAD CYCLING CLUB'S CARNIVAL.

rated with roses. The frame as well as the rims are also delicately painted, while the saddle cover is of blue plush lined with silk and ornamented with beautiful real gold embroidery. It is difficult to judge the value of such a machine, for in addition to the four hundred and twenty-two precious stones set on the handle-bar there are other costly

additions such as the mother-of-pearl handles with gold clips set with wonderful turquoises. According to the particulars the writer has received through the kindness of the British Consul at Vienna, Mr. Feldscharck, and to whom he is indebted for the accompanying photograph, the construction of the machine alone cost £300.



LADY'S BICYCLE, DECORATED THROUGHOUT WITH PRECIOUS STONES.