



Around The World On Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride

Peter Zheutlin

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Peter Zheutlin's thoroughly researched account will make you wish you'd been around to catch a glimpse of the extraordinary woman as she went wheeling by. --Bill Littlefield, National Public Radio's *Only A Game*

Until 1894 there were no female sport stars, no product endorsement deals, and no young mothers with the chutzpah to circle the globe on a bicycle. Annie Londonderry changed all of that.

When Annie left Boston in June of that year, she was a brash young lady with a 42-pound bicycle, a revolver, a change of underwear, and a dream of freedom. She was also a feisty mother of three who had become the center of what one newspaper called "one of the most novel wagers ever made": a high-stakes bet between two wealthy merchants that a woman could not ride around the world on a bicycle. The epic journey that followed took the connection between athletics and commercialism to dizzying new heights, and turned Annie Londonderry into a symbol of women's equality.

A vastly entertaining blend of social history, high adventure, and maverick marketing, *Around the World on Two Wheels* is an unforgettable portrait of courage, imagination, and tenacity.

"Annie was a remarkable woman and well worth getting to know." --*Booklist*

"A wonderful telling of one of the most intriguing, offbeat, and until now, lost chapters in the history of cycling." --David Herlihy, author of *Bicycle: The History*

"A pleasant, affectionate portrait of a free spirit who pedaled her way out of Victorian constraints." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"[A] charming and informative book." --*Cape Cod Times*

"[An] incredible story. . .[a] fascinating book." --*NextReads*

"[A] stirring tale. . .not only a must read, but a must have." --*Western Writers of America Roundup Magazine*

"[A] remarkable saga." --*The Winston-Salem (NC) Journal*

"[R]ead[s]. . .like a novel." --*The Columbia (SC) State*

"[M]eticulously researched. . .illuminat[es] the feeling of a bygone era." --*The Portsmouth (NH) Wire*

Peter Zheutlin has been chasing the story of his great-grand aunt Annie Londonderry for more than four years. He is an avid cyclist and a freelance journalist whose work appears regularly in the *Boston Globe* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. He has also written for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, *AARP Magazine*, *Bicycling*, the *New England Quarterly*, and other publications. He lives in Needham, Massachusetts.

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