

A picture book by Uwe Mayer

THE BICYCLING BARON

The Weird and Wonderful Story of a Fabulously Useful
and Utterly Amazing Invention!

A volcano, clouds of ash and one clever inventor who
in 1817 invented the bicycle!



A story which, although completely true, is still hardly known!

Wittily drawn and told by Uwe Mayer.

A charming 52-page picture book about a time when horsemen learnt to ride bicycles. For children aged 5 and up and all the young at heart ... and for every single cyclist.

STIFTUNG BUCHKUNST (German book art foundation):
"The most beautiful German books, 2019"
Long List



This story begins with a **whopping great bang!** It is the (almost unbelievable, yet completely true) story of a German baron from the Duchy of Baden and his fabulously useful invention, the "running machine". Later known as the velocipede or **hobby horse!**

The quick-thinking Baron **KARL FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN LUDWIG Freiherr von DRAIS zu SAUERBRONN**, to use his full name, tells us his story himself!

If you want to hear it, and see it, then you'll need to read the book. But you surely would like to have a peep, so **please read on:**

In this book we learn how the Baron wants to invent a **vehicle which can function without horses and runs without oats.**

But why? Because at that time hardly any strong horses were left. And why was that? Because in 1815 a **volcano** on the other side of the world gave rise to a short, but global, **climate catastrophe**; with **dust and ash** bringing endless rain, a **summer of snow** and ultimately **hunger.**

Baron von Drais however saw that without horses for transport things would get even worse! And thus he invented a **small "wooden horse" ...**





Bergab waren wir SCHNELLER als das BESTE Pferd im Galopp! Oh, so glaubt es mir! Seht nur her! Welch ein Triumph! Es dauerte nicht lange und meine Draissine war weit über das Land und weit über die Grenzen hinaus bekannt.

Downhill: faster than a galloping horse

with two wheels for people to ride: the fabulously useful and utterly amazing **BICYCLE!**

Not only do we witness *how* he arrived at his invention, we also follow him on his spectacular trial runs!

Then we see how others start tinkering around with his idea, with new results: plain crazy or more practical, from a North Pole bicycle (with heating!) up to the first automobile. However, the man who built the first car, Master Mechanic & engineer C. Benz quickly noticed that the car was not ideal in every respect: it was "a bit smelly". – Which brings us to the final question that everyone must answer for themselves. In fact, it is the big **PRIZE-WINNING QUESTION:** Bicycle? ... Car? Just *who* invented the better vehicle?



Soon he had tough competitors in France

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

STIFTUNG BUCHKUNST:

"The most beautiful German books" 2019, Long List

1st prize:

Winner of the ideas competition for the 200th anniversary of the bicycle, State Government Baden-Wuerttemberg

Mayers kleines Buchregal

Die Laufmaschine (Original title)

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[About Uwe Mayer >](#)



Short Biog: Uwe Mayer

I was born into a Swabian baker's family; my father baked the bread while my mother ran the shop.

As my mother went into labour with me, she was on her way to the hospital to deliver **fresh rolls**. Clearly I had arrived at exactly the right time!

To this day I enjoy tasty brezels, fresh bread and yummy cakes. I'm also fond of riding my bicycle & unsurprisingly, I **like to draw!**



Uwe (red tie) with his good friend Karl

Author

writing stories, as well as silly poems. Mostly everything is made up, BUT sometimes those stories are true! And just one such story is:

"The BICYCLING BARON"

The thing about this story is that it's hardly known! So it was about time, that the fabulous inventor of the bicycle got his due. And that's exactly what I intended to do! ...

And to make it extra special, I set up my tiny little publishing label in 2019. The book is in the second edition.

FOREIGN RIGHTS: If you are considering publishing "THE BICYCLING BARON", I'd be happy to hear from you.

U.M.

MAYERS

KLEINES BUCHREGAL



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Growing up:

After school and a time spent travelling I moved to **England**. There I studied **art history** and then began to draw for different publishers. I never did become a baker, but I did become an...

Illustrator

For many years I illustrated for English children's book publishers. In 2005 I was nominated for the "**Best Emerging Illustrator**" Award from the BOOK TRUST. Finally, after 20 years in London I moved back home to the **Black Forest**, where I had grown up. I'm an illustrator who also enjoys

Mayers kleines Buchregal / Uwe Mayer Illustration

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