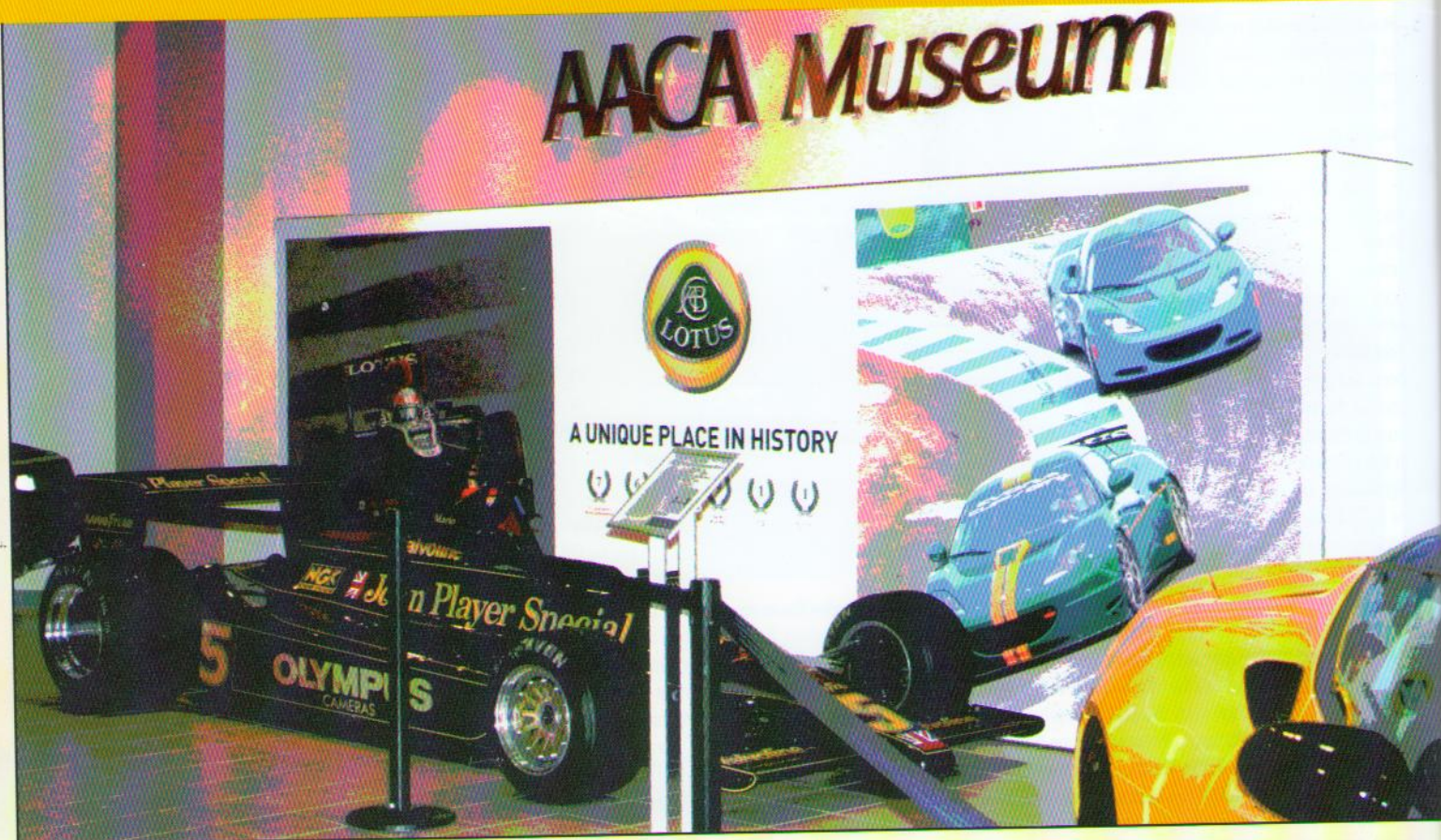


Lotus: The Art of Lightness

By Peter Blackford

Images © David Nagler



The morning of Friday, 23 January dawned clear but with an ominous weather outlook for Hershey, Pennsylvania - reports forecast snowfall ranging from three to eight inches, beginning (on average) at 7:00pm. Of course, the Opening Reception for the 'Lotus, the Art of Lightness' special exhibit was set for one hour before that. No chance of any changes in anything but the weather, so we rebooked a hotel closer to the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum for later that evening, and kept plans in place.

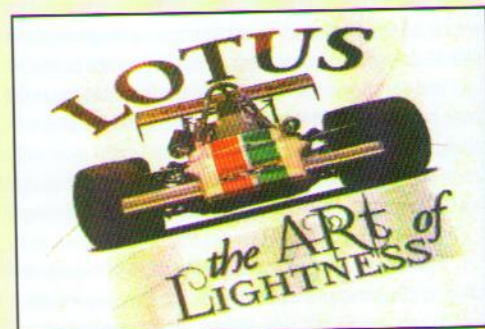
Despite the weather forecast, over 400 guests turned out for the opening - an extremely gratifying result to reward the countless hours of work invested by guest curator Kyle Kaulback and the museum director and staff.

It was indeed a gathering of friends of the Marque, at times feeling very much like a mid-winter LOG, but with an even broader selection of significant milestone cars from virtually the entire span of Lotus history. Many friendships were renewed, and new ones kindled among the attendees. From the Museum's viewpoint, they were able to broaden the horizons of some Lotus-focused folks as well. It was the best type of gathering - everybody was a winner!

The turnout was indeed a record for any special exhibit opening in the Museum's history, far outstripping the 150 who attended a similar Ferrari-exhibit reception a year earlier, and a number was only surpassed by the opening of a new permanent Tucker exhibit in October of 2014. It has to be said though that the 'Tucker' opening was held in conjunction with the annual 'Hershey Week' meet.

For the Lotus exhibit, Kyle reached out to many friends in the Lotus community and garnered an outstanding selection of vehicles to represent the history of the marque. From the earliest cars through to current days, (Mark VI, through the latest Type 122 Evora S) the exhibit told the story of Lotus development as well as contributions to other manufacturers through their engineering services. Even Bicycles were represented with both a Type 108 Olympic Pursuit bike and a Type 110 road racing bike on display.

The cars were supplemented with artwork by Gary Dausch, cutaway drawings by Gale Heimbach, a Lotus Ultralight Aircraft Engine, a Lotus Wobbly Web Wheel, and a Type 23 chassis. The very comprehensive exhibit was best summed up by Museum director Mark Lizewskie. "Obviously, we are thrilled that the Lotus community came out in record numbers for our Friday night opening reception for Art of Lightness. Even with the threat of poor



weather conditions, the attendance that evening was the largest opening we have encountered (with the exception of the Tuckers). The support and enthusiasm of Lotus followers behind this exhibit has been overwhelming, and my only regret is that we do not have enough floor space to display more great examples of the marque. This exhibit has enabled the AACA Museum to make new friends, and will continue to bring in guests that perhaps have not visited us prior. I am thankful to everyone who assisted us with getting the exhibit together, notably Kyle Kaulback who was the driving force behind this world-class display."

The special exhibit 'Lotus, the Art of Lightness' runs only through April 26, so if there is any way you can get to Hershey, PA in the next few months, it will be well worth the trip! See www.aaca.org for more details.



The full roster of cars on display formed an impressive list:

- 1956 Mark VI (~110 produced) Kaulback Collection
- 1958 Eleven Series 2 LeMans (270 produced) Brad Parker Collection
- 1959 Elite Type 14 (1050 produced) Joe Marchione Collection
- 1959 Type 18 (150 produced, all types) Jerry Morici Collection
- 1962 Type 22 (77 produced) Jerry Morici Collection
- 1962 Seven S2 America (1311 produced) Gary & Sandy David Collection
- 1965 Type 23B (131 produced) Brad Parker Collection
- 1964 Elan S1 Type 26 (900 produced) Greg Moore Collection
- 1966 Lotus Cortina Type 28 (2894 produced) Gary & Sandy David Collection
- 1967 Europa S1B Type 46 (644 produced) Bob Fogle Collection
- 1969 Elan S4 Coupe Type 36 - Rolling Chassis Clark Lance Collection
- 1970 Type 61MX Formula Ford (248 produced) Kyle Kaulback Collection
- 1971 Type 69 (65 produced) Kyle Kaulback Collection
- 1972 Europa Twin Cam Type 74 (4710 produced) Kyle Kaulback Collection
- 1972 Elan Sprint Type 45 (1353 produced) Dee & Kenny Mance Collection
- 1978 Type 79 Formula 1 (6 produced) Paul Rego Regogo Racing
- 1984 Type 95T Formula 1 (4 produced) Barber Museum
- 1987 Esprit Turbo Type 82 (3155 produced 1980-1987) Gordon M. Biehl Jr. Collection
- 1991 Elan Type 100 (4655 produced, 545 for US) Ted Taylor Collection
- 1992 Type 108 Olympic racing bicycle (12 produced) Barber Museum
- 1996 Type 110 racing bicycle (over 100 produced) Kyle Kaulback Collection
- 1997 Esprit V8 CART-PPG Pace Car (1483 produced, 1 pace car) Dale Murray Collection
- 2009 Exige Sport 260 Type 117 (60 produced) Jon Walton Collection
- 2014 Evora S Type 122 (current production) Lotus Cars USA

In addition, several examples of vehicles with significant Lotus Engineering contribution:

- 1981 DeLorean DMC12 (8583 produced) Justin & Rachel Mettee Collection
- 1985 Sinclair C5 Electric (14,000 produced) Barber Museum
- 1993 Corvette ZR1/Lotus V8 (6922 produced, 1990-1995) Dave Nagler Collection

