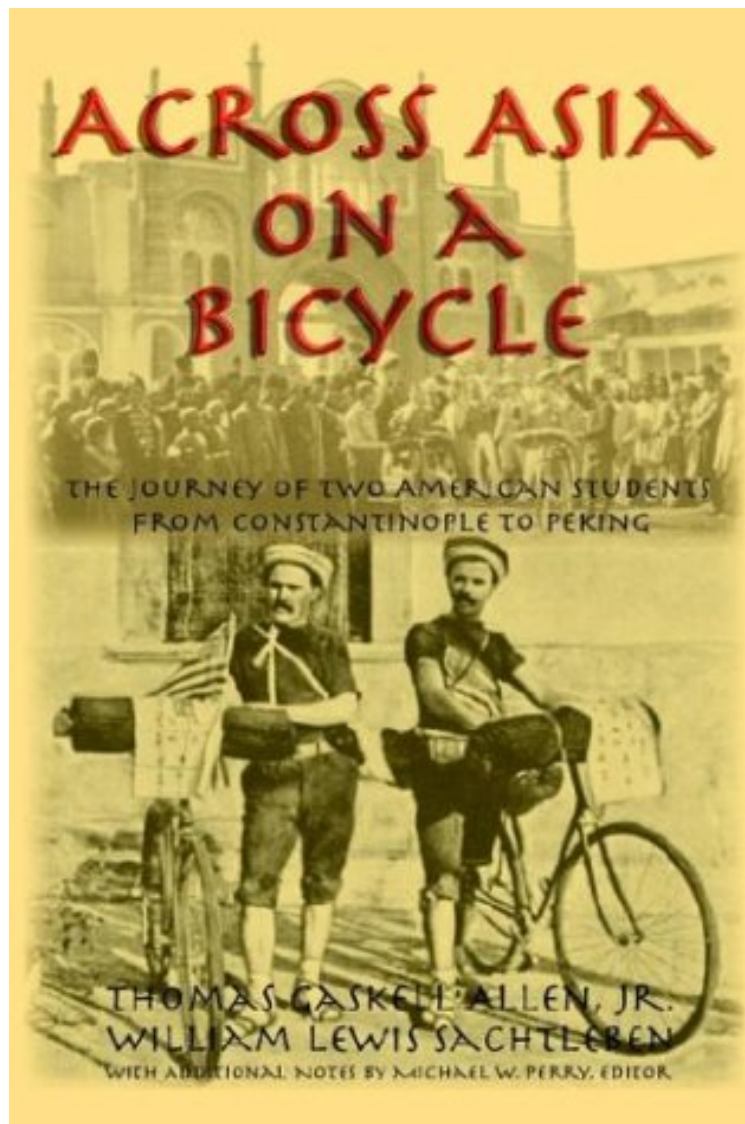


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Across Asia on a Bicycle: The Journey of Two American Students from Constantinople to Peking

Thomas Gaskell Allen Jr, William Lewis Sachtleben
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Thomas Gaskell Allen Jr, William Lewis Sachtleben : Across Asia on a Bicycle: The Journey of Two American Students from Constantinople to Peking before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Across Asia on a Bicycle: The Journey of Two American Students from Constantinople to Peking:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. enjoyable historical read
By Louis Mauriello
I read this immediately after the sort-of-modern-version of part of this tale in "The Lost Cyclist" in which a great deal of "Across Asia on a Bicycle" was reproduced. The writing style is definitely dated, but the depth of detail is quite good. If you are interested in what the Asian belt countries were like back when foreigners were just being allowed within the interiors of these countries this is a good read. It provides a really good understanding of the perils of traveling at the turn of the 19th century. Teamed with The Lost Cyclist the two books provide a real introspect of a time past.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quite interesting if you have the right mind about it
By Michael Austin
Remember what time it was when reading this, some broad generalizations but still definitely a worthwhile read if you have since traveled through some of the same places. Personally interesting was reading through China travels, seeing what has stayed the same, specifically about the people from over a hundred years ago- visa problems, 'foreign devils' and always being asked your age. Some of the same experiences can still be had today.
Also it'd be better reading a version that has maps and pictures included, couldn't find them in this version.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Free
By Beach Guy
Free

Between 1891 and 1893, two young men would travel over 15,000 miles by bicycle in what was then the "longest continuous land journey made around the world." In this book they describe their trip across Asia through areas few outsiders ever visited. The book also describes their climb of Mount Ararat, the first ever by Americans. This book has been out of print for over a century, and this edition contains additional notes about the background to their trip.

From the Publisher
Thomas Stevens was the first to circle the world by bicycle, doing so in the 1880s using a giant wheeled bicycle. These two young men were the second to accomplish this great feat and the first to do so using modern bicycles. In addition, they used the much more dangerous route across central Asia. Unfortunately, the arrival of the automobile put a quick and unfortunate end to the age of globe-circling bicycle travel. As a result, this book has been out of print since the 1890s. This newly typeset edition contains all the original text plus additional notes describing the people they met and places they visited. There are also two additional chapters. One is the reprint of a 1899 article in *Outing* magazine describing their adventure. The other is a short biography of each author based on information collected by the college they attended, Washington University.
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From the Preface
This volume is made up of a series of sketches describing the most interesting part of a bicycle journey around the world--our ride across Asia. We were actuated by no desire to make a "record" in bicycle travel, although we covered 15,044 miles on the wheel, the longest continuous land journey every made around the world. The day after we were graduated at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., we left for New York. Thence we sailed for Liverpool on June 23, 1890. Just three years afterward, lacking twenty days, we rolled into New York on our wheels, having "put a girdle around the earth." Our bicycling experience began at Liverpool. After following many of the beaten lines of travel in the British Isles we arrived in London, where we formed our plans for traveling across Europe, Asia and America. The most dangerous regions to be traversed in such a journey, we were told, were western China, the Desert of Gobi, and central China. Never since the days of Marco Polo had a European traveler succeeded in crossing the Chinese empire from the west to Peking. Crossing the channel, we rode through Normandy to Paris, across the lowlands of western France to Bordeaux, eastward over the Lesser Alps to Marseilles, and along the Riviera into Italy. After visiting every important city on the peninsula, we left Italy at Brindisi on the last day of 1890 for Corfu, in Greece. Thence we traveled to Patras, proceeding along the Corinthian Gulf to Athens, where we passed the winter. We went to Constantinople by vessel in the spring, crossed the Bosphorus in April, and began the long journey described in the following pages. When we had finally completed our travels in the Flowery Kingdom, we sailed from Shanghai for Japan. Thence we voyaged to San Francisco, where we arrived on Christmas night, 1892. Three weeks later we resumed our bicycles and wheeled by way of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to New York. During all of this journey we never employed the services of guides or interpreters. We were compelled, therefore, to learn a little of the language of every country through which we passed. Our independence in this regard increased, perhaps, the hardships of the journey, but certainly contributed much toward the object we sought a close acquaintance with strange peoples. During our travels we took more than two thousand five hundred pictures, selections from which are reproduced in the illustrations to this volume. Thomas Gaskell Allen, Jr. and William Lewis Sachtleben