

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE CENTURY OF THE DUFAUX

(Collonge-Bellerive, June 2025) In "The Century of the Dufaux," a new two-volume set published by the *Fondation Mais-Je-Vais-Piquer 1909*, historian Daniel Charles tells a double saga: that of the Dufaux family, a Geneva family that left its mark on industrial history, and that of a century that embraced mechanics to better turn its back on the past.

Henri and Armand Dufaux transformed their Motosacoche, an "outboard motor for bicycles" designed as teenagers, into a large capitalization on the Geneva Stock Exchange, invented the drum brake, and became the first Swiss aviators and aircraft manufacturers, defining the architecture of the biplane for decades to come, before branching out into fighter repair during the Great War. Henri then distinguished himself as a painter-filmmaker-adventurer, while Armand manufactured shock absorbers of his own design. Their cousins, Charles and Frédéric, were world-class cyclists, designed the first inline-eight racing car, set a new world road speed record, and then invented the bicycle dynamo. Through their lives – Henri died at the age of 101 – we recount an entire century dominated by mechanics and a Geneva still very active in industry.

"The Century of Dufaux" displays grand ambitions: to create a reference book that is also a page-turner, a beautiful book filled with unique iconography that reads like a novel, a compendium of mechanics intertwined with art history.

Its completion required four years of research. The book was printed in a limited edition of 500 copies (300 in French and 200 in German), with the participation of the Swiss Museum of Transport-Verkehrshaus in Lucerne, which translated the German edition, and the Swiss Historic Vehicle Federation in Bern. Presented in two volumes in a 24x32cm slipcase, with 512 pages and nearly 1,000 illustrations, it weighs nearly 6 kg and retails for CHF 320 ([www.fondation-mjvp1909.ch/livre-dufaux](http://www.fondation-mjvp1909.ch/livre-dufaux)).

#### "Making of" exhibition

"The Century of the Dufaux" is published by the *MJVP1909 Foundation*, which is currently hosting an exhibition featuring some of the objects that belonged to the Dufaux family and that inspired the author. ([www.fondation-mjvp1909.ch/evenements/expo-le-siecle-des-dufaux-2025](http://www.fondation-mjvp1909.ch/evenements/expo-le-siecle-des-dufaux-2025)).

#### **CONTACT :**

Fondation MJVP1909  
Emmanuelle Bellwald, coordinator  
[contact@fondation-mjvp1909.ch](mailto:contact@fondation-mjvp1909.ch)  
+41 22 752 33 45

