

Mary Libby,
truly a cyclist
for all seasons.



DANI SIMONS

Mary Libby

Occupation: International Representative at Christie's

What does that mean? It means my work is my play and my play is my work.

Are you a T.A. member? Yes, I just joined.

Where do you commute to/from? 74th and Park Avenue to Christie's (at 20 Rockefeller Plaza)

What is your route? I use 5th Avenue or Park.

What kind of bike do you have? An old blue Raleigh

What kinds of gear do you use (not gears on bike, but lights, helmet, rain coat, etc.)? I have a basket to carry my things and a Harley-Davidson lock. It's very long and can fit around both tires and a post. It's a lot lighter than the locks a lot of people use.

How long have you been commuting? Forever! Seriously, I have biked to every single job I've ever had. I used to run a music school on 95th Street and I would bike there. I used to take my daughters to school on my bike. When they got old enough they rode their own bikes.

Why did you start commuting by bike? Well, I don't know! I can't understand why everyone doesn't do it. It's simply the most sensible mode of transportation, good exercise and it's fun.

What do you wear when you bike to work? I wear my usual business attire. If it's cold outside sometimes I'll wear a fur coat. I have a special short one that's good for riding.

I have never been hurt, I've just torn some stockings

Do you ride in all weather? All weather except for ice.

What kind of response do you get from co-workers? People are sort of amused, I think, to see this ancient thing riding a bike.

What are some memorable experiences? I am inclined to ride my bike everywhere; it is usually much faster than taking a taxi. Once I had an antique Chinese vase that needed to be delivered immediately and it wasn't until I was about ready to hop on my bike that I thought that perhaps that was not the best idea. I'm not sure Christie's insurance would cover me if anything happened. This was, of course, after I had used my bike to deliver an antique yellow diamond ring to a client on 72nd Street who was in the middle of an important romantic moment and needed it right away.

What is the best commute you can remember? Any day that the traffic is especially bad is a good day for bike commuting. Recently when the house blew up [on Madison Avenue] traffic was terribly backed up, but I just sailed along.

What was your worst experience/commute? I have had car doors open in front of me several times. Luckily, I have never been hurt, just some torn stockings.

Advice for new bicycle commuters: Just do it! Don't you think? Oh, and watch out for doors, both passengers and drivers will fling them open without looking first. Wear your helmet, I am bad about this sometimes, but your hairdo doesn't match having a brain.

Where do you park your bike? At the bike rack across the street from my office. There need to be more of them! If the weather's bad I am allowed to bring my bike inside.

What's your riding style? I am not a fearful rider. I think that's very important. I am comfortable but not fearful.

What's the most memorable reaction you've gotten on your bike? I love it when people come up to me and say "Go girl!" I get a lot of compliments because people are surprised to see someone at my age (and sometimes wearing a mink coat and heels) riding a bike. □