

# Small Categories Series

## Carriages

A carriage is defined as a wheeled vehicle for people, usually drawn by horses. Carriages may actually go all the way back into Prehistory, but the earliest recorded sort of carriage was the chariot in Mesopotamia as early as 3000 BC.

It was c. 1500 that the carriage developed into the coach, with different suspension, better harnessing, and a much smoother ride. By the late 16th century, the coach body in Europe ultimately changed from a round top to the 'four-poster' carriages that became standard by c. 1600.

Carriages and coaches began to disappear as use of steam propulsion began to generate more interest and research. Steam quickly won the battle against animal power. Eventually, the automobile was the end result.

Today, carriages are still used for day-to-day transport in the United States by some religious groups, such as the Amish. And they're also used in tourism for sightseeing in cities such as Bruges, Vienna, New Orleans, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

I don't have any stats on the largest collection, but there are a lot of carriage covers, especially if you count stagecoaches. The best place to look for them is in your restaurant covers.

