

The Automobile

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Left: Opel 1907: Oldest car in the Luxembourg Rally was Raymond Kaufmann's 1907 Opel
Right: Grégoire 1912: Bernard Hunault's 1912 Grégoire came from Le Mans for the event

LUXEMBOURG RUN

The Veteran Car Club Grand-Ducal held its traditional annual rally for pre-WWII cars in the picturesque east of the country at the end of August. Some 25 cars came from all over Europe, including two from England.

The oldest car was Raymond Kaufmann's 1907 Opel 10/18 (found in East Berlin in 1989), followed by Josef Eichholzer's Le Zèbre type C and Bernard Hunault's Grégoire, both from 1912. The Vintage A class saw another Le Zèbre (type D, 1919) belonging to Fritz Hadorn from Switzerland. Other Swiss cars were Max Kneubühl's 1923 Roland Pilain and Bruno Bieri's 1926 Overland Whippet. The oldest car from England was Ian Wilkinson's 1928 Clyno Royal tourer. Fernand Kohl's 1928 Chenard-Walcker Z 5 was followed chronologically by Bob Linster's two-litre Lagonda, which unfortunately suffered fuel pump failure within the first mile.

In the 1931-39 class, notable examples were George Gadiet's 1931 BSA three-wheeler, Geoffrey Pimm's Morgan F4 from London and Franz Hoffmann's 1935 MG PB four-seater. From France, Jean-Claude Reyter brought his Czech Zbrojovka Z5 Express, an enormously long car with a tiny 1100cc two-stroke which produced lots of oily smoke. Two BMWs, André Depienne's 326 four-seater tourer and Günter Brixner's 327 Sportkabriolett, added to German representation, while the youngest vehicle, a Packard town car, was brought by the oldest driver, 85-year-old Jan de Boer from the Netherlands.

A sunny Saturday morning saw the field crossing the Moselle to Trier in Germany, to visit the aircraft museum in Hermeskeil. This had almost 120 aircraft, from the very first to the Concorde which has been transformed inside into a café. Unfortunately it started raining on the return journey to Luxembourg. On Sunday morning, the route led to Diekirch to see the local car museum, the Conservatoire National de Véhicules Historiques. This is the only automobile museum in the Grand-Duchy, but it has a fine display, including some from the Grand-Duke's father's personal collection.

From there, the rally returned to the hotel in Berdorf, a nice, quiet country hotel lying in a forest where the final buffet was consumed. Intending participants in the Europa Rallye Schengen next year should visit www.vccgd.lu.

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