

BUGATTI TYPE 44
Fiacre 1929





Beginner's Luck

"The 44 is as fast as it is faultless. It is one of the most interesting and reliable cars which can be bought in London at the moment."

—Edgar Duffield, *Automotor Journal*, 1928

In 1927 Jean Bugatti saw his first coach roll off the Bugatti factory line: a Type 40 with bodywork reminiscent of classic seventeenth-century hackney coach, or fiacre, designs. At only eighteen years of age, Bugatti developed the unique fiacre style that remained a constant influence throughout his career. The handsome design was included as a body option in

the 1927 Bugatti catalogue for the widely successful Type 44.

This early Type 44, Chassis 44739, is an example of Jean Bugatti's signature Fiacre (French for "carriage") styling. He used this style on his very first coachwork project, a 1927 Type 40. Though he was only 18 years old at that point, his preference for the style remained a constant throughout all his years of design. The French and Swiss luxury coachwork firm Carrosserie Gangloff often created bodies for Bugatti, as the factory in Molsheim was not far



from one of Gangloff's locations in Colmar, France.

This Type 44 is but one of many examples of their joint work as Gangloff was the largest supplier of non-factory bodies for Bugatti. Built in October 1928, this car was dispatched to Gangloff for its Fiacre-style coachwork before being sold to German brewer and race car driver Emil Bremme in 1929 for 96,000 French francs. At some point after 1959, the car traveled to Holland as the property of Piet Takken, who later sold it to Automuseum Deventer, a classic car dealer.

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PROFILE

Coachbuilder	Gangloff
Chassis number	44739
Profile type	Touring
Body type	Coupé
Number made	1070
Production span	1927-1930
Acceleration	0
Top Speed	unavailable

BODY | CHASSIS

Front brakes type	Cable-operated drum
Rear brakes type	Cable-operated drum
Front suspension type	Live axles with semielliptical leaf springs
Rear suspension type	Reversed quarter-elliptical leaf springs
Length	14' 6"
Height (Ground line to highest roof)	5' 3"
Width	5' 6"
Wheelbase	3.12 m

ENGINE

Engine number	371
Type	Inline
Number of cylinders	8
Bore x stroke	69 mm x 100 mm
Displacement	2
Distribution	Single overhead camshaft
BHP at 4000 RPM	80
Gearbox	4-speed manual
Number of gears	4
Overdrive	0



