

AUTO & TECHNIK MUSEUM SINSHEIM e.V.

Media-Information

A legendary racing car is wintering at the
Auto & Technik Museum Sinsheim

Bentley "Old Mother Gun" is back

Sinsheim. It has been three years since the Bentley "Old Mother Gun" left his parking space in the museum in Sinsheim. Since last week, this award-winning sports car has enriched the exhibition of the Auto & Technik Museum Sinsheim. Only 3024 vehicles were built during the company's early days between 1919 and 1931. Few of them have been preserved to this day, each of them a precious rarity. One thing, however, emerges from this exquisite circle. It is the vehicle with the chassis number ST 3001 with the nickname "Old Mother Gun".

Today the British tradition mark Bentley is only known as a manufacturer of luxury limousines. This was not always the case. Bentley started out as a manufacturer of sports cars, which in the racing version between 1924 and 1930, apart from countless other races, won five times the 24 Hours of Le Mans. In 2003, 79 years after the first victory, Bentley managed to win this legendary race again.

The Bentley-chassis ST 3001 was manufactured in June 1927 in the London district of Cricklewood. For the first time the newly developed Bentley 4.5-liter 6-cylinder engine served as a drive. The car is thus the first of the Bentley 4,5-liter racing cars, which set new standards in racing in the late 1920s. Its nickname goes back to the Bentley boy Woolf Barnato who, appropriate to the chassis number, rhymed: "S-T-Three-O-O-One - Old Mother Gun!"

The first run of "Old Mother Gun" was spectacular but little successful. Only a few days after completion, the car started at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Driven by Woolf Barnato and Bernhard Rubin in the following year, the car drove a superior victory for Bentley.

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This was followed by various conversions, changes of ownership and further racing. The heavy metal body replaced by polished aluminum and thus significantly slimmer, the racing car reached on the Brooklands oval in 1937 the average speed of 134,97 mph, corresponding to 217 km/h. Note well: average speed.

Almost 80 years have passed since this race and "Old Mother Gun" is still not old. The displacement of the engine was meanwhile increased to 8 liters and increased the power to 350 hp at 4200 rpm. Since the last major overhaul in 1989, the car has experienced more than 150 races at veteran races all over the world and there is no end in sight.

About the AUTO & TECHNIK MUSEUM SINSEHIM

The AUTO & TECHNIK MUSEUM SINSHEIM is the largest private technology museum in Europe. Covering 30,000 m² indoors and a massive open-air site, the museum displays over 3,000 pieces from all areas of technology, including the largest permanent Formula 1 exhibition in Europe, over 300 classic cars and 200 motorcycles, 40 racing and sports cars, 22 locomotives, 60 aircraft, engines, etc. The museum also features fully accessible supersonic aircraft Concorde and Tupolev TU-144 mounted side by side on the museum roof.

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