



Société de Gestion de L'AUTOMOBILE CLUB DE FRANCE

1st October 2009

Press release

For the very first time since its inception, the Automobile Club de France reveals its historical photographic heritage and inaugurates its new dedicated website: www.collectionacfphtovehicule.com.

A heritage to be discovered

The Automobile Club de France, which owns a collection of more than 2500 glass plates dedicated to the automobile and other various types of vehicles dating from 1890 to 1908, has decided to reveal / disclose this invaluable photographic and historical heritage to the public.

In order to reach the greatest number of collectors and cars amateurs of all nationalities, the Société de Gestion of the A.C.F. has set up a website dedicated to the collection, its history, and to the restoration and processing of the pictures. These pictures, which are available for purchase to the public, are classified in four different categories (i) Automobile and Society, (ii) Sporting Events, (iii) Two or three wheel vehicles, (iv) Commercial vehicles. A search engine also facilitates searches by key words. The revenues generated from sales of these pictures to the public, will be reinvested into financing the development and restoration of the A.C.F.'s heritage. A share of these revenues will also be given to the Institute for Brain and Spinal disorders (I.C.M) which is managed by Professeur Saillant (CEO).

This extraordinary collection of glass plates and pictures stands as a witness to the role and impact of the A.C.F. in the development and expansion of the most wondrous of 20th Century inventions: the automobile.

Limited prints

With a view to make this exceptional collection accessible to collectors and amateurs and for their greatest benefit, limited series of 7 argentine and baryta coated printings have been made out of the glass plates. Each picture will be authenticated by two official stamps, one reproducing the embossed logo of the A.C.F., the other the signature of a great figure of the automotive world, namely Mr Jean Panhard who also happens to be the honorary president of the A.C.F. A certificate of authenticity will be delivered with each print that is acquired.

The identification and authentication of the glass plates by a committee of experts

Each plate/negative exposed on the website - which originally did not bear any caption- has been submitted to a scientific committee made up of historians. This individual study of each plate has been carried out in cooperation with the Historical Archives of the A.C.F., thus conferring to each document an undeniable added value. The committee, which has been gathering every two months over the last two years, has managed to identify around fifty plates at each of its meetings. Once identified, these plates are sent to a photographer who works on them, restores them and prints them out.

Official launch of the website during a conference at the A.C.F.

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Mr Hughes du Rouret, President of the Automobile Club de France has officially inaugurated the new website this Thursday 1st October on the occasion of a breakfast conference at the Clement-Bayard Library of the Automobile Club de France in place de la Concorde.

Various talks took place during this conference relating to the “Automobile and heritage”, “the automotive sport pioneers”, “the Archives of the A.C.F. and the photographic world” and to the specificities of the new website.

A brainstorming session chaired by a committee of scientists made a live identification of some uncaptioned glass plates.

This event was placed under the aegis of Mr Rodolphe Rapetti (Cultural Heritage Office, French Ministere de la Culture), Mr Hughes de Chaunac (CEO of Oreca), Mr Francois d’Orcival (of the Institute), Professeur Saillant (Institute for the Brain and Spinal disorders (I.C.M)) and Mr Jean Todt (CEO of E-safetyware and Vice-President of the ICM) with the participation of officials and members of the A.C.F. and of numerous figures within the automotive world.