

I Spy... a Studebaker in Zurich!

by Al and Adrienne Johnston

It was a beautiful, warm and sunny Wednesday on August 23, 2017. It was also the third day of our first visit to our son and daughter-in-law's new 'hometown'. They were transferred by Alex's employer to Zurich, Switzerland in 2016 and we were becoming acquainted with the historic area of 'Old Town' Zurich.

We were exploring the city's excellent public transportation system and our bus had just turned a corner near Burkliplatz, a town square adjacent to the Zurich's famous Bahnhofstrasse (station street), where purveyors of luxury goods and apparel line both sides of the promenade stretching from the train station to the street's end at Lake Zurich.

Al looked toward Burkliplatz and excitedly spied classic cars parked nearby. "We've got to get off this bus!" he exclaimed.

At first glance, we saw a couple of sports cars, and as we strolled closer, imagine our surprise to find ourselves in the midst of a Classic Car Show – on a Wednesday, nonetheless! – with not only every make of vintage European car we'd ever heard or dreamed of represented, but also European car names new to us.

Since we are avid Studebaker fans, as well as owners of three models: a 1950 Champion Starlight Coupe Regal Deluxe, a 1952 Gran Turismo Hawk and a 1963 Avanti R-1



Poster at the car show entrance.



The interior of Harry Jaeger's 1937 Studebaker Dictator 3-Window Business Coupe is as pristine and correct as the day it rolled off the Studebaker assembly line.



4-speed, we particularly enjoy seeing Studebakers at the car shows we attend.

"I doubt we'll see any Studebakers here," Adrienne commented, "since we're in Europe and this show seems to be mostly exotic and classic sports cars."

We carefully examined and photographed each car we passed, and thus far, we'd seen only European cars. And then . . . there IT was: a beautifully and immaculately restored **1937 Studebaker Dictator 3-Window Business Coupe!**

The owner, Harry Jaeger, was standing nearby and we had a chance to ask him about his car. We also wished we'd have had the presence of mind to take his photo with his car! Mr. Jaeger was wearing his Studebaker Drivers Club cap and is also a member of the SDC. Although he owns other vintage cars, this is his only Studebaker, and he purchased it in the U.S. last year. We shared our personal history and ownership of Studebakers and when we talked about getting parts for our Studebakers, we found Mr. Jaeger was just as familiar with vendors such as Studebaker International as we are.

Of the almost 100 cars entered in the Zurich show, fewer than 10% were of U.S. origin, including a 1934 Plymouth PE-6, 1950

Nash Ambassador Hydra-matic, and 1957 Corvette Stingray coupe. But there was only one (outstanding) Studebaker, and oh how proud were we of the USA, and Studebaker, and how close-to-home we felt meeting fellow SDC member, Harry Jaeger of Zurich.

Studebaker Dictator, Coupe for Three or Four

Modell	Studebaker Dictator 3 Windows
Typ	Business Coupe, 6A
Jahrgang	1937
Motor	Flathaed 6 Zylinder
Hubraum	3556 cm ³
Leistung	90 PS
Getriebe	Stockschaltung 3 Gang mit Overdrive
Hersteller	Studebaker Corporation of South Bend, Indiana, USA
Produktion	1936-1937
Verkaufspreis	\$ 765.00
Besonderheit	Heckfenster-Design „bat-wing“

Marke/Make	Studebaker (USA)
Modell	Dictator
Baujahr/Year	1937
Anzahl gebauter Exemplare/ Numbers built	39'001
Motor/Engine	6-Zylinder, 3'556 ccm, ca. 90 PS
Body Design	Business Coupe
Besonderheiten Geschichte History	Studebaker in South Bend, Indiana hatte seine grosse Zeit in den Vorkriegsjahren. Sie bauten solide, qualitativ hochstehende Autos der oberen Mittelklasse. Der Dictator (der Name wurde aus naheliegenden Gründen relativ bald in Commander umgewandelt) wurde nur zwei Jahre lang produziert und das hier gezeigte Exemplar in Kalifornien ausgeliefert und erst vor fünf Jahren nach Chicago verkauft. Der jetzige Besitzer konnte den Wagen 2016 erwerben und in die Schweiz bringen. Da eine grosse Zahl dieser Autos zu Hotrods umgebaut wurden, ist es selten, ein originales Exemplar eines Dictators zu finden.

Fact sheets displayed with the car at the Zurich Car Show.