



DELAUNAY BELLEVILLE OMNIBUS

1912





The Seat of the Czar

The advent of a quiet yet powerful petrol machine, dressed with an elegant and plush interior, transformed the art of grand touring for royalty throughout the world.

Over the years, the once great marque and builder of the world's first supercars, Delaunay Belleville, has been largely forgotten.

At the turn of the century, a supercar was not the faster-than-sound, lighter-than-air sports car that we know today. It was an impeccably reliable machine that exuded the comfort and luxury coveted by royal

and wealthy consumers. Delaunay Belleville machines were at the head of this field, having a reputation on par with Rolls-Royce before and after World War I. Czar Nicholas II of Russia famously had ten Delaunay Bellevilles. His motoring reputation changed the face of Russian infrastructure, introducing motorization to a new Russian market. The Mullin Omnibus, built in 1912, features ample coachwork that combined with the chassis is nearly nine feet tall. The spacious interior was specially designed to carry royal passengers and their belongings, neatly



stowed on the roof's luggage rack, between Russian palaces in Saint Petersburg and Yalta. The driver, left exposed to the elements, would have likely endured quite a chilly ride.

Delaunay Bellevilles were handcrafted machines known for their quality of construction, materials, and precise machining. Delaunay Belleville was one of the first to use four separate cylinders in its engines, and its cars are often identified by their unique barrel-like hood—a shape reminiscent of the company's steam boilers and engines made for leading navies around the world.

The car was purchased from Daniel Ward in the United Kingdom, and was on long-term display at the Musée de l'automobiliste in Mougins, France, founded in 1984 by automobile aficionados André Binda, Antoine Raffaeli, and Adrien Maeght.

It was acquired by the Mullin Automotive Museum in 2008.



PROFILE

Coachbuilder	La Carrosserie Industrielle
Chassis number	3197
Profile type	Touring
Body type	Limousine
Acceleration	0
Top Speed	130

BODY | CHASSIS

Rear brakes type	Drum
Length	15' 10'
Height (Ground line to highest roof)	9'
Width	6'

ENGINE

Engine number	3197
Number of cylinders	4
Displacement	0
Engine capacity & output	unavailable
Transmission	Chain drive
Gearbox	Manual
Number of gears	4
Overdrive	0



