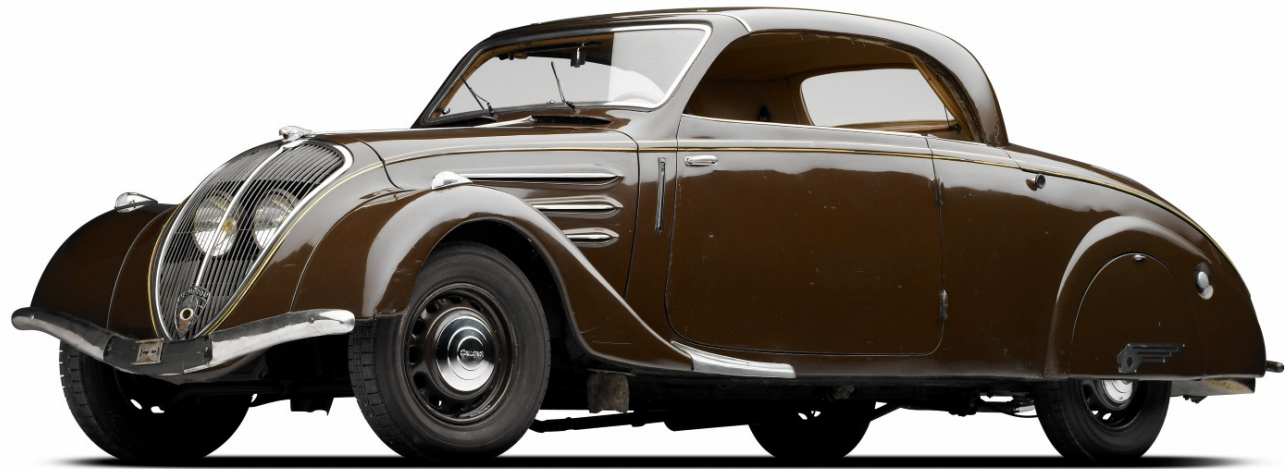




PEUGEOT TYPE 402

Eclipse 1937





An Electric Cabriolet

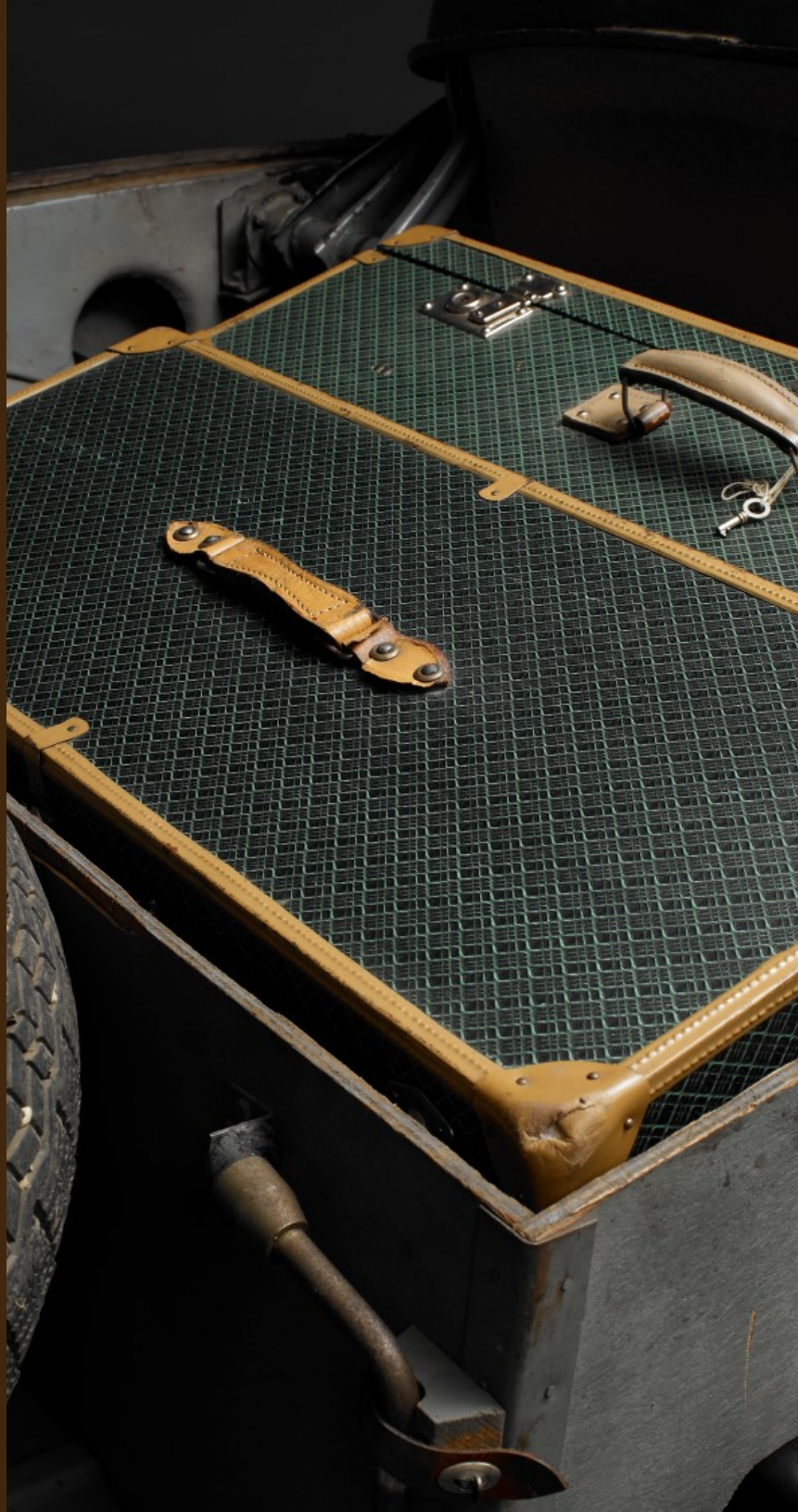
Introduced at the 1935 Paris Auto Salon, the Peugeot Type 402 cabriolet featured Georges Paulin's revolutionary Eclipse convertible system.

In 1932 Georges Paulin patented an articulated roof panel that slid backward and disappeared into the trunk, whose lid opened like an oyster to conceal the roof. Quick, simple and easily operated by a single person—Paulin's roof was a pioneering design in the realm of cabriolet engineering.

Paulin christened the system the Eclipse

and tested it on a number of chassis, including a Peugeot Type 301 bodied by coachbuilder Marcel Pourtout. The system was an instant success. Peugeot eventually signed a royalty contract with Paulin and introduced its Type 402 in 1935 based on his concept—slightly upgraded with the addition of an electric motor to power the Eclipse system. Later the motor was removed; apparently, manual operation was less complex and more reliable.

The first one hundred models of the Type



402 Eclipse were hand built by master coachbuilder Marcel Pourtout according to Paulin's design. Later more affordable models (including the Mullin Eclipse) were built by the Peugeot assembly line to meet customer demand. The car had a rounded radiator grill that housed two headlamps. This design was then applied to other, more compact Peugeot models—first to the Type 302 in 1936 and then to the smaller Type 202 in 1938. Under its resolutely modern exterior, influenced by the aerodynamic Chrysler Airflow exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, the Type 402 features a very classic frame. While many self-supporting unibody coachwork designs were produced at the time, the 402's body was still separate from the chassis, a distinct structure built of side rails and crossbeams.

Peter Mullin purchased this exceptionally rare and original car in March 2007 from Christoph Grohe in Switzerland.

Its earlier provenance is unknown.



PROFILE

Coachbuilder	Factory
Chassis number	616787
Profile type	Touring
Body type	Cabriolet
Number made	500
Acceleration	0
Top Speed	unavailable

BODY | CHASSIS

Front brakes type	Cable-operated
Rear brakes type	Cable-operated
Front suspension type	Independent suspension with lower links, transverse leaf springs, and hydraulic dampers
Rear suspension type	Live axle with links, cantilever semielliptical leaf springs, and friction shock absorbers
Length	16' 10"
Height (Ground line to highest roof)	5'
Width	5' 8"

ENGINE

Engine number	333787
Type	Inline
Number of cylinders	4
Displacement	1991
Distribution	Overhead camshaft
BHP at 4000 RPM	55
Gearbox	Manual
Number of gears	3
Overdrive	0



