



## *2020 Was The Biggest Ever—Again*

By Prescott Kelly

Photos by Prescott Kelly, Per Schroeder, John Hearn and Ken Ito

**T**he 37th annual L.A. Lit & Toy Show, held on Saturday, February 29, at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, was a resounding success despite the beginnings of both the stock market decline and the coronavirus spread in the United States. All of the roughly 320 vendor tables sold out again, and overall spectator/buyer entries were up a tad, despite the last-minute absence of some pre-booked shoppers. The early birds—7:30 a.m. entries (\$30)—were up a little, as the real enthusiasts wanted to be there while the pickings were prime. The meet added Eventbrite pre-registrations for 2020, and that helped. The 9:00 a.m. entries (\$10) were down a tad. Overall, the crowd was slightly bigger than ever.

At the Saturday morning Lit Meet, business was as good as usual. In addition to the two big dealers, Tony Singer and Frank Barrett, Porsche posters were available from others this year. Jim Perrin in particular brought a nice array of 1950s and early 1960s posters. Thomas Anderson from Denmark and Claus von Schmeling from Germany brought a lot of rare Porsche race car and early 356 and Carrera pieces to sell.

One dealer of sales literature and owner's manuals had more than \$14,000 in sales and pronounced that it was a "good day." Other noteworthy sales included a 1968 911R owner's manual, a 1955 550 Spyder owner's

manual, a 1984 SC/RS workshop and parts manual, some rare Porsche GT1 materials, including a workshop manual, and two Carrera GT promotion kits with a model engine, video, and brochure, all in a metal box.

Tool kits and 356 and early 911 travel kits were readily available. Accessories abounded, including wooden steering wheels, deluxe horn rings, Hella fog lights, old original-glass H4s, headrests, period seatbelts, and more.

Toys were available everywhere, including the desirable 1/25 scale 356 tin toys manufactured by Distler, Gescha, Joustra, and JNF. The smaller 1/43 scale die-cast metal and plastic models were widely for sale, both newly manufactured and classic old models by Marklin, Techno, Schuco, Quiralu, and Norev. All in all, if you wanted information on your old Porsche or something collectible to go with your car or your collection, this was the best opportunity in the world to find it and buy it at a reasonable price.

As always, the Lit Meet week was a movable feast for Porsche aficionados. This year organizers Per Schroeder and Bruce Schwartz of Stoddard Parts added new tours that went in all directions from the LAX Hilton. Thursday had two. One tour headed north to visit John Esposito's





Jim Perrin brought some desirable Factory posters.



Need an instrument or a trim item? It was on a table somewhere here.



Wayne Callaway's surplus toys arrayed for sale.

restoration shop in North Hollywood, then LA Dismantlers (parts) in Sun Valley, Sierra Madre Collection at their new Eagle Rock location, Marshall Goldman's new Beverly Hills showroom, and the Beverly Hills Car Club for collectible automobiles. The southern tour went first to Magnaflo's Tech Center in Oceanside, to Autos International (interiors) in Escondido, to CPR Classic (dealer/restorer) in Fallbrook, and lastly John Benton's performance shop—recovering from a massively destructive fire a year ago.

Friday saw the traditional big tour to South Bay and environs, first to visit Tony Callas's shop, then Nicolas Hunziger's art studio and Klasse 356 parts, and then to the Porsche South Bay dealership for a much-appreciated lunch. Afterwards, the group visited John Willhoit's premier shop, and then Pelican Parts. The last stop was new for 2020, the Porsche Experience Center (PEC) in Carson, where Erik Skirmants (yup, Vic's son) gave a guided tour and raffled off rides in the new Taycan on the PEC track. Tour participants were hugely enthusiastic about the day.

On Saturday, there were again two tours, both leaving the LAX Hilton about 2 p.m., after the Lit Meet. The first one took revelers south to Costa Mesa to cover the trio of open houses that start as the Lit Meet ends. That trip covered Henk Baars's CarParc, with his early 911 and 912 restorations and car sales, Jim Liberty's well-known 356 restoration shop, and finally

across the street to Nick Clemence's and Chris Casler's open house at European Collectibles, with a wide range of cars and projects to show off and plentiful eats.

A new tour for 2020 was the Saturday afternoon departure that headed north to the Peterson Museum, where attendees were treated to a vault tour (the museum's backup stock in the basement). That's always special. This tour ended at Rod Emory's shop, home of the king of premium 356 Outlaws, for a tailored car show and cookout.

Looking back, we were lucky that we got the Lit Meet Car Week in before the coronavirus began to shut down the country. We beat the onslaught by only about 10 days. It makes the event feel even more special, looking back from the "stay at home" reality of today. Hopefully, by the time you read this piece, we'll be coming out of the storm. Meanwhile, we hope you've accomplished lots of Porsche projects. Driving season will come someday. "Keep the faith."

And please note that the 2021 Lit Meet will move back a week to stay on the first weekend in March—that date is Saturday, March 6. Also, please note that for 2021, Bruce and Per will add bus transportation from the Hilton to Sunday's 356 Club Swap Meet and Car Show at The Phoenix Club in Anaheim. 356



The Johnsons came from Minneapolis with their Carrera 2 parts.



Peter Hofmann's Classic Parts Germany is a great source for Carrera parts, and even recreates new parts for the engines.





Denmark's Thomas Anderson, with his father Henry, holding a rare 356 Carrera Sport kit.

Need a tool kit? Tony Aprile was one of about ten vendors with them.



Jeff Fellman was one of six-plus people offering an assortment of wooden and special steering wheels.



Joris Koning and Robert Brocker, just two of our many foreign visitors, with Registry photographer John Hearn.



Lit Meet owner Bruce Schwartz, with Denis Moore at Bruce's Stoddard parts tables.





Markham Party



Porsche Experience Center

## Parties and Open Houses



Willhoit Restoration



CPR Classic



Hunziker Design



Sierra Madre Collection



Callas Rennsport





Klasse 356



Pelican Parts



CarParc USA



The Parts Shop



Porsche South Bay



Auto Kennel



Emory Motorsports





Liberty Motorsports



European Collectibles

## 356 Club Swap Meet

