



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
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## Renault Park Phaeton - 1904

**Stock#:** 105293  
**Map Maker:** Anonymous / Harris  
**Date:** 1968  
**Place:** n.p.  
**Color:** (See Description)  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 14.25 x 11.75 inches  
**Price:** \$ 475.00



### Description:

#### **Original Artwork for Lionel Morris's Antique Cars**

Finely executed watercolor illustration of a 1904 Renault Park Phaeton, which was used for Lionel Harris's *Antique Cars: The Story of the Automobile in Pictures*, first published in about 1968.

The 1904 Renault Park Phaeton stands as a remarkable example of early 20th-century automotive engineering and design. Built in 1904 and registered in 1905, this vehicle is a model VB featuring Park Phaeton coachwork by the prestigious Rothschild et Cie of Paris. Known for their meticulous craftsmanship, Rothschild et Cie lent a touch of elegance and sophistication to this already innovative automobile, making it a coveted possession among the elite of the time.

At the heart of the 1904 Renault Park Phaeton is a robust 4-cylinder, 4¼ litre engine capable of producing 23 to 25 brake horsepower. This engine represented significant advancements in automotive technology for the era, offering a balance of power and reliability. The vehicle's drivetrain includes a 3-speed quadrant change gearbox, operated by a leather cone clutch, a common yet effective mechanism that provided smooth gear transitions. This combination of engine and transmission allowed the Renault Park Phaeton to deliver a driving experience that was both powerful and refined, a rare feat in the early days of motoring.

The Park Phaeton coachwork by Rothschild et Cie is a testament to the high standards of design and elegance of the early 1900s. The coachbuilders were renowned for their ability to merge functionality with



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aesthetic appeal, and the Renault Park Phaeton is no exception. The open-top design, spacious seating, and graceful lines of the vehicle were indicative of the luxurious carriages of the time, transitioning seamlessly into the realm of motorized vehicles. This design not only provided a comfortable ride but also conveyed a sense of prestige and sophistication to its occupants.

The early 20th century was a period of rapid innovation in the automotive industry, with manufacturers competing to push the boundaries of technology and design. Renault, a pioneer in the field, was at the forefront of this movement. Founded by Louis Renault and his brothers in 1899, the company quickly gained a reputation for producing reliable and stylish vehicles. The 1904 Renault Park Phaeton reflects the company's commitment to excellence and innovation during this transformative era. It also highlights the burgeoning collaboration between automobile manufacturers and luxury coachbuilders, a trend that would define the industry for decades to come.

Today, the 1904 Renault Park Phaeton is highly regarded among collectors and automotive historians. Its combination of engineering excellence, elegant design, and historical significance makes it a prized addition to any collection of early automobiles. The vehicle not only represents a milestone in Renault's storied history but also serves as a symbol of the dawn of the automotive age, a time when cars were evolving from experimental contraptions into practical and stylish modes of transportation.

#### **Detailed Condition:**