Detroit Historical Society

1935 Stout Scarab

Designed by innovator William B. Stout, the Scarab was decades ahead of its time. With experience as an aircraft designer, Stout built his automobile around a lightweight steel frame. A long wheel base and rear-engine, rear-wheel drive configuration allowed for a roomy interior reminiscent of minivans developed a half-century later.

Stout’s knowledge of aerodynamics and artistic eye resulted in a highly stylized automobile. The art deco influences set this car apart from anything else on the road at that time. Following World War II, a fiberglass-bodied Scarab was built – the first such car in the world.

Specifications:

- Ford Flat-heard V-8 engine
- Transmission: 3-speed manual, floor shift
- Brakes: Four-wheel, hydraulically operated cast-iron drums
- Horsepower: 95
- Top speed 80 m.p.h.
- Acceleration: 0-60 m.p.h. in 15 seconds
- Weight: 3,300 lbs.
- Length, overall: 195.5 inches; wheelbase: 137 inches
- Body style: Two-door, 6-passenger, rear-engine, rear-wheel-drive sedan
- Body construction: all steel
- Price: $5,190 in 1935 (about $87,000 today)
- Passenger amenities: filtered air, ambient lighting, thermostat-controlled heating, power door locks
- Of nine built, five Scarabs are known to exist today
- Was owned by Philip K. Wrigley, an American businessman and investor in Stout’s car company

The Scarab may be viewed at:

Detroit Historical Museum
5401 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

Museum hours:
Tues – Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission is FREE | visit detroithistorical.org for more information about the museum.