



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

**LeMay – America's Car Museum Presents a Behind-the-Scenes
Look at the Cars of Downton Abbey**

Museum's 'If Cars Could Talk' series discussed cars from the popular TV drama

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TACOMA, Wash. (Feb. 23, 2015) – America's Car Museum (ACM), the largest automotive museum in North America, brought one of the most popular British dramas to the Pacific Northwest: *Downton Abbey*.

Partnering with KBTC, a Tacoma, Washington, PBS affiliate, ACM explored the cars in the era of the award-winning television series *Downton Abbey*. Held February 3, the exclusive presentation was part of the Museum's monthly lecture series, "If Cars Could Talk," which offers an insightful peek into the history of the classic, vintage, collector and exotic vehicles at ACM.

"Cars like the 1911 Renault 12/16 horsepower Landulette and the 1910 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost in *Downton Abbey* are each individually hand-crafted works of art, with their own fascinating story" said Renée Crist, collections manager at ACM. "America's Car Museum is home to similar vehicles like our 1916 Pierce Arrow Brougham Limousine and 1924 Lincoln Model L Town Car Limousine, which were staples of American aristocracy.

Crist said there's a direct correlation between the luxury vehicles from *Downton Abbey* and their American counterparts, which is what she focused on in the lecture.

Crist highlighted these vehicles, housed in the Museum's "Custom Coachworks" exhibit, including the legendary vehicle known simply as the "Rockefeller Simplex." Owned by American tycoon John D. Rockefeller, the 1917 Crane-Simplex Model 5 was a Rockefeller family favorite. During its heyday, it cost 10 to 15 times more than the average American's annual salary. Currently, it's one of only two known surviving Crane-Simplex automobiles from the five owned by Rockefeller.

"Uncovering these vehicles' records, previous ownership, places they were created and restoration history is part of what makes these vehicles so fascinating," said Crist.

"Many fans of *Downton Abbey* are just as enthusiastic about the show as ACM's regular visitors are about cars," said David Madeira, president and CEO of the Museum. "Partnering with KBTC allows us to share this enthusiasm with a broader audience. America's Car Museum prides itself on linking automotive history to fans of various interests."

View a clip from the lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=474tylwykio>

Downton Abbey Season 5 airs Monday nights on KBTC. For DVDs and more *Downton Abbey* items visit, shopPBS.org.

About LeMay – America's Car Museum (www.lemaymuseum.org)



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America's Car Museum (ACM), named one of *USA Today's* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and KING 5's 2014 Best Museum in Western Washington, is an international destination where families and enthusiasts gather to celebrate America's love affair with the automobile and how it shaped our society. The stunning, four-level, 165,000-sq.-ft. Tacoma, Wash., facility features 12 rotating exhibits, five annual Signature Events and serves as an educational center, hosting students of all ages. For more information on ACM, visit www.lemaymuseum.org.

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