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Bonhams at Quail Lodge, 18 - 19 August 2011: Review

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Auctioneer Malcolm Barber takes bids on Lot 20, the 1966 Lotus 47 GT Group 4, (sold for \$139,000)

German marques provided Bonhams' top-selling cars at this year's Quail Lodge sale and it was the \$1,002,500, 1957 BMW 507 Roadster with hard top that came out on top.

Following in its tyre tracks were two exciting competition machines, the 1966 Porsche 906 Carrera (\$898,000) and the Guggenheim Museum-owned 1979 BMW M1 Pro Car, painted by celebrated artist Frank Stella, which sold for \$854,000.

In fact, Bonhams' Quail sale has made quite a name for itself in recent years as the place to sell racing Porsches. In addition to the 906 – and previous years' 917 Spyder and assorted 962s – this Quail Lodge sale saw the 1986 962 IMSA GTP car sell for \$810,000.

Another piece of racing machinery to find a new owner at Bonhams Quail Lodge was the 1966 Lotus 47 GT Group 4, which achieved \$139,000.

Elsewhere in a sale that featured a few more 'Not Solds' than Bonhams would have wished, the 1925 Bentley 3 Litre 100mph Supersports 'Brooklands' two-seater sold for \$601,000 and 'Barn-find' enthusiasts pounced on not only the 1927 Lancia Lambda Seventh Series Short Wheelbase Roadster (\$202,800) but also – inevitably – the \$87,750, 1957 Aston Martin DB2/4 MkII.

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1927 Lancia Lambda Seventh Series Short Wheelbase Roadster - Sold for \$202,800

Cars with interesting provenance that sold included the prototype 1964 Lincoln Continental Limousine (\$220,000) adapted for Pope Paul VI, that was also the Chicago parade vehicle for the Apollo 8, 11, 13, and 15 astronauts - among them Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Jim Lovell - and a 1937 Duesenberg Model J Limousine custom-made for Father Divine. Selling for \$400,000, it is one of the most famous of all Duesenbergs as well as the penultimate Duesenberg Model J delivered.

Rev. M.J. 'Father' Divine was a charismatic preacher of the early 20th Century who founded the Universal Peace Mission Movement. His movement was based on messages of honesty, freedom from vices, sexual abstinence and equal treatment for all – sound principles worthy of adherence by every Monterey car week visitor.

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Photos: Classic Driver

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