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## Old Cars Meeting in Varna



On a quiet Saturday morning Varna was shaken by the roar of powerful engines as the Classical Old Cars gathered at the central part of the city. Fifteen cars parked close to the Black Sea Hotel, creating quite a fuss among the citizens and people working in the pedestrian area, all of these cars had come to take part in a competition held for retro automobiles.



Among the most interesting specimens was a 'Berlie' car produced in 1928 in France, whose owner acquired it from a museum and spent two years repairing it and supplying all original parts including a authentic Berlie engine. There also were several Volkswagens from different years and countries beautifully painted and supplied with original parts. But much more interesting for the local public turned out to be an old Russian Volga GAZ 21 M, produced

in 1962 and equipped with an original Philips phonograph together with authentic small size 45 rpm records. After creating a lot of excitement in the city the retro cars drove to the near by resort of Efsinovgrad where the royal summer residence



used to be. There specialists in the field of old classical restored cars started checking on engines, estimating the authenticity of the parts used and judging the profile of the cars as a whole. At the end of the day the winners were announced: in the category 'Cars produced until 1946' first prize went to the fine Berlie; in the category 'Cars produced until 1961' the winner was a Mercedes 180, produced in 1954; in the category 'Cars produced until 1972' first prize was for the extravagant Volga



GAZ 21 M; in the category 'Cars produced until 1979' the winner was a Fiat 128 Bertone X 1/9, produced in 1977.

## Cross Carefully

There is a place in Varna which local people call 'The Red Square'. To be honest it has nothing to do with the famous square in Moscow but not long ago the pavement there was red and it got the majestic name. But that is not the most important thing about the Red Square-I believe that place is cursed!

Do not get scared! Well, not yet! Let me explain, first.

I am not an expert on the matter but I have spent hours at that particular cross-road, in the very centre of the city and I have seen car crashes beyond your wildest imagination. Traffic at the Red Square area is always heavy-many cars and twice as many people trying to cross all four streets as quickly as possible, so accidents occur. One time a woman driving a small Ford accidentally bumped into the back of the car ahead of her

while stopping for the red light. It was nothing much but when she continued on her way left a taxi, turning right, bumped into her car. Well, come on-I know women are notoriously inept drivers but all that is quite impossible, isn't it?

Just the other day a guy driving too fast in the city made quite an unpleasant scene during the peak hour, everybody was waiting calmly at the traffic light, when he made an impossible turn right, and after almost

hitting a bus full of people, he bumped into the barrages, flew for a while, and then landed in the other lane just at the end of the traffic jam. Out of pure luck nobody but the driver got hurt.

So, I imagine now you trust me. My personal advice on the subject is: cross very, very, very carefully all the crossroads in the city of Varna but remember to be extra careful while crossing the one at the Red Square! And, of course, enjoy our beautiful, sunny city! Welcome!