

Fast Facts and Fun Trivia

- The original book, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: The Magical Car*, published in 1964 with illustrations by John Burningham, was based on bedtime stories Ian Fleming told to his son, Caspar.
- The original *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* was first published as three separate books.
- Ian Fleming met Count Louis Zborowski when he was a schoolboy.
- The name and look of the car were taken from a series of racing cars built by Count Louis Zborowski in the early 1920s.
- The book inspired a 1968 movie written by Roald Dahl and Ken Hughes, with songs by the Sherman brothers. It was directed by Ken Hughes and produced by Albert R. Broccoli, who was also a producer of the James Bond movies. It starred Dick Van Dyke as Caractacus Potts and Sally Ann Howes as Truly Scrumptious.
- The role of Truly Scrumptious was reportedly offered to Julie Andrews, who had starred alongside Dick Van Dyke in *Mary Poppins*, but Andrews, apparently feeling that the part was too close to the Poppins mold, declined.
- The movie's title song was nominated for an Academy Award.
- Six versions of the car were built for the movie, and many replicas have been produced since. The car built for the stage production of the musical holds the record for the most expensive theater prop.
- One of the nondrivable *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* cars went up for auction in 1973 in Florida and sold for \$37,000. The prized drivable model sold for \$805,000 in May 2011.
- Ian Fleming owned a Ford Thunderbird, which went very fast but didn't quite fly.

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