



DINKY TOY TAXIS



24UT / 537 Simca Aronde

Dinky's Simca Aronde sedan (nos. 24u and 536) was manufactured from 1953 to 1959. The taxi sibling (nos. 24ut and 537) was introduced in 1956, the difference being its taxi sign, its color and the meter on its right front fender. The taxi had only one paint scheme, blue over red. Some taxis had red hubs and some chrome hubs.

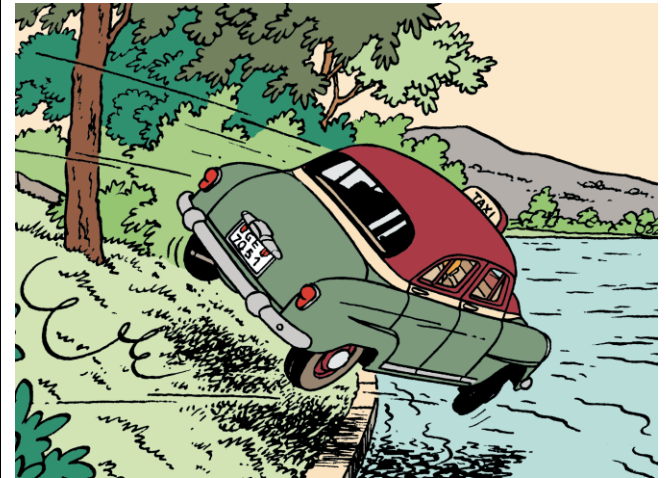
A fictional Aronde taxi achieved considerable fame due to its brief appearance in a comic strip that appeared in 1954. This was a serial starring Tintin, the ageless boy reporter whose adventures over almost a century have spawned both a cult and an industry.

Fearing that their friend Professor Calculus has been abducted, Tintin and Captain Haddock, accompanied by Tintin's dog Milou (Snowy) trace him to Geneva. Here they learn that he has gone to visit a colleague in Nyon, about 25 km to the east.



They hire a taxi for the trip but don't get far. Villains in another car run them off the road and into Lake Geneva (a minor setback). The story was published as a book in 1956.

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Above Tintin's taxi as it appeared in *The Calculus Affair*, and a 1954 Simca Aronde made up as Tintin's taxi, down to the same license number. But neither has a meter.

Despite appearing only briefly in the comic strip, Tintin's taxi is a familiar sight on the web. Though not a Dinky, it is widely available as a scale model toy along with other vehicles that Tintin employed during his adventures. Just Google [Simca Aronde Tintin](#).

The real-life Simca Aronde was introduced in 1951. The first generation of the car, the Aronde 9 (on which the Dinky cars were presumably based), was produced from 1951 to 1955. It was named Aronde (swallow) after Simca's logo at the time, a stylized swallow. The car was very popular in France. By March, 1953, production passed 100,000

Picture Sources

Page 1 Left top and middle – guequette80 ... Définitivement non voyant (photostream on Flickr) ([Link 1](#)); ([Link 2](#)).

Page 1 Left bottom and Center – rarelocos.com ([Link](#)).

Page 1 Right top – *The Calculus Affair*, Tintin.com ([Link](#)). Tintin.com/en is the English language version of Tintin's home page (also published in French, Dutch, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese). It has illustrated sections on each of the 24 Tintin books plus other information for "Tintinophiles."

Page 1 Right bottom – Wikipedia Commons: Photo by Walter Vermeir of a 1954 Simca Aronde, taken at the European Motor Show, Brussels, Belgium, January 17, 2006 ([Link](#)).

Photos of a 1953 Aronde painted in Tintin colors (not the one above) can be found on the minivolve.lu site ([Link](#)).

Page 2 Right – "Les voitures de Tintin sont de retour en France," news item on the availability of Tintin vehicles in French shops, Tintin.com, 04/06/2020 ([Link](#)).

Other Notes

"Simca Aronde," Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

"The Adventures of Tintin," Wikipedia ([Link](#)). Information about the series and its author Hergé (Georges Remi, 1907-1983).

"The Calculus Affair," Wikipedia ([Link](#)). Includes a synopsis, a critical analysis and information on media adaptations.

Below: A painting of Tintin's taxi includes a cut-away view with Tintin, Milou the dog, Captain Haddock and the driver inside.

