

Note about the Packard hood ornaments

Recently I received this information about the way Packard offered a selection of hood ornaments. Because it is rather difficult to give a description to each image, I let you be the judge and try to figure out which one is the right ornament for your car: (Thank you to Don Pierson for this valuable information).

In 1956, Clipper became a separate make and the name "Packard" was not anywhere to be found on most of them, except on the mfg. plate. Before that, in the '53 - '55 (and '51 / '52 too, though the name was not officially used at that time), the Clipper was a "Junior," mid-priced car with its own smaller engine, shorter chassis and different trim. While it was a "Packard Clipper," most purists distinguish it from the larger, more luxurious Packard's. Even in car shows, the Clipper is generally in a different class than the larger Packard's. Keep in mind that I am referring only to the fifties models. When the Clipper was first introduced in 1941, it looked like an entirely different make of car, being very streamlined with integral fenders, while the Packard was still boxy. They kept both styles until the war interrupted production early in the '42 model year. After the war in 1946, only the Clipper resumed production and was exactly the same for the '47 model year. There were none in the '46-'47 era that were not Clippers! Then in 1948 the Clipper name was dropped completely and all were called "Packard" once again. No I was not aware of the split between clipper and Packard : but I looked in the cars catalog and the one mentioned as 55 (with the ball) was used in 56 on clippers... Yes, actually I believe my '56 Clipper uses that ornament too, though I did not go out and look at it. I knew it was Clipper but I did not know which one. In the '51 to '54 era, The Packard ornaments were available optionally at extra cost on the Clipper, but I have never seen a Packard with a Clipper ornament in that same era. '55 marked the beginning of Packard's V8 era with a complete restyling (using the same basic body dies) to go along with the new engine except on the Clippers. They had a new front end, but their backend was still that of a '54. In '56, Clipper's restyling was complete. The title on my '56 Clipper has the make as "Clipper," not "Packard" and that was the only year that that was officially and legally so.