CLASSIC DRIVER

7th May 2003 - Auction Review - H&H at Olympia 2, London



- by Steve Wakefield

"Crossing the Divide" was Cheshire-based auction house H&H's theme for last week's Olympia event, signifying that it was their first in London. Having put together a good selection of cars to cater for all tastes, they sold a good proportion of them including a 1899 Panhard-Levassor for £107,500 and a 1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing for £ 100,851.

"That's a £100,000 car", said the head of department of one of London's other Houses, standing next to me when the **1899 Panhard-Levassor** came up. He was spot-on and another reminder to all – these Veterans are fetching some big money now. H&H were hoping the ex-Revson **1965 Brabham BT8 Sports Racer** would top the auction, it didn't, but it did sell at £102,125 including premium. It looked very attractive in its white/blue stripe colour scheme.



The **1956 300SL Gullwing**, in very good condition with matching luggage, went for £100,851 and begs the question – could you buy a more interesting car, one in the DB4GT/Ferrari 250 league, for this sort of money? Very good showings for a couple of AC Aces. A **1959 Ace Bristol** reached £61,812, while a **1958 version** of the same model, in not such nice condition, was £45,150.

The very pretty little **1961 Alfa Romeo Giulietta SZ** was sold, it reached £40,850 but some of the pre-war cars, such as the **1937 Riley Lynx**, and **1935 Riley Sprite** did not. There had been a lot of pre-sale interest in the two **Lagonda Rapide Saloons**, the 1962 car selling for £22,037, its younger brother, a 1964 car, selling for £12,900. Not so much luck for the two **Aston Martins** – neither sold, despite relatively good bidding.

An adventurous soul bought the **1978 Ferrari 400** for £7,525, good luck, it was a nice car looking for some TLC. No buyers unfortunately for the **1999 Bentley Continental SC Sedanca**, and much comment from within the hall of the depreciation suffered on this car costing £275,000 when new four years ago.

H&H's next sale reverts to their more familiar Buxton location and is on the 3rd and 4th of June.

For a full listing, see the <u>Provisional Auction Results</u>

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