

CLASSIC DRIVER

RM Auctions - Automobiles of London, 28 October 2009 - Review

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Max Girardo sells another car 'the RM way'

It's three years since RM's first London sale. In 2007 the Mercedes-Benz marque dominated the headlines. This year, a 2006 CLK GTR Roadster was the top-selling car at £616,000, followed by the 1950 Aston Martin DB2 Team Car achieving an impressive £550,000.

For the first time in an RM European sale, **Max Girardo**, Managing Director of the company's European office, took to the rostrum and – croaky voice aside – did a superb job to sell 82% of the 84 cars on offer, achieving £10,979,090. The 40 lots of memorabilia also sold well – for £48,485, including £4025 for a **Colnago Ferrari racing bicycle**.

The latter was much admired by the many members of the British classic car trade present at the auction. I'm looking forward to seeing them after six months of intensive exercise on it.

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1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Torpedo 17EX - Sold for	1965 Jaguar Coombs E-type GT - Sold for
£429,000	£50,600

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1967 Maserati Mistral Spyder - Sold for £121,000	1967 Ferrari 250 LM Replica - Sold for
	£220,000

It took just five lots before the venue was buzzing with the news that the **1969 Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman Landaulet** (Est. £40,000 – 60,000) had finally sold for a jaw-dropping £308,000. It might well end up back at the **Mercedes** factory for a complete (possibly 1m euros...) restoration.





The sale featured a collection of **ACs** and much interest at the invitation-only drinks party the previous night centred on the **1956 Aceca-Bristol Coupé** – an elegant 1950s GT. That sold at a top-estimate £71,500, while the impressive, white **1973 428 Frua Coupé** almost doubled its estimate at £110,000.

Bidding on the **1965 Shelby 427 Competition Cobra** stalled at £525,000, some way short of its lower estimate, and I believe that was a missed opportunity for a historic racer to pick up a car with superb provenance (winning in period driven by **David Piper** and **Bob Bondurant**) and colossal performance (607bhp). Perhaps it looked too similar to a GRP replica for a tenth of the price?

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1950 Aston Martin DB2 Team Car 'VMF 64' - Sold for £550,000, a world record for the model

The other car we tested prior to the sale, the **1963 ATS 2500 GT 3.0 Litre Coupé**, was 'No Reserve' and sold for £308,000.

Perhaps the mood in the saleroom was not for uncompromising competition cars as neither the **1967 Lola T70 MK 3 Coupé** (bid to £360k), nor the **1959 Elva MK V** (bid to £39k) found new owners.

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1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL AMG Coupé - Sold for £462,000

First-up of the special **AMG-built Mercedes** was the **1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL**, a genuine 'Gullwing' chassis fitted with an automatic gearbox, modern suspension and brakes and a 6.0-litre, AMG-tuned V8. It achieved £462,000, beating its upper estimate by some margin.





The two **CLK GTRs** appeared as consecutive lots later in the sale. Each, a coupé and a roadster, was the only right-hand drive model of its type. As **McLaren F1** competitors, the **CLK GTR** cars, built by hand at **HWA** (a sister company to **AMG**), have no equal. Once started, bidding just carried on until the **coupé** sold for £522,500 (Est. £390,000 – 450,000) and the **roadster** £616,000 (Est. £430,000 – 500,000).

1954 Fiat 8V Coupé 106 - Sold for £341,000 1967 Ferrari 330 GTC Zagato - Sold for £101,750

The **ex-works 1950 Aston Martin DB2** was another much-fancied car. Its third place overall at **Le Mans** in 1951 and class wins at the **Mille Miglia** did it no harm, as they mean it is eligible for every event worldwide. Estimated at £250,000 – 450,000, it was selling all the way and finally hammered down by **Girardo** at £500,000 (that's £550,000 including buyer's premium).

Of the other **Astons**, the **DB5 Convertible** did not sell, but the **DB6 Volante** did (£368,500) and someone will be running the **racing DB4** in Europe next year, having paid £110,000 for the privilege.

1948 Bentley Mark VI Drop Head Coupé - Sold for £159,500

On the **Ferrari** front, the **1967 Ferrari 330 GTC by Zagato** sold for £101,750, the **1967 Ferrari 250 LM Replica** for £220,000, and someone bought a lot of **flat-12** motoring (and fitted Schedoni luggage) for £30,250 – the price achieved by the **1991 Ferrari Testarossa**.

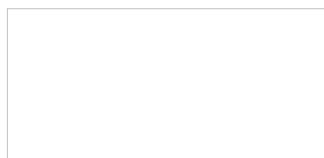
1929 Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 GS - Sold for £522,500

The **1929 Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 GS** was sold the next day for £522,500, while another imposing pre-War car, the **1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Torpedo '17EX'**, went for £429,000.

1958 Porsche 356 A Carrera GS/GT Coupé - Sold for £140,250

Prior to the sale, **Max Girardo** announced that RM would be holding a **Monaco Sale** in 2010. This will be held on May 1, at the **Grimaldi Forum**, and timed to coincide with the biennial **Monaco Grand Prix Historique**. Details of the company's super-successful **Maranello Sale** schedule are still to be announced.

To see the complete results of the **28 October 'Automobiles of London' auction** please [CLICK HERE](#).



**RM Auctions in association with
Sotheby's
46a Carnaby Street
London
W1F 9PS
UK**

UK Telephone: +44 (0)20 7851 7070
Fax: +44 (0)20 7851 7079

North America Telephone: +1 519 352 4575

Website: www.rmauctions.com

Email: mgirardo@rmauctions.com

Text: *Steve Wakefield*
Photos: *Classic Driver*

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