

CLASSIC DRIVER

[RM Auctions - 'Automobiles of London' 27 October 2010 - Review](#)

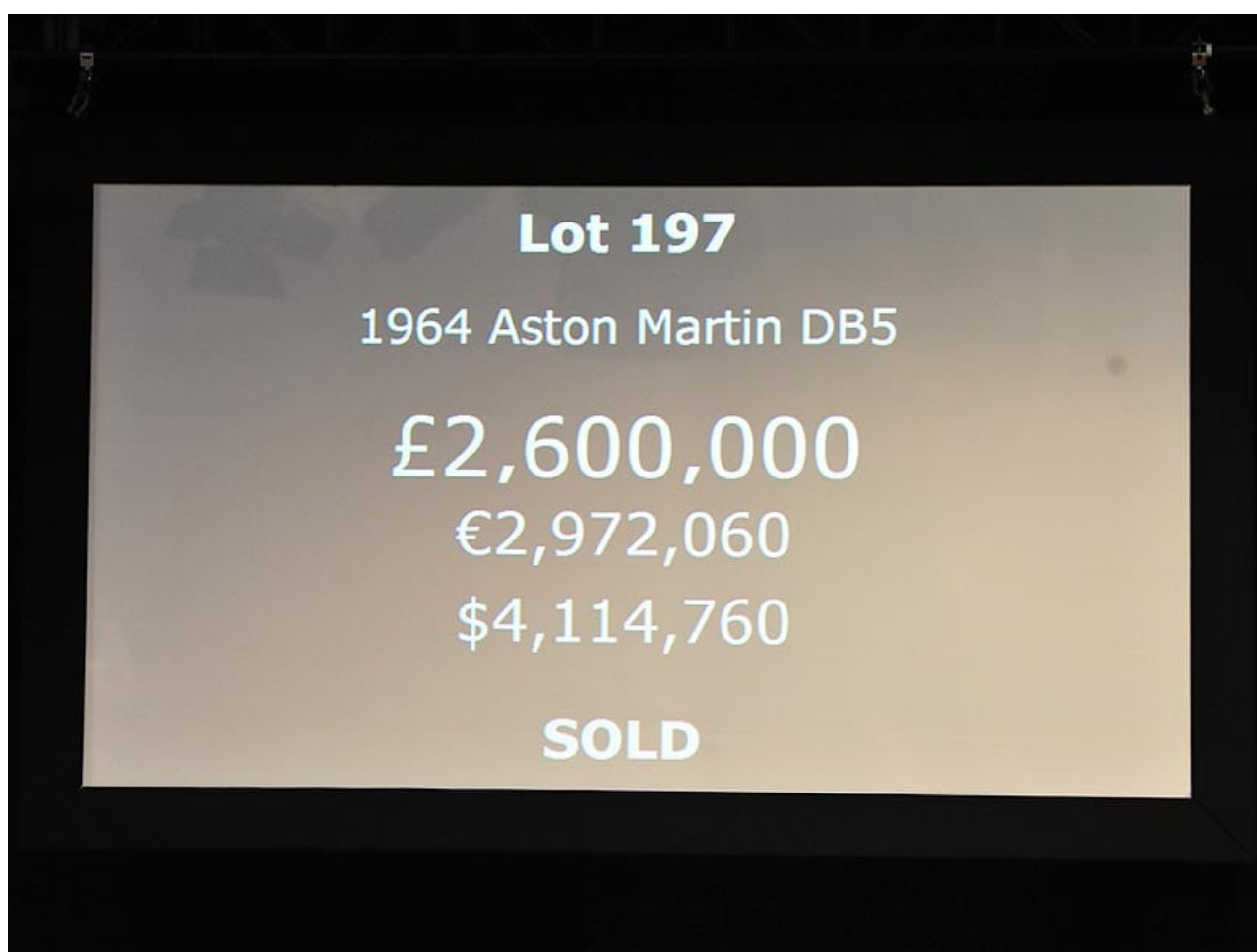
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Max Girardo takes bids on the famous '007' Aston Martin DB5

With just a couple of bids, nearly six months' waiting was over: the sole surviving Aston Martin to feature on-screen in 'Goldfinger' was sold for £2,912,000 - some way off the fevered, 'eight-figure' sums of press speculation.

While the 500 or so present in the **Battersea Evolution** venue were denied a much-anticipated bidding war, no one can criticise the Ontario-based auction house for the most intense marketing campaign the collectors' car world has ever seen.

You'd have to be a hermit living in a cave not to know that this car was up for sale. Even then, the news might have reached you - and quite possibly a deluxe catalogue and cocktail party invitation, too. It certainly wasn't lack of promotion that thwarted a bigger price for the iconic **Silver Birch DB5**.





The new owner is American businessman **Harry Yeaggy**, who was rumoured to have celebrated his acquisition with a late-night trip to the pub with auctioneer **Max Girardo**. They both thoroughly deserved their pints.

Elsewhere in the high-on £20m sale (nearly double its 2009 total), almost 90% of the lots sold, with yet more extraordinary sums for everyday **Aston Martins**, untouched by 'Q'.

The **1989 V8 Vantage 'Prince of Wales' Volante** (estimate: £125,000 - 155,000) sold for £201,600, the superb, **ex-Lord Brabazon early DB2** wowed the audience by going for £196,000 (estimate: £90,000 - 100,000) and an attractive - yet hardly rare - **1970 DB6 MkII Vantage** almost doubled its estimate, eventually selling for £173,600.

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Some of the 18-car Aston Martin entry

Like the Martinis served at the pre-sale party, pretty strong stuff.

It was a bold move to include several entries more familiar to warmer, Stateside climes but RM's consignment team's efforts were more than justified as the **1938 Talbot Lago T23 'Teardrop' by Figoni & Falaschi** went well for £1,792,000 (estimate: £1,100,000 - 1,400,000), and the ultra-desirable 'car of princes and playboys', the **1966 Ferrari 365 California Spider**, likewise broached its (£550,000 - 680,000) estimate, the hammer price of £660,000 translating to £739,200 with premium.

Other **Ferraris** finding new homes included a light metallic blue, short-nose **1965 275 GTB** for £537,600, a **1989 F40** (£316,400) and a **1972 365 GTB/4 'Daytona'** (£128,800, at 'No Reserve').

Of the few non-selling lots in the catalogue, however, a disproportionate number were the **Maranello** marque (**Enzo, 365 GT4 Berlinetta Boxer, 1957 250 GT Elena, 1965 500 Superfast** and 'long-nose' **1965 275 GTB/6C**).

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1956 Maserati A6G/2000 Competition Berlinetta - Sold for £700,000

Oh well, what goes around comes around, and **Lamborghinis** by contrast had a stunning evening, with a strawberry red **1971 Miura SV** (subsequently converted to 'J' specification a couple of years after delivery)

going for £728,000 and a yellow **1972 Miura SV** hard on its heels at £700,000. The out-of-this-world **1975 Countach LP400 'Periscopo'** did well at £196,000, while one of the most popular cars in the saleroom, the ex-film **1969 Islero GTS**, was bang on the money for vendor and buyer alike at £106,400.

Of the older cars, the **Brighton Run**-eligible **1904 De Dion-Bouton Model ADL Rear-Entry Tonneau** sold for £280,000, the **1923 Rolls-Royce 40/50 HP Silver Ghost 'AX 201' Roi-de-Belges Recreation**, £168,000, and the **1935 Aston Martin 1.5-Litre LWB Mk II**, £112,000 (and is still my tip as an investment for the future).

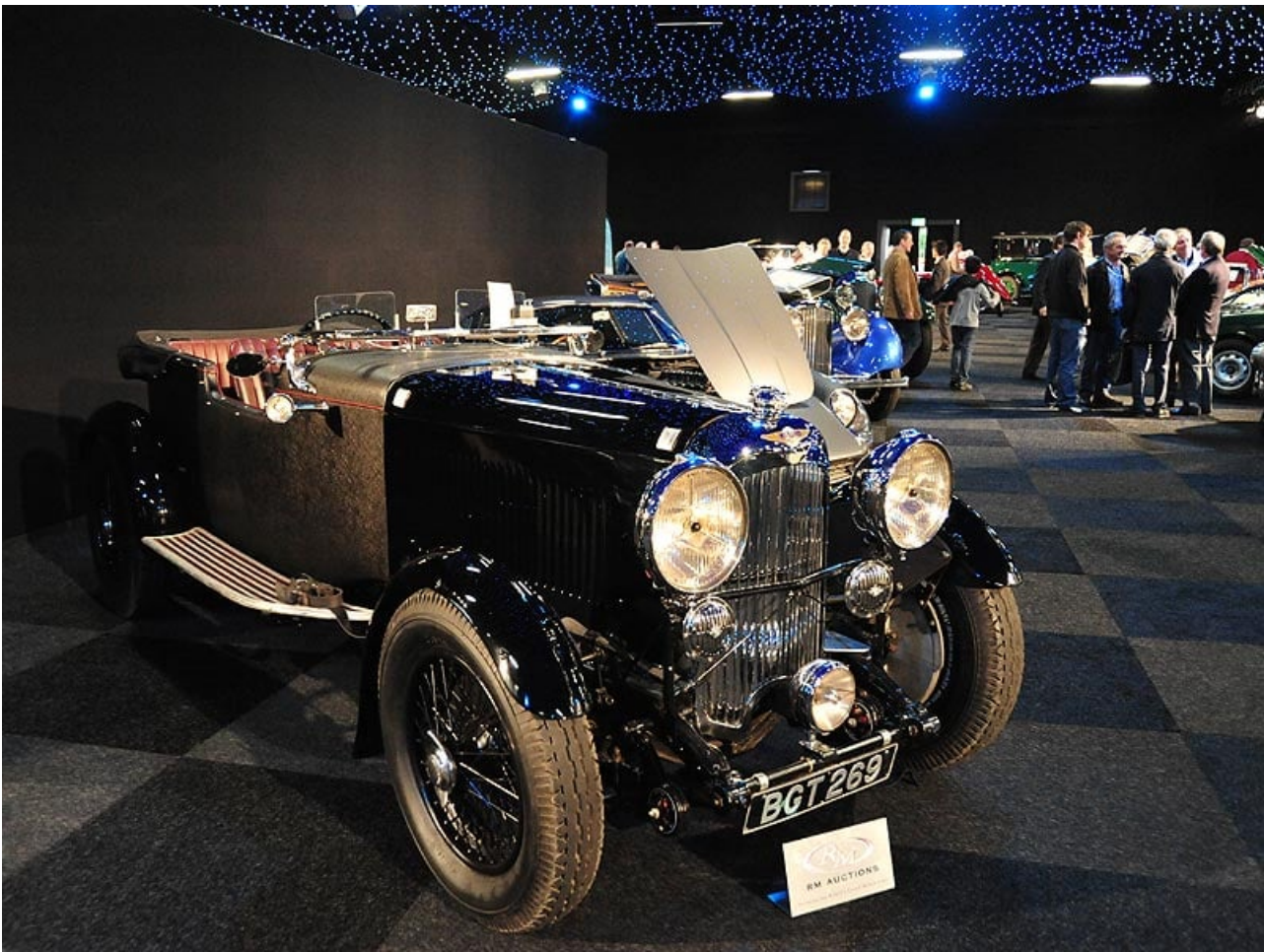
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All that glisters... some of the Hooper Corporate Collection cars

A significant proportion of the catalogue came from the **Hooper Corporate Collection**, and most exhibited a sense of style and taste that has been the hallmark of the coachbuilder since its heyday in the 1950s. Buyers could choose from a quite literally 'glittering' array of cars that included a gold-plated **1920 Pierce-Arrow Model 48 2/3-Passenger Coupé** (sold for £89,600) and a **1930 Rolls-Royce Phantom II**. The unsuspecting needed to examine the catalogue closely as the latter, despite its unassuming name, had been bodied totally in highly polished solid copper.

It sold for £114,800 - worth its weight in, er, copper, I suppose.



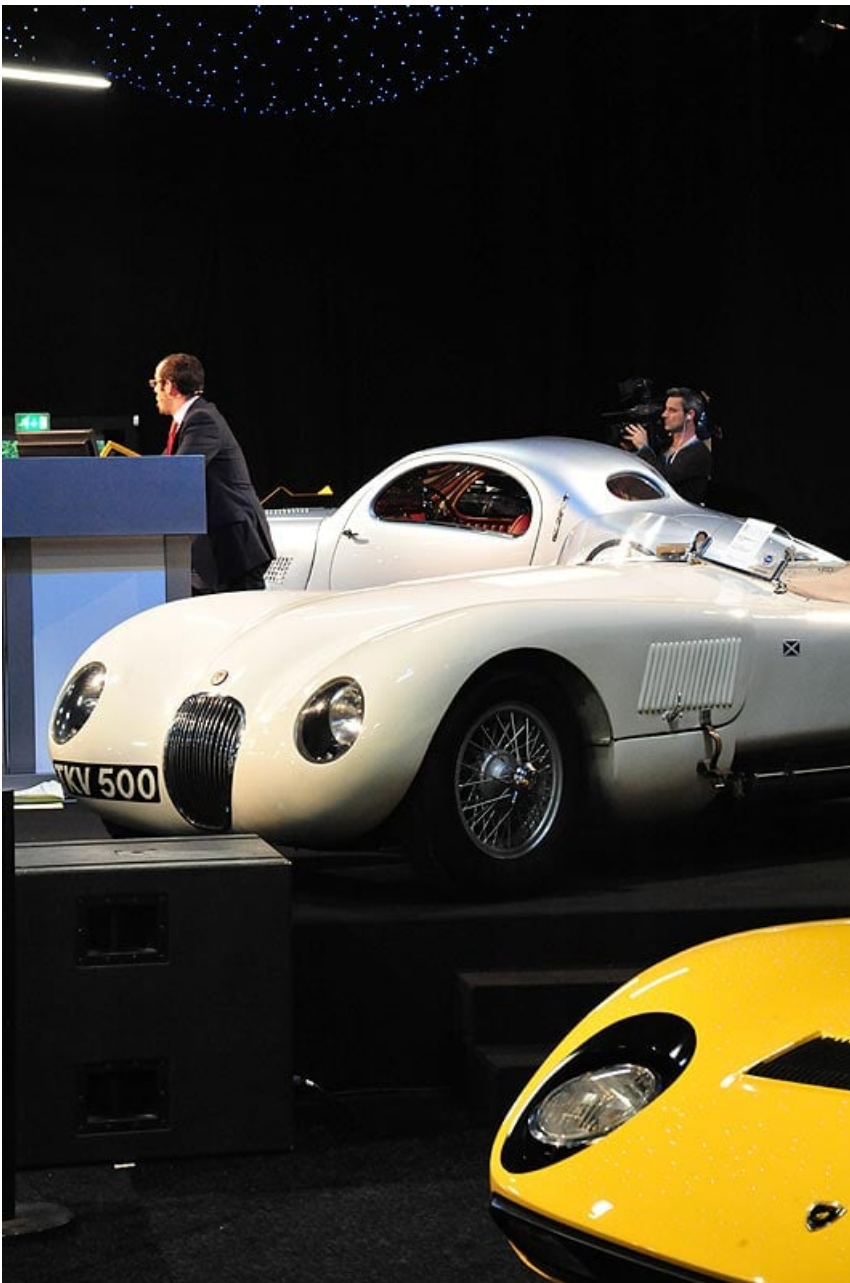


Surprisingly, the **1952 Jaguar C-type** [we drove last week](#) failed to find a buyer (bid to £1,750,000), and the **2010 Pagani Zonda R**, the amazing '6:47 lap at the Nürburgring' car, went for £812,000 – some way short of its c.1.4m euros price when new.

It was one of the most popular cars in the saleroom, though, and just a few yards away was a personal favourite, the green **1954 Lancia Aurelia B20 GT Coupé**. By no means an out-and-out racer, the small GT had been rally prepared and was in lovely, 'workmanlike' condition.



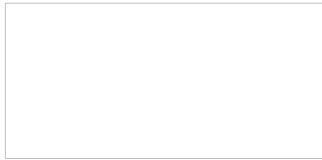




You could do a lot with this car, never worrying too much about a scratch or mark and, for the money (£52,640), it was the time-honoured 'all you need' machine. Good luck to **Mr Yeaggy** and his **Bond Aston** – I'd be happy with this one.

RM Auctions' next sale is **The Milton Robson Collection** at Gainesville, Georgia USA on November 13. The company will hold its first 2011 auction over two days at **Scottsdale** on January 20 - 21. Entries are currently being invited – for more information see www.rmauctions.com.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the official results (including buyer's premium).



**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 45
75

Website: www.rmauctions.com

Email: ask@rmauctions.com.

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

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