


CLASSIC DRIVER



1928 Motorcycles Zenith - JAP 680 Racing Motorcycle

JAP 680 Racing Motorcycle

Sydney

Lot sold	USD 39 117 - 58 676 EUR 32 696 - 49 044 (listed)	Condition	Used
Year of manufacture	1928	Location	
Brand colour	Black	Motorcycle type	Street
		Colour	Other
		Recommended fuel type	Normal

Description

Lot No: 325

1928 Zenith-JAP 680 Racing Motorcycle

Frame no. 10424

Engine no. GTOY/C1955

Zenith motorcycles were manufactured from 1904 until 1950, in a variety of factories in or around London. From the early days proprietary engines were used, such as Fafnir, Precision, JAP, Bradshaw and Villiers. The driving force behind Zenith was Chief Engineer, and company owner, Frederick Barnes, who was responsible for the famous 'Gradua' gear. Worked by a hand-wheel or crank handle, the Gradua mechanism varied the diameter of the engine pulley while simultaneously sliding the rear wheel back and forth in the fork slots, thus maintaining correct belt tension. Its advantages showed most effectively in speed hill climbs, and in pre-WW1 days Zenith machines gained many successes as the Zenith rider could change gear during the ascent while the other competitors had to make do with a single choice of ratio. Rival riders and manufacturers thought that this was an unfair advantage so many leading club

**Bonhams Collectors' Motor
Cars & Motorcycles, Sydney
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