


# CLASSIC DRIVER

## Vincent Other

Oxford, 07 June

- Lot sold  
USD 12 270 - 18 404  
GBP 10 000 - 15 000 (listed)  
**Engine number** F10/AB/1/268
- **Condition** Used
- **Location** 
- **Motorcycle type** Street
- **Colour** Other
- 

### Description

c.1952 Vincent 998cc Rapide Project  
Frame no. RC/11265  
Engine no. F10/AB/1/268

Ever since the Series A's arrival in 1937, the Vincent v-twin has been synonymous with design innovation, engineering excellence and superlative high performance. From Rollie Free's capture of the 'world's fastest production motorcycle' record in 1948 on a tuned Series B Black Shadow to the final fully enclosed Black Knight and Black Prince, Philip Vincent's stress on appearance and performance is legendary. His machines bristled with innovative features: adjustable brake pedal, footrests, seat height and gear-change lever. The finish was to a very high standard commensurate with the cost of the machine, which was virtually double that of any of its contemporaries. But above all else it was the v-twin's stupendous performance that captivated motorcyclists, whether they could afford one or not. With a top speed approaching 120mph, and bettering it in the Black Shadow's case, the Vincent v-twin was the fastest road vehicle of its day.

In 1948 the Vincent range began to be up-dated from Series B to Series C specification. The most significant changes made concerned the suspension, there being a revised arrangement at the rear incorporating curved lugs for the seat stays and an hydraulic damper between the spring boxes, while at the front the new

models boasted Vincent's own 'Girdraulic' fork: a blade-type girder fitted with twin hydraulic dampers. These advances began to find their way onto production models during 1948 but it would be 1950 before all Vincents left the factory in Series C specification.

This Series C Rapide was purchased by the current vendor's brother-in-law over 30 years ago. It is believed that the machine was purchased complete and subsequently dismantled for restoration. Dry stored since and never restored, it is believed to be relatively complete and is offered for sale as a non-matching numbers restoration project. There are no documents with this Lot, which is sold strictly as viewed.

Bonhams 1793

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