



November 2021 Classics Auction

Tue, 23rd Nov 2021

Estimate: £6000 - £8000 + Fees

1950 Riley RMA Handsome RMA benefited from a restoration by a marque specialist.

Registration - LXD 584

Chassis No. - 40S18662

M.O.T. - Exempt

Odometer - 33,349

As its looks suggest, this handsome RMA apparently benefited from an earlier restoration by a marque specialist, since when it has seen little use, and its odometer currently displays a credible but unwarranted 33,349 miles from new. The refurbishment included repairs to both the timber frame and metalwork, a complete respray in green over black, a new black vinyl roof covering, and much rechroming. The interior also received attention during which the carpets and door trims were renewed, the facia and door cappings were professionally re-lacquered, and a fresh headlining installed. Other improvements included a replacement wiring loom and an extensive degree of mechanical restoration, while more recently the engine has been fully rebuilt and a new steering wheel fitted. The vendor now classes the 1.5-litre engine and manual transmission as 'excellent', the interior trim as 'good', and the bodywork and paintwork as 'average'.

The RM Series cars were the last 'proper' Rileys – the swansong of the marque before it was subsumed into the British Motor Corporation. The model range was manufactured in Coventry until 1949, when production moved to the MG factory at Abingdon. The RMA saloon was the company's first post-war offering. It was powered by the company's proven 1.5-litre four-cylinder 12/4 engine and equipped with a four-speed manual gearbox, Girling hydro-mechanical brakes and independent front suspension courtesy of wishbones and torsion bars. Following the British traditions of the day, the body was built around a wooden frame. The model was replaced by the very similar RME in 1952 after some 10,504 examples had been produced. With 54bhp on tap, the RMA was capable of attaining over 80mph flat out and required around 20.5 seconds to reach 50mph from rest.

In summary:

- The subject of an earlier comprehensive restoration
- Little used since the restoration and displaying an unwarranted but credible low total mileage of 33,349
- Recent full engine rebuild