

Vincent is a Prince amongst Motorcycles

A 1956 Vincent Black Prince heads up the Charterhouse auction of classic and vintage motorcycles at the Haynes International Motor Museum, Sparkford on **Saturday 10th August.**

“Vincent Motorcycles were some of the fastest and most expensive motorbikes you could buy before and just after the Second World War,” commented Matthew Whitney. “At a time when many motor cars would struggle to go faster than 70 mph, the legendary 998cc Vincent Black Shadow had a claimed top speed of 125 mph in 1948 making it the fastest production bike in its day.”

The Vincent Black Prince is perhaps one of the rarest production motorcycles produced by Vincent, It followed on from the Black Shadow Series C which had become outdated by 1954.



1956 Vincent Black Prince £60,000-70,000

The Black Prince was innovative in using full enclosure and weather protection with glass fibre panels that included leg shields and a handlebar fairing. This, Vincent thought, would enable the rider to commute to work in a suit rather than full motorcycle kit.

Just 200 Vincent Black Princes were made during 1954-1955. With the arrival of very small cars on the market competition was strong and by the end of 1955 the accountants calculated that money had been lost on all Black Princes sold and production ceased.

The Vincent Black Prince going under the Charterhouse hammer has led a much pampered life. Still a matching numbers motorbike, where the chassis, engine and gearbox has remained together, it has had only five owners in its 64 years.

A previous concours winning show motorcycle, and admired wherever it has been ridden, this rare piece of British motorcycle history is estimated at £60,000 - £70,000.

Charterhouse are now accepting further entries for their busy summer auction programme with classic & vintage motorcycle auction at the Haynes International Museum on 10th August and for their auction of silver, jewellery and watches also in August followed by classic and vintage cars in September.

For further information regarding these specialist auctions, or to arrange a home visit, contact **Matthew Whitney** and the team of experts at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne **01935 812277** or email **info@charterhouse-auction.com**