

Classic Motor Action

"WE HAVE BEEN ADVERTISING WITH CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR SINCE 1989. IT'S A PLEASURE WORKING WITH THE TEAM BECAUSE OUR CORE BUSINESS IS VERY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAGAZINE AND ITS CONTENTS" **Dirk Libeert, owner**



Q&A

How long have you been in business?

I started young and this year we will celebrate 40 years in business. As recently as 1980 Belgium boasted only a handful of professional classic car dealers, all of them enthusiasts first and foremost. All of those have disappeared since then. The last 20 years seem to have been overshadowed by a number of opportunist traders with a purely commercial attitude who decided this field was an easy money-making market.

Why did you choose to get into this business?

Like the early guys my motivation was solely inspired by passion and pure enthusiasm.

What are your favourite car(s)?

As historical cars, my preference goes to Italian berlinettas and barchettas from the 1950s and early 1960s, with a particular interest in the Siata 8Vs, as well as race cars of the same period such as the Maserati 300S and the incredible Ferraris of the era. My favourite pre-WW2 car is the Alfa Romeo 8C Touring spider. As a daily classic driver, I'd take the Porsche 356 with a preference for the later series.

What is the best classic you ever owned?

I don't believe there is a "best classic". Making that kind of judgement is too personal. The best classic is the one that brings you the most joy and meets your highest expectations, whatever this might mean to the owner.

Do you have any investment tips for readers?

First: don't be cheap. Do not buy because the car seems inexpensive. Pay for quality at the outset, and it will later turn out to be a bargain. Secondly: don't gamble on 'future classics'. The safest investment is one made in a car of which the rising value has already been confirmed by the market. Thirdly: buy what you really like... lead with your heart and invest in your pleasure as well.

How do you see the future?

It looks very bright for values! We are seeing an explosion of interest – that creates a shortage of good cars as people want to drive, to show, to collect, to invest. It is hard to see where that will take us.

So how is the market at the moment?

Very strong indeed, we sold six cars in two weeks of January and this is usually the slowest time of the year. Again, it is hard to keep up good inventory. I believe we will see the same situation for many years to come.

What is the rarest car you have in stock?

A V8 Siata 208S competition spider, the first alloy-bodied and full lightweight Siata in which Ernie McAfee ran the 1953 Carrera PanAmericana. A unique car.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

One cannot be too modest.

Check out our cars for sale this month on page 365

Profile



Location Flanders, Belgium

Tel +32 (0) 93 61 24 89

Web www.classicmotoraction.com

Goals We aim to pursue the rare, the original, the exceptional and the practical sports cars.

Objectives To demonstrate to any and all potential buyers that we have total confidence in the stock that we offer by personally investing in our cars.

Philosophy We find that the personal approach always ensures the best result. Likewise, in the new internet world, discretion is a priority and an increasingly highly valued commodity. Ask us, we may know.

FIRST CLASSIC

A TR3A with overdrive I had when I was still a student. I drove it daily.



DREAM CAR

Alfa Romeo 8C Touring or Zagato Spider. The greatest pre-war car.



BEST CAR SOLD

The ones that give most satisfaction to owners. Porsche 356s maybe.



FAVOURITE CAR IN STOCK

We have no preferred babies, we like all the cars we sell.

