



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

MINERVA 1902 1½HP 211CC 1 CYL AIV 2712



SOLD





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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Minerva 1902 1 ½ HP 211 cc aiv single frame # 117970 engine # 3511

Mr Sylvain de Jong, born in Amsterdam on 5 January 1868, moved to Brussels with his parents and two brothers to Brussels when he was thirteen years old.

After working for some years as a journalist, he went to the U.K. to study the safety bicycle production. In 1895, S. de Jong, his brothers and other investors started a factory in Antwerp, to produce and repair bicycles.

For these bicycles, they selected the name "Mercury". Only two years later, after a dispute with the other investors, S. de Jong created on 15 October 1897; "S. de Jong & Cie".

This time he selected the name "Minerva" for the new plant in Antwerp.

Minerva the Roman goddess, daughter of Jupiter, sprang from the head of her father, fully grown and in full armour.

She was the patron of warriors, goddess of knowledge and wisdom and goddess of artisans and industry. Sylvain de Jong anticipated on a slackening bicycle market and announced in February 1899, the production of light cars (voiturettes) and motorcycles.

In 1900, S. de Jong & Co. bought an engine from the Neuchâtel - Swiss based Zürcher & Lüthi.

Zürcher & Lüthi did not only build the engines, they also patented the bicycle set-up.

The engines were "clamped to the framing" (clip-on).

S. de Jong & Co. bought the license and started the production of all parts needed to turn a Minerva bicyclette into a Minerva motocyclette.

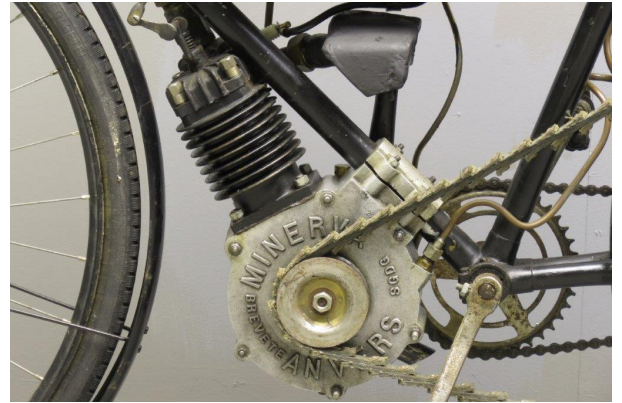
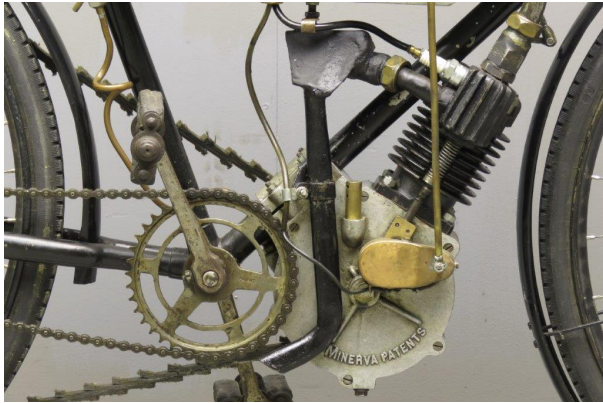
Due to the reliability of the clip-on engine, success was immediate.

The 1902 range comprised no less than 4 engine types, ranging from a 1 ½ HP 211 cc (62x70) light model to a 2 ½ HP (75 x 75) 331 cc "heavyweight".

This very early machine has been restored some time ago.



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