



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

PHOENIX 1904 TRIMO FORECAR 3½HP 2811



SOLD





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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Ca 1904 Phoenix "Trimo" Forecar 3½hp 433 cc Minerva side valve frame & engine # 10690

Built from the early 1900s at the Phoenix Motor Cycle Works in Holloway Road, North London, and powered by the ubiquitous Minerva 'clip-on' engine, J van Hooydonk's motorcycle was widely reported in the motorcycling journals of the day.

It was clearly one of the more advanced of these early motor bicycles, featuring hand-pumped lubrication and a multiplicity of control levers for adjusting ignition advance/retard, fuel mixture, ignition cut-out, and engine de-compression.

A press opinion published in The Autocar read: "I have met with one maker who is evidently a man with his head screwed on the right way.

Mr. J. van Hooydonk is what is known as one of the "small makers" but his machines have been growing in popularity among crack riders of the Nort Road Club, of which he himself is a member. Instead of being content to take what the foreigners will send him, he has made improvements upon the Minerva, which have already been successful.

The result is that this machine (called the Phoenix) is the most advanced standard pattern motor bicycle on the market.

I have not yet been able to make it sideslip, but live in hopes.

I am having a Phoenix built with some additional fads of my own, but until I have thoroughly tested it I will not speak of its success."

Van Hooydonk went on to produce tricycle forecars, the first of which appeared in 1903, and the company went on to build 'proper' motor cars from 1908 until 1926, latterly at Letchworth in Hertfordshire.

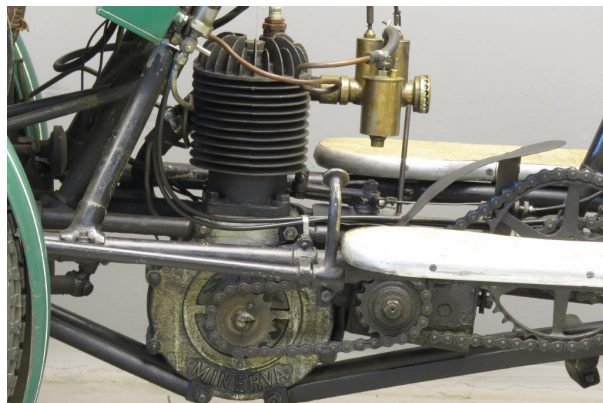
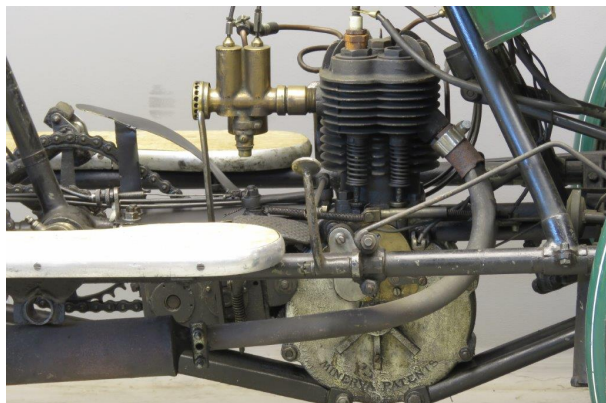
Phoenix forecars were advanced in design and reliable and were very successful in long distance trials.

This Trimo is an older restoration and has been ridden in veteran runs for many years.

It is fitted with a Triumph carburettor and a delightful brass lamp set by Génies Frères, Paris.



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