

Report by Geoff Archer

Market opinions in italics

Sometimes you just want a “proper motorcar.” Whether that’s a \$3,200 Reliant Regal or a \$600,000 Phantom VI is debatable.

Condition inferred from seller’s descriptions; cars were not physically examined by the author. All quoted material take from the eBay listings. sf=seller’s feedback; bf=buyer’s feedback



#2000365930-1953 ALVIS TA 21 convertible. S/N TA2124966. Two-tone blue/blue. Odo: 42,328 miles. 24 photos. Massillon, OH. “Begging to be restored... The car is solid & straight with older paint.” Doors “shut but they need to be fitted better.” Surface rust abounds. Needs top and ignition key, does not run.



Hysterical seller suggests “cash out the 401 K! Ditch the Lexus! Sell the lake house! You can bid on this very rare original California Alvis.” 21 bids, sf 3, bf 4. Cond: 4+. **SOLD AT \$15,000.** *The seller went on to say, “This car was sold on 6/20/91 for over 30k.” Maybe so, but this was right on the money for #4 condition today.*

#4637184814-1957 TRIUMPH TR3 roadster. S/N TS16498L. Pearl white/black leather. Odo: 38,472 miles. 20 photos. Morristown, NJ. Rare “small mouth” car was delivered new to West Germany with “overdrive option.” \$57k in rotisserie restoration receipts. “WON BEST



IN TRA REGISTRY.” 31 bids, sf 1, bf private. Cond: 2. **SOLD AT \$28,500.** *This price would have been crazy just a couple years ago, but after a few scandalously expensive Frogeye/Bugeye sales (and the associated letters to the SCM Editor;) I would hesitate to call this*

anything other than top dollar for an excellent example.

#1400489506-1959 JAGUAR XK 150 drophead coupe. S/N S838114BW. Old English White/black canvas/red leather. Odo: 56,000 miles. 24 photos. Charlottesville, VA. Restored two years ago in Ohio. Engine upgraded to a 3.8-liter at that time. Original 3.4-liter block included with sale. I went to look at this car myself, and can confirm that paint, gaps and top are all excellent. Not able to call it a



solid #2 car, because of a tinge of orange in the door jambs and other nether regions. 17 bids, sf 335, bf 22. Cond: 2-. **SOLD AT \$44,665.** *The winning bid came in just at the “Buy-It-Now” price... which was a tempting figure especially after checking some price guides. But alas, XKs can be tough to sell in white or with an automatic. Combine those two traits, and this was a fair private party selling price.*

#2200440023-1959 ELVA COURIER Mk I roadster. S/N 15GBUM48999. Eng. # 16GAUM28491. Red/black/black. Odo: 55,300 miles. 14 photos. Canton, OH. “Wonderful recent red paint job, black interior, tonneau, top and even factory side curtains.” SCMer Bob Lichty of Motorcar Portfolio adds, “The MGA engine propels the little car at great speed. It is



no wonder these cars are still very competitive in SCCA and Vintage Sports car classes.” He goes on to suggest that this might be “one of the only ones left in street trim.” 15 bids, sf 254, bf 443. Cond: 2. **SOLD AT \$25,000.** *Not a survivor in terms of originality, but it was pretty amazing that it was never prepped for a punishing life on the track. Although \$25k seemed about \$5k high for a Courier, this clean example deserved it.*

#4633049217-1962 AUSTIN-HEALEY 3000 Mk II BT7 roadster. S/N HBT7L19175. Colorado Red/black leather. 17 photos. Naples, FL. “One of a Kingdom!!” Bought 9 months prior from the 3rd owner, “This is a very nice piece in solid and excellent overall conditions. Body is straight and solid. Paint is very nice and glossy. Chromes, seals, OK.”



Top and tonneau excellent. “Overdrive, transmission clutch, brakes, engine are in excellent and strong running conditions. Excellent Oil Pressure. No Overheating.” 34 bids, sf 11, bf 1. Cond: 3. **SOLD AT \$24,100.** *Though apparently new to eBay, this buyer (with a feedback rating of 1) seemed to know how to value classic cars. Well bought by \$5k-\$7k.*

#2000281147-1967 ASTON MARTIN DB6 coupe. S/N DB62720R. British Racing Green/parchment leather. RHD. 25 photos. Huntington Station, NY. Seller is Autosport Designs, an Aston specialist. “This DB6 is complete and running although it is just a car.” Part of an Aston Martin Owner’s Club member’s collection for many years. “It is incredibly solid, chassis is good and straight,



paint is ok. It runs and drives, gearbox and clutch working properly.” Needs carpet. 2 bids, sf 57, bf 27. Cond: 3-. **SOLD AT \$56,100.** *It’s hard to interpret photos taken in the rain... it might have been a #4 car in person. Even so, as a solid basis for a full restoration, or even a rolling restoration, this would have been a deal by at least \$10k.*

#1400815969-1967 LOTUS ELAN S3 convertible. S/N 457151. Blue/black/black. Odo: 54,018 miles. 24 photos. Los Angeles, CA. “No stress cracks that I can find but has a few fine scratches and some minor chips and imperfections. Chrome work is good overall... The seats

Fresh Meat

Online sales of recent production cars.

2007 Audi RS4



Date sold: 02/06/2007

eBay auction ID: 220079256727

Seller: Autohaus Lancaster, Lancaster, PA, www.autohaus.com

Sale type: New car in stock

Details: Phantom Black Pearl/black leather. 420-hp 4.2-L V8, 6-speed manual

Sale result: \$72,520, 1 "Buy-It-Now" bid, sf 336, bf 2.

MSRP: \$73,520

Other current offering: Prestige Imports, North Miami Beach, FL, www.prestigeimports.com, asking \$73,520 for a blue example.

2008 Cadillac CTS



Date sold: 02/04/2007

eBay auction ID: 160081812515

Seller: Morrie's Cadillac-Saab, Golden Valley, MN, www.morries.com

Sale type: RIGHTS TO MAKE \$1,000 DEPOSIT against MSRP

Details: "You'll be able to order the car with the colors and options you desire."

Sale result: \$1,000, 1 "Buy-It-Now" bid, sf 8, bf 0

MSRP: \$30,000-\$45,000

Other current offering: None.

2007 Mercedes-Benz SLK 55



Date sold: 10/21/2006

eBay auction ID: 150047669342

Seller: Dick Dyer Mercedes-Benz, Columbia, SC, www.dickdyer.com

Sale type: New car in stock

Details: Black/black, COMAND navigation system, heated seats, Sirius radio

Sale result: \$62,985, 1 "Buy-It-Now" bid, sf 107, bf 4

MSRP: \$68,985

Other current offering: Park Place Motorcars, Dallas, TX, www.parkplacetexas.com, asking \$69,695 for similar black car. ♦



are great, carpet is ok, wood dash shows wear, but has no cracks or delaminating." Wide steel knock-offs with Yokos. Original wheels and color-matched hardtop included. Good compression, Dave Bean headers. 26 bids, sf 71, bf 165. Cond: 3+. **SOLD AT \$20,000.** *When the winning bidder is a local classic car dealer, you pretty much know there was money left on the table—it must not have been far from #2 condition. I'll bet this one will be back on the market in no time.*

#4644278740-1968 **AUSTIN MINI Wildgoose motorhome.** S/N AAV71107870A. Butterscotch & white/brown vinyl. RHD. Odo: 74,097 miles. 35 photos. Webster, NY. "There are only 3 in North America that we know of and only about 50 were ever produced." Camper top pops up like a Westfalia. "It is equipped with a sink basin, gas cooktop, table and couches." Repainted in the '90s. Looks OK, but rust is starting to show on the underside. 850-cc, 4-speed, runs & drives. "Buy-



It-Now" purchase, sf 6809, bf 143. Cond: 3-. **SOLD AT \$7,500.** *While looking at this preposterous little RV, I was bombarded with script ideas involving Rowan Atkinson in his pajamas. Is this how "Mr. Bean" would camp in the Talladega infield? Price paid was in line with the less "campy" Mini Traveler (woody wagon) models. This restoration will not make money, but it'll certainly make people laugh.*

#2900167023-1973 **RELIANT REGAL Super Van III 3-wheel van.** S/N 732883. Yellow/black vinyl. RHD. Odo: 4,670 miles. 12 photos. Rockaway, NJ. 3 wheeler. Three-year old restoration. "Frame off blasted and painted, motor, transmission, rear all rebuilt. Brakes are all new or rebuilt. Rubber brake lines replaced, master cyl sleeved and rebuilt. All new tires. Seats and rugs all new, headliner new, repainted inside." Paint is good, but not



great. "There is one trouble with the fuel syst seems to heat up and vaper lock, may need to rerote fuel line." 18 bids, sf 5, bf 4. Cond: 3+. **SOLD AT \$3,200.** *Well bought. Buyer could have paid twice as much for this nice little oddball—maybe more if the seller had resolved that nebulous vapor lock issue.*

#2000702803-1979 **LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER convertible.** S/N SALPE243SA31307. Gray/black cloth/gray cloth. Odo: 49,200 km. 21 photos. San Mateo, CA. "Custom factory convertible conversion done by British Letyland S.A. of France when new! ... believed to be one of fewer than 100 examples produced." Paint is "very good to excellent." Bull bar & Hellas. Convertible top is tattered, and not pictured. V8, 4-speed manual,



and 4WD are "good to very good overall." Heater fan inoperative. 24 bids, sf 66, bf private. Cond: 3+. **SOLD AT \$9,049.** *A couple sheets of plexiglass, and you've got yourself a POPEMOBILE. Whether your tastes run toward regal wind-in-your-hair waves or bulletproof crowd blessing, this was a good deal on a nice example of a rare off-roader. The buyer could have easily paid \$3k-\$5k more, especially if there had been a decent soft top included.*

#1300254242-1980 **ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM VI-40 sedan.** S/N SCAPM1332. Black/savoy beige velvet. Odo: 5,000. 22 photos. Rancho Santa Fe, CA. "Rarest of the rare." Handbuilt from 1980 to 1983, sold new in Switzerland. "Television, stereo, special storage compartment, double folding picnic tables, crystal, front facing jump seats and velvet head cushions are a few of the options.



You could search the world and not find another one of these PVI-40s available, much less a virtually brand new example. The condition is concours virtually as new." 1 bid, sf 9, bf 0. Cond: 1. **SOLD AT \$599,100.** *#1 cars, especially extremely rare ones, can sometimes bring multiples of a #2 estimate. This car did just that, nearly tripling what one would expect to see for an excellent Phantom VI. Expensive, but likely one of the nicest ones out there. ♦*