

1956 Austin-Healey 100 "Le Mans" Sold at Auction; \$79,200.00 Lot#660 Saturday 4/3/2010



Restoration completed 3/2010 by Tom Rocke of Healey Lane Restorations, Riverside California

## 1956 Austin-Healey 100 "Le Mans"

Lot # 660 Saturday 4/3/2010

This car was first delivered to Flight LT RE Lewis of the US Air Force care of Nisshin Automotive Company in May of 1956. The car was in Japan until 1959 when then Captain Lewis returned home to duty in Wichita Kansas, attached to the 86 Flight Bomber Squadron. It was there in Kansas at the Austin-Healey dealership he had the car converted to the "Le Mans" specification.

Today this car has benefited from a full frame-off comprehensive restoration by Tom and Randee Rocke, completed especially for this auction. This Austin-Healey 100 with "Le Mans" modifications is painted in the dual color scheme of Gun Metal Gray over Saint James Red. The interior is finished in Red Ox Blood vinyl with matching English wool carpeting and black armachord. New black vinyl top and tonneau cover fitted to the car with original side curtains

### The "Le Mans" modifications

- **Engine:** 8. I-I high compression Pistons, high lift camshaft, twin 1 ¾ H.6 S.U. carburetors with special inlet manifolds, special 25D long shaft distributor with modified automatic advance curve, steel-faced cylinder head gasket. Providing 110 bhp from the 2,660 cc inline four-cylinder engine.
- **Suspension:** independent front suspension with coil springs and anti-roll bar, rigid rear axle with semi-elliptic leaf springs and anti-sway bar, and four-wheel hydraulic concentric ring drum brakes.
- **Coachwork:** Alloy Louvered bonnet with "Le Mans" regulation leather Bonnet Strap. Alloy front fenders and shroud, considered to be semi-lightweight. Two-tone exterior paint

### Additional features of the restoration;

- Engine, transmission, and overdrive have been rebuilt using all new parts
- new brake lines, new master brake and slave cylinders, Jet coated brake drums
- new fuel lines, fuel pump, and refurbished gas tank with Lifetime warranty from RenuZit
- Jet coated exhausts, Le Mans specification cold air box, Alloy "Le Mans" cooling fan, new 4 row radiator, and new steel exhaust system
- All new electrical components, wiring harness, and Flat glass flame-thrower headlights
- Rebuilt original gauges, "Le Mans" plaque on the dash, new steering wheel, new drop-down racing windshield,
- Original heavy gauge rechrome 100/4 bumpers
- 48 spoke chrome wire wheels with new road speed tires (185x15), spare tire, original jack, knockoff hammer, and Factory100/4 repair manual
- British Heritage Trust certificate and full photo documented restoration

## Additional information

1956 Austin-Healey 100 "Le Mans" finished in Gun Metal Gray over Saint James Red. Restoration completed for this auction by Tom and Randee Rocke.

Sold at Auction; \$79,200.00

110 bhp, 2,660 cc inline four-cylinder engine, dual carburetors, four-speed manual gearbox with overdrive, independent front suspension with coil springs and anti-roll bar, rigid rear axle with semi-elliptic leaf springs and anti-sway bar, and four-wheel hydraulic drum brakes. Wheelbase: 90"

In response to a BMC-sponsored competition for an all-new sports car using Austin mechanical components, Donald Healey presented his "Hundred" sports roadster at the 1952 Earl's Court Motor Show. With its sleek Gerry Coker-designed body, chassis by Barry Bilbie and engineering led by Geoff Healey, the roadster attracted the favor of BMC's Leonard Lord and was quickly renamed the Austin-Healey 100.

Series production commenced early in 1953, and the 100 quickly became a sports car legend that was particularly beloved in America. The 100 was soon setting new speed records at Bonneville and a pair of Works 100s contested the 1953 Le Mans 24-hour race, where they finished second and third in class. Because of this notoriety, BMC offered the "Le Mans kit" for sale through the parts catalog available to dealerships and Austin-Healey BN2 owners.

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