

1922 Ace Four Cylinder with FLXI Observer sidecar

Sold: \$US103,500 (\$143,200)

Barn finds are all the rage among the cognoscenti, but this sumptuous lot must be about as far as possible from that concept.

After William Henderson sold his four-cylinder design to the Excelsior company he founded the Ace Motor Corporation to produce a lighter, sportier motorcycle.

In 1920 Ace released an inline-four of 1220cc (75ci) capacity with splash lubrication and a bolted-on three-speed gearbox. The engine had F-head cylinders – inlet-over-exhaust – and developed 20hp.

The Ace differed from that year's Henderson models produced by Excelsior in having a stronger crankcase with a heavier flywheel.

William Henderson had to be careful in designing his first model that he didn't infringe on patents that were held by the Excelsior company or its owner, Ignaz Schwinn.

The latter part of this lot's history is documented, as it was in the collection of Lou Lichva from the mid-1960s. He and his wife were founder members of the Empire Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America.

Lichva rode the Ace regularly and gave sidecar



rides to many children at club days.

The bike's next owner set about a complete restoration, including finishing it in the original Ace livery of Packard Blue with cream wheels and gold pin-striping. The sidecar was also fully restored, including the correct blue leather interior and Ace transfers on the rear and front panels.

Vendor Larry Bowman is a prominent Californian collector of classic motorcycles.

Sold at Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, US.

From: Bonhams

