

1932 BROUGH SUPERIOR 800cc BS4

SOLD: £331,900 (\$572,530)

For decades in the UK, rumours circulated about a cache of Brough Superiors hidden in a barn. Most collectors treated this tale as an urban myth, but it came true.

The treasure trove of Broughs was discovered in Bodmin Moor, a Cornish village where narrow roads wind between farms.

The late Frank Vague was an avid member of the Brough Superior Club and he acquired most of his eight Broughs in the 1960s. He stored them in barns around Cornwall and they remained there until recently.

This BS4 – No. 4004 – is particularly rare. Only 10 were made, but seven

survive. For his tilt at producing a four-cylinder motorcycle, George Brough used the Austin Seven's 747cc side-valve inline four. This performed poorly, so it was bored out to 797cc and fitted with an alloy high-compression cylinder head and more 'sporty' camshaft.

Shaft drive was retained by

using twin rear wheels with a crown wheel and pinion in between. The wheel centres were 7.5 inches (19cm) apart, which allowed it to be registered as a motorcycle.

However, the bike was clearly intended to take a sidecar.

Much of No. 4004's history is documented.

Hubert Chantrey was the

first owner and he rode it in several competitions. In 1947 an Ariel front wheel and telescopic fork were fitted and a sidecar attached.

Around 1959 the new owner installed the correct front wheel and radiators and a Castle fork. Notably, No. 4004 is one of the few BS4 motorcycles to survive with its original engine.

The catalogue noted that the Castle fork and front mudguard fitted were not to the original specification for the BS4 and a water pump was not included in the sale.

Sold at the Spring Stafford Sale, Staffordshire, UK

From: Bonhams

