Vintage and Prestige of Northampton ltd
2 Ryehill Ct
Lodge Farm Industrial Estate
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN5 7UA
eMail: richard@vandp.net
Phone: 079 67260673





1931 Rolls Royce Phantom 2 Continental by H.J. Mulliner

1931 Rolls Royce Phantom 2

£380,000.00

Engine Size (in ccm)	**5,648**	**Fuel**	**Petrol**
Mileage	**98,328 Miles**	**Transmission**	**--**

Description

1931 Rolls Royce Phantom 2 Continental by H.J. Mulliner Chassis number: 66GX Registration Number: GP55 GP55 was ‘Off Test’ at Derby on 13th April 1931. It was constructed as a Continental type chassis (specified to be ‘as 26EX’) with a short wheel base and ‘F’ rake steering suitable for an owner driver (but see change to ‘E’ rake in 1935, described below). It was designated to be built as a Weymann saloon, for use ‘Home and abroad for Town and fast touring’. The chassis was delivered to HJ Mulliner & Co Ltd at Chiswick, London W4 on 24th April 1931 by road from Lillie Hall and was bodied as a Metal Weymann Saloon. The body had sheathed bonnet hinges and an unusual vacuum powered wiper system encased in a long cylinder. 66GX was finally tested at Mulliners on 18th June 1931. It is believed that the original livery of 66GX was black with dark green interior. The chassis had been ordered on 13th March 1931 by The Car Mart Ltd of 297/9 Euston Road, London NW1 for a Mrs D Allen of The Cadogan Hotel, 75 Sloane Square, London SW1. She was also recorded as living at 60, Park Lane, London W1 and at Flat A, Hugo

Reference: 98068

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House, 179, Sloane Street, London SW1. The car was registered on 10th June 1931 as GP-55 and the Rolls-Royce guarantee was effective 20th June 1931. Her main address was in the Warwickshire countryside, The Hermitage, Sutton Brailes (better known as Sutton Brailes Manor). From June 1934 she also owned Cherry Court, North Moreton, Near Wallingford, Berkshire. When she became wealthy, she spent her money freely and enjoyed herself. For example, the Allens sailed on the Cunard-White Star Line's RMS Queen Mary in great extravagance all over the world. Photographs were taken of them while they were onboard; those pictures are a rarity, as the Allens usually refused to have any photos taken. At Christmas, they entertained only those employees who had reached a specific productivity quota. A select few were actually allowed to speak to the Allens, who felt free to indulge their illusions of grandeur. Dorothea's secretary, Dorothy Kearse, recalled that at the parties, they would sit at the end of the room behind a rope and act like royalty. For such an aspiring and successful couple, a lifestyle of luxury required a suitable country residence as well as a suitable car; in this case the Rolls Royce Phantom 2 COntinental GP55. In 1931 they purchased Sutton Brailes, a 300-year-old manor house of twenty-eight rooms. Sutton Brailes was designed for comfort, with things like plum silk velvet curtains and scads of silver and porcelain for entertaining. Charles Tozer, a leading and exclusive interior designer of the period, was hired to decorate the house and no expense was spared in giving the place an ancestral look. Alfred Woodward who lived three miles away from the manor house recalled 'Well, the first time I saw Dorothea Allen she stood out, like a film actress. The most expensive clothes that money could buy and Rolls-Royce cars to ride in. It was absolutely breath taking really. Then when I was about 12 years of age, standing on the footpath in Brailes. At that time in the 1930s cars were very few and far between. To see a magnificent Rolls Royce just come through the village several times a day was really something out of the ordinary'. The second owner is recorded by Rolls-Royce Limited on 4th November 1935 as Sir Aeneas Alexander Mackay, 13th Baron Reay (1905-1963), a British politician who sat in the House of Lords as a Scottish representative peer. Rolls-Royce Limited recorded his contact address as Commander Harcourt-Smith RN, 62 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 and also that he owned the car in July 1937. A portrait photo of Baron Reay by Bassano, taken in February 1936, is reproduced courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery. Of interest, Rolls-Royce records also show that the steering was changed from 'F' to 'E' rake on 29th August 1935 at Cricklewood, presumably to provide a greater space between the bottom of the steering wheel and the driver's lap. In November 2019, 66GX is recorded in the ownership of Mr & Mrs Brian Brooks, 17 Shorecroft, Bognor, PO21 4AS, who sold the car to Anthony Smith of Royce Cottage, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis PO22 9PA, from whom the present owner, Tim Maltin acquired it in 2022. Tim and Charlotte Maltin also own the 1937 25/30 GHO49 and intend to use 66GX for the purpose for which it was intended – fast touring on the continent.

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Manufacturer	ROLLS ROYCE
Model	OTHER
Type	Saloon
Doors	--
Number of Seats	--
Colour	Black
Mileage	98,328 Miles
First Registration Date	10/06/1931
Condition	Used
Engine Size (in ccm)	5,648
Transmission	--
Fuel	Petrol
Emission class	--

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