

1933 Alfa Romeo 6c1750 GS Coupé by Figoni





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Previous Exhibitions

October 5, 1933 Paris Motor Show

April 5, 1934 Monte-Carlo Concours d'Elégance

> April 12, 1934 Nice Concours d'Elégance

July 23, 1934 Deauville Concours d'Elégance

### 1933 Alfa Romeo 6C1750 GS Figoni-bodied Coupé





Chassis #121215054 Number built: 44 Engine Configuration: Straight 6 Location: Front, longitudinally mounted Construction: Cast-iron block, light alloy head Displacement: 1.752 liter / 106.9 cu in Valvetrain: 2 valves / cylinder, DOHC Fuel feed: Memini DOA Carburettor Aspiration: Supercharger

Right: First time a fully restored and completed Alfa Figoni emerges from RX Autoworks on April 18, 2012.







Left: A three quarter view of the rear of the Alfa Figoni taken at the Paris Motor Show in 1933 (5-15 October).



Above: The Alfa Figoni on display at the Paris Salon in 1933. From the photo one can tell that the vehicle now sports chrome wheels and a chrome bumper bar which had been added. There is still no evidence of windscreen wipers or side lamps.



Above: This photo of the Alfa Figoni was taken on April 5, 1934 at the Monte-Carlo Concours d'Elégance. The bumper bar is still in place along with a partial registration beginning with 6404 RGx (thus, done sometime between late 1933 to early 1934). Even though there are still no wipers, it is now evident that a Figoni body badge was added under the door. A very similar photo was printed in Le Petit Niçois, a daily paper from Nice, with Miss Noghes (daughter of Alexandre Noghes - head of the Automobile Club of Monaco) posing beside the vehicle.



Top: A week after the Monte-Carlo Concours d'Elégance, April 12, 1934, the Alfa Figoni appeared at the Nice Concours d'Elégance. Mrs Steur posed with the car.

Below: Another photo of the coupé from the Spring of 1934. Written on the photo is the following: 1934 Prix d'Honneur - Concours d'Elégance de Nice 1934 Grand Prix - Concours d'Elégance de Monte-Carlo



Left: This photo of the Alfa Figoni was taken on July 23, 1934 at the Deauville Concours d'Elégance.

It is now evident that the vehicle has wipers attached to the top of the windshield, small side lamps attached to the top of the front fenders, and the head lamps had been lowered with a curved supporting bar between the pair of them.

# Le Mans 1935

In June 1935, a rudimentary open racing body is put on the chassis with the registration 6114-RJ2 (plate number indicates this happened in August 1934).

Visible in the photo below is the unique front apron, between the front dumb irons, particular to this Alfa Romeo 6c1750 GS.







Alfa Romeo 6C with a 1774 cc engine and start number 21, driven by Guy Don and Jean Desvignes, finished Le Mans 6th place overall and won the 1501 - 2000 cc class.



Above: This photo of the Alfa Figoni was taken in September 1936 in a second-hand car showroom in Paris. This is the same vehicle that had entered the Deauville Concours d'Elégance two years earlier and the registration, 6114-RJ2, is the same as the one seen on the Alfa Romeo 6c1750 GS that placed 6<sup>th</sup> at Le Mans in 1935. Despite the poor quality of the photo, it is still possible to see that the Alfa Romeo badge has been moved from the bottom right to the top right of the radiator and that the body has been painted completely black.

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Back of photo reads:

AVA Paris Specialists Used Sports Cars 26 Av Bosquet, Paris, 7e (École Militaire)

French post war Police Records for chassis #121215054

#### Police Archives in Montpellier: Plate 7762 GP 6

- Antecedents: "Acquis Domaines." car sold without papers due to war. No records before 1946.
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 1946: BOUSIER, Adrien. 2 Rue Valette in Montpellier.
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 1946: MAS, René. 7 *Boulevard de l'Observatoire*. Montpellier.

#### Police Archives in Nice: Plate 7197 BA 8

- 6<sup>th</sup> September 1947: CAUVIN, René. Garagiste, *2 Rue Saint Philippe*. Nice.
- 8<sup>th</sup> April 1948: ELKIN, Georges. *Hotel Napoleon, Rue Grimaldi*. Nice

Plate 360 DL 06 - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1955: ELKIN, Georges.













Above: Photo of the Alfa Figoni taken at Waldie Greyvenstein's private museum in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Waldie restored the Figoni in the early 1970s and participated in the 1986 Mille Miglia. It remained in Waldie's collection until 2009 when David Cohen bought the car and shipped it to Vancouver, Canada.





## Restoration at RX Autoworks









Left: The Alfa Figoni arrives at RX Autoworks to begin restoration on August 26, 2009.



Right: While examining the outer shell of the vehicle, the original two-tone black and cream colours became apparent. These were colour matched and later used on the restored body.





Above: Found on each side of the seat were two panels of scrap metal covered by carpeting. Upon further examination, the red colour and the #10 suggest that they was recycled from another racing car. (*This has been preserved in its original state*)



Above: The top of one of the door frames contains instructions for a panel beater; it says "*border de chaque coté de la feuillure*" - loosely translated as "wrap [or bend] around both sides of the groove." (*This has been preserved in its original state*)



Above: Upon removal of the upholstery and padding from the seat's backrest, the revealed frame offered up a surprise - "*Alfa Romeo*" written in large letters followed by an added-on witticism "*et Juliette*." (*This has been preserved in its original state*)



Above: The seat base also offered up a surprise - a piece of packing paper with some lines drawn on it and written instructions for the workers. The bold red writing reads "*Jeudi matin*" (meaning "Thursday morning"). The additional writting is in blue but is only partially legible. (*This has been preserved in its original state*)





Left: Mike and Ian work on carefully disassembling the Alfa into its constituent parts while looking for clues as to how the vehicle originally looked before the Greyvenstein restoration (November 25, 2009).



Above: Removal of the brass plaque from the black dashboard revealed the original crackled finish the dashboard would have had before the Greyvenstein restoration.



Above: A shade of blue paint, different from that of the Greyvenstein two-toned blue, was found only on the chassis and front apron. This appears to be French Racing Blue used on the Alfa when it raced in the 1935 Le Mans.







Above: The badly aged wood is replaced while most of the original wooden structure is stabilized and saved.



Above: Damaged pieces of the aluminum outer shell are replaced and carefully welded onto the original aluminum.





Above: The time capsule on the door frame remains preserved in its original state under the aluminum skin of the vehicle.





Above: On February 16, 2012, reassembly of the Alfa begins from the chassis on up.









Above: Rob, Mike, and Ian ensure that the Alfa is mechanically sound and running smoothly before putting the final touches to the restoration (April 6, 2012).



Above: Two strips of the original French Racing Blue paint are saved on the unique front apron of the Alfa thus preserving its connection to the 1935 Le Mans race. These are now covered by chromed pieces.

With special thanks to all those involved with the complete restoration of the Alfa Romeo 6c1750 GS coupé by Figoni.

Also, thank you to those people who assisted in uncovering some of the history of this Alfa Romeo allowing for a more thorough and complete restoration. The RX Autoworks Crew: Mike Taylor Rob Fram Ian Davey

1-R.

Ruedi Aschwanden - *Research & Photos* Simon Moore - *Research & Photos* Richard Adatto - *Research* David Gallagher - *Phoenix Upholstery* Kevin Clark- *Mechanical* Augustine Banko - *Mechanical* Rudi DeGroot - *Longtime car friend* 

Compiled and Edited by Basil Cohen April 25, 2012

