



Minor Message series 3 no. 15

"Majoring in Minors" by Jeff Hide

Being new to Wiltshire last year my wife and I were keen to make journeys to places of which we had heard but had never visited. One of these was the Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7LH. Of course many years ago when I was taking on cars in need of TLC, the Haynes Motor Manuals were a must both for learning and maintenance. The hard solid cover, schematics and lucid descriptions were so helpful to someone potty on cars. Indeed, my second car was a Jaguar XK 120 stuck in first gear yet even at the age of 18 years, this manual helped me through the removal of the flooring, supports under the car and the eventual removal of the gearbox; all in an old barn. After that successful repair I had an exciting ownership on what was already destined to be a classic car.

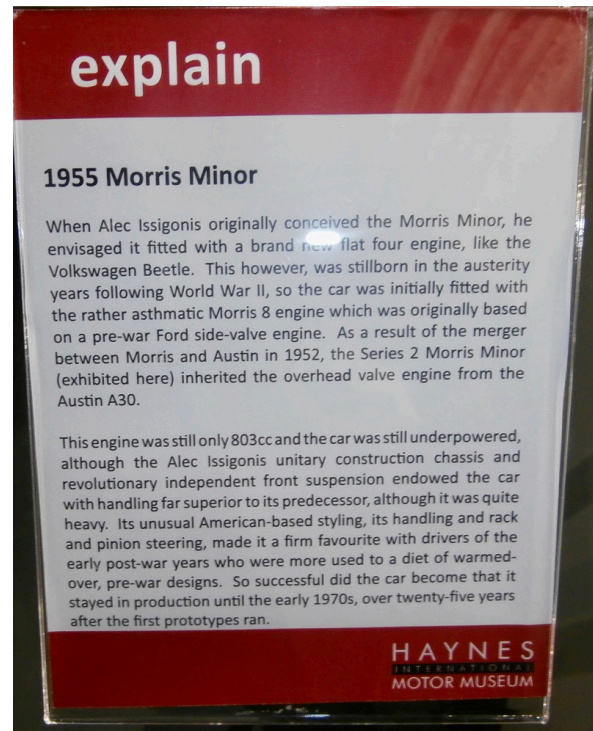
So, here in Wiltshire, some fifty eight years later, I visited the Haynes Museum in February 2020 which had some 400 exhibits of many of the makes and models with which I grew up and owned. There was not one Morris Minor but three. I cannot say that I saw any other makes and models that had more than one on exhibition. I took some photographs and here are the three Minors.

The van was extraordinary. Its colour and interior was virtually unique. The reliability of the Minor plus the comfort and appearance of this one fully justified its position in the museum.

Next there was the PLX 401, the black Morris Minor 803cc saloon registered in June 1955.



Finally came the grey Morris Minor "splitty" convertible and an explanation plaque. All immaculate.



The museum is now open again and if you have never visited it I would recommend the experience. It is not far and has a good café and shop. Before the pandemic there were special arrangements for visitors in classic cars and for groups. No doubt next year there will be again.

Jeff Hide

03.12.2020