

Ca. 1931

Rolls Royce

Carousel



One-of-a-kind. Designed and manufactured by the Rolls Royce Factory in Derby, England, circa 1931 - for use at the Rolls Royce Company's "Field Day".

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Literally the Rolls Royce of Carousels, this English Roundabout was built by the Rolls Royce factory in Derby in 1931 for the company's field day.

Designed, built, owned and operated by the Rolls Royce Company for years. An excellent provenance followed as this rare piece has been in a few well known collections.

Includes letter of provenance from historian, John Fasal.

Ride is 90% Restored*.





Built in the Rolls Royce factory in Derby [England], circa 1931.

24 aluminum horses (cast in the Rolls Royce foundry), ride the 24 foot diameter platform with portable, wagon mount center.





THE ROLLS ROYCE CAROUSEL



Each horse, cast in the Rolls Royce factory, has a leather saddle and leather rein. The 12 outside horses are named after famous Rolls Royce cars and aero engines eg' Ghost, Shadow, Merlin, Phantom.





THE ROLLS ROYCE CAROUSEL



The Rolls Royce shields painted on the Rounding Boards (marquee) are correct for the period of manufacture.

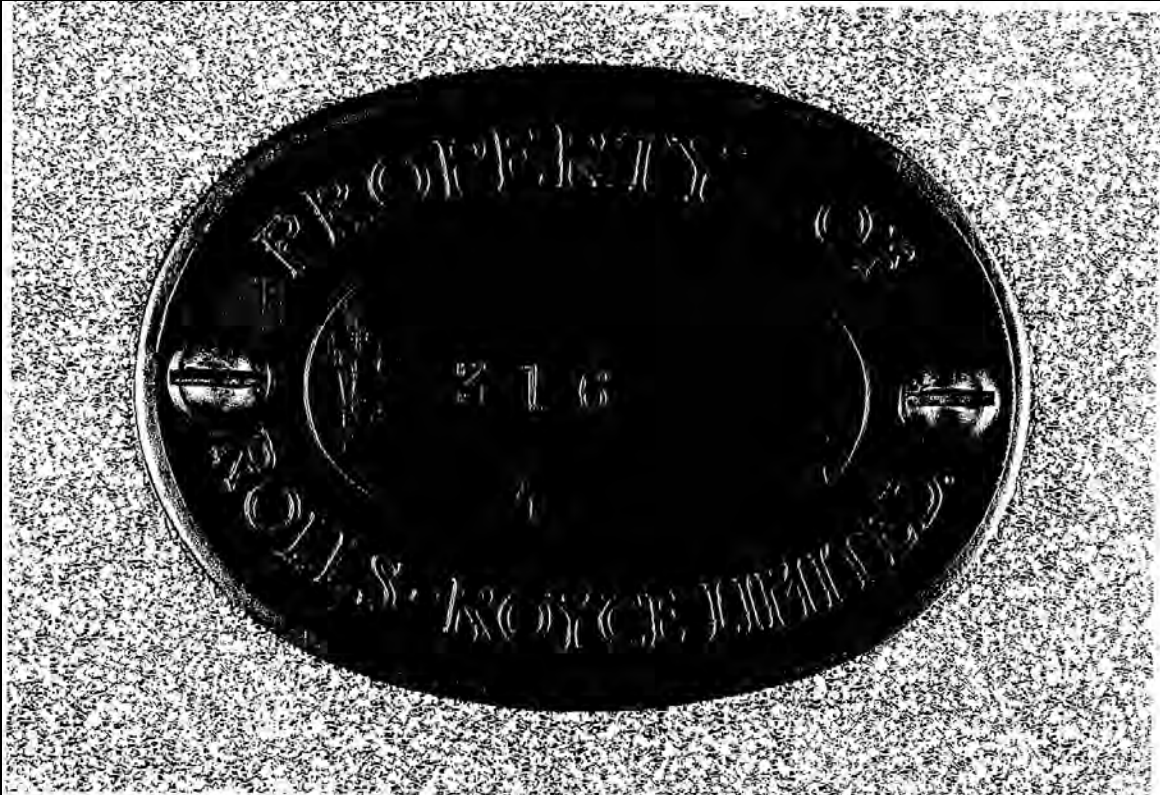




PORTABLE



CA. 1931 ROLLS ROYCE CAROUSEL • 24 HORSES - 24 FOOT PLATFORM



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THE ROLLS-ROYCE MERRY-GO-ROUND

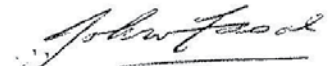
FEBRUARY 2003

The late Harry Fergusson-Wood (1908-1994) joined Rolls-Royce Ltd. in Derby as a Premium Apprentice in May 1926 and progressed through the test department and later in the experimental department. He retired as the head of Jack Barclay Service Depot in Battersea, in 1972.

Harry had mentioned to me that Rolls-Royce Derby had made a roundabout for the Company's 'field day' in the 1930s. It was made by the Millwrights Department under the superintendent Mr. J. A. Scholes. It is mounted on a 40/50 h.p. 'Phantom' type front axle beam. The 24 horses were cast in the aluminium foundry in the Derby Works. There was a brass plate affixed to the 'chassis' with the inscribed words " The property of Rolls-Royce Ltd. "

It was back in September 1978 that I accompanied Harry Fergusson-Wood to Moreton-in-Marsh to locate a travelling fairground proprietor who was said to own this machine. We enquired in a local toy shop & the owner put us in touch with a restorer of fairground equipment in that area. Finally we located the premises where the ~~24~~²⁴-foot merry-go-round was being restored. A purchase was negotiated and the whole machine was found to be easily dismantled and transported on its own trailer. It was owned by the late Neville Vincent (President of the Bovis Construction Company). We sold it for him to the Indian industrialist Vijay Mallya. I had hoped that Ian Rimmer (recently retired head of the Rolls-Royce Experimental Dept. in Crewe) might have been able to track down a period photo of the merry-go-round in operation at the 1955 and 1960 'field day' events. Alas, the Crewe factory photographic archives have been unable to locate one for us. I live in hope one might still turn up!

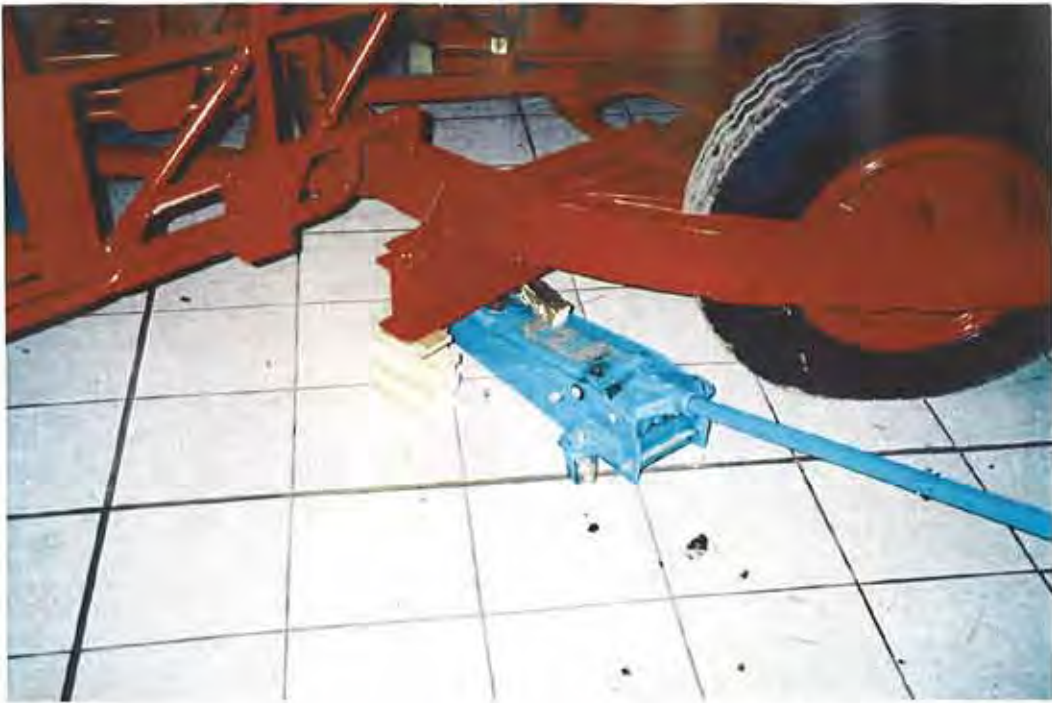
Signed:


(John Fasal R-R historian / auth.)

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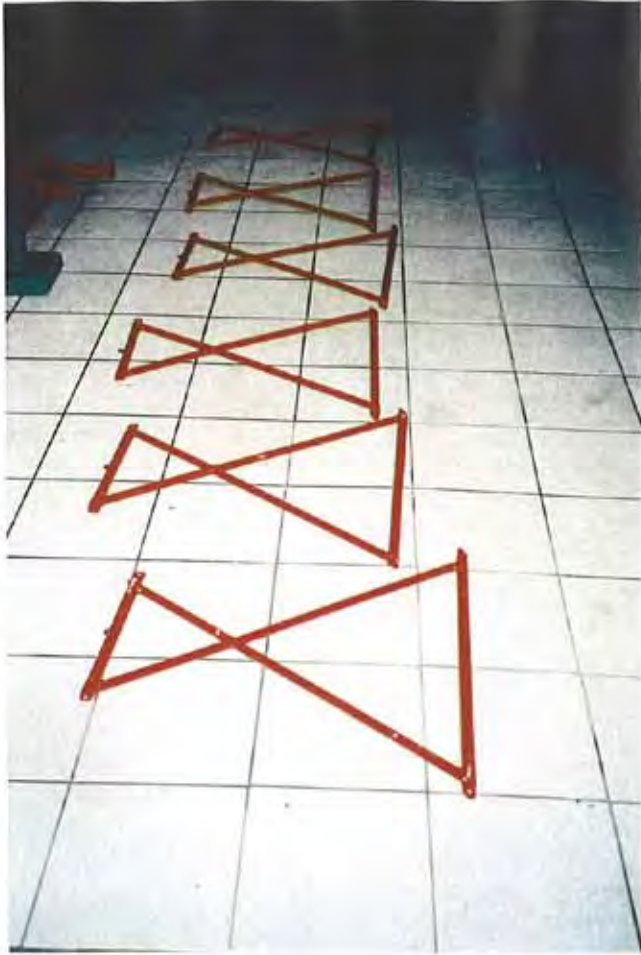


MANOEUVRE MACHINES IN TO
POSITION - JACK UP THE FOUR
MAIN GIRDER ENDS AND SET
ON TIMBER BLOCKS - USE A LEVEL .



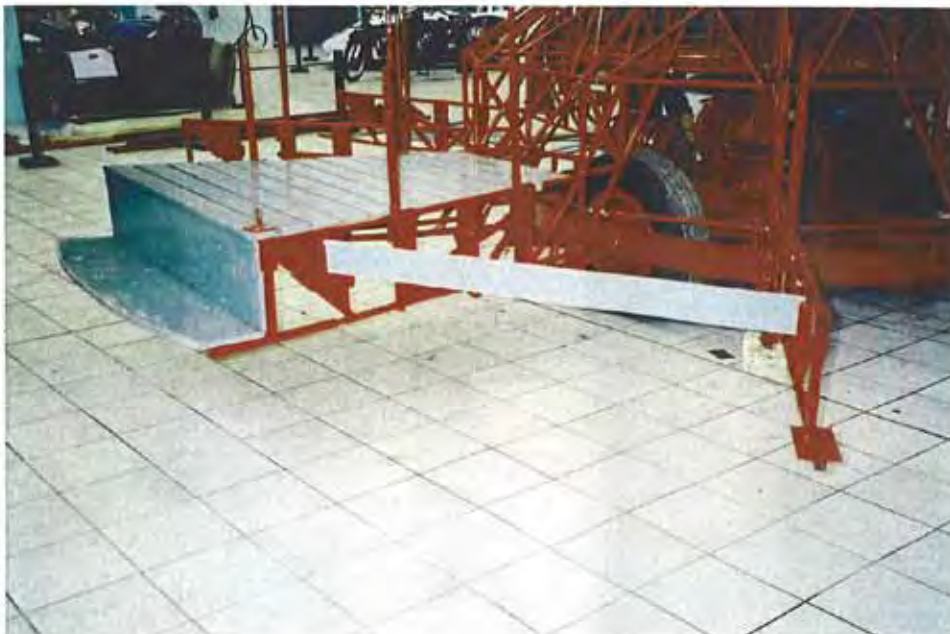
BOLT ON TOP SECTION OF
CENTRAL PILLAR .

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BOLT ON CROSS FRAMES.

*PLACE BETWEEN MAIN FRAMES
THE HORIZONTAL BOARDS AND
LOCATE EACH END IN THE SLOTS.*





LOCATE EACH FLOOR SECTION IN PLACE AND BOLT DOWN.

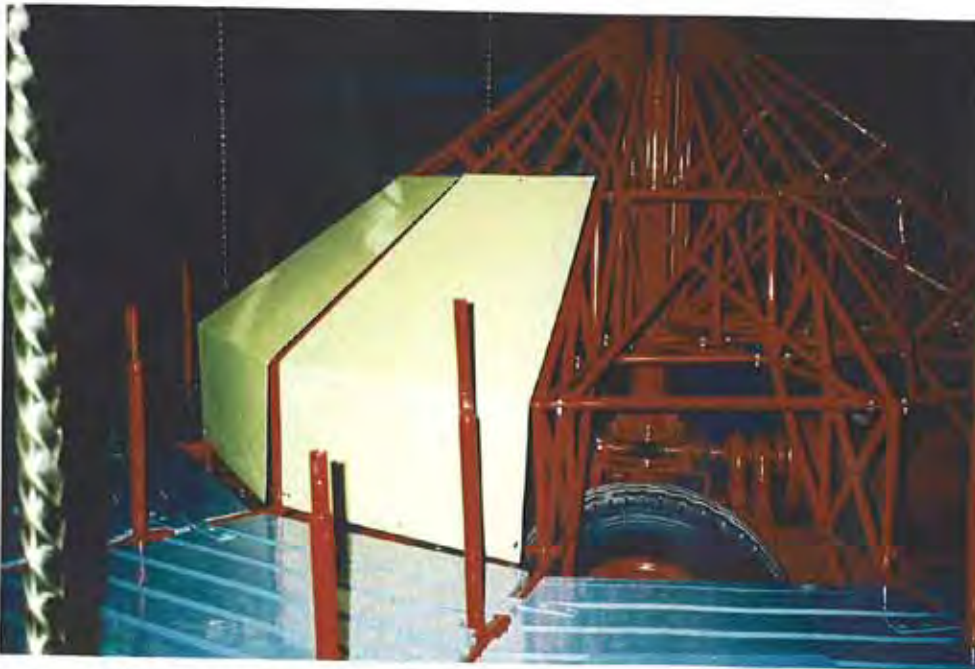


SLOT IN TO VERTICAL PILLAR THE HORIZONTAL ROOF BARS.
HOOK ON TO THE TOP OF THE PILLAR - THE TWO SETS OF
SUSPENSION RODS. SHORT RODS TO THE LOWER OF THE TWO
DRILLED TOP RINGS.

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HOOK SUSPENSION RODS ON TO HORIZONTAL ROOF BARS.
BOLT ON OUTER RING SECTIONS.



BOLT ON INNER FRAME COVERS.



SLOT IN TO PLACE THE ROUNDING BOARDS AND BOLT TOGETHER.



LOCATE CANVAS ROOF OVER CENTRAL PEGS AND SPREAD OUT OVER FRAMES.

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PULL RUBBER CORD UNDER
OUTER RING AND HOOK BACK
AGAINST THE CANVAS TOP (TILT)
ON TO ITS HOOKS.



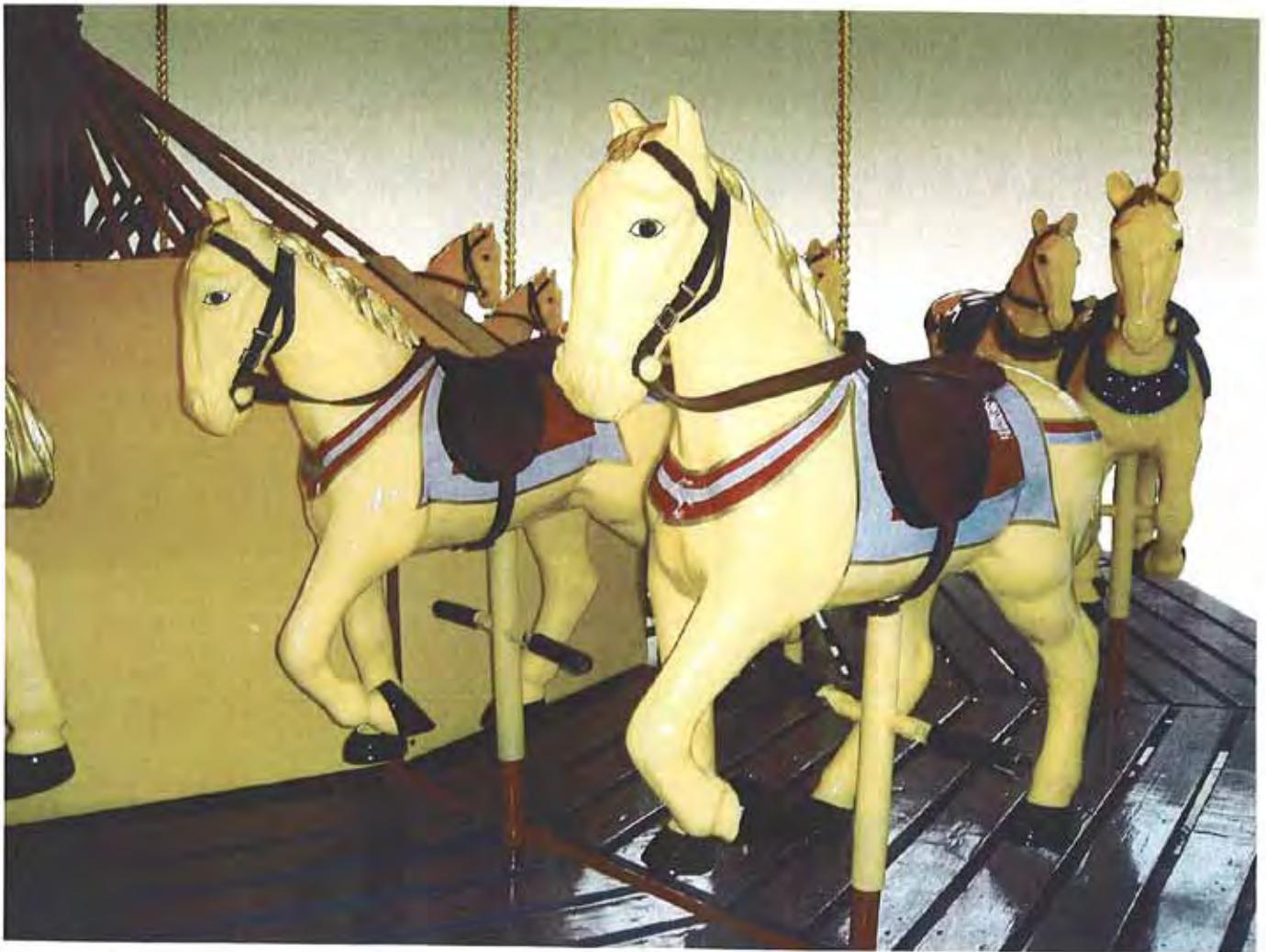
BOLT IN TO PLACE THE
VERTICAL BRASS PILLARS.



PLACE HORSES ON THEIR RISE AND FALL PILLARS .



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