

# JAGUAR SS 100 VAN DEN PLAS

*By Neville Barlow*



You may not believe this but here is a Jaguar SS 100. The name Van Den Plas was usually associated with Bentleys and Jaguars in England but this Jaguar is a Van Den Plas from another country.

It was built by the Belgian, Carrosserie Van Den Plas of Antwerp.

He established his business to build carriage axles and wheels in 1870. Eventually the firm progressed to making entire carriages and by 1930 was supreme as Belgians foremost builder of custom Automobile bodies. The Times of London said their work had an air of distinction lacking in many other products.

According to history, this car SS Jaguar with chassis number 49064, the last 2.5 Litre one to be built in 1939, was purchased with the idea to install what was called a rather interesting fuller figured curvy body. The War intervened, but the company and the car survived.

This car and 2 other Van den Plas cars were displayed at the 1948 Brussel Motor Show. It looked completely different to anything of its time, although it retained the original SS headlamps and radiator shell.

Obviously Van Den Plas displayed their creation with considerable pride. A February edition of the Autocar magazine described the car as being a remarkable example of fine lines and good proportions. There was an expectation that this showing would herald a partnership for Van Den Plas with Jaguar but this failed to happen.

*Neville*