

# Conundrum with a Capital 'C' - or is that a 'G'?- from A Scribe.



This superb picture from the front cover of the May-June Mascot, showing John Horne's ex-Betty Haig 1934 1½ Litre LM, which my fickle memory seems to recall John re-built on a spread 'Nine' chassis, with the original rear axle in the way of "provenance". But hats off, it was a beautiful beastie! And it clearly has the registration letters 'MG'. However, I have recently come across some pictures of the car when it was owned by Ms Haig, which show it with

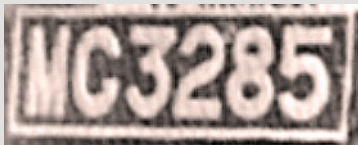
the registration letters 'MC', and I would suggest the odds of both MC 3285 and MG 3285 being on 1½ L/Ms, and both being owned by Ms Haig, are about the same as winning the lottery!

On the assumption that the earlier plate was correct, somehow or other the letter C must have been changed between when Betty owned it and before John acquired it, but I can't think of any way this could have happened. I therefore wondered if perhaps I could 'Ask Aunty' if she could help resolve the conundrum?

**A. Scribe.**

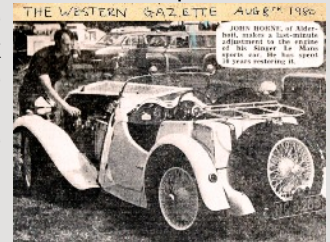


**Dear Mr Scribe.** Thank you for the picture of the Betty Haig 1½ Litre, which I see was taken on the 1935 Paris to St Raphael Rally. I have also had a look at the picture in the book 'Fast Ladies', taken on the same Rally, and can see why you believe the letters are 'MC'. I also had another look at the rear plate on John's car, but being a newspaper picture it is made up of a series of dots, and it's not clear if it's a 'C' or a 'G'. I have therefore 'straightened' the plate from the Haig picture and enlarged it, and the result is quite revealing,



as the bottom curl of the 'C' is clearly longer than the top, and has a straight piece on the inside and a flat end, whereas the end of the top curl is rounded. This says 'G' to me, so to confirm my suspicions I consulted the Number

Plate History book, which tells me MG 1 to 8000 registrations were issued in Middlesex, irregularly from March 1930 through the MG Car Company. But whilst MC was also a Middlesex registration, it was issued only between 1917 and 1920. I think we can therefore confidently say the correct number is MG 3285, and that the difference is all down to the fonts used when the plates were made.



Best wishes, **Aunty.**