

Sale Name: 14th Annual Montana Spring Auction

LOT 63B - Pre-War Montana Metal Automobile License Plate, 1923



Description

Original pressed steel Montana automobile license plate from 1923 featuring the registration number "558" in a classic embossed format. When new, this plate would have displayed embossed red serial numbers on a white background with "MONT -23" at the left side, though the original coloration has largely faded due to a century of weathering and oxidation.

This 1923 plate was produced during the formative years of state-issued license plates, when designs were utilitarian and focused purely on vehicle identification. The plate predates Montana's 1926 introduction of county-based numbering systems, representing the earlier era when registration numbers were assigned sequentially across the entire state regardless of location.

The simple embossed design with minimal decorative elements typifies the austere, functional approach of early automotive regulation, when license plates served primarily as tax receipts and basic vehicle identifiers rather than as decorative or promotional items for state imagery.

Condition Notes:

Heavy patina and surface rust consistent with 100 years of age. Visible oxidation across the entire surface with more pronounced rust development along edges and mounting points. Original red on white coloration largely faded or obscured by rust.

Despite weathering, the embossed numbers remain partially legible. All mounting holes are intact. Refer to the pictures and in person inspection for condition.

Approximate Dimensions:

13 × 4.5 inches

Quantity: 1



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