

Some interesting facts about Borrani Wheels for you.



Carlo Borrani was actually born in California but started up a new company with a partner in Milan using the patented Rudge-Whitworth design of a tapered splined hub to which a tapered wheel's centre could swiftly be fitted and locked into position by means of a single wheel nut or a knockoff. As you know, one uses a suitable hammer to tighten or loosen the knock-off.

Over the years Borrani made spoke wheels for bicycles, motorcycles and cars. Magnesium alloy wheels were added to their portfolio to remain competitive.

During the dictatorship of Mussolini, it was decreed that all names of companies bearing an English name be purged and the company obliged giving the name: Ruota Borrani - Milano. (Ruota is Italian for wheel).

For a brief spell the company was required to make aircraft wheels, shock absorbers, brakes and fuel pumps during the war up to the time they signed the Armistice with the Allies in 1943.

Borrani built up an impressive customer base. Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Aston Martin, Lamborghini and Ford. Interestingly, Carlo never drove a car, preferring to be chauffeured.

I wonder if there any Triumphs out there kitted out with Borrani wheels? Well, in fact you can buy them, I have searched their website and for a set of four TR6 wire wheels, expect to pay 6604.80 Pound plus 835.20 for a set of four spinners!!!



In case you were wondering about the red hand on the badge, that is a salute to Rudge-Whitworth's origins; look out for the headstock on one of their early bicycles and the chain ring for that matter - The Red Hand of Ulster, Northern Ireland. If one researches Rudge-Whitworth, their company was based in Coventry. There is no definitive answer as the use of the hand, but a plausible reason for using it may be the fact that the Whitworth family originated from Ulster.

Mike.

