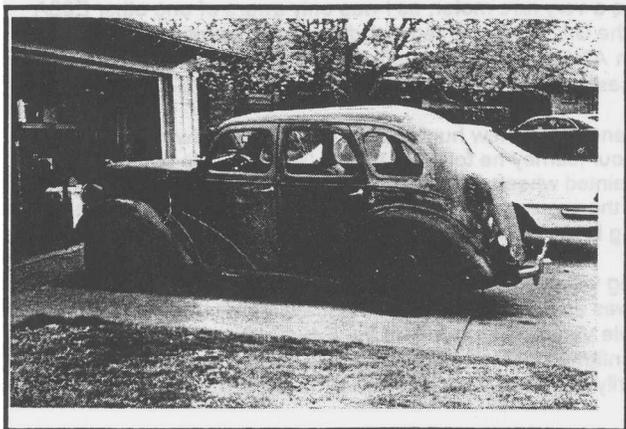


The following article was copied from an older monthly newsletter published by the Ford Sidevalve Owners Club (FSOC) in London, England and shared with the North American European Ford Registry (NAEFR) in the USA.

They came out of the Woodwork

By Bill Ballard



The Dagenham built, left-hand drive export model E93A Prefect that Steve Hodkinson found near his home in Oklahoma City, USA, which has an extended boot similar to that on Australian models.
Photo: Steve Hodkinson

There is an international flavour to my feature this time, and I begin with a 'find' in the U.S.A, which has all the experts puzzled... Our Club swaps newsletters with the North American English Ford Registry and some time ago I spotted an item in their newsletter relating to a new member of theirs with an E93A Prefect who turns out to live just a mile or so away from Steve Hodkinson in Oklahoma City. I sent Steve on a mission and he duly returned with information about the car and some really good photos of it. We're truly grateful to you for your good work Steve!

With its extended boot the car in question, at first glance, appears to be an Australian built A53A Prefect. However, such cars had the rear number plate mounted in the bottom righthand corner of the enlarged boot lid, and the right-hand side of the rear panel was specially moulded to form the base of the number plate light/brake light cluster. The American car does not have these features; instead, it has a matching pair of plastic brake lights mounted either side of the car, and its number plate is mounted on the post-war-type rear bumper.

The more observant reader will also see from the accompanying photograph that the interior of the boot is of a different design to English and Australian-built sedans, resulting in the spare wheel

being stowed inside the boot, taking up valuable space. On English-built cars, the spare wheel was kept in a locker beneath the higher, wooden floor of the boot and accessed via an external locker lid; on Australian-built cars you fully opened the enlarged boot lid and accessed the spare wheel from its stowage space between the upper and lower floors of the boot.

So who made this mystery car? There is no doubt about that! It was obviously made at Dagenham, as there is a Briggs Body Number tag attached to the top of the bulkhead in the usual position, and it reads "620D/1384". There is also the typical square plate, printed, "A Ford Product - Made in England", fastened to the bulkhead, which has the Engine Number (C356528) and Model Number (E93AF/A) stamped on it. Together these identify the car as a 1948 built, export (left-hand drive) model E93A Prefect. Incidentally the car has another English Feature; a fabric roof!

And that extended boot? From Steve's photos, there is no doubt that this was on the car from new, and I am satisfied it is not a more recent addition by a customiser. Perhaps this mystery car was built as a prototype for the Aussie-built A53A Prefects?

Can anyone out there enlighten us?

Rear view of the North American Prefect, showing the unusual layout of the floor in the boot (or trunk to our US colleagues)

Photo: Steve Hodkinson

