

Willys Whippet SIX 98A – 1928

From riverbanks to roads – a sailor's classic.

This 1928 Willys Whippet Six comes from Toledo, Ohio – the same city where Willys-Overland had its headquarters. The previous owner, Mr. Anthony Silversmith, was a ship operator who didn't keep this car just for Sunday drives. He used it for everyday travel, including trips to the docks where he worked.

Now here's the twist: A Czech crane operator working in the same port happened to know Anthony. One thing led to another, and soon the Willys had a one-way ticket across the Atlantic. After 63 years of ownership, Anthony shipped the car by his own vessel to an international port—personally delivering it to Europe.

You probably know the Willys Jeep or the Jeepster. But back in the 1920s, it was the Whippets that carried the Willys name into the spotlight. Introduced just a year before Ford launched its Model A, the Whippet offered a 6-cylinder engine—a premium touch the Ford lacked. Still, Ford's aggressive pricing under \$900 made the Model A a commercial hit.

Like many carmakers of the time, Willys was hit hard by the Great Depression. But they survived—leaner and focused. And their next chapter? That one is written in military history...