

CENTENARY OF MOTORING

Issued 8th October 1986

A set of six stamps were issued to commemorate the centenary of motoring. All the vehicles, except the 1886 Benz, were imported into Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The six models featured include photographs with the relevant machine, unfortunately only the 1902 French Gladiator could be found in a Rhodesian photograph.

(Extracts from the PTC Bulletin No 5 of 1986)²

10c- 1921 ABC Sopwith Motorcycle

The ABC Sopwith Motorcycle was designed by Granville Bradshaw and built by the Sopwith Aeroplane Company. Very advanced for its period, it later proved to be too costly to manufacture at a realistic price and the Sopwith firm closed down in 1921. The machine depicted on the stamp was one of the last built and was imported into the Country by a gold miner working in the remote Sipolilo (now Guruve) district.



Mr and Mrs Charles Duly with the first car imported into Rhodesia

12c -1902 French Gladiator

In 1902 a Mr Charles Duly imported the first motor car into Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). This was the French Gladiator, a 6,5 HP, single cylinder, chain driven car, with battery ignition and without a generator. Designed to seat four people, the Gladiator moved from four miles per hour (6 KPH) in the lowest gear up to 20 - 30 MPH (32 - 48 KPH) in top gear. The engine was situated in front of the chauffeur, who was kept busy manipulating the steering wheel, air and gas admission valves, electric switch and brakes. During this era the small cars were called volturesses and only the larger vehicles were known as cars.

17c - 1920 Douglas Motorcycle

One of the most reliable and popular machines of the Vintage period, the Douglas Motorcycle proved its worth during World War 1, when it was used by dispatch riders and for general military work. The 1920 model depicted on the stamp was found abandoned in a fowl run and was lovingly restored by a Harare enthusiast, since then it has successfully completed many local and international rallies.



26c -1930 Ford Model A



The Model A Ford was one of the most successful motor cars of all time. Produced from late 1927 to the end of 1931, it really hit the high popularity ratings in 1930, with its sleek new styling. Many Model A's were imported into what was then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Most imports were built in Canada, to avoid Empire Tax. Today they are still seen on Zimbabwe's roads, taking part in local vintage rallies.

35c -circa 1909 Schacht

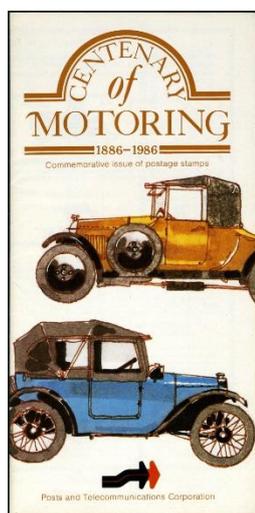
Basically, a horse-drawn buggy, the Schacht manufacturing company of Cincinnati in the USA adapted this motor vehicle to petrol engine propulsion. The 12HP, two cylinder motor is a water-cooled unit mounted under the seat. Although not the first vehicle to be imported, the car depicted is one of the oldest and most original motor vehicles in Zimbabwe today.



40c -1886 Benz

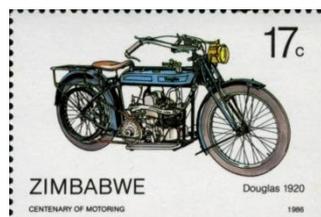
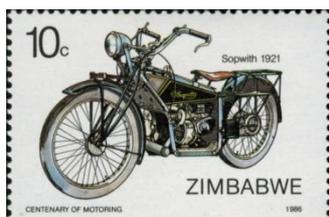


Karl Benz produced the first running car in Germany in 1885. The first long run of the prototype was accomplished by Frau Benz because although her husband was a brilliant engineer, he was a poor driver. Full production commenced in 1886. The first few vehicles had three wheels, but this was soon changed to four and large numbers were sold with few radical changes. In France these cars were assembled by Emile Roger under the name Roger Benz.



The front of the Bulletin No 5 of 1986, illustrated with two unnamed vintage cars

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
700	127	10c	1921 ABC Sopwith Motorcycle
701	128	12c	1902 French Gladiator
702	129	17c	1920 Douglas Motorcycle
703	130	26c	1930 Ford Model A
704	131	35c	c1909 Schacht
705	132	40c	1886 Benz

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	42 x 28 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Geoff Cameron	
Paper:	ZSC paper type B – HS6, fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge.	
Print colours:	All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow	
Perforations:	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate	
Printer:	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe	
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4. Imprint printed in black	

Cylinder numbers: Top margin above column 5. Colours reading from left – black, magenta, yellow, cyan

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – right margin opposite R1/5. Colours reading down – cyan, yellow, magenta, black

Sheet Value: Top margin, above R1/1, printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix, left margin, opposite R1/1, reading down.

Print numbers:	10c	750,000	12c	1,000,000
	17c	500,000	26c	500,000
	35c	320,000	40c	320,000

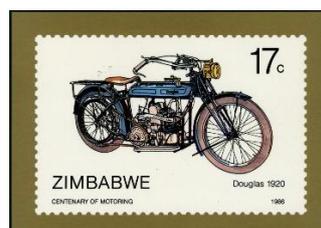
Issue date: 8th October, 1986

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisaton: 31st January, 1994

Maxi Cards

A set of maxi-cards were also produced for this issue. The PTC, in its bulletin, says they are postcards, rather than maxi-cards, as they are capable of being used for that purpose. The cards are numbered Series 2 – A to F.

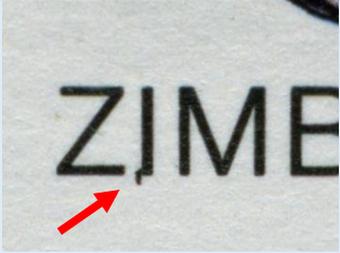
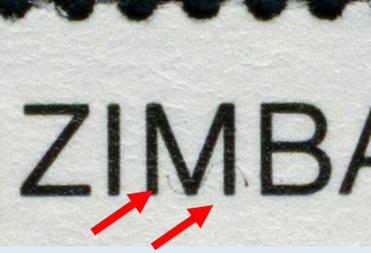
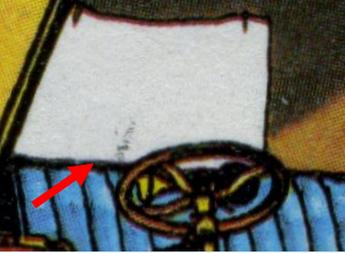
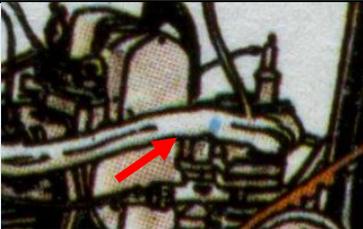


Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

Unlisted Varieties

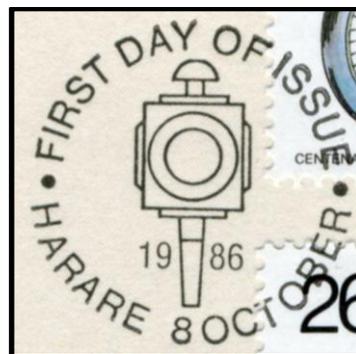
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.

		
<p>10c: black dot at base of 'I' of Zimbabwe. Possibly constant</p>	<p>12c: Curls around 'M' of Zimbabwe</p>	<p>12c: Smudge above seat of vehicle</p>
		
	<p>17c: cyan dot on bar of engine</p>	

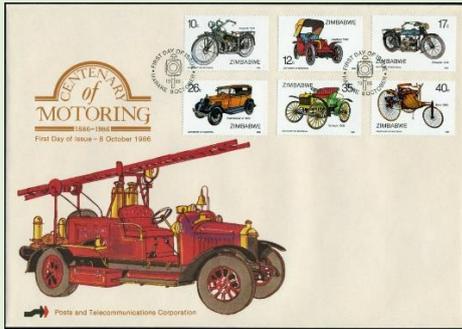
First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.

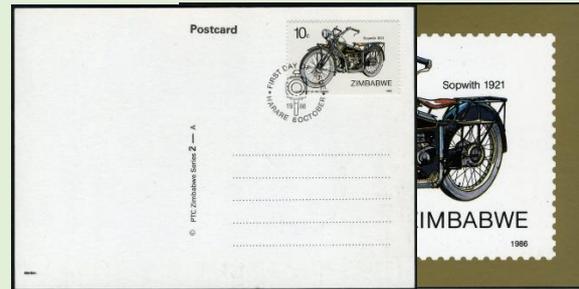


ZW028.1 (PTC)



228 x 162 mm

ZW028.2 (Maxi-cards)



All six maxi-cards can be found with Philatelic Bureau cancel on individual cards for each value

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 5 of 1986.