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)

**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.

**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 vooturettes 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.

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

Catalogue listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SG</th>
<th>ZSC$^1$</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>10c</td>
<td>1921 ABC Sopwith Motorcycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>701</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>12c</td>
<td>1902 French Gladiator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>702</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>17c</td>
<td>1920 Douglas Motorcycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>703</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>26c</td>
<td>1930 Ford Model A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>704</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>35c</td>
<td>c1909 Schacht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>705</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>40c</td>
<td>1886 Benz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10c</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17c</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26c</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35c</td>
<td>320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Issue date: 8th October, 1986

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisation: 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10c</td>
<td>Black dot at base of ‘I’ of Zimbabwe. Possibly constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12c</td>
<td>Curls around ‘M’ of Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12c</td>
<td>Smudge above seat of vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12c</td>
<td>Marginal imperforated stamp from right margin. The right margin is much wider than would normally be the case, and there are numerous cyan finger prints. This is probably from a sheet of printer’s waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17c</td>
<td>Cyan dot on bar of engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40c</td>
<td>Marginal imperforated pair from left margin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Courtesy Jefferson Ritson*
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)  
ZW028.2 (Maxi-cards)  
ZW028.3 (Maxi-cards)

228 x 162 mm  
All six maxi-cards can be found with Philatelic Bureau cancel on individual cards for each value

All six maxi-cards with appropriate stamp on the front  
Postmark “Day of Issue/ Harare”

Bibliography: