

A Brace of Phantom Vs In The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Collection

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Ian Tonkin has donated a Phantom V, chassis 5VF155 to The Sir Henry Royce Foundation. It joins the Phantom V, chassis 5VF159, which was donated by John Matheson and Jeanne Eve some years ago. Both cars were part of the Commonwealth Government fleet. They are both H J Mulliner Park Ward limousines delivered in 1967. As Commonwealth cars they were issued with Commonwealth of Australia registrations. These number plates were used when the cars were not on royal or vice-regal duty, when the Crown would replace them.

David Davis, former Foundation

Trustee, was the custodian of 5VF159 for a number of years. It was during that time that he had the brilliant idea to replicate the original Commonwealth number plates, C of A-ZSF-571. The car now carries the registration NSW-ZSF-571.

Russell Rolls, Foundation Chairman, is hoping to have the original Commonwealth registration replicated for 5VF155. I was able to advise that in Clarke and Neely's 'Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Sunburnt Country' the original registration is recorded as C of A-ZSF-570.

When the cars are on royal or vice-regal duty it is not possible to

distinguish between them. However, when they are used for visiting heads of state the "Z" plates are displayed and the Crown is covered. One such occasion was a visit by the King of Nepal in 1971. Both cars were used during the visit and because they were in mufti we can tell which is which.

above: The note on this photograph showing 5VF159 with registration ZSF-571 is, "Progress through Bachus Marsh King of Nepal." [Courtesy of COMCAR]

below: Also taken during the visit of the King of Nepal in 1971 is 5VF155 with registration ZSF-570. Note that the Crown above the number plate is covered. [Courtesy of National Archives of Australia]

