

# From the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Archives

## A selection of photographs from David Shmith

Gilbert M Ralph Hon. Archivist

Volunteers, Richard Knight and David Kenway, have spent many hours identifying and cataloguing thousands of photographs which have been donated to the Foundation and here are a few of particular interest because of their Australian content. They were donated by David Shmith, former Managing Director of York Motors in Sydney. David's father, Maurice Shmith, joined Tarrant Motors in 1904 as a car washer and by 1910 he was Sales Manager. With some partners he established Yellow Cabs in 1924 and in 1932 he was instrumental in the formation of York Motors in Sydney and became Managing Director until succeeded by his son, David.

York Motors was subsequently taken over by Lindsay Fox and David Jones was successful in persuading him to donate to the Foundation the records of thousands of Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars they had sold and serviced over many years. As a consequence we have been able to supply copies of these service records to their respective RROCA owners.

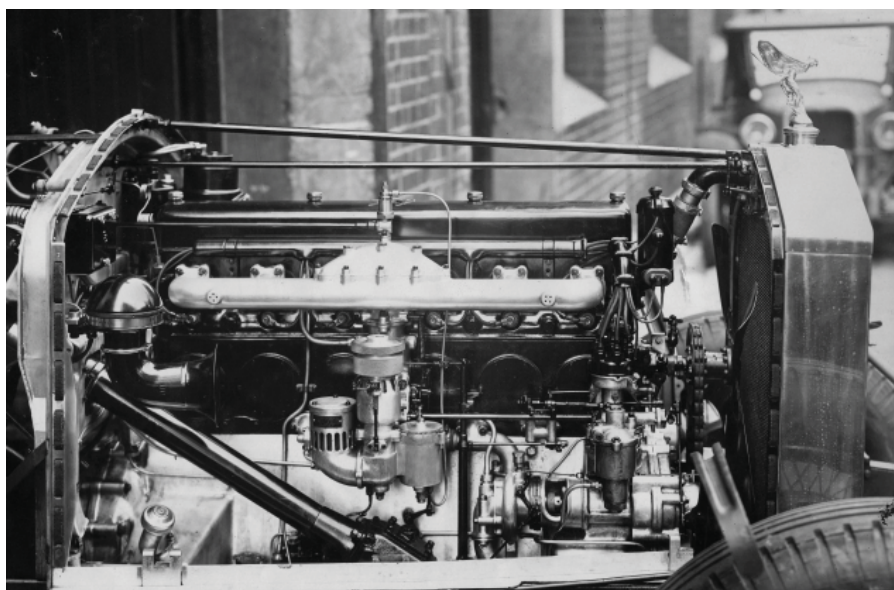
In a letter to Jeanne Eve at the time of donating the photographs, David Shmith in part wrote, *"I think the PII chassis may have been imported by my father and had a Martin & King body fitted. I know for sure that Dad imported a 3 1/2 litre Bentley chassis on which he put a Martin & King body. My lifelong love of cars was kindled when Dad took me for a drive through Albert Park in Melbourne on the chassis. We touched 90 mph with the exhaust cut-out open. I was about 6 or 7 at the time."* You can read more about Maurice Shmith's involvement with motoring and also find more details about the motor cars featured in this article in *Rolls-Royce and Bentley in a Sunburnt Country*, copies of which are available from the Foundation for \$75 including postage.

This selection of photographs will be of particular interest to Phantom and 20/25hp owners because of the detail captured when these cars were new. My thanks go to David Neely and Tom Clarke for identifying the various cars.

right: The completed 'Weymann' fabric saloon body on GXO21 by Martin & King. The car was acquired by Maurice Shmith of All British Motor Co. It has had several bodies and owners in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. It now has a London Auto Bodies saloon body and is currently owned by Sam Loxton in SA.



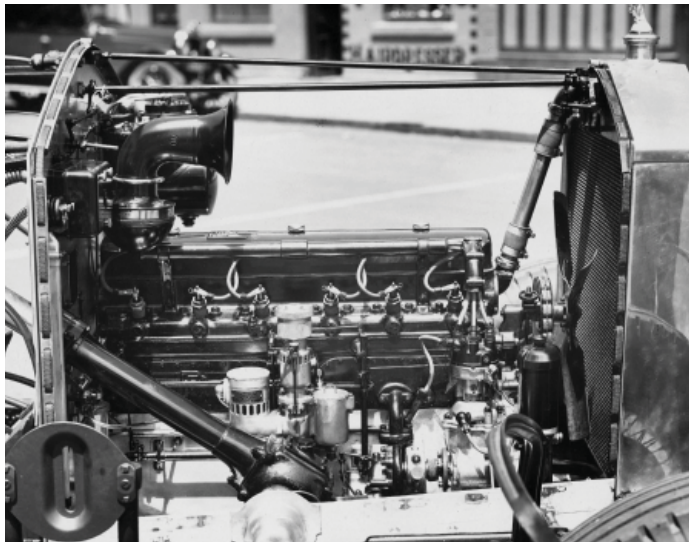
above: This 1929 Phantom II Rolls-Royce rolling chassis, 61WJ, was featured at the 1930 Melbourne Motor Show. It was later fitted with a Martin & King close-coupled saloon for Miss S L Turner of Brighton. The car is now owned by Nathan Clements in WA and carries a boat-tail tourer by Roger Fry & Son.



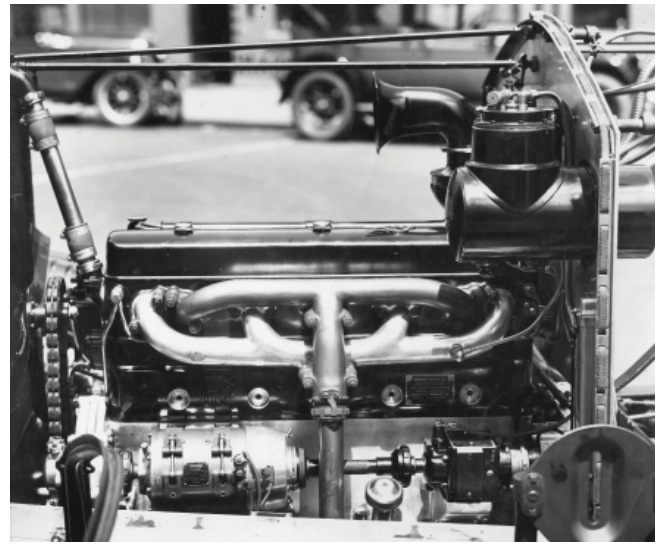
above: A close-up of the off-side of the PII engine in 61WJ



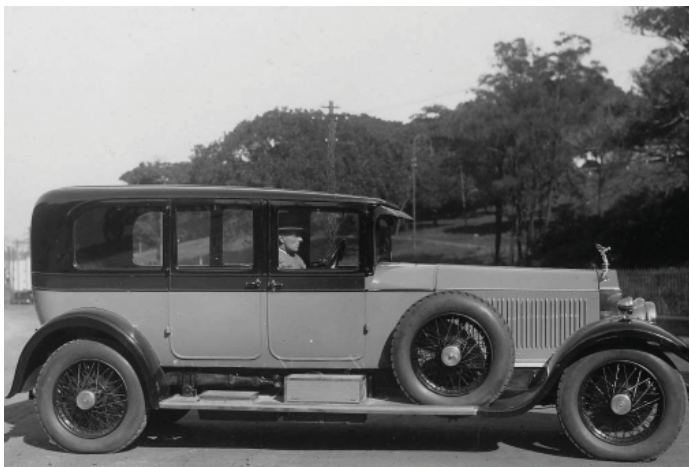




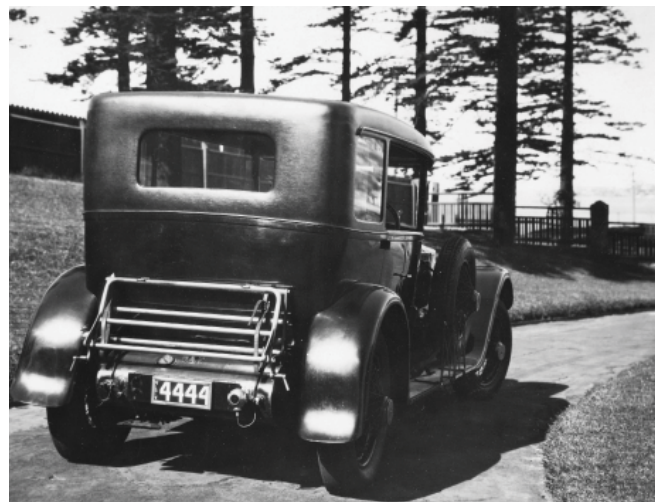
above: A detailed photograph of the off-side of the engine in 1929 20/25hp GXO21 at Martin & King's works. It was also featured at the 1930 Melbourne Motor Show. Note the Bosch horn mounted upside down and the spring clips on the sparking plugs.



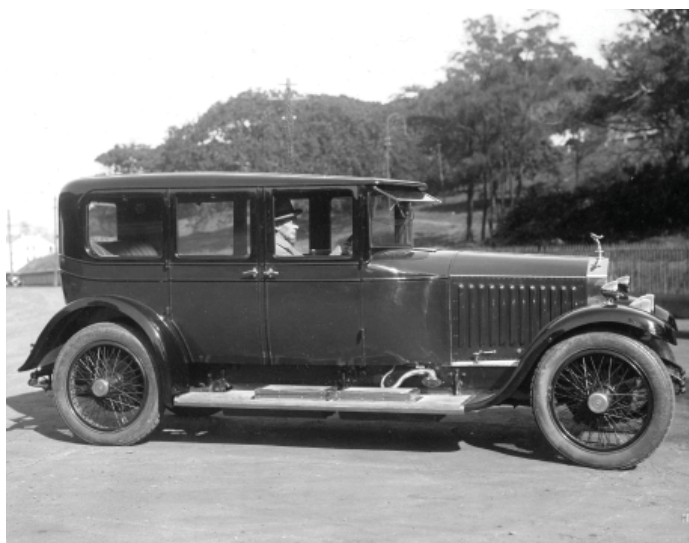
above: The near-side of the 20/25 hp engine on GXO21.



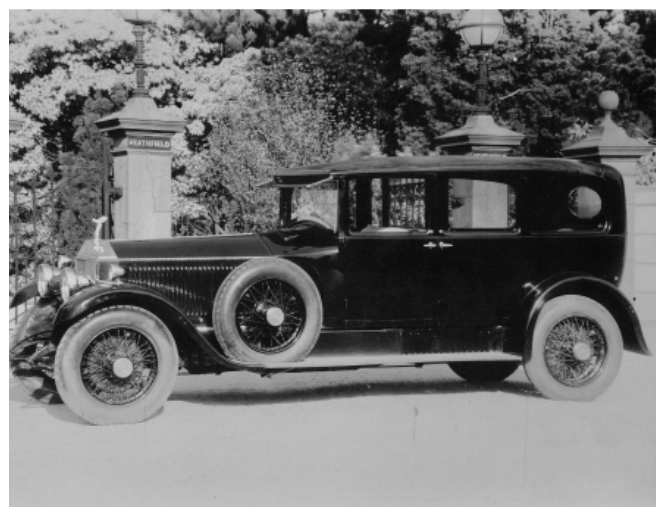
above: This Impressive Phantom I is believed to be 29EF in which case it is a long chassis which came off test in March 1927 and was fitted with a saloon body by E E Agate of Sydney. That body was later replaced by another from Jackson, Jones & Collins. If you have any knowledge of the car please let me know.



above: There is some confusion regarding the ownership of this car as the Registration number was held by Sir Herbert Haitland, a doctor in Sydney, who owned three Silver Ghosts whereas this car is believed to be a 1925 Phantom I, 100 HC once owned by Maurice Shmith. Can anyone clarify the situation please?



above: Here is period photograph of a 20hp four-door saloon believed to be GOK74 with coachwork by Ernest E Agate of Sydney. Can anyone please verify this? If it is GOK74 is now owned by George and Fiona Forbes of Melbourne and carries a Roger Fry & Son Skiff which won the Overall Trophy at the RROCA Federal Rally in Adelaide in 2013.



above: A Martin & King limousine on an unidentified Phantom I chassis outside the gates of **Heathfield** in Toorak. **Heathfield** was built in 1884 for Rt Hon Stanley Bruce. W L Bailleau bought it in 1910 and sold it to Sir Keith Murdoch in 1933. All three owners once owned R-R motor cars.