

From the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Archives Researchers visit the Archive

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Researchers visit the Archive

Some months ago Richard Roberts and Evelyn Shepherd from the UK spent a day at the Archive searching for advertising material relating to Rolls-Royce and Bentleys in Australia for use in a forthcoming book. Richard is a fellow member of the Society of Automotive Historians in Britain and was recommended to us by Tom Clarke. In particular Richard was looking for anything uniquely Australian such as; advertisements by Rolls-Royce Agents, local coachbuilders, service providers and dealers. Fortunately we were able to provide a wide range of material from Australian books, magazines, periodicals, newspapers and other publications which wetted his appetite. An important source for such material was David Neely's vast collection of extracts from motoring publications which he and Tom Clarke had sourced when preparing *Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Sunburnt Country*. Richard was well equipped with his own digital scanner and quality camera. He took hundreds of copies and has assured me that any which are published will be acknowledged as being sourced from the SHRF Archive. Selected copies will also be added to a database for later use.

Norm Darwin, the well-known motoring writer from central Victoria, also visited the Archive searching for material for his forthcoming work on automotive design and coachbuilding in Australia. Apart from having a friendly chat about motor cars generally we were able to provide some useful material from our collection. He was very happy with what we had to offer and kindly signed a couple of his books which I have in my library. Norm is being supported by RMIT.

Treasures from the Bendigo Rally

The Federal Rally in Bendigo was not only a success for the Victorian Branch but for the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Archive as well. Eleven members from four Branches of the Club took the opportunity to deliver 15 large boxes of a diverse range of interesting material to add to the Foundation's Archive. It will keep our volunteers busy over the next few weeks sorting and cataloguing the items.



From Queensland Branch Wallace Moorhouse donated copies of programmes and related material for the 36 Federal Rallies he attended.

New South Wales Branch members were very supportive. David Axe gave two archive boxes full of books, magazines, journals, technical reports, newspaper cuttings and coloured slides. Rex Vincent passed on a copy of a 30 minute 16mm Rolls-Royce movie *The Magic of a Name* (which we have now digitised and is available to members). Ross Meakins donated an Energol four gallon oil drum bearing the words 'Recommended by Rolls-Royce'. Ken Swinbourne presented us with a large parcel of assorted newspaper cuttings. David Marshall-Martin passed on his collection of Federal and NSW Branch event programs covering decades of activities in NSW. Honorary Life member Jim Kelso brought along two large photographs. Steve McDonald donated a box-full of RREC Bulletin and early Praeclarum magazines to add to our stock of back issues.

Martin Bennett, from the ACT Branch, brought hundreds of surplus Praeclarum magazines which were published during his term as Editor of Praeclarum to add to our supply of early editions.

David Heuzenrouder from Tanunda in South Australia sent over two large boxes of material which had been collected over many years by Charles Wright, including dozens of catalogues, brochures, reports, drawings, manuals, a copy of Rolls-Royce Depot Sheets (sometimes referred to as Bert Ward's Bible) and hundreds of photographs dating



above top: Richard Roberts and Evelyn Shepherd during their visit to the Archive.

above: Motoring writer Norm Darwin at work in SHRF Archive.

below left: Volunteers David Kenway (left) and John Reis sorting some of the material donated to the Archive at the RROCA Federal Rally at Bendigo.

back to the 1950s. Other SA Branch members collectively brought six large boxes of material from the SA Branch including, Federal Council records, correspondence, rally programs, micro-films of parts catalogues, hundreds of photographs of cars, people and other valuable research material. There was also a collection of research notes from David Forward which he had retained following publication of his monumental book, *The Origins and Development of the Silver Ghost*.

Many of these items are unique and in some cases in danger of being negligently discarded, destroyed in a bush fire or for some other reason lost to the Club. Whilst we may not need these items immediately, future researchers and enthusiasts will no doubt find a wealth of material within the Archive to aid in writing and illustrating articles of historic significance to the RROCA.

The Foundation appreciates these generous donations. Keep them coming.