

**C**an you imagine coming home with a 22K gold Silver Ghost or a mint 1934 Bentley drophead? I did! What's more exciting is the fact that I found these cars in exotic places. The golden Ghost is from Zambia and the Bentley is from Ghana. Both are in mint condition.

There is more than one way to be a car collector and own the "best car in the world." Welcome to the world of automotive stamp collecting. Stamp collecting started not long after the first postage stamp was issued by England in 1840. Subject matter depicted on postage stamps ranges from pictures of famous people (such as Queen Victoria on the first postage stamp) to a wide variety of subjects, including automobiles of every type.

The demand for specialty postage stamps is enormous, from hard-core philatelists (stamp collectors) and those simply interested in the item pictured on the stamp. Many countries cater to stamp collectors by turning out a wide variety of postage stamps with almost every imaginable subject. Why go to the expense of printing specialty postage stamps? Profit! The margin on stamp sales to collec-

# Starting a Rolls-Royce & Bentley Collection


Text and Photos by Gil Fuqua (TN)

tors is huge since the cost of production is low and the country does not incur the cost of mail delivery for those stamps that end up in a collector's book.

A very popular subject for stamps are automobiles, including Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars. This article features over 60 different stamps from 36 different countries that include a Rolls-Royce or Bentley, including England and some lesser-known countries like Udmurtia, Magyar, Kyrgyzstan and Nevis. The photo captions that accompany this article include the issuing country's official name and location based on information available on the CIA's website, an interesting compendium of information on countries around the world.

The United States is a notable exception from the list of countries that have depicted a

Rolls-Royce or Bentley on a postage stamp. Perhaps a write-in campaign to the US Postal Service will induce them to feature a US-made Springfield Rolls-Royce on a future stamp.

Compared with buying a real Rolls-Royce or Bentley, collecting cars on postage stamps has several advantages. The cost factor is the most obvious. Many of the stamps featured in this article cost only a few dollars and even the most expensive one was only about \$15 (22K Silver Ghost). They can be purchased from local stamp dealers or over the Internet. Ebay is a particularly good source for stamps. Another advantage to a stamp collection compared with the real cars is the ease of storage and display. No leaking fluids to mess up the house and they can be easily framed and displayed on your wall. 

## Silver Ghost



**1** 1903 Rolls-Royce (Principality of Monaco – western Europe). *This stamp shows the license plate as AX137. Compare with the 1908 Silver Ghost stamp **8** from the Republic of Guinea with the same car and different plate, AX148.*



**2** 1904 Rolls-Royce (Republic of Yemen – Middle East, south of Saudi Arabia). *The stamp says "The First Rolls Royce 1904." Note cancellation mark in lower right corner. This stamp was issued alongside the 1970 Silver Shadow stamp **42**.*



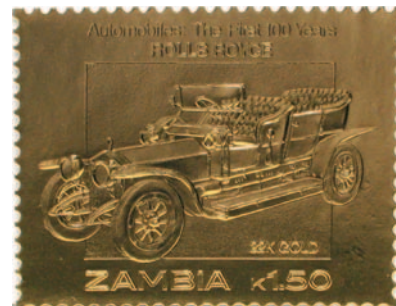
**3** 1906 Silver Ghost (Republic of Korea – eastern Asia). *The stamp includes cameos of Stewart Rolls (also known as Charles) and Henry Royce. The car is described as a 1906, probably rounded down a year to make an even 80 years from the issue date of 1986.*



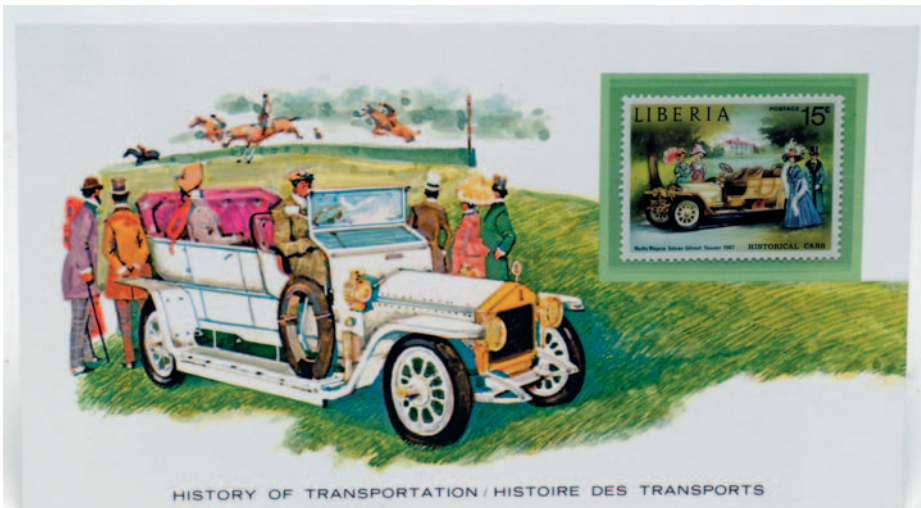
**4** 1907 Silver Ghost Tourer (Kingdom of Lesotho – southern Africa). *Pictured with the front part of the car contained as part of the stamp. This car is similar to the car pictured on the Liberian stamp **7** with different people and background. The couple pictured by the Lesotho car here appear to be black compared with the Caucasians pictured on the Liberian stamp. Issued 1985.*



**5** 1907 Silver Ghost (Republic of Liberia – western Africa). *Close-up of stamp on commemorative card. This stamp was part of a set depicting historical cars.*



**6** 1907 Silver Ghost (Republic of Zambia – southern Africa). *Embossed stamp on 22K gold foil. This is a large stamp, approximately 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>". Issued in 1985 to commemorate the first 100 years of the automobile.*



**7** 1907 Silver Ghost (Republic of Liberia – western Africa). The commemorative card is copyrighted 1980 by the Franklin Mint (printed in USA). The reverse of the cover includes a brief history of the beginnings of Rolls-Royce, the launch of the Silver Ghost and its successes in early endurance trials. The information is printed in English and French.



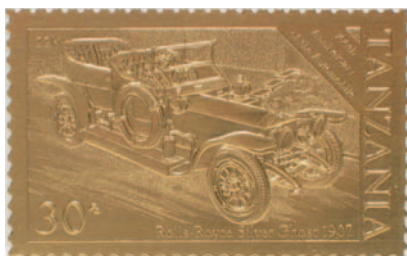
**8** 1908 Silver Ghost (Republic of Guinea – western Africa). This is the same car as shown on the stamp from Monaco **1** but with a different license plate number. The car is incorrectly dated “1908 – Première Rolls-Royce.” Issued 1998.



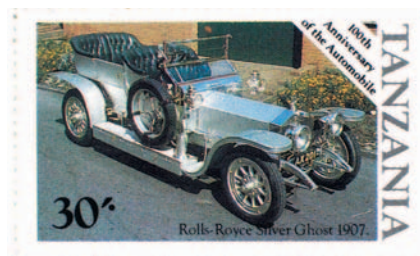
**9** 1907 Silver Ghost (Bequia-Grenadines of St. Vincent – Caribbean Sea). The top portion of the stamp includes line drawings of the side and front of the car. Issued 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile.



**10** 1907 Silver Ghost (St. Vincent – Caribbean Sea). AX201 is featured along with cameo portraits of Rolls and Royce. The stamp was issued in 1985 to commemorate AUTO 100. The stamp is part of a larger sheet that features three cars, a tank and a plane—all Rolls-Royce products.



**11** 1907 Silver Ghost (United Republic of Tanzania – eastern Africa). On occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile, AX201 is featured in an embossed version on 22K gold foil. Size 2" x 1 1/4". This stamp was also printed in four-color process, shown at right.



**12** 1910 Silver Ghost (Republic of the Marshall Islands – north Pacific Ocean). This is the newest Ghost stamp, issued in 2001.





**13** 1908 Silver Ghost Vintage Cars Set (Co-operative Republic of Guyana – northeastern South America). This set of “Vintage Cars” included 1896 Ford (upper left), 1903 De Dion-Bouton Populaire (top middle), 1900 Adler (top right), 1904 Vauxhall (lower left), 1908 Silver Ghost (lower middle) and 1908 Ford T (lower right). The large car in the middle is not identified.



**14** 1908 Silver Ghost (Co-operative Republic of Guyana – northeastern South America). AX207 is featured and is incorrectly dated as 1908 instead of 1907.



**15** 1908 Silver Ghost (Magyar [Republic of Hungary] – central Europe). Note the postage cancellation mark in the upper left corner. This stamp was printed using photogravure rather than four-color process. Issued 1970.



**16** 1909 Silver Ghost (Togolese Republic – western Africa). This stamp was issued as part of a “Retrospective voitures automobiles.”



**17** 1910 Silver Ghost (Republic of Nicaragua – Central America). The Nicaraguan stamp was issued to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of German automobile pioneer Gottlieb Daimler. Issued 1984.



**18** “Torpedo” model Silver Ghost (Grenada – Caribbean Sea). Note the fins from a mid-’50s Chevrolet on the left. The rest of the Chevy would have been on the stamp to the left on the original sheet of stamps.



**19** 1940 Silver Ghost (Union of the Comoros – Indian Ocean, off the coast of South Africa). Note the unusual hood on the car. The car is identified as a Silver Ghost yet the date is shown incorrectly as 1940.

## Prewar Rolls-Royce



**20** 1926 P I (United Republic of Tanzania, eastern Africa). Issued in 1985 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile. This is printed with a low line screen in four-color process. The quality is much lower than other stamps. Also issued in gold foil, shown at right. The detail in the embossing is very fine and detailed.



**21** Phantom I? (Republic of Korea – eastern Asia). Note cancellation mark in upper right corner. Issued 1984.





**22** 1925 Phantom I (St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Caribbean Sea). Issued in 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile.



**23** Phantom I (Kibris [Turkish name for Cyprus] – Mediterranean Sea). Watercolor with a Moorish backdrop on envelope. Issued in 1984 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CEPT, the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.



**24** 1928 Phantom I Limousine (Republic of Guyana – northeastern South America)



**25** 1932 Rolls-Royce 20/25 (Bailiwick of Jersey – English Channel). Note the image of Queen Elizabeth in the upper left corner of the Jersey stamp. A nice watercolor by A.R. Copp. Issued 1992.



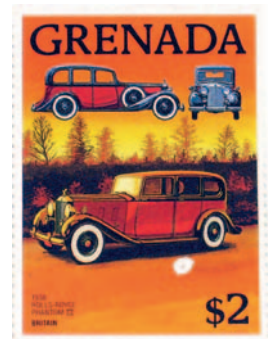
**26** Phantom II? (Kingdom of Bhutan – southern Asia). Note modern sealed beam headlights. This stamp is covered with a special plastic lens to create a three dimensional effect.



**27** 1933 Phantom II (United Republic of Tanzania – eastern Africa). Issued in 1985 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile in an embossed version on 22K gold foil. This stamp was also printed in four-color process shown at right.



**28** 1933 Phantom II Continental (St. Lucia – Caribbean). A two-part stamp with the car shown in three-quarter profile on the lower stamp and color drawings showing the side and front on the top stamp. Issued in 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile.



**29** 1938 Phantom III (Grenada – Caribbean Sea). This stamp includes a three-quarter view of the P III in the lower half and a smaller side and front view on the top half. Compare with the 1933 P II on the St. Lucia stamp **31** with a similar layout that is a two-part stamp.





**30** 1936 20/25? (Romania – southeastern Europe). This 4-stamp set includes a 1933 Mercedes-Benz (top left), 1930 Ford Spider (top right), 1932 Citroën (bottom left) and 1936 Rolls-Royce (bottom right). Note the cancellation mark in the center of the set. Issued 1996.



**33** 1936 Phantom III (Bailiwick of Jersey – English Channel). A drawing of a P III is featured on a First Day Cover issued by Jersey in 1984.



**35** 1938 Phantom III? (Republic of Equatorial Guinea – west coast of Africa). Airmail stamp issued as part of a commemorative set that included a 1936 Mercedes.



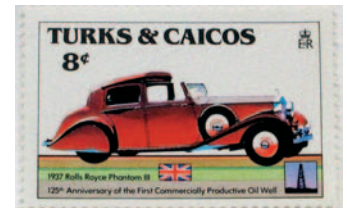
**36** 1936 20/25? (Romania – southeastern Europe). Issued 1996.



**31** 1936 20/25 (United Republic of Tanzania). Issued in 1985 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile. This stamp was also issued in an embossed version on 22K gold foil, see **32**.



**32**



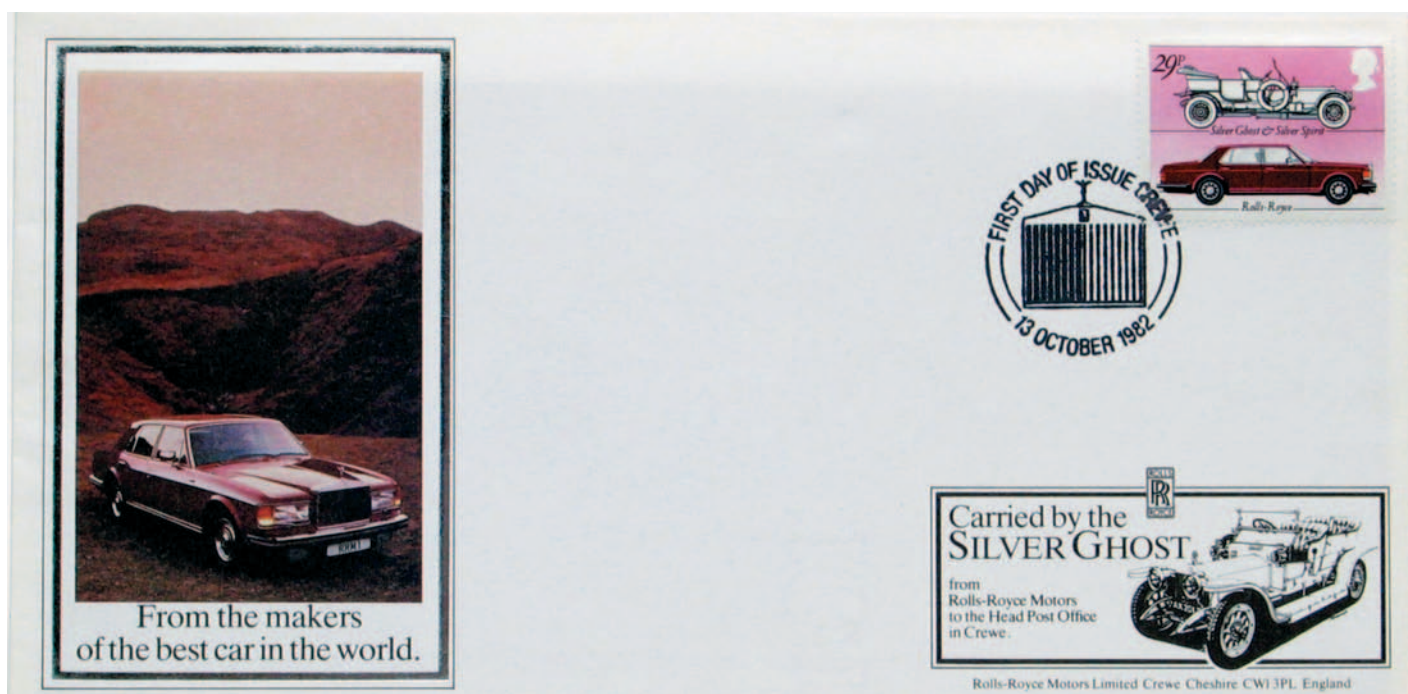
**34** 1937 Phantom III (Turks and Caicos Islands – Caribbean Sea). Issued in 1984. Note the sedanca top is slightly raised to accept the sliding front portion of the roof. The bottom of the stamp includes the inscription "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Commercially Productive Oil Well" and includes a drawing of an oil derrick in the lower right corner. The first commercial oil well was in 1859 at Titusville, PA. What's the link between the P III and oil well? Wealth or miles per gallon?



## Postwar Rolls-Royce



**37** Silver Cloud III on 9-stamp Kyrgyzstan sheet (Kyrgyz Republic [Kyrgyzstan] – central Asia). This set featured the SC III and an Excalibur. The top left and top right stamps are color renderings of the Silver Cloud and Excalibur while the other seven stamps are photographs. Issued in 2001.

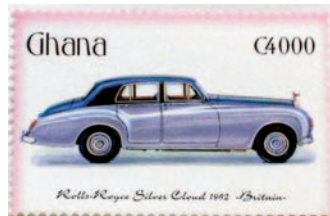


**38** First Day Cover issued October 13, 1982, in England with stamp showing Silver Ghost and Silver Spirit. The cancellation stamp includes the Rolls-Royce grille in the indicia. The envelope notes that it was “carried by the Silver Ghost from Rolls-Royce Motors to the Head Post Office in Crewe.”





**39** Silver Cloud III (Kyrgyz Republic [Kyrgyzstan] – central Asia). Note the name of the country printed in the Cyrillic alphabet at the top. This stamp is a color rendering of the car. Issued in 2001.



**40** 1962 Silver Cloud II (Republic of Ghana – western Africa)



**41** 1954 Silver Wraith (St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Caribbean Sea). Two-part stamp with line drawings of side and front on top half of stamp and color three-quarter view on bottom stamp. Issued 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile.



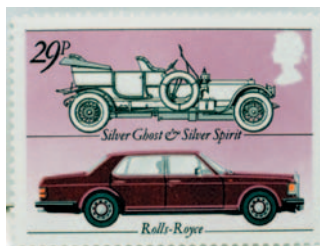
**42** 1970 Silver Shadow (Republic of Yemen – middle east, south of Saudi Arabia). Note cancellation mark in upper right corner. This stamp was issued with the 1904 Rolls-Royce stamp [2](#).



**43** 1989 Corniche III (Republic of Niger – western Africa). Photo of a Corniche reproduced on stamp. Issued in 1998.



**44** 1985 Silver Spirit (Kingdom of Lesotho – southern Africa). Issued in 1985 to commemorate the centenary of the motorcar.



**45** 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost and 1982 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit (England). The first stamp issued by England in 1840 had a silhouette of Queen Victoria. Note the image of Queen Elizabeth in the upper right corner. See also [52](#).



**46** 1971 RR Corniche (Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis – eastern Caribbean). This stamp was printed in 1985 as part of a large number of other car stamps to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile. It is a two-part stamp with the lower half showing a color picture of the car and the upper half with line drawings showing the front and side of the car.

## Prewar Bentley



**47** 1921 3 Litre Bentley (Republic of Equatorial Guinea – west coast of Africa). Note the postage cancellation mark in the lower left corner.



**48** 1928 Bentley (Republic of Guinea-Bissau – western Africa). Note the postage cancellation mark in top right corner. Issued in 1984.



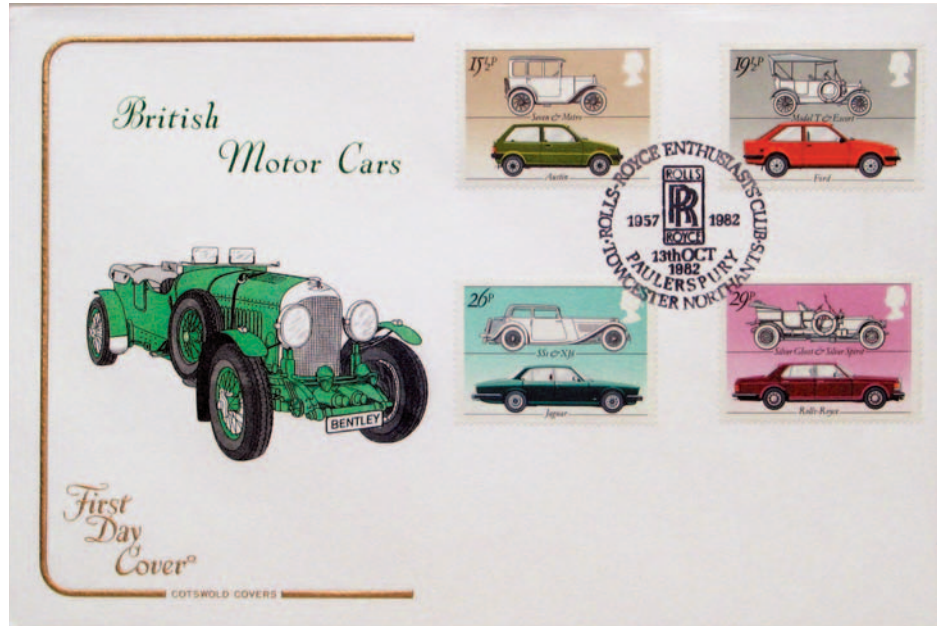
**49** 1929 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Litre (Venda – now part of South Africa). The seal in the top right is for "Federation Internationale Voitures Anciennes." Stamp issued to commemorate World F.I.V.A. Rally in 1986 – Southern Hemisphere. Issued in 1988.



**50** 1930 Bentley (Republic of Mali – western Africa). Stamp issued to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The drawing on the stamp includes the #4 Bentley and the #9 Alfa Romeo. The #4 Speed 6 Bentley driven by Woolf Barnato and Glen Kidston won the 1930 Le Mans.



**51** 1934 Bentley Tourer (The Republic of Ghana – west coast of Africa). Note mis-spelling of Bentley (Bentler).



**52** Vintage Bentley (England). First Day Cover issued in 1982 with special cancellation postmark by the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club in Paulerspury. The envelope includes stamps depicting vintage and modern cars from Austin, Ford, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce (close-up shown in **45**).



**53** Prewar Bentley (Republic of Zambia – South Africa). Embossed stamp on 22K gold foil. Size approximately 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>". Issued in 1985 to commemorate the first 100 years of the automobile.



**54** Vintage Bentley Tourer (Udmurtia Republic – part of Russian Federation in western Urals). This stamp is printed with a low line screen in four-color process and the quality is much lower than the other stamps. Issued in 1997.

## Postwar Bentley



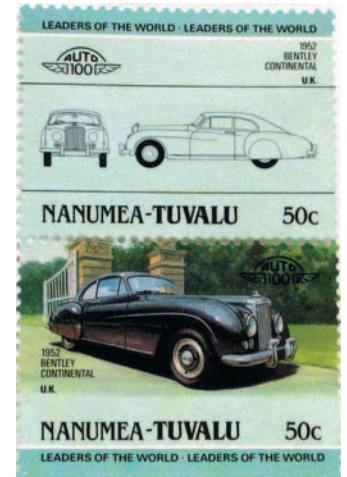
**55** 1947 Bentley Mk VI (Barbados – Caribbean Sea). The caption on the stamp states that Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands ordered the car. Note the Barbados cancellation mark over the top middle of the stamp. Issued in 2000.



**56** 1952–1955 Bentley Continental R (Republic of Liberia – western Africa). Nice watercolor reproduced on stamp.



**57** Bentley Continental (possibly from a Russian province, based on Cyrillic type). Stamp has photo of Bentley with a beach in the background.



**58** 1952 Bentley Continental (Tuvalu [Nanumea is one of eight islands that make up the country of Tuvalu] – south Pacific Ocean). Issued in 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automobile.