



Beyond Our First Decade

The Birth of the Museum



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

The National Motor Museum evolved from the Montagu Motor Museum, which was founded by Lord Montagu in 1952 as a tribute to British Motoring achievement and particularly in memory of his father, one of the pioneers of motoring in Great Britain and the first Parliamentary champion of the motorist's cause. Within 10 years the collection numbered more than 100 vehicles. To cater for the ever increasing demand for information on motoring history, Lord Montagu created in 1961, a Motoring Library for

books, manuscripts and photographs.

The decision to found a charitable Trust was taken in 1968 in order to safeguard the Museum and the Library collections for the long-term benefit of the nation.

The Beaulieu Museum Trust came into being on the 17th November 1970. Lord Montagu made available to the Trust his vehicle and Library Collection, at the time worth in excess of £500,000, at a peppercorn rent, for a minimum term of sixty years.

Lord Montagu, through Montagu Ventures Limited, the Beaulieu

management, borrowed one million pounds from Hambros Bank in order to provide finance for both the Trust's buildings and the remainder of the Complex. This loan was secured upon Lord Montagu's personal assets. In turn Montagu Ventures Limited loaned to the Trustees on exactly similar terms sufficient funds to pay for the Museum and Libraries and related costs.

The principle objectives recorded in the Trust Deed are:-

'.....to construct a Museum and Library to house the historic vehicles and Library contents'.

'.....to exhibit to the public and make available for research and education the historic vehicles and Library contents and for preserving same as collections'.

'.....to acquire for exhibition in the new Museum and Library, books, manuscripts, photographs and other items connected with transport'.

'.....to restore and assist in maintaining the historic vehicles and Library contents'.

'.....to make available to the public historical information... by means of publications, exhibitions and lectures.'

In 1968 a Trust fund was launched with a target of £750,000 to enable these objectives to be realised and generous support has been received from both industry and individuals.

In 1972 the Beaulieu Museum Trust became the National Motor Museum Trust.

Ten years of steady progress and a look to the future are the subjects of this publication.



Victor Hemery in his Benz after his victory in the 1908 St. Petersburg-Moscow race