

# The Phantom of a Legend

“Rolls-Royce”... is as British as Queen and five o'clock. This synonym of luxury, splendor and top quality has entered our dreams and received the well-deserved title of an everlasting legend of motorisation. But why? It's neither the fastest, nor the swiftest or the cheapest car on the world. But we want to drive it even it uses hectolitres of petrol and is unparkable especially in the municipal area.



## The rise of a legend

Henry Royce (1863-1933) was a son of a miller, forced to hard job in railway with the death of his father. However his great skills in engineering made him capable to found a corporation of electronical equipment. He was a perfectionist, he has never accepted something “enough good”. On the other hand, Charles Royce (1877-1910) was an aristocrat, tallented economist who graduated from Cambridge and worked in trade. A great passionate of everything moving (sailor, driver, aviator), was the first Britishman to fly over English Channel and the first to die in a plane accident. And one day, in May 1904 those two, much diversed men met in in a Midland Hotel in Manchester. In a few years, their magnificent and excellent in every single element, products were famous of top quality, extra quiet engines reaching top speeds, their reliability and fluent work.

## The reasons for the worldwide fame

Rolls once said that “Rolls-Royce isn't one of the best cars in the world; it is the best car, indeed”. And even it seems a bit vain, we can surely say that RR has been an ideal car. Not because of the fact, that the passengers' feelings about ride are simmlilar to floating in the air, and not because of that biggest noise inside is a ticking clock. The names of particular products are connected with eterism (Phantom, Cloud, Seraph, Spur) and I think I know why. In our Earth there's nothing such perfect like the legend made by two, brand varied great people. And even now, when the company is owned by BMW, those cars still got that “something“ that makes them more than a machine with four wheels.

## Tested efficiently

Before selling, on the engine of every Rolls-Royce, an engineer put a vertically positioned coin. And the vibration test was failed if it fell down. Every driver, or rather chauffeur, had to pass a specific certificate and one of the tasks was to drive on with two glasses of champagne on the table on a behind sofa. And it was passed when no single drop was wasted. During World War II all of the armoured cars in Egypt had RR engines and according to famous Lawrence of Arabia, “on the desert, they were shining like rubies”. Rolls has made several speed records and race triumphs in his cars which add even more glory to this brand. Also aircraft engines were extraordinary, within them, the first flight from UK to US has taken place as well as the record ok 600 km per hour in... 1929.

## Rolls-Royce everlasting

For many years, the max power has been described as “enough” and in the first convertible model (Corniche) even as “10% more than enough”. Models has changed, as well as stylisation and engineering. But all the time, when you drive a Rolls-Royce, you feel like in other world. Perhaps that's because of excellent types of timber used to production, with every single piece signed and collected in order to replace in any accident, or rather when a sculpture of Spirit of Ecstasy appearing at the top of your bonnet introduces this heavenly atmosphere. And you feel the breath of those two gentlemen that has met more than a hundred years ago to built a legend, an everlasting legend.



## Newest idea for a top-branded car

Rolls-Royce Phantom (you can see one on the photo) is one of the latest products of this corporation. V12 6,75L engine, acceleration up to 100 km per hour in 6 seconds, 2500 kilos of weight, are very precious numbers as well as the prize of 350,000 euros, but we don't buy this car because of them. Even BMW could have built an enlarged version of BMW 7, the kept that marvellousness in a frantic design. Many will say, it's exaggerated, spiky and is a good thing for people with inferiority complex. Now there are even more models, a convertible, a sport coupe – something nice for everybody. Everyone can have their private opinion, and mine regards its nobility and beauty. A second-hand RR you can buy for a price of an exclusive version of a brand new VW Passat and don't need to worry about necessary repairs. During a hundred years of production, more than 90,000 manufactured cars has left the factory and around 90% still drives. Good result, isn't it?

## Nothing else, but a Rolls-Royce

Having a Rolls-Royce you enter an elite club – equally to Queen Elisabeth II, Vladimir Lenin, Frank Sinatra, John Lennon or Elvis Presley. Let's think about any influential and important person in the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Yes, probably most, or even all of them had a RR in their garage. Having it is like wearing an Armani suit (dress), having a Picasso's painting over the fireplace, and spending weekends in an own medieval castle. It's a top-class lifestyle. One will say it's unecological, uneconomical and useless to spend a small fortune on a car. But it's not the car that is so desired, it's that imperial, luxurious, ubiquitous spirit surrounding it.

**Wojciech Bańczyk**

Bonnet – maska  
Diversed – różniący się  
Everlasting – wieczny  
Float – unosić się  
Fluent – płynny  
Frantic – olbrzymi, niebiański

Influential – wpływowy  
Miller – młynarz  
Reliability – niezawodność  
Ruby – rubin  
Ubiquitus – wszechobecny  
Timber – drewno