

1901 Albion Model A1 Dog Cart

Dr Thomas Blackwood Murray and Normon Fulton founded the Albion Motor Car Company in Glasgow, Scotland on 20 December 1900. Between 1900 and 1904 they built 58 Albion Dog Carts. This car is one of only seven known survivors in the world. It was the tenth vehicle to be built in the original Finneston Street works in Glasgow. It was ordered on 25 September 1901 and shipped to South Africa the following November. Spicer, Langley and Co. of Long Street in Cape Town established one of the first motor agencies in South Africa with the Albion franchise and were responsible for the importation of this vehicle to South Africa. It was almost certainly the first Albion product to be exported to Africa and was ordered by a well known judge then living in Pietermaritzburg. After a number of years of trouble-free operation, the Dog Cart found its way to Johannesburg, having been purchased by Mr Charles Whitehead, of the Albion dealership in Johannesburg. By then the car was a non-runner, but it was spruced up for display at the Albion Motors depot in Selby for the celebrations held to mark the completion of 50 years of continuous manufacture in 1950. It then was offered to Mr Blackwood Murray by Mr Barry Whitehead, the son of Charles Whitehead, who had decided to dispose of it. Eventually it was sold to Mr Robert Blackwood Murray, the grandson of the man who designed and built it. When he acquired the Model A1 Albion Dog Cart it was totally original but had been a non-runner since it had been used in the 1937 Wits rag procession. It was, however, very complete and Mr Murray spent five years restoring the car to its original condition.

In the light of this vehicle's illustrious and early history in South Africa and it being the only one of its kind in Africa, we will like to recommend that it remain in this country and that no permit for its exportation be supplied by SAHRA.

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