



Manx  
National  
Heritage

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## VEHICLE REGISTRATION RECORDS

Public Information Sheet

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Vehicle registration and licensing of drivers were introduced by an Act of Tynwald into the Isle of Man.

Under the *'Highways Act Amendment Act, 1905'* every motor car had to be registered with the Highway Board and a separate number given to each vehicle. A fee of 20 shillings [£1] and five shillings [25p] was charged for the registration of motor cars and motor cycles respectively. Driving licences were free to private vehicle owners; other vehicle users paid a fee of 5 shillings.

The registers start in January 1906 and the system continues to this day at the Vehicle Licensing Section of Treasury, Government Offices, Bucks Road, Douglas.

The Manx National Heritage Library holds the registers from 1906 - 1965 at accession reference number MS 09765.

The deposit also includes the earliest register for driving licence holders (1906 - 1921).



*A dark green 5hp Wolseley Phaeton was the first vehicle to carry the plate MN11. It was registered by Dr. John Teare Jnr of Castletown in January 1906.*

As a brief guide to the numbering system, the following index mark sequences for vehicles were used for the years 1906 - 1965:

MN 1 - MN 9999	1906 - 1935
MAN 1 - MAN 999	1935
BMN 1 - YMN 999	1936 - 1959
1 MN - 9999 MN	1959 - 1964
1 MAN - 999 MAN	1964
1 BMN - 999 CMN	1964 - 1965

However, since numbers were reused frequently after cancellation of a vehicle registration, tracing a vehicle can be complicated. The covering dates which follow are for the first date of use of each number. The dates of re-registration may be many years later. Library staff will be happy to assist with any queries.

For a more in depth account of the numbering sequences see Appendix 1 in the *Fleet History of Isle of Man Department of Tourism and Leisure and its Predecessors* (Library ref: B192/2/53)

The following are the reference numbers for the individual volumes with a brief description. They can be consulted by filling in a document request form available on the Library counter. The numbers in brackets are the numbers appearing on the cover of the relevant registers.

### **MS 09765/1**

Register of driving licence holders under 'The Motor Cars (Registration and Licensing Order), 1905.' The register records the number, name and address of the licensee, if the licence is for a motor car or limited to motor cycles, the date of grant and expiry and particulars of renewals and endorsements. It contains an alphabetical name index at the front.

January 1906 - January 1921 (1 volume)

### **MS 09765/2/1-2**

Registers of motor cars with heavy motor vehicle entries recorded at the rear using same number sequence. Information is arranged by plate number, name and address of owner, vehicle description, weight, wheel diameter and width and material of tyres.

1906 - 1928 (2 volumes)

1. MN 1 - MN 2309  
January 1906 - June 1922
2. MN 2040 - MN 5791  
June 1922 - November 1928

### **MS 09765/3/1-2**

Registers for heavy motor vehicles over three tonnes arranged by index mark and number. Each entry gives the description or type of car, name and address of owner, type and colour of car body, weight, axle, wheel and tyre details, maximum speed permissible, intended use, date of registration and cancellation as applicable.

1927 - 1943 ( 2 volumes)

1. MN 18 - MN 7234  
June 1927 - June 1931
2. MN 7332 - FMN 454  
(MAN numbers at rear)  
June 1931 - February 1943

### **MS 09765/4/1-9**

Registers of motor vehicles, including details of vehicles reusing the index mark and number. Note that not every entry was transferred from the earlier registers at MS 09765/2/1-2. When in doubt consult the earlier volumes.

1. MN 1 - MN 2997 (1)  
1911 - 1924

Note on inside cover reads 'This register was transferred from the original (1-2000) in January 1930 and completed (2000 to 3000) in January 1931.'

2. MN 3000 - MN 3999  
January 1924 - July 1925
3. MN 3000 - MN 3999 (3)  
January 1924 - July 1925

Note on inside cover reads 'This register was transferred from the original (completed 20 February 1932)'. Copy of 09765/4/2 with additional information about later registrations re-using these numbers.

4. MN 4000 - MN 4999 (4)  
July 1925 - May 1927
5. MN 5000 - MN 5999 (5)  
May 1927 - May 1929
6. MN 6000 - MN 6999 (6)  
May 1929 - December 1930
7. MN 7000 - MN 7999 (7)  
December 1930 - June 1932
8. MN 8000 - MN 9000 (8)  
June 1932 - August 1933
9. MN 9001 - MN 9999 (9)  
August 1933 - March 1935

**MS 09765/5**

- MAN 1 - MAN 999 (10)  
March 1935 - April 1936 (1 volume)

**MS 09765/6/1-21**

- BMN - YMN  
1936 - 1959 (21 volumes)
1. BMN (11)
  2. CMN (12)
  3. DMN (13)
  4. EMN (14)
  5. FMN (15)
  6. GMN (16)
  7. HMN (17)
  8. JMN (18)
  9. KMN (19)
  10. MN (20)
  11. MMN (21)
  12. NMN (22)
  13. OMN (23)
  14. PMN (24)
  15. RMN (25)
  16. TMN (26)
  17. UMN (27)
  18. VMN (28)
  19. WMN (29)
  20. XMN (30)
  21. YMN (31)



*The Manx manufactured Peel P50, launched in 1962 as a single seat, fibre glass, three-wheel motoring option, was perhaps the most unusual vehicle to bear Manx number plates*



**MS 09765/7/1-10**

1 MN - 9999 MN

May 1959 - May 1964 (10 volumes)

1. 1 MN - 999 MN (32)  
May 1959 - December 1959
2. 1000 MN - 1999 MN (33)  
December 1959 - July 1960
3. 2000 MN - 2999 MN (34)  
July 1960 - February 1961
4. 3000 MN - 3999 MN (35)  
February 1961 - August 1961
5. 4000 MN - 4999 MN (36)  
August 1961 - March 1962
6. 5000 MN - 5999 MN (37)  
March 1962 - August 1962
7. 6000 MN - 6999 MN (38)  
August 1962 - March 1963

8. 7000 MN - 7999 MN (39)  
March 1963 - July 1963
9. 8000 MN - 8999 MN (40)  
July 1963 - January 1964
10. 9000 MN - 9999 MN (41)  
January 1964 - May 1964

**MS 09765/8**

1 MAN - 999 MAN (42)

May 1964 - October 1964 (1 volume)

**MS 09765/9**

1 BMN - 999 BMN (43)

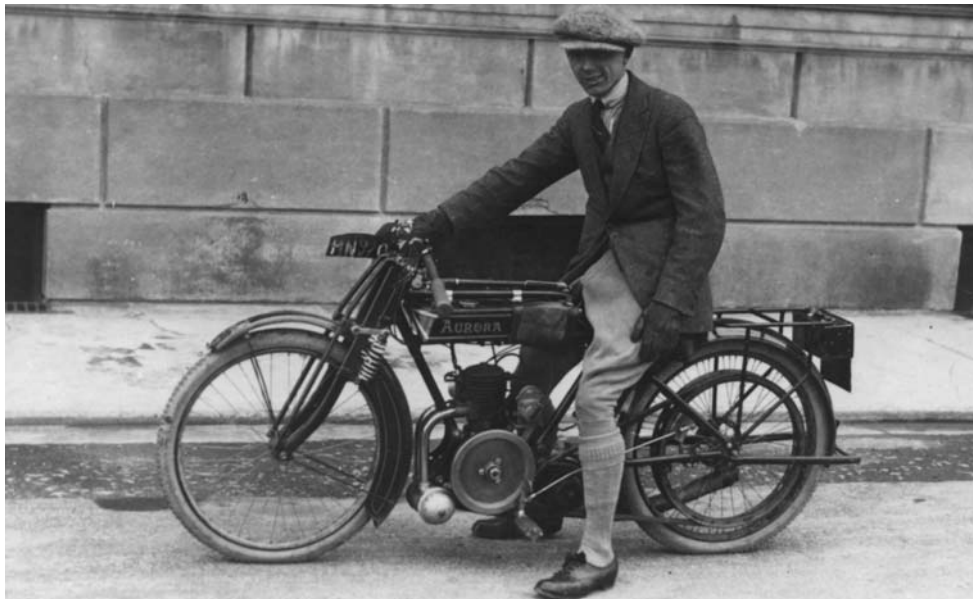
October 1964 - March 1965 (1 volume)

**MS 09765/10**

Application forms completed by those applying for a motor car registration.

1 CMN - 999 CMN

March 1965 - July 1965 (1 file)



*The vehicle licencing register lists MN920 as a 'Moonbeam'; in fact it is an Aurora, which was the only Manx-built motorcycle. Approximately five machines were made. Manufacturer J. Graham Oates is in the saddle.*

The Manx National Heritage Library holds a wealth of various and extensive source material. Staff at the library and throughout Manx National Heritage are always pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in Manx history.

WT: 12.03

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**Opening times:** Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm  
 Closed Sunday and for one week in January.