

Automobile Postal Service: The 1900 Robinson Electric Delivery Van and the Dawn of Motorized Mail Delivery

The history of mail delivery is a chronicle of constant innovation and adaptation to the changing needs of society. From the humble beginnings of foot messengers to the advent of railroads and steam-powered ships, the means of transporting mail have evolved dramatically over the centuries.



AUTOMOBILE POSTAL SERVICE: 1900 by D C Robinson

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The early 20th century marked a watershed moment in postal history, as the automobile emerged as a viable mode of mail delivery. In 1900, the United States Automobile Postal Service was established, and one of its first significant acquisitions was the Robinson Electric Delivery Van.

The Robinson Electric Delivery Van

Designed and manufactured by the Robinson Motor Vehicle Company of New York City, the Robinson Electric Delivery Van was a state-of-the-art

vehicle for its time.



It featured an enclosed cargo area, a driver's compartment, and an electric motor that powered the rear wheels. The van had a top speed of approximately 15 miles per hour and a range of about 50 miles on a single charge.

The Advantages of Motorized Mail Delivery

The Robinson Electric Delivery Van offered several advantages over traditional horse-drawn mail wagons.

- **Speed:** Electric vehicles were much faster than horses, allowing for faster delivery times.

- **Reliability:** Unlike horses, electric motors were not prone to fatigue or illness, ensuring more consistent service.
- **Versatility:** Electric delivery vans could navigate terrain that was inaccessible to horse-drawn wagons, opening up new possibilities for mail delivery.

The Impact on Postal Transportation

The of the Robinson Electric Delivery Van had a profound impact on the postal service. It marked the beginning of the transition from horse-drawn wagons to motorized vehicles, a change that would revolutionize mail delivery.

As the automobile became more widespread, the Automobile Postal Service expanded its fleet of motorized vehicles. By 1914, the postal service had over 6,000 motor vehicles in operation, significantly reducing delivery times and improving the efficiency and reliability of mail delivery.

The Automobile Postal Service's 1900 Robinson Electric Delivery Van was a seminal moment in the history of mail delivery. It represented the dawn of motorized mail transportation and paved the way for the widespread adoption of automobiles in the postal service.

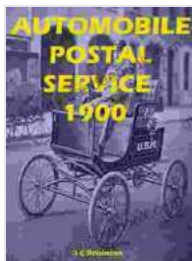
Today, motorized vehicles remain the primary means of mail delivery, and the of electric vehicles in the early 20th century laid the foundation for the ongoing evolution of postal transportation.

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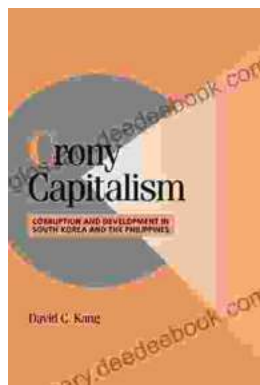
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