

LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

Rogers Yamaha
84 Leet Street
Invercargill 9810

2 October, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Item Description: Hand-crafted piston by Burt Munro

This letter serves as an official **Letter of Authenticity** for a **hand-crafted piston personally modified and fabricated by Herbert James "Burt" Munro (1899–1978)**, the legendary New Zealand motorcycle racer and mechanical innovator, best known for setting land speed records at the Bonneville Salt Flats in the 1960s on his heavily modified 1920 Indian Scout.

The piston in question is an original, custom piece that reflects Munro's distinctive engineering style, characterised by hand-machining, material improvisation, and innovative performance tuning methods developed in his Invercargill workshop. It displays clear evidence of manual shaping and reworking, consistent with known surviving examples of Munro's engine components.

Provenance and Documentation: This item originates from my own private collection and, as the previous owner of this piston, I, Mr Peter Ramage, personally provide additional verification without hesitation.

Many years ago, I spotted a motorcycle in the workshop of Mr Ashley Bell, on Clyde Street in Invercargill, which was located across the road from my own work at Southern Suzuki.

I asked him if the "old clunker" was for sale, having no idea what it was. He said no and I got the same answer each time I asked.

Out of the blue, Mr Bell asked if I still wanted it as he was going to the Isle of Man and could use the funds. I paid him before he even told me what the motorcycle was. It was a bit of a mongrel like all old race bikes.

My understanding is Burt Munro built the engine out of new and used spares for his Velocette motorcycle which is now on display at E. Hayes and Sons in Invercargill. I've seen photos of Burt with his Velocette, and reviewed his collection on display, and the pattern of the welding on the cases, the barrel and the carb all match those on my engine. Burt was known to be tight and I imagine he threw nothing away unless it was WELL buggered. I'm sure there was a revolving door of interchangeable parts.

Mr Bell used Burt's motor in an AJS frame with a Norton gearbox as a beach racer. Further verification of its authenticity is in the book *Burt Munro Indian – Legend of Speed* written by George Begg, which references me as the current owner.

The 2005 feature film *The World's Fastest Indian*, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins, was produced, written and directed by award-winning Roger Donaldson. Many of the props used for filming were actually owned by Munro, including all the exploded pistons and the piston mould that Hopkins uses for a scene in the film.

This piston was used in the film and its authenticity confirmed by Neville Hayes, who wanted to be positive there were no "ring ins" as props. As he said to me "it just adds credence to their bullshit claims". Neville checked out this piston thoroughly and compared it to those in his own collection before approving it for use in the film as genuinely made by Burt.

While I retain ownership of the motor and gearbox, I have chosen to donate this piston to Cormac Buchanan in support of his 2026 Moto3 World Championship campaign. It just seems fitting. Many people helped Burt along his journey and I believe he'd get a kick out of helping Cormac in this modern racing era.

I hereby certify the authenticity of the described item to the best of my knowledge and based on the available evidence.

Yours sincerely,


Mr Peter Ramage