

100M Registry Strengthens Requirements to Assure Heritage

Twentieth Anniversary Marked

**Bill Meade,
Founder & Registrar,
Worldwide 100M Le Mans Registry**

Since the founding of the Worldwide 100M Le Mans Registry 20 years ago (with Bic Healey, Gerry Coker, John Wheatley and Anders Ditlev Clausager as Advisors), there has been a continuing need to refine and strengthen the registration guidelines.

In the beginning, the primary purpose and goal of the 100M Registry was to discover how many of the original cars still existed and also to build awareness of the 100M model and to be of assistance to owners restoring these cars.

The Registry now has 200 of the original 640 100M cars registered. This is over 30 percent, and classic car experts feel this would be close to 100 percent of the cars expected to still be around 60 years after production.



Francois Schnyder of Switzerland on a driving event in Alsace Lorraine. (REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FC163.)

For its 20th Anniversary, the Worldwide 100M Le Mans Registry has announced that the original goal of finding all remaining (factory-built) 100M cars has now been substantially accomplished, with the majority of existing 100M's registered.

Twenty years ago when the 100M Registry began to write articles about this car being the very first Austin-Healey race-prepared special (coming even before the later 100S race version,) the values of the cars has since steadily increased from about \$50,000 for a top car 20 years ago, to well over \$200,000 for the best examples today.



Robert Morris's newly restored 100M at his Virginia home. (REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FC86.)

Along with increased values came schemes to build duplicate cars and make illicit profit. This has taken the form of people splitting a car's numbered parts to create two cars or, in other cases, simply obtaining a real 100M chassis number and counterfeited the numbered ID points.

With the values of the cars going so high and the possibility of non-original cars becoming more of a problem, the 100M Registry has been forced into the role of identifying cars that do not appear to be original when they attempt to register.



Eckard Freund, 100M Registry member in Germany, preparing for a historic rally. (REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FC188.)

For many years, some people depended on the build certificate from the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust to "prove" that their car was genuine. However, the truth is, the BMIHT certificate does NOT do this. It only proves that some car, somewhere, was built with that chassis number. The BMIHT certificate in no way proves that a particular car in question has been examined to confirm that it is the original car with that chassis number. A few people have even randomly purchased BMIHT certificates until they hit one that was a 100M number, and then they built a car around that number.



Registry Member Bill OBrien from Delaware owns this award-winning 100M. Bill also created the beautiful new Registry shirts with the 100M depicted in any car color. (REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FC179.)



The 100M of Registry member Nicolas Hollanders of Belgium. (REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FC141.)

For anyone applying for 100M registration today, the owner will need to provide proof that the car existed as a 100M prior to the car being restored. This proof will need to be in the form of photos of the car taken before restoration (showing 100M-unique parts), plus Division of Motor Vehicles past registrations for the 100M and past ownership history (that can be confirmed). All of this will be required for cars that are now appearing on the scene for the first time and claiming to be factory-built 100Ms.

For car owners who have the older, early "owner registrations" (unconfirmed "F" category of the Registry) and they want to be upgraded to the gold level "Registry Confirmed Factory-Built 100M" ("FC" confirmed category), the owner will need to contact the past owners for this required information, if they do not already have it.

Major auction houses have told us the gold level "Registry Confirmed 100M" status can easily add \$10,000 or more to the selling price of a top restored 100M. They feel this gold level gives the buyer the best assurance that the car's ID points have been examined and confirmed that they appear to be correct. The certificate will state any ID points that are missing or appear unoriginal.

This strengthening of the registration requirements will make registration more meaningful for 100M owners because it will further reduce the chance of non-original cars being registered.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Worldwide 100M Le Mans Registry, our long-time member Bill OBrien of Newark, Delaware, has created a beautiful new dress shirt embroidered in the USA with a 100M image and the Registry name. These exclusive shirts are available to 100M Registry members only and can be had in your own car's colors with your choice of shirt color. All profits go to support Registry operations. Go to the 100M Registry website to see examples of the shirts and ordering information. www.100mregistry.com 



Registry founder Bill Meade sporting one of the special shirts celebrating the 100M Registry's 20 anniversary. The shirts are available with your own car's colors. See www.100mregistry.com