

Cliff Burton Rides Again: JSA Gets it Dead Wrong

Poor Cliff Burton. It seems he will never get to rest in peace.

It has been reported on the internet that two Metallica albums were sent to both Roger Epperson and Chris Morales.

Roger Epperson passed both pieces.

Chris Morales failed both pieces.

On September 29, 2010, James Spence testified in Commonwealth v. Hooper (CP-21-CR-2473-2008) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In this case, Spence stated, "...The first thing I look at when I authenticate an autograph is to make sure that the item is manufactured, to the best of my knowledge, during the person's lifetime. Sometimes forgers get something as simple as that wrong, such as putting an autograph on a baseball where the person was not alive at the time. That happens on a more regular basis than you would think."

Really? The first thing James Spence does is check the availability of the item, to make sure it was even possible for the person to have autographed it. Both albums were released 22 years after Cliff Burton died. He would have to have been brought back from the dead to be able to sign either album.

The "experts" at JSA have now joined the "**We Love Dead Men Autographs Club**". One of our associates brought the two forged Cliff Burton albums in person to JSA.

Even though the 2008 re-release date was printed on both album covers, and Cliff Burton died 22 years before the re-release date, JSA passed both albums with flying colors.



**"BANG THAT HEAD THAT
DOESN'T BANG"**

R. Burch '83



KIRK HAMMETT
Lead Guitar

CLIFF BURTON
Bass

LARS ULRICH
Drums

JAMES HETFIELD
Rhythm Guitar/Vocals

- 1** HIT THE LIGHTS 4:17
THE FOUR HORSEMEN 7:08
MOTORBREATH 3:03
JUMP IN THE FIRE 4:50
(ANESTHESIA)—PULLING TEETH 3:27
WHIPLASH 4:06

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: **ION ZAZULA**
PRODUCER: **PAUL CURCIO**
RECORDED: **MUSIC AMERICA
RECORDING STUDIO
MAY 1983**

- 4:52 **PHANTOM LORD** **2**
6:24 **NO REMORSE**
6:50 **SEEK & DESTROY**
6:06 **METAL MILITIA**

This album was originally issued as Megaforce 4069 (7/25/83).



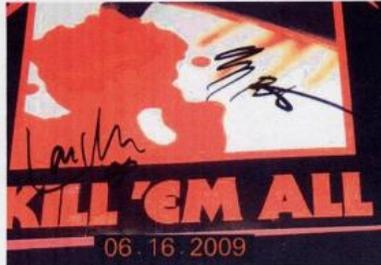
metallica.com
warnerbrosrecords.com

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Letter of Authenticity

Submission Number: 28233
Date: Monday, June 22, 2009
Subject: Cliff Burton
Lars Ulrich 86
Field: Music
Description: Multi Signed Album
Manufacturer: Not Visible
Type: Metallica
Size: 12" X 12"
Model: Kill 'em All
Number Of Signatures: 2
Location: Front
Writing Implement: Fiber-tip Marker
Color: Black



Certification Number: B74683

This document shall serve as a letter of authenticity for the aforementioned item, which James Spence Authentication, LLC has thoroughly examined.

The signature(s) is/are consistent considering a wide range of specific qualities including slant, flow, pen pressure, letter size and formation, and other characteristics typical of our extensive database of known exemplars we have examined throughout our hobby and professional careers.

It is our considered opinion that the signature item is genuine. Your item has been assigned a unique certification number, which is uploaded into our restricted database and can be confirmed on our website www.SpenceLOA.com at any time. This letter must appear on our proprietary water-marked paper and bear the live signatures of both James Spence and a notary public.

We appreciate your consideration of entrusting James Spence Authentication's judgment and look forward to examining additional collectibles for you in the near future.

Autographically yours,

James J. Spence, Jr.
Managing Member
James Spence Authentication, LLC

NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY

Before me, the undersigned notary public, this day personally appeared JAMES J. SPENCE, JR 2 Sylvan Way - Suite 102, Parsippany, NJ 07054, to me known who being duly sworn according to law, claimed this to be a true document.

Sworn and subscribed to before me on June 22, 2009.

Notary Public



LINDA HELEN CORDASCO
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
Commission Expires 3/7/2012

2 Sylvan Way, Suite 102 Parsippany, NJ 07054 Toll Free 1-888-4JSPENCE Phone: 973-898-1300 Fax: 973-898-1301
www.SpenceLOA.com



The three photos above are of the first of the two Metallica albums that JSA certified for our associate, the *Kill 'Em All* album cover. The album bears the signatures of Cliff Burton and Lars Ulrich.

One has to ask what exemplars JSA used to certify this album. Why? Because, as we have already stated, this album is a re-release. The photo below is a detailed shot of the back of the album. It was released in 2008.



Cliff Burton died on September 27, 1986.

How can a dead man sign an album released after his death? Doesn't JSA know that albums are released and re-released at various times? Don't they check that? What do they check? Did JSA even know who Cliff Burton was and that he was dead? Did JSA know that Cliff Burton had, indeed, been dead for a LONG time?

How could JSA not have checked the release date to know the album was released 22 years after Cliff Burton died? The information was printed on the album, so JSA wouldn't have had to go through too many steps to figure out why the Cliff Burton signature was **dead wrong**.

Aren't the folks at JSA the ones who use the slogan "Follow the Leader"? With results like this, why would anyone want to follow JSA anywhere?



MASTER OF PUPPETS

I

- 1. BATTERY 5:19
- 2. MASTER OF PUPPETS 8:38
- 3. THE THING THAT SHOULD NOT BE 8:32
- 4. WELCOME HOME (SANITARIUM) 0:28

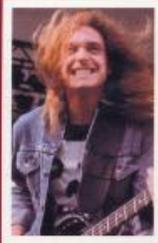
II

- 1. DISPOSABLE HEROES 8:14
- 2. LEPER MESSIAH 5:38
- 3. ORION (INSTRUMENTAL) 8:12
- 4. DAMAGE, INC. 5:48



CLIFF BURTON LARS ULRICH KIRK HAMMETT JAMES HETFIELD

PRODUCED BY METALLICA AND FLEMMING RASMUSSEN
MIXED BY MICHAEL WAGENER



metallica.com
warnerbrosrecords.com

Original release © & ℗ 1990 Elektra/Aylum Records, Remaster © & ℗ 2008 EMI Ventanas,
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Letter of Authenticity

Submission Number: 28233
Date: Monday, June 22, 2009
Subject: **Cliff Burton**
Field: Music
Description: Signed Album
Manufacturer: Not Visible
Type: Metallica
Size: 12" X 12"V
Model: Master of Puppets
Number Of Signatures: 1
Location: Front
Writing Implement: Fiber-tip Marker
Color: Black



Certification Number: **B74684**

This document shall serve as a letter of authenticity for the aforementioned item, which James Spence Authentication, LLC has thoroughly examined.

The signature(s) is/are consistent considering a wide range of specific qualities including slant, flow, pen pressure, letter size and formation, and other characteristics typical of our extensive database of known exemplars we have examined throughout our hobby and professional careers.

It is our considered opinion that the signature item is genuine. Your item has been assigned a unique certification number, which is uploaded into our restricted database and can be confirmed on our website www.SpenceLOA.com at any time. This letter must appear on our proprietary water-marked paper and bear the live signatures of both James Spence and a notary public.

We appreciate your consideration of entrusting James Spence Authentication's judgment and look forward to examining additional collectibles for you in the near future.

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Notary Public



LINDA HELEEN CORDASCO
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
Commission Expires 11/1/2013

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JSA also passed this Metallica album, the *Master of Puppets* album. See the stylish signature? See the notary stamp and the hologram? Ah, yes, JSA "the leader".

As we have stated, this album, like the other Metallica album, is a re-release. The photo below is a detailed shot of the back of the album. It was released in 2008.

Original release © & ® 1986 Elektra/Asylum Records. Remaster © & ® 2008 E/M Ventures.

What exactly does “James Spence Authentication, LLC has thoroughly examined” the item refer to? What did they do? How did the signature on the album “signed” by a man 22 years after his death rate as “consistent considering a wide range of specific qualities including slant, flow, pen pressure, letter size and formation, and other characteristics typical of our extensive database of known exemplars we have examined throughout our hobby and professional careers? ***Were the Cliff Burton exemplars in the “extensive” JSA database also post mortem?***

How can this be? Once again, how can a dead man sign an album? Why do we have to keep asking this question?

How could JSA not have checked the release date to know the album was released **22 years after Cliff Burton died?** Wasn't it printed on the album, so JSA wouldn't have even had to look it up?

Isn't JSA “the leader”?

In the Hooper case testimony, James Spence further stated “...I go after the movement, the flow of an autograph, the speed. What has really happened over the years, and it is somewhat hard to describe this, but your eyes, after so much exposure to this, become calibrated, I don't know whether it is a skill I have acquired over the years or it is just something that fortunately I have a gift for.

But, in any event, that is what I'm, looking for in an autograph, first, to see if it moves properly. I don't get hung up right away on the letter formation. That comes second. I am looking to see from start to finish if this is the typical speed in which a person signs his autograph.

There is a certain rhythm. If you turn the radio off at your house and sign your name twenty times on a blank sheet of paper, you will hear a rhythm in your autograph and that is something that I can actually feel when looking at an autograph. I can see that, and I can ***feel*** if the person actually did that.”

Really? He can feel it? Did he *feel this rhythm* when he issued two certificates on albums that could not possibly have been signed by Cliff Burton? Ah, yes, he has that “gift” he describes of being able to use his “calibrated” eyes. That's the secret. It's the same “gift” that enabled him to certify two albums that can literally only be 100% forged.

There seems to be a scary pattern developing here. Roger Epperson certifies albums signed by dead men. Roger Epperson does work for JSA. JSA certifies albums signed by dead men. Maybe that's why they work together. They both like dead men autographs. ***They both think post mortem autographs are certifiable.***

In fact, the JSA representative said to his colleague “*Roger Epperson passed these. We don’t even have to look at them.*”

What? They don’t even have to look at them? Now we know what the phrase “the blind leading the blind” refers to.

Could we really sell these dead man albums at any auction house in the world because they are accompanied by JSA certificates?

Unfortunately, that may be the case. How many competitors’ pieces have been turned down because of JSA’s or Roger Epperson’s findings? How many of these pieces were better than the dead man albums? Wouldn’t most pieces almost automatically have to be better than the dead man albums?

How many good pieces have been turned down because of JSA’s and Roger Epperson’s findings? How many forgeries – certified with the same expertise as the dead men albums - have been sold because of JSA’s and Roger Epperson’s findings?

How many pieces like the dead men albums have been sold to the public?

How many collectors have been ripped off because of JSA’s and Roger Epperson’s findings? They both charged for their reports on the dead men albums, despite the fact that their findings were ***dead wrong***.

How many collectors have no outlet to the auction houses because they have no ties to JSA or Roger Epperson?

Why do the auction houses tolerate this? Shouldn’t they be held accountable for their reliance on individuals such as Roger Epperson and JSA and their authentication services??