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Signature and Dating of Richard Black Cues

There seems to be a good bit of information, misinformation and interest in the sequence of how and why I sign my cues. I hope this will set the record straight and answer any and all questions.

I began signing my cues in late 1979. Until that time I did not personally feel that they deserved a signature because I was continually changing how I made them based on the trial and error I experienced as a new and developing cuemaker. I had signed and dated a very few cues prior to that when a customer wanted (and paid for) his cue to be personalized. My method was with a very expensive art pencil and was inspired by the late Herman Rambow. I practiced his style of calligraphy for many weeks to achieve the ability to perform that feature to my satisfaction.

When I started adding my signature to each cue I made I included the date I finished the cue unless I was aware that the purchaser was probably going to resell the cue then I would not date it. If it was a poolroom or a dealer, I felt they did not want a potential customer to know how long they had been holding it.

I continued this practice for approximately 35 years until my hand would not cooperate and my signature looked so squably that I was embarrassed to have it on my cues. Then I started engraving my RB logo on either the joint or the butt plate. I anticipate doing this as long as I continue to make cues. The one exception is when a customer is so adamant that the cue be signed, and then I will find a way to provide my signature.

In cases where an owner has hired someone else to refinish the cue and my signature has been lost – I will not provide a letter of authenticity. My signature is my authentication. If someone has bought one of my cues without my signature then the only way to get it is to have me refinish and rewrap the cue (at my full charge) or to have me engrave my logo (also at full engraving cost). Cues made by me, prior to late 1979, that do not have a logo or signature can be engraved for authentication.