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Weissach, March 29, 1995

Ref.: Your Telefax from March 23, 1995 "The original of 914"

Dear Alexander,

It was nice to hear again your voice from sunny California, while we still have snow storms here in Germany.

I took your Telefax to our press department in Zuffenhausen and made a real research.

We found the book, where the Pinin Farina-body was explained, but P. Farina had nothing to do with the design of the 914. There were no contacts between Porsche and him in the design-period.

Also the Gugelot Design (with BMW drive line) had nothing to do with the real design of the 914. The Porsche chief designer was Wolfgang Eyb and the man who was responsible for the road tests was Dr. Reiner Engels, and he was my boss!

The beginning of the idea "914" was a conversation between Heinrich Nordhoff of Volkswagen and Ferry Porsche. VW wanted a sports car with VW driveline and Porsche thought by using the 2000 ccm sixcylinder Porsche engine to offer a "cheap" Porsche. I agree that both companies started 1964 ... 1966 with the development and the contracts of this mid engine sports car. The design was completely done in the Porsche Studio in Zuffenhausen, where also all drawings for body, suspension etc. got made. I myself was responsible for clutch, transmission (also Sportomatic) and drive shafts. We drove the two models, four and six cylinders many thousand kilometers on highways, on mountain roads and on the high speed test field Ehra-Lessien of VW near Wolfsburg.

Also here in Weissach was at that time the Porsche test track ready and I myself drove on bad condition roads days and nights the 914.

I remember a day when we arrived in Austria with one 914 with "camouflage" at a toll road (Großglockner mountain road) when one of the employees there believed that the car was a Mercedes, so he told me: "Go on we take this car also on the bill of the Mercedes team!"

The Mercedes people were also testing cars on that road in Austria. So we were proud that our camouflage was perfect. If you have further questions, please feel free to ask me!

With my best regards I remain

Yours
Jörg Austen