

Standardising luthier's terminology, reply to Comm 2082

I am enthused about Peter Forrester's idea of standardised terminology for stringed-instrument components¹. The luthier's profession, if that crowd of misfits may be thus described, has far too long languished in the realms of a slovenly verbal imprecision that makes East End costermonger's parlance sound like the utterances of mathematicians, poets and angels. Stringed-instrument makers and their cohorts seem to spout obscene, obscure and trivial terminology and verbiage at a whim, eschewing the time-honoured accuracy used for example in medicine and anatomy; familiar to every well-educated person in the land. A standardised nomenclature would precisely define and describe parts of any stringed-instrument and their specific functions, such that even a tousled-haired youngster could immediately understand.

Who would devise and enforce the nomenclature? Well, obviously a special committee with learned members drawn from the real professions, as opposed to the mere jobbing tradesmen of instrument manufactory. **The Institution of People Who Know What They Are Talking About** ©² sounds like the kind of thing we need. Vigilant scrutiny of spoken and printed terminology would be their remit. Severe sanction and punishments would be within their office and woe betide any transgressors. Such punishments could include being 'hung out to dry', 'cut off at the knees' or awarded the 'short end of a (particularly unsanitary) stick'.

While we are at it, why not standardise the other unsavoury habits of these 'luthiers' and limit their copious alcohol intake to levels defined by a House of Lords committee³. Diet, attire and facial hair should also be standardised and moderated within civilised parameters, rather than allowing the paunchy, rag-bagged and straggle-beard-coiffed dishevelment that is all too often shamelessly exhibited before the public gaze.

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1 FoMHRI Quarterly Bulletin 140, 2018. p15

2 IOPWKWTATA©--just founded by this author. Current Chairman: Lord Hasti Downright, DEA.

3 Other august and sober committees are available