

“PIPE FLUSHES”

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- the on-line chatletter for uilleann pipers - a big thanks to all this month's contributors!

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The word "uilleann" is merely a ferocious misspelling of "Walloon", telling ME at least that the pipes originated in what are euphemistically termed the Low Countries. Look at some of those paintings by Breughel and his pals - what are those musicians playing, C#-D accordions? [Anybody rash enough to challenge this theory had better have loads 'n' loads of good hard evidence ready!] - **Doug Trinkle, Sydney, Australia**

Shakespeare - who was really Lord Edward de Vere, but more about that later - didn't like Irish people, knew nothing about the pipes and couldn't even spell "Lir", much less "Cailin O Cois t-Suir Me", correctly. Duh! - **M. Moloney, Philadelphia PA**

Speaking of Shakespeare - or Lord Edward de Vere - modern has established the reading of "woollen" pipes to be a defective one. The adjective should really read "owlen", which [a] means "having the properties of an owl", or [b] is a dialect Stratford word for "howling in great pain", which Heaven knows seems - and I'm no expert - to be a massive case of linguistic "bingo!" - **Tony Morkley-Brilch, London**

Oskar Lokninghjalm of Oslo, reputed in his day to be the world's most tone-deaf piper, invented late in life a machine that he claimed would bring any type of pipes into perfect tune within minutes. He died in abject poverty in Minnesota in 1965; his exact burial place has been kept a secret. - **Eric Arildsen, Bergen, Norway**

Zbigniew Krzystewski ["call me Chris"] of Lodz, Poland, invented and patented a set of plutonium reeds that he claimed would last forever and never go out of tune. Apparently the raw material for his first and only set came from the vicinity of Chernobyl. Chris retired from piping after his fingers fell off at a concert in Warsaw a couple of years ago [he was playing "Colonel Frazer" at the time]. His present whereabouts are unknown. - **Kirk Weston, Lynch, MO**

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There had been rumors that comedian Rodney Dangerfield - who may or may not be Lord Edward De Vere, but more on that later - was booked to appear at the Pipers' North American Tionol in 2000, but his agent denies this, claiming that Dangerfield will in fact be appearing at the Camden, New Jersey, Piano Accordion Festival the same day. According to the agent, "He's really psyched about it." - **Millicent Fenster, Dumont, NJ**

Don't tell my wife, but the voice of Cindi, the midnight-to-eight "hostess" at 1-900-ROWSOME, is enough to make my hemp curl! She can fondle my popping strap anytime!

- **B. Clinton, Chappaqua NY**

Pipemaker looking for wood from the Bolivian chumchaquilla bush, which produces the greatest reeds known to mankind. Yes, I know it's an endangered species, but who cares? I'll travel to Bolivia and smuggle it out in my digestive tract if I have to. Money no object. Email all details including exorbitant price to reedguy@pipeflush.com.

For sale:

Taylor set, unplayed for 80 years, sterling silver, perfect condition except for the colony of bad-tempered wasps living in the bellows. They don't seem to mind jigs and hornpipes, but reels drive them crazy. Price \$500 not including insurance or pest-control services. Email stingswollen@localhospital.net.

In next month's issue:

Northumbrian Pipes - Does Primatene Mist Really Improve Their Sound?

Piping and PMS - One Woman's Perspective

How to Know When Your Child Starts Using Crans

