

Editor, Nature
4 Little Essex Street
London, WC2R 3LF

April 9, 1987

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed three copies of the manuscript entitled "On the wood and varnish of old Italian string instruments" by Joseph Nagyvary, James M. Ehrman and James R. Scott, which we would like to publish as a letter in Nature. We feel this letter should meet the requirement for broad audience appeal since the presentation of our results was also solicited by the TV series NOVA and a grade school science textbook, both scheduled for 1988.

As reviewers we would prefer to have persons with material science background. We trust they would have a good cultural education to realise that we are dealing with micrograms of precious samples and not with large quantities of timber and paint.

Some of the references pertaining to violin making are not readily accessible. We have enclosed a Xerox copy of the crucial paper by Fryxell, our ref.4, and we would be glad to furnish other Xerox copies on request. Because of the obvious commercial significance of our data, we would prefer if violin acousticians and makers would not gain access to the whole manuscript. If you wish to verify certain statements or portions of the manuscript dealing with the conventional violin model, the best experts in England would be Dr. M.E. McIntyre and Dr. J. Woodhouse, Dept. Applied Mathematics, Silver Street, Cambridge, CB3 9EW.

In addition to the photographs in the manuscript, we have also enclosed a color picture of the varnish revealing the powder of crystalline gemstones, which would give a memorable magazine cover.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Nagyvary, PhD
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