

SOCIETY
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
FOLK
DANCING



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PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 1949.

INNS OF COURT MISSION, BROAD COURT, DRURY LANE, W.C.2.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th. 6.30 p.m. DANCE BERT PRICE.
 " " 13th. " " " MOURIE PFEFFER
 " " 20th. " " " DAVID RASBASH AND GLADYS NOBLE.

CECIL SHARP HOUSE, REGENTS PARK ROAD, CAMDEN TOWN.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27th. 6.30 p.m. DANCE CHARLES FAWKES, HENRY SCHUSTER AND BAND.

CARLYLE SCHOOL, HORTENSIA ROAD, S.W 3.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2nd. 7.15 p.m. CLASS AND DANCE MARY BUTTERWORTH AND MARIAN HILL
 " " 9th. " " " " " " " GLADYS NOBLE.
 " " 16th. " " " " " " " BERT PRICE.
 " " 23rd. " " " " " " " MOURIE PFEFFER.
 " " 30th. " " " " " " " BERT PRICE.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4th. NO CLASS.

" " 11th. ADVANCED CLASS.
 " " 18th. " " " PHILIP THORNTON
 " " 25th. " " " AND POSSIBLY
 " " " EUGENE JABLONSKI.

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News Sheet No. 22. (November 1949)

Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. was held on October 26th. and the new Committee as announced there is: Chairman, Charles Fawkes; Treasurer, Bert Price; Secretary Marie Le Fort; Committee Members, Mary Butterworth, Gladys Noble, Henry Schuster, Alun Thomas, Philip Thornton and Irene Weller.

An old friend.

We are very pleased indeed to have Eugene Jablonski with us again. For those of you who were not here in 1948 we should like to say that Eugene taught us the dances Hopak, Czardas, Kujawiak and Kokotek, and gave us a large number of valuable gramophone records which form the substantial nucleus of our present collection. He will, we hope, be able to teach us some more at the advanced classes in the near future.

Venice, September 1949.

We are indebted to David Rasbash for the following account.

"Congress and festival of the International Folk Music Council."

Venice, that prince of cities, was host this year to the Festival and Congress Folk Music and Dancing held by the International Folk Music Council. From September 7 - 12 the crowds in the narrow alleyways and historic squares were swollen by visitors from many parts of the world, and folk dance artists from as far away as Indonesia and Texas, attired in their beautiful national costumes, threaded their way with difficulty through the admiring crowds.

In the mornings the Congress was held. This was devoted in the main to lectures and discussions on the history, science and art of folk dancing and music. In the afternoons or evenings there were folk dance displays either in a large theatre, or informally in the squares. On the last two evenings, the San Marco square - reputed to be the most beautiful in the world - was floodlit, and all the dancers and singers paraded and performed on a raised dais in the centre of the square.

The standard of performance was in every case so high that it is difficult to pick out one country for special comment. A word should be said, however, for the sheer dancing ability of the Swedes and the French Basques; for the gaiety of the group from the Côte Vendée; the agility of the Israelis; the inexorable rhythm of the Spanish group; the wild, almost savage, ferocity of some of the Turkish dances, and the graceful expressiveness of the Indonesians. The dances of the Dutch were simple compared with some, but they impressed me with their happy, carefree performance and the jolly noise they could make with their clogs. Great Britain was well represented by Morris, Scottish Country and Northern Ireland teams.

A small point of criticism; the conditions of the public performances was suited to spectacle. It seemed to my admittedly inexperienced judgement that some teams were willing to sacrifice authenticity for spectacle, and that one or two teams spoiled their performances by an over-indulgence in showmanship.

All in all, however, it was an unusual week packed with interest."

David Rasbash.

Wednesday Classes.

This month Mary Butterworth is going to teach the dances which were listed in last month's News Sheet, but not taught last month.

Christmas Cards.

Christmas cards, some hand painted, are now available from Bert Price, at 6d. each.

Jack.