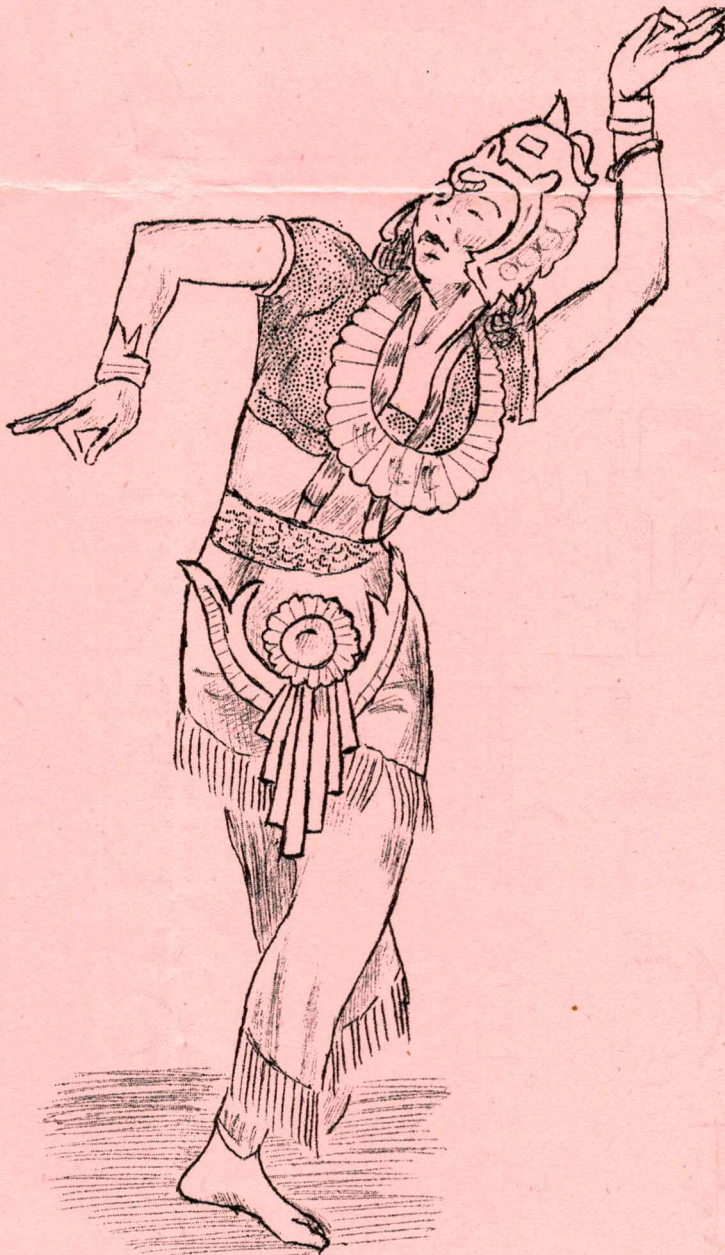


SOCIETY for
INTERNATIONAL
FOLK
DANCING

SEPT 51



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.
NEWS SHEET.

SEPTEMBER,
1951.

PROGRAMME.

CLASSES AT CARLYLE SCHOOL, HORTENSIA RD. CHELSEA, 7.15.p.m.

WEDNESDAY. 12th. ESTONIAN.
" 19th. GENERAL.
" 26th. POLISH.
FRIDAY. 14th. GENERAL REHEARSAL - ALBERT HALL.
" 21st. " " " " "
" 28th. VAVA VADMAL. " " "

DANCES AT INNS OF COURT MISSION, DRURY LANE, W.C. 6.30.p.m.

SUNDAY. 2nd. M.C. Jim Titheradge, Music. Jim Titheradge.
" 9th. " Ivor Sober. " " "
" 16th. " David Rashbash. " " "
" 23rd. " Jim Titheradge. " " "

CECIL SHARP HOUSE, 2, REGENTS PARK ROAD?, N.W. 6.30.p.m. - 9.30.p.m.

SUNDAY. 30th. M.C. Charles Fawkes, Music, Henry Schuster.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCING GROUP, TRUMPINGTON RD. SCHOOL, LEYTON, E. 7.30.p.m.

WEDNESDAY. 5th. GENERAL.
" 12th. Jim Harding,
" 19th. GENERAL.
" 26th. Ivor Sober & Irene Weller.

In September we will be having a visit from an American well known Folk Dance Leader, namely, Miss Madelynn Greene, this lady is not only known for her dancing but has a very great knowledge of Folk Lore. As soon as I have the definite date of her arrival, it will be made known, and I hope you will all do your best to meet and make her stay welcome.

--- Marie Le Fort.

ALBERT HALL.

Notice has been sent to the Members required for Demonstration and chorus at the Albert Hall Festival. It may well be that other Members, not as yet asked, will be able to participate in the chorus. Will any Member therefore who has not been approached and who is available for rehearsals especially those on October 2nd and 20th at the Albany Street, Drill Hall, please contact the Committee immediately.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are NOW DUE and should be paid promptly. Subscriptions should be sent or handed to the Treasurer;- Mr. B.Price, 70, Meadowcourt, S.E.3. cheques or Postal Orders to be made payable to Society for International Folk Dancing. Please advise any change of address.

A gummed receipt will be sent for sticking inside your Membership Card. If any Member has lost their card, a new one must be obtained (price 1s.0d.) from Bert Price.

Membership Cards will have to be produced at dances, particularly at Cecil Sharp House and Sunday Dances, so please do remember to always have your card with you.

Please note that only paid up Members may vote on any business of the Society.

--- Bert Price.

All Members are cordially invited to a Polish Dance at the St. Martins School of Art on Saturday Sept; 29th. Dancing from 7.30.p.m. until 11.30.p.m. Tickets are 2s.6d. each and may be obtained from Bert or Charles.

This evening should be as enjoyable as the Swedish evening which we organised in May, and Members are requested to attend if possible as it will, be an excellent opportunity to acquire the Polish style for Mazur, Krakowiak, Oberok, etc;

There will be a number of Ball-room dances in the programme and also some of our dances.

COSTUMES.

A couple of months ago I wrote a few suggestions in the News Sheet concerning girl's costumes. Now I feel it is only fair to write a similar article for the men.

Breeches seem to be the biggest headache, but need not be so. In an emergency, an ordinary pair of trousers may be used. Cut off the leg about 4½ins. below the knee, slit up the side about 5ins. gather or pleat the bottom into a band made from the cut-off piece and fasten either with coloured woollen braid or with silver or brass buttons. The breeches may then be dyed to an appropriate colour. Alternatively, why not visit an Ex-Government Surplus Stores?? There you may buy sailor's trousers which have the front flap already made and nice full legs. Treat these legs in the same manner as suggested above.

If you want to start from scratch and make a really pukka costume, choose your nationality first. You will then know what colour and type of material you should buy. Unless you are very large, 1½yds of 54ins. material should be sufficient. Almost all the knee-breeches have a front flap opening, lots of silver buttons and often embroidery. I hope to have some paper patterns for these breeches, so contact me if you wish. Long socks should be worn and except in the case of Sweden, they are usually white. Always with these breeches you must wear walkly shoes. The material for the above described breeches is a fairly heavy wool, velveteen or a fantastic suggestion these days, of leather. If you feel that you will be much too hot dressed like this, you could buy a striped cotton or linen material, then the legs should be cut wider and are full length, held round the ankle by a draw-string, but for these you will have to buy yourself a pair of long leather boots.

Tyrolean shorts must be made of leather, not cotton or woollen material, and are certainly cooler, but remember, you need to be an extremely good dancer to look well on a dance floor clad in shorts. Some of the Basque countries, the Latvians and the Jugoslavs wear long white trousers wimilar from a distance to our own cricket flannels, but here a word of caution is needed. The Basque trousers flair out below the knees, the Latvian trews are made of handwoven linen with intricate patterns made by weaving bleached and unbleached threads and the trousers of the Jugoslavs are very, very full all the way down, and often trimmed with heavy lace. So remember, that cricket flannels also have an 'emergency' label attached to them.

Your shirt should have very full sleeves, and unless it is Russian, it should be white, usually with a collar. If you have not decided upon a specific costume, you will be wise to leave it plain. Embroidery is one of the most distinctive characteristics of a Folk Costume, in colour, design and stitch, so tread carefully. Most countries have waistcoats or jackets with or without sleeves, but these are not really an essential for general folk dancing. Hats.. well I won't waste anybody's time, you would not wear one anyway...

Irene Weller.

The following contribution was sent in by one of the Members after a holiday abroad:-

"During my recent visit to Sorrento I was able to attend two demonstrations by the local folk-dance team who dances each evening at 9.00.p.m. in the Circolo dei Forestieri (Foreigner's Club) entrance 500 lire, about 3s.0d.

They dance several versions of the Neopolitan Tarantella, none of which is very like our own. They dance in couples in a circle. The men carry a tamborine in his right and castanets in the left, and the girl holds a gaily coloured scarf by its ends, one in each hand.

The dancers run onto the floor to the music of the introduction, and the first figure is as follows; partners face (men outside, girls inside) and do some little running steps leaning towards each other and shaking tambourines and castanets. Then they run to their left to the next partner and do the same, returning to their own partner for the repeat. (This has a superficial resemblance to the first part of La Russe). In other figures one partner kneels while the other does a semicircle and back, and in another they face and do four hops on each foot swinging the other foot forward and backwards. There is another resembling the second part of the Estonian Spinning Wheel except that hands are swung with the body, and another is a chase as in the Bavarian Landler but using running steps. I did not see any polka steps used at all. The figure most resembling our own version is the last figure which is like the first part of our first figure; namely, the two turns with waist grasp and free hand in air; but this was accomplished with eight hops on the same foot (inner feet) with the other foot held forward. The dance always ends with the dancers posing amorously.

Several of the team are also quite good singers and entertain with such old favourites as Finiculi Funicula. One girl, who is incidently a very good mezzo-soprano, made straight for me on both my visits and proceeded to serenade me much to the amusement of the others who were with me. The Italians were enjoying it immensely - but alas, it was lost on me as the song was in the Neopolitan dialect which is very difficult we understand. However, I did gather it was a passionate lovesong.??

Another feature of their programme is a traditional game with singing in which the audience are invited to participate. You sit with your hands apart while one of the team kneels and bobs his head up and down and you have to try to catch his head between your hands. I tried hard but failed and I did not see anyone manage to do it.

Their orchestra is the usual; accordian, guitar and piano, plus a strange instrument carried by one of the team called a 'Putipu'. This looks like a concertina into which is fixed a stick. The man pushes the stick vigorously up and down and out comes a peculiar deep low grunting noise.

If any of our members are going to Sorrento (45 hours train journey) and would like further details I will be pleased to help, and if necessary I will provide letters of introduction in Italian to the director of the team. "

--- Ronald Stevenson.

THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN FIXED FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10th 1951. AT CHELSEA - AGENDA, REPORTS AND VOTING PAPERS WILL BE SENT OUT UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

Hon. Treas; Mr. B.Price,
30, Meadowcourt,
S.E.3.

--- Hon. Sec. Marie J. Le Fort,
3, Selwyn Road,
Upton Manor, E.13.