

March, 1956.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

Members are reminded of the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, March 8th. The business of the meeting is two-fold: first the draft constitution, without which the Society can hardly function as a limited company, must be completed and adopted; second, the Committee are asking for the support of the membership for an Albert Hall show in December of this year. If the Society means just a little more to you than a place to dance and meet the opposite sex then please make every effort to attend.

SEE HOW THEY DANCE 1956?

The Committee at its last meeting approved in principle the idea of an Albert Hall show this year. The most suitable date available is Saturday, December 1st, next, and the Hall has been pencilled in for that date. The further decision was taken to stage a matinee performance in addition to the usual evening show. Bert Price, Larry Howell and John Fraser together with Margery Latham were appointed as the operating sub-committee. It is hoped that this sub-committee will be able to give some idea of their plans to the G.M. on March 8th (see above). But until they are assured of the support of the members, and get a chance to hear the views of the members, their planning is rather academic.

"BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES" - WILL BE BACK.

After a break of several months, the writer of this series of articles on the development of the dance hopes to resume the series in the April issue. After a recapitulation of the first fifteen in the series, this next article will deal with the very complicated Pre-Minnesinger and Minnesinger periods in European folk culture.

THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE.

In response to several requests, possibly from folk who have lost their copies of previous News Sheets, the recommendations of the Advisory Panel concerning the Teaching Certificate will again be summarised and, together with the syllabus of dances, will appear in the next issue.

SCOTTISH CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY.

At a special meeting of the Committee recently, convened to draft the Summer Programme, it was decided to devote two Wednesdays fairly early in the session to Scottish dances. The teacher will of course be our Secretary, Marie Le Fort. The Committee felt that this side of our repertoire needed building up somewhat and that, since some very popular Scottish dances already in our repertoire at dances are done so badly and in such an ill-formed fashion, a couple of classes would be welcome.

SPANISH CLASSES.

Classes will be held in Spanish Dancing in Chelsea (near Carlyle School) at 4.00 p.m. on the following Sundays:-

March 4th.	April 8th.
March 11th.	April 22nd.
March 25th.	May 6th.

Members of the S.I.F.D. are invited to come along to these classes and, if interested, should contact Margaret Harris, 18 Coleherne Road, S.W.10.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,

May I through the monthly journal of the S.I.F.D. reply to the letter, "Bare Facts", in February's News Sheet, which was of course a reply to an earlier one by myself.

I should like to remind the writer, Ronald C. Coultrup (Major Retd.), that sarcasm, as his obviously was, is a low form of wit, and is entirely uncalled for, in addition to being completely contradictory in itself.

Perhaps the writer and the Editor would like to bear in mind that the Society is attempting to be put on a responsible footing bringing with it increased prestige through becoming an Incorporated Company; but the writing and publication of such sarcasm is a completely irresponsible action, if not indeed bordering on libel or some other legal definition.

Some months ago, the Editor mentioned that some letters received about the unfriendliness in the Society were too bitter to be published and I would suggest that as space can be found for "sarcasm", that space be found for these "bitter" letters then perhaps the Committee and Society members will know the cause of alleged unfriendliness, which surely is one of the first steps in increasing the membership through friendliness and spreading the news of this around. Then and only then, shall the Society become really popular like the other great national group, the E.F.D.S., but first and foremost let all act in a responsible manner.

On the alleged unfriendliness, I have seen many instances at both Drury Lane and Cecil Sharp House, and only last Cecil Sharp House dance when late in arriving (through attending a special church service) I met some people on their way out who were bitter through not being asked for a single dance up to 9.35 p.m. This is no isolated case and, if I may be so bold as to suggest to the experts that they attempt to dance occasionally with the less expert, or newcomers, instead of rushing for another expert, then perhaps some unfriendliness may be cut out. Though I am not by any means an expert, I do try to take up newcomers but on occasions, when asking an expert, have been turned down with the explanation, "Oh this is too difficult: you ought to learn at classes!" But it is not everyone who can go to classes for a larger variety of reasons.

The instance of changing quoted by myself in the January journal is another case of unfriendliness by the experts who, when changing for actual demonstrations, often know what to expect and know each other, but the Sunday dances cater for or should cater for all tastes, and there is no earthly reason why they should act in the company of newcomers and strangers in the same way as amongst an intimate circle of a Demonstration team. The instance I quoted then caused someone not to return to the Society, and the following Sunday, after the complaint, when entering with a keen prospective member, a lady, one of the experts, in the act of changing, boldly continued to change, not trousers,

but underpants, and made no attempt at an apology or to desist while the lady was present. There may be an understandable reason when it is necessary to change into national costume, but certainly not otherwise. Again, on that occasion, the newcomer did not return.

It is perfectly true that one only gets out of an organisation what one puts into it and I feel sure that the desire of all in the Society is to get enjoyment, friendliness and popularity but, to get these things, everyone, membership and Committee alike, must put these things into it by acting in a responsible manner, by acting not as they would on the wide open spaces of Brighton Beach, but, as they would at a bathing pool where admission is charged, like at the Sunday classes.

The type of people (including members of the clergy known to myself) who encourage, participate in and approve of Folk Dancing whether weekdays or Sundays would (and in many cases do) be the first to condemn irresponsibility among those who support Palais type dancing; therefore, why would we condone this irresponsibility in our own ranks? The answer is in our own hands. Let's act as a responsible organisation before the Lord's Day Observance Society act to compel us to act responsibly.

A really classic example of irresponsibility is the lack of interest shown by members in failure to attend special meetings called for the good of the Society instead it would seem that enjoyment is preferred without the trouble to put anything in, and perhaps the question of responsibility and unfriendliness could be placed on the next agenda,

Yours faithfully,

James McIntosh.

London, N.12.

(Correspondent McIntosh is, of course, fully entitled to his views on the dressing room situation at Drury Lane, and we respect his right to state such views with all force. By the same token, we are bound to respect other viewpoints differing from those held by Mr. McIntosh, and accord them equal publication facilities. This we have done: both Mr. McIntosh's original letter (and the one above) and the reply from Mr. Coultrup were printed in full and, if we may be permitted a gentle reminder to the prolix, at length. We sincerely regret that Mr. McIntosh finds this inevitably Janusian policy "irresponsible". With regard to the tenor of Mr. Coultrup's letter, we feel that he is the best person to deal with this aspect. We are, however, reminded of the alarmed, if apochryphal remark of Adam, when his Creator took him up on his request for feminine companionship, "Aw, gee, Lord, can't you take a rib?" ED.)

PERSONAL NOTES.

Condolences to Erik Owden who has had to go into dock to have a cartilage removed - this is just another case of "Pryshet-ka! knee - Russian and Ukrainian enthusiasts take note! We wish Erik a speedy return to his normal round of activity.

Congratulations to BERNARD CHALK, whom patrons of Cecil Sharp House will remember, is one of our most active and most junior members, for getting his name emblazoned in the local press up Finchley way. Bernard and his American Square dance band, "The Ranchers", successfully auditioned for the B.B.C. programme, "The Younger Generation".

DEMONSTRATION NOTES. FEBRUARY, 1956.

On Saturday, 21st January, a team went to an Old Peoples' Club run by the Toc H at Emmanuel Church Hall, Camberwell. Simon Guest took over this demonstration for me. It was a full evening's programme with a little teaching of simple dances, in which the old people joined with enthusiasm. The one thing on which all the team commented was the size of the communal dressing room, which was 4 ft. x 8 ft. Quite a record, I should think for eight people to get into costume in so small a space. The warmth of the reception made up for any discomfort.

We have been kept very busy this month by the Central Council for Physical Recreation. Our friends in this organisation have been doing some pioneer work in Sussex, showing Youth Clubs and school leavers different forms of physical recreation. They invited us to show our dances and to share the programme with The Chanctonbury Morris Dancers (E.F.D.S.S.), The Medau Society (Rythmic Movement) and a team from The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. We had four evenings to cover and visited Worthing, Crawley, Brighton and Reigate. Owing to the fact that we had to leave Victoria between 5.30 and 6 p.m. to get to these places on time, it was impossible to get a full team and Mourrie was only able to get time off for one of them. We were lucky because Jim Titheridge was on holiday in London and very nobly consented to play for us. On each occasion, we showed the dances covered by our records in the hope that, if new groups are to be started in these areas, our records sales will go up! Charles Steverton took charge of the Crawley and Reigate evenings and reports that the dancing was well received. The Crawley audience was a bit thin, owing to the very bad weather, (Luckily, the seats had all been sold in advance), but Reigate was very good indeed. We found that the audience in the Assembly Hall, in the presence of the Mayor, was less responsive than the Brighton one in a school hall, where the people were closer and more a part of the performance.

A brief note about the S.I.F.D. was included in the programme notes and I left copies of our three monthly programme for distribution as the audience left. I want to thank Jim for so very kindly coming to our rescue, and especially his wife, Peggy, who patiently trailed with us each time, and held wraps and handbags, etc., not the most exciting way of spending a holiday - we didn't even see the sea. My thanks also to Steve who put in a lot of extra work picking people up in different places by car, and getting them home again, and all in some pretty bad weather, and to all the dancers who caught trains on time even though it was a great rush and meant going without a meal. I hope it will all prove to have been very well worth while.

Margery Latham.

Future Demonstrations.

E.F.D.S.S. Cecil Sharp House	on Friday, 17th February.
U.N.A., Malden Branch.	" Monday, 20th February.
Woodbury Down School, Manor House	" Thursday, 23rd February.
Argyle Estate, Wimbledon.	" Saturday, 24th February.
C.C.P.R., Eastbourne.	" Saturday, 3rd March.
Manningtree School, Essex.	" Thursday, 15th March (afternoon).
C.C.P.R., Croydon.	" Thursday, 22nd March.
" Wimbledon.	" Friday, 23rd March.
" East Grinstead.	" Saturday, 24th March.
" Tunbridge Wells.	" Friday, 27th April.

Margery Latham.

DEPARTMENT OF SWEET WORDS AND LONG SENTENCES.

We are happy to congratulate and offer best wishes to Barbara Bond and Peter Leigh, who married last month, and to Beryl Sellwood and Len Sawyer, who plan to marry in the summer.

AGAIN JEUNESSE!

The second French week-end, held at the close of February (Carlyle School and Cecil Sharp House) must be rated most successful. It was a great pleasure to welcome again our charming instructress, Jeannine Mourrain, accompanied this time by her sister Francoise and by a new friend, Pierre Giraudon. The Vendeen dances taught last year were revised and the main emphasis (on new dances, that is) was this year placed on "Bourrees". Here, Pierre was our instructor and a fine and thorough job he made of it. His insistence on the importance of getting the basis steps off pat may have surprised some dancers more accustomed to other methods, but this insistence really paid dividends. The dances taught during the week-end: Deux Deux Deux, La Poupette Or La Catin, and L'Angoise, all from the Vendee, and the following dances from the centre of France, La Bourree Dissoudun, La Bourree de San Cerre, La Bourree a Six and La Bourree Etoile or Riband Bleu. Our own scribes were busy noting music and instruction and in this they were much aided by the books, music and records, which our French friends brought with them and left with us. Interesting costume note: the sombre women's costume from the Vendee as worn by Jeannine and Francoise includes a bustle.

MARCH PROGRAMME.

CLASSES AND DANCES AT CARLYLE SCHOOL, Hortensia Road, Chelsea, S.W.10

Time: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Music: Mme. Barbara Duleba.

TUESDAYS	March 6	Israeli Class.	Chaim Morris.
	March 13	Balkan Class.	Phillip Thornton.
	March 20	Demonstration Club.	Margery Lathan.
	March 27	Balkan Class.	Phillip Thornton.
WEDNESDAYS	March 7	Silesian Class.	Kostek & Irene.
			M.C. Bob Symes.
	March 14	Social Dance.	M.C. Simon Guest.
	March 21	Estonian Class.	Aily Eistrat.
			M.C. May Hendrie.
FRIDAYS	March 2	French Class.	Bert Price.
	March 9	Spanish Class.	Steve & Margaret.
	March 16	Spanish Class.	Steve & Margaret.
	March 23	English Class.	Thora Jacques.

CLASSES IN SCOTTISH DANCING given by Marie Le Fort, Churchill Gardens Estate, Pimlico, S.W.1.

SUNDAYS, 3.30 - 5.30. p.m.

(please note: there will be no class on March 25 or April 1).

DANCES AT INNS OF COURT MISSION, Drury Lane, W.C.2.

Time: 6.30 - 9.30 p.m. Music: Mourie Pfeffer.

SUNDAYS	March 4	M.C. Mourie Pfeffer.
	March 11	M.C. Simon Guest.
	March 18	M.C. Roland Minton.

DANCES AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE, Regents Park Road, N.W.1.

Time: 6.30 - 9.30 p.m. Music: Wallace Collection.

SUNDAY	March 25	M.C. Ken Ward.
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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

- MEMORANDUM ON COSTUME HIRE -

A number of complaints have been received about the return of costumes out on hire to Society members: costumes are often returned weeks overdue and in a dirty condition. Accordingly, the Committee have decided to draw the attention of members to the Society's regulations governing the hire of Society costumes:-

- a) Costumes may be hired (if available) for one occasion within one week, at a charge of 2/6d and must be returned within that week.
- b) Costumes (i.e. shirts, socks, blouses) should be returned properly laundered.
- c) A fine of 6d per day overdue will be imposed on members not returning costumes on time.
- d) Members returning costumes unlaundered will be charged a further 2/6d.
- e) Application for costumes should be made on the form below:

APPLICATION FOR HIRE OF COSTUMES

I desire to hire (number) costumes (male)
(female) of (name of country) for the
seven days beginning and ending

I enclose £ s d. (2/6d per costume)

I agree to abide by the regulations for hiring costumes at present in force.

..... (Signature) (Date)