

NEWS SHEET

September and October. 1958

Journal of the Society for International Folk Dancing.

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News Letter Editor:- Mrs. Irene Fyffe, 16 Lock Chase, Blackheath,
S.E.3.
Chairman:- Bert Price Esq., 70 Meadowcourt, Blackheath, S.E.3.
Secretary:- Miss Marie Le Fort, 3 Selwyn Rd., Upton Manor, E.13.
Treasurer:- Richard Beckford Esq., 66 Drakesfield Road, Upper
Tooting, S.W.17.
Demonstration Secretary:- Mrs. Margery Latham, 381 St. John St.,
E.C.1.
Membership Applications to:- Ken Ward Esq., 4 Robertson St., S.W.8.

Deadline for News Sheet - the fourth day of each month.

EDITORIAL

Frequently members write or speak to me complaining that their News Sheet for the current month has not arrived - and never does arrive - until the last few days of each month. This, I know, can be infuriating, but in all fairness I must bring up a few points in connection with these complaints.

Firstly, the completed News Sheet and its despatch is technically nothing to do with me. I collect material for it, edit it, and then pass it on to the people who type, print, and distribute it.

Now a word about these people who do the News Sheet donkey work. They are not in the employ of the S.I.F.D. They are simply members, doing a full time job of work by day, and the News Sheet in their spare time at evenings and weekends. Theirs is a big job, even though I have cut contributions to the minimum, and all members are asked to exercise a little patience and understanding if the Press fails to get through. Better still, a little help would be greatly appreciated.

Despite these excellent reasons, however, it is still a ridiculous thing to receive a News Sheet wherein news has become stale history, and dates to note for the future have become dates of the past. How can the difficulty be overcome? Having given the problem some thought, I have a solution. A solution so simple that there must be a catch in it. I merely date this edition 'September and October' and thereafter we will automatically be ahead of each month.

A TRAVELLER IN THE BALKANS - 1958.

From Dubrovnik to Peč.

The aircraft touched down at Dubrovnik airport in brilliant sunshine some two hours after leaving Zagreb, and the 20 minute journey into the town itself was by bus along the beautiful coastal road. Of Dubrovnik I will say little because it has been mentioned so often in travel books; no description is adequate, it really is a pearl in the Adriatic. I stayed several days in an old house inside the city walls up many flights of steps, and in a street so narrow that it was possible to shake hands with your neighbours. No traffic is allowed inside the old town although an exception was made for Marshall Tito while I was there, and I saw him one day in an open car acknowledging the clapping of the people. The town was floodlit at night - and most beautifully too - and in the

Marshall's honour cannons were fired from the ramparts.

I left Dubrovnik at five one morning for Peć, the ancient centre of the district known as Kossovo Metoliya, a region greatly neglected in the past, and therefore primitive to a large degree. Many of the people are Albanians - Squipters - and their folklore and dancing is very famous in Jugoslavia. Unfortunately I saw none; my visit to Peć in any case was at a time of sorrow.

The road from Dubrovnik to Peć, some 360 kilometres, is extremely mountainous. The bus seems seldom to stop twisting and turning, and one pass is over 5-6000 feet and closed during the winter. The route is first of all round the Bay of Kotor, in the centre of which are two small islands, each with a church - one Catholic and one Orthodox. From Kotor, the main town, the road climbs up to Mt. Lovćen. Looking down one realizes already what a remarkable feat of engineering the road is. Several times we were halted by roadworks; tarmac, a very rare sight, was being laid, but the supply lorries would insist on putting it down in the centre, so that only abuse by the driver and the occupants of the bus would make the men shut it quickly. The road surface is bad and this, plus the sudden jerks when another vehicle comes suddenly to avoid the corner nearly knocking you over the side of the mountain, was reason enough for the paper bags to be in great demand.

All along the route people who knew the driver gave him gifts of fruit and vegetables, and on one occasion we met a beer lorry and the bus was steered single handed while the beer was consumed.

Near Cetinje we were stopped by another bus, the driver of which gave some news which dispelled the cheerful atmosphere for good. Several hours ahead near Andrijevića a bus full of people had plunged over the side (I later found out that 27 were killed and about 40 were injured), so at Cetinje I was delayed and had to catch another bus to Titograd, a new city, and then on to Peć. The countryside changed from barren harvest land to rich alpine country with picturesque, oddly shaped wooden houses. Most people though were dressed in smart western clothes, which was strange considering the remote nature of the country.

We never reached Peć, but stopped the night at a "workers" hotel outside Andrijevića; comfortable, but with terrible cooking. The village itself picturesquely set in a wooded valley, between high mountains, was a typical unspoilt Serbian hamlet - peaceful, and only the radios and electricity broke the illusion of the past.

I was woken at 3 o'clock - strange, I thought, as we were not leaving until 5 a.m.! But at 3.45 I was almost dragged to the bus which left an hour early, leaving half its passengers still in bed!!

Just after 5 p.m. we halted and looked down at the beautiful valley and out past the high Albanian peaks to Rugovo; halfway down the steep slope lay the mangled remains of the bus. I climbed down to the wreckage with the driver to get a closer look, passing on the way a Squipter settlement, stark and poverty stricken humans and sheep living almost in one rude wooden enclosure. The bus, which now was unrecognisable, had narrowly missed them and lay poised just above a large drop into the swiftly flowing river; personal belongings, toys, handbags, lay all around!

We continued and at last entered the Rugovo Canyon. In the 1918 war this was the scene of the awful retreat of the Serbian Army, when many hundreds died of cold and hunger in the snow. Sometimes the road is cut through sheer rock, othertimes it follows the river bank, but always it is dark. Suddenly it emerges onto a plain, and a few minutes journey brings you to the Peć Patmarch. Through the years of Turkish domination Peć was the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church and remained a symbol during most of the occupation. Inside it is beautiful, and in the process of careful restoration. I attended an Orthodox Mass and was amazed at the singing which was quite remarkable. I have never heard singing that gripped me so much, a cross between the normal orthodox chanting and the folk style of singing, weird and unforgettable.

Although very delapidated, Peć was perhaps quite recently still very colourful, but now that most of the costumes have gone and a spate of modernization is in progress, the town is wretched indeed. Any comparison between the eloquent literature sent out by the tourist office and the actual town is very accidental, and my heart sank when I wandered round the place. It is still interesting, but now I felt that it was deliberately being neglected. There is still a lot to see in the way of craftsmanship and I was interested in watching felt hats (skull caps) being made. The atmosphere, made worse by the bus disaster, was almost intolerable. I stayed two nights at the only hotel, in a room with five others; neither my DDT powder, nor the charladies flit spray, gave me a night free from unwelcomed visitors. The restaurant boasted some enormous columns with corinthian capitals, quite out of scale, and serving no purpose at all. The food was good, although you didn't always get what you had ordered. A new hotel is being built, in an exotic "Turkish style", at enormous expense; personally I think it is an abomination. To escape the heat and depression I fought my way into a building which served as a cinema, and watched the effect of Jane Russell and Bob Hope on the locals. The film - Son of Paleface. The Indians looked so civilized!

I left next day and next time I shall by-pass Peć and stay at Preizeren - Peć means oven, and that is exactly what it reminds me of.

Next - Skopje and my uncle 'Jonče'.

THE GOURMET

Pan Dulce (Italy)

8 ozs. flour	2 oz. orange & lemon glaze peel
1 tablespoon baking powder	½ cup mixed, chopped nuts
2 egg yolks	1 oz. currants
¼ pt. milk	1 oz. raisins
1 cup sugar	1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
2 ozs. butter	
1 desertspoon vanilla extract	

Mix the butter, sugar and egg yolks thoroughly together. Add the flour, vanilla essence, and baking powder. Stir in the milk until all is smooth and air bubbles form.

Mix in the rest of the ingredients and pour into a greased baking dish. Cover top with greaseproof paper and bake at a low temperature until dry and golden brown.

NOTICES

September marks the financial year for the S.I.F.D. Your fresh subscriptions should be paid by now, but if you have not yet got around to it, contact Ken Ward, Membership Sec., as soon as possible. Ken's address is on the front cover page. Remember you cannot enrol for the new term without the production of a current S.I.F.D. Membership Card. You also must be a paid up member before you may nominate, or be nominated, for Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The A.G.M. will be held at the Hugh Myddleton School on Friday, November 7th. According to the Constitution:

'The Chairman, Hon.Secretary, Hon.Treasurer and six ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected according to the following procedure. Any member of the Society may be nominated by members provided that each nomination (a) is in writing signed by two members, (b) contains the written consent of the member to act if elected, and (c) is received by the Secretary of the Society not later than Sept. 30th and provided that the subscription for the following year of the person nominated, the proposer and seconder are paid not later than Sept. 30th.'

Motions for the Agenda, duly proposed and seconded, must be received by the Secretary not later than fourteen days before the meeting.

Here is the chance for all those people who are discontented with the way in which the Society is run, and for those people who want to work for the Society but cannot see the opportunity. Get yourself nominated for Committee, or encourage others to stand for election. A chance like this comes only once a year, don't neglect the opportunity.

The New Term and the New Arrangements.

Classes 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Monday - Iberian

Tuesday - Balkan

Wednesday - General

Thursday - Orchestral Evening

Friday - Advanced Classes (Invited members only)

Membership

Membership of the Society for International Folk Dancing is obligatory. Subscriptions payable to Ken Ward. (Address on cover page).

Guests.

Guests will be allowed to attend the maximum of two evenings at 2/- per evening. After this they must join the S.I.F.D. and pay the applicable term or yearly fee.

Subscription to the S.I.F.D.

Full members 15/6
Country members 10/6
Junior members 10/6
Joint members 21/-

Class Fees.

For attendance at one class (on a nominated evening per term) 25/- per year, or 10/- per term.

For attendance at two or more classes 30/- per year, or 15/- per term.

Class fees are payable to Margery Latham either at the enrolment night at the school, or on first attendance at any class.

On enrolment, members must state which class, or classes, they wish to attend, and receipt slips will be issued to that effect. Enrolment will not be accepted without the production of a current S.I.F.D. Membership Card. The receipt slips are for attachment to the Membership Card, and must be produced on demand by any L.C.C. Inspector, or S.I.F.D. Official.

Where to attend classes.

The classes will be held at the Hugh Middleton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Rd., London, E.C.3., from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Canteen facilities are available from 6 p.m.

How to get there.

Farringdon Street Station, on the Metropolitan Line, is five minutes from the school, and buses give plenty of choice. Buses Nos. 19, 38, 170, 171, 172 and 63. Trolley Buses Nos. 513, 517, 521, 613, 617, 659, 543 and 643.

Wedding Bells

The Society sends the very best wishes for years of happiness to the following happy couples:

Barbara and Colin Harrison, married on August 9th.

Joyce Archer and Charles Steventon, married on August 23rd.

Dorothy Weir and Jeremy Sloen, to be married on September 13th.

Audrey and Charles Dellow, to be married on September 30th.

Daphne Bigsley and George Frost, to be married on September 30th.

Bonne Chance! Duzo Szeseszczia! Ilgiausiu Metu! Congratulations!

The Stork Club.

A hearty welcome from the Society to a little boy born to Heinz and Ilse Striegel on August 12th weighing 2.5 OKG, and to be called Christian Max.

A second big welcome goes to the baby son of Mrs. Mary Gergar (nee Saunders). Congratulations.

The Grass is always Greener.....

E.D. Grainger wishes to make it known that the house number has been changed, and that all correspondence should be addressed to: 38 Arundel Rd., Harold Wood, Essex.

Mr. and Mrs. Mourrie Pfeffer have moved to the following address: 184 Tufnell Park Rd., London, N.7.

E.F.D.S.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society begins a new term in September. Their programme includes a Music Club, Country Dancing, Morris Dancing, and Sword Dancing. Classes are graded Novice or Beginner, Intermediate, and Leaders.

Refreshments at the Buffet will be available both before and during classes. Applications for membership or details of classes to: The House Secretary, The E.F.D.S., Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd., N.W.1.

Christmas courses have also been arranged from Monday, Dec.29th to Fri.Jan.2nd. Details as above.

Manchester Folk Dance Festival.

Mr. Henry Baldrey is organising and presenting a festival of folk dancing at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, October 11th, at 2.15 and 7.30 p.m.

He is presenting a very comprehensive programme, and all proceeds are for the development of International Folk Dancing of all nations. Tickets are available from Henry R. Baldrey Esq., 505 Wilbraham Rd., Manchester 21, or from Messrs Forsyth's, Deansgate, Manchester 3. Stamped and addressed enveloped must accompany remittance.

Y.H.A. Sailing Group Dances.

Dancers who attended the weekend dance at Bradwell last May will be interested to hear that two more International Folk Dances have been arranged by the Y.H.A. Sailing Group during October. The first is to be held at Bradwell Village Hall on Saturday, October 11th, with Mourrie Pfeffer acting as musician and M.C.

The second is at Cecil Sharp House on Friday, October 31st, with Ron Coulthrop as M.C., and Mourrie, Cliff Beck, and Ken Ward supplying the music.

Bookings and details may be obtained as before from Ron Ewington, 7 Dartmouth Drove, London, S.E.10.

The S.I.F.D. Albert Hall Festival.

The S.I.F.D. show 'See how they Dance' is to take place at the Royal Albert Hall on December 6th. Book the date now in your diary, for your support is of the utmost importance, either as a dancer or a member of the audience. Remember, December 6th.

Demonstrations in August.

The demonstrations during August were organised by a number of members of the Society, and a full report will appear in next month's News Sheet.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Please would it not be possible to include in the S.I.F.D. News Sheet instructions for folk dances, especially for those which the Society have issued records but not instruction sheets yet? This would be especially valuable for members of those out of town clubs like mine who are unable to get to London very often, and then only to the Saturday dances.

Yours sincerely,

G.D. Towner.

This strikes me as a very good idea, although of course it means extra work for somebody. The idea has been put forward to the Committee for consideration at their next meeting.

PROGRAMME. September - October.

Classes at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, E.C.3.

Details of these classes appear earlier in the News Sheet. On Fridays, specialist tuition will be given in the dances of the following countries.

September 19	Poland	October 3	France
26	Austria	10	Sweden
		17	Hungary
		24	England
		31	Estonia

Dances at Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane, W.C.1.

Sundays, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Admission: 1/6
Non-members: 2/-

September 14	M.C. Roly Minton	October 5	M.C. Ken Ward
21	M.C. Edward Brine	12	M.C. Roly Minton
		19	M.C. Mourie Pfeffer

(M.Cs. subject to confirmation)

Dances at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, N.W.1.

Sundays, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Admission: 2/-
Non-members: 3/-

September 28	M.C. Margery Latham
October 26	M.C. Jack Richardson