

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

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

EDITORIAL

The S.I.F.D. present their show, 'See How They Dance' at the Royal Albert Hall this year on December 6th. We are determined to make this show the best we have ever produced. Several years of presenting have taught the organisers what a typical English audience desires; they know how to encounter the usual snags inherent with any big show; they have learnt what to look for and what to by-pass. Much thought has been given to the selection of teams; notice was given to members months previously. Now, in a sense, they are handing much of the responsibility on to the Society. We are all of us morally committed to being at the Albert Hall on the evening of December 6th, in the capacity of dancer, helper, or audience.

If a dancer, you have already promised to attend every rehearsal called, unless you have a good reason for your non-attendance. On the evening of the performance you are expected to arrive at the time stated, to be dressed in costume well before you are required to dance, and to be within call, or at your appointed place, when required.

If a helper, you are expected to turn up on time, to contact your chief organiser straight away, and to undertake cheerfully whatever job you are asked to do.

If a member of the audience, you are asked to clap loudly and often - for an appreciative audience can do wonders for a performer with butterflies in his stomach - and to enjoy yourself.

In addition to the above, there is one job in which we must take part - that of filling the hall. This can be done with the aid of leaflets, notices, and word of mouth.

If every member determines to buy at least one ticket, and if everybody concerned in any way with schools, clubs, churches, youth clubs, or social work of any kind would make up a party, and if the show were broadcast continually at home, work, and play, our ticket sales would soar.

A great deal can be done through the home. Proud Mums could be detailed to mention it in the shops and to the neighbours. Dad might care to tell his friends what his kids are up to now. Young sister is sure to be proud of having a 'dancer' in the family, and could be encouraged to boast a little about it at school, and to her teachers. That pest of a young brother talks to everybody; see that he talks about the show on his way around the town. Do your worst, folks; pester everybody. Give everyone the chance of coming to the Albert Hall on December 6th, and a splendid time can safely be promised to us all.

Tickets may be obtained from Margery Latham, address on front cover.

THE GOURMET

Brodet. (Fish stew from Jugoslavia).

3 onions	2 lbs. white fish (filleted)
1 lb. tomatoes	Salt, pepper, and garlic to taste

Slice the onions and simmer in boiling oil until golden brown. Blanch the tomatoes and add to the onions. Shake in the salt, pepper and garlic and stir well. Simmer for 20 minutes. Break the fish into lumps and add to the mixture. Moisten with 2-3 cups of water and continue simmering for a further 20 mins. Serve hot.

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NOVEMBER FOLK CUSTOMS

The official notice that winter has arrived comes with All Saints Day, on November 1st. This is purely a religious holiday in most countries, but the following day, November 2nd, All Souls Day is rich with peasant custom. On this day it is believed that the spirits of the dead return to their old homes, and a welcome must be given to them. On All Souls Eve, all windows and doors are opened to give the spirits easy access, bowls of food are placed for them that they may eat, places are often laid at the dining table. Voices at the evening meal are hushed, and every rustle and creak is attributed to the coming of a spirit.

Winter is a long, hard, and boring time for the peasant. There is little can be done on the land, and the people often go hungry. To pass the long evenings many small parties are given, where girls and youths pluck the geese or work at the loom. Vegetables must be dried, and meat and fish salted or smoked. The cold is often intense, and the huts are small and dark. For this reason, perhaps, the festive days are rollicking occasions, with much singing and dancing.

St. Martin's Day falls on November 11th, and on this day goose is eaten, and processions of masked people go from house to house. In Poland, so many animals were killed on St. Martin's Day, preparatory for the winter, smoking and salting, that the whole month came to be called 'podgardle', or 'under the throat'.

St. Katherine's Day, November 21st, and St. Andrew's Day, November 30th, were 'divination' days, when the names of future husbands or wives might be discovered to those who knew the correct magic. There are numerous methods of divinations, varying from village to village, and all are performed with much merry-making.

A more recent celebration in England, one fast becoming a folk custom, is that of lighting bonfires and of firework displays on November 5th, when the attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow Parliament up by gunpowder was discovered.

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NOTICES

Times Tardy.

A few years ago a schoolgirl joined my form from the U.S.A., and on her American school report were the words, 'Times Tardy - Nil'. Somehow the words 'times tardy' have arisen to my mind since then whenever I hear Inns of Court, Drury Lane, mentioned.

Dances at the Inns of Court have built many pictures in the minds of all S.I.F.D. members. It may be memories of dusty walls, grimy sky-lights, jolly music (although not always musical), of a cheerful atmosphere, or the end of a Y.H.A. weekend. To some may even come the memory of that depravity of depravities, a communal changing room. However, to all, right down since S.I.F.D. time began, there must also be a remembrance of the tardiness at starting.

Now that the light evenings have gone, I do appeal to all dancers at Inns of Court to arrive on time - 6.30 p.m. Musicians and M.Cs. make the supreme effort and arrive at the advertised time of starting; so too, do a few members. Please, make it a 100% effort, arrive at 6.30 p.m., and make your record card read, 'Times Tardy - Nil'.

A. G. M.

Note for your diary. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hugh Myddleton School on Friday, November 17th. All members are asked to make every effort to attend, as the Committee cannot work according to your will if you are not present to make your will known. Remember, Friday, November 17th.

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 if you have not already done so.

M. C. s for November

Inns of Court.

November 2	Eddie Brine
9	Simon Guest
16	Dick Beckford
23	Ken Ward

Cecil Sharp House

November 30 Roly Minton.

Thamesfield, Henley-on-Thames.

Another of those very enjoyable weekends is arranged for the weekend of January 24th, 1959. Anyone wishing to join in the fun should send a deposit (minimum 7/6) to Jack Richardson, 73 The Chine, N. 21. The booking runs from Saturday tea to Sunday tea, inclusive, and the cost is approximately 17/-. It is thought that it will be possible for a small number to arrive after supper on Friday evening, or for lunch on Saturday. People wishing to make the early start should say so when booking, or notify Jack not later than one fortnight before the actual weekend.

The Henley turn-outs are always considered to be super weekends, so book early to ensure that you are not disappointed.

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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am writing on a subject which I would like to see investigated, i.e., the publication of new dances as they are collected by the Society.

My suggestion is that all new dances, as they are introduced, be published in the News Sheet. This would be of great help to country members, and to those members who are unable to attend many classes. If these people were able to study the dance descriptions it would be much simpler for them to learn the final details when they are able to attend a class.

May I suggest that the comments of the members be requested on this matter?

Yours, etc.

Leon A Pieters  
Cambridge International Club  
(Folk Dance Group).

This is a good idea, but hardly practical for the News Sheet, which is already pared to the bone because of cost. However, some scheme could be devised, if there were sufficient demand, whereby dance descriptions could be published, say quarterly, and sold at actual cost price.

Further comments will be welcomes. Ed.