

S.I.F.D.

NEWS AUGUST 1965



ESTONIA

1.

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Material to be with the Editor or Editor's Assistants before the 11th August.

SENOR, SENORA, SENORITA - Would you care to dance? Perhaps a jota or two, or would your choice be to watch? Is it that your 'better half' is the aficionado and you would prefer another type (of dancing, that is)? The reply to that is an invitation to bring your own music, to :-

A SOCIAL WEEKEND

The organising body:

LOS IBERICOS
the S.I.F.D. Spanish Group

The date: 14TH AUGUST The place: SURREY CREST

Seriously though, we are informed by the leader of the Group that it will not be all Spanish, and in any case even members sometimes like a change.

Enquiries to: Mrs. M.Colato, 169 Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth, Surrey.

A PROBLEM

As a change from counting beats, try this example of a different kind of esoteric mathematics: Accepting that the number "eleventy twelve" is legitimate in its own number system, what is its minimum value in our own (the decimal system)?

CLASSES START 27TH SEPTEMBER 1965

UPLANDS, HIGH WYCOMBE

A weekend of dancing and walking will take place at Uplands on the 3rd to the 5th September 1965. This is the first booking we have been able to secure there for nearly three years. The house is very comfortable and beautifully situated and there is a good hall which we use for dancing. Please send your deposit of £1 as soon as possible, to:-

Prof. Jack Richardson,
Dept. of Chemical Engineering,
University College,
SWANSEA, Glam.

The cost of the weekend will be about 95/- (Friday dinner until Sunday tea).
Accommodation will be limited - so act now!

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At our last Committee Meeting, the following matters were discussed:-

Porchester Hall Dance

I'm afraid we are not yet able to give the final account for this, as the figures have not yet been received from Richard Beckford. We showed a financial loss, but the exact figure is not yet known.

Commonwealth Institute Show

Kathleen Monroe James is in charge of the arrangements for our Show at the Commonwealth Institute on the 26th November, and the draft programme is under way. We hope you will all support this function, whether as dancers or as spectators.

Sunday Dances

Everyone should, by now, be aware that we have hired a new hall - Roland House - for our Sunday dances. Kay Modi has formed a sub-Committee for the purpose of running these dances and it is hoped they will be better attended, and enjoyed, than the Drury Lane dances. At the time of writing these notes, two Sundays have passed and the attendance has been encouraging. The hall is lighter and brighter than Inns of Court; we have our own canteen (volunteers to help should see Kay); the parking space along by Stepney Green is adequate*; and the pub for the post-dancing social gathering is only 100 yards away; so please come along in your thousands - well, couples anyway.

Finances, as at 27th June:

Cash at Bank	£824. 5.7	Deposit a/c
	£250.12.5	Current a/c
Cash in Hand	£12.0.2	

Demonstrations

Our Balkan team have been invited to dance at the Chairman's Reception to be held at County Hall on the 23rd July.

Richard Beckford has been asked to resign from the Committee, and is no longer Membership Secretary. Roland Minton is Acting Membership Secretary for the time being and all membership fees should be sent to him, (address on page 9).

*The Warden at Roland House has asked us NOT to park in the forecourt immediately in front of the hall. Would you please park your car or motorcycle in the road by the Green and not drive through the archway leading to the hall. Thank you for your co-operation.

L.SOUTHGATE
Hon.Secretary

ABOUT THE EXPLANATION REQUIRED BY THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING
FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

Richard Beckford wishes to inform all members that he has taken note of the requirements of this meeting as reported to him, and will incorporate this in a written report to members covering the Membership and Class enrolments for the year up to 30th June 1965. For very good reasons it is necessary to give this within the context of the full Report and this will be published in the September "NEWS". He regrets the further delay that this will cause, and asks for the indulgence of members.

Harrow Green has been in existence for fifteen years and is therefore only a couple of years younger than the S.I.F.D.

The initial work in establishing the Group was done by Wally Coultrup, whom some members may recall, assisted by his brother Ron, who afterwards took over the leadership. The present Treasurer of the S.I.F.D., Roly Minton, was the Chairman for many years, with Lily Southgate as Secretary.

Ruth Coton (nee Sharp) was also a very hard-working Committee member and was largely responsible for training the Norwegian demonstration team. Margaret Colato, who has done so much for the Society, was also originally a Harrow Green member at this time.

In 1957 a very successful Group visit to Norway was organized by Ruth. This was followed by the creation of a Rumanian demonstration team, under the tuition of Henry Morris, which gave a polished performance at the Society Royal Albert Hall Show of that year.

At present, Harrow Green is suffering from the troubles which affect all groups eventually. The longer-established members get married, or their jobs take them away from London and they can no longer find the time to attend classes, and for a while the Group consists of a few dedicated souls. This is also the stage at which the Society finds itself, but I am sure there are enough interested people to fill the membership books of both of us, provided attention is given to retaining potential members as well as attracting for a single visit.

In both Harrow Green and the Society, there is a certain amount of distrust of each other, though why this is so I cannot understand since 80% of Harrow Green membership is common to both. If we can co-operate, we should gain mutual advantages. It could be asked why two separate organizations are necessary. Well, there will always be differing views, or differing aspects of folk dancing, and two democratic societies help these to be expressed. In any case, in practice both are regional groups, although due to difficulties in obtaining premises they are now closer than when originally established.

As to the future, we hope that in the following year we will be able to increase our membership and range of activities. We hope too that S.I.F.D. members will attend our functions as often as possible when this does not clash with their own. Especially, we would like to see as many people as possible at our Christmas Party Dance on the 10th December at York Hall.

GEORGE SWEETLAND
Chairman, H.G.F.D.G.

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Mr. Sweetland, a member of the Society, has only just recently been nominated as Chairman of Harrow Green. His experience with so many groups (he was the member who managed the feat of being a member of nine classes during the one session and being able to attend them all) should be a great asset to Harrow Green. We are sure that all members of the Society join with us in wishing him and Harrow Green the best of luck.

EDITOR & STAFF

Harrow Green Programme:	4th August	AUSTRIAN	Ilse Striefel
	11th August	BALKAN	Philip Thornton
	18th August	FRENCH	John Hughes
	25th August	SWEDISH	Dr. Cyriax

Adjudicating and electing winners in Folk Dance contests is difficult when the standard of dancing is very high indeed. Such was the dancing at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod for 1965. How to judge and what to look for needs an expert with a deep and profound knowledge and understanding of folk dancing and of the contrasting styles and music of the countries competing. The judges had my sympathies and I think that in electing the first three their judgment was fair, considering the good performances displayed by the other contestants.

The winning group, Folkloric Ansambl "Jedinstvo" from Split, Yugoslavia, danced first a wild and lively dance from Dalmatia full of movement with excellent footwork. I would certainly like to see some more of this region's dances. Their second dance was a Dalmatian rhythm that waxed and waned, starting softly and gradually rising to a crescendo, then fading to a soft murmur. One could literally have heard a pin drop in the audience, so much were they absorbed with every step the dancers made. It was wonderful to watch and the group well deserved the merit of winning first prize.

The Britannia Cocomut Dancers from Bacup, England, came second. I first saw this group at the E.F.D.S.S. Royal Albert Hall Show earlier this year and although the two dances performed were contrasting and neatly done, I was a little disappointed in their lack of new material. However, they were good enough to achieve second place for the second year running.

I always enjoy watching Basque dancing, and the Basque team from Galdacano, Spain, who were third, danced superbly. The first dance performed was with stocks and swords. Here the high kicking step, the turning on the spot and intricate footwork were done with wonderful timing and in unison. The hoop dance followed and again judgment and timing was perfection itself. I judged them second but the adjudicators thought differently and placed them third.

There were many teams in the contest who managed to reach points of over 80. Among them was a group from Sardinia, Italy. I liked the dances they did with three men and nine girls. The dances had peculiar rhythm and unusual footwork. I was particularly interested in the costumes which were over 300 years' old and priceless. We were informed that these costumes were only worn on special occasions and we were indeed privileged to see them.

ROLAND V. ROYSTON MINTON

Ed. Note: Next month Mr. Minton will give some further impressions of the Eisteddfod.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 23rd August to 11th September :-

JOSE GRECO and his gypsy flamenco dance company.

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CLASSES START 27TH SEPTEMBER 1965

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CONGRATULATIONS! To Heather McKean and John Frost on their recent engagement. We send them our best wishes for the future.

Due to certain circumstances, we were unable to see the Hungarian State Army of Folk Dancers and Singers perform at the opening concert at the International Llangollen Eisteddfod. Fortunately, in their place we had the pleasure of seeing the Folk Dance and Song Ensemble of the Bulgarian State Army, and how fortunate we were. Here we saw some excellent dancing performed with exuberance and skill.

The opening dance "Rutchenitsa", was a brisk, fast dance performed by male and female dancers which made the blood race and set the mood for the rest of the evening. A girls' dance followed called a "Maiden's Holiday". The dancers, using garlanded hoops, made intricate weaving patterns which were pretty, and beautiful to watch. Next came an all-male dance of eight youthful performers, dividing into two groups and each team rivalling the other in speed and variation of steps.

The final dance before the interval, "Along the Fields of Dobrudja", was typical of Bulgarian folk dancing, illustrating with music and dance a picture of life and work in the fields. First the men, with descriptive miming actions imitating the tilling of the soil and sowing of corn; then came the girls symbolising the growing and ripening of the crop, changing from green to yellow skirts, during the dancing. Afterwards came the reaping and harvesting, ending with the celebrations of dancing and singing and enjoying the fruits of their labours, with the finished product of bread and wine. A beautiful dance and one of the best performances I have seen for a long time. This dance has won many prizes in European contests.

The second half opened with a dance called "Thracian Pre-Wedding Motives". I thought for a moment we were in for something earthy. It wasn't, but nevertheless it was a good frolicsome dance, flirtatious and enjoyable to watch. "Enyo's sister-in-law" is a ritual dance for girls and was next on the programme. I don't know the story of this dance, but the girls' performance was very good and their footwork was precise and fast. The costumes worn for this dance I admired very much, consisting of gold braid embroidered on the skirts and blouses, which glittered and sparkled with the trembling movements of the dance. Another all-male dance came next. This dance was also descriptive of work on a farm. The dancers, using round wooden containers, portrayed a scene of haymaking. The sowing, cutting, sheathing, and stacking, ending with the dancers forming to create a horse and cart, using the wooden containers as wheels. The dancing was virile and well done.

The final dance item, a suite of dances from the region of Shop, was lively and full of wonderful dancing. The men and women danced as if they enjoyed performing. The skill and clever footwork took one's breath away and was a fitting climax to the concert.

A word must be said regarding the singers, who were very good in the solos and duets. Particularly, the field song sung by the girl. It had the throat bursting, sobbing lilt that one could imagine echoing plaintively over the distant fields, full of nostalgia and wonderful to hear.

The costumes were all colourful and came from various regions of Bulgaria. The music was well played and orchestrated. I enjoyed the concert immensely. It was very well presented and choreographed and I recommend anyone to see it if they have the opportunity.

ROLAND V. ROYSTON MINTON
(Our man at Llangollen)

Did you ever hear that Peter Sellers' record in which he sings about Balls Pond Road? Well, it doesn't really matter if you have not, because Balls Pond Road has another claim to fame. Yes, it is a real place and is the home of the Y.H.A. Folk Dance and Song Group. There is little song to be heard from Group members, except for the occasional peep in Mayim Mayim, but there is dancing all right - international, of course, including English and Scottish (which surely qualifies as international dancing?).

Although the Group is over ten years' old, it has only recently become affiliated to S.I.F.D. However, some members are already pretty wellknown in the Society!

Y.H.A. groups go hostelling at weekend, so too does Folk Dance Group, with folk dancing in the hostel or nearby hall in the evening. Every other Friday night is dancing night at the Almshouses in Balls Pond Road, so if you have nothing else to do, come along and join us. We shall be very pleased to see you, whether Y.H.A. member or not.

Date: Every other Friday from 23rd July.

Place: M.B.S. Almshouses, 100 Balls Pond Road, Dalston, N.1.

Buses 30, 38, 38A, 277 pass the door. 22, 35, 47, 73, 171, 141, 149 etc. stop nearby. Nearest Underground station: Essex Road. B.R. stations: Dalston Junction, Liverpool Street (the latter supposedly 10 minutes away).

Time: 7.30 to 10.00 p.m.

P.S. We could do with a musician or two as ours is in great demand elsewhere.

JANE GRAY

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<u>BADGES</u>	Lapel	3/6	<u>BOOKS</u>	A Selection of European Folk Dances
	Vehicle (bolted)	12/6		Two volumes - 7/6 each. From
	(adhesive)	7/6		booksellers (such as Foyles).
	From Roland Minton,			Published by Pergamon Press.
	131 Holly Street,			
	London E.8			

<u>RECORDS</u>	10	78 r.p.m. European Folk Dances	8/6 each
	1	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ r.p.m. Austrian Folk Dances	15/6 "
	1	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ r.p.m. Israeli & Balkan Folk Dances	15/6 each

and tapes covering the above.

From: Recorded Sound, 27 Bryanston Street, London W.1 or from the Chairman.

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OUR DANCES V BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP

East of the Caspian Sea and North of Afghanistan, in the Asian part of the U.S.S.R., lie the fabulous cities of Bukhara and Samarkand, the deserts and cotton fields of Uzbekistan. New towns have been built, and railway lines run now where in former times caravans made their unhurried way, but the folk dances of Uzbekistan still reflect the life of the simple people.

Our two Uzbek dances are both for girls and can be done by one, two, or four girls.

(Contd. on page 7.)

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(Contd. from page 6.)

The first one I learned in Odessa, my home town, when I went there for a holiday three years ago. As we had mostly Central and West Russian dances in our repertoire so far, we thought it would be nice to have an Eastern one, and I went to the Odessa Theatre and asked the Director whether one of his dancers could give me a lesson. He 'phoned his choreographer immediately, who asked me to come to the House of Culture. There he was in the middle of a lesson to boys and girls of the surrounding villages. The tradition of folk dancing has been broken through the two world wars and the revolution, but now they are trying to bring the traditional dances back to the people. The best dancers of each village are sent to Odessa, learn, and then go back to teach them to the others. The choreographer took me for a private lesson, first asking me what kind of dance I wanted, and then going on into it immediately.

The dance, in which the hands turn on the wrists, is reminiscent of Indian hand movements, but the movements are much less stylized and freer, but, as in Indian dancing, the movements have a meaning, thus the hand turns symbolize the turning of the spindle; bending down low from the waist, arms stretched out to the sides means she is giving herself joyously to the hot rays of the sun; very quick turns on the spot represent the twirling sand in the desert wind, and other movements show picking of flowers or fruit, sewing and showing off her embroidered scarf.

When I thanked the teacher for the lesson, I asked where and how I could pay, but he wouldn't hear of it; it had been a pleasure to help! It was, of course, impossible to get the same music here, but I was fortunate enough to find a very similar record at Collets and we perform the dance either to this or to a drum one of our boys has learned to play.

The second Uzbek dance we got from a Russian book, and it is different from the first one insofar as the girls wear strips of tinkling bells round their wrists. There is also a sequence when the girls kneel down and move arms and body only. For this dance, the music is written out and will be played by our accordianist, or we might again have drum accompaniment.

Not all of our girls do these dances. They need a special feeling which not everybody has. Also, the costumes are rather expensive; but that is one reason why we feel that Russian dancing is so interesting; the many dances of the many regions are so different that there is something for everybody; but oh how we loathe it if all our different dances are just called "Cossack dancing"!

JENIA GRAMAN
Secretary, Balalaika Dance Group

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AN ANSWER FOR PAGE 1.

Eleventy twelve implies a number system with single symbols for 11 and 12. There must also be one included for 10. Say * = 11, @ = 12, and X = 10. Thus it would run 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,X,*,@...10 at least. There is no evidence to show that the system in question is not for example vigesimal, with 20 different symbols. It is not a duodecimal system because in that case 12 would be represented by 10 (a double symbol). In the case in question 10 (the double symbol) may represent any number greater than 12 and the minimum is 13. Eleventy twelve would be *@, which is 11 times the base quantity plus 12 units. The minimum base is 13, so the minimum decimal value would be $11 \times 13 + 12 = 155$.

Acknowledgments to Astounding S.F.

Editor's note: To my critics - Give instruction to a wise man and he will be yet wiser.
(Proverbs 9.9. Teach Yourself Books)