

S.I.F.D.

NEWS ~ JANUARY 1966



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Editor:- Ken Blackwood, 523 Commercial Way., E.1. Phone; Home: STE 62374 Work: MUS 3644  
Ext. 999

Assistant Editors: Lily Southgate and Stephen Ward. Material should be with the Editor or Assistants by the 10th.

CLASSES 1965/66

HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, Corporation Row, E.C.1. (Farringdon Station or bus to Finsbury Town Hall).

Monday	Spanish	Beginners	19.00-20.00	Margaret Colato
		Intermediate	20.00-21.30	
Tuesday	Balkan	Beginners & Intermediate	18.30-20.30	Kenneth Ward
Wednesday	International	Intermediate & Demonstration	19.30-21.30	Margery Latham

CHRISTOPHER HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall St., E.C.1. (northbound buses 19, 38, 38a. 171 or 172, alight at first stop in Roseberry Ave.)

* Monday	International	Beginners	18.30-20.30	Margery Latham
	Polish	Beginners	20.00-22.00	Betty Harvey
Thursday	Spanish	Advanced	19.00-20.00	Margaret Colato
		Flamenco	20.00-21.30	

Central Club, Y.W.C.A. Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Friday International Teachers Advanced Course 20.00-21.30. Kathleen Munroe James.

\* This class is arranged by the G.I.C. Light refreshments are available at all centres.

We welcome to our ranks:

Miss G. Handley	M.W. Edisburg	M. Keats
Miss J. Kaye	Miss R. A. Bennett	c.J. Lowe
H. Walts	Miss A. C. Selby	Miss V. Baxter
Miss. P. Arnold		

and hope they will enjoy themselves

Records - covering all the dances in the two books are available from Recorded Sound, Bryanston Street, W.1. at 15/6 ea. (6 records)

Badges - Lapel... .. 3/6 ea.  
Vehicle (Bolted) 15/6 ea.  
(Adhesive) 7/6 ea

Books - A Selection of European Folk Dances two volumes.. .. 7/6 ea.  
Printed and distributed by Pergamon Press, Headington Hall Hill, Oxford.

Harrow Green Folk Dance Group. Programme at Holland Hall Oxford House, Mape St. Bethnal Green.

Jan 5th-	To be arranged	
" 12th-	Philip Thornton	Balkan
" 19th-		
" 26th-	Dr. Cyriax	Swedish

Addresses of the New Committee Members

Peter Lilley (Publicity)  
Aram Kothi, Kiln Lane, Binfield Heath, Nr. Reading.

Harry Whitaker,  
29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, N.21. (LAB 4965)

Ian Willson,  
28 Olive Road, N.W.2. (GLA 0981)

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The A.G.M. was held on the 27th November and was attended by 33 members.

The new Committee was elected for 1965/66 and is comprised of six members of last years' Committee plus three new-comers to the Committee - the new members being Peter Lilley Harry Whitaker and Ian Willson. For the benefit of members who don't know them - Peter and Ian are members of Harrow Green Folk Dancing Group, and Harry is the Chairman of our Spanish Group, Los Ibericos.

The Treasurer submitted an interim statement of account at the A.G.M. and this was discussed at some length and eventually referred back to the Treasurer for further action, and he promised to circulate an audited copy of the accounts as soon as possible. Our Treasurer is in need of an assisitant to help him with the accounting side. If you have a knowledge of accountancy and are willing to help, would you please contact Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, London, E.8.

The one motion on the agenda, proposed by John Fisher and seconded by Sheila Fisher, viving that members of our L.C.C. classes be encouraged but not compelled to join the society, was defeated. The majority of members present felt that only S.I.F.D. members should be admitted to our classes.

Now that the A.G.M. is over, we can start planning our programme for next year, and our new Committee held their first meeting on the 12th December. The Sunday Dances at the Dance Centre were reveiwed and as these are showing promising attendances we have decided to make this our regular Sunday meeting place ( with the exception of the last Sunday in each month). We have extended the booking from 7 to 10p.m. instead of 7 to 9.30p.m.

One of the main items on our Agenda will be the Royal Albert Hall Show for November 1966 and we are in the process of electing a sub- Committee to take on the work involved in producing this Show. Also, our Swansea Course was such a success this year that we shall surely consider another for 1966.

Peter Lilley has been elected as Publicity Secretary and, in co-operation with John Hughes, will handle all our publicity in future. We are very grateful to John for all the time he has devoted to this task in the past and hope that Peter will be able to ke a lot of the work off his shoulders and that between them they will be able to help us to improve our advertising.

Ken Blackwood, oue Editor, has been co-opted onto the Committee.

Kathleen Munroe Jameshas agreed to continue as Demonstration Secretary, and Roland Minton as Membership Secretary.

Our financial situation as at the 27th November is as follows:-

Deposit a/c	844.	2.	2
Current a/c	412.	4.	2
Cash in Hand	19.	18.	2
	<u>£1276.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>6</u>

We pe you will all give the new Committee your continued support.

LILY SOUTHGATE  
Hon. Secretary.

A remark often made about Balkan dance-music is "Some of the rhythms are extremely complicated. Many are in 7/8, 7/16, 11/16 and similar rhythms". This type of remark is unsatisfactory. There are two reasons:- firstly the author of such a statement is making an elementary but common mistake. The fractions quoted are not rhythms; they are time signatures. Rhythms and time signatures are related. Times in certain rhythms can only be written in certain time signatures. This first error then can be easily corrected. The statement could be amended to "many Balkan dance tunes are in rhythms which when written require the use of time signatures such as 7/8, 7/16, 11/16, etc."

The second unsatisfactory point is one that the member or visitor to the Balkan group on Tuesdays will notice. He or she, after dancing, say, Kalamatianos, or Pajduska, or singing Jovano Jovanke, would wonder when the complicated rhythms are going to appear. They have already appeared! Kalamatianos and Jovano Jovanke are both 7/16 (or 7/8) and Pajduska varies according to region or musician between 5/16, 5/8, or 3/8. The complexity is put into the tunes by the way they are written. The actual rhythm is often simple. In Kalamatianos, the dancer hears a clear triple beat and dances with the beat just as if following the one, two, three of a waltz, or the slow, quick, quick of a quickstep. What he is doing is just half way between the two. In a waltz the first beat is the same length as the other two; in a quickstep it is twice as long; in Kalamatianos it is one and a half times as long.

Now the standard musical notations were evolved in Western Europe where the beats are all equal or some twice as long as others, or occasionally some were three times as long as others, but never some so-many-times-and-a-fraction as long as others. Where this is the case the standard notation can cope. Where this is not the case, as with Kalamatianos it is not as effective. To accommodate two main pulses of different lengths a notation has to work in terms of what a mathematician would call their highest common factor, that is a unit of time small enough that both pulse-lengths are whole number multiples of it. Thus, to accommodate two pulses one half as long again as the other, the shorter has to be two units and the longer three. Then the triple beat of Kalamatianos takes  $3+2+2=7$  units, giving a time signature of 7/16 (or 7/8 etc.) Thus, to anyone who confuses time signature with rhythm, the simple triple pulse time appears as a complicated septuple.

All this does not mean to say that a different notation should be used for Balkan but that the dances, musician, or collector, should ignore the time signature and study the melody. In many cases, the rhythmic skeleton based on two unequal pulses, one half as long again as the other, will easily be recognised. If these pulses are denoted by Q (quick) S (slow), many apparently complex tunes will be found to have a simple rhythm, often either triple or quadruple, e.g. Psila stin Kostilata 7/8 = S Q Q; Prsten mi padna male 8/8 = S Q S; Od iljada devetskota cetrta godina 11/8 = Q Q S Q Q; Duj-duj 9/9 = Q Q Q S; Pajduska 5/16 = Q S.

Condensed from an article by Dr. Hugh Thornton printed in  
The Folklorist

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ken Ward, Leader of our Balkan Group, has changed his address, and now lives  
at:- 39 Harpenden Road,  
West Norwood, S.E.27. Telephone GIP 1541

ZELFATEADO

By Los Ibericos.

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, the date of our Show "Spanish Fiesta" has been altered to Friday, the 1st of April, 1966, will all members kindly amend their diaries, and those who put that furlong of rope around their fingers now have permission to remove it for a couple of months.

Adios

HARRY HITAKER

Demonstrations

The two performances of Folk Weave - the first at Rutherford School, Marylebone, the second at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington - were well received by the onlookers. "What a pity more people didn't turn out to see the show" has been the usual comment. Although the Box Office returns did not show a surplus - disappointing maybe - the willing co-operation of the dancers, the smiles under dressing room difficulties, the whole hearted sincerity of those taking part, revealed that a great spirit of friendliness existed within the Society and among its affiliated groups and visiting performers. This is of greater value than money, although a little surplus is useful!

I have written to all groups and soloists who took part in Folk Weave. May I thank also the willing off-stage workers and Programme sellers; Lickie Gleeson who accommodated Christine, our Scottish member who travelled overnight from Scotland; Marlorie Bracey who, owing to last-minute accommodation difficulties offered to fill her flat overnight with the four dancers from Wales!

The representative of the Council for Education in World Citizenship saw the performance and was anxious to select items for the Concert on December 29th at the Central Hall, Westminster, where 3,000 tickets have been sold to students attending a London Conference

The entertainment arranged at International Students' House, London, on December 4th was thoroughly enjoyed by the students representing many countries.

I am arranging a second performance in March 1966: Los Ibericos have been requested to dance again on that date.

It would help greatly in the arranging of demonstrations etc. if I could receive the names of Groups and individuals and musicians interested in taking part; some of these demonstrations are entirely for charity, others are of an instructive nature.

A note sent containing the following would be appreciated.

Name of Group or individual	Item offered	Musician
Please state if free most Saturday afternoons or evenings.		
Send to -		

Kathleen Munroe James,  
14 Oakleigh Drive,  
Croxley Green,  
Rickmansworth, Herts.

WAS IT 'CURTAINS' FOR YOU TOO?

I went along to the Commonwealth Institute on the last Saturday in November not knowing quite what to expect. To me, the title 'Folk Weave' conjures up visions of coarse woven curtaining material. When the show actually started I realised that the things most conspicuous were in fact curtains, especially in between items. These curtains turned out to be the 'bete noir' of the show - reluctant to open in the first place, (seven minutes late) and then steadfastly refusing to close again. This completely spoiled one item when two large tables had to be carried on and off in full view of the audience! However, they did rise on a show which, although most of the individual items were good - some very good - remained separate strands of 'wool' and failed to weave themselves together.

Highlights for me were:-

- 1) Swedish - always difficult to stage but came over well due to the excellent miming, especially by the 'Swede' with the French beard, and the two 'youths', one of whom was losing his hair early?
- 2) Macedonian & Serbian - Live music following the dancers rather than dancers following canned music must make the item live more - this did. I liked especially the mens' trio dances.
- 3) English - The Hoodening Horse and the Handbell Ringers were unusual and good, also finished on a topical note. The dancers, however, apart from a jolly old gentleman in a yellow waistcoat and the couple in green, looked as if they had just returned from a funeral.
- 4) Spanish - Well staged item. The live music and gaiety of their dances never fails to impress, but I have seen them put over a more 'professional' show before now, and probably will again.
- 5) Mexican - As usual with our Producer's own item, this was good. The dance of the 'old Men' came over particularly well on the stage.
- 6) Welsh - The clog dance was again unusual, well performed, but the second dance looked and sounded just like the first.

And now the brickbats:-

- 1) Curtains! -- enough said!
- 2) Make-up. Under strong stage lights not even folk dancers can afford not to wear full stage make-up. My impression was of dozens of blank white faces amongst the colours of the costumes. I would except the Spanish Group and one or two individual dancers from this criticism, but for most it was 'Omo' day.
- 3) Sorry, not 'Omo' - there was no brightness! Half the dancers forgot to smile. They were supposed to be showing the audience how to enjoy themselves ( auto-suggestion? If the dancers enjoy themselves perhaps the audience will too).

It is probably just as well the Stage Manager and Lighting Assistant preferred to remain anonymous because otherwise I might demand a public hanging of both (if they Existed:).

A set of stocks for the idiot who poked his camera through the backcloth in full view of the audience to take photographs of the Scots dancer.

Surely there is much too much work for one person to produce, stage manage and look after lights throughout a whole production.

(a) The stage lights were not properly up until about the eighth item!

(b) Five minutes before the show was due to start, one of the pianists was throwing fits as there was not enough light on the piano, although she had been there in good time and had asked and asked for this to be seen to.

(c) We have all heard of the Indian Rope Trick, but even that needs music during its performance. After the experience of the week before, surely this should have been checked well before the show?

5) As to the production itself, three small points :-

(a) The Norwegian item was too near the Swedish. They are too similar to a layman.

(b) An entry dance of some kind would have been better than the curtains rising on the backs of a circle.

(c) 'He who pays the pipér calls the tune'. If we were, he should have been told to wait until the proper place in the programme. After all, the audience were paying to watch him at this show, not at his other engagement.

PETER COLATO

FESTIVALS OF EUROPE by Gordon Cooper.

( Published in 1961 by Percival  
Marshall)

A useful guide for the tourist who is interested in local customs and celebrations, this book also contains information about exhibitions, sporting events and cultural festivals which are of international importance. Mr. Cooper describes the more unusual or famous carnivals in some details and he is also obliging enough to give the dates and accounts any historical events which they may commemorate. According to Mr. Cooper, some of the festivals held in the Southern European countries are so long and noisy that he recommends earplugs for those who need sleep, and he includes warnings for the more timid tourists. Apparently there is a danger of being involved in an amateur bullfight if one happens to be in Pamplona during the Festival of San Fermin, and of being kissed in the street by total strangers in the French celebrations on the 14th July.

Throughout Europe these festivals are often made the occasion for displays of folkdancing singing and traditional costumes, while for those who may feel hungry or thirsty, there are plenty of gastronomic and wine-tasting carnivals in France and Germany.

MURIEL SCOTT.

BISPHAM ARBEY - 14th - 16th Jan. - see Prof. Jack Richardson,  
Dept of Chemical Engineering,  
University college, Swansea.

RESULTS OF 1965 ELECTION

Chairman:	Margery Latham	Unopposed
Secretary	Lily Southgate	Unopposed
Treasurer	Roland Minton	Unopposed

## Committee Members

Peter Colato	42 Votes
Peter Lilley	39 Votes
Harry Whitaker	35 Votes
Kathleen Munroe- James	34 Votes
Ian Willson	31 Votes
Marjorie Bracey	30 Votes

John Dear received 18 votes

The membership as at the time of voting was 220 members, of whom 50 voted.  
Total possible votes = 300 at 6 per voting paper. Total actual votes = 229. No. of votes  
not used = 71.

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ERRATUM - The Chairman's report for 1965 stated that loans had been made to both the Spanish Group and the Balkan Group. This is not quite correct as although the Committee agreed to make a loan to the Spanish Group if required, this offer was not actually taken up.

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As Hesperides, whoever he(or she) might have been, said when giving instructions to Virgins :-

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may  
Old time is still a-flying

What diverted us into this odd byway was receiving advertisements for not only 1966 but for 1967 as well! It seems only last month or so that we were welcoming in 1965. The advance advance publicity is as follows:-

Friday, 14th January, 1966 - Grand Barn Dance at Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone  
7.30 to 11 p.m. Tickets 5/-. In aid of  
Folkestone Festival.

Thursday, 24th February, 1966 - International Folk Dance section of the  
Bethnal Green Festival. York Hall.

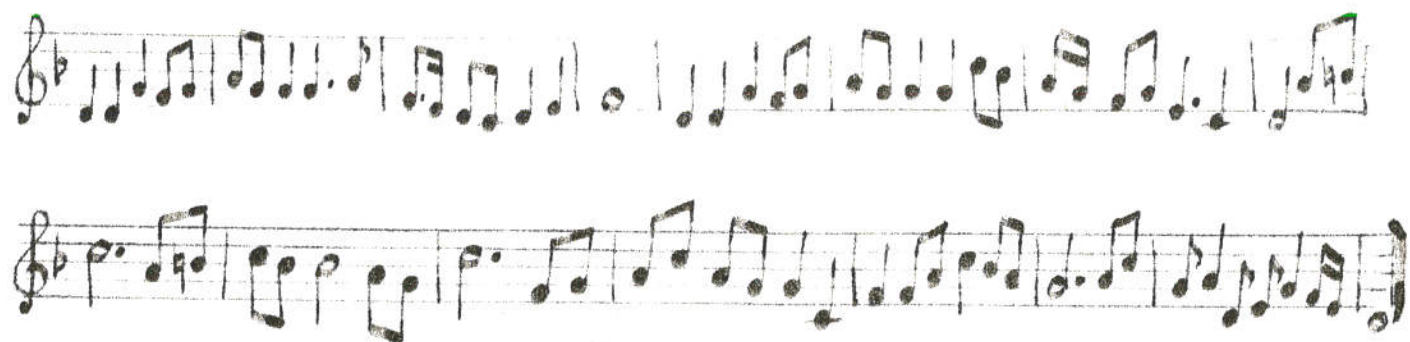
Saturday, 26th November, 1966 - "See How They Dance", Royal Albert Hall.

17th to 23rd June, 1967 - Folkestone International Folklore Festival.

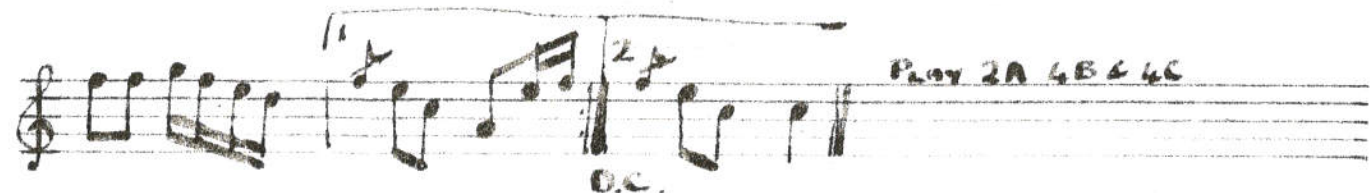
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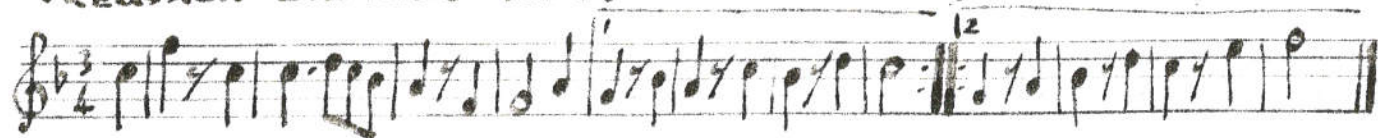
AN ISRAELI DANCE



KALAMIES (ESTONIA) 4/4 = 76



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The Dances are simple, sociable and great fun - Come and enjoy yourselves.

ADMISSION - MEMBERS 4/- - VISITORS 5/-

Musicians

Cliff Beck & Alan Corkett *	2nd Jan.	<u>M's.C.</u> George Sweetland
Harry de Caux & Wilf Horrocks	9th Jan.	Wilf Horrocks
Bernard Dixon & Wilf Horrocks	16th Jan.	Ken Blackwood
Cliff Beck & Alan Corkett *	23rd Jan.	Cliff Beck

\* tentative

Cecil Sharp House Dance

- 30th Jan. - M.C. Ken Ward - 6.30 - 10.00 p.m.  
ADMISSION - MEMBERS 3/- - VISITORS 3/6

English - at Cecil Sharp House.

2 Regents Park Road. GUL 2206

Dance Instruction on Wednesdays commencing Jan 26th.

Thursdays, " Jan 27th.

Folk Singing & Music Tuesdays " Jan 11th.

Thursdays " Jan. 27th.

Book Library on Thursdays & Tuesdays; Sound Library open on Tuesdays.

Saturdays - Singing in the Cellar and Dancing in the Hall.

Two dates - Twelfth Night Revels on Thursday 6th Jan.

Folk Festival 1966 at Royal Albert Hall 18th - 19th Feb.

(See Roland Minton for block booking)