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FIESTA

By Los Ibericos

On Friday, 1st April 1966, at 7.30 p.m.

At

YORK HALL, Bethnal Green, E.2.

Tickets - 7/6 & 5/-

From:- Mrs M. Colato,
169 Hamilton Avenue
Tolworth, Surrey.

or

Mr. H. Whitaker,
29 Sherbrook Gardens,
Winchmore Hill, N.21.

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CLASSES 1965/1966

At HUGH MAYDELTON SCHOOL, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Monday | Spanish | Beginners | 7.00-8.00 | Margaret Colato |
| 2. Monday | Spanish | Intermediate | 8.00-9.30 | Margaret Colato |
| 3. Tuesday | Balkan | Beginners & Intermediate | 6.30-8.30 | Kenneth Ward |
| 4. Tuesday | Balkan | Advanced | 8.30-9.30 | Kenneth Ward |
| 5. Wednesday | International | Intermediate | 7.30-9.30 | Margery Latham |

At CHRISTOPHER MATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

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|-------------|---------------|----------|------------|-----------------|
| GLC Monday | International | 1st Year | 6.30-8.30 | Margery Latham |
| 6. Monday | Polish | General | 8.00-10.00 | Betty Harvey |
| 7. Thursday | Spanish | Advanced | 7.00-8.00 | Margaret Colato |
| 8. Thursday | Spanish | Flamenco | 8.00-9.30 | Margaret Colato |

Wanted - an accurate and reliable typist to take on the job of typing the stencils for the S.I.F.D. NEWS. Our present typist, Maureen Weight, has been doing this job for quite a long time now and we feel someone else should take over and give her a break. If you are an efficient typist, willing to co-operate with the other members of the staff - Ken Blackwood, Lily Southgate, John Hughes and Stephen Ward, and willing to devote your time and energy to helping us by typing about nine stencils each month, would you please contact either the Editor or me, Lily. You need not have your own typewriter. We have one available for your use. The Editor & Staff.

Editor: Ken Blackwood, 523 Commercial Road, E.1. Tel. STE 6237, MUS 3644 Ext. 999
Assistant Editors: Lily Southgate and Stephen Ward.

Material to be with the Editor or Editor's Assistants Before the 10th of the month.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are pleased to announce that we have decided to allow a discount of 20% on records and books sold to members of the S.I.F.D. as from this month. Details of this scheme are on page 3.

We are also pleased to announce that it has been decided to abolish the 5/- supplement charged to each member when enrolling for our classes. In future, members will only be charged the normal G.L.C. class fee for the year (plus, of course, the membership fee to the S.I.F.D.). This will become operative as from the 1966/67 term.

Our Sunday Dances at the Dance Centre continue to show a small profit and we hope this will continue to improve, and that members will give these dances their full support. As you will have noticed, the facilities are gradually being improved and as the building work progresses we hope they will be further improved, but the success of the evening lies ultimately with the members, so please help us to help you, by supporting these dances regularly.

You may have noticed that we now keep a Visitor's Book for newcomers to our Sunday dances. In this way we hope to keep contact with visitors and also keep a record of how people come to hear of us and whether our advertising brings people in.

We have had 75 new members so far this year and our present membership stands at:

- 134 full members
- 59 country members
- 25 joint memberships (50 members)
- 3 life members
- 1 junior member
- 6 affiliated groups

Our financial position is as follows:-

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cash in Bank | 861. 2. 7 | Deposit a/c. |
| | 403.14. 5 | Current a/c. |
| Cash in Hand | 30.14. 4. | |

It is regretted that we have had to close the Friday evening class held at the Y.W.C.A. but we hope to re-establish these classes again next year with the hope that, with plenty of advance publicity, they will prove more successful than they have done this year.

A nucleus for a sub-Committee to produce the Royal Albert Hall Show (under the direction of the main Committee) has been formed, comprising Kathleen Munroe James, Ken Ward, and Dickie Gleeson (Secretary). Plans for the general outline of the Show are under way. At the risk of being repetitive, may I remind you of the date - 26th NOVEMBER 1966. Costs for production of this Show are going to be higher than ever this year so it is imperative that we sell as many tickets as possible and endeavour to fill the hall to capacity.

Owing to several complaints from members, the Committee have agreed to the ruling that no children under 16 years of age be admitted to our Sunday evening dances at Cecil Sharp house. We regret any inconvenience this may cause to older members with children but in complying with requests from some members who object to the presence of children at these functions, we must inevitably offend others who do want to bring children. It is impossible to please everyone!

LILY SCURGATE.
Hon. Secretary.

T O S . I . F . I . M E M B E R S
O N O U R B O O K S A N D R E C O R D S

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|---------------------|
| B O O K S | 7/6 | 6/- | |
| R E C O R D S | 15/6 | 12/6 | FROM 1ST MARCH 1966 |
| | 8/6 | 7/- | |

TO OBTAIN THE DISCOUNTS BOOKS AND RECORDS MUST BE PURCHASED
AT THE STANDARD PRICE AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED. SEND THE
RECEIPT, WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, TO:

MISS MARJORIE BRACEY
125 REIGATE AVENUE
SUTTON
SURREY.

NEW YEAR BALKAN SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL

On New Year's Day, I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend, at the Overseas League, an evening of Balkan music, song and dance, featuring dances and songs of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Turkey and Yugoslavis.

Of all European folklore, none is so vivid, rich and exciting as that of the Balkans, and the summit of their popular artistic creation is in music and dance. In this corner of Europe, folklore pulses with life and vigour and is not merely a frail survival of past and barely recognisable florics as is too often the case with folk song and dance in the West. In much of Jugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria, the villages still hold their regular weekend dances, outdoors in summer, in barns or large sheds in winter, at which the local repertory of collective dances is displayed. These dance occasions which go under the name of Oro in Macedonia, Hora in Rumania, Hora in Bulgaria - are all derivatives of the Greek "khoros" (from which comes our "Chorus") - are vital to the life of the communities since they provide a prime opportunity for the villagers to meet and exchange news and gossip; they are also the best occasions for beginning courtships!

The dance tunes of much of the Balkan area, like the song tunes, often seem to our ears strongly Oriental in flavour. If this is so, it should not be imagined that it is necessarily due to the influence of the Turks who were masters of much of this territory for several centuries. Indeed, resistance to the Turkish culture was strong and furious in many parts - notably in Bulgaria. The oriental colouring comes rather from the fact that the Balkans stand at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, and so quite naturally their music has characteristics that belong to both worlds. This is noticeable in the voice production, in the scales and ornamentation of the tunes, and particularly in the piquant rhythms that seem so complex to our ears, though in fact they are rarely as intricate as the rhythms of the Oriental proper. These seemingly complicated rhythmic patterns were commented on and illustrated as the various numbers of the programme were introduced.

The performers in this presentation were the "Dunav" Balkan Instrumental Group, which was formed last year under the auspices of the International Folk Music Centre to play all types of Balkan folk music, and by using both traditional and modern instruments the group reproduces typical Balkan sounds and rhythms; and the dancing was by the Society for Freindship with Bulgaria, who demonstrated the different rhythmic patterns of the dance, and also the different regional costumes. At the end of the programme the audience had the opportunity of showing how much of the idiom they had absorbed by joining in some of the dances.

A very colourful and exciting evening, from which one came away wanting more - a true measure of enjoyment.

L. SOUTHGATE

(Acknowledgements to London Symphony Orchestra Club Bulletin)

HERTFORDSHIRE DANCE GROUPS

Croxley Green International Dance Group - Meets at Halvern Way School on Wednesdays from 8.00 to 9.30 p.m. (Near Croxley Met. Station.)

Watford Group - Meets at Francis Combe School on Tuesdays from 7.15 to 9.15p.m. (Watford Junction or St. Albans Station, Buses 351, 321.)

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Dear Editor,

I must congratulate you on the covers appearing on the S.I.F.D. NEWS for the past few months. They have certainly brightened it no end!

Clifford Beck has quite a point about Saturday night dancing and 'follow up' publicity for new people, although I expect it will be difficult to find anyone willing to take on the job - it's usually the same old people who do all the work and they are probably overloaded as usual. I disagree about 'being independant of the SIFD' - after all who usually does the work and foots the bills? Even his idea of these dances is published by kind permission of the SIFD NEWS!

Re Kathleen Munroe James' letter. I am determined, in spite of my husband's protests, to state emphatically that he was nowhere near the stage at all during the Commonwealth Institute Show. Indeed, it was well nigh impossible to get near the stage once the performance had started as there was no 'pass'door. I, myself, had to run through the rain in order to get backstage ready for the second half. As Peter was sitting in the audience taking notes I cannot help thinking that the lighting assistant was 'mistaken' - to put it politely!

As for the pianist - a fulltime professional - she explained quite reasonably that for sound and appearance reasons concert grands always have the curve towards the audience and the straight side away.

Peter offered his assistance only after he discovered that Kathkeen had no Stage Manager. It must be extremely difficult to produce a show with different groups coming on with no previous rehearsal on the same stage. This makes it even more essential to have a tough Stage Manager, with at least one assistant, who can put the 'Fear of God' into anyone who goes back-stage without permission.

Up to date, I have produced eight full-length shows (twelve by the end of this year) and I have had, and will have, my share of criticism - some of it unfair of course - but on the whole people who do criticize do so in order to help us. They are really interested in seeing us perform well and not just as an embarrassing bunch of amateurs which the audience came along to see as a sort of charitable duty.

Sincerely,
MARGARET COLATO

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to our friend and ex-member Madge Handley, who we hear is getting married on the 20th February.

COMING EVENTS

- 10th March Antonio and his Spanish Ballet open at the Cambridge Theatre for a six-weeks season.
- 2nd March 'Zulu and Swazi Music of the Towns' by David Rycroft
- 9th March 'The Other World in the Music of Malekula' by Raymond Clauson
- 16th March 'Afro-Brazilian Music' by Victoria Kingsley
- 23rd March 'Music of the Court of The Emir of Kano' by Edward Williams

From 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. at Africa Centre, 38 King Street, W.C.2.

1st April Spanish Fiesta, York Hall, Bethnal Green, See page 1.

ZAPATEADO

On Saturday Feb 5th. Los Ibericos, at the invitation of the London Borough of Hackney, presented their latest show at the Kings Hall Hackney, and what a glorious success it was, don't take our word for it, here are some of the comments from the audience,

Chairman of the Entertainments Committee

A beautiful show which has attracted the largest audience we've had here this season.

Hackney Councilor

A great show, my wife cannot stop talking about the costumes.

From the Audience as they left.

1. Fantastic, I never thought I would see such excellent Spanish dancing outside of Spain.
2. A great show, when are you coming back.
3. Marvellous, have you I learn to dance like that.
4. Two old age pensioners. It were lovely, made me fergit all me aches and pains.

Need I say more, it was wotzying, it was hectic, at times costume changes were frantic, it was worth it, and everyone in the Group deserves every congratulations, but our special thanks also go to our friends outside the Group who gave us such valuable assistance, Narendra Kotwal for such expert Stage Managership, John Dear and Don Shaw for helping with the lights.

Well done Los Ibericos.

Harry Whitaker.
Chairman.

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A Selection of European Folk Dances. Books 1.2. and 3.

These are the Society's books now published at 7/6 by Pergamon Press. Books 1 and 2 are available and book 3, which has been in the publishers hands for some months now, should be available at the end of February

Since we handed publication and distribution to Pergamon Press, there have been reports that the books are difficult to obtain and I have been looking into the problem. Foyles now have a small number in stock and more on order. The Books can be ordered through an ANY BOOKSELLER and delivery time is two to three weeks; however, in an attempt to reduce delivery time, I would suggest that we either buy at Foyles or (for people not in Central London) order the books through branches of W.H. Smith. Most people can reach a "Smith's" and if they receive many orders they will stock the books at Head Office, (until then Smiths may take 4 - 5 weeks), as all their orders have to go through their head office). For orders or orders for large quantities should be ordered direct from the Book Sales Department, Pergamon Press, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford,. Robert Maxwell & Co. Ltd. will probably supply books most quickly by post but posting and packing charges will, of course, be made. (Maxwells is an Oxford bookshop, which stocks Pergamon's books.

I hope this will help everyone to obtain the books. Unfortunately we cannot expect every bookshop to STOCK the books as the demand is restricted, but we do expect every bookshop to be prepared to ORDER the books on request. Please let me know if you still have difficulty in obtaining the books, or if there is undue delay, giving full details of the order, bookseller etc. and do not forget the discount offer!

MARJORIE BRACEY.

The value of the infusion of a few foreign dances into an English programme was notably evident at the Grand Barn Dance for Folkestone International Folklore Festival held at the Leas Cliff Hall on the 14th January. Two Israeli chain dances, needing no partners, Jager Marsch and Datchko Kolo, constituted a Continental interlude and were greeted with spontaneous enthusiasm even by the inveterate English dancers.

Unfortunately, the night proved, weather wise, to be the worst of the winter. The Press which reported nearby villages cut off and hundreds of vehicles abandoned in the snow, nevertheless rightly confirmed that conditions failed to dampen the enthusiasm of folk dancers. A big and important ball at the Grand Hotel was cancelled, and in claiming a victory thereby over "Ballroom" the Barn Dance also made a profit.

Mr. Francis Hawkins coped admirably with an attendance of over 100 in this great and glamorous hall and fortunately the St. George's Folk Dance Band is local so that they were not in danger of being snowed up. The evening proves that a hall like this, which is inaccessible during the summer for folk dancing, except the Folklore Festival, can well be used in winter for such an activity. There is no Folklore Festival until next year, but the Swedish Pole will be raised and there will be a barn dance in Folkestone on the 25th June 1966.

Barnett Field,
Westminster Bank House,
Folkestone.

The Folk Dances of the Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Folk Dances have their roots in the past, in pagan times, when they were part of the cult. Girls and boy's dances accompanied by song. Later, warlike movements were included, and survive to this day in the fiery Cossack dances. A great number of the dances are seasonal and show, as do the Russian Horoved dances, the life of the village.

For the Beginning of Spring dances the girls go singing from hut to hut and meet the boys on the village green, where they sing and dance until it is time for the 'Going Home' song. These Spring dances are soft and lyrical, and the girls often carry flowers and garlands.

Summer dances have names like "Green Sound" and "Little Hare"; an Autumn dance is called "The Young Men Goes To Town", and a winter dance is the "Snowstorm". In this the movement is quick like a whirlwind, with a very distinct rhythm. "Kosachok, or "Little Cossack" is a widely known men's dance, often done with spears or swords. Other dances show "The Barrel-maker", "The Bootmaker", "The Tailor", or "The Salt Merchants".

In the Mountains of Transcarpathia the dances are different from those of the plain. They have special movements, such as jumping steps, spirals and the rotating of couples around each other. A very well known dance is the men's "Arkan", which goes back hundreds of years. But the best known and most widely performed dance of all Ukrainian dances is the "Hoprk". This is a very flexible dance, originally improvised by one boy only, but now mostly performed by the whole group or company. In this the boys try to surpass each other in showing off their skill and steps to the girls, who in their turn come in with special steps and figures to give the boys time to get their breath back.

(Abbreviated from "Folk Dances of the USSR" by
JENIA GRAHAM T. Tkatchenko.

GILLIE CALLUM (THE SWORD DANCE)

SCOTS



JOHN D. BURGESS (HIGH ISLES)

SCOTS



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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Chairman | Mrs Margery Latham 14 Beechwood Ave., Kew Surrey | WHI 9000 Ext. 701 Pro 7055 |
| Secretary | Miss Lily Southgate 52 Banbury House, Banbury Road, E.9. | AMH 0428 CIT 1212 Ext 449 |
| Treasurer & Membership Sec. | Mr. Roland Royston Minton 131 Holly Street, E.8. | |
| Demonstration Secretary | Miss Kathleen Munroe James 14 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts | Watford 24323 |

The Society's badges 9pin-on, stick-on, and belt-on are available from the Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Mr. R. Minton.

NEWS OF ABSENT FRIENDS

Len and Beryl Sawyer wish all their friends to know that, although they write infrequently these days, they haven't forgotten everyone. They still manage to do a little folk dancing but are too busy with their two children, Alison 4½ and Colin 3, to be able to do much. They hope that everything is going well with our Society and wish to be remembered to all their old friends. Their new address is:-

1742 Dunbar
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Sunday Dances in March

At the DANCE CENTRE, 12 Floral Street, W.C. 2. (5 mins. Leicester Sq.)

Musician

M.C.

| | | |
|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Mar 6 | Cliff Beck | Roly Minton |
| Mar 13 | Alan Corkett | Alan Corkett |
| Mar 20 | Harry de Caux | George Sweetland |

7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Admission 4/- & 5/-

At CECIL SHARP HOUSE 2 Regents Park Road, W.1. (10 mins. Camden Town)

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|
| Mar 27 | F.D. Band | Jack Richardson |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|

7.00-10.00 p.m. Admission 3/- & 3/6

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP

meet on Wednesdays at 20.00 hrs in Oxford House, Mape Street, E.22
(off Bethnal Green Road) Station - Bethnal Green. Admission (non-members) 2/6 - First visit free!

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Programme for March:- | 2nd Balkan | 9th Greek | 16th Swedish |
| | 23rd not fixed | 30th Balkan | 6th April General |