

S. I. F. D.

~NEWS~

JUL 66



ADY

1.

Articles and information for publication in the S.I.F.D. News should reach the Editor or an Assistant Editor by the 10th of the preceding month. Letters to the Editor which call for a reply or deal with subjects on which the Committee of office-holders of the Society may wish to comment, should reach the Editor before the Committee meeting prior to publication. (Committee meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the month). Members will realise that it is better to publish both sides of a controversy in a single issue.

Editor Ken Blackwood, 523 Commercial Road, London, E.1. STE 6237. MUS 3644 Ext. 999
Assistants Lily Southgate and Stephen Ward.

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CONGRATULATIONS! to Angela Caplan and Toni Zuger on their recent engagement.
We wish them both every happiness.

CLASSES 1965/1966

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

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 HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

5.	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

continued from Page 2.

- 8) Once again we shall be holding our Sunday dances in the open air during the month of August. Our original reason for this was because our usual hall was not available on Sundays during August but as our "Under the Arches" dances have proved so popular with our members we have decided to carry on this tradition, even though the Dance Centre is available. We are in fact, considering a new site for these dances but at the time of writing this has not been confirmed so please refer to the back page for the latest news as to whether the dances will be at the Arches or the Waterloo roundabout.

LILY SOUTHCATE
Hon. Secretary.

SECRETARY'S NOTES ON THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

The best that can be said for the Half-Yearly Annual Meeting, held on the 11th June, is that it was lively, if a rather disorganised meeting. Opinions, proposals, motions, amendments and re-amendments flowed thick and fast, and the task of sorting out for the Minutes exactly what did happen will be quite a formidable one. To endeavour to cover the main points, for the benefit of members who were not present (and for those that were!) :-

- 1) As from the 1966/67 membership period, subscription fees will be increased as follows:

Full membership will be	£1.0.0d.	per annum
Country membership	15/-	" "
Joint membership	30/-	" "

- 2) Honorary Membership was conferred on Bert Price in recognition of his past services to the Society. We are very pleased indeed to welcome Bert on to our list of Honorary Members for life.
- 3) The words '1001 Legs' will not now be used in the title of our Royal Albert Hall Show. The Show will be called 'See How They Dance' as in previous years.
- 4) There will in future be no restriction on the length of time officers and members of the Committee are allowed to serve, provided of course they are re-elected annually. At the moment there is a three year limit on the time any one person can serve as an officer.
- 5) The motion proposed by Marjorie Bracey and seconded by Dickie Gleeson, to ensure that candidates for election on to the Committee, and any member nominating such candidates should have been members of the S.I.F.D. for at least twelve months prior to the date of the nomination, was defeated. The members present, by a majority of 15 to 10, felt that this was an unnecessary restriction.
- 6) That old headache of taxation and investment was again chewed over at some length and, although the Committee had proposed a motion (No 1 on the agenda) in an attempt to take a first step to sorting out this problem, by applying for registration as a non-tax paying charitable institution, it was felt by the majority present that we cannot go forward with this motion without taking legal advice, and the Committee were instructed to do so.
- 7) The programme for the Royal Albert Hall Show has been drafted and several guest teams have been invited to take part as well as our own S.I.F.D. teams and those of affiliated groups. As we are forced to pay £50 per performance more than we paid for the last Show, for a reduced number of seats, we have been forced to increase the price of the tickets, to try to obtain the same profit margin. The price of the seats will therefore be:- Matinee - 16/-, 12/-, 10/-, 8/-, 6/-, 4/-; Evening - £1, 15/-, 12/6, 7/6, 5/-; Publicity for the Show will be in the hands of the Royal Albert Hall Show Sub-Committee, with the assistance of Peter Lilley. (Actually, one of the best forms of publicity, if not the best is by example and word-of-mouth personal recommendation, so I hope every member who is not dancing in the Show will buy a ticket and every member, whether in the Show or not, will also sell as many as possible to friends

CHOREOGRAPHY

First of all, let us pick out the region we are going to deal with - it consists of Europe together with the near East. The reasons why we pick on this one region are obvious - we know too little about the dances of India, China, Africa etc. to be able to analyse them, and even if we could do so, since no dances from these regions are performed by the S.I.F.D. the analysis would not be particularly interesting to our readers.

You might expect that we would have included Australia, New Zealand, etc. but the fact is that these countries have not developed any folk-dances of their own, except for the rather self-consciously composed South African Boer dances, like "Hiers ek weer", which we do not class as folk dances and which should not be included in the kind of analysis we are making. (The same applies to Israeli dances). Regions which we might have included but didn't are Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines etc. The reasons we did not include are that the dances here have become thoroughly mixed - the dance culture has a white component, an aboriginal component and (in Central and Southern America) a negro component. This mixing of cultures is a very familiar one to ethnologists - their term for it is acculturation - and it requires special study. That is one reason why we exclude these regions, but the main reason is that the aboriginal and negro components represent not folk dance but primitive dance, and so are taking us outside our field.

Having selected the region we are going to study, let us now think a little about the history of the dance. All the evidence we have - descriptions, statues, paintings etc. show that in very early times dancing was mainly in two forms - a completely free dance in which each dancer made no contact with other dancers (if any - he might, of course, be dancing alone) and the chain dance. The first form is very natural, is world wide and its beginnings have been observed, so some zoologists claim, in the play of the great apes. The second form is more artificial, and is pretty well confined to our region. (Moreover nobody has seen gorillas dancing a kolo). The first, free, form of dance may or may not have eventually influenced stage dancing, in Greece and Rome it very possibly did) but it did not influence what we should call folk-dancing. Thus we can say that the ancient form of folk-dance in our region is the chain-dance. This remained true from very remote antiquity to the Middle Ages - the Farandole, Branle etc. were chain-dances.

In the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, new types of dances came into being - the couple dance and the figure dance. But about this time, one of the most important events in the history of our region occurred - the invasion by the Turks. The reason why it is important is this - it completely sealed off the occupied region from the rest of Europe and therefore from the new forms of dance, and so the chain dance was preserved there. It is true that a few chain dances survived elsewhere (farandole, cramignon, sardana, hilt-and-point sword dances, certain children's games, Faroese dances) but they are scarce, exceptional, and counted by ones and twos, whereas in the Balkans they are the rule and are numbered in their hundreds. Here, then, we make our first choreographic division but first we must consider the Turkish invasion in a little more detail.

The Turks and their relatives the Mongols were nomadic pastoral tribes who probably originated in Central Asia north of the Himalayas - about where Turkestan, Kazakhstan, Sinkiang and Mongolia are today. They lacked settled towns and villages, but did not lack fighting spirit, and their periodic expansions (the Turks to the West and the Mongols to the East) have strongly affected the history of two continents. The first Turkic tribe to invade Europe were the Huns (375 A.D. - thrown back 454 A.D.) but the ones that we are interested in are the Seljuks, who advanced westward through Persia and

Mesopotamia, starting about 1037, and in 1071 destroyed the Byzantine army at one of the most crucial battles in history - the battle of Manzikert. As a result, Asia Minor (i.e. Modern Turkey) passed out of the European, Christian Sphere, into the Eastern, Moslem Sphere. That is how the Turks came to Turkey. They pushed on further into the Balkans, gaining a good foothold there by 1400, although Constantinople held out - surrounded - until 1453. Its fall was another turning point in history. By 1559 the Turks were within a hundred miles of Vienna, and the Ottoman Empire included most of Hungary, and all the Balkans except the Dalmatian coast, Montenegro and a few islands like Corfu. It also included a large slice of what is now the Southern Ukraine. The boundary is shown as a thick line on the map, and remained for nearly a hundred years. Then Hungary gained its independence, and pushed the frontier back to the dotted line. This frontier remained for nearly two hundred years in the West, though the Eastern parts of the Ottoman Empire were taken by Russia around 1800. This boundary has its legacy today; the Western bulge is the boundary between Bosnia and Croatia, and accounts for the curious two-legged shape of Croatia.

Thus our first main division is into Northwest Europe, above the thick line, as against Balkan Europe, below the dotted line. Between the lines is a transitional zone. The Dalmatian coast belongs to the Northwest zone, but Montenegro does not, even though it was not part of the Ottoman Empire. The reason is that it was sealed off from the rest of Europe as effectively as if it had been conquered by the Turks. Dalmatia belonged to Venice most of the time, and had good connections across the Adriatic. Montenegro did not. The fact that Montenegro fits into the Balkan zone (as confirmed by its music, songs, dances and customs) is one of the striking pieces of evidence that the main influence of the Turks is the negative one of sealing the Balkans off from the rest of Europe, and not the positive one of imposing their own culture.

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The above article is from the pages of the Northwest FOLK DANCER, a dancers' magazine that ignores borders and serves in the west both Canada and the U.S.A. We have copies and will be pleased to loan them to members. Their subscription Secretary is Agnes de la Torre, 1415 N.E. 52nd Apt. 402, Seattle, Wn. 98105.

DANCERS AT THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

This year's Royal Tournament (at Earl's Court, 13th to 30th July) will include tribal dances performed by Pakistan's Frontier Constabulary. The dances are intended to inspire Military fervour on the eve of battle or to celebrate weddings or the birth of a son. They are accompanied by a single pipe instrument called a surnai, and a drum

ESHER ROUND TABLE FAYRE

On Saturday afternoon, 21st May, Los Ibericos hit the stockbroker belt of Esher when they danced at the May Fayre held on the village green.

There was not the usual staccato tap of heels to herald the group's arrival, due to the very effective sound-roofing qualities of the grass, but nevertheless their presence was heard in other ways. Rhythmic strumming of the guitars, the clatter of castanets, and the gay but frantic 'Ole's' and 'Viva Sevillas' uttered by Los Ibericos tireless leader Margarita Celato in the hope that the rest would take their cue from her. Some did, but as luck would have it, the sound was lost in the rather strong breeze. This was not altogether unfortunate as various members of the Group having just returned from a visit to Sevilla for the Feria were airing their newly acquired and decidedly vulgar vocabulary.

As is often the case with events like this, Los Ibericos danced against certain odds. For most of the time there was slight confusion in the team dances as to which best of the music to follow: the guitars themselves which could just be heard, or the sound coming from the amplifiers which were a beat behind; not to mention the fact that the breeze occasionally blew the sound completely away. Dancing on grass in high heels had its problems too for the girls as they screwed themselves into the ground when turning. Fans were almost blown away and the girls had difficulty in keeping their skirts from covering their heads completely.

However, despite all this, a large audience watched and, I think, enjoyed the performance of the eight dances, although applause seemed a trifle restrained. Perhaps this was due to the fact that they did not quite know what it was all about, or it may have been the breeze blowing the sound away again.

The climax of the outing came, however, after the official performance on the green. A journalist from a weekly magazine who wished to take photographs of the Group, asked the owner of a nearby house if he could use this as a background. Permission was gladly granted and when the photographer had been satisfied that enough shots had been taken, the owner of the house and his guests said that if Los Ibericos would do one dance for them on their patio they would give the Group a cheque for ten pounds to be donated to any of the various charitable organisations who had stalls at the Fayre. This was no sooner proposed than an impromptu Flamenco session was under way. On this occasion however, Los Ibericos showed great restraint and managed to stop after two dances. Harry Whitaker was then able to go to the Control Tent and hand over the cheque to the organisers who, when they finally believed the story, were more than pleased to receive it. Incidentally, the cheque was handed over even before the dancing began, though of course, all who have come in contact with the Spanish Group will know that nothing will stop them dancing at any time anywhere, so generosity would not have been abused.

The two local newspapers in their reports on the May Fayre said that a record amount of £2,750 had been collected, and Los Ibericos is rather pleased to feel that, but for them, it would only have been £2,740! (Dulcet tones off screen 'You can rely on Los Ibericos!').

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AFFILIATED GROUPS

The Y.H.A. FOLK DANCE GROUP Meet at the Youth Hostel, 84 Highgate West Hill, N.6. From Archway Station (Northern Line, Barnet branch) take bus 210 or 271 to Highgate Village, turn left along South Grove to West Hill. International folk dances, including some English, are done at the meetings which will begin at 20.00 on the following Fridays - 1st, 15th, 29th July, 12th August.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at 20.00 every Wednesday throughout the year at Oxford House, Mape Street, E.2. From Bethnal Green station (Central Line) walk down the Bethnal Green Road and Mape Street is on the left. Each week an instructor teaches dances from a different country.

6th July Austrian and German. John Dear and Stephen Ward
 13th July Polish and the Sardana (Catalan). Bert Price
 20th July Balkan. Philip Thornton.
 27th July Swedish. Dr. Cyriax.
 3rd. August French. John Hughes.
 10th August Israeli. Henry Golstein.

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YUGOSLAVIA - Anyone interested in making up a party of four to go by car for the month of August? Expenses to be kept as low as possible. Expected return fare per person about £10.

Dates to be fixed by arrangement. One way passengers considered. Write immediately or sooner to

Fred Sneed,
 183, Moryhull Hall Road,
 Birmingham, 30.

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Dear Editor,

It gives me much pleasure to say that, since my letter was published in the May S.I.F.D. News, I am not so often a wall-flower at Society dances. Indeed, I have learned from other girls that they have experienced the same thing. It must have been a shock to many people to realize that there are wallflowers who are not sitting out because of a shortage of men.

It seems, therefore, that I will not have to follow ex-Wallflower's and Aunt Fanny's advice, not that I agree with it anyway. Why stop going to dances without trying to find out why you are left on the sidelines every time? Show a bit of spirit and you may get somewhere, but surely not by dancing with another girl? I should think that would lessen the chances of having a masculine partner next time, not increase them.

However, I hope that I am not being over-optimistic in also signing myself,

Yours faithfully,

Ex-Wallflower.

This correspondence is now closed. Editor.

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FOLK DANCING IN VIENNA

Visitors to Vienna may care to know that folk dances are held at Fuhrmannngasse 18A in the 8. Bezirk every Saturday at 19.30. I was made welcome when I went there last June. The simple Austrian dances are delightful when done in their home atmosphere. About seventy people were there, mostly younger than our average age. The band consisted of a diatonic accordion in A.D and G, fiddle, clarinet and a guitar with extra strings set at an angle to the rest. It seemed to be the custom that girls asked men to dance just as freely as men could ask girls. Many were in Austrian costume. One thing which I found extremely interesting was how low cut the girls' dirndls were in front. A group was preparing to visit some festival and I heard their leader telling the girls that on no account must they wear nylon stockings with costume and, of course, lipstick is not worn with a dirndl, a practice which I find weirdly incongruous in some of our Hasenberg Tiroler - a phrase which the Germans use for town-dwellers who dress up in Alpine costume, the Hasenberg being a small hillock in Stuttgart.

As is usual at folk dances in Germany and Austria, an ordinary Vienna waltz was done during several times during the evening. Three different kinds of hold are used; ballroom, peasant and one in which the girl crosses her arms behind her back and the man holds her hands at her waist. The entire evening's programme was: Waltz; a Kreuzpolka (a form without waltz; Eisenkeilnost; Eiswalzer (different in detail to ours) Waldjager; Bohmerwald Landler (Krummauer); Hirtmadl; Warschauer (almost identical without Varsoviemie); Mutsburger Schottischer; Offener Walzer (done without any leaps) Krebspolka; Swedish Masquerade (As seems to be usual in Germany and Austria, the first figure is done holding hands and each partner turning independently); Buchberger Schottisch; Ceeve; a break for singing; waltz, polka; Freistritzer; Marschierboarischer; Sievenschritt; Schwedischer a more usual name for our Der Lustige); Sluna; Mazurka; Marschierpolka; waltz; and to finish with, the song 'Kein Schoner Land'.

Stephen Ward.

PLEASE NOTE - Sunday dances in August will either be at The Arches or at Waterloo Roundabout. We are sorry we cannot let you know definitely, but please see the Stop Press - we may be in time to include an announcement. If not, we will definitely announce in the August issue where the dances will be held.

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY (London Branch)

OPEN AIR DANCING

With the co-operation of the GLC, open air Scottish Country Dancing will be held in Peckham Rye Park on Fridays, the 1st, 8th, and 15th July.
Also at Holland Park on Wednesday, 20th, 27th, July, 3rd, 10th, 17th August.
Admission Free.

anted - an accurate and reliable typist to take on the job of typing 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 the Editor. You need not have your own typewriter. We have one available for your use.

The Editor.

'TAKE NOTE' The Scottish Tourist Board Publication has details of all the Highland Games in Scotland this summer

BADGES - Lapel 3/6
Vehicle (Bolted) 15/6
(Adhesive) 7/6

BOOKS A Selection of European Folk Dances - three volumes .ea. 7/6
From any good book store, or from Pergamon Press, Headington Hall Hill, Oxford.

RECORDS - 10 78 r.p.m. of European Folk dances8/6 each
1 33½ r.p.m. of Austrian Folk Dances15/6 each
1 " of Israeli/Balkan "15/6 each
Tapes covering above.

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

The chance now exists to buy the Society's records and books at a reduced rate. Make your enquiries to :-

Miss Marjorie Bracey,
125 Reigate Avenue,
Sutton,
Surrey.

COMING EVENTS

- 30th June TATABANYA Hungarian Folk Dance and Music Ensemble at Wembley Town Hall and at the Poplar Civic Centre. Tickets 2/- for parties of 10 or more.
- 2nd July GRAND DANCE AT PORCHLSTER HALL 7 to 11.30 p.m. Tickets 5/- ea.
Please come in costume.
- 4th July TATABANYA Ensemble at Chatham Town Hall.
- 5th July SWEDISH EVENING to welcome our Swedish Visitor, Helger Karlsson
at Bolt Court, Fleet Street.
- 5th to 10th July INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EISTEDDFOD, Llangollen.
- 9th and 10th July HUNGARIAN GYPSY ENSEMBLE (RAJKO) at the Royal Albert Hall,
7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6 to 21/-.
- 15th to 17th July KEELE FOLK FESTIVAL, Keele University, Staffs. Enquiries to E.F.D.S.S
- 18th July POLISH EVENING The Monday class invite all interested members and friends to join them in a Polish evening at Christopher Hatton School.
- 26th Nov. SEE HOW THEY DANCE at The Royal Albert Hall.

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WEEKENDS AWAY -

16th to 18th September - Another folk Dance weekend at Uplands near High Wycombe.

13th to 15th January 67.- Bisham Abbey

Bookings and enquiries for both weekends should be sent to:-
Prof. J. Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering,
University College, Swansea, Glam.

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The Mallorcan Group Casa Oliver will be attending the Llangollen Festival, during their visit to Britain they will be guests of the Thurrock Group for a few days after the festival. Thurrock Group are arranging, at very short notice, a programme of singing, dancing and music by Casa Oliver to help pay for their journey. The programme will be preceded by an informal meeting with the group followed by a civic reception. At the time of printing the place had not been fixed, the date 9th July, prices for the performance app. 5/- to 7/-.

Please support Thurrock Group if you can. Should you require tickets contact Ivy Romney, also let her know if you are interested in attending the receptions. Ivy Romney, Thurrock International Folk Dance Group, 258 Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Essex.

The Hague, June 17th, 1966

Dear Ken,

Many thanks for your letter of June 14th which I received yesterday. You probably are perfectly right in stating that I can't do the typing for the News; I agree with your explanation. But who will if Maureen wants to stop with it? If I would live in London, things might be quite different! Anyway I feel flattered with your suggestion of me becoming your "Overseas Correspondent" and will gladly accept it; Your apologies for the delay are, of course, accepted!

To start off, please find below my first contribution (which, by the way, I entitle "Coming Events at Home and Abroad"). You are very lucky, because the day after receiving your letter, or the same day, I found these data in a Dutch TV periodical! Here they are:-

ENGLAND Middlesborough 9th to 16th July +

GERMANY Wesel June 2nd to 5th +
Krov July 2nd to 4th +
Konigswinter August 5th to 10th. +

FRANCE Boyonne Six Days, July 11th to 17th. Folklore festivals with music and dancing from the Pyrenees and Basque.

Senones July 14th to 16th. +
Montrejeau August 13th to 15th +
Lignieres August 21st.

Austria Amras Folk dancing competitions. July 2 & 3rd. +
Salzburg An exhibition at the castle of Hellbrun of costumes and peasant customs of the province of Salzburg. Until October 1966.

SPAIN Alicante Festivals and processions June 21st to 30th
Grenada International Festival of Music, Theatre and Ballet. June 25 to July 8.

SWITZERLAND Le Chable Festival of costumes (canton of Wallis), processions, music, and folk dancing. July 17th.

BELGIUM Tielt July 10th +
Schoten July 16th to 22nd. +
Antwerp October 8th to 10th. +

GREECE Levkas August 20th to 31st. +

IRELAND Dublin September 13th to 18th. +

HOLLAND Warffum (Province of Groningen) Fed. Folklore groups. June 29 & 30 July 1 & 2+
Arnhem Christmas course, various countries. Dec 27 to 31. Please see News.

+ = No further details available.

Well Ken, that's about all I could find (also in NEVO's periodical). Hoping to hear from you one of these days, I remain with kind regards and best wishes,

R. SPEYER
Lubeckstreet 95.

DANCE DES PETITS BATONS

PYRENEES

INTRODUCTION

A PROFESSIONAL ENTRY

1. 2. B

INTRODUCTION

DANCE I

II

III

PLUS VITE

1. 2.

CODA TEMPO PRIMO

A Reminder

Midsummer Dance

2nd July

Porchester Hall

Porchester Road, W.2.

7-11 p.m. Entrance 5/-

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

