

S.I.F.D. NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1967



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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY THE 15TH OF THE
MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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BADGES

S.I.F.D. Badges for lapel, scooter and car, at 3/6, 7/6 and 12/6 respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton (address above).

RECORDS and BOOKS

S.I.F.D. records and books of instruction can be obtained from Marjorie Bracey (address above). Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use. Details from Marjorie.

As I felt so strongly about the irregularity of the 'News' and I felt we were losing the all-important link with members, I decided to make an offer, which the Committee accepted, to take over the production of the 'News', beginning with the October issue, after my return from holiday. As Stephen has decided to make the July issue his last one, I have been asked to help bridge the gap by producing the September issue also, which I am endeavouring to do before going on holiday on the 21st August, so this will be rather a rushed production. Thereafter, I hope to keep to a regular timetable, with a closing date of the 15th of each month for receipt of any material to be published in the next month's issue, and delivery of the 'News' at the beginning of each month. This I hope to accomplish with the help of Sylvia Fulton, and the occasional assistance of other members who have offered to help. If you have any articles, announcements, news, which would be of interest to other members, do please let me have them, and help to do your share in making the 'News' interesting and informative reading.

LILY SOUTHGATE
Editor

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

In case you haven't noticed it - your membership has expired, and next month's issue of the 'News' will be your last unless you renew it post-haste. Your opportunity to do so, and at the same time enrol for next term's classes, will be at:-

S.I.F.D. ENROLMENT DANCE

-at-

CENTRAL LONDON INSTITUTE, BOLT COURT, FLEET STREET, E.C.2

-on-

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 1967

at 7.30 p.m.

What do you get out of being a member?

- The opportunity to join any or all of our ten weekly classes.
- A reduced entrance fee to our Sunday dances and other functions.
- A 20% discount on all our books and records.
- A vote at elections and General Meetings.
- A free copy of the 'News' each month of the year.

All for £1 a year (15/- for country members)! If you are unable to attend the Enrolment Dance, please send your subscription to our Membership Secretary, together with your class fee. (List of fees on page 7).

THE BLACKWOOD SAGA

(Another instalment of Ken Blackwood's
overland journey to New Zealand).

A Buddhist Monastery, Bangkok.

The mosquitoes are b----y awful. We are, quite literally, breeding them in this room. The World Health Organization are breeding them in order to test whether they can locate the carriers of a pair of diseases peculiar to Bangkok. There's no malaria but these two have become quite serious.

We (2 English, 1 Californian Yank and I) flew into Bangkok on the 28th December and our taxi driver was to take us to the Youth Hostel. The British taxi service must be one of the best informed in the world, I've decided. This driver made enquiries as to where the Hostel should be and came back to the taxi all a-grin, saying this ride will be free. He then dropped us off just on the other side of the block! This, we found, was not a Youth Hostel at all but a Wat or Buddhist Monastery. Here they gave us four mats, four mosquito nets, and a large, 20' x 40', room with a padlock (and mosquitoes) for free, with no restrictions and several dinner invitations. It's 11.45 p.m. and the mosquitoes have got worse, so I'll finish this later.

Later (viz. 9 a.m.). The mossies were rough and I'm well marked! Bangkok is a nice city; clean, friendly, the girls are pretty and the men handsome, and prices not too bad. At the rate of 56bt. to the £; sugar is 4bt. a kilo, 2oz. coffee is 14bt., eggs 4.50bt., buses ½pt. the only fare. Beer is dearer at 13bt. a bottle (3 glasses). Clothing seems O.K. for price but you still have to bargain about prices. I'm sick of bargaining. I'd highly recommend Bangkok for the tourist, but it's a bit far for a weekend. Hotels range from 20 to 180bt. per night.

We flew here in a Viscount. At Rangoon we only stopped for 1hr.40mins. which saved us getting a visa and thus saved money. Speaking of money, as the bank failed to answer my frantic wire, the Allahabad Bank paid me on the letter of advice instead of on a banker's draft. If the b----y bank had sent the wire I'd asked for I'd not have had to cable them, and I wouldn't have had to leave Calcutta with just my 'plane fare, with the rest to be telegraphed to Singapore. I'm furious with the bank and am suspicious of all others.

Thai makes life a little difficult at times, with the alphabet of 32 vowels and 44 consonants. We survive, but at times it's a struggle. The English and the Yank were talking of going to Saigon, but they've now given up the idea. I thought it daft anyway. We tried for a Portuguese visa for Timor, and an Indonesian visa, but both have caused difficulties so we've decided to leave it until we get nearer the problem. Often these problems disappear anyway, or you find there is some way round them.

We've inspected the reclining Buddha, and I thought him nice. There's a nice twinkle in his eye, though his tum is a little tattered - the gold leaf (I think) is hanging off in strips. He is enormous, of course. Some of the

gilded trimmings of the temples are magnificent, especially with sun as bright as it is. What I like best are the stylized lions, about 1'-1½', that decorate the lower end of the 'bannister' of the stone steps leading up to the temples. Something similar, in some ways, to Peke dogs. I'm sure you've seen some in museums etc.

I should be getting away from here, but it's such a pleasant place and there's no accommodation charge. In India it's the Sikh temples that provide free lodging and even some food, but the idea was repugnant to me. One of the two English stayed at them regularly across India. On Sunday, we went to the Mariners Club and inspected their swimming pool - all day. Very nice. The other English has seaman's papers, and we've already paid a Christmas visit to a Bank ship in Calcutta (two beers). The Yank and the English went back last night and saw "The Apartment" - free.

Saw the Snake Farm the other day, and those are the only snakes so far, except some snake charmers in Delhi. These were King Cobras (invisible), Banded Kraits (very quiet) and Cobras (with mice, where there was considerable activity). One was eating a mouse as we watched and several were swimming in the moat. Don't get near a snake in the water as they are extremely fast movers.

Was watching sampans and thinking how a similar set of circumstances will nearly always evolve a similar means. One could transfer one of these people into a Venetian gondola and vice versa and they would both feel quite comfortable with the boats. The gondolas are more sophisticated and prettier. There are many canals here and just as noisome.

A Thai teashop, Thung Song

Things have improved adventurewise (what a horrible word). As I told you in a letter from Calcutta, I managed to get some money, enough to pay the 'plane fare, and thus managed to leave dirty, poverty-stricken, strike-bound, apathetic Calcutta, and change to a beautiful town and country like Bangkok and Thailand. I reluctantly departed from Bangkok, one of the persuaders being lack of money, another the date stamp and threat of prosecution in my passport (on the Thai visa), and lastly, but not least, the idea of reaching Australia and New Zealand.

The first night, after a slow afternoon consisting mostly of rides on buses, small trucks with roofs but no sides, gaily painted, on which I didn't pay (maybe I should have), I slept literally on the roadside, the main problem being, as ever, the temperature. In this country the problem is keeping the mossies off and at the same time keeping coverings to a minimum. Nudity is enough until about 4 or 5 a.m. but the mossies would lift you off the ground.

KEN BLACKWOOD

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes for their future happiness to Angela Caplan and Toni Zuger who were married on the 12th August.

For the 21st time, the hills and valleys of North Wales were alive with the sound of music - the folk music of the 21st International Eisteddfod. This year, the small town of Llangollen, situated on the banks of the River Dee and famous for centuries for its natural beauty, was as gay as ever - even gayer than ever, because this year the sun was there too. This annual event is a real feast for all lovers of folk music, singing, and dancing, and several of our members were in attendance, admiring costumes, taping music, making notes of dances, and generally drinking-in this festival of folklore.

Folk dancers from Belgium, England, the Ukraine, Portugal, Croatia, Ireland, Wales, France, Macedonia, Spain and Uganda were all there to show us their respective national dances, as well as singers from countries as far apart as The United States and Bulgaria. The whole week was a conglomeration of colour, friendliness, gaiety, beautiful costumes, music of all kinds, in a truly international atmosphere. Outstanding, I thought, were the Portuguese dancers, the Croatian and Macedonian dancers, the Macedonian singers, and the many beautiful choirs.

For the record, the results of the dancing competition were:-

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1st | Vlado Tasevski, Skopje, Yugoslavia. | (97) |
| 2nd | Manley & Loftus Dancers, Cheshire | (94) |
| 3rd | Coraldo Ribatejo, Santarem, Portugal | (93) |
| 4th | Dungeer Mummers, Camross, Eire. | (92) |
| 5th | Vinko Jedut, Zagreb, Yugoslavia | (91) |

L.S.

A very successful evening was enjoyed by many S.I.F.D. members, Harrow Green members, the Dunav, and others, who gathered at Harrow Green to spend a very enjoyable evening's dancing with the France Marolt Folk Dance Group from Ljubljana University, Yugoslavia, on Wednesday, the 9th August. Many thanks to Henry Morris and Vic Knivett for their initiative and enterprise in organizing this meeting with the Yugoslavs, and also to Harrow Green F.D.G.

You will have seen from the list of classes that Margaret Colato is starting a new venture within the Society - a class for folk singing, as related to folk dancing. Already Margaret has received offers of help from people both inside and outside the Society - Henry Morris, John Fisher, Helen Martyr - and also the assistance of two professional guitarists for Spanish and Latin American songs. This, together with Margaret's already impressive repertoire which she has collected over the years, should help the class to at least get its feet off the ground, if not off to a flying start. What is needed, of course, is plenty of support from members, so why not go along - as a singer, musician, or interpreter? Margaret hasn't a rigid programme in mind, as much will depend on the class members, but she will probably start off with Spanish, Yugoslav and English songs, and as long as at least three or four keen and interested people support the class and help to start it off, she is confident she can make it a success. She reminds me that, after all, our very successful Los Ibericos started with only two people.

S.I.F.D. CLASSES1967/68

Autumn Term: 25th September to 15th December

Winter Term: 8th January to 5th April

Spring Term: 22nd April to 28th June

Fees: For one year's classes (three terms):-

30/- for 1 class per week
 £2 for 2 classes per week
 £2.10s. for 3 classes per week
 £3 for 4 classes per week.

The classes are as follows:-

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

Monday	7.00 to 8.00	Spanish; beginners	Philippa Heal
Monday	8.00 to 9.30	Spanish; intermediate & advanced	Philippa Heal
Monday	6.00 to 8.00	General European; advanced	Margery Latham
Monday	8.00 to 10.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
Thursday	7.00 to 8.30	Spanish; Flamenco	Philippa Heal
Thursday	7.00 to 8.00	Singing as related to folk dancing	Margaret Colato
Friday	7.30 to 9.30	Certificate class	Kathleen Monroe James

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

Tuesday	6.30 to 7.30	Balkan; beginners	Ken Ward
Tuesday	7.30 to 9.30	Balkan; intermediate & advanced	Ken Ward
Wednesday	7.00 to 9.00	General European; beginners	Margery Latham

Light refreshments are available at both schools.

Our classes are open to members only, but anyone, whether a member or not, may try a class, which he has not previously been to, once without charge.

In order to enjoy our Sunday dances, and also to put on worthwhile demonstrations, it is essential that members learn the dances properly. To do this one must have proper tuition by attending our classes. We hope that all members who are within distance will make the effort to attend at least one weekly class. You will obtain far more enjoyment from your dancing and you will be helping to raise the general standard.

The Friday class is a particularly good one for absolute beginners and also advanced dancers who wish to teach, the former to be taught thoroughly and the latter to gain experience in teaching.

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAYS

			<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
September	3rd	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Margery Latham
	10th	Dance Centre	Cliff Beck	Lily Southgate
	17th	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Roland Minton
	24th	Dance Centre	Cliff Beck	George Sweetland
October	1st	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Wilf Horrocks

Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 4/- for members, 5/- for non-members.

WHAT'S ON

- September 7th ENROLMENT DANCE at Bolt Court (see page 3).
- September 9th Hop Hoodening at Canterbury and other places in Kent.
- September 4th/16th Jose Greco and his Spanish Ballet at the Royal Festival Hall. Seats 10/- to 30/-.
- September 15th/17th FOLK DANCERS' WEEKEND AT UPLANDS IN THE CHILTERNs. COST £5.5. SEND 10/- DEPOSIT TO JACK RICHARDSON, DEPT. OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SWANSEA, GLAM.
- October 14th/15th 1967 London Folk Music Festival at Cecil Sharp House, organized by the London District of the E.F.D.S.S. A leaflet can be obtained from Cecil Sharp House.
- October 21st S.I.F.D. DANCE AT ISLINGTON TOWN HALL 21ST BIRTHDAY REUNION PARTY (More details next month).
- October 27th/29th FOLK DANCERS' WEEKEND AT SURREY CREST. BOOKINGS TO ROLAND MINTON.
- November 18th Folk Dance run by Harrow Green F.D.G.
- December 8th Harrow Green Christmas Dance.
- January 19th/21st FOLK DANCERS' WEEKEND AT BISHAM ABBEY ON THE THAMES NEAR MARLOW. BOOKINGS TO JACK RICHARDSON (Address above).
- February 16th/17th E.F.D.S.S. Royal Albert Hall Show.
- February 24th/26th Proposed E.F.D.S.S. Anglo-Israeli weekend at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset.