

SIFD. NEWS

MAY 1968

Sid

2.

Editor: Lily Southgate, 52, Banbury House, Banbury Road, London, E.9
Telephone: Home 01-985-0428. Office: CITY 1212 Ext. 552.

Assistant: Sylvia Fulton, 22 Landseer Road, London, N.19.
Telephone: Home 272-5827. Office: MAN 7800 Ext. 263

Typist: Barney Salmon.

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

This month's cover is by David Dewhirst.

Officers of the Committee:

Chairman: Bert Price,
22 Sunnydale Road,
London, S.E.12.

Treasurer: Marjorie Bracey,
30 Cygnet House,
Belsize Road,
London, N.W.6
328 1592

Membership Secretary:
Roland Minton,
131 Holly Street,
Dalston, E.8.

Demonstration Secretary:
Margery Latham,
14 Beechwood Avenue,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.
Home: PRO 7055
Work: WHI 9000 Ext. 636

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

S.I.F.D. Records are available from Recorded Sound Ltd., 27-31 Bryanston Street, London, W.1.

BOOKS

Our books are published by Pergamon Press and are obtainable, to order, through any bookseller, price 7/6.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use. Full details from Marjorie Bracey (address above).

WANTED!

ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, LETTERS. I'm grateful for the help received from Barney Salmon, Sylvia Fulton, John Hughes, on the typing and printing, and from Caroline Thomas and David Dewhurst on the covers, and occasional help from other members on envelopes etc. but what I need is more articles etc. to print. I try to make the NEWS interesting by scouting around for articles about folklore, items of news etc. and occasionally receive items from outside groups, but would like more people within the Society to contribute to the magazine. I would like to receive articles of interest about events both inside and outside the Society, news of members at home and abroad, etc., so how about dropping me a line? Anything from 20 words to 1000 words. I look forward to hearing from you.

ED.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

You will have received notification that the Half-Yearly General Meeting will be held at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1, on Saturday, 11th May, at 3 p.m. This is your opportunity to air your views about the running of the Society and to put forward to the Committee any ideas you may have on the subject. We hope all members will do their best to attend.

VISITING GROUPS

A group of young Germans (not a folkdance group) will be visiting England from 24th May to 9th June. They will be spending a day in London and we have invited them to finish their tour of London by joining us at the Dance Centre at our Sunday dance on the 26th May. We would like to ask all members and friends to come along to the Dance Centre that evening to help entertain our guests and make the evening an enjoyable one for them, and for us.

RECORDS

We are sorry to have to announce that, owing to the increase in costs due to the recent Budget, we shall have to increase the price of our records from 15/6 to 17/- each. This increase will be effective from 1st June, so if you are thinking of buying some records, you will be saving money by getting your order in before 1st June. The 20% discount to members for records for their own use still applies. Full details from Marjorie Bracey (address on page 2).

FINANCE

The leader of our Balkan class, Ken Ward, is off to Yugoslavia again this month and will be looking for more costumes to enrich the already large collection of Balkan costumes. The Committee has agreed to lend him £75 to assist him in the purchase of these costumes.

BALKAN DIARY

Our Balkan class have just spent a very successful group weekend at Surrey Crest, and have the following demonstrations lined up:-

- April 29th For members of the Royal Arsenal Co-op, a Yugoslav evening at the Borough Hall, Woolwich, in the presence of the Mayor and First Secretary of the Embassy (who suggested that our group be asked to participate).
- May 3rd Richmond Festival of the Arts. A Yugoslav evening presented as one of the contributions to the festival by the New Atlantis Foundation. It's chairman was formally head of the British Council in Belgrade, and he has asked for a lecture/demonstration lasting about 2 hours.
- May 25th For the British Bulgarian Friendship Society in celebration of the introduction of the Cyrillic alphabet.
- July 3rd For the Royal Arsenal Co-op at its sportsground in New Eltham.

Eight of the Balkan class are off to Yugoslavia in a Ford Transit on the 17th May and hope to let us have an account of their travels on their return.

***** *****

HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND

Despite some atrocious weather, the Society had a very successful and enjoyable weekend at Halsway in Somerset at the end of March. This delightful old manor house, set against the foot of the Quantock Hills, is run as a folk-music centre by an E.F.D.S.S. Trust, to whom we are grateful for this opportunity to organize a weekend.

As Halsway is so well placed for walking which, together with loafing, is a well-established feature of the S.I.F.D. weekends, a number of expeditions into the hills had been planned. Almost continuous high winds and rain proved rather a deterrent, however, so with Margery Latham's willing help we got down to some dance instruction instead. As the people present came from different groups in London, Guildford, Croyley Green and Birmingham, this proved to be new ground for some and revision for others, but I am sure everybody benefitted. Music was provided by Wilf Horrocks, Alan Corkett, and Jack's tapes. Tradition dies hard, however, and while some people explored Minehead and Dunster, others gallied forth on foot to be blown up hill and down dale, and back for tea.

When we came to leave after a final session of dance and instruction on Sunday afternoon, most people felt that their time had been well filled, their appetites amply and tastefully rewarded, and their senses sufficiently charmed by this part of Somerset to want to go again.

MICHAEL CLARK.

A NOTE ON BALKAN RHYTHM

by A.L. Lloyd

(by courtesy of The Dunav Club)

Over the last few years our notion of rhythm has greatly expanded, through the works of such modern composers as Bartok, and through our growing acquaintance with folk musics East of the Adriatic. In Balkan folk music we're often faced with rhythms that strike our ears as being so unusual that we despair of grasping them. In fact, they're not so hard to sort out, once we free our minds of one or two Western conventions.

The music theory books used in our schools and colleges still present an eighteenth century view of rhythm, a view that's incompatible even with classical music since Beethoven's time. We're taught that every piece of music is divided into a number of equal divisions called 'bars', and each bar is made up of notes either in simple or compound time. Simple time consists either of two, three, or four beats to the bar. Compound times are those made up of some multiple of three (such as 6/8 which is two threes, or 9/8 which is three threes). And that's that. If the teacher is asked; what about rhythms such as 5/4, used by Chopin and Tchaikovsky and common enough in English folksong? embarrassment is likely to ensue, because 5/4 isn't according to the book.

Now, the notion that all tunes must be either in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8 or the 'three-threes' 9/8 is certainly inadequate when it comes to considering the music of, say, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. There we quite often find tunes that are numerated as 7/8, 11/16, 13/16 etc. If we're at first bewildered, the matter becomes clearer when we recognize that within the single bar of these kinds of tunes, two different units of duration are at work, a longer one and a shorter one. The longer one is not twice as long as the shorter (as a crotchet is twice as long as a quaver) - but only one-and-a-half times as long (i.e. like the relation of dotted quaver to quaver). This piece of mathematics becomes clearer still when we reduce it to terms of threes and twos. With this kind of rhythm - it used to be called 'Bulgarian' rhythm, but nowadays folklorists prefer to use the Turkish word aksak, meaning 'limping' - each bar consists of cells of two plus cells of three. More often than not, just one cell of three is planted among a number of cells of two. So, for instance, the Bulgarian ruchenitsa dance in 7/8 consists of bars of 2+2+3 - tiri-tiri-tiriri - while the Greek kalamatianos dance, likewise in 7/8, is made up of bars of 3+2+2 - tiriri-tiri-tiri.

In conventional Western music, 9/8, as we have seen, consists of three threes - tiriri-tiriri-tiriri. But in the Balkans we find aksak forms of 9/8 made up of, say, three twos and a three - a tiri-tiri-tiri-tiriri (such as the Bulgarian govurnato horo). Again, in Western terms, 8/8 is a solid square - 2+2+2+2; but in aksak terms it may be found as tiri-tiriri-tiriri, or tiriri-tiri-tiriri, or tiriri-tiriri-tiri (it's better to think of these rhythms in terms of tiri rather than m-ta, because it conveys better the rippling pulse of folk music; m-ta, more angular, conveys the kind of rhythm produced by concert players reading from dots.)

So, in 'deciphering' aksak rhythms, the trick lies in detecting where the cell of three falls amid the cells of two, within the single bar.

Finally, though we've been speaking here of Balkan music, we should remember that aksak rhythms are found not only in South-East Europe and the Western Orient (as far as India), but also in North and Bantu Africa, in South America (notably in that musical complex extending from Havana to Rio), and vestigially in the Basque country, in Switzerland and England.

FOLK DANCING IS FOR EVERYBODY

In the far and near past folk dancing served many purposes; prayer of invocation and gratitude; rejoicing in bountiful harvest, hunts, puberty rites, marriages, a call for battle celebration in victory, dances of the trade, relaxation and entertainment. During the present era, folk dancing is reduced to two categories; relaxation and entertainment. (For this article we will keep the ethnic group aside).

As a form of relaxation, it was a part of all people. Even those who used it as entertainment were usually the better dancers from among them and for their own gathering. In the Communist countries, it is placed in the hands of highly skilled teachers who train youth with all the rigour of classic ballet and become members of specializing "amateur" groups sent to entertain the populace. The entertainers are dressed as elaborately as are their dances. Actually it is a theatrical production of ballet choreographed on folk themes. It is after these groups that many American groups try to pattern their clubs.

Folk dancing for relaxation is a form of recreation, and recreation includes everyone. Unlike photography, swimming and basket ball, etc. folk dancing IS for everybody; for the blind, the deaf, the lame, for the young and the old, for the strong and the halt, for the fat and the skinny and even the patients of mental hospitals. It brings moments of joy in their unfortunate lives which no money can buy, and it gives them a sense of accomplishment which adds confidence to the helplessness. The first named groups are, naturally, separate entities.

The solution is simple - retain the two identities; clubs for recreational fun dancing; and exhibitional entertaining groups.

The recreational groups need not worry whether the hand must rest on hip with the knuckles or thumb backward, or whether to hold the skirt with all fingers or with just only the index finger and the finger next to it, whether a red shiny sash and a Masonic fez will suffice as a costume. The purpose of that group is the fun element and they shall see to it that whoever comes into their midst has a good time and is neither slighted nor insulted as to his ability. That does not mean that they shall wilfully adulterate the dances they do.

Exhibition groups, on the other hand, should work hard at perfection. They must be careful for authentic detail in styling of dress and dance, even to peculiarities of regionalism. When representing a nationality they must be sure that their representation will be so true that should a genuine representative of that nationality be present he should feel highly pleased with what he saw. Exhibition groups are usually selective in their choice of membership and closed to the general public. They have the right to be this way. If need be they can have a separate group for beginners from which they can draw the better dancers for their exhibition group.

When a group is an open group it should be open to all, the good and bad dancers. Tolerance, patience, understanding and friendliness should be demonstrated even to the rank beginner with two left feet. Eventually this beginner may discover having a right foot too and become the future leader of a very selective club. Examples can be cited of just such leaders who were "hard learners".

May we see a spread of folk dancing among all people and for all people and may the growth of both recreational and exhibitional groups increase a hundredfold.

(By courtesy of VILTIS)

UKRAINIAN RECIPESHoliday Honey Cake

1 cup honey	1 tsp. cinnamon	1 tsp. nutmeg
2 tbsps. butter or oleo	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground cloves	4 cups sifted flour
3 eggs, separated	1 tsp. baking soda	1 cup sugar
1 tbsp. water	1 cup seedless raisins	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup each diced dates & figs.
1 cup diced mixed nuts		

Mix honey, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg, and bring to a boil. Set aside to cool. Cream butter, add yolks of eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Add sugar and beat well again. Sift flour into mixture and stir well. Add baking soda dissolved in the cold water, and the minced nuts and raisins. Beat egg whites stiff and add, stirring thoroughly to mix.

Grease a long baking pan well and line with waxed paper. Bake at 300 degrees for two hours.

This cake is especially prepared for Christmas but can, of course, be eaten at any time and retains its freshness for a long time.

***** *****

Cold Fruit Soup (serves 6)

2 cups fresh fruit (one kind or mixed, such as cherries, plums, apples, strawberries, peaches etc.)		
6 cups water	Juice of one lemon	Sugar to taste
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream	1 tbsp. flour	Grated rind of one lemon or one orange.

Wash fruit and simmer for 1 hour in the water. Strain through a sieve. Blend flour into sour cream. Add to soup and boil for five minutes. Add lemon juice and sugar. Chill thoroughly.

Serve in well chilled soup cups or dishes with a bit of the lemon or orange rind sprinkled on top.

(This fruit soup is quite different from Swedish fruit soup and Ukrainians always use it as a first course and serve it with crackers).

***** *****

DANCES AT THE COCKPIT.

We shall be holding open-air dances at the Cockpit, Hyde Park, on the following Saturdays:- 18th May, 22nd June, 13th July and 3rd August, from 4 p.m. until about 6 p.m. The Cockpit is situated opposite the Serpentine Lido. These open-air dances have proved popular in the past, weather permitting, and we would like as many dancers as possible. If you would like to wear costume, please do so. In addition to the general dancing, we should like to demonstrate, in costume, dances from, say, Sweden, Austria, France, and we would like volunteers to take part in the demonstrations. Would all members wishing to take part, please contact Margery Latham (address on page 2), who will arrange programme and costumes.

In addition to the above, teams are needed for the following demonstrations. If you are free, please let Margery Latham have your names.

Saturday, 18th May Evening. Hertford Choral Society Dinner; half-hour programme.

Friday, 14th June Evening. Seven Kings Catholic Social; demonstration and audience participation.

THE PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION AT THE KILKENNY BEER FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

***** *****

DANCE CENTRE

We have moved our venue on Sundays from the upstairs hall at the Dance Centre to the hall in the basement. We shall be meeting in this lower hall for a few weeks as a trial period to see how members like the atmosphere of this slightly smaller, more intimate, hall.

***** *****

THE BALKANS

Those of you who are holidaying in the Balkans this year may be interested to know that the Smotra Folklore (folklore festival) is due to take place at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, from Sunday 21st to Sunday 28th July. Individual and group performances by amateur town and village groups, and the professional groups 'Lado', 'Kolc' and 'Tanec'. Exhibition of folk art and craft. Information from Yugoslav National Tourist Office.

Also of interest to Balkanites is the news that 45 Serbian Orthodox priests are paying their own fares to Britain to sing at services when the Serbian Patriarch visits this country in June. The priests, who are members of the Belgrade Cathedral Choir, will sing at Westminster Abbey on the 20th June, when the Patriarch will be received by the Archbishop of Canterbury. On the 23rd June, they will sing at the consecration by the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Birmingham, and later they will sing at St. Savas Church, Lancaster Road, Lancaster Gate. To anyone interested in this type of singing, I'm sure the priests will be well worth listening to.

The Committee are sorry to announce that Kathleen Monroe James has sent in her resignation from the Committee and from the position of Hon. Secretary. She finds that she is unable to give the necessary time to the job, owing to other commitments and her visits abroad. We would like to thank her for her help and the time she has given to the Society over the past years.

S.I.F.D. CLASSES

1967/1968

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	Felisa Victoria
Monday	8.00 to 9.30	Spanish; intermediate & advanced	Felisa Victoria
Monday	6.00 to 8.00	General European: advanced	Margery Latham
Monday	8.00 to 10.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
Thursday	7.00 to 8.00	Flamenco: beginners	Felisa Victoria
Thursday	8.00 to 9.30	Flamenco: intermediate	Felisa Victoria

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.

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAYS

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.'s</u>
May 5th	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Jack Richardson
12th	Dance Centre	Harry de Caux	Peter Oakley
19th	Dance Centre	Cliff Beck	George Sweetland
26th	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Roland Minton
June 2nd	NO DANCE - WHIT SUNDAY.		

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

IF YOU HAVE A COSTUME, OR CAN BORROW ONE, WEAR IT AT THE CECIL SHARP HOUSE DANCES, TO HELP MAKE THE SCENE MORE COLOURFUL.

Cecil Sharp House is at No.2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground Camden Town)

The Dance Centre is at No.12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground Leicester Sq.)

WEEKENDS AWAY

May 3rd/5th FOLKDANCERS WEEKEND AT SURREY CREST. Surrey Crest is situated near Godstone Green, in Surrey. The surrounding countryside is very attractive for walking; there are a couple of good village pubs, and facilities for horse-riding nearby. The weekend is usually a mixture of folkdancing, walking, playing table-tennis, cards, or chess etc. If you would like to spend an informal weekend with your fellow folkdancers in pleasant surroundings, book your place with Roland Minton 131 Holly Street, London, E.8. The cost for the weekend from Friday evening until after tea on Sunday is:- £2.16. 0d. Please bring with you your tape recorder or tapes or record player or records or musical instrument - the more variety, the better.

WHAT'S ON

April 22nd to May 25th. *Theodorakis Ensemble (Greek music & dancing) at the Saville Theatre. Tickets 8/6 to 25/-. (Not really 'folk').

May 3rd/5th SURREY CREST WEEKEND. See details above.

6th Festival Flamenco Gitano (Spanish gipsy singers, dancers, and guitarists, at Royal Festival Hall, 8.p.m. Tickets 8/- to 21/-.

9th Festival Flamenco Gitano (as above) at Fairfield Hall, Croydon. 8.p.m

11th S.I.F.D. HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING. 3 p.m. Christopher Hatton School.

18th FOLKDANCING AT THE COCKPIT, HYDE PARK, FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL APPROX. 6 P.M.

18th International Folk Dance run by Harrow Green, at Oxford House, Mape St., Bethnal Green, E.2. Tickets including refreshments: 4/- . 7.30 p.m.

26th A German Group will be our guests at the Dance Centre. 7.p.m.
(see page 3)

.....

*There may be facilities for S.I.F.D. members to visit this Show at a reduced charge, on production of their membership cards. Please enquire at Box Office.